

News Letter

February 2015



In this issue:

Master's Article, New Road Tax Rules, AGM Information

Vehicle tax changes

From 1 October 2014, the paper tax disc will no longer need to be displayed on a vehicle. If you have a tax disc with any months left to run after this date, then it can be removed from the vehicle and destroyed.

You can apply [online](#) to tax or SORN your vehicle using your 16 digit reference number from your vehicle tax renewal reminder (V11 or V85/1) or 11 digit reference number from your log book (V5C)

Buying a vehicle

From 1 October, when you buy a vehicle, the vehicle tax will no longer be transferred with the vehicle. You will need to get new vehicle tax before you can use the vehicle.

You can tax the vehicle using the New Keeper Supplement (V5C/2) part of the vehicle registration certificate (V5C) [online](#) or by using our automated phone service - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 0300 123 4321.

Alternatively, you may wish to visit a Post Office® branch.

Selling a vehicle

From 1 October, vehicle tax is not transferable so you won't be able to include any remaining tax when you sell a vehicle. If you sell a vehicle after 1 October and you have notified DVLA, you will automatically get a refund for any full remaining months left on the vehicle tax. The refund will be sent to the keeper's details on DVLA records so you need to make sure that these are correct.

How to check if a vehicle is taxed

You can check if a vehicle is taxed [online](#). This can also be used for rental vehicles.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vehicle-tax-changes>

Congratulations to all those who have passed their IAMS test in 2014

| Name | Observed by |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Bill Ringham | Sandy Reid |
| Richard Anker | Bill Peck (F1RST) |
| Tim Atkins | Trevor Dickenson |
| Jon Noble | Prue Lester |
| Mark Forsyth | Jon Putnam (F1RST) |
| Hugh Robinson | Leon King |
| Raph Johnson | Bill Peck |
| Renate Nisbet | Dean Ketteringham |
| Gary Robinson | Bob Collier/Jon Putnam |
| Marian Cross | Bill Peck |
| Susan Pocock | Leon King & Bill Peck |

Renate Nisbet



Sue Pocock



Marian Cross



Report by Stuart Earle on Master in the Making

I originally took both my IAM test and RoSPA Advanced Drivers test back in 1989 a couple of years after I had come to Peterborough. I have heard many people say "I should have done that years ago" and that echoed my thoughts.

Within a few weeks of passing my IAM test I was asked if I could help an Associate. In those days there was no formal Observer qualification and as a willing volunteer I was quickly encouraged to get going. My new associate was a Road Safety Officer and drove a fairly battered old Renault 4. I had owned such a vehicle and really enjoyed being in one again. She passed the test and I then continued to observe. I have not kept an accurate record of how many associates I have been involved in training since then but the number will well exceed 50.

As the years progressed I wanted to ensure that I kept up to the standard of driving set by the IAM. Observing is a good way of doing this. I took the Senior Observer Test about eight years ago and earlier this year took the National Observer Test which is quality assured by the IMI (Institute of the Motor Industry). This entails both a driving element and a teaching element. It is a good opportunity to have your driving skills assessed and part of the recommended route to the Masters.

When I passed my IAM test in 1989 there was a further test available called the Special Assessment but few people knew much about it and seemingly fewer actually took it. In 2011 I had the opportunity to attend a training weekend in North Yorkshire, which was designed to assess the level of interest in a re-launched Special Assessment by offering some training and discussion. I had an enjoyable

weekend and lots of driving. I had just purchased, on the day of travelling to the venue, a fairly old Alfa 156 (you have to have owned at least one Alfa in your driving life!), which added to the challenge especially as somebody attempted to change its shape whilst I was having a coffee break. I was paired with Colin the IAM marketing manager at the time and since he was not a keen driver I had two of the three sessions one to one with a recently retired traffic policeman, David Heath. I had some positive feedback about my driving and some guidance on areas where I could improve.

It was some time before the new Special Assessment was re-launched as the Masters. I attended the IAM Conference in 2013 and went to a workshop on the Masters. By then I had decided that I wanted to have a go and had paid my fee. The workshop did not really enlighten me as to what the Masters would involve and I was struggling to get a sense of the standard. There was a rumour that the standard would be Police Class 1 but within the speed limits. I wondered how that level could be achieved with quite limited tuition.

