

# CWAM



# NEWSLETTER

## January 2023



### Congratulations to .....

It comes as no surprise that with the extreme cold spell in early December and the Christmas break, there are no new passes to report in this section, so here's a list of the twenty passes that were achieved throughout 2022, discounting the unfavourable conditions during December and January, an average of 2 per month.

However, we must bear in mind that this year, 5 new Observers are being trained which takes a much longer time, so there must also be 5 members, acting as guinea pigs for their training, also taking much longer than they normally would.

*(Hopefully, as compensation, their extended training might lead to more **F1RST's**)?*

### Howard Biggs

for passing the IAMRS/IMI National Observer Assessment

### Also eight **F1RST** Advanced Tests

**Ákos Lengyel** and Observer Stuart Warren

**Gareth Davies** and Observer Richard Guest

**Phil Benger** and Observer Mike Searle

**Steve Harbon** and Observer Ian Chapman

**Faraz Tabatable** and Observer Paul Harris

**Susanne Taylor** and Observer Tess Pugh

**Laura Walker** and Observer Alan Sprung

**Chris Spindler** and Observer Nev Clark

## **And Eleven Advanced Test passes**

**Chris Grigg** and Observer Alan Sprung

**Carl Matthews** and Observer Ian Chapman

**Paul Noy** and Observer Simon Oatley

**Sean Forde** and Observer Stuart Warren

**Chris Tudball** and Observer Les Congdon

**Stuart Wadsley** and Observer Howard Biggs

**Rupert Newman** and Observer Ian Collard

**Stuart McArthur** and Observer Keith Daffern

**Wayne Smith** and Observer Digby Carrington-Howell

**Kieran Scullion** and Observer Paul Owen

**Simon Quantrell** and Observer Alan Sprung

### *Notes from the Chair.*

Happy New Year CWAM'ers! I hope you have had a good Christmas and that Santa delivered as you wished, even if he was on his new Honda. (All will become clear later in the newsletter, though it's actually a BMW.) Looking at the test pass records, above, we can safely say that 2022 has been a good year for CWAM's core business of delivering training. Great! But that's not the only success story; there's the social side as well - a huge benefit of choosing to train in a club environment, as opposed to just having lessons through a school. Two film titles spring to mind: "The Motorcycle Diaries" and "Trains, Planes and Automobiles". The former because our events diary has been kept well stocked with rides and socials and the latter because, amongst last year's offerings, there have been trips to train stations, aerodromes for gliding and the Morgan factory tour. A varied cornucopia for those who wished to partake.

So now looking forward to 2023: Whilst we generally get pretty good turnouts, I would be really pleased to see even more coming along and getting involved in the New Year. (You'll have to wait for March for the next Social Night ..... but there is the AGM in February, with food too!) It's your club, so I'd like to encourage everyone of you to make the most of it. What better way could CWAM celebrate the start of the New Year than by having a record turnout for Club Sunday on 8<sup>th</sup>. Jan? (Weather permitting. Keep an eye on the events diary/your inbox/Facebook.)

All this learning, fun and frivolity doesn't happen by accident, so I would like to thank those who go the extra distance to make it so. I'm not going to name names, nor list everything but, for example, those involved in training, keeping the events diary plump, keeping us all briefed, informed, financed, enrolled,.... The list could go on. You know who you are, so thank you from me. I also want to mention the committee as a unit. When I took over as Chairman last February, I mentioned that I felt reassured to have the safety net of the committee and so it has been. The members all work well for the club, which has made my task, so far, relatively straightforward. Again, my thanks to the committee for your dedication and support.

