

INTRODUCING IAM LINCOLNSHIRE

Happy New Year!

In 2019, we'd like to focus on the power of our members.

In our Christmas message, we encouraged each of our members to talk about IAM's work to their family, friends and colleagues. If each of our 200 strong membership gained one new member, that would be an incredibly positive impact on road safety in Lincolnshire. Let's see how far we can go towards this achievement!

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There's still time for winter... are you prepared?

Contact us... something you'd like to share in the newsletter?

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CHAIR/CHIEF OBSERVER'S REPORT

A flying start to 2019

As predicted 2018 proved to be yet another record year for the group.

During the year we achieved 53 test passes, 13 of which were FIRSTs. Had we had sufficient examiner capacity we would have certainly achieved 60 passes. Steps have been taken to improve examiner availability for 2019 so hopefully we will catch up the backlog in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile 2019 has started with a bang!

The first six weeks have seen us recruit 30 new associates, more than half of the total for the whole of 2018! All these new associates have been generated by the groups own activities, predominately our very successful Confident Driving presentations. So far this year we have delivered four presentations to U3A and WI groups and as a result signed up 83 people for Taster Drives, more than we signed up for the whole of last year. Whilst some 20% of these will convert to Advanced Driving Courses the rest will have certainly gained from the experience and hopefully have become safer, more confident drivers.

As this has been happening, we have taken over the delivery of Advanced Driving Courses in the Boston, South Lincolnshire area. This allows us to operate across Lincolnshire and to become IAM RoadSmart Lincolnshire rather than just Lincoln. This change of name has been accompanied by the introduction of a new logo.

Once again we have an exciting programme of events planned for the year. The first of which was a visit from the IAM RoadSmart Chief Executive, Mike Quinton which was attended by over 80 people. Mike gave a very interesting update on the organisation and his vision and plans for the future. This was well received and appreciated by all as was his, and his colleague Marketing Director Kate Tonge's engagement with the audience.

Whilst all this is very good news for the group it does mean it's a very busy time for our committee and observer team so I would like to record my thanks to all for their commitment and support. Thank you also to all our members for your continuing support, as volunteers we really appreciate it.

In summary it looks like 2019 will be yet another busy and record breaking year for the newly named IAM RoadSmart Lincolnshire group.



ROGER HICKS

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PRESS RELEASE

IAM Lincoln expands to cover Lincolnshire

The continued success of IAM RoadSmart's Lincoln group has resulted in their announcement to expand and become IAM RoadSmart Lincolnshire from 11 February 2019, covering the whole county together with Newark and Retford.

IAM Lincolnshire is an independent road safety charity affiliated to IAM RoadSmart, the UK's largest road safety charity. They prepare Lincolnshire drivers to reach the standard to be able to take their Advanced Driving Test.

Formally known as the Institute of Advanced Motorists, it was formed in 1956 and has spent more than 60 years making the UK's roads safer by improving driver and rider skills through coaching and education. IAM RoadSmart campaigns on road safety issues on behalf of its 92,000 members. At any one time there are over 7,000 drivers and riders actively engaged with IAM courses, from members of the public to company drivers.

The Lincoln Group was established in 1973 and prides itself in making better drivers, through the provision of coaching and advice for all post-licence drivers; through their range of advanced driving courses, qualifications and group talks. The group is run by local volunteers who are all passionate about making life on the road more enjoyable. Their affairs are managed by a committee who are elected annually by the group members.

Learning better driving skills could be a crucial step in reducing the number of serious accidents on the county's roads, according to Lincoln IAM RoadSmart Chief Observer and Chair Roger Hicks.

"There's no doubt that improving driving skills is a crucial tool in helping to reduce accidents on the roads," said Mr Hicks.

He went on to say "I am very proud what IAM Lincoln Group have achieved, culminating in a record 2018 and recognition as one of IAM RoadSmart's leading groups. It's fitting that we have been asked to build on this success by taking responsibility for delivering IAM RoadSmart Driving courses across the whole county."

