

Summer Newsletter 2021

GetSet – Chairman’s Message



Woohooo, we’re back in business! Yes, we have to be recognisant of the additional safety precautions to minimise risk from catching the virus, BUT we are once again able to coach both rider and motorist Associates for their Advanced Riding and Driving courses.

We do have a small backlog to deal with and that is a bit of a concern because we know that new allocations will be somewhat disappointed that they can’t get started straight away. Please be patient, our teams of 12 Rider Observers and 8 Driver Observers will be working hard to quickly bring their allocated Associates up to pre-test level. National biker Observers, Nick Readman and Chris Noble have been nominated to deal with all rider pre-tests. This will minimise any delay in the final stages of the course so that Associates may make an appointment with the IMI examiner, knowing that they are test ready. The 2 nominated pre-testers for drivers will be confirmed soon.

We are asking all Associates to practice continuously, every time they go on their bikes or drive their cars and commit to executing their course in a timely manner. This will very much help in freeing up the time spent by each of our Observers so that they can move onto to the next person waiting in the queue. It is pleasing that we reduced the queue from 15 to just 7 riders waiting presently; the situation is even better for drivers with only 3 pre-enrolled Associates waiting a start date for their advanced driver courses.

On a further positive note, we introduced weekly biker runs on a Wednesday evening and hope to once again organise ride-out days similar to the 3 that we held during 2020. I would welcome suggestions for routes to try and if any one of you likes organising such events, please get in touch with me.



AAM Moonshine run to Whisky country in October 2020



You will be aware from previous Newsletters that we participated in local car shows to promote Advanced Driving and Riding. We are keen to repeat this in 2021 although I am aware that a few such events are unlikely to go ahead, unfortunately. We expect that 2 such car events will go ahead in July; one at Kincardine Castle and the other at Drum Castle. Hopefully, you will see us there with our Mobile Display Unit, which by then should be resplendent in its new livery. We’d love to catch up with all members who attend these shows. Even better, if you’d like to help out in delivering the better driving and riding message to members of the public, please get in touch via the normal email address or Facebook page.

Finally, I would like to say that everybody on the Committee and Observer teams is looking forward to getting back to pre-Covid normal life and meeting you once again for advanced courses or group social events. Keep **up to speed** with us on our website or Facebook pages or look out for notices sent out by our Group Secretary.

Joff Christie

Chairperson

OtherGroupContacts

Group Secretary	Neil Warden
Treasurer / Membership	Ken London
Bike Observer Liaison	Neil Warden
Car Observer Liaison	Gary Macalister
Associate Liaison	Nick Readman
Social Convener	Kenny Hair
Technology / media	Douglas London
Presentations:	Alan Fraser

Can you spare a couple of hours a month? Would you like to participate in Committee matters and help us? We’d love to hear from you.

ElectricCarExperience

In September 2020, you may recall that we were privileged to have Derek McMullen, who at the time was IAM RoadSmart Chairman, give us a Zoom talk about his experience with his all-electric Jaguar i-Pace.



We were very interested to learn how acceleration and braking characteristics were somewhat different for electric motive power compared with a petrol / diesel car. Also, pure electric or plug-in / self-charging hybrids have no gears to worry about.

Derek stressed the need to read the manufacturer's book carefully so that the car can be set up properly to better suit the driver's style and cope most effectively with IPSA. (No G - gear phase!)

At that time, although at least one of our Observers had been coaching an Associate using a hybrid car, none of AAM Committee or Observer team had an electric vehicle themselves. But I'm pleased to say that we now have some in-house electric car experience because Mrs Eleanor Macalister, better half of our most senior National Car Observer, Gary Macalister has recently bought a Renault Zoe.

Here Eleanor tells us about her new pride and joy.



Having been driving manual, petrol-fuelled cars for more than 46 years, where I have been in control most of the time, the jump from petrol to lithium-ion seemed to be the right thing to do. Not because this change might make life easier for myself, but because of my strong feelings towards doing one's best to being environmentally friendly. Of course, there are those who

question whether or not an electric vehicle is the right way to go, but life's too short!



After quite a bit of research, we decided that the Renault Zoe sounded like a good choice. Its range of over 200 miles on a fully charged battery was a big attraction. Unlike other small electric cars which had less range, its spec is pretty good for the price which really only becomes evident once one is up and running, so to speak.

The test drive was amazing. Foot right down on the AWPR exposed its great acceleration, smooth running and of course, very silent. The Zoe provides an extremely comfortable ride for both driver and passengers. In keeping with the environmentally friendly aspect of the vehicle, the seats are recycled plastic as is the fascia and other parts of the car.



Rear-seat passengers are impressed and love the comfort the seats provide.

The ride is higher than my previous Renault Clio but this is, of course, as a result

of the battery positioning which has elevated the seats slightly. This is another aspect of the car which is appreciated by the passengers. I personally enjoy this and it also makes getting in and out of the car very easy. The all-round visibility is good.

