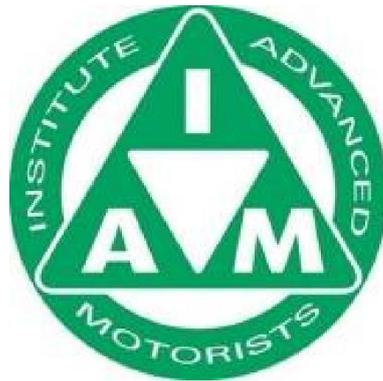


Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists



March / April 2015
Newsletter





IAM appoints Sarah Sillars to chief executive officer role

IAM Chairman Alistair Cheyne OBE announced on Monday the appointment of Sarah Sillars as the organisation's new chief executive officer. Sarah has a long and successful background in the automotive arena and has most recently overseen the commercialisation of Semta, the skills sector council for engineering and advanced manufacturing. Sarah said: "I am very proud to be appointed your CEO. I know that you, as representatives of our network of groups around the country, are our front line. You are dedicated to promoting the IAM because you are committed to what you do and have a passion for improving driver and rider skills. As I get established at the IAM I will be travelling around the UK and aim to meet as many of you as possible." To read the full press release, see the IAM website.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As you all know, we lost Roy Nelson just before Christmas and we wanted to look at ways of honouring our memories of him so at the last Committee meeting, it was unanimously decided to rename the Car Observer of the Year Award to the Roy Nelson Observer of the Year Award and this will hopefully provide a lasting legacy in Roy's name.

We don't seem to have many "active" car associates at the moment and on a Sunday it's been common for us to have far more Observers turn up than Associates! I'd like to thank the Observers for continuing to support the Group and turning up on a Sunday even though sometimes you don't end up going on a run. Hopefully with the better weather this is something that will right itself.

We still don't have a Newsletter Editor and it's only thanks to Steve Segar's efforts that you are reading this one. I know I've said it before, but unless someone volunteers for this role then we are in danger of not being able to produce a newsletter for our members. If anyone's potentially interested in finding out more about what is required in producing the newsletter, I'm sure Steve will be more than happy to run through everything with you.

Finally, here's your brain teaser - as always you will find the answer later in the Newsletter:-

You have two jars of chocolates labelled as P and Q. If you move one chocolate from P to Q, the number of chocolates in Q will become twice the number of chocolates in P. If you move one chocolate from Q to P, the number of chocolates in both the jars will become equal.



Can you find out how many chocolates are there in P and Q respectively?

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to new members Callum Buchanan to the car section and Ryan Smith to the Motorcycle section. Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

WELCOME

Congratulations to Michael Parsons on passing the car test



When you pass the Test and receive your membership information from head quarters could you please let me know so that the membership records can be updated with your IAM membership number and expiry date?

A special note for our email members please keep your mailbox cleansed as they sometimes bounce back also if you are thinking of changing your email address then please remember to let Peter or myself know.

TTFN

Ian Bell (Membership secretary)

INTERLUDE 1

BBC NORFOLK (Yes folks it really happened).

Stewart White: Who had a worldwide hit with What A Wonderful World?

Contestant: I don't know.

Stewart White: I'll give you some clues: what do you call the part between your hand and your elbow?

Contestant: Arm

Stewart White: Correct. And if you're not weak, you're...?

Contestant: Strong.

Stewart White: Correct - and what was Lord Mountbatten's first name?

Contestant: Louis

Stewart White: Well, there we are then. So who had a worldwide hit with the song What A Wonderful World?

Contestant: Frank Sinatra?

Congratulations to one of our stalwarts.



The 50th Anniversary AGM took place on the 14th January 2015 of the Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers (AIRSO) and we are happy to inform you that our own Mike Lyne was awarded a lovely glass trophy, which was inscribed 'AWARD OF APPRECIATION Presented to Michael Lyne in recognition of an Outstanding contribution to AIRSO'. The group would also like to pass on its congratulations and whole-heartedly agree with the sentiment.

Interested?

Professional photographer David Graeme-Baker is embarking on a project called Rise of the Silver Biker, documenting the increase in retired people taking up riding, or renewing their acquaintance with riding. He says he is especially interested in finding out why people decide to take up this pastime in their twilight years. He is especially looking for people with an interesting anecdote or a tale to tell, especially on why they might have the desire to take life at a faster pace rather than slowing down as some might expect. If you would like to be a part of this project, contact David by email at veteranbikers@gmail.com

FORMER PRESIDENT ALAN DOMVILLE CONTINUES HIS REMINISCENCES AS A MOTORING WRITER & LIFELONG GROUP FRIEND.....

Right from the start, following my promotion to the post of what was then called, in true American tradition, the Series Bureau Editor - aka commercial features supremo - I was charged with increasing my newspapers' revenue from advertising. Motoring coverage was obviously a key part of that and my approach was somewhat different from just about every other motoring correspondent I knew. For the most part they were content to borrow cars from the manufacturers in whatever way they could - and in 1970 that wasn't easy for anyone working out in the provinces. To sample a British Motor Corporation car, then our biggest manufacturer, for instance, one had to travel to Leyland and collect it...and that meant going there by the only stopping train in a morning. Returning home after dropping off the vehicle was much more difficult. There would be no train for hours and the press officer would give me a lift to the M6. From there I would thumb a lift back to Warrington. From the sublime to the ridiculous!

