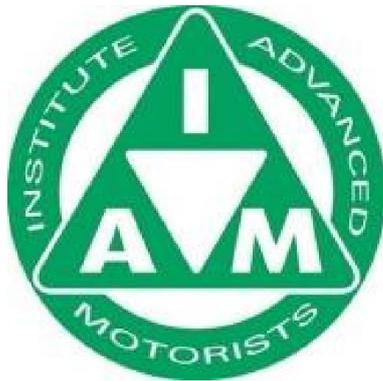


# Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists



November/December 2015  
Newsletter



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I'd like to thank everyone who attended this year's AGM at Grappenhall Cricket Club. I'm not going to go into detail about the evening other than to say the business side of the event was dispatched fairly rapidly and then after a quick break we got down the "fun side" of the evening with the raffle, awards and an excellent presentation by one of our bike examiners and proprietor of Dragonmoto Tours, Geraint Hughes. I'd like to thank Geraint for his time and effort in making this entertaining presentation to us.

I'm pleased to report that both sides of the Group, bike and car, are busy with associates so this is excellent news. However, it does cause us some difficulties at times on the car front where we are short of observers. I'd like anyone who's potentially interested in car observing to approach any member of our Car Training Team (Mike Lyne, Jean Carter or myself) and ask about what's involved. It is an excellent way of keeping your driving skills honed and to also give back to others what you've learned throughout your time with us. After all, our observers are the life blood of our group!

Finally, here's a riddle for you to solve:-

Mr. Black, Mr. Gray and Mr. White are fighting in a duel. They each get a gun and take turns shooting at each other until only one person is left. Mr. Black, who hits his shot 1/3 of the time, gets to shoot first. Mr. Gray, who hits his shot 2/3 of the time, gets to shoot next, assuming he is still alive. Mr. White, who hits his shot all the time, shoots next, assuming he is also alive. The cycle repeats. If you are Mr. Black, where should you shoot first for the highest chance of survival?

As always, you'll find the answer later in the newsletter.

I'd like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hi there

# WELCOME

Welcome to new member's Ian Bailey, James Hall, Kathleen Melia, Linda Buchanan and Neil Syder to the Car section. John Dorman, John Denner, James Swindells, Chris Rawsthorne and Mark Wilcock to the Motorcycle section and should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

Congratulations to Paul Nicholls on passing the Car test and to Chris Woods, Harry Round and Craig Molyneaux on passing the Motorcycle 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

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## AGM HAT-TRICK HERO BLINDED BY THE LIGHTS

What an evening for Jonathan Hough as he needed a van to take all his silverware home. Once the business part of the evening had been concluded it was time for the awards and Jonathan was up and down more times than a Bride's Nightie!

First award was the Motorcycle Rider of the Year award (actually the second time in the last four years to achieve this accolade) which was presented by Gordon Blackshaw. Then chairman Andrew Bloomer took over to present not only the John Norsworthy Award but also the 'Bubbles' Award both for outstanding service and support to the group during the previous year. Photographs are available but Jonathan 'slipped' me enough money to keep them out of print!

Other winners included Jean Carter (Roy Nelson Car Observer of the Year), Peter Sollars (Car Associate of the Year) and Steve Woods (Jack Bellis Associate Rider of the Year). Congratulations to you all.

The Car Driver of the Year competition was cancelled due to exceptional circumstances

## SMOKING IN VEHICLES: NEW RULES FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2015

*From 1 October 2015 it will be illegal to smoke in a vehicle with anyone under 18 present.*

*The new law will apply in **England and Wales**.*

*Both the driver and the smoker could be fined £50. The law applies to every driver, including those aged 17 and those with a provisional driving licence.*

*The law does not apply if the driver is 17 years old and is on their own in the car.*

*The law is changing to protect children and young people from the dangers of second-hand smoke.*

*Find out more at [www.gov.uk/smokefreecars](http://www.gov.uk/smokefreecars).*

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## FUNNIES

No English dictionary has been able to explain the difference between the two words COMPLETE and FINISHED, in a way that's easy to understand.

Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE & FINISHED.

I beg to differ because, there is :

When you marry the right woman, you are "COMPLETE".

