



NOTTINGHAM ADVANCED DRIVERS

Welcome You to the Spring edition of the Nottingham Advanced Drivers Newsletter 2020. As I put this edition of the Newsletter together there is only one thing on our mind which is of course the Coronavirus which has taken the world by storm. Hopefully we will see a way out of this before long and get back to a “new” normal. mjd.swift@gmail.com

In this Newsletter:

- Welcome from Ivan Bilyk
- Opportunities and Feedback
- Quick Quiz
- Can you survive a puncture
- Safe Jump starting a car
- Unknowingly braking the Law
- Group contact Information

Nottingham Advanced Drivers Chairman Ivan Bilyk

Welcome to the spring newsletter.

I am sure that you don't need me to tell you what strange times we are currently living through. IAM RoadSmart HQ have suspended all testing and driving assessments, which includes our group of course. This will no doubt have an accumulative effect as and when we can restart our associate training, which is likely to be sometime during 2021, however this must be subject to our observers agreement.

We also have two future observers that were undergoing training, which has been halted, and we thank them for their patience.

It's paramount that no one feels pressured into restarting training and coaching.

We held a **committee meeting** on the 10th March, just before the social distancing regulations were introduced. The meeting was well attended with some new faces present, but it would be great if we could attract more members to attend. A new committee was elected. **David Crooks**, Chief Observer stood down from the role after many years of service. May I take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication through the years. He will take a more back seat role from here on. The committee welcomed the election of **Colin Davenport** to the role of Chief Observer to continue with the good work David has been doing.

At this meeting the committee decided that with the associates permission (GDPR) we would like to publish their achievement in future newsletter.

There was some other issues to be dealt with, which is distributed to some committee members by head office and known as the group scorecard. It should accurately reflect the numbers of observers/associates and the total of ongoing pass or fail stats. However it is consistently unreliable and as such will be removed from future agenda.

Marketing & events: Well the plan for Nottingham Advanced Drivers (NAD) to have a stall at this years Wollaton Park Car Show has been cancelled due to the virus.

If you own a classic car, you might like to send an email to Mike Swift mjd.swift@gmail.com as he would like to hear from you, giving an outline of the vehicle, how long you have owned it and any special events that you might be attending (under normal conditions of course).

I'm sure that like me you are looking forward to being able to safely get out and about again, but in the meantime please stay safe.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 8th September 2020 and with that in mind we are discussing what is the best way to hold it and the agenda items! Please keep a lookout for our next newsletter in autumn with details of future meetings and events.

Opportunities for Nottingham Advanced Motorists Observers and Feedback

“Without our team of dedicated observers who give their time voluntarily 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.”

Obviously nothing can happen until we recover from the current crisis, however, we need to look ahead to when things get back to “normal”.

In the last Newsletter edition I explained about the need for ongoing training within the group to maintain and improve standards. I asked for feedback from the observers if they would be interested in the group employing the services of one of the top UK Advanced Driver Instructors to help on a one to one and one to group basis.

The feedback I received (although I would have liked more!) was very positive. With this in mind the committee will discuss the various options when we next meet.

Keep your eye on the Newsletter for further news when available.

If you have any further comments or suggestions let me know by email mjd.swift@gmail.com or give me a ring 07766664378 so I know what you think.

Mike Swift
Nottingham Advanced Drivers

Are you Fully Charged? Do you want to be?



I am sure a lot of you will have heard of the name Robert Llewellyn, you might know him better for playing the role of the rubber-masked mechanoid Kryten in the much-loved science fiction comedy, ‘Red Dwarf’.

Robert is very interested in technology and in 2010 launched a YouTube channel called “Fully Charged”. This is all to do with electric vehicles and renewable energy as well as saving the planet amongst other things.

I must admit I do subscribe to the channel and although I don’t totally agree with everything said, I do think it’s well worth watching if you are interested in the future of motoring.

Fully Charged run an event in the UK called “Fully Charged Live”. It’s due to run at the end of October 2020 (if conditions permit). The event location is planned to be Farnborough (about 150 miles away). If you are interested in going then get in touch. mjd.swift@gmail.com The Fully Charged web site is <https://fullycharged.show/events/fully-charged-live-2020/>

Want some “Skid Car” training?

Some years ago we organised some specialist driver training at Donington Curcuit when about 20 group members attended. From memory we organised four sessions including skid car, limit point braking, parking and a classroom session. We even organised lunch. The event was partly sponsored by the group (as it did involve driver training) and everyone very much enjoyed the day. Lots of useful advice was taken away from the sessions.

If you would be interested in taking part in something like this please get in contact with me. I can discuss with the committee and (if agreed) could make contact with training providers to evaluate cost and if the group would be willing to subsidise such an activity. mjd.swift@gmail.com



Quick Quiz - How much do you know?

