



In Association with



Sefton Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

Issue: 389.

Reg. Charity No 517780.

July 2017.

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Events for your Diary

Monday 17th July; Dennis Nicholson IAM examiner. An interesting talk about a "Driving holiday in South Africa"

Sunday 27th August; Ormskirk Motorfest.

Monday 18th September; John Shawcroft. An interesting talk about Southport Lifeboat.

Monday 16th October; The Mini Police. Anna James, Headteacher, Hatton School and Sgt Keith Burke from Community Engagement.

Monday 20th November; Simon Ward. The Psychology of Driving.

President
Ron Clare, MBE.

Vice President
Alan Filson

Group Committee

Chair: Julie Craik

Vice Chair: Andy Shotton

Secretary: Stella Owen

Treasurer: Stewart Gaukroger

Membership Secretary: Tim Starkey
18 Jedburgh Dr, Melling Mount, Kirkby. L33 1EQ

Motorcycle Membership: Brian Dring

Newsletter Editor: Julie Craik

Webmaster: Rob Simpson

Other Committee Members:

Phil Kelly
Jan West
James Apter
George Scott
Nathan Woodcock

Events: Stella Owen, Gil Taylor, Mike Harris.

Car Observer Team Chair: Vacancy.

www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/seftonam

Group Number 5143

Words from the Chair

July is now upon us, sunshine, ice cream, strawberries and cream and we also have our new IAM RoadSmart flags.

The Motorcycle flag can now be seen every Saturday morning outside the Southport fire station when the advanced motorcycle courses are in progress.

There is also a flag for the Advanced Drivers Course which I'm sure will be on display at the forthcoming Ormskirk Motorfest.



This month has seen the Car Training Team re-name itself as the SAM 'Car Observer Team' as they embark upon reorganisation and modernisation. Their aim is to become inclusive to all Car Observers. This would better involve all observers in the SAM car training activities, and make available more resources to deal with the Team's workload.

The role, duties and responsibilities of the Car Observer Team will be expanded to embrace all the activities that IAM would expect of car observers.

All credit goes to Phil Kelly along with the other members of the team, as they take up this challenge and I wish them every success. As Chair I will aim to provide as much assistance and resource as possible as they take SAM further into the future with IAM RoadSmart.

It's this kind of forward thinking that made SAM as successful in the past and it's encouraging to see it continue into our future. More details can be found on page 7.

If any of our members feel they would like to help and contribute, please get in touch. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers.

Safe Driving and Riding, *Julie Croik*

NEW ASSOCIATES



Sefton Group extends a warm welcome to

Car Section:

Helen Roberts

Olivia Lawrance

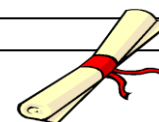
Stefanie Murphy

Motorcycle Section:

Peter Doran

Adam Davis

TEST PASSES



Hearty Congratulations go to

Car Section:

Hazel Hey

Thomas Newton

Kenneth Fleming

Motorcycle Section:

Mark Hindley

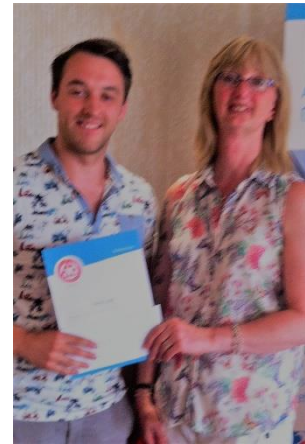
Newsletter Contributions Welcomed

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcomed and appreciated. These can be submitted by any means, but e-mail submissions greatly ease the final production.

Copy deadline is the last Friday of the month

E.g. Friday, 28th July for the August issue.

Certificate Presentations



Kenneth Fleming, Keith Lloyd and David Lane with a **SAM FIRST**, each receiving their Advanced Driving certificates.



Cam Cunningham receiving his long service retirement present. Many thanks to Cam for his dedication and service to SAM over many years.

Routes to the Alps

Part One – Ferry & Train by George Scott

In May 2016 a friend and I undertook a trip to northern Italy on my motorcycle but didn't fancy the lengthy ride through France. An 18 hour journey without stops and some 1100+ miles taking four days of hard riding and accommodation. Not wanting to use motorways I rode across the UK to Hull using the A59 to York and then the A1079 a distance of about 150 miles. We then took the overnight P&O Ferry to Rotterdam, fine dining and a good nights sleep.

The following morning we rode out of Rotterdam Port taking the A15 and E31 to Arnhem, a distance of 147Km. We lunched alongside the River Rhine. We also had time to visit the famous bridge and museum remembering the events of September 1944.



In the afternoon and to make up some time we headed south on the Bundesautobahn 3 to Dusseldorf Hauptbahnhof Railway Station. 134Km Here we checked in at the Autozug Terminal where a whole host of cars and motorcycles from various country's were waiting to be loaded onto the train.



