

Wolverhampton Advanced Motorcyclists

Associate, Local Observer & National Observer Training Programme

Introduction

The primary objective of Wolverhampton Advanced Motorcyclists (WAM) is to improve the standard of riding of motorcyclists who have already passed the DSA test. Thereby enabling riders to reach a level of competence to enable them to pass the advanced riding test and become safer riders. This document sets out the process by which associates, Trainee Observers (TO), Local Observers (LO) and National Observers (NO) will be supported by WAM. It is the Chief Observer (CO) who is responsible for training and the maintenance of training standards within WAM and reports back to the committee. The CO is supported by the training team and by other NO in the group. The training brief includes both associates on the Advanced Rider Course (ARC) and the in-house training and assessment of TO, LO and NO. The committee of WAM will monitor and review all the training activities to ensure that the high standards of WAM are maintained. This can be achieved by monitoring “pass” rates and any comments received from examiners. The committee will resolve any disputes that arise between the CO and a member of WAM or an associate.

Associate Training

When a rider joins IAM Roadsmart and signs up to do the ARC they do so as an associate and they are given details of their local group. When their details are received by WAM, the groups associate controller will contact them and assign them either a LO or NO, who will assist them in developing the skills to improve their riding. This process is based on “one to one” rides with the observer giving ongoing feedback, demonstrations and suggestions on how to improve their riding. The associate may also be allocated to a TO. If this is the case, then a NO will also be allocated to the associate. It is the NO who is always responsible for the associates development. This will ensure that a standard consistent with that which would be expected from a LO is maintained. A LO and their associate may sometimes be joined by a TO to help with their observer training. This would be with prior agreement of both the associate and the LO.

When it is considered by the observer that the associate has completed the ARC and are riding consistently at test standard, they will contact the CO to arrange a pre-test ride with a NO. This is to enable the associate to experience the environment and a route that replicates the type of roads that might be experienced during their actual test. The associate’s observer is welcome to follow on the pre-test ride. The NO will provide feedback based on the pre-test ride to both the associate and the observer. The associate will be advised to apply for their test or be referred to their observer for further development of their riding. This is of benefit to the associate and provides a monitoring function for the observer.

Categories of Observers

All observers are required to be Institute of Motor Industry (IMI) registered by the end of 2017. With this in mind there will be 4 categories of observers within WAM, they are TO, LO, NO and Local Observer Assessors (LOA).

Trainee Observer

TO have been selected to follow the WAM observer training programme as detailed in the, IAM Observer Qualification and Assessment Motorcycle document, with the aim that they qualify as LOs. Their progress is recorded both in their WAM, TO logbook and on progress summary sheets which are filed in by LOA and are submitted to IMI.

Their role includes

- Learning “observer” skills
- Training an associate under the supervision of a NO
- Participating in training rides, training courses and observer meetings

Local Observer

LO will have completed the WAM observer training programme. They will have had their progress summary sheets submitted to the IMI and received confirmation that their training is complete and that they are now registered by the IMI and IAM as a qualified LO.

Their role includes

- Training associates and recording their progress
- Conducting taster rides for potential new associates
- Giving observing demonstrations to TO
- Participating in training rides, training courses and observer meetings
- Reporting any problems with training back to the CO
- Leading group rides

To help maintain the high level of observing and the above average pass rate of associates within WAM all LO are required to do an annual training and assessment ride with a member of the WAM training team.

National Observers

NO will be experienced LO who have completed the WAM observer training programme and having been recommended to do so by the CO, the IAM NO Assessment. They are considered to have reached the highest standard of riding and of providing feedback to other riders and are expected to maintain that level.

Their role includes

- Training associates and recording their progress
- Training new observers
- Conducting pre-test rides for associate
- Maintaining the quality of observing within WAM
- Maintaining the quality of riding within WAM
- Participating in training rides, training courses and observer meetings
- Helping to run training courses for observers and associates
- Helping any observers who might be have difficulty in showing an associate a technique
- Leading group rides
- Reporting any problems with training back to the CO

In Addition to the annual training and assessment ride with a member of the WAM training team, NO are required to retake the IAM NO assessment every 5 years.

Local Observer Assessor

LOA will be experienced NO who have been recommended by the CO to resister with the IAM as a LOA.

