



SAM Weekly Newsletter - 5th April 2024

Biking news for ALL our advanced riders, their family and friends

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Editorial

The sun brought everyone out at last Saturday's Meet. Although it was a cool start, the forecast rain failed to materialise and all riders looked forward to a great day's riding. There was the usual chat and we welcomed a couple of new Associates beginning their journey to becoming advanced riders.

The Air Vest petition, to remove VAT on air vests, failed to get anywhere near the 100,000 signatures for a parliamentary debate. Having just 11,378 signatures and the Government's prior response, that it had removed VAT on helmets, meant that the petition was lost. The statement did say that all taxes would be kept under review. Sounds like another way of saying that the request to remove VAT on air vests would be kept at the back of the shelf. The response seems short sighted as it's not only motorcyclists who would have safer journeys if air vests were more affordable to negotiate the increasingly hazardous UK highways.

Moto-Gymkhana is back with a full list of events. Riders can hone their bike control skills to perfection riding the amazing courses.

Technology is making rapid advances. Police Scotland are to use DNA sprays to identify bike thieves. Ten forces in the UK are to implement AI-assisted Road Safety Cameras. This could raise significant amounts of revenue and an equal amount of complaints as the AI system gets it wrong. Still, it might help toward raising the £16 billion needed simply to bring UK highways back to a state where they don't present an ongoing danger to the travelling public. Yamaha has stepped up with a new augmented reality system. The UK highways may be too damaged, in places, to travel safely, but you can do it in a virtual world instead.

A new article on the SAM Biker ICE card has been put out this week. It's a timely reminder to carry your health and contact data with you at all times. The SAM Biker ICE Card is FREE, can easily be completed and updated and you can share as many as you need for family and friends. Spread the word by sharing the post on your social media feeds. As usual there is plenty more interesting material to see in your SAM Club newsletter. Happy Reading.

Ways to stay in touch with your Club!

It's really easy to stay in touch with your Club! We provide emails, a website and use social media accounts for you to contact us. All of which is free of any cost to the Club. If you are not getting the Club information circulated, or simply want to tell us something, ***just let us know*** at sam-editor@iam-sheffield.bike. We'll be happy to ensure that we stay in touch with you. You can also now sign up for Club emails on the [SAM website](#). Paul Conway
Editor & Webmaster, Sheffield Advanced Motorcyclists

Biking News Online

General News



Police Scotland increase use of DNA tagging sprays to combat bike theft

Police Scotland are upping their use of specialist DNA tagging sprays to help combat [motorcycle theft](#), as well as catch anti-social nuisance riders.

The force first began using SelectaDNA products back in 2018 and are now extending that usage to include officers on patrol in their North East division. [Read more](#)

Here's What It's Like Joining A Motorcycle-Gymkhana Tournament

A whole different kind of thrill.

Sitting at the start line, my heart beats out of my chest. A crowd of three hundred watches in anticipation as the countdown begins. Three. Two. One. I build the revs, dump the clutch, and feel a rush as my front wheel lifts from the ground. I hadn't realized that the lowered tire pressure on my rear wheel would give me this much traction off the start. [Read more](#)





Yamaha's Augmented Reality Helmet

Is AR really heading to motorcycling?

Virtual reality and augmented reality—when VR elements are overlaid on the real world—have

had a faltering start over the last few years. However, the launch of heavily promoted devices like Apple's Vision Pro or Meta's Quest suggest they're maturing into genuinely useful technologies, and inevitably there are suggestions they could somehow be incorporated into motorcycling. [Read more](#)

In a world where youngsters are facing sky-high insurance premiums, barmy licensing procedures and kit that the pay from a Saturday paper round just won't cover, it's hardly surprising that fewer of them are falling in love with bikes.



But one MCN reader wants to help rebuild the rickety relationship between motorcycling and inquisitive minds in the most leftfield way, with the help of a mad machine called The Flying Pigeon.

[Read more](#)

Rider Safety



We say it time and time again – every case rests on its own facts, so don't automatically believe you are to blame. Al Fagan of 44Teeth and Gavin Grewal, solicitor at White

Dalton, [take a look](#) at an incident and explain why.

So if you have an accident please do contact us before you call you insurer – we'll talk you through your options. [Read more](#)

AI-POWERED 'ROAD SAFETY CAMERA' TRIAL TO GO NATIONWIDE

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) road safety cameras will now be adopted by police forces across the UK. A National Highways

Trial of road safety cameras that are powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reported to be going nationwide, with ten police forces lining up to adopt the technology. [Read more](#)



WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT?

