

Wigan Group Newsletter



Issue 296 Winter 2005

Wigan Advanced Motorists

Group Contact number
07071 226693



**Chairman and
Publicity**

Gary Whittaker



**Honorary Life
Vice-President**

Alf Birtle



Car Co-ordinator

John Bolger



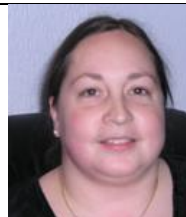
M/Cycle Co-ordinator

Karen Lawrinson



Secretary

Mike Smalley



Treasurer

Catherine Parry



Group Contact

Barry Grundy

07071 226693

Social Events

Vacant



Committee

Martin Duckworth



Committee

Tony Rigby

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Send any contributions to the group E-mail address at:

Wigan5019@Hotmail.com

Wigan Advanced Motorists is a registered charity, No 518387

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor. They are not necessarily those of the Group, it's Officers or the Institute.

Previous copies are available to download at :

www.wiganadvancedmotorists.org.uk



Welcome to your newsletter

You can tell we are in the season of the Christmas panto by the cries of “will he ever produce the News Letter ?.....yes he will.....no he won’t...yes he will !!!”, well don’t look behind you, but here it is anyway.

Your committee continues to press along and our thanks to those of you helping out each Sunday. From next year we intend to apply a more focused approach to the car courses, anyone applying to join after a course has started will be offered an ‘assessment run’ but will have to wait until the start of the next course before undertaking Observed runs.

I won’t labour the social side of the Group except to say that any help or volunteers welcome.

Hoping you all have a happy New Year

Mike

Contact information

With this Newsletter you will find the Subscription Renewal Form. Please return it even if you are paying through the bank. If you include an e-mail address I will add it to our circulation list for information.

The newsletter is now being published electronically in PDF format for those members preferring to receive it this way (in our increasingly paperless society). I will not be e-mailing it out in future because of the file size but will send out an e-mail with a download link to our website.

If you don’t wish to get a ‘hard copy’ drop a note to wigan5019@hotmail.com.

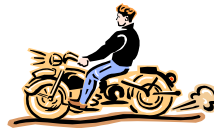
SOCIAL EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated Wigan Group meet socially every second Tuesday, at around 8pm at the Priory Wood Hotel. Come down and catch up on the gossip.

Leave the M6 at Junction 26 (M58) and at the Orrell exit turn left. Priory Wood is on your right as you cross over the motorway.

Planned Meetings

Every Sunday at the Priory Wood, Orrell. Meeting in the car park at 09:30 (Bikes) and 10:00 (Cars) for Associates and anyone interested in joining. We usually aim to be back at 12:00 in the pub where all are welcome to join us for a natter.



Mid week Bike runs leaving the Priory Wood at 19:00 on a Wednesday have now recommenced. Other

Bike and Car mid-week runs are available on request. See John Bolger or Karen Lawrinson.

Imminent Diary Dates

Group Meal on 17th Jan 06

At the Priory Wood, Orrell.

(Deposits to any committee member on Sunday Morning before the 8th Jan)

AGM

Tuesday March 7th 2006

(venue to be confirmed as the Priory Wood is shut for refurbishment at this time !)

Have Pride in Our Institute

Ever been asked, "Why should I join the IAM?", and struggled to give a concise answer? Well the following extract off the IAM Website may help:

The Institute of Advanced Motorists aims to raise the standard of driving by increasing the skill and competence of drivers. The result of a Transport Research Laboratory Report showed that Advanced Motorists have between a 50% and 75% lower accident rate. This is the main, and most significant, benefit of passing the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test.

Once drivers have passed the Test, services available to Members include motor insurance, through the IAM Select Insurance scheme. There are also special offers such as the IAM Car Purchase Plan, breakdown and recovery insurance, an IAM credit card, personal loans, car hire. Members also receive a copy of the colour magazine 'Advanced Driving', published three times a year, which has interesting features on driving and other topics, as well as News from the Groups.

