



Gloucestershire Advanced Motorists



Group Newsletter

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April 2025

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Chairman's Chat

Two Glos. Group members who'd chosen not to renew their £15 group subscription, but were still content to pay their IAM Roadsmart (IAMRS) membership fee (currently £38 or £42 depending on the method of payment), said they felt "driver training was the best way to improve road safety", i.e. they were happy to continue paying a subscription to IAMRS as a national organisation, but not to Glos. Group. So I thought it might be helpful to explain how advanced driver training is actually financed and provided between IAMRS and its local groups.

IAMRS provides commercial driver training to companies whose employees drive company cars & small vans. They provide 'presenters' for Speed Awareness courses for drivers who have committed driving offences; and they also lobby the government on national road safety policy. However, IAMRS does not provide advanced driver training to the public. They market and sell the Advanced Driver Course at a cost of £204 and they provide qualified examiners to conduct the tests; but IAMRS automatically refers anyone wanting to take the Advanced Driving Course to their nearest local IAM group, where they become an 'Associate member' of both IAMRS and the local group. But only 20% of the £204 that IAMRS charges actually goes to the local group.

The group trains the Associate by providing an Observer who mentors and helps them reach the standard required to pass the advanced test. Observers are required to pass an assessment with an IAMRS Area Service Manager before receiving their 'National Observer' qualification; but all expenses incurred by Observers during their duties, e.g. travel expenses and IAMRS branded clothing, are paid for by their group. And in the case of Glos IAM, we also fund quarterly "Introduction To Advanced Driving" seminars at Churchdown Community Centre. Our local IAM examiner - Mike Addis, freely gives his time to present these seminars. Glos IAM also pays for local advertising, and attends shows throughout the county, along with other promotional activities, to encourage drivers to sign up for the IAMRS Advanced Driving Course.

Many local groups, including Glos IAM, also receive sponsorship from local councils, Road Safety Partnerships, Fire Services, etc. to enable young drivers under the age of 26 to undertake the Advanced Driving Course free of charge. But the groups still only receive 20% of each £204 sponsorship, with the remainder retained by IAMRS.

So although local groups like Glos IAM are responsible for training individuals to take the advanced test; and indeed help recruit them on behalf of IAMRS, they are still self-funded through their members' yearly subscriptions.

To become a member of Glos IAM firstly requires membership of IAMRS. However, anyone who's not an IAMRS member can still support Glos IAM and participate in our activities by becoming a 'Friend' for an annual subscription of £15. The only difference between a group Member and a Friend is that a Friend cannot vote at the annual AGM.

Phil Tebble – Chairman



Welcome to our new Vice - Chairman

Those of you who attended the AGM may recall me saying that I would be standing down as group chairman at the 2026 AGM and was looking for a future replacement. A few days after the AGM James Baker, a group Observer and past member of the Cirencester group's committee, contacted me stating that he wished to put himself forward as chairman at the 2026 AGM. Following the agreement of the committee James is now the group's Vice-Chairman.

Welcome, James.

Phil Tebble

A few words from James...

I admit it. I ignored the golden rule: "Never volunteer for anything". And so here I am, introducing myself as your new Vice Chairman...

I originally started out as a member of Cirencester Group (CADAM) before also joining Glos. Group. Back when CADAM was still deciding its fate, I was offered the Chairmanship there, and I felt rather guilty at declining. But I also felt very strongly that a re-unification of Cirencester and Glos. Groups was by far the better way forward. However, "no good deed ever goes unpunished", and so look where it's got me now..!

In truth I'd never imagined myself getting involved with advanced driving. I'm certainly not a 'petrol head'. Instead I've spent my entire working life in the funeral profession and now run my own business in Nailsworth, near Stroud. Naturally a career in funeral directing constantly requires driving large vehicles - hearses, limousines, etc. - and more particularly, manoeuvring them around the steep and narrow lanes of the Stroud district! But my journey into advanced driving didn't begin until 2018. I was fed-up and disillusioned with driving at the time, and I sought help from Chris Ellis, one of my part-time driver/bearers, who happened to be a former driving instructor with Gloucestershire Police and a RoSPA / IAM examiner in the county.

After 3 months of observed drives with Chris, I took the RoSPA test in May 2018, gaining a Gold, which I've thankfully gone on to retain. But I was well and truly bitten by the advanced driving bug after that, and so I took the IAM test in 2019, gaining a FIRST. And in November that year I did Masters, gaining a Distinction. Keen to continue stretching myself, I then became an Observer, qualifying as a National Observer in 2023. And even that led me off down a parallel and very unexpected path; but that's a story for another time.

