



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists



NEWSLETTER

May 2004



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

May 2004

Dear all,

Welcome to this, the first edition of the new newsletter. Please take the time to read it and let your committee know what you liked and what you disliked, preferably with any ideas for improvement. This is your newsletter and we welcome your input even if it is to publicise non-driving events or other good causes.

Jerry Stone T/Editor

Congratulations to the following who since the last newsletter have been recommended for membership of the IAM following test:-

Chris Lowther, James Acton, Jean Tipper and Tony Mills.

Well done and don't forget Advanced Driving doesn't stop there.

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Coming soon:

Re-run to be arranged

Treasure Hunt. - Contact Jerry or David for start place & time.



Saturday 12th June

BBQ

Approx. 3pm start at Jerry's place. Come along and support these events and have a great time, you never know Jerry might even have his conservatory up by the BBQ!



Chairman's Chat

Spring in the air again, and despite all the hot weather I 'enjoyed' last year I am looking forward to some sunshine.

I recently read in a certain newspaper about an MP who would like to ban 4x4 drivers from City & Town centres to 'reduce congestion'.

Now whilst I can see the irony in people (myself included) driving these types of vehicles in built up areas, I failed to see how banning these vehicles would help if they were simply replaced by say a 7 series BMW or a people carrier? I do remember how it was said in days of old that if we got rid of Volvos or at least their huge bumpers that would greatly ease traffic congestion! On the same page in that newspaper there was a report about a footballer crashing his Ferrari Sports car on the M62 in driving rain. I happened to drive the same road at about the same time and would agree that the conditions were very bad, however by applying Advanced Driving principles it was possible to negotiate the roads with reasonable safety. I think the essence of what I believe this all shows is that it is driver education and training that is key, not the machinery and this is why I

continue to promote Advanced Driving and the IAM to anyone who will listen, and some who will not

Jerry, Chairman.

Diary Dates:-

Sunday runs

Sun 20th June - Run 4

Sun 4th July - Run 5

Sun 18th July - Run 6

Sun 1st Aug - Run 7

Sun 15th Aug - Run 8

Sun 5th Sept - Run 1. FLC 21

All Sunday runs start from the car park behind Sainsburys in Wilmslow. Registration is at 09.30 hours, please make yourself known by checking in at the table. Runs start at 10.00 hours. Please do let us know if you can not make the run to assist in organisation. Contact numbers are on the back cover.

Classrooms:-

Classroom & meetings are at the Royal Oak, Heyes Lane, Alderley Edge at 7.45pm for 8.00pm starts.

Tues 29th June - Classroom 2

Tues 10th Aug - Classroom 3

**Tues 31st Aug - Classroom 1
(Fixed length course No. 21)**

Other: -

Sat 12th June - BBQ

Tues 27th July - Observer meeting

Mon 9th Aug - Social event (tbc)

Iam Team gains motorcycle specialist

The Institute of Advanced Motorists has appointed its first ever full-time motorcycle specialist. The appointment was made 8th March 2004.

Dave Shenton from Codsall in Staffordshire has been appointed IAM Motorcycle Manager. Dave has considerable experience as a motorcyclist, originally as a Motorcycle Patrol Officer with the West Midlands Police, and more recently with Wolverhampton based bike consultancy Advanced Rider Training.

Dave joined the IAM in 1985 and has been an active member of the Wolverhampton group where he is a former Vice President. In 1990 Dave was appointed an IAM Examiner has been an IAM advisor on motorcycling matters.

The move will be welcomed by the IAM's 12,000 plus motorcycle members. Motorcyclists form the fastest growing section of the IAM "This new role is a natural reflection of the growing importance of motorcycling in IAM affairs" Said IAM Chief Executive Christopher Bullock. "We welcome the growth in IAM motorcycle membership. Arguably bikers have the most to

to gain from Advanced Driving - because sadly it is typically the bikers in so-called accidents who come of worst"

IAM News release - March 2004



It's Magic! A little tale

A driver is stopped by the Police one night. The officer comes round to the driver's window and says, "Excuse me sir, but your nearside tail light isn't working".

The driver gives an exasperated sigh, "Oh for heavens sake, have you lot got nothing better to do?"

He jumps out of the car, walks round to the back and gives the tail light a hard kick. The light comes on. "There, are you satisfied?" he says sarcastically.

"Very Good", says the officer, "now go round and kick the front and see if a tax disc comes up."

Anonymous.

