

# Worcester & Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists



APRIL  
2015



## The Chairman's Notes



Welcome to our WHAM Newsletter. I would like to open by congratulating Del Britton, our Chief Observer, on an excellent training plan for our Observers culminating in a training day at Llandridnod Wells. Congratulations also to Callum Rees and Jon Baker for passing their Local Observer assessment on the day. We are now ready for the training season, so if you are reading this and thinking about joining us please get in touch.

This year WHAM's Rider Skills Day is being held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at Sutton School and Village Hall, Sutton St Nicholas, HR1 3SZ. Contact Roger Brooks on [wham.skillsday@gmail.com](mailto:wham.skillsday@gmail.com) if you would like a check ride or are interested in doing more with the club – we are looking for club volunteers so please contact us if you are available to help on the day.

I am keen to see as many of you as possible to join in the group rides. They are a great way to meet other members and enable you to develop your skills further. With that in mind, if you would like a refresher ride to help brush off the cobwebs please contact us or ask an Observer on a Sunday ride. Associate members are welcome to turn up at either the Worcester or Hereford start points on the first Sunday of the month.

On a Sunday ride we will make every effort to make you welcome and ensure you are with a group that travels at a pace that suits your style. Please don't be afraid to tell us what you need - all our members know what it's like to start riding with the group and will be more than happy to help you. Longer day rides have been planned, as well as a weekend away and trips abroad. These are intended mainly as 'free ride' days/trips for full members only. Check out the newsletter and on the website for dates and details.

It was great to see so many attending the March natter night for a presentation by Mark Lewis, Director of Standards at IAM. It was refreshing to hear someone speak with such passion about motorcycling, developing the IAM, and more specifically the motorcycling groups.

Our natter nights take place at the Falcon Hotel in Bromyard on the last Wednesday of every month. April's is Bike Quiz Night led by Tony Davies. Do you know your FZR from your GSXR? If so get your thinking caps on and come and join us. From May our natter nights turn into evening rides from the same location.

April 12<sup>th</sup> is the Prescott Bike Festival at Prescott Hill Climb, Gotherington, Nr Cheltenham GL52 9RD. Visit the website [www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk](http://www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk) for more details. It is a great day out and you also get to support the Blood Bikers.

I look forward to meeting you on a ride or at an event soon,

Paul Whitcombe



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

DISCLAIMER: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR, THE IAM OR THE WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



## WHAT SORT OF GROUP RIDER ARE YOU?

By Ant Clerici

It's that time again, to get out there (with or without your mates.....?)

**Answers –select any answers that apply to you: write down your selection and then go to page 5**

### Q1 Do you ever ride with other bikers?

'YES' go to question 2 'NO' go to page 6



### Q2 I ride with others:

- A To improve my riding skills
- B To meet friends
- C For fun

### Q3 When riding in a group:

- A I worry about keeping up
- B I watch the others to see how they ride
- C I like to ride with a select group of friends

### Q4 Filtering

- A I don't filter when in a group
- B I always filter
- C I filter and if safe leave space for the others to join me in the queue

## Q5 Navigation

- A I always know the route and have it programmed into the Satnav
- B I rely on others to know where we are going
- C I always wait at junctions for the following rider

## Q6 At the café

- A I hate discussing the ride – I'm here for fun
- B It's useful to hear what others see in my riding
- C I never make it to the café because I get lost



WHAM talking, eating and drinking coffee before the next part of the ride

## Q7 In town

- A I ride my own ride
- B I try and use the staggered formation
- C I'm always getting separated from the others because of traffic

## Q8 Overtaking

- A When the leader goes, I go
- B I wait until my overtake can be made safely
- C Overtaking as a group shows how bikes are better than cars

## Q9 Group holidays

- A I can't think of anything worse – biking all day, talking bikes all evening
- B They have improved my riding immensely
- C It's what biking is all about



## Q10 Pillions

- A My pillion loves biking
- B None of my friends and relations will ever get on my bike
- C Pillions are useful at motorway tolls, Passport control and to buy the coffee

See also

<http://www.wham-motorcycling.org/obslibrary/PillionsOctober2012.pdf>

## Your Group Rider Score

Q2 A 5 B 3 C 2	Q3 A 0 B 5 C 2	Q4 A 0 B 3 C 5	Q5 A 5 B 0 C 5	Q6 A 0 B 5 C 0
Q7 A 4 B 5 C 0	Q8 A -100 B 5 C -50	Q9 A -50 B 5 C 5	Q10 A 5 B -5 C 5	<b>YOUR TOTAL</b>  Now go to page 6

## Never been Group riding?

Check the WHAM website for the programme, if you wish we can provide an observer to show you the ropes.....try it.....why?