When I attended the Glos. Group AGM in March, I knew the call would be issued for someone to take up the vacant role of Vice Chair and I could no longer ignore the feeling that destiny was tugging at my sleeve. But I wanted to see what the AGM would reveal before sticking my head above the parapet. I was pleasantly surprised by how healthy the group's foundations actually are, and so I decided to stick my hand up. I've now got 12 months to reflect on the wisdom of doing that(!) as our current Chair Phil Tebble and all the committee members prepare me for taking over in April 2026.

And in the meantime I'm going to start wearing my right arm in a sling to prevent me getting myself into any more trouble!



Committee 2025

Chair

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Vice-Chair

James Baker

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Membership News



Welcome to our new members

Toby Turner
Rebekah Barton
Ian Pickup
Jaqueline Squires
Richard Bedford
Tricia Callow
Charlotte Pie
Jack Callinan
Timothy Rice

Ian Monger
Paul Noakes
Inge Blum
Ashley Tobin
Christina Horan
Luke Spademan
Amelia Nunn
Ann Timney
Mark Bower

Full Members: 204
Associates: 43
including
Observers: 24
Fellows: 5

A very warm welcome to all our new members who have recently joined the Gloucestershire branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM). We're thrilled to have you on board!

You're now part of a passionate community dedicated to improving road safety, enhancing driving skills, and enjoying the many benefits of advanced motoring. Whether you're here to sharpen your technique, meet like-minded drivers, or simply enjoy the drive, you've made a great choice.

Keep an eye on our upcoming events — there's plenty ahead!

If you have any questions or just want to say hello, don't hesitate to reach out.

We're here to support you every step of the way.

Drive well. Drive safe. Enjoy the journey.

— The IAM Gloucestershire Team

Congratulations on passing the test!



An "IAM F1RST" designation from IAM RoadSmart signifies achieving the highest level of advanced driving or riding skill recognition. It's awarded to those who pass their advanced test and score a "1" in nearly every category, demonstrating exceptional skill and safe driving habits.

Member

Josh Netherton
Earl Hawrez
Tigger Wilks
Pierre De Carteret
Joanne Harmer
Kirsty Meredith

Observer

Colin Hooker
Klim Seabright
Gary Smith
Nigel Garbutt
Gordon Burley
James Baker



An IAM 'Pass' is granted to candidates who demonstrate a solid understanding of advanced driving principles and the ability to apply them. While their observations and anticipation are generally good, they may not maintain this standard consistently throughout the test. Nonetheless, they drive in a manner that is both safe and legal, and clearly exceeds the standard required to pass the relevant DVSA driving test.

Member

Maddie McClement
Maisie Marshall
Andrew Vasey
Keyan Beard
Amelia Hayman
Sid Cooper
Adam Cleave
Toby Turner
Richard Bedford

Observer

Gordon Burley
Colin Hooker
Klim Seabright
Klim Seabright
Rachel Percival
James Baker
Gareth Zimmerman
Patrick Ward
Gareth Zimmerman

Refresher Course

Member

Paul Noakes

Observer

Klim Seabright

COMPLETE

Chief Observer's report

We currently have 24 Observers, 18 National Observers and 6 Trainee Observers.

Vince Harris has recently passed his National Observer Assessment so we don't have any Local Observers as this qualification has ceased from 1st April 2025.

We have 2 Observer Development Days coming up, Saturday 10th May and Thursday 22nd May. If you would like to come along and see how Observers continually develop their skills and might be interested in becoming an Observer then please get in touch.

If it's been a while since you passed your Advanced driving test and you would like a run out with one of our Observers we have an evening on Thursday 24th July where our Observers will be there to take members out on a drive, please come along, it will be very informal, fun and a good way to revisit your skills.

Gary Smith



Become an IAM Observer – Help others drive with confidence

Are you a skilled and passionate driver who wants to make a real difference on the roads? We are always looking for experienced drivers like you to become Observers – volunteers who mentor and guide others on their journey to becoming safer, more confident motorists.

As an Observer, you'll be part of a proud tradition of peer-to-peer learning, sharing your knowledge, enthusiasm, and support with Associates working towards their advanced driving qualification. It's a rewarding way to give back, stay sharp behind the wheel, and help create a culture of safety and respect on our roads.



Maintaining and enhancing group members driving skills



At the 2024 AGM when I became Chairman of the group, I stated that one of my aims was to encourage the members to further improve, or at least maintain, their advanced standard of driving and for them to encourage others to do the same.

To further that aim, the group is offering the following:

Check Drives

For members who do not wish to undertake further training we offer a free Check Drive with an observer where hints will be given to enable the members to maintain their driving at the level they exhibited when they passed the IAM RoadSmart Advanced Driver test.

Check Drives will be available on the evening of 24th July 2025 from 19:00 – 21:00 at Churchdown Community Centre.

Please come to the meeting room at the rear of the building with its entrance from the back of the car park.

