



**Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists**  
Registered Charity 1053330  
**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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

**Time:** 20.00

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**Committee Members Present**

Paul Williamson  
Tony Robson

Graham Foulkes  
Dr. Jonathan Hughes

Roy Richards  
Geoff Davis

**Apologies**

Christine Westwood  
Richard Dodds

David Gallagher  
Barry Sadler

Nigel Packer

Paul opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and thanking them for attending this evening.

Paul thanked Group Officers, Committee Members and Observers for their support though the course of the last year.

The minutes of the groups 36th AGM (2017) were distributed to all present and accepted as a true record of events.

Proposed by: Graham Foulkes

Seconded by: Roy Richards

**Chairman's Report**

Paul welcomed everyone to the 37th AGM of Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists Group and thanked them for making the effort to attend making mention of the fact that this is the Groups 40<sup>th</sup> Year since separating from Walsall during the course of 1978. (An exact date not being available as following the move of IAM RoadSmart from Chiswick to Welwyn Garden City some records were lost).

Thanks, were given to all of the Groups Observers, Group Officers and Group Supporters in recognition of the time they have given to ensure the development and progress of the Group through the year.

Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists have had a good year and as a Group we have performed better than many other Groups as measured by IAM RoadSmart in their monthly "Scorecards".

The Group has had many successful events throughout the year and have plans for a full schedule for the forthcoming year however thoughts from the floor regarding possible invitations and events are always welcomed.

A request was made for greater levels of support, not just with regard to the Newsletter but also with regard to Events as they take place and also with help on the Committee.

The Group have now established a regular presence at The Holiday Inn at Gorsebrook for Committee, Observer and Associate Meetings.

Paul presented the thought that the Group Membership should receive some memento relating to the 40<sup>th</sup> Year of the Group. RFID Blockers, Telephone Blockers, Car Fragrances amongst others were suggested and a request was made for further ideas from Members.

The Group has, within recent weeks adopted necessary policies as required by the new General Data Protection Regulations, (GDPR), and have issued an “opt-out” communication to all Group Members to ensure that we are meeting our commitments. All details of Members are now held at IAM RoadSmart and a Group GDPR Conformance Officer has been appointed. It is intended that Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists lead the way in these matters rather than following.

## **Secretary’s Report**

### Meetings and Events

During the course of the last year the Group has had an activity of some sort on average every two to three weeks; these being:

- A broad variety of Talks and Presentations by both local and IAM RoadSmart personnel including:
  - An Evening with IAM RoadSmart’s Mature Driver Ambassador, Paddy Hopkirk and David Gallagher, Group Member and also currently the IAM RoadSmart Young Driver Ambassador. A report of this immensely successful evening is in our current Group Newsletter and was also in the Wolverhampton Express and Star and the IAM RoadSmart Inform Magazine. The meeting was filled to capacity with over 100 attendees including members of other local Advanced Motoring and Riding Groups from Walsall, Kidderminster, Stafford, Redditch and Lichfield.
  - An evening with Richard Gladman IAM RoadSmart Head of Driving and Riding Standards. Richard is scheduled to revisit the Group later this year.
  - A Masters Evening with Steve Ellis which was also attended by Members of many other local Driving and Riding Groups.
- Group Associate and Observer Evenings.
- Group Publicity Days at local Shows.

Coming Events and Meetings appear on the Group Web site which is always the most up to date source of information for all Group activities.

Thanks to Committee Members for arranging these and all the Group Events. We believe that few Groups offer the diversity, quality and quantity of meetings to its Members that we do. Our Group always has a standing invite open to neighbouring Groups and any IAM RoadSmart Member as well as interested members of the public.

We operate an “Open-Group” with Committee Minutes, Newsletters and other relevant Documents posted on our Group Web site available for inspection and comment.

Both the Wolverhampton Advanced Motorcycle Group and ourselves continue to have links on our respective Web sites to interest those accessing to the Advanced Driving and Riding within each of our catchment areas.

The feedback that we receive indicates that our Membership is continuing to be happy with what the Group Committee are doing on their behalf. Contributions from Group Members are always appreciated with suggestions as to talks, events, days out, etcetera. All suggestions received are discussed at the following Committee Meeting and comments fed back to the Member who made the suggestion.

Our Group Web site continues to provide a user-friendly, vibrant and ever evolving 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 so as to progress and spread the word on Road Safety. We hope you are accessing

it on a regular basis and making good use of what it offers. Your comments on this Group facility are always welcome.

Observer Evenings and Associate Nights are a continuing and current part of our structured Group year providing support and opportunities for Observer Development as well as giving Associates insight into the expectation's that they should have of the Advanced Driving Test. All of our Group Observers have qualified as IAM Local Observers through assessment by our approved Group National Observer Local Observer Assessors and are Certified and Nationally Accredited by IMI as such.

