

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 307

Registered Charity No. 517780

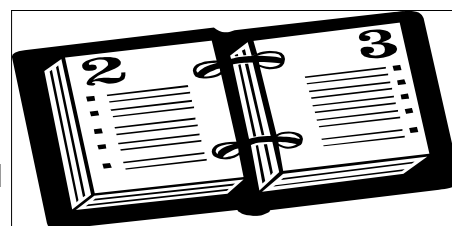
April 2010

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Forthcoming Attractions

Monday 19th April: this evening's talk is by **Bill Croskell** and is entitled **Focus on Risk**. He will talk about drugs and drink, problem drivers and useful information he collected from the IAM Fleet Training presentation.



Monday 17th May: the **26th Annual General Meeting** of Sefton Advanced Motorists. All members, associates and friends are cordially invited to attend.

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 All,

Thanks to everyone who managed to return a questionnaire last month. The results are being collated and when ready I'll report back, as normal if you have any pressing issues or suggestions don't hesitate in bending the nearest council members ear. Speaking of councils the AGM will soon be upon us again, so if you'd like to volunteer your services for any job in the group let Jan West our Secretary know as soon as possible.



Also a quick reminder to watch out for the group membership renewal form with your newsletter. All returns to be sent to Tim Starkey our membership secretary.

Now we're back into British summer time and the sun is making an occasional appearance, I note that our 2 wheel brethren, both motorised and pedal powered are now out in force. As were the local constabulary on the weekend; first policeman I've seen with a speed gun in months. This also coincides with a shiny new "Think Bike" advert (or at least one I didn't see you there mate so far), if 8 foot wide neon signs with your name on could be made aerodynamic these would surely be mandatory by now. This is a slightly different tack to the usual crash reconstruction scare tactic, fingers crossed the personal touch is as memorable.

The IAM's latest press release is also 2 wheel based, and encourages cyclists to assert their position at junctions and when overtaking. As motorists this is something to be aware of and anticipate cyclists moving out as they approach a hazard. Remember to leave a good falling off gap as you pass them.

The Region 5 Spring Meeting which is the get together for the local groups is set for the SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2010, if you'd like to see what the IAM is up to this year in our area then contact Jan West, now, for the details.

Lastly the IAM website has a poll for a motoring manifesto available until the 10th April take a look online at http://www.iam.org.uk/iam_polls .

See you soon,

Tom O'Malley

SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Sefton Advanced Motorists will be held at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport on Monday 17th May 2010 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 2010 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: Tom O'Malley, not seeking re-election as Chair
Vice- Chairman: Richard Hardie, 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:
Alan Filson, Gil Taylor and Ray Woods

Council Members not due for re-election, still to serve:
Dave Paton, Cam Cunningham, Stella Owen, Stewart Gaukroger, Dave Roscoe and Tim Starkey.

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 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. ANNUAL REPORT: Chair
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 MEMBERS
11. ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL OFFICERS
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 25th A.G.M. OF SEFTON GROUP, I.A.M. on 19th May 2009

PRESENT : 50 Members, Associates and Friends including David Kenworthy (IAM chairman), Angela Linsky (Regional Co-ordinator Region 5), Brian Moore and Terry Martin (Examiners), Ron Clare (president) and his wife Audrey and folk from surrounding groups.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Paulette Haigh, Dave Roscoe, Les Thurgeson, Trevor Wooding, Peter Jackson and Ian Marginson.

MINUTES OF THE LAST A.G.M.: Proposed by Alan Filson and seconded by Malcolm Towler were signed by the Chair as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: NTR

ANNUAL REPORT: (Chair)

Tim Starkey reported that monthly meetings at the Royal Clifton Hotel averaged an attendance of 50 with an excellent range of speakers. This attendance has been very pleasing at a time where we see many groups and organizations struggling for viability. Although we did not escape without some scars of our own as we had to cancel our eighth Christmas dinner at the Bold Hotel due to lack of numbers. The Royal Clifton Hotel was also used for training meetings for Associates.

The council has had eleven meetings throughout the year with an average attendance of ten. Council members also attended regional and national meetings on the group's behalf, mainly the national conference held in October at Warwick University, and Regional Conference at Christleton last month.

Thanks go to Jan West who has now completed her seventh year as secretary. Thanks to all members of the training team, chaired by David Paton, and Observers. Their work to maintain our standard of training was second to none and appreciated by all members of Sefton Advanced Motorists. Vice chair, Tom, has been a pleasure to work with and I'm sure will make an excellent chairman. Paulette Haigh who, apart from being a very efficient treasurer, has also delivered an excellent year of guest speakers. Standing down from his albeit temporary role of membership secretary is David Paton who has carried out the role admirably for as long as I remember. Thanks also to Gil and Tom for their efficiency in producing and distributing our monthly newsletter. We also welcomed Cam Cunningham as a council member who promptly took the role of group shop and later thanks for producing our group clothing.

Our thriving motorcycle section continues due to the efforts of Alan and Stewart. Over the past year we attended a number of events, mainly Woodvale and the Southport Historic Car Show. Thanks to Tom and Alan for their input. A third event, the MG owners show, was cancelled at the last minute, due to torrential rain leaving the show ground flooded. These events had not proved as successful as in previous years and bring into doubt their viability for the coming year.

Over the year all members of the council have provided an endless amount of time and hard work to ensure the year was as good as it was. Due to their support Tim enjoyed his year as chairman and it was a privilege to serve the group in the role, and is in no doubt that

Tom will also enjoy the forthcoming year as chairman.

