



Newsletter ~ October 2017

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

Chair's Remarks

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

In recent weeks we have been receiving great news on a number of fronts. Five Associates passed the Advanced Test with four achieving a FIRST. For the first time we had had a father and son on the same Course who then went on to pass the Advanced Test within weeks of each other. We now have a new 'youngest person' to have achieved a FIRST. Six of our Observers passed the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) accredited National Observer re-test. One of our Observers has become our first member (to my knowledge) to take the Fellow Membership Test and he got a FIRST. Finally, seven new Associates have joined our Autumn Advanced Driver Course. See page 2 for details about the above.

The Group is also one of 28 car and bike Groups around the country that are participating in a trial of 'Group Sign Off'. IAM RoadSmart membership is achieved through evidence based progress run sheets during the

Associates observed runs; no test is applied. The Group Sign Off Course operates to the same standard as the IAM RoadSmart Advanced Driver/Rider Course and only IAM RoadSmart training material may be used.

The pilot is being carefully overseen by IAM RoadSmart area service delivery managers with feedback from Groups, Observers and Associates before a national rollout is considered or takes place.

The Group feels particularly vibrant at the moment. There is a lot going on but nothing can be achieved without the sterling work and commitment of our Observers who make themselves available week after week and Committee Members who do the behind-the-scenes planning and administration. Thank you to you all.

Safe driving and good observing.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman



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More Information (click links)

[Autumn and Winter Course dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

Diesel, petrol and power: IAM RoadSmart blog

Until comparatively recently, buying a diesel car was seen as good for the environment. Choosing diesel was encouraged by government through tax policies and promoted by car makers because it gave a relatively easy route to achieving the carbon reduction targets set by the EU.

However, diesel engines produce far more toxic pollution such as NOx and soot, known as particulate matter, generating urban health problems. Euro emission standards intended to limit this pollution have not worked; flaws in the regulations have been exploited by car makers and pollution levels remain high in

many areas. It is a serious problem; for every person killed on the roads of the UK (and the EU), there are several early deaths resulting from diesel pollution and UK drivers will soon face penalties for using diesel cars in urban areas.

These sanctions will not just apply to old bangers that should be replaced anyway; by 2020 drivers in central London will have to pay a pollution charge for any diesel car more than six years old and this may be expanded to cover a far larger area. Other conurbations will soon follow suit. Nevertheless, if we had not put diesel engines in cars for the past couple of decades, we would be a long way off the UK and EU carbon reduction targets. For

long motorway journeys the most environmental choice will still be a diesel for at least the next few years. With the introduction of diesel cars, drivers benefited from lower running costs, but had to shoulder higher initial costs and new, expensive problems such as engine replacement following accidental mis-fuelling. Now diesel owners face penalties because they followed official advice. Motorists need assurance that the very substantial price they pay for a car will not be devalued by changing policies and that they will have whatever fuel powers them, in sufficient quantities and at a fair and reasonable price.

Tim Shallcross, IAM RoadSmart's head of Technical Policy and Advice.



Associate Coordinator's Corner

Congratulations to Alicia Moore and Kate Riley on their recent Test Passes. Both achieved the IAM First. Kate is also the youngest person to have achieved the IAM First with our Group.

Welcome to William Bushell, Nicola Woods, Mark Grove, Keith Piggott, Gill Charnock, David Hickman and Nathaniel Martin who have recently joined the Group.

I would like to wish all our Associates every success as they work their way through the Course. It is important that you practise what you learn each Sunday every time you drive during the week; Advanced Driving can never be a Sunday-morning-only activity. On previous Courses, we have had Associates who found it difficult to

master The System. The answer is to start The System in good time so that you can get the speed correct before the hazard, then everything should fall into place. If you find that you are doing everything in a hurry and/or at the last minute, then it is likely that you have started The System too late of have misjudged the speed on approach to hazards; if this is still a problem as you read this, then please let me know.

I would also urge you to attend the Training Evenings; a lot of work and preparation goes into these and you will certainly learn something.

The *Meet an Examiner* Evening is your opportunity to learn everything you can about the IAM

RoadSmart Test. An Examiner will explain what he is looking for, how he marks the sheet, and will answer any questions you may have. He will certainly go into detail on that evening but, broadly speaking, if your Test Drive can be described as safe, systematic, smooth and progressive, then you will Pass.

Making progress can be a problem but by the end of the Course you should be able to drive up to the Speed Limit when it is safe to do so. Good forward observation is usually the key.

I hope you are all enjoying the Course but if you are having any problems, then please let me know.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

Congratulations to:

Andrew Heaton, Paul Heaton, Stephen Copple Kate Riley and Alica Moore for passing the Advanced Driving Test.

Andrew, Stephen, Kate and Alica all achieved a F1RST.



Father and son Paul and Andrew Heaton with Area 6 Service Delivery Manager Stephen Ellis



Kate Riley



Group Chairman Mark Farnworth presents the Advanced Test F1RST certificate to Alica Moore

Jim Cunliffe presents at a 'Senior Road User' event in Halewood

Jim Cunliffe, National Observer and Committee member, gave a presentation at a [Senior Road User event](#) in Halewood on the 19th September. More than 50 people attended. The event, aimed at road users aged 60 and over, was designed to help improve their safety and increase their confidence on roads.



Welcome to new Associates

Mark Grove*
Gill Charnock
Nicola Woods
William Bushall
David Hickman
Keith Piggott
Nathaniel Martin

(*Group Sign Off Trial)

Congratulations to:

Mark Farnworth, Ken Nevitt, Frank Rigby, Jim Cunliffe, Alan Prescott and Phil Sharples for passing the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) National Observer retests.

A further congratulations to Frank Rigby who passed the new IAM RoadSmart Fellow Membership Test. Frank received a F1RST.

