

2024 Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists AGM Minutes

Held at the Lamb & Lion, Hambridge TA10 0AT, 11th May 2024

Members present; Dave Parker, Tony Sauer, Andy McKay, Callum Bremner, Mike Collins, Rob Bartlett, John Sheffield, Rick Chubb, Andy Hall, Trev Watts, Roger Moffatt, Steve Schlemmer, Jackie Wenden, Matthew Galea, Neill Sedgwick, Mick Hill, Debbie Brown, Steve Ball, Adam Leeds, Pat Leeds, John Ridd, Andy Warr, Steve Parker, Alistair Gee, Lisa Martin, Jez Martin, Ray Norton, Graham Tulloch, Ian Thomas, Ian Styles, Caroline Killer, Will Eccles, Elaine Callaghan, Anita Jelley, Martin Surrey, Andy Bourne.

Apologies; RAB Lavender, Linda Hay, Martin Hember, Georges Dupuis, Phil Noone, Richard Pearse.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

- **Minutes of 2023 AGM.** Resolution; that the minutes of the AGM be approved as a true record. Having sent these out to all members for their perusal prior to the meeting, these were unanimously accepted. Proposed by Jez Martin. Seconded by Rob Bartlett.
- **Chair's Report.** We have had a good year since the last AGM. Despite the weather, we had an excellent SWSPR with more entries than ever. For the first time, we had a visit from another club (Wey Valley Advanced) to the area and we were able to take them on a couple of rides, showing them how good our roads are! Martin extended his thanks for their work to those committee members who are stepping down on this occasion.
- **Treasurer's Report.** We have £9500 available to set budgets against. Following discussions at the last committee meeting, it was decided that the following budgets be set for the present financial year; SWSPR (£1000), Recruitment (£2000), Training (£3000), Training Bike (£1500), Social Event (£1000), Hardship/Under-30 Fund (£1500).
- **Acceptance of Accounts.** The last audited accounts, dated 31/03/2024, were presented to all members prior to the AGM. These were accepted unanimously by those present. Proposed by Graham Tulloch. Seconded by Callum Bremner.
- **Membership Secretary Report.** As I am sure you are aware the IAM increased the Advanced Rider course fee from £175.00 to £215.00. The question to this is has it impacted on recruitment of New Members? Here is a brief break down; last year March April we had 13 new members including 1 under 30. Pre Price increase this year month March - April = 7 New members. Last year Month of May 10 new members with an additional 2 transfer members from other groups. This year 1, okay the month is not finished but there is no sign of many coming through even after the Bank holiday we have just had the last Quarter new members total 15 so the pre-price increase was fairly healthy. With that information to digest, as a Club our membership overall is impressive with numbers totalling 313. The breakdown is as follows, 252 Full members 55 Associates and 6 friends. Last year We had a total of 296 members, with 237 full members and 53 associates and 6 friends so there is not a great deal of difference and indeed over the past 4-5 years these figures are fairly stable. What may alter these figures in the coming months is obviously the cost of the course and also promotion of such courses and how these are conducted and promoted. Somerset Road Safety have had their budgets cut so there will be less presence from them and that was where a lot of our new members were drawn. As a club we should really be encouraging Riders to take the course at every opportunity we get but the IAM should be the driving force and get out there, face to face; time will tell whether their promotion

strategy is working or not. To close our Club-Group is exceptionally supported within and other Groups do notice this as we have recently experienced when Wye Valley Adv M/C were hosted by our Club. Our Membership numbers reflect year on that we are doing something right and may we long continue, but should we be doing something more? Well, you need additional volunteering to push that path ahead.

- **Events Coordinator Report.** We had 81 club rides in total with 22 ride leaders; more always welcome! As ever, we had 5 C&T events over the winter, held at Othery Village Hall and these were generally well attended. We held 2 slow riding events, with another 2 this year, and these were well attended too.
- **SWSPR Report.** This year's event was the most successful ever! 239 tickets sold with 207 starting on the day, despite the dreadful weather forecast. There were 180 finishers with 20 achieving Gold+, having made it down to Lands End. We have yet to finalise figures but we will make over £3000 profit this year.
- **Observer Coordinator Report.** Results for the calendar year 2023 (2022)

Pass	33	(16)
First	8	(15)
NO passes	3	
Fail	3	(2)
Total Tests	47	(33)

The 3 Associates who failed in 2023 retook their test and subsequently passed, one with a First. In my book this means that SAM has a 100% success record! All the above was achieved by 25 Observers 2 with Trainee Observers. Roll of honour for Observers. It's not a competition but these 3 deserve a shout;

1st Lindsay Wilson 5.

