



# E-Newsletter

## February 2019



Registered Charity No. 1054403  
IAM RoadSmart Group No. 1067

### Coming Up...

**21<sup>st</sup> February**

**19:30**

**Committee Meeting**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**19:30**

**Group Meeting**

Open to members & public.

**10 March 2019**

**10:00 – 16:30**

**Introduction to Advanced Driving Seminar**

Open to members & public.

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

**19:30**

**Observers Meeting**

### Membership

Members:	165
Fellows:	03
Associates:	41
Friends:	01
Honorary members:	05
PCC Applications:	02

**Total Membership: 217**

National Observers:	14
Local Observers:	03
Trainee Observers:	03

**Total Observers: 20**

New Associates this year:	07
Test Passes this year:	06
F1RST passes this year:	02

### Welcome New Members

Susan McClung

Donald Rich

Christine Palmer

Dan Moss

Roz Brown

Heather Hobbs

Douglas Birch

### Connect with Us

**Catch us online**

[www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/gam](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/gam)

**Like us on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/GlosIAM](http://www.facebook.com/GlosIAM)

**Follow us on Twitter**

[www.twitter.com/GlosIAM](http://www.twitter.com/GlosIAM)

**Gentle Reminder:**  
**Our subscriptions were due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. If you are still yet to pay, please contact [membership@glosiam.org.uk](mailto:membership@glosiam.org.uk) 07801 716443**

## ***FREE E-Learning Modules***

Group Members and their friends can take advantage of a free offer to access all of the IAM RoadSmart E-Learning Modules.

You are free to offer these at no cost to family and friends. To access the modules go to the following link:

**<https://iamroadsmart.interactyx.com/Pages/Catalog/TitleCatalog.aspx>**

Select all of the modules

Go to Checkout as if purchasing, but then add in the discount code box: YDAFREE

Try the modules and spread the word.

## ***Join IAM LiveSmart***

### **Join IAM RoadSmart – LiveSmart**

If you haven't explored your IAM RoadSmart dashboard recently, you may not have noticed the new 'LiveSmart' membership offer in your Benefits section.

LiveSmart is a free membership of the Civil Service Motoring Association otherwise known as 'Boundless'. It offers a considerable number of discounts for travel and motoring, together with links to holidays, days out and much more.

All you need to do is to join the service from the website.

Check out the link on your dashboard.

### **My benefits**

- ▶ Members-only insurance services
- ▶ New vehicle purchase offers
- ▶ Visit the Benefits marketplace
- ▶ Motorcycle gear from BikeStop
- ▶ RoadSmart Magazine
- ▶ National Tyres & Autocare
- ▶ IAM LiveSmart benefit website

## ***Chairman's Chat***

Greetings. Another AGM passes and what a meeting it turned out to be with joint presentations from Paddy Hopkirk and David Gallagher. I know that everyone who attended enjoyed an excellent evening.

My thanks go to David Westlake for accepting the post of Vice Chairman and to Robert Pepper who has relieved me as Chief Observer. I shall of course continue as a National Observer and Masters Mentor for the Group, but will now have more time to explore how we can attract more younger members in particular, and how we can expand our activities further.

I am always open to suggestions from you, our membership, so please drop me a line if you have any ideas yourselves. The Committee will be looking at staging a Group or Public Open Day during this year in which we shall offer members' refresher drives, and perhaps some competitive activities too. The main reason though is to try and get members together. Another suggestion is a Club Sunday event where members can drive out to a coffee or lunch stop for a chat or as a base for Observer and Associate drives. If you fancy that idea, why not let the membership secretary know please.

If you have passed the test, it is important to retain those skills. You can ask for a members' refresher at any time, at no cost. You could consider Fellow membership of IAM RoadSmart and commit to a retest every 3 years, which would also put you in a better insurance risk category with IAM Surety. You can also consider the Master's programme. We can help with all those options. You can also have free access to the IAM RoadSmart online modules as shown elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Finally, please make sure that your car is fully prepared for whatever the winter weather throws at us over the next couple of months.

