



Mid Wales Matters



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The Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists

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New Chairman's Comment



From Vice Chairman to being asked to take the lead position in the organisation, I probably hold the record for speed in promotional upgrading. To say that being your Chairman is an honour would grossly under-estimate the situation.

You have my personal guarantee that I will place my full energies into chairing the Mid Wales group of the IAM

When I passed my IAM exam back in London some years ago in an Ex-Royal Household P5B Rover Saloon, I was as pleased as punch and have publicised the IAM ever since. The 'Text' number-plate style advert that I have on the rear parcel shelf, also advertises the IAM, and brings forth many welcome remarks as well as signs of approval. I will fully advance on some of them when I see you all in the future. A previous number plate from my Rover 620 SI (L1 ROV) with a IAM sticker on either end of the plate, was included in an article in the IAM magazine some years ago.

Best of luck to you all and safe driving.

Councillor Francis A Torrens

Annual General Meeting

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists was held on Saturday 11 March 2006 at Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells. Group Members and IAM representatives attended this and we were please to welcome Bruce Ferguson (Region 3 Coordinator), Dave Shenton (IAM Motorcycle Manager) and Mike Page (IAM Divisional Council Member).

Our Chairman Norman Wood addressed the meeting and outlined the achievements of the last year and the challenges for the future. Our Secretary Geoff Smith reported on the success of our Associates and Observers. He also the commended the Group Newsletter, Mid Wales Matters and the Web Site to members. The audited Group Accounts for 2005 were approved and elections were held for our Officers, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer together with those for new committee members.

Those Officers appointed to serve for 2006 are:

Chairman: **Norman Wood***

Vice Chairman: **Francis Torrens**

Secretary: **Geoff Smith**

Treasurer: **Mandy Giordano**

Committee Member appointed for a 3-year term: **Humphrey Morgan**

*Norman Wood subsequently resigned as Chairman on 1 April 06 and this position has now been filled by our Vice Chairman Frank Torrens.

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.

Editor's Spot

From The Times, November 2005

From 2007, driving tests will assess candidates' ability to drive in an environmentally friendly way. The aim is to reduce fuel consumption, exhaust emissions, and at the same time improve road safety. In tests conducted by the Driving Standards Agency, motorists trained in eco-driving used an average of 8.5% less fuel. Travelling a distance at 60 rather than 70mph reduces consumption by 30%. Furthermore, the European Climate Change Programme has calculated that if all drivers across the EU adopted eco-driving, they would save 25 billion litres of fuel and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 50 billion tonnes by 2010.

It all makes sense, but of course we don't live in a perfect world - not every driver, alas, is going to adopt eco-principles. Mind you, as the price of petrol in our area hits the £1 a litre mark, I'm planning to be one of the first saints!

From time to time members are kind enough to let me have newspaper articles which they feel may be of interest to readers. Please keep them rolling in.

Members' Corner

At our March Observers' Meeting Mick Lovelock, the IAM staff examiner, highlighted the main reasons why drivers failed the IAM test.

These were collated from all over the country. In order of priority they are:

1. Poor and/or late observations, and consequently poor assessment and incomplete planning.
2. Poor or late system application, quite often associated with 1 above.
3. Late and rushed gear changes, again often associated with 1 above. This often results in rough clutch control.
4. Choice of and/or use of gears.
5. Lack of appreciation of the effect their actions will have on others.
6. Lack of safe progress.
7. Breaking and changing gear out of habit and totally unnecessarily.
8. Incorrect positioning on approach and through bends.

All familiar stuff but, whether new associates or a seasoned IAM members, we should always drive as if on test!
Humphrey Morgan.

