

'THE THINKING DRIVER'



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

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Well Summer is here. With many changes in our country, we are having one right here and now our Newsletter has got a new name. So what do you think?? We hope you like the change.

This is the time of year when we go out to promote the Group. Sadly, this year has seen the demise of both Wolverhampton City and the Sandwell Shows. A big part of what we do at these events is to promote what we do and how the Group can help people. My thanks to all who give up their time at the events, such as the Wombourne Carnival, and especially to **Nigel Packer** for your contribution to our Group.

So there are other events around. This year we were too late for some in Willenhall and also the Tettenhall Summer Fete. However, I believe there are others out there, where next year if not this year we could and should attend. If you know of any or have attended one, please get in touch with me.

We as a Group need more new members and often people are unsure and nervous about having their Driving assessed. To this end **we are running free 'Taster Sessions'**. We have leaflets available to be left in suitable locations. If you have any suggestions, again please get in touch with me. For any of us who might know someone at work or have a family friend who are interested, these leaflets are available to download from the Group Website (www.wolvesiam.org).

Please try and find just 5 minutes to take a look at our constantly evolving and changing website (www.wolvesiam.org). We, as a Committee, and **Jonathan Hughes**, our Website Creator and Master, would like your thoughts and ideas to keep the process of change and improvement, if possible, a continuous one.

This Summer will see your Group roll out the new Standards part of the new **IAMRoadSmart** initiative of the IAM London. **For all Group Observers** - who didn't attend the recent roll-out evening, the next Observers night (Tuesday 19th July, 7.30pm) is a 'must attend event' for you. Until next time. Safe Driving.

Paul

GROUP MISCELLANY

- **Newsletter name**—You may be aware from your copy of the recent IAM 'Advanced Driving' magazine that being a 'thinking driver' is what we now should be. Some years ago we were to be 'responsible motorists' which was why we called your newsletter '**The Responsible Motorist**' - so—in the same vein we have now changed it to '**The Thinking Driver**'. So—are you a 'Thinking Driver'?
- **Standard text within each Newsletter**—on pages 2, 7 & 8, for example, is there for your reference and continuing use. It does change occasionally—so do refresh your memory. Please do not assume—that it hasn't changed and you can recall all that it says for you. Equally text can also change in our Group Website. Do not assume—check!





EVENTS & MEETINGS

9th July (Saturday)

A day (10am) visit to Wolverhampton Civic Centre of the Traffic Network Management. 12 people max. Interested? Contact Nigel Packer (see page 7)

10th August

8pm-'Lake Como by Rail' - talk & photos by Nigel Packer—a good evening!!

14th September

8pm—To be advised. Keep looking at our Group Website for this meeting detail when it is known.

12th October

11am Beacon Centre tour—an introduction to sight loss. Includes lunch. Going? Contact Nigel Packer (page 7).

NB: No Evening Meeting.

9th November (Wednesday)

A day (11am) visit to Morgan Cars (Malvern). 15-20 people. £20 each, (£5 down), 'Balance' 1 month before. Going? Contact Nigel Packer (see page 7) .

Associate Evenings (7.30pm Friends Meeting House): - see Page 5!

Note: Your attendance is 'required' on these evenings!!

****PLEASE NOTE****

Details in this section are correct "at the time of issue"—but DO check both your emails AND (wolvesiam.org) often for any changes!!.

Event Venues: - see map on page 8 & our website 'Events Diary' Map links.

Observer Evenings

(7.30pm Friends Meeting House): - see Page 5!

MEMBERSHIP & TALKS/MEETINGS

- **Your IAM and Group Membership Detail**

Members are reminded that **any** change in their detail previously supplied to the Group via a Group Application Form on joining or renewal of memberships needs to be passed to your Group Secretary and the IAM in London as soon as they happen. **IAM and your Group cannot effectively contact you if your detail on our databases is out of date.**

- **Talks/Meetings**

Rather than just waiting for things to be arranged, have you got any details of talks, visits, etc. that you may have experienced or from other interests in your lives that could be transferred to your WAM Group? Yes / No? If you have, please contact our Group Events / Talks Officer, **Nigel Packer** (see page 7 of this newsletter) or any other listed committee member. All contributions will be welcomed! ****DO remember to check your Email & Group Website (www.wolvesiam.org) 'regularly' - as changes often take place!**

ASSOCIATE OBSERVED & PRE-TEST

Full and Associate Members—please note - that a valid Group Membership card must be produced upon request. Failure to do so or if the card is invalid, that particular activity shall not take place.

