

WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



December 2022



EDITORIAL

Hi to all, here we are at year's end and the club AGM is coming up in a few weeks. You'll find the [minutes from last year](#) and the [Agenda for the forthcoming meeting](#) on 25th January.

Apart from the serious stuff there is also a great article from Ant Clerici on [winter riding](#), A [not too serious article](#) from our chief Observer, Alex Hoyle, and of course, the usual from our Chairman right below this.

Finally, Some [test passes were celebrated](#) at the recent natter night, congratulations to the candidates and observers!



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Welcome to Winter!

If the past two weeks are anything to go by, we are going to have very few brave souls piloting out for a WHAM Sunday ride this winter. I was nodding in agreement to one of our number who was explaining that air temperatures much below 5C translate into ground frost, even ice, which combined with the limited contact patches motorcycle tyres possess leaves a rider in quite a perilous position traction wise.

If you are going to ride out on any given Sunday this winter, do not be a martyr for what is a leisure ride. I am going to



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take the sage like 5C advice and exercise caution with the aim of staying in one piece, safe in my warm bed.

For those that could not make it along to the WHAM Christmas do last Friday you missed a corker. Again, the day after Facebook traffic saw Duane comment that he thought the doo was the best we had had; and I have to agree. My head was slightly throbbing the morning after, and I blame Tony Davis for that; keeping me laughing just long enough to warrant a new pint of Butty every 15 minutes or so. Seriously, the committee are making plans for all sorts of events in 2023 and so do make that little bit of effort that is required to get yourself to these. As ever, the clubs website will be the first place events are launched.

On a personal note, I have decided to stand for re-election as Chair for the last time of asking in January 2023. However, if you would like to do the same, please do step forward. Do not assume that committee places are reserved for incumbents; they certainly are not, and I speak for all the committee when I say that we always want new people to step forward with innovative ideas, energy, and commitment to move WHAM forward. Somewhere later on in this newsletter you will be able to read how to put yourself forward at the AGM at the end of January.

I stood up for five minutes at Fridays party and said a few words. This took less time to prepare for this year and I got less heckling than usual (you know who you are); what I laboured over preparation wise was whether to say what was really on my mind. What was on my mind needed to come out crisply, authentically, and with feeling to get consideration from partygoers as me saying something that was of value. I persevered and thankfully it resonated.

And so, I will leave you with the words I pondered over in the hope they are also received well here. It is a simple message but so infrequently said:

“We have a fantastic club of friends. This year some of our number have suffered incidents, illness and bereavement and I have been extremely impressed by the care, consideration and sheer positivity members have practically demonstrated in support of the wellbeing of members not having the best of times.”

Whether you celebrate Christmas or whether you do not, I wish you all a happy, restful, peaceful Christmas period and let us look forward to the best of friends enjoying the spring riding programme when it eventually arrives.

My very best!

Richard Hewitt

WHAM

Chair

COLD WEATHER RIDING – ANT CLERICI

Some of the best rides happen during winter months. This photo was a Harlech Castle lunch stop on 29th December a few years back. Smiling faces from biking on great roads which were mainly dry and free from the fair weather sports bike brigade.



Yes at the end the bike needed a good clean but that's usual for WHAM's routes.

So what's the deal when winter biking?

First there's YOU, then the BIKE, RIDING and finally the ENVIRONMENT...

YOU

Thinking about how you are going to combat the cold is a real safety issue. As you ride the last thing you'll need is to be constantly thinking about your shivering body and numb fingers. A numb brain takes away your focus and cold extremities make your use of the controls sluggish and awkward.

Warm and dry is the aim so you can concentrate 100% on your riding.

Wear good quality gear that's waterproof and windproof. Add base layers and thermals to delay the cold creeping into your core. Thin balaclavas under your helmet help keep your head warm. If you have them, wear your electrically heated gear – vests or jackets, gloves and socks but be aware they all make demands on the battery. They are a good investment.

I used to commute to school on a 2-stroke bike throughout the year and without proper gear my first

lesson on cold mornings was taken sat on a big radiator waiting for the numbness to disappear!

Fog City is good. Specs can add another surface to mist up so I use contacts. But don't avoid wearing specs if you need them! Clear vision is essential!

Don't forget electric hand driers at services can warm up gloves and more!

BIKE

Pre-ride checks are more important in winter. And think about where your rolling brake test should take place. Often it's the short ride from your house to a gritted road that presents the frostiest surfaces and then again at destination car parks which are often another challenging icy rink.

