



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Group Rules & Constitution that the 34th Annual General Meeting of **North Down Advanced Motorists** will be held at 7.30 for 8pm at the Boat House, Groomsport on Tuesday 08 October 2024 to enable the Trustees of the Group to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024 for approval by the Group Members and to conduct an election.

Secretary's Name	Stephen Patterson	Date	18 September 2024
Address	103 North Road Newtownards BT23 7AS	Group Number	8199

OFFICE BEARERS

Office bearers must retire each year but can choose to offer themselves for re-election. Two office bearers have offered to stand for re-election. David Harcourt has expressed his desire to step aside from Chair of North Down but to remain on committee.

David Harcourt	Chairman	Standing down
Stephen Patterson	Secretary	Offering to stand for re-election
Campbell English	Treasurer	Offering to stand for re-election

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

One third of the committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election. (Group Rule 3.4)

RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

John Seawright, Colin Hay.

RETIRING AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Lisa Thompson.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING

Ivan Greenfield, Leslie Ashe, Ralph Magee, Tina Lannin.

NOTE

The total number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty. Please see the attached nomination paper for further details.



Registered as a charity by the Northern Ireland Charity Commission

Registration number 101616

**North Down Advanced Motorists
34th Annual General Meeting**

Date: Tuesday 08 October 2024

Venue: Boat House, Groomsport

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 33rd AGM held on Tuesday 10 October 2023
3. Matters arising from the AGM
4. Minutes of the EGM held on Tuesday 20 May 2024
5. Matters arising from the EGM
6. Annual report and Chairperson's address (Tina Lannin)
7. Membership report (Lisa Thompson)
8. Accounts and Honorary Treasurer's report (Campbell English)
9. Election of Officers and Group Committee members for 2024/2025
10. Presentations
11. Any other business

Minutes of 33rd Annual General Meeting of
North Down Advanced Motorists, Charity No. 101616-0
Tuesday 10 October 2023 in the Boat House Groomsport

Present: Mark Patterson, David Boyd, Leah Taylor, Ernie Foster, Ivan Greenfield, Gary Barr, Neil Geoghegan, Campbell English, Simon Beckett, Gareth Hughes, Paul Greggan (Lisburn), Don McQuillan, David Hall, Colin Hay, Angela Bell, Roger Clegg, John Seawright, Lisa Thompson, Becky Harcourt, David Harcourt, Matthew Tennis, Joyce Cairns, Stephen Patterson

Apologies: Leslie Ashe, Guy Thomson, South Ulster Group, Ballymena Group.

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 11 October 2022 were accepted as true and accurate. Minutes proposed by Gareth Hughes and seconded by Becky Harcourt.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

Chairman's Address (David Harcourt)

Welcome all group members and guests. It's good to see representation from some of the other groups in region. It's a big ask to visit another group mid-week, and we do have apologies from Ballymena and South and Mid Ulster, who have group meetings this evening, as well as from our own Leslie Ashe and Guy Thomson. Most of you know this is my least favourite evening of the year. I really enjoy the training activities and the social side of the group, but I'm not so fond of the administrative side, and there's a lot going on in the background to keep things running. This evening is an important part of that, and it's your opportunity to elect a committee to represent you. I am here very reluctantly as Chair, simply because the Charity Commission require us to have one and we don't yet have a nomination or volunteer to succeed me.

Anyhow, I'm glad we're back in the Boathouse. We were temporarily displaced last autumn to Donaghadee Community Centre while the Boathouse underwent urgent structural repairs, and the acoustics there were terrible. The past year was our first full year of "normal" operation post COVID, and I use the word normal cautiously. Unfortunately we emerged from COVID with a substantial associate backlog, alongside a big influx of new associates – work and commute patterns had changed, and there were a lot of new enquiries. Some of the local groups were unable to take new associates, so we have a number of new associates from outside our immediate area, and enquiries to us from as far afield as Roscommon.

I have pulled test statistics from the DARTS system, but I'm not sure if I believe them. We've had 3 car Passes and 4 Firsts, and 3 motorcycle Passes. I felt it would be more, but 10 is what I got from the system. We've also had 2 new car Local Observers and 2 motorcycle, and we have started enrolments for NO which will be the only observer

qualification going forward. And I'd like to congratulate our own Angela Bell on her recent appointment as a Trustee of IAM RoadSmart, even though it undermines my plan to get her back here as chair of North Down.

We recently conducted a poll on STAC night to ask the associates and recently qualified how they would like the training delivered. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of minimising the presentation to recap the chapter and prompt Q&A, so we can get on with the observed drives. If you have feedback, positive or otherwise, speak to any observer or committee member.

As usual, we've tried to maintain a varied program throughout the year. Our guest speaker last year was Dr Ash Kumar. Ash is a North Down Associate whose work commitments during the pandemic took him to England and the USA, so he has been unable to complete his training with us. Unfortunately he had recent very personal experience of the Human Factors element of driving, and had run off the road at the end of a very long day, on his way to fulfil a promise to speak at a conference. No other vehicles were involved, his car was a write-off, and he was fortunate to get out with only a few cuts and bruises. He gave a very honest account of what he admitted was his own mistake, he has re-evaluated his work schedule and travel commitments, and he offered his experience as a lesson to us all.

Throughout the rest of the year, we had a couple of runs out for coffee and for ice-cream, 10-pin bowling, a table quiz, and a visit to the RNLI Boathouse in Bangor. We had two visits to the Transport Museum warehouse, which took a bit of organising and had limited numbers as it's not open as a visitor attraction, but the museum want the public to be aware of the conservation work they carry out with artefacts too delicate to display, or for which they don't have display space. Our host at the museum facility was Curator of Transport and Industry Clare Ablett, a former group member here at North Down, and daughter of the late Tony Ablett.

