



E-Newsletter

August 2019



Registered Charity No. 1054403
IAM RoadSmart Group No. 1067

Coming Up...

15th August 2019 | 19:30
Observers Meeting

18th August 2019 | All Day
Tewkesbury Classic
& Open Air Cinema in the evening

12th September 2019
Hartpury College Visit & Talks

19:30
Group Meeting
Open to members & public

14th September 2019 | All Day
Introduction to Advanced Driving Seminar
Open to members & public (FREE)

15th September 2019 | All Day
Police Open Day

Membership

Members:	144
Fellows:	04
Associates:	42
Friends:	02
Honorary members:	05
PCC Applications:	00

Total Membership: 197

National Observers:	14
Local Observers:	02
Trainee Observers:	00

Total Observers: 16

New Associates this year:	31
Test Passes this year:	23
F1RST passes this year:	06

Welcome New Members

David Evans
Rebecca Grainger
Eve Ousby
Christopher Duck
James Orrey
James Edwards
Stephen Tweedle

Connect with Us

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www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/gam

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www.twitter.com/GlosIAM

Next Group Meeting: Alfa Romeo Cars

On the evening, Alex Payne, Secretary of the Cotswold Group of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, will speak and will show some of his models. Andrew Bowden will cover some aspects of his 35 years of Alfa ownership and Johnsons Cars, the Alfa Romeo dealer in Swindon, will be bringing a couple of their latest models over.

I'd urge any members of the group owning Alfas, old or new, to come in their cars so we have a number of these special cars on display.

As usual the meeting is at Cotswold Area Civil Service Sports Club Tewkesbury Road, Uckington Cheltenham GL51 9SL.

Would any members coming in their Alfas please turn up by 19:00. There is going to be an area of the car park set aside for them.

The plan for the evening, subject to good weather, is that members will be able to view the cars before the meeting starts at 20:15. This will make best use of the limited daylight that will be available.

Would you like a Group Open Day?

We are developing a plan for an open day at CACSSA, our meeting place.

There will be some short driving presentations, the opportunity to have a Member's check drive, Free Taster drives for non-members, presence by the Police and Fire Service and hopefully some exhibits by local Car traders.

Watch this space for more news...

Chairman's Chat

Greetings everyone & I hope that you are enjoying this record-breaking summer. Record temperatures although thankfully not in this region, and a good number of heavy downpours too.

Recruiting new members has been slower this year compared to the last few years. We have noticed lower footfall at the shows we have done so far, & we have only registered 30 new Associates in the year so far. Take up of our funded courses is likewise lack lustre.

We have engaged the help of the IAM RoadSmart Marketing Executive, Kate Tonge, and had scheduled a meeting with her on 31st July. Unfortunately, that meeting has had to be postponed because of Kate's personal circumstances, but we hope to reschedule it in the near future.

Other Initiatives have included announcements on BBC Radio Gloucestershire and Dean Radio; an approach to the Scouting Organisation and to St. John Ambulance. We will have our stand at the Tewkesbury Classic Car Show on 18th August, The Speech House Show at Coleford on 8th September, the Police Open Day at Quedgley on 14th September, and Hartpury College Wellfest on 19th September.

We would like you, the members, to help too. Please pass the word around about the value of Advanced Driver training. We can supply you with leaflets for your local library, surgery, supermarket or post office. Drop me a line and let me know if you can print off a copy at home or would like some posted.

On another note, we have an excellent presentation coming up at our first meeting of the Autumn on 12th September about Alfa Romeo cars; do please come along. Our next Introduction to Advanced Driving Seminar is on 14th September, it is always useful as a refresher so consider attending. Finally, if it is a while since you passed your test, why not ask for a member's refresher drive – they are free to Group members!

Do enjoy the rest of the Summer and we hope to see you at one or more of our meetings soon,

Rod Harrison



Contact the Editor

Do you have any comments, suggestions, general feedback about this newsletter?

Would you like to submit content to be considered for the newsletter?

Please send your messages to Mel, our Editor, at: [**editor@glosiam.org.uk**](mailto:editor@glosiam.org.uk)

From the Secretary

“It’s a Skills Day, not a Track Day”

Late last year through the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) members were offered the opportunity to sign up for a ‘Skills Day’ these were being held at Thruxton for the last few years but for 2019 Mallory Park had been brought back onto the option list. After a discussion with my friend Mel also an IAM member, having noted that neither of us had driven on a circuit of any type before we decided to sign up and see what it was all about, of course this had to be at Mallory Park it being the more interesting circuit.

Now I don’t know a great deal about racing circuits but I do know Mallory Park as being a very old circuit that is predominantly used for bike racing these days due to its narrow track, it is also the only track in the UK that has no service tunnel to allow vehicles in to the centre of the circuit when the track is in use. This latter point I didn’t know before visiting although we were given some very clear joining instructions that were a little vague when you actually got into the car park and found three others also re-reading them trying to figure out where we were supposed to be going onsite as well.

