



WHAM! NEWS

July 2010



Which WHAM! members rode this fantastic road?

Answer - page 7

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www.wham-motorcycling.org

Worcester and Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists.

Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorcyclists. Group No. 3260

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Chairman's Notes



Best laid plans! My intention was to stay with my GS and Superduke, certainly through this year. Some of you will know there is a new BMW dealer in Gloucester - Cotswold Motorrad. As my GS is coming up for a service I popped in on the way home from one of our Sunday rides - just to get to know them as they would be much more convenient for me than North Oxford Garage.

I'd heard that they had a lot of stock and sure enough there was the now typical large and glitzy showroom with lots of shiny bikes. One particularly shiny bike caught my eye, a bike I've tried to have a test ride on before but demonstrators were then like hen's teeth. To my surprise Cotswold had a demonstrator so foolishly I arranged a test ride and the rest is history!

So I've replaced the Superduke with a BMW HP2 Sport. This is the latest, some say the ultimate, interpretation of the boxer engine and certainly feels very different to any of my previous boxers, OK lots more oomph but also a much smoother engine, it hardly feels like a big twin at all.

And I won't be changing any bikes in the near future - honest!

Derek

Editor's Bits and Pieces

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Alex Hoyle from Bromyard and Chris Van Heerden from Belbroughton

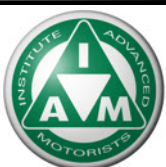
ATTENTION - NOTICE FOR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The "Win a Yamaha" competition is open to all associates who have joined the IAM after 29th November 2009 and take their IAM test before 31st August 2010. The winner will be the "Best New Advanced Biker 2010" - the IAM will be looking for the rider who demonstrates the most skill and control on two wheels. For more details visit the [IAM Website](#).

HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY!! If you have a good biking story or photos then please send them in. Also, if you have a strong opinion about any road safety or motorcycling matter, we would like to hear from you. Lastly, if you have any ideas on how we can improve wham! or you have any suggestions for events/activities that you would like to see, please let us know by emailing the [Editor](#).

FREE POCKET FIRST AID GUIDE

St John Ambulance have a very useful free first aid guide. You can order one by clicking [here](#).



Vista 2010 – WHAM! Go to Belgium....

by Tony Davis



“Where?....Belgium.....?!” Was my response when our Chairman announced the venue for our Summer biking holiday this year. Belgium really does not spring to mind as a biking mecca. The only motorcycling most of us ever do in Belgium is cruise as fast as possible down its notoriously wet and boring motorways to get somewhere more interesting. Derek insisted that they have some good roads so eventually I summed up enough enthusiasm to ride over to the Map Shop in Upton (well recommended) and pick up a map of the local area. I subsequently decided that there were enough bendy looking roads for me to give it a go, it has to be better than dodging 50mph limits here at home.

Twelve of WHAM’s finest crossed the channel on ten bikes in all. We were staying in the Ardennes region in a small Hotel close to the Belgium / Luxembourg border run by a keen biker who let us park the bikes in his secure cellar. The week took its usual format where each day our Garmin GPS systems send us off into the unknown, down closed roads, into fields and round in big circles. It has to be said though, what a revelation, the roads are way better than anything I had expected, particularly when you cross the border from Belgium to Luxembourg. If you ever get to this part of the world then make sure to spend a couple of Days exploring Luxembourg, there is a road that runs from Consthum to Wiltz (the CR322) its just 10 miles long but one of the best roads I have ever ridden and there are plenty more like that in the area. We rode a different route each day and then a compilation of the best roads on the Friday, there was certainly enough good tarmac to keep us happy all week. This trip proves that there are parts of Europe that are easily reachable in a good day’s ride that are well worth a visit.



Steve & Lynton ponder how to get their helmets on with these flag poles stuck in their heads



Ant gets “Garmined” while smug Belgian TomTom owner looks on.



Bearded BMW Pilot eats autocom lead



Hotel food was excellent!



There were some lovely sweeping bends.....



...and plenty of twisties



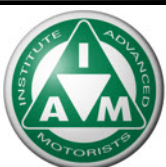
We weren't always sure where to go.....



...but parking was not a problem.

Sincere thanks to Derek for organising it all.

Photos Barb Dalloway and Derek McMullan



June Natter Night Ride



At last some Hereford members actually get to meet at Hereford McDonalds prior to a ride.



