

## Autumn Newsletter 2018

### Up<sup>to</sup>Speed – Committee News



Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. It's been a very busy summer for our Group with Loren working hard to clear the backlog of Aberdeen allocated Associates and have them enrolled with an Observer. The Observers have also been busy getting their Associates to "test ready" standard.

Another intensive area was getting our member data compliant to GDPR and I'm pleased to report that we have been through all our stored information to ensure that it meets GDPR and we have all members' consent to holding their data. Information, about people who are no longer members, has been purged from our database. We have also reviewed our processes to ensure information such as run sheets meet GDPR and IAM standards with all old information now being deleted from our records.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading this Autumn newsletter.

Neil Warden

Chairman

### CommitteeMatters – Your Help

We only have 4 regular committee members at the moment and must bring in some new blood to help us in the ongoing management of our Group if we are to survive. We desperately need more help and are hoping that nominations are submitted in advance of the AGM, scheduled for 20th November. You don't need any special expertise, we just want folk with a couple of spare hours per month for a meeting, events or for generating some new ideas to help keep the Group going.

I'm sure Loren would welcome at least one other lady on the committee and a young member's ideas would be invaluable in developing initiatives to promote our Group's activities with younger Motorists and Riders.

If you think you can help us, please come to the AGM and put yourself forward for committee nomination. Posts include: Observer Liaison, Membership secretary, Young Driver Advocate, Technology & Social Media, Marketing & PR, Events Coordinator, Newsletter / Website Editor.

We are looking to keep our committee meetings very slick so that they tie in with work and family commitments – we know your time is precious BUT if you possibly can, [PLEASE HELP US](#).

### MembershipMatters – Aberdeen Group Self-Assessment



IAM Roadsmart have developed a special toolkit to help Advanced Motorist and Rider Groups across the UK assess how well they deliver IAM products and services.

This toolkit comprises 3 parts essentially:

- Part 1: Characteristics of a High Performing Group which stems from the IAM Roadsmart Group Handbook and Guideline.
- Part 2: Assessment tool describing what needs to be measured.
- Part 3: A Self-Assessment questionnaire to help local Groups gather information and understand their current situation.

As a consequence of the number of Observers being below the National Groups' average and our committee member numbers dropping, we knew we would not match the top performing groups. Nevertheless, we completed the questionnaire to confirm those aspects where we believed our performance is good and to help us identify those areas which are weak and will need to improve.

The results don't paint a great picture but we have been honest and believe that by accepting that some things will have to change and knowing IAM Head Office can provide resources to help us, we should be able to improve our performance in the future.

We are hoping that one output of the AGM will be an action plan that Aberdeen members can be happy with.

Loren Kelly

Group Secretary

### AberdeeninAction - Successes

Congratulations to Chris Noble for passing his National Observer qualification for the bike section, to Karen Kirkwood for gaining her motorist National Observer qualification and to Neil Warden for re-qualifying as a National Observer for both car and bike sections as well as requalifying as a Local Observer Assessor for Aberdeen Advanced Motorists Group.

Very well done all three.

## Up to Speed – IAM News

IAM Roadsmart's Scottish Area Service Delivery Manager, Scott Tulip, performs regular assessments of Trainee and Local Observers against the National Observer standards. He had noticed that some of the techniques used and driving styles were occasionally outdated and not in accordance with the latest IAM materials. To address these matters, he organized a special Observers' meeting for all North East Scotland Groups. Nearly 50 Observers in total from IAM Groups in Aberdeen, Banff & Buchan, Gordon, Inverness, Moray and Ross & Cromarty attended the evening presentation in Elgin in October.

It was very useful to understand that using a range of coaching styles will deliver a much more client focused learning experience for Associates. Scott's advice should help standardise Observing techniques to the benefit of all N E Scotland Associates.

## Mum & Daughter Double Act

Rachael Armstrong-Haimes passed her DVSA driving test when she was 17 and was very excited when she got a car for her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but was somewhat underwhelmed with a gift of an IAM Advanced Driving course.

Rachael takes up the story:

"My dad thought my driving was terrible and would benefit from the Advanced Driving course. The last thing I thought that I needed was more driving lessons but I decided to at least give it a go. Bob was my Observer and after a couple of Observation runs, I began to appreciate the finer points of correct driving techniques and started really looking forward to the sessions to improve my driving ability. I guess my enthusiasm rubbed off on my mum, because she also bought an Advanced Driving course and coincidentally, also ended up as an Associate with Bob as her Observer."

Mum jokes that she committed to the course to shut-up her husband being critical of her driving!



Rachael is still studying at college and time for driving sessions sometimes became hard to fit in to her busy schedule so it was mum, Brenda who first managed to take the test and passed it in May. Rachael passed her

test soon after however, in August. Both now feel much more confident in their driving ability and have encouraged Rachael's older sister to also become an Advanced Driver.

"I actually enjoy driving to and from work now" says Brenda while Rachael states that her friends have complemented her on her high standard of driving.

Very well done both; we're sure dad / husband has little to be critical of now with regard to the family's female drivers.

## Wanted Riders - Alive Not Dead



It's a sobering thought that more than 6000 motorcycle users were killed or seriously injured across the UK last year, including 30 fatalities on Scottish roads. Recently, in the month of August, 4 Aberdeenshire riders lost their lives because of accidents. Motorcyclists are just 1% of all road users but account for some 12% of the casualties, according to DVLA statistics.

You are all aware that IAM Roadsmart aim to improve the standards of riding (and driving, of course) on the roads and we are looking to you as our members to spread the word of how satisfying and rewarding developing riding skills can be by taking a course in Advanced Riding and becoming a member of IAM Roadsmart.

We are particularly keen to encourage younger riders to sign up and raise their riding standard, keeping them safe and hopefully eliminating the chance of them becoming yet another terrible casualty statistic.

## Membership Matters – Diary

Please remember these 2 events:

Annual General Meeting at Curl Aberdeen, 20<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas night out at venue TBA on 18<sup>th</sup> December