

Coventry & Warwick Advanced Motorcyclists

Be a Better Rider

100 70



The well attended AGM was indicative of the healthy state of the club (Chairman's report below). Social Secretary Ryan Howat has some good Club Nights lined up. The Diary is filling up nicely with a variety of speakers. From TT racers to long distance travellers, from consultant surgeons to post-test training experts; Club Nights are something to look forward to in 2016.



[19th AGM - Chairman's report](#)

[Donating to CWAM through eBay](#)

[IAM Skills Day dates announced](#)

[Crash helmet appeal - another CWAM success](#)

[CWAM Get-together-ride to Skylark Fields](#)

[Gleaming Silver Blackbird for sale](#)

[Pirelli Angel ST tyres - Very Special Offer](#)

Congratulations to

Martin Williams

on gaining his National Observers Award

I often worry that the newsletter comes across as being too self-congratulatory but then I read the Chairman's report or ponder our achievements and realise I'm worrying about nothing. You may remember back in October I was exhorting you to bask in the warmth radiating from our Testimonials page. Well, things went a bit quiet on that particular front over the Christmas period but I'm pleased to report that you can slap on the factor 30 and prepare to sizzle once again. The page merely reiterates what I have always thought; from my first check ride with *Chappers* nearly ten years ago I realised that CWAMs are really nice people. But it's more than being nice, it's the effort, energy and enthusiasm our excellent team of observers put into mentoring and cajoling us into being better riders. Pats on the back all round.

Congratulations to pillion nonpareil and intrepid traveller Sandy Hubbard, proud recipient of the National Road Rally 'Spirit of the Event' Award. Sandy, shown at the ACU National Road Rally Awards Night, manned, or possibly womanned, the Tideswell Control in darkest Derbyshire. She had to endure a sleepless 24 hours but it was her customary enthusiasm, sociability and organisational skills that gained her the well deserved award.

If you're interested in taking part in the 2016 National Rally, it's held on July 2nd/3rd and the details are [here](#). Unfortunately the site is a bit unfriendly for new comers but persevere, it's a great experience and you meet nice people like Sandy. Have a go!



Observer Training, what's it about? Training Officer Ian Collard has the answer.

The 2015 crop of Trainee Observers are fast approaching the end of their training, in fact two have been signed off by the group and are just awaiting their final sign off by the IMI Awards body to be fully qualified Local Observers. The others will very soon follow.

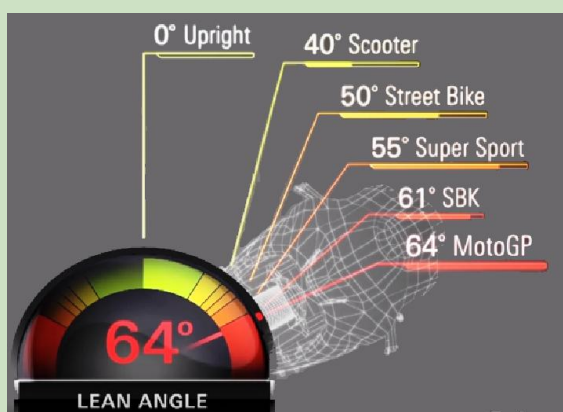
They have all worked extremely hard and richly deserve their success.

We put these volunteers through a robust course that will give us the knowledgeable Observers we require. Their riding is checked to a Test+ standard, they have to sit three exams, Highway Code, How to be a Better Rider and Roadcraft, not always easy when it's been a while since school, and then the practical on road stuff starts. In all it can take about 5-6 months to turn out an Observer that can coach safely and confidently to the IAM advanced standard.

The Training Team review the course every year to ensure that it is fit for purpose and we believe it to be right up there with the best.

So as we begin the 2016 course we have 5 new volunteers beginning their quest to become Observers. They will have to study hard but the rewards are great. The first time you follow a rider doing something correctly that they struggled with before you'd coached them is wonderful and when they pass their advanced test it's even better.

Our Observers are out in all weathers and put in some serious miles. It's not always glamorous, but it is always fun.



We all know the rudiments of cornering and the importance of lean angles. In basic terms it's balancing the bike by leaning towards the inside of the curve. Leaning in makes use of gravity to maintain stability. The diagram indicates the maximum angle attainable on various two wheelers. This [YouTube clip](#) shows Jorge Lorenzo at work and gives a bit of explanation but those of a nervous disposition should not try this at home.

The Air Ambulance, the charity that none of us wish to use but whose existence is often a life saver for injured bikers, is holding a [Charity Gala](#) on April 13th. The venue is the Priory Theatre Kenilworth; the function, the oft performed 'Cash on Delivery' - a DSS benefits fraud is investigated; silly deception and mayhem ensue. It's quite funny; well I laughed. A fun night out whilst supporting a great cause. Buffet included.