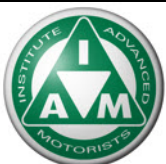
Worcester members assembling at Worcester McDonalds for the Natter Night Ride.



We've never seen so many bikes at Hereford McDonalds (there are more out of view) and it is so good to see (in the Editor's opinion) three Pan Europeans!



Our best meeting for a long time.! About 40 members turned up for the June Natter Night Ride: - and here we all are relaxing at the Falcon Hotel. Now, who can remember the speed impact differentials achieved by reducing speed by 5 mph? (Answers to Derek please!)



WHAM! RIDES

NORTH WALES RIDE Sunday 18th JULY

The second all day ride of wham's summer programme is scheduled for Sunday 18th July. The route has been very carefully selected from Steve Edwards' personal favourites list to include as many quiet roads with plenty of sweeping bends and hairy hairpins as possible to keep you, the rider, entertained and for your passengers, some fabulous views as well. Many of the roads you probably haven't been on before, but you will want to go back to time and time again.

Garmin details of this route are now on the website; for those of you who do not travel in the company of Madame Garmin, printed maps will be available at the start.

The ride leaves the A49 north Leominster services at 9.30 am PROMPT. Petrol is available here as well as tea, coffee and toilets. Please ensure you arrive in plenty of time to freshen up and PLEASE leave here with a full tank of fuel.

First tea stop, Llanfair Caereinion steam railway station takes 1hr. 30mins and is 64 miles if you don't get lost! Lunch 12.45 at the New Inn, Llangynog. Fuel stop 124 miles from Leominster, afternoon tea stop back at the New Inn, Llangynog. Ride finishes 94 miles from the fuel stop at the Little Chef, A49 Wooferton. (Salway Arms).

Because of the length and demanding nature of the route, this ride is restricted to full members and test ready associates only.

Further details from Steve Edwards, sales@dampproofingman.co.uk or 07813 845 735 or 01989 765 765



SUMMER NATTER NIGHT RIDES

For summer months we combine the Natter nights with an evening ride which is open to all. We have 2 meeting points - McDonalds in Worcester and McDonalds in Belmont, Hereford. Please be there between 6.30 and 7.00 pm. Each group will leave promptly and then enjoy circuitous and interesting routes before arriving and meeting at the Falcon Hotel in Bromyard between 8.30 and 9.00 pm. for a drink, a chat and any club business. This is an excellent opportunity for all members, observers and associates to have a really enjoyable evening



ride. If you cannot make it to McDonalds in time, then why not join us at the Falcon Hotel. Please make a note in your diary now for:

Wednesday 28 July - the second of this year's Summer Evening Rides.

We hope to see you there!



VISTA TOUR PLUS!! Whilst the intrepid VISTA wham! gang headed home, Richard Smith and Ian Barnard continued their biking holiday with a tour of the Alps. This is their story - told by Ian!!



So, Saturday morning came and it was time to say au revoir to the gang. The Grandru Hotel, run by Catharina & Jacinto, had been a superb base and the Ardennes had given us a great week of riding. Now it was time for Richard and I to set off for a very different landscape in Austria.

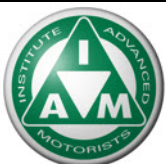
Our destination was the Hotel Weisseespitze, just south of Landeck, in Austria. The distance from Calais is around 633 miles so we opted to ride no more than around the 280 miles each day. We spent Saturday night in the Etap Hotel in Stuttgart before

arriving at the Hotel on Sunday.

This was quite a contrast to last week. The scenery was magnificent. Mountains towered up on all sides with snow on top of all of them. The Roads were everything a biker wants, great surface, and every type of bend imaginable. The Weisseespitze is a 60 room 4 star hotel and is very biker friendly. In the garage is a BMW test-ride centre that allows the use of a wide range of BMW bikes for just €66 per day. They will even kit you out Shuberth helmets, Rukka suits and Daytona boots. Richard and I were already in this gear hence the obviously envious nickname that we had acquired of "the Rukka Twins"

Jacinto at the Grandru (What a chef he was by the way) had recommended our first route so on the Monday we set off for the Timmelsjoch Pass at 2509 metres. The day was damp with very low cloud so it was a very careful approach. As we climbed the visibility got quite bad and the temperature was down to 1.5°C. Near the top was a toll of about €8 and we were thinking of turning around, however, a friendly German assured us that the weather was great just 5k over the other side so up we went. We reached the top for a "chocolat chaud" each and some pics and found the advice to be spot on. The weather in Italy was glorious and we drove through the Jaufen Pass on our way back to the hotel. The route took us along the old Brenner Pass which gave stunning views of the new Brenner pass. When I rode the new pass last year I had no idea just how superb this structure is but from the ground below you can only wonder at how they built it. So day one was a great days riding.

