

The logo for IAM RoadSmart is displayed on a blue background. The letters 'IAM' are in a large, white, rounded, lowercase font. Below them, the word 'RoadSmart' is written in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font.

iAM
RoadSmart

The text 'Official Provider' is centered on a dark grey, rounded rectangular background.

Official Provider

Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

Newsletter
February/March 2017

WARRINGTON GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

IAM Group Number 5075
Registered Charity Number 1048554
Website: www.warram.org.uk
Email: contact@warram.org.uk

President Geraint Hughes

Vice Presidents: Stephen Bielizna, Chris Givvons, Paul Griffiths and Bryan Moore

Committee Members: Group Year 2016 - 2017

Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman/Chair of Training (cars) | Andrew Bloomer | Tel: 01928 714149 |
| Vice Chairman | Tim Bolton | Tel: |
| Treasurer | Steve Segar | Tel: 01925 727173 |
| Secretary | Jean Carter | Tel: 01925 245009 |
| | 74 Forshaw Street | |
| | Warrington | |
| | WA2 7HD | |

Committee Membership

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Motorcycle Representative | Chris Harris | |
| Membership Secretary | Ian Bell | Tel: 01925 634484 |
| Car Representative | Gill Moore | |
| Motorcycle Liaison Secretary | Simon Jones | Tel: 07957 170185 |
| Minutes Secretary | Peter Marsland | Tel: 01925 755921 |
| Website Secretary | Vacant | |

Other Posts

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Associate Co-ordinator (Cars) | Jean Carter | Tel: 01925 245009 |
| Associate Coordinator (M/cls) | Gordon Blackshaw | Tel: 01925 860967 |
| Local Observer Assessors (Cars) | Andrew Bloomer | Tel: 01928 714149 |
| | Jean Carter | Tel: 01925 245009 |
| | Mike Lyne | Tel: 01925 819243 |
| Local Observer Assessors (M/cls) | Andrew Bloomer | Tel: 01928 714149 |
| | Jonathon Hough | Tel: 07580 761728 |
| DVDs | Carlow Marrow | Tel: 07882 425811 |
| Newsletter Editor | Steve Segar | Tel: 01925 727173 |

DISCLAIMER - The contents of this newsletter are purely the opinions of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists or the Warrington Group.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Happy New Year!!!

Since the last Newsletter, we've shaken a few things up with regards to our digital footprint, largely thanks to a member who's not on Committee but chose to ask up some very pertinent and challenging questions! As a consequence of this, we now have a LinkedIn page, a new "open" Facebook page, a Twitter Account and a Streetlife Account. We are also in the process of updating our webpage and soon we hope to have a completely new format.

What this does show, amongst other things, is that we as a Committee will always listen to new ideas to try and increase the number of Associates we attract to the Group, so if anyone else has any ideas, please let any member of Committee know.

Here's your brain teaser

The world's largest Thanksgiving turkey was on display at a fair. Everyone was admiring it when suddenly a woman ran up and shot the turkey and left. Everyone knew her yet nobody made any attempts to stop or report her. Why?

As always you'll find the answer later on in the Newsletter/

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

FUNNIES

These are from a book called "Disorder in the Court" 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: 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.

*

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hi there

Welcome to new member Nicholas Spreadbury to the Car section. Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

WELCOME

Congratulations to Mary Cook and Vince Scriven on passing the Car test and Robin Gartland 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 me know at distribution@warram.org.uk

TTFN

Ian

NOTE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Following a decision made at the February committee meeting future meetings are to start at 19:30 and not 20:00 as they have previously. This will start from the meeting to be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

The venue for the meeting stays the same:
FAIRFIELD & HOWLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT (the old Fairfield School)
FAIRFIELD STREET
WARRINGTON
WA1 3AJ

EVENTS NOTIFICATION

On Saturday 13th May 2017 commencing at 19:30 there will be another of our famous skittles and boules nights at St John's Church Hall, Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington. This is an absolute brilliant night of fun and frivolity and you most certainly do not have to be an expert to enjoy the experience. The cost is £6.00 per person and includes a pie and peas supper. Names and monies to Carol Griffiths please but be certain to note this one in your diaries.

INVITATION FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS

Wirral Group invite you to join us when Sarah Sillars, IAM RoadSmart CEO is our speaker on Tuesday 28th March 2017. We meet at 8pm, the RAFA Club, 17 Shrewsbury Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, CH43 1UU. The car park is entered by Alton Road, where there is a one-way system in operation.

