

## Spring Newsletter 2019

### UptoSpeed – Committee News



The new committee of 8 met for the first time in January; we are now well into working on a range of AAM activities planned for the year as well as the usual driver and rider observation activities.

We submitted the AAM Self-assessment to IAM Headquarters and feel that we presented our group in a fair and honest way. We look forward to receiving their feedback on our input.

4 members of our Committee attended the Northern Forum's Observers workshop in Elgin along with observers from the 4 other NE Scotland IAM groups. Scott Tulip (ADSM) and Richard Gladman (Head of Driving & Riding Standards) encouraged the use of *client centred learning* techniques when coaching. Neil will incorporate this in his Observer's training manual.

In April, Gary Macalister and I will be attending the IAM Spring Forum in Stirling to share and discuss ideas with Committee members of the other Scottish IAM groups. More about that in our summer newsletter.

Joff Christie

Chairman

### Aberdeen in Action Public Events

We were invited to give a public presentation to the Westhill Men's Shed where some 30 members of the public attended a talk given by Ken, Neil and Loren. We are hoping that many of the attendees will take up the offer of a "Mature Driver's Assessment" so that they get a reliable opinion on whether they are still safe to drive.

AAM are planning to exhibit our services with our mobile display unit at 3 public events this year:

- Crathes Classic Car Show in May
- Police Rider day at Inverurie
- Thainstone *Blast from the Past* car show in July



We are hoping that we can entice members of the public to join IAM and take up the challenge to become an Advanced Driver or Rider but we do need some extra help to man the mobile display unit.

Please see page 2 of this newsletter for contact details.

### Membership Matters – Social



Our events in 2018 finished with a very enjoyable evening held at the Cosmos buffet restaurant in Union Square where 23 members and partners attended. We took the opportunity to sample a fusion of tasty dishes from Thailand, Japan, China, India and Europe.

We are now considering holding a summer social event as well as motorbike *Ride and Run* events so keep checking our website for these forthcoming attractions. It would be really wonderful to see you at one of these events as it's great to catch up with members who we've lost touch with since passing their advanced test. We're always keen to learn how our successful drivers and riders are benefitting from their Advanced Driving or Riding skills. Observers get a buzz knowing that the time spent coaching Associates has been very worthwhile.

### UptoSpeed – IAM News



IAM RoadSmart have now revised and updated all 6 versions of the Motorists and Riders Advanced course logbooks (Associates, Observers and Examiners)

New Associates should now be getting the latest versions but Associates who signed up before mid-Feb can continue to use their existing logbook.

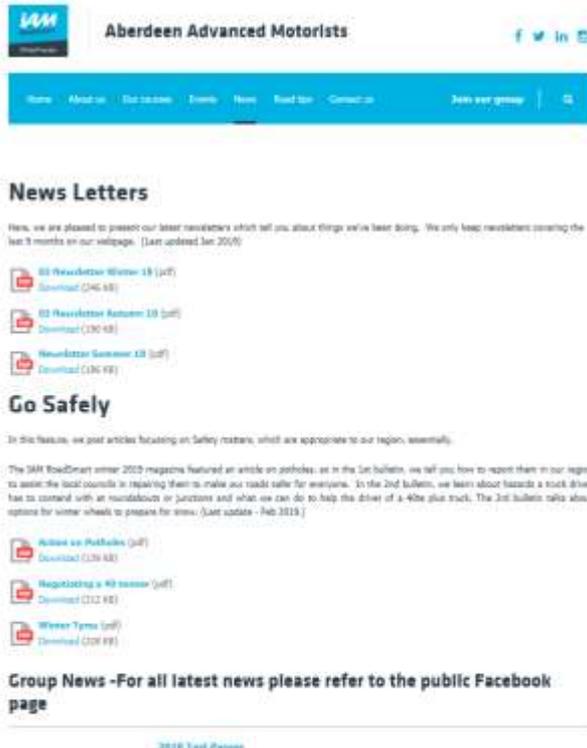
Our Observers are aware of the changes and will explain to Associates the relevant updated practices in drives or rides prior to pre-test or the Advanced Test.

Loren Kelly

Group Secretary

## AberdeeninAction – Website

We hope you are all now familiar with finding our latest *News Letters* and *Go Safely* articles on our IAM website News page. Keep checking it regularly because we are publishing new content on all our pages fairly regularly.



For example, we have added 2 new themed drives and 2 further Eye-spy sheets in our *Oot an' Aboot* section on the AAM home page since issuing the winter News Letter. We hope these sheets add to the enjoyment of your drives by presenting some interesting snippets of information concerning places you're passing or visiting. Maybe they can help your kids pass the time by having them spot the various points being highlighted on a particular route or drive.