The Masters quickly proved to be very popular and waiting for a Mentor was frustrating. After a few months I was told that a mentor had been found but it would be another month or so before he could start my tuition. I met Andy Greenslade up at Grantham. I had done some observer training with him in the past so knew him. He is retired Special Branch officer and has a wealth of stories to tell. Nowadays he runs his own company and also acts as a consultant for a TV company. I drove for about three hours and we covered a variety of roads around the Grantham area. It was a tiring experience but I really

enjoyed the challenge. Andy pointed out to me where I needed to finesse my use of the system, avoid any brake gear overlap and make sure that I made progress where possible. The drive summary contains twelve components and Andy gave me some useful comments in each area. My own reflection after the session was that I was still getting to grips to know the standard of the Masters. I felt also that my natural driving style tends towards safety so it would need to be balanced with progress. Unfortunately due to returning to work full time Andy could not continue with the mentoring.

Our Group President Trevor Dickenson was happy to go out with me for a couple of drives which were really helpful and Trevor encouraged me to make more progress but always driving to my limit. Trevor pushed me just to the limit of my comfort zone which I needed to experience. Trevor increased my confidence and because he had been involved in developing the Masters programme I felt that a great deal of common sense was being imparted and at last I was beginning to get a grip of what was needed.

I had to chase the IAM to get another mentor appointed and eventually they were able to allocate me to Andy McManus. I had met Andy a few times in the past at IAM events and knew that his main interest was bikes. He has recently been tutoring Chaz Davies, World Superbike Champion, and the comedian Alan Davies as part of an IAM and ROSPA Road Safety initiative. He was very efficient and quickly booked me three sessions. Andy left the police force a few years ago following a motor cycle accident and is now a Minister of the Baptist church at Bourne and also involved in

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Learner driver training as well as being an examiner for the IAM.

My first drive out with Andy was to Cadwell Park. He instructs there sometimes. I enjoyed the drive and found that Andy's style was very relaxed and confidence inspiring. He encouraged me to question all the time and to be a "thinking" driver. Had I been undertaking an IAM test he told me that he would have given me a F1RST for the drive. Main areas to work on were applying the system to corners and to finesse my braking technique to ensure use only when necessary.

My second drive was shorter and mainly took in a trip from Bourne to Peterborough where Andy visited his favourite shop, Balderstons BMW Bikes. Free coffee was on offer and a look at the amazing machinery on show. On the return we took in some

dual carriageway and more country roads. Andy commented mainly on observation skills and timing the approach to corners. I enjoyed the session; one of my observations was that some of the techniques would be much more beneficial at speeds in excess of the limits, which of course we are unable to explore on public roads.

My third drive took in roads I did not know up in Lincolnshire. Andy commented that I sometimes used a little too much braking and that I could have used 4th gear rather than 3rd. Overall he commented that my use of the system was quietly efficient and effective, my commentary was clear and concise and that I made good progress where possible. He summed up in four words: safe, systematic, smooth and progressive.

I took my test over in Northamptonshire in July and was successful in achieving a Pass at Distinction level. Andy Giddings was my Examiner. He commented that I had given an impressive drive and demonstrated that I am an accomplished driver.

I enjoyed the experience of preparing for the Masters. The popularity of the course meant waiting for a Mentor and later for a second Mentor but looking back they each had a different approach. Trevor was very helpful as always and his input was very much common sense based. I have always enjoyed driving and the experience of doing the Masters has given me a further sense of enjoyment and achievement in my driving.

Peterborough and District Group Meetings for 2015 and other information

All meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at Peterborough Milton Golf Club starting at 8pm, unless otherwise stated.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| January | No meeting |
| February 5 th | Sandy Reid on an aspect of Advanced Driving |
| March 5 th | AGM 7.30 followed by our new examiner Lew Whittaker at 8pm on 'Red Mist' |
| April 2 nd | Richard Elms, Chairman Peterborough Motor Club on Competitions/Rallies for standard cars |
| May 7 th | 'The IAM Masters Test' presented by Andy McManus, Bill Peck and Stuart Earle |
| June 4 th | Drive Out/Treasure Hunt - <u>6pm start</u> |
| July 2 nd | Drive Out - <u>6pm start</u> |
| August 6 th | Low speed Manoeuvring (The Ball in The Plate) - <u>7pm start</u> |
| September 3 rd | Lew Whittaker on Motorway Driving |
| October 1 st | Sandy Reid on an aspect of Advanced Driving |
| November 5 th | News from the IAM National Conference |
| December 3 rd | Annual Buffet and Quiz |

✚ The newly designed website (address at bottom of page) is now up and running, with kind thanks to Robin Sutton

✚ Please forward contributions for the next newsletter (June) to Leon King by 14th May 2015



Notice is hereby given by order of the Group Committee that the Annual General Meeting of **Peterborough and District Advanced Motorists** will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 5th March 2015 at the Milton Golf Club, Milton Ferry, Peterborough, PE6 7AG to enable the Trustees of the Group (*Registered Charity No. 1067966*) to present their annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st January 2015 for approval by the Group members and to conduct an election. The AGM will be followed at approximately 8.00 with a presentation given by Lew Whittaker, new local IAM examiner.