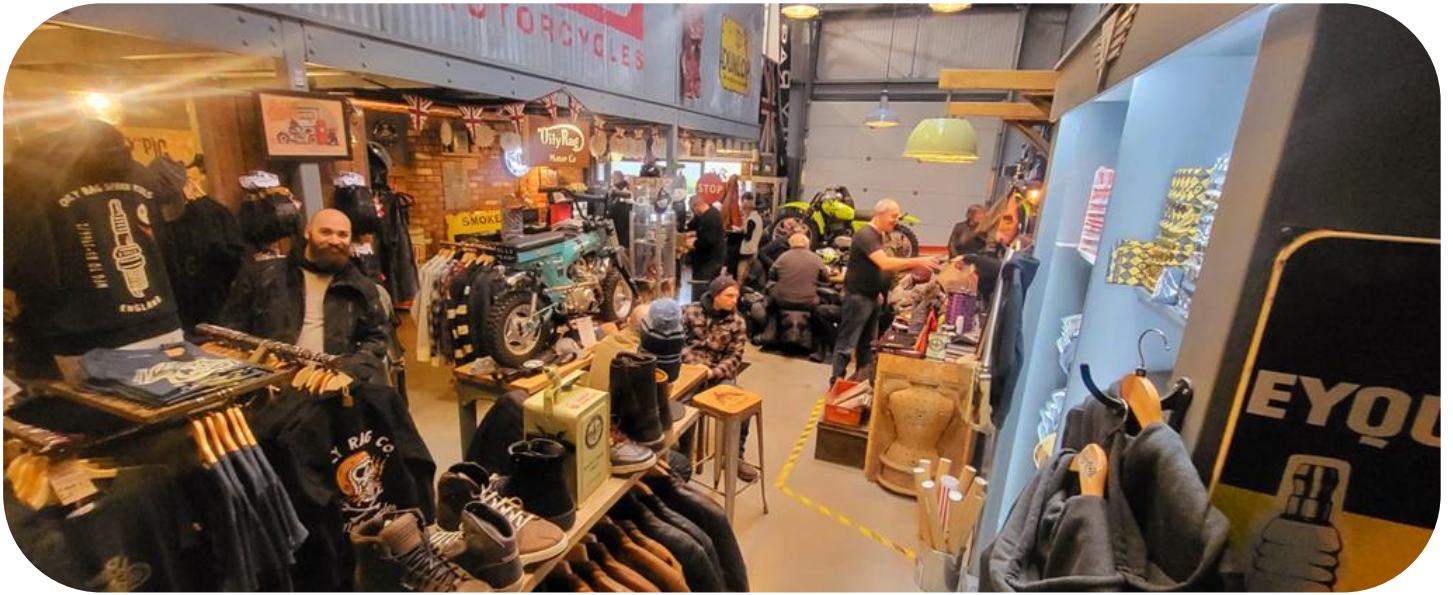
It's your club. There are things that need doing and we don't want to sit on our laurels, so if you have any suggestions for improvements, things we can do to enhance road safety or whatever, let me or a committee member know and your suggestion will be considered. In similar vein, the AGM and elections are approaching. Interested in standing? Go for it!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in 2023.  
Ride safe and enjoy the ride.

Mark A. Lunt.

# Official Club Ride outs in December

**Dave Shakespeare ~ Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Rideout to the Oily Rag, Gloucester**



Nine riders attended on what was a pretty dismal day, with drizzle in the air at the start, and of course the accompanying usual wet roads. We (the standby Drivers) were called out at 8pm the night before the ride by National Highways, in order to go gritting the motorway network, so part of the pre-ride debrief HAD to include the warning of some possible Low Temperature microclimates still lingering about in the rural sections.

Although to be fair, whilst the roads were wet, they were grippy enough for us sensible riders. Even when the bikes were on the odd occasion giving us Low Temperature warnings.

Talking of bikes, it was the first ride I've ever attended where EVERY bike was a BMW, with the exception of one solitary Ducati, of which had clearly managed to forge its papers and masquerade as a German! We've had a chat with the sentry and been assured that greater attention will be paid in order to avoid this sort of infiltration again. Tut Tut!!

The ride there, went without a hitch until the last one mile to destination, where my right signal just before a roundabout to indicate a lane change, fooled a couple of riders in the middle of the group into thinking we'd gone right!

Not sure why they didn't follow the bike in front of them? But I'll take the rap and confess that it was perhaps a poorly timed signal, in an inappropriate place. My Thanks to Martin Nee for spinning around and doing his best impression of Rawhide. Round 'em up, & head 'em out Martin! (*Rawhide was an American Western series in black and white that aired for 8 seasons from 1959 until 1966 for those of you not old enough to remember it* Ed.)

All back together again, we finally arrive in the small industrial estate that is home to our destination 'The Oily Rag'.

