



Newsletter October 2017

Congratulations to

Dave Cooke, Alan Sprung & Nick Wakelam

who recently passed their Advanced Test and to

Ian Sanderson

who gained a F1RST

Tyres and cold weather stuff A timely bit of advice suggested by Paul Lewis -

Now colder mornings are upon us extra attention needs to be paid to tyre pressures. Cold causes air pressure to drop, a rule of thumb is 1-2 pounds for every 10 degrees so don't wait till your tyres resemble a squashed doughnut, check them today.

Tyres don't deliver optimum grip till they warm up and obviously the lower the outside

temperature, the longer the process takes. You may see a sports car weaving back and forth across the track like a demented pendulum but it's braking and acceleration that produces heat by flexing the carcass and causing friction. A garage that offers free air is not required to calibrate their gauge and surveys show that up to 40% of petrol station gauges are inaccurate? Reassuring isn't it?



There is a trend to fill tyres with nitrogen, I know at least one tyre replacement company does it as a matter of course and charges £1 a tyre. The idea is that fatter nitrogen molecules don't migrate through porous rubber. However, I remember the man from Michelin, or perhaps it was Dunlop, who spoke to us at a club night saying that as air is 78% nitrogen anyway, the only difference an ordinary rider will see is a lightening of their wallet.

We all know the faster you ride, the greater the wind chill. If the ambient temperature's 10°C when stationary, on a naked bike it would feel like -2°C at 30 mph and -6°C at 80 mph (without protective clothing). Wrap up!

IAM RoadSmart News - as usual the latest IAM RoadSmart News is [here](#). This month includes Maria Costello and women riders. IAM RoadSmart also posts blogs [here](#) and don't forget their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IAMRoadSmart/> .

RoadSmart Magazine



If you haven't already noticed, CWAM Polly Chapman is a cover person in the latest edition of RoadSmart. Polly, who excelled with a F1RST last year, was one of the f1rst to gain Fellow status. Details of the new membership tier are available on the IAM RoadSmart website [here](#).

Tucked into the Autumn edition of RoadSmart was notification of the IAM RoadSmart AGM. Resolution 7 proposes raising the annual subscription from £36.50 (discounted to £32.50 if you pay by direct debit) to £38 (£33.75). A completed proxy form only costs a minute of your time to submit, postage is free.

Slow Riding and Bike Handling session

Ian Collard has organised a *Slow Riding and Bike Handling* session in the car park of



[Brewers Fare Sparrow](#) (formerly Sparrow Hall) in Ansty on October 29. These are always 'no pressure' events where the emphasis is on learning and boosting confidence in executing essential riding skills. Although primarily aimed at Associates, these sessions are always well worth attending whatever your level of competence.

CWAM's expert mentors will gently add polish to your riding until, by 12 o'clock, you will be glistening like a sun drenched dragonfly emerging from a lacklustre nymph.

The session starts at 9:30. Breakfast and other refreshments are available on site.

September Club Night

Club Night was sensational in that it added a fourth law to Newton's existing three laws of motion. Jim single-handedly proved that once settled it is impossible to get members of an audience to move seats even though it means them relinquishing their long held beliefs. On the topic of whether countersteering was essential for cornering, it proved almost impossible to segregate the room into *agree*, *disagree* and *don't know* areas. I was in the *agree* camp until Jim asked then I thought it might be a trick question and changed to a *don't know* and by good fortune didn't have to move. Seeing and hearing are abilities that come naturally to me but I have come to the realisation that I don't have the necessary intellect to comprehend the complicated processes that make them possible and so it is with countersteering. Although I understand centrifugal force and gyroscopic effect, when you combine them and throw in downward force, steer torque and steer angle, everything gets a little bit blurred but Jim had some videos to illustrate the finer points. There was one narrated by an American who, due to the combination of extreme diet, well-coiffed hair, radical makeup and a cosmetically sculptured visage, resembled a



emaciated Kryten from Red Dwarf. The most informative video was from Cambridge Science Centre at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgUOOwnZcDU>. I have had a go at nudging the handlebars with no hands as Jim suggested - but only once!

