



Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists
Registered Charity 1053330
Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: 13th May 2016

Location: Friends Meeting House
8b Summerfield Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4PR

Time: 20.00

Committee Members Present

Paul Williamson
Tony Robson

Graham Foulkes
Dr. Jonathan Hughes

Apologies

Guest Speaker

Pete Doherty

Nigel Packer
Roy Richards
Roland Sellors

Geoff Davis

Paul opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and thanking them for attending this evening, this the Group's 35th AGM. He also offered a warm welcome to our guest speaker, Pete Doherty Senior Regional Quality Manager.

Paul thanked Group Officers, Committee Members and Observers for their support, and help afforded to him, over the last 12 months.

The minutes of the groups 34th AGM (2015) were distributed to all present and reviewed as a true record of events.

Proposed by: Dr. Jonathan Hughes
Seconded by: Tony Robson

Chairman's Report

Paul welcomed everyone to the 35th AGM of the WAM and thanked them for making the effort to attend.

Next, thanks were given to all of the Groups Observers in recognition of the time they have given to ensure the development of their own and the skills of others and an excellent pass rate demonstrated within the Group throughout the year. Special note was given to the conversion of the GO's to LO's and the success throughout the year.

The Group has attended numerous events including Wombourne Carnival, Himley Classic Car and Transport Show and Himley Mini Show amongst many others. Thanks go to Nigel Packer for his tireless efforts in making sure that the Group has a full agenda of events throughout the year. A second visit has been arranged for the Highways Agency and to Morgan Cars.

Mention was made of the new web-site which was providing continuous up-to-date information for the Group Members.

Throughout the year the Group has drawn closer the Motorcycles Group and are now sharing opportunities with them regarding visits and activities.

In spite of best efforts, the Group has more or less stood still in terms of membership throughout the year. It is expected that this will improve throughout the coming year.

It was asked if anyone would like to take on one of the Groups Officer roles of Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer, such application(s) would be most welcome. (See Election of Officers later in these minutes).

Treasurers' Report

Graham Foulkes reported on the Group Accounts, which are attached; (Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheets). In this subscriptions have increased slightly as overall membership numbers have increased. Insurance is shown at £90 on the report however this was shown prior to the arrival of the bill which has now been received and is £110. This will reflect within the accounts for 2016. Full details of the accounts Sundry Payments are available if required. The Balance Sheet was detailed and questions raised regarding Equipment and what constituted Group Equipment. The Social Fund was covered and questions from the floor covered regarding the figures shown therein.

Thanks were extended from the Group to Ray Kenna (FCA), a long standing member, for compiling and auditing the accounts of the Group. His activities are provided very inexpensively.

Group Secretary's AGM Notes

Meetings and Events averaged one every two to three weeks throughout the Group's active year, comprising of a broad variety of talks and presentations from relevant local and IAM sources as well as Group Associate and Observer Evenings and Group Publicity Days at local venues.

Coming events and meetings appear in issues of the Group Newsletter showing items up to the end of the year. Details are now also available on our new up-to-date Group Website.

Many thanks go to Nigel Packer and Paul Williamson for arranging such a full event schedule also to Jonathan Hughes as our Website Administrator for creating the information facility on-line.

We believe that few Groups offer the diversity, quantity and quality of events to its members that we do. A standing invite is always open to neighbouring Groups and any IAM member and of course, interested members of the public.

Both Wolverhampton Motorcycle Group and Drivers Group have links on their respective websites to interest those accessing to the IAM Advanced Driving and Riding within our catchment areas.

Feedback received from Group Members indicates that our membership is continuing to be happy with what the Group Committee are doing on their behalf.

Contributions from Group Members will always be very much appreciated with suggestions as to talks, events, days out, etcetera.

Our Group Website is a continuing user-friendly, vibrant and current showcase of our Group; a ready reference facility to Members and the public alike. It is always reflecting what we are both doing and will be doing to progress and spread the word on Road Safety. We do hope you are accessing it on a regular basis and making good use of what it offers. The answer to that should, hopefully, be yes! Comments on this Group facility from any source are always welcome.

Observer & Associate Nights continue to be a part of the structured Group year.

All of our Group Observers are in the process of qualifying and being nationally qualified as Local Observers through assessment by our approved Group Local Observer Assessors.

