

# HBAM Newsletter

## October 2024



### HBAM General News

September was another busy month with the Rideouts and HBAM marketing events.

We had the usual two club night ride ins from Baldock and Bourne End at the beginning of the month, but this time going to The View, a new venue in Pegsdon.

The ride stayed surprisingly dry and the venue worked very well for food and drink, so we will no doubt plan another evening there, when we restart the evening Club Night rides in 2025.

For this coming winter season club nights, we will be arranging events and guest speakers at the Bennett's Club, the Moggerhanger Village Hall and a new venue, the Station Tavern in Woburn Sands, which will hopefully allow more members to join in.

On **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** we arranged the first HBAM/Veloce Taster Ride Event, with both HBAM and The Veloce Club in Hitchin providing facilities and Observers to run the event. The weather played its part early on, with a big storm putting a few of the registered riders cancelling, but we did manage to run five taster rides, with all the riders taking away some good pointers and showing interest in the IAM ARC and HBAM. Thanks to Amanda Washbrook, Steve Brind and Richard Malloy for helping out as Ambassadors and to Observers John Presland, Dave Dickens and Paul Southwell.



On **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September** we attended the Beds Fire Bike Motorcycle Safety Week event at Triumph Woburn. The event was well attended on a sunny day. Thanks to Elise Allen, Johanna Thompson, Sarah Wilson, Steve Brind and Paul Southwell for helping out on the HBAM stand, with several other HBAM members calling in as well..



### **HBAM General News**

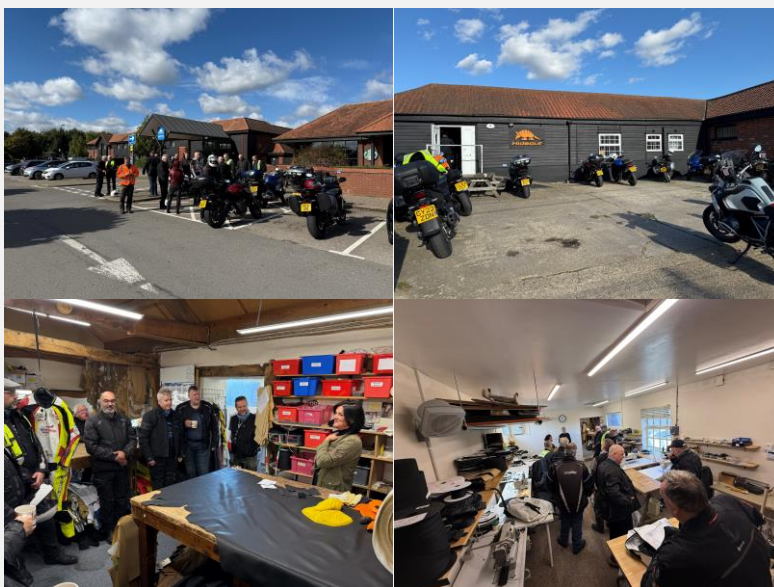
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September** saw Graham Jenkin's first ride out as the ride leader, after completing the Ride Leader training course earlier this year! His HBAM AMR ride took a good group "In & Around the Chiltern Hills", ending up at Halton Tennis Club for brunch.



This seaside ride on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** to Walton on Naze was planning to follow a route from Simon Weirs biking books doing a route called "Best of Essex", but the torrential rain over the weekend caused the ride to be cancelled on the Sunday. This was unfortunate, but a decision made by everyone who met at Baldock and definitely the right decision, as the rain didn't stop all day and in fact became much worse mid-afternoon. The buckets and spades will just have to be put away until next year, when no doubt we will try again!!



The ride on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** to the Hideout Leathers Factory in Ashdon in Essex went ahead on a nice sunny day! Most floods had receded, but there was still plenty of gravel left on the roads to keep us guessing! Roy Dennis planned and led a really good route and Kate and her team at Hideout look after us very well.





### **HBAM October 2024 Planned Rideouts and Events**

#### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October – HBAM Club Night – The Bennet's Club**

HBAM presents an evening with DS Roadcrafts and Tours. Starting at 19.30 hours.

#### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - HBAM 2024 Annual General Meeting**

The HBAM 2024 AGM will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, at the Bennet's Club in Harpenden. This Nomination Paper must be returned to the Group Secretary\* at least seven days before the election - i.e. before 20.00 hours on 8th October 2024.

Email: [secretary@hbam.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hbam.org.uk)

#### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – HBAM AMR**

Discover the views that John Constable painted in the hamlet of Flatford, set within the Dedham Vale countryside, during a visit to Flatford Mill.



