

Chairman Writes

Hello to you all,

As you may imagine my regular monthly contribution to the newsletter is sometimes a bit of a challenge for me but I hope what I have been able to put before you hasn't been too dull and uninteresting.

However, the task this month has been made very easy for me as I am able to bring you some very good news which relates directly to Sefton Advanced Motorists. All of you who regularly attend our monthly meetings at the Royal Clifton Hotel will surely have met or seen Miles Stevenson and his daughter, Lindsey. You may even have noticed Adam, Lindsey's fiancé who has come to our rescue with his camera when the usual arrangements have been hit by technical problems.

Well, Adam and Lindsey found themselves in front of the camera again when they were married at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Churchtown, on Friday 27th March. So, I would like to wish the new Mr & Mrs Whitehurst a very long and happy marriage and we look forward to seeing them when they return from their honeymoon.



I am given to understand they have flown to Singapore and then on to a romantic location north of Kuala Lumpur.

I am sure all of you will want to add your own personal congratulations and best wishes when we see them on their return.

Tim Starkey
(Chair)
Sefton Advanced Motorists

Lindsey and Adam (Mr & Mrs Whitehurst) pictured outside St Cuthbert's Church Friday, 27th March 2009.

SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Sefton Advanced Motorists will be held at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport on Monday 18th May 2009 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 2009 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:

Chair: Tim Starkey: not seeking re- election as Chair
Vice- Chairman: Tom O'Malley, seeking election as Chairman
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:

Dave Paton, Richard Hardie, Stewart Gaukroger and Dave Roscoe.

Council Members not due for re-election, still to serve:

Alan Filson, Stella Owen, Gil Taylor Ray Woods and Cam Cunningham.

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 FULLY paid up Members of the Institute and Group, in writing to the secretary. All Council members are Charity Trustees in law and must not be barred from holding such position. Nominations should reach the Secretary at least 14 days before the A.G.M. Proxy votes (but not postal votes) are allowed. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. MINUTES OF THE 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. ANNUAL REPORT: Chair
5. ACCOUNTS: Treasurers Report. Accounts to be approved by Full Members.
6. PROPOSAL: to increase subscription for Sefton Group from May 2010.
7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Subscriptions; Gift Aid.
8. MOTORCYCLE SECTION REPORT
9. ASSOCIATE SCHEME REPORT
10. OBSERVER TRAINING TEAM REPORT
11. ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL MEMBERS
12. ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL OFFICERS
13. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHECKER (of accounts)
14. SPEAKER:
15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Members are requested to inform the Secretary, in advance, of any matters they wish to raise.

MINUTES OF THE 24th A.G.M. OF SEFTON GROUP, I.A.M. on 19st May 2008

PRESENT : 32 Members, Associates and friends, including Ron Clare (president), Audrey Clare and Pauline Smith (Regional Organiser). The chair (Stella Owen) welcomed everyone.

Nigel Malyan, John Calvert and Robert Fitch were presented with their certificates.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Received from Paulette Haigh, Dave Paton, Richard Hardie and Bob Rowles.

MINUTES OF THE LAST A.G.M.: Proposed by Ron Clare and seconded by Alan Filson were signed

by the Chair as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Stella (Chair) mentioned that after being specifically targeted more members were donating through Gift Aid. (An idea that had been suggested last year by a member).

ANNUAL REPORT: (Chair)

Stella Owen reported that the Group had had a busy and successful year.

Monthly meetings at the Royal Clifton Hotel averaged an attendance of 44, with an excellent range of speakers. The attendance was very pleasing at a time when many organisations struggled for viability. The Royal Clifton was also used for Observer meetings and training meetings for associates. Our seventh Christmas dinner at the Bold Hotel was again a great success.

There had been 10 council meetings throughout the year with an average attendance of 10. Council members attended many regional and national meetings on the Group's behalf.

Thanks were given to Jan West who completed her sixth year as Secretary. Thanks were expressed to all the members of the training scheme and Observers. This was the Group's main focus and their work to ensure a high standard of training was appreciated by all the members of Sefton Group. It was very encouraging to have a Vice chair, Tim Starkey, who was taking up this position for the first time. Paulette Haigh had been a very efficient Treasurer and, as events coordinator, had delivered an excellent year of guest speakers. Special thanks to Dave Paton for continuing as membership secretary. A role that he had accepted some time ago on a temporary basis! Keeping in touch with our members is essential and thanks were expressed to Gil and Tom for their efficiency in producing and distributing the monthly newsletter.

