

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 272

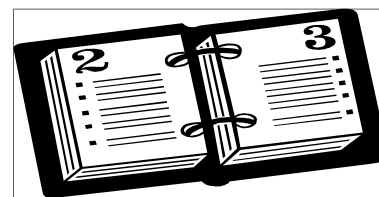
Registered Charity No. 517780

April 2007

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Forthcoming Attractions



Monday, 16th April: a speaker very worthy of our support is Southport resident, **Rachael Kilpatrick**, who will be telling us about her **Work as a Forensic Scientist**. (postponed from January)

Monday, 14th May; New Associates Meeting marking the start of another course.

Monday, 21st May; Sefton Advanced Motorists Annual General Meeting. Our newly elected Divisional Council Member (DCM) **Bob Rowles** will be coming along and also taking the opportunity of speaking.

Monday, 18th June; a retired policeman, **Brian McVann**, will be telling us about his **Life and Career in the Policeforce**. We understand the delivery of his topic can be very amusing as well as informative.

Please make a note of these events in your diary and try to come along and support our guest speakers who give up their free time to come and speak to us. All meetings are at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport, unless otherwise stated, and start at 8 pm.



Chairman Writes

Hello again,

In the last two months we have had a couple of people leave the Sefton Group Council so I would like to thank them both for their many years of work.

The first is Alan Mates who for a long time was the Hon Treasurer as well as being an observer. As Treasurer Alan was good. Things were done methodically and on time; you can't ask for more. Alan

brought to the council a vast experience and enjoyment of driving. His practical approach to problem solving meant he could always offer good advice. Alan's experience of towing came in handy when we had to collect the M.D.U for Woodvale each year. His time available to help was gradually reduced by his rise through the ranks at work. I have forgotten Alan's new job title but it sounded like he ran the whole of the UK for his company.

The second is Ann Thomas who for years has organised the Newsletter distribution (Big Job) and was a Senior Observer. Ann helped with events and organised several excellent Xmas dinners at the Bold. It was a pleasure to be on the council with Ann who is a very good listener and often manages to see the funny side of things. Ann was often helped in her roles by her husband Frank so I need to thank him as well. Unfortunately Ann has not enjoyed the best of health over the last twelve months so we wish her better health in the future.

I offer the Groups most sincere thanks to Ann and Alan for all the time and effort they gave to the Council. This is what makes Sefton Group work so well, the fact that we have people who are prepared to give up their time so readily to improve the standard of driving and riding within Sefton.

Alan Filson

JOB VACANCY

Because of recent personnel changes within Sefton Advanced Motorists there is a valuable piece of work that needs to be covered for the group and its members. We need someone to organize and run the **Group Shop** at our monthly meetings.

If any one would like to have a go at doing this please talk to our Chairman, Alan Filson, at the next meeting at the Royal Clifton or give him a call on his contact number appearing in the back of this newsletter

SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Sefton Advanced Motorists will be held at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport on Monday 21st May 2007 at 8pm to enable the Trustees of the Group (Registered charity no. 517780) to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 for approval by its members.

All members, Associates and friends are cordially invited to attend. Only fully paid up Members of the Institute of Advanced Motorists and Sefton Group may vote.

By order of the Group Council: Jan West, Hon Secretary.

All Council Officers retire annually: present Officers are:

Chairman: Alan Filson

Vice- Chairman: Stella Owen

Secretary: Jan West, seeking re-election as Secretary.

Treasurer: Paulette Haigh, seeking re-election as Treasurer.

Council Members.

Retiring by rotation and seeking re-election: Gil Taylor, Ray Woods. Retiring and not seeking re election are Frank Bennett, Alan Mates and Ann Thomas.

Council Members not due for re-election, still to serve: Jackie Crompton, Dave Paton, Alan Filson, Tim Starkey and Dave Roscoe.