For more details and to register please follow this link:

<https://buytickets.at/hbamrideouts/1136445>

#### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October – HBAM Associates Only**

This ride will start from Baldock Services and go to Sycamore Cafe, Northampton.

For more details and to register please follow this link:

<https://buytickets.at/hbamrideouts/1136446>



#### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October – HBAM GBH ride.**

Back by popular demand.  
Bourne End Services to  
The Bruern Farm Cafe for  
lunch.

The route will go via  
Princess Risborough,  
Abingdon and Burford.

For more details and to register please follow this link:

<https://buytickets.at/hbamrideouts/1136447>



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## October 2024



### **Operation Market Garden 80th Anniversary.**

One other notable HBAM member event in September was Andy Cowley's (HBAM Secretary) participation 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Arnhem, as a guest. The event included a parachute jump by 700 current service personnel from 11 aircraft, using parachutes design by Andy.

Quite a spectacle in great weather and including one group jumping beneath parachutes designed to look like poppy's. The picture on the right is Andy testing his parachute originally. It obviously works!!



Lots of VVIP's, so the bikes go a look in too!!

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## October 2024



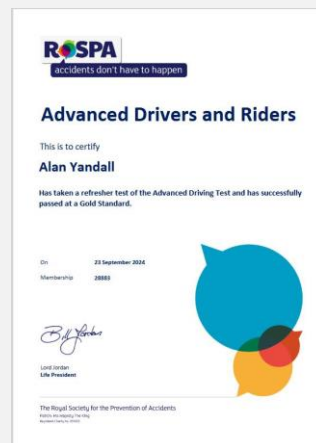
### **HBAM Associate Advanced Rider Test Passes in September.**

Congratulations to the following HBAM Members, who passed their Advanced Rider test in September, with a thanks also going to their Observers.

Jonathan Winter - Observer Bernie McFarlane.	Paul Massey - Observer Andy Hammond.
John Banham - Observer John Presland.	Neil Hounsom - Observer Derek Ade.
Nev Hanks - Observer Dave Dickens	Sam Williams - Observer Derek Ade
Anthony Weston - Observer Fiona Breaker-Rolfe	

### **HBAM Masters and Rospa**

Congratulations to Rajat Thakur, who passed his Masters Exam and to Alan Yandall, who completed the Rospa Advanced Drivers and Riders refresher test and passed at a Gold Standard, both during September. Well done!!!



### **HBAM New Members**

Welcome to the following new members who have joined HBAM in September:

Tom Wyman  
Eric Gould

### **HBAM Upcoming Courses**

#### **Biker Down and Bike Safe events.**

HBAM are now also supporting the Beds Fire & Rescue and Herts Fire & Rescue Biker Down and Bike Safe events throughout 2024, so keep a look out for us!

[Beds Fire Biker Down Booking link](#) / [Herts Fire Biker Down Booking link](#)

[Beds BikeSafe Booking link](#) / [Herts BikeSafe Booking link](#)

#### **Look Lean Roll courses**

The last course of 2024, planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> September, ended up being cancelled due to the bad weather unfortunately. The right decision and all members who had signed up have been issued a refund voucher, which they can use when the event is re-arranged next year!

#### **Slow Riding courses**

The final Slow Riding course of 2024 is planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> October and registration is open.

For more details and to register please follow this link:

<https://buytickets.at/hbamtraining/817802>

#### **Monthly GBH, AMR and Associates Only Rideouts**

For all future ride dates please follow the link below to the HBAM Ticket Tailor Box

