

WHAM! NEWS

August 2011



**WINNER OF THE WHAM 2011 PHOTO COMPETITION
STEVE HACKETT**



Be alert for traffic emerging from the right [Tom Sykes (66) plays marbles with Noriyuki Haga (41) Pata Team Aprilia, Leon Camier (2) Aprilia Alitalia Racing, Max Biaggi (1) Aprilia Alitalia Racing & Jonathan Rea (4) Castrol Honda at the Fogarty Esses, Donington Park. World Superbikes 27 March 2011]

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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

Welcome to the August 2011 edition of our Newsletter. I'd like to start by saying how glad I am that Gary Barnes is recovering from a recent spell of ill health. It's good to see you on the mend Gary and, on behalf of all our members, I hope you'll be able to join us on a ride soon. (I think you might be taking this curious interest in surgical gloves a bit far though!)

Natter Night Rides.

This month's Natter Night Ride will be the last one for this year. Details of the route will be available on the website (thank you Tony). I know I'm not the only person who has enjoyed taking part in our evening rides and it would be good if we could make the last one for the year the best attended yet. Please make every effort to turn out, even if you don't wish to follow the specified route, and just meet up at the Falcon. There will be a few test pass presentations to be made so your support for our new full members would be appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all there.

On the subject of rides, we are always on the lookout for something new to keep everyone interested. If anyone has any ideas for new routes and particularly any new coffee/breakfast stops then please don't keep them to yourself. Just send me a short e-mail with the details and we'll sort out the rest.

You'll see from the website that there is a full day ride to Aberdovey planned on Sunday 21st August. Full details can be found via the website links. It is intended, when possible, to organise a longer day ride once each month. I am currently working on something for September and October but, if anyone has any further suggestions of suitable places to visit, again, please let me know.

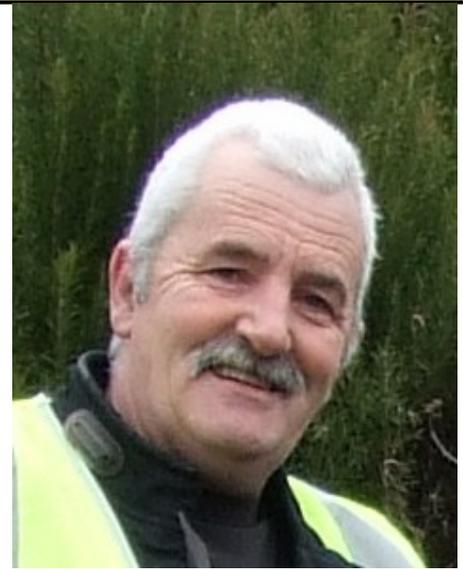
WHAM Regalia.

Each month the newsletter contains expertly modelled photographs of our polo shirts and tee shirts. (priced at £12 and £9 respectively). I know you can all read and I'm not trying to insult your intelligence but I'd like to encourage you to consider buying one (or more!). I have two reasons for asking: Firstly, it would help to advertise your group and secondly, we do need to raise funds so that we can continue to organise our events. If anyone would like to buy any of these garments then please let me (or any committee member) know and we'll sort something out. If not I am likely to change the photographs to some of our observers modelling them – and you wouldn't want that.

And finally, I have been forwarded details of a treasure hunt (for bikers) which is due to take place on 4 September between Machynlleth in Powys and Tywyn in Gwynedd (yep both places are in Wales). This is NOT a WHAM or IAM event and is only mentioned here in case any of our members are interested. For full details contact Marianne@trailrides-wales.com (tel 01686 430522) or let me know and I can forward an entry form and all the particulars.

Keep smiling

Brian



Editor's Notes and Notices

I'm hoping to handover the Newsletter to Ken Shaw in the next couple of months so would like to thank all of those who have made such excellent contributions to the Newsletter since I've been the Editor. The Newsletter depends on you, the members, sending in photos, articles, bits and pieces, letters, questions etc so please keep them coming; it's your Newsletter and it needs your contributions if it is going to work properly. The Photo competition has shown that we have some really good photographers in the group - so if you do take a good biking photo, please send it in. It may not get published but the chances are it will.

Ride safe and enjoy.

John

CONGRATULATIONS



Will Hopkins - passed his test last month but we didn't have a picture - so here he is with his Transalp! His observer was Steve Edwards.



Annie Morgan, with her Transalp, passed her test on 10 August. Her observer was John Hodges

WHAM! RIDES We've got some good rides coming up - as well as the normal Sunday rides. As you can see, the last one on 7 August produced a good crowd at Crossgates and for once we all managed to get on the same table.

