



Newsletter ~ June 2018

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

Chair's Remarks

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

This is my final contribution for the 'Chair's Remarks' since I'll be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM. For the past seven years I've had the privilege to be your Chairman through the period of greatest change that the Group has seen since it was formed in 1985.

The 'IAM', now 'IAM RoadSmart' has changed almost beyond recognition and as a Group, we have had to change, to keep up with national initiatives and embrace modern technology. The way we do things now is very different to what we did seven years ago. Here are some examples.

We now meet in the lounge area of the ibis hotel, Haydock on Sunday mornings rather than on Birchley Street Car park in the Town Centre. We and our Associates can now buy drinks and sit down!

We now give presentations to new members and Observers in comfortable meeting rooms using large computer screens.

For those of us who meet the public - Observers and Committee members, we now have IAM RoadSmart branded jackets, polo shirts and i.d. badges.

A nationwide, centrally managed, Observer Training scheme is now in place that is recognised by the Institute of the

Motor Industry (IMI). All our Observers are now IMI qualified.

Seven years ago, we became members of the Senior Road Users Thematic Group of the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership. Through this involvement we are now regularly asked to give presentations at Senior Road Users events across Merseyside.

All of this and much more, has been achieved through the commitment of both Observers and Committee members. Thank you to everyone who has supported me over this period.

Good driving and good observing.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman



St. Helens Group website

www.shgam.org.uk

Contacts:

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

editor@shgam.org.uk

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 to sharing with other road users - IAM RoadSmart blog

When we're in a rush we sometimes forget about other road users around us. We teach our children to share nicely. We want them to understand the other child's point of view. How then does this apply to driving or riding? Richard Gladman, head of driving and riding standards, has put together a few top tips to remind us of how to share the road with other users.

Pre-empt what another road user might do and be ready to react if necessary. For example, if a pedestrian is standing

between two busy lanes of traffic you may be thinking: "You shouldn't have crossed there." Or you could be sympathetic to the fact they're stranded and allow them to cross if you can do it safely. Whatever the reason, they're vulnerable and you have the power to help them.

Try to see the world through the eyes of others and help them, without them even realising it. If we all did this, it might even catch on. Giving a little more space or a bit of extra time will make a difference

Give way. A large vehicle, such as an HGV or a bus, will need extra room when turning. Give them the room they need to make them feel safe and comfortable when they manoeuvre their vehicle.

Allow extra room. Motorcyclists can sometimes be seen filtering through traffic. Why not aid them by moving over slightly to allow them to pass you with ease.

Know when to overtake. The sun is out which means more cyclists will be on the road. Be pa-

tient and overtake when the time is right, if you have to follow for a while then leave a sensible space. Make sure your vision ahead is clear and will remain so for enough time to complete the pass. Taking those extra few seconds to overtake carefully rather than rushing could be the difference between getting to your destination safely and being involved in a collision.

Richard Gladman
Head of driving and riding standards,
IAM RoadSmart.



Associate Coordinator's Corner

I would like to welcome Denis Fox, Andrew Farrimond, Eric Smith, Susan Hayes, Shelley Parker and Peter Masters, who have joined the Course starting in May.

As Associate Coordinator, I would like to wish you every success on the Course. It is important to attend regularly and practise your skills every time you drive. Advanced Driving can never be for Sunday's only. Although there may seem to be a lot of writing in the Associate Booklet to be read, particularly in the early weeks, focus on what is written in the 'Development Plan'. Effectively, this is what you need to work on for the following week. If there is anything written in the 'Development Plan' that you do not fully understand, then please ask and your Observer will explain. It is also important to

attend the Classroom Sessions. A lot of work goes into the preparation of these presentations and you are bound to learn from them. The 'Meet the Examiner' Evening is the one when you will be told all that the Test entails and how it is marked; you will also be given the opportunity to ask questions. You may or may not be Tested by the Examiner who takes that Meeting, however, but do not worry as all Examiners Test to the same standard.

Whilst speaking of Examiners, I would like to give my own thanks to Oliver Fullerton, who has been an Observer with us for a number of years but has had to leave that role as he is now an IAM Examiner. Up until recently, an Examiner could be an Observer with a Group provided he did not conduct Tests

for members of that Group. Oliver has done that for a couple of years now however, since the rule on that has changed and Examiners cannot now also be Observers, Oliver has now left our Observer Team. He is able to drive any kind of road vehicle: cars, motorcycles, lorries of all kinds, and public service vehicles. Added to that is that he has a Distinction in the IAM Masters Tests, which is quite something to say the least! Of course, we will still see him at future 'Meet the Examiner' Evenings and some of you may meet him on Test.