Office: <https://buytickets.at/hbamrideouts>



# HBAM Newsletter

## October 2024



### HBAM Challenge 2024

HBAM Challenge 2024 Table Update				
Pos.	Member	Location	Bonus	Points Total
1	Chris Price	26/30	11/16	1095
2	Dave Hollins	25/30	10/16	1050
3	Peter Pearce	17/30	6/16	645
4	David Hack	19/30	5/16	625
5	Ian Harrop	17/30	1/16	595
6	Dave Edge	17/30	6/16	570
6	Jonathan Moffatt	17/30	6/16	570
8	Roy Dennis	16/30	6/16	545
9	Bob Grinyer	14/30	5/16	475
10	Johanna Thompson	12/30	7/16	440
11	Gabor Szekeres	13/30	4/16	430
12	Russell Wenman	11/30	4/16	380
13	Amanda Washbrook	11/30	5/16	375
14	Ross Henderson	12/30	2/16	365
15	Alan Clarke	10/30	4/16	355
16	Wendy Bloisi	9/30	5/16	325
17	Gary Cox	9/30	3/16	285
18	Sarah Wilson	8/30	4/16	280
19	Graham Jenkins	8/30	1/16	220
20	Steven Dean	6/30	2/16	190
21	Dale Lockett	7/30	0/16	175
22	Alan Yandall	4/30	1/16	120
23	Guy Haward	4/30	0/16	100
23	Chris Dey	1/30	0/16	100
23	Paul Massey	4/30	1/16	100
26	Bernie Mcfarlane	3/30	0/16	75
26	Richard Poole	3/30	0/16	75
26	Paul Khambatta	3/30	0/16	75
26	Dan Smith	3/30	0/16	75
26	Darren Martin	3/30	0/16	75
31	Rich Malloy	2/30	1/16	70
32	Steve Brind	2/30	0/16	50
32	Paul Lake	1/30	0/16	50
34	Arif Ghazi	1/30	0/16	25
34	Ross Mason-Smith	1/30	0/16	25
34	Beth Sutton	1/30	0/16	25

The HBAM Challenge has now finished for 2024. In all 55 members signed up, with 36 collecting points since it started in March.

There was a last minute flurry in September, with more good pics coming in. Chris Price also made it to Scotland for all the Scottish points!!

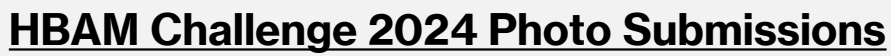
As at the time of going to press, the challenge points table looks like this.  
**Note: These are the provisional final table positions and subject to verification. The final table positions will be confirmed shortly. The award ceremony for the top 3 places will take place during the November HBAM Club Night.**



Well done to everyone who took part and I hope you enjoyed the challenges. Thanks also to Paul Lake, Grant Hallworth and Graham Storer for agreeing to be celebrities in their respective locations. I'll be in touch shortly for Challenge 2025 location suggestions!! ☺



# October 2024





### **HBAM Member External Benefits**

#### **Veloce Club Discount for HBAM Members**

We are really pleased to let you know that Veloce Club are supporting HBAM members with a discount of 15%. This is available to members instore, or online with the code 'HBAM'.

<https://www.veloceclub.co.uk>

#### **BikeStop Discount for HBAM Members**

Those nice guys at Bikestop will give us 15% off most things. Just flash your IAM membership card.

[Motorcycle Clothing, Helmets, Boots & Gear | Bike Stop UK](#)

#### **Biketrac 3-Month Extended Cover for IAM Members**

We are really pleased to let you know that Biketrac are supporting IAM members with a free 3-month extension on your Biketrac tracker subscription. This is available to IAM members by contacting Biketrac on the email below.

You will need to provide you Biketrac tracker serial number and your IAM membership number, in order to have the 3-month extension added to your account.

[julie@biketrac.co.uk](mailto:julie@biketrac.co.uk)

#### **Adventure Drone Biker Tours - Discount for HBAM Members**

Adventure Drone Biker Tours - Discount for HBAM Members 10% off Croatia tour prices for HBAM members, regardless of the motorcycle you choose to ride.

Fly into Split airport. Own room 4\* accommodation, premium motorbike fleet garaged in Split - ready for you to ride. Whether you want highly technical mountainous switchbacks. Or relaxed riding alongside the turquoise shoreline. Adventure Drone Biker Tours has it all.

To qualify for the discount you must be a member of the HBAM members Facebook group.

Visit the website for further information: [www.adventuredronebikertours.co.uk](http://www.adventuredronebikertours.co.uk)

### **Training Courses and other Events**

**HBAM THEORY COURSE SLIDES** – With a successful year of practical courses complete all members can still access the theory course. Whether an associate or GBH member you will find it full of useful information.

Click the link to view: [Theory Course](#)



### **Nice bike mate! – 4 Mates Ride to Romania - by Pete Berry.**

Jeff said to me “How about Romania?” – “ok” I said. He planned a route based on an organised tour that had been cancelled twice by Covid and he was very keen to complete his mission. It was 21 days long! “Crikey can we do it in 18” I said. We ‘booking.com’d’ two twin rooms in hope of getting more company.

Planned highlights were: The Eagle’s nest, Corvin’s castle, The Transfagarasan (Clarkson’s BRITW), Bran (Dracula’s) Castle, the Transalpina and finally Budapest. Well, five out of six wasn’t bad, as the Eagle’s nest was ‘a bridge too far’ 😊 Total mileage was estimated at 3402, with 3 ‘rest days’ and in the end that was accurate.



