



Newsletter ~ April 2018

St Helens Group of Advanced Motorists
Working to make our roads safer every day...

Chair's Remarks

Hello everybody and welcome to the April edition of the Newsletter.

I have some fantastic news to share with you. As I alluded to in the February edition of the Newsletter we are making plans to reach out more to young drivers - the most vulnerable age group. I have great pleasure in informing you that following our recent application to the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership (MRSP), with great support from St. Helens Council Road Safety, we and the Wirral and Sefton Groups have received funding for young drivers.

The three groups can now offer an £89 discount to well over 100 drivers in the age range 17 to 35 over the next three years. They'll only pay £60.

In addition, we have received separate funding from the MRSP to help us publicize this. The committee has responded well to this opportunity: the website has been updated to describe how our Young Driver Scheme works and plans are in place concerning how we will manage contact with young drivers and their payments.

On the 14th March we organised a meeting at the St. Helens College for David Gallegher, the IAM RoadSmart Young Driver Ambassador to give a presentation to approximately 70 students supported by Steve Ellis, our IAM RoadSmart Area Service Delivery Manager and a gentleman from the Midlands Fire and Rescue who provided students with virtual

reality headsets to view the in-car aftermath of a collision - very powerful. The college is very supportive of our aims and this is likely to become an annual event.

We have set up a sub-committee to manage our advertising and promotion of our Young Driver Scheme. If you have suggestions then please send me an e-mail or if you are particularly enthusiastic to help the Group with this then you are more than welcome to join our sub-committee.

Well, that's it from me. Safe driving and good observing.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman

[Full Report](#)



St. Helens Group website

www.shgam.org.uk

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More Information (click links)

[Spring and Autumn Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

5 tips for a smooth drive IAM RoadSmart tips

The clocks have gone forward and days are longer than nights for the next six months; it's time to get your car hale, hearty and 'beach body ready' in preparation for the spring. This week's tips give advice on getting your car ready for the warmer weather, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman.

Lose weight; clear out those coats, boots, scarves and bags that took up permanent residence during the winter months. They add weight

as well as taking up space, and surplus weight means wasted fuel.

Cut down on the salt; corrosion-causing salt from gritted roads can build up under the wheel arches and the suspension. Use a hose pipe to flush the wheel arches clean; if you have a pressure washer, even better. If not, try washing the arches after driving on wet roads - the mud and grit will have softened.

Test your vision; the demister puts a film of grime from traffic fumes on the

inside of the windscreen which can spread bright sunshine into a blinding glare. Get the screen squeaky clean with water and detergent, dry with a microfibre cloth and crystal clear vision will be restored. Don't forget the other windows; clean screens rarely mist up so you'll need the heated rear window far less . .

Keep hay fever at bay; most cars have pollen filters, but they need changing periodically to remain efficient. Look in your handbook to find out how to get to the fil-

ter and if it looks bad, change it now.

Don't get hot and bothered; air conditioning is a boon as the temperature rises, but it contains a special gas which can slowly leak away. If it gets too low, the air-con will blow warm instead of cold. Test it by turning the heater control to minimum, the heater fan to maximum and make sure the air-con is turned on (i.e., not in "eco" mode). If you don't feel an icy blast after a couple of minutes, the system may need "re-gassing"; a simple job which most garages can do.



Associate Coordinator's Corner

As this is the first Newsletter following the end of the IAM year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 I thought it appropriate to give you the statistics for that year. During that year we generated 25 Tests with 21 passing and four failing. Seven of those who passed also achieved a F1RST. Although I do not normally single anyone out I will say that Kate Riley became our youngest ever Associate to achieve the IAM F1RST. Since the Group began in 1985 had 644 Test Passes and 58 fails. This equate to a pass rate of about 92%. I would also like to give my thanks to all our Observers for their dedication over the years which has resulted in this excellent pass rate.

I am writing this before I know any of the results of those who joined

us in January. To those of you who have done the Test I hope you got the result that you were hoping for. If you passed and would like to know more about observing then see Ken Nevitt. If you would like to learn more about the Training Support team then speak to Phil Sharples or Kay Heppenstall.

It may be that you passed the Test but would like to have another attempt then by all means return on the next course. You have, of course, already paid for a year's membership so there would just be the Test Fee to pay when you were ready. If the Test went wrong for you and you want to do a re-test then the same applies to you.

Inevitably, some of you will be leaving us so I would like to thank

you for completing the course and wish you well.

To those who may still be waiting to take the Test remember there are no traps. If your drive can be described as safe, systematic, smooth and progressive then you will pass. Most of our fails have been for breaking speed limits or for not complying with other aspects of motoring law. You will also get a full debrief so, if for example, you have just missed out on the F1RST the Examiner will explain why. Then you will know what you have to focus on. I will end by wishing those of you who have yet to take the Test all the very best.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

Advanced Driver Course

Starts Thursday 3rd May

Tell family and friends!

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 7th June
ibis Styles Hotel
8pm prompt start

Bring a friend!

Visit to the North West Regional Control Centre (Highways Agency)

Rob Lane, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 0DS
Saturday, 28 April 2018, 14:00 - 15:30

An opportunity to visit the North West control centre for the Highways Agency. See what happens with the management of motorways and major roads in the region. A fascinating tour is in store. There is no charge for the visit.

Meet at the Control Centre at 1:45pm for the tour that starts at 2pm.

Contact Kay Heppenstall
(events@shgam.org.uk)
if you plan to attend.

IAM RoadSmart Blog 13/3/18

What people say and what they do

If you were to ask someone what do they think about people who speed, talk on handheld mobile phones and cut someone else up on the motorway, they will routinely say they are vehemently against such practices, and would never do it themselves.

So based on this, why do we witness it so often on the roads? And if you happen to take issue with such behaviour, why does the other party insist on reacting (usually) very angrily? Many would say that driving standards have fallen in recent years. They would also say that other drivers should undergo post-test tuition to improve this situation. But they'd say the fault lies with others, and not themselves ... 'my driving is fine, thanks very much!'

And therein lies the problem. Nobody admits to the fact that driving skill is something that needs constant updating, even if you have taken IAM RoadSmart's advanced test or other courses like it. Some of the best drivers in the world have taken the advanced test - and are not too proud to take it multiple times to ensure their skills are up-to-date. Multiple rally winner Paddy Hopkirk has not only taken the advanced test twice across 26 years, but also taken the Mature Driver Review. If the winner of the Monte Carlo Rally isn't too proud to take a test like this, what's stopping others from doing the same and wanting to be a better driver?

Sue Baker, former BBC Top Gear presenter and a motoring writer for many decades retakes her advanced test every 10 years - someone who drives and writes about cars for a living. Yet many people on our roads rate themselves as good drivers who need no further tuition of any kind. Is this arrogance? Laziness? Or has the question never been asked of them?

I would say it's a mixture of the three. I just hope that they see the light before they get into a crash that could have been prevented by a post-test course.

By Rodney Kumar, IAM RoadSmart senior communications executive



Group Annual General Meeting

ibis Styles Hotel, 4 Galway Crescent Piele Road Haydock, St. Helens WA11 0GR



NOMINATION FOR 2018/2019 ST HELENS GROUP COMMITTEE

N.B. The Nominee, Proposer and Secunder must be **full** members of the St Helens Group.

Nominations **must** be **submitted** to the Group Secretary, Mr John Matthews, by **Thursday 24th May 2018**

Please e-mail John to register your Nomination
secretary@shgam.org.uk

or call the Group Chairman, Mark Farnworth
on 07929 978788

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