

WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



DECEMBER 2020



CHAIR'S FOREWORD

It's mid-winter and the riding has been good!

Yes, you have to pick your days and take care to avoid low temperatures when there's a danger of frost. Low sun, debris on the road and getting cold are other winter issues to be tackled but recently on a very wet Sunday ride to Hope-under-Dinmore (December 13th) 5 of us splashed our way to a sausage sandwich



and coffee in the bike shed. The group included Sam Furminger who joins us from SAM. As you would expect the riding was geared to the conditions with "rain mode" dialled in and the heated extras turned on. It was a great ride!



In the meantime you will see this issue contains papers for the AGM – our first "virtual" event. We intend the AGM to take up the first half of an hour or so leaving time for an open discussion. Please watch out for the link.

We have had a few take up the offer to hone riding skills with observed rides and test re-takes. And there's a trickle of new members embarking on the advanced course.

We end 2020 with over 150 members, a healthy bank account and an impressive cumulative total of over 600 observed hours. Congratulations to the observer team! Alex our Chief observer has led from the front in clocking up most hours with our 2 new observers Rob Edwards and Tony Reusser 2nd and 3rd.

What? No BMW's? But 2 Triumphs, a Honda, a Multi and a green thingy.

Ride safe everyone. Here's looking forward to 2021!

Ant Clerici

WHAM Chair



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

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CHAIRS FOREWORD CONT'D

WHAM needs YOU!

As many of you know, Eric has been our Treasurer since WHAM was invented. Although he is not standing down at our AGM he is looking for someone to shadow him with a view to taking over.

That someone needs to have the following attributes:

- Be familiar with databases including IAMRS's DART system. (DART training available)
- WHAM runs a simple spreadsheet of our membership which is linked with information logged on DART.
- Collect WHAM subscriptions.
- Eric will lead on collecting 2021 subs due in January 2021 together with associated Gift Aid
- Monitor our membership renewals.
- Sit on WHAM's committee and report.
- Liaise with our honorary auditor to finalise annual accounts for the AGM.

For more information please call me

Ant Clerici
Chair
07778 286 339



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WELSH 360—STEVE EDWARDS

In quite a coincidence, a few days after reading Del's article on the NC500, a Scottish friend sent me (a Welshman) a link to Adventure Bike Rider Magazine who had just done a Welsh equivalent which they named the "Wales 360 - ABR10". It shows a route they compiled over the 10 highest roads in Wales, with a write up. Being bored in lockdown (Tier1!!!) a rummage around Mapsource showed I had already done all but two of the "roads" (read dodgy lanes which I normally avoid at all costs) without realising any significance to them, to me they were mostly damn good roads with lots of bends and some decent views I've seen dozens of times before so no longer bother looking at them.

Surprisingly, unbeknown to me, the highest is just up the road from me, the Gospel Pass which goes from Llanthony in the South up the side of Hay Bluff northwards to Hay on Wye. Too tempting for words, 9C temperature and no longer raining, it had to be done.

20 minutes down the A465, turn right into Llanfihangel Crucorney and straight onto the lanes clearly sign-posted Llanthony 6 miles, Hay 16 miles. So far so good.

The lane up to Llanthony is ok, lots of houses and farms dotted around, so likely to be oncoming traffic, and I'm happy to let a car lead the way. I'd rather he got hit by an oncoming local than me.

They turned off just after Llanthony (I didn't stop to look at the ruins of the Abbey, but they are impressive even if you aren't interested in ancient ruins).

So now I'm on my own and the lane is ok for a little way on, but soon turned into a nightmare. Mile after mile of 1st gear, only briefly up to 2nd, narrow, uphill, blind corners with steep banks either side, rutted tarmac partly covered by thick leaf ruts, flood water running off the hillside and standing water in places. The worst possible scenario to meet anything coming the other way.

Luckily one 4 x 4 with long trailer behind was able to stop opposite a field gateway, and the only other oncoming traffic was a parent pushing a buggy with a well wrapped up infant in it. Eventually the lane opened up with a cattle grid onto a reasonably wide common, and the road surface dramatically improved. Sheep and wild ponies took little notice of the bike and a stop to look back down the valley was rewarded with a decent view, albeit with a bit of cloud cover over the hill tops. A decent bit of countryside indeed.

