



Winter Newsletter 2020

UptoSpeed – Chairman’s Report



Yes, it’s been a challenging year and very frustrating that we have been only able to carry out very limited coaching for our Rider and Driver Associates. However, let’s look at some of the positives; despite restriction on physical contact, we successfully managed to deliver quite a few events to keep our members engaged. I covered this at our recent year’s AGM which we held in November by Zoom but for those who missed it:

- Following on from last year’s 2 social Ride-outs and positive demand, we held 4 trips during 2020 after the Covid 19 lock down restrictions were relaxed. 15 to 20 members enjoyed the *Fish & Chip Trip* to Anstruther, *Commando – Are you Brave enough?* to Spean Bridge, *Moonshine Run* to Speyside and finally in November, the *Brass Monkey Run* around Aberdeenshire.
- 6 Guest speakers presented via Zoom to around 20 attendees on average. Topics were Police Driver Training, Motorcycle Support for Cycling Tour of Norway, Training medics on motorbikes in Nepal, Experience driving an electric car, Car detailing, Knockhill Racing circuit.
- In early 2020, we held 4 actual Observer workshop training sessions then a virtual one in the Autumn with a guest speaker covering Neurodiversity.
- One presentation was given to another local Charity group on Advanced driving via Zoom.
- The numbers in Car Observing team remained constant: 9 National Observers plus 1 Trainee.
- The Bike Observing team is also strong with 11 in total; 6 National and 5 Trainee Observers.
- Unfortunately, the Covid restrictions meant our Trainee Observers were unable to get sufficient coaching time to go forward with assessment to Local or National Observer standard. We hope that we can resolve this matter early on in new year.
- The Committee were able to function as normal by virtue of Zoom virtual meetings from May onwards.

We will continue to hold virtual rather than physical monthly Committee meetings, going forward.

Also looking into 2021, we will continue to hold guest speaker presentations, certainly in the colder months when driving and riding coaching sessions become less available due to the poorer weather and darker days.

We intend to attend local public events such as Classic Car shows to promote advanced Driving and Riding and to that end, we will complete the refurbishment of our Mobile Display unit. Of course, this aspect will depend on getting the Covid situation under control and restrictions in place. Hopefully by early summer we will be back to a new normal when we can interact effectively with the public again.

I want to thank all our members who helped us deliver some aspects this year and our Associates who have been understanding and patient because of having their courses delayed. Please be assured that we will get back to coaching as soon as Government restrictions and IAM RoadSmart Guidance allows.

Finally, I would like to wish everybody in Aberdeen group membership (Associates, Committee, Members, Observers and drivers or riders who are yet to be enrolled) a Happy Christmas and my very best wishes for a prosperous 2021.

Joff Christie

Chairperson

UptoSpeed – AGM News

The Annual General Meeting was held for the very first time as a virtual meeting using Zoom on 23rd November.

3 previous members retired due to work commitments but 1 new Member came in so it gives me great pleasure to present the 8 members elected to the 2021 Committee:

Officers:

Chairperson	Joff Christie – re-elected
Group Secretary	Neil Warden – re-elected
Treasurer / Membership	Ken London – re-elected

Non-Officer Officials:

Bike Observer Liaison	Neil Warden
Car Observer Liaison	Gary Macalister
Associate Liaison	Nick Readman - new elected
Social Convener	Kenny Hair
Technology / media	Douglas London
Non-specific role:	Alan Fraser

Finally, I would just like to add my festive greetings to all our members for Christmas and the New Year.

Neil Warden

Group General Secretary

Up to Speed – Treasurer’s Report



Our income dropped dramatically with only a few new members being allocated to our group this year, reflecting the big fall off in sales of advanced courses due to coaching being put on hold for most of the year. Income from allocation fees dropped by over £1000 as a result. However, we are very grateful to existing Members and Associates who continue to support us by paying their annual subscription.

	<u>2019/2020</u>	<u>2018/2019</u>
Total receipts	£1525	£2236
Total payments	£1285	£1104

Our biggest expenditure in the period was for a new Group laptop and Windows 10 office package as our previous unit was still running Windows 7 which was starting to become somewhat awkward.

Our next biggest outgoing was to cover our group’s insurance which is supplied by IAM RoadSmart.

Nevertheless, we were able to keep income slightly above our annual expenses. Our bank balance remains in a healthy state.

The other good news is that members, who attended the AGM, voted to keep our annual subscriptions at just £10 even if IAM have increased their subs for 2021. (Just a wee reminder that AAM subscriptions should be paid in the same month that IAM becomes due.)

Could I also ask that all members agree to filling in our Gift Aid form. This provides us with an extra £2.50 for every £10 fee that you pay without any additional cost to you. About 50% of our members currently do this but if we could have everyone sign up, it would add roughly another £100 as a rebate annually from HMRC.

Finally, I would also like to add my best wishes to all our Associate and Full members for Christmas and the coming year.

Ken London Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Aberdeen in Action – Coming Up

With the lack of practical driving and riding coaching sessions for Associates, the Committee have decided to instigate a series of virtual training meetings where we will provide guidance on a range of driving / riding topics.

The presentations have been developed by IAM RoadSmart and support the material provided in the Associates’ Drivers or Riders Course Logbooks.

The sessions will use the Zoom virtual meeting protocol and aim to be typically about 1 hour once or twice per month. Once on-road practical sessions are able to restart, the virtual sessions are likely to be stopped

Our team of National Observers deliver sessions on:

- History of IAM and AAM background
- POWDERY
- IPSGA
- Observation, Anticipation & Planning
- Country driving / riding & hazards
- Town driving / riding and hazards
- Roundabouts
- Overtaking
- Motorway / AWPR driving / riding
- Night driving
- Adverse weather driving / riding
- Slow manoeuvres
- Advanced Driving / Riding assessment

Please regularly check our website for dates. Zoom links will be sent to all current Associates a couple of days prior to the virtual meeting itself.

Gary Macalister Senior Driver Observer and LOA
Neil Warden Chief Driver / Rider Observer and LOA.

Aberdeen in Action – Successes

The following Aberdeen drivers and riders successfully graduated from Associate to Full Member by passing their Advanced Driver (C) or Rider (B) Assessment in 2020. Congratulations to:

February:	Aidan Bell	(C)
September:	Simon Grant	(B)
October:	Graham Rettie	(C)
October:	Michael Smith	(B)

The low numbers of successes this year reflect the fact that advanced coaching and assessments have been on hold for the majority of the year. We sincerely hope that we can catch up on the backlog of 30 Associates patiently waiting to restart their Advanced courses with us.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL BACK ON THE ROAD IN 2021.

