

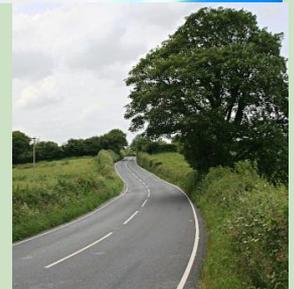
Coventry & Warwick Advanced Motorcyclists

Be a Better Rider

100 70



I was looking forward to waxing lyrical about the IAM re-brand but I have been denied that pleasure. It may be all excitement in Chiswick and the new website certainly looks clean and fresh but why release a poorly tested product? 'Find my Local Group' failed, 'View on a map' failed. I gave up. It will improve in time; I don't know whether to admire IAM's optimism or groan at their unworldliness. But don't despair; we can still enjoy the best that CWAM has to offer. Good opportunities for riding and another fine Club Night - see the diary.



[Rideout to Broadway Tower](#) [Skylark Farm April 24th](#) [Sutton Cheney.....The Long Way Round](#)

Our observers have done us proud in 2016. **Martin Williams, John Kickham** and **Richard Guest** attained National Observer status and **John Chivers, Phil Hatch** and **Paul Catchpole** all successfully completed the IMI Local Observer course. Whilst these were substantial personal achievements, CWAM's tireless Training Officer, **Ian Collard**, gained his Masters Award in April. Open only to accomplished advanced riders, the IAM Masters programme is the highest level of civilian driving standard in the country. Congratulations Ian.

Congratulations to

Colin Brink & Alan Abbey

on recently passing their advanced test

Ten observers from Redditch Advanced Motorcyclists attended a radio training day hosted by CWAM's Keith Daffern. The morning was spent in the classroom on the theory of using radios, while the afternoon was spent practising on the road. The RAMG team had high praise for the course and our radio guru.

I had my annual tootle around the lanes with Jim Sampson last month. We met in Breakfast Junction and young Paul Lewis told us that the object was to enjoy ourselves. By the time it came to my turn at the front there wasn't a great deal of traffic about and I vaguely knew some of the twisty roads Jim chose, so being mindful of Paul's direction I did indeed enjoy myself. The sad consequence was, to quote Jim "Not your best." Now I don't pretend to comprehend Jim's scoring system. For all I know it could be calculated using the cosine of the maximum angle of lean times of the square route of the distance covered divided by pi or pies if more than one was consumed in the caff. I just try to absorb his constructive comments and glow remembering that he thought one of my overtakes was a really good one. Next time I may eschew Paul's instruction, enjoy myself a bit less, be less immature and aim for a better score.

The Masters

The IAM re-launched what was called the Special Assessment a couple of years ago as The Masters. It is sold as the highest civilian standard available, consisting of a ride over a route in an area unfamiliar to candidate where the highest levels of consistency and progress on a variety of road types must be displayed.

I had been considering having a bash at it for a little while, but there was always something that prevented me. Eventually after a few members had asked me what I knew about it and I could only repeat what they could already read on the IAM web-site, I decided it was time to find out first hand and I grasped the nettle.

There are two routes to test:

1. Test only package, currently £129.00, and go straight in for the test with the Staff Examiner.
2. The mentoring package, currently £249.00, which includes your own personal mentor to prepare you for test.

In order to get the full experience I signed up for the full mentoring package this January. Unfortunately the mentoring aspect did not go quite as I had envisaged, I won't go into details here, but I had two mentored rides around Staffordshire, Derbyshire and parts of Shropshire, and then decided to apply for my test.

The examiner and I arranged to meet at Baldock Services on the A1, some 70 miles away from this area, at 1.00pm on April 1st. After a briefing, during which my Roadcraft knowledge was tested, we went out onto the roads of Hertfordshire. The route was challenging but fun taking in rural A and B roads, dual carriageways and towns/urban scenarios, basically a bit of everything. I was expected to make the best appropriate progress, smoothly and safely consistently throughout the entire 90 minute ride, accounting for the prevailing circumstances at all times.



We arrived back at Baldock services and I was pleased to be told I'd got a good pass. The feedback included the good and not so good, I knew I'd dropped a couple of clangers, and the full report came in the post a few days later.

Did I enjoy the day? – Yes definitely, but I would add that this is a real test of a rider's ability and should not be entered into half-heartedly.

The preferred policy for mentoring is that it is now done from within the group and I was asked to take on the role for our group, so if anyone would like to know more about the Masters please contact me and we can arrange a chat or a ride out.

Ian Collard

Training Officer

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NB On June 15th Pete Doherty the IAM Staff Examiner will be at CWAM's Social night talking about post test training so this will be the perfect opportunity to learn even more about the Masters from the expert and ask any questions.

Chairman Roger writes:

Over the last few years we have held several Rider Skills Days which have been very successful in reaching out to motorcyclists in the local area. This year we are changing things around a little and we are hosting an **Open Day** instead.