2nd Martin Hember and Richard Pearse 4. Richard just missed a hattrick.

We have 28 National Observers (20 in 2022) with 17 Local observers, 3 of whom are in training to National Observer (27 in 2023). 10 Trainees heading for NO status.

Andy McKay will take over as Observer Coordinator and be assisted by Martin Hember; my thanks to both. My thanks also to all the Observers who have volunteered this year and in the past and put up with my nonsense in the emails! I have enjoyed my role as Observer Coordinator but I will look forward to taking a rest.

- **Training Report.** Of the 3 Fails reported above, these were for breaking the law, failing to stop at a STOP sign and exceeding the posted speed limit. 1 NO fail was also down to failing to stop at a STOP sign. Overall, our training is working well. Hopefully, a few more LOs will become NOs. We have Gina's Rideout on 7th September and we will be hosting the IGTT event in October.
- **Taster Ride Coordinator Report.** Since taking on the role in March of this year, we have received 10 requests for a Taster Ride, 8 of which have been completed.
- **Merchandise Update.** Sales of merchandise are up from 22/23 totalling £348.31. We also ordered a stock of orange hi-viz vests for TERs costing £24.86. Total outgoings for these £369.04. If you do the maths you can see we make minimal profit on merchandise sales. I hold £559.28 of stock, showcasing the range of clothing and colours/sizes available. We recognised that we hadn't previously done enough to promote our branded clothing range, particularly to new members. We are now going to ensure that there is a regular article in each edition of Full Chat. So, look out for that which will be coming soon! It would be great to have a male volunteer to model for the next edition so that we can showcase more colours from the range; if you'd like to help, please get in touch!

Members should be aware that there can be quite a delay between ordering and receiving clothing. Items are embroidered to order, so unless I have in stock, I have to wait for our supplier to get it done.

- **Presentation of the “Measuring Somerset 2023/24 Award”.** As the organiser of this event, Steve Schlemmer presented the £50 cash prize to a new winner; Mike Collins. Well done Mike! This year’s event will be published in the next Full Chat.
- **The Election of Group Officers.**

Chair; Martin Surrey. Continuing in this role for one further year.

Deputy Chair; Will Eccles. Nominated by Bob Muckett. Seconded by Anita Jelley.

Group Secretary; Matthew Galea. Nominated by Andy Bourne. Seconded by Martin Surrey.

Treasurer; Anita Jelley. Nominated by Linda Hay. Seconded by Andy Bourne.

The above were elected unanimously.

- **The Election of the Committee.**

Deputy Secretary; Andy Bourne. Nominated by John Ridd. Seconded by Martin Surrey.

Membership Secretary; Dave Parker. Continuing in this role.

Joint Chief Observer; Callum Bremner. Continuing in this role.

Joint Chief Observer; Jim Donnelly. Continuing in this role.

Full Chat Editor; Graham Tulloch. Continuing in this role.

IT Lead; Jez Martin. Continuing in this role.

Observer Coordinator; Andy McKay. Nominated by Tony Sauer. Seconded by Andy Bourne.

Taster Ride Coordinator; Ian Thomas. Nominated by Simon Greenwood. Seconded by Dave Parker.

Events Coordinator; Mike Collins. Nominated by Trev Watts. Seconded by Andy Bourne.

Merchandising; Linda Hay. Continuing in this role.

Publicity Officer; Ania Jelley. Nominated by Will Eccles. Seconded by Martin Surrey.

The above were elected unanimously.

- **Address by New Chair.** Thanks extended to all new Group Officers and Committee Members. We have a challenge to keep existing members as well as attracting new ones, given the price increases levied by the IAM. Hopefully we can continue our good work.

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm.