

Minutes of 20th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 29th June 2023 at 15:00 hrs Radnor YFC Centre, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6DF

Present (12):

Members (14m): Mike Hughes (Chair), Rick Lawson (Vice Chair), Jim Campbell (Secretary), Mike Price (Treasurer), Ti Marner (Webmaster), Paul Wilson (Chief Car Observer), Geoff Smith (Membership Secretary), (Members) Phil Jones, Martin Toon, Michael Shelbourne, Ed Baker. Andrew Palfrey,

Apologies (11):

Members (11): Mandy Giordano (Facebook Editor), Colin Barnett (Committee Member) (Members) Marc Youle-Grayling, Ellis Peters, Christine Tuffery, Lorraine Thomas, Cherry Macknay, Robyn Mason, Ian McCall and John Baddeley.

IAM (1): Rob Downing (Region 4 Area Service Delivery Manager)

1. Report of the Last Meeting held in 13th May 2023:

The report of this meeting had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

Resolution: That the Report of the 2023 19th AGM is approved as a true record.
Proposed by Mike Hughes and seconded by Mike Price

Vote: all present voted on the resolution and they were unanimously accepted. These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

2. Matters Arising from 19th AGM:

There were no matter arising from the last AGM.

3. Chairman's Report:

Mike Hughes welcomed everybody stated that it had been a busy 12 months and that the AGM this afternoon was sadly the last meeting for two long standing members of the Group in both Mike Price and Geoff Smith and indeed Geoff was one of the original founding members who is due to stand-down today. Geoff having been the first Secretary of the Group since 2023 before standing down in 2022 and assuming the role of Membership Secretary till today and he has been a very active Observer of the group and on behalf of the Committee and membership thank him for his considerable dedication and time spent on the group and is the font of all knowledge on all things MWAM and IAM, and that we all wished him and his partner all the very best for their new life in Ireland. Mike has been the Treasurer for the past 10 years and an Observer for even longer is bidding farewell I feel prematurely to the committee and the group. Mike has been a committed Local and National Observer for many years and has given a great deal of his time to assisting trainee associates to obtain their Advanced Driving Certificate and I for one can vouch for his calm non-judgmental attitude in his observing skills. Mike like Geoff is a much valued member of the Mid Wales Advanced Motorist team and as such he will be very much missed when he bids us farewell. Mike make the most of and enjoy the spare time you will now have and we all wish you the very best for the future.

With both Mike and Geoff bidding us farewell the prospect of the Group having to close was a very real one. But thankfully two members have come forward to take up the roles vacated by Geoff and Mike, John Baddeley will take over as Membership Secretary and Group GDPR Manager and Ed Baker will take over as Treasurer. I would like to welcome them both to the Committee and thank them for offering themselves for the respective roles.

Over the last 12 months the group has seen many associate bikers and car drivers go through the advanced riding and driving courses and become advanced riders / drivers with some still in training. Jim and Paul will give more detail on these Associates. In March we were informed by IAM that fees for advanced courses were again to increase with an additional fee cost for bikers, plus, Membership fees were also being increased. Many members of the committee felt this was too much to ask already stretched household budgets and would have a detrimental impact our attracting new associates. A letter was sent to the CEO of the IAM registering our concerns regarding these increases and also a number of other Issues. A reply was received but not from the CEO and it was felt by all that it was a fob off. That who were we, to challenge their decisions. It did not address any of our concerns We also had to initiate a complaints process against a prospective new Observer. Which was handled very well by Jim, but before the process was completed the member and trainee Observer, involved withdrew his membership of IAM and brought the matter to a close.

Finally, I would now like to say a big thank you to all the MWAM officers who contribute to the ongoing operations of the Mid Wales Advanced Motorists Group, you all have lives, jobs and other commitments, but you also give so much time to MWAM. There are vacancies on the committee so if anyone present feels they have skills to offer as a member, please speak to one of us at the end of the meeting. I thank you all.

4. Secretary's Report:

Now in my 2nd year in post it has to said that the post is no less hectic, computer access to the DARTS system accepting new Associates and progress from Pending Test Ready, to Test Ready, is still at times problematic. However, I continue to strive and make steps forward Geoff did tell me it would take about 5 years to master and once again a big thanks to Geoff for his invaluable support. In April Mike Hughes and myself were booked to attend the IAM Spring Forums at Cheltenham. However, that Friday was the worst rain the country has seen for years and there was no way of getting out of Mid Wales never mind getting to flooded England. So we took our own good advice and as there was no urgent need to travel in these conditions we stayed at home a good decision.

