



NOTTINGHAM ADVANCED DRIVERS

Welcome Back The last news letter was published at the start of the dreaded corona virus which necessitated a postponement of our activities. I am now delighted to report we are now back to full operation and expanding our services on a number of fronts. Read on for more exciting news. mjd.swift@gmail.com

In this Newsletter:

- Big News—We have merged!
- Changes to motoring law
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We have now merged with the Mansfield Group

Many of you will remember the two Nottingham groups merging a few years ago to make one larger and stronger group, the merger has proved to be very successful and is now one of the most productive groups in the region.

The Mansfield merger has been proposed and approved by your Committee because at its last AGM in March 2022 the Mansfield Group was not able to form a Committee to manage the Group.

The NAD Committee has considered the proposal to merge, and feels that this would be in the interests of the group in expanding our coverage area, and therefore our number of associates.

We have existing observers to the north of our current area and new observers joining from the merged group, so we do not expect any difficulties in matching observers to associates from the Mansfield area.

Block courses will continue from Nottingham, and we will continue our policy of agreeing mutually acceptable locations from which to start one-to-one drives.

Given the positive nature of the merger, the Committee has proceeded with the formal process to make this happen. The final part of this took place at an EGM (extraordinary general meeting) on 2 August 2022.

This E.G.M. was necessary to discuss and vote on one item:

The formation of a committee for the management of the group formed by the merger of the Nottingham Advanced Drivers Group the Mansfield Advanced Motorists Group.

The new group will be known as: **Nottingham Advanced Drivers.**

Names of the senior positions on the new committee are as follows:-

Name	Position	Contact
Simon Poulton	Chair	Via nottsiam.org.uk website contacts page.
Malcolm Hayes	Vice-Chair	Via nottsiam.org.uk website contacts page.
Chris Berry	Treasurer	Via nottsiam.org.uk website contacts page.
Peter Munro	Secretary	Via nottsiam.org.uk website contacts page.
Colin Davenport	Chief Observer	Via nottsiam.org.uk website contacts page.



Road law continues to evolve, and this year we're seeing some significant changes that will affect millions of British drivers. Let's look at the recent and imminent changes and how they could affect us.

Strengthened mobile phone laws

Loopholes were closed, and existing laws strengthened around mobile phone use at the wheel. With mobile phone use often found to be as bad or worse than drink-driving in its capacity to cause collisions, clamping down on mobile phone use was seen as a welcome change by many.

Plug-in car grant reduced

New owners of electric vehicles will be getting less help from the government, with a reduction in the grant designed to help drivers purchase more ecologically friendly vehicles. The plug-in car grant was reduced from £2,500 to £1,500 in December 2021, and only cars under £32,000 are eligible. Plug-in hybrids are also no longer covered. The £1,500 discount is applied automatically at the dealer, who will then have the money reimbursed.

Drivers to be legally allowed to watch television behind the wheel of self-driving cars

An initial step that will only become practical when self-driving cars themselves are legal, the decision to allow drivers to watch TV while at the wheel of self-driving cars indicates an eagerness by the UK Government to welcome self-driving tech to UK roads.

All new homes will be legally required to have EV chargers

In a bid to tackle the growing issue of electric vehicle (EV) sales now outstripping growth of charging infrastructure, all newly built houses will now be required to be fitted with EV chargers. Any new homes, new supermarkets or buildings undergoing major renovations will need to have EV chargers fitted. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said this scheme could mean an additional 145,000 chargers per year across the country.

Five year pause on smart motorways

There has been fierce backlash against smart motorways, and now the rollout has been paused, pending 5 years' worth of safety data. The decision was made after a government enquiry. Smart motorways monitor traffic flow and vary the speed limit and number of live lanes in response to this monitoring, in order to reduce traffic. They also do not have a hard shoulder for drivers to pull onto in the event of a breakdown, closing live lanes when an emergency makes it necessary. This is where the safety concerns come from, as drivers could be stranded in a live lane.