Assessment Drives with MP's & AM's

The IAM has asked all its local groups to invite their MP's and AM's to undertake an assessment drive with a group Observer. The purpose of this is to encourage them to lend their support to and to publicise the IAM DriveCheck initiative which is outlined below. On Friday, 17th March 06, Kirsty Williams AM and Roger Williams MP took up the invitation of MWAM and were assessed by Humphrey Morgan and myself. They spent an hour undergoing an observed drive from Llandrindod Wells and were given advice on their driving. Both Kirsty and Roger drive many thousands of miles each year and they were appreciative of the opportunity to find out more about the IAM and DriveCheck and thanked us for all for giving them some hands on experience. On 7 April I completed an assessment drive with Lembit Öpik MP in Newtown and on 17th April with Mick Bates AM, again in Newtown. Lembit remarked that he would be modifying his driving immediately to leave a larger gap to the vehicle in front when stationary and to complete his braking on the approach to a turn. Glyn Davies AM will undertake his assessment drive in May. You may have seen these drives reported in the local press and this is valuable promotion for both MWAM and the IAM to raise the profiles of both organisations.

Geoff Smith

If you have any comments or even an article of your own, which you would like to submit for Member's Corner in the next newsletter, do, please let me have them. Apart from your thoughts on matters of national importance, I would welcome views or items of news that are of relevance to the MWAM area in particular

IAM DriveCheck

- This year marks the IAM's 50th anniversary year and as part of this the IAM are launching DriveCheck.
- The IAM is the leading Road Safety organisation in the UK and understands that driving is the most dangerous activity which people perform in their daily lives.
- Most drivers have not received any additional training since they learned to drive and for some this could be several decades.
- The IAM has decided to offer these drivers the opportunity to receive an assessment of their driving skills in the form of DriveCheck.
- This initiative is in response to the general public's reticence to become involved with the IAM because of the spectre of a 'Test' at the end of their conventional Skill for Life course.
- DriveCheck is an assessment made with you driving your vehicle accompanied by an IAM accredited Observer.
- This takes about an hour of your time; it includes a 30 to 40 minutes drive followed by a discussion and a short report on your driving ability.
- We do not test drivers at these sessions; rather we offer members of the public an assessment which is both friendly and constructive.
- DriveCheck can be completed by any driver anywhere in the country, using our network of 200 plus local IAM Groups.
- DriveCheck costs £25 but £15 of this will be credited towards that persons future enrolment in the IAM Skill for Life scheme.

If you know of any friends or colleagues who you think may be interested in a DriveCheck assessment please ask for an application form from our secretary or ask them to contact him directly. Also a special DriveCheck Gift voucher is available directly from the IAM.

Geoff Smith

Situations Vacant

Chief Observer	To organise the training and accreditation of Observers
Associate Co-ordinator	To organise the allocation of Associates to Observers.
Membership Secretary	To organise the Groups Membership Records

New Members

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following Members on passing their IAM test.

Name	Location	Observer	Date
John Oliver	Glascwm	Humphrey Morgan	Dec 05
Cleo Murch	Gladestry	Humphrey Morgan	Feb 06
Richard Cullen	Llanbrynmair	Marin Backhouse	Mar 06
Ros Hanscombe	Gladestry	Humphrey Morgan	Mar 06
Pamela Veall	Newbridge-on-Wye	Geoff Smith	Mar 06
Avril Barnes	Felinfach	Roger Wingfield	Mar 06
Chris Moody	Aberystwyth	Rees Thomas	Mar 06
Sarah Morris	Llandrindod Wells	Geoff Smith	April 06
Gerry Eglinton	Llandrindod Wells	Geoff Smith	April 06

Associate Course Dates

Course	Start Date	Day	Times	Location
06/3	31/05/2006	Wednesday	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
06/4	02/08/2006	Wednesday	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
06/5	04/10/2006	Wednesday	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
06/6	06/12/2006	Wednesday	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells

Observer Training Dates

Date	Day	Times		Location
15/05/2006	Monday	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Builth Wells, Co-operative Car Park
13/06/2006	Tuesday	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Crossgates, Knill's Car Park
12/07/2006	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
10/08/2006	Thursday	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Newtown, Morrisons Car Park
17/09/2006	Sunday	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Builth Wells, Co-operative Car Park
14/10/2006	Saturday	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Crossgates, Knill's Car Park
5/11/2006	Sunday	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
09/12/2006	Saturday	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Newtown, Morrisons Car Park

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 Humphrey Morgan (01597 822082) who will be co-ordinating observer training if you require any further details.

Your Committee

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ASSOCIATE CO-ORDINATOR	Vacant	

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.