



WHAM! NEWS

February 2011



The founding Chairman and Chairman for the last four years, Derek McMullan, receives a token of our appreciation from our new Chairman, Brian Morgan.

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www.wham-motorcycling.org

Worcester and Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists.

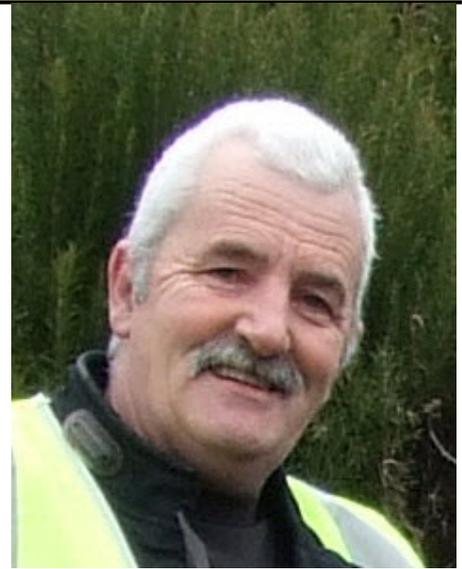
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Chairman's Notes

OK - here we go then. When I joined WHAM!, being chairman wasn't part of the plan but I sort of got ambushed – I think. Anyway, now that I'm here I'm going to give it my best shot, so to speak but it is in the certain knowledge that there are so many people in our group who are more than happy to help when I get stuck. Anyway, a big thank you to everyone for electing me to the chair of a very accomplished motorcycle group and a special mention must go to Derek for his tireless work on our behalf. Since joining WHAM!, and particularly since joining the committee last year, I have been amazed by how much time and effort so many people have been willing to put in for the benefit of the group. I feel quite honoured to be a part of it and I intend to do as much as I can to take it forward.



The various events with which we are now involved just would not take place without the willingness of so many helpers to roll their sleeves up and get on with it and I look forward to spending more time in the company of each of you.

I would like to welcome Steve Edwards as the new Red Leader. Steve is an experienced senior observer and will take on the job of overseeing the Hereford side of our patch. Having previously been involved as our 'Events' organiser, Steve will also be helping John Hodges in organising the Hereford Rider Skills Day."

The new 'Events' organisers will be Lynton Jaynes and Roger Brookes. Having witnessed the sheer enthusiasm with which both these guys approach their motorcycling, their membership of WHAM! and life in general, I am delighted to welcome them both on board.

Anyway, the next few months look to be quite busy with a number of associates to get ready for test as soon as possible, plus the arrangements for the Rider Skills Days as well as First Aid training and observer training. Sunday rides are also a big part of the plan and I would encourage everyone to turn out when possible. Everyone I've met on the Sunday rides has been very welcoming and I find it a great way to meet up with other members – and, the banter is always worth listening to. As advanced motorcyclists it is clearly important that we take our riding seriously but I am very keen to point out that any observers present on the rides are not 'lying in wait' to criticise. It is a social activity which has the reward of making us all feel included, plus, the presence of observers gives us all the opportunity of asking for advice and guidance if we want it. I am not the only member/observer who has asked for comments on my riding as I strive to improve.

The website will have regular updates on what we're up to and you'll see that our next natter night is listed as being a quiz night organised by – me? Now, I'm nobody's Ann Robinson - but I'll have a go. The questions will include some riding theory / highway code (we are a motorcycle club) and some general knowledge. I'll sort out some paper but you will need to bring a pen **and a sense of humour**.

And finally – If anyone has any comments / questions / suggestions or concerns regarding WHAM! then please don't hesitate to contact me via chairman@wham-motorcycling.org . If you're not sure how to present your comment then send me a contact number and I'll give you a ring.

Hopefully I'll see you soon.

Brian.



CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Tony Reusser who passed his IAM Advanced Motorcycle test in January. His observer was Phil George.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following new associate members:

Anne Morgan from Kington, Dennis Beasley from Malvern and Ian Rivers from Burghill, Hereford.

RIDER SKILLS DAYS (RSDs) AT HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

The two most important dates in our calendar for 2011;
17 April for the Hereford Rider Skills Day at Sutton St Nicholas.
8 May for the Worcester Rider Skills Day at Worcester RFC ground.

