



The not so major communication from

## **Banbury Advanced Motorists**

Registered Charity Number 1088338

12 May 2019

Dear All,

First my apologies for not having communicated sooner, following the EGM and AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. I admit, I beat a hasty retreat immediately and headed off to the Isles of Scilly. It didn't do me any good. The cold I'd been nursing for about two weeks, finally broke whilst I was away and I spent two days feeling sorry for myself and not going on excursions. Back home now and trying to catch up.

This Byway contains important information about the future, so please read it – or at least parts of it, carefully.

### **Group Re-organisation:**

At EGM's at both Oxford and Banbury, the proposal to merge the two car driving groups into one new group was carried more or less unanimously. At Oxford the vote was 97% in favour and at Banbury 100%. These figures included Proxy votes.

This is all good news, as although there is sadness that two long serving groups will cease to be. However it is positive in that there will be new challenges and new ideas. Indeed we have already found that there are excellent aspects of each group that the other was not aware of.

There is much work to do now! We have to deal with the IAM RoadSmart requirement, the Charity Commission requirements and the local concerns. Amongst these, voiced at both meetings are the proposed name of the new group and the proposed meeting location. The meeting location can be dealt with in due course, but, because of the need for bank accounts and IAM approval etc, the new name must be decided quite quickly.

### **A new name for the new group:**

I make no apologies for cribbing the notes below from the Newsletter editor at Oxford. Andrew is very smart – much better than me, and, why would I re-write the excellent words he has already written. Andrew is of course at present still writing for both cars and motor cycles at Oxford, hence the references to motorcycles.

I Quote:

**“A bonus would be a name that yields a neat and memorable acronym – as Banbury Advanced Motorists currently does – BAM!.**

So.... we're looking for a name which states unequivocally that we are a group for *advanced car drivers* from the whole of *Oxfordshire – or Oxon*.

The Oxford Group domain/email name is currently *iamoxford*, so *iamoxon* might be a good replacement, or just to make it absolutely clear, maybe *iamoxoncars*.

As regards the name by which the new group will be known, *Oxfordshire Advanced Motorists* could easily be confused with *Oxfordshire Advanced Motorcyclists*. We might go for *Oxfordshire Advanced Drivers* (OAD?) but that sounds a bit unadventurous. An alternative approach might be to look at it another way and acknowledge the history (*Oxford and Banbury Advanced Drivers*) or the geography (*Cherwell Advanced Drivers*)."

As an added incentive, we are offering a reward of £100 worth of vouchers to any member who suggests a name that the Implementation Committee decides is the best one for our new group to adopt.

Need I say more? Please give this matter some urgent thought and reply to me- [bamcttee@gmail.com](mailto:bamcttee@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

There will be many meetings of the implementation committee over the summer and we shall try to keep you up to date with progress. I need to warn you that we will need to do all the GDPR forms again with the new group name instead of BAM, we shall also need to have new standing orders or direct debits set up when we have the new bank account and membership arrangements, but don't bother too much about that at present, we'll keep you informed. It is hoped that the arrangements will all be in place and the new group ready to go, by October.

### **AGM report.**

Following the EGM, our friend from Oxford stayed a little while to see how we conducted our AGM. One of the things they have not experienced is our 'Chief Observer's Award' and also our awarding of recognition to long serving members who have given extra special support over the years. This year, I am delighted to say, and so was Kromer, that the Chief Observer's Award went to Mike Falconer Hall. Mike is still working full time, but has managed to put in many hours 'Observing' and having come second last year, it was good that he was recognised this year. In a similar vein, the Chairman made a special award this year – his prerogative - to John Britton. John has observed for many years and has received the Chief Observers Award many times. He has now decided that, he needs to slow down a little, and although he will continue to do some observing and polishing, he is no longer taking on the responsibility of looking after an associate. We all thank John for his input over the years and look forward to continuing to work with him for many to come.

As always, Kromer presented a very full report on the year's activities from an Observing point of view. He and Chris as joint Chief Observers, have continued to support and progress our associates and, train and re-train our observers. Here is part of his report.

The number of test passes achieved each year continues to be very consistent. In each of 2015 and 2016 the number was 11 and in 2017,12. For 2018 we were back to 11.This was as a result of 15 tests. However two of those tests should have been re-arranged as personal situations arose that meant the



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Associates concerned were well below normal on the day and should have withdrawn. Had they not been tested our result would have been 11 passes out of 13 tests, a pass rate of 85% close to the 86% in 2017. The current Regional figure is 87%. Another consistency is in the number of IAM RoadSmart F1RSTs achieved. We have now recorded 2 each year for the last 4 years.