And when you marry the wrong one, you are "FINISHED"!

And when the right one catches you with *the wrong one*, you are ...

"COMPLETELY FINISHED"

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

When I first became a motoring writer I discovered that if one was based south of Birmingham most manufacturers would happily deliver cars for appraisal - but not to the north. Ford, with their factory at Halewood, Vauxhall at Ellesmere Port and British Leyland in central Lancashire were notable exceptions. Accordingly, I broke what appeared to be a golden rule by borrowing other cars from dealerships. The thinking was that to do this one lost one's independence; to my mind it was no different than taking a car from its maker. Over the years most manufacturers have realised that Mercia, Northumbria and beyond have become civilised and do send us cars - but it means that the golden rule remains the norm.

But I can look back on so many happy relationships that I struck with dealers that became profitable both for them sales wise and for my newspapers in terms of advertising revenue while I believe I managed to tread the fine line of fairness without fear or favour. A classic example came when I borrowed an early Peugeot diesel from a Chester dealership. It was pretty wretched and I wrote as much. Years later, the man who lent me the car and almost lost his job because of my piece, bought his own garage and immediately he invited me to borrow a vehicle for test because, he said: "I know you tell the truth." It was a lovely compliment - and he now runs the oldest established Hyundai dealership in the country and longest lasting in the world.

Also in our area is the very first Mazda dealership in Great Britain - and attending its opening cemented a friendship that's endured for more than 40 years. The managing director of a Vauxhall dealership was known to be "difficult" but, again without showing any bias, we became such good friends. I was probably the last person to visit him in hospital before he died.

I attended the same secondary school as the owner of the previous Peugeot dealership in Warrington and worshipped at the same church as the sister whose brother and cousin ran the most successful Austin Rover outlet in the town for many years. Such contacts were priceless on both a personal and professional level. One of the few privately owned dealerships in Warrington has its roots in a little known country lane in mid-Cheshire and I interviewed the then partners on what would become the forecourt. It began another friendship that has lasted a lifetime. Similarly, the town's most successful dealer in used cars is run by the son of the one-time sales manager at a Ford dealership in Knutsford. A man who truly knew the value of publicity and whose efforts hopefully yielded him thousands of sales outside of the dealership's official territory via my stories. The MD of Manchester's main Ford dealer since the days of the Model T was similarly minded and insisted on delivering a new model to my office once a month.

Many dealers in Manchester and Liverpool were keen to promote their wares between the two cities and in affluent Cheshire. On only two occasions did this cause a problem for me when local garage owners objected. But I was adamant that I, not they, decided from whom I would borrow cars.

One of the dealerships eventually returned to the fold, as it were, and I ended up compiling their house magazine. The other soon went out of business.

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: SOLUTION



He should shoot at the ground.

If Mr. Black shoots the ground, it is Mr. Gray's turn. Mr. Gray would rather shoot at Mr. White than Mr. Black, because he is better. If Mr. Gray kills Mr. White, it is just Mr. Black and Mr. Gray left, giving Mr. Black a fair chance of winning. If Mr. Gray does not kill Mr. White, it is Mr. White's turn. He would rather shoot at Mr. Gray and will definitely kill him. Even though it is now Mr. Black against Mr. White, Mr. Black has a better chance of winning than before.

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## ELECTRONIC SIGNS TO DISPLAY FUEL PRICES OVER MOTORWAYS

ELECTRONIC motorway signs displaying the price of fuel at upcoming service stations will be in operation from next year.

The Highways England (HE) trial is to be launched on a southbound section of the M5 between Bristol and Exeter in a bid to encourage competition on pump prices.

Drivers will be alerted to the cost of unleaded and diesel from Gordano, Sedgemoor, Bridgwater, Taunton Deane and Exeter services, allowing them to choose the cheapest location to fill up.

If the scheme proves successful it could be rolled out nationally. HE chief highways engineer Mike Wilson said: "Providing fuel price information is an important part of a bigger picture - we want road users to be more informed and in better control of their journeys. "This means they'll be better prepared, more inclined to plan breaks and have a positive driving experience.

