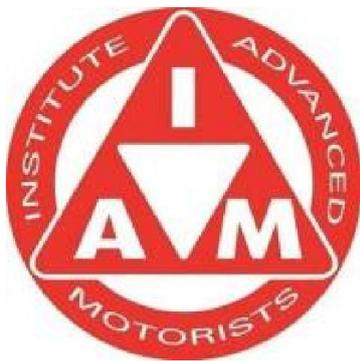
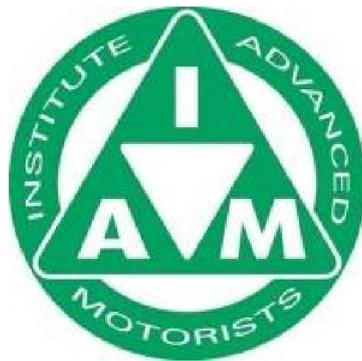


Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists



March/April 2016
Newsletter



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Happy New Year!!

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas and managed to stay safe on the roads and avoided coming into conflict with drink/drug drivers.

Statistics from the Association of Chief Police Officers revealed that over 7,000 drivers were caught driving whilst over the legal limit during December 2014 in England and Wales, approximately the same number as in 2013. There were also about 75 arrests for being under the influence of drugs whilst driving.

For us sensible drivers who are committed to road safety, these figures are very sobering to us and like me, I'm sure you can't understand why anyone would ever get behind the wheel of a car after they've had a drink. I'm not sure what the answer is to try and reduce this number, but we must all do that we can to discourage this antisocial behaviour.

On a lighter note, here's your brain teaser, and as always the answer can be found later in the newsletter

"You are a cab driver who pools passengers. You pick 3 people from a destination and drop 1 after an hour. 2 people climb aboard at the same time and you drop 3 at the next destination. After some time, you pick 2 passengers only to drop 1 after a short distance where 3 more passengers climb up the cab. You leave the rest of the passengers one by one to their destination and then come back home.

Can you tell the eye colour of the cab driver?"

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

FUNNIES

A man is recovering from surgery when the Surgical Nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling.

'I'm O. K. But I didn't like the four letter-words the doctor used in surgery,' he answered.

'What did he say,' asked the nurse.

'Oops!'

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hi there

WELCOME

Welcome to new member's Steven Brodrick, Mary Cook, Gillian Moore, Mohammad Rahman, Kathryn Roberts and Ray Smith to the Car section; Alexander Carlin, Anthony Markey and Christopher Rawsthorne to the Motorcycle section. Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.



Congratulations to James Hall, Ian Ross and Neil Syder 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

THANKS

Big thank you to all at Warrington IAM for helping me pass my Advanced Driving. I'd particularly like to mention Chris for understanding that pigeons need to see my signals; Peter for getting me to slow down; Neil for reminding me about that mandatory stop at the junction in Lymm (it came up on the test run); Andy for getting me to go faster on those country lanes "I can stop in the distance I can see" went down very well with the ex-police examiner; Mike for taking my side on the "surprise" signalling on the motorway :-). And of course all who organise and make it happen. I find it a lot easier to drive at the speed limit now and my wife says my driving is much smoother and enjoyable. A couple of things that I didn't know about for my test were POWDER for the pre drive check (I was only doing ASPS and forgot about POWDER a long time ago); and also that there was a F1rst class pass if you did really well.

Good luck to all you associates. Go for it.

Paul Nicholls

IAM'S PENALTY POINTS STORY GAINS NATIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION

A learner driver is on the road despite having 51 POINTS on her licence, shocking figures reveal. The driver racked up three speeding offences in a 30mph zone and seven offences of not providing driver details. She was given 51 points for the offences - but a court "exercised its discretion" and decided against banning her.

The lady, from Oxford, topped the list of motorists not disqualified despite having more than 12 points on their licence. There are currently 13 motorists who have racked up 28 points or more, according to DVLA figures released to the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

A motorist from Basildon has 42 points for seven offences including driving at 109mph. They avoided a ban because their lawyer argued they would suffer "extreme hardship" through a loss of income if disqualified.

In Liverpool, another driver also has 42 points thanks to five counts of not reporting the driver of a vehicle and two for speeding.