Membership of the Institute currently stands at over 110,000. Nearly 10,000 people successfully take the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test every year.

There are also 200 local Groups in the UK who provide a course of preparation, events for their Members, and promote the Institute in their locality, offering the Skill for Life Full Driving/Motorcycling Programme.

The Institute has, since it was founded more than forty years ago, given hundreds of thousands of motorists and motorcyclists the opportunity to check whether they have the qualities to be better and safer drivers. This has made them more aware, helping them to deal with increasingly difficult situations on today's roads, as well as giving extra protection to themselves and to their passengers, with the added touch of enjoying their driving/riding more.

Welcome to New Associates

New Car

Howard Lowe
Paul Kynaston
Margaret Bolger
Gina Griffiths
Marion Birch
Margaret Ainsworth
Kirsten Ainsworth-Tebb
Geoffrey Birch
Alan Gaskell
Derek Dickinson

Congratulations to New Members

Car

Stephen Jolley
Sally Birch
Una Talbot
Simon Poole
Mathew Smith
Angela Scott
Charlie Evans

Bike

Ian McBurnie
Simon Hampson
Kevin Thompson

OBITUARY

ELIZABETH "AUNTY BETTY" HIGGINS

Betty joined Wigan & District Group of Advanced Motorists in 1983 and quickly became a firm favourite within the Group, with her happy bubbly, outgoing character always smiling and with a cheery word for everyone, she was loved by all who knew her.

A self confessed 'scatterbrain' Betty took quite a long time to get to test standard. Joe Thomas who was Associate Co-ordinator at the time passed Betty over to me with strict instructions to get her through The Test., she worked extremely hard and finally made it.

In those far off days we used to meet on a corner of Wigan market square, on the Sunday after passing her test I shall forever have the picture of Betty parking her car on the opposite corner and prancing across the square singing at the top of her voice and waving her pass certificate. There was a great round of applause.

Betty went on to become a dedicated Observer, who and with her wonderful personality helped dozens of Associates to become Members of The Institute. If anyone was having doubts or any problems with coping with Advanced Driving techniques she would draw on her own experiences and inspire confidence. Betty also served on the committee for several years, looking after the regalia, helping to organise events, and was one of the instigators in starting the Leigh Section. where as Associate Coordinator she brought in new associates and encouraging people, including some of her own family to join the Group.

One of her great passions was in being frequently 'dragged screaming away' on holiday with her husband Tom and returning with a wonderful suntan.

We were all sorry when she said she was going to retire when she became seventy as we knew a bright light would be lost to the Group. That light has now been extinguished, (29th September 2005) but the memory will carry on with all that had contact with her.

"Aunty Betty" will be sadly missed .but never forgotten

Our thoughts and condolences go out her husband Tom, son Allan and all her family in their bereavement.

Alf Birtle

LADYMAN CALLS ON DRIVERS TO SWITCH OFF THEIR PHONES

A small minority of drivers are continuing to endanger themselves and other road users by using hand-held mobile phones while they are driving according to new figures released by the Road Safety Minister, Stephen Ladyman.

Research for the Department for Transport has shown that, in the most recent survey, 1.5 per cent of car drivers and 2.4 per cent of lorry and van drivers were spotted using hand held phones.

Road Safety Minister Stephen Ladyman said: "Using a mobile phone while you're driving makes you four times more likely to have an accident, and it's a shame that a small minority of drivers are still using their hand held phones. Missing a call won't kill you, but a road accident might. I urge people to switch off their phones while they're driving to make the roads safer for us all. The police are on the road looking out for drivers using phones and they do prosecute those they catch."

"The Road Safety Bill currently going through Parliament will mean that in future people using a hand held phone will get a £60 fine and 3 points on their licence. But I don't want people to be caught and risk losing their licences, I want them to stop using their phones while they drive."

