



## Newsletter September 2019

Congratulations to -

*Jo Height and Dave Shakespeare*

who recently passed the advanced test and

*Craig Thomas*

who was awarded a **F1RST**.

### August Club Night

*Ian Collard writes -*

CWAM's Training Officer, Andy Spencer presented Nigel Smith with his F1RST pass certificate.

The legend in leather that is Marcus McCormack kept us all entertained with a PowerPoint presentation introducing the local examiners in a lighthearted way that humanised them brilliantly. He then went on to talk about the test and how to pass it, or even fail it!! It seems the best way to fail is to wear a "Polite" hi-viz vest closely followed by not buying the examiner a latte.

Another great evening that was well supported by the members.



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### August Rideouts

CWAM was dogged by mechanical failures in August, both planned rideouts being cancelled due to a mysteriously flat battery and an unexpectedly flat tyre. Fortunately the last Sunday in the month provided us with a merry jaunt as Howard led us from CWAM Club Sunday to the National Herb Centre (which was by no means as dull as it may sound to some) and we managed to get home before the thermometer burst.

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### Enduro in the Brecon Beacons

*At a time when I find it hard not to view with disbelief at what is happening around me, it is refreshing to banish the doom, gloom and general despair with a genuinely upbeat story. Having survived*

*undulating terrains, dense woodlands, narrow tracks, open gravel rides and water features, Rebecca Catchpole writes -*

So, Bank Holiday Weekend I found myself on the start line of the UK's 'Biggest Enduro Race Dawn to Dusk.

Back in 2016 I was there to support hubby and his best mate who had entered into the 12 hour, 2 man team. I can remember thinking how scary it looked and being just a year into my own riding, honestly thought this event would never be for me.

Forward 3 years....

I entered into the 6 hour race in the female category. Start time of 1pm which basically meant I had all morning to let my nerves get the better of me. Sitting on the start line at 12.45pm in 28°C heat (yes 28°C in Wales) I thought I was going to be sick, pass out or just wimp out.

I didn't and as the horn sounded for the start of the race I casually walked to my bike, fired her up and set off for 15 miles of off road action.



Just getting out of the arena was fun, fairly steep climbs and off camber turns etc Paul was also entered into the 6 hour solo and we had decided to ride together, so he had waited just outside the arena for me.

My first lap took me 2 hours and I can honestly say I have not ridden as many technical hill climbs and descents, little tricky forestry parts (I hate tree roots).

At around 7 miles in I was declaring to myself that I would finish the lap and that was it. So imagine my surprise then at 5pm I was heading out for my second lap which took me 1 hour 45mins.

Overall for me a really challenging event for my current riding skill level, I learned a lot, made new friends, caught up with old friends.

Will I be back next year.....hell Yes!

Inspired? Take a look at <https://dawntoduskenduro.co.uk/>



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## **Have I fallen down a rabbit hole?**

My bike insurance with Carole Nash was due at the end of August and its renewal had unacceptably risen by £74. I obviously queried this and was offered a slight reduction but nothing that I considered tolerable so I cancelled the 'automatic' renewal. Later on in the month I popped onto one of the comparison websites where quite a number of well known insurers offered well below Carole Nash's quote. Surprise surprise, Carol Nash also offered me the exact terms I'd enjoyed last year for £11 less, some £85 less than their original renewal price. The World has gone mad, pass the wine March Hare.

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## **Justice is a tricky animal.**

I have lifted the following from the Grimsby Telegraph. "A motorcyclist is furious after being told that

police have no current plans to prosecute the three teenagers who crashed his motorcycle for stealing it. Ryan's (not our Ryan) Honda CPR 125 was stolen from his home, before three teenagers, who were riding the bike at the same time without helmets, crashed it on Little Coates Road.

The trio suffered serious injuries following the crash, and it is understood that one remains in hospital. But while charges may be brought in future in relation to the crash, Ryan has been told that they won't be prosecuted for stealing it - because there isn't any evidence that they did.

Because of the theft, Ryan has now been left out of pocket after missing shifts at work and is having to rely on others to get to his job in Immingham."

I can just about comprehend why a prosecution for theft isn't being pursued (they just happened to find a bike on the roadside and didn't realise it actually belonged to anyone) but it appears that justice is not only blind but in some instances functioning with both hands tied behind her back.

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## [IAM RoadSmart News](#)

As usual the latest IAM RoadSmart News is [here](#), their blogs are [here](#) and their Facebook page is [here](#). The blog includes *How to pass horses safely on the road*. When I see a horse I just consider that there is half a ton of unpredictability wearing nasty iron shoes ahead and act accordingly. Most people are wary of annoying a wasp so why would you antagonise anything that could cause life changing injuries.

## **Take us for a ride!**

Although I am sweating buckets in the back garden on a scorching Bank Holiday Monday, the nights are starting to draw in and dew soaked autumn mornings are just around the corner. We are approaching the perfect time of year for riding, the Goldilocks season, not too cold, not too hot. If you've not led a ride yet, a midweek ride is an ideal initiation because the group will be small and everyone will be so grateful to get out you will be a hero/heroine. Don't be shy, please contact Trevor Smith at [trevorandangela@live.co.uk](mailto:trevorandangela@live.co.uk)

## **CWAM Events in September**

**Sunday, 1 September 08:45 – 12:30**

**Rideout to Broadway**

**Meet** Starbucks Budbrooke - A46 Warwick Bypass Southbound CV35 8RH Warwick

Meeting at the non tax paying coffee people at 8:45 and leaving at 9:00, Roger Barratt invites us to tea and cakes in Broadway. Around 80 magnificent miles through the bucolic beauty of the North Cotswolds to return around 12:30. This is a ride for CWAM members and associates only.

**Sunday, 8 September 09:00**

**CWAM Club Sunday**

**Meet** Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9PS

Not only for Associate Check Rides but also a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal rideout. PLUS the opportunity for those who have already passed their test to have a general refresher or to refine a specific area of their riding with one of our top

team of observers. You can turn up on the day or to avoid disappointment, book in advance with Andy Spencer.

### **Sunday, 15 September**

**Rideout** Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power.

**Meet** Starbucks Warwick, A46 Southbound, Budbrooke, Warwick CV35 8HA

Nick Lilley leads a tootle into North Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire on some interesting roads through equally interesting countryside and villages; stopping at Adam's Farm for refreshments. Meeting at 9am to leave at 9:15 from the tax avoiding coffee shop on the southbound A46; this is a ride for CWAM members and associates only.

Nearly 100 miles to return around 1pm.

### **Wednesday, 18 September**

#### **CWAM Club Night**

**Meet** Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9PS

Enjoy interesting speakers on bike related subjects and a social get-together.

Doors open 19:30, starts 20:00

**Members, friends and family all welcome.**

Contact Social Secretary Ryan Howat.

### **Sunday, 22 September 09:00 – 12:00**

#### **Police Instructor Assessment with Jim Sampson**

**Meet** Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9PS

**The sessions must be pre-booked with Ian Collard**

### **Sunday, 22 September 09:00**

#### **CWAM Club Sunday**

**Meet** Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9PS

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### **Sunday, 29 September**

**Proposed Rideout - Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead**



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 ([newsletter@cwam.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cwam.org.uk)).

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