Leon King
Hon. Secretary
118 Huntly Grove
Peterborough
PE1 2QN

January 11th 2015
Group No. 7101

email: peterboroughiamsec@live.co.uk

phone: 07727 073064

All Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only fully paid up Members of the IAM and of the Group may vote.

A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a Full Member of the Group.

Nominations for all posts on the committee are welcomed.

CURRENT OFFICERS

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election (Group rule 3.4)

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Stuart Earle | Chairman | Offering to stand for re-election |
| Leon King | Secretary | Offering to stand for re-election |
| Bill Peck | Treasurer | Offering to stand for re-election |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

One third of the Committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election (Group rule 3.4)

A RETIRING AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

one (Rachel Stothert withdrew from committee during the year)

B RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Sandy Reid
Prue Lester

C COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING & NUMBER OF YEARS REMAINING

None



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5th March 2015 at 7.30pm**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the last AGM held on the 6th March 2014**
(Resolution 1: That the minutes of the 2014 AGM be adopted as a true record)
3. **Matters arising from those minutes.**
4. **Chairman's Report.**
5. **Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Annual Accounts.**
(Resolution 2: That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st January 2014 be approved)
6. **Election of Officers**
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Honorary Secretary
 - c) Honorary Treasurer*(Officers to retire annually)*
7. **Election of Committee Members**
(One third to retire annually)
8. **Any Other Business**
(Secretary should be pre-informed of any items)

Note: 1. Questions from members are invited after each report.

2. Voting is by FULL MEMBERS only

The AGM will be followed by a presentation at approximately 8pm by Lew Whittaker, local IAM examiner.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Peterborough Milton Golf Club
At 7.30pm on the 6th March 2014**

In attendance were the Chairman (Stuart Earle), the Hon. Secretary (Leon King), Treasurer (Bill Peck), and 12 members. In addition there were also a number of guests in attendance at the talk by the guest speaker Andy Bolton, IAM Regional Manager, which followed the AGM.

1. Apologies for Absence –

Claire Shelbourne, Pat Ludlow, Stan Watts

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on the 7th March 2013

Had been published to members and were also available at the meeting.

(Resolution 1: That the minutes of the 2013 AGM be adopted as a true record)

Proposed: Bob Collier Seconded: Trevor Dickenson Agreed unanimously

The minutes were duly accepted and signed by the Chairman Stuart Earle (SE).

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

None raised.

4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman (SE) welcomed our President Trevor Dickenson and speaker Andy Bolton, IAM Regional Manager and all the members and thanked current committee members who have served during 2013-14 for their hard work. Thanks were also expressed to the committee and officials for their ongoing contributions to the running of the group. Events organiser Prue Lester for organising all the events, Stan Watts, who is standing down as an observer and who had served as Chairman and on the committee over many years was recognised for his contributions. A certificate of appreciation was presented in his absence to be delivered to him

later. Thanks also to Kim Harris for running the website and who is moving away from the area so is standing down from that post. Rachel Stothert, who is standing down as newsletter editor. Lastly, Hannah Caller who has stood down as observer and Young Driver Rep. on the committee.

During the year there have been a range of events including a number of interesting guest speakers as well as training events and drive outs.

It has been a successful year with 23 test passes up from 20 last year including 4 FIRSTS. The chairman expressed thanks to training co-ordinator Sandy Reid.

Group membership currently stands at 82 members. This is comprised of 64 full members and 18 Associates. Test certificates were presented to Bill Ringham and Richard Anker (FIRST) who have taken their tests recently.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Annual Accounts.

Had been published to members and were also available at the meeting.

Bill Peck (Treasurer) delivered the Treasurer's report. At the beginning of the year we had a high balance in the group account and it was recommended by the auditor at the last AGM that we needed to reduce this by using funds for the charitable aims of the group. A group laptop was purchased for use at group meetings and admin and to enable the secretary to access the IAM DTE database which is now compulsory for all groups and will speed up enrolment and test bookings. Six SFL gift vouchers were also purchased, five to use as prizes in the Christmas draw, which it was felt would help promote the group and bring more new associates

in. The sixth is to be used as a prize in a forthcoming event for Golf Club members which it is hoped will also bring in new members. In the latter part of the year there has been a drop off in new associates reducing our income from SFL somewhat. The balance at January 31st 2014 stands at £1224.22.

