



Newsletter February 2018

Congratulations to

Dave Bavister & Dave Burrows

who passed the Advanced Test in January

&

Trevor Goodall

who qualified as a National Observer.

AGM

Our AGM is on Thursday February 22nd in Shilton Village Hall (CV7 9JZ). The doors open at 7:30pm and the meeting starts at 8 pm. As expected with a vibrant group, we always enjoy good attendance. Full details including the official notice and nomination forms are at the end of the newsletter and also on the News page of the website ([here](#)).

Subscriptions

CWAM continues to offer outstanding value for money and has yet again frozen subscriptions at just £15 a year. Where applicable, you should have received renewal notices from Membership secretary Mark Ford last month. If you haven't already done so, please pay your subs ASAP and continue to enjoy all the club nights, rideouts and other events CWAM organises throughout the year.

Skittles Evening



The ever popular Skittles Evening returns on Friday February 16th. Doors open at 7:30 for a prompt 8:00 start at the Jaguar Social Club. This usually frolicsome event, where good fortune generally triumphs over skill, is open to all members, their families and friends. This year we are adding incredible value by offering a scrumptious half time feast of either curry, chilli or a veggie option plus chips or rice all for the deliciously giveaway price of £2.50. If you wish to take advantage of this fabulous food offer we need some idea of numbers so please let Ryan know your preferences by completing the [CWAM Skittles Night booking form](#). Payment is on the door.

Annual Dinner

The Krug Grande Cuvée of Warwickshire bikerati sparkled and effervesced at the Coventry Sports Club for the well attended CWAM Annual Dinner. The new venue proved popular and having been called to order by Ryan we sat down to a tasty three course dinner.

Table 8 may have been unlucky with the raffle but I found myself in the midst of elite company as three of my fellow diners went up for presentations. This is a slight exaggeration as Alan Sprung who won the Associate Award was seated in spirit only as he had succumbed to a poorly timed virus.

Having passed his Advanced Test in August 2017, only 20 months after taking his motorcycle test, Alan showed great determination in adapting his style in line with advanced requirements.

In spite of a minor crash and mechanical problems that lengthened his training period, his enthusiasm and determination never wavered being ready to ask relevant questions, always striving to be a better rider. As well as practising in the UK he visited Germany 3 or 4 times gaining extra experience. He has also succeeded in his long term goal to join Blood Bikes. To quote Keith Daffern his observer, *'quiet and unassuming, Alan just gets on with it, no moaning with a 'just tell me what to do' approach to learning. A worthy recipient.*

Ian Collard introduced the Terry White Memorial Award for Training by saying that all of the trainee observers put in a huge amount of work to become Qualified Observers, and any one of them could be eligible for this award but of the 2017 crop one stood out and got the unanimous vote of

the Training Team. "Under normal circumstances, we prefer for all candidates to have a few miles under their belts before starting the course. However, on this occasion the enquiries started whilst still an Associate. In fact a few classroom sessions had been attended before passing the advanced test, the keenness could not be ignored. An avid note taker, a minor crisis was averted when the note book went missing for a while before being found. Always asking questions and enquiring when unsure, we were tested as much as he was. He studied hard for the exams, which were successfully completed before going out on the road with a mentor and an associate. He took to the coaching with gusto, almost immediately achieving the competency required of an Observer with his mentor commenting in his reports that he was looking forward to the next session. He was signed off in November, taking the associate to test on his own. Ian asked mentor Steve Draper to present a very happy Sagar Depala with his well deserved award.



Keith Daffern accepts the Associate Award on behalf of Alan Sprung



Sagar Depala receives the Terry White Memorial Award for Training from his mentor Steve Draper

The third table 8 representative was Derek Ramsdale who was presented with his Advanced Test pass certificate. This came as a bit of a surprise to me as I'd been on the Lakes tour with him last year and many other rideouts.

Unfortunately table 8 lacked the winner of the Jim Sampson Award but we didn't hold that against him. Jim said that in a continual campaign to improve his already considerable skills,

Simon Oatley had been out with him a number of times in the last year and each time produced a standard of ride that would have been worthy of a professional rider. Simon rode consistently to the system and achieved the highest score of the year in dreadful weather conditions and then still kept coming back for more. He said it was the best ride he had seen from anyone at CWAM over the years. There can surely be no higher accolade. Congratulations Simon.



