



# Newsletter ~ April 2019

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

## Chair's Remarks

Hello everyone and welcome to the April edition of the newsletter

The year seems to be flying by, and with the clocks having gone back the light evenings are not far away (hurrah!)

With the Winter Course now concluded we start looking forward to the Spring / Summer Course. Here's hoping we have a Summer similar to last year; driving just seems all the more pleasant when the sun is shining!

That being said, the unpredictability of British weather can bring its own challenges, from blinding sunshine one minute to pouring rain the next. Hopefully most of these can be easily overcome with a good application of the System.

The Observer team has seen some changes lately. Firstly, we have had two long-serving Observers, Eric Lowe and Alan Phillips, hang up their clipboards. Both personally and on behalf of the Group I'd like to extend my thanks to them both for the hard work and dedication they have given to SHGAM over the years. Their input and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

On a positive note, we welcome Andrew Farrimond as a newly qualified Local Observer. Congratulations to Andrew on completing his qualification. We hope you'll be observing for many years to come!

As I mentioned, we now look forward to the Spring / Summer

Course. Once again, we are running an "open morning" on Sunday 28th April between 11am and 1pm at the Ibis hotel in Haydock. If you know of anyone who is interested in taking an advanced driving course, or anyone who would like to check their driving is still up to scratch, or even if you would like to check you still drive to an acceptable standard, then we will be available to give information and assessment drives to anyone who wants one.

That's all from me, I hope you all enjoy the arrival of Spring and the upcoming bank holidays!

Here's to your continued safe, systematic driving.

**Tom Field**  
**Group Chairman**



St. Helens Group website

[www.shgam.org.uk](http://www.shgam.org.uk)

### Contacts:

contact@shgam.org.uk  
07849 674393 (after 6pm)

editor@shgam.org.uk

### More Information (click links)

[Spring Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

## Are your wheels too tyred to drive?

It's important to regularly check your tyres to see if they're fit and healthy to help you get from A to B safely.

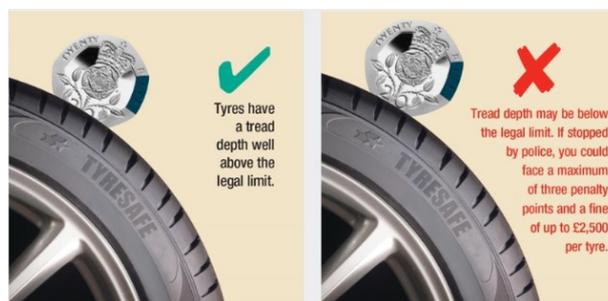
Check your tyres regularly. We recommend weekly vehicle checks which include inspecting tyre pressure, tread depth and the overall condition.

Ensure that your tyre's tread depth is at least 1.6mm for a car (however, we recommend 3mm), and 1mm across ¾ of the width of the tread pattern and with

visible tread on the remaining ¼ for motorcycles over 50cc. If your motorcycle is up to 50cc, all the grooves of the original tread pattern must be clearly visible.

The 20p test – check your tyre tread with a 20p by placing it into the main groove of your tyre. The outer band of the 20p coin should be obscured when it is inserted. TyreSafe have produced a great example of this:

Make sure your tyres have the correct pressure. You can find this information in



the vehicle manufacturers' handbook, on the inside of the fuel filler cap or driver's door sill, and you can get this information when purchasing tyres. You can find out

more information by visiting the [TyreSafe](#) website.

**Richard Gladman, head of driving and riding standards, IAM RoadSmart.**



## Associate Coordinator's Corner

As this is the first Newsletter following the end of the IAM Year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, it is appropriate to give you the statistics for that year.

During that year, we generated 15 Tests with 11 Passes and four Fails. Four of the 11 Passes were 'Firsts'. Since the Group began in 1985, we have had 655 Passes and 62 Fails, which equates to a Pass rate of about 90% - a testimony to the excellent work done by Observers over the years.

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 that you have got the result you were hoping for. If you would like to know more about Observing, then speak to Ken Nevittt. If you wish to learn more about the Training Support Team, then speak to Kay Heppenstall or Phil Sharples. Some of you who have passed the Test may like to have another attempt to try to achieve the IAM First; as you have already paid for a year's Membership then there would just be the Test fee to pay.

If the Test went wrong and you want a re-test, the same applies.

It is of course quite likely that some of you will be leaving us, so I would like to thank you for completing the

Course and I wish you well for the future.

To those of you who may still be waiting to take the Test, remember that if your drive is safe, systematic, smooth and progressive then you will Pass. Most of our Fails are due to the Candidates not complying with the law, particularly speed limits. Whatever the result, you will receive a very full debrief and a copy of the Examiner's Mark Sheet. 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 2nd May**

**Tell family and friends!**

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 13th June  
ibis Styles Hotel  
8pm prompt start

**Bring a friend!**

### Open Morning, Sunday 28th April

**11am to 1pm, ibis hotel, Haydock**

If you know someone who would like to find out what advanced driving is all about then tell them about this 'open morning'. Group members will be attending to answer any questions they may have. If they would like to have their driving assessed then they will be assigned one of our Observers who will take them out in their car for a 30 minute driving assessment. There will be no charge for this assessment. If they would like to see a demonstration of advanced driving then this can be arranged as well. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available for no charge so come along and enjoy!

### New Observer

Congratulations to Andrew Farrimond who has completed his Observer Training with the Group and has become an Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) approved IAM RoadSmart Local Observer.



### Thank you and best wishes

Lee Westhead the Group's Lead National Observer has decided to step down from this role due to work commitments but will continue to support the Group as an Observer and Advisor when he can. Eric Lowe and Alan Phillips have decided to hang up their clip boards and stop being Observers. The Chairman and Committee would like to thank Lee, Eric and Alan for their service to the Group and wish them well for the future.



Lee Westhead



Eric Lowe



Alan Phillips





## Group Annual General Meeting

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



### **NOMINATION FOR 2019/2020 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 30th May 2019**

Please e-mail John to register your Nomination. Send via  
[editor@shgam.org.uk](mailto:editor@shgam.org.uk)

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