We are still experiencing problems obtaining local IAM examiners and many associates especially car associates are being asked to travel some distance to take there tests Hereford and Shrewsbury the most common. We can now no longer register Local Observers only National Observers who then have a 12 months period to apply for their Assessment. Current Local Observer must take their National Assessment by April 2025 to continue Observing.

As Mike the Chair has said the increase in both annual fees and course prices in the current financial climate has not done the Group any favours and as soon as you inform prospective associates its £200 for car and £215 for motorcycle course you can see their reaction. However, we continue to attend Events and promote the Group and IAM who are still offering the free 1 hour taster sessions which do get results.

Then we got to December when Geoff sent me 100 renewal notifications as ever the group printer got a hammering that month, then it all had to be sorted, stapled and put into envelopes and in the post for all you lovely people to receive before January the 1st and a Happy New year to you all. Taster sessions have produced more Group IAM allocations as Associates and enrolment and allocation of Observers is going well. We have some new Observers in training and anyone who wishes to take this next step should contact Paul Wilson for cars and Jim Campbell for motorcycles. We also held a think tank meeting instead of a regular Committee meeting and produced a Strength Weakness Opportunities and Threat's (SWAT). Analysis to see if we could find areas to improve retention and recruitment.

The pop-up Gazebo is still with me in Caersws, it is available to all members who are attending events or indeed need to borrow a Gazebo. We also have 3 tables and 4 chairs. In addition, on your behalf the Committee during the period FY 23 have updated the presentation equipment with new light weight folding boards and updated publicity material.

Both Ti and Mandy supported by Rick are now trying to keep both the Website and much work has had to go into this by Ti, to get it back up and running due to contract price hikes and Facebook up to date. The monthly quiz was introduced.

4a. Forthcoming Events for the Group:

The Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) 13 -14 July 24 at the Aberaeron Rugby Club. Rick

The Berriew Show Saturday 24 August 24. Jim

The Forden Classic Bike and Car show 24 September 24. Jim & Rick

Please, all are welcome to support the stand Car and Bike members, come share your experience and help recruit the next members.

Finally a personal thank you, to all Associates, Members past and present, also the Group Friends for your continuing support to me in the role of Group Secretary. Diolch Yn Fawr.

I now handover to the Membership Secretary for his last official function, Mr Geoff Smith.

5. Membership Secretary's Report:

Geoff presented the current Group Membership Figures a copy of which is available in the attached slide pack presentation attached to this email.

Recruitment in 2023 was 11 new associates. This was up from 2022 when 10 associates enrolled, this is below our rolling average of 16, over the previous 20 years of operation.

Last year we achieved 100% pass rate. One motorcycle and three car associate were awarded the prestigious F1RST grade qualification. Overall our pass rate is 95.2%. Our current members are our best advocates to recruit new associates. A copy of the members, class, Observers and dates are included in the slide pack presentation attached to this email.

We are continuing to offer the membership category of 'Group Friend Intended for those who wish to support the aims of the group IAM membership is not required, Advanced training is not necessary. The annual fee for a Group Friend will match that of a full member, currently £12. Any MWAM member or associate who lets their IAM membership lapse will be transferred to a Group Friend unless they advise otherwise.

We currently have 8 group friends

6. Treasurer's Report & Adoption of accounts:

Mike Price had produced the Group's Audited Balance Sheet for 2023 a copy of which was sent to members 28 days before the AGM and copies were available at the AGM. Summaries were displayed for scrutiny. This had been audited by one of our members, Pauline Page-Jones, and was presented by Mike who asked for any queries or questions on these accounts.

Mike was thanked by Mike Hughes for his work over the last years as our Treasurer and for the clarity of the group's accounts. A copy of which is attached to this email in both the slide pack presentation and as a stand alone attachment at Tile 1 this document and statement of account were put to the meeting.

The following resolutions was then put before the meeting:

Resolution: That the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 be approved. Proposed by Phil Jones and seconded by Rick Lawson.

Vote: all present voted on the resolution and they were unanimously accepted as a true record.

7. Election of Officers:

Mike Hughes handed over the meeting to the Group Secretary to conduct the election for Chair of the Group.

