

Chairman Writes

Hello to you all,

As autumn gets into full swing the car drivers amongst us will no doubt be preparing their vehicles for the more variable conditions of the season. Low sun can be a particular hazard and other road users, especially our 2 wheel brethren, will no doubt thank us for giving our internal windows and screens a good polish. While you've got the cleaning kit out a quick wipe of the headlights won't do any harm either. It's also worth checking the mix on the washer bottle and maybe be a little more generous with the concentrate to clean off the outside muck. The IAM press release inside this issue brings the mud on the road accidents to the fore; we could also look out for the leaves and slippery mulch at the road side.



After our talk from Jean Hunt last month I've seen my first "seat belt" reminder on the electronic display boards, previously I'd only spotted the speed kills message. Jean's talk highlighted to me the opportunity for the group to slot into a volunteer orientated council operation. The large majority of the councils targeted road safety is at cyclists and pedestrians. This is presumably because the council sees the majority of potential casualty reductions in these areas. Hopefully if the group maintains contacts with Jean's department we can help fill the gap in the market.

The next 2 monthly meetings should give us the opportunity to consider if the IAM is walking the walk with their intentions of spreading best practice around the country. Firstly we get the local staff examiner Chris Givvens' view on the world. Then in November for, compare and contrast purposes, we get the IAM chief examiner Peter Rodger. Many thanks go to Paulette for some excellent organising. So please make every effort to attend, so we get a good turn out for our speakers who are coming a long way.

Do remember that posters and skill for life leaflets are readily available at the monthly meetings. If you can find a good home for these then please spread them around. With the price increase to our courses and the general belt tightening much in evidence, we need all the word of mouth support we can get.

See you soon ,

Tom.

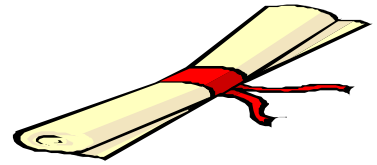
Test Passes

Hearty congratulations go to

Robert Palmer

observed by

David Williams



New Associates

Sefton Group extends a warm
welcome to



Peter Gane

from

Southport

Visit by IAM Chief Examiner



As you will remember, we enjoyed the company of the IAM Chairman (David Kenworthy) at our AGM in May and, it seems, he has been able to encourage another of his colleagues from “headquarters” to make the journey up to the North West of England.

Because, in **November** we will be able to welcome **Peter Rodger, Chief Examiner**, to our monthly meeting at the Royal Clifton Hotel. This will take place on the 16th of that month which means you have plenty of opportunity to keep your diaries free for his visit.

You will also have plenty of chance to question him on all matters of driving and the IAM. So, if anything occurs to you between now and then it may be as well to make a note of it and raise it during the meeting.

News Release: 30th September 2009



Don't take an early mud bath this autumn

Harvest time is upon us and local drivers, as well as out-of-towners, will be confronted by slippery mud patches on the roads, usually with nothing more than the charmingly rustic home-made sign as a warning.

The Institute of Advanced Motorists has urged drivers to look for other clues to the possibility of mud on the roads, which caused 696 accidents in 2008*. IAM Chief Examiner, Peter Rodger, said:

“Mud on roads is particularly an issue around harvest time. If you're driving on a rural road,



keep an eye out for indicators such as tractors in the fields, and straw or tractor tyre marks on the roads. Field and farm entrances or farm buildings by the roadside are places where the landscape is giving a clue that there could be a problem. If you do find a small amount of mud, be ready for more, and prepared to find yourself on a very slippery surface. If it rains the result can be a very slippery

film of mud spread across the road.

“If you are amongst other traffic, drop back from the vehicle ahead and allow yourself more time to see the road surface – and keep away from the mud splattered up onto your wind-screen at the same time.

“Mud is an inevitable part of life in the country, and drivers should always expect it to be there.

Statistically rural roads are our most dangerous and observation is the key to safe driving. By taking this kind of information on board, and by adjusting your driving accordingly, you can avoid being caught by surprise, and serious accidents due to skidding.”



Sefton Advanced Motorists

Christmas Meal

21st December 2009

at

“Trattoria O’Sole Mio”

1 Avondale Road Southport PR8 5DG

3 course Christmas Dinner should be priced around £14.

The exact menu and price details are still to be advised by the restaurant.

Please let Paulette Haigh have your name and number attending as soon as possible to ensure that there is sufficient interest.

A Deposit of £5 will be required once the booking is made at the restaurant.



Paulette Haigh

Home Tel No: 01772 816610

What would you do in this situation?

- You are driving in a car at a constant speed
- On your left is a drop off, about 18 to 20” below the surface on which you are travelling.
- On your right is a fire engine going at the same speed as you with its lights flashing and sirens sounding.
- In front of you is a galloping horse that you can not overtake.
- Behind you is a zebra going in the same direction and equally as fast.



What can you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

See page 6 for a suggested answer.

Tailpiece

Some of you may know that my wife and I have been the very satisfied owners of an aged Toyota for the past 15 years which we bought second hand when it was three years old. Well, we decided that the government scrappage scheme was too good a chance to pass up and miss out on realising £2,000 for a car which was quite worthless as a saleable commodity.

With that decision made we had to think what may be able to replace it and tour the relevant showrooms to see the options “in the flesh”. We found it quite an exciting and interesting experience since we have never set about purchasing a brand new car before. All our previous vehicles have always been second hand, and kept running for as long as circumstances and economics allowed.

What, you may ask, has any of this to do with the IAM and road safety ?

It has absolutely nothing to do with the IAM but from the road safety point of view (and motoring law) the story unfolds like this..

- You go to the showroom of choice
- Show interest in a certain model
- Receive the sales patter
- Have a good look round the vehicle
- Ask for a test drive.

This is where It gets interesting and where different approaches are taken to the request. Some salesmen just gave us the keys to a car and said take it wherever you want and didn't accompany us. Others went with us and only allowed us a minimal amount of time to get the feel of the car. One of them spent a long time riding in the back of two different cars while my wife and I tried to decide which was better, the 1.4 manual or the 1.6 automatic.

But only one dealership out of six ever asked to see our driving licences! And, even then, we were not allowed out with the car by ourselves. Full marks to them, but how would the others have fared if we had not been properly licensed and an accident had occurred??



Answer to situation described on page 5.

Answer = Get off the merry-go-round, it is for kids!

**SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP No. 5143**

NOTICEBOARD

SAM shirts available.

Polo shirts & sweatshirts are now available embroidered with the IAM logo. The red car roundel is illustrated but there are also green ones for motorcyclists.



Cam Cunningham has arranged the supply and orders can be placed with him at any of the Group's meetings or by ringing him on 01704 892816.



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