On your behalf the Committee has also attended the following forums and events:

- Regional Group Forum Meetings (Central England & West Wales) at Hindlip Hall
- IAM All-Groups National Conference at Birmingham.
- Himley Hall Classic Car Show

Forthcoming attendances and events are detailed on our website.

As of 31st March 2016 our Group Membership was made up as follows:

We have 65 Full Members and Associates with 4 new Associates currently under enrolment processing.

As a Group we have a steady but continuing member traffic exchange with those who have not stayed at renewal time leaving due to their financial situation or other interests or they were only after the pass or that being a member was a specified part of their job requirement.

We maintain 3 Social Members which is the same as reported at the 2015 AGM.

Overall we have a current total of 72 members of all types.

Through the past 12 months have seen 93% of test applicants pass their Advanced, (previously Skills for Life), test. This against a regional average of 85%. Well done to these members who have passed and of course, their Observers. This reflects on the quality of the Group Observer's skills overall.

Within the Group we currently have 12 Observers of whom 2 are both National Observers and Local Observer Assessors.

IAM Advanced Driving joining Membership fee remains at £149.

The Group Newsletter for Summer 2016 is under compilation and will be issued when complete. (Do remember to keep your Membership Secretary updated with your email and other contact details as the vast majority of our newsletters are issued via email. It is also important to tell the IAM Support Team in London of any changes to your personal details).

The Newsletter is continuing to serve the Group Membership, it is also circulated to IAM Regional Office as well as London Office and other Groups within our Region.

Previous issues back as far as 2000 and up to Spring 2016 are now downloadable from our Group website. This providing a historical reference about our Group and how it has progressed over the past 17 years.

The Newsletter does not write itself; please contribute something motoring or driving orientated or even "thank you" letters from Members who have recently passed their IAM test. We have had some input recently but more is always welcome.

There is a lot of general Group information for you in every issue, not least of which is:

- Committee contact details
- Forthcoming events and talks
- General guidance for Associates

As always, of course, do access our website for the very latest detail as your newsletter is a 'moment in time upon its issue.

Our next Group Meeting is on Wednesday 8th June 2016 starting at 8:00pm when we will be welcoming back Nigel Powers from the West Midlands Police Collision Investigation Team who will be expanding on his talk we had from him in 2014.

Details of this and coming meetings have been published in our Newsletter and of course, are on our Website.

When you access the Events Diary section on our Website you will find a 'Map Pin' graphic next to the detail, if you click on this 'map pin' it will display a location map and travel information for you so making it easier to establish where any event is taking place.

Our next Committee Meeting is on Tuesday 7th June starting at 7:45pm. Any Full or Associate Group Member would be more than welcome to attend this meeting or any of the others scheduled. See our Events Diary on the Website for the meeting location.

Membership Fee's

Paul Williamson raised the possibility to the Meeting of increasing the Group Membership Fee from the current £12 where it had been for a number of years to £13:50. This to accommodate the purchase of new RoadSmart Materials.

Election of Officers

The members present were asked for their nomination forms for group officers for the forthcoming year. The following people were nominated for the roles.

Role	Nomination
Chairman.	Paul Williamson (Voted in Unanimously)
Secretary.	Tony Robson (Voted in Unanimously)
Treasurer.	Graham Foulkes (Voted in Unanimously)

Election of Committee Members Role

There were no other elections required as the remainder of the Committee are on a three-year rotation all of which commenced in 2015.

Guest Speaker

Pete Doherty our Local Senior Regional Quality Manager gave a talk to the Group introducing the reasons for the change from the "old format" to the new RoadSmart format. Reasons for the change to Advanced Driving rather than Skills for Life, the fact that >50% of people who join the IAM leave because they do not want to take the "test" and the processes that the IAM are introducing to increase membership, retain members and provide far greater number of products to the driving public.

There was an active discussion regarding the development of the Observer role and the introduction of the forthcoming "new" standards to the Groups. Chiswick are trying to get more twenty-five to forty year-old Observers within the "system"; this is however proving tough.

Peter discussed the option of using Master's and Observer's "Taster Days" and encouraged the Group to pursue this.

There was a discussion regarding the "Non-Test" option that will be available from July 2016 onwards.

A.O.B.

There was no other business discussed at this meeting.

Next Meeting

The next AGM is scheduled for 10th May 2017 (Start time 7.45pm). Details will be posted on the website and within the Newsletter nearer to the event.

The AGM was closed at 21:00 when the floor was handed to our Guest Speaker