

The logo for IAM RoadSmart is displayed on a blue background. The letters 'IAM' are in a large, white, rounded, lowercase font. Below them, the word 'RoadSmart' is written in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font.

iAM
RoadSmart

The text 'Official Provider' is centered on a black background. The letters are in a light blue, sans-serif font.

Official Provider

Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

Newsletter
February / March 2018

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I'm writing this note the morning after our last Committee Meeting because I'm really pleased with the way Committee is operating and how everyone has vocal opinions and we have good ideas and debates about the way forward. In all the years I've sat on Committee, this hasn't always been the case and it's so refreshing to Chair these meetings. Long may it continue!

We've started the year in a positive fashion on the car side with a number of new associates signing up and we warmly welcome you all to our Group and wish you well with your respective courses. The bike side is understandably quieter, but I'm sure once the weather starts to get warmer we'll see an influx of new associates as well.

For those of you who follow rugby league, you'll have heard of Lee Briers, a Warrington legend. You'll be pleased to know that I've just signed him up for the car course and I'll be his Observer and he's promised to get us some great publicity for the course and road safety in general. I'll keep you posted as to his progress.

Finally, here are a few brain teasers, and as always, the answers can be found later in the Newsletter.

A/. What gets broken without being held?

B/. If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, you haven't got me. What am I?

C/. What is always coming but never arrives?

D/. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

FUNNIES

An Irishman was terribly overweight, so his doctor put him on a diet. "I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a full day, and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least 5 pounds."

When the Irishman returned, he shocked the doctor by having lost nearly 60 POUNDS!

"Why, that's amazing!" the doctor said, "Did you follow my instructions?"

The Irishman nodded..."I'll tell yah though, by jaesuz, I t'aut I were goin te drop dead on dat 3rd day."

"From hunger, you mean?"

"No," said the Irishman. "From all the friggin' skippin."

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hello there

Welcome to new members Michael Boddy, Lee Briers, Tegan Greener, Ann Marie Ross, Clio Smyth, John Vidamour and June Wright who have all joined the Car section and Todor Baychev who has joined the Motorcycle section. Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

WELCOME

Congratulations to Sean Hooper on passing the car test and to Mark Griffiths and Tom McCann on passing the Motorcycle test.



When you pass the Test and receive your membership information from head quarters could you please let me know so that the membership records can be updated with your IAM membership number and expiry date?

A special note for our email members, please keep your mailbox cleansed as they sometimes bounce back also if you are thinking of changing your email address then please remember to let me know at distribution@warram.org.uk

With thanks
Vince

THANK YOU

I passed my advanced motorbike course in November with a F1rst from Chris Givvons. Many thanks to my observers Andrew Bloomer and Check tester John Dorman for the invaluable guidance to bring me to the standard and achieve a F1rst pass.

Tom McCann

FUNNIES

A truck driver was driving along on the A56. A sign comes up that reads, "Low Bridge Ahead." Before he knows it, the bridge is right ahead of him and he gets stuck under the bridge.

Cars are backed up for miles.

Finally, a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, "Got stuck, huh?"

The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of fuel."

MASTERS MENTORING HUB

Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists are pleased to announce that we have now set up an in-house Masters Mentoring Team for both the bike and car sections. This is an exciting development within our Group that will benefit not only those who are interested in taking their Masters Qualification, but also our many associates training for their advanced test as they will benefit from the additional expertise this will afford our existing observers.

Open to all current IAM members, the Masters programme "will help you to attain the highest standard of civilian driving or riding ability in the country" and the training can now be provided in-house at an attractive price. The Master Driver or Rider course with mentoring currently costs £249, and the "test only" option costs £129.

If you opt to do your training in-house, the cost of the training for bikes will be £72 and for cars will be £40, and you will be brought up to the required standard to then apply for the test only option. This represents a saving of £48 for riders and £80 for car drivers. This represents great value for money and it also gives you the benefit of having your training with someone you'll likely already know.

