

# WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



April 2026

## EDITORIAL – JIM ROLT

Hello WHAMmers!

Its spring, and if you aren't already out on the bike then I'm sure you're fettling it in preparation, so this months news will be short and sweet so you can get on with the serious business of enjoying the all too short period of half reasonable weather that this wonderful country allows..

So its a quick [Hi from Tony, our Chairman](#)

[Chief Observer Richard](#) on a rather an interesting report which confirms the fact that IAM training makes it a lot less likely to be involved in a collision..

[M.A.R.K. Whats that?](#) Motorcycle Acts of Random Kindness.. Well why not?

They say **“Bikers aren’t just thrill-seekers; we’re the good guys who support our communities. Let’s spread the love through Acts of Random Kindness, boosting mental and physical health. Imagine the impact if each of us donated just £1 a year from riding. Together, we can make a huge difference!”**

So we've teamed up with them to increase the prizes they already offer, so that, this is another excuse sorry, reason, to get out on the bike! See [the whole story here](#). A big shout out to Val Northcote, Donna, and Ian Fullwood for putting this all together for the membership

If you've noticed a quite small newsletter this month and would like more, please consider a contribution; all is welcome, as long as it has some connection to our sport! Contact me here: [whamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whamnewsletter@gmail.com)

All events and rides can be found on <https://www.wham-motorcycling.org/events/>

Banter and more on the [facebook page](#)

Here are [the remaining events this month](#)

Jim Rolt, Editor



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## CHAIRMAN – TONY DAVIS

Hi all.

I've just got back from our first all day ride of 2025 (the Easter Sunday Elan Valley event). It more than lived up to expectations, we had a damp start but leg 2 and 3 were dry, a rare treat on the reservoir roads which were so good that we looped back at Devil's Bridge and did it in reverse. Its been a long time since I've ridden in such fab conditions and the skill honing and patience of all those cold slippery winter rides paid off.

We've picked up a few new members recently who I am pleased to see turning up regularly for Sunday rides, If you've not attended a Sunday ride yet I would highly recommend that you do, it will hone your skills and now is the time to get yourself bike fit for the summer season.

Speaking of the summer season, WHAM will shortly be launching our internal Bike & Brew Passport competition with prizes for those who visit the most cafes, furthest distance and highest accumulated mileage. All you need is the Bike & Brew Passport (<https://makeyourmark.co.uk/passport/>), petrol and your bike. More info later in this Newsletter and soon to be published on our website.

See you on the road!

Tony



## CHIEF OBSERVER – RICHARD HEWITT

And now for something completely different....

I'm playing it 100% straight this month! No Sid James impressions, no smut; straight-talk. Cherish it whilst you can as I'm sure next month I'll be back to my usual self... For good, and bad.

I seem to be doing an awful lot of travelling so far this year. Planes and trains give you thinking, and indeed studying time and what's to follow is a concerted effort from me to write something with content you might not have seen before.

The Genesis of the article was in reading what's referred to below as the IAMRoadsmart Agilysys study of 2019. I had heard, and forgotten it was a thing, yet on further (re)read there's stats in there that we can all use to get newbies on-board and maybe persuade new Associates to put their backs into their mentoring sessions with us.



### My Riding Journey – and Why IAM Started to Make Sense

Like a lot of riders, I didn't wake up one morning desperate to do "advanced" training. I thought I was doing alright. No major offs, fairly sensible pace, decent road sense — or at least that's what I told myself. But over time, especially the more miles I did, I started to realise that 'not crashing' isn't really the same thing as 'riding well'. That's what pushed me to look a bit deeper into advanced training, and in particular IAM RoadSmart.

At first, I'll admit, I was sceptical. You hear all sorts of opinions about IAM — too cautious, too grown-up, too "pipe and slippers". What eventually, after-the-fact, changed my mind wasn't the badge or the reputation, but the fact that someone had actually bothered to look at whether it works. That's where the Agilysys study comes in.

Agilysys are transport safety and behaviour specialists, and IAM asked them to independently evaluate what effect advanced motorcycle training actually has. Not just "do people feel safer?", but does it genuinely change how they ride and how often they crash. The study looked at around 1,300 riders, split roughly half and half between IAM-trained riders and riders with no advanced qualification. Crucially — and this is the bit that really matters — it compared collision rates by 'mileage', not just raw numbers.

The headline figure genuinely surprised me. IAM-trained riders were involved in a collision roughly once every 15,000 miles, while non-advanced riders were involved in one about every 9,400 miles. That's not a small difference. That's a big enough gap to stop being coincidence and start looking like behaviour change. It also made sense to me because advanced riders often ride more, not less — so if anything, you'd expect the numbers to go the other way.

