



**Morecambe Bay Estuaries
Advanced Motorcyclists**

The Right Line



December 2017



We are the local bike group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists
Visit our website to find out more about us and to join: www.mbeam.org.uk

WELCOME !



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We are the local bike group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists

By joining us you can participate in the 'Advanced Rider' training programme which can lead to Membership of MBEAM and of the IAM.

Successful training leads to better roadcraft and safer riding.

We also offer regular meets, social events (biking and non-biking), ride-outs, meals, long and short biking holidays, and full and half-day rides.

Congratulations to the following MBEAM associates who have recently passed their Advanced Motorcycling tests:

Tim Holliday
Mike Jones
Mark Thomson
Graham Broadfield
Richard Gerish (FIRST)
Matt Ford (FIRST)
Muhammad Akhtar (FIRST)
Simon Butterfield (FIRST)
Angus Jenkinson
Andy White
Julian Rayner
Michael Desmond
Isaac Hamilton– Wheatley

Congratulations to John Butcher, Simon Hanson and Russ Curwen on passing their Masters, all with distinctions!

Welcome to the following new MBEAM associate members. We look forward to congratulating you in the next issue!

Ian Moreland
Mark Ellis
Steve Walker
Gareth Field
Brian Glover-Smith
Glenn Green
Craig Holt
Beckie Clayton
Daniel Morley
David Whoolley

Welcome to new MBEAM full member Andrew Baxter

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

ANGELA YOUNG

Hi all,

There is a definite chill in the air today, a sign of things to come. The gritters have already been out leaving behind that nasty coating of bike rotting white stuff. I guess decisions are now being made whether to winterise and keep on riding or tuck the precious machine up cosily for the duration. All credit to the hardy ones amongst us who keep going all the year round. Most of our Observers seem immune to the elements and are ready to take out any Associate happy to brave the conditions.



Breakfast meets will continue monthly at Wilf's over the winter, all are welcome on 2 or 4 wheels. It's great to meet and catch up with the gossip – or should I say news! It's a great time to swap ideas for what riding we may want to do next year. Anyone fancy planning an MBEAM European trip? It is a long time since the last one. There are a number of people who would be interested in going if there is a volunteer to take it on. Lots of time these dark winter evenings to get the maps out and research routes and reviews.

In the last few weeks we have had splendid results from members who have undertaken their IAM Masters training. It is a gruelling training process and a very stiff assessment but Simon Hanson, John Butcher and Russ Curwen have all passed with distinction. Congratulations to them, their hard work well rewarded. Congratulations also to their MBEAM mentors and thanks to the Sefton Group members who provided valuable input.

The Annual MBEAM New Year dinner will be taking place on 20th January at the Station Inn Oxenholme. Put the date in your diary, it's always a great evening. Andy Griffiths is organising and will post full information on the Forum so keep an eye out for more details.

*Angela -
MBEAM Chair*

EVENTS



We meet twice a month from April to October and once a month out-of-season.

Venues

Committee Meetings:

The Bull

Beetham Road
Milnthorpe
LA7 7QL

Breakfast Meets:

Torver

Torver village hall (on the A593 next to the Church), Torver, Cumbria

Staveley

Wilf's Café, Mill Yard,
Staveley, LA8 9LR

Glasson Dock

Lantern O'er Lune Café,
West Quay, Glasson,
Lancaster, LA2 0BZ

Sunday Breakfast Meets start at 9.30 am. We often then depart at 11am for ad-hoc rides. Please check the forum for any suggested ride-out routes.

Ride-outs and trips are open to full members and associates. Non-members can join us by invitation only (please email one of the Committee).

Sunday 17th December

Wilfs breakfast meet

Sunday 18th March

Wilfs breakfast meet

Saturday 20th January MBEAM annual dinner

Station Inn, Oxenholme. See forum for details

Committee meetings are held bi-monthly and start at 7.30pm. Please contact a member of the committee if you would like to attend

Sunday 21st January

Wilfs breakfast meet

Sunday 18th Febuary

Wilfs breakfast meet



NEWS...



