



Inform: Weekly News

Issue 224: 12 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



It's 'go go go' for #FormulaDriveSmart

#FormulaDriveSmart became a reality this week. IAM RoadSmart teamed up with the British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC), owners and operators of Silverstone circuit, to put 16 top young racing drivers through their advanced driving test in a special adapted two-day programme. Amongst those taking part were Raoul Hyman, who won the GP3 Asia Championship just two weeks ago; James Dorlin, runner-up in this year's Renault Clio UK Cup; Jack Mitchell, British GT4 and China GT4 Champion; Ant Whorton-Eales, 2018 Mini Challenge JCW Champion; and Stuart Middleton, runner-up in this year's European GT4 Series. More information on this next week.



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RoadSmart

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IAM Surety offers insurance presentations to groups

IAM Surety is offering to visit local groups to hold discussions and presentations about our members-only insurance services following some successful recent visits. IAM Surety provides members-only services covering car, motorcycle, classic car, home and contents and travel insurance. Ideally local groups could join together so Surety could meet larger numbers of members each time. Any groups or regions interested in planning a visit should contact Elizabeth Morgan at IAM Surety; the first visits are planned for March 2019 onwards. For more information call 02890 442215 or email elizabeth.morgan@cornmarketinsurance.co.uk. For more detail about IAM Surety click [here](#).

Blog



This week's blog: It happened so 'suddenly ...'

This week's blog is written by Shaun Cronin, IAM RoadSmart regional service team delivery manager, who talks about his days as a police traffic officer and the unenviable task of having to tell the relatives of a person killed in a car crash the heartbreaking news - and how this has shaped his passion for road safety and better driving. You can read it [here](#).

Group News



GAM scores a coup with Dr Victor Olisa becoming President

[Guildford Advanced Motorists](#) (GAM) has scored a major coup with Dr Victor Olisa (QPM) accepting the position of president of the group. Victor started his police career at Surrey Constabulary after leaving university in 1982 – becoming the first black officer to join the Surrey force. He joined the City of London Police in 1990 (where he worked as an operational inspector) and the Fraud Squad, investigating large scale corporate and financial fraud in the UK and abroad. Six years ago he was promoted to Chief Superintendent and posted to Bexley Borough as a borough commander. Last year Dr Olisa was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished police service. He retired from the police service last winter. Victor came to GAM earlier this year to do his Advanced Driving Test, passing with a F1RST. He is now training to become a Local Observer. Graham Ranshaw, GAM chairman, said: "GAM looks forward to working with Victor to improve our links with the emergency services and driving safety groups locally and nationally. We thank the outgoing President Alan Bone for his help and guidance over the last three years." ***Supplied by Graham Ranshaw***



Challenge in memory of George

Every year the Matlock (Derwent and Hope Valleys) Group of Advanced Motorists holds a fun challenge in memory of a founder member, George Smith. The challenge can be anything that George would have enjoyed doing and the trophy bears his IAM RoadSmart keyring badge in his memory. This year's George Smith Challenge involved members wearing special goggles designed to give the effect of drunkenness on vision, involving three different rounds. After this fiendish contest the overall winner was Dave Cruddace with an overall score of 14.5 seconds and no faults. He proudly received the trophy from Kevin Knight, group chairman. Dave also receiving his motorcycle test certificate from Kevin, along with observer Keith Pearce who prepared Dave for the test. And a special thank you to birthday boy Mike Smith for the home-made cakes.

Supplied by Bill Storey



Change of chief observer at DAM

[Devon Advanced Motorcyclists](#) is saying goodbye to Colin Opie as its chief observer. Colin has taken up the role of an IAM RoadSmart national observer assessor for both cars and motorbikes, and has also become a trainer for the IAM RoadSmart DRA. DAM thanks Colin for his dedication and expertise over the years and welcomes Adrian Veale as its new chief observer. Adrian has been with DAM for many years and is an LOA and Masters mentor. Under Adrian's guidance the observer team is looking forward to building on past achievements, and wish Colin all the best in his new role.

Supplied by Tim Carter



Festive cheer starts early in Huddersfield

[Huddersfield Advanced Motorists](#) held its Christmas meeting with Slaithwaite Brass Band leading the way to start the Christmas cheer with carols throughout the evening. The picture shows the band in action with audience participation. This month also saw Courtney Gill and Jane King pass their advanced driving test; thanks to Sharon Darnell and Denara Holmes for their guidance. ***Supplied by Roy Meakin***



It's seventh heaven for Chris and Swindon group

[Swindon Advanced Motorists](#) was pleased to have Terry Aspell receive his F1RST certificate from Graham Mearns (left), chairman of Swindon Group, and Chris Gleed, Terry's observer (right). Chris is proud to have achieved his seventh successive candidate gaining a F1RST; he puts it down to the excellent team around him led by David Douch, chief observer. ***Supplied by Chris Gleed***

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

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

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

please send the information to support@iam.org.uk, or you can change your entry into DTE directly. Or call customer services on 0300 303 1134.



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IAM RoadSmart
1 Albany Place
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