



Leicester Group Of Advanced Motorist Newsletter

Official Provider

June 2020 Edition

Editors Column

Editor: Kevin Hill

Hello and welcome to the June newsletter.

It's still a very troubling time with the Covid 19 outbreak, although things are starting to improve with businesses and shops looking at opening up again. It goes without saying we still need to be alert and stay safe.

We are looking at doing a virtual group night which we are trying to arrange for the 24nd June. I will email all of you with the details nearer the time.

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

My first thought must be for you, your loved ones and your friends; I hope that you – and they - are keeping well and that the conditions of “lockdown” – albeit being now somewhat eased - are not affecting you too much. At least the weather has been kind, although in some ways it has been a curse! My Siberian Huskies have been getting their fair share of exercise, so much so, one has developed a waist. You know what they say about owners and their dogs – I'm jealous!!

At least the weather stayed fair for Captain, now Hon Colonel, Thomas Moore (no relation) to complete his outstanding fundraising effort for the

NHS – bravo! Not that he is alone, but possibly the standard bearer!

We heard that HQ effectively closed on 1st April – with a skeleton staff, all of whom were working from home. Our Area Service Delivery Manager (ASDM), Pete Doherty, volunteered for NHS duties: we wish him safety and health in his time with the NHS and look forward to welcoming him to the Group in the future. In his absence, our contact will be Shaun Cronin. We have, as yet, no idea when operations will return to what we knew – if indeed they ever do. We will comply with official guidance and directions for HQ and, once we know how we can proceed, we will let you know.

The Committee has not been idle since the last Newsletter – we held meetings in April & May, and again in June, using Zoom (video conferencing). We can at least function, although the meetings lack the usual repartee of a face-to-face meeting. The required Group Audit has been submitted to HQ and a meeting was held with Peter Serhatlic, another ASDM, again by Zoom. This was most positive and forward-looking and I have invited Peter to attend our Committee Meeting on 4th November to see how things are going.

To avoid any possible conflict with my duties as Chair, I have stood down as Chief Observer; Malcolm Ballard has kindly agreed to take on the role and will now oversee the Observers. I hope they will keep in touch with him, their Associates and with Richard. It will not surprise you to learn we have not been advised of any new Associates, although there may be a flood once things return to normal.

The Committee has also cancelled the June Group Night, but are hopeful the September meeting may go ahead, at least in some form. The theme for each of these nights is Meet the Observer; where scenarios faced by Observers will be discussed and, hopefully, some practical sessions. This will obviously be dependent on guidance from above. September also marks the latest time for us to hold our AGM – the rule is that it must be within 18 months of the previous AGM, so the deadline is 12th September. The Committee is making plans for a virtual AGM, using email, the website and Zoom. I understand there are high-level discussions to waive the 18-month rule – so the deadline may be extended. As we learn more, we will let you know. We need to notify you 3 weeks before an AGM – whatever format it ends up being!

Carl Taylor-Beeby has officially taken over from me as Treasurer, but is still settling into the role. He can be contacted at treasurerleicsiam@gmail.com. We have also formed a Technical Sub-Committee, comprising Richard Bishuty (Coordinator), Carl and Kevin Hill (Communications), to advise the Committee on technical matters that affect the Group and its aims. One of their first actions was to establish a Facebook page, which is still under evaluation but watch this space.

In conclusion, I offer my best wishes and hope we will be able to meet in person before too long.

Group Night

Group night this month (June 17th) Has been cancelled due to corona virus outbreak. We are planning on holding a zoom meeting on the 24nd of June. I will be in touch with everyone with details in the next week or 2.

Kevin Hill

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Observer News

Currently we have four associates waiting to be allocated to an Observer.

Tony, myself and Malcolm held a Zoom meeting with them last week and introduced them to the format of IAM driving.

The meeting went on for an hour and I think the associates appreciated it although no feedback as I write this. Some of you may not be aware that the Observer no longer needs to see driving or vehicle documentation, although a declaration must be signed, before the run can commence, stating that everything is valid. Blank copies will be available.

Richard Bishuty

coordinator.leicesteriam@gmail.com

Treasurer's Update

Since the last update kindly done by Tony as outgoing treasurer, I have been working on a handover with Tony. Instead of being in person over coffee and cake, it's been over Tea and Zoom!

Thanks to those of you have recently paid group subs, and a reminder to those who haven't that paying the amount of £7.50 by bank transfer is probably easier for both of us given restrictions caused by the by the global situation.

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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