



Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity 1053330

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 7th February 2017.

Location: Wombourne.

Time: 19:45

Present Roy Richards Tony Robson Christine Westwood
Jonathan Hughes David Gallagher Nigel Packer
Paul Williamson (Chair) Graham Foulkes

Apologies None.

1 Action Items

<u>Who</u>	<u>Target Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Status</u>
JH/PW	17.2.2017	To generate a questionnaire regarding the matter of how to make the monthly meetings more interesting for our members (4.6)	Open
JH/PW	10.3.2017	Update the Associate Meeting presentation(s)	Open
JH/TR	17.2.2017	Generate an effective and complete flow-chart detailing the Associate process within the Group. (This to be done in conjunction with a review of the current letter being issued by the Group Secretary when Associates join the Group (6.6)	Open
RR	21.2.2017	Discuss the matter of Observers attending Associate Meetings with their Associates as and when they attended (6.6)	Open
TR	15.2.2017	Double DTE Entry for Francesca Hyett to be resolved with IAM RoadSmart	Closed
PW	7.3.2017	Discussions to be opened with Pritti Patel about the options that may be available for the Group within JLR (6.2)	Open
RR	21.2.2017	Discuss with Observers the need to get Associates to Group Meetings to receive their Certificate (6.6)	Open
RR	17.2.2017	Check stock status of Group Designated IAM RoadSmart Bags. Advise Tony if additional order to be placed. (14.2)	Open
NP	7.3.2017	Contact to be made with West Midlands Police and Road Safety Partnership to establish if they would be willing to provide some degree of sponsorship for young driver courses (7.2)	Open
RR	17.2.2017	Tony to raise order on IAM RoadSmart for additional Observer Handbooks (14) (Read in conjunction with item above (14.2)	Open
TR/JH	1.3.2017	Membership renewal e-mail to be sent to all Members (8.1)	Open
JH	17.2.2017	CEWW Forum Meeting Dates to be added to Group Events Diary (10.3)	Open
JH/DG	17.2.2017	Establish the true costs and benefits of the Group advertising on our own Facebook page. (14.1)	Open
JH	17.2.2017	Contact to be made with Robbie Downing (ASDM) to see if we could preview the changes to the Group Handbook as issued in Draft at the National Conference prior to the CEWW Forum Meeting to be held on 1 st April 2017 (13.1)	Open

Paul commenced by welcoming all present to the meeting.

2 Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous January 2017 meeting were proposed by Jonathan, and seconded by Tony.

3 Chairman's Report

Business cards have now been printed and were distributed to Committee Members.

4 Group Secretary's Report

The Group Scorecard and Web Site Analytics have been circulated to the Committee under separate cover.

4.1

Roy and Jonathan will be attending the CEWW Forum meeting on 1st April; David also asked to attend if he is available on that day. Attendee details to be passed to CEWW Secretary and Area ASDM. From information received it appears that Robbie Downing will be running the forum rather than the CEWW Committee as he has issued the invitations and taken the lead for the day.

4.2

Jonathan advised that following discussion with Robbie Downing that it had been suggested that for the Group AGM we arrange a buffet to attract people to the Meeting and that we use that evening for Robbie to make a presentation to our two Fifty Year Members, Barry Sadler and Peter Spillan.

4.3

Further to discussions regarding Associate Process within the Group, (raised by Roy), it was agreed that the current letter that is sent to new Associates by the Group Secretary should be reviewed to ensure completeness and that as support to that letter, a flow chart should be generated showing all of the stages of the process. Jonathan agreed to action this in conjunction with Tony.

4.4

Tony advised the Committee that he had received a request, via the CEWW Forum, from David Williams of Hereford Advanced Motorists Group for National Observer support for their WI Day to be held on 31st March 2017. Neither Roy or Jonathan could attend this meeting as it is a Friday.

