



Gordon View

Gordon Advanced Motorists Bulletin. Issue 109 Jan.17

Welcome to Gordon View issue 109; the first of 2017 and my first attempt as editor so please forgive any rookie errors! *Martin Shakespeare*, Jan 2017

Chairman's Chat

On behalf of the Committee, can I wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year?

This time last year, I was talking about flooding in the area. Fortunately this year so far we have had much drier weather.

In my Chat of November 2016, I made reference to a new grade of membership to be introduced by IAM RoadSmart (IAMRS), namely Fellowship. This is scheduled to be available early this year. Having asked IAMRS about it, this is how it would work.

- When a Member wishes to become a Fellow, he sits an entry test, i.e. resits the IAMRS test.
- If he passes the test he becomes a Fellow and retains his existing membership number and years of membership.
- The next membership card would have a Fellow logo on it.
- Around the third anniversary of the entry test, the Fellow would be required to re-sit the IAMRS test. Failure would result in membership being suspended.
- The annual fee for a Fellow would be £49.00
- There will be no exemptions or links to Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI).

This has been introduced to make a recent test pass more relevant to a reduced insurance premium from IAM Surety, who claims that by becoming a Fellow and by inference having a test pass no more than three years old, there will be no upper age limit for insurance. This could be of interest to those of you who have reached the age of 70.

Towards the end of last year some of you may have seen that the Government published a consultation document entitled 'Allowing learner drivers to take lessons on motorways'. Statistically, young drivers aged between 17 and 24 are more likely to be involved in road accidents compared with those over 25. Lack of experience is considered to be an important factor. Although motorways are the safest roads on which to drive, many new drivers are afraid to use them and tend to find other routes.

Pass Plus is a course which contains a module dealing with motorway driving and is available for newly qualified drivers. This course is conducted by Approved Driving Instructors (ADI) but the uptake is low.

Under current legislation, learner drivers are not permitted to drive on motorways.

The Government is proposing to change the law concerning the use of motorways by learner drivers. The only circumstances in which a learner driver would be allowed to drive on motorways would be

- while accompanied by a fully qualified ADI; and
- while in a car which has dual-controls

This would be an optional part of learning to drive, simply because many learner drivers do not live within easy reach of a motorway.

The main benefit of this change would be to enable learner drivers to experience a wider range of road and traffic environments before driving unaccompanied, and hopefully help to reduce the number of young driver road accidents. However, according to Government statistics, 120 young drivers died in 2015 of which 80% occurred on rural roads. How about ensuring that learner drivers get more experience on rural roads? It would seem to me that that would have a greater effect on reducing young driver road deaths.

What about learner motorcyclists on motorways? The consultation document considers that it would be inappropriate to allow them on motorways, as they cannot be accompanied in the same way as learner drivers. The view is that it is safer to require motorcyclists to demonstrate their proficiency as riders, by passing both parts of the practical motorcycle test, before venturing on to motorways.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers and some of you might like to offer your services on Committee or to be trained as Observers. This applies particularly to the younger members.

Finally, can I remind you about our Advanced Driver/Rider Course scheduled for April and May? If you have any relatives or friends who you think might benefit from such a course, details of the dates and how to enrol will be in the next bulletin.

Peter D Kellas
Chairman

Group Syllabus Meetings

Quiz Night



This handsome bunch of intellectuals going by the team name of The Crew Cuts won the fun quiz evening. Many thanks to Pascale for compiling the questions and John for being question master, although I don't think Alexander Armstrong need worry just yet!

Syllabus Meeting 31st January

Don Carney will talk about the changes in Farming practices

Syllabus Meeting 28th February

A talk by Anne Park of the Scottish Military Research Group

Syllabus Meeting 28th March

A talk by Dr Peter Fogeil who was 'in house' doctor aboard the Orient Express Train

Next Committee meeting 14th March

If you, as a group member, wish to bring anything to the attention of the Group Committee or to the IAM please feel free to contact John, who will pass on for discussion.

secretarygordonam@btinternet.com

Events

Northern Forum meeting 4th February

Our Chairman will be attending. We'll let you know of any developments.

Scottish Motorcycle Forum 19th February

If you are interested in attending this event at Tulliallan Golf Club, please contact Gordon McKinstry (motorcyclecoord@btinternet.com)

Scottish Motorcycle Show – 11th & 12th March

IAMRS are looking for volunteers to man a stand during one or more half-day shifts at this year's show. You can volunteer via Facebook by searching for the Scottish IAM Motorcycle Forum or email Gordon McKinstry (motorcyclecoord@btinternet.com). Training is available if you've never done this before.

Training

OBSERVERS – YOUR GROUP NEEDS YOU!

We need all our Local and National Observers to please make themselves available for our Introductory Day and also for the training of new Local Observers and associates. We just can't do it without you.

Test Passes

Please join the committee in offering congratulations to the following Advanced Drivers!

2016	Diana Jensen (F1rst)	car	Observer - Stuart Hillman
2016	Frank Juroszek	car	Observer - Brian Ruddiforth
2016	Andrew Harthill	car	Observer - Peter Burridge
2017	Therese Anderson	car	Observer – Gordon Duncan



Frank Juroszek's certificate presentation.

This Gordon View Bulletin is sent by email to all members for whom we have email addresses. The remaining members will receive a hard copy in the post. I do hope that you will continue to enjoy getting news from us. If you have any opinions, comments or issues you'd like to share in the 'View' then please contact us.

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