Nominations are invited for Council vacancies. Nominees must agree to serve if elected. Only FULLY Paid up Members of the Institute and group may be nominated. Nominees must be proposed and seconded by FULL paid up members, in writing to the secretary. All Council members are Charity Trustees in law and must not be barred from holding such position. Nominations to reach the Secretary, at least 14 days before the A.G.M. and who has nomination forms. Proxy votes, (but not postal votes) are allowed, both parties being Full Members of the Institute and Group.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
2. MINUTES OF THE 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
3. MATTERS ARISING.
4. ANNUAL REPORT. The Chairman.
5. ACCOUNTS. Treasurers Report. Accounts to be approved by Full Members.
6. MEMBERSHIP REPORT. Subscriptions; Gift Aid.
7. MOTORCYCLE SECTION REPORT.
8. ASSOCIATE SCHEME REPORT.
9. OBSERVER TRAINING TEAM REPORT.
10. ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL OFFICERS.
11. ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL MEMBERS.
12. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHECKER (of accounts).
13. SPEAKER
14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Members are requested to inform the Secretary, in advance, of any matters they wish to raise.

MINUTES OF THE 22nd A.G.M. OF SEFTON GROUP, I.A.M. on 15th May 2006

Present : 35 Members, Associates and friends, including Mike Lyne (DCM) and his wife, Ron Clare (President) and John Harman's wife. The chairman David Paton, welcomed everyone. Certificates were presented to Tom Lumsden, Steve Burns and David Bailey

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Received from Dot Brown, Peter Comfort, Les Thurgeson and Ron Williams

MINUTES OF THE LAST A.G.M. Proposed by Ron Clare and seconded by Ann Thomas were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING. None.

ANNUAL REPORT. (Chairman) During the last twelve months we have had eleven council meetings, all at council member's houses and all have been well attended. We have also held eleven monthly meetings including Christmas, again all were well attended. I would like to thank everyone on the group council for their help and support throughout the last year. Particularly Alan Filson who has been of great assistance to me during the last twelve months and I wish him well during his term as chairman. Alan can count on my support during this year.

I would also like to thank Ann and Frank for their sterling work looking after the newsletter distribution, particularly as part of the time they had major problems with their computer. Also at this point thanks to Gil Taylor for his hard work in editing our newsletter. Thanks to Ann and Paulette for their hard work in organizing our Christmas Nosh, as usual it was an excellent evening with good company. Food and Paulette's mystery packages, once again, trying the imagination of all who attended. Thanks to Paulette for her hard work in finding varied and interesting speakers. Not an easy job. Thanks as well to Ray Woods for all his hard work doing the admin for new members and to Stella Owen in controlling the Associates and their Observers.

Thanks also to Malcolm Towler for assessing our accounts and agreeing to do the same next year. The Training Team has again been very busy during the last twelve months (details during Training Report) and I would like particularly to mention Frank Bennett for his training work and to Peter Comfort in compiling and maintaining our Observer Status Report. We have had a good year, whilst not breaking any records we have at least maintained our numbers and test passes. I will give more details under Membership and Stella may under Associates. Members of the council have attended various meetings throughout the year, including Region 5, National Conference and other informative gatherings - reporting back to the Group Council. Woodvale again was a success and a very big thank you to Alan for all the organizing that went into the event, Thanks to Alan and Alison for the copious supply of excellent refreshments. We will once again be attending Woodvale in 2006 and nearer the time Alan will be looking for volunteers to help on the stand.

The I.A.M. is celebrating its 50th Birthday during 2006 and various events and initiatives are taking place during the year which as one of the 200 plus groups around the country we will be supporting. That I think covers everything I want to say. If anyone has any questions I will be happy to try and answer them. The only question was the date of Woodvale which Dave gave. Once again thanks to everyone including yourselves for again making the group a success.

ACCOUNTS. Paulette Haigh

Malcolm explained the accounts in Paulette's absence. 98 people gift aided. All it requires is a signature and he asked people who hadn't to consider it. Proposer- Frank Bennett, Seconder- Ron Clare.