After the break Nigel Andrews from Air Ambulance gave a personal and comprehensive overview of the service. Run completely by charitable donations collected by volunteers, 58% of its callouts are to traffic accidents followed closely by equestrian injuries and golfing incidents. Doughty Ian Chapman went around the room shaking the tin and made an unexpected presentation to Nigel. We all know a good cause when we see one and Air Ambulance is right up there with the best of the best of them. Details at <https://theairambulanceservice.org.uk/>

MCN Fantasy League

I've recently been bombarded with complaints that news of the MCN Fantasy League has been sadly lacking for some months. The reason is simple; I forgot all about it which, I know is hard to believe, bearing in mind the edge-of-seat-nail-biting frenzy it engenders. Daffern's Gringossteers would be more aptly named Gringos Tears as he staggers into a very poor second place nearly 600 points behind Barratt's Bees Knees who, unbelievably, triumph whilst hoarding the best part of £1m under a false floorboard at the back of the pits. Lilley's Cautious Cornerers are running on bald tyres just ahead of Scooter Boyz, a previous runner up, who is either conserving fuel or recovering from a broken leg. Meanwhile the Bedworth Flyers have been grounded and languish at the back of the field. With only six weeks racing to go, are we excited? - Yes we are!



On-Road Session with Jim

I'm still not sure whether it was an initiative test or if they didn't want me to join in but of motorcyclists, The Tilted Wig (our 'pre-arranged' meeting point), was bare. With uncharacteristic determination, I doggedly tracked Jim & Paul down to a neighbouring Wetherspoons where they were secretively tucked around a corner and looked very much at home at 9:15 on a Sunday morning. I put on a cheery countenance whilst suffering anguished flashbacks; the playground taunts and never being picked by either team captain. Having left them with no option, we all left Warwick, weaving our way through the traffic restricting flower tubs, to follow Jim bowling along the lanes of rural Warwickshire.

If I'm completely honest, the thing I most enjoy about Jim's on-road sessions is not being in front of Jim. I'm not entirely sure why I continue to put myself in the firing line; I suppose it's partly because at 72½, it is not unreasonable of me to set a goal of reaching 72¾ and embrace anything that may help me to attain that objective. It's really all about striving to minimise the moments of abject terror and maximising the moments of sheer delight.

I harbour a vain hope that by some sheer fluke a biddable sunbeam will spotlight me and

its cosmic force guide me to a perfect ride. Naturally this never happens and I have to fall back on my own pitiable talents. For some reason I find it impossible to *'ride as I normally do'*; in the back of my mind there is the concern that I am expected to display certain elements such as overtaking, cornering briskly and not stopping at give way signs. Fortunately Jim appears to have endless patience and on the positive side I pick up useful tips about easing off the front brake earlier, not being over-reliant on third gear and not shutting the door on someone who is second-guessing my capricious overtaking intentions.

Overall I'm not distraught, it could have been so much worse - believe me. Such is my improvement from the-accident-waiting-to-happen when I first joined the group that if I was fifty years younger, better looking, less physically challenged and owned a set of snazzy leathers, I'd probably make a great poster boy for CWAM.

If you want to pick up some useful tips on improving your skills painlessly, an on-road session with Jim is the perfect vehicle. And there's the added benefit of riding with and meeting some really charming, interesting people.

CWAM Club Sunday 24/9

For one reason or another I hadn't been able to visit the Jag for some weeks and I just popped in to see if there was any news for the newsletter (obviously not) and show my face. But it was a splendid morning and when Phil asked me if I wanted to ride out to Moreton in the Marsh it would have been rude to have refused. Neil Harrison led us out at a spirited pace and rather than follow the traditional route to Moreton, we took in



Coventry's Inner Ring Road, Lunt Fort, Offchurch, Old Welsh Road, Byfield, Banbury and Sun Rising Hill before joining the Fosse some 90 minutes later. As we trundled through Moreton and right towards Bourton on the Hill I started to get concerned that we weren't going to stop at all but mercifully we soon arrived at the rather superior café (they'd

probably prefer that I called it a restaurant) at Batsford Arboretum. In the warm sun, amongst the pre-autumn tints, it was suggested that, in the general mêlée of departing bikes we may have lost Gilbert and possibly others before we had even left the car park. The consensus was that Mr & Mrs Brown had peeled off rather than becoming detached but that still left some question marks. Other topics ranged from the size of Chris Hoy's thighs to the limitations of teenager's vocabulary! Somewhat wary of the convoluted route that would probably be taken on the return leg; I elected to opt out and returned home only two hours late.

