

CWAM Club Night June 2017

Although the comfort of an air-conditioned car would probably have made more sense, a sticky June evening saw a good number of CWAMs arrive on bikes for our *Meet the Examiners* session. Gary Bowers received his Test Pass Certificate from his observer Paul Catchpole and Tom Bullock, who was given his by Roger Barratt, also enjoyed a video message/holiday postcard from his observer John Chivers on a sunny Grossglockner.



Jim Sampson was otherwise engaged so Marcus McCormick stepped into the breach and gave us a thought provoking session on filtering. After a quick zizz through the basics we deconstructed some animations which showed how filtering can so easily go wrong, what to look out for in the way of general observations and how definitely not to do it. Enlightening as it was, I was left wondering why we voluntarily take part in a pastime that seemingly has an infinite number of ways to do ourselves serious mischief and requires the skills of a clairvoyant as well as a top box full of luck every time we venture out. Then I bashed home in the dark, through the country lanes and got home thinking what fun it was.

After the break Marcus was joined by fellow examiner Charlie Perry and between them they told us what to expect on the test and reassured those yet to take it. Unsurprisingly it's very important to read and act upon road signs. Although slow riding isn't specifically tested, it is a skill that is expected and you should be able to demonstrate it at appropriate times. Most importantly, if you have any questions or are unsure what is expected of you on the day, ask your examiner before you start. They want you to pass and are there to help you to that end.

Hopefully the high proportion of associates in the audience found the session informative, the testers certainly came over as friendly and relaxed and should have dispelled any fears.

As an aside, Charlie recommended that we should never use the hard shoulder on a smart motorway because that is where all the detritus and debris collects - definitely not tyre friendly.

Another good CWAM Club Night, the next one is July 12th.