MEMBERSHIP Dave Paton

Up to last month the figures are Total 191. Car Associates 19, Car members 134, Dual 5, Friends 7, Honorary 3, Motorcycle Members 13 & Associates 10. 47 deleted during the year which sounds a lot but includes 14 who didn't renew and 10 Associates throughout the year who for various reasons didn't want to carry on and 6 motorcyclists and 5 complimentary. I am sure you have all paid but a few renewals needed, phone calls to follow. Gift Aid- up to 100 now, 8 new in 2006. Malcolm Towler asked could you pay by Direct Debit or Standing Order. Good question – this year's project Alan suggested. Ron Clare mentioned that there had been confusion in the past between Direct Debits to Head Office and our Group.

MOTORCYCLES. Alan Filson.

That's me, we are a small section with a rich social life. We meet every Thursday night. We are just

back from Scotland. A trip to France not the TT this year. Alan had a phone call from a person who had paid £85 three years ago. There are 18 members and 10 Associates – 9 being Skill for Life this year. Denis Raven a founder member and Senior Observer died last week after a short illness.

CAR ASSOCIATES. Stella Owen

The Group has had a successful year. The pass rate is 88%, including second attempts(61%) Since the last AGM, the Group has generated 27(23) car tests. 24(14) have passed, including 5 on a second attempt. 5(10) Associates dropped out of the course before trying the test. Reasons include, other commitments/priorities and recognition that the standard would not be reached. We have had 5 different examiners this year, which has presented some new challenges. IAM's figures are a little different from ours as they calculate April to April. Currently we have 17(19) Associates, some having just started the new course but most working for their test or retest.

Associates Secretary. Ray Woods

A quarter of Associates come from adverts in the Traders Journals. Some come from the Southport Visiter. Word of mouth is down by 20% - please talk to friends. Not as many requests from internet. 3 joined from Banks, Burscough and Waterloo, Southport 4, 7 from Waterloo and Crosby, none from Maghull or Aughton this year. Was Woodvale cost effective Ray was asked. Ray replied that there were 86 enquiries from Woodvale – most from miles away. We are flying the flag for the IAM. Alan said that Woodvale was paid for in part by Head Office. Another question regarded leaflets – Jan showed the leaflets and posters which had arrived that day.

OBSERVER TRAINING Gil Taylor (chairman of the Training Team)

The Team has met 3 times during the past year to formulate and agree policy. The prime function of the Training Team continues to be the Training of Qualified Observers within the Group, to meet the needs of ever more Associates who are joining. With the team consisting of the same 6 Senior Observers, each of whom has their own specific area of responsibility, this area has been met over the last year.

IAM office in London has produced guidelines to Qualified Observer training within all groups, to achieve a uniform and high standard. IAM have recently appointed a senior member of their staff to co-ordinate and oversee this nationally. In our Group we operate within these guide lines. Full IAM members who have either volunteered or been selected for training, start with Basic Training followed by a series of runs in company with an Observer and Associate, the Observer acting as 'mentor' to the trainee. When ready, the trainee then has his or her own Associate and during this time, is examined on actual observed runs, during a practical test and a written test. Subject then to approval by Council, the trainee becomes a Qualified Observer in the Group.

This element of training is co-ordinated by one of the Senior Observers within the team, and he is now supported in this role by a Qualified Observer who has considerable experience.

Since my last report, the Group now has 4 more Qualified Observers and one more trainee is at the advanced stage of having her own Associate from the May intake and should be qualified by August. Five others have agreed to undertake future training, so the situation is progressing well, but there is always a need to train Observers so that the success of the Group will continue.

Another important element of the Training Team's function has been the re-qualification of Senior Observers and Qualified Observers within IAM guidelines.

