



Inform: Weekly News

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

Business news



Happy New Year from IAM RoadSmart

IAM RoadSmart wishes you all a Happy New Year. Stay safe on the roads, and of course make it #NoneForTheRoad not only now, but all the time! IAM RoadSmart phone lines reopened today at 8.30am for normal service.

Group News



Brian rewarded as he stands down

The AGM for [Belfast Advanced Motorists](#) saw Brian McMinn, who was recently given a lifetime achievement award in the Northern Ireland Road Safety Awards, being presented with a trophy to recognise his service to the group. Brian is standing down as group chairperson after many years, but will continue as its senior observer and committee member. The picture shows Brian being presented with his trophy by Gavin Sinclair, incoming chairperson. Also pictured are Angela Bell, regional co-ordinator and David Gallagher, IAM Roadsmart younger driver ambassador. Giving a video greeting was rally legend Paddy Hopkirk, one of Northern Ireland's most famous sons.

Supplied by Ivan McStea



Aubrey achieves a F1RST in Mid-Wales

Congratulations to Aubrey Springate in getting a F1RST on passing his advanced driver test. Aubrey said that he had been interested in completing a course for advanced drivers for some time but until recently never felt motivated enough. Since retirement he has been working for South Montgomery Volunteer Bureau as a driver providing community transport. Taking this responsibility seriously he decided to take up advanced driving with [Mid-Wales Advanced Motorists](#). He now intends to take the advanced rider course in the spring. He is seen here receiving his certificate from Mike Price, his observer. ***Supplied by Mike Price***



A successful time for Bristol's Mark

It's been a successful time for [Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists'](#) local observer Mark Gollop, who has seen three associates through to gaining F1RSTs in their advanced rider tests. Here he is seen presenting Claire Mitchell with her IAM RoadSmart certificate. Not only did Claire achieve a F1RST but she was also under 30, so she has the additional bonus of being eligible for a full refund courtesy of South Gloucestershire County Council young riders' scheme. ***Supplied by Tim Wrighton***



A sad farewell to Angus in Gloucestershire

It was a sad farewell from [Gloucestershire Advanced Motorists](#) for national observer Angus Watson, who has retired as an observer due to ill health. He has worked tirelessly for the group for many years and produced a high number of F1RSTs from his associates. Chairman Rod Harrison is seen here presenting him with a Certificate of Appreciation from IAM RoadSmart in recognition of his outstanding services to the group. ***Supplied by Rod Harrison***



Record breaking year for MKAM

Last year saw a record breaking 27 people pass their advanced rider test with [Milton Keynes Advanced Motorists and Motorcyclists](#). The achievement was celebrated at the group's Christmas meal held in mid-December, which attracted some 60 attendees. The picture shows Trevor Collier, chief observer, and six of the 27 passers. ***Supplied by Ian Souter***



London group does the ton!

[London Advanced Motorcyclists](#) has its own 'Ton Up' boys! Between the three of them (Norton Hawes, Mike Seary and Steve Pratt) they have managed well over a 100 observed rides this year. In addition, with over 200 associates registered to the group there is a lot of demand for rides. As well as the two group meetings per month LAM has a programme for observed rides mid-week to meet the associates' needs, which these gentlemen play a big part in. ***Supplied by Steve Pratt***



WYAM test bonus for young riders

[West Yorkshire Advanced Motorcyclists](#) wholly funds an imaginative scheme where it

refunds the cost of the advanced rider scheme back to an associate who is under 35 and passes within a year. The scheme specifically sets out to target younger riders, inspiring them to sign up and benefit from IAM RoadSmart advanced training. Philip Marsden is pictured here being presented with his cheque for £149 by WYAM chairman John Fuller at the group's recent Christmas event. Philip is the first to qualify under this initiative in which the first six to pass the test in any calendar year qualify for the refund. He passed his test with a F1RST; well done to him. ***Supplied by Allan Davey***



2018 proves to be a big year for DWDAM

Last year [Dorchester and West Dorset Advanced Motorcyclists](#) continue to grow its position as an IAM RoadSmart affiliated group in its region, specifically covering West Dorset. Five full members completed DWDAM's trainee local observer induction programme and gained IMI local observer qualification. Six free-to-attend bi-monthly advanced rider taster sessions for members of the public were held with 38 riders attending, of which 12 enrolled on the advanced rider course. A very successful Slow Riding Workshop was also held last June which was well attended and enthusiastically received. Advanced course enrolment numbers for a second year exceeded expectations with 30 new associates joining, half of whom successfully passed their advanced riding test with three successful test passes achieved on the last Saturday before Christmas, one of which was a F1RST. Well done to Mike Shrimpton, seen here being congratulated by examiner Chris Smith. ***Supplied by Brian Purnell***

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 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.

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