

## Summer Newsletter 2019

### UptoSpeed – Committee News



Welcome to the summer newsletter; its an action-packed year for us so far and spurred on by the Spring Forum, AAM are keen to actively contribute to IAM RoadSmart's vision for the future and raise the profile of our own local Group.

In conjunction with COTAG, we had a stand at the RNLI May Day event at the Deeside Activity Park in early May. Apart from RNLI, there were displays by the other emergency services, Mountain Rescue, Blood Bikes and even a Coastguard helicopter paid a visit. This was a good event for AAM because many COTAG drivers and Blood Bike riders started as Associates with AAM.

We also participated in the Crathes Classic Car Rally on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The weather was very unkind and only about 150 of the expected 350 classic cars and bikes attended with a big drop in the usual high number of public visitors to the show ground. Our Mobile Display Unit did however, help us entice a few people to consider taking up Advanced driving or riding.

We will be displaying at a similar event at Thainstone in July (Blast from the Past) as well as supporting the Police in raising public awareness of Advanced Motorcycle riding skills at their Rider Refinement Days.

In contrast to our positive work, we are not without our challenges. We are short of at least 2 car and bike Observers making it difficult to keep up with the backlog of new Associates. So, if there are any members who could help out as car or bike Observers, we would really like to hear from you.

Joff Christie

Chairman

### MembershipMatters – Fuel

All motorcycle observing and coaching is only carried by volunteers, who have to use their own bike and equipment and do not get any expenses for fuel or wear & tear on the bike when helping Associates on their journey to becoming Advanced Riders.



Consequently, we think that it is not unreasonable to ask for a nominal contribution for fuel – either £5 for petrol for the bike or to pay for a drink and snack as a goodwill gesture after each observing session.

Chris Noble

Associate Liaison

### MembershipMatters – Finance



I am pleased to report that the handover from Joff to myself has now been completed and I'm now fully uptoSpeed with AAM Group's finances. We still have a healthy balance with 74 current members continuing to contribute to our funds.

Can I please remind new members including Associates that IAM Membership only lasts from 1 year from the date that you are allocated to our local group and if you wish to continue as an IAM member and AAM member, you will have to renew both subscriptions. Details of renewing IAM subscriptions are on the IAM RoadSmart website.

For the AAM annual membership subscription, whether you are a Full member, Associate member or a Friend, the donation is set at £10 currently with no increase planned for the foreseeable future. To make it easier for everyone, we have provided our bank details to allow you to pay by bank transfer rather than having to post cheques. We also ask that you kindly also send in a Gift Aid declaration which allows us to recover money from HMRC, if you are a UK tax payer.

Gift Aid forms and a form for your contract with AAM, including payment details, is given on our web pages under documents in the [About us / Our Members](#) tab.

Ken London

Treasurer

### UptoSpeed – IAM Spring Forum

IAM RoadSmart held the annual Spring Forum in Stirling during April. The meeting was led by Scott Tulip, the Scottish Area Service Delivery Manager with Mike Quinton, CEO and Neil Grieg, Director of Policy & Research. The 50 attendees represented groups from across Scotland, including our 2 members from AAM.



Sessions covered a number of topics e.g.

- Strategic focus
- High risk drivers
- Market awareness
- Market strategy
- Business Targets
- Influencing

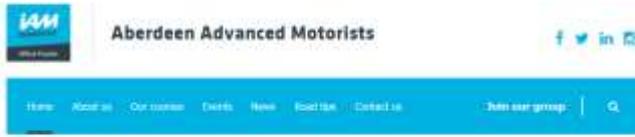
Government policy

It was a very full day which gave a good overview of how IAM RoadSmart is going forward, all of which will be explained in more detail in the quarterly magazine. But it also gave the 2 of us the chance to discuss new ideas for AAM with the members of other Scottish groups.

Gary Macalister

Committee & Observer Assessor

## AberdeeninAction - Website



Regular visitors to the website will know that the content is continually being updated. To make it easier to know what has changed, we have introduced a list of changes in the current month and previous month. This list is given under “UptoSpeed” at the foot of the LH column on the home page.

We are also looking for stories from members about how Advanced Driving or Riding has impacted on their everyday life. These will be included in the “our members” page, which we introduced in the spring.

Also, please remember to feedback comments on the content or suggestions for items that you would like to be included.

Ken London                      Newsletter & Website Editor

## UptoSpeed – MSP Meeting

Our Committee were very pleased when one of our Regional MSPs accepted an invitation to come and talk to us about Scottish Transport and Road Safety matters. Liam Kerr lives locally and is the Shadow Minister for Justice but participates in a number of transport matters in the Scottish Parliament. He also is an Advanced Motorist, which he passed when just 18 and is now looking forward to starting an Advanced Rider course; we hope with AAM.



Neil, Kenny, Ken, Gary, Chris, Liam (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Joff pose for the photo after the Committee meeting.

## MembershipMatters – Contact

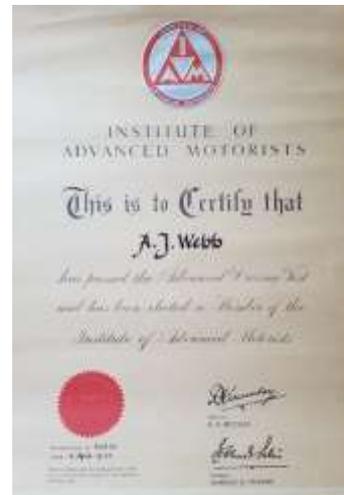
Our Group Secretary’s phone number has changed recently. Consequently you should all now use this new number if you need to phone us about any matter:

**07402656976**

## AberdeeninAction – Successes

The following Aberdeen drivers and bikers successfully graduated from Associate to Member by passing their Advanced Driver (C) or Rider (B) test in the last few months. Congratulations to John Drysdale (B), Lorn Murray (C), Philip Lamb (B - F1RST), Rebecca Armstrong -Haines (C), Thomas Amrik (C).

## HalfcenturywithIAM



Congratulations also go to our Observer, Tony Webb, who passed his Advanced Driving Test in Bristol in April 1970 and has been a full paid-up member since then.

He became a qualified Local Observer with a Southern English Group before moving to rural Aberdeenshire. We are very lucky to benefit from his 50 years of driving experience.

Read more about Tony’s “motoring journey” on “Our Members” page on our website.

## SuperRaffle

We are raffling 2 TCOM-SC Helmet Intercom Headsets. These are rider to rider intercoms made by Free Conn for motorcyclists, skiers, mountain bikers, etc. They are brand new and each set comprises 1 x transceiver, 1 x USB charging lead, 1 x tool, 1 x speaker / microphone set, 1 x headset clip, 4 x fixing pads. Communication range is upto 800m or 10m for connecting to your mobile phone by Bluetooth<sup>R</sup> for taking calls or playing music while you ride. The units normally sell for £35 each.



Raffle tickets are £1 each or a strip of 5 for £4.

Let me know how many tickets you would like to buy and pay by bank transfer to AAM account to enter.

Alternatively, you can buy tickets at the *Blast from the Past* event in July. The draw will take place at this event.

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