The idea is to bring even more people along to experience what we can offer as a club and to show them how much fun and how valuable the IAM course can be. As usual we will be offering free one to one ride outs with our qualified observers and giving people valuable tips on how to improve their riding. This can be a general ride or we can work on any aspect of riding that is troubling someone, cornering for example or slow speed riding.

We know from experience that people really enjoy these ride outs and below is a small selection of comments from last year -

"Had a brilliant day.... I can see you have a great club. I am committed now to joining up and getting my badge."



"I felt very comfortable and at ease with the friendly attitude by all. My observer was brilliant, down to earth and yet precise when it mattered ... improved my confidence and happiness on the bike by the end of the day...I would love to join."

"It's great that there is no hard sell

...great bunch of people ... positive feedback...whole experience was nice ... very interested in joining and adding to my riding skill."

"It was a very informative and enjoyable morning, from the moment I arrived and was welcomed. My observer was spot on, firstly gave encouragement and then went on to explain where I can improve and change the way I view everything around us. Gave me plenty to work on while not taking to pieces the way I ride."

"I received a very warm welcome and was made to feel immediately at ease by the entire team... A very enjoyable experience and one I wouldn't hesitate



to recommend to someone else. All instructors have a wealth of experience they are only too happy to share."



After these free taster rides many people go on to sign up for the full IAM course at £149 and as an added incentive for younger riders this year we are offering the first ten riders who join us aged under 30 a discount of 50% - yes, that's half price!

To show how inclusive CWAM is we are inviting all club members along this year so if you fancy a ride out to Shilton Village Hall address etc we will have free tea and coffee and

bacon butties available during the morning.

Please come and drop in for a chat. Even better bring a friend with you because member recommendations are the best way we have of spreading the word!

We are asking those who want to guarantee a free ride out with an observer to book in advance so please contact Mark Ford on 07765 663514 or [email here](#) if you want to arrange this for anyone.

We are all looking forward to a great day - please come along and help us to make it even better!

April's Club Night was Ryan's first outing as Social Secretary and he started the evening by thanking Roger for his past efforts in the post. Finding such interesting speakers and continuing to build on the substantial following Club Nights enjoy is no easy task.

Alan Abbey received his test pass certificate from his observer Phil Hatch



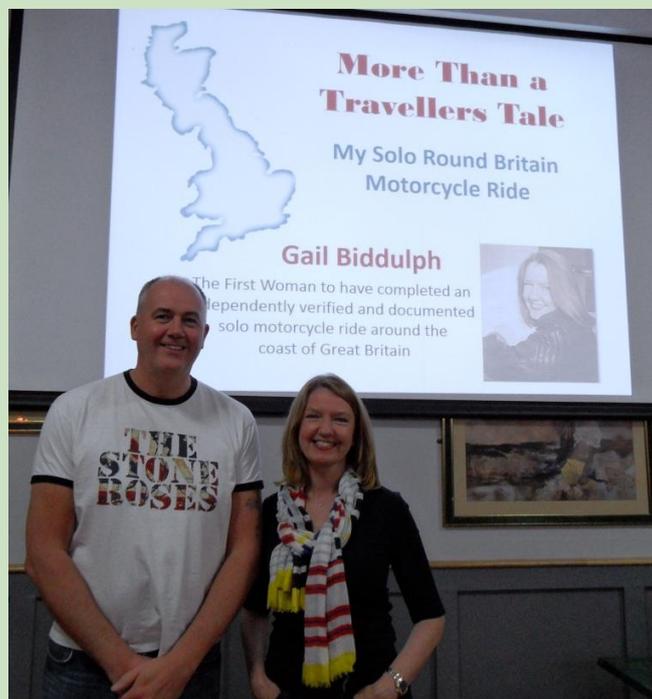
Trevor Smith presented Paul Catchpole with his observer's certificate



Jim Sampson, with customary competence illustrated the benefits of filtering to the front of the

queue at lights, negotiating a box junction and other scenarios well illustrated by his own videos. A lengthy discussion on the rights and wrongs of behaviour at a zebra crossing followed. Basically, if there is a queue at the crossing the vehicle at the head of the queue is deemed to be the lead vehicle and if you filter towards the front you must not, for obvious safety reasons, overtake the lead vehicle until it is beyond the crossing (not the zig zag lines). I think this is what most of us have been taught, it was certainly my answer to Marcus when I took my test.

Gail Biddulph entertained us after the break with her adventures circumnavigating mainland UK in aid of the Roy Castle Cause for Hope Charity. Her route, defined by the Guinness Book of Records, covered some 3989 miles. A story of determination, wresting triumph from the abyss of adversity. One of her smaller problems being the bailing out of sponsors Honda shortly before the off. Fortunately diminutive Gail gained the support of BMW at the last moment and by the end of the ride was more than a match for her stagnant green F650. She believes one's aspiration should be to *'plan your next goal now'* and her secrets to achieving that goal are *'clarity, planning and execution'*. Keep an eye open for her book due out shortly and titled *'1 woman 2 wheels 3989 miles'* - If I remember correctly.