IAM Documents Declaration Forms—must be completed by the Associate at the first run.

Attendance at 'Associate Evenings' by Associate Members—is required.

Do remember - *When you have taken a 'pre-test' drive* - and have been recommended to apply for your actual IAM Test. This recommendation will come from you having demonstrated the standard that we expect of you to pass - however - it will still depend on your driving on the actual day of your IAM test with an IAM Examiner. Your actual Test application will done via the IAM DTE database and the group's database user. *Within 2-3 weeks* - an Examiner will contact you to arrange a date, time and location for your actual test.

After taking your test - please let your Observer and Chief Observer know of the result as soon as possible. This allows us to say 'well done' — and to free your Observer for any waiting Associate.

Observers— tell your Chief Observer when your Associate passes—as we would much rather be told twice than not at all!

*"Advanced Driving
....?"*



FROM YOUR CHIEF OBSERVER

Recently I had occasion to park on a local supermarket car park whilst the wife went inside to do some shopping. It was a busy time of day, but after driving around a couple of times I eventually managed to find a space and “reverse parked “into it.

As I settled down, expecting to be there for some time, I observed other motorists doing the same as I had done, slowly making 2/3 circuits of the car park looking for spaces.

Suddenly my attention was drawn to a Mercedes coupe , roof open and with sound system blasting away, doing the circuit at a speed, I would suggest, not appropriate to the surroundings of a busy car park and all the potential hazards that there could be. As he passed me for about the third time, I noticed through the corner of my right eye, a car with an elderly gentleman commencing to reverse out of a parking bay, straight into the path of our Mercedes man. The inevitable happened, no one injured, but damage to both vehicles especially the Merc. Needless to say the driver did not appear to be too happy, surveying his battered pride and joy.

This set me thinking. We all need to be a ‘thinking’ driver at all times.

Use IPSGA, - “work the system, and the system will work for you”.

The driver of the Merc obviously had not used the system-by not interpreting and using the information that was available to him when he entered the car park. As a responsible, thinking driver, one would expect to encounter pedestrians, children, Mothers with prams etc. As for the other driver, should he have reversed out of a parking bay if unsafe to do so? If in doubt why not ask someone to guide him out.

But better still why not do as we as advanced driver’s do- Reverse in, drive out.

Until next time

Stay safe, enjoy driving.

Roy Richards, Chief Observer

OBSERVERS AND ASSOCIATES - PLEASE NOTE: Do read the Events and Meetings sections as there are evenings that you are required to attend. Equally do regularly check your email and Group Website (www.wolvesiam.org) for coming and changed dates/times! ‘Oops!’ - is not a reasonable response to a missed attendance, don’t you know!

*Are you using
TPSGA’ — gathering
and using available
information?*

ASSOCIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance at Associate Evenings—is required.

Keep in touch with your Observer—it is your responsibility to do so.

If you cannot keep an appointment— tell your observer. Observers work on a voluntary basis and have lives of their own to fit around their observing. It is only courteous to let them

know in a timely manner.

If you do not keep in touch with your observer—it will be assumed that you no longer wish to continue and your observer will be assigned to another associate. Our observers and their time are a scarce commodity so we have to make best use of them.

A successful pre-test

run—still means that you continue your observed runs right up to the actual test. Do not go off the boil!

When you pass your test—let us know via your observer so that all the group can celebrate your success.



Visit to the Regional Traffic Control Centre

On a slightly chilly Wednesday evening in March, just as the rush hour traffic was finishing we arrived at the Quinton RTCC for our visit. Our Group was in the very privileged position to have a special arranged visit. Unlike so many others who go there they get a very brief look in lasting about 40 to 50 minutes.

Similarly a visit to the adjacent National Traffic Control centre last a similar amount of time. For ours we had one of the top Managers Rob and one of his staff gave us not only the usual high level visit.

The Centre became operational back in 2005. But a more detailed explanation of what the Highways Agency staff, have to meet as targets, what their roles comprise of on a day to day basis. The Centre is one of 5 Nationwide and the Control room is manned 24 hours a day by a number of teams each with a specific area of skill expertise and responsibility all under control of the Shift Manager. This is achieved by three teams both inside the centre and its control room and through the on Road Officers.

