

Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

(Registered Charity Number 1048554)



An IAM RoadSmart affiliated Group for Cars and Bikes
<https://www.warram.org.uk>

Group Newsletter



April / May 2019

WARRINGTON GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

IAM Group Number 5075
Registered Charity Number 1048554
Website: www.warram.org.uk
Email: contact@warram.org.uk

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Vice Presidents: Stephen Bielizna, Paul Griffiths, Geraint Hughes and Bryan Moore

Committee Members: Group Year 2018 - 2019

Officers

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Vice Chair	Vacant	
Treasurer	Steve Segar	Tel: 01925 727173
Secretary	Jean Carter 74 Forshaw Street Warrington WA2 7HD	Tel: 01925 245009

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	John Dorman	Tel: 07968 585445
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Chair of Training (cars)	Andrew Bloomer	Tel: 01928 714149
Car Representative	Tim Bolton	Tel: 07889 843819
Motorcycle Liaison Secretary	Simon Jones	Tel: 07957 170185
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Website Secretary	Vacant	

Other Posts

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Associate Coordinator (M/cls)	Gordon Blackshaw	Tel: 01925 860967
Local Observer Assessors (Cars)	Andrew Bloomer	Tel: 01928 714149
	Jean Carter	Tel: 01925 245009
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DISCLAIMER - The contents of this newsletter are purely the opinions of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists or the Warrington Group.

IN MEMORIUM



Bill Snow

23rd September 1939 - 20th February 2019

The group was saddened to hear a report of the death of a long serving member Bill Snow. Bill joined the group almost 40 years ago shortly after it's inauguration and has served on committee in various roles, in particular as Chairman in 1984-1985.

He had helped at most of the publicity events such as Warrington Disability Awareness Day in which the group was a regular attendee.

Bill was an excellent driver and observer, having won the competitions, Driver of the Year in 1982 and 1988, and Observer of the Year in 1982, 1987, 1991 and 1998. Always willing and capable of helping any associate and in view of his commitment to the group he was made an Honorary Member.

Upon his retirement, Bill passed his P.S.V. Test and amongst other places took a party to the Olympics Games at Barcelona in 1992 and he also drove a truck to Romania with supplies for a particular cause. He trained as a glider pilot and took a few parties of group members to his club airfield to experience silent flying. Sadly, about six years ago Bill had a stroke and his driving licence was taken from him. Nevertheless, he bought an all weather scooter to maintain his independence.

Bill was the Chief Environmental Health Officer for Warrington and is survived by amongst others, his daughter Joanne Cullen (Honorary Group Member and Group Auditor). Several group members were present at the funeral.

Bill will be sadly missed by his family, friends and of course the group members who knew him.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Well, here we are Easter almost upon us. What has been happening in our group: -
We have been located in the Holiday Inn at Woolston, since January this year, a move that has proved to be a positive experience for myself and other members of our group, the location is excellent for its ease of access onto different types of roads, also the facilities are first class and the staff have proved to be very hospitable.

More good news for the car section as a result of funding by Cheshire Fire and Rescue we have five places available where the cost of enrolment/test will be refunded to you after successful completion of the test. These will be issued on a first come first served basis and candidates need to purchase the Skill For Life package through the IAM Roadsmart website first. Upon registering with the group they will be informed if they qualify. The Motorcycle section of the group has already allocated their allotment.

We have been very busy on the car section, to such an extent that there has been occasion when more associates than observers were present, but with her usual flair Jean Carter has coordinated us very well, I must also mention that her young apprentice Mike Lyne who has been standing in for a period of time, has also done an excellent job in keeping everything ticking over nicely. As a result we are looking to increase our observer numbers. If any associate is interested please contact me.

If any of our members wish to have an assessment drive, just to see if any bad habits have crept into their driving technique or just simply to come and have a coffee and a chat, please feel free to contact me or any of our group to arrange the best time to visit us.

Ian Ross

Deaths on the road

Reported road fatalities in Great Britain



Source: Department for Transport

BBC

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to new members Alan Moser, Aaron Shingler, Gareth Mills and Helen Gauchwin who have joined the Bike section. Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

WELCOME

Congratulations to Diane Riley on passing the car test and Alan Glazer on a successful 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

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 were due 1st October and remain at £5. 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.....

Many years ago when I started to write a motoring column I took part in an exercise with Fiat which was intended to show correspondents the manoeuvrability of their cars; so long ago that autonomous cars were an idea reserved for centuries hence.

At one point we were called to reverse a vehicle into a "garage" formed of cones and unfortunately I knocked one down in the process. Later that evening at the hospitality reception the most proficient driver of the day earned his award while I was given a bunch of twigs and told to get practising reversing.