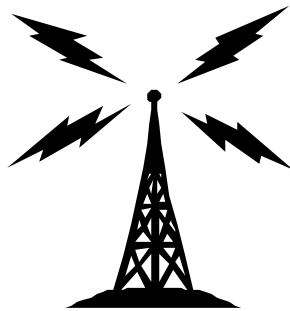
Mast mystery

A letter in the Daily Mail told how a motorist was enjoying a 2 day break in Bracknell and pulled into a local petrol station.

She filled up with petrol and paid but on returning to her car it wouldn't start. The lights worked, the radio came on, the battery was obviously fine, but it just wouldn't start. She asked 2 nearby mechanics to help push the car away from the pumps to the nearby parking area so that she could call the AA when one of them said, "aha, that happens to a lot of cars around here". Apparently she had stopped her car with the bonnet beyond the canopy, which had put it in line with the garages aerial and a 'big one' down the road.

After being moved the car started immediately. It seems the immobiliser had been triggered by radiation from the 2 masts.

Makes you wonder about mobile phone mast emissions doesn't it?



How to change your car's engine oil - Guide

Women:

1. Book car into garage when car reaches appropriate service interval.
2. Go shopping.
3. Later, present credit card and leave with a properly maintained vehicle.

Men:

1. Go to Halfords and buy oil (£20) oil filter (£10), hand cleaner (£5) and scented tree (£1.50)
2. Discover that used oil container is full. Think for nano-second, about 16 mile round trip to dump at Knutsford to recycle, then dump old oil in hole in back garden.
3. Open a beer and drink it.
4. Spend 30 minutes looking for jack stands.
5. Fund jack stands under kid's pedal car.
6. In frustration, open another beer and drink it.
7. Place drain pan under engine
8. Look for 9/16th box end wrench.
9. Give up, use crescent wrench

10. Unscrew drain plug.
11. Drop drain plug in pan of hot oil; scald self in process.
12. Clean up.
13. Have another beer while oil is draining.
14. Look for oil filter wrench.
15. Give up, poke oil filter with Phillips screwdriver and twist it off.
16. Beer.
17. Mate shows up; finish case of beer with him. Finish oil change tomorrow.
18. Next day, drag pan of old oil out from underneath car.
19. Throw sawdust on oil spilled during step 18.
20. Beer? No drank it all yesterday.
21. Walk to off-licence; buy beer (£10)
22. Install new oil filter making sure to apply thin coat of clean oil to gasket first.
23. Pour first 2 litres of new oil into engine.
24. Remember drain plug from step 11.
25. Hurry to find drain plug in pan.
26. Hurry to replace drain plug before the whole 2 litres of fresh oil drains onto ground.
27. Slip with wrench and bang knuckles on chassis frame.
28. Bang head on sump in reaction
29. Begin cursing fit.
30. Throw wrench.
31. Curse for additional 10 minutes because wrench hit and broke bottle of '92 Claret you've been saving in the wine rack.
32. Clean up; apply plaster to knuckle.
33. Beer.
34. Beer.
35. Pour in rest of oil.
36. Beer.
37. Lower car from jack stands.
38. Accidentally crush one of the jack stands.
39. Move car back to apply more sawdust to fresh oil spilled during step 23.
40. Fall asleep on sofa for rest of day. (Too much beer)

Chris Robertshaw

Insurance quotes

After a collision with a cow the insurers sent a questionnaire:-

Q "What warning was given by you?"

A "Horn"

Q "What warning was given by the other party?"

A "Moo"

Q “Could either party have done anything to avoid the accident?”

A “Travelled by bus?”

Q “Do you engage in motorcycling hunting or any other pastimes of a hazardous nature?”

A “I watch the lottery show and listen to Terry Wogan”

Thanks again to Chris Robertshaw for those ‘gems’

Meet the Examiner

(Classroom 3 Tues 13th April)

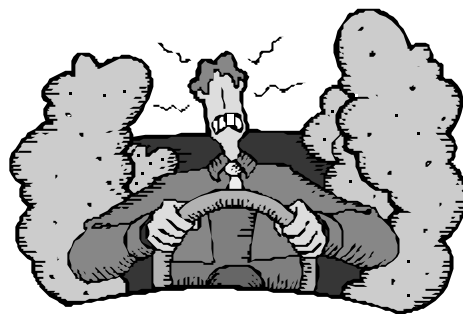
Mike Hardern is a new examiner to the group and due to a mix up over the dates turned out at short notice to talk to a number of associates about to take the test and group members/observers. Mike retired from Cheshire Police’s Traffic Unit only 2 weeks previously and those assembled had a very interesting ‘chat’ about the IAM test and driving in general. It was very interesting to note that the ‘Highways’ people don’t appear to use the expertise of the Police when planning roads, layouts or speed limits. Thanks to Mike for a very interesting evening. Mike has already ‘blooded’ himself with a couple of group associates who

were successful in passing the test and we look forward to keeping him busy with more of the same.