A couple of minutes on from the cattle grid is the top of the pass, temperature down slightly to a perfectly acceptable 7C, and a surprising number of parked cars with a stream of walkers coming back downhill off the skyline way up to the right. I now had a fabulous view of the lane downhill towards Hay, a perfect looking piece of road but the blackest of storm skies way over to the left and definitely coming my way. No Wonder the walkers were coming down.

The lane down to Hay was a complete contrast to the climb up from Llanthony, and easy to make good time on. The rain came down with a vengeance all the way home from Hay, the road was flooded and closed at Letton, so a diversion added a few extra miles thought I stayed warm and dry.



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WELSH 360—STEVE EDWARDS

Lesson for readers: Be warned! You must be off your rocker to ride up from Llanthony. Biking is supposed to give enjoyment, there's none on that stretch of road, only total relief that you got away with it. Having said that, if you are off your rocker and do decide to do it, and get away with it, you will definitely have a sense of achievement. Having done it, there's no chance I would entertain the idea of doing it again.

To do the ride from Hay up to the top of the pass is a bit of a cheat, although the view from the top is worth it.

The decision is yours! Stay safe, ride safe and season's greetings to you all.

See you on the road in 2021 when hopefully all this Covid is sorted.

Steve Edwards



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TO BOLDY GO—ALEX HOYLE CO

To Boldly Go, or Perhaps Not, Split Infinitives and All

Hi All, now in the run up to Christmas, I really don't feel like being too serious, so one of these stories is true, the other is a spoof, you judge. If you want the definitive answer the please get in touch.

alexhoyle@trackdown.co.uk

So why didn't I take my own advice.

When I'm out with an associate one of the first things I always try and get over to them, is not to ride straight into the back of vehicles, or situations, that are happening in front of them. Take stock and hang back until you have appraised the situation, then decide what you are going to do, but only once you have thought about it a bit.

I always say, if there's a guy in front of you waving a gun around, would you carry on? No, of course you wouldn't, most likely you would turn the bike around and head off in another direction.

Well, a few years ago now, I was on my way to Lee Motorcycles in Ledbury to get some new tyres. Now, if you are local, you will know this road; it's the road that goes past the Verzons Hotel going towards Ledbury. The downhill section runs parallel with the railway line.

So, I'm heading down hill, and in front of me I see what looks like wood shavings all over the road. As I get nearer, it looks like apples, and I know what you are thinking; why didn't you stop? Well it's a case of do as I say, not as I do, so I carried on.

To my horror I'm now driving in it, and it's not apples, it's ten tons of dead wet slimy chickens. Yes, dead chickens all across the road. It seems the lorry carrying them had been forced to brake hard, then all the chicken bits came flooding over the top of the cab and on to the road, and yours truly is now riding, or trying to ride, on them.

Believe me this was nearly impossible, as it was like riding on ice. I get off the bike and try to push it backwards, but it's up hill and I keep slipping over, so in the end I have no option but to slowly walk me and the bike through about 50 yds of dead, stinky, chicken bits.



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TO BOLDY GO—ALEX HOYLE CO

Eventually I get to the end of it and jump on the bike and carry on to Lee's. Now at this point I'm really beating myself up, Senior Observer, forward observation, totally in control, all that's gone out the window. I ride into Lee's, guess what, there's another chap having some work done on his bike, and guess what it's covered in, yep, stinky chicken bits.

At this point I'm now not feeling quite so bad, as I was not the only silly sod, who rode in to a situation he should have stopped at.

Well as they say, All's Well that Ends Well, after a quick hosing down of both me and the bike I get my two new tyres, and carry on, but not the way I came in, I'm not doing that again.

And the moral of this little story, it's that you control your bike, it does not control you, but you do have to think about it.

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Not a lot of people know this.

I found out something really interesting the other day which I had never known about. It's tied in to both Christmas and Motorbikes.