If you are interested in finding out more about the in-house Masters programme, please contact:-

Cars: Andrew Bloomer on 07768 051570 or Andrew.bloomer@warram.org.uk

Bikes: Gordon Blackshaw on 07767 833106 or gordonblackshaw@hotmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On Saturday 19th May at 7:30pm we are holding another of our very entertaining Skittles evening. All members, family and friends are welcome to this fun packed evening of games and food. Obviously there are the Skittles but also a side game of Boules and there will be Pie & Peas (with a vegetarian option available). Event will be held at:-

St Johns Church Hall
Wilderspool Causeway
WARRINGTON
WA4 6QE.

Names in advance to Carol Griffiths or call 01925 791961 to reserve your Pie!

FORMER PRESIDENT ALAN DOMVILLE CONTINUES HIS REMINISCENCES AS A MOTORING WRITER & LIFELONG GROUP FRIEND.....

One of the nightmares of travel is missing a plane; it has happened to me on four occasions and, quite astonishingly, every one of them has occurred when I have been with Kia.

The first time it happened my co-driver and I had lots of time to travel from our hotel in Milan to the city's Malpensa airport. That was until one of the tyres on our Kia was punctured. It was only a short time after repair kits rather than spare wheels were being fitted to cars and neither of us had a clue what to do. At length the back-up car arrived on the scene, we swapped cars and continued on to the airport. Our gate had closed and we had to be booked on the next (and last) flight of the day back to London.

On the second occasion I had been booked on a flight from Manchester to Heathrow to take part in a new car launch, fortunately in the south of England rather than abroad.

At that time I was trying to save money for my company by leaving my car at one of the less expensive parking areas. I waited, somewhat impatiently, in the minibus that would take me into Terminal Three while the driver smoked and chatted with one of his pals. Once again, on arrival at the terminal, the gate had closed. Happily, after making a quick call to the agency handling Kia's travel arrangements I had a ticket for the next flight.

A year or so later I was travelling back to London from Slovakia where I had visited Kia's new factory when the pilot announced that due to strong winds on take-off the fuel wouldn't be enough to get us home. He landed at Dusseldorf in an electric storm and duly topped up the fuel; naturally all this meant I had missed my connecting flight to Manchester. It was another expensive re-booking for Kia.

And then, finally (hopefully) I landed at Luton after a test driving exercise on mainland Europe with a tight connection at Heathrow. I arranged to be first off the private plane and Kia had a taxi ready for me with the engine running to take me to west London. But half-way into the journey the driver received a call from Luton saying we had to return there on account of a discrepancy regarding passports; all of those in my party had to be re-examined. Yet another missed flight. By the time I arrived back at Luton Kia had already organised a new ticket for me to fly home.

One flight I nearly missed was from Farnborough to Vienna quite recently. I was due to travel by the first train out of Warrington Bank Quay, making two changes to reach the aerodrome. But that first train was cancelled. I managed to tack my way down the country and was met at the adjacent station to Farnborough by a driver from Toyota.

After a quick security check in the terminal I raced to the plane, its jet engines running. As soon as I had fastened my seat belt we were hurtling along the runway.

FUNNIES

I didn't realize how bad of a driver I was until my sat nav said, "In 400 feet, do a slight right, stop, and let me out."

PUNISH DRIVERS WHO GO 1mph OVER SPEED LIMIT, POLICE CHIEF SAYS

Drivers should be punished even if they only exceed the speed limit by 1mph, the policing chief for Britain's roads has reportedly said.

Currently, guidance says police forces should only issue penalties when motorists are 10% over a speed limit plus 2mph - for example, 35mph in a 30mph zone.

But chief constable Anthony Bangham, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead on road policing, is said to have called for an end to the 10% "buffer".

Mr Bangham said speeding awareness courses were being used too widely instead of penalty points and fines.

The West Mercia chief made the comments in a speech at the Police Federation Roads Policing Conference on Tuesday 30TH January 2018, according to the Daily Mail.

He was quoted as saying: "Let's change the message - we are proud to be law enforcers. I do not want the public to be surprised, I want them to be embarrassed when they get caught... They need to understand the law is set at the limit for a reason. They should not come whinging to us about getting caught. If booked at 35 or 34 or 33 (in a 30mph zone) that cannot be unfair because they are breaking the law."

