





SOUTH CHESHIRE ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS December/January Newsletter 2024

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The newsletter is a bimonthly publication. The next one will be issued in March 2024





News and Diary Dates

Keep abreast of upcoming activities and dates by regularly checking the Facebook page of the South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Group.

Committee meetings

15 Feb, 21 March at Warmingham Village Hall, CW11 3QL at 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend and observe.

AGM and presentation evening

Monday 25 March: Associate presentations, buffet and AGM, 7.30pm. Duke of Gloucester. See Appendix 1 for documentation and essential reading.

Associate training

All group training sessions start at Costa, Jack Mills Way, Shavington, Crewe CW2 5UZ at 9am on the announced dates (see Appendix 2).

Social Rides every:

Sunday 10.00am Costa, Grand Junction, Crewe with Dave Coomber. NOTE: From 3 March meet at Shavington Costa, Jack Mills Way at 9am.

Tuesday 9.30am Coffee and Ride, meeting at Costa, Jack Mills Way, Shavington, Crewe. Come for coffee and a chat even if you are not riding.

Forthcoming Social Events

Socials every second Monday of the month (except in Feb 2024) at the Duke of Gloucester, Beswick Drive, Crewe, CW1 5NP, from 7.30pm throughout the year. Come along for a chat.

Monday 5 February 7.30pm. Simon Carter and Barry Urand of Pirelli will join us at the Duke of Gloucester. Please come along and bring your questions too.

Monday 11 March 7.30pm. Simon Weir (<u>www.simonweir.co.uk</u>) is coming to speak about "secret life of road testers" followed by a Q&A session. This is one not to miss.

For further information on social events and Tuesday rides contact Howard Payne: howard.payne163@gmail.com. For information on Sunday social rides





contact Dave Coomber, Ride Coordinator, tel. 01270569439

Look smart! Embroidered SCAM leisure wear.

https://customsportskit.co.uk/other-clubs/south-cheshire-advanced-motorcyclists/

For Committee contacts and newsletter back-numbers see:

https://www.southcheshiream.org.uk

Lighter metal



Route choice for a ride-out is a personal preference. We are all different but are often happy to follow the choices of others where the aim of the day is to ride for fun and enjoy the social atmosphere. But for the multi day rides, what motivates you? Personally, I particularly enjoy exploring countryside areas and I am happy to use motorways

to speed access. A mix of journey, views and cafes excite me. The pull of BCC (Bike, Coffee, and Cake) is irresistible. My favourite places in the UK, outside our daily ride zones, are Bowland Forest, the Bay (Morecambe), remote parts of the Lakes and the Yorkshire Dales. Memories of my formative years have influenced my choices as well as a recognition of the wonders of the kingdom that never fail to enlighten.









Ever how beautiful the surroundings, bikers cannot resist framing a photo of their bike against a stunning backdrop. I am as guilty of this as the next person but, as the examples show, I have failed to achieve any results of distinction as you can see from the fine examples of atrocious framing: too much road, unexciting backdrop, excessive contrast, incomplete shot of the bike. I am sure you can do much better. I would therefore like to invite members to submit their favourite backdrop photos for publication in future newsletters. There might even be a prize for the best picture.

Now for a plea. Members and associates, please support your club and committee by attending the AGM at the Duke of Gloucester on 25 March. The event will commence at 7.30pm with the awards of certificates to associates who have completed an advanced riding course during the past year. There will also be a prestigious club presentation. By this time, you will be famished and that problem will be addressed by the provision of a buffet. All present can then happily munch their way through the formalities of the AGM. Phill Hamilton has done a great job as Chairman over the past year, for whom thanks are due, but he is not seeking continuance. If you would like to stand for election to this important post, please contact the secretary (contact details are in Appendix 1). Can you please let Neil know if you are attending this magnificent event by Feb 25th: neil jewell@btinternet.com so we can get things organised

Editor

Chairman's Report

I trust that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas break and are now back persevering the freezing delights of the British winter! I am feeling quite smug writing this while on holiday in the Middle East basking in the 30s, but wincing at the cost of a cold pint of lager!

I am looking forward to getting back out on the bike as soon as it is bearable and safe to do so. I am always mindful of 'skill fade' when I have not ridden for a significant period and will take it easy for the first ride or two.

