



WHAM! NEWS

February 2010



AGM at the Falcon Hotel on Wednesday 27th January 2010

Contents

2. Editor's Notes
3. Chairman's Notes.
4. AGM 2010
5. Certificate Presentations and new Vice Chairman
6. Shiver!!
7. New Routes and Off Road Day.
8. Chief Observer's Column
9. New IAM Group, Guy Martin, Natter Night and Benefits
10. Red and Blue Group Observers
11. AGM Minutes

www.wham-motorcycling.org
Worcester and Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists.
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THE IAM OR THE WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Editors's Notes My apologies to all of you who have got used to Tony Davis's brilliant Newsletters but I regret you will be receiving a much simpler effort in the future. Tony has been our Editor from our formation in 2007 and has produced excellent Newsletters. Indeed, as many of you will know, he was awarded the IAM Motorcycle Groups "Best Newsletter" for 2007. Unfortunately, Tony's "real" work is now more demanding and he no longer has the time to produce the Newsletter and he has therefore reluctantly handed over the job to me but luckily he has agreed to help by being Assistant Newsletter Editor. Tony - many thanks for all the work you have done and if you should find that, in the future, your "real" workload is reducing, I will be more than ready to hand the job of WHAM Newsletter Editor back to you!



So it's
"GOODBYE FROM TONY"



And it's
"HELLO FROM JOHN"

Newsletter Publication and "Submission by" dates.

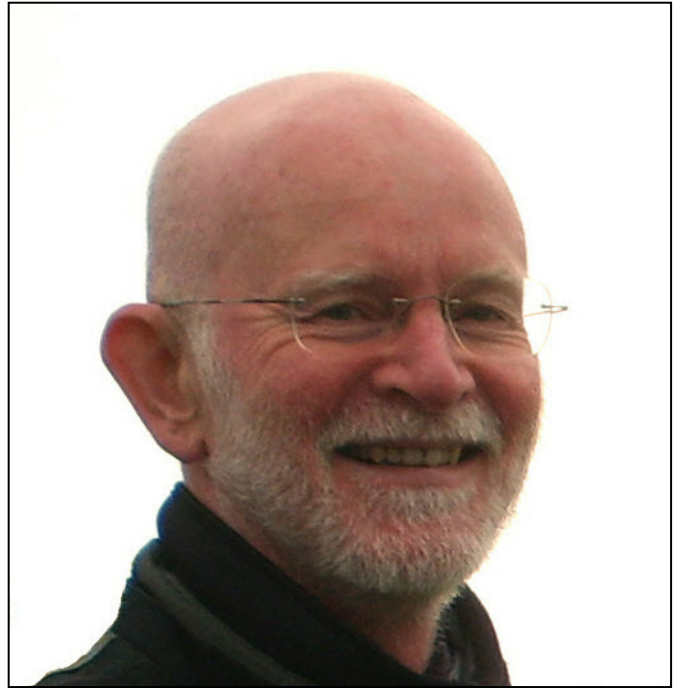
It is hoped to publish the Newsletter each month in approximately the second week. The aim is to publish midway between the monthly Natter Nights. If you have anything you would like to submit for publication then please ensure it is with me (at newsletter@wham-motorcycling.org) before the end of the first week each month. Photos of your biking trips or events welcome. Thanks. John



Chairman's Notes:

More of the same

I'm pleased to say WHAM starts 2010 in really strong form. Last year WHAM was very successful finishing with 115 members, achieving 33 Associate test passes and adding 7 new Observers to the training team. We are positioned very well to support the IAM's objective of increased membership. Not only have we worked hard but we have played hard too; I'm particularly pleased to be part of a Group which can have fun as well as getting on with the serious side of helping other motorcyclists to stay safe and enjoy their riding more.



Our plan for 2010 is "more of the same"; it doesn't sound very exciting but if it works as well as last year it will be! As well as our regular Sunday rides, Observed sessions and Natters we have arranged:

- Two major Associate recruitment days, one in Worcester, one in Hereford
- Two slow handling days (April and September)
- An offroad training session with Mick Extance (Britain's top Dakar competitor)
- A summer tour to the Ardenne
- Three full day "outing" longer rides to interesting roads outside our normal reach

As before our Natters will include some guest speakers and some sessions arranged by the Training team.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable riding in 2010.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Chairman has changed his bike - again!! We might get a review of it in the future but when it was in for a recent service he rode an Aprilia Shiver - so he's written a review on that instead.

