

Chairman's Letter

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Dear Readers,

The last few months have been a busy time for the Group as it tries to think of novel publicity ideas to attract new associates and keep the Group going. Associate numbers are at their lowest for some months and I urge you all to help by talking to friends and relatives about Advanced Driving, or why not buy an Advanced Driving course as a present for someone?

Observers now have bright red circular magnetic discs to display on associates' cars during observed runs, with the Group's contact number on, and we hope these will become a familiar sight on local roads on Sunday mornings. We are also designing a new window sticker and planning a massive leaflet campaign in the local newspaper.

If anyone has a great idea for publicising the Group, please call me and let me know, or e-mail me at chairman@wpg-iam.com

In May, Oldham Council's Road Safety Unit presented us with a number of high-visibility jackets and vests for use during manoeuvrability tests and other events. These will improve the safety of marshals during events and we are grateful to Dion Etheridge, the Principal Road Safety Officer, for organising these.

Safe driving to you all.



Steven Slater.

Driver of the Year 2004

March 06

A date of 3rd October has been set for this years event. In addition to the "Roof Top Obstacle Course", we will be offering Observed Runs, and a Quiz .

Contact the group via e-mail: driver@wpg-iam.com, call Pete on 01706 843127 or listen to Revolution Radio 96.2FM, www.revolutiononline.co.uk for more information.

Even bigger and better than before!

Many Thanks !!

We are very happy to support and recognise the efforts shown by our newly formed Publicity Team. They are continually looking for new ventures and openings in and around the West Pennine Area.

They in turn, are indebted to the many volunteers who have given up their time and effort to help at the events that have been held over the year. Although, too many to mention individually, we can not thank you enough for the commitment you show to our group. You know who you are - Thank You!

Recent and Forthcoming Events include:

Shaw Victorian Market
Saddleworth Show
"The Hollies"
The Oldham Mela Event

High Crompton Fair—5th September
Driver of the Year—3rd October

... has the pleasure of OUR company!



In March this year, the Department of Transport sponsored a **THINK Road Safety** event nationally. Oldham Metropolitan Borough's Department for Environment and Transportation took the opportunity to publicise **THINK Road Safety** by sponsoring the Oldham Athletic match against Colchester United on 13th March. This sponsorship included publicity announcements throughout the match, advertising in the match programme, local press coverage and a penalty shoot out at half time. Sponsors also receive hospitality in the Sponsors' Lounge.

Dion Etheridge, Oldham's Principal Road Safety Officer invited the West Pennine Chairman and guest to join him in the Sponsors' Lounge. He said that he wanted the event to be shared by voluntary organisations who operate Road Safety activities within the Borough in partnership with the Department. Unfortunately, our Chairman Steven Slater couldn't attend so Beryl Schofield and David Mellor were very pleased to attend on his behalf.

The day was most enjoyable (but a no score draw was quite without excitement).

Our sincere thanks go to Dion and his Department for the invitation.

Here is a story which will give you all a chuckle; at least it amused me. Last week I was driving to work, doing 30mph in a 30 mph zone. On a left-hand bend I was overtaken by two vehicles, one after the other, both doing considerably more than 30 mph.

As the bend straightened out I observed the hazards ahead of me: firstly the two cars that had overtaken me; then a road maintenance vehicle with its amber light flashing; then a set of traffic lights on red. As we all approached the traffic lights, the road maintenance vehicle stopped and the two cars in front of me both stopped very close behind. I was still some distance behind.

The traffic lights turned green. Instead of the road maintenance vehicle setting off, its driver got out to start setting out cones. Both the cars behind were too close to move round into lane two but I had plenty of time to check lane two was clear and change lanes to pass all three vehicles.

Two sets of traffic lights later, there was still no sign of the two cars that had overtaken me when this story began. So watch out when you see those flashing amber lights.

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.