Two goes at that game convinced me of two things: (a) cultivate a relationship with all the dealerships in my area and (b) form a group of northern motoring writers to try and make things better. The Guild of Motoring Writers, in those days, was very London-centric. My first idea was greeted with horror by my contemporaries who felt they would lose their independence to appraise a car without any influence from a garage. I decided to tread that fine line - and it worked. Most of the dealerships I approached were delighted to lend me their cars for me to write about - and in turn to take advertising space next to it. But there was more: I could also write about all their special events - and that more than countered any upset they may have felt when I did include some words of criticism of their cars. Not to have included those words would have let down the readership. As the years went by the relationship between myself and those working in the dealerships became something special and I still maintain many of those friendships today.

The second idea became just as successful though only after an inauspicious start. A preliminary meeting of like minds was held at Ford's Halewood plant and the inaugural session was planned to follow the launch of the Austin Allegro in Harrogate. Unfortunately by then it had been agreed by my "friends" that only daily newspaper writers would be admitted as full members. I came in as one of just two second-class members - something that I would soon insist on changing! The group has now been operating successfully for more than 40 years - I am their general secretary - and I like to think that we played our part in making the job much easier. Cars started to be delivered and collected and some of us were privileged to travel all round the world for new model launches. We in the "sticks" became confidantes of those in the highest echelons of the motor industry. However, newspapers have changed dramatically in recent years and nowadays it appears few writers are able to leave their offices and communications have been reduced to emails. The best days have gone and will never return.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: SOLUTION

Answer: P has 5 chocolates and Q has 7 chocolates.



MAY / JUNE NEWSLETTER

Contributions to May / June's newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: newsletter@warram.org.uk or pass them to any committee member. The deadline for May / June's newsletter is Sunday 19th April 2015.



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.



GIGGLES:

One day my housework-challenged Husband decided to wash his Sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?'



'It depends,' I replied. 'What does it say on your shirt?'

He yelled back, ' Warrington Wolves !'

And they say blondes are dumb...."

INTERLUDE 2

BEG, BORROW OR STEAL (BBC2)

Jamie Theakston: Where do you think Cambridge University is?

Contestant: Geography isn't my strong point.

Jamie Theakston: There's a clue in the title.

Contestant: Leicester

Motorists are fed up with paying through the nose for petrol and diesel at service stations. A new survey shows they want the government to intervene.

Motorists are calling on the government to take urgent action to stop them being ripped off when buying fuel on the motorway. A new study by the RAC has found that three-quarters of drivers think petrol and diesel sold by service stations is "very expensive", with almost two-thirds demanding that prices be capped to stop profiteering.

Risk of running dry

The organisation found that many motorists risked their fuel tanks running dry by only buying the bare minimum of fuel on the motorway and then hoping to find a cheaper alternative later. A quarter of those polled said they simply refused to buy fuel at motorway service stations due to the expense. In 2013, ministers announced plans to introduce a system of motorway signs showing prices from all the service stations on a particular stretch of road. This would allow drivers to pick the cheapest provider and increase competition - with the hope of bringing down prices.

Pilot programme in 2015

Since the announcement, however, no more details of the scheme have been put forward. But officials have this week told Confused.com that a pilot is due to be run in 2015. The RAC's Simon Williams said that in some cases, petrol and diesel on the motorway could cost as much as 15p a litre more than elsewhere, adding around £8 to the cost of filling up a typical family car. "It's no wonder that motorists feel held to ransom with prices on the motorways inflated to such an extent," he added.

'No reason for higher costs'

"We can see no reason why motorway fuel should be so much more expensive. In fact, arguably it is much easier from a delivery point of view than it is getting fuel to urban filling stations. Questions need to be asked to find out what reasons motorway service operators have for charging such increased prices."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Transport said that a feasibility study into providing more information about motorway fuel prices had just been completed.

Fuel in the tank

This looked at the technology needed to share price data, as well as what would be suitable sites for signs. Based on the study, ministers will be given recommendations with a view to setting up a pilot scheme in 2015, the spokeswoman added. Pete Zaborszky of fuel price comparison website PetrolPrices.com, said: "On motorways, as a rule, road signs tell you how far it is to the next motorway-only service stations but not how expensive they are. This means drivers often base their purchase decisions on how much fuel is left in their tank rather than how much the fuel at different service stations costs.

'Cheaper petrol is available'

"Cheaper petrol will be available for those willing to leave the motorway but they need to know where the filling stations are." The PetrolPrices app allows drivers to find the cheapest provider of fuel within a chosen radius. Zaborszky added: "Driving a few miles extra will save several pence a litre and, particularly for regular motorway users, this definitely adds up." The company's figures found that at the time of writing, unleaded petrol was 8p a litre more expensive on average on motorways and diesel 14p more expensive.

