

# Sefton Advanced Motorists

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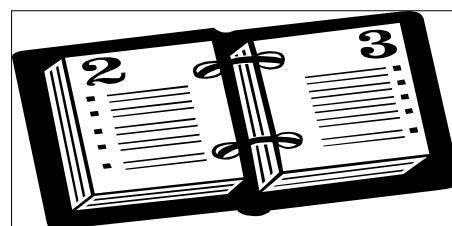
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## Forthcoming Attractions



**August;** no meeting

**Saturday, 4th September;** enjoy a **Cycle Experience**. Meet at the **Eco Centre, Esplanade, Southport at 10.00am** to experience life on two wheels as a cyclist. See page 5 for further details.

**Monday, 13th September;** an introduction to the final Skill for Life course of the year at the **New Associates Meeting**. If you know of anyone who would like to enrol it is not too late to think about it and even turn up on the night to grab a place.

**Monday, 20th September;** a retired police dog handler and author, **Dave Jackson**, will be our guest this evening. His talk is entitled **“The Making of Cassius”**. It is a true story of a courageous police dog.

**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



Those of us who braved the torrential rain on the evening of the July monthly meeting were treated to an excellent talk by Ann O'Brien – Bench Chair Magistrate at Sefton, who fluently delivered an interesting and entertaining talk on her work over the last nine years as a Magistrate. Ann's talk gave us a clear insight to the role of the magistrate and the workings of the court. The varied backgrounds of magistrates in terms of gender, age and occupational experience, required to ensure that a fair trial results. The structure and scope of sentencing, from absolute discharge, fine, community payback and sentencing, she covered in some detail with interesting anecdotes. Ann concluded with a wish not to see us again, unless socially. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

I'd like to thank Paulette Haigh for the fine and tireless work she does rooting out speakers to enlighten and entertain us at our monthly meetings. Not an easy task, much appreciated. If through other social groups you have come across a speaker that would be of interest to our Group please let Paulette know. Contact details for Paulette are in the list of SAM Council Members in the Newsletter rear inside page.

Sadly I have to advise that Jan West has had to step down from her role as Secretary, due to ill health. Our thoughts and best wishes for a steady recovery go to Jan and hope she will be able to resume her role in the fullness of time. In Jan's absence I have asked Tim Starkey to step in as Secretary, he has agreed to do alongside his role of Membership Secretary. Council ratified his appointment this month and I have advised IAM Head Office of the change.

A few of years ago Kathleen Tattersall – Qualified Observer stepped down from active participation in the "Skill for Life" training programme, due to business commitments. I'm pleased to advise that Kathleen has been in touch to advise she is available to return to the Associate training programme. Welcome back Kathleen.

Over the past months the Training Team have been working on preparing an administrative document to be used to check new Associate's driving documentation. In the past we have done this through the Associate Log. However, earlier this year IAM Head Office made Council aware of the need for the Group to hold a formal record of the required Associate Driver/Rider Documentation that allows them to drive the vehicle on a public highway. This work concluded this month with a form to fulfil this obligation and guidance on its use issued to Observers.

Good to read in last month's newsletter of Trevor Wooding's sojourn to Alaska and Roy Carr's visit to the Coventry Transport Museum. Just the sort of copy Gil needs to keep the Newsletter refreshed with personal experience. Please take a moment to put pen to paper, or fingers to the keyboard, to share your summer holiday driving/cycling/walking experiences with the whole Membership.

Richard Hardie – Chairman  
Sefton Advanced Motorists

**Sefton Advanced Motorcyclists** invite riders to .....

## **ASSESSMENT DAY**

**Bank Holiday Saturday  
28th August 2010**

This is a chance for motorcyclists to attend a full one day advanced motorcycling workshop in Southport. Not only will there be observed rides undertaken but ample opportunity to delve into the theory of safe and skilful motorcycling.

**The event takes place at the Fire Station on Manchester Road, Southport.**

**The cost for the day is a very modest £25, and includes lunch.**



*For more information on how to enrol and take the next step to becoming a better rider please contact*

**Dave: 07711 903040  
or Stewart:: 07776 296224**

NB: It is worth noting that anyone signing up for the "Skill for Life" Advanced Motorcycling course on the day will receive a £25 discount from the cost of that course. There are limited places available.

## **More Riders taking Pleasure in our Roads**

An IAM poll has found that motorcycle use is on the rise, with more than 60 per cent of riders stating that their overall bike usage has gone up since last year.

The online poll found that 78 per cent of the 5,717 respondents owned both a motorbike and a car. The majority (88 per cent) use their bike for leisure at some point, with one third using the bike just for recreational riding.

Neil Greig, IAM Director of Policy and Research, said: "Most of this increase appears to be in riding for pleasure, so is unlikely to be a short-term, recession-linked trend: only a tiny proportion of bikers are using their machine exclusively for business or commuting."

The poll also found that over 90 per cent of respondents felt that motorcyclists should be allowed in bus lanes in every town and city across the country.

Mr Greig added: "Feelings are running high on access to bus lanes for bikers after a successful experiment in London recently, so it comes as no surprise that there has been such positive feedback from the riders.

"A nationwide approach to consistent signposting and regulation would mean improved safety as bikers and the wider public would be more aware of the rules."

## More Cyclists will lead to better awareness, says IAM.



The IAM today, 29th July, welcomed the launch of Barclays Cycle Hire scheme, and hopes the influx of new riders will make drivers more aware of bicycles on London's roads.

***Duncan Pickering, IAM Cycling Development Manager, said:***

“Research shows that many drivers aren't looking to see cyclists, as they are just not as common as cars on the road. The introduction of easily accessible bikes throughout the city centre will no doubt tempt more would-be cyclists onto London's roads, be they commuters, tourists, or those simply wanting to give it a try.