Before being allowed to go out on track and have a go there is the mandatory safety briefing, this was delivered by one of the IAM members who made this rather serious topic somewhat humorous, comments such as ‘For those of you with premium German car brands, you know the ones with the four rings of power on the front, don’t worry, it is ok to let others go past you’ and ‘For those Alfa Romeo owners in the room, if you get black flagged no need to be concerned we have plenty of water, duct tape and cable ties so you can get back out on track quickly again’.

It was at this point we were also informed that there is a maximum speed limit for the day of 90 MPH and that due to this being a skills day there is no requirement for helmets etc. It also transpired that someone in the morning session had managed to take their Jaguar XK Sport off-roading at Edwina’s, but the concessions was that it would probably polish out ok!

Read more about the IAM Skills Day later in the newsletter.....

Matt Budrey



Notes from the Chief Observer

Today's Young Drivers and their First Car

Generous British parents spend an average of £3,410.30 on their child's first car – with mums and dads in London spending the most, according to research by Parkers. One-sixth of parents with 16-21 year olds said they had bought their child's first vehicle in full, while the same percentage 'helped' towards the purchase. Those who contributed covered 45% of the total cost.

It isn't just buying the children's first car where parents have to put their hands in the pocket. The survey revealed 44% help out with their child's car insurance, one quarter pay road tax while two in 10 contribute towards petrol and diesel. Kids in London are the biggest beneficiaries – typically getting a first car worth £4,351 paid for them.

Mums and dads in the South West spend £2,677.58 on average while the typical spend in the North East was £3,365.10. Around 414,000 Brits aged 21 or under passed their driving between April 2018 and March 2019, according to the DVLA, meaning parents could be spending a combined £329 million per year on kids' first cars.

The study of 2,000 UK parents found 77% of those with more than one child said they plan to help them all equally with buying their first cars. One quarter of parents said they will pay for their children's car in full when they learn to drive. And one in 10 said they would prefer to pay their child's car off monthly rather than buy it outright and would be happy paying an average of £138.37 a month.

Times have changed – one sixth of parents even bought their child's vehicle before they could drive as a means to learn in. Times have clearly changed, as 54 per cent of mums and dads admitted they didn't have parental help when buying their first car. Eight in 10 of children's first vehicles were used, with the average being nine years old.

One third said they want to encourage their youngsters to make their own decisions about money and four in 10 believe children need to learn to save for the things they want. A further one tenth feel if parents buy their child's first vehicle it won't teach them to save, but an opposing 32% said parents should help with 'large expenses'.

(with acknowledgement to Parkers)

I bought my first car in 1965 after working all summer as a beach attendant. It was a 1947 Morris Series E for which I paid the grand sum of £25. That equates to around £500 today. It ran without fault for 14 months. I sold it then for £25 !!

Robert Pepper
Chief Observer



News From The Kids

A Suggestion for the Next Reprint of the Associates' Handbook

In my last article I set you all a challenge and opined that "the sun is out, & long may our driving pleasure continue". I hope & trust your driving has been safe, skilful & engaging. As for the rest of my statement, you would be forgiven for thinking I had changed my surname to 'Fish'!

Still, every cloud has a silver lining & with the dubious 'summer' weather having delivered many surprises recently, I have been able to challenge myself too. One of my other pastimes is canoeing/kayaking, & after making some progress a year or two ago, I felt that I'd stagnated recently, so decided to take advantage of the wet weather to get back on the horse, or rather, in the boat. With this in mind, I've made a number of recent trips to white water centres in Cardiff & North Wales, I think I've made some progress & learned some new skills.

You may be wondering whether I've banged my head on the riverbed &, in my confusion, submitted to Mel an article intended for my canoe club's magazine, & you might be right – two birds, one stone, and all that. In fact, I've made a number of driving observations along the way.

I'll share just one example, namely the 'interesting' overtakes one seems to observe more often when the cars being overtaken have boats/bikes on their roofs or are towing, with the overtaking driver misjudging the other vehicle's speed & ending up making a dangerous overtake & swerving back into the lane afterwards to avoid oncoming traffic. Perhaps drivers see vehicles carrying boats or bikes, towing trailers or otherwise being a focus of interest on the road, & make assumptions about course or speed which change their behaviour without judging each situation on its merits, in the same way that some drivers seem bizarrely to behave less courteously when they see 'L' or 'P' plates on the vehicle in front.

