



Leicester Group Of Advanced Motorist Newsletter

Official Provider

April 2021 Edition

Editors Column

Editor: Kevin Hill

Hello and welcome to the April newsletter.

As I write this newsletter, we are just starting to come out of lockdown 3. I hope that we can carry on with the roll out of lockdown and start to get back to some sort of normality. I also hope we can start to meet properly over the next few months as it seems an age since there was any face-to-face meetings.

Remember that the group is now on Facebook. You can find us by searching “Leicester IAM” or clicking the link on the Local website.

If you wish to read previous newsletters, they can now be downloaded from our local website which can be found with this link www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/leicesteram

If anybody has anything to add to the next newsletter please email me on news.leicesteriam@gmail.com

Chairman's News

Chairman: Tony Moore

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. I was deeply saddened by the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on Friday morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty, the Royal Family, and all those who feel a sense of loss at his passing. May he rest in peace.

With the vaccination process now in full swing, and the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions seemingly on course for June 21st, the chances of us being able to get-together this year are looking rosier. That said,

the dreaded 3rd wave, lurking on the Continent (for the time being) and potential disruption of supplies, especially of the Astra-Zenica vaccine, may affect matters – let us hope any delay in minimal.

The continuing relaxations also mean that we can begin a phased restart to our operations and get back to Observing. From Monday 12th April, Observers can conduct peer review sessions, to sharpen up the skills that may have atrophied during lockdown. From Monday 17th May, observed sessions can recommence, provided both parties are in agreement and, from Monday 21st June, there should be no restrictions in place, so full operations may begin. I am sure everyone, especially the Observers, will look forward to these dates and being able to get back to what we enjoy.

On 30th March, I joined over 750 other volunteers in attending IAM RoadSmart's first webinar – the topic being Neurodiversity. Neurodiversity is the recognition of those who think, or have a brain chemistry that works, differently. It can include conditions such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Autism & Asperger's, Tourette's, ADHD and others. The talk was about how an Observer may improve getting their message across to an Associate with such a condition. Obviously, this is a complex area, but “out of little acorns ...” There is a further webinar on 27th April with the topic “Tone of Voice.”

A General Knowledge Quiz was held on Zoom on March 17th, St Patrick's Day, with an Irish flavor to some of the questions. The top scorers were Alan Griffin, Nick & Margaret Robinson and Carl Taylor-Beeby - Amazon vouchers will be winging their way to them soon. After the questions, we had a very

pleasant, relaxed chat. One advantage of Zoom is that those who wish can enjoy a libation with the meeting, without needing to consider the breathalyser!

We intend to hold another Zoom meeting on 19th May. As yet, there is no particular theme – though it is highly unlikely to be a quiz!! Given the enjoyment everyone got just talking after the last meeting, perhaps it will be just a social gathering. Hopefully, this will be one of the last virtual Group meetings and we can hold future ones face-to-face. On the subject of quizzes, I must apologize to Ian Graham who, I incorrectly said was 2nd in the Christmas Motoring-related quiz. In fact, he scored the highest, with Rachel Hooke 2nd and Khalid Gill 3rd.

I hope you will be able to join us on our normal night, 3rd Wednesday in May (19th) for the Group Night – Zoom invitations will be issued nearer the time.

Associate News

May I take this opportunity to welcome all new members that have recently joined. As I am sure you are aware, we are in unprecedented times and at present are not holding group nights at the moment. If you can, you are welcome to join the Zoom meetings that will be held. I will be in touch with the details in due course.

To all associates out there currently being assessed.

Please be aware that if you have been assessed for a year or more without taking your test, you may have to renew your National IAM membership to carry on with your assessed runs. If you have not managed to complete your course within the year, please contact myself to check if you are still valid for insurance purposes. We may be able to extend your membership if there are mitigating circumstances. I should be in contact with any associate that has expired their membership, but if you have not been contacted or think your membership has expired please get in touch.

During the lockdown and even after or during your training please consider joining our Facebook page where you will find some good discussion points and videos that

will assist you in becoming better drivers. You can find us under “Leicester IAM“ or by clicking the link on the local website.

If you are concerned that your membership will run out whilst you are either training or waiting for an Observer due to Covid, please don't worry. When your renewal comes from IAM HQ just phone them up and explain the situation and you should have your membership extended.

Richard Bishuty

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Treasurer's Update

I am sure like all of us, I am looking forward to a return to some form of normality as per the government roadmap. It hopefully means more travelling by road and therefore to put our motoring skills and interest to good use.

Thank you to those of you who have paid during 2021 already. As a reminder, in 2018 the group opted for a change of system to requiring subscription payments annually on the 1st April. If your payment to the Leicester IAM Group is after April, please can you adjust so that it arrives by April.

Any questions Please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

I am available at the email address treasurerleicsiam@gmail.com for queries on the account number for transfer, postal address for cheques, if you want to know when you last paid, etc.

Looking forwards seeing you all when we can meet - until then, stay safe.

Thanks

Best Regards

Carl Taylor-Beeby

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Observer News

Hoping everyone is keeping well and safe and possibly having the vaccination to help keep us all free from this terrible virus.

We will be able to start our peer reviews, if all parties are in agreement as from Monday 12th April and hopefully getting ourselves ready to start observing, as most will not have done much driving during these lockdown periods.

If all remains stable and the government do not issue any different instructions, observing should be able to resume from the 17th May, again where both parties are in agreement.

This will still be with face coverings and I would like to reiterate the need for keeping vehicles clean and well ventilated, this would apply to both observers and associate vehicles.

Hopefully if everything goes according to plan the restrictions should be lifted on the 21st June and face to face meetings could be introduced. Lets hope this can be the start of our driving getting back to normal again.

You can also contact me if you would like to become an observer. Any Volunteer would be much appreciated and welcomed by the group.

Malcolm Ballard

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Group Night

We have no group night this month, but we will be Planning to hold a Group Night on Wednesday 19th May via Zoom. invites to be sent out by separate email. Details and content for the meeting will be in next month's Newsletter.

If you have any ideas for a meeting please contact us and we will endeavor to put the ideas into action.

Kevin Hill

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