Did you know that a substance called Lectoglycerin, $C_5H_8NNaO_4$ is used in the production of both Christmas puddings and also in the production of motorbike tyres, not so much road tyres, but the very sticky ones the MotoGP boys use on track.

In Christmas puddings it's used as a sort of binding agent to help keep your sticky puds in one bit and to stop them breaking up. In motorbike racing tyres it's used in conjunction with other raw materials, and in much larger quantities, to make the tyre very sticky. So, I suppose you could say that the likes of Marc Marquez is being kept on track by Christmas puddings. Although in Marquez's case, perhaps not on track so much, as off it.

Have a Great Christmas, and hopefully the New Year will bring some relief from this dreaded Covid situation, and we can get out and about once again, and tear up some tarmac.

Alex Hoyle

WHAM CO



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

AGENDA

Wednesday the 27th of January 2021

Zoom AGM Meeting Starting at 7.30PM

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Item 1	Welcoming Remarks	Ant Clerici
Item 2	Apologies	Tony Reusser
Item 3	Approval of 2020 AGM minutes and any matters arising from them.	Tony Reusser
Item 4	Chairman's Report	Ant Clerici
Item 5	Treasurer's Report	Eric Reynolds
Item 6	Election of Committee Officers	Richard Hewitt
Item 7	Election of Committee Members	Secretary
Item 8	Presentation of Certificates	Chairman
Item 9	Programme for 2021	Chairman
Item 10	Any other business	Secretary



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday the 22nd of January 2020

At the Falcon Hotel Bromyard Starting at 7.30PM

Item 1	Welcoming Remarks	Ant Clerici
Item 2	Apologies	Richard Hewitt
Item 3	Approval of 2019 AGM minutes and any matters arising from them.	Richard Hewitt
Item 4	Chairman's Report	Ant Clerici
Item 5	Treasurer's Report	Eric Reynolds
Item 6	Election of Committee Officers	Richard Hewitt
Item 7	Election of Committee Members	Secretary
Item 8	Presentation of Certificates	Chairman
Item 9	Programme for 2020	Chairman
Item 10	Any other business	Secretary
Item 11	Date and time of next AGM 27/01/2021	Secretary



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Present at meeting:

Ant Clerici, Eric Reynolds, Alex Hoyle, Richard Hewitt, Matt Dent, Duane Sanger, Adrian Wheeler, Gerry West, Mark Bonnes, Mike Franzen, Jeremy Davies, Mike Boxall, Ian Barnard, Tony Reusser, Phil George, Mark Saxton, Martin Barrett, Andy Powell, Rob Edwards, Mike Chandler, Dave Denning, Val Northcote, Will Morgan.

Item 2 Apologies:

Gary Barnes, Tony Davis, Graeme Middleton, Graham Rivers, Valerie Anne, Paul Whitcombe, Ali Whitcombe, Del Britton

Item 3 2019 Minutes:

2019 Minutes Proposed by Stuart Poole, seconded by Will Morgan.

Item 4 Chairs report:

I'd like to start with a couple of IAMRoadsmart news items.

First one of WHAM's founder members and past chair, Derek McMullan is now the IAM's Chairman – congratulations to Derek.

Second, Alex and I attended a regional groups motorbike meeting which aimed at spending the monies left over when the former regional set up was disbanded. The aim is to fund a training event, probably for observers, with the profit rolled over to fund the following year etc

We've continued our relationship with the Road Safety Partnership, they support Biker Down courses and provide a grant to help us with training which we have used for our slow riding day.

I'd like to thank the key people who have worked very hard in ensuring WHAM runs smoothly and efficiently; the Committee. Thanks to everyone who is or has been on the committee this year. Many are multitasking.....and just in case you don't know what goes on....

Vice chair Richard for being a great vice chair, who listened and gave sound advice, he has also edited the brilliant newsletter and filled in as Secretary when Paul stood down.

Eric who continues in his 12th year as our Treasurer. You'll hear in a minute how we are doing financially but we are looking to spend money on relevant activities or equipment rather than pulling in our belts.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Adrian as our gatekeeper for new members.

