

May 2013

WHAM NEWS

Your Monthly Newsletter

WHAM is primarily a training organisation but with a very active and friendly social side. As the majority of Members usually join WHAM to improve their riding and they learn many valuable and life skills and techniques from their observers.

But what happens after you have passed your Advanced Motorcycle Test? We are now allowed on the group rides, which is another great learning opportunity.

As WHAM has one of the best observing teams in the country (Yes I am bias) why not use this valuable resource? As its very easy for 'bad' habits to creep into our riding, sometimes without us even realising.

With this in mind I asked Derek for an observed ride, yes it was very unsettling knowing someone is watching my riding with a critical eye, I'll even admit I was a little nervous beforehand. But after the debrief all the pointers he gave me were spot on, I had picked up some bad habits that now I'm aware of them, they can be fixed.

So what were they? Following distance (too close), not giving enough space to junctions entering from the left...

So take the leap, ask an observer for observed ride it'll cost you nothing but could save everything.



The Chairman's Notes by Brian



I'd like to start by welcoming all those new members out there. Whether you've joined WHAM from another area or as a result of attending one of the recent, very successful skills days. I look forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible over the coming months.

As far as the two skills days are concerned – words fail me (almost). The level of support throughout the group was amazing and the results speak for themselves – 34 new associate members!

Congratulations must go to Roger and Paul for a job well done. I'm sure they will have put something together for this newsletter and I don't want to intrude on that but I would like to thank everyone else involved as well. The observers and the committee did a first class job, as usual, but all credit must go to all those others who helped set up, man their posts and look after all the visitors during the day. It is common, in these circumstances, to say that we couldn't do it without you – but I mean it when I say that it is an absolute fact that the smooth running and success of these events came about directly as a result of the teamwork involved – and that really does mean everyone. Thank you all.

Worcester and Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists. Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorcyclists. Group No. 3260



Chairman's notes

Having said that – the unsung heroes here are those people who spent so much time, effort – and money preparing and delivering all that food. The display of culinary delights was quite amazing and highlights the level of support that exists behind the scenes – that deserves a very special thank you. Now – as if you haven't done enough, WHAM needs some more help!! As I've mentioned, we recruited 34 new associate members and it is important that we get the new associates up to test standard in as timely a manner as possible. We also need to engage with the new faces to make sure that everyone feels welcome so:-

If you are an **associate member** it would help us, and you, if we could progress the training runs. Please keep in touch with your observer and make sure that they know your availability. Experience has shown us that associates who are able to commit to the training, and turn up regularly, generally reach a higher standard much sooner. If there is too much of a gap between runs, then valuable time is taken up trying to get back up to speed so, please try and make the time to meet up with your observer for the sessions. Also, please try and make the natter nights if you can. We need your continued support and being a part of the group and its activities is an important aspect of membership. As far as I'm aware – nobody will bite you. We are generally quite an amiable bunch so don't be shy. If your observer isn't able to make it to a natter night, just keep an eye out for me, or any of the committee, and we will make sure you're made welcome. Finally, if you have any issues or concerns then don't hesitate to get in touch with any member of the committee.

The **observing team** are well aware of what's required of them and will, as usual, get on with it but we also need the rest of the membership to help. For WHAM to continue to grow and to remain as one of the best advanced motorcycle groups there is, we need to retain members. There are numerous 'regular' attendees at all our events and it is vital that we all make the effort to identify, and engage with all those new faces that we'll see amongst us. The observers will 'look after' their associates when possible but we each have a responsibility to make everyone feel welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to make some new friends and to help ensure the future of our group. I know we can depend on you.

Dates for the diary:-

29th May. This month's natter night will consist of a ride to the Falcon. Again, details as per the website (thank you Tony) and, as usual, associates please liaise with your observer about joining the ride. If you can't take part in the ride itself, please try and meet up at the Falcon for – a natter and to find out who is who.