MBEAM out and about.

MBEAM members have been out and about spreading the word about advanced riding. The MBEAM stand attended the Leighton Hall hill climb, Millom classic car and bike show and finally the Westmorland show. Weather for all was better than last year and as such there were plenty of visitors to the stand including local MP Tim Farron who had a sit on a blood bike. Thanks to all those who helped at the events including: Bob Bryne, Frank Wood, John Viles, Peter Burrige, John Butcher, Joe Hurst, Simon Hanson, Jules Farrer and Linda Inman.



MBEAM Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will be on Saturday 20th January 2018 and will be held at the Station Inn Oxenholme again, starting at 7.30. Please see the forum for details and post if you would like to attend. You can alternatively contact Andy Griffiths via email: andy-griffy@hotmail.com

MASTERS SUCCESS!

The first crop of Morecambe Bay Estuaries Advanced Motorcyclists (MBEAM) candidates to complete the new in-house Masters Mentoring Scheme program recently passed their tests.

John Butcher and Simon Hanson achieved passes with distinction - both on the same day - and are pictured receiving their certificates from Joe Hurst, the group's Chief Observer. Joe commented, "John and Simon worked very hard, and deserve every congratulation for their success."

The scheme has been devised in collaboration with Sefton IAM group, and between the two groups, sixteen people have signed up. We are in discussion with other neighbouring groups to create a regional scheme. Candidates are mentored within their own group, and have a final assessment with a mentor from another group, before proceeding to test.

It is intended that mentors will cross-check each other to establish a common standard. These are very exciting times for our region!

[Editors note: Russ Curwen passed his Masters, also with a distinction, shortly after this article was written for the IAM insights weekly news](#)



MEMBER PROFILE

PAUL SHAW

How did you first get interested in bikes?

It was a cheap way of getting to work. I started riding through the lanes and, I enjoyed it that much I wanted to do more, on a bigger bike.

What was your first bike?

90cc Honda step-thru, then a Suzuki TS 125 followed by a Honda CG125 that I passed my test on.

What is your current bike(s)?

I have an old Yamaha 600cc Diversion (due to an old motorbike injury to my left hand, I don't ride it very far as it has a clutch). I recently have had a Gilera Fuoco (500cc, 3 wheeler automatic) and a Yamaha FJR 1300 AS (semi-automatic). I now ride a Honda NC750X DCT with a choice of manual or auto .

What is your dream bike?

My dream bike would be an automatic cruiser, with all the modern technology that I love on FJR 1300cc AS.

What has been your best biking moment to date?

Following the death of my wife I went to America for 3 months, I bought a Honda Shadow 1100cc and rode the Blue Ridge, Skyline Drive, Tail of the Dragon and 28 States. The journey was wonderful but the memories of some of the people I met was definitely the highlight.

What has been your worst biking moment to date?

I have painful times with a back problem and this has prevented me going on planned motorcycle journeys.

Where is your favourite brew stop and why?

I don't have a favourite brew stop but, I have met some wonderful people at random brew stops.

If you could never ride a bike again, what would you do instead?

I have bought a sports car for when I can't ride.

Where in the world would you like to visit on your bike, (that you haven't already)

I would like to complete my ride of 48 contiguous American states; of which I have another 20 to do. I would also like to ride down the Croatian side of the Adriatic Sea, in summer.

NORTHERN ROUTE

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED...

Oooh loads to tell! A busy summer arguing with the Devious Agency, teaching a 'teacher', been back over the water a coupla times, oh aye - and technology working against someone meant I got hit on the bike! Pull up a comfy one and I'll tell all.....

Well, what can I say, awesome results pretty much throughout the year, which means one of two things. Either we're the best in Cumbria or the pupils are listening - I'll personally go for 1/2 & 1/2, erring on our side! When we do get the examiner in Kendal mind you. Poor old Cy, the bike examiner based in Carlisle, is the only one in the county so I'm lucky if I can get a test day a month!

