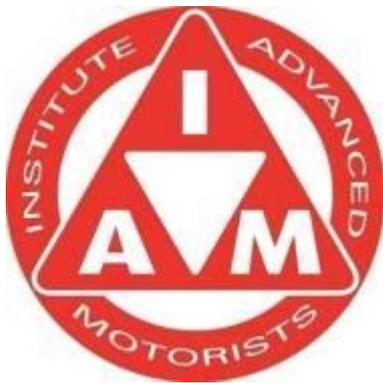
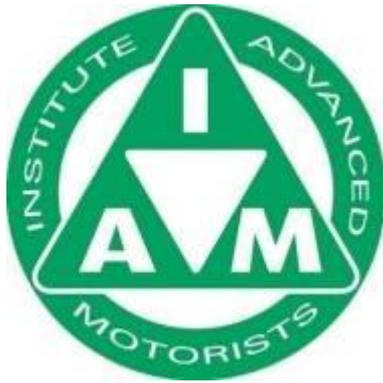


Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists



November/December 2014
Newsletter



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I'm delighted to report that we had a very good turnout at the AGM that was held on Wednesday 15th October at Grappenhall Cricket Club, and this year they even remembered to open the bar! I think we weren't far off having as many people turn up as there was for the last two years combined - so BIG THANK YOU to all who attended.



The evening went off well with all the usual reports being presented and then a chat about a possible change of venue where the car section meet on a Sunday morning, which was resoundingly rejected by the members and will have a strong influence on the committees decision when they next meet. After all the awards were distributed, Paul Griffiths provided us with an entertaining and witty account of some of his adventures whilst serving as a Police Officer.

I'd like to take the opportunity of thanking Fiona, Derek and Ron, who are all standing down from Committee this year due to work and/or family commitments. They have all worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Group and their contributions will all be missed.

I'd also like to thank Jean for stepping into Fiona's role as Group Secretary and I'm sure we all wish her well and offer her our full support moving forward.

This is also going to be the last newsletter Fiona produces for the Group and, at the moment we haven't been able to attract anyone else to fill her shoes, so possibly this could be the last newsletter letter for some time, unless someone is prepared to volunteer to become Newsletter Editor. If anyone's willing to give it a go please let me know.

Finally, here's your usual brain teaser:-

Hong Kong Elementary School First Grade Student Admissions Test Question



What is the missing number?

Keep safe,

Andrew Bloomer

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to new members: Richard Dunning, Ian Hare and Peter Sollars to the car section, and Kimberlene Bellis, Michael Critchley, Ian Frost, Thomas Quormby and Shirley Woodhouse to the motorcycle section. Good luck, and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

WELCOME

Congratulations to Yasmin Caines, Robert Perry and Alex Walker on passing the car test, and to Michael Cook and Stuart Stubbs on passing the motorcycle test.

When you pass the test and receive your membership information from IAM Chiswick, please let me know so that your membership record can be updated with your IAM membership number.

A special note for our email members: please keep your mailbox cleansed as newsletters sometimes bounce back. If you are thinking of changing your email address, please remember to let Peter Fawcett or myself know.



Best Wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Ian Bell

I am pleased to welcome Mike Critchley, Shirley Woodhouse, Gary Quormby, Ian Frost, Kim Bellis and Eleri Walker to the group. Mike rides a BMW 1150GS, Shirley rides a Yamaha XV750 Virago, Gary rides a Suzuki 1250 GSX FA, Kim rides a Kawasaki ER6 F, Ian rides a BMW 800 & 1200GS and Eleri rides a BMW F700GS.

I am pleased to announce that Mick Cook, Brad Maple, Stuart Stubbs, Robert Surrell and Will Calderbank have passed their advanced motorcycle tests. Well done to all of you!

Gordon Blackshaw

GROUP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Thank you to all who have renewed your group membership.

For those of you who haven't yet, please check the date on your newsletter label for your expiry date. The renewal form was included with the last newsletter, and more copies of the form are available from the caravan on a Sunday morning, so why not come down and say hello?