Please try exploring the AAM site; I am continually trying to improve the content and would appreciate any feedback about the features covered or any suggestions about things that you would like included.

Feel free to contact me via my email:

[kenneth.london56@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kenneth.london56@yahoo.co.uk)

Ken London Newsletter & Website Editor

## MembershipMatters – Finance

Although our group balance remains relatively healthy, we are starting to eat into funds because expenses are now starting to exceed income. We are still chasing some late payers and if you have not already done so, please complete a gift aid form so that we can recover tax to augment our funds.

The Gift Aid form is appended to this newsletter.

Ken London Treasurer

## AberdeeninAction - Observers



Since standing down as Chairman, I've had more time to develop a project that had been on my mind for some time – namely, a training manual describing a series of learning plans for new Driver and Rider Observers. With input from a couple of our most senior and

experienced National Observers, the training manual is now complete and is already being used by one of our trainee Observers. This programme ensures that all of our Observer team deliver the IAM RoadSmart standards in a uniform way as well as helping Members who want to become Observers get started and pass their Local or National Observer assessment.

I'm aware that there may be Members who have thought about Observing but for whatever reason, have been unable to get started or simply don't know how to go about it. If you are interested in going down the Observer route, even if you're not sure what it entails, please don't hesitate to contact me by email:

[neilwarden5@gmail.com](mailto:neilwarden5@gmail.com)

We are intending holding an Observer meeting later in the spring to discuss the introduction of the training manual but would also like to welcome new recruits to the meeting to give them the opportunity to meet and chat about any aspect of observing with our team.

Neil Warden

Observer Liaison

## AberdeeninAction – Help Us!



By becoming an Advanced Driver or Rider, we are all helping IAM RoadSmart achieve its objective of making UK's roads a safer place for everyone. Regrettably, there is still much work to be done to improve the standards of the majority of Aberdeen drivers.

Towards that aspect, this year we plan to promote IAM and AAM at 3 public events by setting up our mobile display

unit (MDU) and presenting and explaining what we do to the general public. (Public events are listed on p1.) Our objective is to sign up 15 to 20 new Associates.

However, we do need help to man the MDU and chat to people about taking the Advanced course. Just telling interested folk about your own experience may allay some fears they have or help make them aware of some bad practices that have crept into their driving over time.

**Please, please** ...could you spare a couple of hours to help out at one of the events. Please contact [info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org](mailto:info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org) soonest.



# Aberdeen Advanced Motorists



**Aberdeen Advanced Motorists**  
**Group No. 6001 Registered Charity No. SCO22268**  
**Affiliated to IAM RoadSmart (Institute of Advanced Motorists)**

## GIFT AID GROUP MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Because the Group is a Registered Charity, it is able to recover any Basic Rate Income Tax paid by Members relating to subscriptions, and Associate fees paid under **Gift Aid** from HRMC Inland Revenue. The Gift Aid Scheme operates as follows:

1. The Member signs a **Gift Aid** form, certifying that he/she is a taxpayer.
2. The Member continues to pay the normal amount of the annual subscription by whichever means is most convenient (e.g. cheque; standing order, etc.).
3. The Group reclaims the repayment of tax automatically; the Member does **not** require to take any further action.

The **Gift Aid** paid by Members may be for an unlimited term and the amount may vary if the subscription rate changes. **We emphasise that the scheme does not involve the Group Member in any additional payment, either to the Group, or to the Inland Revenue.** The scheme merely enables the Group to recover some of the Income Tax that has already been paid by the Member from the Inland Revenue. This does not affect the Member's privacy because no personal information is divulged by the HMRC to the Group.

If the Member pays tax at higher rates, he or she may also reclaim the tax on a covenanted subscription amounting to the difference between the Basic Rate and the Higher Rate of tax, actually paid.

### **Details of Donor:**

Title: ..... Forenames: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

IAM Membership No: m00.....

### **Declaration:**

- I want Aberdeen Advanced Motorists to treat all donations, which I have made since 06 April 2000 and all donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.
- I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equivalent to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), which I donate to, will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.
- I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.
- I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

### **Notes:**

1. You may cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Treasurer of the Group.
2. You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount of the reclaim on your donations in the tax year.
3. If in the future, your circumstances change, and you no longer pay Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax equal to the amount of the reclaim, you must notify the Treasurer of the Group
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate, you may claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment Tax Return.