It didn't endear me to Fiat but it did convince me that I should never be in that situation again. With practice and experience I now have a sideboard filled with trophies for "this and that" and I was rather delighted some time ago after winning an economy exercise that a younger colleague came along the next morning and proudly declared he'd just beaten the petrol consumption figure I had achieved. "Too late," I replied with a smile, "I won - you can read it in the papers."

There was one other incident that put me in an embarrassing situation but which I managed to turn round.

Each September, the motoring writers would take on a motor industry team at cricket and the former must have been short of players because I was included in the squad for the first time. At the wicket I made a few runs before being given out to a contentious "leg before" call. The opposition began their innings and under the one-day rules everyone had an opportunity to bowl.

Sure enough the ball was tossed to me for an over. Having been a spin bowler for the Guardian side back in the day I approached the challenge with confidence. But not having bowled a cricket ball in 30 years it turned out to be probably the longest over in the history of the game: three wides and one ball that didn't even reach the batsman. Still, I had only conceded around six runs. I was duly sent, I think in disgrace, to the outfield where I couldn't do any harm. The game was in the balance and our opponents were six short of their target with one over and one wicket left. The batsman hit the ball high into the air towards the boundary - and me. Time stood still at that moment but remembering what I should do from years ago I didn't take my eyes off the ball, ran beneath it, caught it and joyfully threw it to a nearby fielder.

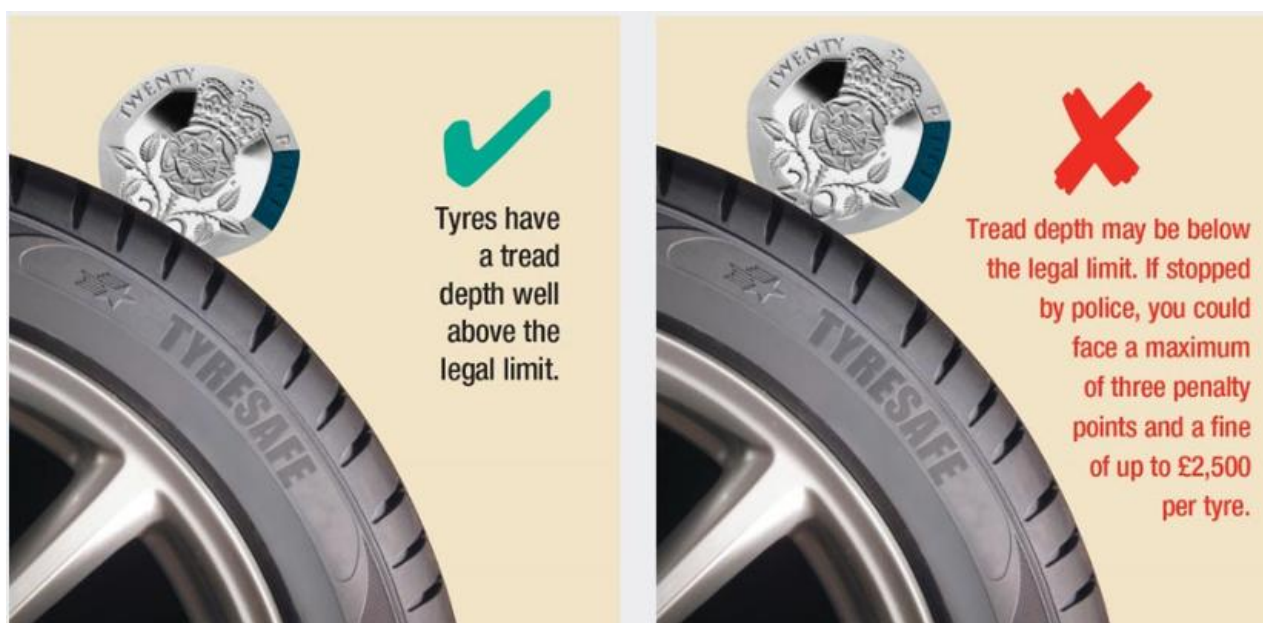
The game was won and I received an accolade for the "catch of the match" - and even became a mainstay in the team (though I was never asked to bowl again!).

The cup I won is part of the sideboard display but I value much more the one next to it - the award I received from Warrington Advanced Motorists "in recognition of 25 years' commitment to road safety."

ARE YOUR WHEELS TOO TYRED TO DRIVE?