The findings on mobile phone use coincide with then release of the latest seat belt wearing rates. The seat belt survey has been running since 1988 and this shows a high and stable wearing rate of 93% for all drivers, 94% for all front seat passengers and 83% for all rear seat passengers.

Winter Weather Warning (consider the following when you next hear the forecast !)

It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new Chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a Chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared. But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter." The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later the Chief called the National Weather Service again.

"Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

Group Subscriptions

We would like to remind you that Group Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st January, 2006, and remain at £12.00. In the case of more than one Member living at the same address, the 2nd and any subsequent Members will be at half price. **All Members need to fill in and sign a Renewal application form.** We hope we can count on your continued support

If you are not already using the facility, perhaps you would like to consider paying by Standing Order. This does help cut down on the administration work for us and we would appreciate your help. A Standing Order mandate for your use is on the back of this sheet. Also if you pay income tax you can further support the Group by completing a **Gift-Aid** form which allows the Group to recover part of the tax paid on your subscription.

Please do not send cash through the post. Any payment must be accompanied by the renewal form.

WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2006

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS and return it to a committee member or send it to the address below :

Mrs Catherine Parry, 238 Leigh Road, Atherton, Manchester, M46 0PN

✂.....

2006

I WISH TO *APPLY FOR/RENEW MEMBERSHIP TO WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

A **MEMBER** OF THE GROUP MUST BE A **FULLY PAID UP MEMBER** OF THE I.A.M. Ltd.

I agree to abide by the rules of the Group.

I do not object to the Group holding my personal data on computer without being registered under the Data Protection Act 1984

*Delete as appropriate

Type of Membership *Member/Friend/Associate/Hon.

IAM Membership No.

Please tick appropriate IAM test category(s) passed

Motorcycle Car Other

Observer qualification (please indicate date of last re-qualification)

Motorcycle Car Other
Group Qualified Senior

Title (*Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other)..... Surname.....

First Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Telephone Number

The Group Subscription is £12.00 (or £6.00 See above for special discount qualification)

By standing order, cash or cheque payable to WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS.

Please indicate here if payment is by standing order

Signature.....Date.....

For Office Use Only.

Group Records

Treasurer:- Cash Cheque

WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Bank Standing Order

Bank please note: This instruction refers to payments to be made to **Wigan Advanced Motorists**. Please do not confuse it with any order your customer may make to **IAM Ltd**.

To.....Bank plc.

.....

..... Date.....

Please pay The Royal Bank of Scotland plc., Pemberton Branch (16-28-05), for the credit of Wigan Advanced Motorists, Account No. 10002477, the sum of

£.....(amount in words.....)

The first payment to be made on or after 1st January, 2006 and the same payment to be made annually on 1st January each year until further orders from me/us is received in writing, and debit the amounts so paid to my/our account number.....

Signed.....

(BLOCK CAPITALS) Account name.....

Address..... Bank please quote:

..... Members Name.....

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of Charity

WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Registered Charity No 518387

Details of donor

Title..... Forenames(s)..... Surname.....

Address

.....
.....
..... Postcode.....

I want the charity WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS, to treat

- all donations I have made since 6 April 2004, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise.
- all donations I have made since 6 April 2005, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise.
- the donations I make from this date of Declaration until I notify you otherwise

◆ Please tick relevant statement depending on the tax year you passed your test

As Gift Aid donations

Signed

Date...../...../.....

NOTES

1. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or Capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give)
2. You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the charity.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and Capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your Declaration (see Note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment Tax Return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity, or ask your local Tax Office for Leaflet IR65.
6. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.

Cracking Down on Uninsured Drivers

(From the Office of Rt Hon Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Transport)

Greater Manchester was one of the four Police areas participating in an operation today (Tuesday 8th Nov), being the first use by police of the new powers to link databases to the cameras to enhance their ability to catch uninsured drivers.

Key Messages: Respect on the Roads

The Government is taking new action to crack down on the problem of uninsured drivers.

