

Wigan Group Newsletter



Issue 292 July 2004

Wigan Advanced Motorists

**Group Contact number
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Honorary Life President
John Harman MBE



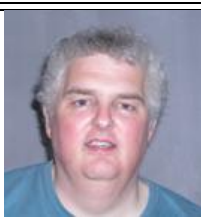
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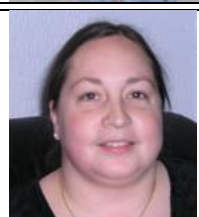
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Committee
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Committee
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Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Deadline for contributions is the last Tuesday in the month Send any contributions to the group E-mail address at:
Wigan5019@Hotmail.com

No photo yet

(Don't worry he won't escape for long !)

Committee
Tony Rigby

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor. They are not necessarily those of the Group, it's Officers or the Institute
Previous copies are available to download at www.iam.org.uk/groups/wigan
Wigan Advanced Motorists is a registered charity, No 518387



Welcome to your newsletter

By the time you read this the summer holidays will be in full swing. If you're on the roads take care, other drivers may be preoccupied with their brood of kids in the back and not the road !

I hope to be seeing more of you all now my leg is improving, I won't be on my bike for a couple of months yet but at least I can get into a car !

I will also be having words with the Car driver who commented to me that "99 percent of bikers give the rest a bad name".

Have a happy summer

Mike

Additional Newsletter Format

Following a trial period the newsletter is now being published electronically in PDF format for those members preferring to receive it this way (in our increasingly paperless society).

If you wish to be included please E-mail your address to wigan5019@hotmail.com indicating if you also wish to continue receiving a 'hard' copy.

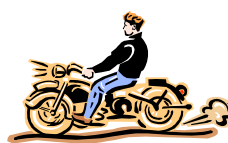
SOCIAL EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated Wigan Group hold a social event every second Tuesday, starting at 8pm at the Priory Wood Hotel.

Leave the M6 at Junction 26 (M58) and at the Orrell exit turn left. Priory Wood is on your right as you cross over the motorway.

Planned Meetings

Every Sunday at the Priory Wood, Orrell. Meeting in the car park at 09:30 (Bikes) and 10:00 (Cars) for Associates and anyone interested in joining. All are welcome to join us at 12:00 in the pub for a natter.



Mid week Bike runs leaving the Priory Wood at 19:00 on a Wednesday have now recommenced. Other

Bike and Car mid-week runs are available on request. See Martin Duckworth or Les Stretton

Imminent Diary Dates

Tuesday July 13th Kenny Davies from the AA will be talking to us at the Priory Wood, starting at 08:00pm prompt.

Tuesday August 10th Treasure Hunt. Organised by Gary, the route will end at a local hostelry where food will be available to those who order it as they set out. (For the rest there will still be drinks, good company and the opportunity to comment on each others 'observation skills'). There will be a prize for the winner, (my money's on Gary !)

For a full list of diary dates please see the inside back page of this Newsletter.

On the subject of caution remember that the early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap!

Have Pride in Our Institute

Ever been asked, "Why should I join the IAM?", and struggled to give a concise answer? Well the following extract off the IAM Website may help:

The Institute of Advanced Motorists aims to raise the standard of driving by increasing the skill and competence of drivers. The result of a Transport Research Laboratory Report showed that Advanced Motorists have between a 50% and 75% lower accident rate. This is the main, and most significant, benefit of passing the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test.

Once drivers have passed the Test, services available to Members include motor insurance, through the IAM Select Insurance scheme. There are also special offers such as the IAM Car Purchase Plan, breakdown and recovery insurance, an IAM credit card, personal loans, car hire. Members also receive a copy of the colour magazine 'Advanced Driving', published three times a year, which has interesting features on driving and other topics, as well as News from the Groups.

Membership of the Institute currently stands at over 110,000. Nearly 10,000 people successfully take the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test every year.

There are also 200 local Groups in the UK who provide a course of preparation, events for their Members, and promote the Institute in their locality, offering the Skill for Life Full Driving/Motorcycling Programme.

The Institute has, since it was founded more than forty years ago, given hundreds of thousands of motorists and motorcyclists the opportunity to check whether they have the qualities to be better and safer drivers. This has made them more aware, helping them to deal with increasingly difficult situations on today's roads, as well as giving extra protection to themselves and to their passengers, with the added touch of enjoying their driving/riding more.

Welcome to New Associates

New Car

Bill Bradley

Jim Threlfall

New Bike

Stuart Smalley

MEMBER ASSESSMENTS

Been a few years since you took your test?

Want to brush-up your skills in a non-threatening manner?

