

Summer Newsletter 2018

Up to Speed – Committee News



I would like to welcome you to the new look Newsletter, which we will send to you each quarter. As Chairman of the Aberdeen Group of Advanced Motorists, I want to maintain a strong group promoting road safety and the newsletter should keep you up-to-speed with our Group's progress.

We have a big challenge at the moment; 2 members of the committee, Alan Leonard and Ryan Nish have had to stand down. I would like to thank them both for their assistance and wish them all the best for their future.

The remaining members of the committee are now finding it difficult to keep the group operating effectively and we desperately need to add new committee members at the next AGM to ensure its sustainability.

On a positive note, however, one of our new members, Ken London, has agreed to take over the production of the newsletter and the administration of our website, a role provided by Ryan, previously.

Myself and Loren Kelly, our Group's Committee Secretary recently attended the IAM Roadsmart Scottish Forum in Bridge of Allen with other representatives of Scottish IAM groups to learn what IAM Roadsmart HQ are planning for the future in the promotion of road safety matters.

The Aberdeen Group is somewhat below the National average for number of Observers, so we are also finding it difficult currently to support Associates' observation drives and bike rides as quickly as I would wish. Fortunately, we have 4 new potential Observers under training so that within a couple of months, we should be able to reduce the backlog and meet demand within a reasonable timescale. Our passes from Associate to Advanced driver or rider is comparable to the National average, however, so I'm very proud of the quality of Observers (both National and Local Qualifications) that our group has in place.

.Neil Warden

Chairman

Membership Matters – Finance

The Aberdeen Group maintains a healthy balance in its current account to provide training materials and equipment (such as high viz jackets and radios for Rider assessments and funding young motorist initiatives).

The current Aberdeen Group subscription of £10, as agreed at the last AGM, is now due. These fees help us fund new initiatives promoting road safety. If you have not already done so, please continue to help the Aberdeen Group by maintaining your subscription by sending a cheque for £10 (made out to Aberdeen Advanced Motorists) to me, Jonathan Christie,

Group Treasurer, 43 Charleton Crescent, Aboyne, AB34 5GN.

Jonathan Christie

Group Treasurer

Aberdeen Members Needed

To ensure the Aberdeen continues to survive, the IAM constitution states that we hold monthly committee meetings and should have 6 elected office bearers at these meetings. We are no longer able to comply so its really important that we get new members willing to help us, by joining and attending committee meetings.

Meetings should take no longer than 90 minutes per month and are fairly undemanding. If you think you can help with social events, or by just giving ideas, we'd really like you to come along to the next AGM and put yourself forward.

Membership Matters – GDPR



The General Data Protection Regulation came into effect on 25th May of this year. To meet GDPR, I sent all of our members a note about the Group retaining your name, home address, gender, year of birth, post code, email address and contact phone numbers.

Retaining this date, will allow us to continue to communicate effectively with you. If you wish to withdraw your consent in future, you will allow need to advise the Group of your intention. I hope that you will remain on our files, however, as we would be sorry to lose touch with safe motorists and riders.

IAM Head Office have also been carrying out a similar exercise so it may be that they have already been in touch with you regarding your consent to hold your personal information.

Loren Kelly

Group Secretary

Aberdeen Advanced Motorists

Up to Speed – IAM News

Myself and Neil Warden attended the IAM Roadsmart Scottish Forum held in Bridge of Allen. The Scottish Area Service Delivery Manager, Scott Tulip, provided useful instruction regarding how IAM will meet the new GDP Regulation as well as giving an interesting presentation of the future initiatives planned by IAM Roadsmart HQ in the promotion of road safety matters. Along with other representatives of the Scottish IAM groups, we were able to discuss how best to work together to meet these new challenges. Members should be able to read about the new initiatives, as they are rolled out in the IAM's *Roadsmart* quarterly magazine and we will use future editions of this newsletter to report on the Aberdeen Group's progress.

There was a good turnout at the forum from all areas of Scotland so that Neil and myself were able to discuss a variety of matters with other groups with a view to standardizing best practice in techniques for observing Associates and in the training of new Observers. This latter matter is becoming very important as a much more rigid programme is being introduced for the assessment of National Observers, going forward.



Finally, I am also very pleased to report that our Chairman, Neil Warden, was given a special award as a "Star Performer" during the spring Scottish Forum.

This prestigious accolade is only given to people who have shown a very high level of commitment: Neil stepped in after key personnel departures to maintain effective Local group management and assist Regional coordination.

Loren Kelly

Group Secretary

Aberdeen in Action – Training



Funds from annual subscriptions were used to purchase 2-way helmet radios to facilitate effective communications with riders under observation. Myself, Neil and Joff Christie completed the special training necessary to use this form of communications and are utilizing them on all Associates' Observation rides.

We take a break from Observing Riders in the winter because of bad weather but are once again currently participating in Observation rides.

Typically, we see 2 new Associates per month allocated to the Aberdeen Group, usually more Riders than Motorists. In the last 12 months, our team of Observers have recommended 16 Associates as ready for the test. Furthermore, in the same period, 4 Riders and 2 Motorists achieved F1rst passes with a further 7 Associates passing their tests to achieve their Advanced accreditation. Very well done to them all.

I am also pleased to report that Karen Kirkwood has returned to augment our motoring Observer Group.

Kenny Hair

Observer & Committee Member

Double F1rst for Loren

AAM Group Secretary, Loren Kelly achieved a F1rst in her Advanced Driving Test in early 2015, having been encouraged by her dad, also an Advanced Motorist. Loren takes up the story:

"I felt the need to give something back to the Aberdeen Group after my success and so joined the committee and later put myself forward as an Observer. I started Observing in late 2016 and was pleased to get Ryan, my first Associate, thro the Advanced Driving test, thereafter.

Two female associates followed but regrettably they pulled out and did not complete the course. Then Doug started his programme in 2017 and was sufficiently enthusiastic to also tell his dad about Advanced Driving. Consequently, his dad, Ken, purchased a course from the IAM and I was also allocated as his Observer. Both drivers were keen to learn and improve; it was no surprise to me that both achieved F1rst in passing their Advanced Driving tests earlier this year.



This is the first time that I've trained 2 members of the same family and thanks to both drivers, I feel confident in going forward with gaining a National Observer accreditation".

Well done to Doug, Ken and Loren.

Young Motorist Success

Miss B, (name withheld) one of our younger members successfully passed her Advanced Motorists test at the start of the year. She is a participating member of COTAG, the Community Off-road Action Group, which provides 4 x 4 vehicle support when needed to the emergency services and local authorities. AAM were pleased to cover Miss B's IAM fee especially now that she is qualified to drive off-road vehicles in response to emergency situations.

We'd love to hear about other youngsters' successes after passing their Advanced Motorist or Rider test.