Driving without insurance isn't a victimless crime. The resulting costs and damage are ultimately passed to the honest motorist. It is estimated that every law-abiding motorist pays an extra £30 a year because of uninsured drivers.

The new powers come into effect today make it easier to catch these anti-social drivers flouting the law.

The powers will allow police forces to use automatic number plate recognition cameras linked to databases of uninsured vehicles to instantly spot and ultimately seize and destroy cars being driven without insurance.

On top of these powers we are creating a new offence of keeping a vehicle without insurance, so drivers of uninsured cars don't even need to be on the road to be caught.

Transport Secretary **Alistair Darling** said:

"Today we are sending out a very clear message to those who drive without insurance- there is now no place to hide."

"Drivers are rightly fed-up with those who flout the law and we are determined to rid the roads of this small hardcore of anti-social drivers."

Context

Removing anti-social drivers improves road safety and contributes to our target of halving child deaths and serious injuries on the roads by 2010.

These measures help deliver on our 2005 Manifesto pledge to crack down on uninsured driving, as well as supporting our respect agenda to tackle anti-social behaviour by the few to the detriment of the many.

Driving on UK roads without insurance is a criminal offence. There are an estimated 2 million vehicles being driven uninsured on Britain's roads

There is a high and unacceptable social cost resulting from this small number of law breakers who manage to evade detection.

Offenders penalise law abiding motorists who subsidise their law breaking through higher premiums.

They are 6-9 times more likely to be involved in a collision and they are less likely to have roadworthy vehicles - and so represent a very real and very serious risk to other road users.

Action against Uninsured Drivers

The new powers beginning today will allow police forces to use automatic number plate recognition cameras to spot and ultimately seize and destroy cars being driven without insurance. The cameras are linked to a database which contains details of all vehicles registered in the UK

Once a vehicle, suspected of being driven without insurance, has been stopped a police officer can seize the vehicle and have it removed. The driver will be required to bring proof of insurance to a police station. If the driver still cannot produce insurance details then he/she will be prosecuted for driving without insurance. Drivers have fourteen days to reclaim their vehicle. After this time, the police are able to dispose of the vehicle.

The new regulations are "The Disclosure of Vehicle Insurance Regulations 2005"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by order of the Group Committee that the 2006 Annual General Meeting of "**WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS**" will be held at 08:00 on Tuesday 7th March 2006 (venue to be confirmed) to enable the Trustees of the Group to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 2005 for approval by the Group Members and to conduct an election.

Secretary's Name	<u>Mike Smalley</u>	Date	<u>02/01/05</u>
Address	<u>32 Northgate, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2BB</u>	Group No.	<u>5019</u>

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

CURRENT OFFICERS

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election. (Group Rule 3.3)

<u>Gary Whittaker</u>	Chairman	Offering to stand /	for re election **
	Vice Chairman *		
<u>Mike Smalley</u>	Secretary	Offering to stand/	for re election **
<u>Cathrine Parry</u>	Treasurer	Offering to stand/	for re election **

* If one exists. ** Delete as necessary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

One third of the committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually and may offer themselves for re election. (Group Rule 3.3)

A RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Graham Lawrenson
Karen Lawrinson (co-opted mid year)
Martin Duckworth
Tony Rigby

B RETIRING BY ROTATION AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

C COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING

John Bolger
Alf Birtle
Barry Grundy

NOTE

The total number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty.

WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

**27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 7TH 2006.**

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. MINUTES OF THE 2005 AGM (Resolution No. 1)**
- 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- 4. SECRETARY'S REPORT**
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT & ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS**
(Resolution No. 2) (Resolution No. 3)
- 6. Hon Vice-PRESIDENT TAKES THE MEETING**
- 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
- 8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**
- 9. PRESENTATIONS**
- 10. GUEST SPEAKERS**
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (This is restricted to AGM matters)**
- 12. CLOSE OF AGM**

- 14. OPEN FORUM**
(Any Questions or Suggestions from Members or Associates)

NOTE: VOTING BY FULL GROUP MEMBERS ONLY

RESOLUTIONS

- 1. That the Minutes of the 2004 AGM shall be approved as a true record.**
- 2. That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2004 be approved.**
- 3. That the Committee be authorised to increase the subscription for 2005/6 if it is deemed necessary.**



WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

8th March, 2005.

