



NOTTINGHAM ADVANCED DRIVERS

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the spring edition of the Nottingham Advanced Drivers Newsletter 2018. Finally the weather has improved (at least for a few days) Please enjoy the newsletter and as always give us your feedback.

In this Newsletter:

- Welcome
- NAD Ideas Feedback
- Nottingham Motor Show—Help needed
- Autonomous Vehicles are on the way
- Changes to the MOT
- Group Information

Important Action Required by you NOW!

As you may know, the law is changing with regard to personal data protection. Anyone holding data has to change the way it deals with personal information. We have taken advice from the IAM and now require everyone to follow a short online process **Please don't ignore this!** More on page two.



Nottingham Advanced Drivers have booked a stand at this years Nottingham Motor Show and we need your help – 2nd and 3rd June 2017

This years Motor Show will be held over two days at Wollaton Park in Nottingham.

The committee are now putting the final details together but will **need your support to “man” the stand**. Nothing much is required other than popping in for a few hours to talk to visitors about driving and the various courses on offer from the group and the IAM as well as hand out IAM literature if visitors are interested.

We will supply all the material you will need and should have name badges so people know you are a NAD group member.

We are hoping to attract quite a few prospective new members from the event and will have a number of fun things people can have a go at such as a Highway Code questionnaire might even have an easy one and a more difficult one with a prize! (but don't worry, we will all have the answers written down).

We do have another few ideas but I am interested in what you would like to see at the event?

Most importantly, let me know if you can spend a morning, afternoon or day helping on the stand, I do have one volunteer but can't do it by myself, it should be a fun day (and you will get time to see the rest of the show). **Please get in touch with me ASAP** at mjd.swift@gmail.com



IMPORTANT - GDPR and your membership of Nottingham

Advanced Drivers

We are pleased that you have chosen to be a member of our Group and to support all we do to promote Advanced Driving and Road Safety. We are keen that you continue to be a NAD group member; this will mean we can maintain our programme of advanced driver training and the work we do to promote Road Safety.

To continue your membership of NAD and to confirm you agree that we can keep your personal data you are asked to complete the declaration which is on the Group website. The form is straightforward to complete. It should take a maximum of 1 minute to do this. Please (hold down Ctrl and) click on the link now!

<http://nottsiam.org.uk/memberoptin.html>

Please do this as soon as possible. Don't delay! If we do not receive this information we will not be able to maintain your membership of our Group or contact you with news and other relevant information. Please (hold down Ctrl and) click on the link now!

<http://nottsiam.org.uk/memberoptin.html>



**CYBER
SECURITY**

On the Road: Group Update from David Crooks

We continued to be as busy as ever during 2017 and into 2018. The actual numbers are as follows:



From the 27 applications received who completed training, there were 2 First class passes, 18 Passes, 6 failures with 1 not wishing to take the test.

As ever, Associates came from all walks of life with differing ages. It is always good to see younger drivers wanting to improve their skills. We even managed a husband and wife who both passed their tests. Well done Mike and Sandra Seymour (photo left).

Already this year, we have 25 Associates undergoing training. It is to the credit and commitment of all Observers that we manage to keep pace with the number of applications received. We hope this will continue during 2018.

We currently have 16 National Observers and 2 Local Observers, but we could do with an increase in numbers if we are to keep pace with applications. So, if you fancy becoming a Local Observer, please get in touch and we can explained what is required and arrange for you to be trained. It's not hard and it's well worthwhile and rewarding passing on your driving skills. As all Observers will testify, it also helps in maintaining your own standard of advanced driving.



We recently said goodbye to one of our most experienced Observers – Malcolm Little. At the Observer meeting on 24th March we thanked him for his dedicated service of over 20 years and I was delighted to present him with a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift of some M&S vouchers.

Malcolm passed his IAM test in 1991 and became an Observer soon after, He progressed to Senior Observer and has remained at this standard for many years.

During his time with the group Malcolm has always trained associates to a very high standard which is born out by an excellent pass rate with over 90 successful associates going on to become Advanced Drivers.

Here is a photo of Malcolm Little (left) receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Nottingham Advanced Drivers Group together with a gift in recognition of his 27 years as an observer with the group.

Malcolm said he enjoyed his time as an observer and helping train others to pass the Advanced Test. It was time for him to step back from Observing but will continue to be a full member of the Group.

Nottingham Advanced Driver Group Information

As a local IAM affiliated group we provide all the mentoring and guidance you'll need as you develop your advanced skills with our team of friendly and skilled Observers. Each group provides this support in a number of different ways so please get in touch to find out more about the mentoring you will receive from us.

Group Contact Details:

Colin Davenport and David Crooks are on the Group website with more information about our training courses and other useful information. www.nottsiam.org.uk

National Contact Details:

Details of the national IAM Roadsmart and the range of training courses available nationally can be found at <https://www.iamroadsmart.com>

Autonomous Cars are on the way. What is your view!

There have been lots of discussions about “Autonomous Vehicles” over the past few years. Tim Shallcross of the IAM works with and understands motoring technology and has written an interesting blog for the IAM which I have printed below. My personal viewpoint is that there is already a step by step approach to totally automated vehicles which has been agreed based around artificial intelligence (AI).

