



FORTH VALLEY GROUP
OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS



IAM Group 6168

Scottish Charity SC023512

NEWSLETTER 2021

Issue 38

GROUP NEWS

Winter Season – Proposed Member Meetings to be held as follows:

07/10/21 – Falkirk Fire Station

11/10/21 – Stirling Smith Museum

2021 AGM – Stirling Smith Museum (date to be confirmed)

Once final arrangements discussed in Committee, further information will be distributed to members.

New Committee:

Welcome to several new faces on our committee. In particular, our new Group Secretary Belinda Macdonald. Thanks to her predecessor Dave Allen for his support, and also to Amanda Aikman on the previous committee for several years.

A full list of the current committee is at the end of the newsletter.

Facebook:

We are also on Facebook, and our membership continues to grow. Please follow us to keep informed of wider events, announcements and just good old chat with others!

CAR / MOTORCYCLE SECTION

A Biking Adventure

I found myself with a few hours free this afternoon, so decided to take a ride around a scenic route, with a couple of small alterations.

The important part is that it's the first real ride that I've taken since signing up with IAM and reading some of my materials. Also, I've been watching some IAM observation commentary videos on YouTube, talking through IPSGA which I found really useful. Now, I know myself I didn't get it all right today, there's a lot to take in, and a lot to learn via going out and experiencing it; and of course in due course being observed and guided by one of you all.

But I really felt the benefit today of some little things. Adjusting my road position - offside, nearside - getting those lines of sight, trying to process more information about what's going on, being more cognisant of what could happen up ahead, to name just a few.

To a certain extent, it felt quite natural. I'm not a 'get there as quick as I can' biker (maybe 20 years ago!) so it didn't feel too alien. Really looking forward to building those skills further.

Just thought I'd share that feedback. A couple of obligatory bike pics below - plus a wee stop at the cafe Belinda and Victoria mentioned - coffee and walnut cake!



Dave Waddell

Meeting Our Members

In this edition we are introduced to Dave (you will recognise him from the article on the previous page!)

In which club do you belong: cars or bikes?

I belong to the IAM Forth Valley bikes group.

What is your favourite car or bike?

My favourite bike of recent times is actually the bike I ride now, a 2019 Honda CB500X. It's the first ever 'upright' seated position bike I've owned, and I wish I'd owned one sooner. I feel the ergonomics of the riding position suit me perfectly, and the 500cc is balanced and powerful enough for all my needs. My favourite bike of all time is a little Puch 50cc dirt bike I rode when I was around 10 years old. My friend lived on a farm, and we used to ride that little thing across the fields after school. It was amazing fun, and probably the spark that ignited my love of motorcycling. My favourite car is the 1969 Dodge Charger 'The General Lee'. Simply because it evokes so many fond memories of Saturday evenings as a kid sitting in front of the TV watching The Dukes of Hazzard, there's nothing that car couldn't do!

What is the key road safety issue that you believe should be tackled?

My biggest personal annoyances are twofold, 1) is other road users who do not use their indicators and 2) is other road users who fail to observe/look properly before executing a manoeuvre. Combine them both and that's a recipe for a road safety disaster that we probably all witness on a day to day basis. I think through IAM training, I'll be better able to minimise my own risk and exposure to these situations through application of the IPSGA principles.

Can you think of your best driving or riding experience so far?

My best riding experience was around 17 years ago, a group ride of the West and North coasts of Scotland long, long before the NC500 ever existed. You pretty much had the roads to yourself, the scenery was unspoiled and the camaraderie of being, and sharing, the experience with other bikers was great. My favourite driving experience was racing single seater race cars around Knockhill race track on a day organised by my wife. Being so low to the ground was like driving a supercharged go-kart, and a total blast.

How do you envisage the future for drivers or riders in the UK in 5 years' time?

It's an interesting time. The whole Tesla story and the transition towards electric or hybrid motoring is the stuff of a future imagined when I was just a kid. Seeing the progress Tesla in particular have made, and the other manufacturers following suit, paves the way for a very different motoring future. Five years is not that far away, and many governments have made commitments to end the sale of new petrol and diesel powered cars in a little over that timeframe, it'll be interesting to see how the technology evolves. I'm not sure how the electric bike industry will play out, but maybe one day we'll all be racing along on electric light bikes, TRON style.

New website for learner drivers and instructors

The UK DVSA has relaunched the Safe Driving for Life website with a host of new features.

Safe Driving for Life is designed to support learners through their theory and driving tests and in becoming a life-long safe driver.

[RoadSafe: New website for learner drivers and instructors](#)



Tribute to Max Mosley founder of EuroNCAP who died recently

Max Mosley, who as President of the FIA established the FIA Foundation, has died aged 81.

The FIA Foundation has issued a powerful tribute. It says that he leaves a powerful legacy of road safety action which has transformed vehicle safety and the global response to road traffic injury.

[RoadSafe: Tribute to Max Mosley founder of EuroNCAP who died recently](#)

Legal groundwork laid for self-driving cars on UK roads

The UK government is developing legislation to permit autonomous cars to drive on public roads, which will address a range of issues such as insurance, liability and cybersecurity and establish a legal framework to govern driverless vehicles.

[RoadSafe: Legal groundwork laid for self-driving cars on UK roads](#)

Your Current Committee

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Committee Member	Peter Serhatlic		
Committee Member	Brian Hambly		
Committee Member	Dave Allen		
Committee Member	Robin Mair		
Committee Member	Roy Robertson		
Committee Member	Craig McCall		
Committee Member	Peter Woollven		

Forth Valley Group website: www.forthvalleyiam.org.uk/

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