

# WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



March 2026

## EDITORIAL – JIM ROLT

The daffs are out, the snowdrops are over... can it be spring?

There's lots in the pipeline for this year, and in this newsletter we have a fair bit of detail of what can be in store for you over the coming season.

Chairman Tony Davis has news of what should be [a great day out](#) coming up, at Ragley Hall, help out on the day if you like.

Is Chief Observer Richard Hewitt [getting excited about electric bikes](#)?

Donna Saxton presents [this years events](#) so far..

Wondering where to ride to? Val Northcote has the answer, MARK! [see more here](#).

The minutes from the recent committee meeting are available, [see what your committee is up to](#)

And see how [hard they work on this schedule of meetings](#)

There's been a fair amount of confusion and discussion over the club's offer to partly subsidise anyone undertaking the Masters training. No more, the [definitive guide is here!](#)

And finally, I've been busy with home motorcycle maintenance again and saving enough for many cafe stops in the process, how hard can it be to [adjust the valve clearances on a Triumph twin](#)?

As you can see, I've been reduced to contributing to this marvellous publication.. please save the membership from having to endure more of this, contribute something, you know you want to! Anything will do as long as it's motorcycle related.. eternal gratitude will result.. contributions gratefully received at: [whamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whamnewsletter@gmail.com)

All events and rides can be found on [the club website](#), and banter and more on the [facebook page](#)

Have a great month

Jim Rolt, Editor



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## CHAIRMAN – TONY DAVIS

Hi all.

WHAM have been involved in an initiative involving a number of local IAM RoadSmart Motorcycle Groups over the last couple of years. The group has managed to persuade the IAM to attend the Adventure Bike rider Festival at Ragley Hall this year which is quite some achievement! We are looking for Observers to help out with taster sessions etc on the day. Please see the press release for groups below:-



### IAM RoadSmart at the Adventure Bike Rider Festival - 26th to 28th June 2026

We are pleased to say that IAM RoadSmart will be returning to this year's Adventure Bike Rider Festival. The ABR Festival is a hugely popular event, with attendance growing year on year. Although it is aimed at adventure riders, the majority of attendees are road riders, so there will be excellent opportunities to engage with our core audience.

The stand will be managed and organised by local IAM groups, with full support from IAM RoadSmart.

The IAM RoadSmart stand will be located right at the heart of the festival

We will be conducting taster sessions and offering a significant discount for anyone who signs up at the show.

To help avoid congestion on the local access roads, our taster sessions will start and finish at The Piston Club — just a 10-minute ride from the ABR Festival entrance (and a fantastic venue in its own right). We will be asking Observers to support activities at both locations.

The Chair and Chief Observer from Redditch Advanced Motorcyclists Group have been instrumental in persuading IAM RoadSmart to participate this year. They are leading the planning and on-site activity; however, if you would like to be involved, please liaise with your group Committee in the first instance.

If you can help out at the Piston Club please do let me know ASAP.

Well, it looks like Spring is here today, 17 degrees and sunny, things can only improve! In keeping with the change of season, our 2026 Program is starting to fill up now. We will be returning to the Raleigh Cross Inn at the end of May, places are limited so please call the venue to book your room ASAP if you wish to join us.

See you on the road.

Tony.

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## CHIEF OBSERVER – RICHARD HEWITT

Everything in balance.....

How I got to this month's article is a bit of a mash up of different events and thoughts.

In November 2025, quite by accident, I bought my first Battery Electric Vehicle; and I remain smitten with it!

It's a small Mini Cooper, with a smallish battery, that for 150 miles on an 80% charge (that's important you know, more later), transports me around in a luxurious-enough cockpit, in silence, for less than a tenth of the cost per mile, and at half the purchase price of our also virtually new Audi Q5 Diesel. I'm a frugal sort, I don't change my vehicles very often, and for me, with a driveway to charge on (there's our second caveat, more of that later), and an accompanying low EV charging tariff (third caveat), I'm enjoying not having to schlep down to the dirty petrol station, waking up to a full tank of amps every morning, and generally being, on the face of it, nicer, cleaner, and quieter.



