



Newsletter ~ June 2021

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

Chair's Remarks

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

I trust you are all well. Due to the relaxation of Covid restrictions the Group was able to restart Associate training from Monday 17th May so we are getting back to some sort of normality.

John Matthews our Group Secretary has decided to step down from this role and so we are looking for a new Group Secretary. On behalf of the Committee I'd like to thank John for his fantastic contribution to the Group over recent years.

Please stay safe.

Tom Field,
Group Chairman

Group re-start

From the 12th April Observers were able to meet to check each others driving to re-build advanced driving and observational skills. Many of our Observers have been self-isolating or driving much less over the last 15 months. From the 12th April to the 17th May approximately half of the Observer team returned and participated in a dozen or so driving / observing sessions.

This Observer preparation enabled us to start providing Advanced Driver training for three returning Associates and two new Associates from the 17th May.

For the moment Associate training is being organised on a 1 to 1 basis between

each Associate and an allocated Observer rather than the 'normal' situation of everyone meeting at the ibis hotel, Haydock on Sunday mornings. After a few weeks the Associates and Observers will be 're-mixed' to give each Associate the benefit of two (and later three or four) Observers. Associates will be offered a 'mid-course' online classroom session after a few weeks.

This temporary way of working will continue until at least September as we monitor both the Covid situation and the return of Observers.

Best wishes and continue to stay safe.

Mark Farnworth,
Vice-Chairman and
Chief Observer



St. Helens Group website

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More Information (click links)

[Winter Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

Passing a horse safely - IAMRS Blog 6/4/21

Now that lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, the number of riders looking to take their horses out on the road is likely to increase. Horses are powerful animals and have extremely heightened senses, so passing them in a car or on a motorbike needs to be done safely to protect the horse, rider, and yourself.

If you're approaching a horse from behind:

Slow down and hold back. Make sure it's safe to approach and overtake. Stay at least three car

lengths behind and be careful to not move into this space. Be prepared to slow down further or even stop.

When passing the horse and rider make sure you give plenty of space. We recommend at least a car's width and ensure it's done slowly. Remember to always pass "wide and slow" and to stick to 15mph or under.

If you're on a country road and there's not much room to manoeuvre around the horse, the rider may decide to trot towards the

nearest lay by or grass verge. Do not speed up to match their trot.

Often when you see two riders side by side it is for safety reasons. This could be an inexperienced rider or nervous animal being coached along by a more experienced companion.

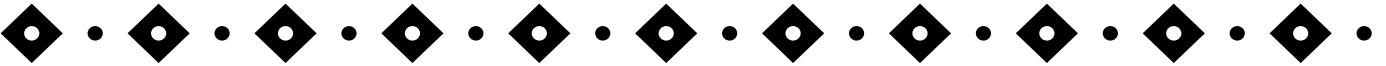
Be gentle with acceleration to pass the horse and when moving away, consider a higher gear to reduce engine noise.

If a horse is approaching on the other side of the road:

Slow down safely and consider putting on your hazard warning lights for anyone that may be behind you.

Be prepared to stop completely to allow the horse and rider to pass you safely, if it is safe to do so.

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



Group Secretary - role description

The Group would like to appoint a new Group Secretary. To register your interest and / or to discuss then please contact Tom Field (Group Chair). If you don't have Tom's email address then contact the Newsletter editor Mark Farnworth editor@shgam.org.uk who will put you in contact with Tom. The main role requirements are as follows:

- Arrange Committee meeting dates at the Millennium Centre (free) and room allocations at the Ibis hotel on Sunday mornings.
- Arrange AGM date, bookings and room pre-payment at the Ibis and issue invitations to guests. Purchase and arrange light refreshments;

- AGM. Record those attending incl. guests. Write Minutes and purchase any gifts for guests (reclaim via Group Expenses).
- Prepare and issue Committee Meeting Agenda and prepare and issue Committee Meeting Minutes to Committee Members.
- Arrange for press notices etc. including costs for Committee approval.
- Arrange for design, printing and costs from approved source for posters, leaflets and other publicity material.
- Control Petty Cash and issue monthly statements to Committee Members.

- Make applications for Grants.
- Hold copies of Roadcraft and Highway codes for sale to Associates. Re-order when necessary. Receive invoice and pass to Treasurer for payment.
- Attend Course Introduction to meet new Associates (if possible).
- Collate Committee meeting Minutes for year and Petty cash yearly summary and pass to Treasurer for Audit.
- Liase at all times with Chair.

A detailed summary is available upon request (email Editor).

Notice Board

Welcome

Welcome to Michael Hill and Paula Reid who have enrolled onto our Advanced Driver Course.

AGM / Social Meeting

10am Sunday 5th September
Ibis Hotel, Haydock

Following the current easing of Covid restrictions the Committee has decided to hold a 'face to face' AGM this year rather than an online AGM which we did last year. The event is likely to involve face coverings and social distancing.

Under our constitution we are required to hold an AGM. However, due to the Group being 'on hold' for much of the last 12 months there will be little to report so the AGM part of the meeting will be relatively short. The main purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for members to meet: to have a catch-up and have some light refreshments.

Make a note of the date and time in your diary / calendar. However, nothing can be certain about Covid so there remains the possibility that we'll have to abandon this plan and revert back to an online AGM.

Thank you

John Matthews, SHGAM Group Secretary since 2012 has decided to step down from this role. John has been our second longest serving Group Secretary. He has been instrumental in the success of the Group over this period - a notable achievement was his involvement in our successful application for funding from the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership in early 2018.



The good news is that John has decided to stay on the Committee to continue to support the Group and support the new Group Secretary.

The Chairman and Committee would like to thank John for serving the Group so diligently over the last nine years.

Neurodiversity



Are you familiar with the term 'Neurodiversity'?

Neurodiversity is the recognition of people who think differently or have a brain chemistry meaning their brains work differently. This can include conditions such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Autism & Asperger's, Tourette's, ADHD and other conditions. Click [here](#) for more information

A guide to help IAM RoadSmart volunteer observers adapt their driving and riding coaching to the different neurodiversity needs and learning styles of people who take their Advanced Driver or Rider course has been published.

IAM RoadSmart Facebook / website