

HBAM Newsletter

February 2024



HBAM General News

Welcome to the February HBAM newsletter.

Plans for the coming years rideouts and tours are progressing well and an updated Ticket Tailor Box Office will be posted shortly.

As last year, the Box Office will list the proposed dates for the monthly rideouts and provide a link for the Ride Leaders and TEC's to initially sign up, so we will be encouraging Ride Leaders and TEC's to come forward shortly.

Once the RL and TEC roles have been filled, the ride details and destination etc will be added and advertised as last year.

For the HBAM GBH Wales tour in early May, we now have 32 registered, so it should be a great weekend away. Chris Price is doing a recce of the routes in February.

The planning for the associates tour to South Wales in late May/June is progressing well and with spaces still available for Associates to sign up.

Planning for the CJ to Luxembourg in July is already well advanced too and well supported.

The HBAM Challenge registration will also be going live in February and will take place between March and September, with 30 locations identified. There is a separate section covering this later in this newsletter.

Any questions please email: info@hbam.org.uk

HBAM Members January Club Night



On Tuesday January 9th we welcomed Les Smith from Rapid Training to the Bennet's Club, Harpenden.

Les talked about the training options available through Rapid Training and riding in general.

The Rapid training approach largely follows the same approach as our training programme, but with a few interesting different interpretations. These created quite a debate.

There were no Advanced Rider Test pass, since the December Club Night, however we did welcome a few potential new members to the Club Night for the first time, which was good to see.



For rides throughout the year, don't forget to check out the box office, using the following link.

[View the Box Office](#)

Also, if you have any suggestions for ride destinations, please send them using the following link:

[Send Us Your Suggestion](#)

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HBAM Challenge 2024

The HBAM Challenge registration is going live from today. The registration link takes you to Ticket Tailor and is simply a way to log participants and build the spreadsheet for recording your adventures and more importantly your points!!!

Once you have registered on Ticket Tailor, the locations map, location details and general challenge guidelines will be sent to you.

The challenge will run from March until the end of September 2024, but you can register at any time.

[Register for the HBAM Challenge here>>](#)

Essentially it involves riding to pre-defined locations around the UK, taking a selfie to prove the visit and returning the picture and the visit date to the 'Challenge' email address noted in the guidelines. Locations are varied, with some relatively local to our general area, whilst some are further afield for the more adventurous!

You may even find some of the locations are on the club rides, or tours, so keep a look out on the rideouts box office. The rides can be done as part of a group, or solo, so it's entirely up to you how you want to collect the points!

Each location visited helps build up a points tally, with the Challenge Trophy being presented during the end of season club night, to the rider with the most points!

As a slight twist, some locations include a 'Local Celebrity', or 'Bonus', which if found and included in the selfie picture, attract bonus points.

There are 'Celebrities' lined up in Scotland and Devon already. HBAM Member, Paul Lake in Scotland, Grant Hallworth in Devon and my mate Graham Storer, also in Devon, are ready to be tracked down to gain extra points!

There is a locations map included on the next page, but please remember the points won't be counted if you haven't registered on Ticket Tailor.

Please also remember that there is no obligation to visit any of the locations and that you remain responsible for your own safety and for complying with the law on all rides.

Please note: Only one visit per location counts and modifying old photos from previous visits will be spotted, especially if you look 17 in the picture!!! 😊

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HBAM Challenge Locations.

1. IOM TT Grandstand
2. Murray's Museum
3. Great Laxey Wheel
4. Creg Ny Baa
5. Cullen Viaduct
6. John O'Groats
7. Kelpies
8. Falkirk Wheel
9. Llandudno
10. Ponderosa Cafe
11. Owls Nest Tea Rooms
12. Snowdon Mountain Railway
13. On Yer Bike
14. The Veloce Club
15. Oakhampton Castle
16. Heybridge Basin
17. Lands End
18. Museum of Power
19. Cambs Museum of Tech
20. NMM
21. Sammy Millers Museum
22. Tintagel Post Office
23. Dartmoor Prison
24. Brooklands Museum
25. Corfe Castle
26. Lewdown Post Office
27. Touchdown Cafe
28. Super Sausage
29. Wings Cafe
30. Bottisham Airfield



HBAM Challenge 2024 - Locations Map

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HBAM Next Winter Club Night

Tuesday February 6th - Hideout Leathers at the Bennet's Club, Harpenden

Based in an old picturesque barn in the depths of the Essex countryside, Hideout is truly a hidden gem.

