

# WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



January 2026

## EDITORIAL – JIM ROLT

Here we are with the January issue, and first of all a huge thanks to this month's contributors who have all risen splendidly to the challenge I put before them. Of course we have our usual stalwarts, the Chair and CO who can't get out of the job, But additionally There's an article from Committee member Ian Fullwood

Do come to the club AGM on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January at the Falcon Bromyard, all members are welcome and it's your chance to see how the club works and elect, or otherwise, the committee; Hey, why not consider joining it and getting involved in running the club? It's not onerous or difficult, go on, give it a go! 😊



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Yes, you see, even I can write a piece for the newsletter; so if you haven't yet, or not recently, it would be wonderful to have your experiences of anything bike related to share with us all, the newsletter is always a heartbeat away from being a single page, so don't be shy!

Have a great month, and do feel free to get in touch: [whamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whamnewsletter@gmail.com)

Jim Rolt, Editor

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## CHAIRMAN – TONY DAVIS

Hi everyone,

Welcome to 2026! A big thank you to all who joined us for the Christmas do this year - it was a fantastic night! Special thanks to Donna Saxton for the organisation, and to our resident live band, Ian Barnard and Phil George, for the great entertainment.



Just a quick reminder that WHAM's Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday, 28th January. As this is my last year as Chair, we are looking to bring a Vice Chair onto the Committee at the AGM, with the intention of them taking over in 2027. If you're interested, please let one of the Committee Members know. More details and nomination forms are in the Newsletter. The AGM is a great opportunity to have your say on the club's future, so please do try to attend.

We had many successful events in 2025, including the 'Make your Mark Presentation' in March, Quiz Night in April, Alex Hoyle Memorial Ride in May, WHAM Exmoor Weekend in June, SRD, Suspension set-up Natter Night & North Wales Weekend in September, and Heated Visors in October. A big thank you to all the organisers.

We also want to give a shout-out to our Observers who dedicate their time, fuel, and resources to help others improve their riding and raise WHAM's profile within the IAM. Observing has become a more professional activity, requiring constant improvement and commitment, led by our CO Richard.

Your Committee will meet after the AGM to plan events for 2026. If you have any ideas or want to get involved in organising, please let us know.

Cheers,

Tony

## CHIEF OBSERVER – RICHARD HEWITT

Happy New Year.

If you're not already aware there's a new version of Roadcraft now available which includes on its rear cover an ad for IAM Roadsmart! Whilst not a root and branch update the new version is definitely worth a read, or is that study?, as it provides a little more content on the human factors element of advanced riding.

For a future article, I am working on trying to summarise 'human factors' into some copy all will find accessible; and that's going to take a month or so to condense and author.

For today my musings run mainly to how cold it looks outside, yet I know there'll be readers similarly musing that I should just be strong and get my heated jacket on and go have a slide about in the ice out on the road. Point made....

No, in all seriousness a chance conversation at the excellent 2025 WHAM Christmas doo is what I want to share this month.



### Our riding must be fun

Whether you've just passed your DVSA test, have an advanced pass, a First, even a Masters, what's the point unless you are enjoying yourself?

Up here in lovely Worcester & Hereford not many of us have the need to use a bike to go to work, and even if you do surely some fun is allowed?; and so, our rides are mainly 'leisure;' and when I read the word 'leisure' I segway quite easily into 'pleasure.' Carrying on from a paragraph above, where's the pleasure in going out freezing your wotsits off wondering if you're going to come into intimate contact with the tarmac in the icy winter?

More broadly, what's the point in having all the fun sucked out of your ride in the pursuit of getting that next advanced qualification? Answer – None at all!

I shared this view with one of the nice IAM staffers and apparently there is a certificate CO's can issue to associates not wanting to take the advanced test yet have engaged with the mentoring, taken away some learning points, and in effect become a better rider. We've had a couple of cases like this in 2025 and I have asked for some of the aforementioned certificates that we will issue to the deserving on a routine basis going forward.

The conversation at the Christmas doo was someone recounting a story of a rider having an experience with the Masters course that I would compare to meeting some dementors from the Harry Potter novels and having the life, the joy, sucked out of their riding in the pursuit of another badge, a Masters badge. I agreed wholeheartedly that in these circumstances the rider should consider, taking some learning, adding to their skills, remove some rough edges maybe, and then get back to enjoying riding; forget the qualification.

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Having just said that I'm now sitting here wondering if I've just said something controversial? Something that will raise eyebrows or get me reprimanded by someone, anyone? As I'm going to send this to Jim I guess I'm up for any consequences, if any; but again I pose the question, If it isn't fun, safe fun, what's the point? None.

I've found in my life that when I've set out to learn new stuff, I may do it slower than others, but if I'm happy while I'm doing it, I usually get there in the end.

