

DUMFRIES GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS AND MOTORCYCLISTS

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 6 July 2006 at Dalston House Hotel

Present: Alan Jones (AJ), Tommy Jardine (TJ), Christine Donaldson (CD), Alan Dalrymple (AD), Scott Anderson (SA), Russell Wears (RW), Peter Dodds (PD), Anne Lind (ACL), John Donaldson (JD), Charlie Allman (CA)

Apologies: Graham McColm, Helen Cameron, Andrew Bird

Noted - Helen Cameron, Motorists and Alan Dalrymple, Motorcyclist are now Qualified Observers.

1. Matters arising from 29 May 2006 Meeting Minutes

SA has been in contact with David Mundell regarding a demonstration ride – so far no response. He will try to contact Elaine Murray

Action: SA to contact Elaine Murray to see if she wishes a demonstration drive/ride

Action: AJ to set up a meeting with Ryan Finland and Nicola Forsyth

Staging a mock vehicle on the Whitesands - SA has had limited success with regard to arranging this event. It is possible that the Fire Brigade are not keen on this type of event being held on the Whitesands (public liability). Richard Stewart, DA Autoparts has offered to help e.g. smashed cars.

AJ had been in contact with Sgt Ian Fraser/PC Les Kirkpatrick regarding the Mini Hibernian events. Sgt Fraser (now promoted to Inspector) has agreed to pay for the £20/time room hire for the three events. PC Kirkpatrick will be the police contact in future.

Action: Alan Graham to send £60 invoice to Inspector Fraser at Loreburn Street Police Station

Ch/Supt Mike McCormick has sent a letter to thank AJ for his update information regarding the IAM 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Copies of the 'Let's make it cool to be skilful' DVD have been sent to Phil Scordellis, Vince Yearley, George Goldie (IAM Council member), Robin Mair (Marketing Manager) and Steve Shipley (Regional Co-ordinator).

Question for Jack McConnell, First Minister/West Sound

AJ had written to Steve Shipley, Robin Mair and George Goldie regarding the 'Ask Jack' event – asking for advice on the question to ask. He did not receive a reply, even though one was promised. However, he has received support from IAM H/Q.

TJ has sent AJ a copy of the event of which AJ gave out 5 copies to the meeting. .

AJ related that there were 2 elements to the First Minister's reply. One was that he agreed to help identify sources of funding and the second was that he supported the theme of helping young drivers and riders achieve "road craft skills" providing it was part of the wider citizenship education programme. This theme is something AJ has taken up with Phil Scordellis and Vince Yearly at IAM H/Q. They in turn have spoken with Robin Mair and he is to make contact to agree how best to take this initiative forward with ministers at Holyrood.

Action: Await contact from RM and arrange with TJ to visit Ministers for discussion.

2. Skill for Life

52 out of 85 young people attended the Mini Hibernian evenings. AJ made it clear what would be expected of them, and what they could expect from the Observers. All of those who attended felt it would be a good idea if another session, including further examples of roadcraft skills, could be run in September/October.

38 Car Associates and 7 Bike Associates have now been identified and the first Group (approx 15 car associates) have been allocated to Observer's. Once this group is complete the 2nd group will be allocated. AJ proposes to run another final course for the other young people who could not attend at some future date.

SA informed the meeting that 3 Bike Associates commenced the 'Skill for Life' on Wednesday 5 July 2006.

Discussion followed after TJ had suggested it would be a good idea for the DGGAMM to come into the West Sound studio to publicise that there are about 15 from the total of 60 places left. SA suggested involving the young people who are taking part in the 'Skill for Life' – two to be contacted.

Action: SA to contact Donna McCluskey, young Motorcyclist

Action: AJ to contact Stephen Templeton, young Motorist

- 3. Membership** - The meeting was informed that we currently have 94 members having lost 10 members due to non-return of membership fees. Currently 56 Car Associates and 19 Bike Associates. SA felt that this was a low number for the Bike Associates and probably should be higher.

Action: SA to remind AB to send member updates to PD on a monthly basis

- 4. Shows** - There was little interest shown in the DGGAMM and IAM at the Dumfries Transport Show. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Dumfries and Lockerbie Show on Saturday 5 August 2006, from 8 am to 6 pm. The MDU will need to be in place before the show commences so volunteers will also be needed for the Friday evening too.

Corporate t-shirts to be worn. SA suggested looking at extra shirts for volunteers and also offering the t-shirts for sale (therefore more money for funds).

Action: HC to e-mail everyone to ask for volunteers (who, how many, when they can attend, how long they can attend e.g. 1 hour, 2 hours).