We have a thriving Motorcycle section due to the efforts of Alan and Stewart. More would be heard about their successes later in the agenda.

Our presence had been made again at the Woodvale Rally and at a new event, the Southport Plant Show. Thanks were expressed to Alan and Dave Roscoe for booking the MDU for the events. And especially to Tom O'Malley who had coordinated the staffing of the events.

We said goodbye to council member Jackie Crompton who stood down at the AGM. The Council was very grateful that she had agreed to continue to manage the Gift Aid claims. All members of the Group Council had provided an endless amount of time and hard work to ensure the year was as good as it was. Due to their support Stella enjoyed her year as Chair.

The year ahead looked very positive with the training scheme under the guidance of Dave Paton and Richard continuing to evolve. The MDU had been booked again for the Woodvale Rally and the North West Car Rally, a new event for us.

Stella said that it had been a privilege to serve as Chair and was in no doubt that Tim would enjoy the forthcoming year as Chair.

ACCOUNTS: Paulette Haigh

The accounts were discussed by Malcolm Towler in Paulette's absence and accepted. Proposer - Gil Taylor Secunder- Roy Carr.

MEMBERSHIP: Dave Paton

My figures are based on 30/04/2008

Total Membership was 204 made up as follows :- Car Associate 22 Car Members 126 Dual Members 6 Group Friends 6 Honorary Member 3 Motorcycle Associate 12 Motorcycle Members 29. This was seven up on last year which does not sound like a big increase but 50 names had been deleted for various reasons during the year. Some reasons for deletions were, people moving, Associates failing and not wishing to retake the test, some Associates left before taking their test and some people did not renew. 123 members gift aid, 36 new from last year. Once again after a steady start, renewal of membership had slowed up dramatically. As at the above date 68 people had yet to renew.

MOTORCYCLES: Stewart Gaukroger

The year has been very busy for the motorcycle section.

On the social side, our Thursday evening runs are ever popular, with good numbers of people attending.

We have also a group that recently returned from the annual 4 day tour of Scotland, and another group having their annual visit to the Isle of Man for the TT races. Both of which have been popular and well attended.

On the Training side, at last year's AGM we informed you that we're in the process of changing the format for the "Skill for Life" course and were starting running the course over 8 consecutive Saturday mornings.

This has proved to be very popular and successful, having had 3 courses during the past 12 months, with 22 new applications for "Skill for Life".

We have also got 2 further courses planned for this year, in June and in September.

This has meant that the motorcycle membership number has increased from 12 members as shown at last year's AGM, up to 29 this year, plus 6 dual members, bringing the total to 35 members, and 12 associates.

So the test passes for the year and membership numbers are steadily increasing

At the same time as running the "Skill for Life" course we have been running Observer Training courses and have now got 11 Qualified Motorcycle Observers to help run the Skill for Life courses.

So we feel that we have had a reasonably successful year in the motorcycle section.

CAR ASSOCIATES: Stella Owen

The Group had had a successful year with the pass rate at 100% (including a second attempt). Since the last AGM 20 car associates had passed, including 1 on a second attempt. 6 associates had dropped out of the course before trying the test. Reasons included, other commitments and recognition that the standard would not be reached.

We had four different examiners during the year, which had continued to present challenges. Thanks were expressed to Terry Martin, IAM examiner, who was present and was the examiner conducting the majority of our tests. Terry had supported the Group well and frequently attended Group events.

The current number of associates was 23. Eight had just started the new course and the others were either waiting for a test date or working for their test..

ASSOCIATES SECRETARY: Ray Woods

Ray reported a lack of new members from Formby – nine last year, two this year. Nine heard about us from the press last year, one this year. A fifth of new Associates joined from Southport. Five people joined from Woodvale. Still the majority join by word of mouth. Ray was asked do we get feedback from the examiner. His reply yes we do.