JUNE 15th. Den's slow riding day. I know it's still only May but I want you to have as much notice as possible for this very important opportunity. For those who are new to us, we hold a slow riding day (sometimes two) during the year at Throckmorton airfield near Worcester. Full details will again appear on the website. I can't stress how important it is that all associates attend this event. Just to allay any fears you might have:- Nobody is watching you, there is no pressure to perform, it isn't a test. The whole purpose of the event is to give everyone a chance to learn some slow riding skills in a safe environment whilst under the expert tuition of various members of the observing team. I have yet to meet anyone who hasn't learnt something or who hasn't thoroughly enjoyed the day. It's free, it's fun, it's safe – it's all yours. Light refreshments will be available at whatever cost you wish to donate. For the 'Hereford' contingent, we usually meet up 'over here' and form a few small groups to ride over – details will appear in the next newsletter. I'll be there and I hope you will too.



WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

<http://www.wham-motorcycling.org/>



Chairman's notes

And Finally:-

For the newly joined among us – WHAM are part of Region 3 of the IAM and I have been asked to circulate details of a couple of events that the Regional organisers are involved with for the information of our members.

Firstly, on 18th August there is to be a mass ride-out to the Brackley Festival of Motorcycling. The ride is in aid of Warwickshire and Northampton Air Ambulance (WNAA) and will set off from 5 different locations:-

Derbyshire - Sainsbury's Dronfield, Wreakes Lane, Dronfield, S18 1NW

Leicestershire - Triumph HQ, Normandy Way, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 3BZ

Northamptonshire - Triumph, Embankment, Wellingborough, NN8 1LD

National Motorcycle Museum - Coventry Road, Bickenhill, Solihull, B92 0EJ

London - Ace Cafe, Ace Corner, N Circular Road, London, NW10 7UD

Riders from these start points will converge at:

Jacks Hill Cafe - Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 8ET

From here there will be a massed ride under police escort to Brackley.

The region is looking for advanced riders to escort the groups from these locations (not London) and they envisage up to 2000 attendees. Hi-viz clothing will be provided for the escorts by WNAA and entry to Brackley will be free.

Anyone wishing to get involved should make contact with Phil Edwards at groupsecretary@ramg.co.uk as soon as possible so he has an idea of available assets.

Below are the links to the Air Ambulance and event websites:-

<http://www.theairambulanceservice.org.uk/get-involved/events/motorsport-events/rescue-ride-out>

<http://www.wnaa.co.uk/wnaa-home>

And absolutely finally,

In the past the IAM have organised 'Skills Days' at among other places Silverstone; a planned event in March had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Work has been going on behind the scenes to secure another venue to host this type of event at a reasonable cost. The Regional organisers tell me:-

Thruxton race circuit is one of the fastest in the country with legendary high speed corners and reputation where circuit drivers can really test their skills. It lays claim to being one of the longest in the UK at 2.4 miles per lap.

If sufficient interest can be raised we may be able, with the support of the IAM, run a Region 3 skills day.

It won't take many riders to make it viable, the minimum being about 40 (3 or 4 per group) at around £130 per head. And, of course, if we get more the cost can be reduced accordingly.

The ratio of instructors to candidates is very high, typically 1 to 4 ensuring everyone gets plenty of instruction. Also to keep it safe, there are only a limited number of riders allowed to participate; so lots of well supervised track time

So again, what Phil Edwards is looking for is a level of interest from the groups, to see if he can make this happen. Any interested parties should make contact with Phil Edwards again on

groupsecretary@ramg.co.uk

Thruxton website details - <http://www.thruxtonracing.co.uk/>

That's it from me – thanks for reading.

Brian.

IAM Test Passes

Congratulations to the following members on completing their SKILLS for LIFE package!!!



Mike Straughan (Obs Andrew Culley)



Ann Evans (Obs Stuart Poole)



Jim Wesley (Obs Andrew Culley)



Cameron Clarke (Obs Den Osborne)

New Member's

A very warm welcome to the following NEW members;

Paul Hollingsworth, David Gray, Gerry West, Andrew Roberts, Stewart Morehead, Andrew Dodwell, Colin Smith, Lynne Sherwood, Noel Colledge, Fred Davies, Matthew Fletcher, Callum Rees, Terry Hewitson, Patrick Lewis, Jon Ford, Harley Stoddart, Edward Price, Stuart Wright, Kevin Whittal & Richard Hale.

