

Allan Thorne

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I am deeply saddened to announce that Allan died suddenly but peacefully on Sunday 12th September at the untimely age of 54.

Allan had been to the Group that morning, carried out a Qualified Observer check, completed the report, chatted to his partner Co-ordinators and set off for home. On his way home "over Cragg" as he would say, he began to feel ill but managed to reach home from where an ambulance had to be called.

Allan's involvement with driving related matters went back to the early 1970's when he passed his IAM driving test and resolved to do what he could for the public awareness of road safety in general.

Only a small number of local Advanced Motorists' Groups were established until the mid 1970's when the Group movement within the IAM began to expand. Early in 1977 the Bolton Group agreed to create a sub-group in the Rochdale, Todmorden, Oldham, Ashton area and enlisted Allan's help since he had already passed his IAM test. Later that year and with the required 40 sub-group members, the West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists was fully formed and Allan became a member of the Committee, a position he held throughout. With Allan as an influential and key member, the Group has now achieved over 1000 Test passes.

Allan was an Associate Scheme Co-ordinator since the Group's beginnings. He held Senior Qualified Observer status since its introduction by the IAM and was heavily involved in minibus driver training, Observer training and Demonstration driver training. He had been Chairman of the Group's Trustees since 1991 and was the Group Chairman between 1993/4. He had been an Executive member of the NW Region Groups Committee.

Allan was a Yorkshireman.....! He was blunt, straightforward and to the point but with the warmth and consideration of a man who felt strongly about road safety and passionately about his family.

Past and present members of the West Pennine Group attended Allan's funeral at St. James Church Hebden Bridge and Rochdale Crematorium. Both the Church and the Crematorium chapel were overflowing with family, friends and representatives of Allan's many connections.

The Rev. John Burgess who conducted the service at St. James knew Allan well. He had married Allan and Kath in Malta in 1979 and christened Allan and Kath's twin daughters Rachael and Claire at Hebden Bridge in 1985. He became a close family friend. Highlighting Allan's many attributes, which included his dedication to the Blood Donor Service for which he had received the Gold Card, Rev. Burgess stressed Allan's commitment to road safety and the IAM.

Our thoughts are with Kathryn, Rachael and Claire at this very difficult time. Now we all have the very hard task of "getting on with it" without him.

Beryl Schofield

³ Chairman's Letter

October 04

Dear Readers,

First of all, it is with great sadness that I bring you the news of Allan Thorne, who died on 12 September shortly after returning home from that day's Group meeting. Allan was a founder member of the Group in 1977 and his years of knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. More is written about Allan in this newsletter. All our thoughts are with his wife, Kath, and his daughters, Claire and Rachael.



Turning to other matters, on 3 October we held our annual Driver of the Year event, which was well attended. Despite the poor weather forecast, the rain held off until all contestants had finished the course. The Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Abdul Jabbar, came along and was put to the test on the manoeuvrability course, though his driver was reluctant to show how well he could perform in the mayoral limousine.

I am pleased to report that the number of new associates joining the Group has increased slightly in the last couple of months. Our publicity efforts seem to be paying off, but we all need to keep spreading the word and encouraging friends/relatives/colleagues to prepare for the Advanced Test and become safer drivers. Remember, Christmas is only a few weeks away and a course of Advanced Driving makes for an original (and potentially life-saving) present.

Safe driving to you all.

Steven Slater.

A New Award

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This year, special thanks must go to one of our long time members Kathy Kempe who has donated a new award the **Kathy Kempe Cup** to be presented for the best Group member Observed Run. In Kathy's words, she wanted her award to recognise the driving skills and values upheld and sustained by West Pennine members. The first winner of this Cup is David Cannon who has been a dedicated Group Observer since he passed his IAM test in 1990. Well done David!

The West Pennine Group is very pleased to accept this new award from Kathy. It is wonderful that Kathy remains very much in touch with us even though she now lives in sunny Bournemouth. Our very best wishes to you Kath.

Beryl Schofield

A Few Words of Thanks..

I've passed my test and am filled with glee
But my success isn't just down to me.
Your observations, support and advice
Have made Sunday mornings really quite nice!

Motorways and NSL now hold no fear for me,
I can undertake manoeuvres and give a commentary.
I can drive to the "system" which we know is best
Isn't it great, having passed your advanced test?

I started my Advanced Driving course last September
And am really pleased to become a fully-fledged member.
So my thanks, again, to you for giving me Advanced Driving Mode
Now let's get cracking and hit that road!

Bill Dunkerley

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IAM Conference 2004

October 04

This year's conference was held at Dunstall park racecourse in Wolverhampton, though there was no racing on the day to distract the 300 or so delegates who turned up from IAM groups all round the country.

