

## Editors column

Hello and welcome to the April newsletter.

Weather has been good to us in the last month and now the clocks are back to British Summer Time it's nice to have light evening's again.

This month I will be reporting on the AGM that took place in March along with a new member for the Committee.

If you have any comment or anything you can add to the next newsletter please feel free to E-Mail myself (kevinhill213@outlook.com).

I will gladly reply to any e-mail sent.

## Committee News

Last month saw the AGM take place and with it came the addition of a new committee member Mr Malcolm Ballard. All the committee welcome Malcolm and wish him well in his new role.

The minutes of the meeting will be published once they are complete.

Awards given out on the night are listed below.

If you have anything to put to the committee please feel free to E-Mail me and I will reply after the following committee meeting.

## AGM Report

The Officer roles have been kept the same as last year with the following roles being motioned and seconded.

Chairman Mr Melvyn Smith  
 Vice Chairman Mr Fred Palmer (awarded in Fred's Absence)  
 Treasurer Mr Anthony Moore  
 Secretary Mr Alan Griffin

Other Committee members are

- Mr Kevin Hill ( Group Co-Ordinator)
- Mr Khalid Gill
- Mr Malcolm Ballard
- (Ex Officio) Mr Peter Phillips

Chief Superintendent Jason Masters attended the AGM. Once the AGM had been brought to a close he gave a very good talk on autonomous vehicles and the future that's just around the corner.

He also presented the two awards below.

The Frank Gamble Award was presented to Tony Moore for Services to Observing.

The Vincent Brooksbank Award was Presented to Kevin Hill for Services to the Group.

## Group Night

Group night this month will be on the Wednesday 19th April. The speaker this month is Mr David Bell. His talk is on "Murder cases of Leicestershire."

Everyone is welcome so please join us.

This is being held at the Police Headquarters. This is situated at Narborough rd. (B4114) near Fosse Park.

Full postal address is  
 Leicestershire police Headquarters  
 St Johns  
 Narborough Rd  
 Enderby  
 LE19 6BX

We will also be holding a prize raffle and presenting awards. All members are welcome to the group nights, so come along and get involved with your group. After all its free. Even the tea and coffee is free.

Any questions or suggestions about group night events you can contact Fred Palmer (vice Chairman/ Events Co-Ordinator) palmerdec@btinternet.com

## A Warm Welcome

The Committee would like to offer a warm welcome to the following people who has enrolled in the Skills For Life course in the last month.

- Mr Gregory Aliss

We hope you enjoy the training. Remember you are all welcome at the group nights which are on the third Wednesday of every month. I will be in touch with you all in the coming weeks to explain the next steps and getting you paired with an observer.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following people for passing there Skills for Life Test. They are:

- Robert Reeves (Kevin Hill Observer)
- Wendy Patchell (Tony Moore Observer)

Well done to you both!

## Membership

**This was the item for the February newsletter but due to it's importance I have included it again in the April newsletter**

**Change of System for Group Subscriptions**

The Committee has unanimously agreed to change the way Group Subscriptions (Subs) are collected, switching from an "Anniversary" system to an "Annual" system.

Anniversary systems are when subs are collected each year in the same month as when a member joined the Group; the Annual system is when subs are due on the same date each year – that date will be 01 April.

The key advantage of the annual system is that members can be notified electronically (website, newsletter or email) that their subs are due and only those for whom we do not hold an e-address will need to be contacted by post. The key disadvantage is the loss of revenue during the changeover, however the Committee has considered this and believes the long-term benefits outweigh the short-term loss.

The new system will be introduced immediately, although it will not be fully in effect until next year – here's how it will work:

Members whose anniversary subscription date is in January, February, March & April will pay as normal in 2017, but not in 2018 until 01 April,

Members whose anniversary subscription date is May – December (inclusive) next subscriptions will not be due until 01 April 2018,

Subs will remain at £7.50 per year,

Some members will need to change their Standing Orders with their banks – everyone except those currently paying in April,

We would like to treat any money collected from members who do not change their anniversary payment as a donation,

From 2018, ALL subs will be called for payment in April.

**No-one loses out**, although those with subs due in April gain nothing, everyone else gains to a varying degree.

A simple sliding scale of membership costs for new full members joining the Group throughout the year has been worked out, as has a system for newly-qualified former Group Associates having passed their test and wishing to continue as a member of the Group.

The Treasurer, Tony Moore, will explain further at the Annual General Meeting on 15 March 2017 and there will be reminders in future newsletters. If you have any suggestions or queries before the AGM, please contact him by email on [anthonyj.moore@btinternet.com](mailto:anthonyj.moore@btinternet.com)

## Observer News

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Rod Axon who is starting his training to become an Observer. We wish you all the success in the upcoming training.

If anyone else is considering becoming an Observer please contact me.

Kevin Hill kevinhill213@outlook.com

## Calling all Full Members!

Over the last few months our Observer numbers within Leicester Group have reduced to 9. We are looking to recruit more observers as we have a backlog of associates waiting to be trained to the standard for test.

