



# Cambridge Advanced Motorcyclists

IAM Group 7221 | Registered Charity 1085377

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 14.30 on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Footprints Café, Sawston Free Church, 1 High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BG**

### **Welcome from the Chair**

The meeting opened at 14.35 with Graham Scott, the Chair, welcoming members.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Steve Rowdon, Roy Turner, Bruce Pritchard, Roger Taylor, Catherine Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Tim Smithson, Ian Rhodes, Mick O'Hare, John Clery, Steve Hampson, Barry Dickinson, Stuart Stanley, Nick Harwood, Tom Jacobs, Jason Wingfield.

### **Minutes of the AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

There were no comments from the floor and the minutes were taken to be an accurate record. Proposed by Ian Dunckley, seconded by Mike Gray and signed by the Chair.

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were five matters arising, three of which were to be covered later on the agenda.

- i) The Treasurer had appealed to those paying their annual CAM subscription by direct debit or standing order to make sure that the payment is made no earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> May and no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May as anything outside these dates caused accounting problem. The Treasurer reported that, with one exception, payment timing is now correct.
- ii) It had been suggested that the Group should consider using PayPal for transactions given that charities can receive a discounted transaction rate. After reviewing the matter, the Treasurer's view was that the rate is still too high.

### **Chair's Report**

Over the last couple of years CAM has endured a very difficult time with its activities severely restricted. However, it has been able to function due to the strength and depth of the current Committee. Social rides were organised under the prevailing restrictions at the time and the occasional get togethers were held.

Taking on the Chair from Mark Pawson, who had done such a great job, itself was a challenge. There have been some obvious changes to my role within the Group, particularly handing over the Chief Observer role to Mike Gray, who has taken this on with enthusiasm.

I have decided to step down as Chair and make way for another member to be elected to the post. However, I am willing to stand for the Committee to help grow and support CAM and all it stands for.

The past couple of years have been challenging to say the least but CAM has continued to attract new members. I for one will continue to defend and fight for members of CAM to promote advanced, skillful, safe and courteous riding.

The Secretary proposed a vote of appreciation for all the Chair had done to support the membership and the Committee. Those present warmly concurred by showing their thanks.



## Secretary's Report

Since the last AGM we have welcomed 22 new Associates and 2 Full Members who have transferred from other IAM local groups. Seven members have left the Group owing to house moves or retirement from motorcycling.

The number of Associates and Members who renewed their CAM membership, or were exempt from paying the subscription, was 134. Twenty-eight Associates and Members have not renewed. After two years of free Group membership, it is perhaps not surprising that we would have a larger than usual rate of non-renewal as it would have been spread over three years instead of one year in normal times.

Post-renewal, the Group currently comprises:

- 94 Full Members (10 of whom are Fellows and 7 active Honorary Members)
- 29 Associates
- 11 non-active Honorary Members

During the year we have had the pleasure of inviting Howard Sherriff and Phil Pearson to become Honorary Members, and Mark Pawson became an Honorary Member by virtue of being a past Chair.

The task of reconciling CAM and IAM membership records has continued throughout the year. I am now confident that CAM members are also current IAM members, as required by our rules.

It has been a pleasure to correspond with our members and I appreciate their support and the support of the Committee. If I have failed to reply to any messages, I apologise. There have been over 1400 emails received and sent since last July. I just hope my successor as Secretary has not just heard that!

The Chair thanked the Secretary on behalf of members for his professional approach to the job of Secretary.

## Treasurer's Report

The headline financial figures for the 2021-22 CAM year:

- Opening balance           £9612.56
- Closing balance           £6685.21

The accounts went to the auditor on 6<sup>th</sup> July and have been signed off.

The budget for the year assumed that at the year end the accounts would stand at £5000. In the event, we spent less due to not replacing the gazebo as the old one was in a better condition than expected when it was taken out of storage.

Office equipment past its life expectancy has been replaced. Two of the laptops were offered to members, going to the highest bidder. £150 was raised in donations for them.