- What happens when a serious incident or multiple incidents occur?
- How the design of motorways has changed.
- The risks and issues which are often wrongly associated with all lane running carriageways.
- The range and number of incidents they deal with is a significant number every day.
- They reminded us that all of the issues they face come about through the actions, errors and miss-judgements of Individuals who drive vehicles.
- We were reminded of the importance of having breakdown and roadside recovery insurance options for your vehicles if you drive them on the Motorway and the potential costs and consequences of not having it, should they need use their removal contractors.
- That hard shoulders are not a safe place and that is its essential you leave your vehicle whatever the weather or time of day to a safer place behind a barrier and ideally up an embankment.
- when drivers call in for assistance using their mobile phones, they are not always sure where they are (or even what motorway they are using), this can delay their recovery

We were then privileged to look right behind the scenes and with the permission of the evening top Manager a visit into the actual control room during its operation. Sadly no pictures were permitted to be able to share with you.

We were given a detailed understanding of the specific areas and teams on duty what which was responsible for and actually doing. A view of the large and multiple displays they have and a look at the multiple CCTV streamed pictures they have.

We got to look closely at one of the spare patrol vehicle. Understand the criteria behind the model selection. The lights and variable message board on the rear. They are only class 2 response vehicle drivers meaning they cannot break the speed limit, even on the way to incidents. They also have quite aggressive phone answering and incident response times. The equipment that the vehicles carry includes their self-sequencing (strobing) yellow hazard lights. Some of the other things they carry such as pop-up directional signs, traffic cones. The lights have both day and nightlight level settings.

Our visit was over three hours in total but the time passed by so quickly thanks to the informative and interesting hosts we had. This is another visit I would recommend to any Group members without hesitation and we are looking to re-book again within the next 12 months but on a Sunday afternoon next time.

Paul Williamson (Group Chairman)

Each time every time?



ASSOCIATE & OBSERVER EVENINGS

Observer Evenings (7.30pm Friends Meeting House):

18th October

Associate Evenings (7.30pm Friends Meeting House):

16th August

20th September

15th November

Note: Your attendance is 'required' on these evenings!!

GROUP 'TASTER' DRIVES

Though the option of free "Taster Drives" have been withdrawn by London we at the Wolverhampton Group still believe that they are a valuable option that we should extend to as many people as possible; to this end we continue to offer, completely free of charge, taster drives to anyone with a valid UK driving licence, a legal road vehicle and an interest in improving road safety by improving their own driving skills.

As a recipient of this Newsletter you are already a Member of the IAM and understand the benefits that enhanced driving skills bring to not only your own driving pleasure but also to the safety of those around you including other road users.

The free taster-session option saves the normal £39 charge and is open to everyone; look at your friends and relatives and use the option to introduce them to the advantages that the IAM brings; this is not a hard-sell approach as the Observer who goes out with the driver will provide a realistic, objective appraisal of that persons driving and also, because of their experience be able to answer any questions that the individual may have about their driving and how they could improve their driving enjoyment.

Taster sessions can also be tailored if someone you know has a particular "concern" or "fear" of a certain driving condition, motorways, handling roundabouts, night driving being examples of these concerns.

We do need new Members and would welcome people from all age groups, total involvement time is around an hour and a half and could be the most useful hour and a half that person has spent since they did their original driving test.

As it's a 'free' option there is nothing to lose!

If you want to know more then go to: <http://www.wolvesiam.org/services/> or contact the Group by e-mail on group@wolvesiam.org or using the contact-us form on the Group web-site at <http://www.wolvesiam.org/contact-us/>.

We have had current IAM / Group Members using this option to give their family and friends whose 'road skills' could be better or needed the reassurance to improve and take a confident step forward to be a better safer driver.

Become a 'thinking driver'!

We hope to hear from you.

