

Briefing for New Associates.

Now that you are enrolled on your course as a member of NAM, a group of the IAM, you will be linked with an Observer, who will help you prepare for your Advanced test.

The number of sessions that will take is not fixed; it depends on how quickly you pick up the required skills into your everyday riding. In turn, this will depend upon the commitment you apply to studying your IAM Associates' booklet and the Highway Code.

Please recognise that actively practicing between observed sessions is essential.

Your Observer, who will have trained beyond Advanced standard, will contact you by email, text or telephone to arrange a mutually convenient time and place to meet.

At the first meeting, he/she will discuss with you your background in biking, your reasons for seeking advanced training and begin to plan a course tailored to your present level of riding and needs.

It is your responsibility to present yourself with a bike that is legal and roadworthy, and wearing appropriate riding gear. That does not mean new, or fashionable, or expensive; just practical for the job.

In respect of the legalities, you will not be expected to produce certificates, but you will be required to sign a declaration that you have the appropriate licence, insurance, MOT (if necessary), road tax paid and that you are fit to ride. The declaration form is in the booklet you got from the IAM. Please read it carefully before signing. You must have your Associate booklet, including the signed declaration, with you at each observed ride, so that your Observer can complete a run sheet after each ride.

You will be asked to read a number plate at a distance of 20 metres. If you need to wear spectacles to do this, you must wear them while riding (Highway Code rule 92).

Should any of the above give him/her cause for concern, the Observer may decline to continue.

Please remember that all of our Observers are volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise. You are asked to make a contribution of £15 towards their costs on each ride. It must be stressed that this is a contribution: it does not cover the expenses incurred.

Your Observer will carefully brief you about the conduct of the ride, the route to be taken and the skills to be practiced. You are expected to conform to the rules of the road as in the Highway Code. However, remember that you are entirely responsible for your own riding and safety and your Observer, NAM and the IAM do not accept any responsibility for the way you ride.

When your Observer considers that you are ready to take your test, that opinion will be confirmed by a member of the Training Team who will take you for a pre-test ride before application is made for a test. This is a check intended to ensure that candidates are ready for the test by an external examiner.

On very rare occasions, an Associate and Observer may not establish a good working relationship. Should you find yourself in this position, please don't let it become an issue. There are sufficient Observers available for us to establish compatibility. All you need to do is ask the chief observer to make a change.

The above may seem heavy and serious and, to some extent, it has to be. Please don't let it make you forget that we ride bikes for the pleasure we get from using high levels of skill.

Make it fun and enjoy yourself.

NAM Chief Observer
chief-observer@namrider.com.
February 2023