



## Inform: Weekly News

### Issue 225: 19 December 2018

News for Group Chairs, Group Secretaries, Treasurers, Chief Observers, Group Committee Members, Examiners, National and Local Observers and all active Group Officials

## Business news



## **#FormulaDriveSmart creates a new group of young advanced drivers**

Some 15 of the brightest young racing stars in the UK are now IAM RoadSmart advanced drivers - having all passed their tests during the #FormulaDriveSmart event at Silverstone recently. The drivers are all part of the British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) Rising Stars and Super Stars programmes. The event was created to highlight the need for under 25-year-old males, the biggest at-risk group when it comes to fatal and serious crashes on our roads, to improve their driving skills. By having these young racing drivers become advanced drivers, it shows that advanced driving is not only enjoyable, it's relevant to young people and could save a life. To read our press release click [here](#).



## **IAM RoadSmart Christmas opening hours**

Please note that the IAM RoadSmart customer care line will close for Christmas at 4.30pm on 21 December, and reopen on 31 December at 8.30am. On that day phones will close at 4.30pm. Normal hours will resume on 2 January 2019 at 8.30am.



## **Merry Christmas from IAM RoadSmart**

Everyone at IAM RoadSmart wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas. Inform is now taking a break until the New Year. Until then, look after yourselves and of course make it #NoneForTheRoad!

## Blog



### **This week's blog: a change for the better**

This week's blog is written by Gary Bates, IAM RoadSmart marketing manager. This week he talks about vehicle crash safety, and how cars are much better at withstanding a

serious crash than they ever did before. To read it click [here](#).



### **This week's tips: As Chris Rea said ...**

This week's tips are written by Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart head of driver standards, where he talks about 'driving home for Christmas.' You can read it [here](#).

## Group News



### **Best year ever for Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists**

This year has been the best year ever for associate enrolments for [Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists](#) with 84 people signing up. But the highlight of the year was having a whole family sign as associates to take their

advanced test - not only did they all pass first time but they all achieved a FIRST. Congratulations to the family; Sam, Katie, Indigo and Oscar (father, mother and two sons). Also a well done for all those involved in their training. And Sam has gone one further, enrolling as a trainee local observer.

***Supplied by Tim Wrighton***



### **Santas on a bike? DAM that's good!**

During rides [Devon Advanced Motorcyclists](#) has been collecting donations for the children's South West Hospice at St Austell – and the team raised more than £500. Recently 20 DAM members joined 400 Santas on the 'Santa on a Bike' charity ride to deliver the money to the hospice. The bike ride called at Ivybridge, Saltash, Liskeard and finally St Austell. Adrian Veale, chief observer at DAM, said: "What a great day out to ride with 400 Santas. Thank you to all DAM members for their donations during the year." ***Supplied by Adrian Veale***

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### **Denis Moss fund produces great drivers for CAM**

Cambridge Advanced Motorists has established a memorial fund to the late Denis Moss; its long serving former member, group secretary and observer, who died in 2017. The fund was established thanks to a generous donation to the group from Denis' son Andy, also a Cambridgeshire Police traffic officer. The group decided to use the fund to award prizes of £50 and a certificate of achievement to the associates who pass the advanced driving test first time under the age of 26, over the age of 70 or who gain a F1RST. Andy also kindly accepted the group's invitation to be its president thus continuing the Moss family name connection to road safety. He also volunteered to give an annual lecture and to award the prizes. Recently Andy gave a presentation on A Day in the Life of a Traffic Officer to a packed audience and then presented the awards. The picture shows F1RST winners Randall Scott, Linda Oliver, PC Andy Moss, Caroline Underwood and Katherine Pemberton. ***Supplied by Bob Bates***



## **Eight of the best for HBAM**

At its December group night [Herts and Beds Advanced Motorcycle Group](#) welcomed eight new local observers to its team. Pictured are Bruno Zago, Fiona Breaker-Rolfe, Mark Lawrence, Jody Flett and Chief Observer Tony Mulhall. The four other successful LOs; not able to be present were Mark Canning, Sean Sweeney, Simon Peters and Pat Horridge. A further five LOs are currently in training. ***Supplied by John Presland***