OBSERVER TRAINING : Dave Paton

Dave's report was read out by Tom in the absence of Dave and Richard

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Since my last Report, the Training Team has been depleted in strength by the retirement of Senior Observer - Frank Bennett. Richard Hardie has succeeded Frank in the role of Qualified Observer Training. As Chairman, I would like to thank Frank for his much appreciated contribution to training over the years.

The Team has met 3 times in the last year and has continued to perform its two main functions. Firstly, the training of Qualified Observers. The demand for Observers' services and experience, remains high so a proactive training programme is in place resulting in 3 successful passes to Qualified Observer during the period. At present, we have 2 trainee Observers undergoing tuition and have a list of 3 other people who have shown an interest in Q O training and will take the course later in the year.

In total there are currently 6 Senior Observers, 15 Observers (including 2 who have commenced Senior Observer training).

Secondly The Team continues to carry out new Associates briefing in the January, May and Sep-

tember intakes, and has also carried out 3 mid-course sessions with Associates and their Observers. The last one, held in February this year, developed lively debate on the subject of the use of indicators. Plans and dates for similar meetings for the rest of 2008 and into 2009 are already in place.

The qualification, and required re-qualification of both Senior and Qualified Observers has been monitored and undertaken by the Team throughout the year, as required.

Again importance was given by the Team to improve communication with Observers. An overview of the Qualified Observer – Training Programme, including future plans, was published in the October issue of the SAM Newsletter.

Senior Observers in the Team have continued to carry out Check Runs with Associates when required, and have also carried out IAM Drive Checks, with applications received through IAM Head Office.

Promotional activities participated in included Woodvale, which was very successful and Southport Plant, Food and Country Fair at Stanley Sports College (not so successful as in it's first year). Thanks to Tom O'Malley for his planning and co-ordination efforts on behalf of the Training Team.

In summary, it has been another busy year for the Training Team, with gratifying success. We plan to continue our work in the maintenance and development of a competent Observer resource to support the Sefton Advance Motorists - Associate Training Programme.

As Chairman of the Training Team I would like to thank all members of the Team for their support and valued contribution over the year.

ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Nominations for Chair – Tim Starkey, Vice Chairman – Tom O'Malley, Secretary - Jan West, Treasurer - Paulette Haigh. There being only one nomination for each Office all were elected to Office. Proposed by Frank Bennett and seconded by Malcolm Towler.

Tim Starkey took the Chair at this point and expressed his thanks to Stella for all her hard work in the previous year.

ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL MEMBERS:

As there were fewer nominations than places vacant, all were elected. These were proposed by Ron Clare and seconded by Alan Filson.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The accounts require checking not auditing. Malcolm had attended the last council meeting to present and discuss the accounts. Acceptance was proposed by Tom O'Malley and seconded by Ray Woods.

SPEAKER Pauline Smith (Regional Organiser)

Pauline began by saying that Stella had asked her to come and say hello. Professionally she was a nurse and had been IAM secretary for 24 years of Preston Group. At present she is helping with the army training for the IAM test. She told us about Wigan group and the Council co-operating re IAM tests. Pauline told us about the two new managing directors for IAM. There would be advertising coming up on Sport Radio. Pauline discussed the Eye Opening leaflet and left one with us. 30 test passes last year, 56 this year. We must be doing something right we were told. It is good that the group has feedback from Terry, our examiner. Malcolm asked why the IAM joined FIA. The reply was that it was probably for publicity purposes. He wasn't sure what age are mature drivers. The reply was 60 onwards. Tom asked did the group ask the Council or vice-versa. Pauline replied that they were going through the road safety department to run courses as in Wigan.

Tim thanked Pauline for coming.

A.O.B:

Tim thanked Alan for running the shop. Cam Cunningham is now taking over the shop and is open for business. Tim announced the date for the next meeting and thanked everyone for attending the AGM

**SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP No. 5143**

NOTICEBOARD

SAM shirts available.

Polo shirts & sweatshirts are now available embroidered with the IAM logo. The red car roundel is illustrated but there are also green ones for motorcyclists.



Cam Cunningham has arranged the supply and orders can be placed with him at any of the Group's meetings or by ringing him on 01704 892816.



Disclaimer

The Editor and the Group Council wish to make it clear, that the views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter, are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or the Institute.

Data Protection Act 1984

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