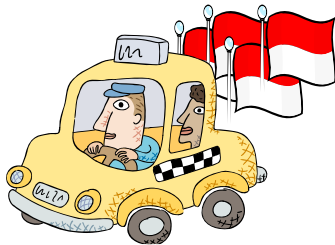
..and Red Flags

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As the newsletter went to press we were hearing reports of a new scheme recently introduced by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). The scheme allows poor drivers to bring their sub-standard driving abilities to the attention of other road-users by displaying a number of red and white flags from their car windows.

Slightly below average driving is denoted by one red and white flag. More red and white flags can be displayed to indicate ever-decreasing standards, with three red and white flags being truly appalling.

A spokesperson for DVLA said, "we have been surprised by the rapid adoption of this scheme across the country and are shocked by the overall poor standards to which drivers have assessed themselves".



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.

⁷ Dozing at the wheel!

March 06

IAM Press Release Issued: 10 August 2004

More than 50 per cent of Britain's motorists habitually drive for more than two hours on long motorway journeys without taking a break – and half of those, a staggering 25 per cent of all drivers never stop for a break during motorway journeys lasting four hours or longer.

These are the shocking findings of a nationwide survey undertaken by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and Auto Express magazine as part of National Motorway Month.

The survey, conducted by NOP World Automotive, also reveals that a third of drivers admit to having driven continuously for four hours or more without a rest, on at least one occasion.

Company car drivers generally continue for longer periods without a break than drivers of privately owned vehicles, while female drivers tend to stop more frequently than their male counterparts. Motorists who drive cars registered since September last year are more liable to plough on without stopping, as are those who drive a roadster, coupé or convertible. When it comes to age, drivers in the 25-34 age group are the worst offenders.

The results show that many drivers are either unaware of or ignoring official advice from the Department for Transport to take a 15-minute break every two hours on a long journey. The DfT says more than one-fifth of motorway collisions are caused by drivers falling asleep at the wheel and up to one in ten crashes on all of Britain's roads – around 23,000 a year – are also linked to fatigue.

The IAM's Chief Examiner, Bryan Lunn, commented: "Driver fatigue can easily set in on a long motorway journey, even if the driver begins the journey feeling fresh and alert. The problem can be particularly acute during the summer, when holiday traffic is at its peak and people are eager to reach distant destinations as soon as possible.

"Added to that," Lunn continued, "some medicines such as hay fever tablets may cause or increase drowsiness. Anyone taking such medication should check the precautions that are printed on the pack."

The IAM offers the following tips to reduce the effects of tiredness on a long motorway journey:

- Plan in advance so that you can stop for a 15-minute break every two hours.
- Try to avoid making long trips between midnight and 6am, when natural alertness is low.
- Never start a journey if you are already feeling tired.
- If you start to feel sleepy, find a safe place to stop (not on the hard shoulder), take a short nap and resume your journey 15-20 minutes later. If necessary, drink strong coffee or a high energy drink or take a caffeine tablet before setting off again
- Don't rely on opening the window or turning up the radio – these will do little to stop you falling asleep at the wheel.

David Johns, editor in chief of Auto Express magazine, said: "The problem of driver fatigue could also be alleviated by providing more rest areas on motorways. Our survey shows that almost two-thirds of drivers would like to see more places where they can pull in and take a break. Everyone deserves the chance to stop without paying service station prices for a coffee. The picnic-style areas that are positioned frequently along French motorways are an ideal example, and we would warmly welcome the introduction of such facilities."

The main findings of the research are as follows: On motorway journeys lasting four hours or longer:

- 25% of drivers never stop for a break
- 22% occasionally stop for a break
- 25% stop for a break most of the time
- 28% always stop for a break
- 34% of drivers admit to having driven on a motorway for more than four hours continuously, without taking a break.
- 64% of drivers would like to see more rest areas on motorways where they can stop and take a break.

National Motorway Month is a joint campaign between RAC Foundation and Auto Express Magazine, with support from BSM, IAM and Highways Agency. The campaign runs from August 2-30. Auto Express Magazine will be running a series of feature articles on the National Motorway Month campaign throughout August.

