



# EXHAUST



# NOTES

IAM Group: 1250

**March 2007**

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As 90% of WaBAM's members are on the Internet, Exhaust Notes has been designed so that it can be viewed page by page when distributed electronically. This is why the format of the paper copies is unusual - turned on its side, so to speak.

*Cover concept by Martyn Jeffries. Picture copyright Dynamo Humm, Canada ([www.dynamohumm.com](http://www.dynamohumm.com))*

The opinions expressed in this or any other newsletter published by the Wilts & Bath Advanced Motorcyclists, are those of an individual or of the editor. They should not be taken to represent the views of the IAM, its officers or the WaBAM committee unless stated otherwise. The articles are published in good faith and every effort is made to ensure that the details are correct at the time of printing.

**Members should seek confirmation of event details prior to attending since, regrettably, last minute changes are sometimes necessary.**



# The Chairman Rites

Martyn Buckland

For the first blethering from me this year, lets start with an apology – sorry folks, normally you get a small '*Chairman Rites*' and a big '*Ad Cam*'. This time it's the opposite way round due to the need to tell you, er, 'stuff'.

In an attempt to gain your attention, I've decided to insert **DUCATI 1098**, **ANGELINA JOLIE**, **BRAD PITT** (for the girls) and **FREE BEER** into this contribution. They have absolutely nothing to do with the rest of '*Chairman Rites*' but hey, at least



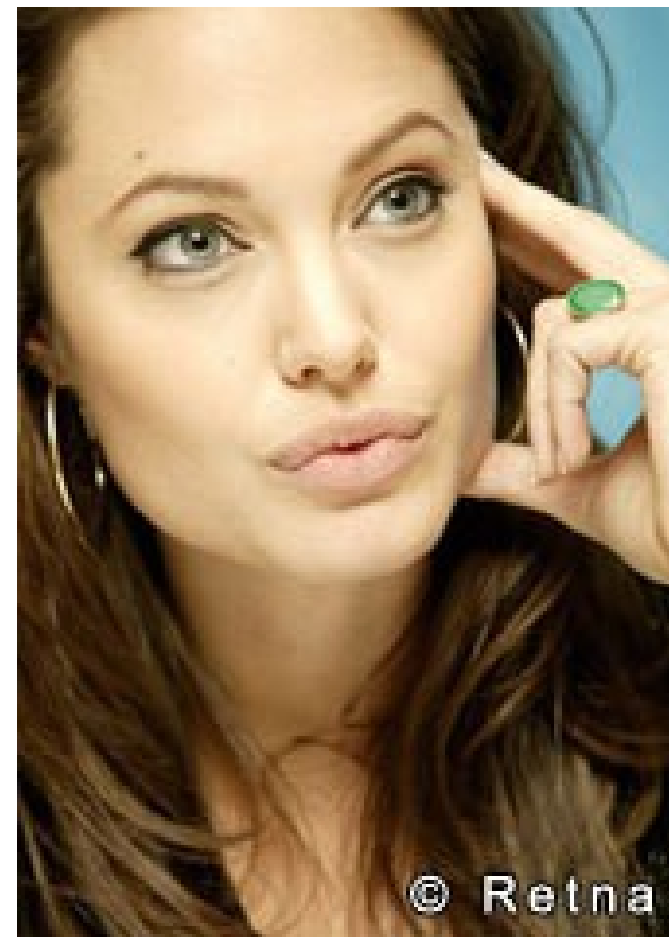
**Ducati 1098 parked snugly in Martyn's fantasy garage**

you've read down to here at least. Result!

Settle down now. I'm writing this in February, well in advance of our second Annual General Meeting. Blimey, there goes another year! And a good 'un for **WaBAM** at that, but I'll save that for the AGM.

Now, I know only a minority of our Membership have an interest in who's doing what at Group Committee level, but I'd be failing in my job if I didn't keep you up to date with how things are shaping up wouldn't I?

I'm anticipating several changes in the make-up of the Committee for the 2007/8 year. Some people want a change of role, some want a break altogether and I'm glad to say that some people would like to join us and in one notable case, **rejoin** the Committee after having taken a break



**Angelina Jolie, pictured shortly before winning the Senior TT last year – at least from **WaBAM** duties (yes, thank you, we know he's mad).**

First, a note of thanks to the people that are leaving the Committee. **Huw Doman** is standing down as Group Rides Co-ordinator. Huw was a Founder Member of **WaBAM**, led our first Group Ride in May 2005 and many since. With the delights of his latest run to Wales fresh in my memory (much of which I'm surprised I wasn't aware of, despite so many



**Brad Pitt** – 'knows someone with a motorcycle' – allegedly

rides out to the Abergavenny area), I can safely say that Huw's eye for a good road is unsurpassed. Thanks Huw from everyone that's enjoyed our monthly ride schedule.

Another Founder Member leaving us is **Mike Godfrey** – who has put together this and the previous editions of 'Exhaust Notes' since the Group's creation. Mike has decided he needs a break and, indeed, has hung up his riding boots even – temporarily we hope. Being a Newsletter Editor is one of the great unsung roles in any Committee. It takes a lot of cajoling to get anything worth printing out of you lot and he's done a great job over the last two years in getting our quarterly editions out on time with content that's both relevant and interesting. Thanks Mike, I'm sure you'll be pleased never to have to edit another 'Adverse Camber' again!

**CHRISTINA AGUILERA.** *Sorry, some of you were dropping off there!*  
As well as Huw and Mike's depart-



**Christina Aguilera: Knee-down action lover**

ures, quite a few of us are standing down from our present positions to have a change of role. **Nick Atkins** is standing down as a Treasurer – he'd like to have a crack at being Web-master as **Stuart Price** is also looking for a change. However, we know that many of you have internet skills so if you fancy having a crack, let us know, he's quite happy to do something else!

**Steve Townsend** and **Peter Hawkes** both want a change which means we need someone to organise Social Events and meetings. The

Publicity Manager plays an important part in getting the Group plenty of exposure and attracting Associates.

Thanks to all these folk for what they have done over the last two years. They've all done a great job, evidence the state of **WaBAM** today!

Then there is yours truly. I told you last year that I wouldn't do a third term, firmly expecting that there'd be at least one person who'd want to be Chairman. Seems I was wrong – at least at the time of writing! Bottom line is that I don't know what's going to happen now. Surely there's **someone** who can do a better job than me – please?!

A familiar face making a welcome return is **Iain Gauld**. He'd like a crack at taking the Associate Co-ordinator's role off **Bill Ferrol** who currently does both that job and that of Group Secretary. Bill will continue as Secretary with **Les Snelgrove** as



**Jude Law pictured yesterday, size 50 helmet out of shot – Fancied for WSB Champion in 2008?**

Membership Secretary. That is unless **you'd** like to have a bash ...?\* It'll be good to have him back on the Committee, whatever he ends up doing!

We've also had a couple of volunteers come forward to join us on the Committee next year – thanks

**Chris Riley** and **Nigel Lavender** – two people dropping out and three coming in is not a problem! We always need more help though so if you think you can help us out, let one of the Committee know. How about some of you ladies – it's not supposed to be a male bastion you know? All right, I'll throw in **JUDE LAW** – OK?

Before I sign off, just a quick line to wish a speedy recovery to **Mike Cummin**, one of our Observers. Mike had the misfortune to have a heart attack at the end of February so we wish him a speedy recovery, as do we for all of our number who are in the health doldrums.

And for the rest of us fortunate enough to be able to ride and enjoy our bikes, have a great year's motorcycling!

'Oi! Where's the Free Beer then?' Oh, all right ...



\* Remember, although I've lined up a few names/roles, we are nothing if not a democratic organisation so, if you'd like to have a bash at something, please get in touch, we're very flexible!

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# Editor's Notes

Mike Godfrey

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For some reason this, my final *Exhaust Notes*, has proved more difficult to assemble than most. No reports of fantastic rides or visits to foreign parts (well, it is winter), a lot of interesting stuff emerging in Committee meetings (but not enough on any one topic for an article) and, finally, a glitch when the draft was 75% ready that made the entire master file unreadable.

Anyway, I've recovered the corrupted file and decided to fill this page with the scraps of information I pick up at Committee meetings (if I get anything wrong – blame the poor acoustics).

Firstly, there's some HQ stuff. IAM House took over the administration of Associates memberships last April.

This is good news, as trying to keep track of whether people were still members of IAM and of the Group when one membership was renewable on an anniversary and the other at a fixed time of year was a bit of a nightmare.

IAM HQ has also been pushing RideCheck – where punters pay £30 for a one hour assessed ride but get a £25 discount on their Skills for Life package if they sign up within 30 days (the remaining £5 is a contribution to the Observer's expenses). We can still give Public Assessed Rides but punters will only get a verbal assessment and IAM HQ isn't publicising them.

We have another intrepid journalist lined up for a pillion trip on an Observer's bike, this time from

Swindon.

The most exciting news, in my view, is that two Committee members, Stu and Les, have made contact with groups of riders interested in the Skills for Life concept.

Stu Price has made contact with an enthusiastic group of Wiltshire riders, many of whom are at the 125cc stage. Several have already had Public Assessed Rides with Stu and a few have already applied for Skills for Life. Well done that man!