The numbers of drivers with 12 or more points has gone up by 9 per cent in just seven months between March and October 2015 - from 6,884 to 7,517. Around 90 per cent of the motorists driving on the road with 12 or more points are doing so at the court's discretion, according to the DVLA. The driving agency's role is as a record keeper. When they see a motorist has more than 12 points they let the courts know, who then decide a punishment.

Sarah Sillars, IAM chief executive officer, said the wider public may see the laws of the road as "ineffective and unimportant". She said: "The IAM has been highlighting this issue for several years now and we appreciate that the flow of information between the DVLA and the courts is slowly improving, which will allow the courts to make better decisions while armed with the full facts. However these improvements cannot come quickly enough to deliver a truly joined-up approach to the judicial process. Individual courts making decision on prosecutions can lead to inconsistency in how the law is applied which risks devaluing the simple '12 points and you're out' road safety message.

If the public sees that persistent offenders are getting away with it, they may believe that road traffic rules - which let us not forget, are designed for their safety - are ineffective or unimportant."

Where do Britain's worst drivers live?

1. Oxford - driver with 51 points
2. Liverpool - driver with 42 points
3. Basildon - driver with 42 points
4. Wigan - driver with 39 points
5. Burnley - driver with 38 points
6. Northampton - driver with 33 pts
7. SW London - driver with 33 points
8. Sheffield - driver with 30 points
9. Southend-on-Sea - driver with 30 points
10. Slough - driver with 30 points
11. Cambridge - driver with 30 points
12. Peterborough - driver with 29 pts
13. Stevenage - driver with 28 points

[ack: Daily Mail report of IAM Media alert]

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

Embargoes and deadlines were two of the most problematic aspects of any veteran Journalist's career over so many years, including myself, though a cub reporter these days would hardly know anything about them. The advance of the internet and social media means that new cars can no longer be kept a closely guarded secret by manufacturers and professional journalists until their launch day.

Car companies have long given up any effort to come up with a surprise and to impose an embargo date; that relatively new phenomenon, the web blogger, knows what they are working on for at least five years into the future and cannot resist telling.

As far as deadlines are concerned the whole process is like a rolling road. Newspapers, for some strange reason I have never fathomed, nowadays upload all their best stories to their websites some days ahead of the publication of the real thing. To my mind it's like giving away the Mars bar to save you going out to buy it.

But to come up with an exclusive story was one of the great joys - especially in the days when Warrington, for instance, was served by two weekly newspapers with considerable prestige along with five evening newspapers produced in Liverpool, Manchester and Wigan, a localised Sunday newspaper that came out on a Saturday night - and later, a clutch of radio stations.

Even then, however, there would be the unscrupulous among us who wouldn't think twice about breaking an embargo. The day before the announcement of the Queen's Honours List twice each year I would receive a list of local people to be awarded medals - along with strict instructions not to approach any of them for an interview until 3:00pm.

On one occasion a local car dealer was to be awarded an OBE and I stood outside his house for half an hour before knocking on his door. At precisely 3:00pm, out of his door stepped a bouncer from one of the evening papers who had disregarded the rules.

It was like the Wild West out there sometimes - and one I knew became a "hacker" - but there were journalists who did play the game.

By mutual agreement new cars were traditionally launched on Wednesdays because the specialist magazines all appeared that day - but during the evening before one could always guarantee that one of the television news programmes would feature the vehicle before the appearance of those publications and the morning papers.

It was infuriating - but done I know with the collusion of the manufacturers who regarded such exposure and free advertising and worth millions. The observant would sometimes spot a vehicle on the road with all its badges concealed with tape and so disguised so that it was difficult to tell what make it was. Not any more. Visits to motor shows in London and across Europe were memorable for the surprises they used to hold - and many of us will fondly remember walking past a dealership showroom containing what was obviously a new car over which was draped a sheet.

Simultaneously at dealerships all around the country, the sheets would be removed at a set time and regular customers would proceed to kick the tyres.

Today, when I visit a car plant, there will be prototypes similarly draped and at a press conference press officers will refuse to reveal details of what's coming next.

They are wasting their time - those days are long gone.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: SOLUTION



As per the first sentence, you are the cab driver. Therefore, just check your own eye colour and you can answer this simple question.