Day two and we head south from the Kaunertal region of the Tirol on our way to ride the Stelvio pass. The roads are long, sweeping bends that you can see right through so overtakes are a breeze and the roads are made for very progressive riding. The start of the pass is similar and gives no clue to what lay ahead. Above us were 48 very taxing hairpins that seem to come one after the other without respite. As you near the top you look up and find the hairpins winding high above you. We reach the top of the second highest pass in Europ. It is 2757m (9045ft) and the snow is still high up the sides of the road. Richard and I have the best pizza ever at the top then over we go to the Swiss side. The preferred route is closed due to a pushbike race so we head down to Livigno and then rejoined the main road back by going through the Munt la Schera Tunnel. A toll of €8 each gives access to a single road tunnel that has been cut straight through the mountain. It runs for 3385m and takes about 15mins to negotiate.



Day three dawned and by now the weather had really caught up with what you guys back home where experiencing so today we set off up the valley to the Glacier. The ride climbs gently to start through the stunning scenery until we meet the hairpins that take us up to the glacier at 2750 m. There is a toll of €8 a bike to use the road but it really is worth every penny (should that be cent). The snow and the sun make for extreme brightness but it is very beautiful. The downside is it is immensely popular with the wrinklies and we were soon in the middle of at least eight coach loads of said ancients. We made our exit and spent a relaxing afternoon down in Landeck enjoying Tony's favourite pastime of window shopping.

We came home via two Etap Hotels, in Strassborg and Laon following a pre-prepared route that gave us some lovely roads through Austria, Germany and France keeping well away from the old peage highways.

Richard had been eyeing up the possibility of swapping his bike back to a GS from the RT and wanted to check what this would cost. We had seen the new 30year limited edition GS 1200R in Austria but felt that £16800 (€19350) was just a bit too much. So we made the detour to Cotswold BMW in Gloucester on the way back and Richard is now considering the options. Watch this space.

All in all we had a brilliant 15 days. The Contrast in the too areas was huge but the riding was always great, as was the company. Richard and I covered 3005 miles at a cost in fuel of about £315. The hotels came to around £650 but that included the bar bill at the two main stops. The tunnel crossing cost £69 so I reckon we spent around £1200 total for the holiday. I think it was great value and well worth it. Here's to next year.



Sorry I didn't see you....."mate"

by *Ant Clerici*

Drivers in cars going fast
Talking with their hands
Looking into their passengers eyes
Negotiating, arguing and turning around to check on the kid who cries

Drivers in cars going quick
Talking and taking notes during their mobile conference debates
Checking diaries and directions for appointments:
"Mustn't be late"

Drivers in cars in a hurry
Looking at maps, or page 3 of the Sun
Reading maps or prodding the TomTom
Not noticing the speedo at 91

Drivers in cars in a silver 5 door
Motoring thro' dark lanes at dusk without lights
Glued to lane 2 whatever the traffic
No indication, no signal, they're "completely all right"

Drivers in cars always peckish
Opening bars and sipping hot tea
Chuck the wrappers out as far as they'll fly
Into our beautiful scenery

Drivers in cars slowing down of a sudden
Hey look at the crash - those encased in the wreck
They'll be stuck in the jam for hours and hours
And the guy in front "a stupid rubber neck!"

Drivers in cars tuning the radio
Hit the brakes as the Gatsco looms near
The fear of points overwhelms "not again"
At least this time I've not had a beer

Drivers in cars, window open a smidge
Letting the wrapper fly, then fumbles for the lighter
Flick out ash without a thought
Finally guiding the glowing butt into the rider

Drivers in cars all looking so good
Men shaving or brushing their thinning hair
Girls with mascara and bright pink lippy
It's why the mirrors are always right there

Drivers in cars with no time at all
You've not seen the tragedy unfold
Been unaware, so in wide eyed surprise, too late
Your bike is stopped in nanoseconds "Sorry I didn't see you mate!"

And not forgetting....

**Car drivers on bikes "It's my Sunday toy"
Shiny and fast "Hey, I'm good"- in the Rossi set
Comes with exemptions from every rule
2 years old, 500 miles, always garaged; never been wet.**

