

# Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 277

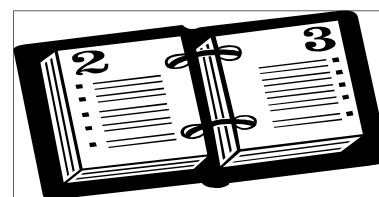
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October 2007

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## **Forthcoming Attractions**



**Monday, 15th October; History of flight in Southport** by pilot **John Mulliner**.

**Monday, 22nd October; Mid Course Theory Meeting.** An important meeting for Associates and Observers to attend.

**Monday, 19th November;** the speaker tonight is **Terry Clarry, motorcycle fire-fighter**.

**Monday, 17th December; Christmas Dinner.** More details will be available soon.

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

Autumn has got off to a good start for us with 13 people joining the associate scheme. The training team are working hard supporting and training new observers to keep the system working effectively. If you know anyone else interested in being an associate, January is the next month for the start of a new course.

I will have represented you at a couple of functions by the time you read this newsletter. The IAM National Conference for 2007 will be held in the Midlands. We are sending two delegates so apart from me as Group Chair, Tom O'Malley will be attending. Tom is our Council representative on the IAM Young Drivers Network.

The other function is Merseyside Group's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner at the Village Hotel. Alan Filson and I will be representing our Group. Ron Clare will also be attending as he is president of Merseyside Group in addition to ours. Ron's wife Audrey will be accompanying him. She is also a Group Friend of our Group.

We of course used to be part of Merseyside Group until we became a Section in 1982 and a full Group in 1984. Looking back to this time in 1984, the last time I was Chair, I am reminded that we used to hold our monthly meetings in the Royal Hotel in Formby. Are there many of you out there who remember that venue? We didn't stay there very long as the hotel's function room wasn't really big enough or had the facilities that we needed. They made us very welcome for the few months that we were there though. We moved to the Royal Clifton Hotel in Southport and have been there ever since.

Stella Owen  
(Chair)  
Sefton Advanced Motorists

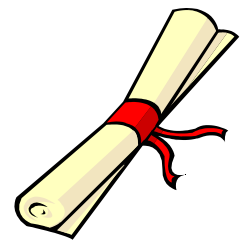


# Test Passes

Hearty congratulations go to

**Stephen Bass** observed by **Richard Hardie**

**Adam Whitehurst** observed by **Kevin McAllister and Mike Brown**



# New Associates

## Sefton Group extends a warm welcome to

<b>Mary Robinson</b>	from	Maghull
<b>Paul Looker</b>	from	Southport
<b>Daniel Cavanagh-Maddock</b>	from	Calderstones
<b>Walter Klahn</b>	from	Thornton
<b>Robert Fitch</b>	from	Southport
<b>Stanley Brown</b>	from	Ainsdale
<b>Anne McGee</b>	from	Crosby
<b>Gary Burns</b>	from	Waterloo
<b>John Calvert</b>	from	Hesketh Bank
<b>Jonathan Dann</b>	from	Lathom

## Terry Martin, IAM Examiner, presents Certificates.



On the left we see **Christine West** happily receiving her Advanced Driving certificate and, below, **David Clarkson** is accompanied by his Observer, Terry Gray.



Terry Martin hands over another certificate to **Ian Thoroughgood**, with Arthur Heighway looking on.

# More Parliamentary Support for IAM DriveCheck

Our latest Member of Parliament to participate in the IAM DriveCheck Scheme with Sefton Advanced Motorists is the RT Hon John Pugh MP, Liberal Democrat MP for Southport. John and I were snapped for the record outside the Lib Democrat Offices in Southport just prior to his IAM DriveCheck driving assessment on the Wednesday 29th August. As you can see from the photo John was enthusiastically anticipating the assessment to follow.



DriveCheck is a scheme introduced last year by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) to introduce driving assessment for members of the public which is not necessarily part of the Skill for Life programme, but which will hopefully attract some members of the driving population who are initially not attracted to the IAM. The scheme offers a way to for people to become involved with the IAM who currently would not do so because, for many, the challenge of the IAM test seems too daunting, or they are put off for some reason. The assessment lasts about an hour including a debrief by the assessor, completion of the Driving Assessment Report Sheet and briefing prior to the run. The actual driving time is 30-40 mins. The IAM are keen to see Members of Parliament supporting this driving initiative through active participation. John Pugh certainly demonstrated his enthusiasm to participate and is personally eager to spread the word encouraging other drivers to participate.

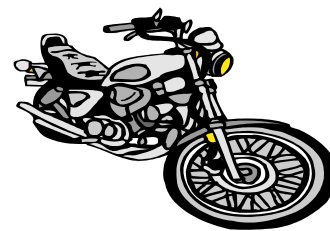
The drive, on the day, started with some town driving in mid morning traffic, a reversing manoeuvre near Victoria Park then a rural circular route via Halsall Moss, Shirdley Hill, Renacres Hall, Pinfold, Heatons Bridge and Scarisbrick, returning to Southport via the notorious Kew Roundabout. Despite rumour prior to the run that I would need to be of strong nerve, John gave a reasonably good driving performance for an experienced driver who had passed the DSA test many years ago. His road positioning, observation, hazard perception and planning ahead attributes were all above average driving standard. "Lady Luck" looked graciously down on us as we approached Kew Roundabout as the traffic parted for John's timely arrival and we cruised seamlessly through, without a touch of the brakes.