4.5

Advanced Course Statistics

Allocations	Group	Region Avg
Last Month	1	1.6
3 month Average	1	2.1
Last 12 months	21	27.9

Advanced Course Allocated Sales

	Total	Region Avg
Last Month	1	1.5
3 month Avg	0	2.0
Last 12 months	20	28.2

Enrolments	Group	Average Days	Region Avg	Region Avg Days
Last Month	1	73	1.4	30
3 month Average	1	46	2.0	19
Last 12 months	19	24	26.5	25

Test Ready

Last Month	1	359	1.0	191
3 month Average	1	214	1.1	193
Last 12 months	11	190	17.3	191

4.6

In reference to item 4.3 from the January Minutes, Jonathan advised that he had not at this stage progressed the issuing of a questionnaire to the Group Members in relation to "How to make Group Monthly Meetings more attractive to the Membership." In this it was suggested that Jonathan and Paul liaise to establish both a format, (post, e-mail, web-site), and also an approach in this matter.

4.7

Tony expressed concern that the current approach by IAM RoadSmart of sending Certificates direct to the Candidate on their successful completion of their course precluded that Candidate from having any interest in attending a Group Meeting to receive their Certificate. There appears no resolution to this beyond the Observer making the "plea" with the Associate prior to his/her taking their test that they give something back to the Group by attending a brief presentation at the next Group Meeting. It was agreed that this would be raised by Roy at the forthcoming Observers Meeting on 21st February 2017.

5 Treasurers' Report

Graham reported that £500 has been moved from the deposit account to current account as agreed at last meeting. The Group is still in good financial order.

Group Accounts Statement	
Current Account:	£474.36
Social Account:	£153.43
Deposit Account:	£2050.39
Total:	£2678.18

These figures are up to date as of this meeting, though expenses cheques issued to Jonathan and Tony still had to be deposited. (Total value of those two cheques around £100)

6 Chief Observer Report

Roy expressed concern that as a Group we need to be cautious about our management of new Observer applicants in that the numbers of Associates within the Group would not necessarily support all of the Observers in training. It was agreed that in this we should endeavour not to deter the enthusiasm of potential Observers but should handle their IMI application submissions so that we had the maximum amount of time available within the one year cut-off period for an applicant's progress. (This time period set by IMI and IAM RoadSmart).

6.1

It was identified that Christine Westwood's application still had not been processed by IAM RoadSmart to IMI; in this Jonathan was asked to follow up with his contacts to establish status and fix a way forward for Christine.

6.2

Pritti Patel passed her test, (Observer Mike Leadbeater), and is interested in becoming an Observer; in this she has been invited to the forthcoming Observers Meeting to be held on the evening of 21st February 2017.

Pritti works for JLR and as such Paul intends to further discussions with her to see if there are options for WAM to provide Advanced Driving support for them.

6.3

Lee Morris passed his test and got a F1rst, (Observer Paul Williamson).

6.4

Richard Dodds has been through his pre-test drive and is now marked as test ready at IAM RoadSmart. It is hoped that he will get a good pass, perhaps even a F1rst.

6.5

Barry Sadler has advised that Francesca is now progressing well despite her previously shaky start. It is understood that she is also interested in becoming an Observer should she pass her test.

6.6

Neil Mason had a pre-test run and was considered to be "Test Ready" however it is understood that he has now approached his previous Group in Congleton and has been allocated an Examiner within that area. Tony confirmed that he is no longer within Wolverhampton Group.

6.7

There was discussion about the need for Associates to attend at least one Associate Meeting at which theory was covered. It was agreed that we should not allow pre-test drives to be undertaken until Associates have attended at least one Associate Meeting. Paul said information should be entered in the Associate's Log Book.

Jonathan suggested that we should split Associates Meetings into two parts. Paul said we could run eight meetings a year, he expressed concern that whilst Associates would attend one meeting they might not attend two. It was felt that if Associates were advised that they were expected to attend two meetings during their training then they would do so especially since it was agreed that the average number of runs for an Associate was typically twelve over a three-month period.

