

# WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



MAY 2018



## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I've ridden a lot in the last 3 weeks. Perhaps too much?

With day trips to London WC1 and Fountains Abbey (in the rain), yesterday to meetings in Stratford, Leamington, Rugby & Bletchley Park and today Shrewsbury & Tamworth. In the meantime I've ridden with my associate and taken a couple of 'free tasters'.

Crikey that's over 1000 miles – no wonder my tyres are getting to the point where a new set is required.

All this mileage puts me at greater risk. Which I guess makes sense: the more miles you ride the greater the chance of an "interaction" with someone who isn't looking, or on the phone, or distracted by something else so not focussing on their driving. It's also true of my riding, I have to concentrate and not become complacent. But that's where advanced riding is important – not only in my safe progress, my "roadcraft", but in a self-awareness of my own performance. That's why I've signed up for the Masters – something to add focus to my riding...and a little nervousness to!

In the meantime I'm looking forward to our Slow Riding Day and the summer Natter Night evening rides. I might even see if I can use our 'WhatsApp' group to set up an ad hoc weekday ride....watch this space!

Finally some good news – the Safer Roads Partnership will be funding each of the local IAM groups, including WHAM, with £500 to support our activities.

Ant Clerici



**iAM**  
RoadSmart

Official Provider

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

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR  
THE IAM OR WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



## CHIEF OBSERVERS COLUMN

This month I thought I would include a couple of YouTube videos, on the grounds that a picture speaks a thousand words.

The first link is from a US website called MC rider, and although the site is American, all that he talks about applies to us here in the UK.

If you don't want to listen to the intro blurb then jump the 1.11 where he starts talking about position and relative vehicle size.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfeKk9co5VQ&feature=youtu.be>

Also, if you have been to any of the Biker Down courses, that show images of bikers against different backgrounds, then these images really bring home the importance of having many and varied colours whilst on the bike.

Being all in black, against a mainly black background, on a black bike, does not help, but add a white or yellow helmet, and some yellow reflective strips or a tabard, and the overall picture improves no end. Try and think about how you appear to other road users, and how you might improve this view.



The second video is from a UK site called Roadcraft Nottingham. He is a UK bike instructor, and in this video, he is talking about Distracted Drivers. He goes on to talk about how we might spot the many and varied signs that drivers are becoming distracted whilst driving. Personally, I like this chap and his videos, I think he talks a lot of sense.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNFFG\\_R95LI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNFFG_R95LI&feature=youtu.be)

This is the first time I have tried including live links, so I hope it works. If you liked it, or didn't like it, please let me know for next time.

Alex Hoyle Chief Observer (Hereford)

