



In Association with

iam
RoadSmart

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

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Events for your Diary

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

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

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

Please come along and Support our guest speakers who all give their free time to speak to us. All meetings are held at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport, and start at 8pm unless otherwise stated.

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

Motorcycle Membership: Brian Dring

Newsletter Editor: Julie Craik

Webmaster: Rob Simpson

Other Committee Members:

Phil Kelly
Jan West
James Apter
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

So, what's happened over the past month?

Well, if you read on you will find that the SAM Masters course goes from strength to strength. The Ormskirk Motorfest has once again been a great success and we have also seen a number of Advanced Motorcycle passes as the motorcycle section summer course came to an end with congratulations to all.



Our Observer teams, both Car and Bike do a sterling job in preparing our associates for their future driving and riding enjoyment. Here at SAM we try to offer all our experience and prepare everyone for any eventuality whilst on the road.

However, something new happened to me last week, which in 40 years of riding has never happened before and without sounding like a ghost story, it all happened on a dark and breezy night. (A week last Tuesday actually).

I was travelling on my motorcycle down the coast road from Ainsdale to Southport at approximately 10pm when, whilst in the unlit 50mph section, the dipped beam of my headlight failed and the road instantly looked awfully black. As there was no other traffic on the road I immediately switched to high beam, but that lasted all of 2 seconds before it also ceased to work!

Now whilst typing, I'm trying to think how on earth do we prepare and associate for such an eventuality. But I believe we actually already do, as I start to examine my own thought processes as my dilemma started to unfold.

Before the headlight failure, my training had already made me assess that the near side was steep grassy sand dune. The offside was a cycle path with a row of 2 feet high wooden posts stopping any one from driving onto it. So there was no escape from the main carriageway, nowhere to stop and I was the only vehicle on the road. So I quickly stood up on the foot pegs and leaned forward to look over at the headlight and found that the parking light was still on. Checked the mirror whilst gently pulling the brake lever to find that the brake light was illuminating the cat's eyes, therefore still working. So technically I was illuminated. I then made the decision to very slowly head for the street lighting at Birkdale roundabout about 2 minutes away where I could stop safely and make a fuller assessment of my predicament. The whole thought process only took a split second, proving that to some degree I was pre-prepared by IPSGA.

I am convinced that my advanced training has made me think and act quicker.

Safe Driving and Riding, *Julie Croik*

NEW ASSOCIATES



Sefton Group extends a warm welcome to

Car Section:

Victoria Harris

William Hulme

Motorcycle Section:

Alix Shaw

John Brooks

TEST PASSES

Hearty Congratulations go to



Car Section:

Alan Wilde

Selwyn Hyams

Motorcycle Section:

Peter Doran

Jenny Harrison

Paul Sutton

Adam Davis

Les Briscoe

Surfraz Lobania

Robin Brayshaw. Masters Distinction

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, 25th August for the September issue.

Another Successful Ormskirk Motorfest



The day started with helpers meeting on Coronation Park at 8.30 to assemble our stand in what were rather cool conditions and those in shorts and sandals wishing they had not taken that decision.

However, they had the last laugh when temperatures had climbed to a very pleasantly warm level by midday.



The rise in temperature seemingly had an effect on visitors to our stand as, very quickly, three young drivers had signed up to take advantage of the 10% show discount on offer. This was generously arranged by Steve Ellis our Area Service Delivery Manger who was supporting us

throughout the day with a card payment reader.

More visitors came later in the day and were easily persuaded of the wisdom of Advanced Driving and Riding. This was probably due to the expert advice and guidance being given by bike and car observers who had volunteered to give up their Bank Holiday for the cause.

Andy Shotton had assembled a band of bike observers being Barry Hesketh, Rob Simpson, Mike Maple, Mike Harris and Dave Miller. Car observers lending a hand were Nathan Woodcock, Gil Taylor, Tim Starkey and Ian Hammond. Our colleagues Mark Farnworth, Alan Prescott and Phil from the St Helens Group were also on hand to spread the work load.

Work for the day was finally over by 5 o'clock with the consensus being that it had been another successful and enjoyable event. With one young man wishing he was just a little older.



SAM In house Masters course goes Regional - and maybe beyond!



The SAM In house Masters course started earlier this year has been so successful that it is to be adopted by other groups in our region and may form a national pilot for new regional training teams throughout the United Kingdom. These were the conclusions drawn by Regional development manager Steve Ellis and enthusiastically endorsed by Chief observers from throughout the North who attended a meeting arranged by our in house masters team on the 20th August..

The Masters qualification is now billed by IAM Roadsmart as the highest civilian award for motorcycling. Started six years ago it provides a challenge worthy of its title such that a number of groups still have no Masters riders among their membership. Contrast that position with Sefton's where we now have six Masters riders, four of whom passed with distinctions and another seven riders in training and you will start to appreciate the measure of our in house course.

As we reported in Inform, December 2016, it stems from an idea our Chief Observer Dave Miller had to improve standards and retain the interest of advanced riders in the group and has been developed and managed by our observer Paul

Acres, with strong support from Dave and Brian Dring. It now has a team of four mentors from the group, since it started at the beginning of the year eleven riders have enrolled for mentoring, three have passed their tests with distinction and others are about to be tested. A recent successful candidate was Robin Brayshaw; he is not an observer and only passed his advanced course in October last year but he is now the proud holder of a Masters Distinction certificate.

The mentoring provided by the scheme is substantially cheaper than the National course (£70 rather than £129) and the local team is able to provide a very personal and convenient service tailored precisely to match the needs of riders it knows. These advantages quickly sold the scheme to Morecambe Bay Estuary Advanced Motorcyclists group who recently adopted it and forged a partnership with SAM to provide mutual support and final checks to riders before they take tests; they have five riders in the scheme.

It seemed a natural progression to present the scheme to Steve Ellis and Chief Observers from regions throughout the North. It was received with huge enthusiasm and a will to develop it further. Steve Ellis described it as the future approach to training within regions and he will now consider both extending the In house Masters scheme nationally and creating a pilot Regional training team based on the approach taken. All the groups attending resolved to adopt the scheme together with its paper free electronic management system designed by Brian Dring. Dave Miller, clearly not resting on his laurels after winning an IAM Special Recognition award and Sefton Presidents award for 2016 said: "The idea came to me when I couldn't sleep one night and I am delighted with the way it has gone".

Advanced Driver - New Associate Meetings

The Car section are pleased to announce that future "New Associates Meetings", and, "Mid-Course Theory Meetings" will now be held at the Southport Fire Station.

The dates for future meetings are:

2017

New Associates: Tuesday 12th September 2017

Mid-Course Theory: Tuesday 24th October 2017

2018

New Associates: Monday 8th January 2018

Mid-Course Theory: Monday 12th February 2018

All meetings will commence at 8pm at Southport Fire Station, Manchester Road. PR9 0LH. (*At the North end of Lord St*)

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

Tues 12th Sept 2017 and Mon 8th Jan 2018 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

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