The conference was opened by a speech from Steven Norris, a former road safety minister, who gave us plenty of shocking statistics about road traffic accidents and praised the way the IAM through the groups was trying to tackle road safety. He reminded us there were 3,500 people killed last year on the UK's roads, roughly 300 every month, and pointed out that this was the equivalent of a Boeing 757 full of passengers crashing every month. If these deaths were due to aircraft crashing there would be an outcry, but society seems to have accepted road traffic deaths as "one of those things". It was all a question of attitude to driving and road safety.

Adrian Walsh, a director of Roadsafe, then gave a talk on how technological changes have made cars safer and gave hints of current safety developments that manufacturers are working on. Roadsafe is a partnership between government, car manufacturers and designers aimed at working together to promote road safety. Manufacturers often complain that they are able to bring in safety developments long before legislation changes to make them compulsory.

There was mention of ABS, traction control and electronic stability programs which are now widely available. Some of the features in the pipeline include night vision systems and external airbags to protect pedestrians. Mercedes is working on a radar-based system of detecting imminent crashes which will close windows and sun-roofs, pre-tension the seat-belts and change the seat position to the optimum setting to protect the occupant in the crash.

Christopher Bullock, the chief executive, gave a review of the IAM's activities during the previous year. Membership stood at

around 113,000 which was a respectable increase in the year. Jaguar are offering advanced driver training similar to the Daewoo scheme, which has now finished. There is also an initiative aimed at younger drivers via a link-up with Halfords and the Max-power magazine. As part of this, the IAM book "How to be an advanced driver" has been re-branded and published under the title "Drive like a god". The murmurs of disapproval round the conference floor were predictable.

There is also a proposal for the membership fee to increase in February 2005 from £15 to £18 with the 50p discount for paying by direct debit being retained. It was pointed out that this was the first increase since February 1999. Countering this bad news to some extent, it was also announced that the IAM would pay for the public liability element of each group's insurance renewal premium, due on 1 November 2004.

The afternoon was split into several smaller syndicates covering IAM strategy, plans for the IAM's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2006, observer training, administration and insurance aspects of groups and the use of IT.

The whole event was superbly organised, with each session starting and finishing on time and each speaker being informative and entertaining. This was the first conference I had attended and I was struck by the sheer scale of the volunteer support from all the other groups across the country. It is satisfying to know there are lots of other people like ourselves working to make the roads a safer place.

Steven Slater

We need your feedback – Have you got something to say?
This newsletter is published for you by you, and we welcome any contributions from the readership. We cannot guarantee that submissions will appear in the next newsletter,.
But we will try! Thank you.

7 Driver of the Year 2004

October 04

The annual Driver of the Year Competition of the West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists was held on Sunday 3rd October. The event was attended by the Mayor, Councillor Abdul Jabbar, and the prizes presented by Dion Etheridge, Oldham Road Safety Officer, who supports the Group in its aim of improving driver training and making our roads safer.



Russell Leech & Dion Etheridge

Events during the day involved a manoeuvrability course of eight different obstacles; parallel parking, slalom, 'garage parking', vehicle height and width judging; followed by a Highway Code test and an accompanied drive around the local area where contestants were judged on their observations and reactions to situations.

It was a very busy day with a total of 25 entries from all three categories, members, associates and visitors. The weather just about held out for us although it was a little windy.



Dave Cannon & Dion Etheridge



Biagio Circelli & Dion Etheridge

We would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Abdul Jabbar for taking part in the manoeuvrability course and showing off his driving skills with Lorraine's Volkswagen Beetle. He was under a lot of pressure, driving an unfamiliar car and with



Nigel Shaw & Dion Etheridge

everyone watching and taking photos, but he did extremely well under the circumstances.

The photographer from the Chronicle arrived to take photos of the Mayor and we had very a large article in the paper, almost a full page, which was a good advert for the group.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped on the day with the setting up of the course, scoring, marshalling, observing the runs and also to David Mellor for giving up his time to write out all those certificates.



Councillor Abdul Jabbar & Steven Slater



Noel Davies, Dion Etheridge, Councillor Abdul Jabbar & Ihsan Niazi

We would also like to thank everyone who took part in the competition, without you we would have looked rather silly stood there on Mecca Bingo's rooftop car park in the howling wind.

We would also like to thank the Bank Top Tavern for allowing us to use the function room for the day and for serving up some excellent food, and to Mecca Bingo for allowing us to use their rooftop car park.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up of the day, it was an excellent day and we look forward to next year's event.



Steven Slater, Nigel Shaw, Dave Cannon, Dion Etheridge, Russell Leech and Biagio Circelli.