The scenario is never one any motorcyclist wants to dwell on for too long, but if the time comes – here's everything you should do after a motorcycle

accident. BEING involved in a motorcycle accident is never something anyone wants to be involved in. Personal injury and

family anguish aside, just the thought of my bike sliding down the road on its side gives me the jitters. [Read more](#)



I was getting nostalgic this week. At the Saturday Meet today I was asked about where bikers can get the ICE stickers for their helmets. I pointed out there are so many different ways to ensure that health information is available when needed. Bracelets, necklaces, helmet stickers, badges, USB sticks. All very useful, but limited. Scanning QR codes or

using USB sticks, no matter how secure the data, still makes it vulnerable to theft. The data is still available when the QR code is scanned. Put a USB near a magnet and it can be rendered useless. Also, no health care professional wants to put data into their systems that may compromise their ability to use it; or, expose your data for criminals to use. No system is totally secure, so we take a different approach. [Read more](#)

WHAT IS EURO 5+, AND WILL IT KILL OUR FAVOURITE BIKES?

Euro 5+ emissions regulations have been in the news thanks to the discontinuation of the R1 as a road bike in Europe, but what do



the rules actually mean? [Read more](#)

Touring & Adventure



8 Tips to Go from Beginner to RTW ADV Rider Social media makes it easy to see how folks from various walks of life are riding around the world. Still, many riders think they must be seasoned motorcyclists and travelers before embarking on

such adventures. Well, we're living proof that's not the case.

Just a few months after getting my motorcycle license, and after just a few hundred miles on our BMW R1200GSA, we set off on a journey that took us through 41,700 km and 30 countries over nine months to the other side of the world.

We hope to inspire as many others as possible and truly believe that long-distance motorcycle travel is for everyone. Here are some of our top tips for getting started. [Read more](#)

Ancient Mesopotamia is a very interesting destination. But, is it possible and safe to get there by bike? They say that Kurdistan is stable with the government maintaining the security, and situations have improved since the latest bombings in Erbil in 2004 and 2007. Turks, Syrians and Iranians do not look favourably upon the birth of an independent Kurdish political entity. And then there are the Sunni



terrorists who seem to be willing to blow any semblance of normalization out of the country. [Read more](#)



Beyond the Bungee: Modern Tie-Down Options

Have you ever struggled to secure something to your motorcycle? I sure have. Here's my story of shame. About 13 years ago, I took my BMW F800GS on a tour through Utah. Prior to the trip, I'd

purchased an ultralight backpacking tent. My budget was tight, so I used bungees to secure the tent and luggage to the passenger seat. I'd heard about Rok Straps supposedly being better than good-ol' bungees, but I put off that purchase until later. That was a mistake. Somewhere on Interstate 15 leaving Utah, my dollar-store bungees shifted and came loose—whereupon my tent became a permanent part of the Utah landscape, never to be seen again.

Since then, I've paid much more attention to how I secure cargo to my motorcycles. Thankfully, motorcycle accessory manufacturers have come up with several ingenious and easy-to-use strap designs that make securing gear easier and safer than ever before. Over the last several months, I've been testing a variety of popular tie-down straps. In the end, it wasn't a winner/loser competition because each strap type has pros and cons. [Read more](#)

[Itchy Boots](#): Rides through Western Madagascar. Her guide, Didier has a broken radiator, so they are constantly stopping to fill it up with water

[Freddie Dobbs](#): Is having a very frustrating time in Sri Lanka, trying to get a driving licence.

[Matt Shields & Lucie Vivian](#): Today we are visiting one of the big highlights of Jordan, the mars like landscape of Wadi Rum.

We ditch the bike, quite literally, due to the excessive weight being unsuitable for sand, and hop into a 4x4 to see all the incredible landmarks this place has offer, and it has many!

We spent the entire day touring around and were honestly blown away by the beauty of Wadi Rum. What an amazing place!

