

The logo for IAM RoadSmart is displayed on a blue background. The letters 'IAM' are in a large, white, rounded, lowercase font. Below 'IAM', 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 text is in a light blue, sans-serif font.

Official Provider

Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

Newsletter
October / November 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by order of the Group Committee, that the 37th Annual General Meeting of "WARRINGTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS" will be held at **8.00pm** on **Wednesday 17th October 2018** at **Grappenhall Cricket Club, Broad Lane, Grappenhall, WA4 3ER** to enable the Trustees of the Group (Registered Charity No 1048554.) to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2018 for approval by the Group Members and to conduct an election.

Secretary's Name: Mrs. Jean Carter
Address: 74 Forshaw Street,
Warrington,
WA2 7HD.

Date: 1st October 2018
and 4th October 2018 for
final notice.
Group No. 5075

All Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only fully paid up members of the Institute and of the Group may vote.

CURRENT OFFICERS

All Officers retire annually but may stand for re-election (Group Rule 3.3)

Mr. Andrew Bloomer	Chairman	Standing for re-election
Mr. Ian Ross	Vice Chairman	Standing for re-election
Mrs. Jean Carter	Secretary	Standing for re-election
Mr. Steve Segar	Treasurer	Standing for re-election

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

One third of the committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually but may stand for re election (Group Rule 3.3)

A RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Mr. Peter Marsland

B RETIRING AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Mrs. Gill More

C COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING (remaining yrs of office)

Mr. Chris Harris.	1 yrs
Mr. Simon Jones, Mr. Tim Bolton, Mr. John Dorman, Mr. Vince Scriven.	2 yrs

D CO-OPTED MEMBERS, STANDING FOR ELECTION

E OTHER MEMBERS STANDING FOR ELECTION (as at going to publication - closing date for Nominations 5th October 2018)

NOTE - The total number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty. Please see the NOMINATION PAPER (available from the FHNH meeting room) for further detail.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

This year has literally flown by and I can't believe that we'll soon be holding our AGM. It's true what they say - as you get older time passes quicker!! Please give due regard to the notification of the AGM in this Newsletter. This is your major chance to hear what the Group has been doing over the past 12 months and to make your contribution either verbally and/or by nominating or voting for the Group's Officers and Committee Members

I am well aware that committees have the reputation for designing camels or some other hilarious activity but if we did not have one, the Groups activities would be in a sorry state in no time. We do have to have a core of competent members who are dedicated to formulate and drive the Group forward. This year, we have got by without a full-time Newsletter Editor, and this is a post we really ought to look to get filled if at all possible. If there is anyone out there, who feels that they can spare some extra time (not that much - I promise) and would like to contribute to the general welfare of the group, please let any Committee Member know and we'll let you know what's involved and see if you'd like to fill the void.

Finally, here's your brain teaser, and as always, you'll find the solution later in this newsletter:-

Henry has been caught stealing cattle, and is brought into town for justice. The judge is his ex-wife Gretchen, who wants to show him some sympathy, but the law clearly calls for two shots to be taken at Henry from close range. To make things a little better for Henry, Gretchen tells him she will place two bullets into a six-chambered revolver in successive order. She will spin the chamber, close it, and take one shot. If Henry is still alive, she will then either take another shot, or spin the chamber again before shooting.

Henry is a bit incredulous that his own ex-wife would carry out the punishment, and a bit sad that she was always such a rule follower. He steels himself as Gretchen loads the chambers, spins the revolver, and pulls the trigger. Whew! It was blank. Then Gretchen asks, 'Do you want me to pull the trigger again, or should I spin the chamber a second time before pulling the trigger?'

What should Henry choose?

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to new members Libby Howard, Tony Barber and Cameron Carmichael who have joined the Car section and Ian Chadwick and Steve Robinson to the Motorcycle section.

WELCOME

Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

Congratulations to Clio Smyth on passing the car test and Olly Fullerton (First) and Ray Wright on passing the motorcycle test.



Special congratulations to Ian Hunt and John Bellamy on obtaining their Master's.

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

DIRECT BANKING TRANSFER TO SETTLE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Many thanks to all members that have already used automated bank transfers to renew their 2018/19 annual subscription with the group. These are due 1st October and remain at £5 and have to be settled if you wish to vote at the upcoming AGM. Details to make a bank transfer are as follows:-

Sort Code: 09-01-51 Account No: 71840801
Account Name: Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

As you can appreciate there will be lots of entries all for £5 and so the treasurer requests that you place your name in the payment reference field. For those members who prefer traditional methods then a cheque payable to Warrington Advanced Motorists or cash can always be sent in the customary white or brown envelope to:-

Mr Vince Scriven.