Present (Committee & Guests) Les Stretton (Chairman), Gary Whittaker (Vice-Chairman), Mike Smalley (Secretary), John Harman MBE (Hon-President), Alf Birtle (Hon-Vice-President), Bob Higginbotham (Regional Co-coordinator) and other Committee and Group Members. (24 present in total)

Apologies for Absence: Mike Lyne (Divisional Council Member), Ian Marginson (Regional Motorcycle Co-ordinator), Barry Grundy, Catherine Parry (Treasurer), Fiona Harman.

Minutes of the 2004 AGM. Resolution No 1: That the minutes of the 2004 AGM shall be approved as a true record. – Proposed by John Bolger, seconded by Amir Casey, and carried, following the comment that Bob Higginbotham had offered to talk to the committee regarding training.

Matters arising from the minutes:

There were no identified actions from the previous minutes.



Members attending the AGM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Last year the Group was successful in putting 75 people through the Skill for Life Test achieving a 95% pass rate. The Lottery grant funding obtained the previous year has now been used up. We have seen the car courses fully subscribed. Consideration is being given by the committee to re-applying for lottery funding to support advertising as well as subsidising courses in the future.

We have obtained good publicity from a number of sources including a GMR radio interview (even though

it was aired at 7:30 in the morning !) and Martin Duckworth being involved with the GMR initiative on safer motoring. This is in addition to the normal advertising in local publications and the distribution of information to libraries and other public locations.

We have 145 members on the books (including honorary members). As mentioned in last years minutes, the Group has registered for Gift Aid (which has resulted in a donation back from the Tax-Man). However only 34 have returned the form. Further copies are available from any of the Officers of the Group.

A full social program was provided over the year including trips to a brewery, a treasure hunt and a visit to Bolton Mountain Rescue, as well as more traditional 'motoring related' speakers such as the AA, Greater Manchester Police, and police driving instructors and the Annual Bar-B-Q and Xmas Quiz (Thanks again to Amir). It has been noted that enthusiasm for these events has waned and in some cases events have had to be postponed because of a lack of response from members.

Because of this, your committee has decided not to arrange any further events unless a clear demand is shown. The committee members are all committed to the principle aim of the group which is 'to promote road safety in Wigan and the surrounding area' the main means of doing this is by the activities taking place on Sunday mornings. However if any member(s) wish to take on the job of organising and promoting the social side of the group they would be welcomed by the committee.



**Chairman
Les Stretton**

In conclusion, the Group is doing well, meeting it's principle objective.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The secretary began by thanking all those who had helped him over the last year. Following an accident just before Easter (April 04) where he injured his knee badly, he was unable to walk for three months – or drive for seven – during which time the committee were good enough to meet at Goosnargh (a fair plod for some !) so he could remain involved in the Group Activities.

Regarding the publication of the newsletter, it was reported that this will only be published quarterly instead of monthly as was the case last year. Wigan Group have been without a newsletter editor for two years, publication has been carried out by the secretary but other demands on his time mean this is no longer possible. A request was made for volunteers without success.

One result of this action is that there will not be a requirement to increase the current subscription, a significant part of which relates to newsletter publication and distribution.

The view from the floor was that the newsletter is important to keep the Group together and as a publicity / marketing tool. As such it would be better to issue a monthly single page as opposed to a quarterly document as at present. Even so no one was prepared to take this role on !