Saving the best bit until last, the Mini romps off into the distance, at any speed, with the most satisfying zip. It's 'power' is already made and merely needs to be directed to the electric motor; we do not have to wait for an engine to rev up, not even for a second, it's there, boom, your gone!

So, what's this got to do with motorcycling?

Well, quite a lot actually. We make much of always riding on a balanced throttle in our advanced rider training. Whether going through town, before, during, and after, a bend, and also in a national where you just don't quite know with 100% certainty what you'll need to react to; the balanced positive throttle is your friend.

The link here to the Mini?; it struck me, when you select B: drive mode (two clicks down on the 'drive knob') you're treated to most-of-the-time, one foot operation. Press down, it goes, ease off, and it slows. It can slow quite quickly if you just lift off the pedal, and if there's an emergency you just use the brakes and it all integrates smoothly. If you plan ahead you hardly ever need to use the brake pedal.

Combine B: drive mode with the immediacy of the delivery of go/stop of an electric vehicle and you find yourself on a permanent balanced throttle. The electric motor has no need for gears. That's gears for going faster, or for changing down into when you go slower. It is technical, number of 'poles' etc., but it just spins up and down and off you go; you're always in the right gear, and ready to go.

One of the chaps at the IAM had a Zero 'sports tourer-esq' for a week of work and found it most agreeable. I asked him about whether the bike had an equivalent of Mini B: drive mode and it does. It has 'Canyon mode.'

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Apparently, in Canyon mode, you accelerate hard up to a bend, lift off a little until you've reached your entry speed, which all happens quickly, and then you re-apply the throttle and ride round the bend in the usual fashion. As in the car, brakes only needed if you are absolutely tanking it up to the bend; which we don't do, do we? ☺

And now to the challenges:

Caveat 1 - 80% charge:

They don't mention this until you pick the vehicle up. It's best to keep the battery of the current generation of electric vehicles between 30-80% and only charge above 80% when you have an immediate need for extended range and are not going to store the vehicle in that state. This turns the Mini Cooper from a car with a quoted 192 mile range, into a vehicle with 150 miles maximum range at 80%. Hmm... The Zero does 124 miles at full charge and so at 80% crude maths says 99.2 miles is what you'll get. I'll wager shorter.

Caveat 2 & 3 - a driveway to charge on:

I don't know about you but pitching up at the Honey café, or Crossgates, and asking if you can plug in for 42 minutes in their 7Kw/hr charger just so you can get home just doesn't appeal. It'll be fine when you get home but how do you get around a WHAM Sunday route without recharging your bike?

And the cost! I pay 6.5pence/Kw/Hr to charge at home. I've seen this rise to 84pence in a service station.

One of you wags did share a pic with me of another electric bike that had an over 300 mile range, and it looked almost production ready, but no prices or other info was available and so who knows.

What I do know is that generally technology prevails. I doubt I'll ever go back to a combustion engine in my car as for how I use it, what I need, and where I store it, the electric vehicle is better in every way. And so say's our IAM staffer who has petrol, petrol hybrid, and electric vehicles on their drive.

A bike? If they can get on top of the range issue; and I'm sure they will, having something akin to B: drive mode will be very nice indeed.

For now, remember, whatever you drive or ride, always keep on a balanced throttle, in the right gear, at the right time, in every situation. Further information can be gleaned from a WHAM Observer near you next time you see them.

Yours in Sport.

Richard H

Chief Observer

WHAM

## MOTORBIKERS ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS – VAL NORTHCOTE

M.A.R.K positions bikers not just as riders but as a community committed to acts of kindness and mutual support. Their mission blends charitable giving, mental health awareness, and the positive wellbeing effects of biking.