- It's fun
- A great way to improve your skills without really trying
- You can sample delightful café stops and some of the best countryside here and in Europe

Look at our Group Riding guidelines –

[http://www.wham-motorcycling.org/obslibrary/group\\_riding\\_guidelines2.pdf](http://www.wham-motorcycling.org/obslibrary/group_riding_guidelines2.pdf)



## What sort of Group Rider are you?

**Do the quiz first!**

Your

score.....

### Over 50

A group riding master; hooked on riding with friends. You might be slightly overweight due to frequent café breakfasts and afternoon teas

You probably ride a high powered touring bike and own your own Rukka gear and have other bikes in your garage.

**Advice: keep it up**

### 30 – 50

You like riding with others and will probably accept an invitation from your mates even if it looks like rain. You don't moth ball your bike for the winter. You like to see how others "do it". Although you have a nice bike you aren't quite there as far as having all the gear.

**Advice: just get out there when you can**

### 10 – 30

You have dabbled in Group Riding. It is fun for you but not all the time.

**Advice: you can "up" your group riding skills which will increase enjoyment and fun**

### 0-30

You are a novice at group riding but it's good you manage some group rides. Perhaps there are other circumstances that prevent you from joining those retired guys who have all the time they need.

**Advice: don't panic, you will find more time in future**

### <0

You group ride but haven't "got it yet"

You suffer from anxiety to keep up because you fear getting lost or simply losing visual contact with your mates. You need to have an open and frank chat with a WHAM observer – this is free or at most will cost you the price of a cup of tea (or coffee)

**Advice: This score probably reflects your riding confidence something that can be sorted if you want to improve what you do.**



**From the web:**

**Pot Holes In Perspective:**

[URL: http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=527\\_1376309896](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=527_1376309896)

courtesy of Derek McMullan



## A SIDECAR JOURNEY – two nutters on a mission

Introduction by Derek

### Sidecars? How did I get into this!

I don't like sidecars! From a long, long time ago I have vivid recollections of struggling to keep a 600cc Panther "Sloper" on the drive when I was 12 or 13 – and it was impossible!

The combo had a mind of its own and there was apparently nothing I could do to intervene in that: it weaved from one side of the drive to the other in increasingly dangerous swerves until the inevitable. What I did learn is that righting an upside-down combo is not easy and requires lots of mates; that probably why sidecarists are such a friendly bunch.



John Nixon has a screw loose! He does like sidecars. Previously he had a Hayabusa outfit but now that anno domini is weighing on his neck, his shoulders, his elbows, his wrists (OK, you have the picture), he's after something a little more upstanding - as befits his statesman-like position in society.

John's on a mission... well that is we're on a mission to find the perfect solution to John's very particular sidecar requirements. See John's article below:

Derek McMullan

Part 1 by John

### Sidecar? Why would you?

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century before cars were mass produced and widely available, the only option to carry your family around was to attach a sidecar to your Panther, BSA, Triumph etc. Bikes back then even had sidecar lugs welded in position on the frame. Outfits were popular through necessity



Panther and Double Adult Sidecar – massive torque, fired every third lamp post. Known for breaking legs if you started it incorrectly.



Just like the majority of solo use, sidecar outfits have become a pleasure hobby. And they are addictive (to some) because the experience is like nothing else to drive or ride. Along with Derek and most solo riders my first experience of piloting a 'chair' ended in a hedge. But as you will see later, I had no alternative but to learn if I wanted to go sand racing – which I did.



Almost certainly a promotional outfit for Police at events

That they are fun and challenging is evidenced by the continuing existence of SuperSide the F1 of sidecar racing.



Wikipedia states that the current racing sidecars bear no relation to the original inception of motorcycle and sidecar. I disagree. Yes they are now purpose-built monocoque construction and not sidecars attached to motorcycles, but they share the fundamental characteristic of having an undriven sidecar wheel mounted forward of the rear axle. With no drive and therefore no differential to accommodate different wheel speeds when cornering, there has to be what is known as 'slip'. It is this aspect that makes an outfit unique from all other vehicles. Essentially on a left-handed outfit as in the pictures, the sidecar wants to lift up in the air on left hand bends and on a right hander the sidecar tyre especially has to scrub and slip somewhat to follow a wider curve than the bike tyres.

And then there's drifting.....put simply, outfits don't go round corners easily. Ay! and therein lies the rub!



Pic by John Mushet

Pic from Wikipedia

**So my Honda Crosstourer** has the finest engine I've ever ridden. Torquey and powerful, ideal for tugging a sidecar. Thinking this might be a heavenly marriage of bike and chair, I spent a fruitful morning late last year with Chris of Watsonian up at Blockley in the Cotswolds. What a very helpful chappie.