Recruitment

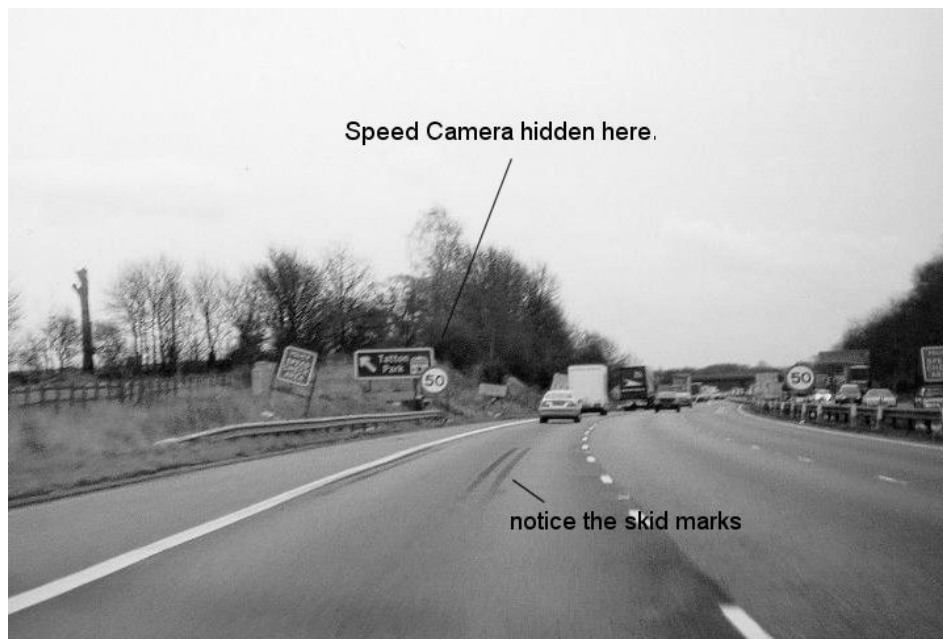
As many people may have noticed we have been a bit ‘thin on the ground’ in terms of new associates for course No. 20 and now is the time to get recruiting for the next course starting on Tuesday 31st Aug (Classroom 1). Please do ‘spread the word’ with friends, colleagues, relatives and anyone else you know who drives. It really can make a difference on the roads and in my opinion can help seriously reduce high blood pressure! Leaflets and posters are available either direct from committee members or from the MDU at a Sunday run, or you might wish to produce your own publicity material?

“Advanced drivers do it smoothly”



'Do speed cameras really save lives'

(From letters - Daily Mail 4th April 2004)



Yes

Many people seem to think that the worst consequence of speeding is to be flashed by one of those 'unfair' speed cameras, but as (many people) have found, the real cost is death and injury. As well as being a motorist, I walk a lot, and it is shocking to see how many mums on the school run brake sharply for cameras before accelerating away. I feel I am a lone voice when I support cameras, and not

No

I sympathise with (letter) whose son was killed by an out-of-control driver. But I question her claim that a speed camera would have saved her son's life - for I have seen a camera cause an accident. One driver saw it at the last second and braked, only to be hit by the car behind. The drop in casualties claimed for speed cameras is probably due to car safety features such as airbags and crumple zones.

only in places where people must be killed before one is considered. And what's wrong with hiding them? The petulant whining that it isn't fair is a voice that lawmakers should not heed.
Nick Smith, Kidlington, Oxford.

We saw a bigger drop in casualties when we had a bypass building programme. A bus crash killed my mother, but I am not campaigning to ban buses.
John A Hartley, Woking, Surrey.

Two very interesting and both valid opposing views. Any group members with views either way, please let the Editorial team know. Ed.

Eating while driving

You may have read about a driver 'handed a £30 fine' for apparently holding an apple in her left hand whilst making a turn.

(Daily Express 4th June 2004)

This may seem harsh to some, and yet it is common sense to ensure that there is minimal risk of not being in full control at all times, but how far should this be taken? Should it be an offence to smoke whilst driving? There are obvious distractions when lighting up and flicking the ash away and how often has a lit cigarette or ash fallen into the drivers lap causing panic? One thing is for sure and that is that the Police should definitely lead by example and the 2 separate instances I have seen of Police Officers drinking from a bottle of water whilst driving (through Moberley) and eating a sandwich

when pulling away from traffic lights (Stockport) will not in the future go unreported despite the high regard and respect I hold our Police Officers in. Neither of these were 'Traffic' cars I must point out, but as with Advanced driving, a good example should be shown at all times.

