



The not so major communication from

## **Banbury Advanced Motorists**

Registered Charity Number 1088338

March 2019

Dear All,

This may be the last newsletter you receive in this format, and from me. It is however, a very important newsletter and I ask you please to read it carefully.

BAM has been approached by Oxford Area Group of Advanced Motorists (OAGAM ) with a view to merging part of their group with ours. OAGAM has a large motorcycle section, and a not so large car section. The Bikers are very active because as bikers they tend to have interests in their bikes and like to meet to talk about them. The car section is made up of people, much like BAM, who wish to be better and safer drivers, but not necessarily because they are so enthusiastic about cars that they wish to meet to talk about them all the time. This dichotomy in the OAGAM has now caused them to seek to split in two. Unfortunately IAM rules do not allow for a new group to be formed, but the suggestion from HQ is that the car section or the bike section, seek to merge with another group. There are no other suitable bike groups in the near locality and it has been suggested that we at BAM might be an appropriate group for the car section to merge with.

At the same time, we in the BAM committee are expressing concerns over our own future. We have an ageing committee and an ageing Observer force, indeed one of our best observers has decided that at 85 he does not wish to have the responsibility of an associate any more. We have several members of the committee who have been doing the job for many years and really would like a rest, but, there are no new, young people coming along to step up into the roles.

All of these things considered, the committee have decided that it would be useful to consider this merger.

It would mean several changes that would affect our members. OAGAM is much more advanced than BAM in terms of computerisation. They have better understanding of DTE, they have a very sophisticated Observer/ associate progress recording system and probably a better membership database than BAM. To merge the two groups would require much input from both sides.

Mostly the members should eventually, not notice too much change, except that the group name would be different and the newsletter would be different and not be distributed by post, only electronically. There should be more social events, spread over a wider area.

One further, important change that would be noticed is that the treasurer would no longer accept payment by cheque, and would no longer make payments by cheque. All financial



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transactions would be electronically. This would mean that, as soon as a merge is agreed and completed, any standing orders would need to be amended. That, however is some way off and at this point, it is not certain that the merge will happen.

What happens now?

Several members of the committee are in discussion with OAGM and have met once. A second meeting is planned for the week commencing 18 March.

BAM has an AGM on 3 May, to which some of the OAGAM committee will be invited and will be able to answer questions.

At a this Annual General Meeting, a proposal will be put to BAM members for them to vote on.

At about the same time, date not yet fixed, OAGAM will call an extraordinary General Meeting for the same purpose.

Only after these two meetings can any proposed merger take place.

Many matters will need to be resolved, like the name, the group number charity status etc. etc. but these will not necessarily affect any of the ordinary members, mostly the committee, present and, if merged, new.

BAM committee members have agreed that if the merger is approved at the two meetings, they will remain in post to see through the various matters that will need to be dealt with. If the merger is not agreed, re-elections will need to take place to re-form the committee of BAM.

If you have any queries on this situation, please contact Kromer, Peter or myself. We have been attending the joint meetings in preparation.

Finally, it is most important that you attend the AGM – notice attached – and have your say and vote on the proposal.

Peta

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**Important Information:**

Social meetings are held at: St Hugh's Church Hall, Ruskin Road, Banbury OX16 9HU, unless otherwise stated. Start at 7:30.

**A few committee posts:**

Chairman: Michael Bishop: 01280 705528 [md.bishop@live.co.uk](mailto:md.bishop@live.co.uk)

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