Tory MP Sir Greg Knight warned against an "overly aggressive policy against drivers". He told the Daily Mail: "It will make criminals of motorists who are basically good drivers trying to obey the speed limit, while keeping an eye on the road."

A total of 1,710 people were killed on the roads in the year up to June 2017, according to the latest government statistics.

NORTH COAST 500 TRIP

Our Warrington IAM motorcycle group have planned for themselves a long weekend trip to the Scottish Highlands over the second May Bank Holiday Weekend (Friday 25th to Monday 28th May 2018)

Day 1 involves taking a blast up North; taking-in approximately 400 miles, mostly via motorways to reach Glasgow, and then on through Inverness for the first of our planned overnight stays at Garfield Guest Hotel at Dingwall.

Day 2 will cover half of the trip around the North Coast of the Scottish Highlands travelling clockwise for 250 miles ending up at the popular "Tongue Hotel" for the night.

Day 3, after a hearty Scottish breakfast we will continue a further 250 miles for the rest of the tour via John "O" Groats and down back towards Inverness stay over once more back at our first accommodation venue for the Sunday night.

Day 4, refreshed and fed ... we then make our way southwards for the journey back home.

Total miles estimated at 1350 to 1400 over the 4 days. Hotels £170 each, Food & Fuel Extra!

Those of you who missed the opportunity to join our 10 strong group of committed bikers might like to catch up with us all for the next trip? Look out for future emails or see our Facebook page for news! Maybe into Wales during the summer months? We plan to keep you posted on our plans and our progress, maybe show you all the obligatory photos?

If you have any further interest you can visit the official NC500 website...

<http://www.northcoast500.com/> or <https://www.pinterest.com/helenwilliams63/nc500-scotland/>

MERSEY GATEWAY _ STATEMENT FROM DEANA PERCHARD HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS MANAGER

"Unlike private car parking companies who issue Parking Charge Notices for the non-payment of parking fees, the operations of the Mersey Gateway are outside the remit of Trading Standards.

The toll for the use of the Mersey Gateway Bridge is governed by a raft of specific legislation, which covers the signage, the ability to levy charges, the tolls to be paid and the action that can be taken when tolls are not paid.

This is not a contractual arrangement between a driver using the bridge and the supplier of a service - it is a breach of specific legislation that governs the imposition of the tolls for the use of the bridge. This means that if tolls are not paid, Merseyflow has a statutory power to issue a Penalty Charge Notice on behalf of Halton Borough Council against the registered keeper of the vehicle (regardless of who was driving at the time).

The consumer protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 does not apply to the Mersey Gateway and neither does any other legislation enforced by Trading Standards. The signs (displaying the requirement to pay a toll) are governed by a Certificate of Authorisation issued by the Secretary of State for Transport, which controls the size, content and location of signs. The Certificate was issued under sections 64 and 65 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and also amends the application of The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

I am aware of the many posts on social media that are advising consumers to ignore the Penalty Charge Notices; to wait until they are in court to produce their receipts where the driver believes that the Notice has been issued in error; to make claims for inconvenience and to consider a class action against Merseyflow. This advice is incorrect and will result in increased costs for the consumer. It is essential that consumers understand the difference between a Parking Charge Notice and a Penalty Charge Notice."

A Parking Charge Notice is a civil breach, issued when one party has failed to keep to the terms of an agreement i.e. used a private car park and failed to pay the correct parking fee. A consumer has the right to appeal before the matter gets to court.

- If there is no appeal, or the appeal finds against the consumer, and the charge remains unpaid, the company decide whether to issue an action in the Small Claims Court.
- If a claim is issued but the consumer still does not pay, there will be a hearing in the Small Claims Court when a judge will decide if the debt is owed and if it should be paid.
- If the company is 'awarded judgement', a County Court Judgement (CCJ) against the consumer is recorded in the Register.
- If the consumer pays in full within a month, they can ask for the CCJ to be removed from the Register. (County Court Judgements can affect your ability to get credit).