IAM Lincolnshire's most recent recruit is Marc Jones, Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. Mr Jones said he welcomed the opportunity to learn and is excited about the challenge ahead.

"I am a great believer that if you want to understand an issue you have to roll your sleeves up and get involved," he said.

"I'm excited to take on the challenge and improve my own driving skills but key for me is to learn from the experience and use the knowledge to help me in my efforts to reduce the pointless waste of lives our communities suffer as a result of accidents."

The group will update their branding, social media and contact details as part of this transition.

DOES THE CAR HELP MAKE THE DRIVER?

How does your car change your driving?

Many IAM RoadSmart Observers will have realised that people attend our free taster drives and Advanced courses in a whole host of different cars.

But does the car help make the driver?

Versions of the system of car control have been in use for over 75 years, so have clearly been applied in a multitude of vehicles over the years. We're even aware that some drivers who have taken our Advanced Driving Course have practiced the system when walking along a busy street; but that's another story!

So, if IPSSGA can be applied to any vehicle; what difference, if any, does the vehicle you drive make?

Information is generally gathered by the driver's senses; through our eyes, ears, touch and on occasion, smell. However, at night a modern LED headlight on a 2018 Ford Focus will provide much better light than that of a filament bulb on a 1968 Mk1 Ford Escort. The headlights can therefore help, or hinder, the gathering of information. Dirty headlights can affect this too, as could a cracked or dirty windscreen.

Position is generally adjusted through smooth use of the steering wheel, but does the car really help here? Well it could be argued that a 1960 Austin Mini may be easier to position, in some circumstances, than a 2014 BMW Mini; as it's much smaller. It could also be said that the power steering of the modern car makes adjusting position easier than those cars from yesteryear too.

Speed within the system often relates to the reduction of pace, either through smooth use of the brakes and/or accelerator. Again, the disc brakes on a 2018 Jaguar XE are somewhat of an improvement on the drum brakes employed by the 1952 Jaguar XK 120; but clearly the use of anticipation and smooth application in both are still applicable as an advanced driver.

Gear is a mechanically specific phase and for most, a difficult phase to achieve initially; without brake gear overlap in a manual car. Some argue that an automatic gearbox helps simplify the driving

experience, whilst enabling the driver to maintain two hands on the wheel. But you can find that they self-change either after the hazard, or for instance part way through a bend, and that's not correct for the system, is it? As for myself, I drive my automatic car in manual override most of the time. This enables me to be in the right gear to negotiate a hazard, and of course achieve the system.

Acceleration is again a human controlled phase of the system that's somewhat car focused. Different cars can accelerate at different rates; with a 6.5l 789 bhp Ferrari 812 Superfast (yes that really is the model name) obviously being capable of attaining quicker acceleration than say, a 1.0l 66bhp Kia Picanto. But an important aspect of advanced driving is that of legality, as in sticking to the speed limit, so does it matter how quickly you get there? Most of us enjoy crisp acceleration, but it's just as important to be smooth and proportional.

So, there you have it! The type of car you drive can make some difference as you apply advanced driving techniques. But whilst an expensive, well specified, car may affect how you feel about yourself when you drive; I'm not sure it makes you a better driver.

But thankfully, the application of the system of car control certainly does!

Richard Hardesty
National Observer, Training Officer



HAPPY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Tips from IAM RoadSmart

Every year, our motivation increases after Christmas and we spend the New Year planning our goals, such as getting fitter or eating more healthily, but many gym memberships feels unloved by February. Richard Gladman, head of driving and riding standards, suggests a few New Year resolutions that are easy to keep and will improve your driving and keep you safe throughout the year:

- **N**ew year, new car. Think about the effect your car can have on the environment. Those short trips have the biggest impact so look into alternatives. If you are looking to get a new car, make sure you research its emissions and road tax costs. Choose one with the latest safety kit such as autonomous emergency braking (AEB) because we all need a guardian angel at times.
- **E**yesight: The NHS suggests having an eye test every two years. It is your responsibility to ensure you're fit to drive. Getting your eyes tested regularly will also show up any concerns at an early stage. You can check your vision yourself – can you read a number plate clearly from 20 metres?
- **W**eather: Heed weather warnings all year around. If the weather is really bad, consider postponing your journey until a more appropriate time, or plan another method of transport if possible.
- **Y**ear-round maintenance: Clean your windows, lights, mirrors and number plates regularly. You should spend around 10 minutes every week checking your vehicle's fluid levels, tyre pressure, lights, tread depth and windscreen wipers.
- **E**co-driving: A planned drive is an economical drive. Having a good sense of your vehicle's power and gears will save fuel, and makes it safer to drive. There is no point in racing up to a red traffic light!
- **A**nticipate: Consider what the traffic and other people around you may do, especially at traffic lights, roundabouts and junctions. Observing, anticipating and planning should be at the heart of your driving.
- **R**efuel: Be sure to keep an eye on your tank, especially when embarking upon long journeys. Refuelling early saves you the stress of trying to find a petrol station in an area you don't know. Running out of fuel causes hundreds of motorway breakdowns every year.

Richard says: "The New year is a common time for people to reflect and evaluate their goals for the upcoming year. Why not begin by incorporating your driving behaviour into your list of resolutions for 2019? Why not resolve to make it better this year?"



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BLACK CAT SET ADVANCED STANDARD



A family run bus and coach hire firm is putting the safety of their employees and customers at the forefront of its business.

Black Cat Travel, based in Harmston near Lincoln, has teamed up with IAM RoadSmart Lincoln to put their employees through their paces taking the nationally recognised Advanced Driving Course. So far, 11 members of the Black Cat team have successfully completed their course, with a further five signed up to start their journey to become an advanced driver in the New Year.

IAM RoadSmart, the UK's largest road safety charity, has a mission to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads through driver education and variety of practical courses. The Advanced Driver Course, which is available to all road users, will see Black Cat's team reach some of the highest standards of driving on our roads.

Director, John Edwards, said "not only do we encourage our employees to take the course, we reward them with an increase in their wages once they have passed their advanced test and to maintain membership of IAM

RoadSmart ensuring their driving skills keep developing as much as possible. Road safety is an important topic and we want our drivers to be the best they can be out on the roads, therefore giving our passengers the safest possible service."

The Advanced Driver Course is suitable for any driver and focuses on developing skills and therefore confidence and enjoyment whilst driving. The course is carried out over a number of observed drives with a qualified Observer, who already holds an advanced driving qualification.

Emma Chappell, is one of Black Cat's drivers and passed her advanced test in 2018. "I really enjoyed the course and it has definitely improved my driving as a result. You become more observant and understand how to read hazards on road in the right way. I would encourage every driver to do the course".

Black Cat Travel plans to keep on working with IAM RoadSmart Lincoln throughout 2019 and beyond to ensure its team are some of the safest drivers on the road.

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FROM DITHERING TO DYNAMIC - WELL, SORT OF!

Pam Browne reviews her IAM course

An incident that occurred during the test really brought home to me the benefits I had received from the drives with my observer that had peppered the calendar during the last few months.

If it had occurred prior to my IAM RoadSmart course, I might have been a bit anxious, and would certainly have dithered and delayed. I was well aware of some of the shortcomings I had acquired during the 50 years since I passed my driving test. It wasn't long before observer, Ashley Behan, began to point out all the rest during my 12 drives with him! Always in a very kind way, I must add.

I do have a new confidence, and positivity, about driving now, not to mention the fact that I am enjoying it a great deal more than I have for years. So thank you to IAM Lincoln, and in particular to Ashley!