This is probably my last report as Group Chair. I only accepted the role temporarily after Dave Cox relinquished the post to join the IAM as an ASDM.





The next Chair will be elected at our AGM In March. If you are interested in the role or in joining the committee, then please do get in touch for more information.

I am delighted that 2024 sees SCAM offering group training again as well as one-to-one if required. The best of both worlds, thanks to the dedication of our management team and Observers.

My sincere thanks to those of you who have supported me as Group Chair during my year in Office; by pointing me in the right direction or by just words of encouragement. It is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all safe riding in 2024.

Phill Hamilton

Message from the President

As this is the first newsletter of the New Year, may I start by wishing you all a very happy New Year. I hope your festivities were filled with fun and joy. Santa forgot to bring me a big busted blonde again but maybe next Christmas.

The weather has not been conducive to biking, but hopefully you managed some riding. I have been out with my Associate, Mike, although we did reschedule some sessions due to the weather.

Now, our thoughts are looking forward to the spring when the sap starts rising and our enthusiasm for the open road kicks in. Dave Coomber will be running his Sunday social rides which you will be most welcome to join.

There are also our training courses which we will be running again this year, organised by Neil Jewell.

That concludes this month's comment. I hope to see you out and about during the coming season,

Ride safe, take care.

Chris Steel





Message from the Membership Secretary

Happy New Year to you all.

I trust this email finds you well and that you had a joyous holiday season surrounded by the warmth of family and friends.

As we bid farewell to the year gone by, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere wishes for a fantastic New Year ahead. May it be filled with new riding opportunities, exciting challenges, and moments of joy that create lasting memories.

I hope your holidays were filled with laughter, love, and all the good things life has to offer. Whether you were spending quality time with loved ones, relaxing by a cozy fireplace, or embarking on new motorbike adventures, I trust it was a time of rejuvenation and reflection.

As we step into the coming year, let us embrace the possibilities it holds and approach it with optimism and enthusiasm. May it bring you success in your endeavours, good health, and an abundance of happiness.

Thank you for contributing to the richness of our group experience. Without our members and volunteers, we are nothing.

And on that subject, Membership Subs are now due. These are still very reasonable at only £12.50 for the year. You will still need to be a member of the IAM otherwise you cannot be a member of the group (sorry).

You can pay by Bank Transfer (preferred)

Sort Code: 54-10-17 Account No: 36603198

Pay: South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists

PLEASE add your IAM membership number to the transaction or your full name or we will never be able to identify you as having paid.

If you pay by Direct Debit, please can you change the date to the first of January - this makes accounting easier and we can chase everyone in together.





If any of your details have changed, moved house etc, please drop an email to: neil.ajewell1@googlemail.com so that I can update our system.

Neil Jewell

Social Scene

Social Second Mondays

Social meetings are held every second Monday of the month, unless advised otherwise, starting at 7.30pm at the Duke of Gloucester, just off the big Crewe Green roundabout, Beswick Drive, Crewe, CW1 5NP. Some meetings will be purely social and others will include an invited guest speaker.

These meetings are invariably well-attended and a hotbed of lively discussion on all club matters, topics including riding, bikes, IAM and total nonsense.

Forthcoming speaker events

5 February, Duke of Gloucester 7.30pm: We are very lucky to have two Pirelli representatives, Simon and Baz, coming to speak to us. So put the date in your diaries and please, please do come along and support the event. Let me have any questions you might want to ask and I would be most appreciative if you could let me know if you will be attending. Thanks Howard.

11 March, Duke of Gloucester 7.30pm: Simon Weir (www.simonweir.co.uk) is coming to speak about "secret life of road testers" after which we will have a wide-ranging Q&A session which can cover anything from touring to his travel business. This is one not to miss. Fill your Calendar with scams events and have fun. Howard.

25 March, Duke of Gloucester 7.30pm: Big club night of awards, buffet, AGM and bike talk. Not to be missed.





Trip Event

South Cheshire trip to the IOM 12-14 April 2024

Accommodation

Cost for a room at the Sefton is from £140-160 depending whether pre-paid or pay-on-the-day. The hotel was chosen due to convenient parking. Booking is also available via booking.com (for points). Hotel staff have said they don't offer freebies or discounts and that Booking.com is as cheap as them direct.