Still no better on the DVSA front, they keep asking if I've found anywhere else to turn into a Mod 1 site. It's all very well me doing that, but if they don't have the staff there's no-one to manage it. Years ago when the original changes happened, there was (very quiet) talk of instructors possibly being 'used' to 'test' clients moving up through the categories. We'll have to wait and see on that one but that was over 10 years ago.....

Staying with training, at the mo' I'm teaching a car instructor. He wants to further his CPD (Continued Professional Development) and any further qualification counts towards it. His wife is adamant he's not getting a bike but he's talking currently about furthering his training and eventually doing the Roadsmart course which will inevitably mean him having his own machine. Every time he mentions it, apparently her response is "You're not having oneso my suggestion was "buy two". Hey, it's not one!

Down in Blackburn a couple of weeks ago, my clients were turned away as there was a particularly heavy shower prior to us getting there. The candidate before couldn't get up to speed due to the surface water on the site, so instead of cancelling his and watching the weather, the examiner binned my candidates without leaving the office! Not happy was the understatement of the week. I couldn't say anything though as he'd already made his decision and contacted his head office. The annoying part about it was that as I loaded the bike into the trailer and two unhappy peeps back into the jeep respectively, the sun came out. Both are re-booked, but literally 48hrs before their Mod 2s so if they fail Mod 1 they'll not be allowed to take 2. The only way I can save them money is to release their 2s and hope no-one picks them up, otherwise it'll be next year before they can re-sit. Needless to say everything's crossed for them.

Off tack for a few mins, yup, had to mention it. I've been back to the cottage a couple of times this year, if only to escape from the DVSA! Whenever I go, there's a couple of places I like to go, one of them



being Carrickafin Beach which runs parallel to Donegal airport. It's a blue flag beach with wild mussel beds on the rocks. Awesome to see them, ranging from tiny ones smaller than peas to the size you'd find in a dish with garlic & white wine! When I go, I like to have a paddle too and believe me, the North Atlantic in November is feckin' cold!! I got a good soaking on the last visit too. There was I, in the sea up to my ankles, next minute the weather closed in (typically I was as far away as possible from the car) and the rain/hailstones hit me like bullets for about 5 minutes. It cleared as soon as it started ... welcome to Eire!

Doncha just luurve technology.....aye, me too when it's working or the operative knows how to handle it! One Sat recently I was in Kendal's main street on a lesson waiting for the lights to change. I felt a nudge from behind....yup, car behind ran into me! Now get this. I'm sitting on my bike and the guy in the left lane blasts his horn as I'm getting off the bike and shout's "Hey mate, he's just run into the back of you". "No sh*t Sherlock" I shout back as I get off the bike to chat with the driver. No damage per se, apparently it was a new-to-him car, his foot slipped off the clutch but the electronic handbrake hadn't engaged so it bounced forwards. All very apologetic and sorted very quickly, but as this is happening at least three cars dived around us to get through the lights before they

changed back to red. Just as well I wasn't lying on the floor!!!

Aaannyhoo, I survived another year instructing - it'll be 30 next year - so celebrations will be happening. Keep an eye on Facebook/forum/newsletters in the New Year as I will be putting something bike-orientated on, even if it's only an open day as I did 4 years ago for Northern Route's 25th anniversary. Not sure how big it will be yet, but something will be happening. What about another bit of slow riding practice incorporating an MBEAM ride-out...any takers?

Righty, enough from me for now. Elsewhere hopefully will be a write up on the 5 Nations September run...oooh boy, was that a hoot!!! Flick to it and giggle at what you missed. I believe this is the last newsletter of the year, so if you're a ruffy tufty biker and riding through the winter, take care, and if you're a wuss and have parked up til March warm your slippers ya lightweights! Heh heh...seriously though, have a great festering season and see y'all in January at the Station Inn - details to follow on the forum!

Until next time.....