The Results

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Best IAM Member receiving the Bolton Cup and OMBC trophy

Russell Leech

Runner up IAM Member receiving an OMBC trophy

David Cannon

Best IAM Member Observed Run receiving the Kathy Kempe Cup and OMBC trophy

David Cannon

Best Associate receiving the Walter Kempe Award and OMBC trophy

Joe Cheeseborough

Runner up Associate receiving an OMBC trophy

Biagio Circelli

Best Visitor Observed Run receiving an OMBC trophy

Nigel Shaw

Best Visitor Highway Code receiving an OMBC trophy

Nigel Shaw

Best Visitor Manoeuvrability receiving an OMBC trophy

Nigel Shaw

All competitors received a certificate

Well done to you all

11 Drive Safe Day

October 04

Friday 24th September 5.00am

Do you have any idea just how dark it is at this time of the morning? Noel and I now do!

We had volunteered to "help out" at the BBC/GMR radio station's Drivesafe Day, when all that day's shows would be transmitted from Heaton Park. Not only had we volunteered, but we'd also agreed to turn up to cover the first show of the day, which starts at 6.30am – hence the early get-up (at least, I know that I was up so early – you'd have to check with Noel if he saw 5.00am!)

We travelled together to Heaton Park and were driving along almost deserted park roads by 6.15am, trying to find the boating lake where we were expecting to set up a manoeuvrability course (no, not *in* the lake, but beside it – but I wouldn't bet against the possibility if the day is ever repeated!). Heaton Park is rather nice at that time of day, being full of wild bunnies which had the good sense to run away from the car, instead of being transfixed by the headlights which so often happens on the ordinary roads.

We were warmly greeted by the two presenters of "our" programme, Heather Stott and Mark Edwardson, and their assistants, and then left to get on with setting up the manoeuvrability course. This was too good to last – much too easy! – we'd been given detailed instructions, including measurements, by Mike Lyne, and we had arrived armed with tape measures, chalk and clip boards. No problem – until Mark said something about explaining what was going on - ON LIVE RADIO - with absolutely no practice (or even advance warning) of what questions he would be asking us. Not quite so easy at that point, but we got over that hurdle OK and managed to give a reasonable few moments of comments before going back to setting up our course.

By the time the police van had arrived with our traffic cones, we had all their positions marked and were ready to set up and trial the course. All the competitors were to drive the same Smart Forfour car, so your intrepid reporter prepared to make a complete fool of herself by jumping in and going through the manoeuvres – the relief when I managed a very respectable parallel park, at the first attempt!!

Unfortunately, there was no possibility of the slalom measurements being adequate for the car so a lot of "tweaking" had to be done – all right, we downright fiddled it and set it up so that Noel could just manage it, then we left it alone. The final result was heard on the radio late in the afternoon – none of the drivers had managed to get through the slalom without penalty *except the advanced driver first thing in the day!!*

Then came the bombshell – we were nearing the radio slot for the first competitor to tackle the course, when Mark Edwardson casually remarked that he expected one of us to be in the car with the competitor, giving an *entertaining* running commentary for the whole 5 minutes that were to be allowed. Was this in the job description? Was it even possible without practice? Was Noel going to do it, or did I have to live up to my reputation of always being able to talk?

Anyway, we could hardly back out at this stage, so I did my best while Noel did a sterling job of taking accurate measurements very quickly. The feedback from Mark at the end was that it had not been brilliant, but next time (what!) he would be in the back of the car to feed questions to me. That time, with the second competitor, the whole thing was much easier and it went much better. By now members of the Rochdale group had arrived to take over from us at 9 o'clock, when the next show started. They were similarly shocked to find that they would be broadcasting without any practice, but they could hardly expect to receive any sympathy from us, could they? At least, by then, it was full daylight on a very pleasant bright sunny day, so we stayed around to watch, and occasionally help out with the course, for another couple of hours.

If this event is run again, anyone else from West Pennine who would like to be involved will first have to fight off Noel and myself- we enjoyed the experience so much that we are very keen to repeat it. However – "safe driving" needs more assessment than a manoeuvrability course and some written questions on the Highway Code, so I'm not sure about the overall road safety aspect of the format. But never mind that – we had FUN, and would love to do the whole thing again!!

Janet



'Observation could be better'. The words some of us hear every week!

Read the above sign as a little test. Those people who think their Observation is top notch will probably read 'Paris in the Spring'. Read it again though!

Now who's taking things for granted? Proper observation is of prime importance if you're not intending to encounter the unexpected.

Another quick test of Observation.....Read this sentence:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS.

Now go back and read it again counting the Fs. If you counted fewer than six, you should count again. Incidentally, did you spot the mistake in the word 'observation' seven lines above?

For those of you who recognise this entry, it was originally submitted by Gary Styles back in 1998.