THE JACK BELLIS ASSOCIATE SCHEME GETS A REVAMP

Following continued fundraising exertions by Tony Rich, family friend and proactive campaigner for road safety, the fund available to assist riders under the age of 30 has grown profoundly. Following meetings with Andrew Bellis, Jack's father, the scheme has been revamped so that a rider can now obtain a full refund rather than the original 50% support.

The associate rider will join the IAM using the online portal to purchase a Skill For Life package at £149. They will then register with the Warrington Group and receive an immediate refund of £100 directly. We are also trying to source some hi-viz vests which will be given to the associate at the start of their course.

Upon the successful completion of the IAM test the remaining balance of £49 will also be refunded to the applicant.

So please pass the word to any riders you know, under the age of 30, who may be interested in passing their Advanced Motorcyclist test, that it could be available absolutely free with the Warrington Group Of Advanced Motorcyclists.

Further details can be obtained by contracting Gordon Blackshaw on Tel: 01925 860967

FUNNIES (more Courtroom humour)

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: 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: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

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

The most celebrated boxing correspondent in my time as a journalist absolutely hated the sport. In fact he hadn't a clue what was going on in the ring; so much so that he stayed in the bar. But it was either a matter of covering the fights or drawing the dole. What he did was to listen carefully to all the self-proclaimed experts as they went for a drink after the bout, ask a couple of questions while remaining incognito and then piece together the consensus.

Most journalists may know lots about one or more subjects but they cannot be experts in them all; they are trained to observe and write and not to do. The only "extra" required is to be versed in the law at least as much as a trained lawyer; if anyone sues these days we are talking "telephone numbers."

I remembered this some years ago when I had to cover for the Press Association, aka almost every national newspaper, the world squash championships without having ever having either seen or played a game. It seemed to work because there were no complaints.

Each summer, as motoring correspondent, I was invited to borrow a caravan for a few days by Harringtons of Delamere, sadly no longer operational after almost 100 years in business. I have to confess I hadn't much of an idea about caravans - and still haven't - but I accepted the original invitation, listened and then experienced - and my subsequent story was clearly good enough to earn repeat requests to write reviews over many years. I simply wrote from the heart - and, as with the squash tournament, it worked.

Whenever an open evening was held at the dealership there were invites not just for me but also my wife and children. The Harringtons management were really nice people. But then it happened; the crunch. The dealership decided to hold a brains trust and invited three of the country's leading experts in caravan design and manufacture along with the editor of a specialist magazine to form the panel. All that was needed was a chairperson...and who better than the "expert" ...me.

In the few days I had before the event I swatted up on everything to do with the technical side of caravanning - but was still prepared for the worst when I arrived at Delamere where hundreds of customers were gathering for the event.

During the course of next three hours I must have taken something like 50 questions from the audience and with some minor contributions from myself and buck-passing to my colleagues I made it through the night. If three of the experts had realised my plight they had the good grace not to mention it; so too those in the audience who spoke to me afterwards.

As I breathed a sigh of relief, thinking I had survived, I was approached by the editor of the caravanning magazine. "You made an interesting point tonight," he said, going on to mention something which I have completely forgotten and probably already had by then. "Would you like to elaborate on it in a piece for my magazine?"

At this my nerve cracked. "I would love to do that," I said, "but I really have so much on at the moment..."

CHAIRMANS CORNER: SOLUTION

She was a journalist and had shot the turkey with a camera.



COMPETITION WINNERS 2016 - MOTORCYCLE SECTION



Chairman Andrew Bloomer (on the right in the photo) finally caught up with John Dorman (obviously on the left in the photo) to present him with the trophy won at the recent AGM. John was the winner of the Jack Bellis Associate Rider of the Year award in recognition of his exemplary dedication to passing the Advanced Motorcycle Test. Shortage of information on where the infamous 'meet' took place, Andrew or John's front living room or a local hostelry? Just not sure!

FUNNIES (more Courtroom humour)

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

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Getting laid

DID YOU KNOW?

Motorists who use "laser jammers" to confuse speed cameras have been warned they face strict penalties after a BMW-driving executive was handed a suspended jail term. Ben Kitto, 41, a self-confessed gadget enthusiast, had bought the jamming device on the internet. Judge Andrew Stubbs, QC, gave him a two-month sentence, saying he had decided to spare the father of two an immediate jail term because of his charity work and "exceptional character".