## MOROCCO BLOG—A WHEELER & CONWAY PRODUCTION PART 4

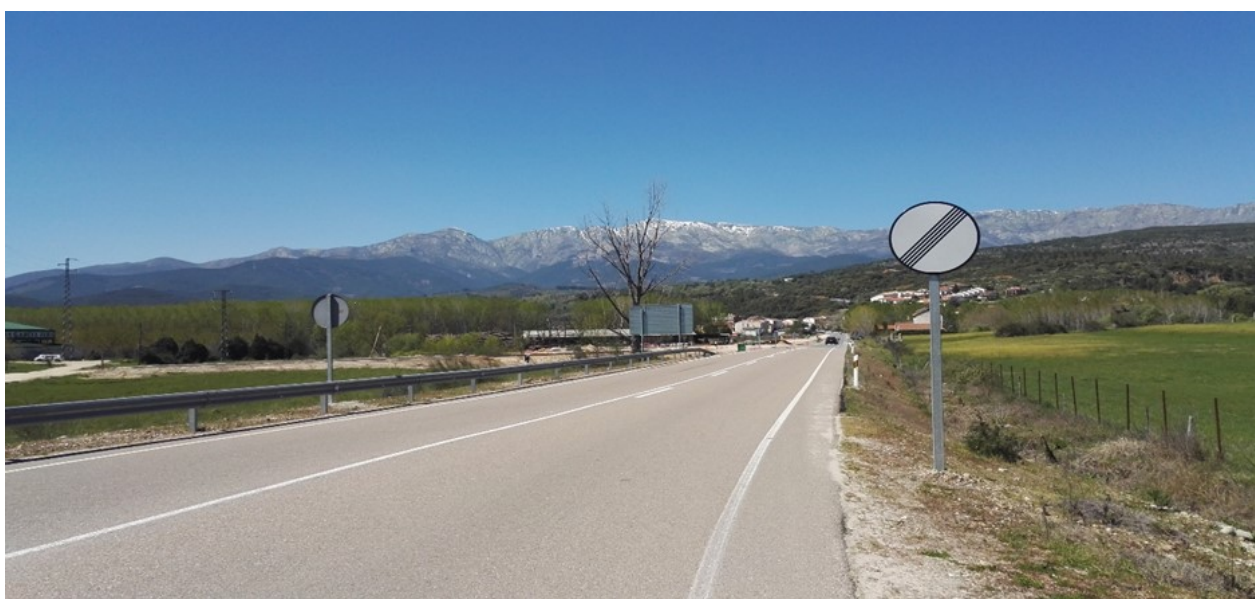


After 4 hours Willie found a police station – and managed to get the 4pm boat so should be with us for midnight! He arrived at 11pm so not too bad.

Cordoba is such a beautiful city. Must come back!

### Day 14. Cordoba to Salamanca – 312 miles

Great night in Cordoba, which is noted as a must to revisit. After a very nice breakfast (not just pancakes and scrambled egg) we head off at 9am. 70 miles later we are in the Extremadura region clear blue skies shellgrip surfaced mountain roads - wow these bikes can bank over.... The odd peg to floor serves as a reminder to back off so I let Dave (yoda) pass - a veteran mountain pass rider.



**iAM**  
RoadSmart

Official Provider

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

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR  
THE IAM OR WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS





## MOROCCO BLOG—A WHEELER & CONWAY PRODUCTION PART 4



Its 12noon and after 125 miles we stop for coffee. It's also heating up now so lots of water stops. Very, very full day of exceptional quality mountain roads.

We arrive in Salamanca at 6pm and feel surprising fresh - probably due to the adrenalin and a good local lunch - bean soup, steak and chips and fresh fruit - although turned down the house wine.

Off for a look around the town.



**iAM**  
RoadSmart

Official Provider

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

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR  
THE IAM OR WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



# MOROCCO BLOG—A WHEELER & CONWAY PRODUCTION PART 4

## Day 15. Salamanca to Suances 265miles

For our last days adventure riding in Spain we head into the Pico mountains and further North so expecting temperatures to drop.

Sure enough its cooler, much cooler. As we get on the motorway temperatures drop to 5degrees and before we stop for coffees its 4degrees. As we head towards the Picos we expect -4!! Heated gloves and boots reapplied. It's 12.00 and we have covered 160miles mainly across the open plains so very windy, and snow capped mountains are visible in the distance.



.....we enter the Picos and WOW what a place to ride, sweeping roads, shell grip and stunning scenery!!





## MOROCCO BLOG—A WHEELER & CONWAY PRODUCTION PART 4



Speed builds but safety maintained - tyres grip so well!



**But - disaster strikes!**

Steve the tour leader slides off on a sharp left hand bend as his rear wheel locks up = broken leg !

As John say – you're a long way from home to have a tumble! On the positive side, at least we weren't at the top of a mountain in the middle of Morocco. The police and ambulance arrive in 45 minutes and after a week in hospital Steve is flown home and has since made a full recovery.

## MOROCCO BLOG—A WHEELER & CONWAY PRODUCTION PART 4



### Day 16. Short ride to ferry

Short 60 miles ride to the port. As we queue we get chatting to fellow bikers and share our stories before boarding.