10 Martindale Road, Beechwood, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2TU.

Associates still under training are exempt from this fee as are honorary members. We no longer need the membership form to be completed but please do contact our membership secretary if your personnel details have changed (contact@warram.org.uk). Receipt of your subscription will be deemed as allowing WAM to hold your personnel data in accordance with new GDP regulations 2018.

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

I am not a particularly enthusiastic "pet person" though I shed gallons of tears when our Lassie went to doggie heaven many years ago. But there is one creature with whom I have endured a relationship for half of my life - and my job as a motoring correspondent is to blame.

It came about when I attended an event in Barnsley organised by the motoring correspondent and then editor of that town's newspaper, the Chronicle, Don Booker. Barnsley boasts a number of local heroes including TV celebrity Michael Parkinson, the test cricket umpire Dickie Bird, landscape painter Ashley Jackson, actor Stan Richards and footballer "Skinner" Normanton along with Don himself. Colourful characters all - but there were none more "off the wall" than a chap called Reg Mellor.

Dapper, brylcreamed and with a Poirot-style waxed moustache, Reg was the self-styled "king of the ferret-leggers" and for the Barnsley event it was he who was selected to be the "turn."

I am certain the mischievous character of Compo in the long-running television series "Last of the Summer Wine" was partly based on Reg for he delighted in having several sharp-toothed ferrets running up and down inside his trousers. He apparently held the world record for holding one of his ferrets "within" for more than five hours at the Holmfirth country show where "Summer Wine" was filmed.

And one or two journalists were drawn from the audience to participate in the ferret experience - happily not I - and, catastrophe, one of them bit a photographer. But that wasn't to be the end of it. For Reg became so attached to the Northern Group of Motoring Writers that he would be invited to subsequent events.

He proudly took to wearing the group tie even pointing it out what it was during a television interview on Australian television during one of his world tours. Then came the crunch. Reg presented to the group a not-so attractive snarling stuffed ferret which for many years would be on display at each of our bi-monthly meetings and even our annual dinners.

As chairman I would have custody of our little mascot - who was confined to our garage between group events. Then came the time when Renault kindly offered to have him totally refurbished by a taxidermist and placed on a new plinth within a glass case and it was my wife and I who had to travel to North Lancashire and collect him after the project had been completed.

Succeeding chairmen have treated the ferret with considerably more respect, giving him pride of place in their homes. Reg, the member who was never proposed nor seconded, died some years ago and group tie went with him to his grave.

SKILL FOR LIFE PACKAGE WITH 10% OFF



Help spread the word - we're keen to develop many more advanced drivers and riders

Your family and friends can save 10% on our advanced driver and rider courses.

There are no stronger advocates than our members who have achieved, or are working towards advanced status and full IAM membership themselves.

To help spread the word please use the special code **FF10** online or by telephone **0300 303 1134** for any of your family and friends who may be considering becoming advanced drivers or riders with us.

Full details can be found at www.iamroadsmart.com/ff10

IN MEMORANDUM

It is with sad hearts that we inform you of the sudden and untimely death of Ian Smith. For those of the group who have been down to our new abode they will have seen the ever smiling face of Ian in and around the Fairfield & Howley Neighbourhood Project based at the Old School on Fairfield Street.

Ian and his brother Ray, were instrumental in our group making the move from a cold and deteriorating caravan on a car park opposite Aldi's to the facilitated room at the Old School.

Invariably it was almost always Ian that was there each Sunday at 10am opening the gates for us and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the people in the organisation who have picked up the mantle from Ian. We really do appreciate the sacrifices you make in aid of our organisation.

Our thoughts and good wishes are with his family and friends who undoubtedly have a massive hole in their lives now.

FOLLOWING ON FROM ROBERT'S PIECE LAST TIME.....

My first-hand experience of cars goes back to my earliest years...to rides in a Rover in the 1940s; the smell of leather today takes me right back to those times.

Tasked with selecting five cars from (at the time of writing this piece) the 4,242 I have driven since the age of 17 actually isn't quite so difficult as it may sound.

For it's the association of cars with ones' life over 70 plus years that governs my choice rather than technical, mechanical and practical considerations. Accordingly, I have to confess that most readers will probably have no knowledge of the majority of my selections.