If you are an Observer and your Associate is not practicing as you'd like, or readily committing to that next observed ride, ask yourself, are they having fun? I'm not talking about 'swinging from the chandeliers' fun, I'm talking about engaging them in a collegiate way that sees them comfortable and not overwhelmed with information or acronyms. Many an associate has been lost to a pompous approach and so if you're getting limited engagement ask yourself, "are they having fun?"

Yours in Sport.

Richard H

Chief Observer

WHAM

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## THE ROAD TO RECOVERY - IAN FULLWOOD

I debated for a long while on whether to write this article, I did not want it to be just an article about my health issue that put a stop to my motorcycle riding. I will however start with what happened to me in 2023 that forced me to not only stop riding but take stock of life in general.

Sometime late 2019 early 2020 I was cleaning the bike (Yamaha Fazer 600 at the time) and I trapped my left thumb between the chain and sprocket (and no, the engine was not running in gear). Needless to say there were a few expletives flying around for a few minutes, the nail had taken a battering and I thought that is definitely going to fall off. Fast forward about 18mths and the nail started looking a bit dodgy to say the least, continually being dressed by my local GP practice. Photos were taken and sent to



the Dermatology Dept. in Hereford, a biopsy taken, sent to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham which came back showing as a deep malignant Melanoma.

Needless to say Janette and I were pretty shocked when called in to an appointment on Sunday October 16th, 2022 (the date is forever etched in my memory) and told the news. Lots of tests and hospital visits followed and on December 16th that year I went into surgery for partial amputation of my left thumb and a sentinel lymph node biopsy. Looking on the bright side that got me out of hoovering the house for a few months.

I knew then that my motorbiking days were going to be curtailed and at that point I was not even sure if I would be able to continue. Although I didn't ride every day I embraced the feeling of freedom that we all feel when we sit astride our silver machines (cue for a Hawkwind song for those old rockers who can remember). This was a feeling that I desperately did not want to lose after coming back to motorcycling following a 25 year break.

So what I am getting to here, in a roundabout



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way, is the importance of getting into a mindset of positivity to help through tough times. During my recovery that positivity came from the thought of getting out again on the bike. My focus moving forward was the Sunday rides, yet I did not know at that stage if that was even possible, next time you go out for a ride try and imagine how to operate the indicator switch with half your thumb missing. I was at least thankful I still had half a thumb, otherwise it would probably be a forgone conclusion that I wouldn't be riding again.

A big shout out to the NHS at this point who have looked after me really well. I started immunotherapy Jan 2023 and finished my treatment Feb 2024, traveling to Cheltenham every 3 to 6 weeks depending on the dose. On all of my travels that year I would be looking longingly at all the motorcyclists on the road with envy yet keeping positive about my hopeful outcome once my thumb had fully healed.

Returning to the theme of visualising those Sunday rides, I began to wonder why this was such an important a focus point for me. My previous aim (before joining WHAM) on coming back to riding after such a long break was to be the safest rider I can be and that can only have happened with the route I took. Initially I went on a 2 hour refresher course in Hereford, followed by a Police Bikesafe Course and eventually finding IAM as my next logical step. On joining I was assigned an observer (Chris Lawton Smith) who immediately put me at my ease despite my nervousness and lack of confidence. This I am sure is the hallmark of WHAM, we have all joined this group at some point for the same reasons - to improve our riding, to feel safer on the roads and last but not least to have fun with like minded people. And there we have the crux of this article, a desire to ride out with a group of people who have gone through the IAM training to become a better rider. THAT is why my focus on returning to riding was so strong and saw me through some very dark times. I wanted to get out and be with the group again, I may not turn up every Sunday but the times I do turn up I know I will be welcomed with a smile and feel part of something that is very important to my mental well being. Yes I can go for a ride on my own and still get the same buzz, but a group ride is different, it helps endorse those thoughts that we are riding with a purpose, being observed by fellow proficient riders cements our training and over time I am convinced improves our riding.

Once I was able to get back on the Fazer I called our then chief observer Alex, told him about my situation who immediately offered to go on a ride out with me. What a joy, getting back on the bike and being followed by someone who could give me very valuable feedback. Since then I changed the bike to the Honda Crossrunner, adapting the indicator switch by extending it which means I am able to operate it safely as I don't have to take my hand off the handlebar to operate the switch.



I am still being looked after by the NHS with check ups and scans for the next 2 years. One person who has stood by me through all this is my wife Janette (who unfortunately does not ride pillion) and I have to thank her for putting up with my biking over the years.

So my 'Road to Recovery' is not only thanks to the NHS and my family but to you, the readers and riders who are the biking family of WHAM - Thank you.



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## FIX IT YOURSELF - JIM ROLT

What can you do when you have a puncture and all the repair shops have closed for 2 weeks? Well, you can wait if you're patient, or, DIY!

