



Newsletter ~ October 2018

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



Chair's Remarks

Hello everyone, welcome to the October edition of the Newsletter and a special welcome to the bumper group of Associates we have on this course, all 15 of you! I hope that we haven't yet put you off and you're starting to get to grips with IAM Roadsmart.

It appears summer is finally over! I hope you all managed to make the most of what has been one of the best summers on record. I certainly did,

visiting North Scotland with friends, although someone clearly hadn't told them we were having the lovely summer we were as it was damp and misty!

It was good whilst it lasted but it appears the weather has started to change.

Autumn is a particularly difficult time of year for driving, with the changeable conditions. One minute it's the low-level

sunshine you need to be aware of, the next the heavy rain or even the beginnings of ice and snow! It can make even the simplest of drives just that bit more challenging and highlights the importance of consistently applying the System to all our driving.

So with that in mind, here's to your continued safe, systematic driving!

Tom Field
Group Chairman

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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](#)

To ratchet or not to ratchet, that is the question

You will be surprised just how many vehicle manufacturers actually advise you to not depress that button first and want you to ratchet their mechanism.

As 'advanced drivers' do we know better? At our peril do we advise someone to do something as important as setting a safety system known as the handbrake in direct

conflict with their vehicle manufacturer's advice. Some food for thought.

Shaun Cronin, regional service delivery team manager (Southern)

Do you feel the need, the need for speed? - IAM RoadSmart Tips

In support of Project EDWARD and the FIA's "Slowing down saves lives" campaign, IAM RoadSmart, has put together a set of tips to help you manage your speed.

It's alright to slow down to give yourself enough time to take the most appropriate action. Be mindful that the posted speed limit is not a target for you to achieve

Observe, anticipate and plan your actions to keep yourself and others around you safe

Are you driving at night? Is it raining? Or foggy? Bear in mind that your speed may have to change, due to the time of day you're taking your journey and the weather conditions.

Keep to the correct following distance. Remember to allow at least a two second gap on dry road surfaces between you and the vehicle in front, and at least four seconds on a wet road surface. If, for example, a vehicle moves in front of you on a motorway lane, remember to adjust your speed and

reset your following gap if necessary

Speeding can be due to a lapse, which can be avoided through concentration. It can be an error, which will result in you misinterpreting a speed limit. This can be managed by being observant and concentrating on the road. Lastly you could be violating the speed limit deliberately -if this is the case then you'll need to take a look at your driving behavior. Manage your time, plan your route and predict situa-

tions around and ahead of you to help keep yourself and other road users safe

Don't get pressured by your passengers to drive faster as this is a clear and positive threat to your safety as well as theirs

Keep your driving knowledge up to date. There are a number of ways of doing this; the Highway Code, through our interactive [e-learning modules](#), our 75 minute [on-road modules](#) carried out by expert drivers or via our [advanced driving or riding course](#) which you can try for free.



Associate Coordinator's Corner

Welcome to the nine new Associates who have joined the Group, listed on the Notice Board below. They join quite a few Associates who enrolled earlier in the year so the Autumn course is going to be particularly busy.

It is inevitable that if we have more Associates than Observers on any Sunday morning, some Observers will have to take two Associates. I will do my best to ensure that this is done as fairly as possible and I will also thank everyone in anticipation of your patience.

Our new Associates will now be settled into the Course. Remember that you must practise the skills you learn on Sundays every time

you drive - Advanced Driving can never be a Sundays-only activity! I hope all our Associates are able to attend the Classroom Sessions; those leading the Sessions have put in a lot of hard work in preparation and it is always good to see them well attended. It is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you might have. Questions relating to the Test itself are best left until the *Meet The Examiner Evening* when an IAM Examiner will explain everything about the Test, including how it is marked, and will of course give you an opportunity to ask questions.

When you are given a Demonstration Drive (and you will be given an opportunity to request a second

Demonstration Drive towards the end of the Course) by all means ask your Driver to demonstrate anything you find difficult.

If your Test Drive can be described as safe, smooth, systematic and progressive, then you will pass. 'Safe' does include compliance with the law. We should not have to tell you that obeying speed limits is paramount but that is the biggest single cause of Test Failure! However, over 90% of our Candidates do pass.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

Trainee Observers

Further to recent F1RST Test Passes by Valerie Cunningham and Andrew Farrimond I'm pleased to announce that both have decided to join our Observer team as Trainee Observers with a view to becoming Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) qualified Observers.

Tom Field - Group Chair



Valerie Cunningham



Andrew Farrimond



Val receives her F1RST certificate from Group Chairman Tom Field

Welcome

Welcome to the following Associates who have recently joined the Group.

Michael Daniels, Michael Egan, Anthony Gallagher, David Maher, Stephen Marsh, John Moriarty, Nigel Morley, Mary Perry and Eileen Scott.

Group Events

Contact Kay Heppenstall if you plan to attend any Group events.

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

If you have ideas for Group events then let Kay know.

Visit to the Commercial Vehicle Museum

King Street, Leyland, PR25 2LE.

Saturday 27th October

Meet at the entrance at 11am
Entry Fee: £6.50 Adult

Contact Kay Heppenstall if you plan to attend.

IAM RoadSmart warns drivers to expect 'the famous five' if they are stopped by the police in the future

3rd September 2018

Every driver stopped by police from Thames Valley, Hampshire and the West Midlands in September will be required to read a number plate from 20 metres. Anyone who fails will have their driving licence revoked there and then.

Police officers in those areas will be implementing their powers to request an urgent revocation of a licence through the DVLA, if they believe the safety of other road users will be at risk if that motorist remains on the road.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart director of policy and research, said: "Law abiding drivers have nothing to fear from this - but we believe that extending the range of checks that the police could and should be doing will help remove many more unsafe drivers from our roads.

"They should be, as a matter of course, examining the following five key items: driving licence, MOT, vehicle insurance, drink/drugs and now eyesight.