**1. Introduction by Vicky Lovell and Apologies for Absence:**

**Present**

Lindsay Flower; Chair

Ron Lomas; Deputy Chair

Mike Twitchett; Treasurer

Rosemary Tandy; Secretary

Clare Hogg; Newsletter Editor

Robin Clark; Public Relations Officer

Peter Huntington; Membership Secretary

Dave Edwards; President

Vicky Lovell; Guest speaker from Carma Drivers

Plus 23 Members and guests

**Apologies for Absence**

David Major, Michael Muncer, Michael Meredith, John Marsden,
Caroline Marsden, Nigel Carter, Anthony Chambers, Sandy England, Valerie Bearne, Simon Cowley.

**2. Minutes of AGM 2024**

The Minutes were signed off.

**Matters Arising:** There were none.

**3. Report from the Chair, Lindsay Flower**

It may be because we haven't had an event yet this year, but it feels like we have been quite quiet – and yet, there has been a lot going on behind the scenes. We have had some changes. We are lucky enough to have a new President after the sad death of Helen Schofield. Dave Edwards allowed me to persuade him to step into this role and he has been very proactive, especially as a sounding board for me and as someone who is better informed at IT than the rest of us. Thank you, Dave.

Clare Hogg who has been our Treasurer is handing over to Mike Twitchett, and I would like to take this opportunity of saying a huge thankyou to Clare for her help over the years and another huge thankyou to Mike for once again allowing me to persuade him to step in to the Treasurer's role. Clare will stay with us as Newsletter Editor for the time being and whether or not we continue to have a newsletter will depend on someone coming forwards. Other groups have taken the view that all our news can just as well go

onto the website, and this may well be a view we will have to take if no one is forthcoming for this role.

The third person who allowed me to persuade him to join us is Ron Lomas who joins us as Deputy Chair with a view to succeeding me next year. I've been in this job for at least five years and I'm aware that new blood is needed.

Another big thankyou goes to Neil Bannister and his wife Sara who together have undertaken several successful Facebook campaigns on our behalf resulting in our last campaign of 400 'hits'. This is fantastic and in part responsible for our increasing number of Associates. I also want to thank Simon for setting up Discord as a chat room. We plan to eventually open it up to all members but at present it is limited to Observers.

As a training facility, we are very successful and have trained 26 new advanced drivers since I spoke to you last year. The Taster sessions are also very popular and our conversions from Taster session to buying the advanced course is somewhere in the region of 75 – 80%. The driver refresher courses have had a reasonable take up with four people completing them and we have trained three new Masters over the year. All Local Observers have now converted to National Observers and while a few people dropped out, two new Observers were trained bringing our total number of Observers to 26. In conjunction with Swindon IAM, we hold yearly Observer training evenings where we have a chance to discuss any training issues we've encountered along with giving information which may be useful in training Associates. We are proud of our Observers and just under half of all Associates achieve a F1RST, so we are clearly doing a lot of things right!

The Observers' dedication and professionalism underpins everything we do. Their efforts are clearly reflected in our results – we are clearly doing a lot of things right, and this year's achievements highlight the strength and commitment of everyone involved.

While many groups elect to be solely a training facility and offer no additional events, it is the view of the committee that extra events are helpful not only in increasing knowledge but in bringing people together in a more social capacity where ideas and views can be exchanged. However, the attendance for these remains poor and, in future, it would be hard to justify spending money on providing these if the uptake isn't better. Ron Lomas has taken on the responsibility for arranging three talks in the coming year and he has some great ideas so please look out for them being advertised. And do your very best to get here for them! If you have any ideas for a talk – please let Ron know.

We provide 3-in-a-car sessions in the summer. This gives advanced drivers an opportunity to drive with an Observer, maybe not the one who trained them, who will give feedback. A third person observes the Observer and feeds back to them. This is generally very helpful and decreases advanced skill erosion which we know occurs completely in four years after passing the advanced test. This means that unless you

actively do something to keep your skills set up, you will revert to exactly where you were in four years, i.e. before you took the advanced test. I believe that this is one of the reasons that insurance companies no longer really offer reduced insurance to advanced drivers. I believe there is a general move towards retest: this year, the UK government has replaced self-declaration eye status for obligatory eye test documentation for drivers over 70, upon licence renewal. Masters, Fellows and Observers are already retested and it may only be a matter of time before advanced drivers will need to be retested. Indeed this would certainly help with cheaper insurance for those keeping up their driving skills and it makes sense to me.