It's important to regularly check your tyres to see if they're fit and healthy to help you get from A to B safely. That's why IAM RoadSmart's Head of Driving and Riding Standards, Richard Gladman, has put together some top tyre tips to help you stay safe on the road:

- Check your tyres regularly. We recommend weekly vehicle checks which include inspecting tyre pressure, tread depth and the overall condition.
- Ensure that your tyre's tread depth is at least 1.6mm for a car (however, we recommend 3mm), and 1mm across $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width of the tread pattern and with visible tread on the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ for motorcycles over 50cc. If your motorcycle is up to 50cc, all the grooves of the original tread pattern must be clearly visible.
- The 20p test - check your tyre tread with a 20p by placing it into the main groove of your tyre. The outer band of the 20p coin should be obscured when it is inserted. TyreSafe have produced a great example of this:



- Make sure your tyres have the correct pressure. You can find this information in the vehicle manufacturers' handbook, on the inside of the fuel filler cap or driver's door sill, and you can get this information when purchasing tyres.
- You can find out more information by visiting the TyreSafe website (<https://www.tyresafe.org/>).

FUNNIES


Two donkeys are standing at a roadside, one asks the other: So, shall we cross?
The other shakes his head: "No way, look at what happened to the zebra."
[ack: short-funny.com]

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR BIKERS WITH A DISABILITY INVITE YOU
TO ATTEND THEIR NATIONAL RALLY FOR 2019

YOU'VE BEEN NABBED

28th ANNIVERSARY

**10TH-12TH
MAY 2019**



**THE CHESHIRE SHOWGROUND,
PICKMERE LANE,
TABLEY, KNUTSFORD,
CHESHIRE, WAT6 OJE.
(JUNCTION 19 M6)**

**"YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE DISABLED!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO
BE AN NABD MEMBER.
IF YOU LOVE BIKING YOU WILL BE
WELCOME. DON'T MISS OUT ON
THE BEST 'VALUE FOR MONEY'
BIKE RALLY OF 2018.
BOOK YOUR
TICKETS NOW!"**

**Featuring live music from
FIFTEEN GREAT BANDS IN
TWO MARQUEES**
The very best in stand-up comedy
**THE FROG & BUCKET COMEDY
CLUB ROADSHOW**


TICKET PRICES: Advanced tickets (Before May 1st)
£30.00, On the gate £35.00 (subject to availability). Usually
sells out in advance so book early. Passes for cars and vans
are available via 0844 415 4849. Strictly no dogs allowed (except
licensed disability assistance dogs)

BIKE/TRIKE SHOW BY BACK STREET HEROES MAGAZINE
3 x bars (No alcohol will be permitted through the gate, we have three bars
selling a wide range of beers wines and spirits at very reasonable prices.)
2 x discos - 2 x exotic dancers - loads of tradestands -
hot showers - kids games - kids entertainer -
excellent toilets (disabled access) & much more ...

**LIVE MUSIC • COMEDY •
COMPETITIONS • GAMES •
PARTY ATMOSPHERE • TRADE
STANDS • AND LOTS MORE**

For more details contact NABD,
Unit 20, The Bridgewater Centre,
Robson Avenue, Urmston,
Manchester, M41 7TE.
T: 0844 415 4849 OR
office@thenabd.org.uk

**SATURDAY THEME -
PIRATES**



Prizes for best outfits/make-up

www.nabd.org.uk

IAM RoadSmart has partnered with the National Association for Bikers with a Disability, and we need your help. Could your group help train disabled riders to become advanced riders? We will be exhibiting at the NABD's event in Knutsford on 10-12 May.

SEVEN COMMON DRIVING LAW CONFUSIONS EXPLAINED

Not everyone is completely clued up about the rules of the road, so confusion and misinformation have a habit of spreading. But ignorance isn't an excuse for doing something illegal. With that in mind, we're here to clear up any confusion on some of these common motoring law myths.

1/. Is it legal to use your phone in the car when you're stationary?

You've been stuck in a tailback without moving for hours. You're beyond bored. You decide to send a sarcastic tweet to lighten the mood. But if your engine is on, you're committing an offence.

Using your mobile phone while driving could land you with three points and a fine. And being stationary won't wash with the courts as a defence. And if you think you'll be ok using a phone with headphones or on speakerphone - if the police think you're distracted while using them, you could still get stopped and potentially penalised.

2/. Is it illegal to splash a pedestrian while driving?

Avoiding puddles on British roads is almost as difficult as dodging potholes, and it may be an unfortunate coincidence that you and a pedestrian pass one another next to a splash zone.

But splashing a pedestrian, whether accidentally or intentionally, is an offence under Section 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988:

"If a person drives a mechanically propelled vehicle on a road or other public place without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road or place, he is guilty of an offence."

If you're caught, you could be hit with a £5,000 fine and up to nine points on your licence.

It's ironic that this offence is often touted as a 'weird' driving law in places like Japan, but it's been a firm part of UK legislation for over 30 years.

3/. Is it legal to flash another driver to warn them about a speed trap?

Letting other drivers know about speed traps and getting them to slow down is doing a public service, right? Surely there's no harm in that? Actually, there is.

Rule 110 of the Highway Code says:

Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there. **Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users** (our emphasis).

