

# Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 309

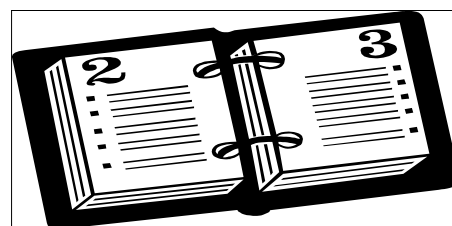
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## Forthcoming Attractions



**Monday 21st June:** IAM Examiner, Terry Martin, will be talking to us about all things of interest to both motor cyclists and drivers

**Wednesday 30th June:** Please note the change of evening for the **Mid-Course Theory Session**. This meeting is, of course, primarily for our New Associates and their Observers but all will be welcome to attend.

**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

As the new Chairman of Sefton Advanced Motorists my thanks to all who attended our 2010 AGM, participating Council Office bearers on the night and of course to those involved in preparation of the fabric of the meeting beforehand. It was a successful and enjoyable evening. It is my pleasure to thank my predecessor and retiring Chairman - Tom O'Malley for his significant and successful contribution to the Group over the year. My role as Vice-Chairman was an easy passage, as I was only called to arms once over the term. Well done Tom for manipulation of your shifts to achieve this high level of attendance at Council. Also thanks to Tom for covering the role of speaker on the night with selected readings from his recently conducted Members Questionnaire. Some interesting food for thought for the future from this I'm sure. Finally, thanks also to Malcolm Towler for not only auditing our Annual Accounts, but for presenting them in the absence of Paulette Haigh - Treasurer.



My background in, for those of you whom I've not met, is that I joined as an Associate in May 2003 and became a Member August 2003. Observer qualification, February 2005. Invited to join the Training Team May 2006 and become Secretary. Senior Observer qualification, December 2006. Following the retirement of Frank Bennett May 2007, I was invited to join Council. So, from 2005 I've been fairly proactive in the running and development of the Group and am proud to have had the opportunity to contribute.

For my term as Chairman this year David Paton - Vice-Chairman will support me, hopefully he will be called on as frequently as I was for Tom.

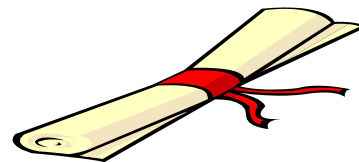
It is heartening to see how well the Bike Section of the Group is doing in terms of success in attracting new Associates and successful Test and Qualified Observers passes during the last year. The contribution from Alan Filson, Stewart Gaukroger and their team of QO's must be applauded, keep up the good work. Sadly the Car Section is not enjoying such success, as new Associate numbers over the year have been unusually low. Plans are afoot with Council and the Training Team to turn this round, through promotions and presentations. However, as Stella Owen – Associate Co-ordinator rightly pointed out in her AGM presentation, historically new Associates tend to come to our Group through personal recommendation from the Membership to family, or friends. All Members are indeed the converted to the benefits of achieving Membership of the IAM through the Skill for Life Course, so keep spreading the word and I'm sure the good times will soon return.

I look forward to the challenges of my term as Chairman and contributing to the success of The Group.

Richard Hardie – Chairman  
Sefton Advanced Motorists

# New Associates Test Passes

Hearty congratulations go to



**Pam Walmsley** observed by **Gil Taylor**

and

**Alex Boyes**  
Motorcyclist

Sefton Group extends a warm  
welcome to



**Claire Rigby** from **Southport**

**Jennifer Filson** from **Ainsdale**

**Ruth Woodward** from **Formby**

## A Note for your Diary

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, 30th June** at the Royal Clifton Hotel, starting at 8pm which is primarily for the benefit of New Associates to discuss any aspect of the current course which may be giving concern or need clarification. This is the

### **Mid-Course Theory Session.**

Any member or Observer is more than welcome to attend as well, as discussion usually encompasses a broad range of driving topics.

## **Newsletter Contributions Welcomed**

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcomed and appreciated. These can be submitted by any means, but e-mail submissions greatly ease final production. **Copy deadline is the last Friday of the month.** E.g. Friday, **25th June for the July issue.**

My contact details and address can be found on page 7.