On a sad note, we lost three members this year. Shortly before Christmas last year, Davy Millican passed away after a brief illness. I didn't really know Davy, but there's hardly a motorcyclist in the country who didn't know him and his bike shop. Then, at the start of this year, Sheila Palmer, car associate, passed away, just short of her 93rd birthday. At the start of the summer, we lost Annie McFarland. Everyone on the car side knew Annie, and she was often the first to welcome new associates. Not just everyone on the car side – I think she knew everyone in the country. She knew all the newsletter cover photos too, and used to get cross with me when I wouldn't confirm her answer – I really have no idea, that's Leslie's department, and I do miss her shaking her stick at me. Annie had stepped away from the group earlier in the year for an operation to her foot, but sadly during her recovery from that, she was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour to which she succumbed in June. Annie was stubborn and determined, extremely proud of her driving and observer credentials, and one of the few folk brave enough to commit to the IAM RoadSmart Fellows program, requiring a 3-year requalification. We are pleased to have her widower, Brian, here this evening to present an award he has gifted to the group in her memory.

We'll get on with this evening's business as I ask for Membership and Treasurer's reports, and the election of officers and committee members, following which we'll present awards. I'll then be able to hand the floor to our guest speaker, Martyn Boyd, to speak to us about the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance.

Membership Report (Lisa Thompson)

Membership current status

33 paid up email

10 bike observers

22 in first year

So current total of 65 paid members.

38 members from last year either unpaid or no response.

The membership should have been collected in April however issues getting the new bank account set up delayed the start of collection. There has been a delay in follow up due to personal work issues.

DARTS has removed or amended members, any issues are being flagged up as they are discovered.

Treasurer's Report for the year 2022/23 (Campbell English)

I was asked to step in as Treasurer late last year.

Unfortunately, I have experienced difficulties with setting up a new Charity Bank Account as the details for our group are not up-to-date on the Northern Ireland Charity Commission website. This is due to the fact that office bearers, such as treasurer, can only be ratified by the group's membership at an Annual General Meeting.

Hopefully after this evening this problem will be corrected and I hope to have a new Bank Account set up in the near future.

I can assure the membership that the group is solvent with more than enough funds in our old Bank Account to cover any foreseeable debt.

I thank the group's members for their patience regarding this matter.

Election of Officers and Committee Members 2023/24

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election. One-third of the Committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election (Group Rule 3.4).

RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Ivan Greenfield, Lisa Thompson, Leslie Ashe

RETIRING AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Ronnie Brown

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING

John Seawright, Colin Hay, Kyle Thomson, Neil Geoghegan

PROPOSED NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Simon Beckett

Ralph Magee

Angela Bell conducted the election of Officers and Committee Members and the committee was agreed as follows:

Name	Office	Proposed by	Seconded by
David Harcourt	Chair	Angela Bell	Gareth Hughes
Stephen Patterson	Secretary	Gareth Hughes	Angela Bell
Campbell English	Treasurer	Mark Patterson	Stephen Patterson
Ivan Greenfield	Committee Member	John Seawright	Stephen Patterson
Lisa Thompson	Committee Member	Colin Hay	Neil Geoghegan
Leslie Ashe	Committee Member	Stephen Patterson	Becky Harcourt
Simon Beckett	Committee Member	Neil Geoghegan	Ralph Magee
Ralph Magee	Committee Member	Simon Beckett	Neil Geoghegan
John Seawright	Committee Member	n/a	n/a
Colin Hay	Committee Member	n/a	n/a
Kyle Thomson	Committee Member	n/a	n/a
Neil Geoghegan	Committee Member	n/a	n/a

Presentations

David Harcourt presented the 2022/23 awards.

The Mervyn Bates Trophy for member of the year was awarded to Campbell English.

The Motorcycle Member of the Year was awarded to Neil Geoghegan.

The Annie McFarland Memorial Award was awarded to William McAteer, with Colin Hay accepting on his behalf.

There was no further business and the AGM was declared over.

Guest Speaker: Martyn Boyd

Topic: Northern Ireland Air Ambulance

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting of
North Down Advanced Motorists, Charity No. 101616-0
Tuesday 20 May 2024 in the Boat House Groomsport

Present: David Harcourt, Colin Hay, Lisa Thompson, Campbell English, John Seawright, Mark Patterson, Thomas Hair, Anatolie lordache.

Apologies: Gareth Hughes, Leah Taylor.

Purpose: To enable the Trustees of the Group to present their Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023 for approval by the Group Members; annual accounts were not available at the last AGM held on Tuesday 10th October 2023.

Presentation of accounts

Campbell provided an overview of the accounts as follows:

OPENING BALANCE 01/09/2022	£1,048.40	
Income:		
• Membership subscription	£ 500.00	(50 X £10)
• IAM Roadsmart	£1,058.50	
• Christmas Meal	£ 837.00	
• Miscellaneous	£ 50.75	
Total	£2,446.25	
Expenditure:		
• Hall rental	£ 162.00	(9 X £18)
• Christmas Meal	£ 826.20	
Total	£ 988.20	
• Opening balance	£1,048.40	
• Income	£2,446.25	
• Expenditure	(£ 988.20)	
Balance	£2,506.45	
CLOSING BALANCE 31/08/2023	£2,506.45	

LIABILITIES

Owed to a group member:

• Hall hire	£252.00
• IAM group insurance	£176.79
Total	£426.79

A/CS INDEPENDENTLY AUDITED AND NO CONCERS FOUND AND THEREFORE CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION.

David stated that the reporting period has changed to align with our operating year, changing from September to August.

Lisa proposed the accounts and Colin seconded.

David closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.