History & Custom



[BUILT NOT BOUGHT: A CUSTOM-FRAMED YAMAHA XS400 WITH PATENTED FORKS](#)

With its inch-perfect frame, OEM-style bodywork, and period-correct graphics, you'd be forgiven for mistaking this Yamaha for a forgotten 90s factory

prototype. But what it really is, is a completely bespoke machine with a Yamaha XS400 engine, a whole lot of innovative engineering, and a patented front suspension system. Oh, and it was built by...[READ MORE](#)

SAM Meetings



**SAM Club Saturday Meetings, Meadowhall Retail Park
9am every Saturday throughout the year.
Come and join us - you know you want to ride!**



Next SAM Club night: **8th April 2024 meet at 7.30pm for an 8pm start at [Treeton Miners Welfare, Arundel St, Treeton, Rotherham S60 5PW, UK](#)**

SAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Always carry your ***[FREE Biker I.C.E. Card](#)***. It gives emergency services staff vital information about the right treatment for you, should you be involved in an accident. Don't forget to update it if your health and/or social circumstances change. *SAM Club - dedicated to helping YOU to be a safer rider.*

Get your **FREE SAM Biker I.C.E. Card NOW!**



I was getting nostalgic this week. At the Saturday Meet today I was asked about where bikers can get the ICE stickers for their helmets. I pointed out there are so many different ways to ensure that health information is available when needed. Bracelets, necklaces, helmet stickers, badges, USB sticks. All very useful, but limited. Scanning QR codes or using USB sticks, no matter how secure the data, still makes it vulnerable to theft. The data is still available when the QR code is scanned. Put a USB near a magnet and it can be rendered useless. Also, no health care professional wants to put data into their systems that may compromise their ability to use it; or, expose your data for criminals to use. No system is totally secure, so we take a different approach.

We don't want to pay anyone to hold our health data. We are Yorkshire bikers and our bikes can be expensive. We developed a simpler way of holding and supplying your health data. YOU! The only person who needs to provide your health data is you. If you have it, you can decide when, where and who gets to use it. Our approach is to make the process of giving your health data to someone as simple as possible. Other than costing a little of your time, it's completely FREE! It also folds down to 7 cm x 7 cm to easily fit in your purse or wallet.



Bikers do have accidents. The numbers of bikers having accidents and the reasons they happen are often reported out of context. They often don't report the rider's level of skill, riding ability or experience. They are often used to increase sales of rider training courses, restrict the use of motorcycles or feed some political agenda. When motorcycle accidents happen the blame games begin and all the players want to shout the loudest to 'ensure that it doesn't happen again'. Guess

what? The number of motorcycle accidents has remained almost static for the past 10 years. So, all the scary posters, tinkering with road safety policies and changing the licensing laws, etc., has made very little difference.

Since its launch 5 years ago, a steady stream of website visitors have obtained a FREE [SAM Biker I.C.E. Card](#). In an accident, all the biker is concerned about is getting help, getting well and getting back on the bike! Been there, done that. At the point of an accident, those who come to help want to know five things. Who are you? Where do you live? Who has to be notified? What, if any, are your pre-existing health issues? Who, if anybody, was providing your health care before the accident? It's at this point you take out, or ask someone to



retrieve from your pocket/wallet, your [SAM Biker I.C.E. Card](#). No scanning of QR codes, risking the security of health care systems, or giving access to someone with bad intentions.

You can be prepared too, by having a [SAM Biker I.C.E. Card](#) on you at all times. This card has your contact information and important medical details. In case of an accident, emergency services can use this information to help you quickly. By having this card with you, you can make sure that you get the right care when you need it the most. You are in charge of your own health information.

It's not just you. The [SAM Biker I.C.E. Card](#) can be used by ANYONE. Share the link with your family, friends, live-in lover, biker mates, your boss, work colleagues, local football team, or anyone else. If your social or health circumstances change, simply fill another one and print it out. Sitting in front of a new doctor, nurse, physiotherapist or paramedic, save them some time by showing them your [SAM Biker I.C.E. Card](#). Care and treatment are faster, your loved ones informed sooner, other health care staff get the information they need much quicker.

Having a [SAM Biker I.C.E. Card](#) can help emergency services staff to know about any medical conditions you have, the medication you're taking, and how to contact your doctor. In the UK, it can also give them access to your NHS health records or show that you have health insurance while travelling abroad.

So, don't wait! Get your FREE [SAM Biker I.C.E. Card](#) today. You know it makes sense to be prepared.

Whiteknights Blood Bikers

Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes would like to hear from people who are able to become volunteer fundraisers for this vital charity that benefits patients in Yorkshire.



Please get In touch. Even if you can only spare an hour to volunteer for us - we really need people to help us. Hope to hear from you soon.

Message us through Facebook or email:

[fundraising@whiteknights.org.Uk](mailto:fundraising@whiteknights.org.uk)

Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes would like to thank Wath upon Dearne WI for their donation today.