Observers are required to be re-examined every 3 years, and this role is carried out by Senior Observers in the Training Team. The exception to this is re-qualification of Senior Observers, who undergo an examination by an IAM senior examiner every 6 years. Accurate records and dates are maintained by the Team and in the past year, those Senior and Qualified Observers to whom it applied have now re-qualified.

During the year, 3 New Associate meetings and 3 Mid- Course meetings for Associates and their Observers have been held at the Royal Clifton Hotel. The introduction of a power- point presentation by computer has made these meetings much more professional and valuable to all involved. All date

bookings and arrangements are in place for next year.

One final point, all the Senior Observers in the Training Team also act as 'checkers' for Associates, when called upon by their Observers. Please can I ask all Observers to ensure that Log Books are fully completed and up-to-date with your comments, and that they are available when ever a check run is carried out In summary, training within Sefton Group is progressing effectively and well.

Thank you

Dave told us that Frank had requested that the log book stayed with the Observer.

ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL OFFICERS. Nominations were for Chairman Alan Filson, Vice Chairman Stella Owen, Secretary Jan West, Treasurer Paulette Haigh. There being only one nomination for each Office all were elected to Office.

Proposed by Ron Clare and seconded by Roy Carr.

ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL MEMBERS. As there were fewer nominations than places vacant, all were elected. These were proposed by David Brown and seconded by Malcolm Towler.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER.

Alan told us that Malcolm had agreed to continue for another year, Proposed by Jon Taylor and seconded by Ann Thomas.

Alan changed seats with Dave as the incoming chairman. Not only have you been chairman but membership secretary and chairman of the Training Team and sorted out problems re an examiner. Extremely well done Dave, Alan commented. He then introduced tonight's speaker Mike Lyne, National Group's Committee Chairman, his last visit in his present post.

SPEAKER.- Mike Lyne (D.C.M)

Congratulations to Alan taking over as Chairman. Jan as secretary keeps us on track. Ron keeps us on track too as he goes to occasional committee meetings. There are more people with automatics – try telling them that we need them as Observers. Frank and everyone else can work on that. Some cars are quite complicated now. Mike was at the Bike AGM and someone saw an IAM pen – told that they could have one – advertisement. Direct Group Support was the person on the phone at Head Office. Now Dave Shenton is the Motorcycle Manager purely for motorcycle matters. A few months ago Brian Davies took on a similar role for cars. Before joining HO he was a DCM like Mike in South Wales. In England he knows that the Groups are hard working and dedicated. There are 3 people in HO – any queries get someone to help you. Mike showed our leaflets and posters for the 50th year. DVD – take to work, show in background at member days etc. Have we received any yet – yes we have 2. Mike mentioned Track Days and Members Days e.g. Gaydon and New Forest m/cycle museum and Holker Hall. Alan said that motorcyclists were going to help at Holker Hall this year.

Drive Check – had we heard about it? Alan replied that it was in this month's newsletter and that the council members knew about it. What's the reason for its introduction. Skill for life is not for me some folk think so Drive Check is a different opportunity to include more members of the public, opening another door to more people. The scheme is administered by Head Office. I am standing down as DCM. It is not easy to find speakers outside London. Mike asked Vince (media man at HO) if he could go on a media course. He has spoken on the radio twice and may go on tv after the course. There is more advertising coming from HO. MP's taking tests – don't forget to offer food and collect them. The new president Nigel Mansell is still winning races. I will try and get a photo of his car if it has an IAM badge on the front. IAM website – he's stepping back now and a new web site is coming in soon. I am looking forward to seeing someone else's ideas. Hoping to raise IAM's profile in public's eyes. Thank you everyone in the group for your work over the years, the committee, the Observers and the members.

Alan thanked Mike for his last 7 years as DCM and wished him good luck in his new post.

Ron (President) thanked the committee for its work, well done all of you.

Alan told us that at next month's meeting Ian is coming to tell the car group about motorbikes and he's got a Honda. Thank you and see you next month.

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