Saving fuel: Tips from IAM RoadSmart

Saving money will most definitely be on the agenda for many this year but many neglect the expenses that derive from your vehicle. This week’s tips give advice on saving fuel, from IAM RoadSmart’s head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

Try to keep your driving smooth, gentle acceleration and using the highest safe gear will use less fuel. Ease off the accelerator early for traffic lights if they are red; why hurry up to wait?

Try to avoid driving during the rush hour. Stopping and starting in traffic needs the use of the first gear and a lot of fuel is dispensed to get the vehicle moving again.

Keep your tyres well maintained at the correct pressures, when they are due for replacement there are brands which are designed for extra economy which may be worth considering.

Get rid of unnecessary weight. Cars work just like the human body, your body needs more energy to more around more weight and so does your car, take heavy items out of the car if you don’t need to carry them. A roof rack or roof box will increase drag and you will use more fuel to overcome this; remove it if it is not being used.

Stop the constant back and forth. During this winter season as your engine is trying to warm up it uses more fuel for the first four miles or so. Your engine stays cold when you drive less than two miles and your car will produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm engine – avoid these short journeys where possible.

Turn off the air-conditioning, it will be working overtime and it uses extra fuel. When the rear window is cleared turn off the rear screen heater, the more electricity your car has to produce the more fuel it will use.

Keep your speed ‘low’. It sounds pretty standard but driving faster uses more fuel, you can reduce fuel consumption by up to 25 per cent.
**Associate Coordinator's Corner**

Congratulations to Richard Ridyard and Gerry Stubbs on their recent Test Passes, with both of them achieving the IAM First.

Welcome to Catherine Dutton, William Heyes, Pamela Boffey, Adam Hope, Molly Keaton, William Rickerby, Sue Austin, Dimitri Gardikiotis and Thomas McGuire, all of whom have recently joined the Group.

Clearly our Observers are going to be very busy in the coming weeks. I would like to wish all our Associates every success as they work their way through the Course. It is inevitable that you will have something to work on, particularly the new material that is presented to you. I would also encourage you to attend the classroom sessions. You are bound to learn a lot from these and there will always be an opportunity to ask questions. You will also realise that others are having the same problems as you are. We are very fortunate as a Group, in that two of our Observers, Lee Westhead and Oliver Fullerton, are also IAM Examiners. They will not be taking your Tests, but will certainly be able to answer any questions you may have. Lee will also be taking the Meet The Examiner Evening, when he will explain everything about the IAM Test and how it is marked. He will tell you exactly what is expected by Examiners.

Over 90% of those we present for Test pass first time. The biggest cause of Test failure is breaking the law, particularly speed limits. Places where speed limit signs are hard to spot include just before and just after roundabouts and also just after a junction. It is all about Observation, which is what we will focus on each week.

If you do have any problems or are confused about anything, then let me know.

*Alan Prescott*

**Associate Co-ordinator**

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**Notice Board**

**Welcome to**

Lesley Marriott  
Catherine Dutton  
Will Heyes  
Adam Hope  
Molly Keeton  
Pam Boffey  
June Soo  
William Rickerby  
Dimitri Gardikiotis  
Sue Austin  
Thomas McGuire  
Paul Burgess

who have joined our Winter Advanced Driver Course, starting in January

**New Vice-Chair and Publicity Co-ordinator**

Tom Field

**New Membership Secretary**

Anita Clift

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**In the News**

**Car and smartphone makers must come up with an answer to hand-held mobile phone dangers, says IAM RoadSmart**

Posted 5th January

Road safety charity IAM RoadSmart has renewed its calls for car makers and smartphone manufacturers to work with the government to develop a technological solution to distracted drivers – saying that simply hoping that drivers will ‘do the right thing’ is not enough.

The call comes as Department of Transport Ministers plans to meet mobile phone manufacturers this month to hammer out proposals to tackle the growing issue of people interacting with their smartphones at the wheel.

This is in addition to the government announcing last November that anyone caught using a hand-held mobile phone while at the wheel of a car would be fined £200 and receive six points on their licence – a doubling of the existing penalty.

The issue was brought into sharp focus with the jailing of Tomasz Kroker for 10 years in October 2016. Kroker killed a mother and three children last August when he was distracted by changing music on his smartphone and ploughed into a line of stationary traffic in his lorry.

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**Winter Course Introduction Evening**

Thursday 5th January

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**Congratulations**

Well done to Alan Phillips for passing the IAM RoadSmart National Observer Test