

## Your Committee for 2011

**Gordon Burley Chairman & Senior Observer 01285 654315**  
e-mail: [gpburley@waitrose.com](mailto:gpburley@waitrose.com)

**Tom Seed Vice-Chairman 01453 833022**  
[cowleyseed@btinternet.com](mailto:cowleyseed@btinternet.com)

**David Mellor Secretary 01285 643883**  
3, Fraziers Folly, Siddington, Cirencester, GL7 6HR  
e-mail: [davemelloriam@aol.com](mailto:davemelloriam@aol.com)

**Robert Lang Treasurer 01285 650735**  
11, The Maples, Cirencester, GL7 1TQ  
e-mail: [robert@the3rs.demon.co.uk](mailto:robert@the3rs.demon.co.uk)

**Gareth Zimmerman Membership Secretary, 01453 750884**  
Safflower House, London Road, Stroud. GL5 2AT Mob: 07711702384  
e-mail: [gareth.ella@virgin.net](mailto:gareth.ella@virgin.net)

**Frank Lucas Associate Co-ordinator 01666 824999**  
[colinflucas@gmail.com](mailto:colinflucas@gmail.com)

**Rod Hodges Committee Member 01666 822535**

**Alan Watt Webmaster 01453 873364**  
2 Grigshot Cottages, Rooksmoor, Woodchester, Stroud, GL5 5NE  
e-mail: [awattiam@sky.com](mailto:awattiam@sky.com)

### Other Contacts

**Richard Furneaux IAM Regional Co-ordinator 01443 679163**

**Terry Whelan Newsletter Editor** e-mail: [whelant1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whelant1@hotmail.co.uk)

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Articles or letters for publication are always welcome. Please forward your contribution for the Autumn 2011 issue to the Editor by the copy date of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

***Terry Whelan, Newsletter Editor***

## **Chairman's Report**

The AGM in March was well attended again so we had a quorum to pass the business of the evening. We have a couple of changes on the committee so hopefully we will be able to continue our efforts for road safety on a positive note. The updated Constitution was accepted so I think our paperwork is bang up to date.

I am pleased to say that Muriel is making a good recovery and has returned to attending our meetings on a regular basis.

We have a steady attendance at our meetings, usually between 20 and 25 regulars, but we will be pleased to see anyone else who does not normally attend. They are very sociable gatherings and speakers vary considerably.

We did offer Skid Pan Training for members at a reduced rate last year but I only had two responses. We are quite prepared to do this again this year so please do let me know if any of you are interested. If we can make up 12 drivers, we can have the Skid Pan for our exclusive use. Those who have attended in the past have found it very enjoyable and most useful.

Safe motoring.

***Gordon Burley. Chairman***

## **Treasurer's Report**

At the time of writing (15<sup>th</sup> May), the balances of the Group's deposit and current accounts amount to £4,222.

### **Renewal of Subscriptions for 2011**

I am pleased to report that 89 members renewed their subscriptions; with 61 and 28 payments being received by Standing Order and cheque respectively. In addition, four Concessions were applicable.

Ten members did not renew their subscriptions; with resignations being received from six - and the membership of the remaining four, who did not respond to reminders, being considered to have lapsed.

### **Cheque Payments**

Please make any cheques for the Group payable to:

- **Cirencester & District Advanced Motorists**

*Robert Lang, Group Treasurer*

## **Membership Matters**

### **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:**

Full members	78
Associates under training	8
Associates waiting	2
Friends	10
Honorary	1
Non-members (no status)	1

*Alan Watt & Gareth Zimmerman.*

## **CADAM News**

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was held at the March meeting, 2 March 2011. A copy of the minutes follows:

### **Cirencester and District Group of Advanced Motorists AGM 2011**

#### ***Minutes of 2011 Annual General Meeting***

. Minutes of the 2011 AGM of Cirencester and District Group of Advanced Motorists, held at 8.00pm, on Wednesday 2nd March 2011, at Daglingworth Village Hall

#### ***Attendees***

21 Group members and visitors attended.

#### ***1. Apologies for Absence***

There were four apologies for absences: Chris Dunster, Janet Denning, Alan Cook and John Davis.