Alan Brickwood brings an extreme (some might say foolhardy) display of wet weather bike control to our attention. Starring British Superbike champion *Ryuichi Kiyonari* at Donnington, it ably demonstrates just how far a good rider can push a bike without coming to grief. Although a few years old, it nevertheless stands the test of time. [Click here](#).

Trevor Smith our Social Ride Coordinator writes to all Full Members

Just a further reminder that I am looking to fill our social ride calendar as early as possible to allow our Associates and Members plenty of time to take note of what is on offer and plan their diaries accordingly.

As experienced riders you will undoubtedly have a favourite route which you could share with other CWAM members or indeed be in a position to influence other club members to undertake



leading a ride. The social life of the club is the heartbeat of our organisation and group rides are a key part of retaining our

membership levels. If you have previously led a ride, do consider repeating the route this year. If you have never led a ride before, contact me and I will be happy to answer any questions. Alternatively, browse the [Ride Outs](#) section of the Events Diary which has lots of helpful information.

If you already have a ride in mind but have not yet finalised it, just pick a date from the Events Diary and let me know your proposals, the detail can be added later.

I understand that you may have already committed much of your spare time to club activities but if you can find the time to lead just one ride this year, I am sure you will be rewarded by the appreciation of those who join you on the day. Thank you in anticipation. (07771 181342)

When Henry the Eighth met Francis the First with much extravagant pomp on the Field of the Cloth of Gold, or *Camp du Drap d'Or* as we say in Wellesbourne; excess was the order of the day with each monarch attempting to outdo the other. Profligacy on a scale rarely, if ever, seen before or since reigned.

The object of the exercise was to strengthen the bond of friendship between the two countries although Francis had his nose broken whilst jousting and a humiliated Henry was trounced by Francis in a wrestling bout. When it comes to Anglo-French diplomacy it appears *plus ça change* etc. Of course, had the Fantasy League been around in those glorious days when parts of France were still English (hurrah!), the alliance could have been reinforced in a far more



friendly and economical manner without physical harm to either protagonist. It only needed a Fantasy League of Nations (that rings a bell). This somewhat contrived opening leads us to CWAM's Fantasy League as its entrants roar through shimmering exhaust fumes to cross the start line of the 2016 season. The first race, shortly after we go to press, sees World Super Bikes dodging wayward kangaroos and wandering wallabies in Phillip Island. Nine months of exciting racing and unsuitable metaphors await us. [There may still be time to enter.](#)

You are probably aware of the current arguments for and against the removal of some white line road markings. Pros say their absence makes road users more cautious, increases awareness and lowers speed thus lessening the severity of any accidents. Cons say that a lack of central road markings will not reduce either the number or the nature of collisions and their continued presence is vital to safety in poor visibility. As seasoned road users with above average abilities you must have a view. Send me your comments/thoughts, I'll publish them next month. To illustrate, the pictures show a couple of examples of before an after removal.



For IAM's latest on mature drivers/riders, drink driving and so much more click on [IAM News](#). Personally, I can't fathom how reducing the legal limit for alcohol intake will reduce the number of drink related injuries/deaths/accidents. The antisocial minority who abuse the law now will continue to abuse it. The only real deterrent is increasing the probability of being caught. Random breath testing and police cars parked down the road from the pub are a better answer. Surely someone has something to say about that opinion, if so let everyone read about it in next month's newsletter.



If, heaven forbid, you're becoming bored with biking, Berkshire based Malloy Aeronautics are developing a Hoverbike. They say the Hoverbike combines *"the simplicity of a motorbike and the freedom of a helicopter to create the world's first flying motorcycle. When compared with a helicopter, the Hoverbike is cheaper, more rugged and easier to use. The vehicle is controlled by deflecting thrust from its two propellers using control vanes – these are a bit like rudders or ailerons on a plane."*



You'll note the Hoverbike in the picture is reassuringly firmly tethered to the ground and if the live trials shown on <https://youtu.be/h7aIXvyBC64> are anything to go by it'll be quite some time before it's let off the leash.

CWAM Events in March

Thurs	Mar 3	Committee Meeting	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ	Committee members	Start 20:00	Roger Barratt
Sun	Mar 6	Social Ride Out	tba	Associates & Full Members	Provisional date - Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead this ride out.	Trevor Smith
Sun	Mar 13	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 10:00	Associates & Observers	Not just for Check Rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride out.	Ian Collard
Wed	Mar 16	Club Social Night	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Open 19:30 start 20:00	Everybody & guests	Gary Baldwin & friend from Rapid Training School	Ryan Howat
Sun	Mar 20	Social Ride Out	Long Itch Diner CV47 9QZ Meet 09:00 Leave 09:30	Associates & Full Members	A late breakfast with Roger B at the Super Sausage Cafe in Towcester, inspect all the bikes and back by 13:00 Approx. 80 miles. Full Tank	Roger Barratt
Sun	Mar 27	CWAM Club Sunday	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR Starts 10:00	Associates & Observers	Not just for Check Rides but a chance for all CWAMs to get together, socialise and go for an informal ride out.	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!