Events in the 2021-22 period:

- The Treasure Hunt raised £280 for East Anglian Air Ambulance. A £50 prize in the form of two free places at the CAM Christmas dinner was paid for from Group funds.
- The BBQ was well attended. The cost of £180 was subsidised by the Group by 63%.



- The Christmas meal was again well attended and raised £824. Simon Burgin and his wife were our guests to say thank you for all he does for road safety and examining the Group.
- The Simon Weir event saw a packed house, raising £215. Room hire and refreshments cost £165 and £19 respectively.

We saw two big donations to the Group, one from Milton Keynes group and one from IAM head office. Both have been used to replace publicity material and the ageing display for shows such as Meldreth. The display comprises new flags, a pop-up banner with road safety facts to act as a talking point, and display boards for new photos.

It is hoped that subscriptions will continue to stay at £15 for members that have passed the IAM test. I have calculated this based on average expenses of £1768/120 paying members<sup>1</sup>. The expenses figure comes from £1295 for general costs plus £473 for equipment whose cost is amortised over five years. With rising living costs, I hope members will find this hoped-for freeze favourable.

I am happy that the Group is still in a good financial position, and that we will be able to offer more events for members to participate in, providing of course members step up and join the Committee to help organise and run new events.

Richard Leney was thanked for all he does for the Group.

### **Event Co-ordinator's Report**

Catherine Ryan's report was read out in her absence.

The new season started with a cheerful buffet which gathered about 30 members at the Footprints Café where this AGM is taking place today. Chef Angie and her team concocted delicious salads and cold meats followed by mouth-watering desserts. We were so impressed by the quality of the food that we held the Group's Christmas dinner at the café and asked Angie to devise the menu.

Autumn 2021 was busy: our IAM examiner PC Simon Burgin led the Meet the Examiner evening, on 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Hauxton Centre, the new Village Hall.

This was an opportunity for Associates to meet Simon and to ask questions about what he is expecting during the IAM test. As usual Simon's talk was informative and entertaining and there were many seasoned riders in the audience.

Maintenance Day took place on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the instigation of Matt Howes. We were able to use the forensics workshop at the Police HQ in Hinchingsbrooke near Huntingdon. Five volunteers answered Matt's call:

- Chris Curryer offered a demonstration on electrics
- Adrian Ashman explained how to adjust the brakes
- Terry Jacobs shared his expertise on controls adjustment
- Steve Alsop demonstrated how to thoroughly clean your bike with useful tips to get at the less accessible parts

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<sup>1</sup> Post-meeting note. We had 86 paying members this year and 48 were exempt from paying the subscription. This might require the calculation of the subscription figure and/or the classes of free membership to be reassessed.



- Matt himself showed how to clean, adjust and repair your chain

Finally, we were lucky enough to have James, an expert in forensics investigation who revealed what can be learnt from collecting, examining and analysing parts of a crashed vehicle and the conclusions that arise from this process.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service organised for us three exclusive Biker Down workshops in February, March and June. Another two are planned for September and October. The feedback from members was very positive

March 16<sup>th</sup> saw members return to the Hauxton Centre for a talk by Simon Weir former editor of Ride Magazine and author of the best-selling books Bikers' Britain and Bikers 'Britain: The Tours. Simon talked about his 15 years of experience as a bike tester with self-deprecating humour and some fun anecdotes. This was followed by a Q&A session.

CAM returned to the Meldreth show on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> June. We proudly deployed the gazebo and the flags and displayed photos relating to the year's events. Our stand attracted interest and we had quite a few enquiries about the IAM test and the Group's activities.

Since the last AGM, social rides have continued: 22 Sunday rides and an all-day Norfolk and Suffolk ride, which Keith Tremeer devised. Chris Curryer organised a 7 day trip to Northern Ireland to coincide with the NW200 race, a Northern Irish motorsport event established in 1929 for road racing motorcycles held on a street circuit known as the Triangle.

In August Chris again will take members to the Cotswolds and Barry Dickinson will lead his ride to Kent in September with a new knee!