## **Exeter group pays tribute to Val**

[Exeter and Torbay Advanced Motorists](#) paid tribute to one of its group stalwarts Val Hoar at a recent meeting, where it presented her with some gifts. Val transferred to the Exeter and Torbay Group in 2000 after many years with the Inverness group, and took on several committee posts culminating in chairman. She has now stood down as national observer as she has been elected ladies' captain of her local golf club. Val continues to support the group with its database. ***Supplied by John Tibbs***



## **40 Santas on two wheels? No you're not dreaming**

[Wey Valley Advanced Motorcyclists](#) has provided and delivered £1,000 worth of gifts to children at Christopher's Shooting Star Chase Hospice in Guildford. With a posse of 40 Santas plus twinkling bikes disguised as reindeer (and a sprinkling of elves and fairies) they brought smiles and light into a dull and drizzly day riding through Woking and Guildford on their way to the hospice. There wasn't enough capacity on the bikes to deliver all the goodies, so Ben Bayley of RB Plumbing kindly provided a van and driver to act as a sleigh. ***Supplied by Janet Jones***



### **Laurence gets rare accolade**

Laurence Bevan from [Redditch Advanced Motorcyclist Group](#) had the surprise of a lifetime when being nominated for a RoSPA Guardian Angel award. On attending the ceremony, instead he collected an Archangel Award – held by only six people in the UK overall! The Archangel Award is a prestigious accolade granted to individuals that go above and beyond the call of duty to protect the lives and wellbeing of others. The original nomination was in recognition of his work as a health and safety manager, plus his role as a member of the blood bike service and trainee observer for IAM RoadSmart.

***Supplied by Laurence Bevan***

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## **KGAM prove to be high achievers**

[Kent Group of Advanced Motorists](#) is celebrating the year's end by announcing a pass rate of 93%, a real achievement. The group's most recent test passes were Ross McColgan, Norman Ibbotson, Dean Smith and Lauren Amey; all of whom achieved F1RSTs. Norman's was especially notable, as he was 88 when he got his F1RST. Alan Rowe, KGAM publicity officer, said: "Norman shows you are never too old to do the course and pass the test. Many congratulations to all of them." ***Supplied by Alan Rowe***



## **Jo's journey to driving expert**

For Jo Ellis, when her husband and children bought her an Advanced Driving Course as a birthday present little did she realise where it would lead. She passed her advanced test and immediately received a call asking if she wanted to become an observer. She became a fellow when the scheme was introduced and had her first requalification this year. She led her own children through the Under 17 Car Club programme and then set out to become an ADI. She passed the final part of her ADI exams last week - straight after helping IAMRoadSmart deliver training to BRDC Rising Stars at Silverstone as part of #FormulaDriveSmart (see top story).

***Supplied by Jo Ellis***

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### **A busy night for SLAM**

[South Lancashire Advanced Motorcyclists](#) (SLAM) had a lively presentation night recently when 24 successful associates were presented with their certificates. SLAM run three advanced rider courses per year, training on average around 70 riders. Pictured is one of the successful riders Dani Garner (left) receiving her certificate from chairman Dave Little. Also recognised was SLAM's most recently qualified national observer Tony Edmondson (right). This makes a total of 24 NOs at SLAM, something they are very proud of. *Supplied by Dave Little*

Stay in touch

### **Let's connect**

Do you have something you want to include in a future *Inform: Weekly News*? Please email it to Rodney Kumar at the IAM RoadSmart Press Office at [rodney.kumar@iam.org.uk](mailto:rodney.kumar@iam.org.uk) or call him on 020 8996 9619. Please include an image with your article. Also if you have missed a previous one, he will be happy to send it to you. **Please send your item by 5pm on Friday** to ensure its inclusion in the following

### **Update your details**

In order to keep a consistent and up-to-date mailing list for *Inform: Weekly News*, if you have amendments to your email address please send the information to [support@iam.org.uk](mailto:support@iam.org.uk), or you can change your entry into DTE directly. Or call customer services on 0300 303 1134.

Wednesday's edition. Please keep your submissions to under 150 words please, and we reserve the right to edit and condense all posts.



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