Ack: [Chris Torney \(Confused.com\)](#)

INTERLUDE 3

LATE SHOW (BBC MIDLANDS)

Alex Trelinski: What is the capital of Italy ?
Contestant: France.
Trelinski: France is another country. Try again.
Contestant: Oh, um, Benidorm.
Trelinski: Wrong, sorry, let's try another question. In which country is the Parthenon?
Contestant: Sorry, I don't know.
Trelinski: Just guess a country then
Contestant: Paris.

INTERLUDE 4

RICHARD AND JUDY

Richard: On which street did Sherlock Holmes live?
Contestant: Er.
Richard: He makes bread
Contestant: Er
Richard: He makes cakes
Contestant: Kipling Street?

Did You Know?

PAY HOW YOU DRIVE (TELEMATICS)

Despite some confusion, Telematics is not an 1980s games show hosted by Noel Edmonds (that was *Telly Addicts!*). Telematics is a type of motor insurance policy which prices your premiums depending on how you drive.



A device inside your car monitors your actions behind the wheel. So the better you're driving, the less you pay for cover. Remember, telematics policies have more aliases than a rap group. If you're looking at "black box", "smart box", "pay-as-you-drive" or "usage-based" insurance then you're looking at a telematics policy.

The black box feeds data back to your insurer, which takes this into account to reward you, with money back on your premiums, if you can prove you're more *Driving Miss Daisy* and less *Fast & Furious*.

How much is a black box?

Once you've sign up for a policy, you'll need to arrange a date for a black box to be fitted to your car. You don't typically have to pay an upfront cost for the box but the price of it will be incorporated within the premium. Some insurers will impose a fee if you miss a fitting appointment, need to move the box to another car or want it removed. And if you start tampering with it - thinking you can move it or trick it, and it breaks, expect a hefty bill for a replacement box.

How do they judge you?

It's not just a case of keeping your hands at ten and two and shifting smoothly up the gears. Insurers will take the following into account.

- The time of day or night you drive (11pm to 5am may cost more).
- Your speed (stick to the limit).
- Gentle braking reactions (hard and sharp stopping is not good).
- Gentle acceleration and cornering is good (don't treat your local roads like Silverstone).

Telematics providers will charge you more if you speed or start cornering like Lewis Hamilton. In addition, you won't earn any rewards if you don't drive responsibly. With insurance so expensive, any money back on your cover should be an incentive in itself.

While your insurer will be following your driving closely, there are relatively few restrictions on when and where you drive. Some insurers, such as iKube and Co-op, have curfews in place meaning driving at certain times (usually between 11pm and 5am but up to 6am with the Co-op) could result in a fine or an increase in premiums.

Some policies to consider...

Direct Line Drive Plus gives a 25% discount upfront which can be lost if you don't drive appropriately.

Coverbox. A 'pay as you drive' scheme which allows you to choose from as low as 3,000 miles and is available for a wide range of ages. with no curfews. So if you're a low mileage driver this can cut costs. You also get the option to buy more miles if you underestimate your annual mileage.

iKube. Is aimed at 17-25 year olds who don't often drive between 11pm and 5am. There's an extra fee for driving between these times, making the cost prohibitive if you do so.

Drive Like A Girl. Another policy aimed at 17-25 year-olds who avoid driving overnight (this time between 11pm and 4am). It's not just for girls, it's open to boys too - but show you can "drive like a girl" and you could get money back. It's also open to all ages.

Insure The Box. You can pick either a 6,000, 8,000 or 10,000 mile-per-year policy for your premium, and then you can earn extra miles by driving safely - or buy more online if you need to during the year. Here, GPS or tracking devices monitor how you drive. Of course, even then, the price still depends on your personal risk profile.

Co-op. The young driver insurance fits a box into 17-24-year-olds' cars to monitor acceleration, braking, cornering and time of driving. It then charges for insurance every 90 days, taking into account any discounts or loadings. The price of the insurance can vary, depending on how well the car's been driven. Severely bad driving could see your insurance cancelled.

Ack: MoneySavingExpert.com



Enhance your skills with the IAM

New to the IAM events calendar in 2015 are our new Skills Enhancement Days. They offer the opportunity for drivers and riders to pick from a selection of 45 minute modules and compile your own day of activities. Typically 150 to 200 IAM members attend the days and choose from modules that include slow speed skills, parking and manoeuvring and an introduction to our Masters standard. The calendar reads as follows: Gaydon, Warwickshire: 9 May (limited places remaining); Elvington, North Yorkshire: 18 July; Ingleston, Edinburgh: 15 August. For more information on the session at Gaydon please visit www.iam.org.uk/gaydon2015, for Elvington visit www.iam.org.uk/elvington2015 and for Ingleston visit www.iam.org.uk/ingliston2015

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: 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th March 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th April	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
Sundays 29 th March and 26 th April 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)
Wednesday 3 rd June at 20:00	Committee Meeting	St Johns Church Hall, Stockton Heath
Sunday 19 th April	Newsletter deadline	

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.