Please remember that this is the group membership, which is separate from your IAM membership, which is annual from your test date that is paid direct to IAM HQ.

FORMER PRESIDENT ALAN DOMVILLE CONTINUES HIS REMINISCENCES AS A MOTORING WRITER.....

Provincial journalists don't usually receive death threats during their career - but over the years I have had three. The first was probably not too serious but it was made all the same - at the end of a hearing at Manchester County Magistrates' Court.

A lady (?) who had been accused of theft was duly sentenced and before she left for a short holiday in Strangeways next door, she turned to the press bench, looked at me and declared she would get even as soon as she was released. "It was your story that got me here," she bawled, just before being taken down. I was pretty scared given that I was just 17 at the time and new to court reporting but an old hack sitting beside me assured me it was a regular occurrence.

Many years later, when I had become an experienced motoring correspondent, a rather more serious threat came from out of the blue. I had for some years enjoyed the privilege of parking within the precincts of the office, which was helpful. When a Maserati or a Bentley or such like was on test, it meant no-one was going to deliberately scratch it - something that had happened to cars I had borrowed several times in the past. I never found any of my office colleagues expressing any jealousy about the cars I was driving - and my managing director loved the idea because he could enjoy rides with me in all manner of automotive wonders. Quite a few car sales were made as a result of my company test drive service!



But as is the way of office politics at some point someone's face clearly fitted rather better than mine and I was told to start parking on an area of waste ground nearby. Several spaces had been roughly chalked out and then hired out by some opportunist and he was making enough money to pay attendants to sell tickets. I thought I was getting on well with them, often discussing the merits and demerits of the cars I was driving. The threat was made not directly to me but a colleague.

Apparently one of the men who took the money had become rather jealous of the flash cars that I was parking on the lot and had decided that soon I wouldn't be getting any more. My colleague was alarmed enough to report the matter. Thankfully, my company took immediate steps to find a spot for me once again within the office car park.

Unfortunately that privilege lasted for only three weeks and then I was put out to grass, so to speak, yet again. However, I was relieved to discover that the man who had made the threat had been sacked and had not been seen since. But I remained somewhat unnerved for some months afterwards in case he should turn up.

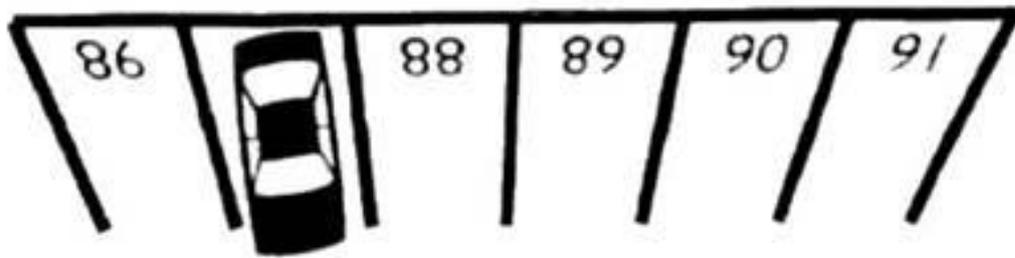
The third occasion was much more serious than these two examples - and one I shall reserve for later in this series.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW BLOOMER

Congratulations to Andrew Bloomer, who passed the new IMI National Observer Qualifications for both car and motorcycles in one week! Well done Andrew!

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: SOLUTION

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Hong Kong Elementary School First Grade Student Admissions Test Question

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Contributions to the next newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: newsletter@warram.org.uk or pass them to any committee member.



QR CODE

The group has set up a QR code - simply scan the image with a smartphone and it will take you to our website.



PUBLICATION OF TWO NEW SHARP RATINGS

SHARP has today published safety ratings for two motorcycle helmets - the X-Lite X802R and Viper RS 222. This takes the total number of helmets rated by SHARP to 335. Additional models are currently within the test programme.

GIGGLES: HOW DO COURT REPORTERS KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE?

These are from a book called *Disorder in the Courts* and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.



ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town, I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.



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For further info contact:

Gordon Blackshaw

Mobile: 07767-833106

Home: 01925-860967

E-mail: gordonblackshaw@hotmail.com

www.warram.org.uk

Registered Charity : 1048554

* Contribution of £40 is required towards the Observers fuel costs as he / she will be using their own machines for your observed rides.

TRAINING NOTE: USE OF AUTOMATIC GEARBOXES

The below information is taken from a training note provided by Chiswick, to provide clarification on a number of issues relating to advanced driving. This note is relating to using an automatic gear box, and includes comments by Andrew to help make this advice clearer.

Use of Automatic Gearboxes

- Candidates will be expected to know the manufacturer's recommendations on the use of the gearbox that's fitted to their vehicle.
- Examiners and Observers should be aware of the great steps forward in technology of such gearboxes, and that with some new and nearly new models, manual over ride may not be needed at all.
- A Candidate should not fail the test for simply not using manual over ride, unless there are other significant reasons which may have contributed towards poor assessment and planning.

Comments on the advice from Chiswick by A. Bloomer:-

1. A candidate may well be asked to quote the advice provided by the manufacturer on the use of the gear box fitted to their car. If they can't tell the examiner, it will be frowned on.
2. On most modern gearboxes, they use DSG technology and this is the gearbox they are referring to.
3. This seems straightforward but it's not! If a candidate enters a series of bends and doesn't use manual override to stabilize the car and hold on to the correct gear for the duration of the bends, and the examiner deems that the associate didn't have proper control of the car (i.e. it wallows or drifts etc.) then they will fail for not having proper control over the car for that period of the test! So I think we need to stick to the advice we currently give, in so much as when driving down country lanes, use auto mode for straight lines, but as soon as bends are encountered, then they should be encouraged to switch to manual override.

DID YOU KNOW?

Banging your head against a wall burns 150 calories an hour.

If you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground it can't hop.



FRIENDS OF THE TT RIDERS' ASSOCIATION

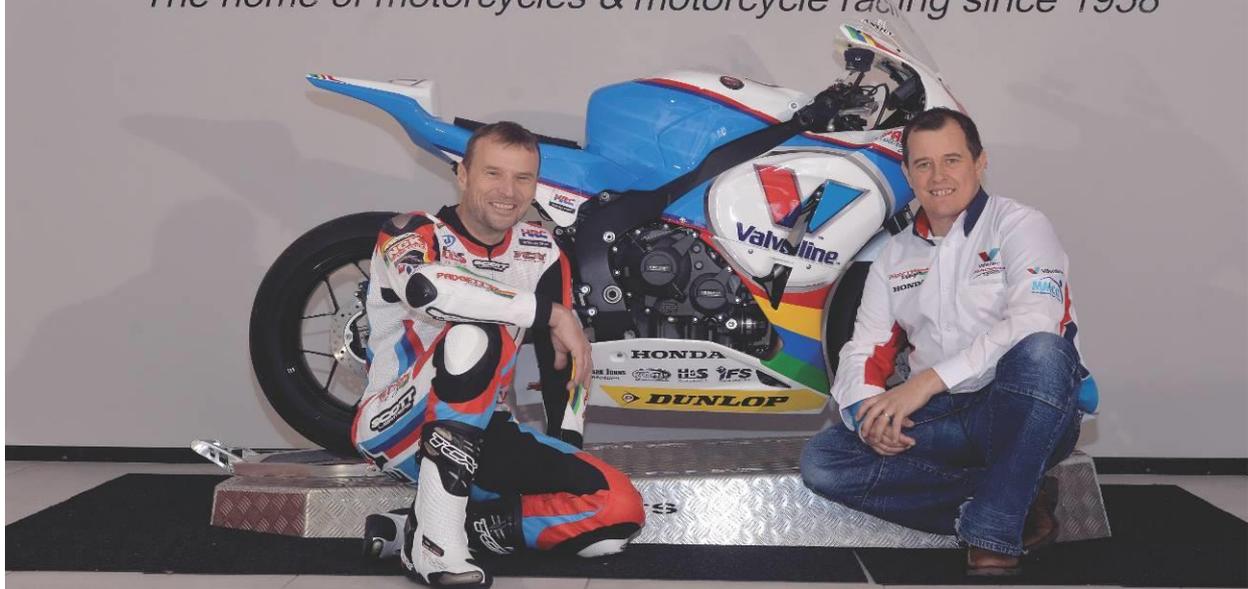


PRESENTS
AN EVENING WITH:

VALVOLINE RACING by PADGETT'S MOTORCYCLES
plus STARS OF TT RACING 'PAST AND PRESENT'

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Motorcycles

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Hosted by

Jamie Whitham

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GREEN COUNTERPART DRIVING LICENCE TO BE SCRAPPED FROM 2015

The Government has finally woken up to what we all know already - that the green paper part of your driving licence is pretty pointless and most of the information is on your photo card licence already.

Let's face it, they are mostly left in people's cupboards, and if they ever get near a motorcycle often end up getting wet and dishevelled. So, after a consultation called the Red Tape Challenge consultation on road transportation they are officially going to scrap them from 2015.

Photo card licences, like the ones many of still have will continue, but the paper part will be abolished.

Instead of the floppy piece of green paper often asked for my hire companies, and track day organisers, the paper will be replaced with an online record website. The 'View Driving Record' website will offer free access for licence holders to view personal details, endorsements and entitlements. The Police will also have access to the site.

Track day organisers and firms that need access to your driving licence record (like hire car companies) can also have access to some of that information once they are given permission by you to access it online. You can view a 'Beta test' version of the site and check your details here (<https://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence>). The full version of the site will get a launch later this year.

Paper licences issued before the photo card came into effect in 1998 will remain valid, and people with the old licence will still be able to access the online service.

The Government hasn't yet decided what to do with the paper card licences still in circulation and already issued.

Keep this safe
Counterpart Driving Licence
Important Document - The photocard and paper counterpart should be kept together. Both must be produced when required.

Driver number: [REDACTED]
Issue number: [REDACTED]

Provisional Entitlement (see booklet (NS57P for category details)				Entitlement History (see Section 3 overleaf)			
Category	From	Until	Codes	Category	From	Until	Codes
BE	04.12.07	04.12.15	BE				

Endorsements (as supplied by Convicting Court) See booklet (NS57P for offence codes)							
Convicting Court	Date of conviction	Offence code	Date of offence	Fine	Disqual. period	Other	Penalty points

MID-WEEK OBSERVED RUNS

Don't forget - mid week observed runs can be organised on request. For more information, or to organise a mid-week run, please contact Roy Nelson (contact details on the second page of this newsletter).

FACEBOOK

You can find us on Facebook - just look up Warrington Advanced Motorists. There is also a national IAM Facebook group: Institute of Advanced Motorists.



NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

To help minimise our costs, why not have the newsletter sent to you by email? It's easy to set up - just send an email to:
 peter.fawcett@warram.org.uk



Please include your name and address in the email to help with the administration side of things. No more waiting for the postman - do it today!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sundays at 10:15: 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th November 7 th , 14 th December	Observed Runs (car) Refresher Runs (car)	Near the ALDI car park, Crossfield Street, Warrington, WA1 1UP
On arrangement with your observer	Observed Runs (bikes)	On arrangement with your observer
Sunday 30 th November at 10:00 (weather permitting)	End of month run (bikes)	Poplar 2000, Lymm
Every Thursday at 19:00 (weather permitting)	Chippy Run (bikes)	Let's Eat Cafe and Tall Trees filling station layby (off A49 in Lower Whitley)
Tuesday 4 th November at 20:00	Committee Meeting	St Johns Church Hall, Stockton Heath

Further details of all of these events can be found on our website:
 www.warram.org.uk or by asking any committee member.

FINISHED READING? PASS IT ON....



Personal recommendations from members are one of the main ways we recruit new associates, so please feel free to pass on this newsletter.