Go to page 6 to see what shivering is all about!



wham! Annual General Meeting 2010 at the Falcon Hotel

A very busy time for Eric Reynolds (Treasurer) and Andy Peckston (Membership) as they try to persuade everyone to renew and pay for their annual wham! membership. (A glass of something obviously helps!)

wham! Elected Officers

Many thanks to Derek for agreeing to stay on for one final year before standing down as Chairman. Brian Morgan has been elected as the new Vice-Chairman and Barb Dalloway has been confirmed as our new Group Secretary. Many thanks also to Eric for standing again and being re-elected as our Treasurer.



**Eric, Brian, Derek and Barb
will steer us through 2010**

Thirty members attended the 2010 Annual General Meeting of wham! It was good to see so many cheerful and happy faces. The Minutes of the AGM are attached to this Newsletter for all members to read if they so wish. Thanks also to Dave Shenton, The IAM Groups Manager, who kindly visited us and brought us up to date with the latest IAM news.

WELCOME TO NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We don't get many new members at this time of year so a special welcome to Jem Stiff and Menna Angharad who live near Hay on Wye and John Burbeck from Flyford Flavel



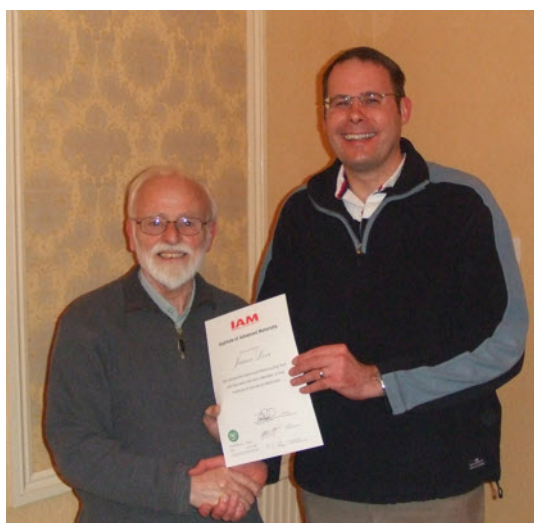
Certificate Presentations at the AGM



Jonathan Telford with observer
James Dickson



Dean Ferrier with observer
David Curzon



James Love with observer
Allan Wright



New Vice Chairman - Brian Morgan

Many thanks to Brian Morgan for volunteering to take on the role of vice-chairman.

Brian started biking in 1976 with a Honda

CB200. He's had a number of Hondas since - 250, 750(4) and now has a 650 Transalp and a 1300 ST Pan European. He's spent 23 (and a bit) years in the police, mostly on traffic and most of that on bikes. He rode the Norton Interpol 2 (air-cooled rotary) and Norton Commander (water-cooled rotary) and BMW K1100's. He has class 1 advanced certificates on bikes and in cars plus VIP training and has instructed VIP procedures on bikes. He took part in many Royal / VIP visits again, on bikes and in cars. In his spare time he took an HGV course and got a class 1 (artic) licence.

Brian left the police in 2003 and went driving an artic (together with his wife - she's also got a class 1 artic licence) but in 2008 went to work for VOSA as a vehicle Inspector. It is because of this that he now has the time to ride and join a club - so here he is. He enrolled on a SFL course as a result of hearing about the 2009 Skills Day at Hereford. He understood that technically he didn't need to do this or the test but wanted to brush up before getting involved.

Brian never expected to be asked to be vice chairman or sit on the committee and isn't quite sure what it will bring. He is very keen on promoting motorcycling and trying to improve its image amongst the general public. He's also looking forward to doing some observing - having also passed (somewhat unsurprisingly) the wham! GQO test.

To see what all the current wham! Committee actually look like (sedatives maybe required!) please visit our brilliant website designed and webmastered by James Dickson.

www.wham-motorcycling.org

Shiver - by Derek McMullan

After the recent weather we will all be familiar with a shiver! I have just been introduced to a completely different Shiver and it's left me with a warm glow!