There are five steps in the process before we have completely autonomous vehicles and we are currently on step two. Most of us already have some form of AI on our current vehicle. This includes cruise control, advanced emergency braking or even automatic wiper blades. Tim explains what is currently available (he drives a Mercedes) and the issues needing to be overcome in the progress to full AI.

The House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee has been considering the implications of self driving cars. One part of their conclusion was this: “...autonomous cars could have negative implications for drivers' competence, making drivers complacent and overly reliant on technology. This is of particular concern in emergency situations, where a driver may react slowly to taking back control of a vehicle.”

I'm not sure this will be the greatest concern. As head of technical policy, I do love a gadget and my latest car (three years old, but new to me) has them in spades. I simply tell it what maximum speed I want stick to and it does the rest; it keeps a safe distance behind the car in front, slows down with the traffic, brakes on hills to control speed, stops if the car in front does, starts again when it moves off, follows the white lines above 30mph, or follows the car in front below 30mph. It makes traffic queues quite entertaining, and that's apart from the self-parking magic and some very clever headlights. It uses radar, cameras and ultrasound sensors to explore its surroundings and “sees” easily through fog, rain and darkness.

As I said, I'm a sucker for gadgets; I once bought a Mark IV Ford Zodiac because it had an electric aerial. I couldn't wait to get my first car with electric windows, but most of these hi-tech goodies have real safety benefits; the car doesn't get distracted, the radar measures distances with pinpoint accuracy and it reacts far faster than I can.

However, when it came to ploughing through the vast array of settings, it became clear that the previous owner hadn't really used any of this functionality. The settings for the stereo, sat-nav and so on had been altered, but all the driving assistance systems were still at the factory defaults.

It seems likely the first owner drove it as a standard car and did it all himself. It gets me wondering how many drivers actually use the functionality to the full - and how many will as they become more standard.

Anecdotes from IAM RoadSmart colleagues bear this out; tales of people who never use cruise control because it feels out of control; an interview where the presenter confessed to not using the self-park function on her car “because she didn't trust it,” examples of huge manuals with several hundred pages to wade through to figure out what the car will do, and how you make it do it.

The technology is becoming more and more widespread and the potential safety benefits are great - but the problem may not be slow reactions from drivers used to letting the car do it all, as their Lordships suggest. It might be educating people about how the car is designed to be driven in order to get the safety benefits in the first place, at least until the steering wheel goes altogether.

IAM RoadSmart are organising a conference later this year to bring a wide range of expertise to the issues raised by the transition to driverless cars; if we want to reap the safety benefits, this issue may be one to consider.

Tim Shallcross, IAM RoadSmart's, head of technical policy and advice



Official Provider

THE MOT TEST WILL CHANGE ON 20 MAY 2018, WITH NEW DEFECT TYPES, STRICTER RULES FOR DIESEL CAR EMISSIONS, AND SOME VEHICLES OVER 40 YEARS OLD BECOMING EXEMPT.

Defects will be categorised differently

Defects found during the MOT will be categorised as either: Dangerous, Major or Minor. The category the MOT tester gives each item will depend on the type of problem and how serious it is. MOT testers will still give advice about items you need to monitor. These are known as 'advisories'.

What the new categories mean

Item result	What it means about the item	How it affects your MOT result
Dangerous	A direct and immediate risk to road safety or has a serious impact on the environment. Do not drive the vehicle until it's been repaired.	Fail
Major	It may affect the vehicle's safety, put other road users at risk or have an impact on the environment. Repair it immediately.	Fail
Minor	No significant effect on the safety of the vehicle or impact on the environment. Repair as soon as possible.	Pass
Advisory	It could become more serious in the future. Monitor and repair it if necessary.	Pass
Pass	It meets the minimum legal standard. Make sure it continues to meet the standard.	Pass

Stricter rules for diesel car emissions

There will be stricter limits for emissions from diesel cars with a diesel particulate filter (DPF). A DPF captures and stores exhaust soot to reduce emissions from diesel cars. Your vehicle will get a major fault if the MOT tester: can see smoke of any colour coming from the exhaust finds evidence that the DPF has been tampered with.

Some new things will be included in the MOT

They include checking: If tyres are obviously underinflated, if the brake fluid has been contaminated, for fluid leaks posing an environmental risk, brake pad warning lights and if brake pads or discs are missing, reversing lights on vehicles first used from 1 September 2009, headlight washers on vehicles first used from 1 September 2009 (if they have them), daytime running lights on vehicles first used from 1 March 2018 (most of these vehicles will have their first MOT in 2021 when they're 3 years old). There will be other smaller changes to how some items are checked. Your MOT centre will be able to tell you about these.

The MOT certificate will change

It will list any defects under the new categories, so they're clear and easy to understand. The service to [check the MOT history of a vehicle](#) will be updated to reflect the changes.

Some vehicles over 40 years old won't need an MOT

Cars, vans, motorcycles and other light passenger vehicles won't need to have an MOT if they're over 40 years old and have not been [substantially changed \(PDF, 62.8KB\)](#).

At the moment, only vehicles first built before 1960 are exempt from needing an MOT.

When the rules change on 20 May 2018, vehicles won't need an MOT from the 40th anniversary of when they were registered. You can [check the date the vehicle was registered](#) online.

More information available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mot-changes-20-may-2018>