"It's still very important for motorists to properly plan their journeys and ensure they have sufficient fuel. Running out of fuel on motorways can be hazardous to yourself and other drivers."

Roads minister Andrew Jones said: "The Government is on the side of the honest motorists who have raised concerns for too long about petrol prices at motorway service stations.

"This trial will allow drivers to be much better informed about the cost of fuel and make it easier to plan their breaks around the cheapest deals."

The project will initially run for 18 months from spring next year. HE will monitor the impact on pump prices and whether there are any safety implications such as more drivers running out of fuel.

## ONE LINER (TO FILL THE SPACE...)

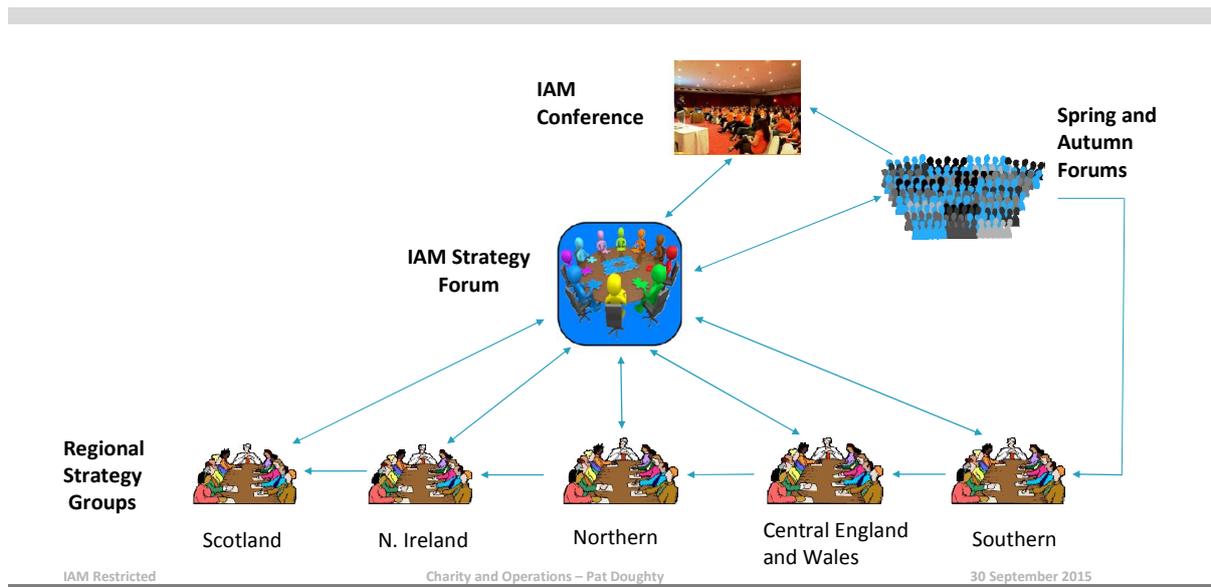
There are 3 kinds of people: those who can count & those who can't.

## NRG STRUCTURE DISCONTINUED

Following a review, the existing NRG structure has been discontinued and a new group engagement structure proposed and agreed. The change has happened thanks to feedback and input from across the IAM, which indicated the existing system was not working as well as it could. As a result, the IAM has developed a replacement based upon a regional set up, which would not only open up a more direct communications channel between the IAM and groups on strategy but also not rely on and create a time pressure on a small number of very busy volunteers. The replacement model is outlined below. As the full details are developed the IAM will inform further.



