



## Nottingham Advanced Motorcyclists

Registered Charity No: 1060035  
Affiliated to the Institute Of Advanced Motorists No: 7182



### WELCOME TO NOTTINGHAM ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

[www.nottsam.org.uk](http://www.nottsam.org.uk)  
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#### What's it all about?

Our aim is to promote better road safety for motorcyclists by encouraging motorcyclists to attain the skills required to pass the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) Advanced Motorcycling test. We do this by the use of volunteer Observers who are motorcycle riders who have already passed the advanced test and then undertaken further training to be able to pass on their knowledge to riders aspiring to achieve advanced status. Riders who prepare themselves through the help and advice given by our Group are likely to have a 90% chance of successfully passing their advanced test on their first attempt.

Our Group, Nottingham Advanced Motorcyclists (NAM), is a registered charity and our Observers are Full Members of both the IAM and our Group. New riders joining us are called Associates, and have Associate, rather than Full, membership status of our Group and the IAM until they pass the advanced test. Your 'Skills for Life' package is based around 7 observed rides – an initial assessment, 5 observed rides and a pre test assessment detailed below. (This is the equivalent to approx 3 ½ days guidance)

#### Initial Assessment

Once you have applied to join, we will endeavour to arrange your initial rideout session with a Senior Observer as soon as possible which will last approximately 5 hours. It consists of an initial briefing about the session, a ride of approximately 90 minutes, a detailed de-brief of your riding in comparison with the advanced riding standard, a demonstration ride by the Observer with a full running commentary given over a radio, followed by a final discussion about what happens next to take you towards the advanced riding standard.

#### Training

For the current year, we are running two methods of Associate preparation. These are:

**a) Block Course.** This is a fixed length course over 6 weekends, on which the Associate is given advice and guidance by a variety of Observers. During the course you may have one or a number of Observers to help you. Several Associates will be attending the block course at any one time. We will try to pair you with another associate of a similar ability when available, and you can share the observer's expenses too.

**b) "One to One" training.** Again, this is a fixed length course of 5 Observed Runs. An Observer and an Associate work together in their own time for a fixed number of runs. As all Observers are volunteers, the number of Observers available at any one time is variable. There could therefore be a waiting list for allocation. Once an Observer is allocated to you, all subsequent runs will be arranged between you and your Observer.

#### Pre Test Assessment

At the end of your preparation, you will undertake a 'pre-test' assessment with a Senior Observer of the group. They will advise you of the standard that you have attained. If appropriate, you will be recommended to apply for the advanced riding test.

#### The Advanced Test

The test is conducted by an IAM appointed examiner who holds a Police Advanced Motorcycling Certificate. It lasts approximately 90 minutes over all types of roads, usually about 35 miles. Upon successful completion, you will receive a certificate and be proposed for IAM membership.

#### Penalty Points

It is the IAM's policy that you cannot take the advanced test if you have more than 8 points on your licence, though you can still do the course and take the test at a later date, once enough points have been removed. If you have more than 8 points on your licence I would suggest you ring the IAM direct to discuss this with them on 020 8996 9600.



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### Associate Commitment

As an Associate you are expected to follow a few basic common sense rules, the first being that; **Your Observer has given up their time freely and set aside some / all of their valuable free time to help you become a better, smoother and safer rider. Please show them the courtesy that you would expect them to show you.**

When you have an observed ride booked, you are expected to turn up at the agreed time and place, and not cancel the run because it is raining / you have decided to go out with friends etc, if you have made an appointment, be professional and attend. An observed run will normally only be cancelled under safety reasons, i.e. ice or snow. After all, your test will run in any weather, apart from ice or snow. It is also a very good idea to wear appropriate (protective) motorcycle clothing at all times. After all we are promoting road safety.

You will also be expected to practise what you have learned each week. The pace at which your skills will improve will be directly linked to the effort you put in between observed rides. **It is highly recommended that you complete at least 60 miles of practise riding between observed runs.** You will be given things to work on at the end of the ride by your observer, and it is essential that you practice them as much as possible before your next observed ride. By following the guidance your observer(s) has given you, you will have all the knowledge required in order to improve your performance each week until you attain the standard required to pass the advanced test.

You will also need to read the "How to be an Advanced Motorcyclist" book along with your new copy of the "Highway Code" which will be given to you on your initial assessment.

### Costs

The Skills for Life package from the IAM costs just £139 which includes 12 months Associate membership of our Group and the IAM, the IAM test fee, and the IAM motorcycling manual "How to Be an Advanced Motorcyclist"

All training time is given freely by the Observers. However, a contribution towards the Observer's running costs is greatly appreciated. (This is currently based on 25p / mile = £15 - to cover petrol, tyres and servicing costs.)

If you wish to continue your membership of the NAM Group, the renewal is currently only £16 each year (renewable in April each year). Your IAM membership is £28 renewable annually on the date you first enrolled with the IAM.

### Social Activities

Monthly meetings are held in the upstairs function room at the Black Lion Hotel, Main Road, Radcliffe on Trent, on the last Wednesday of each month, start time approximately 8.00pm. Meetings vary from informal social gatherings of like-minded people, to specific presentations on motorcycling related subjects. Companies such as Avon, Silkolene, Datatool, and Arai have given previous presentations.

Associates may take part in any of the public assessment days or Group runs, where they can ask for advice and comment on their riding, or just enjoy the ride. The dates of these are communicated through the monthly Group newsletter. We also have a website, [www.nottsam.org.uk](http://www.nottsam.org.uk) that highlights our current programmes of events as well as a SmartGroups website for NAM member's exclusive use to share information about suppliers, pictures, tips & hints etc.

Our membership currently stands at approximately 100 Full members and Associates from all age groups and all walks of life. It doesn't matter what you ride; it's how you ride it.

### After the Advanced Test

Once you have passed your advanced test you are more than welcome to continue to give your support to the group by either; Continuing as a full member and joining in with our various social activities (many people have made life long friendships in the group);

Becoming an Observer, lots of people have enjoyed the experience to such a degree that they feel the need to 'put something back', and they stay and train to become an observer;

You could even join the committee, like all organisations it takes a lot of behind the scenes work to keep things running smoothly, and we are always keen to take on new people to help keep the group operating and growing in size.

For those who do not wish to continue with the group, we offer a 3 year 'Refresher Assessment' (to full current IAM members), this is currently £30. We offer this is because once you have passed the IAM advanced test there is no further test to help keep your 'Skills' sharp and up to date. Each year there are new ideas and practises coming from the IAM, and this will enable you to keep your riding safe.

If you need any further information, or you have any queries, please call us on 01158 714026. You can sign up on line at <http://www.iam.org.uk/eshop/Purchase+Skill+for+Life/Skill+for+Life+for+Riders+new.htm> or contact the IAM on 020 8996 9600.