I was out the other day with my excellent associate Dave Harris and noticed that things felt a bit more squirrely than usual so stopped. Sure enough the rear tyre was as flat as a witch's mammalian protuberance! The resourceful Dave suggested we go to his place and collect his van so I bravely hopped on the back of his KTM and before long we were back where I'd hidden the bike to find it still there.. 😊

Triumph Thruxton is a heavy beast at the best of times, not helped by a flat tyre, but luckily Dave is young and fit and the bike soon resided inside the van and was whisked home. Once a new tube arrived I decided to fit it myself using the tried and tested

screwdriver and hammer method, a first on this bike as I haven't been keen to ruin the lovely Excel alloy rims. However, I found that with a little care this can be achieved in the home workshop, er, shed. The tube had a nasty stab wound..



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It's important to find the culprit of course, but 20 minutes of inspection with eye and fingertip revealed nothing.. so that's unsatisfactory for a start! Finally I could see no alternative other than to put the whole thing together and "hope for the best"! I readily admit that's not the best outcome but what else to do? (answers to editor please )

So it's all back together now and looking good.. the test ride hasn't happened because although I am quite happy to ride in the wet - in fact I actually enjoy it - I really don't appreciate salt covered roads, it's hard enough to keep the bike clean as it is; plus, we're in the middle of a cold snap with temperatures well down towards zero, so, like the CO, I don't do that... I had a monumental crash riding a bicycle on ice a few years ago and am not in a hurry to repeat that thank you very much!

What's the next job, assuming its not taking the wheel out and trying again? Valve clearance check, the Clown Bike is just up 20k miles so that's due. I shall sharpen my screwdrivers!

## TEST PASSES

Observer Andy Culley announces another proud test success with member Gareth Jones. The test was taken on 30<sup>th</sup> December, and resulted in a good pass from examiner Mark Bull. Well done to both!



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# 2025 AGM MINUTES

## Held 29th January 2025 at the Falcon Hotel Bromyard

### Item 1 - Welcoming Remarks

Tony Davis opened the meeting by welcoming the members to the room, 38 members were present.

### Item 2 – Apologies

Andy Chambers read out the list of apologies which were

Ian Fullwood, Dan Freeth, Mark Bonnes, Nick Fowler, Brian Morgan, Duanne Sanger, David Harris.

**Item 3 - Approval of 2024 Minutes & Matters arising; AP's 1-8 – Andy Chambers took a vote to confirm that the minutes of the previous 2024 AGM were a true record, which was agreed.**

### Item 4 – Chairman's Report

Tony Davis summarised events throughout 2024 The Luxembourg trip, slow riding day, The charity Lands end to John O'Groats ride although not a club event, the very sad loss of Alex Hoyle.

**Item 5 – Treasurer's Report – Andy Peckston delivered a comprehensive Power point presentation with all the facts and figure on the club funds and a full balance sheet. Club funds 2024 – £14,873.95. Club membership fee to remain at £16 for 2025. Current club membership is 175 members. Ian Barnard raised the Alex Hoyle Memorial donation to Midland Air ambulance £500.00 and the gift made to Alex when he stepped down from chief observer £460.49. It was explained that the committee had considered the length of service and that Alex had been a founder member of the club and given a huge amount of his time to the club over the years.**

Ian also queried the current club subscription (£16) and that IAM have and continue to raise their membership cost year in year out.

Ant Clerici queried whether it was right for a charity club to maintain more than £3k in a bank account although it was unclear where this information had originated. Andy Peckston explained the need to have £7k ring fenced to ensure, that the club could regenerate in the event of a catastrophic event, and that there was therefore a much smaller amount of useable cash in the club account. Richard Hewitt reported that IAM Roadsmart had announced that their fees would be frozen for both 2025 and 2026.

Adrian Weaver expressed that he thought that WHAM club fees were low and could be increased this was countered when Eric Reynolds recalled that it had been tried before, and the bank account became too high as the club didn't spend very much money. Andy Peckston advised the room that club funds had been utilised to cover the difference in the cost between ticket cost and actual cost of the Christmas Party 2024, this was agreed by the officers of the club.

The slow riding day raised £170 which, at the request of the Madley facility owner was donated to the Royal British Legion. The Karting event was cancelled in 2024 due to insufficient ticket sales, the club had received a full refund minus a £40 admin fee.

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Donna Saxton enquired about the £40 return from IAM Roadsmart which was received for each new associate.

Ant Clerici queried whether or not the club still received the £500 donation from Safer Road Partnership

### **Item 6 – Chief Observer’s Report**

Richard Hewitt ran through the facts and figures regarding the 2024 observers, test passes, and plans for the coming year. There is already a date in the diary for the observer training day and some valid speakers attending also.

