

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 274

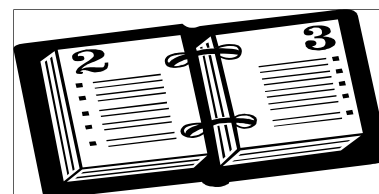
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Inside this issue:

From the Chair	Page 2
Test Passes & New Associates	Page 3
A Big Thank You	Page 4
Fancy some Quad Biking?	Page 5
Ready for Take Off	Page 5
Ease Off The Anchors	Page 6
Travel with Comfort	Page 6

Forthcoming Attractions



Monday, 18th June; a retired policeman, **Brian McVann**, will be telling us about his **Life and Career in the Police Force**.

We understand the delivery of his topic can be very amusing as well as informative.

Monday, 25th June; a **Mid-Course Theory Session** arranged by the Training Team for current Associates and their Observers. You will have the chance to cover more points in preparation for the Advanced Test.

Monday, 16th July; instead of the usual seated meeting the July gathering will get out and about on a **Treasure Hunt**.

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.

From the Chair

Well, another AGM has been and gone. Thank you to all the members, associates and Group Friends who attended. Thank you also to Bob Rowles, our newly elected Divisional Council member for making the trip to introduce himself and talk to us.

I am pleased to take the Chair of such a successful group. Our pass rate has now returned to 90% +.

This is the second time that I have been Chair of Sefton Group. I had the privilege of being the first Chair of the Group in 1984 when we split from the Merseyside Group due to its large geographical area and growing numbers. As a founder member I share this status with Ron (our president), Alan Filson, Jan West and David Paton who are still Council members. Our Group Council now has a good mix of experienced Council members and more recent recruits. In fact this year's Vice Chairman is Tim Starkey who joined us a year ago.

I would like to thank our past Chairman Alan Filson. He made the job of vice-chair very easy. I was only required to chair one council meeting and one meeting at the Royal Clifton during the year. Alan has, as usual been very active in the Group. In addition to being Chairman, he has, until recently been Membership Secretary of the Motorcycle Section. He is also our representative at regional level: Region 5 North. He holds the position of secretary of that region.

Stella Owen
(Chair)
Sefton Advanced Motorists



Bob Rowles in to our AGM

Sefton Advanced Motorists held their Annual General Meeting at the Royal Clifton Hotel on Monday, 21st April and were honored with the presence of Bob Rowles.

Bob is our newly elected Divisional Council Member and is pictured with Stella Owen, also newly elected as Chair of Sefton Group.

Bob addressed the meeting and pledged his support to our group and to others in the regions he represents.

Test Passes New Associates

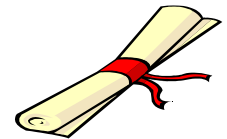
Sefton Group would like to extend a warm welcome to

Angharad Trenear	from	Lathom
Mervyn Thomas	from	Southport
Ann Vernon	from	Formby
Jonathan Levy	from	Waterloo



Hearty congratulations go to

Robert Latham	observed	by David Williams
Alan Burton	observed	by Phil Kelly



At an Educated Guess

..... You'd say they look quite pleased!

Paul Walsh looks pleased to be receiving his brand new Advanced Driving Certificate.

It is the first one we have seen at Sefton Group in the new and revised format.

Kathleen Tattersall, Paul's Observer, appears equally pleased to be able to make the presentation.

Well done, Paul, and may you enjoy many safe and enjoyable years of driving.



A big Thank You, from us all.



As was reported in May's newsletter, three very hardworking members of the Group Council have just retired .

So, it was thought fitting to recognize their consistent dedication to the cause with a presentation of an appropriate thank you gift.

On the left we see **Ann Thomas** receiving her piece of glassware from Alan Filson, outgoing Chairman of the group, at the recent Annual General Meeting.

We all wish you well, Ann, on retirement from active duty.

Next it was **Frank Bennett's** turn to step forward and open the box being handed over by Alan Filson, once again.