There was discussion about the “need” for Observers to attend the Associate Meetings with their Associates. No consensus was reached in this matter Paul thinking that as volunteers the Observers may see this as an unwanted imposition. With this being the case it was agreed that the matter would be raised at the forthcoming Observers Meeting on 21st February 2017.

Further discussions took place about the need to update the current Associate Meeting presentation(s). In this Jonathan and Paul agreed to get together to update the information as required.

7 Associate Controller’s Report

Following exchanges between Tony, Roy and Nigel within the last week, Jonathan has updated the Associate/Observer listing which was distributed to the Committee. This document was seen as being correct as of the date of this meeting. It was agreed that this document does need to be maintained. All changes by way of test passes and new Associate allocation to be passed to Jonathan as they occur.

7.1

Wendy Allen has been placed with Mike Leadbeater however it is understood that she will not start training until the weather improves in March/April. Mike Leadbeater will maintain contact with her in this matter.

7.2

Contact has been made with Wolverhampton Road Safety Officer Paul Lever with regard to their providing sponsorship for young Associates. He was keen to look at sponsorship for young drivers although there is no guarantee.

Jonathan suggested that we additionally contact West Midlands Police and The Road Safety Partnership for them to provide sponsorship for a number of younger driver courses. In this we would always be willing to provide reciprocal “advertising” or “visibility” of their support on our web site.

8 Membership Secretary Report

Current position is that the Group has:

- 49 Members
- 13 Associates
- 2 National Observers (Both LOA’s)
- 11 Local Observers - 2 in Training

Jonathan checked and confirmed that the Membership Number of “59” that had been shown for the last few months was in fact incorrect and that the “49” shown above was correct identifying that the Group had a total of 77 persons as of the date of this meeting.

8.1

In the matter of Francesca Hyett Tony has e-mailed Gill Shaw at IAM RoadSmart to request that one of the listings on DTE is removed so as not to “corrupt” our Membership listings. (Following exchanges prior to the compilation of these notes we were advised that off booking reference MC0081381 has been cleared from DTE so closing this matter.

8.2

Membership fees are due on 31st March 2017 and as such a communication needs to be sent to all Members within the next few weeks.

9 Newsletter Editors Report

Everybody has contributed as requested and the new issue is due out shortly.

David was thanked for his input and asked to contribute to each forthcoming issue.

9.1

1st May 2017 is the closing date for submissions for the next issue.

10 Web Site Administrators Report

Jonathan distributed information of Facebook and Instagram hits during the last week. Thanks to the ongoing inputs on the Facebook site we are attracting a reasonable number of hits which is encouraging. We need to ensure that this level of interest is maintained.

10.1

Following the last meeting all Young Driver details from the IAM RoadSmart site have been cloned across to the WAM site. This is supporting the information on the Young Drivers page previously posted.

10.2

New photographs would be welcomed from any contributor for the scrolling home page of the site. As we are starting to move towards Spring photographs with that theme would be welcomed.

Input and suggestions for changes to the web-site would be welcomed as it is important that the detail remains fresh and current. In this, changes are being made to the News Feeds on the Home Page on at least a weekly basis.

10.3

Following discussion, it was agreed that the CEWW Forum Meeting diary dates should be added to the Events Diary. (It was understood that only Full Members of IAM RoadSmart were able to attend such meetings but that the attendance was open to the whole Group not only Committee Members. In this therefore a note needs to be appended to the Diary Entry to ensure that the Group Secretary is the route to attendance).

It was noted that the Events Manager kept the details available for the Group Events Diary very much up to date and that at the moment we had dates and schedule for the majority of activities through to the end of the year

11 Young Driver Representative Report

Contact has been made with the Fire Brigade Station in Wombourne. Following a meeting with Station personnel and Nigel Packer, Mike Leadbeater and David Gallagher they have agreed that we can share in certain events that they have scheduled throughout the Summer. Wombourne Station have a Road Safety Day with talks every six months at which they show videos and photos.