***Happy & Safe Driving,***

***Rod Harrison***



## ***From the Secretary***

In the news at the end of January there was a quote from John Apter, chairman of the Police Federation who was describing cuts in the number of roads traffic officers as having left the UK's roads "like Wacky Races".

This statement tickled me to some degree as I remember watching Wacky Races and at the same time can also relate to the sentiment in terms of the poor standard of driving seen daily. Only this week an oncoming van flashed its lights, at the time it didn't seem to make any sense. Then it attempted to turn across in front of the oncoming traffic, at which point the driver finally realised that there was no where to go with a stream of oncoming traffic, there followed some interesting sign language.

What is news to me, is that Wacky Races was not just a cartoon series, it was also produced as video games – Wacky Races Crash & Dash, Wacky Races Mad Motors and Wacky Races Dastardly & Muttley to name a few. Maybe not the best advertisements for safe driving, and then marketed for an age group that will soon be looking to get behind the wheel of a real vehicle.

***Matt Budrey***



## ***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)

## ***Notes from the Chief Observer***

I use Cruise Control (CC) a lot. Especially on a long run but sometimes even on a short journey. However, my usage is governed by something one of the examiners said at one of the question and answer sessions a couple of years ago – and it is what I use in observing Associates.

Is it permitted, or safe, to engage CC in a built up area, ie in a thirty or similar limit?

It can be argued that using CC helps a driver to maintain a fixed speed. I disagree with this as it is possible to over run the set speed, particularly if the road slopes downhill. You can disengage the CC by changing gear, touching the brake pedal, or manually using the switch.

In normal circumstances, without CC, as soon as you lift your foot off the accelerator, you start slowing down. In Cruise Control you do not, until the brakes are applied. This is a safety concern in the sudden hazard situation.

For the purposes of the course and test, the Associate should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the electronic 'gizmos' pertaining to their vehicle. The examiner explained that CC should be engaged and disengaged manually, the latter not by braking or using the clutch.

Cruise Control therefore can be used on the open road but should not be used in built up areas where the hazards are likely to be more immediate. The driver would not have time to manually disengage CC then brake for the hazard in a safe manner.

Some vehicles are now fitted with a speed limiter which is different and will be the subject of another article.

***Robert Pepper***  
***Chief Observer***



# Gloucestershire Group - 'Errors in Roadcraft' Lecture

## **Masters Drive and Joining Gloucestershire Group**

In November 2017 I retook my Masters Drive Program near Cheltenham 5 years after originally becoming an IAM RoadSmart Master Driver in Perthshire, Scotland in 2012. The Masters renewal test drive was conducted by our Head of Standards, Richard Gladman. During the very helpful drive 'de-brief' afterwards over lunch at an ancient Coaching Inn, I mentioned that Rod Harrison our Gloucestershire Group Chairman had invited me to join the Management Committee. Furthermore, earlier I had explained to Rod I was a former University lecturer. Consequently, Rod asked me to talk to the Group membership about 'Roadcraft'. Richard kindly offered to attend.

Reporting this back to Rod, our Chairman and management committee decided to extend the invitation to our new CEO Mike Quinton and several other important members of our Gloucestershire 'top team' of our President, Examiners, Observers and other local IAM RoadSmart Groups as well. The talk took place in November 2018.