What really chimed with my own riding experience was why that difference exists. The study showed that IAM riders tend to be calmer and more methodical. Less charging into bends. Less rushing. More assumption that someone else is about to mess things up. The whole "read the

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road, read the situation, don't corner yourself into problems" mindset. When you think about the kind of crashes bikers actually have — bends tightening, cars pulling out, poor observation — that sort of approach feels spot-on.

I did look seriously at RoSPA as well, and I've got a lot of respect for it. The standards are high and the three-year re-test really appeals from a discipline point of view. That said, what tipped me more toward IAM was the combination of structure and evidence. IAM felt less like a repeated exam and more like learning to permanently ride differently. The Roadcraft system just clicked for me once I started applying it consciously instead of vaguely knowing it was "a thing".

BikeSafe was a different stage of my journey altogether. If I'm honest, BikeSafe was probably the first proper nudge. Having police riders talk through real-world collisions and mistakes definitely got my attention. It made me think about my riding in a way I hadn't before. But I always saw BikeSafe as a wake-up call rather than the full solution. Great for awareness, brilliant for mindset — but I wanted something deeper and longer-term.

One thing I do appreciate about the Agilysis study is that it doesn't pretend advanced riders are magically perfect. It openly acknowledges that riders who choose to do IAM are often already more reflective and risk-aware. That's fair. But when you combine that with such a clear reduction in crashes per mile and consistent behavioural differences, it's hard to argue that training isn't reinforcing the right habits in a meaningful way.

Looking back now, my riding journey feels less about becoming "better" in some macho sense, and more about becoming smoother, calmer and more deliberate. IAM, backed up by that Agilysis research, feels like it's aimed at keeping you out of trouble in the first place — not just dealing with it when it arrives.

You can read the whole report [here](#)

Yours in Sport.

Richard H

Chief Observer

WHAM



Here's your chance to explore biker friendly venues this summer using the BIKE + BREW PASSPORT to collect as many stamps as possible, whilst enjoying a great ride-out, a hot brew and maybe a cake or two.

The 2026 'Make your Mark' passport now has venues in both Wales and England with **296 biker-friendly venues** — giving riders a reason to seek out new roads, discover new places, meet new people, and champion the incredible independent cafés that welcome our community.

It's about riding with intention. Riding mindfully. Riding with purpose.

By purchasing the passport (£12 online) you will be helping to promote mental wellbeing of biking whilst supporting wonderful venues and contributing to some great charitable causes. The passport book is available online from the 'Make your mark' charity, link to their page here: <https://makeyourmark.co.uk/passport/>.

For every 10 stamps you collect in your passport the Make your Mark charity will enter you into a free draw with some wonderful prizes (for full details visit the Make your Mark website).

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For **WHAMMERS**. So how will this work for you as a member?

There are 3 possible categories to win a prize offered by your committee.

1. The farthest venue visited
2. The most venues visited
3. The most accumulated mileage

Accumulated mileage will be measured as 'The Falcon flies' from the Falcon Hotel Bromyard to each venue (see example image).

Each person can only win one of the categories. In the event that more than one person has the same criteria for each given category, they will be placed in a draw.

The WHAM committee members cannot be held responsible for any weight gained for those participating and eating too many cakes!

Remember, we are all ambassadors for our club and IAM Roadsmart, we are all responsible for how we ride, this is not a race.



**WHAM**  
**'As the Falcon Flies Challenge'**  
incorporating the  
**BIKE + BREW**  
**PASSPORT Event**

Take your BIKE + BREW passport and visit up to 296 biker friendly venues around the UK.  
1st April to 30th September

Prizes for;

- Furthest venue visited
- Most venues visited
- Cumulative mileage (measured as direct line from The Falcon Hotel)

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## APRIL EVENTS

Sun 12

Sunday Ride – McDonalds Malvern to Beechenhurst Lodge, Forest of Dean – Route 35

April 12 @ 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Sunday Ride from McDonalds Malvern to Beechenhurst Lodge in the Forest of Dean then return to British Camp on the Malvern Hills. 08:30 Arrival for a 09:00 start.

Sun 19

Sunday Ride – Malvern to Crossgates via Dolfor – Route 46

April 19 @ 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Everyone's favorite route from McDonalds Malvern. 08:30 arrival for a 09:00 start.

Sun 26

Sunday Ride – Malvern to Bridgnorth – Route 72

April 26 @ 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Sunday Ride from McDonalds in Malvern to Poolehall Cafe, Bridgnorth via Clee Hill. 08:30 for a 09:00 Start. Thanks to Martin Wood for the route.

Wed 29

Bike Quiz Night

April 29 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Organised by WHAM Member Mark Bonnes, a quiz about (yes, you guessed it) motorcycles. Please arrive at 19:00 for a 19:30 start. All WHAM Members very welcome and please bring a friend / partner if interested.

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