### Core aims and activities

**Acts of Random Kindness** — Encouraging bikers to contribute small donations (even £1 a year) to support local causes such as homeless shelters, food banks, children’s homes, care homes, and veterans’ groups. Every penny donated goes directly to these community causes.

**Mental Health First Aid training** — Providing training for both bikers and non-bikers, and working with care providers to support families and strengthen community networks.

**Wellbeing through biking** — Promoting the mental and physical health benefits of riding and fostering a supportive community culture.



### Underlying message

The group emphasises unity, compassion, and the idea that **small acts can create big change**. They aim to “ride united and heal united,” using the biking community as a force for good.

**The Bike + Brew Passport** was launched as part of MARK’s mission to shine a light on the positive impact bikers have in their communities. The 2025 edition featured 100 cafés and saw thousands of riders get involved — collecting stamps, enjoying local coffee, and raising awareness for mental health support, defibrillator access, and acts of kindness led by the biker community.

The 2026 passport will once again be available through the MARK website and selected partner cafés, complete with a refreshed design, new prizes, limited edition merch, and more.

More than just a fun way to ride — Bike + Brew supports real impact. Proceeds from passport sales go towards mental health first aid training, community defibrillator access, and MARK’s growing grant scheme for local charities and projects. Each stamp represents not just a stop for a brew, but a step toward making a difference.

As the café list continues to grow, riders can expect new locations from Cornwall to the Highlands — including hidden gems, beloved biker institutions, and first-time passport participants excited to welcome the community.

Paul the chair and founder of the charity will be with us at the March Natter night so come along, find out more and buy your passport ready to discover even more cafes over the next few months..

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## EVENTS FOR 2026 – DONNA SAXTON

I'm pleased to present an exciting line up of rides and natter nights for 2026.

We, (the committee), have planned the majority of the year's activities, and thank those who have volunteered to organise/host/help.

There are a couple of natter nights currently open and other possibilities in the pipeline. I will send out an update once details are confirmed.

If there is anything you'd like to add, suggest or organise to enhance the enjoyment of all, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. We welcome any ideas so don't be shy! I will do my best to coordinate/assist as necessary.

Our Exmoor trip is now open and hopefully you've all had an email with details on how to book.

*The hotel is holding rooms for us until the 6th March so don't miss out. ☺*

I know we're only at the end of February, but The Falcon is confirmed for our Christmas Party and they are taking bookings if you'd like to stay over.

Here are the confirmed dates with a brief description. Always check in with the events page on the website where you will find the most up to date information, routes, etc.

<https://www.wham-motorcycling.org/events/>

### Events Calendar 2026

March 25th	Natter Night	Bike & Brew passport event.
April 29th	Natter Night	Wham Quiz – Hosted by last year's victors!
May 10th	Alex's Ride	
May 27th	Evening Ride	– ending with a social at The Falcon, Bromyard.
May 29th – 31st	Exmoor Trip	Raleghs Cross Inn, Watchet.
June 20th	Slow Riding Day	
June 24th	Evening Ride	– ending with a social at The Falcon.
July 29th	Evening Ride	– ending with a social at The Falcon.
August 26th	Evening Ride	– ending with a social at The Falcon.
September 30th	Natter Night	Music Quiz
October 28th	Natter Night	Subject TBC
November 25th	Natter Night	Subject TBC
December 18th	Christmas Party	at The Falcon.

Looking forward to enjoying the year with you all,  
Donna.

Contact: 07795 252979 or [dsaxton@btinternet.com](mailto:dsaxton@btinternet.com)

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## WHAM COMMITTEE MEETING 17 FEB 2026

Present – Tony Davis, Andrew, Peckston, Donna Saxton, Val Northcote, Ian Fullwood, Richard Hewitt, Jim Rolt, Andy Chambers.

Apologies from Martin Wood and Anne Woods.

### AGENDA

Welcome new roles / Members.

