

Mid Wales Matters



The Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists

Web site: mwam.powys.org.uk

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In this issue:

IAM Strategy Review	2
Gift Aid	2
Vacancies	2
New Members	2
Skid Pan Event	3
Assessment Drives	3
Members Letters	3
Associate Course Dates	4
Observer Training Dates	4
Your Committee	4

Chairman's Comment

We have had our annual general meeting which I believe was a success. Approximately one third of the membership attended, which I think was excellent when take into account the area we cover and the distances some members would have to travel to attend.

Bruce Ferguson, Region 3 Co-ordinator and Brian Davis, Divisional Council Member were present. Brian congratulated the group on the high ratio of trained associates per observer. Bruce informed us he had nominated our group for the IAM Road Safety Award in recognition of the Achievement the group has made in its first year.

I would like to welcome three members who have volunteered to serve on the committee; they are Pat Allen, Berwyn Woolnough and Sean Mills.

Congratulations, especially to Pat Allen who passed her IAM test on the morning of the AGM! Since the AGM Ron Collins has resigned from the committee which still leaves vacancies to be filled also we need members to become observers to train new associates. In conclusion lets all look forward to another successful year. THANK YOU

Norman Wood

IAM Road Safety Award 2005

This is a road safety award sponsored by the IAM and it is a Region based accolade presented at each Region's Spring Meeting. This group is in IAM Region 3 which covers The Midlands & Mid Wales and is comprised of 24 local groups. Each Regional Co-ordinator chooses a Group within their Region judged to have made a particular local Road Safety Contribution with the emphasis on initiatives in partnership with other local road safety organisations. The IAM present a total of 8 Regional awards to mark best practice in the IAM Group movement. MWAM was selected to receive this award for 2005 at the Region 3 Spring Meeting held at Worcester on Saturday 2 April 2005. This was collected on behalf of the group by the Secretary, Geoff Smith. The group has received a framed certificate and a cheque for £150 for group funds. This was awarded by Region 3 Co-ordinator Bruce Ferguson on the basis of the group that had done the most to promote the IAM, Skill for Life and improved test figures based on the number of Observers.

Geoff was very surprised to receive the Regional Co-ordinator's award for "a person who has done most to promote road safety through dedication & hard work throughout the region". This award is made each year at the Spring Conference and is in the form of an engraved Silver Cup and individual shield which is retained by the recipient.

This Newsletter is a forum for tips, 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.

The Editor welcomes articles and letters for publication in this newsletter. Please note that all such contributions must have the full identity of the writer (not necessarily for publication) and a contact telephone number. Articles are accepted on the condition that they may be edited.

IAM Strategy Review

The IAM has conducted a Strategic review of its operations and issued the following details to groups.

- **The IAM will keep** its charity status and charitable objectives*, the Groups movement, the 'Gold Standard' of the IAM Test, the Membership organization and IAM Fleet.
- **Expansion of the charitable objectives:**
 1. **Be relevant to a greater proportion of road users**
New methods of recruiting more who will become IAM members, and of engaging with those who will not
 2. **Be more influential in the promotion and development of road safety**
Increase commitment to influencing policy and practice
- **Proposed new strategic objectives and ambitions:**

Within 5 years, the IAM will:

1. Be double its current size (total income and Membership)
2. Be influencing the road-using behaviors of at least 10% of people on the road, whether by direct education or through other communication and awareness programmes
3. Be a major influence in the development and promotion of new road safety ideas - and policy at all levels of Government

*Original (and current) IAM charitable objects: to improve the standard of driving and for the advancement of road safety and to establish an advanced driving test

OUR NEW FUTURE

Within 5 years an IAM which will be:

Bigger

Better

More Influential.. for road safety

Gift Aid

Thank you to the members and associates who have signed the Gift Aid declarations for their contributions to the group. For those that have not yet done so, did you realize that my signing a gift aid declaration MWAM will be able to claim 28p for each £1 you contribute to the group? Providing you are a tax payer any contributions which you make can be claimed to the Inland Revenue who will pay the group directly. This does not involve you in any additional payments or paperwork. This means that the group will benefit by £2.80 for each members £10 annual subscription. Perhaps more significantly for each associate who joins the Skill for Life scheme the contribution which the group receives also attracts a payment which could be almost £10! If you would like to help the group by completing a Gift Aid form, these are available to download from our web site or can be provide by our Membership Secretary David Leppard.

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Situations Vacant

Publicity Officer	To promote the group and obtain publicity
Events Co-ordinator	To organise events, with the help of other group members
Chief Observer	To organise the training and accreditation of Observers
Associate Co-ordinator	To organise the allocation of Associates to Observers.

New Members

Congratulations and a warm welcome as Members to the following Associates who were successful in their IAM Advanced Driving Test.

Name	Location	Observer	Date
Pat Allen	Crossgates	Ron Collins	Mar 05
Jessica Allen	Crossgates	Ron Collins	Apr 05

Members Corner

Skid Pan Event

As reported elsewhere, Ron Collin who was organizing this event has resigned from the committee having partially organized this event. Its future was in jeopardy but Meg Lewis, another committee member and Powys Road Safety Officer, has volunteered to complete the organization of this event. Her contact details are on the last page of the newsletter.