The Zoe has the facility of one pedal driving. This is fun! Noticeable especially when one is turning a corner or entering the driveway, the driver can actually "feel" the car braking which in turn, gives a boost of charge to the battery. So, driving the Zoe encourages a different way of driving. Another "fun" thing about the car is the pedestrian horn – a delightful noise which pedestrians hear when the car is approaching at what might be best called "pedestrian speed".

The silence has taken a bit of getting used to and it has been suggested by friends that I should purchase a bell to let people know I'm coming.

I am very impressed with my new electric car. Although it has only been driven "locally", I am looking forward to my first longer drive just to see how the battery charge goes and to enjoy the experience on a longer ride. And I especially like the fact that changing gears up and down manually is a thing of the past! But perhaps I shouldn't be mentioning this in the AAM world!

Ha ha..... Thank you very much for sharing your story with us, Eleanor.

Aberdeen in Action

As mentioned in Joff's introduction, we have started having a regular weekly ride-out on a Wednesday evening for biker members or their friends. The meeting place is at the BP Service station at Elrick in Westhill for 6pm with the group setting off no later than 6:30pm sharp. The route should be about 1 hour to the destination, which is likely to be a café or chip shop.



This means that participants can arrive straight from work if need be, knowing that they'll be able to get a tasty bite to eat during the session.

You do not need to be a member of AAM to join in; the only qualification is to be a bike enthusiast who likes social events. Keep an eye on our website for the destination each week.

Neil Warden

Group Secretary

Membership Matters

I have come across several cases recently when members have inadvertently allowed their memberships to lapse. When you join IAM RoadSmart you will pay a fee which includes 12 month's membership, your test cost and a contribution to Aberdeen Advanced Motorists to cover AAM annual membership and expenses associated with our group's administration costs. Once the initial 12 months has passed, you need to pay an annual subscription of £42 directly to IAM RoadSmart and £10 to Aberdeen Advanced Motorists to remain as a member of both charity organisations.

We ask that you renew your AAM membership subscription at the same time that you renew your IAM one. Generally, I will send out a reminder by email on the month that both become due with the details of how to make the AAM annual subscription payment.

Please note that when IAM send you the membership card, it will show your membership expires 1 year in advance. However, this membership expiry date is **ONLY** valid when you make the renewal payment. (See a typical IAM Membership renewal note RH top.)

Many members do not read the accompanying note properly and believe their membership has been automatically extended by 12 months and fail to make

the renewal payment. Regrettably, they will then be removed as members of IAM. (Reminder notes are not sent.) Here is a copy of the renewal note sent out by IAM RoadSmart:

Your IAM membership card identifies you as one of the UK's most skilled road users.

It's quick and easy to renew your membership

- 1 £38 if you pay by Direct Debit
- 2 £42 if you visit www.iamroadsmart.com/renew
- 3 £42 by online bank payment to our account
Quote your membership number in the reference field.
Sort code 40 11 50. Account number 40128753.
- 4 £42 if you call 0300 303 1134
To pay by debit or credit card.
- 5 £42 if you pay by Sterling cheque to IAM RoadSmart
1 Albany Place, Hyde Way, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3BT, United Kingdom

The red oval shows the membership validity which is printed below your new card on the renewal notice.

Ken London Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Aberdeen Low Emission Zone

On 16th June, Aberdeen City Council advised that in accordance with the Scottish Government programmes, they are looking at introducing a Low Emission Zone in central Aberdeen. Areas such as Union St, Market St, King St, Virginia St, Guild St, Wellington Rd, Anderson Drive and the Haudagan Roundabout already exceed Euro pollution limits and could be covered by our city future LEZ.



The Scottish Government plan is for LEZs to be in place in Scottish cities by May 2022. Vehicles not meeting Euro standards typically lorries older than 2014, diesel cars before 2015 and petrol cars before 2006 may be banned from the LEZ or penalised for entering.

It is expected that there is likely to be a grace period of between 1 and 4 years to allow drivers to change their routes or change their vehicle before being affected.

Maybe we should all turn to an electric vehicle like Eleanor.

OnYourMarks, GetSet

We ask all Associates to be fully prepared for restarting or starting their courses.

We appreciate that during the Covid restrictions, many folk have worked from home and have done far less car or bike travel so driving or biking practice may be somewhat rusty. Similarly, many cars or bikes may not have been regularly used for many months and could need a bit of maintenance to ensure all systems are fully operational. It's amazing how many vehicles have refused to started because the battery has been flattened by infrequent use leading to irreparable cell failure.

So, we ask that you check your car or bike thoroughly; think POWDERY on every trip you make.

Motor Bike POWDERY checks

There is a printed reminder of all the aspects to be checked in a good systematic POWDERY test for a typical modern motorbike.