Please note in your diary now.

As many observers as possible will be needed for both events. We will also need helpers for catering, reception, parking, setting up and pulling down.

[John Hodges](#) and [Steve Edwards](#) will be organising the Hereford RSD. This is a WHAM! event funded by the Herefordshire Council Road Safety Group

[Lynton Jaynes](#) and [Roger Brooks](#) will be organising the Worcester RSD which is part of a "Bike Show" event being run by the West Midlands Safer Roads Partnership.

If you would like to volunteer to help please contact the above named persons as appropriate. Begging letters will be sent out shortly.

Please help if you can.



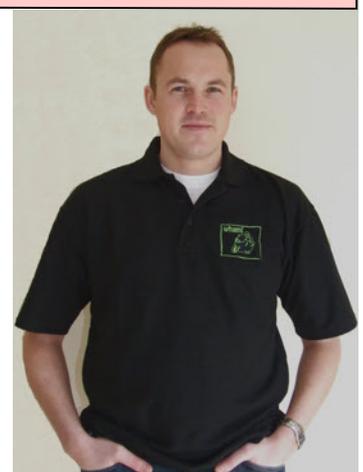
wham! Regalia

Have you bought your WHAM! clothing yet? 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 AGM - FOUNDING CHAIRMAN STANDS DOWN. At the AGM we thanked Derek for all his hard work since the founding of the group four years ago. During this time his enthusiasm and commitment have been outstanding. We are now a well established and respected IAM group with an excellent reputation as well as being a fun motorcycling club. For those present at the AGM who don't perhaps know Derek all that well, there was a short slide show to give them a more rounded picture of him. A selection from that slide show is below:



His first WHAM! Sunday ride in February 2007 and the last Sunday ride as Chairman on 23 January 2011. We're fairly sure that Derek holds the record for the number of Sunday rides but any challengers for this title can contact the Editor!



A selection of some of the bikes he has owned during the last four years as WHAM! Chairman.



He sometimes needs to wear a hat - guess where he was wearing this one?

An Instructor on IAM Track Skills Days but he also enjoys "Off roading"



And like the rest of us he really enjoys a beer after a long day's ride.

At the end of the evening Derek was presented with this caricature which had been specially commissioned for him by the groups' members. The caricature was presented by our new Chairman, Brian Morgan. Brian has been our Vice-Chairman for the last year and has already proved to be a totally enthusiastic and committed individual. He also has a wicked sense of humour - so be warned!



WHAM! AGM 2011 – Friday 28 January 2011

The Minutes for the AGM are on pages 8 to 10 for the information of all members. Our new Chairman is already well known but two new Committee members who might not be so familiar are:



Lynton Jaynes
Events member



Roger Brooks
Assistant Events



Laurie Jenkins receives his certificate from his observer, John Hodges.



Derek's last "Mr Chairman" speech!

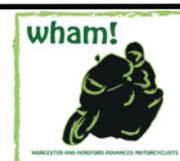
WHAM! OFF-ROAD EVENT 19 MARCH 2011. The next WHAM Off Road Event with ["Mick Extance Off Road Experience"](#) is on Saturday 19 March 2011. The hotel will be booked for Friday night to enable a good, early start. Hotel bookings will also be made for Saturday night for those who need to recover after a hard day's brilliant off road riding. If you are interested in the Off Road session please contact [Den Osborne](#) as soon as possible so the appropriate arrangements can be made. It promises to be a great dirty weekend but places are restricted so please don't delay! Den can be contacted by e-mail (follow link above) or telephone (home) 01527 876391 (Mobile) 07831 341217.

SUNDAY RIDE on 20 MARCH 2011.

Combined with the off-road weekend, Den is also organising a ride for all members on Sunday 20 March 2011. If you want, you can stay the night before in the hotel with the "Off road" riders or just join the Sunday ride at the hotel, departing at 0930. The hotel is in the village of Llangynon on the B4391 midway between Welshpool and Bala. It is approximately 1.5 hours from Bromyard.

The Sunday ride will be around the area of Bala with a lunch stop at about 1.00 pm.

Please contact [Den Osborne](#) as soon as possible if you'd like to stay overnight at the hotel or would like to join the Sunday ride.