However, the judge at York crown court warned that other motorists using the blockers, which are legal to buy, face being sent straight to prison. There are four other prosecutions pending in North Yorkshire for using the devices, which are sold as "parking sensors". Kitto, a national sales manager for a telecoms company, thought he could speed "with impunity" by installing a jammer that rendered his £54,000 car "invisible" to police lasers. Officers in North Yorkshire became suspicious after recording error codes when he drove past mobile speed cameras. They realised that the beams from their camera vans were being scrambled by a tiny laser head hidden under Kitto's numberplate.

An investigation traced the black BMW 635D coupé to Kitto's address in Scarborough. It had been fitted with a £300 Laser Elite Jammer, which can be legally bought, sold and fitted as a "parking sensor" but is tuned to the same wavelength as police speed traps. The device features a parking sensor mode, which is legal, and a jamming mode, which is illegal to use. It was programmed to intercept an incoming police beam and send a beam back on the same frequency, making it impossible for the car's speed to be recorded. The laser blocker also lit up a warning light in the car and sounded a high-pitched alarm to tell Kitto that he was on police radar.

Stephanie Hancock, for the prosecution, told the court that Kitto's average speed was 81-89mph and peaked at 91mph on the A64 dual carriageway between York and Scarborough, where the limit is 70mph. He was caught on June 30 last year.

Kitto admitted buying the device on the internet in 2014, knowing what it could do. He admitted perverting the course of justice and speeding. "For you it appears the speed limits were an inconvenience," Judge Stubbs told Kitto. "This arrogance led you to fill your car with gadgets both legal and illegal to allow you to operate outside the law." He added: "I hope the message goes out from this court to everyone else that perverting the course of justice almost inevitably leads to a custodial sentence."

Traffic Constable Andy Forth said on Monday that use of the devices was widespread and police were finding more of them.

The judge also ordered Kitto to do 100 hours of unpaid work. His licence was endorsed with five penalty points. He was fined £1,000 plus £1,200 court costs. He was also ordered to pay the cost of the police investigation, which has not yet been worked out but included a 63-page expert report and months of work by traffic officers.

David Barton, a specialist motoring lawyer based in Kent, said that what makes the use of such devices illegal is the interference with a police investigation of speeding, which can constitute perverting the course of justice. "That's an offence that has to go to the crown court," he said, "and what on the face of it might look a little bit trivial is actually very serious."

[[ack The Times](#)]

CALLING ALL MEMBERS: DO YOU KNOW SOMEBODY WANTING TO COMPLETE THE ADVANCED DRIVING/RIDING TEST - FOR FREE?

Yes Folks! It is way too early for an April Fools Day prank and this one is totally serious. Thanks to funds obtained from Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, for the promotion of Road Safety in and around the Warrington area, we have 20 Skill For Life places available. Ten are available to Car Drivers with no age restriction and the remaining ten are targeted towards Motorcyclists over the age of 30. This is because under 30's can get the same deal via the Jack Bellis Associate Scheme (detailed earlier in the newsletter).

Basically, new associates pay for their Skill For Life package upfront online through the IAM Website (<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/courses>). They then contact Ian Bell (contact@warram.org.uk or on 01925 634484) and he will assign them on IAM's database to the Warrington group [**this is a very important step**]. Upon successful completion of the course and passing the test the Group Treasurer will make a full refund to the associate.

Limited spaces (10 cars/10 motorcycles) and strictly a first come, first served basis - so spread the word and let's get interested parties signed up.

FINAL FUNNIES from the courtroom

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

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

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Are you shitting me?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

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

WITNESS: He's 20, very close to your IQ.

SAVING FUEL: TIPS FROM IAM ROADSMART

Saving money will most definitely be on the agenda for many this year but many neglect the expenses that derive from your vehicle. This week's tips give advice on saving fuel, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

- Try to keep your driving smooth, gentle acceleration and using the highest safe gear will use less fuel. Ease off the accelerator early for traffic lights if they are red, why hurry up to wait?

- Try to avoid driving during the rush hour. Stopping and starting in traffic needs the use of the first gear and a lot fuel is dispensed to get the vehicle moving again.