It was so warm and cosy, that the spectacle wearers among us were left with steamy windows on entry, slightly hampering the usual rush for two popular letters of the alphabet (P & T)!



The staff were very welcoming and left you to wander around the shop, looking at the many items of excellent clothing on offer, a bit pricey, but good quality. On damp days they don't put the tables and chairs outside, so room inside was tight. Especially when the CWAM Posse rocked up! But we snuggled up and passed a convivial hour in the glow of friendship and mutual content.



Adequately refuelled, warmed-up, and demisted, we hit the road for the return journey, taking in the Christmas lights of Broadway and Stratford On Avon.



Pleasingly, we lost nobody on the return leg, and counted everyone back in at the end location of Starbucks on the Northbound A46. A short stay allowing for another hot drink and the use of the loo was taken before exchanging farewell's and embarking on the solitary ride home, of which always reminds me of the 5am walk of shame home, after waking up in a strangers house and wondering where the hell you are!

But I guess that's another story! My thanks to all that came out and got their expensive German machinery filthy, even the rogue Italian. Dave.



Roger Barrett ~ Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Ride out to Broadway Tower



*A super panoramic photo courtesy of Dr. Steve.*

*Unlike Roger's trip to nearby KOTO Autotalli, in October, at least they did sell 'Bacon butties' here but at those prices even I opted for fruit cake! (The last piece that Dave had his eyes set on. Sorry Dave) Ed.*



This was one of those early Winter days when the weather was a major consideration. I know we are a club for advanced riders but it's not clever to go out whatever the conditions and you should always consider the purpose of the journey.

In this case the purpose of the journey was to have fun riding with like minded people to an interesting destination. Box ticked!

Next, the weather conditions. A bit of a dilemma here because it was very cold (max 3C) however it had been dry and not too cold overnight so any early frost would be confined to minor roads. So, with thirteen people booked on the ride, all of whom were experienced, I decided to go ahead but to modify the ride by keeping to the main roads.

The plan worked well on the way down and we had a good ride through Stratford, out on the Banbury Road then down the Fosse Way to Moreton-in-Marsh before turning right to join the well known Five Mile Drive which goes to Broadway. As we were a little

ahead of schedule we even had time for a brief run down Fish Hill then back up again before warming up with coffee at the Broadway Tower café.

Coming back we went down Buckle Street towards Mickleton then through Honeybourne to Bidford-on-Avon before turning into Stratford again, then onto Wellesbourne and back up to the A46 Services. This section was less progressive than I would have liked but everyone said they enjoyed it at the end stop though (they always do). I guess being out on a bike was preferable to the alternatives of work or chores!

**Another year, another 12 Wednesday Ride Outs completed. More to come in 2023 starting with the iconic Ace Café on 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

P.S. I would just like to say Thank You to everyone who has supported the Wednesday Ride Outs this year. There are a few regulars who I've had the privilege of getting to know well but there are always some new faces which is nice to see. Some are nervous, some are not, but there is always plenty to learn through riding with others so I would encourage anyone to join a ride out in 2023. Happy New Biking Year!

**Nick Lilley ~ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>      Ride out to Bicester Bean café**

The inclement weather meant that this was very sensibly rescheduled to Wed. 21<sup>st</sup>

Living the dream with CWAM on a ride that had a bit of everything and was all the better for it. Thanks to all who joined me, we must visit Bicester Bean again in 2023.



*(Perhaps we can make an effort in 2023 to put helmets on after the photo? Ed.)*



# Motorcycle Memes anyone?



**GREY HAIRIED  
RIDERS  
DON'T GET  
THAT WAY  
BY LUCK**



David Buchholz kindly submitted this for inclusion in the Newsletter ~

*(At almost 3 and a half hours long, it is way beyond my attention span, but who am I to judge? Enjoy! Ed.)*

Teapot One has a "podcast" with Ed Miles and Mick Wynn, he gave a talk to us back in the summer, about clothing that is well worth watching / listening to.

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIXYltoI86U>

Podcast Link: <https://teapotone.buzzsprout.com/972049/11726384-bru-time-109-it-s-all-in-the-underwear>

And Roger drew my attention to .....