It wasn’t a hard sell to recruit Paul, who did great scenic tweaks to the original route (he loves it and is great) and finally Frank, our most qualified 1st aider. I did the accounts, daily diary, videos and recruitment. Three GS’s and the remarkable outlier, the ‘98 VFR800 met up and stayed at Debbie’s Digs in Ashford, ready for an 07:20 Eurotunnel and an uneventful 320 mile slog to Saarbrücken.

Soon we were in the Black Forest and enjoying the brilliant, and recently resurfaced, northern section of the B500. Big smiles, as now it felt like we were touring.

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## October 2024



### **Nice bike mate! – 4 Mates Ride to Romania - by Pete Berry.**

Our arrival in Zell am Zee was stressful, as, very hot, tired and needing beer, we discovered they had doubled booked our pre-paid apartment, grrr. Alternate accommodation quickly found and we were unpacked and in the bar by 7:15.

Next day, to Vezprem, Hungary was a day to forget as it was torrential rain all day. We still laughed as Jeff lowered both sleeves producing simultaneous waterfalls. The day wasn't helped because the countryside was so flat and the roads so straight and long. We yelped with joy when joining a motorway slip road because it had a decent curve 😊 Then, after crossing the border into Romania (V5's were thoroughly checked) and on to Timisora. After dinner, in an unlit street, Jeff fell and sprained his ankle badly in a pavement pothole. We were all very thankful that he didn't break it.

Two nights to rest and explore the Medieval city of Sibiu, made even better by our 4\* hotel with spa facilities right in the centre. Normally, I'd ride on a rest day, but on this trip, rest days were all well-deserved and needed.

The Transfagarasan was worth seeing, as the views were great, but due to the current state of the road surface, we were all left disappointed with the ride. Apart from the views, the highlight was meeting a Brown Bear which we would have met head on round a tight bend, had we been minutes later.





### **Nice bike mate! – 4 Mates Ride to Romania - by Pete Berry.**

Whilst in Transylvania, we fitted in a whirlwind tour of Bran castle, worth seeing while we were there. It was raining hard, but we utilised dirt cheap Ubers to and from our hotel. The Transalpina was the best road we experienced on our trip. Great surface, curves, a technical road and it just kept going. We often swapped the lead for concentration purposes. In fact, we all said it was one of the best roads we have ever ridden... and we have all ridden the Alps, Dolomites and the N222 in the Douro Valley.

For half an hour though, as we approached the top of the Transalpina (2145m) and descended, temperatures dropped, as expected, but noone expected -1°C ! Coupled with freezing fog veiling the potential wonderful views and reducing visibility to 15m. To top it all, sidewinds so strong, doing about 15mph I could just make out Jeff ahead of me leaning at 30° into it. Well, they do close it at the end of September. Thankfully, we came across a cozy Alpine refuge, which we likened to a Himalayan basecamp.



They served hot Mutton and Polenta, hot coffee and had a shelter so we could thaw out.



### **Nice bike mate! – 4 Mates Ride to Romania - by Pete Berry.**

The driving standards that we witnessed in Romania were 'interesting and unpredictable' shall we say, as we all experienced some close shaves. E.g. the car speeding up and round a blind hairpin halfway over the centre line was inches away from Frank's LH pannier. And in Germany, there was the guy casually walking across our four-lane autobahn, bag slung over his back, to get from Frankfurt Airport to the Hilton Hotel. Unbelievable Jeff! 😊

Accommodation ranged from two to four star and averaged £40 each per night, so, all in, including petrol, food, spending, total costs were a bargainous £1650 for 19 days. 95% of establishments in Romania accepted credit cards, luckily, as we only had Euros which they did take, but at an unfavourable rate. Three of us were linked up with Cardo comms that turned out to be useful for satnav comparisons and immensely timesaving.



Memories include: Oradea by night (photo), Biking the Transalpina, the brown bear on the Transfagarasan, wild dogs chasing us, Romany horse and carts, animals on roads, unmanned level crossings with overgrown tracks, primitive drainpipes in villages, the diverse housing landscape, more insect bites than normal, great value drink & food such as the traditional Papanasi sweet treat, friendly people, Turkish baths in Budapest, the flooded Danube, the views, long but worthwhile days and recollections and laughs over beer and a meal.



In summary, simply, if you get a chance, I'd say "go". Do take some 'Leu' cash for coffees. However, to enjoy Romania, you don't have to ride all the way, consider flying and hiring, I'm sure it would be cheaper and quicker, but we had great experiences on the way and an absolutely epic tour.

Thanks Pete!