Ship sales away on calm waters with the sun shining. Sickness tablet taken just in case but it is not needed. Have a fab 3 course meal with my new mates, what better way to finish off the trip?!

### Reflection

What an adventure! We have ridden through rain, sleet, snow, sub zero temperatures, crossed mountains and continents, ridden to Africa and circumnavigated Morocco.

We have experienced the heat and winds of the Sahara desert and its freezing nights.

We have stayed in some fabulous hotels and also experienced the hospitality of the native Berbers.

## MOROCCO BLOG—A WHEELER & CONWAY PRODUCTION PART 4



We have enjoyed riding some of the best quality roads in Europe and some of the most challenging in Morocco. Thanks to our bikes we have also ventured into the mountain tracks to explore the hidden treasures of the Moroccan landscape.

We have also really gotten to know our bikes capabilities and sadly their limits!

At times it's been tough going and of course families have been missed but I can honestly say this has been an **experience of a lifetime** with priceless memories, as well as 100s of photos and videos!

Huge thanks to John Conway and Dave Newbury for inviting me along. Respect to Steve Fletcher of Atlas tours for putting together such a life changing adventure for which I'm truly grateful. And lastly thanks to my wife Carol for continuing to support me doing what I love!

**Get out there and do it while you can - you only live once...!**





# Moto Mates

## Confidence Inspires Safety

Moto Mates: Bringing together experienced riders with a few spare hours a month to mentor fresh riders wanting a confidence boost.



Just taken a CBT?  
Just passed a Direct Access Course?  
Returning to riding after a break?

Questions about filtering?  
Searching for answers about riding?  
Perhaps you want to know how to  
maintain a chain, check or change  
your brakes?



TURN TO A MOTO MATE.

## MOTO MATES—WILL HOPKINS

In the current motorcycle license climate there are two principal legal ways that new riders can end up on two wheels. By taking a CBT (that's Compulsory Basic Training for the pre-Dec 1990 riders) course and riding on L plates or using the Direct Access Scheme and taking the various tests involved in obtaining a licence – or if failing, staying on L-plates.

Although DAS riders are eligible to take up further training with either BikeSafe, RoSPA or IAMRoadSmart, CBT riders are not able to take advantage of these additional advanced rider training schemes since both require a full licence obtained after a test pass. In addition, the sheer definition of the word puts off some riders as feeling they need more experience before considering themselves capable of being an “advanced” rider and still other riders are put off by their perception of the advanced rider organisations.

Riders are of course fully able to take additional training with the people who gave them their initial training, but this of course costs money and most riders – especially younger riders – do not want or most likely cannot afford to take this up. This means there is a gap that these riders can fall through and one that Moto Mates aims to add some filler to.

Will Hopkins is starting up the Moto Mates project to bring together experienced riders who have a few hours a month or more to spare to act as mentors for fresh riders, whether they have just completed a CBT, passed a test after a DAS or indeed are returning to riding after a long layoff.

This is not a training program and is not affiliated with WHAM or the IAM and mentors do not have to have any riding qualifications to take part. All we will be asking for is either 3 years regular riding or 10,000+ miles of experience. The intention of the program is in the name. If a rider needs a confidence boost or questions about riding or bikes answered, the idea is they can turn to a mate.

To launch Moto Mates, there will be a slow riding skills event – modelled on, sorry stolen from, the WHAM calendar – on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June (the week after WHAM's event) at the Arle Court Park & Ride in Gloucester, next to Cotswold BMW.

For any further information, including expressions of interest, contact Will Hopkins on 07446 232739, [will@motomates.co.uk](mailto:will@motomates.co.uk) or visit the website at [www.motomates.co.uk](http://www.motomates.co.uk)



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

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR  
THE IAM OR WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS





## MONGOLIA BLOG—BY JEM, MENNA AND LILI PART 3

Next afternoon we arrived at the city of Moron. Time for a couple of nights in a comfortable hotel with wifi so that Lili could stock up books on her Kindle – she read about 20 books on our trip. On an outing into the steppes from Moron we went to see a group of ‘deer stones’, possibly 2-3000 years old and very impressive.



