



Winter Newsletter 2021

For all our members who were not able to attend the recent Annual General Meeting held at NERVS offices, this newsletter effectively reflects what was presented and discussed.



Photo above: some of the Group's members who participated in the AGM on 24th November.

UptoSpeed – Chairman's Report



We continue to evolve as a group and as new members join, we benefit from new thoughts and ideas. We are sorry to see Ken London standing down from Treasurer and Committee, Doug London is also leaving the Committee and Chris

Noble is leaving our National Observer team.

We attended 1 public Event in 2021; the *Full Throttle* car show at Castle Fraser, where we were able to display our Mobile Display unit in its brand-new livery. Being late in the year, although we did get a few enquiries, few translated into Advance course purchases. Thanks to Nick, Ken, Doug, Alan and Tony for attending our stand.

The weekly "chip runs" held on Wednesday evenings were a great success as far as socialising and being able to reinforce riding skills although perhaps not so good for the waist line. Look out for similar events in 2022 after the winter conditions end.

In a similar vein, the Saturday or Sunday ride-outs to Tyndrum, Ullapool and Oban had more than 10 riders on each event. Some of the participants expressed an interest in making slightly longer routes with an overnight stay. Again, keep a lookout for posts on our social media accounts or website.

During the year, we held the January to September meetings virtually using *Zoom* or *Google Meet*. October was the first physical meeting in 2021 followed by this AGM. Similarly, we held 2 guest speaker presentations in the early part of the year – Richard Gladman talked

about vehicle telematics and Brian Simms talked about the commercial aspects of motorsport including F1.

We had asked the membership for suggested ideas going forward but due to lack of interest this programme, including 2 future presentations were cancelled. If this type of event is to be resurrected, we would like to get some positive feedback from members so that the new Committee have some material to work on.

We were also able to promote advanced driving to 2 national car clubs, Scottish Alfa Romeo Owners and Driving Scotland as well as to the Deeside Rotary Club - thanks to Gary Macalister and Ken London.

On the operational side, we now have 21 Observers coaching our Associate drivers and riders. 6 National and 3 Trainee Local driver Observers with 8 National, 3 Local and 1 trainee rider Observers. Considering the late start to the year, this team did very well; please see the list of successful Associates in the piece by Neil later in this newsletter.

To conclude, I would like to thank:

- 1) All of the 2021 Committee members for achieving so much despite all the challenges imposed by Covid, etc.
- 2) All of the membership for their continued participation and support. As I said we look forward to your suggestions for different events in 2022.

We want to continue at a steady pace and in a controlled manner - as I've said before, it's not a race.

Just a final point, we have lots of ideas for 2022 but need help to get them in place, so would welcome new candidates coming forward to augment the current Committee.

Thank you and my best wishes for the festive season.

Joff Christie

Chairperson

AberdeeninAction – Support?



We are planning to return to public shows to promote Advanced Driving and Riding but we need additional help. If you are passionate about improving standards

of driving and riding, could you spend a couple of hours in the morning or afternoon at the *Grampian Truck Show* or *Blast from the Past*, normally both held at Thainstone? The bonus is that your entry to the show is covered by our Group participation. If you can help, any one of the Committee would love to hear from you.

UptoSpeed – Treasurer’s Report

The Group has a healthy bank balance; our income exceeded expenditure by £792.29 for the period. The Committee are very grateful to the 60 full Members and 34 Associates for their continued financial support to our Group.

Here is an overall summary of our accounts:

Income / Receipts

40% of our income comes from IAM RoadSmart allocation / enrollment fees, which were slightly higher than 2020 and increased to £527 (mainly biker courses) Subscription fees from both Full members and Associates contributed another 52% (£690) and a HMRC Gift Aid refund of £98 made up the remainder.

Expenditure / Payments

Our largest expense during the year was for 50 pairs of IAM RoadSmart scarves, which were distributed to Observers and their current Associates for face coverings.