Himalayas (5) – August/September 2010

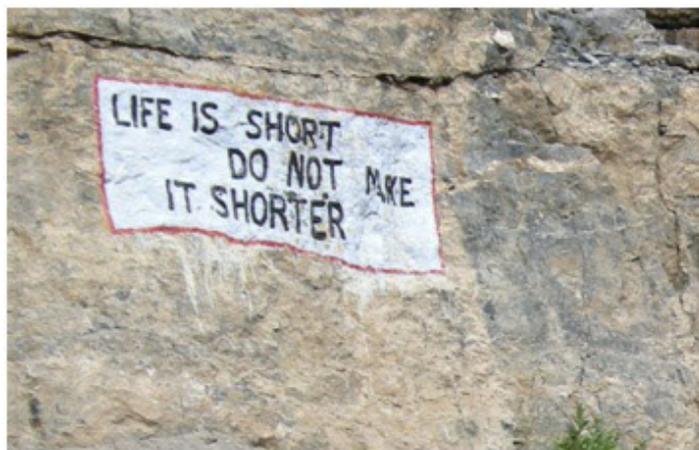
by Derek McMullan



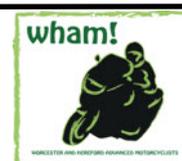
Like every group of motorcyclists our band developed into the “fast” group, the “wannabees” and the also-rans. As with my riding here I was mostly happy to go along at my own pace and stop wherever I saw some interest for the obligatory photos and the essential drink from my Camelbak. Given that the Team know where we’re going the leading pack of riders has to stay behind the “point-man”. Not surprisingly the Team are all experienced; on the Enfield; with the traffic rules; and on Himalayan roads, so it is reasonable to expect they would be capable. Certain riders appeared to take this as a personal challenge and were clearly out to be right at the front every day. Amongst us we had one or two dedicated Off-Road riders, no road experience but bucket loads of slip-sliding around in the mud or on loose surfaces; these guys were in their element and showed the rest of us how it should be done! The UK “PowerRanger” refugees by contrast were really out of their comfort zone. The Enfield has so little power it isn’t possible to go fast uphill by winding on the throttle – it simply changes the volume! Downhill, with the assistance of gravity, more speed is possible for the brave- until they want to slow or stop. The Enfield’s drum

brakes only work tolerably well at modest speeds and for brief applications, they’re useless at higher speed and fade strongly if called upon too much.

Having noticed the Off-Roaders were cornering and descending significantly faster the testosterone lured the PowerRangers into ever faster corner and downhill speed together with more and more risky overtakes as the only ways to keep up. We all know that “our pace” is comfortable but just a few mph on top of that makes it all much more challenging and then a few more mph is likely to end in tears – and so it did! Our route marker Colin carving his way through the riders presented the irresistible faster challenge. We were all fairly warned not to try to stay with him – but that’s for wimps! On a steeper downhill section the Ranger pack started to reel Colin in. So encouraged they pressed on; “Almost on him now, and we’re catching so quickly”! That was milliseconds before they hit the wet, loose gravel about 20yards before a blind summit and after a brief aerial ballet scattered like skittles at the immediately following hairpin. Colin had just enough space not to be taken down by the skittles. Fortunately the only serious human injuries were to pride, but a lot of bent metal. So, Mr Darwin, you were right!