Welcome back to WHAM;

Jem Stiff, Menna Angharad and Cliff Poultney

Club Notice Board

Please send notice's to whamnewsletter@gmail.com

Den's 'Roof of Wales' Run 2013.

12 May 2013

The 'Roof of Wales' ride out is now a regular feature of WHAM's programme. Den once again organised al-fresco bacon sarnies on the Mountain road – He set-up somewhere between Llanwrtyd Wells and Llandovery I can't tell you exactly where, as I was trying to follow Mr Hodges new Crossrunner (it looks really nice on the road by the way-article please) Den had even put out a "Bikers stop" sign so no one could miss him from the road.

Although the weather report was dodgy around 30 WHAM members gathered at the American Diner meet point, and after Brian's brief we all set off in manageable groups. The Welsh scenery on the route to the stop is awesome, Den even managed to set up next to a river with good parking-organised or what!

Once again, Den has gone out of his way to organise an event for the benefit of the group and we would all like to express our thanks to him for his efforts.



wham! Regalia



Have you bought your WHAM! clothing yet? We've got polo shirts and T-shirts in stock - for £12 and £10 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: Alex Hoyle.
whamsecretary@trackdown.co.uk Or any committee member



Up coming EVENTS

- WHAM Evening ride and Natter Night. The evening rides start this month! See the online program for more details.

Remember to check the 'Program' section of the WHAM website for the SUNDAY ride out routes. <http://www.wham-motorcycling.org/programme/>

This Month's sphincter clenching 'YOUTUBE' moment courtesy of BIG (hearted) Craig Endicott

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q2n9V9G1Hc&feature=youtu.be>

E-mail any bike related 'youtube' video's that you want to share

whamnewsletter@gmail.com

Members Article's

Please send your stories to whamnewsletter@gmail.com

Hereford Rider Skills Day



The stakes were high, the tension was building; Ken looked worried. Worcester had been a success and Roger and Paul did not want a wash out in the wilds of Hereford. Could it be even more successful than 2 weeks before?

But what a result! The weather stayed dry and Team WHAM produced another fantastic event. A total of 27 rode out and 20 signed up.

At one point Brian spilt his pipe at the sight of almost 60 bikes parked in Sutton St Nicholas Village Hall car park. While Steve Edwards commented, "There's lovely, see."

And it was fantastic to see so many people coming to help and support. The atmosphere was very relaxed and members made an effort to make potential members very welcome.

With the routes prepped and kettle on, our first customer arrived at 10am initiating a flow of riders drawing up to the welcoming faces of our Car Park Crew – Lynton, Simon, Ken and Mike, and with our smiling WHAM ambassadors directed the riders towards the hall where a mountain of cakes enticed them to relax with their associates and prep for the ride.

The Observers were kept busy, with several riders turning up on the day for a ride-out.

And what a result – Hereford surpassed expectations. A reflection of the excellent team effort and very positive image of WHAM all of you projected on the day. Putting down his 4th piece of cake and glancing in case Nicci, his wife, noticed from the kitchen, Roger commented, "This is awesome!". We were pretty sure he meant the event.

Paul and Roger would like to thank all those who contributed to making the Worcester and the Hereford Events such a success; those who gave valuable advice, the kitchen crew, the Observers, the admin teams in the car parks and the rooms; those who helped set up and those who helped tidy after. THANK YOU!!!