From me, its many thanks, Oliver, and best wishes for the future.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

Congratulations

to Jonathan Taylor for passing the advanced Driving Test.

Visit to the East Lancs. Railway, Bury

Saturday 30th June

We will meet at the Bury Bolton Street station in Bury at 10.45am enable us to board the 11.05am departure.

Adult £8:50 Concessions £8 Return fare.

Visit to the Williamson Tunnels, Liverpool

Saturday 28th July

The Old Stable Yard, Smithdown Lane, Liverpool, L7 3EE. We will meet outside the entrance at 11am. Adults: £4.50, Concessions £4.00.

Contact Kay Heppenstall if you plan on attending any of the events.

07849 674393 (after 6pm)
(events@shgam.org.uk)
if you plan to attend.

Visit to the Highways Agency Northwest control Centre, Saturday 28th April



Members and family members at the Northwest Highways Agency Control centre in Newton-le-Willows

Morcambe Bay Walk

Saturday 18th July

Arnside Promenade at 10.20am (at the Ashmeadow area at the end of the car park) in preparation for the walk which starts at 10.45am.

The walk is approximately 8 to 10 miles and we are likely to be wading through water up to knee height at times. Having completed the walk we will get a bus back to the starting point.

RIP

On behalf of the Group I would like to offer condolences to the family and friends of Alf Birtle who has, sadly, passed away. Alf was a long standing Observer for Wigan Group and in recent years an Observer for St. Helens Group.

Mark Farnworth,
Group Chairman



**You are cordially invited to the
St Helens Group of Advanced Motorists
Annual General Meeting**

**to be held on Thursday 7th June 2018
8pm at the ibis Styles Hotel, Haydock, St. Helens**

Prompt start! *Bring a friend!*

NOMINATION FOR 2018/2019 ST HELENS GROUP COMMITTEE

I _____ (full name in capitals)
_____ (signature)

wish to be elected to the following position:-

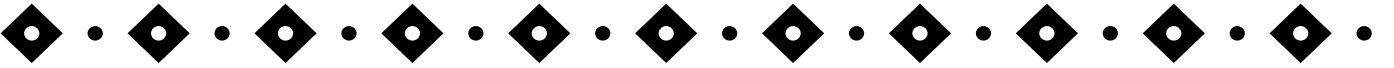
*Chairman *Vice-Chairman *Secretary

*Treasurer *General Committee. Member *Other (specify)

**delete as appropriate*

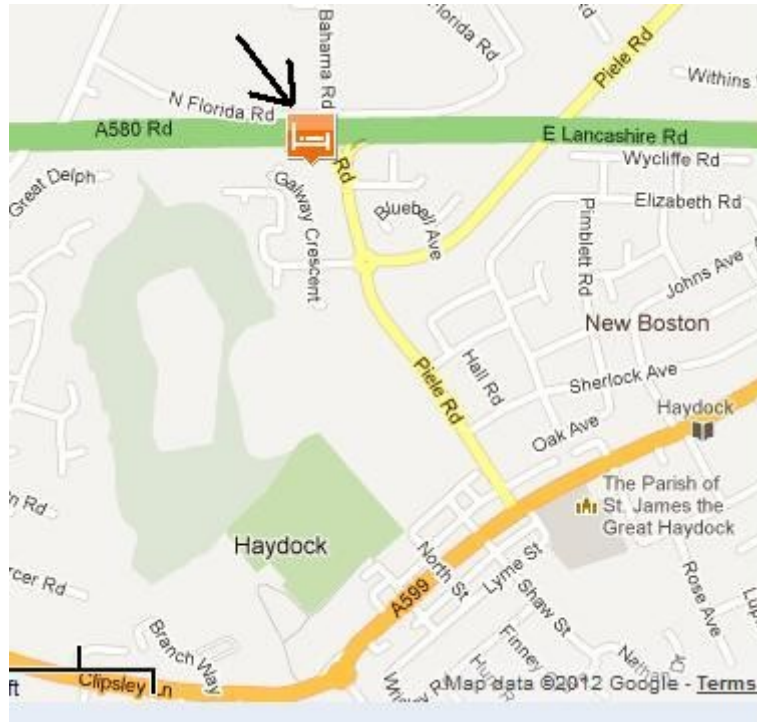
Proposer (full name in capitals) **Seconder** (full name in capitals)

_____ _____
_____ (signature) _____



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**

(Nomination deadline now passed)

Nominations can be made at the AGM

Please complete the online [nomination form](#)

or call the Group Chairman, Mark Farnworth
on 07929 978788

~ ~ ~