- Keep your tyres well maintained at the correct pressures, when they are due for replacement there are brands which are designed for extra economy which may be worth considering.

- Get rid of unnecessary weight. Cars work just like the human body, your body needs more energy to move around more weight and so does your car, take heavy items out of the car if you don't need to carry them. A roof rack or roof box will increase drag and you will use more fuel to overcome this; remove it if it is not being used.

- Stop the constant back and forth. During this winter season as your engine is trying to warm up it uses more fuel for the first four miles or so. Your engine stays cold when you drive less than two miles and your car will produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm engine - avoid these short journeys where possible.

- Turn off the air-conditioning it will be working overtime and it uses extra fuel. When the rear window is cleared turn off the rear screen heater, the more electricity your car has to produce the more fuel it will use.

- Keep your speed low. It sounds pretty standard but driving faster uses more fuel, you can reduce fuel consumption by up to 25 per cent. Try pressing more lightly on the accelerator, often you can maintain the same speed with less pressure on the pedal.

Richard said: "Fuel is expensive and burning fuel is bad for the environment, a few small changes in the way we prepare our vehicles and plan our journeys can make a big difference in our fuel consumption. Sound observation and planning on our necessary journeys will help. Remember that safety and fuel saving can be complementary if we drive effectively."

[Ack: Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart Head of Driving/Riding Standards]

GONE WITH THE WIND: TIPS FROM IAM ROADSMART

The constant change of weather it's amazing that many of us are able to get from A to B. This week's tips give advice on how to deal with driving and riding in the wind, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

If you have to go riding in the wind choose a heavier bike. Heavy bikes with a low centre of gravity will be more stable. A fully faired touring bike will be greater affected by side winds than a smaller machine where often the greatest surface area is the rider

Look out for those around you. Drivers should try and be aware of cyclists, horse-riders and pedestrians that can be easily impacted by the wind. If you are riding pick your position carefully so that sudden gusts of wind don't blow you into oncoming traffic or the side of the road; a central position is often best. If you are leaning into a crosswind try and anticipate where it will end (often the shelter of a high-sided vehicle will affect your course) and where it is likely to start again; bridges and cuttings on major roads can provide momentary respite but you need to be ready for the gust as you emerge

Keep the speed down to minimise the effect of high winds on your vehicle. The faster you drive or ride the more difficult it becomes to maintain control in cross winds and the further you are likely to stray off course. Watch out for high-sided vehicles struggling to maintain control. Use the clues in the scenery ahead - are there trees, open areas, bridges? If yes then anticipate sudden gusts of wind that might force a lorry, bus or trailer to swerve suddenly

Keep both hands on the wheel or handlebars ready to exert maximum grip if required. Make sure you take frequent breaks as it can be very tiring fighting the wind whether on two or four wheels

Plan your journey. Check the weather forecast and try to check traffic updates regularly before you set off. If bridges are closed to high-sided vehicles then take extra care even alter your route to avoid the worst areas

Richard said: "The only thing that is predictable about the British weather is its unpredictability! Slowing it down and looking ahead will serve you well as you try to negotiate your way safely through the short winter days. If the conditions are extreme do you need to travel, certainly on a motorcycle the wind will definitely spoil the day."

FINAL PRINTED COPY

Congratulations if you have made it this far through the publication and read every word. We did put previous notifications earlier in previous newsletters but I thought it would be better to have the final word in this edition.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST PRINTED COPY DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS.

If you wish to still continue receiving our group's newsletter then you need to send your email address to distribution@warram.org.uk and ensure your mail browser does not reject messages from this address. All future newsletters will be distributed this way.

APRIL / MAY NEWSLETTER

Contributions to the April / May newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: newsletter@warram.org.uk or pass them to any committee member. The deadline for April / May newsletter is Sunday 19th March 2017.



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: IAMRoadSmart.



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:

distribution@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: 5 th , 12 th , 19 th 26 th February 5 th , 12 th , 19 th 26 th March | Observed Runs (car) Refresher Runs (car) | Fairfield & Howley NBH Project, Fairfield Street, WARRINGTON WA1 3AJ |
| On arrangement with your observer | Observed Runs (bikes) | On arrangement with your observer |
| Sunday 26 th March | 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 May at 19:30 | Committee Meeting | Fairfield & Howley NP |
| Sunday 19 th March | 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.