

SAM ASSOCIATE CHARTER

SOLENT ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

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Purpose

This Charter sets out the basis of the relationship between Observers and Associates. It also describes the role of the Associate Coordinator.

Observers

Observers give their time freely to Associates. They also invest considerable time, energy and personal expense in their own personal training so that they can provide Associates with a "Skill for Life".

Associates

In exchange for their Observers' time and commitment, a reciprocal commitment is required from Associates:

- To regularly practice between Observed rides, in order to putting into practice what they have been shown learned and to applying 'The System of Motorcycle Control'.
- A commitment to study the *Highway Code*, the *IAM How to be a Better Rider*, *Know Your Traffic Signs* and preferably, *Motorcycle Roadcraft*, in-between observed rides.
- To attend Theory and Slow Riding training sessions whenever possible.
- To make a voluntary contribution towards the Observer's motorcycle running costs, as set down by the Group and varied from time to time. This is currently £10 for rides up to 40 miles and £15 for rides in excess of 40 miles.
- To keep in contact with their Observer at reasonable intervals and to respond positively to their Observer's attempts to arrange subsequent observed rides.

Associate Coordinator

The Associate Coordinator liaises with Associates, Observers and the Chief Observer facilitating the training of SAM Associates. The Associate Coordinator is available should an Associate have an issue related to their training or an administrative matter that they wish to discuss, but would rather not with their Observer.

However, while any correspondence with the Associate Coordinator can be expected to be focused on facilitating the Associate's training, the commitment to train, practice and study must come from the Associate.

The Process

1. After joining SAM, a new Associate's details are forwarded to the Chief Observer by the Membership Secretary.
When a training space becomes available, the Chief Observer will allocate the new Associate to an Observer.
2. The Observer to whom an Associate is allocated will make contact to arrange the first observed ride. Subsequent observed rides will be arranged by mutual agreement.
3. If the Observer has not heard from the Associate for more than 3 weeks the Observer will attempt to arrange a further observed ride. Thereafter clause 10 may operate (see below) if a further two weeks elapses without a response from the Associate.
The Observer allocated to an Associate will make contact to arrange the first observed ride.
4. When an Observer feels that an Associate is test-ready, he/she will recommend a Check Test Ride with a Senior/National Observer to verify the Associate's progress. The Check Test Ride will be arranged through the Chief Observer.

5. Associates who achieve a satisfactory standard in their Check Test Ride will be recommended to apply to the IAM to take the IAM's Advanced Motorcycle Test. If they do not demonstrate the required standard they will be referred back to their Observer for continued training.
6. Any Associate who wishes a second opinion on their progress is welcome to come along to a SAM Sunday and request an observed ride with an Observer, other than their own.
7. Some riders achieve the necessary skills with 6 runs / observed rides, while others require more. Every rider is different: If, after 10 runs / observed rides, the Observer or Associate feel they are unable to make further progress, the Associate may be handed back to the Chief Observer for advice or reallocation to another Observer.
8. Associates are normally expected to pass the IAM Advanced Test within one 2 year of joining SAM, although extensions may be allowed depending on individual circumstances'.
9. Associates are encouraged to ride in all weathers, as this is an essential skill for life. Cancellation of an observed ride run due to bad weather will be a joint decision by the Observer and the Associate.
10. If the Observer feels that insufficient progress is being achieved by an Associate over a three month period due to a lack of practice and/or lack of studying; or, the Associate not responding to the Observer's attempts to arrange an observed ride keeping in contact, the Associate will be "pooled" and await reallocation to another Observer.
11. Associates who are placed in the pool will usually be contacted by the Associate Coordinator to ascertain their intentions. The Associate Coordinator will liaise with the Associate and the Chief Observer to facilitate their continued training, if possible.
12. In the event that an Associate feels that, for whatever reason (e.g. a clash of personality, difference in style etc.). He / she is not making the progress with their Observer that they had hoped for, they should discuss this with their Observer and attempt to agree a plan. If this is not satisfactory the Associate may contact the Associate Coordinator to request reallocation to another Observer, at the Chief Observer's discretion.
13. Associates who have been pooled but continue to subscribe to membership of the IAM and SAM will be designated "Subscribers" after one year and will only be reallocated to an Observer on their specific request.