Alex who with Gary were joint chief observers now it's Alex as chief with support from Gary. We had an enjoyable and useful Observer training day and qualified new local observers – more on that in a minute from Alex

Tony has continued as master of both routes and website. This also means controlling our PayPal accounts. He is also our GDPR manager.

Unfortunately cancelled the Chateau Impney: Duane's events – the bar-b-q at Adrian's house and Christmas here at the Falcon were well supported and successful.

Xmas at The Falcon was so good we've already booked – 18th December 2020

Paul and Stewart stood down as associate controllers; thank you guys for your contribution. Tony, Adrian and a gang of others put on another great Slow Riding Day at Throckmorton.

Here I'd like to mention Dennis Osbourne who secured the airfield again for us. A 'dicky ticker' has stopped Den from riding but he remains a key member of WHAM – so much so we have decided to make Den a Life Member. Thanks also go to Ali Davis and her team for supporting the day with endless cakes and tea.

Slow riding was won by Mark Bonnes. Mark was presented with the new Richard Mundy trophy. You may recall we've named the trophy after Richard Mundy who died a year ago. Richard always enjoyed our slow riding day and rode with a proficiency that most of us only dreamed about.

Brittany saw 16 bikes plus 3 pillions enjoying autumn at Le Fosso. We were pleasantly surprised with the roads, countryside and lunch stops. One road was so much fun the "progressive" group did it twice!

We've continued our Sunday rides from Worcester and Hereford, plus a new start point at Malvern.

Chief Observer Report by Alex Hoyle -

Alex reported that had been 12 passes this year and thanked all Observers for their time and effort. The top 4 observer hours for 2019 are shown below:

Observing hours:

1st Will Morgan 80

2nd Alex 64

New Local Observers hours:

Rob Edwards 53

Duane Sanger

National Observer hours:

Tony Reusser 49



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2 passes in 2020 already!

Additionally, Alex mentioned that if anyone was interested in becoming an Observer to get in touch with him.

Item 5 Treasurer's report

Presented by Eric Reynolds, proposed by Alex Hoyle and Seconded by Jeremy West. Accounts agreed by unanimous show of hands.

The excess was reported as £1200 for the year, and there was £8429 in the bank.

Eric mentioned that this year's expenditure had been on people rather than equipment e.g. Barbeque.

A general request was put to members to contact committee members with any sensible ideas for ways to spend club monies and enhance the club and members experience.

Ian Barnard suggested that the club might consider paying for members retests costing £99.

AP1. Ant agreed that the Committee would discuss Ian's suggestion (above) at the next committee meeting.

Item 6/7 Elections

Officer Selection:

Officers Standing down – Secretary: Richard Hewitt

Officers for Election – Secretary: Tony Reusser

New Post – Committee Support: Mark Saxton

Officers Proposed by Alex Hoyle, and seconded by Jeremy West.

Committee Selection:

Chair (AC), Vice Chair (RH), Newsletter Editor (RH), Membership Secretary (AW), Webmaster (TD), Route-master (TD), Region REP (AC), Events Co-Ord (DS), Associate Liaison Officer (GB), Chief Observer (AH)

Committee seeking re-election, Proposed by Alex Hoyle, and seconded by Jeremy West with a unanimous show of hands.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Item 8 Presentation of Certificates

There were no Pass Certificates to be presented at this meeting.

Observers were asked to take a picture of their Associates with their Certificates as Certificates were now sent directly to Associate addresses when successful.

Item 9 Programme for 2020

Ant mentioned the programme for 2020 was still developing, but ideas & content at present included:

A Ducati Worcester evening, A talk by Marcus McCormick, Programming Sat Nav's, Trail Riding, Slow riding event, How gear boxes work, Observer Training, A European Trip.

Item 10 AOB

Wil Outlined a talk he would give at the end of Feb Natter Night on Rally Moto on/off road rally navigation.

Next AGM 27th January 2021.