1. On what date did the wearing of front seat belts, for occupants of all cars built after 1964, become compulsory in the UK?
2. MG is a famous marque. What does MG actually stand for?
3. What was the first British production car with front disc brakes?
4. Over four million of which family car were built across five variants between 1962 and 1982?
5. What was the first commercially successful four-wheel-drive road car?
6. Introduced in 1959, which Italian styled, British car had a turning circle of just 25 feet?
7. Sometimes referred to as motor racing's 'triple crown', only one person has won the Formula One Drivers' World Championship, the Indianapolis 500 and the Le Mans 24 Hour Race. Who was it?
8. In which year was the driving test introduced to Britain?
9. What make of cars has the nickname, "Silver Star"?
10. What does "GT" stand for?

Answers

1. 1st January 1983. 2. Morris Garages. 3. Triumph TR3 in 1956. 4. Ford Cortina. 5. Audi Quattro in 1980. 6. Triumph Herald. 7. Graham Hill. 8. 1935. 9. Mercedes-Benz. 10. Gran Turismo.



Can you survive a puncture?

A recent incident has demonstrated the importance of either having a spare wheel (with the ability to fit it) or run flat tyres.

Recently, I was driving from West Bridgford to Retford on an early Sunday evening.

The tyre pressure monitoring system on my car alerted a problem with my offside front tyre. I stopped as soon as it was safe to do so. The side wall of the 6 month old tyre was split and there was no air inside. I am

sure the cause was the usual one these days – a pothole I had gone over just before. I limped home and arranged for the wheel to be checked and a new tyre the next day.

My car has no spare as it is fitted with run flat tyres. Fortunately, I had ensured that replacement tyres were also run flat, despite the extra cost. The website I had ordered them through had not defaulted to this type of tyre even though I had entered the car registration number and check for the correct make, model etc.

This incident demonstrated several things to me:

All cars should be provided with a spare wheel and tyre (with fitting capability) or run-flat tyres – an emergency tyre repair aerosol can would have been useless in this situation.

The tyre pressure monitoring system provided on many newer cars is a critical safety feature.

There is no substitute for regular checks of tyre pressures and condition (including the spare, if fitted).

If you have a spare, you need to have the tools, knowledge, confidence and strength to change it.

Christopher Berry
Nottingham Advanced Drivers

Flat battery? IAM RoadSmart's guide to jump starting your vehicle safely

As more people start to need their vehicles for driving to work or to take exercise - in England at least – it's likely that some will be frustrated to find their battery has lost its charge during an extended period of inactivity.



Breakdown organisations report that this is one of the most common causes for call outs at the moment.

If the worst happens and you do emerge from lockdown to find your vehicle battery is flat, jump starting the car with jump leads can cause damage. For some modern cars it is even not possible or requires specialist equipment. So, you should always consult your manufacturer's manual at the first stage to understand their recommendation on what to do in the event of a flat battery. If jump starting is not possible, contact a garage or breakdown service who may be able to provide support.

If your car does allow jump starting, Tim Shallcross, IAM RoadSmart's head of technical policy and advice, has these tips on how to do it safely:

- Before you start, check the handbrake is on, the gears are in neutral and the lights and all other electrics are switched off.
- Make sure the engines and ignition are off in both cars – put the keys in your pocket as modern cars can lock themselves when leads are connected to a flat battery.
- Next, connect the red lead to the positive terminals on each car battery.
- Now connect one clip of the black lead to the negative terminal on the donor car, the one with the charged battery. If someone is helping you, unless they're from your own household, remember the two metre social distancing rules are still in effect.
- Connect the other black clip to a metal part of the engine of your car, well away from the battery. This is important because there may be a small spark when you complete the circuit and batteries can give off hydrogen. Keeping the spark away from the battery prevents any possibility of igniting the hydrogen. Some cars have a recommended point for doing this, so check the manual to ensure you are following manufacturer's guidance where it is available.
- Start the donor car and leave it running for about 15 minutes to charge your battery. Leave your ignition off.
- Switch off the donor car, disconnect the black lead from the engine on your car, and then from the battery of the donor car. Disconnect the red lead. Do not be tempted to try turning on your ignition until after you are sure that all the leads are disconnected, as any power drain may damage your donor's battery.
- If, when you attempt to start your car it still doesn't work, try the process again leaving a little more time for the charge to have an effect. If you still can't start the engine, you will need to seek advice from a garage or breakdown service.

Tim Shallcross said: "Keeping your car healthy during the lockdown, or any extended period of inactivity is important. Your tyres and handbrake should also be checked regularly. And when you are ready to get going again and government advice allows, remember to check the whole vehicle and yourself in good time before you set off by completing **POWDERY checks** of petrol (or fuel), oil, water, damage, electrics, rubber and last but by no means least, you.

Are you unknowingly breaking the law when you're driving?

Page 1

Something I found recently in a news article which should be of interest to all advanced drivers. I was going to cut out some of the text, but decided to print it in its entirety as I found it very interesting, as I hope you will!

1) Warning flashes.

How many times have you been flashed by an oncoming car, seemingly for no reason, then further down the road you come across a mobile speed trap?

The bad news is that flashing your headlights to warn other motorists is against the law. Under Section 89 of the Police Act 1996 it's deemed "wilfully obstructing a constable in the execution of his/her duty" and could land you with a £1,000 fine.