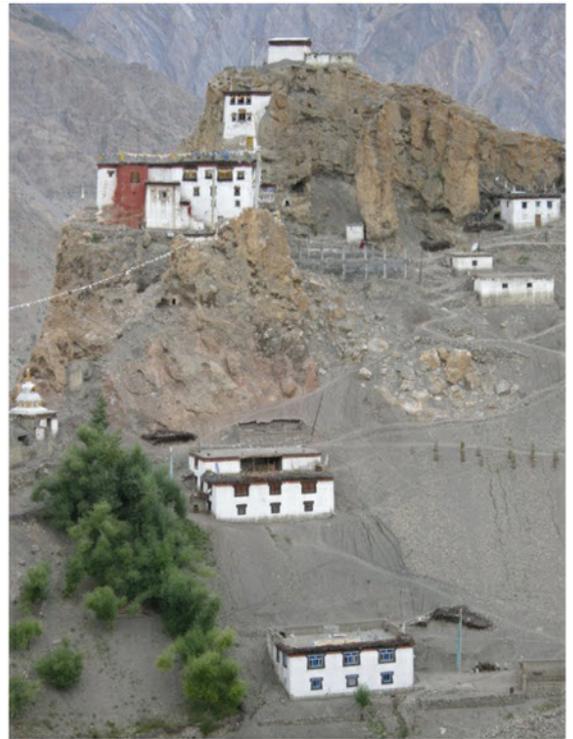
On some of the open sections we were able to get the bikes moving quite well and the broken sections then put quite some stress into the suspension. Not immune from problems myself I was pushing along when the front wheel found a good drop and the forks bottomed out and gave me a real thump. I thought I’d displaced or burst a disc in my neck but what really frightened me was the stinging pain slowly “leaking” down my left arm. I pulled in anticipating a ride in the 4X4 Ambulance and whilst waiting for it to come along gingerly checked out my neck and arm movement. When they arrived I felt a bit of a fraud but told the tale. No sympathy; just a dismissive “That’s a stinger, you’ll be alright”! Now I know what the Rugby commentators are talking about.



On this section we visited two Monasteries Tabo, one of the oldest and now famous since the Dali Lama announced his intention to move there; and Dankar, one of the most remote and picturesque it is set high in the mountains and built hanging on the edge of a steep valley.



The final approach to Dankar that day had to be on foot only as the road had collapsed. Our motorcycles caused huge interest amongst the apprentice monks at Dankar.



This day was very hard on the bikes and on us. Abuse aside the Enfields took it all in their stride but it was one of the support vehicles which failed – only 20KM from our hotel a track-rod end ripped off. Fortunately we were just by the river and a work gang with a welding set! Route marker Colin showed hidden talents in being a professional welder. After the repair the driver of the 4x4 clearly showed his confidence in Colin on the last section into the hotel – either that or he was determined to break it again! At the end of a long day we arrived at the hotel (luxury!) just in time to see a dramatic sunset.



MINUTES OF WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011
HELD AT FALCON HOTEL, BROMYARD
28 JANUARY 2011 at 20:00HRS

ITEM 1. Welcoming Remarks.

The Chairman, Derek McMullan thanked and welcomed all present for attending.

ITEM 2. Apologies.

Martyn Newman, Simon Manning and Malcolm Gasking.

ITEM 3. Approval of 2010 AGM Minutes and any Matters Arising.

The minutes from 2010 AGM were approved and there were no matters arising.
Approval proposed by Andy Peckston. Seconded by Paul Cooper.

ITEM 4. Chairman's 2010 Report.

WHAM had enrolled 28 associates during the year, test passes were down this year as some tests had been postponed due to the snow in December, the group had a strong observer team.
WHAM is well represented in local Government and Regional IAM.
Slow Riding Days, Off Road Days, touring breaks and Sunday rides were all well supported.

ITEM 5. Treasurer's Report.

Audited and signed accounts were presented.
WHAM is in a strong financial position, surplus figure for the year being £1124.59 – this would be saved rather than spent as it may be needed to fund Rider Skills Days next year if Government funding should be withdrawn.
Proposer to accept the accounts – Steve Edwards, seconded Roger Brooks – Carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. Election of Committee Officers.

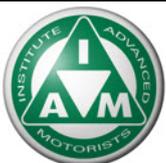
John Hodges took the chair for the election of the Committee Officers.

- **Chairman.** Brian Morgan put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by Derek McMullan, seconded by Andrew Culley. Carried unanimously.
- **Secretary.** Barbara Dalloway put herself forward for re-election.
She was proposed by Lynton Jaynes, seconded by Andy Peckston.
Carried unanimously.
- **Treasurer.** Eric Reynolds put himself forward for re-election.
He was proposed by Steve Dalloway, seconded by Barbara Dalloway. Carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. Election of Group Committee Members.

Barbara Dalloway took the chair for the election of Committee Members.

- **Events**
Lynton Jaynes put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by Derek McMullan, seconded by Barbara Dalloway. Carried unanimously.
- **Events Assistant**
Roger Brooks put himself forward for election.
He was proposed by Gary Barnes, seconded by Ian Barnard.
Carried unanimously.