Tony Reusser Secretary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Wednesday 27th January 2021

The Group AGM will be held via a Zoom meeting, 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	<u>2020-21(Ending 27/01/21)</u>	<u>2021-22 (Starting 27/01/21)</u>
Chairman: Ant Clerici	Standing down	Richard Hewitt (Proposed)
Secretary: Tony Reusser		Seeking re-election
Treasurer: Eric Reynolds		Seeking re-election

Committee Members

Vice Chairman: Richard Hewitt	Standing down	Paul Whitcombe (Proposed)
Newsletter Editor: Richard Hewitt	Standing down	Jim Rolt (proposed)
Membership Secretary: Matt Dent		Seeking re-election
Webmaster: Tony Davis		Seeking re-election
Routemaster: Tony Davis		Seeking re-election
Events Coordinator: Duane Sanger		Seeking re-election
Associate Liaison Officer: Gary Barnes		Seeking re-election
Committee Support Officer Mark Saxton		Seeking re-election
Chief Observer Hereford: Alex Hoyle		Committee Appointment

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nomination Form

For the election of

Worcester & Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists Committee 2021

TO BE HANDED/TO ANY OFFICER/COMMITTEE MEMBER OF WORCESTER &

HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS PRIOR TO THE AGM OR TO THE

SECRETARY (tony.reusser1@gmail.com) ON THE EVENING OF THE AGM ON:

WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY 2021

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



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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 Tony Reusser on E-mail tony.reusser1@gmail.com at least five days before the AGM.



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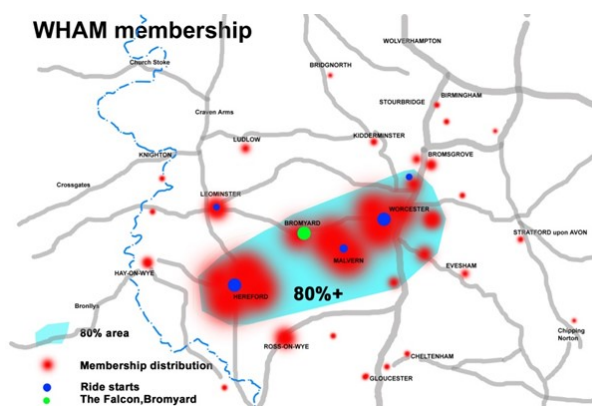


WHAM MEMBERSHIP—ANT CLERICI

‘WHAM’ or ‘W and H AM’?

Some refer to our ‘Hereford side’ or ‘Worcester side’ of the group but I like the idea of fuzzy edges because hard boundaries only create imaginary issues. Our membership has a wide geographic base with riders from Bromsgrove to Ross on Wye and from Stratford upon Avon to Radnorshire. This large area means we naturally allocate observers who are closer to their associates and have started our Sunday rides from both side of the Malvern’s: mainly for convenience because, don’t forget that, some ride for half an hour or more just to get to the start point.

80% of our membership lives in the central area between Droitwich and Hereford



Our AGM and natter nights are held at the centre of our area at The Falcon in Bromyard.

However, we’ve not started Sunday rides from Bromyard, our epicentre, out of respect to the residents who might not appreciate the early Sunday morning rumble of Harleys and GS’s. Therefore we have a tradition of meeting at McD’s in Hereford and McD’s in the centre of Worcester where we can park, grab that early coffee (not many cafes are open at that time) and use the facilities having already filled up in nearby city centre petrol stations. More recently we’ve added another start point at McD’s in Malvern which has proved to be a popular alternative departure point and has the benefit of attracting riders from both our two main counties. Summer day rides are slightly different in that we all start from a single location which has been selected to make best use of the destination. Typically ‘The OK Diner’ in Leominster if we are heading into Wales or McDonalds at Wychbold for the run to Rutland or the National Memorial Arboretum.

At this point I need to add a vote of thanks to Tony Davis who continues to develop terrific routes which ensure the different start points all meet at the same café destination. Or when Covid restrictions dictate, at different cafes.

There’s no doubt that we all get to know the riders who live closest to us but don’t mistake that for partisanship. We are all free to start from any of the advertised locations, in fact I recommend it. You get to ride on less familiar roads with riders who are as competent and, because we adhere to a common Group riding policy, there’s as much fun to be had. It also expands your list of acquaintances within the group. Perhaps the only downside is the earlier start to get to the further rendezvous.

Ride safe (on both sides of the Malvern’s!)