On 21 August there is a great day trip to Aberdovey - Tony Davis will be booking lunch for us so please let him know if you want to come along. For details please see the [website](#).

On 31 August, as Brian has pointed out in his notes, we have the last of our Summer Natter Night Rides. Open to all associates and full members - please help to make it a really good one! Full details are on the [website](#).



WHAM! 2011 PHOTO COMPETITION

The WHAM! 2011 Photo Competition attracted 33 photos from 8 members. Judging was extremely difficult because the standard was very high. The judges, Brian Morgan (Chairman), Derek McMullan (Chief Observer), and John Hodges (Newsletter Editor) were given the photos independently and then each chose their favourite 15 photos. These were then marked in order of preference. The marks were then totalled and an order of merit established. This edition of the Newsletter shows the winning photo on page one, a brilliant capture by Steve Hackett of a spectacular crash at Donington earlier in the year. Below and on the following page are the next 5 photos of which Ken Shaw has 3. Ken's photos show "KYZ Photography 2010" but he is in fact still an amateur photographer although I think he may have ambitions to be a professional! (His photos say 2010 but they were in fact all taken this year.) Ant and Gill Clerici claim the other top spots.



2nd : Ken Shaw: Old Beemer passing runners



3rd: Ant Clerici
2 bikes by the lake!
Gone fishing! or
what?



4th: Ken Shaw. Don't forget these!



5th: Gill Clerici "Garmin says this is the N26. Keep going."

6th: Ken Shaw "Whose idea was this?"

Some of the other entrants - but in no particular order



Ant Clerici. "You go first! No, you go first - No - - - ."



Martin Ward. "How to keep your wife happy! Touring in the Picos."



Roger Brooks. Guy Martin spitting flames at Hillberry.



Tony Davis. "Who loves ya, baby?"

Some more photos are on page 11.

Photo captions: Photographers themselves, Brian Morgan and John Hodges



A Trip to the Isle of Man

Steve Edwards, Andrew and Anne Culley went on a trip to the Isle of Man from 25 to 28 July. They had a great time and Steve is planning to organise a similar trip next year - hopefully for more riders. The aim of the trip is to avoid the races so we can ride the roads ourselves. More details will be published during the winter months but here are just a few of their pictures to give you a taster!



Niarbyl. The wind is so strong they have to tie the roof down.



Steve on the Gooseneck for 2nd or 3rd time.



Castletown, must be time for coffee!



Why is Anne down there?
Ideal location for next slow riding day!



Red Leader hunts down German invader at the Bungalow ie Steve following Andrew.

Photos and captions: Andrew and Anne Cully

MOTO GYMKHANA - Don't panic, it's nothing to do with horses.

by Tony Davis

Those of you that have attended any of WHAM's Slow riding days may have noticed some of the more adventurous riders practising the obstacle courses at a more enthusiastic pace during the lunch break, especially our Chief Observer. While the slow riding obstacle courses that Dennis designs are great for slow machine control, they are also really good fun to ride at a slightly quicker pace. We got a lot of good feedback from Associates for the afternoon slalom course where everyone picked up their pace as they practised and enjoyed it more as a result. This got us thinking and, after 2011's SRD, Derek and I decided to take 'slow riding' to the next level and

*READY TO GO!*

have a go at Moto Gymkhana, so we booked ourselves on the next experience event at Donington Park. Moto Gymkhana originated in Japan. It involves riding around a predefined course with lots of tight turns, figure of eights, slaloms and circles etc. What is different from our slow riding courses is that the speed is higher and the bike is leaned into the turns rather than just turning the bars and staying upright. Riding the course at anything like a reasonable speed involves using techniques that are completely counter intuitive to normal road riding. Watching the experts, you can see them with the bike at full lean and full lock at the same time, this takes practice and a huge amount of skill.

The guys that run the experience days are local lads who are trying to promote the sport in the UK. Derek & I turned up to our first session with no idea what awaited us. However, Andy Freeman, who runs the days, soon put us at ease and we started with some easy exercises to warm up and gain some confidence; then we tackled the main course against the clock. The essence is improving your own times, not competing against each other.