Linda, Anne, Nicci and Ellie



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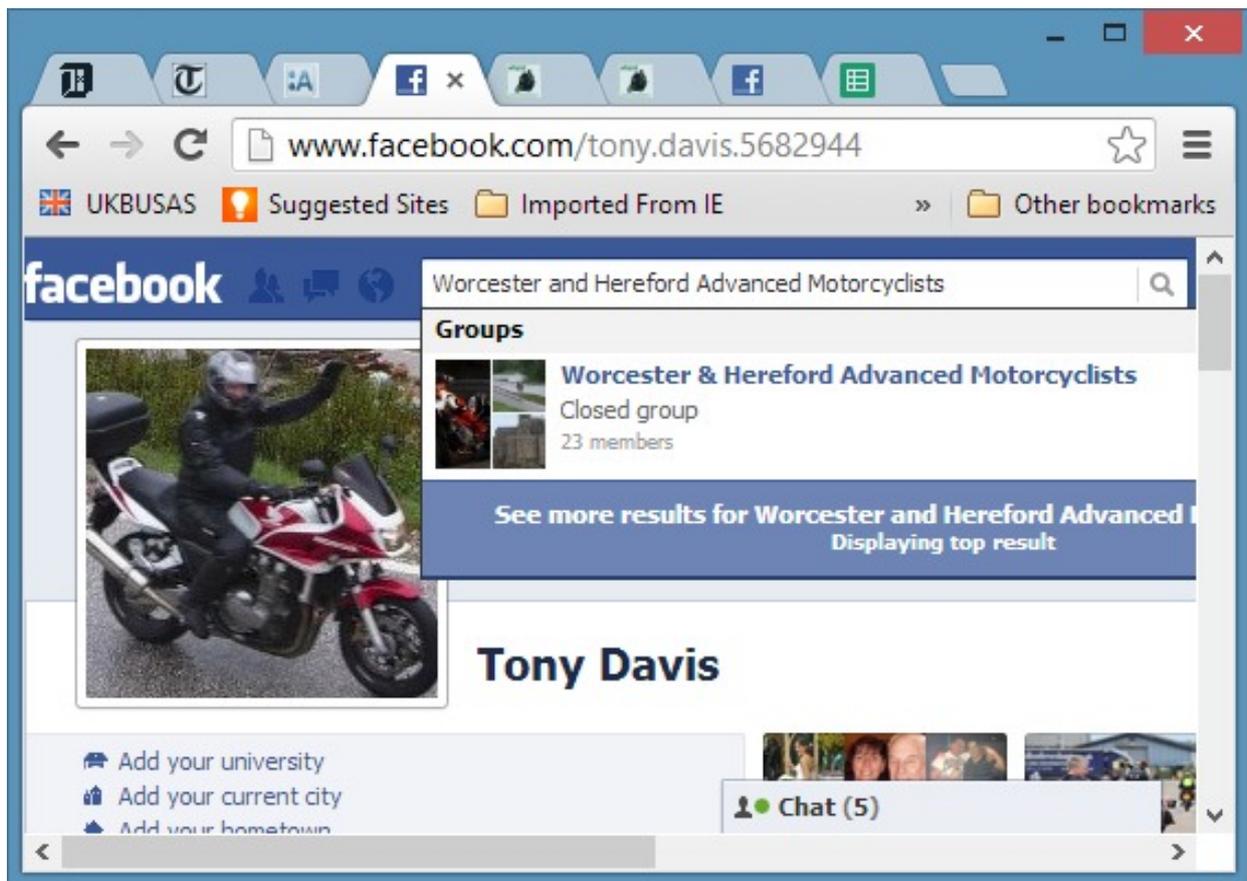
Club Notice Board



Contrary to popular myth, Facebook is not just for teenagers, it is actually a great way to keep in touch, especially for a group of like minded motorcyclists. For those of you that have a Facebook account, why not join our Facebook group?

Our Facebook Group allows you to keep up with news, view Member's photos from recent ride-outs and events, chat with fellow Members and even organise your own ride-outs. Obviously, the more people we have in the group the more interesting it will get as more and more content is added.

To join just login to your Facebook account and type 'Worcester and Hereford advanced Motorcyclists' in the search box at the top of the page, then click on the 'Join Group' button at the top right of the screen – one of our Admins will then approve you membership (we don't just let anyone in, only WHAM Members can join!).



If you are not yet on Facebook then here's the first really good reasons to join!