Those who can keep up with the rate at which I've been acquiring and swapping bikes in 2009 won't be at all surprised to hear I have another; but this is the last change for 2010 – honest! I've bought a KTM Superduke, but not in Orange. This will be the last change because this bike has the right, more upright, seating position for me so I won't have any reason to change again will I? .. but, I've just received an invite to the VFR1200 launch in February - it would be rude not to try it!



The Superduke is a 2006 bike with the grossly high mileage of 2,200 so it needed a service. By nature I'm a researcher so before I bought the Superduke I spoke to local KTM agents to get their views on the bike. Amongst other things I found the first service was expensive as they reset valve clearances, that was a useful negotiating point on the sale! As well as the low-down on the bike I had the opportunity to meet the dealership staffs and assess who I wanted to look after the bike. Speedway Motorcycles in Blackheath, West Midlands was the choice and I finally managed to get the bike there and back after the snow.



The Shiver is an Aprilia. Speedway are both KTM and Aprilia dealers and provided their Shiver demonstrator as a loan bike whilst the Superduke was in for its service. Aprilia bikes are very much an unknown to me so it would be an interesting ride.

As a company Aprilia have had an "interesting" past becoming bankrupt just before Piaggio snapped them up 2 years ago. Now back on the rails they are selling strongly in the superbike and scooter sectors! The Shiver is a middleweight 750 to plug a big hole in their range and the first bike under the new Piaggio regime. The Shiver has that "all rounder" label which too often means "jack of all trades, master of none". I'm pleased to say that the bike quickly dispelled that view being more than lively enough for the greasy

salt-pan left by the receding snow and providing a very pleasing exhaust note at moderate speeds (and, I'm told, an aggressive rasp at higher rpm). The bike is attractive, well designed and incorporates some leading-edge technology in a ride-by-wire throttle and switchable engine mapping. It has Sport, Touring and Rain maps which I was anxious to try out but the bike refused to change out of Touring. The dealer tells me that the maximum power (95 hp) is only achieved in Sport, as we'd expect Touring is more tuned for mid-range and Rain protects the clumsy from demanding too much grunt in slippery conditions. As I said I was stuck in Touring but the bike was still more than quick enough for road use. The Sport mode would be interesting to try but I rather suspect it will require the engine to be kept spinning much faster to produce the goods – probably best to try that on the track.



The bike is nicely thought out having two small cubby-holes behind the fairing and a BMW-like power connection for your GPS, music or whatever. Underlining the Touring mapping the bike can be tooled up for serious touring – see below:



Aprilia have judged this middleweight well; they have come in with a well designed bike having sufficient grunt for two-up touring and an engine and chassis combination which will put a grin on the rider's face when the luggage comes off whilst showing a shapely rear to following traffic!

All this for less than £6,000, its going to sell – but not to me, honest! Derek

Many thanks to Derek, our Chairman, for this article and we look forward to his report on the Super Duke and the VFR1200!! If you have any comments on bikes or kit please drop me a line (at newsletter@wham-motorcycling.org) so all members can benefit from your experience.

NEW ROUTES AND CAFES

Steve Edwards is reorganising the Sunday ride routes to bring in new roads and cafe stops. If you have a favourite cafe or "worthy" road to include which is not currently on our route list, please let Steve Edwards know at your earliest opportunity. Steve can be contacted via sales@dampproofingman.co.uk and would like to hear particularly from members familiar with Worcestershire, across as far as the M40, and to the north of the region, up to the A5 - M54.

Also, if a road near you has recently become a victim of the "creeping 50's" or is blighted with mile after mile of solid or double white lines, let Steve know.



Off Road Training Day-27 March

For anyone interested in trying their skills at off roading, Den Osborne has organised a day's training with Mick Extance of Dakar Rally fame. The complete session, including overnight accommodation, bike and kit hire plus training costs £200. It is great fun and helps with road riding too. For further details, look on our web site under "Programme" or contact Steve sales@dampproofingman.co.uk

Chief Observer's Column..

Overtaking – Part 2

Following on from part 1 in this multi-part feature on overtaking, let's now cover the 2 different overtaking situations you are most likely to encounter.

