

Autumn Newsletter 2019

Up to Speed – Committee News



Welcome to the autumn newsletter; we have been working hard to both raise the profile of our Group and in coaching nearly 30 new biker and driver Associates who are now actively participating in their Advanced courses. Currently, we only have a few

people who are not yet enrolled and are having to wait in a queue to start their courses. We hope they won't be queuing too long because to ease pressure on the current biker observer team, we have just added 3 trainee Observers while on the car team, we added 1 further National car Observer. Also, enhancing our Groups capability, our car Local and Trainee Observers are both booked to be assessed as National Observers by IAM in October. I wish them all every success.

Nevertheless, we would still welcome offers from Full members to make the most of their membership with IAM and AAM by becoming an Observer. Please contact our Group Secretary if you would like to take up this challenge.

Regarding raising our Group's profile, the Thainstone Centre *Blast from the Past* Classic Car event, that we attended in July with our MDU went well. The weather was kinder to us than the Crathes event in June, which resulted in a bigger public attendance. We are hopeful that 9 serious enquiries translate into new members adding to our Group and with our enhanced Observer team, the time between signing up and starting a course with us, should be minimised. We have been pretty successful in reducing this time recently but cannot be complacent and continually strive to get folk matched up within a few weeks of them signing on with IAM.

We also had a decent turn out to Kenny's mystery tour and are now planning a similar ride-out to Tyndrum on September 14th – please see our website for details.

I hope you enjoy reading our news and look forward to meeting some of you at our social events, mentioned here.

Joff Christie

Chairman

Membership Matters – Contact

Please note that our elected Group Secretary, Loren Kelly, has taken a short break from the duties. Ken London, our Treasurer, website administrator and newsletter editor has stepped in during the period to cover for Loren during this temporary period. info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org remains valid for any correspondence.

Membership Matters – Finance

I have come across a few cases of lapsed membership recently and after investigation, the people concerned had simply forgotten to pay their subscriptions.

Please note that your membership of IAM RoadSmart and AAM has to be renewed on an annual basis. IAM RoadSmart send a reminder with the next years membership card. However, the card is only valid after the IAM renewal fee (currently £33) is paid. We also ask that your £10 renewal fee to Aberdeen Advanced Motorists is also paid at that time. You can find how to pay AAM on our website. Please go to *Our Members* page then look in *Membership documents* to find *Contract renewal*. It includes our bank details. The web link is

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/aberdeenam/about-us/our-members>

Otherwise just send a note to myself via the normal contact email address for AAM and I'll send you details.

Ken London

Treasurer

Aberdeen in Action - BFTP



Our attendance at the *Blast from the Past* event was very worthwhile as we were located between COTAG and Blood Bikes displays. Many of you will know and are perhaps also members of these charities, which provide 4 x 4 vehicles to emergency incidents and supply medical products to hospitals, respectively. We have taken many potential COTAG drivers and BB riders to advanced level. The car and bikes on our display, particularly the mini-moto drew in many families and resulted in 1 lady and 4 men bikers as well as 3 lady drivers and 1 man making enquiries about courses. With did a sound bite with Liam Kerr MSP, who is also planning to take up an Advanced Motorcyclist course. You may recall that we had a very constructive meeting on road safety matters with Liam previously. (See the Summer 19 newsletter)

Neil Warden

Observer Liaison Committee Member

Up to Speed – Go Safely

I hope that you are all managing to look at our web pages on a fairly regular basis. Apart from all the various *Oot an' Aboot* runs and *EYE-SPY* items on our home page, I have been trying to keep you abreast of road closure and road safety matters. Published under the *News* tab, you will find special bulletins which deal with major local current road closures; they are removed after the repair has been completed and the road re-opens. I had 2 posted concerning the B977 and A957 in July and August, for example.

Under *Go Safely*, I've been adding content regarding Government Road Safety Plans, Road developments and changes to the highway code.

 [DFT Road Safety Statement \(pdf\)](#)
Download (180 KB)

 [ASCs and Improved Driver Behaviour \(pdf\)](#)
Download (129 KB)

I would like some feedback because researching and preparing these items can be quite time consuming so I would appreciate knowing that it is worthwhile carrying on.

Ken London

Website Administrator

Aberdeen in Action – Run-outs

You may have noticed the pictures on our website or Facebook page of the run-out we organized in early July around Formantine and Buchan districts. Here is a photo of the group standing near the red phone box at Pennan made famous in Bill Forsyth's film *Local Hero*.



Our next outing is to the Green Wellie Stop at Tyndrum, a famous stopping place for many biker and car club groups on the A82 main route to Scotland's west coast.

Joff has prepared the route which incorporates great roads with stunning scenery so check our website or Facebook page for details. Note that it's not just for bikers; drivers are also very welcome. Weather permitting, it should shape up as a grand day out so put 14th Sept in your diary and come along.

Kenny Hair

Social Events Coordinator

Membership Matters – Socials

Ever thought about taking up curling - a winter sport that the Scots excel-at in the Olympics. Anyway, gold medals aside, we're planning a visit to Aberdeen Curl on the Lang Stracht and for a good price of about £25 per person we can have tuition and the opportunity to play a game consisting of about 8 to 10 ends. If you don't know the game, you slide polished granite stones across an ice rink lane towards a target called the house comprising 4 concentric circles marked on the ice at the other end. Two teams of four play against each other with each member of the team sliding 2 stones.



It's good fun and getting a stone into the house, is not as tricky as you might imagine. Knocking the opposing team's stone out of the house is even better and after a few goes, you'll soon be thinking you're as good as Eve Muirhead. Join us, you'll have great fun.

Aberdeen in Action – Helping the Wider Community

Our group has also been helping in the wider community by providing talks about Advanced Driving and Riding to



3 local Men's Shed groups – Westhill, Peterculter and Dyce.

Men's sheds have been set up all over the country as community spaces to allow men, typically older or retired people to connect, converse and create. They can pursue practical interests and practice skills with other like-minded folk.

The sheds we visited include woodworking and metal working activities as well as electronic equipment repair and model building. They are also very involved in helping community projects – an issue that reflects our own values.

Thus, we were very pleased to be invited to their meetings and provide information about Advanced Driving and Riding, which we hope will lead to some new older members taking up the challenge. If nothing else we might encourage some to try a taster session by one of our Observers or to purchase an older driver assessment, a service promoted and conducted by IAM RoadSmart themselves.

Gary Macalister Local Observer Assessor & Committee