Thanks to Neil for an ingenious route, a really good morning's ride for those of us who made it out of the Jag.

Last month John led a successful outing to Turville, in October we have three fantastic trips to look forward to - Herefordshire, Ludlow and Bibury. Additionally there are two CWAM Club Sundays and a superb Club Night with Dr Mohammed Kauser discussing road rage followed by Paul Ennis from Central Motorway Patrol Group telling us about 'A day in a life of a Police Motorcyclist' .



Pixels mean Prizes

Its still not too late to enter the CWAM Leisure Wear Clothing Competition. All you have to do is submit the most '*imaginative*' photo which includes a CWAM garment. The latest entrant escaped Colditz disguised as a tourist. Closing date is the end of the year (which is closer than you think).



The lucky winner will receive a highly sought after, limited edition CWAM mug, a splendid addition to any breakfast table. A prize that will make getting up in the morning a real joy.

If you aren't already proudly wearing the CWAM logo, you can order [here](#). An ideal present for birthdays and Christmas. Obviously some entries are better than others but yours may be judged the best so don't delay, add it to our [Facebook page](#)



Motorcycle Crime & Charging

With Paul Ennis visiting us in October it seems an ideal time to mention a meeting attended by MAG (Motorcycle Action Group) at the Home Office in September. According to MAG, the figures for crimes involving mopeds are high, with 16,180 recorded crimes of this nature in the last 12 months. Riders are around 16 times more at risk of falling victim to bike theft in the West Midlands, than car theft.

Given that 0.24% of all pedal cycles in the West Midlands were stolen in 2016 as opposed to 3.24% of motorcycles, MAG proposed a rethink on the disproportionate spending on cycle security. The solutions discussed ranged from better motorcycle security by manufacturers to more secure parking options for riders, especially in urban areas.

Earlier in the month there was a demonstration highlighting the continuing crime wave which has blighted biking over the last 12 months. MAG spokesman Tim Fawthrop said 'As anyone who follows the news will know, there were some terrible recent assaults on riders who were at work doing their delivery jobs. The injuries to these victims are potentially life changing. He urged riders to share what they know about the criminals

with the police.

Last month Sarah Sillars told us about the *Leuven Experiment* which proved that greater use of powered two wheel transport leads to better traffic flows and less air pollution. It therefore seems counterintuitive for Transport for London to propose a £12.50 charge for older bikes and mopeds using the new 'Ultra Low Emissions Zone'. (Source, MAG).

Thanks to Paul Lewis for bringing all the above items from MAG to our attention.

Some advance warning of a First Aid session Simon Daffern has organised in conjunction with West Midlands Fire Service. These half day courses usually include CPR, helmet removal, and first on scene procedures. Needless to say they are well worth attending. The course will be at [Canley Fire Station](#) on *Sunday 19th November*, starting at 10am and lasting 3 to 4 hours. With only a dozen places, prompt booking is advised. Contact Simon at simondaf@gmail.com



Other events in September



26-29 OCTOBER at NAEC Stoneleigh

The premier indoor off-road event with all the major manufacturers plus live action displays, stunts, competitions, rider interviews and more.

<http://www.dirtbikeshow.co.uk/>



OCTOBER 7 - RIDE TO THE WALL

A unique motorcycling fundraising ride to the National Memorial Arboretum See

<http://www.ridetothewall.org.uk/>



**13-15 OCTOBER
MCE BRITISH
SUPERBIKE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

The final round at Brands Hatch.

<http://www.brandshatch.co.uk/calendar/2017/october/bsb-13-15-october.aspx>

**STAFFORD
CLASSIC BIKE SHOWS**

14-15 OCTOBER - CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE MECHANICS SHOW County Showgrounds ST18 0BD. Over 900 traders, dealers & autojumble stands & Bonhams autumn sale.