A Penalty Charge Notice is a civil breach dealt with by way of a financial penalty but is governed by a specific legal regime: The Road User Charging Schemes (Penalty Charges, Adjudication and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013, which contain detailed requirements concerning the issue of notices, representations and appeals. The costs will increase at every stage in the process so, if you do not have grounds for appeal, early payment will avoid additional cost.

• A recipient has the right to make representations and details of how to do this must be contained in the letter - it is important to follow the instructions of who to send representations to and by when because strict time limits apply. There are seven grounds stated in the Regulations for representations against penalty charge notices, which the Regulations require to be made in writing:

1. That the recipient never was the registered keeper or wasn't the registered keeper at the time of the crossing;
2. At the time of the crossing the vehicle was being used by somebody else without the permission of the registered keeper;
3. The recipient is a vehicle hire firm and liability for payment had been transferred to the hirer;
4. The toll was paid within the time limit specified;
5. No toll was payable under the scheme;
6. The penalty charge exceeded the amount applicable in the circumstances, or,
7. There has been a procedural impropriety on the part of the charging authority (a failure by them to comply with a requirement of the Transport Act 2000 or the Regulations themselves.

• The charging authority has 56 days to communicate its decision to the recipient.

• If the charging authority rejects the representations, they must serve a Notice of Rejection.

• The recipient can appeal to an adjudicator. If the adjudicator concludes that none of the grounds listed above applies, nor that there are compelling reasons why the notice should be cancelled, the adjudicator will dismiss the appeal.

• If there is no appeal, or the appeal is decided against the recipient, and the Penalty Charge Notice remains unpaid, a Charge Certificate can be issued. A Charge Certificate confirms that the penalty charge sum has increased by 50% from its normal (not discounted) level.

• If payment is not made within 14 days, Halton Borough Council has the legal right to register the charge with the Traffic Enforcement Centre (TEC) in the County Court that deals with the registration of all debts from England and Wales for all unpaid Penalty Charge Notices.

• After the TEC has sent confirmation to the Council that they may proceed to recover the charge, they have 15 days to prepare and serve an Order for the Recovery of Unpaid Penalty Charge.

• The Regulations mentioned above list four situations that can be considered by the Court in deciding whether the Notice is valid. The recipient must supply the Court with a Witness Statement outlining why one of the four situations applies to their situation. If a situation is specified, the court is bound to make a decision in favour of the vehicle owner. However, it should be noted that including information in a witness statement in which you do not have an honest belief would be a contempt of court.

• If an Order for Recovery has been served and if no payment or Witness Statement has been filed in the time allowed, the Council could request authority from the TEC to use an Enforcement Agent to recover the outstanding debt arising from the PCN. This procedure does not result in a County Court Judgement (CCJ) being registered, nor does it affect a person's credit rating. Penalty Charge Notices are outside the remit of Trading Standards.

CHAIRMANS CORNER: SOLUTION

- A/. (Answer: A promise.)
- B/. (Answer: Secret)
- C/. (Answer: It's tomorrow.)
- D/. (Answer: The letter m.)!



ROADSMART (Winter 17/18)

IAM influence Government policy and spending on road safety.

"Over the past year IAM Roadsmart has honed in on the most important committees, and that's meant we've had far greater input in major road safety changes" explains Neil Grieg, the charities director of policy and research.

A great example of IAM Roadsmart effective lobbying is it's involvement in improving the driving test. "We were in a DVSA group that agreed, tested and implemented the changes that brought the test up to date and made it more useful for learners."

"They include a doubling of the amount of independent driving in the test, plus sat-nav and replacing the three-point turn and reversing around a corner with more relevant parking manoeuvres" said Neil

[ack: Roadsmart Magazine Winter 2017/18 edition]

FUNNIES

Confucius Did Not Say:

Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.

Passionate kiss, like spider web, leads to undoing of fly.

Lady who goes camping with man must beware of evil intent.

Squirrel who runs up woman's leg will not find nuts.

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

Man who eats many prunes gets good run for money.

War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left.

Man who fights with wife all day get no piece at night.

It takes many nails to build a crib, but only one screw to fill it.