David is going to a meeting on 8th February 2017 at the Station to see this presentation. Following discussion, it was agreed that if necessary funding could be made available to support events. (In this see the attached Appendix One document).

11.1

Jonathan suggested a skills day for younger drivers perhaps involving the support of local dealerships such as Citroen and/or Renault. David suggested that Seat may be willing to support such an event though he had not progressed any discussions with them at this stage.

In the matter of insurance for such events where drivers who were not IAM Members or Associates and were driving vehicles that were not their own Jonathan advised that he had discussions with Robbie Downing and Amanda Smith at IAM RoadSmart. In the case of such an event taking place it was understood that insurance probably could be arranged through IAM RoadSmart however the following information would need to be known:

1. Date of Skills Day
2. On or Off Road Exposure to the vehicles and the drivers
3. Location and identification of any particular liabilities associated with that location
4. "Entity" who would be responsible on the day
5. Who would be attending and providing the necessary skills
6. Types of vehicles involved
7. Details of the dealership and contact details at the dealership

It was agreed that in the event of such a Skills Day taking place it would be important that Examiners additionally turn up to provide support as well as Observers.

11.2

Jonathan mentioned that Walsall Group had been associated with a three-day event in which young drivers were intensively coached from start through to test during the three days. This was seen as being very positive by the "Associates" and resulted in all the Candidates passing their Skill for Life test. It was put to the Committee that we should perhaps consider such an event if there were sufficient young Candidates interested.

11.3

Jonathan mentioned that following his brief discussions with Eloise Peabody-Rolf, (Young Driver Ambassador at IAM RoadSmart), that she would be willing to support a Group Event if requested to do so. It was mentioned that Eloise was working at IAM RoadSmart within a "Gap Year", (though this has not been confirmed), and as such she may not be present in the position for a great deal longer.

12 Publicity and Events Co-ordinators Report

The following events are scheduled at this time:

11th February 2017 Tesla Dealership Birmingham

5th March 2017 Highways England. (Only five people interested at the moment, more needed)

8th March 2017 Group Meeting with Paul Williamson presenting his photographs of Australia

12th April 2017 Group Monthly Meeting. Waiting for confirmation from Steve Tyler that he will be able to attend as had previously been arranged.

7th May 2017 Mini Day

10th May 2017 Group AGM, Robbie Downing confirmed his attendance.

14th June 2017 Group Monthly Meeting hoping to have Eloise Peabody-Rolf attend to give a presentation about Young Drivers within the IAM. (This is waiting for confirmation at this time).

3rd September 2017 Classic Car Show at Himley Hall

12.1

The following events are in process of being scheduled or awaiting dates

Toyota Derby site visit

Signal Radio visit with Richard Dodds (See 6.4 in this)

13 CEWW Issues

In the matter of CEWW please find the details attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

A meeting is scheduled between Jonathan and Les McDowell, Chair of CEWW Forum Committee on 20th February 2017 following which it is hoped there will be a better understanding of the situation within the CEWW Forum Committee. It has been noted that, per 4.1 that the meeting previously scheduled by CEWW Forum for mid-April 2017 has been re-scheduled and re-located by the Area ASDM Robbie Downing. An indication perhaps of his "concerns" regarding the operation of the CEWW Committee as it stands at this time.

13.1

One of the prime discussion points at the forthcoming CEWW Forum Meeting scheduled for 1st April 2017 is the New Group Handbook. It is noticeable that following the request for comments and submissions made at the National Conference in October 2016, there has been no indication of what has and has not been amended within the new handbook to be issued. Jonathan agreed that he would contact Robbie Downing in this matter and ask if there was a possibility that the Forum Members could have sight of the changes prior to the meeting so that a more pro-active discussion could take place at that time.