Last year we attended two car shows and increased our public interface. We also gave a number of talks to the MG club, the Link volunteer drivers and a U3A group. It would be lovely to have a few more people on our stand at car shows. This year the Bath Festival of Motoring is back on and we are looking for volunteers – this club needs YOU! We will also attend the Chippenham Cherished Cars event in June. For Observers – very often the people you speak to at these shows will request you for a Taster – and then as an Observer if it has all gone well. This explains the slightly disproportionate number of Associates trained by individual Observers. If an Associate requests a female Observer – then I get them on account of being the only female Observer to date.

I want to extend a huge thankyou to the Committee who meet monthly and make absolutely certain that we still have a club. Having a few more members has been great and a few more volunteers would not go amiss.

Lastly thank you to all members for continuing to support us with your membership fee. This is our main income stream and we really can't do without it.

That's me finished for another year! – thank you.

**4. Report from the Secretary, Rosemary Tandy**

I will keep this short and sweet.

We have had a very successful year with so many passing their Advanced Test. Lindsay and Robin have updated our Constitution, which is a legal requirement and sets out the aims and rules needed to run a charitable organisation. As the document runs to 29 pages, and as we are trying to be paper free, you will find it on our website.

Having read it, if you have any questions, please feel free to email any of the committee.

**5. Report from the Treasurer, Clare Hogg**

The accounts have been sent to all members on email, and there are a few copies available here for those who wish to see it in print.

In 2025 we have spent more than we have received in income and there are four main reasons for this.

First, much of the expenditure on Events and Promotions was for equipment which will not be necessary in future years.

Secondly, we have been promoting the group on Facebook, which entailed set-up expenses, but it seemed to have a good effect in attracting people wanting Taster Drives so it is regarded as a worthwhile expense.

Thirdly, Observer Training expenses were unusually high because of the cost of training up Local Observers to National Observers, and because IAM HQ now requires groups to bear the cost of providing material to Observers which has involved a large initial cost.

And fourthly, the website and IT expenses are high because in the past IAM HQ provided free website hosting and support but has now ceased that and we have to pay for our own. We are now paying for IT support because we have not had any offers of help from members and this will be ongoing unless the situation changes.

I am resigning as Treasurer at this AGM and I wish to thank Mike Twitchett for taking over from me and for all the work he has done during this year to help me as my Deputy. I also wish to thank Ken Fryer once again for auditing the accounts and for his support. If you have any questions, please ask them now.

**Report on Objectives from the PR Officer, Robin Clark**

Robin explained that all the Objectives from the last AGM had been achieved with the exception of two which are listed below. The action being taken is highlighted in red. The minutes of the last AGM were published in *Forward* 21, available on the website.

| SWAM Objective ID | IAM RS Strategic Aim Cross Reference | Objectives | Target | Actions and Updates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Obj.2/25** | Growing Our Brand | Engage with Media, whether TV, Radio or online (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok).<br>Develop website presence. | Undertake x1 TV or Radio media interview per annum to attract 50 Taster sessions | Considering the Social Media success SWAM has had, this will be put on hold until further notice.<br>On Hold. |
| **Obj.4/25** | Increasing our Skills | Upload a selection of IAM RS video tips & guidance onto website and make available via Social Media, then measure in 6 months how many people have viewed. | Target remains fluid as this is new ground for the group.<br>Tentatively looking for 1000 hits in 6 months, with a 10% follow up for enquiries to purchase course or request Taster Session. | A fresh initiative is being developed to create a collection of short videos, produced in-house by SWAM.<br>Review objective and approach for 2026/7. |

**To Elect Nominees to Form SWAM Committee 2026/2027**

The following Nominees were duly elected for 2026/2027:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chair | Lindsay Flower |
| Deputy Chair | Ron Lomas |
| Secretary | Rosemary Tandy |
| Treasurer | Mike Twitchett |
| Chief Observer/Associates Co-ordinator | David Major |
| Membership Secretary | Peter Huntington |
| Newsletter Editor | Clare Hogg |
| Public Relations Officer | Robin Clark |

**Any Other Business (AOB)**

Neil Bannister gave an update on the Facebook campaign.

Ron Lomas has made initial contact with Wiltshire Council and Partnership enquiring how SWAM can support and align with the Wiltshire Vision Zero initiative.

He has also made a number of enquiries about future talks and he pointed members towards YouTube so they could watch the IAM Webinar 'Young and Old Behind the Wheel'.

There followed a talk by Vicky Lovell of Carma Drivers.