The committee welcomed Ian Fullwood as Vice Chairman, Ian has agreed to take over as chair following successful election at the 2027 AGM

#### Committee Election of Chief Observer

Richard Hewitt was unanimously voted in as chief observer for the second year.

#### Roles and responsibilities

Discussion around the “Events manager” committee position and it was agreed that the role title will change to “Events Coordinator”. This change is open events organisation to the entire membership to get more involved in organising events, they would then be communicated to the events coordinator to advertise etc. Donna Saxton assumes the role of “Events Coordinator”.

The club Secretary is to produce a schedule of committee meetings for the year and circulate to all committee members. Take edit and issue minutes from all committee meetings, produce agendas for those meetings.

#### Events

- Book Falcon for Natter Nights
- Inform Committee of Natter Night Plans (especially Newsletter Editor & Webmaster).
- Ensure details are communicated to Members.
- Ensure any costs are communicated to the Committee
- Liaise with speakers
- Ensure correct equipment will be available (projector, screen, speaker etc).
- Vice Chair -
  - Shadow Current Chair.
  - Attend as many events as possible
  - Stand in for Chair when unavailable

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## Observers

Current trainee observers – Jon Powell, Mark Bonnes and Nick Fowler are currently considered. Discussion around the suitability of potential Observers and the requirement for them to have a natural “coach not tell” style is essential for them to become successful observers

There was discussion around whether Andy Chambers and Donna Saxton would consider retaking their NO tests both Donna and Andy openly discussed the circumstances of their tests and the treatment received from the examiners on the day of their test that lead to them failing to qualification. Both Donna and Andy agreed to further consider a retake but with another examiner, neither would consider taking the NO again with the same examiner.

Discussion around the Observer training Weekend which is to take place at the Metropole Hotel at Llandrindod Wells. The cost of bed and breakfast for the observers is to be covered by club funds as a thank you for the continued commitment in training new associates. Members of the committee that are not observers are also to be included in this event. It is open to all members but at their own cost.

The club also intends to invite our IAM representatives and examiners the cover our patch, this would be 3 or 4 additional places.

## Associate Recruitment

It was discussed how few associates hard come through in 2025, there was discussion around the cost increase and how that may have contributed to low numbers, also the current economic climate may also be affecting the numbers. We currently have 14 active observers. Last year just 2 new associated came via IAM the resulting number via our club advertising and word of mouth. Discussion around the use of WHAM open Facebook page to assist in recruitment of new associates. The ABR weekend is also to offer taster rides, WHAM might also hold a promotional taster day at some point in the year.

## 2026 Programme - Events and firm dates, or to be confirmed.

There was discussion around a trip to Normandy, however, this year is an anniversary year and there is no suitable accommodation for this year. Events manager to look to book for 2027.

February 25th Natter night, it was agreed that it would be purely a social event for a pint and some banter.

March 25th Natter Night, Bike and Brew, details to follow (Val Northcote organising)

April Observer weekend suggested 18th/19th April, TBC

April 29th Natter Night, Bike quiz, (Mark Bonnes organising)

May 10th Alex Hoyle Memorial Ride, as last year, Metropole Hotel for Breakfast (To be confirmed)

May 27th Evening Ride out and natter at the Falcon

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May 29th – 31st Exmoor Weekend, Deadline for booking rooms is 6th March Donna Saxton to email membership ASAP.

June 20th Slow riding day (Andrew Cully to confirm the date). The club is to purchase a new gazebo with club logo and colours (Andrew Peckston to investigate).

June 24th Evening Ride and natter at the Falcon

June 26th 27th & 28th Shared presence at the ABR festival with BAM RAMG etc. At Ragley Hall and The Piston Club, further details to follow.

June 29th Evening Ride out and natter at the Falcon.