*Are you always in the
right place,*



IAM—INFORMATION

THE ADVANCED DRIVING TEST

What the Examiner expects

The Test takes about 90 minutes, over all types of roads and using your own car. The four essential qualities are **Concentration, Observation, Anticipation** and **Planning**. The Examiner is the holder of a Police Advanced Driving Certificate. A full understanding of what is expected can be found in the IAM publication "Pass Your Advanced Driving Test" or "Pass Your Advanced Motorcycling Test" as appropriate. A number of important points are mentioned here:

THE PRINCIPLES OF ADVANCED DRIVING

- Do you concentrate properly and avoid distractions?
- Can you read the road and anticipate potential hazards in good time?
- Are hazards dealt with in a planned and systematic way?
- Do you use your mirrors before changing your speed or position and do you always give a signal to other road users if they will benefit or appreciate one?
- Can you drive with reasonable restraint, but not indecision?
- Is your judgement of speed and distance accurate?
- Do you drive with courtesy and consideration for other road users, including pedestrians?
- Are you always in the right place on the road, travelling at the right speed with the right gear engaged and able to stop safely in the distance you can see to be clear?

HANDLING SKILLS

- Are steering actions safe, smooth and accurate, and do you pass the wheel through your hands?
- Are gears smoothly and correctly selected?
- Do you make full use of automatic transmission, if your car is fitted with it?
- Is your braking smooth and progressive?
- Do you use "acceleration sense"?

*At the right speed, in
the right gear to apply
the right degree of
acceleration ...*

ADVANCED DRIVING SKILLS ON THE ROAD

- Do you keep up a reasonable pace and maintain good progress if conditions permit?
- Do you anticipate and react correctly to the situations developing ahead?
- Are the correct road position chosen and signals given in good time for the next manoeuvre?
- Are all signals, signs and road markings observed, obeyed and approached correctly?
- Are overtaking manoeuvres carried out smoothly, decisively and safely?
- Do you drive with proper restraint and proper sensitivity of control when the roads are slippery or visibility is reduced?
- Are manoeuvres such as parking, reversing, carried out smoothly and competently with effective all-round observations?

Advanced Drivers are expected to control the risks, despite the incorrect actions of others. Every journey can have its unexpected moments.

However, even successful candidates have made minor mistakes, which did not prevent them from passing the Advanced Driving Test.



FROM THE EDITOR

HELP REQUIRED!!

Please search your diaries for blank spaces and for things that are of low priority that can be deleted or put back. Your group needs help in order to keep going. Why not give something back against all that you have gained from becoming an advanced driver? How? Easy, become a committee member or an observer. **Well? Well - why not? Eh? Me? Yeah, you!!**

Requirements for current Group and IAM membership.

Please keep a close eye on the status of both of these! Do ensure that you complete the Group form with each Group annual renewal - and/or - change in detail and send them together with the applicable monies in a timely fashion to our Membership Secretary. Also the IAM form from London HQ which you send

back to them.

Group renewal date is **April 1st** each year!

Current memberships are a mandatory requirement for all observers.

Timely renewals—are a must. Those not renewing will cease to be a group member, associate, observer, etc.

Please complete your membership renewal forms—with all relevant detail so that we can maintain our group and IAM files.

What is missing from your Newsletter?

To a great degree — contributions from you! We get little or nothing from you. Your newsletter does not appear like magic! (Doesn't this fellow ever shut up? No!). Do send your letters, articles, etc. to me preferably on a disc or as an attached file on an e-

mail in an MS Office program format but hard copy will do if you do not have a computer. My contact details are in the column to the right.

Should your input not be part of the next issue rest assured that it does go on file and will be used.

CLOSING DATE FOR YOUR NEXT ISSUE: 3rd Sept. 2016

Tony Robson - Editor.

Committee & Trustees

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- **Vice Presidents**
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Judith Rowley
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- **Associate Controller**
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- **Events Coordinator**
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T:01902.897203
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Jonathan Hughes
webadmin@wolvesiam.org
- **Committee Member**
Jonathan Hughes
- **Additional Trustees**
(Vacant)

MEMBERSHIP

Data Protection

(Data Protection Act 1984) Details are kept on file for all of our Members, Associates, Region and IAM HQ contacts in order that we may print address labels and perform other necessary administration tasks. If you object to any of this information being kept on file please inform the Group Membership Secretary in writing. Such information held will only be used by the Group and will not be passed on to other bodies or organisations.