- **Red Group Leader**

Steve Edwards put himself forward for election.

He was proposed by Dennis Osborne, seconded by Brian Morgan.

Carried unanimously.

ITEM 8. Presentation of Certificates.

Lawrence Jenkins by Observer John Hodges.

ITEM 9. Programme for 2010.

New Chairman Brian Morgan thanked those present for electing him to the position and commented on the amount of hard work carried out by so many (particularly the committee) to get WHAM where it is today. He also reminded everyone that the group is 'owned' by the members and it is for them to decide which direction they would like the group to take and that anyone with any concerns should make them known. He reminded the meeting that WHAM is primarily a training organisation who, in his opinion, provides some of the best training available. He then made a request for more observers and that anyone interested in observing should please inform the committee.

He then went on to outline the programme for 2011.

Natter nights –

A quiz is being planned for February.

March natter night is a visit from Antone of Custom ear protection who will give a short talk and take orders for fitted earplugs, the impressions being taken on the night.

April is a presentation by Ant Clerici showing his work on a group riding policy.

Owing to the popularity of the evening rides last year it is intended to repeat them for the months of May to August (inc).

Details of further natter nights will appear in the newsletter and on the website in due course.

A small number of requests had been made for natter nights to take place on Fridays, these were outnumbered by requests to keep to Wednesdays for 'family' reasons. Further to this it is likely that the falcon would be generally busier on Fridays.

Planned Events. –

Rider skills days are being held on April 17th at Hereford and May 8th in Worcester.

It is hoped to have a Sunday long run into Derbyshire on 10th April

John Bennett is organising a weekend run to Pembrokeshire during late April / early May.

Den Osborne is arranging his 'roof of Wales' ride on 15th May

Den is also involved in the off road training weekends (there may be the option to stay at the hotel with the group without doing the off road training).

Track based skills days are being arranged by the IAM.

It is also hoped that another long run, possibly to the north of the country, can be arranged for later in the year.

Anyone interested in organising rides, particularly to specific events (BSB etc) is encouraged to communicate via the newsletter.

Sunday Rides-

Everyone was encouraged to take part in the groups Sunday rides. It is understandable that some might feel a little apprehensive at the thought of riding with so many experienced advanced motorcyclists and observers, but this was a way of maintaining and honing the skills learnt during preparation for the advanced test and all are welcome. Whilst different people have different reasons for getting involved it was pointed out that – the more you put in then the more you'll get out of joining in.

Finally.

A request was made to the effect that if anyone present did not have internet access could they please approach Brian at the end of the meeting.

Brian finished by saying that we are all advanced motorcyclists and we all want to get as much out of riding as possible. The riding must be safe but should also be fun. Nobody should feel excluded for any reason however, if anyone has any issues they should feel free to contact him.



ITEM 10. Any Other Business –

Dennis Osborne announced his “Roof of Wales” ride planned for May might have to be brought forward a week to the 15th to avoid clashing with a cycling event.

Ant Clerici suggested

a) Members to bring Motorcycle magazines that they have finished with, along to natter nights to allow other members to take away and read. (It was suggested that if this should occur, the person bringing the magazines was responsible for making sure that if no one wanted the magazine he took it away, ensuring it was not left for the hotel to clear away).

b) Members planning to attend events, ie BSB at Donington, should be able to post this on the website so that other members also interested can get in touch and travel together.

Steve Edwards suggested that immediately events were confirmed that they should be entered on the events page of the website no matter how far on in the year they were. It was confirmed that the website is currently undergoing changes that would ensure it was updated more often in the future.

John Hodges & Tony Davis gave an excellent presentation, prepared by themselves to Derek McMullan, the founding Chairman, who stood down at this AGM, thanking him, on behalf of the members, for his outstanding contribution in the formation and running of wham! during its first four years. He was presented with a caricature painting which had been specially commissioned for him by the groups’ members.

ITEM 12. Date of next AGM – Wednesday 25th January 2012

Meeting Closed 21:15 hrs.

Signed on original

Barbara Dalloway
Secretary.

30 January 2011

35 - Persons Attended.

