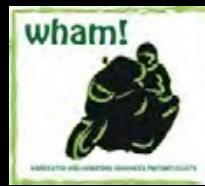


# Worcester & Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists



December  
2016

## The Chairman's Notes

### WHAM WINTER SPECIAL

Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2016. I hope you have had an enjoyable year of motorcycling.



Firstly, Congratulations to all those who have recently passed their National Observer test, Masters or IAM Test. We have had a fantastic year – I know Del wants to expand on this later in the newsletter so I'll leave it to him to celebrate individuals.

If you see Tony Davis on your travels please take the time to thank him for his efforts behind the scenes to adapt our routes for winter and ensure we have google maps and handy hints to minimise being Garmined – Thanks Tony!

It was great to see so many of you at the Bike Show. It seemed WHAM were there in force throughout the week. What was your secret bike crush?

The WHAM 10 Year celebration has a few place left. If you are considering coming along I would urge you to book up sooner than later.

#### WHAM 10 Year Anniversary Celebration

In January 2017 WHAM celebrates 10 years as a successful IAM affiliated Motorcycling Club. To mark this special occasion a Dinner has been planned at the Feathers in Ledbury, booked for Friday 27th January 2017, 8pm. Numbers are restricted to 60 and will be on a first come, first served basis. A reserve list will be established should circumstances change. We require confirmation of attendance as soon as possible. The cost is £35.00 per person. The dress code is black tie or smart casual, but no jeans please. If you wish to book a room please contact Rachel at the Feathers (01531 635266). Standard room charges apply. Alternative accommodation is available in Ledbury. The Talbot was recommended to me (01531 632963).

So what do you need to do now? To reserve your place please visit the WHAM Shop page on the website where you will find a form and a PayPal button to pay for your meal(s). We will be paying a single payment from WHAM so will not be dealing with cheques/cash on the night.



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Should you not have access to PayPal please contact me directly (wham.worcester@gmail.com) as soon as possible to book a place and arrange payment. Once you have booked your place please make your menu choices using the website form. I am really looking forward to the evening and hope to see you there.

The AGM will take place on the February natter night, so you have ample time to get your subs in.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to riding with you in the New Year

Best Wishes

Paul Whitcombe

WHAM Chairman

Below is a sample menu, including vegetarian option (to be confirmed):

Crispy Goats Cheese Parcel  
Tuscan Vegetable Compote, Black Olive Dressing

Duck Leg & Liver Terrine, Orange  
Honey & Five Spice, Croute

-00-



*Having chopped his Honda Roger thought he would build a 'winter special'!*



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## "You never stop learning"

by Den Osborne

Den wrote this article for the Newsletter some years ago and thought it would be a good idea to repeat it at this time of the year .



Setting off about 0830hrs I headed down the A44 from Worcester, a road I've driven more times than I want to remember. A pilgrimage to the Cross Gates cafe on the way for tea and toast was called for. The day was overcast, the roads dirty, damp, and greasy with the left over salty road muck. Temperature was 4°C . The drive down was fairly uneventful but I still tried to make progress (as we say) and by the time I got to New Radnor it was down to 3°C. Past the Forest Inn turning, up over the hill and down to 1.5°C. Still loads of grip from my new winter tyres (in some countries it is law to fit these in winter months - try telling the British public that!). On the greasy surface

nothing to worry about and plenty of confidence with a nice balance in the car.

By the time I got to the Cafe temp was back up to 2.5°C. As I approach I notice the cars were parked at the bottom of the car park. Odd I thought . I turn in at a sedate speed as I'm looking for a reason why. What you could not see was the car park was covered in black ice! You would not want to be barreling in on a bike. I'm now thinking what the main road would have been like without the gritting, me making progress

and all that. A steady drive around revealed not a lot of grip and in fact stopping gently from 5mph set the ABS off. Happy with four wheels today! It was even difficult walking to the cafe. The ice was really difficult to see, almost as if the moist air had frozen on the cold ground.

After tea and toast down the road to Llandrindod and the main road was fine, grip ok and felt as normal as the A44. Turn into the industrial estate expecting less grip and yes, same as the Cross Gates car park. I can only presume with the very cold ground temperatures any moisture will settle and freeze on untreated surfaces while the air temp can be quite high . What our bikes need is to show is ground temp not air temp.

I feel a project coming on!