“Gift Aid”

March 06

Dear Member,

The government has recently introduced a scheme called Gift Aid whereby Charities who receive subscriptions or donations from their members can claim back some tax. As the West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists is a registered Charity, your annual subscription qualifies for the group to receive this tax rebate.

The current annual subscription is £8.00. For every £8.00 subscription the Group can claim back £2.26 in tax as long as you pay at least that much tax each year.

I must emphasise that this does not require you to make any additional payment whatsoever to us or the Inland Revenue. All you have to do is fill in the form below and send it back to the treasurer, it's as easy as that!

The Group could benefit by several hundred pounds if we get the support of all our members. This would be a valuable boost to our funds so please complete and return the form today. If you have any questions regarding this scheme, please contact the group treasurer.

Please note: You only have to fill this form in **once** during the duration of your membership. If you have completed a form in the past, you **DO NOT** need to complete one again.

Further information can also be obtained from:

Inland Revenue, Financial Intermediaries & Claims Office, St. John's House, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L69 9BD.

The following notes are relevant:

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the group treasurer.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount of the reclaim on your subscription/donations in the tax year.
3. If in the future, your circumstances change and you no longer pay income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to at least the amount of the reclaim, you must notify the group treasurer.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

Cut along here

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Registered

GIFT AID

Details of

Title:

Address: .

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Postcode:

Members

Declaration

I would like to receive
donations from the d
donations.
least equal

Signed: .

Please return

Cut along here

**WEST PENNINE GROUP OF ADVANCED
MOTORISTS**

Charity number 1006658

DECLARATION

donor:

Forename(s): Surname:

.....
.....
.....

.....

Zip Number:

on:

I make the West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists to treat all
I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations I make
late of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid
I confirm that I pay income tax and/or capital gains tax at
I to the tax that the Charity reclaims.

..... Date:

urn this completed form to :

**Beryl Schofield, Treasurer
West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists
18 Surrey Avenue
High Crompton, Shaw
OL2 7DP**

August 2004

¹¹ **Car Owners Witty Ditties**

March 06

A clean car is a sign of a sick mind.
Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.
Amnesia used to be my favourite word, but then I forgot it.
Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.
Condoms are easier to change than nappies.
Cover me, I'm changing lanes.
Dont drink and drive you might hit a speed bump and spill your
drink.
Don't follow me – I'm LOST
Don't look back, they might be gaining on you.
Earth first, We'll strip the other planets later.
Get your, own bumper sticker and stop staring at mine.
He who hesitates is not only lost, but mile from the next exit.
Honk if you love peace and quiet.
Honk if you're not wearing, underwear
Horn broken - watch for finger
I don't drive - fast, I fly low
I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy every minute of it!
I got this car for my wife... not a bad swap.
I have good brakes. Do you have good insurance?
I took an IQ test and the results were negative.
I was an atheist until I realised I was GOD.
If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
If it isn't broke, fix it until it is.
If it's too loud, you're too old.
If you can read this, I am parked.
If you can read this, I'm not going fast enough.
If you don't like the way I drive, stay off the pavement.
If you're stupid and you know it, honk your horn.
I'm looking for the right pedestrian to run over.

I'm not littering. I'm donating to the earth.
 It's lonely at the top, but you eat better.
 It's time to pull over and let the air out of your brain.
 I've been dieting for the past month, but all I lost was 31 days.
 Jesus is coming --- everyone look busy
 Kids in the backseat cause accidents... Accidents in the backseat
 cause kids.
 Madness takes its toll, please have exact change.
 Please do not honk. Driver trying to sleep.
 Reality is a nice place, but I wouldn't want to live there.
 So you're a feminist? Isn't that cute...
 The more people I meet, the more I like my cat.
 The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
 There are only three types of people in this world. Those who can
 count and those who can't.
 There are two types' of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.
 This car is protected by an anti-theft sticker.
 When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane!
 When you're finally holding all the cards, why does everyone else
 decide to play chess?
 Whenever I think of the past, it brings back so many memories...
 Why is abbreviation such a long word?
 Women are born leaders - look, you are following one now.
 You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
 You think the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, you're
 aiming too high.

