

Reg. Charity No. 1067966





### Newsletter

February 2016



In this issue: Pot holes, AGM papers

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

to those associates who passed their IAMS test upto December 2015

Name

Dave Charles (10/15)
Bill Wells (10/15)
Ilse Palmer (11/15)
Andrew Cooper (12/15)
Kristian Zeller (12/15)

Observed by

Stuart Earle Sandy Reid Sandy Reid/ Bill Peck

Bill Peck Sandy Reid

And a warm welcome to our three youngest associates

Corrie King Kyle Bennett-Tighe **Emilia Convertino** 

The company making a potload of money from potholes (article extract Daily Telegraph 23/01/16)

Toppesfield, the fast-growing road builder, is coming to a motorway or A-road near you



Motorists have come up with innovative and colourful ways to draw attention to the pothole problem

<u>Ever thought of investing in motor sports?</u>

The secret to scoring lucrative business deals can be found on the race track, as Formula One has proved

Matthew Pryor is on a mission to fix the nation's potholes. He runs Toppesfield, the fastest growing roadresurfacing company in the UK, which has doubled in size for two years running.

"Surfacing may not be the most glamorous sector," he says. "But the UK's road network is crucial, not just

for consumers but to make sure that goods and services can get around freely to the right locations."

According to the Institute of Advanced Motorists, 5,700 road closures were logged by Highways England last year due to potholes, which cause damage to cars every 11 minutes. "There was a huge problem, which local authorities and the Government have worked to solve," says Pryor. "Better products and better maintenance will now stop the potholes coming out when temperatures drop and wet weather arrives this winter."

The Government has pledged to spend £11bn on building and improving roads through Highways England over five years. "There's a massive impetus from the Government to improve our network," says Pryor. Highways England predicts that for every £1 it spends on 112 individual road schemes over the next five years, it will deliver £4 in economic benefit.

Toppesfield won't do badly out of road-building, either. It is set to boost revenues from £80m this year to £110m through contracts such as the multi-million-pound M1 Junction 19 improvements and A421 dual-carriageway conversion near Milton Keynes. Toppesfield is also tendering for a contract to build a new road between Cambridge and Huntingdon and a link between the M1 and A5.

"A lot of our work is road maintenance but we're also hoping to be involved in some new road schemes as well," says Pryor. "At the moment, there are also a lot of road widening schemes, as the Government tries to ease traffic in congested areas."



Toppesfield founder and chief executive Matthew Pryor at a site his company is resurfacing in Bungay on the Norfolk/Suffolk border

Pryor invests £5m a year in new plant and machinery to ensure that roads are built using the latest technology. "There's a lot of research and development in roads," he says. "We have learnt a lot from our suppliers in Europe where there is a lot more extreme weather."

Most of Toppesfield's machinery is sourced from Germany and the company has strong relationships with suppliers across the Continent.

Growth at the company has been accelerated by Toppesfield's ability to meet fast turnarounds. "Three years ago we won a contract in the West Country," explains Pryor. "We were told we had the work on May 1 and had delivered by the third week of May." That year, the Highways Agency





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gave Toppesfield £11m-worth of work on that network, which rose to £22m the following year.

Toppesfield's success is down to its modern take on customer service, according to Pryor, who founded Toppesfield with £10,000 borrowed on a credit card after 20 years working in the asphalt and quarrying industries. "This sector had a pretty poor reputation and I was confident I could do better," he says.

Toppesfield sources its asphalt, which is essential for building roads, from local suppliers, while most rivals prefer to source from a single factory. "We're independent so we can use up to four suppliers for one project, which helps when you're working within tight time constraints," says Pryor. The company buys in 1m tonnes of asphalt a year.



A 3D drawing of a giant pothole, in Trafalgar Square, central London

It is an approved sub-contractor, with the likes of Balfour Beatty and Skanska and these "tier companies now including the firm in long-term maintenance contracts. ensuring a steady revenue stream.

This has prevented Pryor from seeking government directly, contracts although he is aware that the public sector has a target to devolve 25pc of its procurement spend to small and medium-sized firms. "We know our place," he says. "We have good relationships with the tier ones that we wouldn't want to put at risk."

The greatest challenge the company faces at present is hiring skilled staff. Road building has issues with an ageing workforce, Pryor explains, so Toppesfield has been actively recruiting young people into the The company spends business. around £500,000 a year on training programmes and recoups none of this overhead from the Government. Toppesfield currently employs 150 staff.

When Pryor launched Toppesfield 11 vears ago, the company started out building car parks and playgrounds for local authorities and retail clients.