Local councils given authority to enforce traffic laws

Local councils can now apply for permission to issue tickets for minor traffic offences, a power that was previously only held by the police. Councils can now hand out tickets for stopping in a yellow box junction, driving in bus/cycle lanes, making illegal turns or disobeying a no-entry sign, amongst other things. These laws will mainly be enforced using traffic cameras, with a maximum fine of £70 being issued. Local councils will have to apply for permission from the government to enforce traffic laws.

Speed limiting tech mandatory in all new cars

All new cars sold in Europe after 2022 will be legally required to be fitted with a speed limiter to boost road safety.

A speed limiter is a device that will stop your car from exceeding a certain speed set by the driver. This can be useful for making sure you don't inadvertently break the speed limit.

All cars in Europe will be sold with "intelligent speed assist", which uses GPS data and cameras to read the speed limit and set the limiter accordingly. The European Transport Safety Council predicts this could reduce collisions by 30%.



The Hierarchy of Road Users:

The 'Hierarchy of Road Users' is a **major change to the Highway Code**. It is a concept which places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. The road users most likely to be injured in the event of a collision are pedestrians, in particular children, older adults and disabled people, followed by cyclists, horse riders and motorcyclists. **The hierarchy does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly.** The "H" rules clarify this concept

Rule H1

It is important that ALL road users are aware of The Highway Code, are considerate to other road users and understand their responsibility for the safety of others.

Everyone suffers when road collisions occur, whether they are physically injured or not. But those in charge of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger they pose to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of large goods and passenger vehicles, vans/minibuses, cars/taxis and motorcycles.

Cyclists, horse riders and drivers of horse drawn vehicles likewise have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians.

None of this detracts from the responsibility of ALL road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, to have regard for their own and other road users' safety.

Always remember that the people you encounter may have impaired sight, hearing or mobility and that this may not be obvious.

Rule H2 - Rule for drivers, motorcyclists, horse drawn vehicles, horse riders and cyclists

At a junction you should give way to pedestrians crossing or **waiting to cross** a road into which or from which you are turning.

You **MUST** give way to pedestrians on a zebra crossing, and to pedestrians and cyclists on a parallel crossing (see Rule 195).

Pedestrians have priority when on a zebra crossing, on a parallel crossing or at light controlled crossings when they have a green signal.

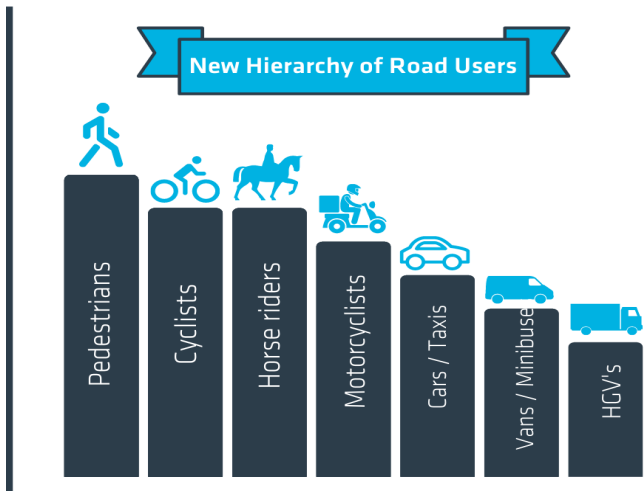
You should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross a zebra crossing, and to pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing.

Horse riders should also give way to pedestrians on a zebra crossing, and to pedestrians and cyclists on a parallel crossing.

Cyclists should give way to pedestrians on shared use cycle tracks and to horse riders on bridleways.

Only pedestrians may use the pavement. Pedestrians include wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

Pedestrians may use any part of the road and use cycle tracks as well as the pavement, unless there are signs prohibiting pedestrians.





Best practice tips for hot weather driving

We have already enjoyed one heat wave this year and there is talk of another! We can argue about the underlying cause of the extreme heat but one thing is for sure, we have to do whatever is possible to ensure it does not effect our ability to drive safely.

Always keep a bottle of water in the vehicle, a 5% drop in hydration levels can cause a drop of up to 30% in concentration levels.

- Keep windscreens clean as dirt and marks can amplify sun glare. Have access to and wear a clean pair of sunglasses while driving.
- Stay alert. The number of people on the roads in the summer increases. They may be unfamiliar with the roads they are travelling on causing confusion and therefore be more likely to make sudden turns or U-turns. They could also be more prone to crashing while distracted by trying to follow a map or satnav.
- Drive extra carefully after rain, as it can turn dry surfaces into a skid area. Roads can be extra slippery when it rains after a long period of dry weather.
- Keep the vehicle's coolant topped up to reduce the chance of it overheating and turn the engine off when stuck in traffic as this too will prevent it from overheating.
- Regularly check tyre pressures and condition on a monthly basis as the higher temperatures of summer increase tyre pressure that could lead to the risk of tyre blowout.
- In hot weather, vehicles may sometimes give unnecessary cause for concern. Here are some examples:
 - ⇒ Pools of water under a vehicle which are caused by condensed water from the air conditioning system.
 - ⇒ Vapour from air vents is just water vapour produced by the air conditioning unit that has not had time to condense.
 - ⇒ Roaring from the engine bay is often the cooling fan turning on and off.
 - ⇒ If a vehicle seems to have less power, this is probably because the air is warmer and less dense, resulting in the engine being less efficient.



Electric vehicle debate continues!

Some time ago I included a piece about the progress of electric vehicles where I mentioned “range anxiety”. Group Observer Nick Kay has responded with an excellent piece about how he views electric vehicles. What are your thoughts, let me know mjd.swift@gmail.com

Advanced Driving and Electric Vehicles

Following the article by Mike Swift in the last group newsletter, I feel the need to correct some regular misnomers about electric vehicles, and put forward the point of view of someone who has been an IAM member and observer for a few years, and has recently moved to an electric vehicle, in the form of a Tesla Model S.

I also had the opportunity recently to take the IAM’s Richard Gladman out for a drive in my Tesla, to discuss the application of Advanced Driving to this new generation of vehicles.



Range & Refueling

The thing that most casual observers and car journalists don’t ‘get’ about EVs is the fundamental shift in the way you use and refuel them that an EV brings. But first, the 500 miles thing. Be honest – how often do you *really* drive 500 miles without any break?

For me, that's never, in fact you'd

struggle to do that in any direction from Nottingham without getting wet... How about I offered instead around 250 miles range **every** morning, having refuelled overnight... and if you stopped twice in your occasional 500 mile trip for 20 minute 'loo and Costa', breaks, you had recharged whilst parking to get more than that range? And if that recharge was free from a proprietary charging network built into the price of the car? That's called the future... but it's what I'm getting with the Tesla...

Sound

As for noise, I'm convinced that's a generational thing – our generation(s) grew up to associate V8 burble, or V12 scream with power and fun. My 6 yr old son however loves the ‘space age’ clunk-whoosh of a ludicrous launch, and the relaxation of a quiet road trip... I tend to agree with him.



(Continued on next page)



Advanced Driving safely, systematically and smoothly

More importantly for us as Advanced Drivers, how do they drive? Well in my view, the power delivery and regenerative braking of an Electric Vehicle make for a very smooth and flattering vehicle for those with advanced driving skills, but the fundamentals remain unchanged.