Although Frank feels he is not able to devote sufficient time to Council matters he has promised to work with the Training Team sub-committee for a while longer. His experience here, as ever, is most valuable.



The remaining member of the retiring trio, **Alan Mates**, was unable to attend the AGM and get his thank you gift from Alan but, nevertheless, he will receive it with the collective gratitude of Sefton Group .

Fancy a bit of Quad-Biking?

..... Here's your Chance!

Chorley Advanced Motorists are planning to go to a Quad Biking venue in Northwich, Cheshire, on a Saturday, sometime in June and would like to invite members of Sefton Group to join them.



A maximum of eleven people can be catered for which would give the group the entire course. The **cost per member is £48** and all protective clothing and headgear will be supplied. Participants will have to take their own boots / Wellingtons. The course will be watered if the weather is dry to maximise enjoyment. ***A change of clothing is advised as it can be very muddy.***

The event is being organised by Chorley Group's Social Secretary, Julie Whitworth, and will be on a first come, first served basis. When she has filled the eleven places she will make the booking and this will be five weeks later. She is sorry she can't give a more specific date, but the places have to be filled first.

All enquires should be by telephone to Julie Whitwoth on 01254 830121.

Ready for Take-off to Woodvale!

Preparations are well under way for the Group to be promoting the benefits of Advanced Driving at the annual Woodvale Rally which is being held this year on the weekend of the 4th and 5th August.



Alan Filson has, as usual, got things started but this year is being assisted by Tom O'Malley. However, neither of them can carry off such a task unaided. Over the weekend of the event the IAM display unit needs to be manned by eight members of the group on each of the two days.

So, Tom is looking for volunteers who are willing to spend at least half a day enthusiastically talking to visitors to the stand. It is not a bad way of passing part of the weekend, especially when refreshments come round and, perhaps, get a chance to see some of the show itself.

If you want to volunteer to help out phone Tom O'Malley on 01704 228715 (evenings are best) or drop him an e-mail to tom_om@tiscali.co.uk.



Ease Off The Anchors

Driving Tip No. 36 (From the IAM website)

Gentle, planned braking is something that all drivers should aspire to. And if you don't think so, imagine being a passenger with somebody at the wheel who is doing nothing except "emergency stops".

That kind of white knuckle ride may be extreme - but we all see examples daily of people who habitually leave it too late to brake for some reason (why else would there be all those skid marks on the tarmac?).

The key to good braking is anticipation. Don't rely on the brakes to get you out of trouble because you failed to plan for the hazard ahead in good time.

A good way to develop sensitive braking is to imagine that you want to bring the car to a stop without your passengers noticing.

By increasing pressure on the pedal smoothly you will "brush off" most of the speed -so at the right moment you will be able to bring your foot off the brake pedal without leaving the brakes biting to the bitter end. This is possible with a bit of practice: ease up on the brake pedal imperceptibly just as you are about to stop – the last metre or so. This allows you to roll gently to a stand-still without the vehicle's nose dipping or a jerk.

Braking should be a single, sustained use of the pedal - with the maximum pressure applied during the middle phase.

This gentle approach gives a good indication to the person following you that you are slowing down. That in turn gives them more time to react and so reduces the chances of an inattentive driver "rear ending" your car.

As an indicator brake lights are a bit crude: when you think about it, all the other indicators are telling other road users what you *intend* to do but the brake lights just confirm that you are already doing it!



Toyota; travel with Comfort.

As many of you will know, Peter Comfort is quite a fan of Toyota and Lexus cars. Well, he has been lucky enough to fix a visit to the Toyota plant at Burnaston, Derby, and is driving some of his IAM colleagues down there with him.

The visit takes place soon after this newsletter "goes to bed" but, maybe, if I ask nicely, someone from the party will make a few notes and let us know in the next edition how the trip went. I doubt whether they will be so discourteous to comment on how they enjoyed the drive down there!!



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