If you are a full member and would like to give some of your time to pass your skills on to someone else, then please get in touch with myself or any committee member.

Becoming an observer is not as difficult as you may think. This can be very rewarding and doesn't have to take all of your spare time. Some observers have as little as one associate that has an assessed run just once a month. Training to be an Observer can take as little as three runs out with a Local Observer Assessor to which we have 4 LOA's within the group

The group will provide all of your training at no cost to you, other than some of your time. There are three levels of observers.

The first is a Local Observer which is the lower level of Observer. To gain this qualification you will be trained and tested within the group. You will also go through periodic training within the group usually two to three morning training sessions held every year with all the other Observers. Although it is not mandatory you attend every session.

The second level of Observer will take a National Observer. This will be very rewarding within the group but you will take a test outside of the group by an IAM examiner. This will need to be retaken every five years. There will also be periodic training sessions within the group. This is the same sessions as the Local Observers.

The third level is a Local Observer Assessor. If you wish to attain this level you will be trained in the same way as a National Observer with a test by an IAM Examiner. The only difference is you will have to retake the exam every three years.

If you, like me would like to pass on the skill you have obtained through IAM. There couldn't be another rewarding way to do it.

If anyone is interested please come and talk to us on the group evening or contact myself (Kevin Hill) on email using kevinhill213@outlook.com or call me on 07904 386250

## Associate News

To all associates out there currently being assessed.

Please be aware that if you have been assessed for a year or more without taking your test, you may have to renew your IAM membership to carry on your assessed runs. If you have not managed to complete your course within the year please contact myself to check if you are still valid for insurance purposes. We may be able to extend your membership if there are mitigating circumstances. I should be in contact with any associate that has expired their membership, but if you have not been contacted or think your membership has expired please get in touch.

If Anyone would like to have a piece included in this newsletter please contact me.

Kevin Hill (Group Co-ordinator) kevinhill213@outlook.com

## Leicestershire's Police report

The Leicestershire Police are still driving the Fatal 4 this year. These are not wearing a seatbelt, Drinking and Driving, Using a mobile phone whilst driving and speeding. Let's not forget the new mobile phone punishments listed below.

**Mobile Phones.**

New penalties came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> March upgrading the penalties to 6 points and £200 fine.

There has been a big campaign in the interim to try and get the message across.

## New Car Tax rates

This month sees the car tax not only going up but being revamped for which cars. In turn to the government losing out as more people choose more fuel efficient cars which in turn is generating less excise duty, they have decided to re-structure the taxation rates as below.

**Registered between 1 March 2001 and 31 March 2017**

There's a series of car tax bands based on official CO2 emissions that your car will fall into. These are the rates you will pay after 1st April 2017 if your vehicle was registered before the 1st April this year.

VED Band	CO2 Emissions (g/km)	2017/18 Standard rate <sup>1</sup>	2017/18 Standard Rate (Green Car)
A	up to 100	0	0
B	101-110	£20	10
C	111-120	£30	20
D	121-130	£115	105
E	131-140	£135	£125
F	141-150	£150	£140
G	151-165	£190	£180
H	166-175	£220	£210
I	176-185	£240	£230
J	186-200	£280	£270
K <sup>2</sup>	201-225	£305	£285
L	226-255	£320	£295
M	over 255	£535	£505

## Registered after 1 April 2017

From 1 April 2017, there will be big changes to how cars are taxed. The main points are:

- The flat year rate will be based on official CO2 figures.
- A flat standard rate of £140 will apply to all cars except those releasing 0 grams CO2/km for which the standard rate will be £0.
- For cars with a list price over £40,000 a year will apply to cars with a list price over £40,000 in the first 5 'standard rate years'.
- Alternative fuel cars (tax class 59) pay £10 less than the First year and standard rates below.
- Cars first registered before 1 April 2017 will continue to pay car tax under the old system.

CO2 emissions	First year rate	Second year rate	Second year rate if value over £40,000 when new (for 5 years)
0	£0	£0	£0
1-90	£10	£140	£450
51-75	£25	£140	£450
76-90	£100	£140	£450
91-100	£120	£140	£450
101-110	£140	£140	£450
110-130	£160	£140	£450
131-150	£200	£140	£450
151-170	£300	£140	£450
171-190	£400	£140	£450
191-225	£1200	£140	£450
226-255	£1700	£140	£450
256+	£2000	£140	£450

- Historic vehicle exemption
- Cars built more than 40 years ago will be automatically exempt from paying car tax, from 1 January 2017.
- Before 2017 registered keepers had to **apply for car tax based on historic class**.

*As you can see there have been quite a few changes and as a rule it is going to cost us more to tax our vehicles in the coming months. Let's just hope this generates the required level of funds to repair the roads to a good condition.*

Information taken from gov.uk website and is correct as of 4th April 2017

## Next Month

If anyone has any suggestions for an article please get in touch. After all this newsletter is for all group members to communicate with the group so please use it.

Kevin Hill (Group Co-ordinator) kevinhill213@outlook.com