On completion of the DriveCheck John is now a Associate Member of the IAM for one year. The life of an MP is an extremely busy one so whilst John is very much in favour of progressing to the "Skill for Life" course his parliamentary commitments make it difficult to fit this in. Hopefully he may find the time next summer break to participate in the "Skill For Life" programme and become a full Member of the IAM as an Advanced Motorist.

Richard P Hardie  
IAM Senior Observer

## New Meeting Venue

# News from the Motor Cycle Section



To our immense surprise last Thursday we found out the Richmond was closing for a 3 month refit the day after. So as of Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September the Bike section will meet at

### **“The Pageant”**

Folkestone Road in Kew.

Usually, someone will be there from 8.15 am, every Thursday night throughout the winter.

## Test Passes

As most of you will know by now, we ran a 6 week course through the summer for Bike Associates which culminated with 12 out of 13 applying for a Test. Six have passed their tests in the last three weeks. I would like to congratulate them firstly for being great associates making the course enjoyable for all and secondly on achieving a high standard during their test.

Congratulations to

**Barry Phillips**  
**Graham Lunt,**

**Reg Prescott**  
**Stephen Bass**

**David Miller**  
**Kevin Rigby.**

We understand Stephen has passed his car test within two weeks of passing his bike test, and with the same Examiner. That must be quite rare. Now we know who to ask about which test is the harder, or most enjoyable. Just joking Stephen, and very well done from all of us; a great achievement.

Terry Martin tells me he has another three of our candidates to test. Here's trusting all three will also be successful.

## Bike Christmas Party

Kevin and Graham have organised this years event the details are;

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, The Shakespeare Pub**  
(Top of Eastbank Street at Roundabout).

Food, Live Band and Disco.  
7.30 pm till 1.00 am. Ticket price £15

Please contact Kevin on 01695 576306 or Graham (01704 380944) to book.  
Full payment please when you book.

The lads have put in a lot of work for this event and we need to get more than 50 people to attend. It will, I am sure, be a brilliant night and I get to do the “Piston Broke Award” with a microphone, so that's got to be good news.

To car members you are all welcome to come and “Take a walk on the wild side”.

Alan Filson

## **Qualified Observer Training; Programme Update**

The Training Team met recently and one of the topics of discussion was an update of the Qualified Observer - Training Programme, we decided it would be timely to include an overview of the training programme to date and of our plans for the future in the Newsletter.

In recent years The Sefton Group has seen an increase in the number of new Associates joining each course, typically ten candidates, or more. This of course has a knock on effect on the requirement for Observers to support the Associate intake and has stretched the available resource to the limit at times. To partly meet this demand, over the past four years, there has been an increase in numbers of newly trained and Qualified Observers in the Group. However at the beginning of 2007, recognising the need to increase the Observer resource, Group Council through the Training Team decided to focus on this. Since May there have been three trainee Observers undergoing training under the management of Frank Bennett and Richard Hardie – Senior Observers. With one Test Pass (Mike Brown, pictured below) and the other two trainees approaching “ready for Test” status. In September two new trainee Observers have commenced training with Mentor Observers. For the January 2008 course we have one candidate already identified and are seeking another to join this course.

So what is being a Qualified Observer all about? Observers, as volunteers, are fundamental in the success of our Group in taking Associates through the “Skill for Life” programme to test ready status. From January 2002 the IAM in London introduced an IAM National required standard for Qualified Observer. The training is managed by Senior Observers of the Training Team and involves practical development alongside a Mentor Observer of all the skills and theory involved in Advance Driving, particularly focusing on how to impart this knowledge to an Associate during observed runs. The Qualified Observer Test comprising a practical Demonstration Drive, an Observed Run with an Associate and a Written Test, concludes the training process. Considering becoming an Observer is a natural progression after passing your test if you feel you have an interest in developing further your advanced driving skills and have an aptitude for coaching others to become better safer drivers.

For Observers it is rewarding when an Associate passes their Test a valuable contribution to the success of the Sefton Advanced Motorists Group. Many thanks to all our existing Observers for the fine work they do in this respect and to the Mentor Observers for their support of the training programme.



For the future we plan to continue the Qualified Observer training programme on an ongoing basis with two trainees for each new Associate course, in January, May and September of each year. We are therefore actively looking for volunteers to join the programme in the future. If you are interested in becoming a Qualified Observer, or would like more information, please contact myself, any member of the Training Team, or Group Council, as early as is convenient to you, so that the training schedules can be drawn up.

Richard Hardie  
IAM Senior Observer

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