Gil Taylor  
Newsletter Editor

## Three more Qualified Observers for the Motorcycle Section.

The AGM on May 17th saw another three Motorcyclists receive certificates raising them to the level of Qualified Observers.

One of our local IAM Examiners, **Terry Martin** was fortuitously on hand to make the Presentations.



Above, we see **Phillip Lang** getting his hands on the prized certificate. On the left, it is **Barry Hesketh** receiving the award.



Last, but by no means least, it was the turn of **Colin Wright** to step up to be presented with his Qualified Observer Certificate from Terry.

Congratulations to all three and we hope they will get much satisfaction from raising the skill level and safety Of many more riders in the years to come.



## Subscriptions were due in April!

If any car or motorcycle members have not yet renewed their Sefton Advanced Motorists Group subscription for 2010 Tim Starkey will be delighted to receive them asap.

This will save the embarrassment of asking/being asked for them.

It also assists the Group's finances tremendously.

## Cut the Queues, says IAM.

(news release from 12th May)



Have you ever sat in a queue of traffic, patiently waiting your turn, only to see a car speeding down the outside lane and then “pushing in” ahead of you?

It may be frustrating, and appear more than a little rude, but perhaps that opportunistic driver sailing past you is in fact just making good use of an otherwise empty lane. And by being over-polite and joining the queue you are simply adding to the length of the congestion.

IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger said: “Driver etiquette means that ‘zip merging’ can be frowned upon by drivers in long queues of traffic, but if all available lanes are used, right up to the bottleneck, it is perfectly acceptable for vehicles from each lane to take it in turns to merge into the single lane. This reduces the length of road the queue stretches along and prevents blocked junctions.”

“Pinch points” are all too common on our roads, but the advice in the Highway Code on how to “merge in turn” is vague.

Mr Rodger offers this advice: “If you are approaching a long queue of traffic in only one lane, you should stay in the lane you’re in, even if it’s empty, as long as you reduce your speed. Even if you have to merge further down, it is worth using all the space available to avoid unnecessarily long tailbacks.

“When travelling alongside a queue of traffic keep your speed right down and be extra vigilant, as other drivers may be considering pulling out into the empty lane.”

### Rule 288 of the Highway Code:

Where lanes are restricted due to roadworks, merge in turn.



## Take Care on Country Roads, says IAM



With the weather finally warming up, the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has urged drivers and riders to take particular care on country roads.

Crashes on rural roads tend to be more serious, even in modern cars, and unfamiliar country roads hold many hidden risks.

Neil Greig, IAM Director of Policy and Research, said: “The lush grass at this time of year makes it particularly difficult to see round bends, so take corners with extra care. There is bound to be lots of wildlife tearing about, so be prepared for them.”

Summer is the peak season for rural road deaths and serious injuries, and 45 per cent of rural road deaths and serious injuries occur on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, most occurring when the weather is fine and the roads are dry\* .

Fair weather biking means that the number of motorcycle crashes also tends to go up in the summer months, with more than three quarters of motorcycle deaths and injuries happening on dry roads in fine weather.



“Weekend riders should be aware that twice as many bikers die on rural roads than on urban roads. There are also more serious or fatal biker casualties at the weekend,” added Mr Greig.

“If we all share the road safely, we can make sure everyone, on four wheels or two, gets the same enjoyment out of our unique countryside.”

### ***IAM Driver Skills Days*** ***Teesside Autopark –Friday 3rd September 2010***

We have had an e-mail from Head Office offering us a chance to join with groups at the above event in Teesside. Apparently, the response has not been great, so far. The following is an extract from the message.

IAM Skills Days are planned to attract drivers who wish to improve their road skills. The days are not intended to be free for all track days. Drivers will work in pairs with a dedicated instructor for the duration of the event. The instructors will deliver a set of core competencies for driver development. Drivers will use the car they use on a daily basis. It doesn't require a new sports car to get the best from the event. The cost of the sessions, morning or afternoon, is £95.

Should you decide to take part in the Skills Day, you can book and pay on line by logging into the IAM website [www.iam.org.uk](http://www.iam.org.uk) and click onto Car Driver then onto car events diary.

**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.



#### **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,