Chairman:

Mike Hughes as an officer is required to stand down annually as our Chair.

Mike Hughes has offered to stand for re-election as chair and no other nominations had been received.

We have received a nomination before the meeting for **Michael Hughes** to continue as Group Chair.

Nominated by Jim Campbell and seconded by Rick Lawson

Vote: All present voted on, and unanimously accepted, therefore **Mike Hughes** is re-elected as Group Chair.

The meeting was then handed back to Mike, to chair the rest of the AGM.

Vice-Chairman:

Richard Lawson as an officer is required to stand down annually as Vice Chair

Richard Lawson has offered to stand for re-election as Vice- chair and no other nominations had been received.

We have received a nomination before the meeting for **Rick Lawson** to continue as Group Vice Chair. Nominated by Mike Hughes and seconded by Jim Campbell.

Vote: All present voted on, and unanimously accepted therefore, **Richard Lawson** is re-elected as Vice-Chair.

Secretary:

Jim Campbell as an officer is required to stand down annually as Group Secretary.

Jim Campbell has offered to stand for re-election as Secretary and as no other nominations had been received.

We have received a nomination before the meeting for **Jim Campbell** to continue as Group Secretary. Nominated by Mike Hughes and seconded by Rick Lawson.

Vote: All present voted on, and unanimously accepted, therefor, **Jim Campbell** is re-elected as Secretary.

Treasurer:

Mike Price is an officer and is required to stand down annually as Group Treasurer

Mike Price is standing down from the position of Treasurer and we have had one other nomination from Edward Baker which has been received.

We have received a nomination before the meeting for **Edward Baker** to assume the role as as Group Treasurer. Nominated by Jim Campbell and seconded by Mike Hughes.

Vote: All present voted on, and unanimously accepted, therefor, **Ed Baker** is elected as Group Treasurer. **Mike Price** was thanked for all his hard work in maintaining the group's finances over his period in the position.

8. Election of Committee:

Under group rules, one-third of our committee, excluding the 4 officers, who stand down each year. As two committee member have stood down at the AGM no futher members need to stand down. This year **Tiley Marner, Paul Wilson, Colin Barnett, Jim Campbell** and **Mandy Giordano** are offering to stand for re-election.

In addition, **John Baddeley** has offered his service to take over the Membership Secretary's role from Geoff Smith.

We have received a nomination before the meeting for:

Paul Wilson Chief Car Observer. Proposed: Jim Campbell and Seconded by Rick Lawson.

Ti Marner Web Master. Proposed: Jim Campbell and Seconded by Rick Lawson.

Many Giordano Facebook Editor. Proposed: Rick Lawson and Seconded by Ti Marner.

John Baddeley Membership Secretary. Proposed: Mike Hughes and Seconded by Colin Barnett.

Jim Campbell Chief Bike Observer: Proposed Mike Hughes and Seconded by Ti Marner

Colin Barnett Committee Member: Proposed Paul Wilson and Seconded by Jim Campbell

This leaves vacancies for two more individuals on the current Committee which includes the four officers and eight other places.

We had received no other nominations before the AGM and following an appeal to the meeting

Vote: All present voted on, and unanimously accepted, therefore, the above Committee Members are voted in to their respective roles for a further 3 years

Consequently, we currently have two committee vacancy Events & Publicity Secretary & General Committee member which is available to any member who wishes to offer their services. Anyone interested should initially make contact with the group secretary.

Committee Member List 2024:

	Name	Elected	Until	Years Left
1	Paul Wilson	2024	2027	3
2	Colin Barnett	2024	2027	3
3	Mandy Giordano	2024	2027	3
4	John Baddeley	2024	2027	3
5	Ti Marner	2024	2027	3
6	Jim Campbell	2024	2027	3
7	Vacant			
8	Vacant			

9. Any other Business:

Presentation of Certificate:

Geoff Smith (Previous Secretary, Membership Secretary & Founder Member) Honorary Membership presented by Mike Hughes Chair.

After Note: The Committee on the members behalf have decided that Mike Price is also to be awarded Honorary Membership before he leaves the Group and IAM.

There being no further business or matters from the floor the meeting was closed by the Chair at 15:35 hrs

10. Date of 2024 AGM:

The date for the next AGM is Saturday the 21st June 2024 at 15:00 hrs venue TBC.