We talked at length and he could see no problems except for one fairly major snag. The rear wheel is 18" and there are no car type tyres that would work for a number of technical reasons. Furthermore the nature of the spoked wheel construction, offset to accommodate the shaft drive, makes the best solution a custom made alloy wheel and that would be (very) expensive! So I'm faced with staying with a bike tyre and tolerating the wear rate. The traction, scrub and slip would create wallet thinning tyre wear not to mention the underwear soiling lack of grip from a paucity of rubber on the tarmac compared to a flat section car tyre.

However the sun was shining in Blockley and things were going swimmingly. We mocked up a sidecar alongside the bike. It was the only Watsonian model that I thought would look acceptable with the Crosser....and took some pictures. I left happily and waited for the quote from Chris for supply and fit.

Then it all went belly up. I sent the mock-up photo to my son Pete, who lives and works in Los Angeles designing car interiors for Tesla, the electric car manufacturer.

Now Pete (KTM 990 Adventure) is by his own admission 'ocd' on just about everything and design in particular. He took one look at the pic and said:

"Dad! It looks like a Marrow with Safety Glasses!"

Well...what do you think?





That put the kybosh on any Watsonian choice of sidecar. Back to the drawing board.

Part 2 – to follow

So how did it all come to pass – this obsession with outfits?

**If you :**

- **Have an article/story that you may think other will find interesting.**
- **A forthcoming event to advertise**
- **A motorcycling item for sale**
- **Or just seek advice!**

**Email Stuart Poole at [Mail: whamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whamnewsletter@gmail.com) and we shall endeavour to include it.**



## 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.

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



Hi All

I was recently looking to replace my helmet and came across this site based in Spain. They purport to offer the lowest prices on the net..

I wanted a Shoei Neotec Helmet, the best price I could find in the UK was around £469.00 however I managed to buy it off the Trade Inn site for £352.00 delivered, yes delivered from Spain. It's a brand new Shoei Neotec at around £100 cheaper than anything else I could find. The site is like a Spanish version of Wiggle, so offers goods for running, swimming, cycling, walking, and motor biking, etc.

The only thing that was a bit disconcerting was, when I placed my first order they wanted to see confirmation of me and my address, as they said to help combat online order fraud. So they will want to see a copy of your passport, or the verification number from your card authorisation company. This is just to confirm that you are, who you say you are.

Anyway I played the game and the helmet arrived within around 3 days of ordering it, and to be honest I'm as pleased as punch.

I suspect that the cheap prices are something to do with the pound versus euro exchange rate, but hey it's offering some fantastic deals.

Take a look at: URL: <http://www.Motardinn.com>

Regards

Alex

### To join:



- Login to your Facebook account
- Type '**Worcester and Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists**' in the search box at the top of the page.
- Click 'Join Group' at the top right of the screen.

One of our Admins will then approve your membership  
(we don't just let anyone in – only WHAM members can join!)





## CENTRAL WEST FORUM COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman:</b>	Neil Atkins	<a href="mailto:chair.west@iam-crew.org.uk">chair.west@iam-crew.org.uk</a>
<b>Vice-Chair (Cars):</b>	Jonathan Wood	<a href="mailto:vc_cars.west@iam-crew.org.uk">vc_cars.west@iam-crew.org.uk</a>
<b>Vice-Chair (Bikes):</b>	Phil Edwards	<a href="mailto:vc_bikes.west@iam-crew.org.uk">vc_bikes.west@iam-crew.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brent Prince	<a href="mailto:treasurer.west@iam-crew.org.uk">treasurer.west@iam-crew.org.uk</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Rhea Prince	<a href="mailto:secretary.west@iam-crew.org.uk">secretary.west@iam-crew.org.uk</a>

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by order of the Central England & Wales West Regional Forum Committee that the 2015 Annual General Meeting of **IAM Central West Regional Forum** will be held at 09.30am on Saturday 25th April 2015 at Hindlip Hall, Worcester, WR3 8SP to enable the Trustees of the Forum to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 for approval by the Group Delegates and to conduct an election. Please note that all members are welcome to the AGM and an open invitation is extended to you all. However, after the AGM has finished members may remain but lunch will not be provided unless your name is on the lunch list.

All Group Delegates are invited to attend but only fully paid up Members of the IAM, Group and Forum may vote. A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote in their absence. A proxy need not be a Full Member of the Group.

### **CURRENT OFFICERS & COMMITTEE**

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election.