#### ***2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2010AGM***

The Minutes of the 2010 AGM were accepted by the meeting.  
Proposed: Muriel Hackett  
Seconded: Nigel Deller

### **3. Officers Reports for 2010**

#### **3.1 Chairman's Report**

Gordon Burley reported that the Group has maintained a steady membership throughout 2010. Numbers have hovered just over the 100 mark but new associates joining have dropped off over the last 6 – 9 months. Perhaps the rise in the IAM membership fee plus the current economic climate have finally taken their toll. The committee is considering ways to reach the public at large and encourage local people to join us. We will be looking for support from members during the summer months to get out there and sell the Group. Monthly meetings have been generally well attended with the usual twenty or so regulars giving their support. We have had a varied selection of speakers along with our own training sessions. Any offers from speakers, or if you know of anyone who gives presentations, please let me know, I am always looking for new blood. Tom endeavoured to organise a day out for the Group last summer but he had next to no response from members so this fell by the wayside. Again, if anyone has ideas, or is prepared to organise a visit/event, we will be pleased to hear from you.

He went on to say that the committee has continued to give their time freely to maintain the Group in a fit and healthy state for which we should all be grateful. This year Muriel is standing down so a replacement is sought to relieve the burden on our dedicated supernumerary committee member who seems to pick up all the odd jobs and tasks going!

Keith Bowen asked about a possible visit to Honda or BMW plants for the group, Gordon replied by saying all visits are during working hours which would limit numbers, there was a suggestion we could link up with another group such as Swindon which Gordon said he would look into.

Gordon gave a big vote of thanks to Muriel Hackett for her work on the Committee and providing refreshments at our monthly Group meetings.

### **3.2 Treasurer's Report**

Robert Lang reported that the Income & Expenditure Account shows that group activities during 2010 resulted in a surplus of £755.65. The Balance Sheet shows the Net Worth at the end of 2010 to be £3250.10.

The Income for 2010 has been £1,866.67. Membership Subscriptions together with tax reclaimed from the Inland Revenue, under the Gift Aid Scheme, amounted to 94% (78% and 16%) respectively. The remaining 6% came from Raffle Proceeds, the IAM Grant (based on the number of Observers) and Building Society Interest. The sources of and contributions to Income have been similar to 2009's. The total income has been marginally less (£222), as a result of loss of DriveChecks (which are now being done by IAM Examiners), fewer Associates joining and poorer attendance at some meeting: albeit the effect of these reductions has been partially offset by increased Gift Aid contributions.

During 2010, 64 members paid their Membership Subscription by Standing Order; a welcome increase of 11 on 2009, and 69 members were Gift Aid contributors; a welcome increase of 8 on 2009.

The Expenditure for 2010 has been £1,111.02. This comprised 40% on Meetings, 17% on IAM Promotion and Support, 14% on Postage & Stationery, 9% on Mileage Contributions, 8% on Newsletter Printing, 5% on both Training and the group's contribution to the IAM Groups' Insurance Policy, and 2% Misc.

The total expenditure has been marginally greater than 2009's, the (£29) difference being accounted for by increased expenditure on Meetings, IAM Promotion and Support, Training and the introduction of Mileage Contributions for Committee Members attending Committee Meetings: albeit the effect of the increases has been partially offset by reduced expenditure on Newsletter Printing and Postage & Stationery, and none on the Group Web Site.

Robert went on to say that the vast majority of the £3,250.10 to be readily accessible; being held in Building Society and Bank Accounts. Looking to the future, I believe that the current financial arrangements will meet the Group's needs for 2011 and beyond.

Finally, Robert gave his thanks to both Colin Ford and Alan Cook Ford for their diligent work as Co-Auditors of the 2010 Accounts.

### **3.3 Acceptance of the 2010 Accounts**

Proposed: Alan Watt  
Seconded: Frank Lucas

Gordon thanked Robert for an excellent job keeping the group's accounts in good order.

### **3.4 Membership Secretary's Report**

The Membership Secretary, Gareth Zimmerman reported that the total number of members stood at 99, these consisted of the following:

Full Members	79	
Associates under training	8	
Associates waiting		1
Friends	9	
Honorary	1	
Non-members in Abeyance	1	
Total	99	

Gareth thanked Alan Watt for his help during the year.

### **3.5 Associate Co-ordinator Report**

Frank Lucas reported the downward trend in Associates quoting that we had 40 new Associates in 2008, 30 new Associates in 2009 and 20 new Associates in 2010. Frank went on to say we have only had 2 new Associates since 1<sup>st</sup> January to date, and with the price for Skill for Life increasing by 40% to £139 last year he fears we will have low numbers of new Associates for some time to come.

