

Feed Back

from Jim Williams who passed his test last year

I finished my "Skills for life" training culminating in IAM test pass on Saturday 13 October 2012. My instructor, Brian Purnell is a senior observer with Dorchester and West Dorset Advanced Motorcyclists (DWDAM). I have been riding for 35 years on and off but got back into it this year after the kids left home. I wanted to increase my skill and confidence on the bike (R1200GS) and do some touring with my wife.

We had ten observed rides with gradual improvements over time. My instructor was patient, enthusiastic and offered very constructive feedback. One area where I struggled was the fine balance between safety and making progress. At first my desire to demonstrate "getting a move on", caused a conflict with overtaking only when safe to do so. At other times, it was observed that I had missed overtaking opportunities mainly due to the fact that I was in the extended following position and had not moved up in anticipation of an overtaking opportunity.

The guidance I received was to strictly obey all plated speed limits and not to exceed them under any circumstances. Only in a national speed limit, where the vehicle in front was travelling well below the limit, it was OK to overtake briskly. I feel that I now have the right understanding of progressive riding.

Overall, it was a really positive experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. I feel more confident on the bike and have a much greater awareness of potential hazards. I am very grateful to Brian and the DWDAM team for giving their time to help me to become a better rider.

Regards, Jim Williams