Gail is the only person I have photographed at the Jag who insisted on renewing her makeup before the photo was taken. She has set the standard; I expect no less of future subjects.

Trevor Smith has found [this non motorway route](#) from John o' Groats to Lands End. It could further inspire some of those present at the Club Night and prove an interesting read for those who want a personal take on the journey.

If you're thinking of buying a security chain or think they offer your bike total protection, Vince Price has a couple of clips just for you. The first concerns various [Sold Secure and Thatcham](#) chains and the second features [Almax Series 3 & 4](#) chains. Apart from demonstrating the vulnerability of some chains, the sheer entertainment value of watching a guy wrestle with a giant pair of bolt-cutters may be worth a few moments of your time.

I know Personal Contract Purchase is a popular method of financing a new car but I hadn't realised, until June's issue of *Bike* arrived on the doormat a couple of days ago, that PCP is becoming fashionable in the motorcycling world. Unbelievably, for less than £40 a month a new *Honda 750X* can grace your drive. £86 will give you a *Tiger800XR*, £163 offers you a bit of dash with a *Hayabusa* and for those whose salary increase was larger than expected, £393 presents you with the opportunity of having a top of the range *BMW K1600GTL Exclusive* as befits your status. Obviously the downsides of PCP are that unless you pay a whacking final payment, the bike is never truly yours and there are restrictions on mileage. The bike must also be in good condition at the end of the term if large penalty costs are to be avoided. A sizeable deposit, possibly a trade-in, will bring the monthly repayments down but it is worth keeping an eagle eye on the APR for, at the end of the day, these deals are basically loans. If you're looking for your dream bike this could be an economical route to happiness.

There are new website pages for IAM news. [IAM RoadSmart news](#) will tell you all about the new RoadSmart brand and problems caused by tachographs and more whilst [RoadSmart media downloads](#) will tell you all about high wind dangers.

On a personal note I shall be interested to see the RoadSmart local website initiative. A brand needs continuity in its format and cwam.org.uk looks a little like its webmaster, slightly fatigued and somewhat antiquated by comparison. It's an area IAM should have addressed years ago and something I look forward to embracing sooner rather than later although it will probably be later.

It was with no little panache and daring that Mark Ford's *Wheely Tyred* slid through on the inside to push inattentive *Cautious Corners* into third place in the Fantasy League. *Bees Knees* still enjoys a commanding lead but as *Scoota Boyz*, currently fourth, may remember with some bitterness from last year, leads can easily be lost. Last years champ *Gringos Steers* languishes in fifth but even he is 369 points ahead of back marker *Fansof35* - presumably 35 mph. Coincidentally there are 35 more races to go, this could be an good omen Brett - your time has come!

Whilst we are some distance from the capital, it is often the case that where London leads other cities often follow. Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) sought the views of the front runners in the mayoral race and Paul Lewis was kind enough to bring this to our attention. MAG invited them to outline how they see motorcycles in the context of London Transport policy. Statements by Sadiq Khan and Zac Goldsmith may be seen [HERE](#). MAG has pledged to work with the winner. I wish them joy.

This is a last call - there may still be time - Spaces are still available at the IAM Rider Skills Day at Croft circuit on **4 May**. £160. For more details call 0300 303 1134.

CWAM Events in May

Sun	May 1	Social Ride Out	McDonalds, Linkway Retail Park, Cannock, WS11 1TD Off A5. Meet 7am leave 7:45am. Full tank essential.	Full Members only	Whooshing around Wales or careering around Cymru. Lee promises a full days ride along some amazing roads. Approx. 350 miles. Return around 6pm	Lee Vigor
Sun	May 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
Sun	May 15	Slow Riding Session	Sparrow Hall, Coombe Fields Road Anstey, CV7 9JP. Start at 9.30am, end 12.30pm.	Associates & Members	Whilst primarily aimed at Associates in preparation for their test, all members are welcome, no booking is required, just turn up and enjoy the fun.	Ian Collard
Wed	May 18	Club Social Night	Jaguar Sports & Social Club Fenton Road CV5 9DR	Everybody & guests	A return visit by popular Consultant Mahmood Kausar followed by Sean Hayes from Circuit Based Training, specialist subject - Cornering	Ryan Howat
Thurs	May 19	Committee Meeting	Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, CV7 9JZ	Committee members	Start 20:00	Roger Barratt
Sat	May 21	Police Instructor Assessment	Sessions must be pre booked. Meeting place tba to attendees.	Places available	This is an on-road session with Jim Sampson. Book through Paul Lewis.	Paul Lewis
Sun	May 22	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	May 29	Social Ride Out	tba	Associates & Members	Provisional date - Please contact Trevor Smith if you would like to lead this ride out.	Trevor Smith

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!