This all reminds me of the 'human factors' part of the advanced driving course. As human factors are the only competencies not framed by IPSSGA, perhaps what's needed is a snappy new mnemonic to help drivers understand and plan for these drivers. So, for my humble suggestion for drivers afflicted by kayak-rage: just remember that, irrespective of the large object on the roof, what's needed is **courteous application (of) normal automobile etiquette!**

If this *floats your boat*, please write in with your suggestions of advanced driving skills that might be recast in sporting parlance in the next article. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy what remains (?) of the summer.

***Happy Driving,
Michael Bennett
Young Driver Ambassador***





SKID PAN TRAINING COURSE

with

DRIVE-TECH LTD

DriveTech Ltd operates a wet skid pan at Castle Combe Racetrack near Chippenham SN14 7BW. The normal price for a 3-hour session is £110.

If we can get a party of 12 together, we can offer a discounted price of £93/person. To book for a Group visit please contact Andrew Bowden membership@glosiam.org.uk or 07801 716443.

Drive-Tech explains the course on their website as follows:

This is a realistic and effective process of learning Skid Control techniques and the ideal safe environment to test your handling skills. Our Skid Pan training course is great fun and educational a must for all drivers!. You will be driving standard road cars and our experts will show you how to react to adverse conditions and put you back in control!

Our Standard Skid Pan Training Course

- Welcome Introduction
 - Safety Briefing
 - Initial driving session on the Skid Pan (in both cars)
 - Classroom session with instructor
 - Driving session on the Skid Pan (in both cars)
 - Braking Exercises (ABS & cadence)
 - Fun Time Trial (small prize for fastest time)
 - Debrief with presentation
 - Skid Control completion certificate
- ABS (Anti-Lock Braking system) our experts explain how ABS works and how to get maximum benefit from the system.



Extra Detail

- Duration approx. 3 hours
- Drivers must hold a full driving licence
- This course runs 1st & 3rd Friday afternoon of each month, both am & pm, also select Saturdays throughout the year and occasional Sundays.

"It's a Skills Day, not a Track Day" - Continued

It was at this point that we were introduced to our observers for the session, the format was two associates to one observer, this allowed each associate to have a brake but more importantly allow the cars to cool down between sessions, this became a significant issue for some throughout the afternoon as brakes, clutches and engines were all getting a real workout.

It was interesting to see the selection of cars, ranging from small VW Polo's, Audi's a Volvo Estate, Jaguar XF Sport and a Honda track car giving a nice cross section. It's at this point I should point out that the XF Sport wasn't able to keep up with my Alfa 159 2.4 (sorry Mr Chairman....), it was just a bit too heavy in the bends and being honest the Alfa could have done with being lighter as it just couldn't change direction as quickly as other smaller and lighter cars and being the diesel the power band was just too small compared to a petrol engine, it did have the torque to squirt up the road and hold its own on the straights and long bends so didn't disgrace itself.

The first trip round the circuit was very much a sighting lap, find out where the bends are and talk through the best possible line with your observer. This starts off in the pit lane, waiting for a green light from the marshall, once there is no traffic and it's safe to go you pull out and head towards Gerard's, this is a very long right hander that tightens up and leads into Charlies, just for added fun additional cones had been set out here to make the corner much tighter and required a 20-24 MPH speed to get a good line.

Once round this it's into Stapletons, again a slow second gear corner ending up on the left side of the track letting the power pull the car straight and then a move to the right with full throttle in third gear letting the revs climb up to near the red line along Stebbe Straight. This for me was the most nerve-racking corner as you are approaching a hard left right (Edwina's) at about 65 MPH and need to brake very late, change down and turn in almost at the same time.

When through Edwina's the track position is to the left of the circuit and it's a full power climb through the John Cooper Esses riding the right hand apex, then the left hand apex sighting on the marshal box before letting the car take its own line and guiding it to the left side of the track into Shaw's Hairpin. By taking this line it was possible by the end of the day to have sufficient confidence (sorry courage), to hit about 75 MPH before hard braking, changing down into second (at the same time) and turning into the hairpin.

After Shaw's, you keep into the right starting to drop towards the Bus Stop, this is a hard left, right left exiting into Devil's Elbow, that is a full power downhill left hander where you set the car up to the left of the circuit and let slowly drift to the right for the start finish on the Kirby Straight.

Of course this being an IAM organised event there were cones out towards the end of the straight meaning a very hard braking from near 80 MPH down to 20-25 MPH so that you could get round the cones and then start the entire thing again.

This really was tremendous fun and by the end of the afternoon I was able to hit 75+ MPH on Gerard's, John Cooper Esses and Devils Elbow, all requiring hard braking before the bends.

The car was holding up pretty well, no significant brake fade until the last run round Gerard's, starting on the left accelerating, moving to the centre lane position and full throttle from the apex towards Charlies, hitting 75+ MPH and hanging on the brakes for the hard right in Charlies, only the brake pedal went straight to the floor, for half a second or so I thought that it was going to be me going for an off-road session but pumping the brake pedal provided some stopping power and a very wide line round allowed a slow sedate return to the pits.

