



GO BETWEEN

Oxford IAM Group Newsletter

May 2011



IN THE CHAIR (temporarily)!

Those of you who attended the April Meeting will know that our Chairman, Helen, is on sick leave. We understand that she has had her op and is on the road to recovery. We all wish her the very best and look forward to seeing her again as soon as she is fit enough to join us.

Clive

The weather is improving; the MGB is out of its hibernation which reminds me! One of the pleasures of an open top sports car is being able to hear what is around you, perhaps enjoying the peace and quiet! But how often do we open the windows of our everyday cars and listen? Cyclists and pedestrians all get early warning of the approach of vehicles but do we cocooned in our tin boxes? It's not uncommon for me to drive particularly in town with the window slightly down.



Clive Stayt (Vice Chairman)

50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The IAM was founded in 1956 and on 28th June 1961 the Oxford Members group was formed. We are planning to celebrate this anniversary in a number of ways. At the moment our main aim is to recruit new Associates and so we are launching 50:50:50 a scheme whereby the first 50 Associates, during our anniversary year, successfully passing their test after 28th June, will be reimbursed £50 of their Skill for Life Fee!

OBSERVING

Currently things are very quiet on the CAR observing front - Special offer to all active observers, we will provide you with a free copy of the current version of PYADT if you have had at least one test pass in the last twelve months.

We are nearing completion of the re-qualification of our Observers, to ensure everyone is up to date with current standards. On the car front, we have all associates assigned to observers with no waiting list.

The motorcycle part of the group has seen unprecedented growth of new associates in the first four months of the year, with 13 new joiners to date. This has led to a small backlog of associates waiting for an Observer, something the bike SO team are working hard to overcome. (This is partly due to a high number of late joiners last year who we were unable to progress over the winter period, so are still in training early this year).

We are on the hunt for new motorcycle observers who have both the potential and dedication to meet the IAM's ever more demanding criteria; if you think that you have what it takes and are comfortable following a structured training method, please contact John Lang or Duncan Jones for an informal chat.

On the first weekend in April, Duncan Jones, Dave Gilgley, David Bissell and Paul Thompson attended a 3 day motorcycle observer training event in Wales; this was beneficial not only in honing observer skills but also networking and picking up new ideas and best-practice from other groups.

JUNE-JULY-AUGUST We need your help! - Can all Observers please let me know which of the summer drive outs you can be available to give demonstration drives? Last year it fell to only a small number who on some nights had to give more than one run!

RECENT PASSES

Congratulations to Matt Wells, Lewis Bidmead, Jonathan Howe-Jones and Jeremy Deeks on passing their Car tests, and to Andrew Wolton and Peter Jones for passing the motorcycle test.

MOTORCYCLE GROUP RUNS



Since the beginning of April, we have seen a real improvement in attendance at group organised runs. These take place on the first and third Sundays of each month until further notice. Most of the runs start from Bicester Services and are half-day long, with the occasional longer run thrown in. Runs are open to all motorcycle full members and associates in training. The only condition is that new associates must have the approval of their Observer before attending. These runs operate "at a pace"; this means making the best available safe progress within the speed limits. To ensure that everyone stays together, with larger groups we operate a drop-off system (also known as a corner man). This means that, with the exception of the leader and tail-rider, riders change their position in the group at every junction, which also makes the run varied and more participative for everyone. For all future runs, we are going to e-mail out an explanation of the drop-off system with the run invitation. Please see the web-site for our calendar.



From Headquarters



The 'FIRST Register' has been created to recognise and reward excellence in the advanced driving and riding tests. Modelled on a first class degree, FIRST is awarded to those candidates who achieve a score of '1' in every category of the advanced test (or, at the discretion of the Examiner who may

recommend a candidate if they have a '2' in certain categories**) and who are recommended for recognition by their IAM Examiner.

Please visit www.iam.org.uk/F1RST to find out more!

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tony has once again excelled himself in arranging our winter schedule of monthly meetings. Recently we have had John Stepney talking about SERV(Service By Emergency Rider Volunteers), last month we had a talk by Bert Pridgeon from Oxfordshire Trading Standards.

And this month we were joined by Simon Banks our resident cycling expert for a Cycling Awareness evening. We were ably assisted on the night by Julian Pudney, another one of our members who brought his daily driver along courtesy of Tesco's distribution centre at Didcot. It was very impressive to sit in the very comfortable cab with its plethora of mirrors and actually see (or not see) Tony Chalkly's ambulance parked behind!



DIARY 2011

4th May	Simon Banks - Cycling Awareness and Blind Spots
1st June	Demonstration Drives and Ride Outs
6th July	Demonstration Drives and Ride Outs
3rd August	Demonstration Drives and Ride Outs
7th September	Dr Julie Gandolfi – Motoring and the elderly
5th October	Lois Pryce - One Woman, One Motorcycle, 20,000 Miles across the Americas
2nd November	OAGAM AGM plus John Knowles – The Bloodhound SSC
7th December	Quiz Night and mince pies

Meetings take place at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, starting at 8pm sharp. Everyone is welcome, and tea, coffee & biscuits are provided.

Committee Members

Helen Deeley – Chairman & Newsletter Editor
Tony Chalkly -Vice Chair & Secretary
Clive Stayt -Vice Chair & Chief Car Observer
Nick Morse - Treasurer
Duncan Jones - Membership Secretary
Chris Caspell

John Lang - Chief Motorcycle Observer & Co-ordinator
Mark McArthur-Christie – Press Officer
Mark Reddin
Peter Ingram

All Contributions are gratefully received, however the editors' decisions on content are final, & I reserve the right to edit articles. Any opinions stated are personal unless otherwise noted.

Contact the Editor via:

editor @oagam.org