*Derek relaxing!*

Since the first event at Donington, Derek & I have been to Touratech in Wales to have a go at a proper timed competition. This was held on a small car-park at the back of the Touratech Showroom, space looked very limited at first, however, once the course was laid out it proved to be just as challenging and as much fun as the wide-open course at Donington, proving again how this sport can be enjoyed with very limited (and inexpensive) resources. It was good to see a couple of the off road experts from Touratech sliding their bikes around the tarmac course, one of which was a brand new Yamaha 1200 Tenere, ridden by the owner of Touratech who is

an off road expert and proved beyond doubt that rider skill is more important than the bike you ride! Derek did very well in the competition finishing 3rd out of the non-professional riders. As for my result, let's just say that if the competition was run using the same rules as Dennis's Slow Riding Competition I would have won. Enough said.

(Continued next page)

The experience is open to all, as long as you have a full bike licence. You can use any bike, obviously an out and out sports bike would be harder work but, as long as it's road legal they will let you on the course. Speeds are kept relatively low so Moto Gymkhana is a very safe way to have a huge amount of fun on a bike.



Tony giving it a go.

Videos of Derek attempting his first sighting lap at Donnington can be seen here (excuse the poor camera work) : http://youtu.be/PLI_69kZAm4 and here: <http://youtu.be/61gwmwzsoWo> I know it looks a bit tame but bear in mind this was Derek's first ever outing! To see it done properly here's a video of one of the top Japanese riders at an Event in Japan: <http://youtu.be/9twUAi1Q4o0> If you fancy trying it for yourself then take a look at Andrew's website for up coming events and more information: <http://www.motogymkhana.org> . The chances are either myself or Derek will also be attending so give us a shout if you are going!

Photos by Derek McMullan and Tony Davis

WANTED

Ruth McNally is looking for a used Honda Hornet 600 at circa. £1500 immediately. If anyone knows of one and its history, please contact Ruth on 01684.311.217 or Ruthie.8@btinternet.com - might consider Fazer 600 or Honda 400.



WHAM!'s youngest member undergoes another sort of training.

All the best to Laurie Jenkins as he undergoes Green Beret training to join the Royal Marines. Laurie passed his test with us last year. Who said the IAM was just for oldies!



Den Osborne sent in this photo to illustrate why it is so important to avoid manhole covers - especially if they are missing.



UNCLE JOHN

Dear Uncle John,

You're wonderful. The advice you gave me has transformed my life.

I've done it! Sold my bike and bought a motorhome. I didn't get much for my bike so had little funds to spend but ended up with a very nice converted Reliant Robin. The immediate benefit has been that I am able to potter around without the need for protective clothing. In fact any clothing! I feel free for the first time and driving with no clothes is the next best thing to riding a motorbike. I do however keep my knitted 'Y' fronts on as you never know who is ogling you these days. I can also drive with my head out of the window to get the full bike thrill. Only dogs and people who put their heads out of car windows know what it's like to ride a bike. The other benefit is that I can take my friends out from the clinic as they have been really good and knitted me seat covers in little coloured squares.

You said my memory was fading but MY woollen swimming trunks had shoulder straps to stop them falling down.

I've been reading 'The Long Way Round' and armed with this and your advice I leave next week in the Robin to follow Charlie's and Ewan's route. How many sandwiches will I need?

Perhaps we will meet one day? Look out for me at Cross Gates. I'll be the one with the woollen 'Y' fronts. Wish me Luck.....Compo

Dear Compo, As you are no longer riding a motorbike please direct all your future correspondence to the Doolally Caravan and Motorhome Club. However, all of us at WHAM! wish you the very best on your "Long Way round" tour. All the best Uncle John

Wotcha Uncle John!

You don't know me yet but you will! You're famous for your loyalty to your Pan so I certainly feel I can trust you; I need your help mate!

I'm well worried! My new owner is a WHAM-er and tells me that is where we will get most of our kicks – wicked! As a bike of course I'm "Ready to Race" so, I'm well up for it, ready to party! I'm worried though that my new owner doesn't look like a party animal. I'm also worried even more as my big brother got a really bad press with you guys – my brother's never done time and he's not an ASBO, he's just different! So far I've been hooning some of my life (I lived on the Isle of Man but my first owner should have got out more!); imagine how I worried when I realised my new owner doesn't even know the word and that there is a national speed limit in England – I mean, what are you like? OK I'm not a real heavyweight like a 'Busa or a big Kwacker, but you don't have a mountain course in England and as I've been working out a bit round the Island I'm fit and agile so I reckon I could hold my own in WHAM.

So Uncle John, I going to try to enjoy WHAM, but I need to know; will it work? Will my new owner measure up for me? Should I act more like a BMW or just be myself?

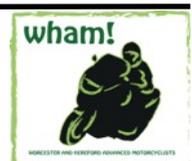
...and lastly, if it all ends in tears, you won't get the Fazer back so could I come and stay with you?

