



Sefton Advanced Motorists

In Association with

iAM
RoadSmart



Charity number 517780

March 2024

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of the SAM Newsletter.

Hello everyone welcome to the March (Spring) Newsletter! Did someone say spring .tell my central heating boiler that its pleading for a rest and the painting carries on. 😞

Well, weren't we ahead of the curve with our last speaker David Craik, on Monday 18th March. David gave us great insight into **(MAG) Motorcycle Action Group** and the challenges they take on, on our behalf to make driving and riding a safer activity. One of their main focus is now the potholes and the state of the roads, uncomfortable and dangerous for cars but even more so on two wheels. 😡

Everything he said about why the potholes happen, due to the deterioration of the road, which cannot be repaired by patching them up, was reiterated the next day on the news TV and Radio. Well done David. 🙌

Car Section

First I would like to say a big, 'get well soon' to Tony, on behalf of all the members, as he has been seeing a lot NHS personnel recently and is now home recuperating. Nothing seemed to have 'fractured' his wit and repartee which he uses to great aplomb in meetings and judging by the messages on our WhatsApp group his sense of humour is still 'intact' too. 🏠 🩺 💊

Now something new and exciting for the car sectionread on 📖

SAM Driving Day

Following a model used successfully elsewhere, SAM is planning to host the first Driving Day for Associate, Full, and Observer members. There is one thing we all have in common: we have an above-average interest in driving. For many drivers, after passing their advanced test, the journey ends, even though there is always more to learn and more fun to be had behind the wheel.

The format is simple: on Saturday 18th May, those who have signed-up will meet (location TBC depending on numbers, but will be somewhere central in our patch) and be paired-up with another member for the morning. Suggested routes will be available, each lasting 40-60 minutes (but feel free to go off-piste), on which a member will drive while the other navigates and takes an active interest in what is going on. After completing a route, grab a coffee, have a chat (about the drive and/or anything else), and then swap roles: the other person driving their car on the same or a different route. We all meet back for lunch, which may either be bought from the café

or you can bring your own (beyond one's own fuel, a Driving Day has no mandatory costs), after which you will be paired with a different member to go out and do another couple of drives.

This is not a race, nor a rally, nor a treasure hunt. The point of this exercise is primarily to have some fun driving, but there are many secondary benefits. Getting to know other members (often an Associate will only ever get to meet their own Observer) should be quite interesting in itself, as should watching how other drivers approach different situations. These are not 'observed drives', but whether you're driving with someone who has just passed their L-Test, or the Chief Examiner, there *will* be things they do differently, and *may* be things which you would like to incorporate into your own driving. Talk about such things!

Four 40-60 minute drives in a day is designed to allow for a very relaxed pace to proceedings. No one should feel pressured to make any more progress on the road than they are comfortable with, and the chats over brews and lunch are there to be enjoyed for as long as they take.

As this is the first time SAM has organised such a thing, we *really* need your participation to prove the concept. To that end, here are a few popular excuses and reasons they don't apply:

- "I thought only the bikers were social?" - We can't let them have all the fun, can we? ...And, if you're a bike *and* car driver, why not come and try being sociable on four wheels?
- "I don't fancy anyone else observing me" - These are not observed drives. Ask for feedback, if you want it, but none should be given unless sought.
- "I don't fancy observing anyone else" - See above 😊
- "What about insurance?" - You're only driving your own car.
- "I don't have a suitable car" - Congratulations on your purchase of a BAC Mono! For everyone else with at least one passenger seat, as long as it has tax, insurance, and MoT (if applicable), and it works, you *do* have an appropriate car.
- "Can I come as a passenger only?" - Yes!! Even if you can't drive this time, you can still participate in the co-driving process.
- "Will I use much fuel?" - You'll be driving on mixed roads for around two hours. So, if you bring a Dodge Viper, yes, you'll use a lot of fuel. If you bring anything else, it should be little more than a single observed run during training.
- "I'm busy that day" - No you're not. It's weeks away! Move whatever else you've got in the diary. This is more fun! If it's your wedding anniversary, bring your spouse! They might enjoy it too. 😊
On a more serious note, if you *really* can't make it on this occasion, but otherwise would have liked to come, please let us know.

In summary, as the name suggests, this is a *Driving Day*. It's what we're all interested in and the point is to enjoy the drive and each other's company, rather than to go anywhere in particular.

To sign-up, please contact enquiries@samadvanced.co.uk

Motorcycle Section

Another fabulous ride out was enjoyed by 18 members of the SAM Bike group on Thursday 21st March to Llyn Brenig, near Bala North Wales. Thanks must go to Dave Mercer for organising and leading the ride. He also received a lovely email from the manager of the restaurant saying they thoroughly enjoyed us being there and would welcome us back anytime. How nice of her. Well done to the chaps for representing the group so admirably.



Now I know it says 18 but if you count all the people it only totals 17?

Where's 'Wally'? 🙄.oops sorry Brian obviously getting the teas in !

Well done all concerned



CHAIR

As you know our bike observers donate a portion of their fuel donations to the Firefighters Charity.

Here we see our two representatives, Barry Hesketh our Chair and Clive Woodham our President, who recently presented them with a cheque for £410.00

Well done everyone.



News and Views

Well my readers, you let me down this time, not one suggestion for a different guest speaker and your time is running out, if its left to me It'll be 'The Liverpool Cow Keepers'!

We are looking for someone to join us and have a vacancy for an events co-coordinator which sounds very grand but it is just simply contacting someone from a list and coordinating their availability with our group meetings on Mondays.

However I did get feedback re the thought provoking 'posers' in the newsletter and even though there is a lot to read in this one I'll include another in this months



Soooo

How do you approach a large exit roundabout like the 'Tesco' roundabout at Kew, if you want to take the second exit?

There are two vehicles in front of you in the two lane approach, the right car is indicating right. What are your thoughts as you approach the roundabout.



The work continues to prepare a treasure hunt, drive / Ride / out to celebrate our 40th year. We may be looking for help with 'Checkpoint Charlies' along the way. If you could help out please contact me at. enquiries@samadvanced.co.uk

40



Get involved!

If you would like to ask a question regarding driving riding and road safety please send all enquires to enquiries@samadvanced.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Please be advised that your SAM subscriptions are now due.

Bank Details as follows

Sefton Advanced Motorists - Royal Bank of Scotland

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook likes: 887 followers: 912

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Dates for the Diary

The next committee meeting will be held on 10th April 2024

The next Group meeting will on Monday 15th April 2024 7.30pm S&B Sports Club Trafalgar Road Birkdale

The speaker for this dates has not fully been finalised, so we will send out the information in a separate email

For more info visit

SAM Website www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/seftonam



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