



NOTTINGHAM ADVANCED DRIVERS

Welcome You

To the autumn edition of the Nottingham Advanced Drivers Newsletter 2019. The weather is getting cold and flooding is widespread across the county as reported in the news. Further weather warnings will keep us using our advanced driving skills to stay safe whilst driving. See elsewhere in this newsletter for driving tips. mjd.swift@gmail.com

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2019 was quite a busy year for your group!

Here are just some of the highlights

- ◆ We have started reorganising observers activities to improve the process for candidates and comply with best practice. This will take some time to complete however we see this as an important change for the future.
- ◆ General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) completion for group members is now fully in place.
- ◆ Wollaton Park show was once again a success with time to catch up with group members and pass on vital safety messages to visitors.
- ◆ Another busy year for coaching to Advanced test standard with a good Pass rate. Thank you to all observers helping make this happen.
- ◆ Change of meeting venue, We will continue to use the Holiday Inn as well as Lymns facilities and the Edwalton Golf club for our meetings, which one we use is dependent on event.

Nottingham Advanced Drivers AGM 2020

Our next AGM is not far away and your attendance will be very much appreciated. The date of the AGM followed by a Committee meeting will be **10th March 2020 starting at 7:30** at Holiday Inn Castle Bridge Road Nottingham.

The meeting has a "formal" process to agree and or change committee members and report on group finances and progress for the last year (2019). It is open to all members and any member of the group can attend and ask questions or raise issues.

Once again we will provide tea, coffee and biscuits. What more could you want!

Following the AGM there is a committee meeting to discuss ongoing activities as well as discussing a range of topics to move the group forward in its aims and objectives. These are always interesting and once again, all members are invited.

For many years we have had the same committee members and now need some fresh faces with new ideas in the team, you don't have to sign up for weeks and weeks of volunteering, just a few hours per month would be wonderful.

Your continued membership of Nottingham Advanced Drivers helps the group exist, without you we would not be here. We value your support and thank you for it. If you want to help us promote driver safety further and support us further making a positive difference to road safety around Nottingham then please put your name forward to help the committee or become an observer (see elsewhere in this issue for more on observers). Talk to any of the committee members or drop one of us an email <http://nottsiam.org.uk/contacts.html>

A quick tip, some members park in Sainsbury's car park opposite (it was 3 hours free last week but check the times) to avoid searching for a spot in the hotel.



Nottingham Motor Show 2019

Once again this years Motor Show at Wollaton Park in Nottingham was a huge success for the Nottingham Advanced Drivers Group.

A number of Nottingham Advanced Drivers group members manned our stand at the Nottingham Motor Show over the weekend of June 8th and 9th.

Saturday was once again a bit damp and pretty gloomy so although visitors came by to see what we were about we only got one or two enquires.

Sunday was a very different and successful day where we obtained the details from some interested visitors. As our safety message this year we discussed a number of safety initiatives with the public including the red X on smart motorways (thanks to the Highways Agency for providing handouts) and child seats (thanks to Committee Member Jayne Marshall for publishing the handout). As normal we also passed out many IAM Roadsmart leaflets, where any members of the public interested in a range of courses can contact us via the IAM or our own NAD website.

Thank you to all that took part and helped run the stand, it would not have happened without you!

IAM RoadSmart's Manifesto

With a General Election on its way and all the political parties finalising their manifestos, IAM RoadSmart is calling for politicians to put post-test training and human behaviour at the heart of the road safety debate in the next Parliament.

IAM RoadSmart's full Manifesto is as follows:

Young/New Drivers - We support graduated driver licensing for new drivers based around a 12-month minimum learning period plus extra training interventions in the first year of solo driving

Older Drivers – A demographic time bomb is ticking and IAM RoadSmart believe we need an open debate on the best way to maintain safe mobility in old age. Initially we want to see the driving licence renewal age raised to 75 with an eye test. GPs should be able to prescribe a driving assessment and in time this could become the basis for compulsory retesting for drivers over 85

Driver retesting - IAM RoadSmart believe that periodic refresher courses have the potential to get road deaths back on a downward trend. Research and pilot schemes are needed to encourage a continuous personal development approach to enhancing driving and riding skills

Driver Rehabilitation - IAM RoadSmart know that drink drive rehabilitation courses work and believe that all drivers convicted of drink driving should be sent on one unless they choose to opt out. There is also scope for the use of a wider range of tailored interventions to target specific negative driver and rider behaviours

Driving for work - IAM RoadSmart believe road safety at work is a critical health and safety issue that requires much higher priority at the Health and Safety Executive. It should be at the core of good corporate governance and procurement practice in the private and public sector

Driverless cars - Distraction from new technology and the training challenges from the switch to autonomous and connected vehicles, must be a top research and legislative priority area. This will help ensure the safe design and operation of future mobility solutions

Motorcycling - IAM RoadSmart advanced riding courses must be more widely supported, particularly by public bodies, employers and through schemes such as 'BikeSafe'. Safer riding, and positive measures such as allowing motorcycles in all bus lanes, will allow powered two wheelers to fulfil their promise as a solution to our congestion and pollution problems.