Ian Collard presents Derek Ramsdale with his pass certificate



Simon Oatley receives his award from Jim Sampson

Ryan and Ali did a fine job of cajoling, wheedling and sweet-talking a record £240 worth of raffle ticket sales in aid of the Air Ambulance. The only thing remaining is to thank Ryan for his considerable efforts in organising such a successful event for CWAM.

CWAM Group Award 2018 – Paul Lewis

I've separated the CWAM Group Award because it was awarded to a member who has made an exceptional contribution to the Club and deserves a couple of hundred words of glory all to himself.

Roger Barratt told diners that the committee had unhesitatingly and unanimously decided to make the Group Award to Paul Lewis. He went on to say that "Hopefully most of you know Paul but I will tell you anyway why we made that decision...."



Paul joined the club in October 2003. He quickly passed his test and went on to become an Observer, gaining a reputation for very detailed reports. A couple of years later he became a Senior Observer and fairly soon a position on the committee beckoned and subsequently he became our Training Officer.

At that time there were concerns over the variation in Observer training between different clubs and, whilst the IAM had talked about standardising things, it never got off the ground. So, in 2008, we decided to do our own thing and Paul was asked to write the CWAM Observer Training Manual, much of which we still use to this day.

Paul became Chairman of CWAM in 2012. He gave up much of own time to developing what the club offered including leading many of the ride outs.

He stepped down from the committee in 2015 and since then has been undertaking our post-test training along with organising the rides with Jim Sampson and acting as tail man. However due to

other commitments Paul has now passed this baton onto others.

Everything Paul has done for CWAM has been a success. He trained many associates himself and frequently appeared in the top 3 for the number of training rides carried out each year. The Observer Training Course he wrote has given us a standard of Observer among the highest in the country. In his years as Chairman, CWAM achieved an all-time record number of test passes. Finally, the post-test rides he put so much effort into with Jim have taken several good riders and made them into excellent riders who are operating at another level.



The CWAM Group Award is given to those who have made an exceptional contribution to the Club and there is no doubt that Paul Lewis has done that so it is very well deserved."

Unfortunately Paul was unable to be at the dinner but Roger will be presenting it in the near future.

Ed. On a personal note, during my long spell as an associate I was lucky enough to go out with Paul quite a few times and his unfailing patience, courtesy and enthusiasm to pass on his knowledge was a constant spur encouraging me onwards. He is also very supportive of my efforts with the newsletter and often offers topics up for inclusion. Who could ask for anything more?

Rideout to Heather

Trevor Smith writes - A dozen souls braved the keen wind and polar temperatures to join Trev on what is becoming an annual pilgrimage to the biker friendly Crown Inn at Heather. Charged up with McD's offerings and with Patrick shepherding at the rear, the group set off at a pace that paid due respect to the low temperature which varied little throughout the ride at around 4 degrees.

South Leicestershire is an unknown quantity for many CWAM members who reside in the south and east of our region but has some interesting areas to explore despite its past link to mining coal. The massive Croft Boot sale was not in evidence as we turned towards Huncote and before long we were crossing the A47



to catch a sight of Thornton reservoir, a popular hotspot for walkers and fishermen. The Nursery tearoom at the start of the water is a good coffee stop in summer.

The run in to Heather reminds us of the area's mining past and pulling into the Crown car park one is greeted by the front half of a motorbike seemingly driven through a first floor wall. Equally quirky inside, Mine Host Simon produced coffees and bacon baps to order while we amused ourselves browsing his wall and door art. Surprise guests this year, (Ian Chapman and daughter



arrived by car last year in pouring rain) Mr and Mrs Hubbard joined us for a natter, by bike as you would expect!

Suitably refreshed, we returned via Shackerstone and Market Bosworth to pick up the A47 for the run down the

edge of Hinkley to the A5 and split up to pursue our personal routes home.

Lands End to Skaw - reduced

On Friday August 18th 2017 John Chivers started his celebrated, record breaking ride from Lands End to Skaw in the Shetlands. Nothing exceptional you may think until you realise it was on an electric bike with all the attendant tribulations that incurs. You may have read John's full length epic tale on on his website <http://www.johnchivers.com/lejogskaw/story/> or the article in February's *Ride* magazine but he has kindly produced a pocket version for us which is available on the website News page [here](#).



Used not abused, crash helmets needed

There is a growing trend for households to declutter and, as ever, CWAM is here to help you. We all know that crash helmets take up a deceptively large amount of space in our garages, sheds and possibly under the kitchen table. One is enough, two is probably too many but three or more is verging on being an obsessive hoarder heading towards medical disorder. (I believe Ian Collard has 7!)