Pictured are ,Ingrid the treasurer of Wath upon Dearne WI and Roy Clark, Regional Manager from Whiteknight's South Yorkshire.



Along with the ladies of St Aelreds' Friendship Group, Harrogate, they have raised £100 to support us today. Thank you everyone.



Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes would like to thank the members and guests of the Inner Wheel club of Aireborough for hosting an Afternoon Tea event in aid of our charity.

Pictured are club President, Annie Parker with Whiteknights North Yorkshire Regional Manager, Andy Richardson. Thank you to everyone attending.

South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership



BetheBest – we have created a generic logo to encourage all riders to take additional training in one format or another; such as IAM, BikeSafe or ERS. The new logo and #BetheBest tagline has been printed on promotional snoods to promote the campaign (available at SAM Club Nights). The snoods have been produced in a series of different motorbike brand colours, (Red, Orange, Green and Blue), to test if this approach is more appealing to riders.

Are you ready to ride?

Good morning.

This [#Easter](#) weekend marks the start of the riding season.

Our colleagues [New Rider Hub](#) have launched a campaign to support 16-24yo riders as they [prepare to get back out on our roads](#) [#barnsley](#) [#Doncaster](#) [#sheffield](#) [#rotherham](#) [SYP Operational Support](#)



The sound of 4 mates a week being saved by **seat belts**

Supported by national highways

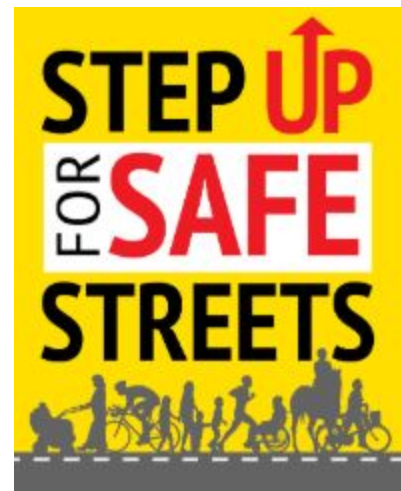
We're supporting [THINK Road Safety](#) with their [#CLICK](#) campaign, to remind people to always wear their seat belt, no matter the journey.

Who knows how long it will last, but the sun is shining here in [#rotherham](#) this morning.

Please take extra time to look out for the more vulnerable road users like cyclists and powered-two-wheeler riders when driving.

Let's try and help each other out.

[#roadsafety](#) [#spring](#)



This weekend is traditionally the start of the riding season.

Please Think Bike! when you are driving, especially around junctions and bends.

[#barnsley](#) [#doncaster](#) [#sheffield](#)
[#rotherham](#)

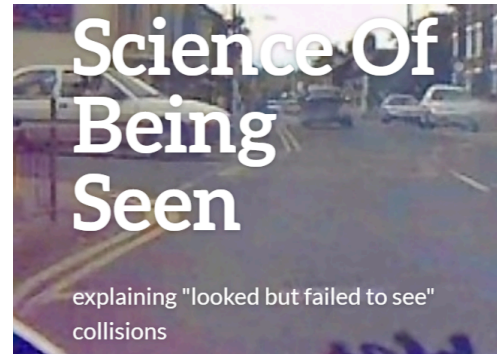
Fatal Four campaign:

Today is the start of a month-long campaign focussing on the 4 leading contributing factors in serious & fatal collisions. The 'Fatal Four' are: drink & drug driving, speeding, using a mobile phone while driving & not wearing a seatbelt. [#barnsley](#) [#doncaster](#) [#sheffield](#) [#rotherham](#)



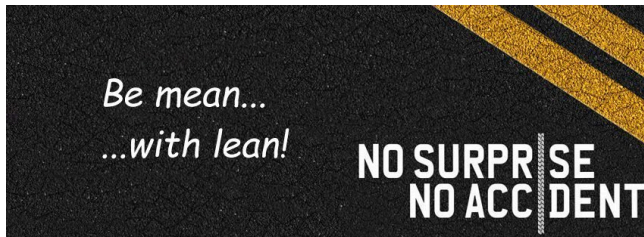
Kevin Williams

For many years road safety experts, police and motorcyclists have known that the most common collision between a motorcycle and another vehicle happens when the motorcyclist has right-of-way and another driver turns into the rider's path. All the way back in 1977, US researcher Harry Hurt stated:



"The most likely comment of an automobile driver involved in a traffic collision with a motorcycle is that he, or she, did not SEE the motorcycle..." [Read more...](#) Also, see all Kevin's posts at ko-fi.com/survivalskills.

