

## 2023 Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists AGM Minutes

Held at Airfield Tavern, Yeovil BA22 8UX, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Members Present;** Mike Collins, John Ridd, Rob Bartlett, Andy Hall, John Sheffield, Neill Sedgwick, Matthew Towill, Francine Towell, Linda Hay, Callum Bremner, RAB Lavender, Andy Spiers, Graham Tulloch, Steve Schlemmer, Jez Martin, Dave Parker, Trev Watts, Alistair Gee, Georges Dupuis, Roger Moffatt, Martin Surrey, Andy Bourne.

**Apologies;** James Richards, Tony Hamilton, Jim Donnelly, Tom Moore, Ken Octon, Richard Pearse, Tony Sauer, Lisa Martin.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

- **Minutes of 2022 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.
- **Chair's Report.** Overall, we had a good year but ultimately tinged with sadness with the recent passing of Gina. The committee presented her with a huge bunch of flowers a few days before along with a Certificate of Commendation from IAMRS. An incredible turnout for her funeral. Peter will be setting up a bursary in Gina's memory to enable riders to take their advanced test; more details of this to follow.
- **Treasurer's Report.** We have too much money! After liabilities we have approximately £5000 in hand. We therefore need more ideas on how to spend this, bearing in mind that it must be road safety based.
- **Acceptance of Accounts.** The last audited accounts, dated 31/03/2022, were presented to all members prior to the AGM. These were accepted unanimously by those present.
- **Membership Secretary Report.** We seem to have remained fairly constant with membership numbers; in 2021/22 there were 290 and in 2022/23 there were 296. Every year we lose a few but gain a few. How do we recruit more? This will be discussed at future committee meetings. The renewal of club membership will shortly go online via the club website shop.
- **Events Coordinator Report.** We have 90 rides/events scheduled for this year. This includes 33 "Green Rides", 22 "Amber Rides" and 12 "Red Rides"; we have clarified club ride gradings for this year and these will appear in the next Spring edition of Full Chat. 7 new ride leaders; a big thank you to them! Pod Rides planned for new ride leaders and new members. 3 "Slow Ride Events" planned. Yeovil Blood Bikes are borrowing the club bike for a "Slow Ride Event" of their own.
- **Classic Bike Show Report.** Mike Collins organised this event at the Shepton Mallett showground, an event which we have supported for some years. He felt that it took a lot of organisation for very little reward and was disappointed with the lack of IAM support. He also questioned whether this event has the wrong demographic for SAM. This then went back to the question; how do we recruit more members?

- Do we attend “Bike Nights”? CVAM do WSM.
  - Should we liaise with Somerset Road Safety? Martin and Neill Sedgwick attend the WSM Bike Night.
  - Should we have a specific Recruitment Team?
  - All the above to be discussed further at future Committee Meetings.
- **SWPSR Report.** Last year’s event attracted 187 entrants but only 137 took part. The Rally HQ was, for the first time, in Stoke St. Gregory. An improved computerised check-in system was introduced, also for the first time. At the time of the AGM there had been 197 entrants. Rally HQ is back at Long Sutton Village Hall. All staffed checkpoints have volunteers; just a few more required for HQ duties.
  - **Training Team Report.** The IAM are moving away from Local Observers/National Observers to just one Observer level which will be assessed by the IAM. Training is currently underway with 10-12 current LOs working towards NO. Those who have recently had NO assessments have achieved good passes. The Training Team are liaising with Neill to ensure that there are no issues occurring. Observer meetings are planned for later in the year.
  - **Taster Ride Coordinator Report.** There were issues with the website which meant that we lost a good number of riders wishing to conduct a taster ride. Indeed, we only completed half our usual number of these rides. Of those completed, we achieved a 40% or so going on to purchase an Advanced Rider Training Course.
  - **Observer Coordinator Report.** We currently have 47 Observers, 27 of which are LOs and 20 being NOs. NOs carried out 22 PTAs during 2022. 32 Associates took their test and 30 passed first time. Of those 2 who failed, one has subsequently taken a retest and achieved a F1RST. The other is still in training. In total, 13 Associates achieved a F1RST last year. Tony would like to thank all Observers for their care, time and diligence in helping Associates in their achievements.
  - **Measuring Somerset.** Steve Schlemmer has been organising this for some years now and is open to all club members allowing them to complete the questions at their leisure throughout the year. This year’s winner is Carol and Dave Parker! They were presented with a £30 Halfords voucher by Steve. This year’s Measuring Somerset questions will be in the next Spring edition of Full Chat.
  - **Merchandising Report.** Early last year I was able to visit the premises of our suppliers, Eversoclean, in Yeovil where I met and chatted with staff and looked at some of the products. The shop area of the SAM website has been updated to include more of the items that we offer. We have provided soft shell jackets or fleeces for the team who manned the stand at the Classic Motorcycle Show. We also provided observers with either polo shirts or ultra cool t-shirts. These were previously purchased through the IAM but we are pleased that our local supplier has been able to offer a very similar product with all the required embroidery. We recently purchased a range of garments across the available sizes in a variety of colours. This, undoubtedly, livened up the look of

the clothes rail at the C&T events over the winter. Over the course of the year sales of clothing has brought in £218 but bear in mind that we sell items virtually at cost. We are also looking into providing orange TER jackets.

- **Mental Health Mentor.** Linda Hay, apart from looking after Merchandising, is now also a Mental Health Mentor, having attended a course specifically for motorcyclists with 4 sessions over 3.5hrs each.
- **Election of Group Officers.**  
Current Officers standing;

Chair; Martin Surrey.

Secretary; Andy Bourne.

Treasurer; RAB Lavender.

All were unanimously elected.

- **Election of Committee.** As it had been decided that, due to increased demand on the Training Team, we should have 2 Joint Chief Observers.  
New Committee Members standing;

Joint Chief Observer; Callum Bremner. Nominated by Martin Surrey. Seconded by Andy Bourne.

Joint Chief Observer; Jim Donnelly. Nominated by Martin Surrey. Seconded by Andy Bourne.

Taster Ride Coordinator; Simon Greenwood. Nominated by Andy Bourne. Seconded by Tony Sauer.

All were unanimously elected.

Current Committee Members standing;

Deputy Secretary; John Ridd.

Membership Secretary; Dave Parker.

Events Coordinator; Trev Watts.

Observer Coordinator; Tony Sauer.

Newsletter Editor; Graham Tulloch.

Merchandising; Linda Hay.

IT Lead; Jez Martin.

Social Media Lead; Tom Moore.

All were elected unanimously.

Nobody stood for the following roles and therefore remain vacant; Recruitment Officer, Publicity Officer. Sponsorship/Advertising Officer.

- **Address by Chair.** The club (and certainly Full Chat and Committee Meetings) will not be the same without Gina and she will be missed dearly. However, with the Bursary now being set up in her name we must continue to promote and encourage safer

motorcycling. And finally, we are a relatively large club and it is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion, indeed it is healthy to be that way, but we must respect those differences.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.