

## Spring Newsletter 2020

### ThankYou – from our Chairman

The winter's passed, longer nights and warmer weather are rapidly approaching and AAM are once again getting more active with coaching motorists and bike riders. Our team of Observers has grown a bit and Neil has been busy in the past 3 months providing training to our team of National and Trainee Observers. We are all geared up to help meet our objectives to improve road safety and help people become better drivers and riders by obtaining an Advanced driving qualification.



I just want to thank all of you for supporting IAM RoadSmart and Aberdeen Advanced Motorists either by buying an advanced course, by renewing your IAM & AAM subscriptions, by becoming an Observer or by helping out at one of our public displays.

Even though each of us is just one of about 90,000 members across the UK, as Tesco's strapline states - "Every little helps" - your contributions all help IAM RoadSmart in its long running campaign to reduce death and injuries on our roads through educating and improving the skills of drivers and riders. We at Aberdeen Advanced Motorists are very pleased to be able to be part of that through your contributions and for that I **THANK YOU**.

We want you to make the most of your membership and IAM offer many exclusive membership benefits like cheaper insurance, discounts on certain brands of car and discounts on motor cycle gear, etc.

We at AAM also want you to make the most of your membership with us. We run social events such as outings but it seems that these are of more interest to the biker fraternity and we are conscious that our motoring members don't generally subscribe to these days. We understand that not everybody wants to become an Observer but we are sure that keeping you engaged would benefit us all.

Would you like to meet up for coffee & car meets, evenings with guest speakers, visits to organisations or something else? Please let us know at:

[info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org](mailto:info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org)

– we are very eager to keep you involved.

Joff Christie

Chairman

## AberdeeninAction - Observers



As Chief Observer and Local Observer Assessor, I have been very busy over the winter months providing evening training sessions to our team of Observers to ensure everybody is aware of the new Rider and Motorists handbooks provided by IAM RoadSmart.

The training programme was designed to ensure that coaching is delivered in a consistent way to all our newly enrolled Associates. I am very happy to report that we now have 13 Observers for riders and 10 Observers for motorists. As a team, we are looking forward to successful season with lots of passess, hopefully many of them as F1RSTs. There is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing one of your Associates gain an Advanced driving or riding qualification and knowing that you've made at least one person safer on the roads.

If you would like to become a Local or National Observer and can spare 3 or 4 hours per month, please get in touch at [info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org](mailto:info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org)

Its not as hard as you might think and it's a great way to meet new like-minded motorists or bikers as well as giving you the personal satisfaction of knowing you're helping somebody become much safer on the road.

Neil Warden

Chief Observer & Observer Liaison

## AberdeeninAction Public Events

Many of you may have visited the Crathes Car Rally or *Blast from the Past* classic car show at Thainstone last year, which AAM attended with our mobile display unit. You will recall that it was branded in the old IAM *Driving Road Safety* colours. We have been very busy, bringing it bang up to date, and will be rebranding it in the blues and grey of IAM RoadSmart.



Look out for us at the following 2020 events:

- **Apr** Grampian Truck Show at Thainstone
- **May** How Many left? at GTM, Alford
- **May** Classic Car Rally at Milton of Crathes
- **Jul** Blast from the Past at Thainstone
- **Aug** GVRS Classic Car Rally at Oldmeldrum
- **Aug** All Ford at GTM, Alford



Why not pop along to lend us your support?

We are also presenting Advanced Driving to Deeside Rotary in March.

## AberdeeninAction – Please Help



By becoming an Advanced Driver or Rider, you are all helping IAM RoadSmart achieve its objective of making UK's roads a safer place for everyone. You are also contributing by helping improve the standards of Aberdeen riders and motorists.

We will promote IAM and AAM at a few public events with our mobile display this year.

We do need help to man the MDU and chat to people about taking the Advanced course. Just telling interested folk about your own experience may allay some fears they have or help make them aware of some bad practices that have crept into their driving over time.

**Please, please** ...could you spare a couple of hours to help out at one of the events. If so please contact

[info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org](mailto:info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org)

Thank you

## MembershipMatters – Social

We hope that members who attended the 2 runs in 2019, *Kenny's Mystery tour round Buchan* and *Joff's Run to the Green Welly Stop* in Tyndrum enjoyed their days. We finished the year with another social evening at the Cosmos buffet restaurant where a number of us enjoyed a fusion of tasty dishes from Thailand, Japan, China, India and Europe.

We have 3 new runs planned for this year. The dates in are May, July and August so keep a look out on our website. Each of the runs are listed with route map details in our section called "Coming Soon". They are:

### East Neuk – the Fish & Chip Trip



On the 30<sup>th</sup> May, we plan to make for the East Neuk of Fife, heading for an award winning Fish & Chip shop.

We start at Milton of Crathes by the heritage railway and head to Stonehaven over the Slug Road. Then were along the coastal A92 route to Dundee, passing over the Tay Bridge, then turning left after the dual carriageway

on the A914 / A91 to St Andrews, the home of golf. From St Andrews, we take the B9131 to Anstruther and head for the award winning chipper by the picturesque harbour. There's a RNLI station and Fisheries Museum to visit if you have time.

From Anstruther we can head NE to Crail on the A917 and then back to St Andrews. Home to Aberdeenshire could be the same as the outward route or why not cut across from Arbroath to Brechin then onto Fettercairn and the famous Cairn O'Mount B9 74road for a spirited drive / ride back to Banchory.

### Whisky Galore – the dry run.



On the 4<sup>th</sup> July, we plan to meet in Aboyne, then west on the A93 to Dinnet, the A97 to Rynie, A941 to Dufftown and Graigellachie then minor roads including the B9102 and B9010 to Forres. Take the A93 to Nairn followed by the A939 to Grantown on Spey then A95 to Coylumbridge. The home route goes via the B970 to Nethybridge, the A939 via Tomintoul, Cockbridge to the Bridge of Gairn. Then it's the home leg on the A93 to Aboyne. We stop at a great pie shop on this tour.

Take a look at our "Whisky Train" on our home page *Oot an' about* – you may spot many of the features on this Whisky Galore route also.

### Commando – Are you tough enough?



The plan is to meet at Aboyne on 29<sup>th</sup> August; take the A93 to Bridge of Gairn, A939 to Granton on Spey, A938 and A9 to Daviot, then the B851 to Fort Augustus and finally on the A82 to Spean Bridge and the Commando Monument. The return route will be on the A86 to Granton and then the same route back to Aboyne.