Being systematic on the approach to hazards applies equally in any car; most EVs with direct drive motors have an absence of a gear phase, but the information gathering and positional phase of the system

remain as important as in any other vehicle. The big difference is how you achieve the speed phase; this is more often than not achieved using regenerative braking from the release of the throttle. Brake lights will be applied if deceleration is determined to be within 'braking' parameters, but with experience and practice, acceleration sense as utilised in a 'normal' vehicle can be achieved and finessed to produce a smooth drive. Regen is often misunderstood – it usually employs the electric motor as a generator to recover electricity into the battery. Losses in the energy conversion process mean that it only recovers a proportion of the energy put in; Tesla quote 'up to 60%' - which is pretty good, but still means (for instance) racing up to lights then regening to a stop still isn't an efficient (or smooth) advanced approach – better to gently lift earlier and not take the energy out of the battery in the first place. The final System phase is the revelation in most pure electric vehicles – the linear power delivery and instant torque give the potential for grin producing acceleration – many EVs are as quick as sports cars up to safe and legal speeds. For these reasons, I view hybrids, particularly plug in hybrids (PHEVs) as an interesting 'gateway' to the world of electric motoring, but once you've had an electric vehicle with a reasonable sized battery/range, trust me, you won't want or feel the need to cart around that rattly smelly, noisy internal combustion engine any more...

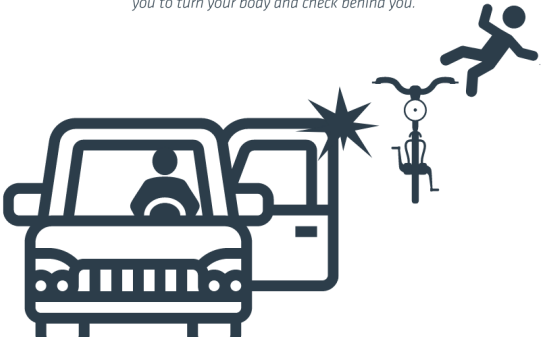
I've written enough for this time, but if people are interested, I may write again about the automation and assistance systems that are coming in many cars, especially electric vehicles, and changing the way that we control our vehicles – moving from active driving to monitoring and managing systems.

If anyone is thinking of going electric, if you want to know more, or want a demonstration drive, please do give me a shout.

Nick Kay
driving@slicelink.com

Dutch Reach

In the UK, the Dutch Reach means the driver should open the door with their left hand and the front passenger should open the door with their right hand, forcing you to turn your body and check behind you.



DUTCH REACH

Four steps to keeping cyclists safe

- USE YOUR LEFT ARM AND HAND TO OPEN THE DOOR
- TURN YOUR HEAD OVER YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER
- CHECK YOUR SIDE VIEW MIRROR
- OPEN YOUR DOOR SLOWLY



Newsletter Quiz

I included a quiz in the last newsletter and had some feedback saying you enjoyed it, so here is another one. Some of the questions are not much of a challenge but one or two might get you thinking. Let me know if you want more! mjd.swift@gmail.com

1. Who designed the mini?
2. Was the first powered road vehicle manufactured in 1769, 1779, 1789 or 1799?
3. What was Rolls of Rolls Royce fame first name?
4. What make of cars was Lord Nuffield responsible for manufacturing?
5. In which country are Saabs manufactured?
6. The Carmargue was an example of which type of marquee?
7. Which British car manufacturer shares it's name with a London Bridge?
8. Which Ferrari was named after the son of Enzo Ferrari who died of muscular dystrophy?
9. What German car is named after a strong North Atlantic wind?
10. What was the Jaguar car called before 1945?
11. In which American city did the first traffic lights appear?
12. Who was the founder of Lotus Cars Ltd.?
13. Which South American country has RCH on its cars?
14. Which car manufacturer designed Chris Boardman's gold medal-winning bike?

Answers are on the last page of this newsletter.

Nottingham Advanced Driver Group Information

Group Contact Details:

Our Chairman and others from the group committee contact details are on the 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>



Social Media—Your Help Required

Please help us grow our Social Media Presence. Most of our potential Advanced Drivers use these forms of communication to keep up to date and we need to let them know we exist!

Why does Nottingham Advanced Drivers need Facebook and Twitter?

That is a very good question and the top answer is to reach out to more people, especially young drivers who are more likely to find out about us on social media.

We've had a social media presence for a couple of years now but we need to make more use of it and to do that we need your help.



If you are never going to be willing to use Facebook or Twitter you can stop reading now. If you are willing to try to help spread the word about advanced driving then keep going.