Next, the cost of IAM provided insurance for the year amounted to £156.

Further expenditure included 2 donations to Ythan Valley Rotary Club for the use of their Zoom package which we used for both virtual Committee meetings and guest speaker presentations in the period. The Group incurred no costs for the hire of premises, as all meetings were done using online virtual meetings.

Lastly, payments included a £36 fee for our email address domain with a service provider.

	<u>2020/2020</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>
Total receipts	£1315	£1525
Total payments	£522	£1285

These accounts have been verified by Mr. Richard Taylor and for which, the Committee are very appreciative. Sincere thanks to Richard for once again undertaking this important task. The signed off accounts have subsequently been logged with the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR).



Finally, firstly, I would like to extend my best wishes to Alan Fraser who will take up the Treasurer’s role in 2022 and secondly, to wish a Merry Christmas to all the Aberdeen Group’s Associates and Full Members.

Ken London
Treasurer & Membership Secretary for 2021
Stood down from Committee for 2022.

AberdeeninAction – Successes

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic causing a slow start to advanced driving and riding coaching, the following Aberdeen drivers and riders were successful in 2021. Congratulations to:

Kevin Milne	Advanced Rider pass
Graeme Ferguson	Advanced Rider pass
Peter Ray	Advanced Rider pass
James Saunderson	Advanced Rider pass
Dirk McBain	Advanced Rider F1RST
Angus Beacom	Advanced Rider pass
Bill Miller	Advanced Rider pass
Gavin Bell	Advanced Rider pass
George Stewart	Advanced Rider F1RST
Chris Noble	Master Rider with distinction
John Banks	Advanced Driver F1RST
Gavin Baillie	Advanced Driver pass
Martyn Jeffery	Advanced Driver pass
Neil Warden	Master Driver with distinction

UptoSpeed – Elections at AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held for the very first time at NERVS premises behind the airport at Kirkhill. The facility does not have broadband facilities and thus a virtual meet connection could not be made at this time.

2 previous members stood down and no new Members were elected but we were happy to co-opt one more to the 2022 Committee, which now comprises:



Officers:

Chairperson	Joff Christie – re-elected
Group Secretary	Neil Warden – re-elected
Treasurer	Alan Fraser – newly elected

Non-Officer Officials:

Bike Observer Liaison	Nick Readman
Car Observer Liaison	Gary Macalister
Social Convener	Kenny Hair
Co-opted:	Glen Mcalister



Finally, I would just like to add my festive greetings to all our members for Christmas and the New Year.

Neil Warden
Group General Secretary

MembershipMatters - Money

I'm very pleased to be taking on the role of Group Treasurer; I will be getting to grips with the role during December and hope to be up to speed with all the facets of this important job before our next Committee meeting in January.



You will be pleased to learn the AGM voted to keep our annual subscriptions at just £10 even if IAM are increasing their subs for 2022. (Please remember to pay your AAM subscription at the same time that IAM becomes due.)

I would also ask all members to fill in our Gift Aid declaration form. This provides us with an extra £2.50 for every £10 fee that you pay to AAM without any additional cost to you.

Alan Fraser

Group Treasurer

AGM 2022

A motion was put to the new Committee to change the date of future AGMs and bring it forward so that it could perhaps be combined with a social event such as a BBQ.

So that the financial year would not be altered, the proposal was made to hold the 2022 AGM in September rather than November.

The motion was passed unanimously.

MembershipMatters - Observers

We have currently a team of 8 driver Observers and 14 rider Observers to coach Associates who have bought Advanced Driving and Advanced Riding Courses from IAM and have been allocated to the Aberdeen Group.

Some current members of the Observer teams are trainees working towards their Local or National Observer Qualification with IMI (Institute of Motor Industries).

Our 2 Observer Liaisons determine the training and assess the progress of trainee Observers.

For 2022, Observer Liaisons are:



Gary Macalister



Nick Readman

THE COMMITTEE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN 2022.