Thanks to Helen Znideric for this cutting from The People Newspaper

Environmental View Point

The price of scrap metal has soared in recent months to record levels. So much so, that some firms have taken out adverts offering to pay £20 to collect vehicles. A far cry from a year ago when it would have cost an owner approximately £20 to have a car removed. This may be good news for owners of end of life vehicles, but the industry is worried that illegal operators may be enticed back into the business due to the high value of scrap metal.

However, it is thought that this will change as the End of Life Vehicle Directive comes closer to being implemented. As dismantling standards are forced to improve, the cost of dismantling could increase from £60 to 100. As this cost is passed on to the customers, it is foreseen that more cars may be abandoned, passing on greater costs to Local Authorities. To combat this the MA has introduced a scheme of Certificates of Destruction. This scheme will mean that owners of end of life vehicles will be required to obtain a Certificate of Destruction from a licensed dismantler, to prove that the car is off the road. Otherwise owners will still be liable to pay car tax,

Grants for converting petrol engines to LPG and for cleaning diesel exhaust systems will be reduced from 151 April this year. Transport Energy, who co-ordinate the grant scheme ran out of allow for more grants to be allocated. Overall the scheme has £26 million to hand out, to encourage the introduction and adoption of the latest environmental technologies.

The new grants are fixed which will hopefully make it easier for customers to understand and simplify the application process. The grant for converting petrol cars and car derived vans to LPG will be £700, and for vans and minibuses it will be £800. Grants are also available for larger vehicles and for other cleaner technologies, such as electric conversions.

Source: www.letsrecycle.co.uk

For more information and to apply for a grant visit
www.transportenergy.org.uk

Thanks to John Rostron for this clipping.

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

March 06

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.

Catherine Walsh

Roy Fulker

Anne Parry

Gary Edwards

Alex Tomlinson

Martin Hilditch

Biagio Circelli

OBSERVER TRAINING

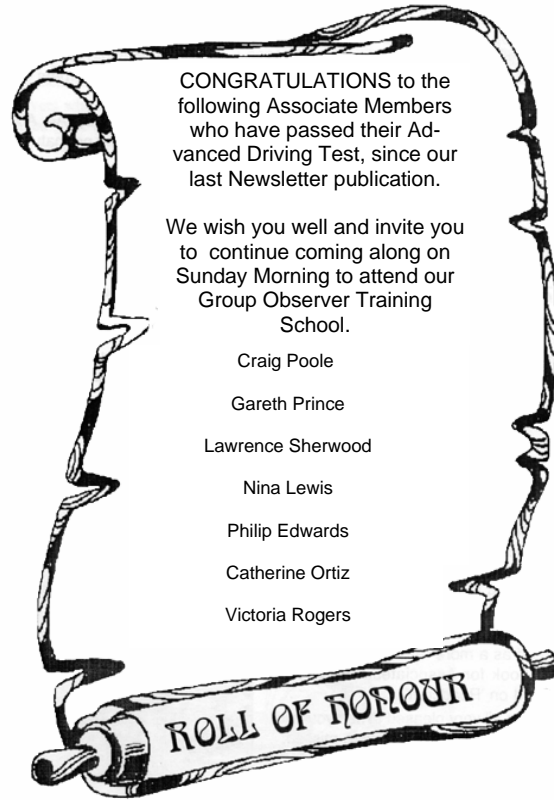
Welcome to the following recently qualified members who have joined our Group Observer Training School.

Peter Robinson Craig Poole

Congratulations to Noel Davies, Helen Znideric and Ronald Smart who have 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 – Allan Thorne
Associate Scheme Co-Ordinators

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March 06

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