Free Advanced Driver Course for group members' partners

The group has offered to refund the £204 cost of the IAM RoadSmart's Advanced Driver Course to any group member's partner signing up for the course. This offer is now extended until further notice. To take advantage of this offer please email Rod Harrison at asco@glosiam.org starting member's name & IAM number plus the name of the person wishing to sign up for the ADC. Rod will reply with how to proceed (also outlined in the January newsletter).

Masters qualification

For any group member who wishes to further enhance their driving standard IAM RoadSmart offer the Masters qualification. The Masters course costs £325. However, the group is now offering to refund £200 of the cost for 5 group members when the Masters test has been taken. Details of the course are on the IAM RoadSmart website at

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/masters>

An article in the January newsletter written by a group member, Charles Keys, who obtained his Masters with Distinction in November 2024, gives an insight into the Masters process:

"Top tips for success on the IAM Masters Programme". The newsletter is on the group's website.

If you may be interested in this offer please email me at chairman@glosiam.org.uk and I will arrange for a meeting for those interested to provide more information and a demonstration drive. At the meeting there will be at least one group member who has been through the process to obtain a Masters qualification and Master Mentors who assist candidates in reaching the required standard.

Phil Tebble
Chairman



Future Events

Introduction to advanced driving seminar

12th July 2025 09:00

Churchdown Community Centre

Our quarterly Introduction to Advanced Driving Seminar, covering all of the Skills contained in the Advanced Driver course.

An essential day for all Group Associates, but also free for any driver to attend.

The rear Meeting Room is the venue
Entrance on the left rear side of the building.

Members Check Drive

24th July 2025 19:00 - 21:00

Churchdown Community Centre

A chance to have a drive, in your own car, accompanied by a group observer who will assess your current standard of driving and give hints on how to raise the standard of your driving even higher



Steering young drivers

A Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service update

23rd October 2025

Outlining Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service's multifaceted approach to road safety, from delivering educational initiatives like Biker Down, Bikeability, SkillZONE and Passenger to supporting community programmes aimed at reducing road traffic collisions.

Also describing their collaborative effects with local and national organisations, the impact of their targeted campaigns, and how they utilise data-driven strategies to address key road safety challenges in the county.





When did you last read yours?

Recommended books, apps & online



E-learning - Roadcraft

If reading is challenging, like with dyslexia, or if you prefer to learn by listening, a voiceover feature is available.

Developed in collaboration with the police, the emergency services, and driving instructors, the Roadcraft e-learning course is essential learning for emergency responders preparing for the demands of operational driving and anyone looking to become a better, safer driver.

Featuring a digital version of the best-selling Roadcraft book, the course is supplemented with end-of-chapter assessments, mock tests, and exclusive video content.

<https://www.safedrivingforlife.info/shop/roadcraft-elearning>

Test your knowledge

Highway code and Roadcraft - let us know how you get on! Answers at the end of the newsletter

1. What is the safe distance to follow another vehicle on a dry day?

- a. 4 seconds
- b. 2 seconds
- c. 6 seconds

2. How many types of Hazard are there?

- a. 3
- b. 5
- c. 7

3. Which road users benefit from Toucan crossings?

- a. Pedestrians
- b. Horses
- c. Pedestrians & cyclists

4. What's the nearest you may park to a junction?

- a. 10 metres
- b. 15 metres
- c. 20 metres

5. What is the main cause of skidding?

- a. The weather
- b. The driver
- c. The road

6. How do we process information?

- a. Use, Give, Take
- b. Take, Use, Give
- c. Give, Take, Use

7. What should you do if your vehicle pulls to one side when you press the brakes?

- a. Increase the pressure on your tyres
- b. Have the brakes checked as soon as possible
- c. Use the parking brake at the same time

8. You're carrying an 11-year-old child on the front seat of your car. They're under 1.35 metres (4 feet 5 inches) tall. What seat belt security must be in place?

- a. They must use an adult seatbelt
- b. They must use a suitable child restraint
- c. They must be able to see out of the front window

9. When would you use acceleration sense?

- a. Never
- b. In some driving situations
- c. In all driving situations

10. How many colours of reflective studs are on a dual carriageway or motorway?

- a. 2
- b. 4
- c. 6



Motherhood in Motion: Grandmothers on the Go

A new IAM series exploring the unique driving experiences of mothers and grandmothers.

There's a quiet group of road warriors among us: grandmothers. Often the unsung heroes of the family support system, they're picking up from school, dropping off at clubs, helping out with hospital visits, and still somehow making time for family days out. Many are seasoned, confident drivers — but even the most experienced can face new challenges when the grandkids hop in the back seat.

In this first edition of Motherhood in Motion, we focus on mature drivers—grandmothers who've been driving for decades—and how their relationship with the road evolves when it's filled with booster seats, snack containers, and questions like, "Are we there yet?"