Below is some advice from Rapid Training who I've been out with, probably the best trainers in the UK.... Follow them on Facebook if you want to, (if you have it) they do have some riding advice which differs from IAM but they are next level, more Police style riding. The clue is in the name!

**You may have noticed the turn in the weather, but if you're on a bike, here's how to stay safe!**

- \* Read the road early: more time to react, avoids abrupt changes in speed and direction
- \* Traction is everything: optimise it with silky smooth inputs when changing speed or direction
- \* Look for grippiest sections of road and use where they add advantage
- \* Straighten lines where you can to reduce lean, and use body position to reduce lean angle where necessary
- \* Stay warm: cold affects your concentration and physical reactions, consider heated kit, and thermal layers reduce bulk.
- \* Check forecast and consider what it means to your chosen route. Have a plan B if weather deteriorates.
- \* Carry visor cleaner: they can get covered in dirt and grime and hinder visibility

Missed this month by at least a third of our members, who are not Facebook users.....

Ewen Moffat-Roberts shared a post. 5 d · 🌐

Want one.



The fact he's even being jolly enough to give a wave is bringing us life.

UNILAD Tech

14 December at 00:00 · 🌐

Rudolf and the rest of the squad can relax this xmas, Santa is riding a Honda this year 🎅🦌

Behind Bars Motorcycles shared a post. 1 d · 🌐



We will be open until 5:30pm Friday 23rd December, we will then be closed. Reopening 9am 9th January.

Behind Bars Motorcycles

1 d · 🌐

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS FOR YOUR VALUED BUSINESS THIS YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL NEXT YEAR.

#behindbarsmotorcycles #kenilworth #midlandmotorbikers





**Ian Johnston**

7 December at 19:40 · 🌐



Sorry this is a bit late, but I only just found out ~ Bikers Paradise in Coventry are closing down in January. So sad to hear, such lovely staff and where I went for all my biking gear over the last 30 years.

Their sale is already well under way so all the average sizes are by now out of stock, but she tells me that they still have real bargains in larger and smaller sizes.



7

*(An even bigger shame is that those of you without Facebook have probably missed out big-time on this super sale! Ed.)*

**John Chivers** Admin

That's a shame. Used to go there for my bike leathers. Absolutely, brilliant with the on-site alterations too. I remember Emma and I sat there one day with Alec, chatting with him, while he made some alterations to some stuff we bought. They relined an old, beloved leather jacket of mine too.

But reading their closing down piece is sad. Looks like losing their two founders, Alec and Malc, and their wives, COVID especially, and now rising energy, material, and rent costs have forced their hand.

Like Reply 2 w Edited

**Mike Draper**

Looks like a visit is called for



**Nick Lilley**

Admin · 6 December at 16:05 · 🌐

**Bridge 14, Ansty Road (B4065)**

For those thinking of venturing to Ansty and/or Shilton, I am reliably informed that road is open once again.



**Dave Shakespeare**

6 December at 17:57 · 🌐



Just as Roger Barratt is about to lead what looks like the last scheduled organized ride of the year.

I would like to say 'Thank you' to ALL the ride leaders throughout the year that took the time to lead us around countless miles of wonderful countryside to some fantastic food destinations.

Thanks. 😊👍

# British Motorcycle Federation News

My thanks to Ian Collard for politely suggesting throughout 2022 that I might include some articles from BMF News. I found it difficult to decide which ones would be of most interest and so I didn't always follow his advice. The answer was obvious ~ you choose!

Here's their web site link to read more <https://www.britishmotorcyclists.co.uk/>



### Motorcycles in the EU may be subject to new end-of-life legislation

Posted on 15 December 2022



### Prototype helmet with integrated airbag revealed

Posted on 14 December 2022



### Electric motorcycles to pay road tax

Posted on 4 December 2022



### 125-year-old bike restored to working order

Posted on 28 December 2022



Could your next motorcycle be a petrol/electric hybrid? **Vitesco Technologies**, a German company which supplies electric powertrain technologies, certainly thinks so, unveiling a 400cc prototype at



(I wonder if 'Historic' is a synonym for Vintage?

In which case  
Whoopee!! Ed.)



Historic motorcycles should be exempt from mandatory periodical technical inspections, from low and/or zero emission zones and from road taxes, according to a large majority of the motorcyclists who responded to FEMA's survey on the definition and use of historic vehicles.