Andy - Northern Route



BUTCHER'S B ROAD BASH

JOHN BUTCHER

So arrived the morning of the 12th August. There would be no prospect of a lie in on this Saturday morning as the KTM needed a quick once over before heading off to the Bull Beck car park for the planned 9am departure.

The mission of the day was to follow the rain showers as much as possible and this was looking good right from the onset with a heavy grey sky. So much for the supposed summer then, at least the rain was slightly warmer than it might have been. So the twelve intrepid travellers mounted their respective steeds with a great variety of bloodlines on show, we had the usual collections of BMW's but this time Ducati, KTM, Triumph also put in an appearance thus indicating you don't actually need to ride a BMW to be a member of MBEAM!

So off we set in the general direction of Quernmore, and for those listening in on channel 11 a geomorphological education about the old route of the River Lune being blocked by a glacial moraine some 10,000 years ago.....

The first planned stop at Jubilee tower was abandoned as the view was non-existent as we were doing such a good job of following the rain clouds, so onwards and upwards and downwards over the Trough of Bowland. This bit was made slightly more exciting by having a Subaru Impreza WRX join the group and then proceed to demonstrate some superb driving ability by

overtaking and making his way through the line of bikes. A great thing about using radios is I could hear the expletives coming from behind me, so it was time to pull the group over and let him by in the hope that we would see the Subaru embedded in a hedge somewhere down the road, alas it was not to be.

I could see it was raining even more heavily in Dunslop Bridge so made our way there although there was absolutely no interest in the planned ice cream stop so we didn't hang about and were soon on our way down the Hodder valley and past the Inn at Whitewell with lots of radio information about the route of Hodder Aqueduct that we had been following for some time.

We were now in danger of running into some dry weather so we turned and headed for Waddington and onto Slaidburn ensuring we successfully kept under the rain cloud. This did make for some soggy buns that encapsulate the fantastic sausage and bacon from the Riverbank tea room.





The Old Barn café and a hearty lunch was soon dispatched allowing us to get on our way up past Malham cove onto Ribblehead and to the Hawes Cheese factory. Many of the group had been disappointed by the lack of any serious rain since Malham and would continue to be disappointed for the rest of the day.

With many ice creams consumed it was up over Buttertubs and along the fantastic Birkdale road before making our way back to Sedburgh finishing the day with a coffee at Devils Bridge with over 150 miles covered since leaving Bull Beck in the morning.

A thoroughly enjoyable B road bash!

John

Then time for a lovely twisty B road to the A65 which was soon dispatched in favour of the single track road to Malham and the official lunch stop. On arrival at the car park we created quite a bit of interest from a bus full of "youth" although they did have a discerning taste in motorcycles as the only one they liked to sit on was my KTM! We soon managed an MBEAM take-over of



ANOTHER BORDERS JAUNT

ANGELA YOUNG

This is somewhat historical and because of my fading memory, a somewhat inaccurate record of a spring trip to the Borders. 19 bikes looked fairly impressive lined up at Devils Bridge early on a Friday morning. Not quite all of them BMs. I don't know how there got to be so many, but it was going to make for an interesting weekend. In theory we split into two groups, but road conditions were generally such that we were never far apart. When on an open empty road the string of bikes seen in the mirror was a great sight.

First stop for breakfast at the Langdon Beck Hotel. As usual Frank was the first in and I thought he was joking when he came out and said they weren't expecting us! I was relieved to see they had my name in the book had not transferred it to the diary. To their great credit after a few minutes of panic they set to and produced a most excellent breakfast. Staff called in from up the road and food used that had been bought for customers the next day. All



were happy by the time we left. Can strongly recommend if you want a breakfast stop in Teesdale.

Up through Teesdale over to Weardale, Allendale via Haydon Bridge and some lovely little roads with great views (and no grass up the middle) to Kielder where John joined us with bike number 20, not a BMW.