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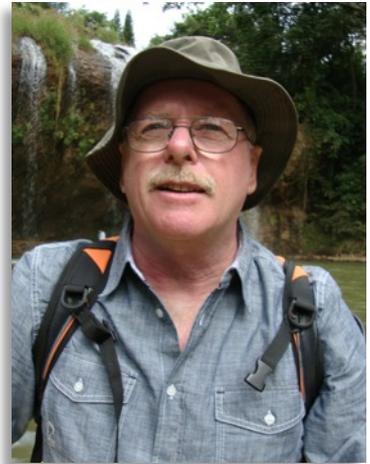


Members' Articles

We have a number of great articles lined up this month. To get us into the exploring spirit is an article by Derek Evans detailing his trip to Vietnam, which I will split over a few months. As usual I make the rest up!

Vietnam by Derek Evans

With some phone calls you receive you remember exactly where you were. On this occasion my wife Debbie and I were walking across the fields from the Fox Inn at Bransford back to the Powick roundabout when David (our eldest son) called and said that he, Laura (his wife) and Mark (our youngest son) were planning a motorbike trip in Vietnam and did we fancy coming? Without hesitation we said "yes" and that is how we all came to be in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) drinking Saigon beer on Christmas Eve 2011.



Our general plan was to ride up the coast of Vietnam finishing at the world heritage site of Ha Long Bay similar to the trip filmed by Top Gear but first we had to find some motorbikes.



The following day the city made a big impression with hoards of impossibly loaded motorbikes behaving like swarms of angry bees. Crossing the road was an act of faith as nothing stopped for pedestrians on crossings. You had to keep walking in the hope that bikes heading straight for you would pass behind - which they invariably did. Soon we managed to buy some rudimentary helmets but no bikes so we enlisted the help of our hotel trip organiser.



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Members' Articles

Vietnam Continued.



The bikes he found for us were Chinese copies of the Honda Win 110 cc machine and cost between \$300 and \$400. Our baptism of fire was to ride the machines from where we bought them to the hotel for loading up. Soon we became part of the swarm, learning the main rules of riding in large numbers - don't do anything suddenly, always pass behind something you are about to hit (never in front) and never hesitate or stop. You had to rely on everyone else doing the same and it worked. It was the same situation with roundabouts. Giving way did not exist; you simply merged with the traffic flow using the same basic rules.



Flushed with success at having made it back to the hotel we loaded up and set off on our adventure. Before long Mark's bike showed itself to be a problem child losing its chain from the rear cog, losing power and puncturing a rear tyre. All were fixed quickly and cheaply, however, with roadside help from locals and the occasional mechanic. **Continued next month....**



WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS





ANOTHER BIKING SPRING....

DON'T FORGET 'POWDER'

GREAT THERE'S RIDE OUT IN WHAM'S PROGRAMME: I'LL SPEND THE WEEKEND CLEANING THE BIKE.....

P IS FOR? OH YES PETROL.....CAN'T SEE A THING DOWN THERE.....BUT LEAVING A SMALL AMOUNT IN THE TANK OVERWINTER CAN LEAD TO TROUBLE

W EQUALS WATER AND ALSO FLUIDS GENERALLY WHERE IS THE MANUAL?

AND R FOR RUBBER....MMMM...IS 1MM ENOUGH I KNOW IT'S LEGAL - JUST....AND OF COURSE THE PRESSURES

O IS FOR OIL, I'VE FORGOTTEN, SHOULD THE BIKE BE LEVEL FOR THIS READING?

D FOR DAMAGE: I GUESS IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAFE IN HERE; BUT ARE THOSE TEETH MARKS ON THE CABLES?

WHILE I'M DOWN HERE I'LL CHECK THE ELECTRICS

By Ant

Advertisement

whamnewsletter@gmail.com



Are you familiar with a new British motorcycle product, the Visorcat, which is the only wash/wipe visor cleaning device that you can use while riding. The product is selling well to IAM members who are taking advantage of the 15% IAM discount. I'd like to draw this to the attention of IAM members in your area who may not yet know about this innovative new safety product.

