

## Autumn Newsletter 2020

### Back on the Road



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. I'm glad to report that we are once again fully operational coaching Associate bikers to help them achieve their Advanced qualification.

The progress regarding driver coaching has been somewhat more cautious.

The more stringent aspects of maintaining barriers to Covid 19 transmission because of the space restrictions inside cars is more demanding than being on separate bikes. However, with strict adherence to guidelines provided by IAM RoadSmart, we are progressing with driver Associates, albeit at a slower pace.

Advanced Driving and Riding are becoming even more important now because we have all seen the significant changes on our roads in and around Aberdeen. The skill by observing properly helps us all prepare for dealing with wider pavements, new cycle lanes, closed streets to all but buses, and a huge increase in cyclists, many of whom may be unfamiliar with the rules of the road.

We also need to be cognisant of the fact that a fair proportion of the working population are no longer driving to the office and may be a bit "rusty" regarding good driving practice.

It's also worrying that IAM reported that during lockdown, incidents caused by drivers using handheld devices rose by 43% and drivers not wearing seatbelts rose by 49%. Adding to these new issues, are the vast increase in van drivers as online delivery has supplanted physical shopping for many people.

As I said, its now very important that we do our bit to improve road Safety and driver confidence with these additional everyday driving and riding risks being present.

As Advanced drivers and Riders our standards of driving and riding will be beyond reproach but its now more important than ever that we show good behaviour and provide road space to others who may be anxious or unaware of the dangers due to lack of practice. Hopefully, your continuous demonstration of good road practice will rub off on others.

I've often found that vehicles behind who close right up in a 30mph zone realise that they are in a speed limited area and that I won't be coerced into driving faster than the limit allows so that they do fall back and maintain a respectful speed and distance. I'm sure you all can find similar examples of altering poor driver behaviour.

However, it would be nice to get more people to actually sign up to Advanced Driving and Riding so please help spread the word about how the course has helped you become safer on the road and reduced the stress of driving / riding in our new road environment.

If we are successful and get more recruits to the cause, we will need more Observers so again, I would ask all our Full members to consider becoming an Observer. One of our Observers, Tony Webb, tells us how being an Observer has brought all sorts of interesting contacts and even led to a new business venture. So, its not all about driving or riding more safely, there could be social benefits too.

Talking about social events, not only have we continued to hold monthly Zoom presentations with guest speakers but we were able to achieve 2 group ride-outs, one in August and the second in September.



Here are the biker group who had a day out to the East Neuk of Fife.

The picture was taken at the harbour in Anstruther after enjoying Fish & Chips.

The route followed the coast road to Dundee and then made for Elie before following the Fife coastal route to Anstruther, Crail and St Andrews.

The return to the start point in Banchory was via Fettercairn and the Cairn o'Mount road.



Our second run in September was to the Commando monument at Spean Bridge. Another great day out for the biker group, seen here all masked up at the famous statue.

Our next outing takes in the distillery routes in Speyside. Why not join us for a day out on some of the wonderful riding roads in Aberdeenshire and the Highlands?

Joff Christie

Chairman

## Going Green

None of us will be unaware that environmental considerations need to play a far greater part in all aspects of transport. Many people already own a hybrid or pure electric car; electric cycles and scooters are becoming ever more common on the roads as commuters opt for greener personal transport rather than travelling by bus as a way of social distancing.

We are very aware that the characteristics of electric cars, particularly in acceleration and braking and the fact that they have no gearbox, makes it a whole lot different as to how we apply IPSGA.

We were therefore very privileged to have IAM RoadSmart Chairman, Derek McMullan, talk to us about the technology of his own electric Jaguar i-pace and how he has had to adapt his driving to suit. Members from Gordon and Inverness also joined the Aberdeen members for this very interesting webinar discussion.



One point that came out very strongly is that it is very important to read the car handbook to ensure the vehicle is set up correctly for your driving style and typical journey.

Features called acceleration sense and regenerative braking were particularly important to set up properly if the vehicle is to be used effectively. Derek pointed out that people, who had bought an electric vehicle, generally had not read the technical details and had no real understanding of these matters. They simply jumped into the car and drove it much as though it was a petrol vehicle.

We urge all members who have or are thinking of going green by transferring to electric understand the particular aspects of the SGA phases properly.

Our Observers will also have to understand the particular features of an Associates electric car before setting off on an Observed run. We look forward to this new challenge.

If you have an electric vehicle and would like to tell us more about driving it and what you've changed in your driving technique, we would love to hear from you. Send an email to us at:

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

Your EV story could help our Observers enormously.

## New Opportunities

Observing is not just about coaching Associates. Check out Tony Webb's story on our website where he tells us



how meeting one Associate led to becoming involved in setting up a drone test centre and another Associate helped pave the way to meeting the correct airspace authorities. Really nice toys, by the way, Tony.

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November and at the present time, we are hoping to hold a physical meeting. However, if this is not possible, it will still be held but using Zoom. Full details will be publicised on a Notification closer to the event and on our website. Please let us know if you will attend.

The order of business will be:

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Setting of Subscriptions for 2021
- Election of Committee for 2021
- Any other business

In accordance with the IAM Constitution, all 3 Committee Officers and 2 other members must retire but are eligible for re-election. If you would like to stand for election, please submit your application on the form which will accompany the AGM Notification.