Finally, while intending to stand for a fourth year if anyone is interested in becoming secretary and would like to 'shadow' the position they will be more than welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting and had sent apologies. The Annual Accounts were presented and discussed. The 'Lottery refunds' were questioned, it was explained that the figure of £1320.00 was refunds of the £40 to 33 Associate members who took the Advanced test.

(Resolution No 2) That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2004 be approved was proposed by Alf Birtle, seconded by Tony Rigby and passed.

(Resolution No 3) That the Committee be authorised to increase the Subscription for the year 2005/6 if it is deemed necessary was proposed by John Bolger, and seconded by Alf Birtle. This was challenged from the floor, (Doreen), who felt that members were not getting value for money. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed. (Note: *Only current members of Wigan Group may vote and the dissenter was not a member*).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

The Chairman handed the meeting over to our Honorary Life President, John Harman MBE, before retiring. A single nomination was received for the following posts which were put to the members en-block:

OFFICERS:

Chairman	Les Stretton
Vice-Chairman	Gary Whittaker
Secretary	Mike Smalley
Treasurer	Catherine Parry

COMMITTEE:

1) Retiring by rotation and standing for re-election:
B Grundy

2) New nominations
No New Nominations.

3) Retiring, not re-standing:
J Trickett
J Tuer

4) Committee Members Continuing:
G Lawrenson
M Duckworth
A Birtle
J Bolger
A Rigby

Following a proposal from the floor the new Officers and Committee were elected and the new Chairman took over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

Member of the Year was awarded to Mike Johnson. The Chairman outlined the dedication and enthusiasm which Mike puts into the Group. He is currently serving as an Observer on the Cars and very rarely misses Sunday mornings. Mike unfortunately could not attend the AGM and the picture below shows him receiving the trophy the following Sunday.



The **Secretaries (John Harman) Shield** was awarded to Karen Lawrinson for all the effort she has put in helping the Secretary over the last year. In particular the efforts she has made as one of the few providers of information for the Newsletter. Her boundless enthusiasm tends to infect others around her.

For this reason she was also, (and independently) awarded the **Motorcycle Observer of the year** trophy. A rather tastefully mounted piston. This award is given by the Senior Observers to the Observer who, in their opinion, has contributed most to the Motorcycle Section.



Karen Lawrinson receiving the Motorcycle Observer of the year trophy from Senior Observer Martin Duckworth.

SPEAKERS

Regional Co-ordinator for Region 5 Bob Higginbotham

Bob said he was always a pleased to visit Wigan Group. He was pleased with the Group's performance and wished us well for the future. Commenting on the turnout, less than a quarter of the members, he said the problem was not peculiar to Wigan. He finished by thanking the committee for their efforts, particular mention to Martin on the Motorcycle Side.

A.O.B (AGM matters)

No AGM Matters were raised

AGM closed at 20:55

Open forum was declared.

Points raised included :

Issues relating to Newsletter Distribution were discussed. In particular the importance of keeping all Group members aware of what is happening with the group and what social events are planned.

This led onto the subject of poor attendance at social meetings and how things could be improved, including the possibility of paying for 'focussed' (I hesitate to use the term better quality here because the 'quality' of our speakers last year could not be faulted !) speakers.

It was noted that the 'interest' of the current committee members is toward the 'operational' as opposed to 'social' side of the Group. What we need are a few members who will push the social side.

Karen raised the issue of Disabled Bikers and the charity group with which she is associated.

Wigan Group activity and events diary

Date	Event (General social functions shown in bold)	Contact
17 th Jan 06	Social Evening at Priory Wood	John Bolger
31 st Jan 06	Committee meeting	Mike Smalley
7 th March 06	AGM (Venue to be confirmed)	Gary Whitaker

Wigan Group Meal

Come and join us at the Priory Wood for a quiet meal (after all the hectic running around over Christmas and New year).

Tuesday 17th January

(Deposits to any committee members on Sunday Morning before the 8th Jan)

Men are like fine wine. They start out as grapes, and it's up to the women to stamp the s**t out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.