



Membership Policy

Guildford & District Group of Advanced Motorists (GAM) has four distinct membership groups:

Full Member	Full voting rights	Fee paid annually on 1st April
Honorary Member	Full voting rights	No fee unless active as an Observer/on committee
Associate Member	No voting rights	Fee paid by IAM RS for first year
Group Friend	No voting rights	No fee

Full Members

An annual fee is requested from the Group Member that is entirely separate from the IAM RS Annual Membership fee which is due on the anniversary of passing the test. Full and Honorary Membership of GAM is only possible for fully paid-up members of IAM RS who have passed their Advanced Driving Test.

The GAM fee becomes due on April 1st every year. Payment by BACS transfer, Standing Order or Direct Debit is preferred, but cheques will also be accepted. Any payment direct to the Group's bank account must be clearly identifiable as from the member, preferably by quoting their IAM membership number. A renewal form is sent to each Full Member every year and details therein such as address, e-mail, 'phone number and Gift Aid status must be confirmed annually.

For administrative purposes, anyone who is a paid-up member of IAM RS on 1st April each year is eligible to be a GAM member for that year. Full Members of IAM RS who leave the IAM during the year April to March will not be eligible for GAM membership in the following year. Members will be reminded at renewal that their GAM membership is dependent upon continuing IAM RS membership, and leaving IAM during the GAM 'year' will invalidate their GAM membership.

Associate Member

IAM RS provide GAM with a small payment for each new Associate that is allocated to GAM. GAM will acknowledge the allocation of the Associate and start their training as soon as practicable.

Once accepted into the Group, the IAM RS Associate is deemed to be an Associate Member of GAM until such time as either they pass their test, fail their test, or resign from the course. Associates that pass their test will be admitted to GAM as a Full Member for the remainder of the year ending 31 March. As of 1st April each year, such new Full Members will be asked to pay the Group Annual membership fee.



It is expected that most Associates will be trained and take their test within one year of joining IAM RS as an Associate. Occasionally situations arise when Associates cannot be trained and then either IAM RS will make special arrangements for all Associates as a group, or GAM will request individual Associates to be placed 'on hold' (students away at university or long term sickness for example).

Associates who take longer than one year of training for their advanced test will be asked to pay the GAM annual membership fee for subsequent years starting April 1st to help defray the costs of extended training. Associates who fail their test will have the option to purchase a second test from IAM RS and that purchase will extend their IAM and GAM Associate membership until the result of the second test is known.

Gift Aid

GAM policy is to ask Members to elect whether they are eligible and wish to partake in the HMRC Gift Aid scheme and those wishes will be recorded annually using the information provided on the renewal form.

A list of names of Group Members and the fee they have paid GAM will be sent by the Group treasurer to HMRC in order to apply for a refund of Gift Aid to the benefit of the Group.

Fee increases

It is a requirement of Group Rules that any proposed changes to the Group subscriptions for any Membership category must be notified to the Chief Executive of the IAM before being put before the Group Membership for approval, or before implementation where the Committee has been empowered to make such changes without specific Membership approval.

Group Membership fees may only be approved at a group AGM or EGM, so to avoid the necessity and expense of calling an EGM for that purpose in a case where a small increase is needed, a resolution to that effect will be put to each AGM as follows:

The Committee asks to be authorised to increase subscriptions for the coming year if deemed necessary subject to that increase not exceeding £x.xx per annum.