Over the past decade the business has diversified into maintaining large sections of the UK's motorway network, as well as signing contracts with airports and even the Olympic

While much of the company's growth is tied to the Government's pledge to fix roads. Prvor claims that Toppesfield is agile enough to adapt. managed to grow throughout the recession by spotting opportunities," he says.

"If the Government wasn't spending money on roads, we'd find the people who were spending money, whether it was in retail, housing, or industrial parks.

"Wherever the work is, that's where we'll be focused.'

### Remainder of IAMS Group Meetings for 2016

### Words from the Editor

Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month at Peterborough Milton Golf Club starting at 8pm, unless otherwise stated.

January No Meeting Feb 5<sup>th</sup>

Guest speaker Richard Bulkelev Psychological causes of road accidents

AGM followed by guest speaker, John Lyon, ex Hendon Police Driving School instructor

April 7<sup>th</sup>

March 3rd

Sandy Reid, "The Fatal Four'

May 5<sup>th</sup> TBC

June 9<sup>th</sup>

Taster drives Open to public

July 7<sup>th</sup> Treasure Hunt

August 4th Ball in the Plate (Slow

manoeuvring competition)

Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Premier Inn,

Norman Cross, with other groups. Guest speaker IAM Chief Executive, Sarah

Sillars

Oct 6th TBC - Winter Tyres

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> News from National

Conference

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Buffet and quiz

Check out our website (address at bottom of page) is now up and running, with kind thanks to Robin Sutton

Visit the IAMs web site for some winter night reading http://iam.org.uk

Enter weekly news or the item you are searching for into the search bar:

Marian Cross has stepped down as Editor due to other commitments and I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her contributions over the past year.

Please forward contributions, articles with photos please, news clippings, for the next newsletter to:

Chrissy Emery Chrissy.mre@gmail.com)

by 10 May 2016 latest.





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### **Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists**

**Notice is hereby given** by order of the Group Committee that the Annual General Meeting of **Peterborough and District Advanced Motorists** will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 at the <u>Milton Golf Club, Milton Ferry, Peterborough, PE6 7AG</u> to enable the Trustees of the Group (*Registered Charity No. 1067966*) to present their annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 for approval by the Group members and to conduct an election. The AGM will be followed at approximately 8.00pm by a presentation by advanced driving expert John Lyon.

Leon King Hon. Secretary 118 Huntly Grove Peterborough PE1 2QN January 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 Group No. 7101

email: <a href="mailto:peterboroughiamsec@live.co.uk">peterboroughiamsec@live.co.uk</a> phone: 07727 073064

All Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only fully paid up Members of the IAM and of the Group may vote.

A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a Full Member of the Group.

Nominations for all posts on the committee are welcomed.

#### **CURRENT OFFICERS**

### All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election (Group rule 3.4)

Stuart Earle Chairman Offering to stand for re-election

Leon King Secretary Offering to stand for re-election

Bill Peck Treasurer Offering to stand for re-election

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

One third of the Committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually and may offer themselves for reelection (Group rule 3.4)

#### A. RETIRING AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

None

#### **B. RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION**

Dave Fennell

### C. COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING & NUMBER OF YEARS REMAINING

Committee members not retiring

Sandy Reid one year remaining Prue Lester two years remaining





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### **Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Minutes of the last AGM held on the 5th March 2015

(Resolution 1: That the minutes of the 2015 AGM be adopted as a true record)

- 3. Matters arising from those minutes.
- 4. Chairman's Report.
- 5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Annual Accounts.

(Resolution 2: That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 be approved

- 6. Election of Officers
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Honorary Secretary
  - c) Honorary Treasurer

(Officers to retire annually)

#### 7. Election of Committee Members

(One third to retire annually)

### 8. Any Other Business

(Secretary should be pre-informed of any items)

Note: 1. Questions from members are invited after each report.

2. Voting is by FULL MEMBERS only

The AGM will be followed by a presentation at about 8pm by John Lyon, driving expert.





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#### **Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists**

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Peterborough Milton Golf Club on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm. In attendance were the Chairman (Stuart Earle), the Hon. Secretary (Leon King), Treasurer (Bill Peck), President (Trevor Dickenson) and 5 members. A talk by local IAM examiner Lew Whittaker on "Red Mist" followed the AGM.

### Apologies for Absence –

Claire Shelbourne, Chrissy Emery, Robin Sutton, Dave Fennell, Sue Pocock

## 2. Minutes of the last AGM held on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Had been published to members and were also available at the meeting.