HELP THE IAM CELEBRATE ITS 60th BIRTHDAY

If you don't already know, the IAM celebrates its 60th anniversary this year - and there are no less than two parties for members to mark the occasion. The first date for your diary is 2 July for the Bike Celebration, taking place at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham. The second date is 9 July for the Car Celebration at the British Car Museum in Gaydon. Each event will have many activities available to guests including entry into the museums, interviews with racing stars, riding and driving events and refreshments. Tickets for each event are £10 per person to cover costs. More details will be revealed in the coming months.

FUNNIES

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

Attending a "harmony for couples" weekend, Dave and his partner Ann, listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He then addressed the men, "Can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?"

Dave leaned over, touched Ann's arm gently and whispered, "Its Homepride, isn't it?"

Thus began Dave's life of celibacy.

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?

A: Rename the email folder 'Instruction Manuals'

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 80. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

8 NEW MOTORING LAWS TO BE AWARE FROM 2015 (PART 2)

A series of recent changes to motoring legislation means that many drivers could be at risk of breaking the law by mistake. During 2015 a number of new laws were instigated affecting many different aspects of driving - from licenses to alcohol and drugs to speeding. The penalties for these transgressions vary in severity, from license points and fines to even jail-time. To make sure you avoid running foul of the law accidentally and to stay out of trouble, check out this rundown of the new legislation below. (Part 1 in Nov/Dec Newsletter).

Higher Speed Limits for HGVs – April 2015

All heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and lorries are now able to travel at speeds of 50mph on single lane roads and 60mph on dual carriageways. Both limits have increased by 10mph (from 40mph and 50mph, respectively) in an attempt to eliminate frustrating back-ups of the vehicles on dual carriageways and overtaking difficulties on smaller roads. It should be noted, however, that EU legislation actually limits HGVs to 56mph on dual carriageways, not 60mph - a small but important distinction. Regardless, the changes should help to alleviate congestion and speed up our roadways.

No Paper Licenses – June 2015

Since the 8th June, the DVLA has eradicated the paper counterpart to your photocard license. This means that all new licenses will not be issued with an accompanying paper partner and the DVLA recommends all drivers who received their existing license after 1998 to destroy the paper part, since all of their information will be stored on another database. However, this advice disregards the fact that some foreign countries require both parts of the license to hire a car and may be unaware of the new legislation for the foreseeable future. Since hanging on to the paper part does no harm, it might be more sensible to store it away for now.

Safer Lorry Scheme – September 1st 2015

Applicable only to London, this bill aims to minimise the casualties and deaths of cyclists on the capital's busy roads. The Safer Lorry Scheme concerns all vehicles weighing more than 3.5 tonnes and requires them to:

- Install Class V and Class VI mirrors, increasing visibility around the flanks and rear of the lorry.
- Install side guards to prevent cyclists from being dragged under the wheels in case of an accident or collision.

Drivers of lorries which do not comply with the rules will be given a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice, with the potential for their fine to rise to as much as £1,000. Operator licenses could also be put in jeopardy for non-compliance.

No Smoking with Children – October 1st 2015

Studies show that around 3,000,000 children are exposed to second-hand smoke in the cars of Britain. In an attempt to countermand this appalling statistic, drivers will no longer be allowed to light up in any vehicle containing a person under the age of 18. Though the penalties have yet to be confirmed, they could range from expected fines of £60 to as much as £10,000 for those who fail to prevent smoking in the vicinity of young ones.

Though the ban will initially only affect England and Wales, Scotland are expected to follow suit in early 2016.

Stay Abreast and on the Right Side of the Law

[ACK: intelligentcarleasing.com]

MOTORCYCLE LEGEND BIOPIC SET FOR CINEMA RELEASE

THE life story of two-time 500cc world champion Barry Sheene is being turned into a feature-length biopic called 'Sheene', which will be released in cinemas and is set to begin filming by the end of the year. The project is a joint venture between IO Film in Australia and Deep Spring Pictures in the UK and will be based on the book *Barry: The Story of a Motorcycling Legend*, written by Steve Parrish and Nick Harris.

The film will document Sheene's rise to fame, his playboy lifestyle, success on track, and his two most notorious crashes - at the Daytona 200 in 1975 and then Silverstone in 1982.