My first love was a car called the **Borgward Isabella**. Germany might have been on its knees in the early 1950s but, as today, they could build some fine autos and Borgward was the best of them. Gazing at the shiny new models in Garlands' showroom windows helped to trigger my love of cars. The first Isabella was a curvaceous two-door saloon powered by a 1.5 litre engine and estate and coupe variants were also offered. An open-topped version was still running around Warrington until the 1990s. Borgward went bankrupt in 1961 but astonishingly an electric-powered concept model was unveiled last year.

The **Renault Dauphine** was the first car that I owned. Cigar-shaped when much else was more conventional it was miles ahead of its time in operation as well as looks. Its engine was mounted in the rear and while it was provided with a wind-up start it had an automatic choke and never failed to start on the key. My wife and I went on our honeymoon to London in the Dauphine and we enjoyed lots of happy times with that car until the rust crept into the bodywork and it had to go.

The **American Nash Metropolitan** had looks to die for and the British Motor Corporation acquired the rights to assemble it in Great Britain from 1952. With its two-tone colour scheme and spare wheel slung on the back and with closed and open top variants it was just so different to anything else on the road. It was also well-equipped, featuring a radio that poor old BMC thought "a bit over the top" for so many years - and to their cost. With the company lacking in PR expertise, it was one of their dealers that gave a model to Princess Margaret as a wedding present.

You will have gathered by now that I like cars with a distinct personality and the **Hillman** (later Chrysler) **Avenger** was also in a class of its own in the 1970s. Astonishingly, because of inflation, I sold it for the price I paid for it after six years of ownership. It had rear wheel drive (I resisted front for years!) and it handled brilliantly, outclassing its main rival, the "mongrel" Marina - and it looked great. The semi-fastback rear appeared always to be a target for shunts, so many bearing testimony, but my own car survived.

When I bought a **Kia Rio** five door hatchback in 2001 the Korean company were selling 12,000 cars a year in the UK. Today, they are aiming for 120,000. My own Rio was a limited edition being powered by a 1.5 litre engine that gave it considerable oomph and it became part of the family scene over the ensuing 15 years, never letting us down. It went to the scrap yard with its original exhaust and timing belt.

Why, you may ask, did I not go for any of the expensive exotica provided for me to drive in four continents by the industry over almost 50 years? The aforementioned simply provide the very best memories.

[Piece submitted by Warrington Guardian Car Correspondent : Mr Alan Domville]

LEAVE A POSITIVE VISION BEHIND: TIPS FROM IAM ROADSMART.

Over time our eyesight deteriorates and previously strong vision can become poor. If eyesight problems are left unaddressed they can often lead to poor reaction times to unexpected hazards or the behaviour of other road users. Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards provides advice on eyesight and driving.

- Book regular check-ups. Eyesight can deteriorate over time without you noticing. If you are having to move closer to the television to read the titles clearly or have noticed even a slight deterioration with your eyes, we recommend a visit to the optician for a check-up; this should be done on a regular basis (every two years) and it's free for the over 60s
- Take a break: eyes get tired too. If you are travelling for long periods of time, you should take a break every two hours or every 100 miles, whichever is sooner. This will refresh you and your eyes, keeping you alert
- Driving at night can be the most problematic area as our eyes age. No matter how eagle-eyed we may think we are, it is a scientific fact that as we get older our eyes become less sensitive to light. Avoiding night time driving is a wise precaution if you are starting to struggle to see clearly after dusk
- Keep a pair of sunglasses in the car in all seasons; low sun on a wet road will make you wish you hadn't packed them away after the summer
- Know the law. You must be able to read (with glasses or contact lenses, if necessary) a car number plate made after 1 September 2001 from 20 metres. To find out more information on this visit the government's driving eyesight rules page
- Use this to test yourself, if you struggle to read it get checked out straight away
- Stay hydrated. Water is very good in keeping you hydrated and is also good for your eyes. With the added bonus of helping you maintain concentration while driving and riding

Richard said: "Deteriorating eyesight can often be a sign of other health problems so a check-up is a good idea. If you do have eye correction prescribed for driving make sure you use it, not having your glasses is a poor excuse when you have had a crash. And how often do you clean your glasses? Even a pristine windscreen will seem dirty if the lenses are covered in fingerprints."

By Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards

FUNNIES

Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers?

He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.

Why should the number 288 never be mentioned?

It's two gross.

CHAIRMANS CORNER: SOLUTION

Henry should have Gretchen pull the trigger again without spinning.