Fuel stops are few and far between in the area and Sarah was running on fumes by the time we got to Hawick. The last few miles of the day along the Tweed Valley showed the Borders at their spring best. We were staying at the Tontine Hotel in Peebles. They made us very welcome, lots of good parking for bikes, a well stocked bar and excellent food. What more could we want?

Day 2 took us initially up B roads through the Moorfoot Hills. There was the unexpected hazard of low flying golf balls at one point where the road went through a golf course and seemingly across a fairway – I suppose one should expect that in the area where



Scottish golf began. A brief stop where the view of the Firth of Forth opened up was planned and we were treated to the unexpected launching of paragliders just above us.

On through the Lammermuir Hills, real Walter Scott country but didn't think literary references would be much appreciated so just headed for the nearest coffee/ice

cream stop. In Haddington there was a contretemps between one of us and an unhelpful motorist, but no blood was shed. North Berwick, a pleasant seaside place without much parking but good cafes, provided us with sustenance – it was nearly 2 hours after breakfast after all.

We did need to go few miles down the A1 but then headed back across the hills for lunch at Stow where Joe and Mary were waiting for us. Bike no 21 – a BMW. We had been riding past hordes of cyclists on a massive charity ride. Rather than us, lots of very steep inclines – glad I had an engine. We returned to Peebles via Heriotwater and re-crossed the golf course this time without incident.



Day 3 heading home south from Peebles through the hills to a little road I had found that we hadn't used before that cut across through Buccleugh to the A7 south of Hawick. I confess it did have a little grass in the middle in a few places. The views were beautiful and a lamb was being born by the side of the road at one point. It was fully born by the time the last bike went by. The A7 is a great biking road, it was a joy to sweep down to Langholm. A simple toilet stop there was foiled by blocked drains so we just had to walk a few hundred yards up the road to a cafe which hadn't been open when I did the recce. It would have been rude not to have coffee whilst we were there.

Various folk peeled off at Langholm, the rest headed for lunch stop at Talkin Tarn. The final stretch down the Eden Valley and over Shap to Kendal was in glorious sunshine and was a perfect way to end. Dave and Ali my friends from the Cotswolds who joined us had a great time and just love our Northern roads. Mention should also be made of Felicity who joined us for dinner each evening and seemed to be very friendly with Dave B.

Thanks everyone for making it a weekend to remember!



FIVE NATIONS

ANDY GRIFFITHS

Why 5 Nations? Well I hit on the idea during the Rugby tournament earlier in the year....France was a bit too far for a week but the others were definitely do-able! Couple of emails/texts/phone-calls and it was organised: Chester in England, Aberaeron in mid Wales, Wexford and Trim in Eire, Portaferry in Northern Ireland and the final night in Portstewart in Scotland. Invites sent, a few of the usual suspects couldn't make it but the Fantastic Four were ready to go: Yours Truly, Astrid and Andy Clayton on GS's and the odd one out, our recently qualified Master John Butcher on the KTM.

So, on a soggy Sunday afternoon in September, after a relatively non-descript run down the motorway we arrived at the hotel overlooking the racecourse. Parked up & rooms allocated, we decided to have a mooch around the city walls. The three stooges set off (John was returning from a family holiday so joined us later), with much craic and hilarity as we joked our way around.

In the evening one of our group suggested we ate in an oldy-worldy pub which was a great choice as the food was excellent. Someone (Andy C) suggested "if we don't finish we could ask for a doggy bag for John.....we'll call it a Jonny bag" This was also the pub where they had a guest beer called Bull's Hit.....yup, the innuendo started and the bikes weren't even cold! John joined us, more food and beer was consumed and we wandered back to the digs ready for Wales the following day.

Now Holiday Inn breakfasts aren't usually anything spectacular, continental if you're lucky, but this was a good'un with scrambled eggs and delicious sausages also! Following on from the last evening's craic,

someone mentioned them (Astrid) so from then on it was Astrid's job at breakfast to comment on quality, girth and overall size of said breakfast item....dunno why, but we thought it was funny!