For 2018 we congratulate Helen Harper and Victoria Burton on achieving this award. Victoria first achieved a good pass and re-applied immediately. Result a F1RST just 3 weeks later. We also applaud Mary White for her determination and persistence resulting in her succeeding at the 3rd attempt. We started the year with a waiting list which was well managed by George Findlay our Associates Officer. It was cleared as we moved through 2018 and we continue to move on without one.

During the year John Riches, a long standing BAM Qualified Observer undertook the Local Observer assessment and was successful in re-qualifying as an IAM/IMI Local Observer. Also during 2018 Jason Reid, one of our full members, decided to train to become a Local Observer. He had previously been coached by us and passed his Advanced Test in 2016. Chris Milner took on his training and Jason achieved Local Observer status within the year. Congratulations and very well done.

Most of our tests are carried out by Jim Henderson our local IAM RoadSmart examiner and he is very supportive. We receive excellent post test reports containing lots of useful advice which is helpful both to the candidate and to our Observers. Working as a full time Police Officer as well as an IAM RoadSmart Examiner means that he is kept extremely busy. In spite of this he will whenever possible give a talk entitled 'Meet the Examiner'. One of these was held on the 8th February 2018 and there were 23 attendees of which 8 were Associates. This was the best turn out ever and produced a very positive response. A competition held on the night resulted in two Associates having an observed drive with Jim. This was greatly appreciated and very beneficial.

In summary: for BAM 2018 was another good year. Chris and Kromer as Joint Chief Observers would especially like to thank our dedicated team of Observers for their wonderful commitment. We also, in particular, include George Findlay, our Associates Officer, for supporting the team so ably.

We must remember too that Kromer has continued to offer support to all of our Associates and Observers throughout the year. He also keeps excellent records in order to produce the Chief's award, continues to wrestle with DTE – the IAM's computerised recording system and is now on the joint group merging committee. I would like to thank him for his continued input and support, and I am sure everyone else would too.

Financially the group is in a good sound position, with the balance at the end of 2018 being £2876.03. Full details can be obtained from Peter in his minutes or directly from Karen. Karen was asked where we stood in the matter of Gift Aid and having had a long – three year – battle, Karen is confident that our gift aid income should be arriving soon. I am not sure of the exact figure, but it will boost the balance well.

The AGM continued with the appointment of the new committee. I proposed that, if the existing committee were willing to continue until the new group was formed, that we re-elect them en mass. All were willing so the proposal was carried.

**From Kromer**



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*Jim Henderson's talk - 25th April, 2019*

*As usual Jim did us proud. This presentation covered Jim's job as an Accident Investigator for Thames Valley Police. It painted a detailed picture of his role. The video recording of actual accidents certainly tested our observation skills. The shots of wrecked vehicles and other horrific scenes really brought home the results of excess speed, a moment's lack of concentration or the effect of alcohol or drugs. There was a graphic demonstration of the result of no seat belt being worn. The whole message really made me feel that if our efforts through IAM RoadSmart prevents just one of these scenarios then it is worthwhile. As usual, a big thank you to Jim who gave an excellent presentation and continues his unflinching support for BAM. Thank you also to those of you who attended. To you and Jim my apologies. I failed to express my thanks and appreciation at the end of the evening. I seemed to get bogged down with detail and failed to express the gratitude of BAM to all of you present for your support.*

### **Current performance**

*So far this year we have achieved 5 test passes. Our congratulations go to:*

*Maya Kluga who passed on the 17th January.*

*Krystyna Bell who passed on the 17th February.*

*Nicola Lepper who passed on the 13th March.*

*Jeannie Martin who passed on the 3rd April, and*

*David Pettinger who passed on the 2nd May and did especially well achieving an IAM RoadSmart F1RST.*

*A big thank you to the Observers involved in the tutoring. They were Tony Carney, John Roberts, John Britton and John Riches. Thanks and congratulations to all.*

*At the same time last year our score was -1 as we had clocked up no passes and one failure. So far in 2019 with one positive result per month we are once again heading for 11 or 12 passes in the year. This represents good steady progress.*

So that's it for this Byway: Sorry it's a bit short, but I need to get the information to you quickly. I'll try to do better next time.

Peta

Peta Simmons, BAM Vice Chairman, 42 Lewis Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5JS.

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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)

Chief Observers: Kromer Rogers: 01295 720804 [cmkromer@outlook.com](mailto:cmkromer@outlook.com), Chris Milner: 01327 876342 [chris42milner@gmail.com](mailto:chris42milner@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Karen Liddle: 01295 711685 [karenliddle@fsmail.net](mailto:karenliddle@fsmail.net)

Secretary: Peter Willcocks: 01327 260760 [pwillcocks975.5@gmail.com](mailto:pwillcocks975.5@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Aaron Lilley: 07882 664068 [aaron.lilley@hotmail.com](mailto:aaron.lilley@hotmail.com)

Associates Officer: George Findlay: 01295 811682 [geofin1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geofin1@tiscali.co.uk)