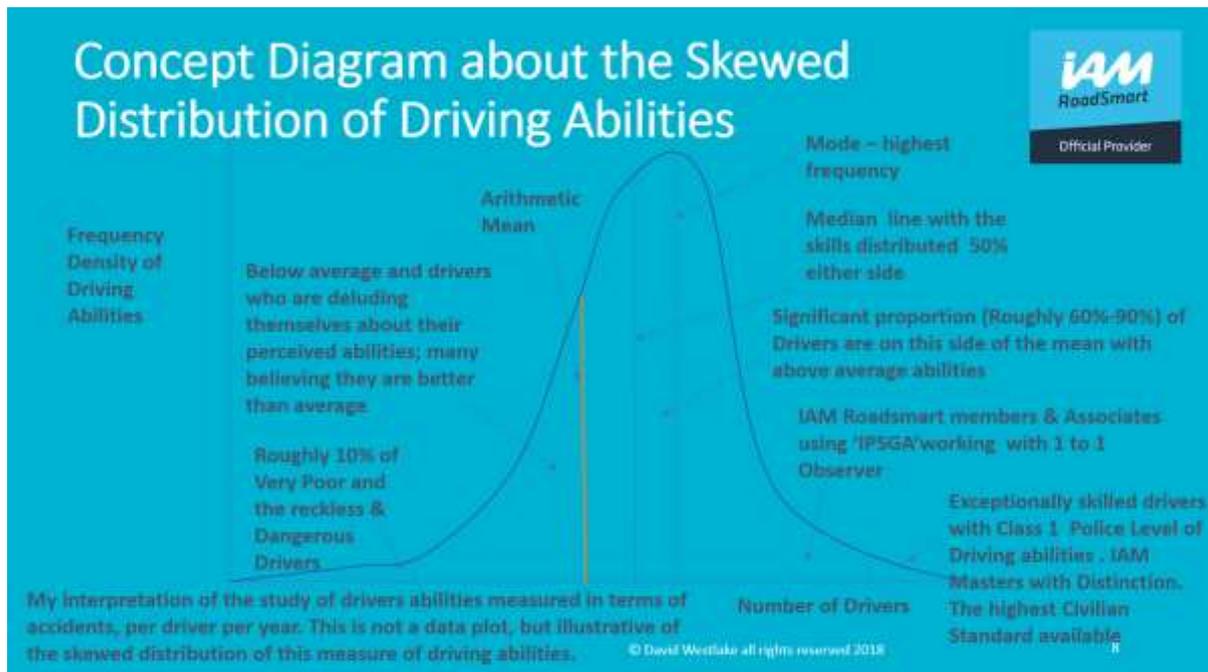
Our CEO Introduced the evening outlining briefly his initial impressions on taking up the role from the very successful tenure of Sarah Sillars. Mike explained IAM RoadSmart's objectives and vision, the important role of our many Groups, the role of our Trustees, membership demographics and insurance trends.

## **My 'Errors in Roadcraft' Lecture**

The autumn 2018 IAM RoadSmart magazine contained a question from our new CEO asking Richard Gladman if there was any evidence our IAM RoadSmart Advance Driving Programmes could be shown to have made a positive impact on road safety. Richard's article advised it's impossible to say how many accidents had been avoided - and lives saved - thanks to the actions or reactions to advanced drivers and riders. It's difficult to argue with this view.

However, my studies in writing research papers of my own about driving information management led me to believe there is a plausible answer to this question. My talk included my interpretation of results from academic research studies conducted by others, including work at Brunel University [Stanton et al, 2007] and the Institute of Transport Economics, Norway [Elvik, 2013]. My interpretation of the multifaceted statistics illustrated both the positively skewed distribution of driving abilities measured in terms of accidents, per driver per year and the positive impact of teaching the IAM

RoadSmart's IPSGA method of car control. These results all tend to illustrate the important work of organisations like ours, RoSPA, Gov't agencies, road traffic engineers and many ADI's too.