Group Membership Fees

Associate Membership Renewal - £12

Full Membership (effective each 1st April) - £12

Family / Joint Membership (2 Full members at the same address—effective each 1st April) - £18

Cheques - please forward

them (payable to 'W.A.M.' with your Group Membership number on the back) together with your completed form to:

Tony Robson
133 Elston Hall Lane
Bushbury
Wolverhampton
WV10 9HD

Associate Membership

Upon joining usually as part of the IAM Advanced Driving program. Within this program you get the cost of your Advanced Test and your 1st years IAM and group memberships (the latter being refunded should you not pass the test).

Literature - is part of this package and comprises 'How to Pass your Advanced Driving' Book.

Guidance - will be from the Group Local Observer

assigned to you up to the day of your advanced test. This also requires a successful pre-test run with a Group National Observer before the Group can apply for the IAM Advanced Test via the Group IAM DTE database access on the Associate's behalf.

New Members - are required to complete the Group Membership Form which will be sent to you upon when contact is first made by our Group.

Full Members - please note *London Membership* - is required in addition to that of your Group.

• **If your are a Group Observer** - you must be a fully paid up member of both.



Group 3081

GROUP MAIN CONTACT:
Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists
Group Secretary
Phone: 07966.131778
Email: secretary@wolvesiam.org

'Advanced Driving'



IAMRoadSmart

Registered Charity: 249002

Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists

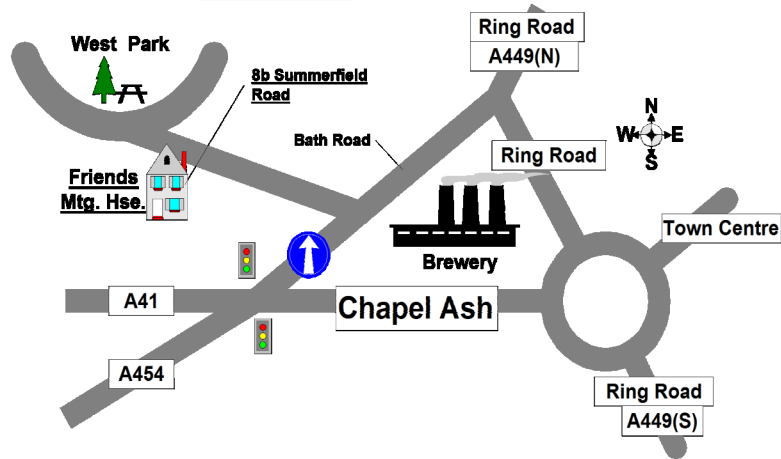
Group: 3081

Registered Charity: 1053330

Group Website:

www.wolvesiam.org

*"....Are you then a
'thinking driver' always
planning your drive and
driving your plan
24/7?"*



VENUE FOR OUR GROUP MEETINGS

- The Friends Meeting House
8b Summerfield Road
Wolverhampton WV1 4PR

At the gate—follow down the drive towards the back of this property and car park. The Meeting House is at the very back. The map shows Bath Road is a 'one way road' - albeit briefly—when approached from Chapel Ash. You cannot turn right into Bath Road when coming out of town. Taking the Ring Road (northbound) from the Chapel Ash roundabout turn first left into Bath Road then second right into Summerfield Road. For other approaches see your 'A-Z'. See website - www.wolvesiam.org for maps and SatNav details too.

NEW ASSOCIATES / IAM MEMBERS

Welcome to Associates:

- Lee Evans
- David Treby
- Nigel Lockett
- Neil Skidmore
- Peter Sils
- Lee Morris

• Richard Longstaff

- Neil Mason
- David Scarrott
- Mark Smith
- Neil Abel
- George Allison
- Thomas Grove

Welcome to IAM Member:

- Nil

TEST PASSES

- Roger Denley (Obs. Mike Leadbeater)
- Stewart Roper (F1rst) Obs. Nigel Packer)
- Karl Gallear (Obs. Kevin Conn)
- Adrian Gallagher (Obs. Alan Bates)
- Lee Evans (Obs. Alan Bates)

Well done and congratulations!

Hopefully your next move might be to become an observer yourself to put back in some of what you have received. Added to this you will continue to hone your 'advanced driving' by this passing on and guidance.

Passed your test just

recently??

Have you shared your success by telling your Observer? If not please contact any Committee Member.

***Disclaimer**

Please note: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Group, or that of the IAMRoadSmart-London, but are those of the individual contributors.