There was an expression of thanks to Catherine for all the work that she puts into organising successful and enjoyable events.

### **Chief Observer's Report**

During the 12 months since the last AGM the Group has had 19 test passes and 2 failures. There are 29 Associates at various points in their training with 3 waiting for a test (2-3 on hold) and 3 Associates currently waiting for Observers. The Group has:

- 6 National Observers
- 4 National Observers on hold
- 7 Local Observers
- 1 trainee Local Observer

The electronic version of the run sheet has been introduced and in use for several months. Other than a couple of minor issues it seems to be working well. This run sheet was introduced to prepare Observers for when they will upload run sheets to the IAM DARTS database.

Catherine Ryan and I have during the year been in discussion with Vision Zero Partnership. Vision Zero is a government-backed road safety partnership strategy, incorporating the International Safe System policy approach, for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It currently has a funded programme on trial with PECAM running until the autumn of this year. Once the results of the trial have been analysed, they hope to expand the scheme to cover Cambridgeshire as well. We have expressed a desire to be considered in future funding schemes.



I have also been in discussion with my counterparts in other groups both in our region and outside with a view to exploring ways in which we can collaborate and share resources & experience to benefit each other, particularly in the areas of Associate and Observer training /development in line with IAM best practice.

Over the next 12 months I intend to continue to work through my Chief Observer plan, a part of which is to introduce training packages for both Associates and Observers that both standardise and build on what we do now.

Mike Gray was thanked and received applause for his work to develop the Group's core objective of improving riding standards.

### **Webmaster's Report**

Patrick Ryan's report was read out in his absence.

Apart from one very noticeable event which is yet to be fully resolved - more on this in a moment - there is nothing major to report from the website from the last 12 months. Behind the scenes we experimented with a 'plug-in' to manage the Group's membership database (initially for the use of relevant Committee members, with a view to eventually extending this to allow members to view and update their individual records). Early investigations and implementation held out promise but this work-in-progress was put on hold (with the sample database deactivated) in mid-February when for reasons unrelated to the membership database plugin the website crashed and was entirely unreachable for 48 hours.

The Group's website is constructed and maintained using WordPress - the look of the website comes from WordPress 'themes' and the functionality from WordPress 'plug-ins'. We provide the content and select and configure the themes and plugins to suit our needs. Behind all of this WordPress has our entire website bundled up into one database written in the programming language PHP. In February WordPress unilaterally updated tens of thousands of websites - ours included - which were running on what they considered an outdated version of PHP to the newest version, causing our own (and many others) to crash emphatically.

By rebuilding the website in progressively earlier versions of PHP I was able, over two days, to piece the majority of the website back together. We are currently running a newer version of PHP than the one the site ran on before February but an older version than the one WordPress upgraded us to. However, very significantly the Events Calendar plugin has stayed deactivated since the February crash as attempts to reactivate it cause the website to crash.

To resolve the problem just described I will be working with the website designer we engaged to create our website. I hope this repair and update process will be complete before the end of the summer with the Events Calendar restored to normal function and the website running at the latest level of PHP.

Patrick was thanked for all he does to keep the website attractive, current and robust.

### **Open Forum**

The point was made that the Events Calendar on the Group's website is where people go to find out what is happening. Its unavailability may be deterring Members and Associates from participating in events. It should be clearer that the calendar is currently non-operational and the problem is not just a temporary glitch. **Action: Patrick Ryan**



Robin Freeman from the floor opened up a long discussion about Group Sunday rides to which many contributed. The two main issues, as far as he sees them, were the need to book a place on a ride in advance and the limit on the number of riders. These were Covid measures which had not been removed and both were undesirable. The Chair responded with his own thoughts on the matter, stating that safety was paramount. The Chief Observer summarised the rationale for the booking system and for limiting the number of riders per ride. He emphasised that the latter did not preclude having two rides if there were sufficient numbers. The following comments were made:

- CAM is primarily a rider safety organisation
- For years we have told riders to ride for themselves – it is up to the individual to ride safely
- We are losing members because of the booking system and putting off leaders and tail-enders
- Without some control, newer riders can be Intimidated by the pace of a ride
- Rides should not be based around the least experienced riders – the lowest common denominator
- The general standard of social rides has improved in the last five years
- We have a duty of care towards our members and we should manage rides accordingly
- It is the quality of rides that matter, not the number of riders
- It had been decided by the Committee six months before Covid first appeared to restrict the number of riders on a Sunday ride<sup>2</sup>
- There should be different rides for different experience levels
- Less experienced riders gain from being behind experienced riders, especially with respect to learning good road positioning
- Why do we not attract more female riders?
- The booking system takes away spontaneity and not all members find it convenient to book or know whether they will be available to ride until the day
- The IAM riding methods taught now do not produce advanced riders like they used to
- One member present said they could not get on a ride because it was fully booked
- The maximum number on a ride should be decided by the ride leader and tail-enders

There was no consensus owing to the diversity of opinions and strong feelings but it was agreed that it would be helpful if the views of the wider membership were solicited to guide the Committee.

**Action: Committee**

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<sup>2</sup> CAM committee minutes 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It was proposed that 10 was a safe maximum number of riders



## Election of Officers

The Secretary explained that the constitution of CAM requires all the Officers and one-third of the other Committee members to retire by rotation but allows them to stand for re-election as set out in the AGM Notice.

The Secretary had received four nominations for the four Officer positions.

- Chair: Ian Dunckley. Nominated by Patrick Ryan, seconded by Mike Gray
- Vice Chair: Keith Tremeer. Nominated by Catherine Ryan, seconded by Ian Dunckley
- Secretary: Graham Maile. Nominated by Ian Dunckley, seconded by Keith Tremeer
- Treasurer: Richard Leney. Nominated by Richard Leney, seconded Graham Maile

The appointments were approved.

Catherine Ryan and Mike Gray continue to serve on the Committee while Janet Pinion and Patrick Ryan retire by rotation. The Secretary had received two nominations for the Committee:

- Patrick Ryan. Nominated by Keith Tremeer, seconded by Ian Dunckley
- Stavros Theodoridis. Nominated by Catherine Ryan, seconded by Mike Gray

The Secretary asked for any nominations from the floor. Graham Scott said he would stand and was seconded by Ian Dunckley. David Southern also said he would stand and was seconded by Chris Curryer. There was a show of hands to indicate approval. The new Committee comprises:

- Catherine Ryan
- Mike Gray
- Patrick Ryan
- Stavros Theodoridis
- Graham Scott
- Dave Southern

The Secretary thanked those leaving the Committee for their contribution over many years.

## Any Other Business

Ian Dunckley presented a vision of how he would like CAM to develop over the next three years. Using slides, he described where things were today and how we need to engage more of the membership and make learning central to the CAM culture. Our objective should be to make everyone a safer and more confident rider, by creating a supportive and inclusive continuous learning environment. The more of us who get involved to share the load the easier it will become. Three years is the maximum period of commitment we should expect in any one position. There should be Trustee roles, new sub-committee roles and new project roles. A three-year plan was briefly described. The slides will be distributed to members so that they can absorb the contents more fully. **Action: Ian Dunckley**

There were a few questions and observations from the floor concerning the presentation. The point was made that experience showed that if we are enthusiastic, people will be drawn into the Group.

The Chair thanked members for attending and Ian Beeby for arranging the venue. The meeting closed at 17.10.



## **Attendance List**

Steve Alsop

Larry Barge

Ian Beeby

Chris Curryer

Shaun Digby

Diana Dunckley (guest of Ian Dunckley)

Ian Dunckley

Robin Freeman

Nigel Goss

Mike Gray

Terry Jacobs

Richard Leney

Graham Maile

Janet Pinion

Martin Pinion (present for the second half of the meeting)

Graham Scott

David Southern

Stavros Theodoridis

Keith Tremeer

Pete Webb

One name not recorded