Your bike needs to have good tyres at the correct pressures and with ample tread, I'd say 2mm min. As mentioned before you'll need a sound battery if you are adding lots of electrically powered items. Heated grips are wonderful and only outclassed by heated seats! Consider using a trickle charger particularly if your bike trips are not too frequent.

Use ACF 50 (other protection sprays are available).

Obviously the more wind chill protection the better. When I ride for Severn Freewheelers on their BMW 1250 RT the screen and fairings are wonderful. Naked bikes can be awful if it's really cold.

You'll be starting the ride with clean lights but they can become caked in mud so check them at every stop and clean the lenses if you need to.

Tyres won't warm up so easily so your potential grip will be diminished.

Mirrors can mist up – use anti-mist.

RIDING and ENVIRONMENT

Above all else – AVOID THE WHITE STUFF and the white stuff camouflaged as black ice: check if there's ice and snow in the forecast?

If in doubt take the car or public transport.

There are specific hazards in winter.

19:00	WNW	3 mph	to	3 mph	0 °C	0 mm	☾	7 %	1020 mb
20:00	WNW	3 mph	to	3 mph	0 °C	0 mm	☾	7 %	1020 mb
21:00	WNW	3 mph	to	3 mph	0 °C	0 mm	☾	8 %	1019 mb
22:00	W	3 mph	to	3 mph	-1 °C	0 mm	☾	9 %	1018 mb
23:00	W	3 mph	to	3 mph	-1 °C	0 mm	☾	11 %	1018 mb

☀️ ⬆️ 08:05 ⬇️ 15:58

Use the weather forecast to understand not only the weather but the potential road conditions. How are conditions changing during your ride? What if you are late; does that increase the risk of being caught in the dark by snow, ice, fog or hail?

Tomorrow Thu 8 Dec GMT									
Hour	Wind	Avg.	Gust	Temp.	Rain 3h	Cloud	Press.	3 hr	
00:00	W	3 mph	to 3 mph	-1 °C	0 mm	☾	13 %	1017 mb	
03:00	WNW	3 mph	to 3 mph	-1 °C	0 mm	☾	15 %	1016 mb	
06:00	NW	2 mph	to 2 mph	-1 °C	0 mm	☁️	46 %	1014 mb	
09:00	NNE	1 mph	to 2 mph	0 °C	0 mm	☁️	64 %	1014 mb	
12:00	NNW	2 mph	to 2 mph	2 °C	0 mm	☀️	13 %	1013 mb	
15:00	NNE	3 mph	to 3 mph	1 °C	0 mm	☀️	9 %	1012 mb	
18:00	N	5 mph	to 5 mph	-2 °C	0 mm	☾	6 %	1012 mb	
21:00	NNW	5 mph	to 5 mph	-2 °C	0 mm	☾	3 %	1012 mb	

☀️ ⬆️ 08:06 ⬇️ 15:58

This is the forecast for Bromyard on 8th December. Note:

- Sub-zero temperatures overnight and into the morning.
- A short time above freezing – expect roads to remain frosty
- Low sun in the afternoon
- Temperatures dropping quickly after sunset
- No wind so mist is to be expected

Ride cancelled!

If conditions are borderline be aware where ice and snow might linger:

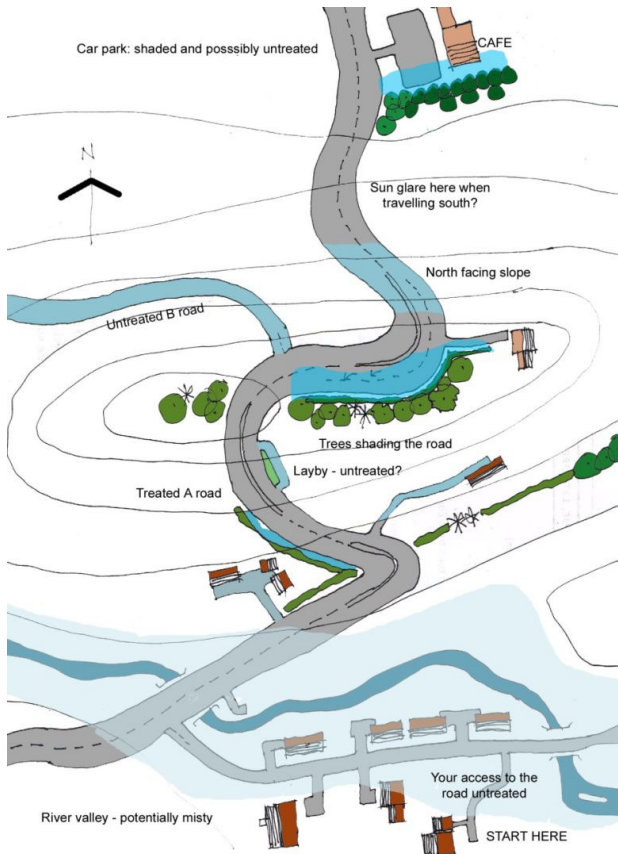
- north facing slopes,
- shaded sections of road,
- frost pockets and
- frozen puddles/floods.