Les Snelgrove has received an enquiry from an MoD group that wants to do Skills for Life. That's 20 people all at once – it's just as well that the fore-thoughtful Ken Fryer has been planning and pushing to expand our Observer numbers!

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by order of the Group Committee that the second Annual General Meeting of **WILTSHIRE and BATH ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS** will be held at 11:00 a.m. on 21 April 2007 at the Wiltshire Police Headquarters in Devizes to enable the Trustees of the Group Registered Charity No 1113042 to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 for approval by the Group Members and to conduct an election.

Secretary's Name: WILLIAM ALEXANDER FERROL

Date: 13 March 2007

Address: 43 Yewstock Crescent West  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire SN15 1QX

Group No. 1250

All Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only Fully Paid-Up Members of the IAM and of the Group may vote. A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a Full Member of the Group.

**CURRENT OFFICERS** – All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election. (Group Rule 3.4)

Martyn Buckland	Chairman	Offering to <b>stand</b> for re election
Bill Ferrol	Secretary	Offering to <b>stand</b> for re election
Nick Atkins	Treasurer	Offering to <b>stand</b> for re election

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** – One third of the Committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually and may offer themselves for re election. (Group Rule 3.4)

**A. RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION**

Peter Hawkes      Publicity Manager

**B. RETIRING BY ROTATION AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION**

Huw Doman	<i>Rides Coordinator</i>	Bill Ferrol	<i>Associates Coordinator</i>
Mike Godfrey	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Stuart Price	<i>Webmaster</i>
Steve Townsend	<i>Social Secretary</i>		

**C. COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING & NUMBER OF YEARS REMAINING**

Ken Fryer	<i>Chief Observer</i>	1
Les Snelgrove	<i>Membership Secretary</i>	2

**WILTSHIRE and BATH ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS**

**Registered Charity No. 1113042**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**21 April 2007**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** for absence
2. **Minutes** of the 2006 AGM
3. **Matters Arising** from the 2006 AGM
4. **Amendments** or adjustments to this agenda
5. **Chairman's** report
6. **Treasurer's** report and adoption of accounts
7. **Election** of Officers
8. **Election** of Committee
9. **Address** by new chairman, president etc.
10. **Any other business** (properly the business of the AGM)

**NOTES:-**

1. Questions from Members will be invited following each report.
2. Voting by Full Group Members only.

**Resolutions:-**

1. That the Minutes of the 2006 AGM be approved as a true record.
2. That the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 be approved.
3. That the Committee be authorised to change the subscription for 2008 if it is deemed necessary (a limiting amount can be inserted).

## COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

As notified separately, the AGM is being held on 21 April 2007.

Nominations are invited from Full Members to stand for committee. The Nominee must be willing to stand for the Committee and sign the Nomination Form. By signing the Nomination Form the Nominee is affirming his/her ability and intention, if elected, to attend committee meetings regularly.

**Please note** – You may not stand for the Committee if the law debars you from being a Charity Trustee.

Only Fully Paid-Up Members of the IAM and of the Group may nominate Committee Members or be nominated as Committee Members.

This Nomination Paper must be returned to the Group Secretary at least seven days before the election – i.e. by 14 April 2007. (Rule 3.5)

Those elected Officers become Charity Trustees of the Group.

### OFFICERS

Name	Position	Nominated by	Seconded by	Signature of Nominee
	CHAIRMAN			
	SECRETARY			
	TREASURER			

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Position	Nominated by	Seconded by	Signature of Nominee
	Chief Observer			
	Membership Secretary			
	Publicity Manager			
	Newsletter Editor			
	Webmaster			
	Social Secretary			
	Rides Coordinator			
	Associates Coordinator			

**NOTE:** - The total number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty.



## Adverse Camber

Martyn Buckland

I know a lot of you sent me the link to sign the on-line petition about road charging but I have to say that I didn't do it. Don't get me wrong, I'm not keen to pay more, have my whereabouts known all the time or any of that stuff. But what I don't like either is a plea based on misleading information and I have to say that much of the stuff that came along with the petition request was total bollox.

Considering it was all about road pricing you'd think it was a question about whether we're going to pay or not. Given that you are going to have to pay something – as we do now – most people believe that road users

who use the roads more should pay more. So, if that's the case, how do you do it fairly unless it's by tolls and road usage pricing? The only alternative I can think of is fuel tax – and we've been there before if you remember the truckers' actions a few years back.