Ferry

Liverpool to Douglas on the Friday 12 April: 11:15 am arrive at 14:00

Douglas to Heysham Sunday 14 April: 20:00 to 23:45

Or Douglas to Liverpool 15.00 to 17.45

Ferry is a short stay package £132

A suggestion

Book the hotel on the pay-on-the-day option so you can change or cancel without having to lose a lot. (I did this and it cost me £15 extra over prepayment) cheaper than cancellation insurance if something comes up.

While you can change the time of your chosen ferry up to the night before, you do have to pay extra for this. The Saver deal applies to all sailings. However, if you need to swap from a high peak to low peak fare then the extra is less than vice versa. So, using the return times if you not sure when you want to return then changing from the Liverpool return to Heysham you would pay less than the other way around.

The plan

Friday afternoon, on arrival head to the sound

cafe: https://thesound.im/ coffee and then head back to Douglas and book in.

Saturday: start off with a lap of the course and then explore some of the coast roads (a lot of the TT course now has speed limits).





Sunday morning, similar but maybe a focus on the Peel side heading over to Douglas in the afternoon and letting those who opt to take the Ferry to drop off and the rest to try the course in reverse.

Seven riders have already made their bookings and more would be welcome to join. All travel and hotel arrangements are to be completed individually but we do ask you to let us know so everyone can contribute on selection of final routes, coffee stops and restaurants.

Andy Gralton (Treasurer) is the point of contact. amgralton1989@gmail.com
Andy Gralton

Feature

The Dynamic Duo go to Spain, part 3

Wednesday morning brought the sun out and a new challenge for the day. Ian and I had breakfast and readied ourselves for the trip to Canfranc Estacion. Ian



took the lead and we headed off to France as we were based in the Spanish Pyrenees. We followed the signs for France and came to a set of traffic lights. The border crossing was a single lane road tunnel through the mountains. After about twenty minutes the light turned to green, then we and the queue of traffic behind us entered the gloom. We emerged from the tunnel into the bright sunlight of France. We continued our journey of expedition and enlightenment for a couple of hours but no signs for Canfranc were evident. It

was time for a coffee stop and map consultation. The coffee was good but not so the news from the map. Having eventually found Canfranc on the map, it







seemed to be in Spain not France. Why had we decided it was in France?

Blank looks were exchanged. Neither of us were prepared to take the blame. We put it down to the fact that we were just clueless. There was no easy solution due to the limited crossing points back into Spain. We would have to return to our starting point and begin again. Instead, we sensibly decided continue our day of discovery in France and reschedule our visit to Canfranc for following day. Discovery and exploration it was

then. Looking at the map we were in ski country or we would be if it was winter. We got back on the bikes and headed up the twisty mountain roads. The scenery was spectacular, the road had little to no Armco on the bends. If you got it wrong, then it was a long way down, something not to dwell on. We made it to the top of the mountain where it was misty and cold. A few other bikers were gathered taking in the limited view. Having become quite cold we descended to warmer climes and started to meander our way back to Ainsa when we ran into a rainstorm of biblical proportions. We saw a hotel where we waited out the

storm drinking coffee. The downpour lasted about forty minutes. Returning to the bikes, I discovered that I had left my gloves on my tank bag. They were sodden. However, being well prepared I had a spare set of gloves in my top box. We set off again and two miles down the road, it was dry. There had been no rain at all, the mountains must have their own micro climate, very strange. We arrived back at the tunnel to Spain and waited patiently for the green light. As we waited, we watched a helicopter land and pick up some equipment that I assume was needed for rock face







stabilisation. The lights changed and we were off back to Spain and our hotel in Ainsa. Having parked at the hotel, we changed and went into town for a drink and food, avoiding the terrible restaurant from the previous evening. We opted for the restaurant that we had dropped into for a drink on the previous evening on our way back to the hotel. The food was good, the wine was full bodied and we dissected the days ride, laughing at how we had got it so wrong. With our new, hard-won knowledge we knew which route we would be riding in the morning. Having eaten well, watched a great sunset and added to our data base of great rides and memories we walked back to our hotel and into dream land. Will we ever see Canfranc Estacion? You will have to wait and see.

To be continued.

Many thanks to this month's excellent contributors. Please keep writing about your adventures and misadventures! Editor





Appendix 1. AGM essential reading

A G M NOTIFICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by order of the Group Committee that the Thirtieth Annual General Meeting of "South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists" will be held at 8.00 pm [7.30pm registration and presentations] on Wednesday 25th March, 2024 at The Duke of Gloucester Crewe CW1 5NP to enable the Officers of the Group to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year-end for approval by the Group Full Members and to conduct an election.