Your Committee has attended the following throughout the last Membership Year:

- Regional Group Forum Meetings in Worcester.
- IAM RoadSmart All Groups Conference in Birmingham.
- Himley Hall Classic and Mini-Car Shows.

Group Membership continues to be strong and, as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 consisted of:

- Full Members & Associates 72
- Social Members 3

This indicates a steady but continuing member traffic with those who have not stayed at renewal time leaving due to their financial situation and/or other interests. (Possibly that they were only within the Group to pass their test or that this was a specified part of their job requirement).

Group test passes over the past twelve months have been 93% (against a regional average of 87%). 75% of our Group's passes were F1rst Register passes. Well done to these Members and, of course, their Observers. This also reflects on the continuing high standard of our current Group Observer's skills and the Group standard being maintained through ongoing assessment during their Associates' pre-test drives, Observer Evenings and so on.

The IAM RoadSmart joining and first year Membership Fee continues to be £149. (This, as it has done in the past, includes the first years local Group Membership).

The Group Newsletter for Autumn 2018 is under compilation and will be issued when complete. Your Newsletter is continuing to serve the Group Membership and is also circulated to the IAM RoadSmart Area Service Delivery Manager (Robbie Downing) and Welwyn Garden City plus other Groups within our Region. Previous issues, back as far as 1999 and up to Summer 2018 are downloadable from our Group Web site providing a significant historical reference about our Group and how it has continued to progress over the past nineteen years.

Your newsletter does not write itself. Please contribute anything relating to motoring or driving or even some 'thank you' letters from members who have recently passed their IAM test for their Observer's time and effort. We have had some input recently but more is always better than less. There is lots of general Group information in every issue; not least of which are:

- Committee contact details
- Driving and motoring orientated articles
- Associate general guidance
- Events updates

The Web-site is of course always current and should be referenced to check the latest activities or reports regarding the Group.

The next Group Meeting is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm at the Friends Meeting House:

- o An Examiners View of the Advanced Driving Test". This evening we have Martin Doran coming to talk to us. Martin is one of the IAM RoadSmart Examiners but one who does not come from a Police Force background. As always this promises to be an interesting evening as Martin's perspective is slightly different to that of other ex-police examiners, this said we would emphasise that the standards he works to are exactly the same.

Details of this and other forthcoming Events and Meetings are always detailed on our Web site. The location of the event is provided on the website in a number of easy to use ways, using the QR Code you can simply scan using your mobile device, you can use the map reference details, the postcode or using the "Map-pin" graphic, you can directly access Google Maps which will additionally provide direct travel information

Our next Committee Meeting is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7:45pm at The Holiday Inn, Gorsebrook Road. you are welcome to e-mail me if there is anything that you think needs to be discussed by your Committee. We will reply back to you following conclusion of your item. If any Full or Associate Group Member would like to come to our next committee then they will be more than welcome.

Finally, it is important that you remember to keep your Group Membership Secretary and IAM RoadSmart in Welwyn Garden City updated with any changes to your contact details as the vast majority of our Newsletters and other communications are issued via email.

### **Membership Fee**

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 £15.00. In this matter a vote was taken and the Membership agreed unanimously that the Committee was empowered to increase the annual Membership Fee should they feel it necessary.

### **Treasurers Report**

The meeting was asked to thank Graham Foulkes for his long service as Treasurer to the Group. He has stepped down during the last few months in favour of Christine Westwood.

In Christine's absence Paul presented the accounts.

The Group Accounts, are compiled, but yet to be audited, (Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheets). The Group remains in good standing financially with no notable changes other than that there has been some necessary expenditure to ensure that events materials reflect IAM RoadSmart rather than IAM. (In this a gazebo, new pull up displays and new flag displays have been secured).

No questions were raised about the accounts as presented.

Thanks' were extended from the Group to Ray Kenna (FCA), a long-standing Group Member, who has agreed to auditing the accounts of the Group. His activities are provided free of charge. After some thirty years Ray has asked that this be the last year that he is asked to act in this manner

The Group is setting up new current bank accounts to better allow management of the Group finances. These matters have been underway for some time but should be completed within the next few weeks.

### **Election of Officers**

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

**Role****Nomination**

Chairman.	Paul Williamson (Voted in Unanimously)
Secretary.	Tony Robson (Voted in Unanimously)
Treasurer.	Christine Westwood (Voted in Unanimously)

Both Paul Williamson and Tony Robson indicated that they would like to stand down at the 2019 AGM and asked for consideration to be given to any Member who would be willing to take on the roles.

**Election of Committee Members Role**

There were three other persons who needed to be voted in as Committee Members as a result of three yearly rotation.

Geoff Davis  
Roy Richards (Chief Observer)  
Dr. Jonathan Hughes (Communications and GDPR Compliance)

**A.O.B.**

There was no other business raised for discussion at this meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next AGM is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (Start time 7.45pm). Details will be posted on the website and within the Newsletter nearer to the event.

The AGM was closed at 20:45