

# 'THE THINKING DRIVER'



## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

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### Special points of interest:

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Group 3081

Recently there has been a change in the temperature to remind us that Autumn is here and that Winter isn't very far away and I won't mention that C word, well not just yet.

In the last 12 months, we have seen the local introduction of all lane running on the M6 and the continuing roll-out of SMART motorways. That we need to adapt and change as our driving circumstances and environment evolves with time and increasing numbers of road users both on and off motorways.

Similarly, during the last year, the IAM has completed its transition to IAM RoadSmart.

*Advance Course Gift vouchers*—have a saving of 10% now, so if you believe in what we do they are an ideal gift for someone who might appreciate or benefit from receiving them.

As a group, we need more new members and people who will step forward to continue their interest and personal contribution by becoming Committee Members, Local and National Observers.

I am very pleased to announce that not only has **Christine Westwood** put herself forward and has become an Observer but has joined our Committee and taken on one of its Roles as our Minute Secretary.

Welcome on board Christine, and we hope you will inspire others to come forward as we have more vacancies and opportunities for anyone who has an interest.

I hope you have a wonderful 2017 and may it bring you all you wish for and thanking you for your continuing support of our Group.

Safe driving until next time.

**Paul**

## READ THIS AND INWARDLY DIGEST, FOLKS!

- **Your Regional Forum Meetings** - meet every few months attended by members of your committee where IAM Groups gather at the West Mercia Police HQ, Hindlip Hall, Worcester. Should you like to attend a Forum do please contact your Group Secretary.
- **Some 'confusions'?** - our *Group number* is Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists Group '3081'. Your *Group Membership number*, for example, is different, e.g. 1257/M - your *Group Membership Card* will tell you yours coming from our Group Treasurer on joining and with each renewal. *IAM Numbers*—are currently starting with a '5' (6 digits).
- **Group Disclaimer statement**—that is always at the bottom of page 8 in every Group Newsletter issue has been updated and now appears in full on the Group website.



## EVENTS & MEETINGS

### 11th January

8pm—'The River Ouse Tunnel Crossing', a Talk by Group Member, Alan Bates (Civil Eng. Background) with serious & amusing anecdotes.

### 8th February

8pm—Talk—"Would you like to be seen dead in a sidecar?" by Paul Sinclair, Funeral Director, Pastor, IAM member, (Yes it is a very entertaining talk!).

### 8th March

8pm—Talk by Paul Williamson, Group Chairman 'Title tba' (Australia & places in between going west & back the long way round).

### March / April

'Highways England Site'

visit - (t.b.a.)

### 12th April

8pm—'Examiners' Night' - IAM Examiner, Steve Tyler, your chance to ask the questions!

### 10th May

8pm—'Group AGM' with a talk by an IAM Visitor (tba).

**Visit**—to Toyota (Derby) - very popular by many—so T.B.A.

### Observer Evenings

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

### 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.

## 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 be 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

Following all of the recent changes within the IAM in Chiswick, the **new Standards** are beginning to filter down to group level.

As Chief Observer within the Wolverhampton Group I will be ensuring that all our **“Group” Observers** are qualified to the **independently recognised IMI Local Observer (LO) standard**, within a time scale of December, 2017. I am pleased to say that all of our group Observers, have already either achieved L.O. status, or are currently undergoing training to do so, and to meet the target date, by which all Observers need to be qualified to these new standards.

**Our National Observers** are also independently assessed and qualified under the IMI standards

**Our Group Newsletter**—has adopted the new epithet and been renamed “The Thinking Driver” which is exactly what the IAM is all about and where the focus of our new standards lie. The basics are the same but one major change has taken place which should be welcomed by everyone and that is that the “Standards” passed on by the Observer to the new Associate are the same as the “Standards” that will be examined when that Associate goes for Test.

**The “Standards” passed on by the Observer** to the new Associate are the same as the “Standards” that will be examined when that Associate goes for Test.

**The expectations of the Associate, the Observer and the Examiner** are now not just similar, but the same. It may come as a surprise to some to hear that prior to the current changes, because there was no overview of the “whole system” this was not the case and it was possible for an Observer to advise an Associate in one direction to find that the Examiner expected another!

The other key change that has taken place is that **the System as a whole is now documented in full and tested to be consistent** across all of its forms; though there may be personal opinions the facts and directions are now consistent.

