



Congleton Advanced Motorists

incorporating Macclesfield Advanced Motorists

Annual General Meeting Astbury Village Hall 22nd May 2013

Present:

Committee:	John Twigg (Chairman)	Jeff Cowell (Secretary)
	Allan Freeman (Treasurer)	Graham Board
	Kath Barber	Peter de Bourcier
	Linda Maddock	Andy MacDonald

Invited guests included:

David Hayes (Mayor of Congleton)
John Dwyer (Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire)
Scott Cowap (Altrincham Advanced Motorists)
Gavin Hutton (Wilmslow Advanced Motorists)
Robert Brittain (Local Examiner)
Plus approx 43 members, friends and guests

Apologies:

Hamish Howarth
Suzanne Carr
Ian Marginson (IAM Regional Co-ordinator)
Fiona Bruce MP - Honorary President
Mayor of Cheshire East
Mabel Mullock

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all members and approximately 43 guests.

Minutes of the last Meeting (Resolution i)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April 2012 were accepted.

PROPOSED: Peter de Bourcier SECONDED: Allan Freeman

Chairman's Report

John Twigg reported that the last 12 months had been challenging, but we have continued to maintain Group membership at around 200 with a mix of Car drivers and Motorcycle riders. He reinforced the benefits of Advanced Driving in terms of reduced level of accidents and injury, insurance and fuel economy benefits, vehicle wear and tear reduction and a pleasanter driving experience. The group has worked closely with other bodies interested in road safety including the Cheshire Road Safety Team and we participated in the 'Drive Alive' event held at Tytherington High School in Macclesfield when some 200 pupils were given information and advice about safe practices on the road.

We have been given great support from our Honorary President and local MP, Fiona Bruce, obtaining good local publicity and a visit to Parliament for some of our members.

The motorcycle group is progressing well under Graham Board's leadership and through its efforts is attracting a growing membership and more local interest. A recent innovation was a Safer Riding & Group notice board at the famous 'Cat & Fiddle' Inn.

For the future we are hoping to introduce a Twitter Account and seek appropriate help with this

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technology and we continue to try and improve our website.

Input from all of our members is always welcome and those with suggestions or ideas will be developed wherever possible.

The Chairman thanked all of those who have volunteered their time and effort over the past year to help and made special mention of the members of the Committee and the Observer Group.

He called on all members to support the group and encourage others to join us either as an Associate or to take a free assessment drive.

There was just one question raised from the floor and this concerned the proposed visit to the Bentley factory in Crewe. It was explained that when promoted only 3 members expressed an interest in participating. We hope to use the Bentley facilities for our next AGM when we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of our Group.

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the accounts for 2012/13 were circulated by the Treasurer, Allan Freeman.

The Treasurer reported that the accounts are in a healthy state, especially considering the depressed economic climate. There was therefore no intention to change subscription rates for the next 12 months.

Capital expenditure was low over the past year but there are funds available for other possible purchases such as the helmet cameras being considered by the Motorcycle Group so that the ride could be retrospectively discussed with the associate.

The accounts show a doubling of the cost of room hire, but this was due to a late billing of this charge in the previous year.

Similarly Group Insurance premium fell due twice within the past year.

No questions were raised after this presentation.

(Resolution ii)

The accounts were unanimously accepted.

PROPOSED: Linda Maddock SECONDED: Graham Board

Membership Secretary's Report

Kath Barber reported that this year had seen us recruit 28 new Associates which is down on last year's 31.

16 associates had taken their test during the year which was also down on the 25 of a year earlier. Only 1 'fail' was recorded.

Current active membership stands at 195 which is slightly ahead of the previous year. In total we have recorded 719 individuals who have joined the Group since its original formation.

There are now 5 qualified senior observers, and 4 new observers were recruited during the year.

There were no questions for the Membership Secretary.

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Motorcycle Section Report

Graham reported a successful development year having reviewed their objectives for the year and confirming that all were delivered.

There are now 4 observers including 2 senior observers, with 2 experienced observers joining from the Coventry area during the year. This has allowed the Group to undertake a wider range of activities which in turn is helping to attract more Associates. A 'Meet the Examiner' evening was very successful and will be repeated, social 'Ride Outs' have proved very popular and 'Slow-riding' events are being well received assisting riders to better control their machines.

We have given presentations to other biker groups such as 'Bear Town Riders' in Congleton and have established a good relationship with the 'Cat & Fiddle' Pub, referred to by the Chairman.

For the next 12 months the plan is to build on this and further develop the numbers of observers and Associates through a similar programme of activity.

A question was raised concerning 'Ride-Outs' to specific Biking events.

It was suggested that as the 'Ride-Out' day was a new step for us we have not done this as yet but it will be considered in future programmes.

Election of Officers

All current Committee Officers and Members were standing down from their posts and offering themselves for re-election for a further 12 months.

The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were all re-elected.
All other existing committee members were re-elected.

The following, having been nominated and seconded, were elected to office for 2013/14

Chairman	John Twigg
Secretary	Jeffrey Cowell
Treasurer	Allan Freeman

Other elected Committee Members were:

Membership	Kath Barber
Newsletter	Peter de Bourcier
Motor Cycle Section	Graham Board
Committee members	Linda Maddock
	Andy MacDonald
	Hamish Howarth
Publicity Officer	Suzanne Carr

The Chairman resumed the chair, and welcomed the new Committee members, particularly Suzanne who has a very important role to fill.

Driving Awards

The awards for quality of driving on test were presented by Cllr. David Heyes, Mayor for Congleton, and who would make a perfect candidate to join our Group.

The winners this year were:

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George Parker Trophy for Best Young Driver of the Year
Laura Daubney

Spirit of Ecstasy Trophy for Best Associate of the Year
Timothy Evans

Mullock Shield for the runner-up
Leslie Jackson

The Mayor recorded his support and admiration for the work of the Group and looked forward to its continuing success. He particularly complemented the winners of the awards for their enthusiasm and wished to encourage more young people to join and improve their skills.

The final act of this first part of the evening was a presentation of flowers to the ladies who provide the refreshment for our social gathering.

This concluded the formal business of the AGM and was followed by a short refreshment break.

Following the break **Mr John Dwyer**, the new the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, made an interesting presentation on his background and his role as he sees it now.

Having explained the formation of this new role with 41 Commissioners across England who had to be voted for by the public to hold office and who had significant powers in determining the direction of our police forces in future. It also became clear that because of the limited resources devoted to the formation of this new Police controlling group many of the public had little understanding of the role. Mr Dwyer stated that he would follow up on the lost leaflets sent out before these elections, but that The Policing Plan is available on line for everyone to read.

He went on to describe how he is raising the profile of the role by meeting with relevant groups whenever possible and explaining his desire for input from the public.

He also specifically talked of his concern for heritage crime in our rural community, loss of landmarks, damage to places of historic interest, etc. He also stressed his concern about road safety and making further reductions in accident and injury statistics. He was particularly pleased to see the local figures for Cheshire were currently falling and he wanted to maintain this trend.

There were a number of questions raised concerning:

1. Getting more police visible on the street
2. A statistical analysis of the type of road where most accidents occur.
3. What specific staff he had available to assist him

John answered these as best he could at this stage but stated that he would like to come back at some future date to tell us more about the specifics of his work.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm approx.