(Resolution 1: That the minutes of the 2014 AGM be adopted as a true record)

Proposed: Trevor Dickenson Seconded: Sandy Reid Agreed unanimously

The minutes were duly accepted and signed by the Chairman Stuart Earle (SE).

### 3. Matters arising from those minutes.

None raised.

#### 4. Chairman's Report.

Attached below.

# 5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Annual Accounts.

Had been published to members and were also available at the meeting.

The balance at January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 stands at £1294.86.

(Resolution 2: That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 be approved).

Proposed: Leon King Seconded
Prue Lester - Agreed
unanimously

### **6. Election of Officers** (Officers to retire annually)

a) Chairman Stuart Earle
 Nominated: Bill Peck
 Seconded: Sandy Reid

b) Honorary Secretary Leon King

Nominated: Trevor Dickenson Seconded: Prue Lester

<u>c) Honorary Treasurer</u> Bill Peck
 Nominated: Trevor Dickenson
 Seconded: Prue Lester

Stuart Earle (Chairman), Bill Peck (Treasurer) and Leon King (Secretary) were all duly reelected there being no other nominees.

# **7. Election of Committee Members** (One third to retire annually)

Two current committee members retiring and standing again:

Sandy Reid Nominated: Stuart

Earle

Seconded: Prue Lester

Prue Lester Nominated: Sandy

Reid

Seconded: Trevor Dickenson

and were duly re-elected there being no other nominees.

### 8. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.50pm.

The AGM was followed by a presentation from Lew Whittaker,, IAM Local Examiner.





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### NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are invited from full members to stand for the committee.

The nominee must be willing to stand for the committee and sign the nomination form. By signing the nomination form, the nominee is affirming his/her ability and intention, if elected, to attend committee meetings regularly.

Please note - You may not stand for the Committee if the law debars you from being a Charity Trustee.

- Only fully paid up members of the IAM and of the Group may nominate Committee Members or be nominated as Committee Members.
- This Nomination Paper must be returned to the Group Secretary at least seven days before the election i.e. by 28/2/15. (Rule 3.5)
- All Officers and one third of all other Committee Members must retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election by Group Full Members. (Rule 3.4)
- Nominations may be accepted from the floor of the meeting if a written nomination has not been received and the person nominated from the floor is present and agrees to be so nominated. (Rule 3.5)
- The number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty.

### **OFFICERS**

Name	Position	Nominated by	Seconded by	Signature of Nominee
	Chairman			
	Secretary			
	Treasurer			

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Name	Nominated By	Seconded By	Signature of Nominee





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Here are a few essential contacts and information about group meetings to help you get the most out of your local group.

### JOIN US FOR AN EVENT

Date: Meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month (excluding January) at Peterborough Milton Golf Club and start at 8pm unless otherwise stated in the newsletter.

### Directions Milton Ferry, Peterborough PE6 7AG (just off the A47

- From east, exit A47 via slip road to Castor (the first junction to the west of the Nene Parkway interchange at junction 15). Turn right at the T junction. After 150 yards turn left towards Marholm (signposted Golf Club). Entrance is immediately on right.
- From west, leave A47 at the third exit of the roundabout (signposted Castor) where the single carriageway becomes dual. Go through Ailsworth and Castor. Just over the bridge crossing the A47 turn towards Marholm (signposted Club). Entrance is immediately on right.



### Group contacts

**Trevor Dickenson** 

trevor.dickenson@btinternet.com

Chairman Stuart Earle 07941 450885

stuart.earle@lineone.net

**Secretary** Leon King 07727 073064

peterboroughiamsec@live.co.uk

Treasurer Bill Peck 01832 280574

charlespeck@btinternet.com

Training co-ordinator Sandy Reid 01945 464822

sandy.reid@norfolk.gov.uk

Membership secretary Dave Fennell 01780 481925

d.fennell@btinternet.com

Registered Group No 7101 

Charity No 1067966 

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The Group keeps records of the membership on a database. This database is not available to outside parties and no details are passed to other organisations or persons. However, if you do not wish your name and address to be kept on this database you should contact the Membership Secretary.

## President

Prue Lester 01945 772234

pruelester@hotmail.com

**Events Secretary** 

Website Administrator **Robin Sutton** robin55@btinternet.com

### Vacant positions

Offers invited. Please contact the secretary for more information.

**Public Relations** 

**IAM Regional Operations** Manager lan Firth ian.firth@iam.org.uk

### and finally.....Motoring Mirth



VorSprung **Doh** Technik ......