Should you wish to you can go onto our web site ([www.wolvesiam.org](http://www.wolvesiam.org)) and read through the **Observers Handbook** and, if you so wish, the **Examiners Handbook** too. There are no more “hidden policies or considerations” regarding the expectations of the Advanced Driver.

With the advancement in vehicle technology there are **some changes to “older” standards** to allow, for example, the overlap of gear and brakes on manual vehicles, the use of “Drive” only throughout a test on automatic vehicles, the use of driving aids, (speed limiters, park assist and so on) and the use of forms of steering other than the preferred pull-push.

We would suggest that for those of you interested, our Observers would be only too happy to go for a drive (or two), with you to go through these changes and in effect “bring you up to date”; (For this contact me as [chief.observer@wolvesiam.org](mailto:chief.observer@wolvesiam.org) ).

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](http://www.wolvesiam.org)) for coming and changed dates/times! ‘Ooops!’ - is not a reasonable response to a missed attendance, don’t you know!

## 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! Your IAM test result will be on how you drove on that test run.

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

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



## Skills Day with the Women's Institute

### Skills Day with the WI at British Motor Museum at Gaydon 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016

This day was the second of five days scheduled to take place with the **Women's Institute**; the first in April was massively over-subscribed as was this day, a very encouraging response.

Organization for the day was excellent, but then we would expect nothing less from the BMM with appropriate input from the IAM.

The sixty or so ladies were divided into four Groups; at any time two Groups were in classroom sessions with the other two Groups doing either a "Taster Session" drive or Slow Manoeuvring. A full car park had been allocated for the close manoeuvring which gave excellent space for six people to be in cars at the same time without any risk of close vehicle proximity; the ladies were all put through a session improving their parallel and perpendicular parking skills as well as reversing skills and all in cars which they were unfamiliar with as Suzuki UK had been kind enough to loan vehicles for use through the day. The drives had been set by the local IAM Group in Stratford and were scheduled to be around twenty-five to thirty minutes in duration incorporating town, restricted country road and also national speed limit country roads. Challenging as there were many hazards throughout the routes including managing some steep down hills with gradients of 1:16 and very sharp bends half way down, (Edge Hill for those who may know the area).

The practical activities were not designed to just expose any lack of skills but to be fun and demonstrate how much easier a more knowledgeable approach to driving could make any journey easier and less stressful for both driver and passenger alike.

All of the four drives that I did were very different though all demonstrated some "bad practices" throughout the journey. The encouraging thing was that in all cases keenness to learn was paramount and pointing out an "issue" always resulted in a desire to correct that issue, be it steering or gear selection or some other matter. There was never a question of "well this has always worked for me", more, "that does make it easier and better" followed by a very real "thank you" for the professional advice being given.

At the summing up at the end of the day the clear feedback was that everyone had learnt something through the day; around twenty of the sixty signed up for Advanced Driving on the day and a number of others said they wanted to talk with husbands or others before they took things forward; a great response making the day worthwhile for everyone.

At Wolverhampton we are very keen to be a part of the greater IAM activities ensuring that we are one of the Groups at the forefront of IAM activities and not just a follower.

Jonathan Hughes

*Each time every time?*



## ASSOCIATE & OBSERVER EVENINGS

**Observer Evenings** (*Friends Meeting House*):

November 23rd (8.00pm),  
February 21st (7.30pm)

**Associate Evenings** (*Friends Meeting House*):

January 17th (7.30pm),  
March 21st (7.30pm),  
April 18th (7.30pm).

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

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## The Annual IAM National Conference 2016

**The Annual IAM National Conference**—was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October at Aston University in Birmingham.

An invitation is extended to all local Groups throughout the UK to attend either on the Saturday for Drivers Groups and on the Sunday for Rider Groups.

In essence there is little difference between the two days however it allows an easy division of the numbers as the majority of Groups send two members to represent and gain insight into the forthcoming strategies of the Institute. This year both Roy Richards, Chief Observer and Jonathan Hughes attended for the Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists Group.

The day was divided into various sessions;

- Business Update;
- Young Drivers Retention;
- Group Handbook Update;
- Insurance; and lastly—
- Statistics and IAM Manifesto.

The presentations will be posted on our web-site for all to view within the next few days.

Of all of the discussion groups, perhaps the most important, and surprising, was that about insurance.