14 Any Other Business

Roy requested that additional Observer Handbooks be ordered by Tony to accommodate the new Observers joining the Group. In this both Peter Spillan and David Gallagher have now enrolled as Observers in Training with IMI and as such the cost of their Handbooks can now be reclaimed from IAM RoadSmart.

14.1

David raised the fact that we could advertise on Facebook for around £10. This was agreed to be potentially of interest however additional information was needed. Jonathan and David to liaise on this matter.

14.2

Roy to check stock status of Wolverhampton Group designated IAM RoadSmart bags and advise the Committee.

15 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th March 2017 at Sainsbury's Building, Compton.

Commencing at 19:45

This meeting adjourned at 22.40.

Proposed as a true copy of the above meeting:

Seconded as a true copy of the above meeting:

Date:

Appendix 1

This an e-mail from David Gallagher dated 30th January 2017

Hi Guys,

Attended a very productive morning at Wombourne fire station today alongside Nigel and Mike Leadbeater.

They were so forthcoming with suggestions and ideas of how we could work together in a long-term partnership with them. So that I don't forget anything I've written down what was discussed so that we can talk about it on the 7th. I hope that you all will be as pleased as we were this morning with what will be coming from this link...

Below are listed the things that they have offered to do with us...

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue

Open day

- Fire service with engine on display showing vehicle and equipment.
- Fire service demonstrating an extraction from a vehicle with trapped occupants.
- Staged incident with all 3 emergency services involved. The accident will have a theme such as a driver distracted by mobile phone causing the incident. The demonstration will show how the scene will be assessed and how the casualties will be dealt with
- Involvement with accident investigation squad and their simulator. (they have connections with the same guy that presented to us previously)
- Refreshments available
- Public invited to open day via social media and banners...fire service has offered to place them in two visible points in Wombourne if we were to get a banner printed.
- Local schools to be invited
- They are more than happy to host and run this event if people will come. They did a similar thing a couple of years ago, aimed towards the older students at Ounsdale school. Nobody came and they haven't done anything since. Providing we can guarantee people they will do this. But they need plenty of notice to get people involved and to guarantee staff, as they are a retained station.

Charity car wash

- Fire service must run 2 every year for the brigade's commitments, BUT they can run as many other days as they want to independently.
- They asked if we have any form of funding or do any fund raising, when we said no, they offered to help.
- As a partner of theirs and a registered charity they have offered to run a carwash with us, and advertise in the village and along the main road by Sainsbury's, again with banners.
- If we join in and help they will split any funds 50/50 with us.
- This was offered purely as a fundraiser for us to raise funds alongside them.
- If we tell them a date (they suggested May, when weather improves) they will do this with us.

Free meeting room

- They have offered us use of their meeting room free of charge, as they are a community fire station and providing we aren't running a business from it (like a fitness class) it is free for us to use.
- Monday evenings and the last Wednesday of every month are the only evening bookings that they have.
- We would have to bring our own refreshments, but the room is self-contained, has kitchen facilities, overhead projector and whiteboard and toilets and seats 30 people

Co-op

- We were told to contact the Co-op in Wombourne or Sainsbury's if unsuccessful. Apparently, supermarkets must provide a community budget and if we contact the manager and explain the partnership with the local fire station, they will provide us with refreshments from that budget so that we can advertise these events as having "free refreshments" without any cost to us.

Education

- They have a road safety presentation (I think they said 90mins long) that they deliver to people aged 16-24 but can be tailored for any age range really.
- Presentation contains video clips and images of incidents and provides that shock factor that will make people think about their driving, usually at least one person leaves the room crying.
- Various topics covered include speeding, mobile phone use, alcohol and drugs and other issues younger drivers face.
- They usually present this every 3 months but could do every 6 if we want, and tailor it to the weather conditions for the season that it is delivered in.
- It is delivered by a uniformed fire fighter so feels more official.
- They will be showing me a copy of the presentation soon, I have been invited to come to the station on 8th February to see it and they have welcomed "my colleagues" to come and see it too.