Firstly we have the scenario where we can identify a vehicle ahead which is travelling slower than us and therefore we want to overtake them as soon as possible. In the absence of other hazards you should be able to approach and overtake in one manoeuvre. So here you will approach the vehicle and then move straight out to the offside of the road to execute the overtake. Before you overtake, though, you **MUST** be certain that there is sufficient road ahead to make the manoeuvre safely (ie no bends, dips, hill crests etc) and you **MUST** be aware of the road markings and obvious hazards such as junctions, lay-bys, other parked vehicles etc. which could cause the vehicle to be overtaken to change direction, perhaps with no warning. Don't forget to check behind you before you pull out and give a signal if another road user will benefit from it. Finally, regain the nearside as soon as possible, without unduly cutting across the overtaken vehicle.



The second scenario is for when other hazards require you to take up a following position before you can execute the overtake. This is often referred to as the *3-stage approach* to overtaking. Here, after having adopted the (1) *following position* because of the presence of one or all of those hazards, you will then identify (or anticipate) an opportunity to overtake and will move to the (2) *overtaking position* (usually closer to the vehicle to be overtaken). Once the opportunity is confirmed you will commence the (3) *overtake*.

A number of points worth remembering when you consider/execute an overtake:

- **If you cannot see far enough ahead to be CERTAIN that you can regain the nearside of the road, DO NOT commit to the overtake!**
- **Only overtake when you can easily regain the nearside without causing other vehicles to alter course/speed**
- **Put as much space as possible between yourself and the vehicle being overtaken (consider the scenario where an animal runs out into the road and causes the vehicle being overtaken to swerve in your direction!)**
- **NEVER overtake when there is a junction or lay-by ahead (either nearside OR offside)**
- **Avoid at all costs becoming the 'jam in the sandwich', ie 3 vehicles abreast with you in the middle!**
- **Once you commit to a safe overtake, get past the vehicle as quickly as possible (ie don't dither, especially on dual carriageways/motorways)**

The most important bit of advice to remember, though, is **IF IN DOUBT, DO NOT OVERTAKE!** Always keep in the back of your mind the Fireblade scenario I mentioned in the first article.

In the third part of the series I will cover a couple of specific techniques that can help you make the most of certain situations that may present themselves out on the open road.

Ride safe!! Tim





Cheltenham & Cotswold
Advanced Motorcyclists
www.c-cam.org.uk

An Evening with Guy Martin

at Fraser's Motorcycles, Bristol Rd, Gloucester GL2 5DB



7.30PM SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2010

For directions go to www.frasersmotorcycles.co.uk



RoadSafety
www.roadsafetrust.co.uk



NEW IAM GROUP

Cheltenham and Cotswold Advanced Motorcyclists

We offer our best wishes and the very best of luck to the newly formed neighbouring group of Cheltenham and Cotswold Advanced Motorcyclists. The new group had its inaugural meeting on Tuesday 19th January. Their first "open house" event is "An Evening with Guy Martin" on Saturday 20th February - see the flyer. Everyone is welcome. Please let Steve Edwards know if you would like to attend.

Steve is on 01989 762390 or email at:

sales@dampproofingman.co.uk

Great new benefit for IAM members families

This is to let you know of a new insurance benefit introduced this month for IAM members' families. IAM Surety Family is a competitive car and motorcycle insurance service, offered for the first time to the immediate family of IAM members.

Please note this is a separate scheme from the Adelaide Insurance service, which is exclusively for IAM members. Details on the IAM website:

<http://www.iam.org.uk/member-benefits>

WHAM! NATTER NIGHT

Wednesday 24 February 2010 at
the FALCON HOTEL

QUIZ

Not a "who stars in some soap you've never heard of" quiz but a motorcycling oriented quiz. Form a team and compete for the honour, since there is no prize!

Hijacking a few Observers probably won't help - well not much!



wham's Red and Blue Groups

Not all members are aware that, for training purposes, wham! is divided into 2 groups, namely Red and Blue. These groups conduct the IAM Skill for Life programme with Red Group looking after the Herefordshire area ie west of the M5 and Blue Group looking after Worcester and the areas to the east and north. Both these Groups are managed by a Senior Observer who is responsible for allocating associates to observers and then ensuring that the Skill for Life programmes run smoothly. The Chief Observer, Tim Hutt, oversees both groups to ensure a common standard.