### **The Role of Roadcraft's 'Reflective Practice' and ongoing ADI tuition**

My talk's content also applied tuition and advice from my 'ADI' Chris Gilbert, the former Hendon Police Driving Instructor and Examiner. I've also had regular 1 to 1 long tuition drives with Chris since I started working with him. Without being complacent, appearing arrogant or conceited I believe this expert ADI tuition brought my driving up to the necessary 'Masters level'. Chris kindly allowed me to use video extracts from his 'Driving4Tomorrow' DVDs providing practical examples during the talk illustrating effective vision scans, overtaking, cornering and commentary driving. Chris is one of the Expert Practitioners who about every 5 years or so update Roadcraft the Police Drivers Manual. One of its guidelines is to regularly apply 'reflective practice'. I've based my 'reflective practice' on Chris's advice, the detailed notes from my two Masters Drive debriefs from my examiners and a Masters level 'check-drive' with Rod, our Group's current Chief Observer. Material in my talk was also used with permission from the Police Foundation, from Roadcraft during the talk to 'the great and the good' of the IAM. My talk investigated why poor driving habits tend to occur and some of the many techniques available within Roadcraft that prevent this.

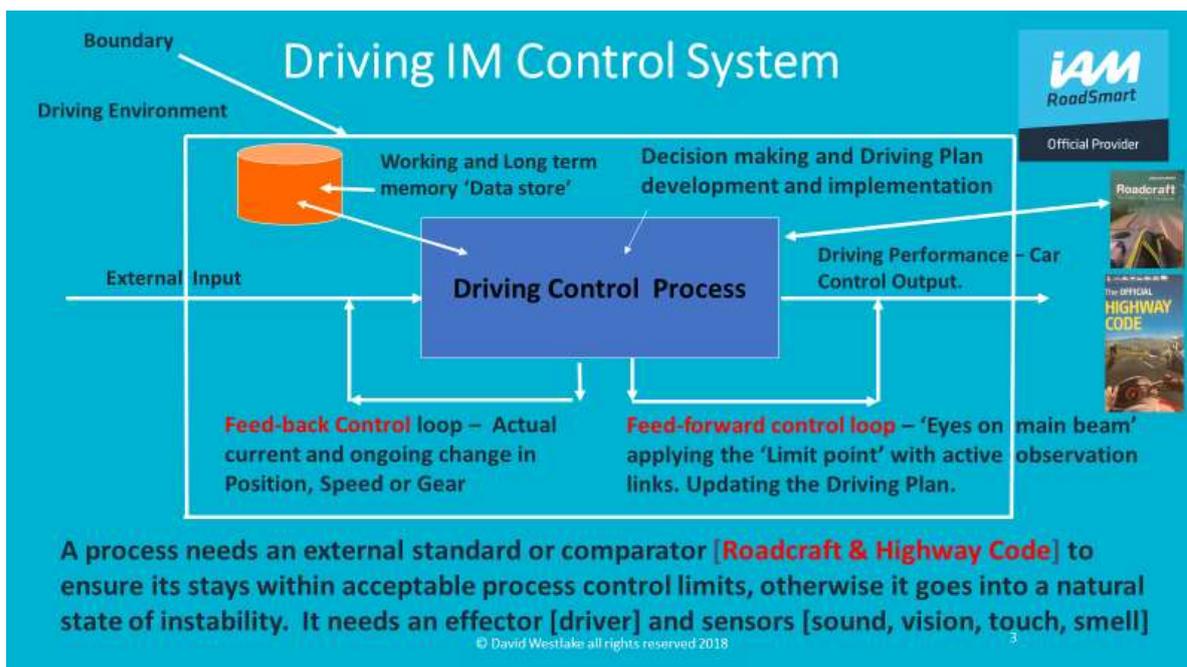
### **Driving information Management**

The Police System of Car Control or the IAM Roadcraft's 'IPSGA' method both rely on taking, using and giving information. This is dependent upon effective vision scans. Processing the information is the core of the Driving Control Process, itself a very complex subject. By leaving out unnecessary

detail, the essential problems can be investigated. This is done by applying a technique engineers use called 'systems theory'.

Any system, whether with or without humans involved will naturally go into a state of disorder over time. It's obeying the Laws of Physics. This is the core of the whole problem. Many drivers don't recognise any natural decline in their skill level. This natural phenomenon means our driving will degrade unless we undergo effective ongoing training throughout our career in order to maintain adequate performance. If vision scans and concentration break down and the System of Car Control is not followed fully, the driving process degrades, becomes unstable and is likely to lead to accidents.