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What this did bring home to me was even with temperatures above 0°C and well gritted main roads there are obviously side roads, B roads and maybe sections of A roads that have not been treated and are just waiting to catch you out at this time of the year. So take care out there, riding through the winter can be good fun and you will learn a lot but do not let your confidence get too high. On the way home I got thinking about this ground temperature against indicated temperature

we see on some bikes and now most cars. So with an infrared temp gauge from the workshop over the next few days I took ground readings against dash indicated and it made interesting reading. I found anything for -2°C to -6°C difference ! So when you see +4°C indicated it could be -2°C on the ground. This was not a research paper but should give you food for thought.

Remember.....

**"Ride the road you see; not the road you know."**



## From the web

**Who says you need to pack  
your bike away for the winter**



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# Congratulations

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Congratulations to Adrian Wheeler, Gary Barnes, Matt Dent, Chris Lawson-Smith and Richard Hewitt for achieving their National Observer qualifications.

*(P.S. Richard Hewitt wasn't at the natter night so I had to 'photo-shop' him! - Editor)*



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## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

The Group AGM will be held at the Falcon Hotel, Bromyard Starting at 7.30PM

The main purpose of the AGM is to review the events and finances of the past year and to elect the committee for the coming year. All full members and associates are invited to attend but only paid-up full members of the Institute and the Group may vote. (Those who have passed their Advanced Test)

### **Committee Changes**

The current officers – Chairman, Secretary, & Treasurer must stand down but can offer themselves for re-election. The current known intentions of the Committee are given below.

### **Officers**

Chairman: **Paul Whitcombe**

Standing down three year term over.  
Stuart Poole seeking election.

Secretary: **Alex Hoyle**

Standing down/seeking re-election

Treasurer: **Eric Reynolds**

Standing down/seeking re-election

### **Committee Members**

Vice Chairman: **Roger Brooks**

Seeking re-election

Newsletter Editor: **Stuart Poole**

Standing down/ Postion Vacant

Newsletter Editorial Assistant: **Ali Lewis**

Seeking re-election

Membership Secretary: **Roger Brooks**

Seeking re-election

Webmaster: **Tony Davis**

Seeking re-election

Routemaster: **Tony Davis**

Seeking re-election

Region Rep: **Ant Clerici**

Seeking re-election

Associate Coordinator, Hereford: **Stuart Morehead**

Seeking re-election

Associate Coordinator, Worcester: **Paul Gill**

Seeking re-election

Chief Observer Hereford: **Delmore Britton**

Committee Appointment

Chief Observer Worcester: **Paul Whitcombe**

Committee Appointment

Any fully paid up members of the IAM and of WHAM are free to apply for any of the above posts.

### **COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Any WHAM full member wishing to put themselves forward for any of the officer posts or the vacant committee posts should complete the attached nomination form.

Voting will take place to fill the three officer posts and vacant Committee positions at the AGM. In the event of 2 or more nominations for a post, there will be a vote by show of hands on the evening.

Nomination forms are attached to this notice. Please remember, only fully paid up members of the Institute and the Group may nominate or be nominated.

Please return nomination forms to any of the Officers/Committee Members as soon as possible or hand them into the Secretary at the start of the Annual General Meeting.

All members are invited and indeed, encouraged to attend the A.G.M., not only to participate in voting in your committee, but also to volunteer your ideas, express your views and discuss where/how you would like the Group to progress.

### **ITEMS FOR AGM AGENDA**

Any member can submit items for inclusion in the AGM Agenda. Items need to be submitted to the Secretary Alex Hoyle on 01885 400772 or E-mail [whamgroupsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:whamgroupsecretary@gmail.com) at least five days before the AGM.



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## Nomination Form

For the election of  
Worcester & Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists Committee 2017

TO BE HANDED TO ANY OFFICER/COMMITTEE MEMBER OF WORCESTER &  
HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS PRIOR TO THE AGM OR TO THE  
SECRETARY ON THE EVENING OF THE AGM ON:  
WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

I .....

(Name in block capitals) wish to stand for election to the position of:

.....

Signature..... Date.....

Proposed by: (Name in Capitals) .....

Signature..... Date.....

Seconded by: (Name in Capitals) .....

Signature..... Date.....

Nomination Accepted by.....

In the event of 2 or more nominations for the same post, I agree to a vote by ballot on the night & will abide by the majority decision.

Please note: You may not stand for the committee if the law debars you from being a charity trustee.