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Man who stands on toilet is high on pot.

Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room.

Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement.

DRIVING LICENCE CHANGES COULD STOP YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DRIVING IN THE DARK.

Changes coming to the driving licence in 2018 could affect young motorists from heading onto the roads at night.

These changes are not concrete yet but The Mirror reports that a 'Graduated Driving Licence' has been proposed to restrict 17-24 year olds from venturing out in the dark after they've passed.

The reason behind this proposed change is that figures show motorists aged between 17 and 24 are involved in a quarter of all crashes on UK roads that lead to deaths or serious injuries.

This restriction could last for two years but there is no mention of why only banning drivers in the evening could be seen as a solution.

However, there are already similar schemes in Australia, New Zealand and the US which prohibits newly-qualified under-25s from driving after daylight unless supervised.

The new system could also restrict the engine size allowed for new drivers in hopes of stopping 'boy racers' on roads.

A second test after passing this probationary period could even be added.

The Prime Minister said: "There are too many people who suffer a loss and tragedy at the hands of learner drivers and we will look at that."

Simon McCulloch at comparethemarket.com added it could also lead to a reduction in car insurance costs - particularly for young drivers who are spending 10% of their salary on just motor cover. "The idea behind these new plans is clear, and these measures should result in safer roads for all. While it may initially feel like a harsh restriction for new drivers, it's worth considering that these limitations on their licenses should reduce their insurance risk profiles, which could ultimately see the cost of their insurance reduce significantly," Simon said.

"Young drivers already face much higher costs just to get on the road, with our research indicating that 17-24 year olds pay, on average, a staggering £2,379 a year to run a car.

"The largest contributor to that figure is insurance, which costs on average £1,354. Reducing the risk, and therefore the premiums, could go a long way to making driving more affordable for many young people," he added.

Under current rules, it takes just six points for a newly-qualified driver to lose their licence.

This is compared to nine points for everyone else.

Commenting on the statement, Joshua Harris, at road safety charity Brake, said: "Ensuring that novice drivers have the skills and experience to drive safely on all types of roads, and in all scenarios, is an urgent priority. We are encouraged that the Government will look into the issue of Graduated Driver Licensing, however, this process must result in positive change. Young and novice drivers are involved in a disproportionate number of road crashes and the introduction of a comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing system is critical to reverse this trend. Brake is calling upon the Government to bring the UK's licensing system in line with best practice worldwide, requiring a minimum of 10 hours professional tuition for learner drivers and introducing a novice license, with restrictions in place for two years after passing the practical driving test."

APRIL / MAY NEWSLETTER

The only method available to receive our group's newsletter is to send your email address to distribution@warram.org.uk and ensure your mail browser does not reject messages from this address.



Contributions to the April /May newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: newsletter@warram.org.uk or pass them to any committee member. The deadline for next newsletter is Sunday 11th February 2018.



QR CODE

The group has set up a QR code - simply scan the image with a smartphone and it will take you to our website.



FACEBOOK

You can find us on Facebook - just look up Warrington Advanced Motorists. There is also a national IAM Facebook group: IAMRoadSmart.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[Cars] Sundays at 10:15: Every Sunday except Christmas and New Year	Observed Runs (car) Refresher Runs (car)	Fairfield & Howley NBH Project, Fairfield Street, WARRINGTON WA1 3AJ
[Bikes] On arrangement with your observer	Observed Runs (bikes)	On arrangement with your observer
Sunday 25 th February Sunday 25 th March	End of month run (bikes)	Poplar 2000, Lymm
Every Thursday at 19:00 (weather permitting)	Chippy Run (bikes)	Let's Eat Cafe and Tall Trees filling station layby (off A49 in Lower Whitley)
Wednesday 2 nd May at 19:30	Committee Meeting	Fairfield & Howley NP
Sunday 11 th March	Newsletter deadline	

Further details of all of these events can be found on our website:
www.warram.org.uk or by asking any committee member.

FINISHED READING? PASS IT ON....



Personal recommendations from members are one of the main ways we recruit new associates, so please feel free to pass on this newsletter.