

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 270

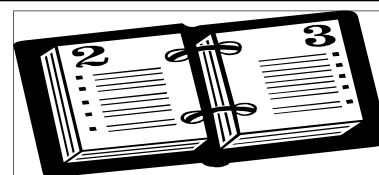
Registered Charity No. 517780

February 2007

Inside this issue:

Chairman Writes	Page 2
Welcome to New Associates	Page 3
New Year's Honour	Page 3
Skills are recognised	Page 4
New Qualified Observer	Page 5
Another (Training) Team player	Page 5
... and the Speaker had a Baby!	Page 6
What If! (a humorous look)	Page 6

Forthcoming Attractions



Monday, 12th February; Mid-Course Theory meeting to iron out any potential problems. All current Associates, along with their Observers, are urged to attend.

Monday, 19th February; Tony Foster an Accident Investigator and Reconstruction Officer will be the speaker this evening.

Monday, 19th March; Gladys Armstrong will be presenting "Fun and Frustrations of Family History".

Please make a note of these events in your diary and try to come along and support our guest speakers who give up their free time to come and speak to us. All meetings are at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport, unless otherwise stated, and start at 8 pm.

Chairman Writes



Hello again,

Firstly a message for Anne and Frank Thomas.

Anne has been in hospital in Newcastle on Tyne for the last three weeks, Frank staying with her. They are now both back in Southport and Anne is on a new course of treatment. The best wishes of the Group Council and all Sefton Group are with you both and we all wish you a speedy recovery.

I would like to thank everyone who turned up at the January meeting at the Royal Clifton. The speaker unfortunately could not make it so we had to run a Fun Quiz. Most people stayed to participate in the quiz and entered into the spirit of the evening.

Finding myself as the quiz master at short notice could have made the evening hard work. Far to the contrary, everyone joined in with a smile and made the event an enjoyable one for me as well all present.

This month (February) Paulette and myself will be attending the Region 5 Liaison Forum on your behalf. This one is of particular interest as the region now has two new officers. They are Pauline Smith, Regional Co-ordinator, replacing Bob Higginbotham and Bob Rowles replacing Mike Lyne. I am sure that these new faces at regional level will bring with them new ideas and initiatives.

So we can look forward to some interesting times in the coming months.

Alan Filson

What do you think of this?

A motion sensor within mobile phones that makes them impossible to use whilst driving.

A scientific type chap on the radio seemed to think it is very possible.

Let's hope he is right!

"Top Gear" is back on the telly!

We know there are a few people out there who take exception to the emphasis the programme puts on speed but the first show in the new series (the one showing Richard Hammond's horrendous crash) was also advocating speeding on the road (tongue-in-cheek, probably).

They were trying to get a stretch of road resurfaced within 24 hours rather than 1 week and were in danger of having late tarmac deliveries. The little presenter then offered the incentive of paying the drivers' speeding fines to keep the job going! *Quite some bang on the head!!!*

Sefton Group would like to extend a warm welcome to

Anthony Major	from	Southport
James Burton	from	Formby
Gregg Litherland	from	Aughton
Catherine Bass	from	Formby
Stephen Bass	from	Formby
Roger Morrison	from	Aughton



Please come along.

**Monday, February 12th, 8 pm.
Royal Clifton Hotel**

MID-COURSE THEORY SESSION.

**All Associates and their Observers are urged to attend,
and all other members will be welcome.**



New Year Honour for IAM Chief Executive

Christopher Bullock, Chief Executive of the IAM has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list for services to road safety.

Before joining the IAM Mr Bullock had a career in Shell which included work with the charity sector. During the 1980s he was responsible for Shell's charitable giving - at that time the largest corporate donor in the UK - and for sponsorship of environmental, arts and other community organisations. This included founding Age Resource, which aimed to harness the benefits of an ageing society and is now the "younger arm" of Age Concern.

Christopher Bullock became IAM Chief Executive in 1995 and the IAM is now the largest organisation dedicated to road safety and is by far the largest provider of advanced driving tests.

"I am delighted to receive this award as recognition of the valuable and growing work of the IAM. In particular ***it acknowledges all those who through the IAM dedicate their time and expertise to helping people improve their driving and motorcycling, and to saving lives on the road,***" said Mr Bullock.

Driving Expertise is Recognised.

Continuing Success and New Advanced Drivers

Tom Roberts is seen on the right receiving his IAM Advanced Certificate from David Williams, Qualified Observer.



Carolyn Carr being presented with her certificate by Frank Bennett, Senior Observer.

Kathleen Tattersall was the Observer, but unable to be present.