LAST WEEK'S ROUND-UP



Rhyming Reminders #7 be MEAN with LEAN!

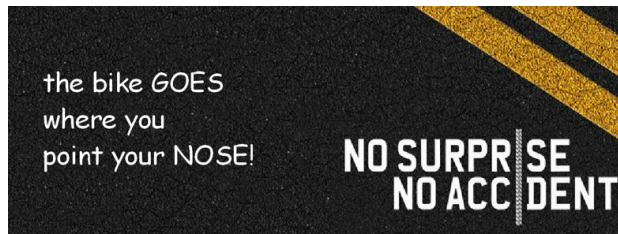
What's the most fun part of riding a motorcycle? It has to be controlling the bike as we

lean through a series of bends. It is for me, anyway. But we also know - crash stats don't lie - that many riders also crash out in corners. Sometimes it's the 'running wide' and 'slow steering' issues the last pair of Rhyming Reminders focused on. [Read more](#)

Rhyming Reminders #8 Don't Freeze! Settle - Squeeze - Ease!
One way to fall off when emergency braking is needed is to grab a big



handful of brake. Modern ABS-equipped machines have largely solved that problem. [Read more](#)



Rhyming Reminders #9 The bikes GOES where you point your NOSE

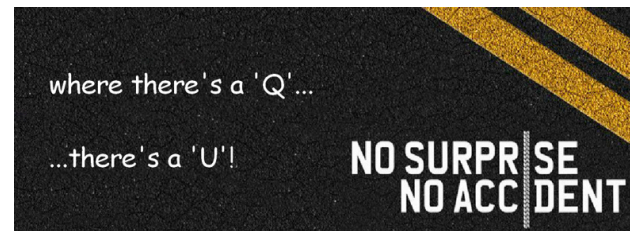
There's no magic law of physics connecting our nose to where we end up, but it really does help to remember to look to where we want to go, rather than at what's under the front wheel.

Whether we're looking at a bend, or whether we're searching for an escape route out of trouble, the aim is to get INFORMATION as soon as we possibly can. [Read more](#)

Rhyming Reminders #10
Where there's a Q, there's a U

One of the big advantages of a motorcycle is that we are rarely constrained to sit in stopped in a queue. In the UK at least, it's legal to lane-split between queues of traffic moving in the same direction (as on a dual-carriageway or one way street) or filter (down the outside of stopped traffic.

[Read more](#)



Data can't be wrong, but does it tell the right story?

Now I'm home again I am continuing my short series explaining the scientific method, and specifically how we collect and interpret data. As I mentioned previously, it's not uncommon to hear

someone say: "I don't agree with the data", but essentially that's a nonsensical statement because data itself can't be challenged.

[Read more](#)

IAM RoadSmart News



Glaring errors: the impact of LED headlights.

Bright LED headlights are leaving motorists dazzled and dazed at night, and now the government is under pressure to act. In a survey for the UK's leading road safety

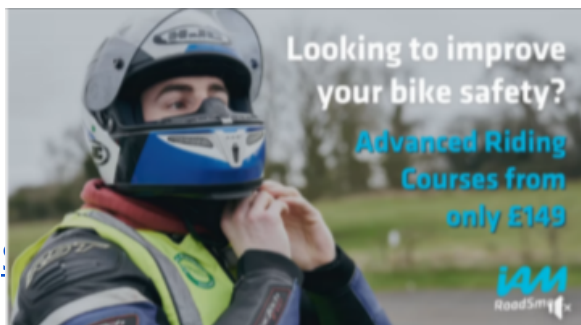
charity, IAM RoadSmart, 83% of respondents agreed that headlights are much brighter in modern vehicles. [Read more](#)

Easter getaway; motorcycling on the continent.

With the clocks set to go forward on Easter Sunday, the days will be longer and the evening's lighter. The long-awaited Easter break is the perfect time to get on your motorcycle and get away.



Find out how you can best prepare for your journey abroad with these tips from IAM RoadSmart. [Read more](#)



Want to become a better rider? Our Advanced Riding Course can help. The roads can

be a dangerous place, even for the most alert and cautious riders. While you can never be 100% safe, becoming an advanced rider will equip you with the skills to correctly anticipate, and plan for, the hazards you encounter on your rides. [Find out more](#)

SAM members have you got some news to share? Send it to sam-editor@iam-sheffield.bike and share it with all your SAM Club friends...