Motorways and A roads are usually gritted, B roads less so and unclassified roads not at all!

One Sunday ride we experienced a dangerous change in conditions where the A44 had been gritted as far as Bringsty Common but suddenly we entered an un-gritted black ice section. Remember the earlier in the day; the more likely you'll find ice/frost patches. An indicated low air temperature won't tell you if there's ice on the road. Quite often the air temperature can read 1, 2, 3 or more degrees yet there's black ice on the road which holds onto its lower temperature.

The sun is lower and can be blinding causing stark contrasts as you move from open glare to black shady tree lined sections. Perhaps plan your ride to avoid heading straight into the low sun? Again be aware that if the sun is behind you, giving you a wonderfully lit scene, it will be straight into the eyes of oncoming traffic and so they won't see you so well, perhaps won't see you at all! Winter fogs are another hazard as is low cloud on high ground or river valley mists.

WINTER HAZARDS



White lines and manholes covers become very slippery.

The nearside (position 1) collects more debris. Car drivers will often set off with misted or even snow filled windows – they can't see you!

And finally we run out of daylight early so riding in the dark is more frequent. And in the dark those subtle changes in road surface including icy areas become very difficult to see.

All of the above means it's often good practice to ride more slowly; decisions should be more conservative and cautious.

Whatever you do.....keep riding.

Winter riding encourages smooth progress that means riding skills take on a step change in improvement which becomes apparent as the warm weather arrives in the spring.

CHIEF OBSERVER'S BIT – ALEX HOYLE

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.

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.

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 a fantastic New Year.

Alex Hoyle

WHAM Chief Observer

MINUTES OF 2022 AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 26th January 2022

At the Falcon Hotel Bromyard Starting at 7.30pm

Item 1	Welcoming Remarks	Richard Hewitt
Item 2	Apologies	Tony Reusser
Item 3	Approval of 2021 Minutes & Matters arising; AP1-Page 10 & AP2-Page 11	Tony Reusser
Item 4	Chairman's Report	Richard Hewitt
Item 5	Report Treasurer's	Eric Reynolds
Item 6	Chief Observer's Report	Alex Hoyle
Item 7	Election of Committee Officers	Tony Reusser
Item 8	Election of Committee Members	Tony Reusser
Item 9	Programme for 2022 & Members Survey Feedback	Richard Hewitt
Item 10	Any Other Business	Richard Hewitt
Item 11	Date of Next AGM (25 th January 2023)	Richard Hewitt
Item 12	Meeting Close & General Discussion	Richard Hewitt
Item 1	Welcoming Remarks	Richard Hewitt

Our Chairman thanked everyone for an excellent turnout on a mid-week night. He appreciated so many people had taken the time out for the AGM, and that he found it particularly worthwhile when organising things for the club.

Richard reported that he had some positive things to go through and wanted the session to be as consultative and interactive as possible.

His report would cover last year, but it was also important to outline the year to come and encouraged the membership to play a part in shaping those activities.

The member survey produced by the skill and hard work of Tony Davis our Web Master, would be covered, pulling out some of the comments along with the data showing the things members wanted less or more of. It would also be published in the Newsletter.

Item 2	Apologies	Tony Reusser
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Apologies were received from: Mark Saxton, Dan Freeth, Andy Dutnall, Ken Anderson, Ian Barnard

Item 3 Approval of 2021 Minutes &

Tony Reusser

Matters arising; AP1-Page 10 – Closed. Advice had been provided on Refresher Rides by our CO via the Newsletter etc. and members had been cognisant of the advice when getting back on the roads after the long break due to Covid restrictions.

Matters arising; AP2-Page 11 – Closed. Eric explained that the figure in the accounts had been for the outgoing Chairman's gift and was now annotated accordingly.

The 2021 Minutes were therefore proposed by Matt Dent and Seconded by Alex Hoyle, with a show of hands for them to be accepted by the members present.

Item 4 Chairman's Report

Richard Hewitt

Richard started by outlining the challenges of the Covid year. How it had restricted Observing, Training, Members unable to ride out, and some clarity being required on Group riding protocols and procedures, when riding had once more permitted.