### NRG Replacement



### NRG Replacement

|                                    | When  | Attendees   | Organiser   | Purpose   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Forums</b><br>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spring</li> <li>Autumn</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Chairs/ Secretaries/ Chief Observer</li> <li>Trustee (s)</li> <li>IAM Exec</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Operations Manager</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Update</li> <li>Motivate and Inform</li> <li>Strategy Update</li> <li>Workshops for Conference content</li> <li>Meet the Officials and Listen to concerns, answer questions etc.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Regional Strategy Group</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two per Year</li> <li>March &amp; September</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee (appointed to region)</li> <li>Exec Member</li> <li>Regional Operations Manager</li> <li>4 selected group representatives via Application process</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Field Operations</li> </ul>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Strategic Items as the IAM business plan</li> <li>Develop recommendations</li> <li>Fixed common agenda for all regions</li> </ul>   |
| <b>IAM Strategy Forum</b><br>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two per Year</li> <li>March &amp; September</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee (appointed to region)</li> <li>4 Regional Operations Manager</li> <li>Exec group Inc. CEO</li> <li>Head of Field Operations and Quality Manager</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charity and Operations Director</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss output from the regional meetings and develop future policy and strategy.</li> <li>Provide feedback to Regional Strategy Groups and Forums</li> </ul>  |

IAM Restricted  
Charity and Operations – Pat Doughty  
11 September 2015

## 10 STEPS TO PREPARE YOUR CAR FOR WINTER

***With winter approaching, a few minutes' maintenance could see your motor through the worst the weather has to offer.***

Plummeting temperatures and poor weather mean the number of breakdowns can more than double throughout the winter months. So before the worst winter weather takes hold, here are our top tips for basic motor maintenance that will see you through to spring.

### **1. Get your car serviced**

If your car is due a service, get it done before the winter.

"While the cold can cause lots of problems for cars, up to half of them could have been prevented by regular servicing and maintenance checks," says Keith Miller, former AA Patrolman of the year. "Also take advantage of the free or discounted 'winter car checks' offered by some garages."

### **2. Check the battery**

"The battery should be the first priority," says Miller.

"During the winter months it suffers from a double whammy of cold temperatures - reducing the output - and the increased use of lights, heater and blower, which place it under additional strain. Batteries have an effective life of around five years," he says.

"If your car is having problems starting get the battery checked out and replaced if necessary."

### **3. Top up engine coolant with antifreeze**

Engine coolant should be a 50/50 mix of water and antifreeze.

"You will need to top it up with antifreeze as it becomes diluted over time," says Miller.

"People make the mistake of topping up with water during the year, so the antifreeze gets over-diluted and freezes during very cold weather. This can lead to the engine over-heating and a very large repair bill."

### **4. Check the condition of your tyres**

As a car's tyres are key to both steering and braking, it is essential they are in good condition.

"Check tyres for pressure and tread depth," says Miller. "We recommend a minimum of 3mm depth during the winter, compared to the legal minimum of 1.6mm, as this gives better grip."

You could also look at changing from summer to winter tyres, as these also offer increased grip in snow slush or ice.

### **5. Clean your lights**

Check that all lights, indicators and rear reflectors are clean.

"Make sure there are no cracked lenses or blown bulbs," says Miller.

"And don't forget to check full beam headlights, fog lights and indicators."

### **6. Wash your windscreen and wipers**

Give your windscreen a thorough clean inside and out and top up your screen washer fluid with antifreeze.

"Run your finger down the wiper blades to check for nicks and tears," says Miller.

"Check for any chips in the windscreen, as these can grow in the cold weather. Also touch up any chips in the bodywork as the salt deposits on the road will attack these."

## 7. Prepare for longer journeys

Before setting off on a longer journey, check the weather forecast, travel news and safest routes.

Also, Allow extra journey time to avoid having to rush.

Clear all windows of snow and ice using a scraper and de-icer, and ensure you have antifreeze in your car. The IAM also produces a guide to driving safely in the dark.

## 8. Carry a winter car breakdown kit

This should include a shovel, torch, blanket, hi-visibility vest, screenwash, food and drink supplies, scraper and de-icer, and snow grips for your shoes in case you need to walk to safety. And don't forget a fully charged mobile phone.

"Drive according to the road and weather conditions," says Mike Pickard from insurer Esure. "Common sense needs to prevail to reduce the number of accidents, so slow down, stay alert, and stay in control."

## 9. Check your cover

Comprehensive breakdown cover is crucial at this time of year and will give you the peace of mind of knowing you won't end up stranded in the cold.

So check your policy and remember to take a contact phone number with you on all journeys.

## 10. Other important areas

Also, keep at least a quarter of a tank of fuel in case of unexpected delay and check the oil.