If you would like to have an 'Observed Run' with one of our current Observers, which can also be videoed using our new camera allowing you to see how your Drive/Ride progresses, (free to any Wigan Group Members), please come along on any Sunday and speak to Les who will arrange this for you.

*Feeling like a **Challenge**? Then how about taking the Institutes '**Special Assessment**' See details on the opposite page.*

An old man goes to the Wizard to ask him if he can remove a "Curse" he has been living with for many years.

The Wizard says "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you."

The old man says without hesitation, "I now pronounce you man and wife."

THE IAM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

The IAM Special Assessment offers IAM members the UK's ultimate advanced Driving/Riding challenge.

THE ULTIMATE ADVANCED DRIVING CHALLENGE

It is a very demanding and stringent examination of driving/riding skills and knowledge. Nothing other than the very highest standard is expected.

The IAM reserves the right for the Examiner to terminate the IAM Special Assessment if a member is not fully and properly prepared for it.

The principles of Advanced Driving and Riding, and information about what the Examiner will be looking for during the Assessment, can be found in the IAM publications "Pass Your Advanced Driving Test" and "Pass Your Advanced Motorcycle Test". The test of theory knowledge will require a detailed knowledge of these publications as well as of "Roadcraft" and "The Highway Code".

Applications can only be accepted from candidates who:-

- Have been IAM members for one year or more
- Have been "collision free" and "conviction free" for a period of 2 or more years
- Do not have more than 6 penalty points endorsed on their driving licence
- Do not have any proceedings pending against them

(Members who cannot meet this criteria should consider taking the normal IAM Driving Assessment).

The IAM Special Assessment comprises:-

- A short briefing by the Examiner
- Approximately 45 mins of driving/riding to the highest possible standard by the candidate
- A short break to discuss the drive/ride, (the Examiner will not advise "best practice")
- Approximately 45 mins further driving/riding to the highest possible standard by the candidate
- A test of the candidate's driving/riding and road safety theory knowledge
- Verbal feedback by the Examiner

Car members will be required to give a high standard, flowing commentary, unless there are special circumstances why this cannot be done (speech impediment etc.). Such special circumstances must be notified when the application is made.

If the Assessment is successfully completed, candidates will receive an IAM Special Assessment Certificate. A confidential written report giving members an analysis of the driving/riding demonstrated and an overall evaluation, expressed as a percentage, will be provided subsequently by the Chief Examiner.

The IAM Special Assessment is voluntary, it is not a test and those undertaking it will not pass or fail. Membership of the IAM will not be affected but only one IAM Special Assessment will be permitted in any twelve-month period.

The Assessment costs £60.00 and Application Forms can be obtained from committee members or directly from the IAM

MOORHOUSES BREWERY VISIT

Tuesday 8th June 2004



An intrepid band of Wigan Group Members visited Moorhouses Brewery in Burnley, taking the opportunity to sample some of the products.

This trip was last run many years ago... and the consensus was that the return visit was long overdue.

Kevin can be seen inspecting the brewing vessel to ensure all is well. (For some of our members the smell of good ale is all they need let alone the 'free' pint in the bar).

Well, what do you think ? Is Eric a fast drinker or is Les on his second pint?

I'm a little disappointed that no-one thought to take a picture of the pie and peas supper !



Further items for Alternative Dictionary.

Conform	police records	Garbage	Old dress
Gaseous	former name of Mohammed Ali	Deluge	large version of Mr. Trotter
Content	used for cell shortages	Heal	Back of the foot
Gastric	hat the anaesthetist performs	Drain	wet precipitation
Disclose	what I is wearing	Health Service	What gnomes get called up for
Debar	where to gat a drink	Macro	Scottish tier
Intern	one by one	Foresight	Double double vision
Disgusted	what you put on rhubarb	Mist	off target
Insect	latest religion	Gall	old Frenchman
Express	sacked reporter	Metre	holiday rep.
Incense	opposite of nonsense	Galleon	old petrol measure
Else	diminutive of Elsie	Great	where the fire is
Mystery	young Conservative	Delight	switched on
Event	fifth ventilator	Minor	pitman
Mistress-	something between master and mattress		
Extent	old camping gear		
Fortunes	T.O.P.		

(Thanks to Alf)

Max Driver

The IAM in conjunction with Max Power Magazine announced a new initiative at the NEC on the 2nd July. Aimed at what is considered the most 'at-risk' group of drivers, Max Power readers will be offered the opportunity to prepare for and take the IAM Test.

