

HIGH WYCOMBE GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

37th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30pm
via Zoom

Present

Committee - Peter Gunn (PG) Chairman, Valerie Brickell (VB), Jan Caddie (JC), Nigel Mason (NM), Tim Nicholson (TN), Sean Pearce (SP), Andrew True (AT).

Members – Alan Baker, Teji Barnes, Martin Carpenter, Roy Craig, Romina Dawson-Hall, David Eldridge, Robert Frost, Steve Gledhill, Josh Goddard, Mark Hall, Ray Hall, Eric Hambling, Stuart Haythorn, Bob Hill, Paddy Hopkirk (President), Janet Marchant, Shirley McKeirnon, Peter Woolley.

Peter Gunn welcomed the members adding that he was pleased that our President, Paddy Hopkirk, and Stuart Haythorn, our IAM Area Service Delivery Manager, were able to join us.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from John Bennett, Louise Child, Ruth Dobson, Steven Lowry and Graham Smith.

2. Minutes of the Last AGM.

The minutes, which had been circulated with the AGM notice, were accepted by all as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report.

PG had circulated his Chairman's Report, with the AGM notice, in advance of the meeting. He thanked the Committee and the Observers for their hard work during a very disappointing year. There were no questions.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts.

PG had circulated his Treasurer's Report together with the 2020 Income and Expenditure statement, with the AGM notice, in advance of the meeting. PG advised that, financially, the Group was in 'good shape'.

There were no questions.

The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by TN and seconded by SP. All voted in favour.

6. Election of Officers (All Officers must retire annually)

Chairman – PG advised that he was willing to stand again. All present voted in favour.

Treasurer – PG advised that he was standing down as Treasurer and that TN was willing to take on the role.
All present voted in favour.

PG will pass all relevant matter to TN. PG advised that TN and VB are to be signatories on the Group's bank account with Lloyds.

Secretary – Sadly Matti Alderson died in Sept 2020. VB had taken on the role and was willing to continue. All present voted in favour.

7. Election of Committee (1/3rd must retire annually).

At present the Committee comprises PG, JC, AT, SP, NM, TN and VB.
Keith Chanter retired as Chairman at the 2020 AGM.
Viv Silverman moved out of the area and joined the Aylesbury Group.

In accordance with Group Rules AT will stand down but is willing to stand again.
All present voted in favour.

Bob Hill had expressed an interest in joining the Committee. The appointment was proposed by PG and seconded by JC. All present voted in favour.
PG welcomed him to the Committee.

8. AOB.

PG referred to the Ultimate Car Control event, to take place at the Bicester Heritage site, which had been scheduled for 4th April 2020 but, of course, was postponed due to the pandemic. 25-30 people had expressed an interest in attending and there is room for more if anyone is interested.
Ultimate Car Control hope to start activities soon and in mid April will probably release dates for mid June onwards.

Roy Craig asked of the cost and format. PG thought that the cost was £187 plus VAT and directed him to the UCC website. PG said that he would be in touch with details when a date had been confirmed.

Alan Baker confirmed that he was responsible for the unidentified payment for the event.

SP advised that the Group were planning a Quiz Night on the 11th May 2021 which will probably take place on Zoom. The subjects will not be entirely car related.

Paddy Hopkirk advised the meeting that he had spoken to Stuart Donald, the new IAM RoadSmart Chairman and informed the meeting that he still had contacts at Silverstone which maybe a suitable venue for a Group event.

AT expressed his pleasure in seeing some of his old Associates including Romina Dawson-Hall who obtained a 1ST during the pandemic. AT went on to say that we are always looking for new Observers and that Romina maybe interested.

Roy Craig also expressed an interest in becoming an Observer. He referred to 1970's when he had been a member of Thames Valley Group and carried out some Observing. In those days the approach to observing was very relaxed and he asked if becoming an Observer now was more complex. AT stressed that that the process was straightforward and centred on competency. Roy said that he would like to talk with an Observer and was advised that we would be in touch.

Teji Barnes asked if Observers were required to have a DBS certificate. AT advised that Local Observers were reassessed by the Group every 3 years, National Observers by the IAM every 5 years and Local Observer Assessors by the IAM every three years. NM reminded the meeting that Teji had asked about DBS certification. Stuart Haythorn replied that it was not a requirement but the matter was covered in the Handbook and was for individual Groups to pursue. Martin Carpenter confirmed that he had been DBS checked and the cost was in the region of £80. Ray Hall pointed out that a separate DBS certificate is required for each appropriate activity. It was suggested that obtaining a certificate should be adopted as best practice. This matter is to be discussed at Committee.

9. Date of Next Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday 1st March 2022.

The formal business of the AGM concluded at 7.55pm.

Question and Answer Session

PG started the session by advising that the Group has no Observers with experience of Electric Vehicles. He asked the meeting who it felt should be called in the event of an EV catching fire. The general answer was The Fire Brigade. PG advised that The Fire Brigade were unable to extinguish a battery

fire. SP commented that they may be of assistance in taking precautions to protect other road users.

Martin Carpenter felt that the introduction of Smart Motorways would lead to an increase in fatalities.

TN advised that the Highways Agency, not him, maintain that they are safe.

PG felt that the system worked well on the M42 where the hard shoulder was used as such or as a carriageway depending on traffic conditions.

Teji Barnes advised that the government had agreed to make another assessment of Smart Motorways.

NM advised that there was a delay of 14 minutes to activate the appropriate response to an accident.

Roy Craig pointed out that refuge areas are often very much further apart than the recommended 700 yards.

SP added that many drivers ignored the red cross display.

PG mentioned a Motoring Magazine quiz on the subject of road signs. Only 60% gave all the correct answers. He also added that dash-cam footage available on social media indicated that those responsible were some of the worst drivers.

AT referred to the drop in the general standard of driving since March 2020. NM singled out delivery drivers.

PG asked if police cameras could identify a motor bike as there would be no front number plate. The meeting was advised that the cameras take pictures from all angles.

Stuart Haythorn advised that IAM would probably, the following day, publish a time table for the resumption of activities. It is likely that from the 12th April 2021 Observers could start to review each other's standards of driving and coaching. Drives with Associates is likely to commence on the 17th May 2021. Stuart was hopeful that Examiners might be able to condense their workload and clear the backlog of tests.

Stuart also advised that whilst the membership is strong the number of Observers has declined during the pandemic. The Fast Track system would be an option for new Observers.

SP asked if IAM might consider a campaign to encourage professional drivers to become Advanced Motorists. Stuart Haythorn advised that IAM already work with different companies including Transport for London. He added that taxi drivers are also assessed by IAM.

Stuart went on to congratulate the Group on a successful meeting and the work that it does. He welcomed the new Committee Member, Bob Hill. Stuart added that changes to the Committee should be advised to IAM via their website.

End of Question and Answer Session.