If you wish to volunteer for the committee but do not know someone who can nominate you or second your nomination, please contact the Secretary, Alex Hoyle on 01885 400772 or E-mail whamgroupsecretary@gmail.com



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There is no doubt that a warm rider is far safer than one who is frozen solid in the winter chill. Being too cold can lead to shivering, exhaustion, confusion, memory loss, slurred speech, drowsiness, low energy, slow reaction times, and stiff and sore joints. None of these is advisable for a rider to stay safe.

There is nothing macho about braving cold conditions that bring on hypothermia. Riders who don't prepare for the cold are a danger to themselves and others.

Warm and comfortable riders are more alert, more supple, better able to deal with emergency situations and therefore safer road users.

Not that safety is much of a concern for these guys in the annual Red Bull Twitch 'n Ride!

There's cold and then there is bitterly cold with black ice and other dangers. A little bit of cold can be invigorating, but prolonged bitter cold is dangerous and could even lead to permanent frost bite damage.

So we have provided a list of 10 hot tips for staying warm and comfortable in the coming winter months.

## 1 UNDERWEAR

Motorcycle and outdoor outfitter stores sell a wide range of thermal underwear which is thin but effective. It will keep you warm without having to put on several layers of bulky clothing and limit your free movement.



## 2 GEAR UP

Today's riding gear features materials that keep you warm without having to be extra bulky. You usually pay for what you get, but good quality textile gear is usually warmer than leather. A nice leather jacket may cut the wind, but the leather can get cold and stiff. Make sure the sleeve, neck and ankles can be tightly closed as the wind and cold can get in. A neck warm is a good addition to stop that sneaky breeze down your back.

## 3 EXTREMITIES

You can wear the warmest jacket and pants, but if your extremities are still cold, you will not be able to work the levers properly. Get good quality winter gloves and wear warm, woollen socks to keep your fingers and toes from going numb. Just because gloves are thick doesn't mean they are warmer. Usually the price you pay relates more to effectiveness than thickness.

## 4 WIND CHILL

Estimating wind chill is a complex calculation involving ambient temperature and wind speed, but at 0 degrees ambient temperature, travelling at 60mph on the highway, you will be in -17.4 degrees. Do your best to get out of the wind. Difficult on a naked bike, but you can at least tuck your legs into the tank, crouch down a bit and maybe slow down a bit. Some bike modifications you can make are a quickly detachable windscreen and/or hand-guards - or just buy a BMW that surrounds you with fairings and screen!



## 5 BIKE MODS

If you want to spend a bit more money, you can also add heated handgrips, seat and even foot to your bike, although these will all draw power from the battery so you might also need to consider an alternator and/or battery boost.

## 6 STOP OFTEN

We can all brave a quick ride home in near-freezing temperatures, but a long ride in the cold will numb your fingers and toes which is dangerous to you and other road users. Stop frequently, have a warm drink and thaw out the extremities. Find public toilets with hand blow dryers which will quickly thaw out your fingers. If you are constantly shivering, pulling over for just a couple of minutes and move around briskly to get your blood pumping. Alternatively just attend a WHAM organised ride where frequent cafe stops are the name of the game.



## 7 STAY DRY

Even fine mist can soak your clothing and amplify the effects of wind chill, so consider wearing a waterproof layer or at least spraying your gear with water repellent.

## 8 HYDRATE

When we're cold we don't feel as thirsty as when we are hot, so there is a tendency to not drink enough. That can lead to fatigue, so stay hydrated.



## 9 ALCOHOL & COFFEE

They may go down nice and warm, and make you feel like they are heating up your insides, but they can be a danger in the cold. Alcohol and caffeine increase the blood flow to the skin which may make you feel warmer, but it is actually causing you to lose body heat. Alcohol also affects your judgment which may already be impaired by the cold.

## 10 EAT WELL





## Huge success in NO and Masters for WHAM .

WHAM's Training Team and Observers have had a very successful year in 2016. "The training team's objective was a quality first approach, to get as many Observers through the NO assessment as possible" said Del Britton Chief Observer. With the recent passes of Richard Hewitt, Adrian Wheeler, Gary Barnes, Matthew Dent and Chris Lawton-Smith a total of thirteen out of the clubs nineteen observers are qualified as NO. Masters success has also seen Richard Hewitt (Distinction) and Gary Barnes gaining passes. The club now has five Observers at Master Level. We are very proud of our achievement.

Del



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