This will be in the form of 'Max Driver', (undertaken through local IAM Groups) or 'Max Driver Fast Track' (delivered by IAM Fleet). While costing a little more than the standard Skill for Life, participants get a 'package of goodies' including their own version of the Advanced Driving manual called 'Drive Like a God'.

The IAM feels that we have a duty to educate as many young people as possible and it is hoped that initiatives such as this will increase the number of 'younger' drivers who, in the past, have proved difficult to attract.

Driving Attitudes of 17-24 year old Motorists

By coincidence the following article was forwarded to the Group from the Greater Manchester partnership which you may find interesting.

WE'RE GOOD - AND FAST, SAY YOUNG DRIVERS (By Peter Woodman, Transport Correspondent, PA News)

Nearly all young motorists reckon they are good drivers yet more than three in five say they go fast when behind the wheel, according to a survey out today.

Nearly two in five 17-24 year olds went as far as to describe their driving as "risky" or "exhilarating" and 11% admitted their driving was "dangerous" or "erratic", the Max Power magazine survey released by the RAC Foundation showed.

In the survey of young drivers

- 86% rated themselves as "good" or "very good" drivers
- 73% considered their driving to be "controlled"
- 64% felt they were "confident"
- 54% felt they were "safe"
- 28% felt they were "considerate"
- 21% thought themselves "patient".

But the survey also revealed

- 62% described their driving as "fast"
- 2% described it as "slow"
- 38% described their driving as "risky" or "exhilarating"
- 11% conceded that their driving was "dangerous" or "erratic"
- 25% described it as "aggressive".

While 80% had no points on their licence, 20% had three or more points, 9% had nine points and 6% had been disqualified. Asked what might make them a better driver, only 14% suggested reading the Highway Code.

More positively, there was widespread recognition of the potential benefits of further driver training, with 75% believing they would be safer drivers, 74% believing their car insurance would be cheaper, 73% believing they would be more confident and 44% believing they would be less likely to have an accident.

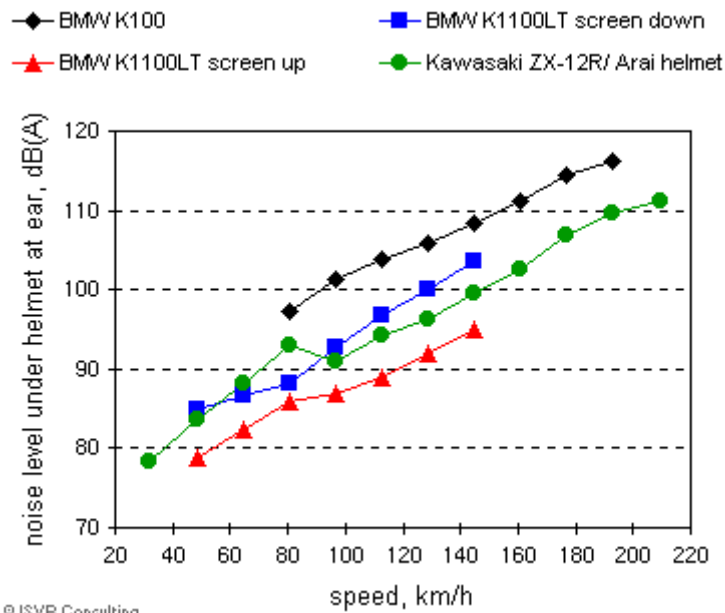
Kevin Delaney, RAC Foundation's head of traffic and road safety, said "The Max Power survey is very worrying. Not only does it show that many young motorists seriously underestimate the risk to themselves and their passengers, it suggests that they are not influenced by campaigns to reduce their speed. "The good news is that young drivers are keen to improve their driving and recognise the importance of more training. "Many teenagers are dying to drive and tragically far too many die while they are driving because they over-estimate their ability."

Road casualty statistics for 2002 showed that 17-24 year olds suffered more road deaths and serious injuries than any other age group. John Sootheran, editor-in-chief of Max Power, said "These crash Statistics are shocking, but it is encouraging that many young drivers seem keen to improve their skills."

A CASE FOR EAR PROTECTION !

Noise levels under motorcycle helmets can be very high. Above about 65 km/h or 40 mph the wind noise generated by the airflow over a motorcycle and rider exceeds the noise from the motorcycle itself. Daily noise exposures of working motorcyclists may regularly exceed 90 dB(A).