### **Item 7 – Election of Committee Officers**

Tony Davis and Andy Chambers announced that the current officers of the club had agreed to remain in post, (Tony Davis - Chairman, Andrew Peckston – Treasurer and Andy Chambers – Secretary). Andy Chambers requested a show of hands which was confirmed, no objections were voiced.

### **Item 8 – Election of Committee Members**

Tony Davis and Andy Chambers it was proposed that the current committee members were to remain in post

- Donna Saxton – Events Manager,
- Duane Sanger – Events manager,
- Jim Rolt – Newsletter Editor,
- Andrew Peckston – Membership Secretary,
- Tony Davis - Route & Webmaster.

A group vote was requested and was agreed without objection.

- There were 3 nominations for new committee member without portfolio  
Subject to receiving their completed nomination forms (committee members without portfolio)
  - Ian Fullwood – Proposed by – Will Morgan, Seconded by Mark Cooper
  - Valerie Northcote – Proposed by – Will Morgan Seconded by – Matt Sheen
  - Anne Woods - Proposed by – Donna Saxton Seconded by – Valerie Northcote.All three were nominated and seconded and became members of the committee.

The Officer and committee welcomes the new members.

Chief Observer - To be voted in at the February Committee Meeting.

### **Item 9 – Programme for 2025**

Tony Davis described our forthcoming events for 2025 with the slow riding day already booked, the observer training day, and Alex Hoyle's memorial Ride. Ian Barnard raised a point regarding other now members who were no longer with us and asked why Alex was having an annual ride in his name. Tony reminded the room of the current slow riding day trophy which was named in memory of Richard Mundy, there was another member who had not been recognised.

#### **Item 10 – Any other business**

Gary Barnes raised the Master's refund which is currently in operation, and the fact that Gary had been unfortunate in that covid struck when Gary was ready to do his retest and the following year he had health issues which had prevented him from retaking his Master's. Andy Peckston explained that refunding 50% of all retest fees would not be sustainable for the club. Ian Barnard endorsed Gary's claim and asked if the club might try it for 12 months and monitor the effect on the club funds. Andy Peckston advised that he had already completed a feasibility calculation and found it to be unsustainable for all re-tests. Tony Reusser suggested that while club funds allowed then perhaps we should as it would help to maintain standards within the club.

Adrian Weaver concluded that given the time this subject had taken that it should be referred back to the committee, Andy Chambers logged the subject as a point to be raised at the forthcoming committee meeting.

Tony Davis and Richard Hewitt attended a joint meeting with RAMG and a couple of other local clubs to discuss the possibility of a joint event to encourage new associates to join with some taster sessions etc. During that meeting it was agreed that there would be an outlay for each club of £200 to setup the event, this had been discussed and agreed with the other club officers.

Ant Clerici raised whether a promotion on Facebook would help as we had done this previously. Will Morgan suggested that it might be possible to pick up new associates after people had passed their Bike Safe course, Gary Barnes commented that he recently did a Bike Safe course and reports that it is unbiased towards IAM Roadsmart, ROSPA or any other advanced course provider.

Richard Hewitt announced that as part of an overhaul of the observer training material that he had invested £150 in new laminated portfolio training material, and new observer high vis vests which were now available.

Ian Barnard raised that there were still a lot of badges available and it was suggested that perhaps they could be posted out to members, the committee to look at this.

#### **Item 11 – Date of next AGM:**

The last Wednesday of January 2026 (28th January 2026)

#### **Item 12 – Meeting Close & General Discussion**

Tony Davis the meeting closed at around 21:00.

# AGENDA FOR THE WHAM 2026 AGM

To be held at the Falcon Hotel Bromyard on Wednesday 28th January 2026

## AGENDA

**Item 1** - Welcoming Remarks

**Item 2** – Apologies

**Item 3** - Approval of 2025 Minutes & Matters arising.

**Item 4** – Chairman’s Report

**Item 5** – Treasurer’s Report

**Item 6** – Chief Observer’s Report

**Item 7** – Election of Committee Officers

- Chairman
- Treasurer
- Secretary

**Item 8** – Election of Committee Members

- Events Manager
- Newsletter Editor
- Membership Secretary
- Route & Webmaster
- Members without portfolio

Chief Observer - To be voted in at the February Committee Meeting.

**Item 9** – Programme for 2026



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**Item 10** – Any other business

**Item 11** – Date of next AGM

**Item 12** – Meeting Close & General Discussion



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# WHAM NOMINATION FORM

For the election of

Worcester & Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists Committee 2026

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 28th JANUARY 2026

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.....

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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.

## 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.

Any member can submit items for inclusion in the AGM Agenda. Items need to be submitted to the Secretary Andy Chambers on E-mail [andy.chambers@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.chambers@btinternet.com) at least five days before the AGM.