Both Facebook and Twitter let you share information with friends that you choose to see your page. So if we post an item on the Nottingham Advanced Drivers page you can share that with everyone who can see your page. That way the information we 'post' on our page reaches a wider audience.

If you are already a Facebook/Twitter user and want to help spread the word just go to our Facebook/ Twitter page (you'll find links to both on our website <http://nottsiam.org.uk> :- Facebook

www.facebook.com/nottingham.iam On our Facebook page look under the main image and click on Like and also click on Follow and you will be able to see all our Facebook posts. If you choose to share any of the posted items click on the Like and buttons. When you like/comment a post this can show up in your friends' newsfeeds even if they haven't liked the Nottingham Advanced Drivers page themselves - this makes them aware of our content and encourages more likes on our Page.

Twitter <https://twitter.com/AdvancedNottm> On our Twitter page look under the main image and click on the Follow and you will be able to see all our Twitter posts. If you choose to share any of the posted items click on the Like and Retweet (share) buttons.

Not already signed up to Facebook/Twitter? If you are not already a Facebook/Twitter user and choose to help spread the word you'll need to sign up to either/or Facebook/Twitter.

Signing up for a Facebook account is quite simple. This is a link to help <https://www.facebook.com/help/188157731232424>

Twitter On your internet browser type www.twitter.com , click on the 'Sign up' button and simply enter your name, email address and create a password. Finish by clicking on the large Sign Up button. You'll be taken through a few more steps to record your preferences.

Now you are ready to help tell your social media friends more about IAM Roadsmart advanced driving. Thanks.



Appropriate footwear for driving

Something I have noticed over the last many years is the amount of drivers wearing footwear that is not suitable to control a motor vehicle. It seems quite a few other agree with me, read on!

It's that time of year again when we say goodbye to our winter coats and start digging out our summer wardrobe –many of us might start wearing our comfy flip flops once again.

While they're a summer staple they simply don't belong on your feet when you are driving. We strongly encourage people to reconsider wearing flip flops whilst driving. Rebecca Ashton, Head of Policy and Research at IAM RoadSmart, is giving her expert advice on why it's best to leave the flip flops for the beach and choose something more suitable for driving.

While it is not illegal to wear flip flops whilst you drive, The Highway Code states that you must have footwear and clothing which 'does not prevent you using the controls in the correct manner'. Since flip flops can easily slip off and get lodged under the car's pedals, they have the potential to cause a serious incident.

What should I wear on my feet?

It's important to have maximum control while driving, soft shoes with a thin sole which can offer a little grip are best. These will allow your ankle to remain flexible and keep your sole sensitive to how much pressure you're putting on the pedals. Driving in heavy or chunky shoes can put you in danger of pressing two pedals down at once, so the best sort of driving footwear is your basic flat shoe or trainer.

It's not uncommon to find yourself getting in the car wearing sandals during the summer, or heavy winter boots in the colder months. So, it's a good idea to keep a pair of shoes specifically for driving in the boot of your car.

Rebecca explained: "Flip flops can easily slip off and get caught under the pedals, and if they're wet, your foot might slip affecting your ability to brake. Driving in flip flops has the potential to create a dangerous driving environment and put you and other road users at risk.

"Some drivers might not be aware that if you're involved in a crash and the police see that you have flip flops on, and they believe these could have been a contributory factor in the incident, you may be prosecuted for 'driving without due care and attention' The fixed penalty for careless driving is £100 with 3 points on the driver's licence.

The most serious cases can go through the courts, where higher penalties might be deemed appropriate – a fine as high as £5,000, nine penalty points and potentially a driving ban."

Answers To Quiz

1. Sir Alec Issigonis 2. 1769 3. Charles 4. Morris 5. Sweden 6. Rolls Royce 7. Vauxhall 8. Dino 9. Passat. (VW). 10. SS. - Manufactured by SS Cars Ltd and renamed after the war for obvious reasons 11. Detroit in 1919 12. Colin Chapman 13. Chile 14. Lotus.