In addition to their role as a NO they will also be expected to

- Be responsible for the continual assessment process of TO with the final sign off when they consider that the TO is competent within the LO framework
- Complete a LO Progress Summary report after each assessment ride with the TO and submit it to the IMI
- Provide training to LO taking the NO assessment
- LOA may also be asked by the CO to join the training team which is responsible for the continual training and assessment of all the observers within WAM

In Addition to the annual training and assessment ride with a member of the WAM training team, LOA are required to retake the IAM NO assessment every 3 years.

Local Observer Training Programme

The LO training programme has several units and the TO needs to show competence in these to become a LO. WAM members who are interested in becoming an observer are invited to contact one of the groups NO or a member of the groups committee to make their interest known.

It is expected that any member volunteering to become a TO would have at least 6 months continuous riding experience after passing the advanced test. The TO should possess the determination and have the time available to complete and pass the observer training program. The TO is expected to display a high level of practical skill which is above the level

of that required to pass the standard IAM advanced test, together with a good theoretical knowledge of advanced riding techniques. They will also need to be fully aware of the contents of the Highway Code, the Advanced Riding Course Handbook (ARCH) and the group structure. The TO will need good interpersonal skills in order that they can interact with associates.

All volunteers for observer training are reviewed by the CO with the assistance of other NO and the group committee and are expected to meet the minimal requirement as detailed above. If the volunteer is considered to have demonstrated the necessary skills, then they will be registered with the IMI. Once the group receives confirmation from IMI that they are registered then their LO training can commence. If the volunteer is deemed by the committee not to have or achieve the appropriate skills to undertake the role, the CO will provide them with verbal feedback and they will be provided with further coaching and support to reapply.

Once the new TO registration is confirmed by the IMI they will start the training programme as detailed below

- TO will be issued with the training pack consisting of; TO logbook in which they must record all their training, a copy of the LO training programme, a copy of the IAM Observer Qualification and Assessment Motorcycle document and a copy of the IAM group rules.
- TO is required to do a demonstration ride to a standard above what is required to pass the standard IAM test.
- TO is required to show a good knowledge of the Highway Code, ARC Handbook and the Group structure by answering multi choice questions and attaining a score of at least 80%
- The TO will then be assigned a NO who may or may not also be a LOA to oversee their practical training
- TO will then shadow at least 3 different observers to gain experience of observing
- TO will then be assigned an associate for them to observe with full guidance from the NO
- During their training the TO will be assessed by a LOA and the completed LO Progress Summary sheets will be submitted to the IMI.
- When the LOA is satisfied that the TO is competent at all elements detailed in the IAM Observer Qualification and Assessment Motorcycle document a final LO Progress Summary sheet will be submitted to the IMI signing off the TO
- The IAM will then notify the TO that they are now a qualified LO and that they can now start observing without the guidance from a NO

The training must be completed within 12 months of the registration with the IMI.

National Observer Training Programme

All experienced LO are encouraged by WAM to register with the IMI to obtain the NO qualification.

The NO training programme in common with the LO training programme has several units to complete. These are detailed in IAM Observer Qualification and Assessment Motorcycle document, the LO needs to be competent in all of these to qualify as NO. The assessment which is IMI accredited is carried out by an IAM Regional Quality Manager and needs to be re assessed every 5 years. Training and preparation for the National Observer Assessment is carried out by the groups LOA with assistance from the WAM training team using the IAM Observer Qualification and Assessment Motorcycle document and NO Competency Criteria Checklist. The assessment must be completed within 12 months of registration with the IMI.

Continual Training and Assessment

To help maintain the high standards of observing within WAM. Continual training, assessment and support is undertaken with all the observers in the group. To achieve this, as well as doing an annual observing assessment, observers expected to attend at least 1 of 3 observer meetings held throughout the year, usually in April, July and October where they can be told of any changes brought in to the ARC and can bring up any observing issues or questions. The CO and the other members of the training team are also available to give advice or guidance to observers at any time.

Post Test Development for Members

WAM offers all group members the opportunity to develop and enhance their riding skills. This would include the opportunity:

- To train as an observer
- To retake the test with the aim of F1rst.
- Encouragement to progress to Masters level
- To have the opportunity to undertake an assessment ride with an observer. This will confirm if their riding remains at the level required to meet the IAM advanced test standards.