<http://www.classicbikeshows.com/event/casrole-nash-classic-motorcycle-mechanics-show/>



29 OCTOBER - SOUTH OF ENGLAND CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE SHOW
Ardingly, RH17 6TL -

An impressive display of Veteran, Vintage and Classic bikes, auto jumble,

<http://www.elkpromotions.co.uk/>



And now for something completely different at the British Motor

Museum. 25 layouts and so much more.

<http://www.grealelectrictrainshow.com/>



Quite a few of you probably saw Kirk Pickstone's Facebook video about the Nuneaton Open Arts Trail and fellow CWAM, Sandra Owens. It occurred to me that if any members want to promote an event they are involved with, there's no reason it couldn't be publicised in the other events section of the newsletter. So, if you send me short paragraph and ideally a small picture I'll pop it in the next newsletter.

Popped up t'north behind Trevor Smith who was trying out a new, improved route in preparation for a 2018 trip. The fact that we were slap bang in the middle of Storm Aileen made it very different to our sweltering trip in flaming June. Fortunately we made it to Patterdale in the dry but it was a sodden, if short walk back from the White Lion after dinner. Wednesday saw us setting out in rain but appropriately the sun briefly appeared as we passed Glencoyne, where wandering Wordsworth chanced upon those



wretched daffodils. However, heavy showers were the order of the day as we skirted most of the lakes on a spectacularly scenic route. Our only omission was 'The Pass which must not be named'. Then across the Yorkshire Dales stopping briefly and damply beside the Ribblehead Viaduct and Aysgarth Falls before spending the night at Grinton Hall. When the group stayed there in June there was much

consternation because the promised in-house dinner was not available; all I can say is that you had a lucky escape! Thursday saw a great route through the Dales followed by a spell of urban speed limits as we crossed the once prosperous band of mill towns north of Saddleworth Moor before swooping down through the Peak District and Derby Dales.



The satnav behaved impeccably as did I. If you fancy a good three day trip next year, through some of the best countryside in England, Trev's the man to talk to.

CWAM Events in October

Sun	Oct 1	Social Ride Out	McDonald's A46/A435 Alcester Meet 09:00 leave 09:30	Associates & Full Members	In time for the cider apple harvest, a Scenic Tour of Herefordshire at its most mellow fruitfulness. approx. 150miles.	Ian Collard
Thurs	Oct 5	Committee Meeting	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ	Committee members	Start 20:00	Roger Barratt

Sun	Oct 8	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 09:00	Associates & Members	Not just for Check Rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride out.	Ian Collard
Sat	Oct 14	Police Instructor Assessment	Sessions must be pre booked. Meeting place tba to attendees.	Fully booked no places available	This is an on-road session with Jim Sampson. Book through Paul Lewis.	Paul Lewis
Sun	Oct 15	Social Ride Out	Starbucks Budbrooke behind BP south bound A46 Warwick Bypass CV35 8RH. Meet 09:45 leave 10.00am	Associates & Full Members	An attractive route to lovely Ludlow with 1½ hour stop for lunch and general mooching around the town. Return around 4pm to BP on A46.	Steve Bagley
Wed	Oct 18	Club Social Night	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Open 19:30 start 20:00	Everybody & guests	Dr Mohammed Kauser discusses (hopefully in English) " <i>Rage au volant - Pas moi!</i> " or we locals say ' <i>Road rage? - not me mayt.</i> ' Paul Ennis from Central Motorway Patrol Group follows with ' <i>A day in a life of a Police Motorcyclist</i> ' which includes motorcycle crime and crime prevention advice.	Ryan Howat
Sun	Oct22	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 09:00	Associates & Members	Not just for Check Rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride out.	Ian Collard
Sun	Oct 29	Social Ride Out	Long Itch Diner CV47 9QZ Meet 08:30 Leave 09:00	Associates & Full Members	The Bibury Run - Roger B's popular run through the scenic Cotswolds to the Fish Farm Cafe. - 100 miles. Return by 13:00. Full tank essential	Roger Barratt
Sun	Oct 29	Slow Riding and Bike Handling Day	Brewers Fare Sparrow, Coombe Fields Road Anstey, CV7 9JP. Start at 9.30am	Associates & Members	Whilst primarily aimed at Associates all members are welcome to take part in this essential skills session. No booking is required.	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!