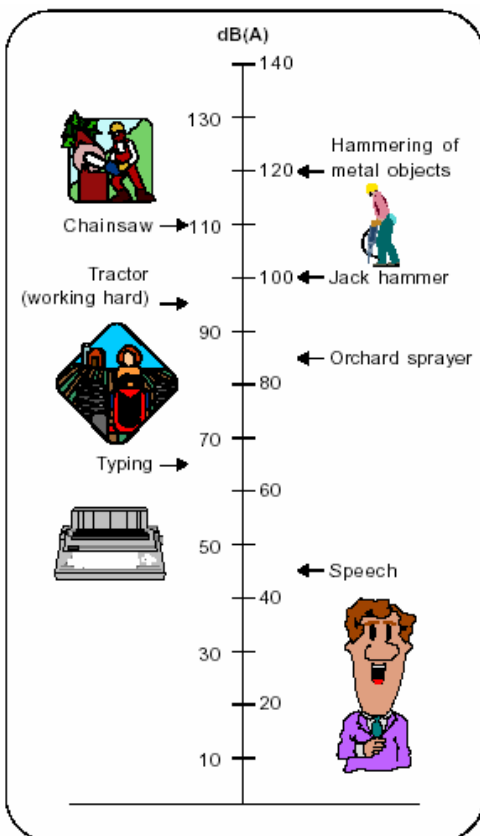
As part of a project carried out for the Home Office by ISVR Consultancy Services, the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Wolfson Unit for Marine Technology and Industrial Dynamics, and Hampshire Constabulary, Noise levels at the ears of police motorcyclists on the road, with several different helmets and motorcycles were measured and are shown below.



The graph above shows some examples of noise levels measured under motorcycle helmets during tests on the roads.

To put things into some perspective typical noise levels are shown on the left. Under the Health and Safety in Employment (HSE) Regulations 1995, wherever noise exceeds the exposure standard of 85 dB(A) over an eight hour period and a peak noise level of 140 (linear), then employers must take steps to reduce the noise.

If you ride a motorcycle and your hearing sounds muffled afterwards, or if your ears ring, then you are suffering temporary hearing damage, which, if repeated regularly, may become permanent hearing damage. We recommend you consider wearing earplugs under the helmet. Because the earplugs reduce the noise, you may seem to be travelling more slowly, so take extra care to check your speed until you get used to the earplugs.



HORSE-RIDERS “BETTER INFORMED ON HEAD PROTECTION THAN BIKERS” SAY IAM EXPERTS

Horse-riders have better information on the head protection available to them than motorcyclists, despite smaller numbers and far fewer accidents. That was the message at a motorcyclists conference held by the IAM recently.

More than 150 IAM delegates heard that British Equestrian Federation has a helmet assessment programme that provides far more consumer information than anything available to bikers. IAM staff examiner Jon Taylor pointed out that in Europe in 2002, there were nearly 5000 motorcyclists killed or seriously injured (ksi). “More than 75 per cent of motorcyclist deaths or serious injuries involve head injuries of some sort.

The DfT is now overseeing a workshop dealing with helmet issues but a lot needs to be done if targets for casualty reduction are to be met,” said Jon. As well as being a Motorcycle Staff Examiner and current motorcycle examiner with the IAM, Jon is also a Class One police certificate holder for both cars and bikes. “The IAM rightly puts emphasis on defensive riding and avoiding collisions, but there is only so much that hazard-aware bikers can do. When it comes to the crunch, as it were, we all end up relying on external protection.”

“I was surprised to find that horse riders have a wealth of information regarding the standard of hats and helmets available to them – but that there is no real equivalent for motorcycle riders. Jokey ears on the side are not so funny if you come off a bike. I am sure many riders are unaware that they can actually increase the injuries received by increasing the likelihood of rotation on impact with the road,” said Mr Taylor. “This can directly effect injuries to the neck and brain due to increased rotational forces.

Head impact energy is proportional to head impact speed and improving the performance of the helmet lining has a large effect on reducing injuries to the brain. A 24 per cent improvement in the absorption qualities of the lining will result in a 30 per cent reduction of AIS 5-6 injuries - that is, serious or fatal.” However a 30 per cent improvement to the lining will bring about a 50 per cent reduction in injuries, he said.

“Reducing fatal and serious head injuries by 20 per cent is now a UK national road safety target and this would go a long way to meeting those aims.”

“We all need to be better informed about the helmet we are choosing to buy,” said Mr Taylor. “The adoption of the EuroNCAP scheme star rating for motorcyclists’ helmets would help greatly in this regard. You would finally be able to choose your helmet based on its ability to protect you. Something that is currently missing, unless you are a horse-rider that is!”

From News Release Number 09/04, Issued: 7 June 2004

IAM CONCERNED ABOUT NEW GOVERNMENT FIGURES

The IAM is very concerned about new Government figures showing accident injuries are down, but fatalities are up. We are also concerned that the rise in the number of fatalities maybe due to an increase in the number of people riding motor cycles.