Appendix 2

CEWW Meeting Attended by Roy Richards and Nigel Packer 21st January 2017

Roy's Notes – General

- Les McDowell opened the meeting by welcoming all
- In attendance at the top table besides Les were Phil Edwards and Geoffrey Poole.
- Jonathan Wood treasurer was also listed to attend but for some reason or other had not done so?
- The speaker due to attend had withdrawn at short notice but three Area Service Delivery Managers, (ASDM's), had stepped in as replacements being Sean Cronin, ASDM Region 1, Robbie Downing ASDM Region 4 and Steve Ellis ASDM Region 6
- Sean briefly introduced both Robbie and Steve, who in turn gave details of their background
- The assembled audience then split into two Breakout Groups one for Cars and the other for Bikes

Nigel's Notes - Car Breakout Group

A presentation was given by Gloucester Advanced Motorists on giving opportunity to young drivers to take a course on advanced driving. They have obtained funding for 20 places per year for 4 years specifically for young drivers (17-25) who cannot afford to fund such a course themselves. They have had mixed success with some failures where there has been lack of experience on roads. They have some F1rst's and some have dropped out. Continuity is affected sometimes by breaks for university and commitment. Youngsters don't want to read a book such as Highway Code, they want an app on their phone. Youngsters sometimes find keeping a car serviceable is a problem. They would have little engagement with the group. Everyone attends a one day theory course and they do 4 of those a year and they are done by a local examiner. They have recruited by doing road safety displays at schools/colleges. A lady in their group has marketing experience and put together material for displays. They offered free assessment drives and free attendance at the quarterly meetings. They used the Road Safety Partnership and Police and Crime Commissioners to gain access to the schools. Redditch Group commented that they did a presentation to a school with parents and their children but they attracted more interest from parents than the children. A suggestion was that they could go to Under 17 Car Club for future drivers. Shaun Cronin, Regional Service Delivery Manager who started the Under 17 Car Club is meeting with Sarah Sillars, IAM RoadSmart Chief Executive, next month, to discuss the way forward for encouraging young drivers to take up advanced driving. Other comments were that if you want to influence schools go to the head teacher. Kids don't want a several week course of drives they want two drives this weekend, two drives the following weekend and then take their test. Shaun Cronin

said that the Under 17 Club were having a day on April 17th at Frogmore Airport. Paul Wozley is looking at developing a family package to grab the parents and the kids.

Redditch and Bromsgrove Advanced Motorists did a presentation on a skills day that they put together with the assistance of Morrison's supermarket and the use of their car park. They appointed a project coordinator, agreed a budget, and obtained support from local businesses and papers and retailers to sponsor advanced driving courses. They produced promotional leaflets, questionnaires for attendees. They organised a large quantity of barriers and cones and set up an area for four parallel parking bays and four long reverse bays. They organised high visibility jackets, direction signs and two gazebos with desks, banners and flags. They had eight Mentors, four Observers and eight Control Marshalls and four Admin personnel. Ian Firth, the former area delivery manager, was very helpful and skilful at encouraging customers to the supermarket to partake. You need someone who can sell the skills day. The subeditor of the local paper gave feedback on the experience. Total cost £450 and from the day they had four people sign up for the Advanced Driving course and did a number of Assessments.

Shaun Cronin then did an update presentation and introduced our new Area Service Delivery Manager, Robbie Downing. The new handbook will be out at the Spring Forum covering all aspects of the way groups should conduct themselves. He and his team will provide support including financial support, (not if you have a healthy bank account), but you need to make a business case. They will also help with skills days. A code of conduct has been introduced. Amazingly they have received e-mails bordering on offensive and even racist. He commented that maybe they were sent whilst praying to their God Jack Daniels. Currently online companies are demonstrating apps at Head Office. Shaun personally thinks that driving should be part of the National Curriculum. They lead an industry forum on trying to reduce numbers of motorists killed or seriously injured on the roads trying to harness industry initiatives, RAC and Thatcham and other bodies involved. Sarah Sillars sits on motorist's forum at parliament.

