



Sefton Advanced Motorists

In Association with

iAM
RoadSmart



Charity number 517780

February 2025

Welcome to February 2025 edition of the SAM Newsletter.



Good morning on this lovely spring day. I was very nearly seeking your help this month for my ornithological dilemma. However I think its ok now. I was very 'busy' at the end of last year and did not keep my bird feeders stocked (ashamed face) I put them to soak and left them (another shamed face)....but as I received a garden voucher for Christmas I hot foot off to Dobbies (other garden centres are available) and purchased a new one. I set it all up and waited.....😞.....nothing except for the ubiquitous wood pigeon arrived. I was going to ask for tips on how to attract all the small birds back to my garden but magically last week they all arrived back. I've had gold finches, green finches, robins, blue and great tits, I've not seen a chaffinch yet but I feel confident they will return. Well it's that time again, kettle on, pull up a chair, let's see what our busy volunteers have been up to.



MOTORCYCLE Section



Welcome to our new associates Peter Cowley and Dave Porter



General 2 Masters mentors from the group attended webinar briefings on current issues with Masters training and tests. One member attended the meeting of the North West Regional forum meeting on 12.2.25

Our next advanced course starts on Saturday 1.3.25. There are currently 9 new associates due to attend. Also another 4 associates who attended previous courses but did not reach test standard they have been invited to join the spring course.

CPD Gold diploma One observer who is returning to us after a break recently passed this diploma course. One member has been assessed very recently and has passed with a Gold award. Well done.

NW Masters course One member is due to start this course in March.

Observers Currently there are 20 observers. 3 are due for National observer assessment before April. One observer will re-join us later in March for refresher training and 2 members will join us to be trained as observers. All Observers have recently ridden with another to conduct peer reviews.

Bikesafe The group will again support the Merseyside Police Bikesafe courses during 2025.

New developments The North West Regional forum will be discussing organising a Regional training and assessment day for observers.

Social events A breakfast ride for observers combined with peer review rides was held on 22.2.25. A series of social ride outs for all members is being arranged with recently trained lead and tail riders managing them. There will be several overnight ride outs. Destinations already planned include the Brecon Beacons and Scarborough.

CAR Section



Welcome to our new associates James Cummings



The car section currently has 5 associates on they are supporting and training . Tony, Ross and Kieran are each currently training 1 associate. If you could support this team with some of your time and skills please contact Tony on> tony.hey@outlook.com



NEWS & VIEWS (Mumbles & Grumbles)

Last month Mebs told us all about his childhood in rural Pakistan and moving to England. He told us about his school days, his first job and an arranged marriage. This month he will tell us about meeting someone who helped him change his life. Eventually he joined Lancashire Constabulary, not necessarily an easy choice for an Asian man. He became a community officer and then a minority ethnic communities liaison officer. He learnt about discrimination, both in the police and the community. His strength was how he addressed the issues in a non-confrontational way and managed to get people on his side. Most senior colleagues were very supportive, and he learnt how to support others. He liaised with other forces and engaged in training and development. Mebs later became Chair of the Lancashire Black Police Association, a role which took up 50% of his working time. After leaving the police he became a diversity and unconscious bias trainer, author and speaker.



At the last committee meeting our secretary brought to our attention a piece of information written on the IAM "Headlight" email advising about the IAM going paperless in order to keep cost down. There were suggestions of the booklet being downloaded and not actually having a printed copy. This could be difficult and possibly 'ageist' for some people who do not have access to a tablet or computer or are not familiar with this method of giving information. Also if you are out and about on a ride or drive and want to look at a particular piece of information with your observer how is this possible if you have no signal on your phone?? I realise to the many who are fully conversant with modern technology I am evidencing my lack of knowledge on this subject but would love to hear from you. And if they think I am hanging a copy of a screenshot of my pass certificate on my wall they can think again ???



You may have already read this piece and have some comments to make. I will add more information about how this might happen when we know.

Please email alisonfilson@btinternet.com

CHAIR

Dear members,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the death of Dave Miller while he was in Spain; until late last year a longstanding member of the group and IAM. Dave was a pivotal member of our bike section, having served as Chief Observer from 2011-17 and on the general committee. He was a Masters Mentor, National Observer Assessor and a brilliant rider and trainer who helped countless riders through their IAM training and beyond. He set up the Regional Masters training scheme along with organising the Sefton led regional training events.

Dave was a devoted family man who will be missed deeply by them and his many friends.

At our last committee meeting I informed the meeting that following the last Christmas get together, a decision had been made to re-introduce the SAM 'Piston Broke Award' This was introduced a number of years ago when Andy Spencer, a police motorcyclist and observer broke down when his bike suffered a broken piston. The award is presented for outstanding cock-ups in the year, where there had been no injuries. Brian has secured an award trophy (a broken piston) and future winners will be chosen in private. The car section is included, don't think you will be exempt from some mickey taking too!

(My late husband who was a recipient of this award (on more than one occasion) enjoyed the 'much mirth' that went with the presentation of this award so I'm looking forward to some good photos and stories) Alison



For any comments please email
chair@samadadvanced.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP 143

Hi members, it's amazing how quickly this seems to materialise, but yet again , membership fees are now due for the coming year.



Unlike everything else , our fees are unchanged and stay at the bargain price of £12.50 for a whole year which equates to 24p per week. Not bad eh ?!!

As per usual you can either pay by bacs to
Royal Bank of Scotland
A/C number. 12148445
Sort Code. 16-20-12

With your name as reference or the old fashioned way of cheque made out to Sefton
Advanced Motorists and post to
Ross Maule
Membership Secretary
57 Melling Road
Southport
PR9 9DU



On completion of signing up for another year, could you possibly send a text to 07770 722779 letting me know if you are agreeable to Gift Aid at no extra cost to yourself but HMRC will give us another 25% which we can use for members benefits.

Much appreciated and happy biking/ motoring.

Ross

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook likes:	883	followers:	893
X following:	895	followers:	866

Dates for the Diary

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm S&B Trafalgar Road Birkdale. **PR8 2HF.**

The next Group meeting will take place on **Monday 17th March 2025** 7.30pm S&B Trafalgar Road Birkdale **PR8 2HF.**



For any enquires regarding the above please contact >

chair@samadvanced.co.uk

enquiries@samadvanced.co.uk

For more info visit

SAM Website www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/seftonam



Follow us on Twitter www.Twitter.com/SeftonIAM



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/SeftonAdvancedMotorists

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Did you know that identical twins don't have the same fingerprints? You can't blame your crimes on your twin, after all. This is because [environmental factors during development in the womb](#) (umbilical cord length, position in the womb, and the rate of finger growth) impact your fingerprint.

Alison Filson