Please remember: Commercial Advertising space is available at £50 for half a page and £80 for a full page per year.

Personal adds to subscribing members are free. Contact the Newsletter Co-ordinators for information.

Thank you.

Stuck for a present?

Not sure what to buy?

Can't think of anything unusual?



**Why not buy a course of
Advanced Driving
from your local
Group of Advanced Motorists.**



For more information call
Pete on 01706 843127

New Associates

October 04

Welcome to the following visitors who have recently joined the group as Associate Members. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings for advisory runs, in preparation for the Advanced Driving Test. Good Luck to you all.

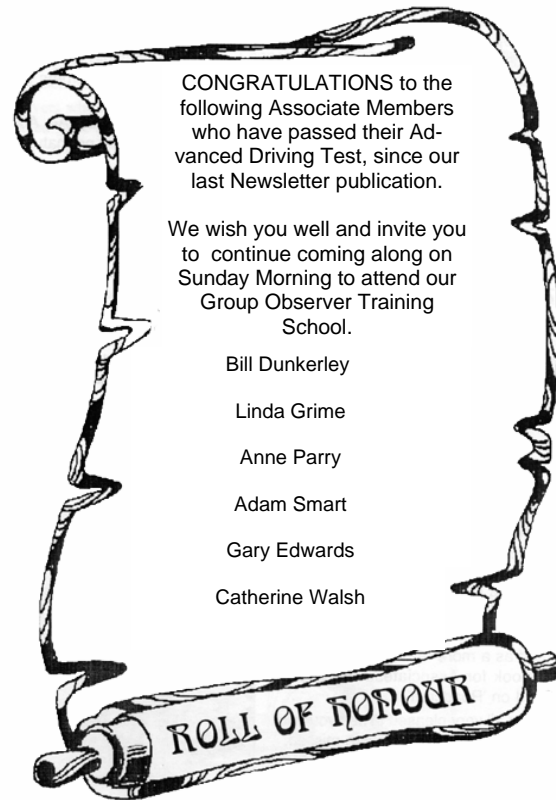
- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Faisal Ali | Michael Booker |
| Stephen Wells | Ben Godfrey |
| Joe Cheeseborough | Susannah Collin |
| Haseeb Naziri | Amanda Gorey |
| Kate Radcliffe | Alan Milnes |
| Pauline Circelli | Michael Robinson |
| Carmine Circelli | Angela Collins |
| Mary Howard | |

OBSERVER TRAINING

Congratulations to Bill Dunkerley who has recently completed Group Observer Training. Welcome to the Observer Team!

Test Passes

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We are always at the Bank Top Tavern both before and after the morning's activities. Please come and talk to us if you are experiencing any difficulties and wish to discuss any problems relating to your driving.

Beryl Schofield – Peter Smithies
Associate Scheme Co-Ordinators

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October 04

REGALIA

The following items are in stock and available for sale to members:-

Circular radiator badges	@ £6.50
Square radiator badges	@ £6.50
Lapel badges	@ £2.00
Tax disc holders	@ £0.50
Key rings	@ £2.50
Rear window stickers	@ £1.00
T' shirts	@ £5.00
Ties	@ £5.80
Stick pins	@ £2.00
Ball pens	@ £2.00
Sew-on-badges	@ £2.00



The following items, each bearing the West Pennine logo, are available on order:-

Sweatshirt	@ £21.00
Polo shirt	@ £17.00
T' shirt	@ £14.00
Baseball cap	@ £9.00
Woolly hat	@ £9.00
Embroidery on own item	@ £8.50
Additional words to IAM logo	@ £3.00
Surcharge for XXL sweatshirt	@ £2.50

Sweatshirt colours:- black, bottle green, bright red, burgundy, light grey, navy blue, royal blue.

Woolly hat colours are as above except that light grey is replaced by marled grey.

BOOKS IN STOCK FOR SALE TO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES:-

Road Craft	@ £12.00
Motorway Driving Explained	@ £0.95
Know Your Traffic Signs	@ £2.50
A Guide To Advanced Motoring	@ £2.50

All of these items are either on sale or can be ordered from Norma Scholes on Sunday mornings.

GROUP VIDEO/CD ROM LIBRARY

You may borrow any of the following videos for one week from Peter Smithies.

A returnable deposit of £5 is payable.

Video's are limited to one per person per week.

HMSO The Driving Video	Roadcraft IAM
HMSO Highway Code	Safe Motorway Driving IAM
IAM Maybe Too Late	Advanced Driving IAM
FORD Aggressive Driving	Test Drive IAM
FORD Driving Without Fear	"Crash" Channel 4 Video
Steps to Safe Minibus Driving	CD ROM Advanced Driving