Steve Burns, Qualified Observer is clearly pleased to present an IAM Advanced Certificate to his successful Associate, **Trevor Wooding**



Well Done to you all!

New Qualified Observer

On the evening when we welcomed a new intake of Associates to Sefton Group's first Advanced Driving Course of 2007, it was most fitting to be able to demonstrate the level to which they may next aspire.

Kathleen Tattersall was once in their position, i.e. starting a three month course to become an Advanced Driver and full member of the IAM.

She not only did that, of course, but then went on to volunteer for Qualified Observer training. So, it was with a great deal of pleasure that Alan Filson, Chairman of Sefton Advanced Motorists, was able to present Kathleen with her Qualified Observer Certificate. This took place at the Royal Clifton Hotel on the evening of Monday, January 8th.



Training Team attracts another player!

Last month we were able to report that the Group's Training Team had two more Senior Observers in the squad. Well, this month we can announce further strengthening of the squad with the "acquisition" of **Tom O'Malley**.

Tom is one of our young Qualified Observers who has acted as a mentor to trainee Observers in recent times as well as steering his fair share of Associates through to successful test conclusions. You will also note his membership of the Group Council and, we are pleased to say, is proving to be quite a versatile player.

Whilst talking of members volunteering to train as Observers, the present situation is that the Group has three people currently undergoing training.

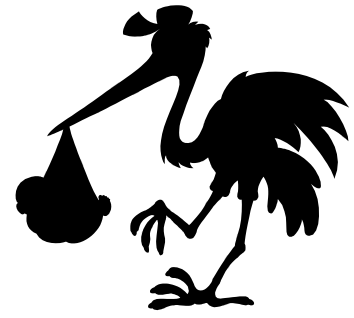
Cam Cunningham completed his initial basic training and is continuing the more practical aspects under the guidance and mentoring of Steve Burns, Qualified Observer.

Mike Brown and Alan Stephenson have just begun their basic training with a Senior Observer and will, shortly join their mentors on observed runs with their current Associates. Hopefully, we will be in a position to take more volunteers for training in May.



What do you do when your speaker has a baby?

Well, if your names are Paulette Haigh or Alan Filson you certainly don't panic, phone for an ambulance, or organise hot water and towels. Instead, you devise a quiz night and give prizes!



That was the situation for the January meeting at the Royal Clifton when the planned speaker rang on Sunday morning to apologise because her child had been born just the night before! The intended topic of Forensic Science appeared to be a popular one because there was a sizeable audience waiting to be educated when Alan had to inform us of the hurried change of plans. Not many decided to leave rather than join in the quiz, and those who stayed found the evening to be most enjoyable, entertaining and almost as informative.

There were probably 8 teams of at least four per team and the chosen names, alone, were worthy of winning prizes. The winners were "The Outsiders" in a very close run competition. The categories of question included General Knowledge, Cars and Motoring, and Observer Training questions, plus a round where logos had to be identified.

The winning team members were David Williams, Tom Roberts, Fred Hampton and Phil Righton who picked up such goodies as a mini digital tyre pressure gauge, a polishing mitt, car shampoo and screenwash additive. Very well done!

Not only do we congratulate the winners but applaud Alan, his wife Allison, and Paulette for devising and organising such a splendid evening under emergency conditions.

What If?



A passenger in a taxi leaned forward to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove over the curb and stopped inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent and the still shaking driver said, "I'm sorry but you scared the daylight out of me."

The frightened passenger apologized and said he did not realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no I'm sorry. It's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a taxi. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years".



Please note: Nobody is being credited with sending this in, because the contributor prefers to be anonymous. But thanks, anyway, for this one and for last month's!

SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP No. 5143

NOTICEBOARD

Accucolour Printing

Northern Buildings
141 Shakespeare Street
Southport
PR8 5AN

All Colour Printing
Business Cards
Duplicate/Triplicate Forms
Colour Laser Photocopying
Computer Printers & Inks
Graphic Design & Print Management

Mr Nolan

01704 547222
E-mail: nipd.ltd@tiscali.co.uk

JMT Training.co.uk
You're Will, My Determination

Injury rehabilitation

Personal Training

Cycle Coaching

Chair based exercise

**10% discount on
production of this advert**

JON TAYLOR

**T: +44(0)7746127683
E: jon@jmttraining.co.uk**

JMT TRAINING

Disclaimer

The Editor and the Group Council wish to make it clear, that the views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter, are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or the Institute.

Data Protection Act 1984

Sefton Group will hold details of members and associates names and addresses on computer and paper files, in order to assist with administration, If you do not wish your details to be held, please make your objection known to the Membership Secretary.