It has also been successfully argued that warning other drivers about a speed trap is grounds for 'obstructing an officer in the course of their duties', which has a maximum fine of £1,000.

4/. Is it illegal to eat or drink at the wheel?

We're not talking about drinking alcohol here - that one is very much illegal.

Eating at the wheel isn't illegal *per se*. But if it causes you to drive in a dangerous way, or if you're involved in an accident as a result, then you could face a penalty.

This would come under 'driving without due care and attention' - also known as a CD10 - and usually results in a £100 fine and three points on your licence.

This particular offence isn't limited to eating and drinking. Anything that causes your driving ability to deteriorate would be classed as a CD10, including:

Middle lane hogging

Driving while tired or unwell

Tailgating

Undertaking

Being distracted while driving

In serious circumstances, you could face a £5,000 fine and nine points on your licence.

5/. Is it legal to not wear a seatbelt?

There are very few occasions where it's okay to not wear a seatbelt. These include:
when you're reversing.

if you're in a police, fire or rescue vehicle.

if your car was built without seatbelts, no children under three years old are present and children over three years old are sat in the back.

Outside of these very specific circumstances, you and all passengers must be properly restrained in the car. Failing to do so is not only dangerous, but could land you with a fine of up to £500. That includes other adults, children and pets, so make sure everyone buckles up before you set off.

6/. Is it illegal to drive with a dirty number plate?

There are strict rules around number plates and how they're displayed. If your car's number plate is missing, displayed incorrectly or obscured, you could face a fine of £1,000.

What's more, this is also a valid reason for your car to fail its MOT, potentially leaving you even more out of pocket.

7/. Is it legal to ask passengers for money?

Asking your mate for a tenner towards the cost of petrol is perfectly acceptable. However, if you're moonlighting as an unofficial taxi service, then that's a big no-no. There are two implications here.

If you're making a profit from driving people around, that's considered 'hire and reward' by insurers. Unless you have proper cover in place, your car insurance policy could be made invalid.

Also, you could be considered to be 'operating a taxi without a licence', which carries a fine of up to £2,500 and automatically invalidates your driving licence.

So there we have it. Ignorance is no excuse for breaking the law, so hopefully you'll go forth with a little more clarity.

[ack: confused.com]

FUNNIES

One company owner asks another: "Tell me, Bill, how come your employees are always on time in the mornings?"

Bill replies: "Easy. 30 employees and 20 parking spaces

[ack: short-funny.com]

DEALING WITH A LOW SUN

Now that spring is here, the sun is rising earlier and flowers blooming. However, being dazzled by the sun can be a major distraction and is often a factor in summer collisions.

Even though we have many tools that aid in protecting us from the glare, we often forget to use them. This week's tips give advice on how to stay safe on the road with the glare of the sun on rampage, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

- Keep your windscreen clean both inside and out; a dirty screen will magnify the glare.
- On the outside check for chips or cracks, replace worn wiper blades and make sure your washer bottle is kept well topped up with good quality screen wash to help remove those summer bugs.
- Keep a cloth or chamois to wipe away the dirt that builds up on the inside
- Use your sun visor. It may sound pretty obvious but a surprising number of people forget.
- Invest in polarised sunglasses and remember to take a rest. Your eyes will strain quickly if you are squinting. Read our sunglasses tips for more information.
- If you are dazzled by the sun, slow down and leave extra space between yourself and the driver ahead. This will give you more time to regain full control and assess the situation.
- Remember that when the sun is low behind you, you might be able to see just fine, but oncoming drivers might not see you.

Richard said: "It's easy to get distracted when the sun is out and the world seems a better place. By keeping the screen clean and your view shaded where possible, you will give yourself the best chance of staying safe. If you are wearing sunglasses, bear in mind that the protection they offer will be magnified by any tinted windows and remember to keep them clean - it's amazing how distorting a sun cream fog can be. Be ready to take them off in tunnels or shaded areas but keep them close to hand."

IAM E-MODULES FREE FOR A LIMITED TIME

As part of IAM RoadSmart's mission to improve driver skill and road safety in the UK, the charity's e-learning modules are designed to help non-advanced drivers refresh their knowledge of the rules of the road and boost their confidence behind the wheel. If you know a non-advanced driver who you think could benefit from our e-learning modules, we are currently offering them free of charge. Please click www.iamroadsmart.com/courses/e-learning-modules for further information, and pass on our discount code 'Freemodule' to access the online course(s).

June / July 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 June/July 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 19th May 2019.



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)	Holiday Inn Woolston Grange Avenue Woolston, Warrington WA1 4PX
[Bikes] On arrangement with your observer	Observed Runs (bikes)	On arrangement with your observer
Sunday 26 th May	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 1 st May at 19:30	Committee Meeting	Holiday Inn Warrington, WA1 4PX
Sunday 19 th May	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.