From Bulgan we headed away from tarmac and towards Tsagan Nur, the white lake. Finding the way was mostly fairly straightforward, along grassy plains, crossing stony rivers, with a few snack breaks on larch clad hillsides.



## MONGOLIA BLOG—BY JEM, MENNA AND LILI PART 3



A couple on a bike joined us for a dry doughnut and a roadside chat, and the charismatic fellow was very happy to be given a pair of goggles.

It was Jem's turn for a puncture next, on top of a high rocky hill, again not a good place for a repair. He and Lili pushed and manoeuvred the bike for a kilometre or so to a more sheltered spot lower down where we camped.





## MONGOLIA BLOG—BY JEM, MENNA AND LILI PART 3

That evening a man on a bike rode up to our camp to see if we needed help. He had come over 20km from the next village, having been told by one of the very few passing motorists that there was a bike in trouble. He also warned us about snakes. It was quite difficult to communicate clearly that we could sort out the puncture ourselves, then thinking this was ungrateful and saying that, yes please, could he help... by which time he had ridden away in mid-sentence.



At his village, Shine-ider, the next morning we found him in his tyre-repair shed where he happily mended the inner tube .



## MONGOLIA BLOG—BY JEM, MENNA AND LILI PART 3

Another day of wonderful roads and awe-inspiring landscape took us to a village called Jargalant. As we approached we could see the huge blaze of a wooden house on fire. With no emergency services to help, hopefully it didn't spread to its close neighbours.





## MONGOLIA BLOG—BY JEM, MENNA AND LILI PART 3

We camped by the river under enormous larch trees, helped by a bottle of Blue Nun. A cavalcade of 8 speedy, lycra-clad, beer guzzling Taiwanese cyclists set up camp nearby and to our amazement squeezed into two micro-tents.



## MONGOLIA BLOG—BY JEM, MENNA AND LILI PART 3

A great day of exciting roads led us towards the lake, but after about 50km our progress was hampered by a broken clutch cable on Menna's bike. We didn't have any way of fixing or repairing it, so we swapped bikes and carried on. Jem was very heroic and adept at coping without a clutch and Menna enjoyed having Lili as a pillion.



We eventually got to the lake and stopped at a ger to see whether they could help with the cable. Two lads and a younger sister tried their very best and ate all our sweet collection, but there was no way of fixing it, so we carried on to find somewhere to buy provisions, which was said to be 25 sandy kilometres and several river crossings further on round the lake. Jem got a little damp and annoyed at one of them.

We came upon a ger camp and decided to treat ourselves, the shop being only a kilometre further on. The shop had potatoes, blueberries and beer and the ger had a wood stove, so we were sorted! Fried potatoes for supper was a superb

alternative to noodles, and Lili had become addicted to cooked blueberry slush.



**iam**  
RoadSmart

Official Provider

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

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR  
THE IAM OR WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS





# BIKER DOWN 2018



## Upcoming Biker Down courses in West Mercia:

- Sunday 20th May 2018 – Bromsgrove Fire Station, Worcestershire (10am-1pm)
- Saturday 17th June 2018 – Peterchurch Fire Station, Herefordshire (10am-1pm)
- Friday 7th September 2018 – Bromsgrove Fire Station, Worcestershire (10am-1pm)
- Saturday 22nd September 2018 – Shrewsbury (10am-1pm)
- Sunday 7th October 2018 – Telford (10am-1pm)
  
- A limited number of places are available on each course. If you would like to attend one of these courses, please email:

[Roadsafety1@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Roadsafety1@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. We will confirm if you have a space on the course and confirm location and details for the day.