

## Autumn Newsletter 2021

### Up to Speed – Chairman's Report



Once again, welcome to our quarterly Newsletter. As we move through Autumn and the colder temperatures and poorer road conditions threaten, our ability to carry on coaching our Associates becomes more limited.

However, since COVID restrictions were lifted, we have been fairly successful in clearing the backlog of Rider Associates waiting to start their courses mainly attributed to our team of 14 Rider Observers.

Observers and Associates alike were keen to progress to Advanced driving / riding with 4 Riders and 1 motorist passing their tests recently; 2 of them with F1RSTs – my congratulations to the successful members and to their Observers for doing a great job. I'm certain AAM are about to notch up a few more passes before the year ends and weather conditions deteriorate.

Regrettably, our car Observer team dropped from 10 to 8 this year and consequently, progress in starting new Associates, attributed to our Group, has been a little slower. We have 12 active driver Associates presently and fortunately, there are a few who are nearing test stage, so I'm confident we can make inroads into the backlog imminently.

We do have quite a few driver Associates who are not as active and who have failed to make contact with their allocated Observer which does cause delays to the whole process. We tell and remind all new Observers that the onus is on them to make contact and arrange course sessions. Long delays between sessions or no contact just wastes potential times that an Observer has available. Consequently, we now have to drop those who fail to make contact and put them back on the waiting list so that new Associates who are keen to progress can take their place with the Observer. We are grateful when an Associate tells us that their circumstances have changed (e.g. off to University, working away, illness, etc.) and he/she will need to put the course on hold for a period. This sort of delay is much easier to manage as new drivers / riders can be allocated without further ado. I urge drivers and bikers to really commit to their advanced course – not only does the Associate get the full benefits of being a safer and smoother driver / rider they help others waiting by freeing up the Observer quicker.

On the social side, the biker group enjoyed weekly "Chip runs" on Wednesday evenings and day outings to Tyndrum, Ullapool and Oban were well attended. Unfortunately, I had to drop intended visits to "Line of Sight" and "Karting Extreme" because I could not get



sufficient people to confirm their attendance in order to make the bookings. We would like to engage more with our car members; I hope we can find new ways of doing that.

We tried guest speaker presentations during the pandemic lockdown months in 2020 and earlier this year and although attendances of around 20 were reasonable, we had hoped for more. Previously, we've organised visits to car /bike dealerships or emergency services but again, take up was less than we planned. We will be putting out a note soon to all the membership to try and identify new social activities that would be of interest. The biker *Chip runs* worked well so come on drivers, tell us what would "float your boat".

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> November and this year we are holding it as a real meeting (not virtual by Zoom). We have been given space at the North East Riders Voluntary Services (Blood Bikes) premises in Kirkhill Industrial Estate. Many of you will know that AAM have coached many Blood Bikers to Advanced rider level and a stronger tie up with them by getting the use of their premises has great benefits to both our charitable organisations.



The present Committee has done a great job but we would really welcome new people to join us. With some additional help, we can inject some radical new thinking into our group going forward. The particular skills we would welcome are:

- Developing and maintaining our Social Media presence
- Administering our website and group public communications
- Liaising with younger Associates

We also want to be a more diverse group with ladies on our committee as well as drivers and riders from different ethnic backgrounds. (Regrettably we are a male dominated, white, 40+ age group today – see photo above.) Please help us change that.

Committee meetings occur monthly and last about 90 minutes. Only every 3<sup>rd</sup> one is a physical meeting with the other 9 as virtual meetings so you can join in from home; thus it won't be too much of a drain on your time.

Finally, I would just like to say that the Group Mobile Display Unit has been transformed with a brilliant new exterior in IAM RoadSmart and AAM branding using photos from the IAM presentation material. We have to thank of Driver Signs of Huntly who undertook this work free of charge.

**Joff Christie**

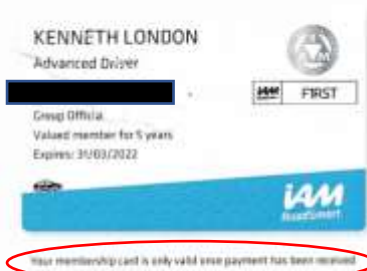
**Chairman**

## MembershipMatters - Reminder

When you join IAM RoadSmart you will pay a fee which includes a 12 month's membership, your test cost and a contribution to Aberdeen Advanced Motorists to cover AAM annual membership and costs associated with our group's administration expenses. Once the initial 12 months has passed, Members and Associates pay an annual subscription of £42 directly to IAM RoadSmart and £10 to Aberdeen Advanced Motorists to remain as a member of both charity organisations.

Please note that when IAM send you the membership card, it will show your membership expires 1 year in advance. However, this membership expiry date is **ONLY** valid when you make the renewal payment. (See a typical IAM Membership renewal note below.)

Your IAM membership card identifies you as one of the UK's most skilled road users.



### It's quick and easy to renew your membership

- 1 £38 if you pay by Direct Debit
- 2 £42 if you visit [www.iamroadsmart.com/renew](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/renew)
- 3 £42 by online bank payment to our account  
Quote your membership number in the reference field.  
Sort code 40 11 50. Account number 40128753.
- 4 £42 if you call 0300 303 1134  
To pay by debit or credit card.
- 5 £42 if you pay by Sterling cheque to IAM RoadSmart  
1 Albany Place, Hyde Way, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3BT, United Kingdom

The red oval shows the membership validity which is printed below your new card on the renewal notice.

We ask that you renew your AAM membership sub at the same time that you renew your IAM annual sub. Generally, I will send out a reminder by email on the month that both become due with the details of how to make the AAM annual subscription payment.

We very much appreciate your continuing support to IAM RoadSmart and Aberdeen Advanced Motorists.

**Ken London** Treasurer & Membership Secretary

## AberdeeninAction - M D U

Our resplendent refurbished mobile display unit made its first outing at the *Full Throttle* car show at Castle Fraser at the beginning of September.



Many public shows were cancelled in 2021 but we're hoping for a full programme of local public display opportunities in 2022. Keep a look out for us at Crathes, Thainstone, Oldmeldrum at their summer car shows

## TopoftheGame

We are very pleased to announce that biker member Chris Noble has very recently achieved RoSPA gold and a Masters qualification after a long journey of hard work and many hours practicing in all weather's and on a wide variety of roads. Not only that, but Chris went even further recently and resat his Fellow assessment and achieved a F1RST.



Chris originally trained to very high standards in the forces and amazingly has driven every rank in the three services at some point and even on one occasion a member of the Royal family.

On behalf of all the AAM membership, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Chris for his extraordinary achievement and hope that he will continue to pass on his vast on-the-road experience and knowledge.

**Neil Warden**

**Rider Observer Liaison & LO Assessor**