Official Provider

Special Opportunity for Nottingham Advanced Motorists Observers

Without our team of dedicated observers who give their time voluntary on a number of sessions each year to coach associates the Nottingham Advanced Motorists group would not be able to carry out the role of improving road safety and the driving standard of local motorists.

We all know over the last few years the role of observer has had to change to keep pace with modern training methods and continued assessment and requalification to the required standard. This is not something we welcomed with open arms but something that was necessary to comply with in order to achieve national standards and maintain and improve our own NAM group coaching sessions.

We have had several group observer training sessions over the past few years and although this will continue we wanted to try something else to give you something a bit different (and enjoyable) that would also help maintain and improve group observer standards which can do no harm!

During the next year we intend to invite one of the countries top advanced driving instructors to attend one or a number of sessions with our observers on one to one and/or one to group sessions. This is dependent on what you think and what you want.

This is nothing to do with the IAM head office and although it will of course follow the “System of Car Control” that you are all familiar with, it will be arranged and run by the committee and yourselves. We will try to pay for this out of group funds so you don’t have to pay anything but depending on the cost we may ask for a (hopefully) small fee to take part.

Now its up to you. Let me know by email mjd.swift@gmail.com or give me a ring 07766664378 so I know what you think. I would like to hear from all observers and will pass on your thoughts to the committee so we can move this (or your other suggestions) forward without delay.

Anyone who is not a current observer but would like to become one or just wants to take part in something like this can also let me know, we might not be able to subsidise it as much but don’t want you to miss the oppertunity

Mike Swift



Just how dangerous are Smart Motorways

We have Smart Motorways running to the North and South of Nottingham and I have no real issues with driving on them other than the obvious the lack of safety to stationary vehicles before the warning signs are activated and I welcome the (second) review by the Transport Select Committee after a series of crashes and media pressure.

I personally find it totally unacceptable that it currently takes on average just over 17 minutes for the Highways Agency (HA) to spot a stationary vehicle and up to three further minutes to activate the signs when automated equipment exists (successfully tested by the HA) that can do the same in around 10 seconds. I remember being told many years ago that the initial smart motorway trial on the M42 would spot broken down vehicles in seconds!

For many years I was involved with vehicle repair and recovery on motorways and know only too well the dangers of stopping on the hard shoulder and the possibility of a vehicle drifting across from lane one which has on far too many occasions led to serious or fatal consequences. The point I want to make is that the vast number of drivers coming across a stationary vehicle on the hard shoulder need take no action at all, as it's not in their way!

A stationary vehicle on a live lane is a very different and very much higher risk. Every approaching driver has to manoeuvre to another lane in order to avoid coming to a halt or crashing. This dramatically raises the risk due to a number of factors including observation, concentration, room to manoeuvre and time to react amongst others.

In the time it currently takes the HA to identify and close the lane (which I understand is an average 17 minutes plus up to three minutes to activate signs) and if all approaching traffic maintained around 60mph (in my view vehicles travelling at speed are a much higher risk than queuing traffic) that would be roughly 570 approaching vehicles with no warning at all to a stationary obstruction before the signals are activated and the lane closed.

I accept the automated system is not totally accurate at the moment but the HA have a duty of care to those using their network and the resources to quickly assess the risk reduction by using more automation. The (successful) trial of stationary vehicle detection finished in February 2016 and in my view should now be in place throughout the smart motorway network. Any further delay is totally unacceptable and the HA should be held to account if this is not retro fitted ASAP with a deadline for the work to be completed.

These views are my own (you may see something in this weekends Nottingham Post) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the group or the IAM. I would be interested to hear your comments, for or against, Mike Swift.
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Nottingham Advanced Driver Group Information

Group Contact Details:

Colin Davenport and David Crooks are on the Group website with more information for members and observers as well as information about our training courses and other useful information.

www.nottsiam.org.uk

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pg/nottingham.iam/about/> a good read, please "follow" and "like" the page.

Twitter <https://twitter.com/AdvancedNottm> very interesting articles, please "follow" and "like" the page.

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>