



Leicester Group Of Advanced Motorist Newsletter

Official Provider

February 2021 Edition

Editors Column

Editor: Kevin Hill

Hello and welcome to the February newsletter.

A new year and hopefully a much better one for us all.

Whilst the weather has been challenging the last month or so the roads do seem a little quieter with the lockdown. Please remember to take extra care out there as the less accidents that are occurring the less strain on the NHS. As I am sure you all support the fantastic work the NHS is doing in these challenging times the last thing they need is avoidable incidents and injuries.

I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous new year going forward.

Remember that the group is now on Facebook. You can find us by searching "Leicester IAM" or clicking the link on the Local website.

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

I very much hope you, and yours, are well and surviving the worst the dreaded virus, or anything else, continues to throw at you. Given the average age of our membership, I suspect quite a few will have been offered a vaccination. I hope that you were able to find a Centre close to your home and that everything went off as smoothly as mine & my wife's did. It seems as if the roll-out is going according to plan – weather permitting - and may, just may, be the beginning of the end – or at least the end of the beginning – of this virus that has so impacted our lives. For now, though, the suspension of all operations by IAM RoadSmart continues and, even with the vaccine, car operations will be the last to re-start. Roll on that time!!

As this is the first Newsletter of 2021, the Committee and I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year let us hope we can look back on 2021 with far greater fondness than we did 2020!! I thank all of you for your patience and understanding; physical meetings are still not possible, and it will be quite a while before we can get together in person again to rekindle our camaraderie.

We are intending to put on a Zoom Group Night on 17th March, coincidentally St Patrick's Day, but have yet to decide a format. There is a General Knowledge Quiz in the wings, but the Committee would very much like YOUR input as to what sort of meetings you would like, especially until we can

get into the structure described in the December Newsletter. The motoring-related quiz went ahead by Zoom on 16th December: congratulations to Rachel Hooke, Ian Graham and Khalid Gill on your performances, which were rewarded with Amazon gift vouchers for £50.00, £25.00 & £15.00, respectively.

The Committee will be meeting monthly, by Zoom for a while, to continue to keep the management of the Group ticking over. Just to confirm that March will not be the AGM this year, the Committee will be staying in post for 18 months rather than the usual 12, from the September 2020 virtual AGM, with the next AGM early in 2022. Whilst on the subject of 2022, that will be the Group's 60th Anniversary, having been affiliated with IAM since 1962.

I have attended Zoom update meeting with Pete Doherty, our Area Service Delivery Manager, and have a further Chairs' meeting with Amanda Smith, Head of Field Service Delivery, and Peter Serhatlic, Regional Service Delivery Manager (Northern) scheduled for Tuesday 23rd February.

Another Zoom meeting was with Shaun Cronin (RSDM, Southern) on updates to the Masters Test. For those of you who may be contemplating the Masters, there will be some changes coming into force on 1st April this year, although they don't include the price, which stays at £249.00. It is now only for existing members and it seems a slight change in emphasis on a "thinking" drive, reflected in the Spoken Thoughts, where they will be looking for knowledge of both Roadcraft and the Highway Code (those paragraphs containing MUST or MUST NOT). The quote from Walter Rohrl, a former WRC champion, that you should keep your speed of thought higher than the speed of the vehicle, works well with Spoken Thoughts.

I wish you well and hope that you keep safe and look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 17th March – whatever the format of the Group night!

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.

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" or by clicking the link on the local website.

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

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Group Night

We have no group night this month, but we will be Planning to hold a Group Night on Wednesday 17th March via Zoom. invites to be sent out by separate email. Details and content for the meeting will be in next month's Newsletter.

If you have any ideas for a meeting please contact us and we will endeavor to put the ideas into action.

Kevin Hill

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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

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Observer News

As I am sure you are all aware with lockdown rules, no observed runs are taking place. We do hope that the runs are going to resume soon when it is safe for all.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact me by email below.

You can also contact me if you would like to become an observer. Any Volunteer would be much appreciated and welcomed by the group.

Malcolm Ballard

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