The screenplay has been written by Ian La Frenais and Dick Clement, who together wrote *Porridge*, *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* and *the Likely Lads*. La Frenais and Clement are said to be amazed that Sheene's 'phenomenal' story hasn't already been turned into a film. Speaking to the *Evening Standard*, La Frenais said: 'It's surprising it's not been done. It's about sport, but it's also about living your life to the absolute limit. He's a fascinating personality to portray. Barry couldn't have been anything else but a Londoner. He was a chancer, a flirt but also an incredibly good bloke. He was a rock star.' Casting will take place within the next few months.

Although this will be the first time Sheene's story will be dramatised on the big screen, it's not the first time his exploits have made it onto our screens - just check out 'When Playboys Ruled the World', the documentary about him and his friend, F1 star James Hunt.

[ACK: Simon Greenacre and visordown.com]

EDITORS CHALLENGE TO THE MOTORCYCLE SECTION OF THE GROUP

Whilst researching for interesting articles on the internet for inclusion in the editions of the newsletter I have reviewed many motorcycle orientated pages because I have always tried to make the newsletter a balanced document between the two sections of our group and also tried to find items of interest to our female members as well as the other variety of human being.

That being said most of the items available and relevant to motorcyclists always seem to be bike reviews! Now speaking as an expert who couldn't tell a RC30 from a ZZR1100 (and yes; I had to look them up and no; I have no clue whether they are 'cool' or not!) a gauntlet has been laid down for the membership to fill a section in future editions.

The challenge, should you wish to accept it, is to write a review of any bike that you have experience of. It could be your current model, a previous model, your first bike, your best GT, the worst decision of your life when it came to two wheels or a comparison of one machine against another. It doesn't have to be all about the machinery; it could be the exhilaration or freedom you feel when riding your bike, the things you love (or hate) or the best ride you've ever been on (keep it CLEAN!!). In fact anything will be considered for future publication and so this is an opportunity for group members to shape the future look of the newsletter.

And let's not just limit it to those testosterone pumped jockey's of the burnout, Belly Shover's or RUB's (see I've got the lingo, I'm hip, I've got the word on the street) but let's get the Ladies involved as well. In fact the inspiration for this piece was me reading a piece on visordown.com about the 10 Best Motorcycles for Women, where 6 of the pictures shown had blokes riding them! So girls, come on - let's have your opinions on the best bikes for women to ride.

Please send your pieces to newsletter@warram.org.uk and I promise to only edit or cut down your piece if I am running out of space. So the challenge is set, who's up for it?

DRIVING WHEN YOU'RE FEELING UNWELL

This week's tips from the IAM's director of standards, Mark Lewis, are looking at the challenges motorists face when they're unwell. With over 200 common cold viruses, the chances of us getting a cold are pretty high. Don't just ignore the symptoms and be sure to read these essential tips.

1. Driving or riding with a heavy cold will severely impact your concentration and can slow down your reaction time by up to 50 per cent - avoid making the journey if you're feeling unwell.

2. Some over-the-counter medicines contain codeine which can make you feel extremely drowsy and blur your vision - check the instructions beforehand. It's also best to check with your GP about any prescription drugs and their side-effects.

3. At 30mph you travel 13 metres every second. If you sneeze therefore that means you're travelling with your eyes closed - this could result in temporary loss of control of your vehicle.

Mark said: "We know winter driving is challenging enough as it is, so try not to add more stress to it by compromising yours and others' safety when you are ill. Taking plenty of rest away from the road is the ideal route to recovery."

This piece has been extracted from the IAM website where a complete library of previously issued Driving & Riding tips resides. Just head for <http://www.iam.org.uk> for a comprehensive read.

FINAL FUNNIES

A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said "I'd like to buy some cyanide".

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide"?

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband".

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he explained, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband, that's against the law. I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide. Just get a divorce!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and said, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

MAY / JUNE NEWSLETTER

Contributions to May / June 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 newsletter is Sunday 17th April 2016.



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.



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: 6 th , 13 th , 20 th 27 th March 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th 24 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
Sunday 27 th March Sunday 24 th April (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 4 th May at 20:00	Committee Meeting	St Johns Church Hall, Stockton Heath
Sunday 17 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.