Any full member who is interested in becoming an observer should initially contact the appropriate Group Senior Observer who will then arrange an assessment.

Red Group

*Senior: Guy Jenkins
John Hodges
Steve Edwards
Ant Clerici
John Nixon
Rich Smith
Guy Butcher
Tim Wynn
Brian Morgan*

*Under Training
Martyn Newman
Andrew Wibmer*

Blue Group

*Senior : James Dickson
Eric Reynolds
Derek McMullan
Tony Davis
Allan Wright
Den Osborne
David Curzon
Paul Whitcombe
Phil George
Angus McLeod*

*Under Training
Tony Walsh (Red Gp)
Gary Barnes*

OBSERVERS**Dates to Note**

All observers are asked to note the following important dates in their diaries. Please keep these days free for us if you can .

Many thanks. The Committee.

Observer Training Day Sat 6 March

Slow Riding Day Sat 10 April

Hereford Rider Skills Sun 25 April

Worcester Rider Skills - May (TBC)



**MINUTES OF WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED
MOTORCYCLISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010 HELD AT
THE FALCON HOTEL BROMYARD
28TH JANUARY 2010 AT 2000HRS.**

ITEM 1. Welcoming Remarks.

The Chairman, Derek McMullan, thanked and welcomed all members & guests for attending, particularly Dave Shenton from IAM HO.

ITEM 2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from: Andrew Culley, Paul Cooper, Matt Cooper, Simon King, Paddy Tyson, Derwen Hinds, Mac Gasking and Richard Smith.

ITEM 3. Approval of 2009 AGM Minutes and any Matters Arising.

The previous AGM Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.
Approval Proposed by John Hodges. Seconded by Andrew Peckston.

ITEM 4. Chairman's 2009 Report.

A huge success in 2009 – 33 WHAM Associates passed their tests! The Hereford and Worcester Rider Skills Days were put on with huge support from WHAM's members. Thanks to Members who helped on the day, and particularly the Observers who transformed Associates to Members. Particular thanks to John Hodges who organised the days.

Alongside the Associate successes we have had a successful year in Observer recruitment and training. The Group is strong and ready to take on more Rider Skills Days in 2010.

As well as our fundamental objective of advancing motorcycling skills in Hereford and Worcester we maintained the weekly ride programme, had a few very successful day trips including Dennis Osborne's Brecon's tour, & Steve Dalloway's Llyn Brenig outing. Slow Handling day organised by Dennis Osborne (2 planned for next year) and the regular monthly natter evenings.

The Group was awarded a Group Achievement Award at the National Motorcycle Conference, a spectacular acknowledgement for such a newly formed group. The Groups Newsletter also came in for a special mention, as many groups are studying its format. Thanks to Tony Davis, who due to work commitments is stepping down as Newsletter Editor.

This will be Derek's last year as Chairman of WHAM, as he is now a Trustee of the IAM.

ITEM 5. Treasurer's Report.

Eric Reynolds, Treasurer gave a resume of the Financial Report, which had been circulated before the meeting. Eric confirmed the Balance Sheet had been Independently Audited. Resolution was passed to keep the membership fees the same.

Proposer to accept the Accounts – Steve Edwards, seconded James Love. Carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. Election of Committee Officers.

John Hodges took the chair for the election of the Committee Officers.

- **Chairman.** Derek McMullan put himself forward for re-election.
He was proposed by Steven Edwards, seconded by John Hodges.
Carried unanimously.

- **Vice-Chairman.** Brian Morgan put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by John Hodges, seconded by Derek McMullan.
Carried unanimously.
- **Secretary.** Barbara Dalloway put herself forward for election.
She was proposed by Derek McMullan, seconded by James Dickson. Carried unanimously.
- **Treasurer.** Eric Reynolds put himself forward for re-election.
He was proposed by Derek McMullan, seconded by Andrew Peckston. Carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. Election of Group Committee Members.

Derek McMullan took the chair for the election of Committee Members.