As for privacy, if you think that you're not already under surveillance better think again. It's old hat. If you think that we can use the roads for nothing, you're naive, it's just a question of how and when we pay. I honestly believe that we are one of the last generations that will be riding and driving the way we know it now, but not because of any government

edict. It'll be because future generations will be 'socially responsible' and find other ways of getting whatever enjoyment we currently derive from our way of life on the roads. Sure, they'll find a way of superseding fossil fuels but I think that necessity will remove our ability to go where we want, when we want and how fast we want.

Depressing? Perhaps. Enjoy the current state of affairs while you can and beware of internet campaigns. Sometimes they're not what they seem. If we'd had e-mail in the 1930's we'd probably all be Nazis by now ... .

**Gruppenfuhrer Buckland**

If you love your bike, let it go.  
If it comes back, you high sided ...  
*Groklaw sig.*

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# Making Bikers Safe

From the Gazette and Herald, Chippenham, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Sarah Singleton

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Riding a motorbike is, without a doubt, an exhilarating experience – but it is also potentially very dangerous. This year, up to August 31, four bikers were killed on Wiltshire's roads, another 49 received serious injuries and 107 slight injuries.

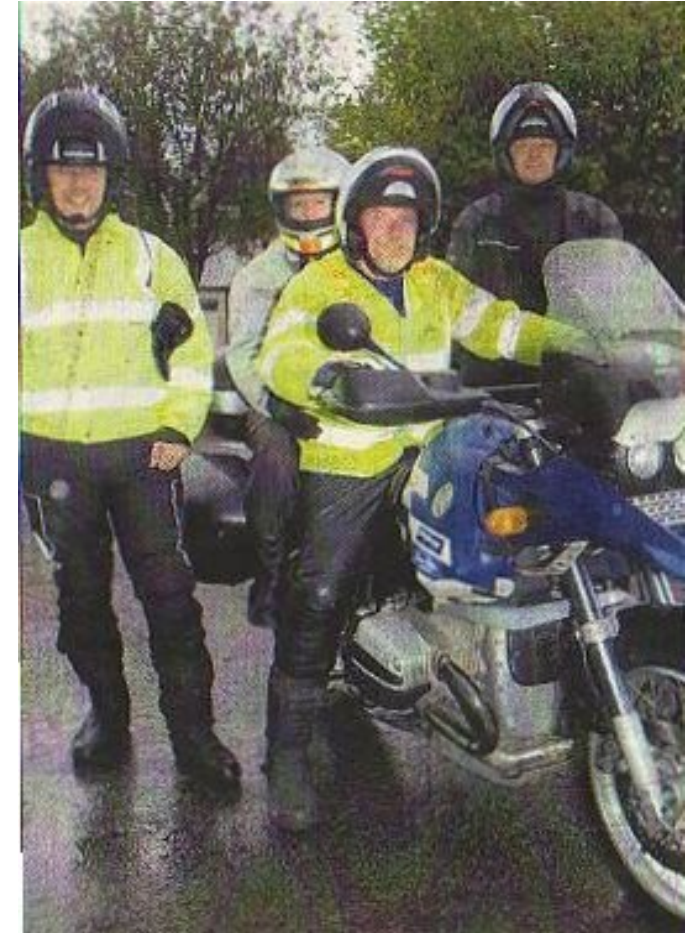
In a bid to keep more riders safe on the roads, the Wilts and Bath Advanced Motorcyclists was set up 18 months ago to equip riders with skills and techniques to help keep them safe on the road. Now the group has 140 members and 45 are currently in training to take a test for the Advanced Motorcycling Certificates.

“The basic motorcycle test is exactly that,” said Senior Observer Martyn Buckland. “It teaches you how to ride a bike to a basic standard. A lot of people took their test a long time ago,

have kept their licence and are now coming back to motorbiking. Many people who join us are in this category and want to develop their skills.” he said.

On a Saturday morning I joined Mr Buckland and his two trainees in Chippenham for an hour-long session to find out what advanced motorcycling involves.

Mr Buckland, 51, from Broughton Gifford, began biking when he was 16 and, after a break, returned to the saddle 15 years ago. He rides a BMW and trained as an Observer and Senior Observer. “It keeps my skills up,” he said. “My psychological profile shows I seek out excitement – this is a good way to keep myself in line, and to put something back.” The course involves at least ten hours observed riding on



**Sarah Singleton clings on behind Martyn Buckland's bike, watched by pupils Bill Thorpe and David Brown**

all types of roads and under a variety of conditions.

Mr Buckland's protégées were Bill Thorpe, 43, a telecommunications consultant from Swindon, and David Brown, 45, who works for a US software company.

Mr Brown went back to motorbiking after an 18-year break and was inspired by a RideSafe day organised by the police. "I've learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed it," he said. "I've learned to be more aware of everything that was going on around me."

