



Newsletter ~ October 2024

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

Welcome

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

As I mentioned in the August newsletter we would like to increase our activity in the recruitment and marketing side of the Group. A step towards achieving this is for someone to head-up our social media team which will involve posting/monitoring of the Group social media and also any future fund applications made. If you have some spare time, have a passion to reach out to communities to raise awareness of what we do and have skills in social media and marketing then please get in touch.

The preparation to have an advanced rider element within the Group has continued at pace

over the last few months. We have one qualified Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) Rider National Observer (Alan Douglas) and now have three trainee Rider National Observers and four trainee rider Associates. Another two of our rider Associates have gone on to pass the IAM Advanced Rider test. We are on target for the official launch of our Advanced Rider Course in Spring next year. A particular thanks to Alan Douglas who is leading the various aspects of rider training.

As members/ friends of the St. Helens Group it is not too late to take up my invite in the August newsletter to either train to pass the Advanced Rider test or train to become one of our rider Observers.

If you are a IAM member, perhaps taking the advanced driving or riding test many years ago, feel you would like to get your driving / riding back to what it was then the good news is that the IAM has just launched a Member's Advanced Refresher Course, delivered by IAM Groups. SHGAM has signed up to deliver this course. (see page 2).

A reminder that our [Winter Advanced Driving Course](#) starts on the 9th January and, following a recent Committee decision, we are offering a £100 cashback only to those aged under 30 to encourage young people to become better and safer drivers and riders.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman



St. Helens Group website
www.shgam.org.uk

Contacts:

contactshgam@gmail.com
07849 674393 (after 6pm)
editorshgam@gmail.com

More Information (click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

Stay Safe on Chilly Autumn Mornings: Essential Tips to Prepare Your Car for the Cold— IAM News item

As summer fades into Autumn, the days are getting shorter so it's important to adjust driving preparation and style to match the hazards that autumn can bring.

Check your lights

It's dangerous for drivers and other road users if your lights do not work properly and with autumn meaning fewer daylight hours you need to be able to rely on correctly working and adjusted lights.

Is the battery working properly?

In the autumn, strain is

placed on the battery with lights, heated screens, seats and the air conditioner to demist and keep us warm when the temperature finally drops. If there are any signs of the battery struggling now, it's likely to let you down as it gets colder. Signs your battery is dying include difficulty starting the car and the battery warning light on your dashboard illuminating.

Don't get dazzled!

Clean your windscreen inside and out, as the sun's glare can intensify if the glass is grimy. Repair chips

or scratches and clean your windscreen wipers, as they are likely to have been used less in the summer, worn wipers can result in poor visibility if they need replacing do it now.

Antifreeze

It's important to use antifreeze year-round as it helps to protect your vehicle from corrosion and decay. If you don't know which is best for your car, check your vehicle handbook.

Be weather ready

Autumn usually brings lower temperatures and many other conditions like fog, wind, rain, and ice. It's always a good idea to check the weather forecast before setting off so you have an idea of what to expect and keep some warm and wet-weather clothing in your car.

Drivers also need to stay alert for blocked drains and localised flooding at this time of year. Your aim should always be to have a clear view of the changing seasons around you, and for other road users to be able to see you.



Younger motorists now make up more than a third of all dangerous drivers

IAM Press Release 19th Sept

- Shocking new figures show that despite making up under a tenth of all drivers, those aged 17-25 are responsible for 38% of dangerous driving endorsement
 - More than 6,300 drivers aged 17-25 have had DD40 (Dangerous Driving) endorsements added to their licence since 2021

Young drivers aged between 17-25 now make up more than a third (38%) of all new dangerous driving endorsements despite this age group accounting for just 7% of all full licence holders*, according to new figures analysed by the UK's leading road safety charity IAM RoadSmart.

Analysed data gathered through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the DVLA (GB data) reveals that in 2021, a total of 1,585 drivers aged between 17-25 inclusive were issued with DD40 (dangerous driving) endorsements on their licences, making up just over a quarter (27%) of all issued. By 2023, this had increased to 1,928 new endorsements, meaning the proportion of new DD40s for this age group had risen to 36% of all issued. Up to 1st June 2024, there were a total of 1,128 new endorsements, accounting for an astounding 38% of the total issued.

DVLA data shows that those drivers aged between 26-65 accounted for 72% of new DD40 endorsements

with 4,130 added to this age group in 2021. This dropped to 3,378 in 2023, which translated into a proportion of 63% overall. This has fallen further to 60% as of 1st June 2024. Drivers above the age of 66 represent the smallest overall proportion with just 1% of this age group picking up points for dangerous driving between 2021-24.

Research shows that young people in particular are reckless drivers, with a recent IAM RoadSmart commissioned survey of 1,000 drivers aged 18-26 revealing that more than a third admit to either filming, taking photos or doing both while driving, with almost one-in-ten (8%) admitting to racing friends on a public road.

Notice Board

Welcome

Welcome to Gary Garnzarczyk and Darren Williams who have joined us as an Advanced Rider Associates and Dorothy Sephton who has joined us as an advanced driver Associate. Also, welcome to Simon Morris who joins us as a trainee Rider Observer.

Congratulations

Congratulations to:

Tony Robinson for passing the Advanced Rider Test.

Simon Brook for passing the Advanced Driver Test and achieving a First.

Observer Ken Nevitt who has passed the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) National Observer Assessment.



Observer Ken Nevitt

Mark Farnworth
Chairman

IAM Member's Advanced Refresher Course

Each session is **60-90 minutes** long and may include a break.

Everyone's course will differ because it will be tailored to your needs, and your Observer will complete a written report (known as a run sheet) after each session which will be emailed to you. Your Observer may suggest reviewing specific sections of the Advanced Logbook between sessions to help refresh your knowledge.

Atypical Course Structure is as follows:

Session 1

Introductions.
Initial driving/riding assessment. Opportunity to identify and discuss any areas to address, improve or finesse.

Session 2 and 3

Revision of IPSGA. Skills development led by Member's needs under the guidance of an Observer.

Session 4

Observer feedback and encouragement. Optional session to recap on learnings and to finesse the drive/ride.

What happens on completion of the course?

There is no test and you cannot pass or fail. You will receive a Certificate of Completion by email after you have completed the course celebrating your efforts to upskill.

Before the course

Your Observer will be in touch with you to arrange the first session.

Before you meet for the first time, it may be useful to think about any areas of your driving/riding that you would like to focus on, for example: Roundabouts, Urban routes, Rural routes, Unfamiliar roads, Use of gears, Bends and limit points or anything else.

Refresh your knowledge

You may also want to have a look at the Advanced Driver or Rider Logbook if it has been a while since you did your Test. You may want to refresh your knowledge of IPGSA.

Cost of course: £99.

Only available to IAM Members.

Contact IAM HQ.

Call them on 0300 3031134