All motorcyclists can only gain from learning advanced riding skills; a fact that is very well understood by those who come to the IAM to improve their riding skills and their safety. Twenty percent of all those who take the IAM Advanced Test are riders, and just over 12% of our members are motorcyclists.

Last month, the IAM appointed its first Motorcycle Manager to oversee our efforts to improve the safety of this vulnerable section of road users.

From News Release Number 07/04, Issued: 8 April 2004

FUN-WEEKEND at PINE LAKE

Organised again by Amir Casey, Morecambe and Wigan Groups as well as friends (everyone is welcome) are invited to Pine Lake on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st August.

Come to the Friday or Saturday events or to both, but anyone taking part in the water sports need to get their name down ASAP before all places go.

The plan for the weekend:

Arrive Friday 20th August afternoon/evening, then head for Pine Lake, we will then go in to the Entertainment Room and take it over, (as we did last time). You can get a meal in the restaurant or a bar meal up till 9 pm. Happy hour is 6 till 7.

Next morning, Saturday 21st August, we head back to Pine Lake for a fun day, some can take part in the water sports, or you could just sit by the lake and enjoy good company or maybe go out for the day to visit one of the many attractions in this area.

We will be having a BBQ in the afternoon, so bring your own stuff for it or get together and get some food from the supermarket like we did last time.

Costs:

The entertainment is all free in the evening.

This is what you get with the water sports, and the ones who have been before will tell you what bargain it is:

- " 2 ski-ing sessions (one could be a beginners lesson) or Speed boat rides if you don't want to do water ski-ing
- " Wet suit
- " Sailing
- " Canoeing
- " Rowing boats
- " Water toys (Giant Banana and Ringo)
- " Windsurfing

All the above for £20.00, it would normally cost over £120.00.

Location

Pine Lake; is in Carnforth, near J35 on M6, look on their websites at www.plw.co.uk or

<http://www.gvc.co.uk/NPineLakeResortA.htm>

Accommodation

Pine Lake are fully booked, but you can always ring them a few days before to see if there is a cancellation and how much it will cost per lodge that will sleep up to 6 people.

Or you could stay at Truck Haven which is only ¼ mile down the road, but we are limited to about 45 staying there, so you need to get your name down fast to make sure of a place and I'm looking into other accommodation with members in that area to put people up.

The rooms at Truck Haven are as follows (all the prices need to be confirmed):

Single room £25.00, Double room £45.00
Family room £55.00 (1 double bed & 2 single)

Booking

Put your name down and let Amir or a committee member from Morecambe Advanced Motorists know if you are just coming for the evening or staying for the night and if you want to take part in the water sports.

Amir can provide more information on alternative accommodation, there are many places ranging from hotels, motels, guest houses to campsites very close by. His e-mail address is:

amir@nuthurst.plus.com

Don't forget to take some pictures so we can include them in the newsletter !

Wigan Group activity and events diary

Date	Event (General social functions shown in bold)	Contact
July 11 th	Ride-out to the North Yorkshire Forests	John Tuer
July 13 th	Kenny Davies talks about the work of the AA	Gary Whittaker
July 20 th	Open Evening at Priory Wood	Les Stretton
July 27 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Aug 10 th	Treasure Hunt and Hotpot Supper	Gary Whittaker
Autumn 04	Continental tour, is under consideration	John Tuer
Aug 20-21 st	Pine Lake	Amir Casey
Aug 31 st	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Sept 12 th	British Superbikes – Oulton park Cheshire	John Tuer
Sept 14 th	GMP. A talk by an Instructor from the Police Driving School	Gary Whittaker
Sept 21 st	Open Evening at Priory Wood	Les Stretton
Sept 28 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Oct 12 th	GMP. Vehicle Enforcement, those roadside checks, why are they there, what are they looking for ?	Gary Whittaker
Oct 14 th	Region 5 meeting	Alf Birtle
Oct 26 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Nov 7 th	NEC bike show	John Tuer
Nov 9 th	Roger Taylor, 'Tales from a Senior Examiner'	Mike Smalley
Nov 16 th	Open Evening at Priory Wood	Les Stretton
Nov 30 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Dec 14 th	Christmas Social	Les Stretton
Jan 11 th	A talk on the work of Bolton Mountain Rescue	Gary Whittaker

Advertising Space

Wigan Group Committee are happy to consider advertisements provided they are related to Motoring or IAM activities. These can be from Group members, other IAM Groups or private motoring dealerships.

Want to know more ?

Contact the Secretary or any Committee member.