



# Sefton Advanced Motorists

*In Association with*

**iam**  
**RoadSmart**

Charity number 517780



## MARCH 2025

**Welcome to March 2025 edition of the SAM Newsletter.**



Hello good evening and welcome to my March newsletter on a lovely sunny Mother's day. I do hope you all enjoyed as relaxing day as I have. A bit of a lie in, pottering in the garden, walk in the dunes and woods with my grandchildren then a very nice Sunday roast at the Mallard in Ainsdale.



Overall I think we have had a good March for weather, well that's apart from the week I went to Spain (for a tad more warmth) and met with wind, rain and cool temperatures. The first part of my holiday was in the city of Valencia.



A fascinating city to explore on foot and where I became very impressed with the Spanish method of allowing vehicles and pedestrians to share the roadways.

As you can imagine there were some quite big intersections for us to traverse and the volume of traffic was constant. However the traffic light system was very pedestrian friendly. No button to press, wonder and wait for the lights to change to allow you to cross, where there is always someone trying to get across before the 'green man' appears.

It is all timed and would seem equally for vehicles and pedestrians. On some of the larger intersection a timer would appear above the 'green man' to indicate how long you had left to cross the road. Everyone knew they would get their turn and equally the motorists knew it was their turn to wait and everything seemed very timely and orderly. Also less 'gubbins' to go wrong after being repeatedly pressed all day, what's not to like? What other system have you found in other countries that might be an improvement to the safety of our roads?

Let me know ?





## MOTORCYCLE Section

Welcome to Mark Thomas our latest new associate



This month our Chairman exercised his prerogative to select the winner of the Alan Filson award for exceptional service to the group, by announcing that he would award it to the 'whole group' of observers. The award will be shared amongst the observers through the year.

Well done



Our spring course started on 1.3.25 and is in its third week. There were nine new associates who are currently being developed. Given the low numbers last year this has been encouraging.

**CPD Gold diploma** One member has completed additional training and is due to be assessed.

**NW Masters course** One SAM member has started this course. Mentors from the group will train him and assess and if appropriate train two members of SLAM who wish to join the scheme.

**IAM Masters course** One member who was mentored by SAM is now test ready.

**Bikesafe** A programme of Bikesafe events will be supported by the section throughout the year. Tasters for advanced course We anticipate that the IAMR will reintroduce and advertise free taster courses and we will be keen to support the programme.

**Social events** This ride out was titled 'Thinking man with top hat and hands behind back.'



I think this looked like a fun ride out, as a long retired pillion I think I would have been glad to swap seats at the end of that ride ! ooooo

## CAR Section



Welcome to Kamil Nowak our newest associate recruit in the car section

The car section currently has 6 associates, 4 already in training and 2 waiting to start. Our Chairman Brian advised that Wednesday 19th March there will be a National Observer training session and the Grasshopper, Sandon Rd at 6.30pm. Brian and Paul will share with the car team about the National Observer process.



[tony.hey@outlook.com](mailto:tony.hey@outlook.com)

## NEWS & VIEWS (Mumbles & Grumbles)

This month we had the second of the talks from Mebs about his life and influences from Pakistan to England that guided and steered his personal and career development in the police force. I wasn't able to attend his first talk so his calm quiet knowledgeable manner had me absorbed by his story. He gave us examples of the struggles and prejudices he came across and how we can thoughtfully challenge them. One thing he said, that in today's mad mad world, was that he still believed that this country of ours is still one of the fairest in the wider world. Lovely thought.

April's meeting will feature Frank Stott, who will give a talk on home and vehicle security. Very much a concern today to everyone I should think. I look forward to seeing you and your friends on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

We have been asked to share the information and link to a petition regarding motorcycles using Bus Lanes. However we recognise vehicle drivers may have a view on this too. I hope the link works. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/712763>

Please email [alisonfilson@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonfilson@btinternet.com)



## CHAIR

At the last committee meeting a concern was raised about the Group's continuance of the use of X, formerly known as Twitter. This has not actually been used since 2021. There was a discussion and it was commented that supporting this social media when it hasn't been updated in this period could be counter-productive for the group. The committee supported and agreed the suggestion of closing the X account.

For any comments please email [chair@samadadvanced.co.uk](mailto:chair@samadadvanced.co.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP 147

A thank you for everyone who has paid up and made Ross happy and a reminder to those who still have this on their list of jobs to do !



**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: 892

X following: 892 followers: 862

## Dates for the Diary

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm S&B Trafalgar Road Birkdale. **PR8 2HF**.

The next Group meeting will take place on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025** 7.30pm S&B Trafalgar Road Birkdale **PR8 2HF**. This month's speaker is Frank Stott is a retired police sergeant who will be sharing his knowledge of home and vehicle security. Please come along to support the group and bring the family



### Future Speakers and Events

19 <sup>th</sup>	May	2025	AGM
16 <sup>th</sup>	June	2025	Denis Nicholson
21 <sup>st</sup>	July	2025	Visit to Lancashire Police Driving School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	August	2025	Visit to Lancashire Police Driving School
15 <sup>th</sup>	September	2025	Transport and Traffic Road Safety



For any enquires regarding the above please contact >

[chair@samadvnced.co.uk](mailto:chair@samadvnced.co.uk)

[enquiries@samadvanced.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@samadvanced.co.uk)

## For more info visit

SAM Website

[www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/seftonam](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/seftonam)



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[www.facebook.com/SeftonAdvancedMotorists](http://www.facebook.com/SeftonAdvancedMotorists)

**Group Contact:** [secretary@samadvanced.co.uk](mailto:secretary@samadvanced.co.uk)

**John Dickens – 07980684746**

Did you know that the Library in Balmoral Castle is heated by a two bar electric fire.



Alison Filson