Jerry Stone.

Oddities (Unaccredited)

"As I was going down the stairs I met a man who wasn't there. He wasn't there again today, I wish that man would go away"

"Always wear trousers, in public houses, or you'll have nowhere to put the change"

"*****! Listen, who swears? Christopher Robin has fallen downstairs.

Helpful Parking Rules

(From Stockport Group Newsletter)

This appears to originate from the other side of the Atlantic, but anyone who has been to Handforth Dean or the Trafford Centre will probably be able to tick off most of them.

Rule 1. When waiting for a parking spot, stop in the middle of the road, don't signal, and orient your car diagonally to prevent others from passing.

Rule 2. Always park on the lines, taking up as many spots as possible. Diagonal parking is preferred.

Rule 3. As you pull into a spot, if you see that the space ahead of you is empty and you see another driver signalling to take it, pull through and take it from him.

Rule 4. Always park close enough to the adjacent car so that the other driver must grease up with vaseline to squeeze into his or her car.

Rule 5. When getting out of your car, hit the adjacent vehicle with your door really hard.

Rule 6. When driving through the parking lot, ignore the painted lanes and drive diagonally from one end to the other at a high rate of speed.

Rule 7. When stopped in front of a store and waiting for a friend or relative to make a purchase, make sure that you are stopped in the middle of the road. The same applies to picking up and discharging passengers.

Rule 8. When a vehicle from the opposite direction is signalling and waiting for a parking space, position your car so that you are in the way and let the car behind you take it.

Rule 9. If the vehicle in front of you stops to let a pedestrian cross or another vehicle turn, pull into the lane of opposite traffic and attempt to pass.

Rule 10. When exiting a shopping centre into a busy road, exit through the narrow "ENTER ONLY" driveway, stick the nose of the car into traffic and wait.

Rule 11. Always leave your shopping cart behind or tightly between parked vehicles.

Rule 12. Empty your ashtrays on the ground in shopping centre parking lots. While your at it, dump out all the garbage too, including that McDonalds' bag sitting in the back seat from breakfast

Rule 13. When another vehicle is waiting for you to pull out of a spot in a crowded parking lot, take

your time, adjust the mirrors, your seat, and the radio. Roll down the window, light a cigarette, and eat your lunch. Feel free to go through your shopping bags to look at what you've just bought.

Rule 14. When pulling into a parking spot, if there is a shopping cart in the way, lightly tap it with your bumper and send it rolling into another car. Then when you step out, if the cart is still too close, push it down the parking lot aisle and let it go.

Rule 15. When walking back to your car in a busy shopping centre, gesture to other drivers waiting for a spot to make them think that you are getting in your car and leaving. Then walk between the cars to the next aisle and do it again.

Rule 16. When walking back to your car, if you notice other shoppers walking past your car, press the buttons on your key fob remote so that your car alarm makes a sudden loud "BLOOP BLEEP" that scares the c**p out of them

Rule 17. If you don't see a speed limit sign posted in the mall's parking lot, there isn't any.

Any more we can think of???

Treasure Hunt

Apologies to David, but due to lack of publicity (my fault) there were only 4 teams at the Treasure Hunt that he arranged for 9th May.

Bill & Barbara

Alan & Shaun

Kath Starr & Chums

Team Wrangler. (guess who?)

Whilst there was some concern that one team might have got lost, all eventually were found to be safe and well and following adjudication the result was that Alan & Shaun were outright winners with the rest close behind. (Some literacy licence) There is a rumour that the prize was 'interfered' with before the result was known, but the tin of chocolates awaits collection. (or is that half a tin?)

And finally.....

Newsletter team. You may have noticed that this edition of the Newsletter is both late and slightly thinner than usual? Apologies to all, and if there are any willing capable volunteers please apply to committee. However do please feedback on what you liked and/or disliked about this edition and what sort of things you would like in future editions. E.g. Adverts?

The Institute of Advanced Motorists
Wilmslow Group
(IAM No. 5141)

Newsletter Editor

Vacancy exists - Apply to Committee

Committee

Chairman:	Jerry Stone
Vice-Chair:	Jose Cole
Secretary:	David Adderson
Treasurer:	Alan Brown
Associate Co-ordinator:	Ivy Qualter
Social Secretary:	Helen Craven
Asst. Treasurer / Membership Secretary:	Barbara Helm
Chief Observer:	Gavin Hutton
Committee members:	
Bill Barlow	Cyril Caulkin
Chris Munro	Tony Parkinson

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor and not necessarily those of the Committee or the Institute of Advanced Motorists