ACCOUNTS: Paulette Haigh

The accounts were discussed by Malcolm Towler in Paulette's absence and accepted. Proposer – Alan Filson Seconder- Dave Paton. There was a proposal to increase the subs to £12.50 from May 2010. Proposed by Malcolm Towler and seconded by Ian Lister.

MEMBERSHIP: Dave Paton Membership Report

My figures are based on the 25/04/2009

Total Membership of 189 made up as follows :- Car Associate 13 Car Members 120 Dual Members 7 Group Friends 5 Honorary Member 2 Motorcycle Associate 11 Motorcycle Members 31.

Down on last year, but we have 60 outstanding renewals to chase up.

Four members up to now have not renewed their IAM membership due to the large rise in subscription and therefore cannot be full members of Sefton Group. Two have been deleted and two have renewed as group friends.

We have 113 group members who have gift aided, plus 10 Car Associates (during the last year)

Once again after a steady start, renewal of membership has slowed up dramatically.

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 had a successful Christmas "Fancy Dress" party held last December.

We have also a group that recently returned from the annual 4 day tour of Scotland, this year we had 10 motorcycles with 18 people.

Another group will be having their annual visit to the Isle of Man for the TT races. Both of which as in previous years have been popular and well attended.

On the Training side. We continued last year with the format for the "Skill for Life" course of meeting each Saturday morning over 8 consecutive weeks and this has proved to be very popular and successful.

During the last year we had 14 enroll for the Skill for Life course.

Because this runs from April 08 to March 09, some are still on this year's course but we had 11 test passes during the period April 08 March 09.

For this current year we are trying to accommodate even more with the running of The Skill for Life courses, by meeting every Saturday between March to October. This is for the people that cannot make eight consecutive weeks and is therefore more flexible for the associate.

The motorcycle membership number has increased and is now currently at 38 full members, and 11 very active associates taking The Skill for Life course. So far in this current year we have had 4 test passes and 3 waiting for a test date. So the membership numbers are steadily increasing.

At the same time as running the "Skill for Life" course we have been running Observer Training courses. This means that we have now got 14 Qualified Motorcycle Observers to help run the Skill for Life courses. Every one of them is active and well supportive of the group.

So we feel that we have had a reasonably successful year in the motorcycle section for the year 2008 - 2009.

CAR ASSOCIATES: Stella Owen

The Group had had a successful year with the pass rate at 94% (including a second attempt). Since the last AGM 17 car associates had passed. 8 associates had dropped out of the course before trying the test. Reasons included, other commitments, illness and recognition that the standard would not be reached. The drop out rate had increased slightly from last year.

We had three different examiners during the year. 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 15. 6 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

During the year I process the application forms completed by the associates. From these we can find out where the associates first heard of the I.A.M. (or what inspired them to apply) and also the areas they live in. Of the latter Formby had the most applicants followed by Southport and Tarleton. the others where spread over our area with no other clusters. We normally do well in Formby because of the press coverage we receive there, yet this year this is not the reason given by applicants, rather our Woodvale show presence and a member. The internet had only half the effect of last year, with the largest drop being from interest generated by newspapers, from one quarter in 07/08 to none in 08/09. The one increase, which has always been our best form of promotion, is from our members, this rose from one quarter to one third, keep up the good work.

OBSERVER TRAINING : Dave Paton and Richard Hardie

The Team met 3 times in the last year and has continued to perform its two main functions.

Firstly, the training of Qualified Observers. Development of Observers' services and experience is still important activity for the Training Team, However, due to the reduced numbers of Associates taking the Skill For Life Course during the period, Observer training activities were temporarily suspended from the January Associate intake. One successful passes to Qualified Observer during the period was achieved. At present, with an improved Associate intake for May, we have 2 trainee Observers ready to commence tuition with a list of 3 other people who have declared an interest in Q O training, who will follow on to take the course.

In total there are currently 6 Senior Observers, 14 Observers (including 1 who is Senior Observer Test ready).

Secondly The Training Team continues to carry out new Associates briefing in the January,

May and September intakes, and has also carried out 3 mid-course sessions with Associates and their Observers. Plans and dates for similar meetings for the rest of 2009 and into 2010 are in place.

Phil Kelly joined the Training Team and Qualified as a Senior Observer in August

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. There are 5 Qualified Observer re-qualifications outstanding, again delayed due to low Associate numbers. These will be completed over the next two months.

Senior Observers in the Team have continued to carry out Check Runs with Associates when required, and have also carried out 3 IAM Drive Checks, with applications received through IAM Head Office.

ELECTION OF GROUP COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Nominations for Chair – Tom O'Malley, Vice Chairman – Richard Hardie, Secretary - Jan West, Treasurer - Paulette Haigh. There being only one nomination for each Office all were elected to Office. Proposed by Malcolm Towler and seconded by Frank Bennett. Tom O'Malley took the Chair at this point and expressed his thanks to Tim for all his 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 Caroline Carr and seconded by Alan Filson.

Tom O'Malley (chair) thanked everyone who had assisted with the organization for tonight's meeting and the food. He hoped we would all enjoy the hot pot supper.

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 Dave Paton and seconded by Ray Woods.

SPEAKER David Kenworthy:(IAM Chairman) gave an interesting talk and power point presentation about the IAM. Tom thanked David for coming all the way up from London and for giving such an illuminating presentation.

A.O.B:

Tom thanked everyone for their attendance over the year at Royal Clifton meetings. Malcolm Towler asked to speak. He thanked the council for their hard work. Malcolm proposed a vote of thanks to councils past and present over the past 25 years. Proposed by Malcolm Towler and seconded by Tom O'Malley.

**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

Sefton Group will hold details of members and associates names and addresses on computer and paper files, in order to assist with administration. If you do not wish your details to be held, please make your objection known to the Membership Secretary.