As the Highway Code states: "Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there. Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users."

2) Splashing a pedestrian

Driving through a puddle and soaking a pedestrian could land you with three penalty points on your licence and a fine. Under section three of the Road Traffic Act 1988, it's an offence to drive "without reasonable consideration for other persons", and this includes any instance of "driving through a puddle causing pedestrians to be splashed".

The maximum punishment is a fine of £5,000 in instances where driving "amounts to a clear act of incompetence, selfishness, impatience or aggressiveness". However, you're more likely to be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice and three penalty points if you're caught.

3) Hogging the middle lane

There are few habits more irritating, inconsiderate and dangerous on a motorway than a middle lane hogger, and Rule 264 of the Highway Code clearly states: "You should always drive in the left-hand lane when the road ahead is clear. If you are overtaking a number of slow-moving vehicles, you should return to the left-hand lane as soon as you are safely past."

If you're caught unnecessarily sitting in the middle lane, you could be handed an on-the-spot fine of £100 and three penalty points for careless driving. If your case goes to court, the maximum penalty is £5,000 and up to nine points on a licence.

4) Visibility issues

Have you ever tried to save time on a winter's morning by not completely clearing the snow from your car or the frost off the windscreen? Rule 229 of the Highway Code says that before you set off "you must be able to see, so clear all snow and ice from all your windows."

You must also make sure your mirrors are clear and the windows are demisted thoroughly, and all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users must be removed.

If you're caught breaking this rule, you could be hit with a £60 fine and three penalty points

5) Anti-social behaviour

It's advisable to keep a lid on your anger at all times, but swearing and making rude gestures behind the wheel could land you a penalty for "disorderly conduct" under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

You could be fined up to 75% of your weekly wage (capped at £1,000) for committing such an offence. Alternatively, you could be fined for "not being in full control of a vehicle" (because you've taken your hands off the wheel).

This offence could result in a maximum fine of £1,000 and three penalty points.

6) Unrestrained pets

Many dogs are treated like members of the family – not just at home, but in the car too. However, Rule 57 of the Highway Code states that animals should be restrained "so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly".

If you're stopped by the police and they think your dog is a distraction, it's possible that you could be charged with driving without due care and attention, fined as much as £2,500 and given nine penalty points. Invest in a seat belt harness, dog cage or dog guard to make sure your pet travels safely.

7) Paying at a drive-through

If you're caught paying for food at a drive-through using a mobile payment system such as Apple Pay or Google Pay, you could attract an on-the-spot fine of £200 and up to six penalty points. This fine can however be increased up to £1,000 if your case goes to court. Worse still, for drivers who only passed their test in the last two years, getting six points means you'll be disqualified from driving.

If your engine is off, your handbrake is applied and you're parked, you can use a mobile to pay for your fast food, but you're breaking the law if your car's engine is switched on.

8) Eating and drinking

It's not illegal to eat or drink while driving. However, if you get distracted while snacking behind the wheel, the police could prosecute you for careless driving if they feel you're not in proper control of your vehicle – an offence which carries an on-the-spot fine of £100 and three penalty points.

9) Beeping your horn

Did you know that can get into trouble for using your car's horn, unless it's to warn other motorists of your presence? Rule 112 of the Highway Code explains: "Never sound your horn aggressively. You must not use your horn while stationary on the road, or when driving in a built-up area between the hours of 11.30pm and 7am, except when another road user poses a danger."

If you are caught beeping your horn in stationary traffic you could be fined anything from £30 to £1,000.

10) Using headphones

In the UK, it isn't specifically illegal to drive while wearing headphones (unlike in France and Canada), but if the police believe you're distracted or not in full control of your vehicle, you could be stopped and punished. This is because headphones can block out traffic sounds, level crossing signals, emergency sirens and even noise made by pedestrians or cyclists, making you a potential hazard for other road users.

Careless driving carries a £100 on-the-spot fine and three penalty points on your licence. In more serious cases, or those that are contested in court, the charge can attract a maximum £5,000 fine, up to nine penalty points and even a driving ban.

11) Dirty number plates

A dirty car is one thing but failing to clean your number plates so they can't be read by police officers and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras is illegal. If dirt obscures your number plate, you're going against Section 43 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act of 1994 and you could face a £1,000 fine.

12) Driving too slowly

It's all too common for drivers to get caught speeding, but did you know that you can also be penalised for careless driving if you are stopped by the police for going too slowly?

Driving at a speed that's deemed low enough to endanger other road users (usually on motorways and other fast-moving A roads) could result in an on-the-spot fine of £100 and three points. This could increase to nine points and £5,000 fine if your case goes to court.

13) Using a phone as a sat nav

It's not against the law to use your smartphone as a satellite navigation device while driving if it's securely mounted in a position that doesn't obstruct your vision and you don't operate the touchscreen while driving.

If you're caught breaking the rules, you could be fined £200 and have your licence endorsed with up to six penalty points.

Nottingham Advanced Driver Group Information

Group Contact Details:

Colin Davenport and Ivan Bilyk 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>