Keith Daffern will take your old helmet and ensure it goes to a good home at the Red Cross where it will be used in training exercises. **Please bring your old helmets to the social nights** and Keith will pass them

on to the Red Cross Centre in Coventry. If you are unable to get to our fabulous Club Nights contact Keith and he will be happy to arrange a convenient handover.

It is important that helmets, although no longer suitable for road use, are wearable for training purposes and not battered skip fodder.

Paul Owen out East again.



The BBC may recently have had problems with its China Desk but our Oriental Observer Paul Owen is happily reporting from Thailand. Much travelled Paul, (you may remember his eventful clandestine week in China last year), has just finished a less stressful four day circular tour of the north via Chaing Rai, Nan and Hot and has sent us another set of the exotic photos we've come to expect from him.



*Welcome to new member
Phil Hase
who joined us last month*

IAM RoadSmart News

As usual the latest IAM RoadSmart News is [here](#) although there is only one item of January news about young drivers 'not learning to avoid crashes'. The IAM blogs are [here](#), one of which is a bit about winter riding which seems a bit familiar.

CWAM Events in February

Sun	4	Social Ride Out	Provisional date	Associates & Full Members	Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead this rideout	Trevor Smith
Sun	11	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 09:00	Associates & Full Members	Not just for check rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride.	Ian Collard
Fri	16	Skittles Evening	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Open 7:30 start 8:00	CWAMs, friends & family	An evening of light hearted fun for all the family with a dose of good natured rivalry. Proof that for at least one evening life can be all beer and skittles.	Ryan Howatt
Sun	18	Social Ride Out	Provisional date	Associates & Full Members	Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead this rideout	Trevor Smith
Thur	22	AGM	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ Start 19:30	Associates & Full Members	Doors & bar open 7:30pm. AGM starts 8:00pm. CWAM always enjoys a good turnout to review the past, look to the future and vote for your committee. Bar open!	Roger Barratt
Sun	25	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 09:00	Associates & Full Members	Not just for check rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride.	Ian Collard

For all future events check out the [Diary page](#).

If anyone has news to share, tips to pass on, pictures for the gallery or items for sale please mail me (webadmin@cwam.org.uk).



Your website - your news - your contributions!



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Coventry and Warwickshire Advanced Motorcyclists Group (CWAM) will be held at 8.00pm on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at Shilton Village Hall, CV7 9JZ to enable the Trustees of the Group (Registered Charity no.1056844) to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 for approval by its members and to conduct an election.

Please note that Minutes from the last AGM and the 2017 Accounts will be available for perusal prior to the meeting.

All CWAM members are invited to attend but under IAM regulations only Full Members (i.e. passed IAM test) may vote. A member entitled to vote may appoint a proxy to vote instead.

CURRENT OFFICERS

All officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election:

Chair	Roger Barratt	retiring at the AGM
Vice Chair	Trevor Smith	will stand for re-election 2018
Secretary	Robert Dargie	retiring at the AGM
Treasurer	Robert Langford	will stand for re-election 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

One third of the Committee must retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election.

Retiring from the Committee: Roger Barratt, Robert Dargie, Hayley Vigor

Retiring and standing for re-election: Mark Ford

Not retiring and years remaining before retirement by rotation:

Ryan Howat	1 year
Tarnya Brink, John Chivers, Ian Collard, Keith Daffern, Nick Lilley, John Kickham	2 years

On behalf of the Committee,

**Robert Dargie, Group Secretary, 4 Pelham Bend, Coventry, CV4 9GT
(email r.dargie@btinternet.com)**



Committee Nomination Form

Nominations are invited from CWAM Full Members to stand for election either as a Committee Member or as an Officer. The Nominee must be willing to stand for the Committee and sign the Nomination Form.

As the aims and objectives of CWAM are charitable all members of the Committee are Charity Trustees so you may not stand for the Committee if the law debar you from being a Charity Trustee.

Only Full Members may nominate or be nominated as Committee Members.

NOMINATIONS TO STAND AS A COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Name	Nominated by	Seconded by	Signature

NOMINATIONS TO STAND AS A GROUP OFFICER:

Position	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by	Signature
Chair				
Vice Chair				
Secretary				
Treasurer				

The Nomination Form must be returned to the Group Secretary either by email or post at least seven days before the AGM:

**Robert Dargie, Group Secretary, 4 Pelham Bend, Coventry, CV4 9GT
(email r.dargie@btinternet.com)**