“The IAM predicts that, with the critical mass of cyclists going up, drivers will be more aware and be looking out for people on bikes around town, hopefully leading to a more positive sharing of the road.

“Providing all parties behave courteously, and give each other the necessary space, the scheme will encourage more Londoners to take up cycling, and benefit from the health, economic, and environmental rewards it brings,” added Mr Pickering.

For advice on how to use your cycle hire bike on the road more safely, the IAM's guide ***How to be a better cyclist*** is a good place to start, available at [iam.org.uk](http://iam.org.uk).

*A copy of the above-mentioned guide is held by Sefton Group and is presently in the hands of Gil Taylor. Anyone wishing to see/ borrow it can get in touch with him on 01704 224062.*

## Charity begins at Home?

Perhaps spurred on by ***IAM President Nigel Mansell's*** plans to cycle 1200 miles around Britain in 13 days in support of UK Youth (of which he is also President) some of our own members have been doing their bit for charity as well.

***Richard Hardie*** (Chairman of Sefton Group) took part in the annual 54 mile Liverpool-Chester-Liverpool cycle ride on Sunday, 18th July and raised £163 in aid of Queenscourt Hospice. Many thanks from him to our members who donated the bulk of that amount. Meanwhile, your editor enjoyed another charity cycle ride (Bill Bradley Memorial Ride) which is organised each year by Southport Cycling Club in support of Macmillan Cancer Relief. He opted for the 40 mile route that was, nevertheless, most enjoyable.

However, ***David Williams*** (one of our Qualified Observers) has been doing his ***annual walk for his favourite charity, Southport Kidney Fund***. His mammoth walk took place on Sunday, 25th July and for those who missed him at last month's meeting at the RCH he will be more than happy to accept more pledges and donations after the event. Southport appears to have an above average number of people who have been affected by kidney disease and illness and the SKF is an extremely good cause. David's address is 5 Kent Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 4BJ and should you need to ring him his phone number is 01704 568295. Please do what you can to help. Any cheques should be made out to "Southport Kidney Fund".



# Sefton Advanced Motorists are Organising a Cycling Event....

*In conjunction with Southport Cycling Town*

This event is open to all group members, their families and their friends.

**Saturday, 4th September 2010**  
**10.00am to 12 noon**  
**Eco Centre, Esplanade, Southport.**



The concept is to give as many motorists the opportunity of riding a bicycle around our very pleasant town. We hope to illustrate some of the techniques that make the cycling experience so enjoyable and, at the same time, safe.

You don't even have to bring a bike because the hire centre is providing them, free of charge.



You will be aware that the IAM is now able to offer structured cycle training to companies using fully accredited instructors trained to the National Standard. There are 3 levels of training offered in this way the first two of which are as follows:



Delivered in a quiet off-road environment, Cyclecheck covers all the essentials including bike control, braking, gear changing and signalling. Ideal for the lapsed or novice cyclist requiring greater confidence.



If you can demonstrate good bike control, CycleRide focuses on cycling safely on the road. By using quieter roads this level aims to enhance the cyclist's sense of security through awareness and more assertive cycling.

*The price of such cycle training, typically a one-hour session on a 1:1 basis costs in the region of £25-30 per hour. But, because the group has access to National Standard instructors, this two*

## What you need to do next.....

1. Persuade your driving family and friends that doing this will make them a more rounded driver and road user.
2. Ring Gil Taylor on 01704 224062 to reserve a place and a bicycle (bring your own if you prefer).
3. Let him know the names of your party and their approximate heights, for appropriate bike allocation.

**NB.** Dependent on numbers and abilities we will be able to split people into groups to suit their needs, e.g. those wanting a leisurely and traffic-free experience, and others who wish to hone their existing on-road skills.

## Older Driver refresher courses benefit all, says IAM.



*Press Release: 30 June 2010.*

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has welcomed the new RAC report on older drivers which finds that 84% of drivers aged 70 or over acknowledge the value of a refresher driving course.

Neil Greig, IAM Director of Policy and Research said: "With ever-growing numbers of older drivers looking to stay safe and maintain independence, it is encouraging to see that there is a high degree of support for refresher courses.

"Older drivers have most of their crashes on high speed roads, particularly on slip roads and at junctions and roundabouts. Updating their skills to deal with these hazards and helping them to stay mobile for as long as possible should be the key aim of refresher courses. The IAM provides a Drive Check 55 refresher course which specifically addresses these issues.

"The IAM does not support compulsory retesting or medicals as we believe they will force many perfectly safe drivers to give up driving too early. This loss of mobility makes them a far greater financial burden on society and less able to access services and support. GPs need more training and information to help them advise patients on giving up driving and refresher courses."

### **Notes to Editors:**

- *The IAM has already called for a wide debate on how we will deal with more older drivers on our roads. Over the next 30 years **the number of male drivers over 70 on the roads will double, and the number of women drivers will treble.** By raising the issue now we can have the right structure in place to deliver the refresher courses that older drivers want without putting in place a restrictive and expensive new licensing regime.*
- *IAM research in 2005 found that seven out of ten older drivers would like refresher courses to include a brush-up on driving on busy motorways.*

## Sefton has a problem with older drivers.

Sefton Advanced Motorists understands that current road accident statistics for the borough of Sefton show that there is a particular issue with older drivers being involved in a disproportionately high number of incidents. However, further analysis of the figures clearly point to the problem being peculiar to Southport.

With this in mind the Group has been approached by the Sefton Road Safety Team to explore how we may assist them to assess the driving standards of this section of the driving community.

*We will keep you informed of how the discussions progress.*

**SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS**  
**GROUP No. 5143**

# **NOTICEBOARD**

### **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, 27th August for the September issue.**

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

Gil Taylor  
Newsletter Editor

### **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.