The Visorcat is reviewed in the current issue of Advanced Driving magazine, and is available from www.visorcat.com. I am proud to say that the Visorcat received the 'IAM Likes' accolade for road safety initiatives – before it was launched! The Visorcat is not available in the shops.

Rennie Ritchie, an IAM staff examiner who reviewed the product for Advanced Driving magazine, said: "The Visorcat provides the rider with better vision, which of course leads to greater safety."

The product is British designed, manufactured and assembled, and is refillable and durable, with replacement sponges available (these can also be removed for cleaning). When it was being tested in a mixed bag of Scottish weather in October last year, testers removed all sorts of grime including soot, dust, flies and road salt successfully from their visors. The Visorcat takes a zero tolerance approach to dirty visors – you can clean off the debris before it has a chance to dry and obscure your view of the road.

Another IAM member and chairman of the BMF in Scotland is Thomas Duncan. He said: "The device is excellent for removing road grime when used with the solution that Visorcat supply. The operation of the Visorcat is simple. Brush it across the visor one way, the rubber cover moves out of the way and a small damp sponge washes the visor. Go the other way and the blades on the back of the rubber cover wipe the visor clean. It really is as simple as that. The way the sponge stays damp is quite ingenious and simple, using a wicking system from a reservoir of cleaning fluid that forms an integral part of the device. When the sponge gets dirty it's a simple task to remove it, rinse it in clean water and replace it in seconds. It does not get in the way when using the controls on the bike. In the last few days it has been getting warmer and the bugs are out. The device actually clears the bugs off the visor as well. I wanted a visor cleaner that just worked while I ride and its now here. There is now no excuse for any rider not to have a clean visor while they are riding."

I hope you will be able to forward this email to members in your area so they can be within the first few hundred UK riders to benefit from this unique new product. To benefit from the IAM discount, enter IAMLIKES in the discount code box. The discounted price of £25.50 includes a small bottle of visor cleaning fluid.

Please do not hesitate to drop me a line or call me if you have any questions not answered by our website at www.visorcat.com.

Best wishes

Jill@

Ride-Outs/Day rides

Please send details to whamnewsletter@gmail.com

Valleys Run, Sunday 9th June 2013 - All day ride

The South Wales Valleys may conjure up images of rows and rows of terraced houses all huddled together, but valleys mean hills, and that means corners to go up and down – and if you know your way over the hills to the next valley, great roads can be found that you will want to return to time and time again.

The route consists of a variety of roads that most of the time you will have to yourself, almost all of these roads are “where the old road used to go” – everyone else uses the new roads that have been built down in the valley, so apart from some short urban stretches to get to the next hill, it will be you and the view, of which there are plenty.

Keep one eye on the road mind, these are real riders roads!

Meet at McDonalds, Belmont Road, Hereford HR2 7HB at 9am for a 9.30am start.

Leg 1 to the Tea / coffee / petrol stop at Asda, Merthyr Tydfil, should take around 1hr 20mins.

Leg 2 is relatively short, and really mixes it up for road variety to Lunch at Brynffynon Hotel www.brynffynonhotel.com . Lunch is booked for 12.30 don't be late !

Leg 3, just enjoy, and welcome to the valleys!!! At the top of the hill above Treorchy is always an ice cream van, so don't have too much lunch, it's a great place to stop for your pud. There's an optional 11 mile add on at this point if the weather / time / inclination is there to a tea stop at the café at Bryngarw House over a magic stretch of road, but beware it's also 11 miles back! (20 mins each way, plus tea stop time).

If you don't fancy the extra loop to Bryngarw, back down the hill from the ice cream van back to Carpanini's Cardiff Arms Café in Treorchy for afternoon tea.

Leg 4, more brilliant stuff over the hill tops, if you've time, inclination and a taste for it, stop off at the Welsh Whisky distillery in Penderyn (no caff but they have a shop and toilets) and either Honey Café in Bronllys or Mc Donalds Hereford for a finish, depending on which way you need to be going to get home.

There's a request in to Brian for the weather, and I'm sure either Tony or Ian Barnard will help with any Welsh pronunciations required.