Anyhoo, off we set with Astrid at the helm as she'd spent some time in Wales and knew the route. Awesome roads and scenery, some typical Welsh weather (worse than the liquid sunshine we have in Cumbria), but after sorting my back tyre which started loosing pressure for no reason, we arrived after the customary coffee/lunch stops (one of which had a KTM coloured cake for John) in Aberaeron. It's an awesome little 'fishing' village with its own harbour, so with plenty of time to kill, we mooched around and took in the sights. That evening we ate at the Hive restaurant which overlooked the harbour. A belting venue with lots of atmosphere and amazing mussels. I'd recommend to anyone!



The following morning's breakfast sausage was 'nothing special' apparently, but we left at 10am with Astrid in front again and were in Fishguard by 11ish ready for the ferry. Astrid took us on an 'interesting' detour Angela would've been impressed with. At one point Astrid almost had her knee down! A bend was a little sharper than anticipated, but the baby GS with herself



atop handled it with ease.....chucked it in, cranked it over and round she went. Must've had a top observer!

The ferry was more like a floating hotel with 10 decks including the vehicle ones, but I've never loaded a bike through the side door and parked at 90 degrees to the bow...hey ho, it worked, and a couple of hours later we were in Eire (but we won't mention the German bikers at the port who tried queue jumping - Gardaí were having none of it and made them wait until everyone else had cleared customs, heh heh). It was pouring in Rosslare, "I've never got so wet in such a short run" was the comment as we pulled up at the B&B in Wexford, yup, typical Irish weather, to the point where I hung my bike clothes in the shower to drip off! Later that evening more hilarity was had at the expense of the Hairy Bullock guest beer, the Pizza Snatch in the diner and Master JB walking past us all in the 'Sky on the Ground' pub, which as one can imagine made us all doubt his observational skills.....



The sausage the next morning 'tasted ok but had no girth or substance' apparently, although the breakfast overall was excellent. After my satnav let us down and a minor detour and U-turn were completed, we headed off for Trim via Avoca, (or Ballykissangel as the 90's tv series called it). We stopped for a brew in the village at Fitzgeralds, the pub that was the hub of the show. John, our manhole expert was most excited also to find some 'interesting' covers in the village!

After a scenic ride over the Wicklow mountains, we had an awesome late lunch in Naas then dropped into Trim,



whose castle doubled up as Stirling in Braveheart. The customary photo sessions and mooch around had to be had, and later that evening we ate in a restaurant overlooking the castle. A pub we happened into was under refurbishment so was a little untidy, but a sign indicating the toilets made me chuckle..."Gents to the left as ladies are always right".

'It was ok', was the comment at breakfast, so when we left the underground carpark (yup, was a gated secure one), Portaferry on the far side of Strangford Lough in the Province was our last night over the puddle. It was a long ride in respect of 'hard' miles as a lot of the roads were B class, but the scenery made up for it. We watched some peeps sand-racing on a beach, followed the coast up to Drogheda, on to Newcastle then cut across country to Strangford.



Unfortunately the Cuan was fully booked, so after crossing the lough we were at our penultimate destination. We ate at the Portaferry hotel overlooking the lough, had more delicious mussels and then had a pint in Dumigan's Bar, the smallest pub in Ireland (look it up, it's a play on words but it does get busy) before heading back to the

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Contact us

Share your thoughts and experiences

We're always on the lookout for new stuff for the newsletter...reviews, rants, raves, jokes, biking tips, advice, articles, anecdotes, ride-out write-ups, trip diaries, clothing/ product,/bike/accessory reviews, opinions, biker-friendly B&B and brew-stop recommendations. And why not feature in our Member Profile. Oh, and you know that great biking photo you took...can we use it for our front cover, please?

Please send newsletter submissions to:

newsletter@mbeam.org.uk

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the Group or the IAM.

Any correspondence should be forwarded by email, to the secretary:

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Alternatively, you can contact the secretary by telephone:

0844 586 7971

To join the forum follow the link on the MBEAM website:

www.mbeam.org.uk



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