#### **Officers:**

Chairman	Neil Atkins	offering to stand for re-election
Secretary	Rhea Prince	<b>Resigning</b>
Treasurer	Brent Prince	<b>Resigning</b>

#### **Committee:**

Vice Chair Cars	Jonathan Wood	offering to stand for re-election
Vice Chair Motorcycles	Phil Edwards	offering to stand for re-election
Hindlip Liaison	Geoffrey Poole	offering to stand for re-election
	Andrea Beech	offering to stand for re-election
	Rex Mound	offering to stand for re-election

#### **NOTES**

1. The total number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty.
2. Nominations from the floor of the meeting will only be accepted if insufficient written nominations have been received and after the election of written nominees.
3. The only named elected positions are for the Officers. The elected committee appoints all other positions.
4. Post AGM the IAM will finance 2 delegates' lunches per group, any remaining delegates wishing to have lunch should pay prior to the day through their group. Any member not on the lunch list will not be invited to take lunch.

### **NOMINATION PROCEDURE**

The Nominee must be willing to stand for the Committee and sign the Nomination Form. By signing the Nomination Form the Nominee is affirming their ability and intention, if elected, to attend committee meetings regularly.

#### **Please note**

1. You may not stand for the Central England & Wales West Forum Committee if the law debars you from being a Charity Trustee.
2. Only fully paid up members of the IAM and of the Group may nominate Committee Members or be nominated as a Central England & Wales West Forum Committee Member.
3. Those elected become Trustees of Central England & Wales West Forum.





## Observer Training Day

An annual event since the commencement of the Group, this year WHAM's observer training day was completed on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at the Metropole Hotel, at Llandrindrod Wells - a well-known venue for Observer Training! The observer training day is an opportunity for all WHAM's observers to get back into the skills and techniques of observing ready for the new riding season and, importantly, for the expected new associates.

Prior to the observer training day itself WHAM organises two observer-only training rides in early March to allow all observers the opportunity to sharpen their individual advanced riding skills within an organised group controlled by one of the Group's National Observers, these all-day rides covered areas to the West and East of WHAM's riding training areas (and some of the best riding of Wales and the Cotswolds!). The training day started with the Chief Observer (Del Britton) giving a short presentation on new subjects such as the link between the IAM and the Institute of Motor Industry (IMI) awarding body, the National and Local Observer qualifications (NO/LO), their required competencies, and some pointers for Observers on good Observing practice and personal approach.



During the day Derek McMullan assessed two LO candidates, Callum Rees and Jon Baker. The weather conditions for their assessments were atrocious, heavy winds and rain throughout the morning made conditions hard for both candidates who, to their credit, worked extremely hard to demonstrate their skills; many congratulations Callum and Jon.



Callum Rees



John Baker

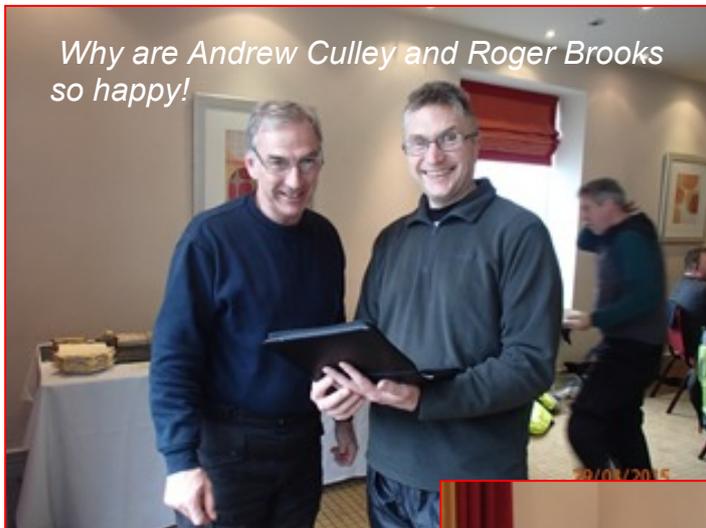




After lunch the conditions improved slightly but still presented a challenge, Del Britton conducted LO training with new Observer candidates Matthew Dent and Chris Lawton-Smith. The remainder of the Group's observers continued with their training in small groups each led by a WHAM NO.

Notwithstanding the Welsh weather Llandrindrod Wells offers fantastic roads on which observers can have the opportunity to refine their observing skills. The hotel itself offers excellent facilities to support the training day (No - WHAM does not have shares in the Hotel!).

Many thanks to all WHAM's observers who gave up their own time in preparing for the new season and show great commitment in ensuring high standards are upheld.



*Why are Andrew Culley and Roger Brooks so happy!*



*Can Tony Davis really be that interesting?  
Paul & Jon aren't sure.*



*Three wise monkeys?*



*It went that-a-way!*



*Matthew Dent & Chris Lawton -  
Smith wonder what they have got  
themselves in to!*

