



Editor Kevin Hill

Hello and welcome to the July newsletter.

We have a bit of a special report this month. Our very own Tony Moore has taken his Masters and passed. He has done a report of his experience below.

This month there is no group night as it's the summer holidays the next one is in September.

I have also had some sad news that Jane Gibbs has passed away on the 13th March. Our condolences go out to her Husband John Gibbs and his family on this sad occasion.

Advanced driver courses now 10% off

IAM Roadsmart is offering 10% off the cost of advanced driver courses from its standard price of £149 making the cost £134.10. All you have to do is quote the reference Race 10 when booking. Those who have bought an advanced driver course using this code will be entered into a prize draw to win a driving simulator session at Base Performance Simulators in Banbury for themselves and a friend. To book call 0300 303 1134

Congratulations

I am sure all of you will join in congratulating the following people for passing there Skills For Life.

Mr Josh Idowu Read—— Observer Tony Moore

Mr Jason Reece Sumner—Observer Fred Palmer

A Warm Welcome

The Committee offer a warm welcome to Mr Nathan Harrop who has just enrolled in the Skills For Life course. We hope you enjoy the training. And remember you are all welcome at the group nights which are on the third Wednesday of every month except July and August when we have our summer break.

Group Night

Being July there is no Group night this or next month

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

A View To A Masters by Tony Moore.

I had been thinking of taking the Masters Test for some time and had undergone some preparations within the Group but finally built up the courage to apply for it in late May. The date was set for Friday 24th June with Andy Giddings (one of the deputies to Pete Doherty's [Regional Quality Manager]) with the start point near Kettering, about 45 miles from my home.

I met Andy at the appointed time and place and, after some pleasantries, we settled down to business. He briefed me on what he would expect (see below) and that the test would last 2 hours. Notably, he mentioned that, although demonstration of overtaking was desirable, it was not essential – providing I could justify why I had not taken the manoeuvre on the grounds of safety, legality, visibility etc.

We set off at about 11:15hrs and conducted the test on a variety of roads; rural, urban, dual-carriageway & motorway, encountering varying levels of traffic. Throughout Andy gave clear, concise directions and we conversed on motoring-related topics. I was asked to give 3 periods of commentary, each probably up to 10 minutes in duration. The first after about 20 minutes, when I had settled, one of the others was on the A1. We returned to the start point at 13:05, having done just over 70 miles. I was reasonably happy with the way I performed, but knew I had made some errors.

The debrief that followed was meticulously accurate, highly informative and the marking very strict – though exactly in line with what Andy had said that he expected of me. The outcome was a score of 79% - only 1% short of a Distinction! Initially, I was disappointed to have come so close, but have no complaints whatsoever - indeed the way the test was conducted, has made me want to re-take it in the future – having implemented elements from the debrief – and go for the Distinction that I believe I am capable of achieving.

My thanks go to Steve Higgs, David Hage, Fred Palmer, Peter Radcliffe, Kevin Hill, Bill Holland and many others; without their help, support and encouragement, I do not believe I would have been attain this level.

Route included: Desborough, B664, Uppingham, A47, A1/A1M, Sawtry, The Giddings, A14 Requirements for Test

- Safety - Absolute and paramount
- System - Total compliance throughout
- Legality - Full compliance with legislation required
- Smoothness - A nice smooth drive
- Sparkle - The edge that a highly experienced driver displays.

Congratulations Tony and thank you for the report lets hope you try again and get that distinction.

Observer News

To all observers and trainees. This is a reminder to all observers that the standards are changing. There will be a meeting in September which I will remind you all of in the coming weeks with further information. This is to roll out the new standards. We will be holding an observer training day on the 8th October to roll out the new standards. This will be a compulsory meeting as any observer not having the new standard will not be able to take any new associates after this. I will be e-mailing you all regarding this in the next couple of weeks.

Calling all members! Are you considering becoming an Observer? We are always looking for new observers especially you ladies! There seems to be a lack of Female observers so if you think you have got the skills to become an observer, please contact myself (Kevin Hill) or any member of the committee. This can be very rewarding and doesn't have to take all of your spare time.

Associate News

This section is used for associates to feedback there experiences of training. So if you have any comments or questions please contact me and I will gladly answer them in the next edition.