Frank reported that we have had -5 Associates Pass  
-2 yet to take test  
-3 Associates transferred

### **3.6 Group Contact report**

Alan Watt reported that apart from some inter-group communication and also with Head Office, he usually gets the enquiries and referrals about new associates. Most enquiries come from head office or direct from the result of the media, he went on to say we need, as a group, to make more effort to recruit from friends, family or anybody you can grab to show the advantages of advanced driving. Alan also reported that he keeps the Web site current and encouraged members to use it.

### **4. Election of the Officers and Committee Members for 2011**

Gordon thanked Muriel Hackett for all the hard work she has done for the group over many years and he also thanked Alan Watt for stepping up to fill in whilst Muriel was away.

Gordon asked for two volunteer's, one to take over the role of providing refreshments at the groups monthly meetings - Tony Blane volunteered for this role, and another for the vacant post of general Committee member, for which Rod Hodges volunteered.

The Committee was re-elected en-bloc and agreed to stand for a further 12 Months.

Proposed: Colin Ford

Seconded: Keith Bowen

### **5. Group Constitution**

The group Committee has reviewed and refined the Group Constitution to take account of minor policy changes by IAM and to improve its clarity, where it was considered deficient. These were put forward at last year's 2010 AGM to be voted on at this year's AGM (giving 12 months for members to read). There was a unanimous show of hands in favour of the changes.

## **6. Any other Business**

There was a suggestion that we could sell Skill for Life by comparing it to the cost of 2 tanks of fuel and also pushing the fact that the newest Group member saved £200 on his car insurance after passing his IAM test.

Gordon said that Terry Whelan needs help with the Newsletter as he had missed the autumn 2010 Edition and almost missed the spring due to pressure of work; any volunteer would be greatly appreciated.

### ***Closure of Meeting***

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the AGM at 8.52pm

***David Mellor, Group Secretary***

## **IAM News**

### **Take A Minute And Save A Child's Life**

This is an interesting study .....

A study by researchers at Royal Holloway, University of London reveals that primary school children cannot accurately judge the speed of vehicles travelling faster than 20 mph.

The researchers measured the perceptual acuity of more than 100 children in primary schools, and calculated the speed of approach that they could reliably detect. The results suggest that while adult

pedestrians can make accurate judgments for vehicles travelling up to 50mph, children of primary school age become unreliable once the approach speed goes above 20mph, if the car is five seconds away.

Professor John Wann, from the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway, who led the research, says: “This is not a matter of children not paying attention, but a problem related to low-level visual detection mechanisms, so even when children are paying very close attention they may fail to detect a fast approaching vehicle.”

The researchers are now looking at the potential for using virtual reality systems to make children more aware of the errors that may occur, but Professor Wann stresses that the simplest solution lies in traffic regulation: “These findings provide strong evidence that children may make risky crossing judgements when vehicles are travelling at 30 or 40mph and in addition the vehicles that they are more likely to step in front of are the faster vehicles that are more likely to result in a fatality. Travelling one mile through a residential area at 20mph versus 30mph will only add 60 seconds to your journey time - we encourage drivers to take a minute and save a child's life”.

The study, which is published in the international journal Psychological Science, is part of a larger project sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), in order to understand the perceptual factors that can lead to pedestrian accidents. The research group has recently published brain imaging research in the Proceedings of the Royal Society to show that some of the key components for detecting collision events lie at the brain-stem level, which is a low-level early detection system, similar to that found in other animals, such as pigeons.

Royal Holloway's research group ran demonstrations of their research studies in the London Science Museum over the summer where 500 visitors tried their tests. Related ongoing projects include a study sponsored by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) looking at the judgments of older drivers at road junctions, as well as a study looking at why motorcycles have a higher risk of being involved in accidents classified as 'looked but failed to see'.

*Royal Holloway, University of London, 23 November 2010*

### **Younger Drivers Gain Momentum**

The IAM has launched *Momentum*; a new two-part assessment for the younger driver.

*Momentum* is designed for 17-25 year olds who have passed their driving test, and incorporates two modules: an interactive online assessment, followed by an on-road session with an IAM examiner. *Momentum* does not involve an exam and there is no risk of failure; it offers a quick, low-cost option for improving the confidence, awareness and safety of younger drivers.