Secretary's Name	Ian Cunningham	Date	25.01.21.
Address	18 St John's Way Sandiway Northwich Cheshire CW8 2LX Tel 01606889721 Mb 07545656078 iantcunningham1200@gmail.com	Group Number	5213

All Group Full Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only Group Full Members may vote.

A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote instead. A proxy need not be a Group Full Member.

CURRENT OFFICERS

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election

Chair	Phil Hamilton	Will not stand
Vice Chair	Neil Jewell	Will stand
Secretary	lan Cunningham	Will stand
Treasurer	Andrew Gralton	Will stand





COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are invited from Group Full Members to stand for committee. The Nominee must be willing to stand for the Committee and sign the Nomination Form. By signing the Nomination Form the Nominee is affirming his/her ability and intention, if elected, to attend committee meetings regularly.

NOTE

You may not stand for the Committee if the law debars you from being a Charity Trustees.

Only Group Full Members may nominate Committee Members or be nominated as Committee Members.

This Nomination Paper must be returned to the Group Secretary Ian Cunningham iantcunninghmam1200@gmail.com at least seven days before the election by 25th March 2024. All Officers and one-third of **all** other Committee Members must retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election by Group Full Members.

OFFICERS

Name	Position	Nominated by	Seconded by	Signature of Nominee
	Chair			
	Vice Chair			
	Secretary			
	Treasurer			

COMMITTEE Members

Name	Nominated by	Seconded by	Signature of Nominee





SOUTH CHESHIRE ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 25th MARCH 2024 at 8.00 pm The Duke of Gloucester Crewe

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies:
- 2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM (Resolution 1)
- 3. Matters arising from 2023 AGM
- 4. Chairman's Report Phil Hamilton
- 5. Training report Neil Jewell
- 6. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts (resolution 2)
- 7. Election of officers and committee
- 8. Any other Competent Business
- 9. Close of AGM

Notes:

- 1. Questions will be invited from members following each report
- 2. Voting from full group members only

Resolutions:

- 1. That the minutes of the 2023 AGM be approved as a true record
- 2. That the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 24th February 2024 are to be approved.





Minutes of the Twenty-29th Annual General Meeting of The South Cheshire Advanced Motorcycles on 29th March 2023 The Duke of Gloucester Crewe

Members present at meeting:
See attached attendance register

1.	Apologies: Dave Creedy Andrew Gralton
2.	Minutes of the 2022 AGM [Resolution 1] Proposed: Chris Steel Seconded: Phil Hamilton
3.	Matters Arising There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM
4.	Chairman's Report - Dave Cox
	Chairman's Annual Report 2022/2023 Firstly, thanks to you all for attending this evening, it's great that so many of you have taken the time to come along.
	I'm pleased to report that the group is in very good health, not only financially as you will hear later but also in terms of membership but also in the quality and quantity of training the group is providing for our associates.
	This is due to the contribution from the committee members and our Observer teams, who give up so much of their spare time. Thanks to you all.
	The group bounced back well from Covid and now finds itself in as strong, if not stronger, position than pre pandemic.
	We do though still have many long-standing loyal members, who despite always being the first to renew their membership, unfortunately we rarely see.
	We've reintroduced the group social evenings with a new venue here at The Duke of Gloucester and appointed a Social Secretary, Howard Payne, who

has already two excellent guest speakers including Jamie Whitham. He has more planned and it would be great to see as many people here as possible.





Looking ahead to the coming year, I don't see any reason why the group shouldn't continue to prosper and thrive.

5. Chief Observers Report - Dave Cox

Chief Observers Annual Report 2021/2022

As previously reported the group seems to have overcome the worst effects of Covid and after a lean year last year, we are once again welcoming associates.

Certainly, last year numbers dropped but already this year we have 14 associates in training.

One effect of the low numbers of associates last year was the change from the group guidance-training model to a one-to-one system.

This provides a for a more structured program tailored to the needs of the associate whilst being more convenient for both the Associate and Observer.