August 26th Evening Ride out and natter at the Falcon

September - North Wales (To be confirmed)

September 30th Natter night and Music Quiz, (Ian Barnard organising)

October 28th Natter Night (Subject to be confirmed)

November 25th Natter Night (Subject to be confirmed)

December 18th WHAM Christmas Party at the Falcon (Booked)

## AOB

Val Northcote raised the difficulties she has with email communication and asked about having a Whatsapp committee group, it was fully discussed and agreed that one method of communication was required, and the majority voted to keep email as the single method.

First Biker on the Scene - Jon Powell had been on this course and has agreed to investigate to possibility of a club booking.

Club to purchase a new gazebo screen written with WHAM logo etc.

Items from the AGM

Refunding master retest – The policy for Master retest refund we don't currently have a full policy, Andrew Peckston and Richard Hewett, to configure previous discussion, formulate a policy and return to the committee before republishing, the policy is to be reviewed annually, to be added to the agenda for the February committee meeting.

Ian Fullwood's grandson to come and talk about Atlantic crossing at one of the natter nights.

AC to add a Newsletter Item to prewarning membership of upcoming committee meetings to allow the membership to raise items.

## SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2026

To comply with the IAM constitution the committee should hold a minimum of 3 meetings a year, the below ensures our compliance.

### Welcome Committee Meeting

Tuesday February 17th – First welcoming committee meeting to be held at the Falcon Hotel Bromyard.

### Pre Slow Riding Day Committee Meeting

Tuesday May 19th 7pm - Via Teams Conference Call - SRD (1 Month before the event on the 20th June). More time allowed to ensure all requirements are met in the planning of the event.

### Pre ABR Festival Committee Meeting

Tuesday 2nd June 7pm – Via Teams Conference Call – ABRF (3 Weeks before event on 26th, 27th & 28th June)

### Pre Christmas Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24th November 7 Pm – Via Teams Conference Call – (3 weeks before the event on the 18th December)

The committee may choose to meet in person if preferred or required

## WHAM – MASTER’S COURSE REBATE (FEBRUARY 2026)

### Process

The offer of the Master’s course rebate is open to full active WHAM members. Active members are defined as regularly taking part in Sunday rides, organising events, and generally being actively involved. This is ultimately at the discretion of the WHAM committee.

Once the candidate has been accepted on to the programme by IAMRS training will commence. On successful completion of training the candidate will notify the Treasurer that they have been cleared as “Test Ready” which will in turn triggers a 50% rebate which will be paid by bank transfer.

### Footnote

For clarity, the above process/offer applies only to the first iteration of a Masters course and does not apply to any retests taken for any reason including ‘first time fails’.

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## VALVE CLEARANCES- JIM ROLT

Triumph twins have a scheduled valve clearance check at 20,000 miles, and the clown bike is showing that sort of mileage. How much does it cost? Well, various quotes are available starting at about £300 (check only) to, well, the sky's the limit. Really.

Not to be deterred, this is clearly an opportunity, an opportunity to increase my modern day bike skills and knowledge. How hard can it be, considering I was an apprentice at the Triumph/BSA company in the late 60s?



Ah, such fond memories.. I loved that job, shame the company management couldn't keep up with the Japanese makers.

Anyway, I digress; actually, it's not that hard, the most difficult part is remembering where all the electrical connectors fit when the time comes to reassemble. It's off with the tank (special tool needed to disconnect the fuel hose [£7] ) and remove a fair bit of clutter from above the engine so the cam cover can be wriggled out. Then it's simple arithmetic to measure the valve clearances with a feeler gauge and change the shims of any that are out of limit.

It's a good job I didn't skip this maintenance as all the inlet valves were tight. Ebay provided the correct shims for about £15 and it all went back together fine. I did use the proper workshop manual and an accurate torque wrench!

Am I going to keep doing my own maintenance? You bet! With adjustment necessary I doubt I

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would have much change out of £500, as it was I have about £470 change, and the satisfaction of a better understanding of how it all works. Happy riding all..



Jim



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