Mr Thorpe started riding a motor-

bike two years ago and attended the same BikeSafe day. "I was so impressed by the standard of riding of the police motorcyclists," he said.

The session began in Chippenham, riding through Lyneham and Calne while Mr Buckland subjected the trainees to minute scrutiny. At debriefing sessions he ran through the good manoeuvres and improvements to be made.

The course requires riders to be aware of any potential hazard. It is a challenging test and riders have to be able to recall such details as how

many dogs they pass (off a lead, dogs may be a hazard), manhole covers and vehicles.

The course culminates in a road test, if participants wish to take it. The test lasts around one-and-a-half hours. The pass rate is around 85 percent, after taking the course.

"The examiner is looking for compliance with the Highway Code and speed limits but, over and above that, they are looking for smoothness, confidence and making good progress," said Mr Buckland.

## **Ride-out after the AGM**

There will be ride-out after the AGM – length chosen to suit the time between the end of official business and when the calls for sustenance become too strident to be ignored. A mystery route, ending at a suitable watering-hole.

*(In other words Martyn hasn't told the Editor where he's going in time for publication!)*

If everyone joins in it could be quite impressive!

## **WaBAM Goodies!**

T-Shirts – £10

Polo Shirts – £12

Sweat Shirts – £16

New colours and reworked WaBAM insignia – See them at the AGM

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# Membership Matters

## Members, Associates and Observers

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### Members

At the last count we had 107 full members and six Skills for Life applications in progress. See the **Editor's Notes** for more details of some bulk recruiting activities.

Robert Barker has become our youngest member after passing his test – well done lad!

### Associates

The Associate Coordinator has tried to contact all of the Associates who have

been on WabAM's books for a while. We've discovered that some have dropped out but we still have a healthy number of Associates (35), including four test-ready, at the last count.

### Observers

Ken Fryer has been busy behind the scenes and the Senior Observers, Observers and trainees for both grades are now organised into groups. We have 29 active Observers, with

another 20 coming through. WaBAM is buying HiViz vests and other 'stuff' that they need e.g. copies of the very latest, just published, Highway Code.

With Stuart Price's help a Senior Observers course has been organised, using the IAM's new modular approach. We have six candidates – four new, two refreshers.

Two delegates will attend the IAM's Senior Observer courses in May and September at Portishead.

Congratulations to the following Associates on being recommended for IAM membership:

Paul Byers	(Observer	Francesca Doman)
Jim O'Donovan	(Observer	Stuart Price)
Bill Thorpe	(Observer	Martyn Buckland)
Robert Barker	(Observer	Peter Hawkes)
Brian Barker	(Observer	Keith Johnston)
Ian Wood	(Observer	Jim Torrie)
Tyrone Desmond	(Observer	Neil Moloney)

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## Our Sponsors

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<b>George White Superbike Centre</b>	1-8 Manchester Road Swindon Tel: 01793 716716	<i>Show your current membership card to obtain a 10% discount on accessories, clothing and workshop services.</i>
<b>Artdeans Motorcycle &amp; Scooter Centre</b>	207 Rodbourne Road Swindon Tel: 01793 574800	<i>Show your current membership card to obtain a 10% to 20% discount on accessories and clothing. Ask for details.</i>

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## Events – Regular or Not

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### Group Rides

Now on the third Sunday of each month. Assemble at the Chippenham Little Chef (off the roundabout at the northern end of the by-pass on the A420). Normal meeting time is 09:00, unless there are specific instructions for that ride shown in the 'What's On' web page. These rides are usually all-day affairs where the emphasis is on enjoyment. Routes are planned to include frequent breaks for fuel, comfort and refreshment – and, even, to enjoy the sights.

### Group and Social Meetings

WaBAM meets on the first Saturday of every month at 20:00 (8 p.m.) at the King Alfred Inn. These informal but 'official' monthly Group meetings are a great way of catching up with what's going on and meeting other Group Members and Associates.

There was a reasonable turnout for the February Social, during which four members were officially presented with their Certificates.

The lecture at the end of February had to be cancelled because the

lecturer was called to visit the USA at short notice. The Committee tried hard, but failed to cajole a suitable replacement in the time available. Better luck next time.

There was little interest in the golf event, so it has dwindled into a few companionable rounds (of golf and at the bar?) at Steve's Club.

We need volunteers for various events, such as the Calne Bike Day in July. **Contact a Committee Member if you might be able to help.**



## Group Contact

Les Snelgrove 07837 050713 [group.contact@wabam.org.uk](mailto:group.contact@wabam.org.uk)

## Committee

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