The group has arranged a visit to Hixon skid-pan, a police training establishment. Hixon is about 8 miles east of Stafford. This has been booked for **Saturday 7th May 2005** and all MWAM members and non-members will be welcome and are invited to apply.

There are 12 places per day on a first-come-first-serve basis. Unfortunately, the cost as reported in the last Newsletter was incorrect. The non-returnable fee will be £37.50 per head, paid in advance, preferably by a cheque, payable to "Mid Wales Advanced Motorists" and sent to Meg Lewis.

An instructor and adapted car will be allocated, with three persons per car, allowing approximately 20mins 'skidding practice' per person. We are assured that this will be more than enough!

Applicants will be asked to make their own travel arrangements to Hixon. A map will be available at a later date if required, although the site is well signed.

Times on the skid-pan are staggered; MWAM will notify applicants when they should arrive to use the skid-pan. The session times are provisionally 09:00 to 10:30; 10:30 to 12:00; 12:00 to 13:30 and 13:30 to 15:00. Only one car is used so attendees will need to arrive in good time for their appointed slot. Obviously those with less distance to travel would be expected to take the earliest time slots.

It should be noted that unfortunately, other than a tea/coffee dispensing machine, there are no refreshment facilities available on the site.

Please make your reservation now and we will ensure you are allocated a place.

Geoff Smith

Members Assessment Drives

The committee has decided to offer members the opportunity to have a free assessment drive with one of our observers. If it has been several years since you passed the IAM driving test you may feel the need to have reassurance that you are maintaining the standards you previously achieved and demonstrated. These will take the form of a roughly 1½ hour drive at a mutually convenient time and venue arranged with an observer. Please contact our Chairman, Norman Wood if you would like to arrange for an assessment drive.

Members Letters

WHY TAKE THE IAM MOTORCYCLE TEST?

In late 1980 I bought a brand new 850 cc Italian Moto Guzzi V twin motorcycle as my 1959 650cc Triumph Bonneville had (and still does) given sterling service over the years. In the late seventies the Guzzi was regarded as a "superbike" producing some 70 brake horsepower - nearly twice as much as that of the Triumph. At the time I frankly found this performance frightening. This very quickly prompted a tuition course with the IAM which ultimately led to a successful pass.

The IAM advanced riding techniques raises every threshold of motor cycling covering amongst other things machine control, positioning the machine on the road and especially forward observation. This leads to early warning of potential hazards making for a safer riding experience - forewarned is forearmed as they say!

Since passing the IAM test I have ridden well in excess of 100,000 miles both at home and abroad and have never had an accident let alone fallen off- honest! I attribute this to being an advanced motorcyclist and aping the police style of riding also looks rather good!

Today's sports bikes produce twice as much power as my Moto Guzzi and from my own experience I would seriously recommend any aspiring motorcyclist to take IAM tuition. The modest cost is well worth the outlay.

I still have my Guzzi by the way proudly displaying the coveted green badge with just 60,000 miles on the clock - should be good for another 25 years!

Neil Owen

Associate Course Dates

Course	Start Date	Day	Time	Location
05/3	1 Jun 05	Wednesday	7:00pm to 9:30pm	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod
05/4	3 Aug 05	Wednesday	7:00pm to 9:30pm	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod
05/5	5 Oct 05	Wednesday	7:00pm to 9:30pm	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod
05/6	7 Dec 05	Wednesday	7:00pm to 9:30pm	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod

Observer Training Dates

Date	Day	Location	Times
16/04/2005	Saturday	Newtown, Safeway Car Park	10:00am to 12:00Md
21/05/2005	Saturday	Builth Wells, Co-operative Car Park	10:00am to 12:00Md
18/06/2005	Saturday	Crossgates, Knill's Car Park	10:00am to 12:00Md
16/07/2005	Saturday	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells	10:00am to 12:00Md
20/08/2005	Saturday	Newtown, Safeway Car Park	10:00am to 12:00Md
17/09/2005	Saturday	Builth Wells, Co-operative Car Park	10:00am to 12:00Md
22/10/2005	Saturday	Crossgates, Knill's Car Park	10:00am to 12:00Md
19/11/2005	Saturday	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells)	10:00am to 12:00Md
17/12/2005	Saturday	Newtown, Safeway Car Park	10:00am to 12:00Md

Please note that all the above published dates and venues may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond the committee's control. For the latest information visit our web site: mwam.powys.org.uk or contact the group secretary.

Please contact Norman Wood (01982 553181) who will be co-ordinating observer training if you require any further details.

Your Committee

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Mid Wales Advanced Motorists (MWAM) publish this Newsletter to provide a means of communication within the group to Members and Associates. The opinions are those of the Editor and individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the view of MWAM or the Institute of Advanced Motorists to which it is affiliated.