Applying 'system theory', the system boundary is drawn to meet our needs, in this case the vehicle's bodywork. There are external inputs and outputs across the 'system boundary' into and out of the Driving Control Process which is conducted by the driver. Outside the boundary is the 'driving environment'. Viz:



Systems have control loops to make them work. But the above feed forward control loop will be prone to making the process unstable unless some external standard is used as a comparison. This external reference must be maintained and kept up to date. With ongoing training and maintenance, when applying correctly the techniques shown on the diagram, a human/vehicle system can produce a performance synergy. The result is greater than the sum of the parts.

After encouragement from the Gloucestershire Group Management Committee I am looking forward to conducting another talk in Dec 2019

about 'Further Errors in Roadcraft'. Plus preparing something briefer such as 'drop-in' tutorials about selected technical topics for use at Open days or Public events. All based from the content in Roadcraft's specialist subject Chapters.

David Westlake. IAM RoadSmart Master's Driver with Distinction. MSc, C.Eng.(Retired) M.I.Mech.E; M.I. Engineering & Technology. Vice Chairman (designate), Gloucestershire Group, IAM Member since 1966.

## ***Test Ready Associates***

There are no test ready associates this month – but check out our test passes on the next page!

## **REMINDER: We Want Your Photos**

Have you been on a road trip? Got an interesting car? A restoration project? Been volunteering on one of our event stands? Want to share your experiences with the group.

If you have driving/car related photos and stories, please send them in! Just keep text less than a page and send them to [editor@glosiam.org.uk](mailto:editor@glosiam.org.uk)!

## ***Presidents Dinner***

Chairman, Committee and Observers entertained our President and Astt Chief Constable to dinner at CACSSA on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the evening was a success & we want to wish all those involved in the smooth running of the group a hearty thank you!

If you think you could you lend your skills or expertise to the Committee and improve the group?

Want to try your hand at observing and help others achieve advanced driving status?

We are a voluntary organisation and we rely on members coming forward to give a little of their spare time. If you can help, contact the Secretary, Matthew Budrey.

# 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>
14/12	Matthew Dibben	Klim Seabright
15/12	Josi Murfitt	Sylvia Martin
15/12	Andrew Barley	Klim Seabright
19/12	Emily Steele	Colin Hooker
20/12	Frances Smart	Andrew Cook
03/01	James Faulkner	Nigel Garbutt
03/01	Stuart Mackay	Klim Seabright
03/01	Mark Knight	Robert Pepper <b>FIRST</b>
03/01	Barnaby Beere	Andrew Bowden <b>FIRST</b>
03/01	Sue Harries	Andrew Bowden
03/01	Charles Trippett	Kim Withey
11/02	Heather Hobbs	Klim Seabright

## Awards Presented at the Latest Group Meeting

The latest awards to be presented to group members upon passing their tests are:



**Emily Steele**  
Colin Hooker



**Matthew Dibben**  
Klim Seabright



**Stuart Macay**  
Klim Seabright



**Barnaby Beere **FIRST****  
Andrew Bowden

<p><b>Rod Harrison</b> Chairman</p>	<p>01451 821 605 <a href="mailto:chairman@glosiam.org.uk">chairman@glosiam.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>Matthew Budrey</b> Secretary</p>	<p>07719 030 199 <a href="mailto:secretary@glosiam.org.uk">secretary@glosiam.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>Richard Lee</b> Treasurer</p>	<p><a href="mailto:treasurer@glosiam.org.uk">treasurer@glosiam.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>Andrew Bowden</b> Membership Secretary</p>	<p>07801 716443 <a href="mailto:membership@glosiam.org.uk">membership@glosiam.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>Mel Higgins</b> Editor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:editor@glosiam.org.uk">editor@glosiam.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>Andrew Cook</b> Associate Coordinator</p>	<p><a href="mailto:asco@glosiam.org.uk">asco@glosiam.org.uk</a></p>	