Duke

Dear Duke,

No, you certainly cannot come and stay with me if things don't work out with your new owner. You seem a bit immature at the moment - with your "Ready to Race" and "hooning" comments but I fear you will be in for a bit of a shock. Your new owner will put you through hoops you've never experienced before and if you're not hurting now, you will be by the time he's finished with you. You may think you are fit and agile but just you wait! I'm afraid your problems are likely to be much more serious than your basic fitness because your new owner is known to be very difficult to please. If you look at the list of bikes he has owned during the last few years you will realize he is constantly seeking new thrills and experiences. Indeed, I'll be interested to see just how long you last. However, whatever you do, don't try and act like a BMW. He's been really happy with the F800GS he's already got so if you are to stand a chance you must offer something really different or better. I really do wish you the best of luck.

Uncle John



Dear Uncle John.

I am a 9 year old Honda Transalp and I used to be cared for by my master. About two years ago he 'dumped' me for a shiny Pan European and left me to my mistress. She has lovingly looked after me since and keeps me well topped up and polished. My master doesn't ride me any more because he's 'besotted' by that Pan and I even have to share my stable with it. This Pan really thinks it's important and hogs the best spot in the stable - right next to the workbench so it can look out of the window and watch the garden birds. I just get shoved into a really dark corner right next to a smelly chainsaw.

I don't complain though because my mistress does take me out quite often and I get to meet loads of interesting bikes - the only drawback is that she has started associating with some bloke who has another bloody Pan.

My dilemma is that recently my mistress went for a ride on master's Pan and she seems to have enjoyed it. I overheard her saying that she could "get used to that" and I'm really worried that she's going to leave me. I now get panic attacks and I've even put a nail in one of his tyres to put him out of action. What can I do to make my mistress remain faithful to me. Help.

Worried of Kington.

Dear Worried of Kington,

I really don't think you've got a problem - at the moment. You are light and nimble, flexible and fun. You can ride up forest and mountain tracks and then mix it with the 'big boys' on the twisties as well. The Pan is a big lumbering galleon of a bike that tends to be ridden by fairly staid members of the older generation! Do you really think your mistress would go for that? She may have enjoyed a short ride on the Pan but I assure you the sheer weight and bulk of it will soon put her off even if she remotely thinks of giving you up. No, my friend, I don't think you need to be worried about the Pan. So, relax and enjoy your rides - although I must point out that you are getting a bit old now and maybe should be getting worried about the new 700cc Transalp - or Crossrunner - or VFR.

Uncle John

My apologies to those of you that read the "Uncle John" letters and haven't got a clue what they are all about. If it is interfering with your sleep, please contact me and I'll try to explain all.



wham! Regalia

As Brian says in his notes - please buy!!

We've got polo shirts and T-shirts in stock - for £12 and £9 respectively.

You can also buy fleeces and other wham regalia - just let us know what you want. To purchase wham! polo or T-shirts please contact:

[Eric Reynolds.](#)



2011 Motorcycle Live 19th to 27th November

Last year group bookings were able to get a 10% discount for the bike show as long as there was a minimum number of tickets sold which we only just managed to achieve (though the offer came quite late and many of you had already fixed yourselves up) . This year we can get the same discount with “sale or return” tickets **but** they want a non-refundable deposit of £160. I’m happy to do the paperwork as long as I can get enough interest (and payments!) to cover the deposit.

Advance ticket prices (which suggests gate prices are higher) are as follows:

	Full price	Discounted
Adult	£16	£14.40
Senior	£10	£9
Child (6-16)	£6	£5.40
Child (6 and under)	Free – no ticket required	

This year the ticket price includes entry to the Ramp’d Up Freestyle Arena (an extra £5 in 2010) and last year we also got some meal discount vouchers thrown in unexpectedly. Tickets are for one day only, but any day.

If you have any questions please email me:

ANDREW CULLEY [aanda.llanfair@virgin.net]

Once I get enough orders to pay the deposit, (ie a minimum of 12 adults at discounted price), I’ll order a bunch of tickets.

To give me a deposit please see me on a Sunday ride out or post payments to:
Andrew Culley, Llanfair, Bishopstone, Herefordshire, HR4 7HX.

More photos from the WHAM! Photo Competition



Ant Clerici. “Steady as you go”



Gill Clerici. “For the Chairman”

We will be publishing the remainder of the photos from the competition in further editions of the Newsletter. In the meantime, keep clicking and send in any good biking photos that you’d like to share with other WHAM! members.

