



Newsletter ~ February 2022

St Helens Group of Advanced Motorists
Working to make our roads safer every day...



Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to the February edition of the newsletter.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. I'm pleased to announce that we have re-started our Advanced Driver Course. The Omicron Covid variant has not been as bad as feared when I wrote to you in the December newsletter. However, we remain cautious, hoping to push to a new level of normal by the course starting in May. The Committee has also taken the decision to re-start Group events as we appreciate that an active Group is important to us. We seem to be seeing light at the end of a very long Covid tunnel!

Best wishes.

Tom Field,
Group Chairman

Advanced Driver Course re-start

On the 16th January I gave the first Course Introduction presentation at the ibis hotel, Haydock for the first time in two years. I was a little rusty in giving the presentation (I hope it didn't show too much!) but it was good to get back to a sense of 'normality'. Attendance was very good with several Associates attending and also a number of Observers.

I'm also pleased to report that some more of our Observers are returning to observing since the darkest days of the Covid pandemic seem to be behind us. In order to maintain our course delivery standards returning Observers will, initially, undergo

driving and observing refresher training. This will help them to sharpen their skills and help build confidence before taking Associates on observed runs.

We are also re-building our presence at the ibis hotel on Sunday mornings as a starting point for observed runs. Our experience tells us that this approach helps create a sense of community and teamwork among both Associates and Observers.

We are beginning to bring the Group back to something akin to normal. Any help and support from our members will be much appreciated. Please get in touch.

Mark Farnworth
Group Vice-Chairman

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More Information (click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

Sharing the roads with cyclists - IAMRS tip 3rd Feb 2022

As part of changes to The Highway Code, introduced on 29th January 2022, drivers of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision now bear the greatest responsibility. This new hierarchy of road users sees cyclists ranked second alongside horse riders. Here are my top tips on how to keep cyclists safe.

Leave plenty of room

A new rule in The Highway Code instructs all drivers and riders travelling at speeds of up to 30mph should leave at

least 1.5m, or 5ft, when overtaking cyclists, and they should leave more space at higher speeds.

Look above and beyond

If you need to overtake a cyclist, always look beyond them to develop your ability to get past. Keeping a distance of at least 1.5 metres width and two or three car lengths behind them means an overtake must be well judged.

Groups of cyclists

Drivers should be careful when overtaking groups of cyclists and ensure you can see well ahead before

attempting an overtake. If cyclists are in single file, bear in mind how long you will need to overtake them, and how far ahead the road needs to be clear, as you will not be able to filter in and out. Remember, it's important to be patient.

Being inclusive on our roads

Since the pandemic began in 2020, the Government has encouraged people to use different means of transport. This has meant more people have had a taste of the cycling life so we will ex-

perience all types of cyclists. We need to ensure we share the road and adapt our driving to keep vulnerable road users safe.

Cyclists may take centre of lane

Another new rule in The Highway Code is that cyclists should make themselves as visible as possible by riding in the centre of lanes on quiet roads, in slower-moving traffic and at the approach to junctions

Richard Gladman, Head of Driving and Riding Standards at IAM RoadSmart,



Highway Code changes – IAM RoadSmart response

To raise awareness of Government changes to The Highway Code, aimed at providing better protection for vulnerable road users, IAM RoadSmart has produced a series of graphics and documents outlining these changes.

With eight new rules being introduced, as well as 49 revisions to existing rules, these changes apply to all road users, including horse riders and cyclists, and introduce a risk-based hierarchy. The new hierarchy of road users means that those in charge of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of an incident bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger they pose to others. The full list of changes can be found [here](#).

IAM RoadSmart has been raising awareness of these changes since they were proposed in 2020 and our involvement has included responding to Government consultations, carrying out surveys amongst members, and commenting on the issue within the media. The new Code was also raised by IAM RoadSmart at the DfT Road Safety Delivery Group which led to us being invited to join a DfT

working party on promoting the changes. We have also worked with partners such as PACTS and taken part in seminars to present our views. Most recently we have contacted every current MP and member of the House of Lords to remind them of the need to scrutinise the proposals before the end of January.

IAM RoadSmart will continue to raise awareness of these changes over the coming months, and if you would like to tell us how you're experiencing the changes then you can email press.office@iam.org.uk.

The latest IAM RoadSmart Highway Code materials can be downloaded and shared on your social media channels [here](#).

Neil Greig, Director of Policy and Research at IAM RoadSmart, said: "The new changes to the Highway Code are the most important for decades and yet very few road users are aware of what is coming and how they are supposed to act. The Highway Code is now more about encouraging active travel as opposed to just being about safety on our roads. These significant new rules are being

implemented, and the main issue now is to ensure that the key messages get out to all road users to reduce conflict on the roads. IAM RoadSmart are working hard to communicate the new rules and will also support official educational sources once they are made available."

Here is a list of press releases that have been issued by IAM RoadSmart on the Highway Code changes:

[Have you heard of the Dutch Reach? The changes to The Highway Code you need to know](#)

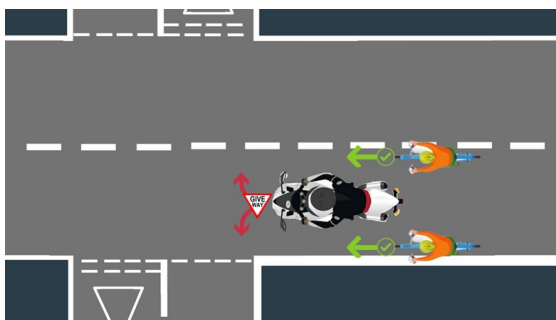
[IAM RoadSmart warns road users over confusion around Highway Code changes](#)

[UK drivers and motorcyclists unconvinced by proposed new Highway Code fearing more conflict with cyclists and pedestrians](#)

[Part One: Highway Code Confusion](#)

[Part Two: Highway Code Confusion](#)

[Code breaker...motorists in danger of breaking the new "rules of the road"](#)



Group Event

Walk around Carr Mill Reservoir

Saturday 5th March

1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meet on the car park next to Waterside Restaurant

An opportunity for members to have a socially distanced walk around Carr Mill reservoir. Family and friends are welcome.

Contact Events Organiser Kay Heppenstall if you plan to attend.

Congratulations



Recently passed Associate Peter Ritson attended the Course Introduction on Sunday 16th January and was congratulated by Group Vice-President Mark Farnworth - socially distanced and PPE protected!