Not really knowing what to expect this was a very exciting day, and I would I do it again, the question is would I consider taking the old S-Type or XJ?

Here's a couple of pictures from the day of mine and Mel's car on track!



We bet you didn't know this...

There are more than 100,000 drivers in Britain over 90

- There are 113,492 drivers in England, Scotland and Wales aged 90+
- Of these, 319 are more than a century old, DVLA statistics show
- Birmingham has the most licence holders over 90, with 2,861 in total
- Concerns regarding the number of elderly drivers on the road were raised following Prince Philip's crash near the Royal's Sandringham home in January

The postcode with the second highest number of motorists over 90 years of age was Brighton.

Check out the stats for Gloucester!

Total number of drivers in 90-99 age bracket	Total number of drivers in 100+ age bracket	Total number of drivers over 90
1,684	8	1,692

Out of all the license holders in the GL postcode, 0.3% are over 90!

Number of licence holders in postcode	% of licence holders in postcode
510,460	0.3



Hold your horses! How to pass horses safely on the road

You may see more horses on the road during the summer months, and more than likely they'll be on a country lane. Here are IAM RoadSmart's tips on how best to pass a horse safely on the roads.

Horses are powerful animals and have extremely heightened senses. They are also 'flight' animals so if they become scared, they will revert back to their natural instinct.

The British Horse Society has reported that nearly two horses are killed each week on UK roads. In last year alone, 87 horses and four people have been tragically killed.

If you're approaching a horse from behind:

- Slow down and hold back. The rider will indicate whether it's safe to approach and overtake. If they don't, make sure you stay at least three car lengths behind and be careful to not move into this space. Be prepared to slow down further or even stop to protect yourself and the horse and rider. Avoid any sudden movements and loud noises such as revving the engine and playing your music loudly
- Most riders, and occasionally their horses will be in hi-vis so you should see them and be able to slow down in good time. Remember in the countryside they could be around any corner
- When passing the horse and rider make sure you give plenty of space. We recommend at least a car's width and ensure it's done slowly. Remember to always pass "slow and wide" stick to 15mph or under. Take a look at this video explaining it from the British Horse Society:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJfZM41oUOE/>

- If you're on a country road and there's not much room to manoeuvre around the horse, the rider may decide to trot towards the nearest lay by or grass verge. Do not speed up to match their trot, stay back and allow the rider to get to safety before over taking
- Often when you see two riders it is for safety reasons. This could be an inexperienced rider or nervous animal being coached along by a more experienced companion. Give them some consideration
- Keep an eye out for the rider. They will often use hand signals to alert drivers of their intended movements, or to ask you to slow down or stop. You, as a driver should assess the situation and pass when safe to do so.
- Always accelerate gently to pass the horse and when moving away. Both rider and horse may both be inexperienced and nervous in traffic; do your bit to keep them safe

- If there are grass verges, many riders will take the option to move themselves up onto them and allow you to pass. Please continue to pass slowly as the noise of your engine can still spook the horse

If a horse is approaching on the other side of the road:

- Slow down completely and consider putting on your hazard warning lights for anyone that may be behind you. You may need to stop to allow the horse to pass you safely, if it is safe to do so

Horse rider and IAM RoadSmart's digital content executive Jaimi McIlravey said: "Please continue to be careful when driving close to horses. From personal experience it's not always a car that will spook a horse. You may be driving safely with enough gap between yourself and a horse and rider, however something else may scare them, so be sure to stay alert."

If you see any incidents involving a horse and rider please contact the police with any information you have. You're also able to report an incident through this website: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/safety/report-an-incident>

We Have to Praise You, Like We Should!

Send us in your photos of your test pass!

Test Passes This Month Are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Observer</u>	
17/06	Fiona Deane	James Hayward	F1RST
18/06	Harry Harrison	Rod Harrison	
21/06	Susan McClung	Sylvia Martin	
25/06	Wendy Cook	Andrew Cook	
28/06	Alan White	Oakley Petts	
01/07	Evelyn Gyll	Richard Lee	
03/07	Jenny Wignall	Colin Hooker	
04/07	Fiona White	Oakley Petts	

FELLOW REQUALIFICATIONS

21/07	Neil Morrison	Oakley Petts	F1RST
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Test Ready Associates

Graham Gillespie


Aaron Price

TELL YOUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS!

Are you enjoying your experience on the Advanced Driver Course? Have you recently passed and received your Certificate?

Help us to spread the word, tell your friends about it on Social Media. Don't forget to add a contact to us. membership@glosiam.org.uk or our website: www.glosiam.org.uk

Thank You

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