## CWAM events in January

**For more detail on any of these events, please click on this direct [link](#) to the events diary on our website.**

**NB** it says at the top "To view details of any event left click the text"

when	what	where
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> 09:00 to approx 16:30	<b>Rogers regular 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month Rideout</b>	To the iconic Ace Café, London! For more details, please click on the web link above and on the event itself
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> 19:30	<b>Virtual Committee meeting</b>	On Zoom
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 09:00	<b>CWAM Club Sunday and a possible rideout.</b>	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> 09:00 to 13:30	<b>Howard Biggs leads a rideout to Claydon Manor</b>	Starting at the Long Itch Diner For more details, please click on the web link above and on the event itself

Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> 09:00	<b>CWAM Club Sunday and possibly a rideout.</b>	Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> ?	<b>A possible rideout.</b>	Please contact John Chivers if you would like to lead a CWAM rideout.

## Club Sunday's neighbourhood watch initiative.

We have just passed the season of 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night' and as mentioned in the last Newsletter, the committee has decided that it would also be a good idea, for bikers to watch over their bikes on Club Sundays.

It fell on Nick Lilley to implement it at the outset and I did one to see what was involved. Nick kept saying "we really need someone to step forward and organise this". *(Funnily enough, he always seemed to be looking directly at me when he said it. So I thought "Maybe he's trying to tell me something" Ed.)*

Taking the hint, I wrote this article..... My first thought is that most of the members who are there on Sundays have an important job to do. Observers with their associates for check rides, or Committee members who should make themselves available to chat to members over a coffee.

So, even though it was their idea, let's rule all of the committee out for a start! The rest are made up of members just there to socialise and hoping to go out on an impromptu ride-out. **You are my target audience!**

Andy Spencer explained that the bikes only need watching over from 09:00 until 09:45, when most check rides and impromptu ride-outs start setting off (hence plenty of activity in the car park), **so the person on guard duty will not miss the ride-out!**

Analysing the situation further, there are approximately **25** club Sundays per year, so we only need between **12** to **25** volunteers to offer to do a stint, some once, some maybe a couple of times, during the year.

So, just **45** minutes out of your life per year. Recall this quote from Mark Lunt's annual address..... **It's your club. There are things that need doing.....**

I was so moved by this other quote from Mark ..... **What better way could CWAM celebrate the start of the New Year than by having a record turnout for Club Sunday on 8th. Jan,** that I thought "If there is a record turnout, thousands of pounds



worth more in bikes will need to be protected so I'd better offer to cover this one as well" ~ being the conscientious member that I am.

I wasn't sure how it could be organised, moving forward, but how about this for a start? If you want to commit to doing one, let us know on Facebook, over a month in advance. However, what about the multitude of you without Facebook? We know you wouldn't want to miss out on doing your bit 'giving something back to the club', so let one of the committee members know at one of our events, then I can put it in the Newsletter Events diary to remind you. Simple enough ~ let's see if it works.

I optimistically ended my piece with..... If you have better idea, or want to step forward and organise it yourself, please do!!!

However, **STOP PRESS**

At the eleventh hour ~ at the final proof reading, before publication ~ I was informed that one of the committee members, **Simon Brown** has already volunteered to be the organiser and Howard Biggs has already volunteered to cover the first one of the year on the 8<sup>th</sup>. **Oh joy of joys!!**

At this late stage it was decided to continue to publish my ideas, but I'm sure Simon will have his own, which may appear in the next Newsletter?

## I've actually had some feedback!

In the last issue I mentioned getting in touch with any positive Newsletter feedback and Roger made some suggestions one of which was to always position the IAM RoadSmart News and CWAM small print details at the very end. In previous editions members have seen these, assumed it was the end and not continued scrolling down, thereby missing important and/or stimulating content.

So, thanks Roger, suggestion implemented, no need to scroll any further down!

*(I overlooked his comments about the motorcycle memes though, because some members like them Ed.)*

**IAM** RoadSmart News

As usual the latest IAM RoadSmart News is [here](#),  
their tips and blogs are [here](#)  
and their Facebook page is [here](#).

*CWAM* small print



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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**THE END**