After passing the driving test there is currently no requirement to take any further driver-development training. In road safety terms, this confines 17-25 year-old drivers – who suffer (proportionally) the greatest number of deaths and injuries – to improvement by trial and error. There is now substantial evidence that post-test training reduces young driver fatalities by up to nearly a third\*.

IAM CEO Simon Best said: “*Momentum* is a relaxed and effective way for young drivers to gain experience in a supportive environment to get them through this dangerous stage in their early driving years. It's also a practical way for parents to help their children to become safer on the roads. We need no reminding that young drivers — particularly young men — are more likely to be killed in a road accident than any other group.”

*Momentum* costs £40, a sum that will be taken off the full [Skill for Life](#) programme if purchased within 12 months of the *Momentum* assessment. *Skill for Life* will develop on feedback from the *Momentum* assessment, and will help drivers to safely predict hazards, anticipate other drivers' behaviour and more accurately assess road and traffic conditions, enabling them to become more controlled, confident and ultimately, better drivers.

Everybody that buys *Momentum* between now and the end of April will be entered to win one of 20 places on an IAM young driver experience day at a track venue in the UK. For more information please visit [www.iam.org.uk/momentum](http://www.iam.org.uk/momentum).

### ***IAM News Release 20 January 2011***

#### **To Flash Or Not To Flash?**

Nearly half of drivers admit to flashing their lights to warn other drivers of a speed check, according to an IAM poll of over 4800 motorists. The main reason for doing this is to save another motorist from being caught or fined.

This poll followed the prosecution of a driver last month, who was fined £175 and ordered to pay £250 costs after warning several approaching cars of a speed check. Nearly 70 per cent of respondents to the poll said that a driver should not be prosecuted for warning others – only 21 per cent believe they should.

IAM chief examiner Peter Rodger said: "The biggest reason for not flashing to warn of a speed check is safety, with 'drivers who speed deserve to be caught and fined' and 'the meaning of the flash could be misinterpreted', each polling a third of the votes from those who don't flash.

“However, safety was also used as a major justification for those who do flash to warn of speed checks, with nearly 20 per cent saying they ‘wanted to avoid a possible collision when drivers see the speed check late and brake harshly in response’. The driver who was prosecuted for using his lights justified his behaviour by stating he used his lights to warn of a hazard.”

Flashing appears to be an accepted form of communication between drivers. Nearly 35 per cent of respondents say they ‘use their lights to tell other drivers they are giving way to them’, and 30 per cent ‘use them to thank another driver for giving way to them’. Less than 10 per cent of drivers said that they don’t flash at all.

Nearly 45 per cent of drivers feel that the Highway Code should contain a standardised code of what flashes mean. The fact that nearly as many people use their lights to thank another driver, as those who use them to invite another driver to come through, suggests there could be confusion as to what message people are trying to get across.

Rodger said: “Reassuringly, fewer than 10 per cent of respondents admit to using their lights aggressively to signal annoyance at what they consider bad behaviour on the other drivers’ part. So while the meaning of flashes is fuzzy, at least people don’t seem to feel it is an acceptable way to take out anger on other road users.”

***IAM News Release 15 February 2011***

## **Group Meetings**

“The Group usually meets at 7.45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (except December, when the meeting is held on the second Wednesday - and August, when no meeting is held).”

Meetings are usually held in Daglingworth Village Hall. Notice will be given of any planned exception to these arrangements. Daglingworth Village Hall is located in the centre of the village of Daglingworth, which is situated approximately 2½ miles to the north-west of Cirencester, off the old Gloucester Road: Grid Ref. SO993051 - Postcode GL7 7AA. Refreshments of tea or coffee and biscuits are provided. Family, friends and visitors are always welcome as guests.

### **Dates for your Diary**

May 21st, Sept 3rd & November 5th

### **A day with Mike Addis (IAM Examiner)**

Each course day will begin at 10am and will finish at 4pm. There will be a mid-morning break when coffee, tea and cakes will be provided. It is suggested that you bring a packed lunch for the break between 1 and 2pm

In addition to instruction for new candidates and an introduction to advanced driving for others, this is an ideal opportunity to polish-up your own skills and be rid of those bad driving habits. All are welcome. Bring a friend or two! There is NO COST but please let Alan Watt know that you wish to attend..

## **And Finally**

This year July has 5 Fridays 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This apparently happens once every 823 years.