If you have a bit of motor know-how, check your brake pads, brake discs and brake fluid to ensure the brakes are fast and responsive.

Ensure the fan belt and alternator drive belts are tight and not worn and that plugs and other leads are in good condition and secure.

If you don't feel confident making these checks, any garage should be able to help.  
[ack: Esther Shaw and Confused.com]

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## 8 NEW MOTORING LAWS TO BE AWARE OF THIS YEAR (PART 1)

A series of recent changes to motoring legislation means that many drivers could be at risk of breaking the law by mistake. Over the last year a number of new laws affect many different aspects of driving - from licenses to alcohol and drugs to speeding. The penalties for these transgressions vary in severity, from licenses points and fines to even jail-time. To make sure you avoid running afoul of the law accidentally and stay out of trouble, check out this rundown of the new legislation below.

### [Tax Discs are Obsolete - October 2014](#)

Although this law has been in place for the best part of a year and was fairly well publicised, many drivers (and prospective car owners) still remain unaware of it. Instead of a paper tax disc glued to your windshield, all of your tax information will now be stored on a DVLA database. Practically, this means that tax is no longer transferable with the sale of a car. Any car you have bought after October of last year or plan on

buying in the future which advertises as being taxed is fraudulent - you must purchase your own. On the plus side, this can now be done on a monthly basis.

[Lower Drink-Drive Limits in Scotland - December 2014](#)

Another law that has been active for over ten months but may have slipped under the radar of many living north of the border is the lowered drinking limit for Scottish drivers. Whereas before the legal limit was 80mg of alcohol for every 100ml of blood, that has been slashed to 50mg.

[Make a Plea Online - March 2015](#)

In a bid to save the time and expense of lengthy court cases over minor offences, motorists will now be able to challenge or admit to charges on the internet. Being able to plead guilty or not guilty online can help to avoid the bureaucracy and delay of postal correspondence or the time-consuming nature of court appearances.

The system is now in place across England and Wales after a successful trial in Manchester and allows defendants to specify a time and place of their choosing to appear before a magistrate, if necessary.

[New Drug Laws - March 2015](#)

Also in March, new laws were passed which concern eight illegal drugs and eight prescription ones, imposing new limits and harsher penalties. The 16 substances concerned are outlined in the table below:

| Illegal Drugs                               | Prescription Drugs       |
|---|--------------------------|
| Benzoylcgonine (Cocaine)                    | Clonazepam               |
| Cocaine                                     | Diazepam                 |
| Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC/Cannabis) | Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) |
| Ketamine                                    | Lorazepam                |
| Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)            | Methadone                |
| Methylamphetamine (Speed)                   | Morphine                 |
| Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)        | Oxazepam                 |
| 6-Monoacetylmorphine (Heroin)               | Temazepam                |

Though many drivers will take one look at the left column and brush off the new legislation due to their sobriety, those on prescription drugs should be aware that a level which they feel comfortable with may fall foul of the new limits. As such, if you do take any of the substances in the right column, it's important to consult your GP for advice.

[ACK: [intelligentcarleasing.com](http://intelligentcarleasing.com)]

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**JANUARY / FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

Contributions to January / February newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: [newsletter@warram.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@warram.org.uk) or pass them to any committee member. The deadline for November / December newsletter is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 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.



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**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.



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**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!

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Sundays at 10:15:<br>8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup> November<br>6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> December<br>No Runs 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan | Observed Runs (car)<br>Refresher Runs (car) | Near the ALDI car park,<br>Crossfield Street,<br>Warrington, WA1 1UP                 |
| On arrangement with your observer   | Observed Runs (bikes)                       | On arrangement with your observer  |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November<br>(weather permitting)  | End of month run (bikes)                    | Poplar 2000, Lymm  |
| Every Thursday at 19:00<br>(weather permitting)   | Chippy Run (bikes)                          | Let's Eat Cafe and Tall<br>Trees filling station layby<br>(off A49 in Lower Whitley) |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February at<br>20:00  | Committee Meeting                           | St Johns Church Hall,<br>Stockton Heath  |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December  | Newsletter deadline                         |  |

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

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**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.