When back on the road the membership was active across the spectrum of activities. These included a flow of Associates to our WHAM Observer's (the excellent results of which can be seen in our Chief Observers report), and their commitment to your ongoing safety, skills development and enjoyment.

Additionally, we held a Go-Karting event, a Bets-y-Coed trip and a Christmas do, all successful. New active members joined us, joined in, and we hope will take part in the list of outline ideas we have for 2022 covered later. In all of these ideas we took into consideration the mix of experience, ages, bikes, skills, backgrounds, sexes, locations and riding styles, which need to be considered. Richard outlined his experience of working on the IAM stand at the bike show. He noted the appetite for increasing skills from the broad church of people that he spoke to.

He concluded by thanking Jim Rolt our Newsletter editor who now had his feet truly under the table. Mentioning how members showed their appreciation in the survey, and finally by inviting all please contribute when asked, or when they had an idea.

Item 5 Report Treasurer's

Eric Reynolds

The figures below were presented and explained clearly by Eric Reynolds your WHAM Treasurer.

Income and Expenditure 1st Jan 2021 to 31st Dec 2021

	Net Annual	This Year	£2,477.94		Last Year (2020)	£2,969.36
Income	Membership Fees	£2,224.30		Membership Fees	£2,132.40	
	Skill For Life	£1,023.00		Skill For Life	£589.00	
	Donation for recruitment			Donation for recruitment	£500.00	
	Gift Aid	£304.87		Gift Aid	£316.59	
	Interest on Deposit	£0.48		Interest on Deposit	£1.72	
	Total		£3,552.65	Total		£3,539.71
Expenditure	Web Hosting	£178.44		Web Hosting	£178.64	
	Annual Dinner Support	£169.90				
	Insurance Charges	£156.00				
	Masters Support	£149.50				
	Zoom Licence	£143.88		Domain Hire	£250.00	
	Observer vests	£120.00		Observer vests	£57.71	
	Committee Expenses	£89.99				
	Training Equipment	£31.00				
	Donation	£20.00				
	Refund of membership Fee	£16.00				
	Room Hire			Room Hire	£45.00	
	Retest Support			Retest Support	£39.00	
	Total		£1,074.71	Total		£570.35

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Balance Sheet 1st Jan 2021 to 31st Dec 2021							
Fixed Assets	This Year			Last Year			
	Equipment at Cost		£6,975.78		Equipment at Cost	£7,060.78	
	Depreciation		£6,069.00	£906.78	Depreciation	£6,138.00	£922.78
Consumable Assets							
	Observing Stationery (5)		£100.00		Observing Stationery	£100.00	
	HI Viz Jackets 8		£173.13		HI Viz Jackets	£89.60	
	Current Account		£9,065.50		Current Account	£6,588.04	
	Deposit Account		£4,812.16	£14,150.79		£4,811.68	£11,605.32
Current Assets				£15,057.57			£12,528.10
Equipment Table							
	Equipment	Purchase price	Accum Deprec Last Year	Deprec This Year	Accum Deprec This Year	Current value	
	Gazebo	£139.00	£123.00	£16.00	£139.00	£0.00	
	Video cameras	£2,000.00	£1,950.00	£0.00	£1,950.00	£50.00	
	Radios	£3,808.48	£3,180.00	£0.00	£3,180.00	£628.48	
	Projector etc.	£1,028.30	£800.00	£0.00	£800.00	£228.30	
	Miscellaneous	£39.00	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	£9.00	

The 2021 Minutes were therefore proposed by Alex Hoyle and Seconded by Ant Clerici, with an affirmative show of hands for them to be accepted by the members present.

Alex was delighted to report the excellent results that can be seen in the table below with no failures during the year. This reflected positively on the skills and quality of the training team and their dedication as voluntary coaches for the IAM.