- Two representatives of IAM Surety were present and had the statistics to hand to substantiate the detail given but it was clear that any IAM Member who had held their Advanced Driving qualification, (and had not been re-tested in some way for greater than five years), was actually MORE likely to be involved in an incident than an untrained driver.
- Investigations are being undertaken as to why this might be the case however it makes it clear to us all that if we have held our Membership for a number of years and had not done any further training, that perhaps now was the time to use the facilities of the Group to do that training. No necessity to undertake a full course, unless wanted, but simply perhaps to do a few Observed Drives to polish up on skills that may have become rusty.
- The outcome of the detail presented is that people who have recent skills proven through additional qualifications or skills updates are going to have better, that is lower, insurance quotations than those who have not and with IAM Surety now covering well over 50% of all IAM Members this is important to us all. In this if you want to talk with someone then please contact Roy Richards our Chief Observer.

If you have any questions about the presentations themselves then please feel free to contact the Committee via the Group Secretary.

*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 "Advanced Driving". 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"?

### 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.**

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



## 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. In this way you confirm contact details and affirm your

driving documents legal. 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:

**1st February**  
**2017**

Tony Robson - Editor.

## Committee & Trustees

- **President**  
Graham Foulkes
- **Vice Presidents**  
Joe Brooks  
Judith Rowley
- **Chairman**  
Paul Williamson  
[chairman@wolvesiam.org](mailto:chairman@wolvesiam.org)  
M:07475552258
- **Secretary**  
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133 Elston Hall Lane  
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- **Membership Secretary**  
(see Group Secretary)
- **Chief Observer**  
Roy Richards  
[chiefobserver@wolvesiam.org](mailto:chiefobserver@wolvesiam.org)  
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- **Newsletter Editor**  
(see - Group Secretary)
- **Minutes Secretary**  
Christine Westwood
- **Associate Controller**  
(see - Publicity Officer)
- **Test Administrator**  
(see - Group Secretary)
- **Events Coordinator**  
(see Publicity Officer)
- **Publicity Officer**  
Nigel Packer  
[events@wolvesiam.org](mailto:events@wolvesiam.org)  
T:01902.897203
- **Web Admin.**  
Jonathan Hughes  
[webadmin@wolvesiam.org](mailto: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, Regional 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 / IAM 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 1<sup>st</sup> years IAM and group memberships.

*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 can be downloaded from our website and sent to the Group Membership Secretary.

• **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'*



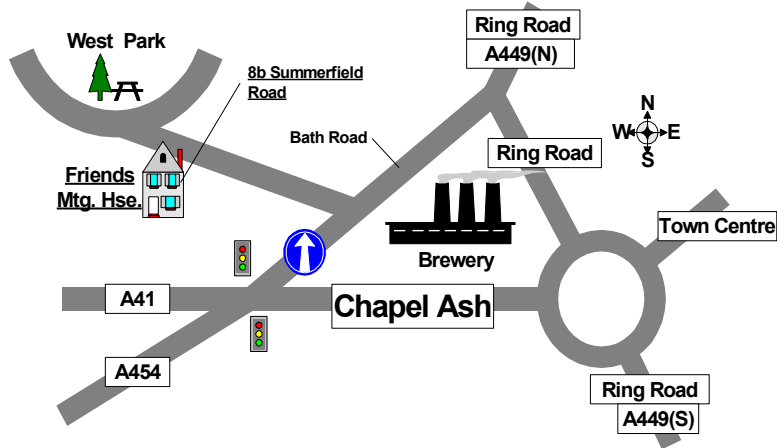
**IAMRoadSmart**  
Registered Charity: 249002

**Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists**

Group: 3081  
Registered Charity: 1053330

**Group Website:**  
[www.wolvesiam.org](http://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](http://www.wolvesiam.org) for maps—and SatNav details too.

## **NEW ASSOCIATES / IAM MEMBERS**

### **Welcome to Associates:**

- Prity Patel
- Sarah Newland
- Pam Dawson
- Wendy Allin
- Francesca Hyett
- Richard Dodd

- Kathryn Ball
- Richard Dodd
- Ric Nicholls

### **Welcome to IAM Member:**

- Nil

## **TEST PASSES**

- Colin Morgan (Observer: Cecil Billing)
- Mark Smith (Observer: Mike Leadbeater)
- David Treby (Observer: Nigel Packer)
- Richard Longstaff (Observer: Graham Trusselle)

### **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 Statement**

Please note: See [www.wolvesiam.org](http://www.wolvesiam.org) and [www.iamroadsmart.com](http://www.iamroadsmart.com) for further detail on this subject.