



Leicester Group Of Advanced Motorist Newsletter

Official Provider

December 2020 Edition

Editors Column

Editor: Kevin Hill

Hello and welcome to the December newsletter.

Here we are again, with another year nearly done!

Wow, who could have predicted a year like this last Christmas. As we come out of another lockdown we are mostly in tier 3 giving us further restrictions in the lead up to Christmas.

All I can do is wish everyone a safe, healthy, happy Christmas and a better 2021.

Remember that the group is now on Facebook. You can find us by searching "Leicester IAM"

If you wish to read previous newsletters, they can now be downloaded from our local website which can be found with this link www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/leicesteram

If anybody has anything to add to the next newsletter please email me on news.leicesteriam@gmail.com

Chairman's Article

Chairman: Tony Moore

Before getting into the report in detail, I very much hope you, and yours, are well and surviving the worst the dreaded virus, or anything else, has thrown at you. I thank all of you for your patience and understanding; physical meetings have not been possible and this year we will have had only 2 Group meetings, each by Zoom. I look forward to a relaxation of the restrictions that will allow us to get together in person and rekindle our camaraderie. As we come to the end of a calendar year, we naturally review what has been and look forward to what is to come. This report covers both those aspects, but I will start by looking forward. Firstly, we will be holding a Group Night on Wednesday 16th December via Zoom; invites to be sent out by separate email. The theme of the evening will be a motoring-related quiz and there will be prizes awarded – in the form of Amazon vouchers - for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. A sample question is given later. Though deprived of our normal December / Christmas event, with lavish catering, we may hold a seasonal toast, and one for absent friends. One such friend is Deborah Brooksbank, who passed away in November (see next page).

We have decided on a change to the meeting structure, which will be phased in as Covid restrictions allow, meaning some meetings early in 2021 may have to be via Zoom; we will publish details of these meetings in the Newsletter. When we can, we will be holding at least one, possibly two, open Committee meetings, so everyone will have the chance to observe the Committee in action. The plan for future Group Nights, still to be held on 3rd Wednesdays, is as follows – although the venues remain undecided:

- March AGM (*)
- April Speaker or Open Committee Meeting (** / ***)
- June Meet the Observer / Observed Drives
- September Meet the Observer / Observed Drives
- November Speaker or Open Committee Meeting (** / ***)
- December Christmas Meeting

(*) With the approval of HQ, there will be no AGM in 2021, so our next AGM will be in early 2022, after which we can revert to an annual meeting in March

(**) Speaker – if available – to be motoring / road-safety related. Suggestions for such speakers are welcomed

(***) Routinely, Committee meetings will be held on 1st Wednesdays

In addition, we want to hold the President's Cup event again during the summer. The event is a test of slow manoeuvring and judgement. Also, once meetings are allowed, we intend to hold the Volunteers' Dinner, a recognition of the service given to the Group by Committee members and Observers – along with their partners.

We have decided to instigate a new annual award – to recognise the most improved Associate. Details are still being finalised, but I can reveal it will be called the Peter Phillips Award. Peter was an Examiner for over 30 years and has been associated with the Group for over 45 years and thankfully, will remain a member after his retirement. He always seemed to identify the key elements of issues

facing the Committee and provided excellent counsel for myself and my predecessors. Thank you, Peter, we wish you well in your retirement and look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Alex Hathaway has been appointed the Examiner for our area, although he will not be joining the Committee as an Ex Officio (as Peter was) – at least for the foreseeable future.

We are also going to rename the Vincent Brooksbank Award, given in recognition of Services to the Group, to the Vincent & Deborah Brooksbank Award.

Now to 2020 – what a year!! Everything started normally, as it probably did for most of you, but was stood on its head in March, firstly, with the resignation of Melvyn Smith as Chair, and then Covid! The first casualty was our AGM at Police HQ, which was cancelled just 48 hours before it was due to take place and, since then, communication has been either by phone, email or Zoom. Very little observing has been possible since March, except for a short period in the Autumn. HQ has stated that operations are suspended until the situation eases.

A new Committee was, however, formed and has held regular meetings via Zoom, with some notable achievements.

- Submission of Group Audit and subsequent follow up meeting with HQ representative
- New Communications Policy
- Updated Complaints Policy
- Updated Risk Assessments, to include Covid-19
- Revised Group Rules and Constitution
- Increased Mileage Allowance for travel on behalf of the Group
- New Award for Associates
- Amended name for Services to Group Award to recognise Deborah Brooksbank

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I thank all the members of the Committee for their support and commitment during an unprecedented period, not least to their grasping the technicalities of Zoom video conferencing! Whilst it allows business to be conducted, it lacks the 'fun' of a physical meeting.

One event that has touched the Group is the death of a former stalwart, Deborah Brooksbank on 13th November, aged just 71yrs. Our condolences to her sons David and Edward, her family and friends. A condolence card has been sent to the family from the Group. Debs was, for many years either Chair or Treasurer and, once I took over the latter in 2015, she was a great help in dealing with membership matters - her dining room was awash with Group paperwork! She used to cater for the Christmas Group nights and there was always enough to go round! Though she not a whizz on the computer, she set up the online account with HMRC so the Group could benefit from Gift Aid on your subscriptions. A former Approved Driving Instructor, road safety was in her veins. Sadly, her health declined latterly and she left the Group in 2018. RIP and Thank You, Deborah.

The Leicester Mercury states her funeral will be at Gilroes Cemetery at 1pm on Wednesday 9th December. Queries to Cooperative Funeral Care, 12b Tournament Road, Glenfield LE3 8FP: Tel 0116 232 2373. No flowers, but donations can be made direct to www.leicesteranimalaid.org.uk.

In conclusion, may I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and with a sincere hope for a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hopefully, we can look back on 2021 with greater joy than we can for this past year!!

Group Night

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Sample Quiz Question:

What is the general difference in the instructions given by white and blue circular signs?

News.leicesteriam@gmail.com

Observer News

During the lockdown and even after or during your training please consider joining our Facebook page where you will find some good discussion points and videos that will assist you in becoming better drivers. You can find us under "Leicester IAM"

If you are concerned that your membership will run out whilst you are either training or waiting for an Observer due to Covid, please don't worry. When your renewal comes from IAM HQ just phone them up and explain the situation and you should have your membership extended.

Richard Bishuty

coordinator.leicesteriam@gmail.com

Treasurer's Update

I am available at the email address treasurerleicsiam@gmail.com for queries on the account number for transfer, postal address for cheques, if you want to know when you last paid, etc.

Looking forwards seeing you all when we can meet - until then, stay safe.

Thanks

Carl Taylor-Beeby

Associate News

May I take this opportunity to welcome all new members that have recently joined. As I am sure you are aware, we are in unprecedented times and at present are not holding group nights at the moment. If you can, you are welcome to join the Zoom meetings that will be held. I will be in touch with the details in due course.

To all associates out there currently being assessed.

Please be aware that if you have been assessed for a year or more without taking your test, you may have to renew your National IAM membership to carry on with your assessed runs. If you have not managed to complete your course within the year please contact myself to check if you are still valid for insurance purposes. We may be able to extend your membership if there are mitigating circumstances. I should be in contact with any associate that has expired their membership, but if you have not been contacted or think your membership has expired please get in touch.

Richard Bishuty

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