Hope to see you there, any queries, give me a call 07 813 845 735 (no I won't buy you your lunch!)

Steve Edwards



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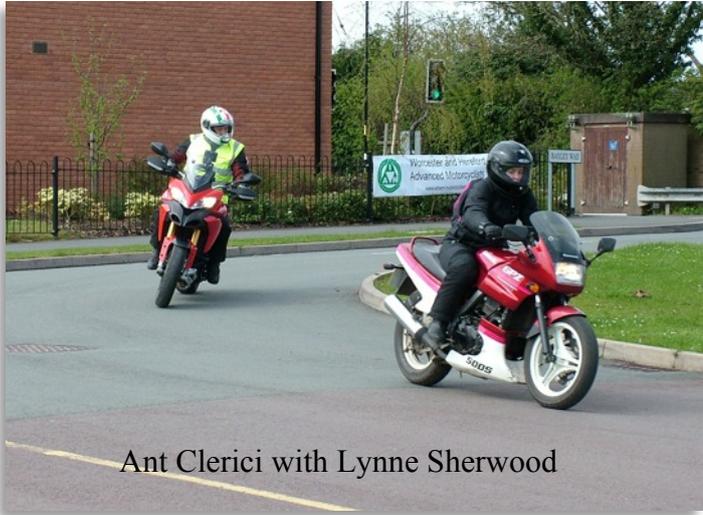


Caught on Camera!!! Send in your 'WHAM' photo's

Hereford Rider Skills Day



Lynton show the way



Ant Clerici with Lynne Sherwood



Tony Davies



Brian Starts a run



Linda & John



Mike & Ian



Denise Anderson



Linda Sylvester



Menna and Derek



Mike, Lynton, Phil, Simon and Grommit



Caught on Camera!!! Send in your 'WHAM' photo's



Lawance, Ian, Steve & Paul



Guy, Ian and Mark



Ali Lewis



Mark Biggs



Ant Clerici



John & Linda Wilshaw And Gill Kantolinna



Annie Morgan



John Wilshaw



Caught on Camera!!! Send in your 'WHAM' photo's



Nicci, Ellie and Anne



Ian Rivers

The Oops Files

As part of your advanced training, your observer explained the importance of doing regular bike checks. Normally in the form of mPowder! Repeat after me....mirrors, PETROL, oil, water, drive train, electrics and rubber. You can probably guess where this is heading! Sometimes these important checks can be 'forgotten' about when in a rush.

Picture the scene as I come stumbling out my house just after 5am, rip the cover of my KTM and as I'm undoing the locks and chains, glance at the bike. Yup it's orange and got two wheels....checks done!! So off I tear down the A44 from Bromyard towards Worcester, There is an orange light on the dash shining very brightly, it's the petrol warning light, bugger! And I can't remember how long its been on, glancing at my trip meter it shows 105miles. So its been on a while as it normally makes an appearance around 75miles, not to worry I think as the last time I ran out of fuel it was on 133miles (see a pattern here) according to my mental (5.15am) arithmetic, that leaves just under 20 miles BUT what I hadn't thought about was the last time the KTM ran out, I'd been siphoning petrol out of Brian's Pan European to keep me going.

Just past Laylocks garden centre where the road makes a nice sweeping left hander is where the Superduke first stuttered and I got that nasty feeling in the pit of my stomach, Poo or words to that affect went through my mind. The handy thing about running out of petrol regularly is that you learn a few tricks, so at that first stutter, in goes the clutch and flick the engine kill switch (being so early there is no traffic, luckily). I managed to free wheel around the left hander and the following right bend. This is where the road takes a slight rise through the 40mph limit so flicking the kill switch back and firing up the SuperDuke's greedy engine, gives me just enough boost to crest the peak in the road and that's all she had!

However the nice designers of Worcester had been so kind as to make the rest of the road into StJohns down hill, so I only has to push the bike 300 yards to work.

Moral of the story?

NEVER be in too much of a rush to do your bike checks!

Rog Brooks