(Resolution 2: That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st January 2013 be approved).

Proposed: Prue Lester Seconded: Sandy Reid - Agreed unanimously

6. Election of Officers (Officers to retire annually)

a) Chairman Stuart Earle
Nominated: Trevor Dickenson
Seconded: Prue Lester

b) Honorary Secretary Leon King
Nominated: Bill Peck
Seconded: Jon Noble

c) Honorary Treasurer Bill Peck
Nominated: Andy Barnett
Seconded: Bob Collier

Stuart Earle (Chairman), Bill Peck (Treasurer) and Leon King (Secretary) were all duly re-elected there being no other nominees.

7. Election of Committee Members (One third to retire annually)

Two current committee members retiring and standing again:

Dave Fennell Nominated: Leon King, Seconded: Stuart Earle

Rachel Stothert Nominated: Bill Peck, Seconded: Prue Lester and were duly re-elected there being no other nominees.

8. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.55pm.



NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are invited from full members to stand for the committee.

The nominee must be willing to stand for the committee and sign the nomination form. By signing the nomination form, the nominee is affirming his/her ability and intention, if elected, to attend committee meetings regularly.

Please note – You may not stand for the Committee if the law debar you from being a Charity Trustee.

- Only fully paid up members of the IAM and of the Group may nominate Committee Members or be nominated as Committee Members.
- This Nomination Paper must be returned to the Group Secretary at least seven days before the election – i.e. by 28/2/15. (Rule 3.5)
- All Officers and one third of all other Committee Members must retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election by Group Full Members. (Rule 3.4)
- Nominations may be accepted from the floor of the meeting if a written nomination has not been received and the person nominated from the floor is present and agrees to be so nominated. (Rule 3.5)
- The number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty.

OFFICERS

| Name | Position | Nominated by | Seconded by | Signature of Nominee |
|------|-----------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | Chairman | | | |
| | Secretary | | | |
| | Treasurer | | | |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| Name | Nominated By | Seconded By | Signature of Nominee |
|------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
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| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Here are a few essential contacts and information about group meetings to help you get the most out of your local group.

JOIN US FOR AN EVENT

Date: Meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month (excluding January) at Peterborough Milton Golf Club and start at 8pm unless otherwise stated in the newsletter.

Directions Milton Ferry, Peterborough PE6 7AG (just off the A47)

➤ From east, exit A47 via slip road to Castor (the first junction to the west of the Nene Parkway interchange at junction 15). Turn right at the T junction. After 150 yards turn left towards Marholm (signposted Golf Club). Entrance is immediately on right.

➤ From west, leave A47 at the third exit of the roundabout (signposted Castor) where the single carriageway becomes dual. Go through Ailsworth and Castor. Just over the bridge crossing the A47 turn towards Marholm (signposted Golf Club). Entrance is immediately on right.



Group contacts

President
Trevor Dickenson

trevor.dickenson@btinternet.com

Chairman
Stuart Earle

07941 450885

stuart.earle@lineone.net

Secretary
Leon King

07727 073064

peterboroughiamsec@live.co.uk

Treasurer
Bill Peck

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Training co-ordinator

Sandy Reid

01945 464822

sandy.reid@norfolk.gov.uk

Membership secretary

Dave Fennell

01780 481925

d.fennell@btinternet.com

Events Secretary

Prue Lester

01945 772234

pruelester@hotmail.com

Website Administrator

Robin Sutton

robin55@btinternet.com

Vacant positions

Offers invited.
Please contact the secretary for more information

Public Relations

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The Group keeps records of the membership on a database. This database is not available to outside parties and no details are passed to other organisations or persons. However, if you do not wish your name and address to be kept on this database you should contact the Membership Secretary.

and finally.....Motoring Mirth

A group of pensioners were discussing their medical problems at the Day Centre coffee morning

'Do you realise,' said one, 'My arm is so weak I can hardly hold this coffee cup.'

'Yes, I know,' replied the second, 'My cataracts are so bad I can't see to pour the coffee'.

'I can't turn my head,' rejoined the third, 'because of the arthritis in my neck.'

'My blood pressure pills make my dizzy,' commented the fourth, adding, 'I guess that's the price we pay for getting old'

'Well, it's not all bad.' piped up the first, 'We should be thankful that we can still drive.'