WHAM TEST PASSES 2021

Test Passes 2021	Test Date	Test Grade	Observers Name	Examiners Name
1. Pete Juzi	29.05.2021	Normal	Alex Hoyle/Paul Gill	Tim Hutt
2. Keith Clarke	15.06.2021	Normal	Andy Chambers	Tim Hutt
3. Mark Bonnes	10.07.2021	Normal	Adrain Wheeler	Simon Ross
4. Lee Harrhy	11.07.2021	Normal	Tony Davis	Marcus McCormick
5. Bill Downing	18.07.2021	Normal	Phil George	Marcus McCormick
6. Pete James	31.07.2021	Normal	Alex Hoyle	Tim Hutt
7. Mario Carvalho	16.08.2021	First	Christopher Lawton-Smith	Tim Hutt
8. Wayne Harrison	21.08.2021	Normal	Duane Sanger	Andy Lamb
9. Jon Powell	21.08.2021	First	Ant Clerici	Marcus McCormick
10. Simon Tibbetts	22.08.2021	First	Will Morgan	Andy Lamb
11. Rob Fordham	18.09.2021	Normal	Tony Reusser	Marcus McCormick
12. Tim Wyles	18.09.2021	Normal	Tim Snelson	Marcus McCormick
13. Tom Lewis Knight	09.10.2021	Normal	Gary Barnes	Marcus McCormick
14. Dave Beswick	04.11.2021	Normal	Andy Gulley	Marcus McCormick
15. Piotr (Pete) Szaj	20.11.2021	First	Rob Edwards	Andy Lamb
16. Sorin Chesa	30.11.2021	Normal	Ant Clerici	Marcus McCormick
17. Charles Richards	14.12.2021	Normal	Del Britton	Tim Hutt

Most Observing Hours 2021

1st Place: Ant Clerici 73

2nd Place: Rob Edwards 63

3rd Place: Phil George 47

“I will buy all three a beer later, there we are, it's in print”. Alex

Tony reported that he had not received any new nominations since the 2021 Minutes and Nominations forms had been sent out in the December 21 Newsletter.

The current Officer's; Richard Hewitt – Chairman, Eric Reynolds Treasurer & Tony Reusser Secretary were committed to continue for another year.

This was put to the meeting and Proposed by Paul Whitcombe and Seconded by Andrew Peckston. An affirmative show of hands showed acceptance by the members present.

Similarly to the Officers of the Committee, Tony reported that he had not received any new nominations since the 2021 Minutes and Nominations forms had been sent out in the December 21 Newsletter.

The current Committee membership of; Paul Whitcombe Vice Chair, Tony Davis Webmaster, Alex Hoyle Chief Observer, Jim Rolt Newsletter, Matt Dent Membership Secretary and Duane Sanger/ Mark Saxton Events, were all committed to continue for another year.

This was put to the meeting and Proposed by Andrew Peckston and Seconded by Steve Hackett. An affirmative show of hands showed acceptance by the members present.

Eric Reynolds pointed out to the members that two extra places on the committee were permitted if the need arose. This was useful input for all to be aware of if more hands were needed to assist in the plans for the coming year.

AP1 WHAM Committee, to discuss succession planning at committee in 2022.

Programme for 2022

Richard outlined the following programme which was in development:

- a) Raleigh Cross in Exmoor on 29th April.

AP2 The membership to let Paul Whitcombe know if they are interested in the Raleigh Cross event.

- b) France in September or a return to Bets-y-Coed or similar
- c) Observer Training Day in April with IAM Examiner attending
- d) Taster and Skills day based in Hereford including slow riding
- e) Karting in June and/or July
- f) Off road day. These are very popular and currently in the planning stage
- g) Presentation by Ian Rivers on his epic singlehanded Transatlantic row at the February Natter Night

Members Survey Feedback

Richard supported by Tony Davis presented the members survey results to the meeting which was received positively.

The full presentation would be appearing in the next WHAM Newsletter, but the actions arising from the Survey results are listed below:

AP3 The WHAM Committee to consider the Worcester start point for Sunday rides to be Malvern

AP4 Members were asked by Richard to suggest presentations for Natter Night

AP5 The WHAM Committee to consider how “Committee Minute Headlines” could be published for Members

AP6 The WHAM Committee to consider the need for a Communications Officer

Item 10

Any Other Business

Richard Hewitt

This started with the Richard having the pleasure of presenting Charles Richards with his IAM Advanced Rider Qualification Certificate attained in December 2021. Very well done Charles.

- a) Fleeces for Observers - Ant Clerici asked that the Committee to consider these for Observers that request them.

AP7 WHAM Committee to discuss Fleeces for Observers

- b) A question was asked if Rider Training Days could be part sponsored by WHAM in a similar way to the Masters Programme initiative.

AP8 WHAM Committee to consider IAM track based "Rider Training Day" sponsorship

Item 11

Date of Next AGM (25th January 2023)

Richard Hewitt

Wednesday 25th January 2023 at The Falcon Hotel Bromyard.

Item 12

Meeting Close & General Discussion

Richard Hewitt

The meeting concluded and discussions continued in the bar.

WHAM AGM AGENDA 2023

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RECENT TEST PASSES



Wayne Jones (Andrew Culley Observer)

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Rob Preece (Rob Edwards Observer)

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Giles Norbury (Andrew Culley Observer)

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