- 5. HQ Business** – No input from HC

- 6. S.N.I.G.A Business (Scottish Northern Ireland Group)** – No input from HC

- 7. Group Business**

3 more Motorcyclists have been successful in passed their bike tests– Brian Wells, John Higgins and Alan McKean.

SA also informed the meeting that Jamie Woods has provided more radio equipment for the Motorcyclists section.

Action: HC to send a letter of thanks to Jamie Woods

Russell Brown has written a letter of thanks to AJ for the 13th May Event. He has received a reply from Rosemary Thew, Chief Executive of the Driving Strategy Agency saying that the IAM is publicised in Driving Test Centres. A copy of the DSA magazines, Ride On and Drive On have been enclosed showing where the IAM advert appears, although some of the IAM details are wrong (price and age of drivers).

AJ has also received a response from Alisdair Morgan who suggested ways of contacting people (publicising IAM etc).

Action: ACL to let HC know 46 people started, 14 to go

AJ informed the meeting that as part of our continuing search for more funding, he intended to apply to The Dumfries and Galloway Festivals and Events Tourism Challenge Fund – noted there are 20 pages of rules and guidelines, and after reviewing these he no longer intends to apply.

It was noted that Easter falls on the second Monday in April (9 April 2007) so that forward planning could be arranged by SA and RW.

Discussion took place as to how many copies of the Advanced Booklet should be produced and the cost resulting in reduction of our funds. Final figure was agreed at 300.

Action: GMcC to contact HK Group re additional sponsorship and funding. One further company required to allow publishing costs to be fully covered.

AJ reminded everyone that Graham Watson needs articles for the newsletter. SA suggested that TJ should issue a challenge to other journalists/media by following his example and doing the Skill for Life.

Deadlines for articles for newsletter/Latest date for copy

20 November 2006 – Winter

12 March 2007 – Spring

Action: TJ to remind Bruce McKenzie that an article is needed for 21 August 2006, including photograph

8. Strategy Document

14 out of the 18 2005-2006 actions have been successfully achieved. The remaining four are:

- lady observers for bikes
- under 26 lady observer for cars
- at least one observer under 21
- motorcycle section to make a video for the Group

Discussion then took place over what further goals the committee wish to achieve in the next twelve months.

JD – more social events

PD – to try to get an Observer ratio of one to twenty Associates

CA – to have more Examiners

RW – not to lose sight of our existing members expecting from the Group. Focus expectations on existing members

SA – would look to see if more could be offered to existing members i.e. drive assessment prior to Skills for Life

CD – putting the IAM name forward – publicising/raise awareness

AJ – important to us as a Group that we deliver on our promise and make a difference

TJ – focus on raising money from Scottish Executive and First Minister – have a funding mechanism in place

Also noted at this point that IAM have offered us £500.00 to make a radio advert.

HC to obtain several plastic folders for Skill for Life programmes and these should be installed in each petrol service station in the area, full of leaflets.

Action: HC to obtain

PD suggested young drivers, if they are successful, being given a t-shirt with the IAM badge, also marked 'Cool to be Skilful', also with sponsored by West Sound Radio on the t-shirt.

SA suggested that once they have all passed then have a 'get together' for the young drivers.

AJ has arranged with Chief Supt Mike McCormick for the Chief Constable to present the young drivers with their certificates or perhaps the young people could be invited to meet TJ at West Sound Radio, also Russell Brown (photograph opportunity).

CD suggested contacting Alan McNish to present the t-shirts.

Action: AJ will pull together all the thoughts for further discussion before updating the Strategy Document for 2006-2007

Graham Watson has made another DVD on what happens to people who join an Advanced Driving Course.

AJ gave PD a copy of the 'Driving Smarter' DVD which has been produced by the Gem Assist Charity. *IAM DVD Driver Road Safety – promotional DVD.*

AJ noted that cost of the 'promotional' stands e.g. pull-up stands - £210.00, larger stand - £1000.00.

Action: ACL to pass sheet with costs to HC for retention

9. Events Programme

RW/SA have arranged a visit to Citrac Nadics (who control the big digital signs on roads) for the September event. Visits to the Volvo garage, Police HQ and the Ambulance Station are also in the pipeline.

Action: SA to send HC the details

Action: HC to e-mail everyone with the details

Action: HC to send JD a copy of the DGGAMM rules

10. AOB

RW commented on the National Transport Strategy South East discussion – worthwhile for the Group to look through them (64 questions)

Action: AJ to formulate a draft response for consideration by the committee

11. Date and time of the next committee meeting

Thursday 3 August 2006 at 7.30 pm, Dalston Hotel