One potentially exciting news to report is that I was recently contacted by Cheshire Police to assist with their revamping of their BikeSafe workshops. Police officer numbers was always the issue, so I've been asked to provide Observers to assist to support BikeSafe ride outs.

There are currently approximately 300 people on the waiting list from all over the County, so I've been in contact with Warrington, Congleton and Wirrall inviting them to get involved. Warrington and Congleton are supportive and happy to assist; Wirral group unfortunately weren't able to assist.

Arrangements are ongoing and I'm hoping to hear back soon with firm dates for the workshops.

The last bit of news is just to make you all aware of the coming changes to the Local Observer and Local Observer Assessor qualifications. Both are to be discontinued with just one Observer qualification, externally assessed as National Observer is now.

Arrangements will be made to have our Local Observers reassessed to the new Observer qualification.





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	Presentation	£14.00		
	Donation & Xmas Dep	£238.00		
	Doc Bike	£100.00		
	Grand Total	£1,412.55		£1,640.99
	Opening Balance	,	£	£ 7,211.06
	Closing Balance			£ 7,439.50
	Variance		£	
	Outstanding liabilities		£	£ 393.88
	Outstanding Credit		£	
	Proposed : Geoff Highfield			
	Seconded : Sean McCarthy			
	TIL .: COCC	10		
7.	Election of Officers and See attached	id Committe	е	
8.	Any Other Business			
	Proposal of thanks to De Group.	on Wood for a	all I	l his work and commitment to the
9.	Date and Time of next To be confirmed	: Committee	me	eeting April 2023
	The AGM Closed at 20.4	0 pm		
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ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

All Officers and one-third of the committee members must retire by rotation and may offer themselves up for re-election by group full members.

President:

Chris Steel

Officers:		Proposed By	Seconded By
Chairman:	Dave Cox	Chris Steel	Ian Cunningham
Vice Chairman	Neil Jewell	Sean McCarthy	Howard Payne
Secretary:	Ian Cunningham	Mark Rogers	Chris Steel
Treasurer:	Andrew Gralton	Ian Cunningham	Dave Cox

All Committee Members retired but agreed to re-stand

	<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
Geoff Highfield		
Dave Coomber		
Howard Payne	Chris Steel	Geoff Highfield ,Gordon Low
Dave Creedy		
Phil Hamilton	[Voted	en bloc]





Appendix 2. Advanced motorcyclist course dates, 2024

All Sessions Start at Costa Coffee, Jack Mills Way, CW2 5UZ at the times as shown. Please ensure you arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the course start time with a full tank of fuel.

Spring Course

Friday March 1 st	Course Induction Evening Venue T.B.A.		7.30pm.
Sunday March 3 rd	Session One	Costa Coffee	9am
Sunday March 17 th	Session Two	Costa Coffee	9am
Sunday April 7 th	Session Three	Costa Coffee	9am
Sunday April 21st	Session Four	Costa Coffee	9am
Friday May 10 th	Course Theory Evening Venue TBA		7.30pm
Sunday May 12 th	Session Five	Costa Coffee	9am
Sunday May 26 th	Session Six	Costa Coffee	9am

Summer Course

Course Induction Evening Venue TBA		7.30pm.
Session One	Costa Coffee	9am
Session Two	Costa Coffee	9am
Session Three	Costa Coffee	9am
Session Four	Costa Coffee	9am
Course Theory Evening Venue TBA		7.30pm
Session Five	Costa Coffee	9am
Session Six	Costa Coffee	9am
	Session One Session Two Session Three Session Four Course Theory Eve	Session One Costa Coffee Session Two Costa Coffee Session Three Costa Coffee Session Four Costa Coffee Course Theory Evening Venue TBA Session Five Costa Coffee





Autumn Course

Friday Aug 30 th	Course Induction Evening Venue TBA		7.30pm.
Sunday Sept 1 st	Session One	Costa Coffee	10am
Sunday Sept 15 th	Session Two	Costa Coffee	10am
Sunday Sept 29 th	Session Three	Costa Coffee	10am
Sunday Oct 6 th	Session Four	Costa Coffee	10am
Friday Oct 18 th	Course Theory Evening Venue TBA		7.30pm
Sunday Oct 20 th	Session Five	Costa Coffee	10am
Sunday Nov 3rd	Session Six	Costa Coffee	10am

To enrol on one of the above courses please register with IAM Roadsmart. https://www.iamroadsmart.com