They offer you an amazing, unique experience with a comprehensive range of Hideout garments both leather and textiles available Off the Peg (OTP) or Made-to-Measure (MTM) with a service second to none. Come along and hear their story.

If you would like to ask a question, please email it to Paul Southwell in advance at: chiefobstraining@hbam.org.uk

HBAM Club Night – Bring and Buy

As a new idea, which will start with a trial during the February Club Night, is a 'Bring and Buy' sale.

The idea is to simply have some tables set up on one side of the venue, which will give members an opportunity to bring along motorcycle related items they would like to sell. So, if you do have some motorcycle gear you would like to try and sell, please bring it along on the night and if the idea proves popular, we can look to repeat it in the future.

Note: This is intended as a member benefit only and HBAM will not receive any benefit. Any transactions are made solely between the member selling and the buyer.

HBAM Upcoming Winter Club Nights

Tuesday March 12th – Kempston Fire Station

An evening at Kempston Fire Station, with a talk on the Station operations and appliances and a tour of the training facilities.

Wednesday April 10th - Meet The Examiners at Moggerhanger, Bedford

A Meet the Examiners evening will take place again in April and there will be a selection of examiners for the evening who are available and keen to answer all of your questions

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](#)

Other useful links [HBAM Advanced Motorcyclists | Facebook](#) , [HBAM | IAM RoadSmart | Herts & Beds Advanced Motorcyclists](#)

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HBAM Marketing

Our new HBAM Marketing Team are working on several new marketing ideas and on updates to our Facebook and Instagram content and starting to look at updating our website etc.

You may have already seen that the Public HBAM Facebook page has now been updated and is starting to have regular posts.

Note: This public Facebook page is different to the usual 'Members Only' Facebook page.

The public Facebook page link is: <https://www.facebook.com/hbammotorcyclists>

If you do speak to anyone interested in what we do, please suggest they like and follow the public Facebook page, to keep up with our ideas and to access links for the 'Taster Rides' to hopefully take up the Advanced Rider Course.

HBAM New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined in January:

Associates

Martin Ward

Rick Mosser

Nick Cromey-Hawke

New Full Member

Simon Fullalove

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Nice bike mate! – Bernie Mcfarlane's VFR800x

Not a project as such, but more about the life and changes of my 2011 VFR800x Crossrunner VTEC

It's now almost 13-years old and travelled the UK and Europe the mileage is the equivalent of 4 time around the world.

I brought this from Honda in Letchworth in 2011. It was not on my shopping list, but I ended up playing and pushing the sales guy to see how low I could get him or what deal I could get. The bike had 3000 demo miles, so I used this too as a negotiation tool. I had a good friend who was the chief Negotiator of a large company give me 30 mins of time to teach me how negotiate and pitch when buying.

His technique has always worked.

- a good price
- free panniers and top box
- extended warranty
- new tyres.

thus far its amassed 101793 miles!



The reason that I was drawn to the bike in the first place was the simplicity of the electronics, like my previous two bikes there is little to go wrong (fingers, toes, arms and legs crossed, as I wrote this)

Honda Blackbird had no gizmo's not even ABS.
Then my GS1150 (heated grips and ABS) and very agricultural.

During its time it's started to show its age, so just like a human, it needs a bit of help with the cosmetics, face lifts, aching joints etc.

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So, over the past few years it's had the following (I would have got peanuts and spent a fortune in the Sell/sale world of used bikes).

Apart from the obvious maintenance requirements it's had:

- New uprated Rear Shock (should have been done much earlier a great change to the ride).
- Wheels powder coated (much better than the Honda finish)
- Top Box and panniers started to look damaged and tatty so I had them wrapped in silver to match the wheels.
- Regular change of oil and filter (twice a year)
- Chain lubes every ride (It's not a BMW in case you're not familiar with the term)

I have another bike in the shed, but I'll have to tell you about that in another issue.

