

Mid Wales Matters

Newsletter 2 Mid-Wales Advanced Motorists

RALLY STAR HAS A LAUNCH DATE

Welsh rally star Gwyndaf Evans, the 1997 British rally champion, will be one of the speakers at the launch of the Mid-Wales Group at a special event being held at County Hall, Llandrindod Wells during the afternoon of Saturday 13th March, 2004.

Doors open at 1 pm and Gwyndaf Evans will start his talk at 2 pm. The meeting is scheduled to finish by 5.30.

The event promises to be a lively occasion. In addition to Gwyndaf Evans' talk there will also an address from IAM Assistant Chief Examiner, Trevor Poxon and a presentation from Inspector Geraint Rees of Dyfed Powys Police. It is hoped that this will be entitled, 'How you can help to make our roads safer.'

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We intend to make this newsletter a forum for tips, hints, anecdotes and comment from our membership. It is your voice to each other as much as it is to inform you of what the group is doing. How good (or otherwise) it becomes is up to everyone who receives a copy. Back to you!

We are also using the opportunity to meet non-members and enrol Associates into the Group, so that we can actively engage in 'Helping to make our roads safer.'

All members, of all categories, are invited to attend the meeting and get to know each other. Bring a friend, your spouse or even sons and daughters who have just embarked on their own driving careers.

We hope to run free 10 minute Observed drives and have a small obstacle course on a car park where guests can pick up a few tips from members.

Car members aspiring to pass the Advanced Motorcycle Test will be able to talk to motorcycle members, and it is hoped that we will be assisted in that by motorcyclists from other Groups as well.

Those of you with internet access will be pleased to know that the Group now has its own Web Site at <http://mwam.powys.org.uk> with a link to the IAM Web Site. We are also hopeful that we will establish links to other Groups in the near future. However, one word of warning is that we may have to change our Web Site address if the IAM 'parents' us from their site. If you experience major difficulties with the Site please contact Geoff Smith, the Group Secretary.

Membership has now touched 50 and plans are well in hand for the Group to go '*live*' after Easter when it is hoped that we will commence proper training sessions with our own Associate members. We have received notification from the IAM that they have re-vamped their Skill for Life scheme. As members you won't notice any difference in how things work, but from 1st April that scheme

will be administered centrally. (I hear the groans.) It will not make a scrap of difference to us as a new Group, but established Groups who have recruited their own Associates will have to work differently.

As I understand it, recruitment paperwork will be done by the IAM and the Associates will be directed to the Group of their choice. It will certainly reduce Group admin costs in terms of time and effort, but I have to suspect that more work taken from volunteers will ultimately increase the overall cost of the wage bill at HQ. That could mean higher membership fees. Only time will tell.

Finally, Membership cards accompany this issue for those of you who didn't get one first time round, (I hadn't got any!) If I have missed you out please let me know and I'll sort it. Also read the bottom of the front page again, please, we need your comments. Only one letter so far and I reproduce that below.

Dear Ralph,

Re the flier which came out last time. I may have missed something but I disagree with using a lower gear to remain below the speed limit. What's the speedo for?

If, as suggested, drivers drift over the limit how come they don't drift below the limit?

The correct gear for the correct speed and concentration at all times.

Unfortunately experience has shown me that the public at large are not really interested in 'proper driving'.

Sincerely, Ron Collins.

OK folks, what do you think?



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