

**August Club Night 2017**

The evening opened with Test Pass Certificates being presented to Christopher Watts and Kirk Pickstone.



Chris Watts with his observer Andy Duncombe  
& Sarah Sillars



Kirk Pickstone with his observer Digby  
Carrington-Howell & Sara Sillars

Unfortunately, our first speaker was unavoidably detained elsewhere but Sarah Sillars tippety tip tapped her way onto the wooden floor and gamely stepped into the breach. After a couple of rounds of 'Guess the Number', Sarah moved onto the crusade to encourage the increased use of two wheel vehicles. She cited the **Leuven Experiment** which is a serious piece of impact analysis that unsurprisingly suggests an additional 10% usage of motorcycles by car drivers would lead to better traffic flows and less air pollution. A



table comparing motorcycle usage in European countries with PTW fatalities inferred that the greater the number of PTW users, the fewer the number of fatalities (with the strange exception of Portugal). This resulted in quite a bit of audience participation - did the prevalent types of PTWs in various countries skew the figures and did more usage result in more awareness of PTWs by other road users? I had to pinch myself on occasions as I found Messrs Brickwood and Langford morphing into Statler and Waldorf, pithily observing from on high in the Muppet Theatre.

No matter, the drive for increased PTW is apparently on despite substantial resistance from a demonising media, concerned parents, financial constraints and a complex access mechanism. When my daughters were at primary school, an environmentalist visited. The result was that I was urged with evangelistic zeal to cut up the *plastic ring thingies* that hold four drinks cans together because they could otherwise get caught around seagulls legs and injure them. Yes, I know, I know. However, the result is that thirty years later I still find myself, scissors in hand, cutting the circles of plastic before putting them in the bin - moral - you've got to catch them young.

Another interesting Club Night, if possibly not quite what I'd expected. I wasn't altogether sure whether Sarah was wearing her IAM or MCIA hat for much of the time but it was none the worse for that.