We know that the first chamber Gretchen fired was one of the four empty chambers. Since the bullets were placed in consecutive order, one of the empty chambers is followed by a bullet, and the other three empty chambers are followed by another empty chamber. So if Henry has Gretchen pull the trigger again, the probability that a bullet will be fired is 1/4.

If Gretchen spins the chamber again, the probability that she shoots Henry would be 2/6, or 1/3, since there are two possible bullets that would be in firing position out of the six possible chambers that would be in position.

NC 500 Second Instalment by Tom McCann



Fuel for the bikes never turned out to be a problem as even remote villages had 24hr credit/debit card accessible fuel (usually one pump selling petrol and diesel).

Our overnight accommodation was at the Tongue Hotel in Tongue and a welcome shower, sustenance and rehydration.

Food and rooms were absolutely fabulous here; with bar food taken by Stuart Jones and I as we watched the champions leagues football final (not a

good game for Liverpool football fans) but the cuisine was of an exemplary standard! Talk of the fabulous days riding went on into the wee small hours! Talking of which was a fabulous late evening sunset at 23:45!!

Day three and with the vital checks done, luggage secured and a leisurely 9:30 start, the magnificent 11 head out in an ebullient mood. Today's ride was to take us along the very far Northern tip of Scotland from West to East passing Dounreay and after a comfort break and photo shoot opportunity at Dunnet Head, the most Northerly point in mainland Scotland (not John O Groats!). Cool winds here saw us taking photos and heading off to John O Groats! More beautiful clear blue skies giving lots of photo opportunities and then off to our afternoon lunch stop in Helmsdale. Helmsdale is a fishing port at the estuary of the River Helmsdale, and was once the home of one of the largest herring fleets in Europe. Delicious soup and sandwiches fortified us for the afternoon journey south to Dingwall via a failed attempt to visit the Glen Morangie distillery. Everybody had the thought of an eat as much as you like Indian buffet but the perceived deal offered by the Indian restaurant manager didn't materialise and

the hungry eleven head off to what fortuitously turned out to be a delicious Chinese meal at the Ding Chinese restaurant (highly recommended by all).

Day 4 This was the day were a division of the party took some riders on a bank holiday return to normality, the remaining group of 6 rode south along the A9 with Martin Stuart leading us towards Grantown-on-Spey and the Cairngorm National park. Travelling over the famous Tomintoul to Cockbridge road, steep, twisty and with a bulk LGV tipper throwing an extra hazard into the carefully considered overtakes for the group. The roads through the Cairngorms down towards Ballater and onwards to Braemar, gave undulating road riding and corners which kept on coming at a machine-gun like pace! By the time we reached Perth, with slow traffic and warm weather had us eyeing up the air conditioned luxury of lunch in Tesco's lol! Back out for the afternoon ride south along the M9, crossing the new Forth Road Bridge and A720 Edinburgh ring road onto the A701 which headed towards Tweedsmuir and finally Moffat. Biker friendly secure parking tucked away from the main street, in what was formerly an old coach course courtyard at the Moffat Hotel fabulously clean and with lovely little touches such as fresh milk in the fridges in the rooms and small bowls of chocolates, I speak for all of the group with a high recommendation!

Day 5. A slightly obscure journey back north to Selkirk and then South along the A7 through Langholm, large parts of the final day along the A6 on a leisurely preamble to Rheged Discovery centre near Penrith, very healthy options on offer here. Fuel and a final wave to the remaining group as I departed for home leaving Stuart, Simon and Paul to continue through the Lake District.

This was my first big bike group tour and can only praise the organisation from Simon Jones with inputs from all of the other riders. If you've never tried group riding or a long 5 day tour, I would say "give it a go", my love for biking has grown even more and my appreciation for my Z1000SX with the panniers and ability to munch the miles and deliver so much fun. Great camaraderie and laughs along the way!

Many thanks to all who took part

FUNNIES

A woman walks into a library and asked if they had any books about paranoia. The librarian says "They're right behind you!"

The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She still isn't talking to me.

I ate a clock yesterday, it was very time consuming.

As I suspected, someone has been adding soil to my garden. The plot thickens.

October / November 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 October/November 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 15th November 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.

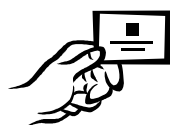


DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[Cars] Sundays at 10:15: Every Sunday except Christmas and New Year and Easter Sunday	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 28 th October Sunday 26 th November	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 17 th October at 20:00	Annual General Meeting	Grappenhall Cricket Club, Broad Lane, WA4 3ER
Sunday 15 th November	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.