The Confidence of Experience

Grandmothers bring with them years of driving knowledge, calm under pressure, and a steady hand — but modern traffic conditions, increasingly complex vehicles, and the ever-present distraction of young passengers can test even the best. Many say driving today feels faster, more aggressive, and less predictable.

Common Challenges Faced:

- Distraction from children in the car – Noise, sudden questions, or sibling squabbles can interfere with concentration.
- Vision or hearing changes – Subtle age-related changes can impact how quickly one reacts or notices road signs.
- Unfamiliar car tech – Adaptive cruise control, lane assist, or even child seat fittings can become points of confusion or anxiety.
- Fatigue – A day spent caring for active little ones can affect focus behind the wheel.

Toolkit for the Journey

Resources such as:

- IAM Mature Driver Review
- Car seat safety guides
- Trusted apps for route planning or managing long car journeys

Next in the Series

The New mum



Have you thought about an IAM mature driver review?

Our Mature Driver Review is suitable for anyone who wants to continue to improve their driving skills in later life.

Whether you're a grandparent looking to ensure the safety of your passengers, or simply want to top-up your skills, our review gives you the reassurance that you and your passengers are safe on the road.

We know just how important driving is, and how it represents the freedom to go anywhere, anytime. This is why drivers choose our course, because it gives them the confidence and skills to carry on driving and maintain their independence...

Unlocking the Secret Code of the Road: The System of Car Control

The system of car control is a way of approaching and navigating hazards that is methodical, safe and leaves nothing to chance. It involves careful observations, early anticipation and planning and the systematic use of controls to maintain vehicle stability in all situations.

Beneath the surface of every smooth, confident drive lies a powerful framework—one that transforms ordinary drivers into precision road pilots. Welcome to The System of Car Control: the gold standard in advanced driving, designed to help you anticipate hazards, respond with clarity, and glide through traffic like a maestro conducts an orchestra.

This isn't just about driving—it's about mastering the art of control. Whether you're approaching a blind bend at dusk or navigating a surprise downpour on the motorway, this system gives you the edge. Developed by police drivers and perfected over decades, it's not just a technique—it's your ticket to safer, smoother, and more exhilarating journeys.

1. Information – Take, Use, Give

This is where everything begins. Constantly scan the road: what's ahead, to the side, behind? Use your mirrors. Check road signs. Spot clues others might miss—a child near a parked car, brake lights far ahead, a dog off-lead on a pavement.

Then, use that information to make smart decisions and give it back to others: with indicators, brake lights, eye contact, or even your road position.

“The best drivers don't just look—they see.”

2. Position – Place Your Car With Purpose

Once you've read the road, it's time to place your vehicle where it can be seen, where it gives you the best view, and where it keeps you safe. It might mean moving slightly to the left before a right-hand bend to increase visibility, or adjusting for cyclists and parked cars.

Position is power—it puts you in control before anything else happens.

3. Speed – Adjust Smoothly, Early

Here, you match your speed to the situation. Are you approaching a bend, a junction, or a queue? Reduce your speed in good time—smoothly, progressively. Avoid harsh braking or last-second changes. Speed control is about foresight, not firefighting.

“Control your speed and you control the moment.”

4. Gear – Choose It, Don't Chase It

Now that your speed is right, choose the gear that suits it. Not the other way around. This phase ensures your car is ready to respond, giving you engine braking if needed and full control through corners or unexpected changes.

Gone are the days of clunky gear changes. With the system, every shift is intentional.

5. Acceleration – Flow Forward

Now you're set up to drive out of the situation safely and efficiently. Apply gentle acceleration to maintain momentum and stability. It's not about flooring it—it's about committing to the exit with confidence.

And just like that—you've moved through a hazard with grace and control.

Why It Matters

The System of Car Control isn't just about driving “better.” It's about driving smarter, safer, and more smoothly, every single time. It reduces risk, increases confidence, and helps you enjoy driving in a way you may never have experienced before.

You don't just control the car—you control the drive.

With the summer holidays fast approaching...

HAVE A SAFE

T



TOP-UP

fuel, oil, screen-wash

R



REST

every 2 hours

I



INSPECT

tyres

P



PREPARE

for weather



That's all for now folks

Stay Sharp, Stay Safe

Thank you for being part of our driving community and for your ongoing commitment to road safety and excellence behind the wheel. Whether you're mentoring as an Observer, working towards your advanced test, or simply passionate about better driving – you're making a difference.

Until next time, keep the wheels turning, the standards high, and the roads safe.

Drive well,

Kirsty Meredith

IAM Gloucestershire Newsletter Editor

We're always on the lookout for new Observers and fresh stories from the road – if you'd like to get involved, email editor@glosiam.org.uk or any other committee member.

Quiz answers

- 1.b
- 2.a
- 3.c
- 4.a
- 5.b
- 6.b
- 7.b
- 8.b
- 9.c
- 10.b