It was quite an experience having to load our motorcycles onto the lower deck of the long train. Cars are loaded onto the top and bottom deck whilst motorcycles are only allowed to be on the lower deck. It was a difficult procedure but the best way to ride your bike was to place your chin on your petrol tank to prevent your helmet bumping on the underside of the upper deck. Bikes and cars were then chocked and literally tied down with what could be described as a spider's web of nylon tie down straps.

We then took up residence in our private cabin which would serve as our accommodation for that night. The fold down beds were large and good to stretch out, the spare beds were good to store all our clothing etc., leaving the seats and floor area clear from clutter. Small washrooms/toilets are located at the end of each train coach. Although they didn't have showers it was possible to get a basic stand up wash / shower with the use of a mug.

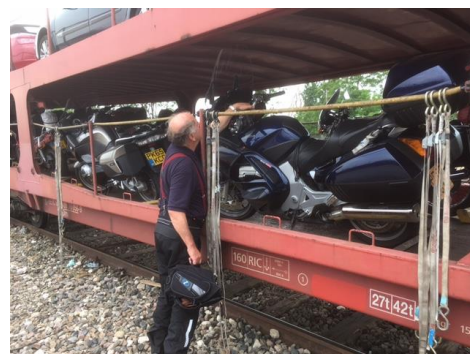


Early evening and we set off at a fair rate of knots heading south through Germany and following the course of the River Rhine. At the tight bends in the track you could see the car/motorcycle transporters to the rear of the train.

It was amusing to see numerous headlight and indicators flashing, from every vehicle that had been left with their alarms set. We had visions of the train rushing through the German towns disturbing the peace all night, and then the following morning everyone would have flat batteries. Thankfully our motorcycles had alarm sensor override systems.

Mid evening and we had been booked into the dining car for the second sitting. This was a disaster because the first sitting was not only late sitting down but went far into the allotted time for the second sitting. Wanting to get a good nights sleep we decided to eat in our private cabin. We ensured we were booked into the first sitting for our return journey. Sleeping on a train travelling at what was in excess of 80mph was an experience but eventually sleep was experienced, only waking when the rocking stopped when the train was held to a locomotive change at the Brenner Pass in Austria.

The following morning was an early rise to ensure getting into the washrooms, breakfast was served in our cabin as we sped through the vineyards of northern Italy. We arrive at Verona Train Railway Station early morning and were then engaged in freeing our motorcycles from their tethers, thankfully they had survived the night although had picked up some dust and road film.



But we were there in Northern Italy, about 30Km from Lake Garda and 120Km from Venice. We had clocked about 325miles and were fully refreshed and ready for our holiday.

The return to the UK was reverse route back to Dusseldorf but then taking a more southerly loop back to Rotterdam.

Bookings were made through.

Ferry *P&O Ferries* <http://www.poferries.com/en/hull-rotterdam>

Train *Treinreiswinkel Autoslaaptrein_Dusseldorf – Verona*

<http://www.treinreiswinkel.nl/autotrein/italie/autoslaaptrein-dusseldorf-verona>

Next Month PART 2 – HGV & Aeroplane by Paul Acres

A new Car Observers Team

On the 21st June, the SAM Group Committee agreed, and supported unanimously, the creation of a new “Car Observers Team”, which will replace the old “Car Training Team”. The first meeting of the new team will be held at 8:00 pm on the 30th August at the Southport Fire Station, Lord Street. ALL car observers are entitled to be members of the new team, and are invited and encouraged to attend the first meeting.

Observers carry out the vital job of preparing each associate for his or her advanced driving test. But, most observers have no involvement in planning our work, promoting advanced driving, or organising our work. Currently, those tasks fall to the “Car Training Team”, which is made up of just 5 observers. The plan behind the creation of the new observer team is to better involve all observers in all aspects of our work, make fuller use of the skills of all our volunteer observers, and help ensure our work continues well into the future.

An agenda for the meeting, and a report about the new “Car Observers Team”, will be sent to all observers before the 30th August. So, car observers, please log the time and date of the first meeting in your diary. We would very much like to see you there and have your input.

NOTICEBOARD

SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS. Group No. 5143

Group Meetings

All group meetings are held at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Promenade, Southport. PR8 1RB on the 3rd Monday of every month at 8pm, unless otherwise advised.

All Members, Associates and friends are very welcome to attend. Please do not hesitate to make yourself know to any member of the group council who would be pleased to meet you and make you feel very welcome. (Council Members normally wear identity badges).

Your support is especially appreciated by our guest speakers, some of whom travel considerable distances to be with us.

We look forward to welcoming you.

New Associates meetings

2nd Monday in Jan, May & Sept at 8pm. Held at The Royal Clifton Hotel, Promenade, Southport PR8 1RB.

Motorcycle Meetings

Every Thursday at the Imperial Hotel, 38 Albert Road, Southport. PR9 0LN starting at 8.15pm



SAM Website

www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/seftonam



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Data Protection Act 1984

Sefton Group will hold details of members and associates names and addresses on computer and paper files, in order to assist with administration. If you do not wish your details to be held, please make your objection known to the Membership Secretary.