4. Know your motorbike
The controls and instructions are typical for a current motorbike. The instructions are in a manual or a booklet of the type that you should use for the controls and must be read, where possible.

5. Oil - Oil
Check the right glass or dipstick that the motor has oil and that engine oiling, gearbox oil that there has no leaks or shortages.

6. Air Casset?
If you take an air cassette, check the air filter and cooler radiator vents are not clogged with debris.

8. E - Electrics
Turn on the ignition to advise all the electrical but you don't need to start the bike yet.

3. O - Hydraulic Fluids
Check the brake fluid level in the reservoir. You can also check the brake / clutch fluid level and also for leakage.

6. D - Damage
Check all round the bike for damage and loose or broken parts.

9. I - Instrument warnings
Check all the instrument warnings lights showing to show that they are working?

4. W - Water
On heavy-cooled bikes, check the radiators, fans, and associated hoses and free from damage or water leak.

7. T - Damage Chain wear
Check the chain for wear, damaged links and that it is being properly adjusted.

10. E - Indicators
Check left and right, front and rear indicators flash when selected. All lights flash together when hazard warning switch is selected.

These 2 documents may help to remind you and are on our website *News* page under the *Go Safely* section

Systematic cockpit checks and preparing to move off

There is a printed reminder of all the aspects to be checked in a good systematic cockpit test for a typical modern motorbike. Variations for an *ATV* are also highlighted.

4. Know your vehicle
The controls and instructions are typical for a current motorbike. The instructions are in a manual or a booklet of the type that you should use for the controls and must be read, where possible.

1. Parking brake on?
As you get into a motorbike, first check that the parking brake is fully on so that the car cannot move and is secure.

2. Door secure?
A few bikes have door locks, use your left hand to try to pry the door open. Don't look in yet though.

3. Wheel / seat position?
Adjust your seat/height for comfort and safety. Position it to have weight on the heel and not too steep to depress pedals. (20 used to 814)

4. Mirrors positions?
Adjust mirror height positions for maximum view. Adjust the size of the rear-view mirror to top of rear screen. (Roadcraft adjust 7 - 814)

5. Gear is neutral?
In a manual car, wiggle the gear stick liberally and roughly to ensure that it is placed in the neutral position.

6. Parking brake & park?
Check the parking brake is on, and the gear stick is set to Park. It is important to ensure the vehicle has to park to switch off the ignition.

7. Power steering action?
Before starting the car, pull down the wheel with your other hand. Add ignition **RR** or **PS**, you should feel the power steering activating.

8. Ignition & warnings
Depress the clutch to start, then all warning lights illuminated and all extinguished apart from the parking brake and seat light?

9. Ignition & warnings
Depress the clutch to start, then all warning lights lit and then extinguished apart from the parking brake & seat & warning light.

Revise all the sections in your logbook, practice all of the issues on every ride or drive you make.

Pay particular attention to the Competency sheets and make honest self-assessments of your riding or driving against each of the items. Here is one from the drivers' logbook concerning core driving skills.

Competency sheet - Core Driving Skills

This page gives an overview of the competency requirements for this section.

Information	Achieved
Demonstrates early and accurate identification and anticipation of hazards by raising and expanding vision	
Checks the appropriate mirrors before altering their position or speed	
Through observation, is aware of how other road users may affect decisions	
Uses all appropriate signals to communicate with other road users	
Position	
Holds the steering wheel in a way that allows for a full and accurate range of movement	
Demonstrates a smooth steering action which allows for easy use of the other controls	
Steers the vehicle accurately to maintain a stable, safe and appropriate course with the capacity to change direction, if required.	
Speed	
Demonstrates smooth acceleration, deceleration and accurate use of 'acceleration sense'	
Demonstrates smooth and accurate braking	
Holds the steering wheel with both hands during braking/accelerating	
Gear	
Demonstrates an ability to select the correct gear on every occasion	
Makes all gear-changes smoothly, matching engine revolutions where appropriate	
Position the steering for the required course when a gear change needs to be made whilst negotiating a hazard	
Manual vehicles - selects the correct gear straightaway	
Automatic vehicles - uses the vehicle's gear selector to best advantage	
Acceleration	
Accelerates smoothly when vision and speed limits permit	

You can then discuss areas for improvement with your Observer and how best to meet the requirement.



Do you have the current version of the *Highway code*? The Sixteen edition was 1st published in 2015 although you may have a more recent impression.

Similarly new editions of *Roadcraft* the Police drivers Handbook and the Police Riders Handbook were published in 2020.

Having a full knowledge and understanding of the contents of both documents will be very beneficial in gaining your Advanced Rider or Driver qualification.

For existing Associates, we want you to regain the level of course competence before the pandemic struck. By paying attention to all these issues and having a good mental attitude to following Advanced techniques both existing and new Associates should get to Test-Ready stage without too much trouble.

We wish you every success with your courses.