- **Newsletter Editor & Events Assistant**
John Hodges put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by Steven Edwards, seconded by Eric Reynolds.
Carried unanimously.
- **Assistant Newsletter Editor**
Tony Davis put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by Derek McMullan, seconded by Barbara Dalloway. Carried unanimously.
- **Events Organiser**
Steve Edwards put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by John Hodges, seconded by Barbara Dalloway.
Carried unanimously.
- **Webmaster & Blue Group SO**
James Dickson put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by Barbara Dalloway, seconded by Derek McMullan. Carried unanimously.
- **Red Group SO**
Guy Jenkins put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by Barbara Dalloway, seconded by John Hodges.
Carried unanimously.
- **Membership Secretary**
Andrew Peckston put himself forward for re-election.
He was proposed by Eric Reynolds, seconded by Steve Edwards.
Carried unanimously.
- **Ride Co-ordinator**
Allan Wright agreed to continue for a 3rd term.

ITEM 8. Presentation of Certificates.

James Love by Observer Allan Wright.

Dean Ferrier by Observer David Curzon

Jonathan Telford by Observer James Dickson

ITEM 9. Programme for 2010.

Derek McMullan outlined the Calendar so far.

- The Sunday ride routes are being modified, to incorporate new roads, avoiding creeping 50's and closed cafes. The length of the Sunday rides is being reduced to accommodate members who have limited time. They will be split into an "Out" and "Return" route,(a)to avoid confusing Sat Navs that don't understand circular routes, and (b) they can be mixed to add more variety.

- 2 Rider Skills Days planned, one in Herefordshire and one in Worcestershire.
- Off road day being planned 27 March.
- 2 Slow handling days, to incorporate braking skills, the first is 10th April and another towards the end of the season.
- 3 full day rides are being planned.
- Vista tour this year is to the Ardennes.

James Love asked if more speakers or training talks would be held on Natter Nights.

Derek McMullan was able to confirm this was in hand, members were asked to advise on any unusual road layouts that could be photographed and discussed. A visit to West Mercia Police Training school is being planned, the police preferred this rather than sending speakers to the Natter Night.

ITEM 10. Natter Nights on a Friday. (Raised by Andrew Culley)

It was acknowledged that the members attending the AGM were probably those that preferred Wednesdays to Fridays so that a vote would not be representational of the membership as a whole.

The main objection on the evening appeared to be that Friday evening was part of the weekend, and with members already spending time at the weekend observing or on rides, it ate into family time, particularly in the Summer months. It was decided that the committee would look at organising 1 or 2 natter nights on a Friday during the Winter Months.

It was agreed to canvass the whole membership for their thoughts and preferences.

ITEM 11. Any Other Business – None

ITEM 12. Date of next AGM – *FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY 2011*

Meeting Closed 2100hrs

Dave Shenton then addressed the members present, congratulating the group on their test passes and progress over the last 3 years, and giving an insight into the future plans for the IAM.

Signed on original

Barbara Dalloway,



WHAM Membership Renewal Form 2010

(Renewals due before 27th January 2010)

To renew your WHAM membership, please fill in the renewal form and give it, with the Group Membership fee of £15.00 if applicable, to a Committee Member or return it to me, at the address shown below before 28th January 2010. We need this form completed to ensure our records are up to date. Renewals will be accepted at the AGM.

No membership fee can be accepted without a completed form.

If anyone has any questions regarding their membership please contact me on:-
01905 723531 or andrew.peckston@cspkc.com

IAM No:IAM Membership Expiry Date:

(You must be a member of the IAM to be a member of WHAM)

Personal details

Title: ___ Initials: _____ First Name: _____

Last Name _____ D.O.B _____

PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY CHANGES TO YOUR CONTACT DETAILS. IF NO CHANGES, PLEASE LEAVE CONTACT DETAILS BLANK.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Address:

* Postcode:

Home Phone or preferred contact telephone number: _____

Email: _____

STATUS

Membership status: Full / Associate

Observer status: Group Qualified / Senior

Please give completed form and membership fee to any Committee Member or return to:

Andy Peckston, 26 Snowberry Avenue, Worcester, WR4 0JA

DATA PROTECTION ACT: As a member of WHAM, the personal information given on this form will be held in confidence on a computer file for membership records and newsletter distribution purposes only. If you wish to see your own details please contact the Membership Secretary.

Membership Fees £15.00. Cheques payable to WHAM.