Other Points Noted from Meeting

- No reference made of proceedings at the last meeting, or the trip to meet Sarah Sillars that took place in November
- Possible use made of Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme with regard to young drivers.
- Group Handbook will be "version controlled"
- Redditch and Bromsgrove holding next Sainsbury's day on 1st May. Invitation to all Groups to attend on the day to observe proceedings
- Hereford and Worcester holding WI event at Hereford Race Course march 31st March, a Friday. Currently sixty-two ladies enrolled. Request for help from NO's (David Williams 07812 026037)
- Sean Cronin stated that ADSM's are going to be flexible. Team will go to wherever the need arises. Area's primarily for ADSM's the group first point of contact to be their designated ADSM, however it could be an ADSM from another area who actually deals with the request
- Although Les MacDowell's Group Stafford is in Area 6, outside CEWW, it was stated that there is no reason why he cannot continue to serve on the CEWW Committee
- Call made to assembled audience for person to take on the role recently vacated by Jonathan
- Planned Observer day at Gaydon has been cancelled, no reason given for this
- Conflicting dates for Spring Forum. 1st April and 20th May. April date funded by IAM RoadSmart at Hindlip too expensive. It was pointed out that Spring Forum and AGM were usually held on the same date? ADSM definite on April 1st 2017. Alternative venue to be found but most unlikely to be Hindlip

Roy Richards/Nigel Packer (26th January 2017)

Additional Notes from Jonathan Hughes following Discussion with Les McDowell

- The Regional/Area Boundaries are very flexible and not set delineators, hence the ASDM's ability to cross boundaries for support as required. It is for this reason that Les has been given leave by IAM RoadSmart to continue as Chair of the Area 4 Forum. (Perhaps also because there are no other volunteers)

- Les felt that the last Forum Meeting format went very well though he was embarrassed by the lack of support from the Forum Committee
- Jonathan Wood has personal issues which have precluded his attendance at any meetings through the last few months. Les confirmed that he still has no answers to the questions of the invoicing of the Groups within the Area, the location of the cheque books, the signatories on the cheque books, the balance of the accounts and even the validity of the accounts as of this date. (He does recognise that this is an unacceptable state of affairs).
- The Committee is at a critical point and Les openly asked that I attend the next meeting “to ask the questions that need to be asked”. I have advised that I will do this, if needed, but only with the leave of the Wolverhampton Group Committee. It would seem that Les is intent in creating a re-organization through a vote of “no confidence” however this re-engineering of the Committee does require that there be a Treasurer and Secretary in waiting willing to work on that Committee. It is understood that Glynnis Jeavons has just stood down as Secretary of Walsall and may be willing to work as Treasurer.
- The conflict of dates regarding the forthcoming meeting is now resolved in that it will be on 1st April at a venue to be determined by IAM RoadSmart. This change of venue is being forced as the cost of the last IAM RoadSmart supported meeting at Hindlip was over £1000. (The venue is not expensive however the catering is costly and not well received). In this I suspect that Aston University will be chosen as Pat Doughty has previously advised that Aston is very cost effective.
- Les thought that the “interim” meetings of the Forum may well continue to be at Hindlip as the costs are then reasonable.
- The Observers Day at Gaydon was cancelled because of conflicts within the Committee in that there was open disagreement with having Redditch Riders make all of the arrangements. This seems somewhat strange as this indicates that the Forum Committee has thoughts and views which in my experience have so far been manifestly in absence.
- The next Forum Committee Meeting is scheduled for either 7th or 8th February. Les has promised to call me following that meeting to keep me within the loop with a view to the AGM on 1st April 2017.

Dr. Jonathan Hughes (28th January 2017)