Stay healthy and ride safe

Paul Conway (on behalf of the SAM Committee) Sheffield Advanced Motorcyclists

Charity no. 1089671 IAM Group no. 4152



Saturday Meetings are for club members, observers, associates and ANY biker interested in taking an advanced rider course. Meetings are usually for one of these purposes:

- members take the opportunity to catch up with each other and generally socialise
- observers will be taking their associates out as part of their preparation for the advanced test
- other members will form smaller groups and ride out usually for breakfast somewhere
- Bikers who want to learn about how to become an advanced motorcyclist

If you'd like to find out more about us, join us at 9am any Saturday throughout the year, at Meadowhall Retail Park, Sheffield S9 2YZ, just off J34, M1.

Being a member of the SAM Club

To be a member of the SAM Club we encourage you to also be a current member of IAM RoadSmart. As a registered UK charity the SAM Club has charitable objectives to encourage and support the wider use of powered-two-wheeled transport in the UK. We provide advanced motorcycle education and training to help all bikers ride more safely. Our charity has to abide by the national standards, testing and liability insurance cover to continue these activities. Liability insurance ensures that, within the events covered, both the SAM Club, its Trustees and members are safeguarded against most untoward events. This includes all formal training and social events. Also, the SAM Club is dedicated to promoting the education and training of bikers in advanced riding knowledge and skills, both locally and nationally. At a total cost of £55/year, i.e. £1.06p/week, you help ALL your fellow bikers to improve their riding knowledge and skills. Thank you.

Associates: SAM's highly trained, dedicated, self-funding, volunteer Observers, meet all their own expenditure in providing your training. When you go out on observed rides with your Observer, we are asking you to donate £10 to offset a little of their running costs in helping you to become an advanced motorcycle rider. Thank you.

Extra bits

- Next SAM Committee Meeting: **24th April 2024**
- Next SAM Club Night: **8th April 2024 meet at 7.30pm for an 8pm start** [Treeton Miners Welfare, Arundel St,](#)

[Treeton, Rotherham S60 5PW, UK](#) **[SAM Annual General Meeting](#)**

- **Gift Aid Form:** Gift Aid allows UK charities to claim back the basic rate tax already paid on donations. This means we can claim back from the government on your behalf 25p for every £1 donated, boosting the value of the donation by a quarter. Use this link to fill in the form on the SAM website and send it to treasurer@iam-sheffield.bike.
- **Not getting your SAM emails?** If any member is NOT getting SAM Club emails, first check your junk folder, then send a request to social-media@iam-sheffield.bike. Pass on this message to any members who are complaining about not getting their SAM Club emails.
- **Changing your email address:** If you change your email address then let the Social Media Secretary - social-media@iam-sheffield.bike - know so that we can keep you informed of all the exciting things happening in your club.
- **IAM RoadSmart member discounts:** SAM members, are you making the most of your IAM RoadSmart membership? There are lots of discount savings that can offset your IAM RoadSmart and SAM membership fees, so grab a bargain TODAY!
- **Share with your friends:** Know someone who is interested in biking? Why not share this SAM Update and help them to be an advanced rider.
- **Follow us on** [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#).

[What are we about...](#)

The Sheffield and District Advanced Motorcyclists (SAM) are an independent charity that provides public education and training in advanced motorcycling skills. Its aims are to increase public awareness and understanding of motorcycling and the advanced knowledge and skills

required to ride safely on public roads. It is an affiliate group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM RoadSmart) and works closely with statutory and non-statutory organisations in promoting public information and education on motorcyclists and motorcycling in its designated region. SAM's volunteer motorcyclists are all trained to and maintain national standards of advanced motorcycle riding. They provide ongoing guidance and support to prepare motorcyclists for UK nationally recognised advanced motorcycling tests. SAM works closely with other charitable groups who require advanced motorcyclists to support public events, NHS dispatch rider services and many other socially responsible activities. SAM provides an essential public service in encouraging, promoting and marketing improved safety on public roads in the UK and internationally through IAM RoadSmart. SAM also has a very active social events programme that encourages its members, family, friends and the public, to both support the charity's socially responsible objectives and enjoy the camaraderie and support provided by the club.

Club Merchandise

"YOU can proudly support YOUR Club"



Clothing can be ordered online direct from:

APRINT LTD

138 Morthern Road

Wickersley

Rotherham

S66 1EA

Telephone: 01709 709977

Fax: 01709 709987