It was a Women's Institute meeting that first sparked the idea of taking the course. As a member of West Ashby WI, I went along one Saturday morning in the spring of 2018 to a meeting in Horncastle for WIs throughout our Lincolnshire North area. Members filled the hall at WI House as guest speaker Ashley gave his presentation. By the end, quite a few of us signed up either for a taster drive or for a course.

Helen, a friend and fellow member from West Ashby, and Alice, the daughter of another fellow member, and I had our taster drives and all began our courses, all with Ashley. It was good to compare notes. You know the sort of thing: "My last drive was dire," or "Yep, I need more dual carriageway practice," or "Have you been round that horrible roundabout yet?"

I thought I knew Lincolnshire pretty well but, all in the cause of trying out as many different types of road and junctions and manoeuvres and putting the IPSGA system through its paces, I found villages that had previously been only a name on a map, and travelled along miles of dual carriageways that were such a joy (and a novelty if you live and mostly drive in the Horncastle area).

For the test I went to Laceby, on the edge of Grimsby, an area I know hardly at all. Friendly chatter from examiner Tim Stanley soon put me at ease and we were off, through Grimsby's busy main roads and residential areas before heading out towards Humberside Airport and down towards Caistor before returning to the Morrison car park at Laceby.



... Oh, that incident which I felt I handled OK and which at one time could have had me in a tizz?

I had to turn right from a country road onto a fast and busy A18 at a staggered crossroads. Opportunities to pull out safely were few but when my chance came I took it. Vehicles were emerging from three different directions but I decided their speeds meant it was safe to go and I put my foot down.

"Good dynamic manoeuvre," said my examiner. "Ashley might find it hard to believe I'd been dynamic," I replied, and so Tim wrote 'dynamic at junction' on my test report.

Learning I had passed was a very special moment. For a one-time ditherer, getting that comment was the icing on the cake.

I'm pleased to report that Helen and Alice also passed their tests.

***Pam Browne
Horncastle***

BECOME AN FELLOW

Keep your skills up to date with IAM's new membership category

What is the Fellowship

The Fellow membership tier is open to all current full IAM members, it provides you with enhanced recognition and insurance benefits (with IAM Surety) in return for your commitment to keep your advanced skills up to date by retesting every three years with us.

Our research clearly shows that advanced driving and riding skills deteriorate over time, and that three years is a pivotal timeframe in which to refresh and renew those skills.

How much does it cost

Fellowship Membership currently costs £49 per year, this includes the 3 yearly retest fee

What's the benefits

A dedicated membership tier with online Register of Fellow members

Enhanced insurance recognition for drivers that includes removal of any upper age restrictions, plus free

breakdown cover and 24 hour legal helpline (start from date of new policy or renewal) for those insuring with IAM Surety.

Exclusive Fellow membership certificate and opportunity to purchase a metal lapel badge.

The confidence of knowing that your advanced skills are sharp, current and in line with the IAM RoadSmart standards

How to become a Fellow

If your most recent IAM test past was within the last 3 years, Then all you need to do is to advise us that you wish to become a Fellow and we will adjust your membership details immediately and you'll become a Fellow right away. **Call 0300 303 1134 to switch now.**

If your latest IAM test pass was over 3 years ago, then you'll be asked to book a Fellow entry test. Upon passing you'll be made a Fellow for three years from the date of your entry test pass. **Call 0300 303 1134 to book your Fellow entry test.**

FORDIE'S WORLD

I hope you will bear with me, this Fordie's World is much briefer than usual. At the beginning of November my wife, Liz, collapsed. I called an ambulance and she was rushed to A&E. Fortunately she was saved and after a couple of days in hospital I was able to bring Liz home. She is still rather poorly and somewhat weakened but is making slow progress.

Consequently, I have been on a very steep learning curve, finding myself head carer, chief pot and bottle washer, cook, cleaner and general factotum. In view of the forgoing, I am now in respectful awe of all you ladies who keep house and possibly hold down a full time job! I hardly know backsides from breakfast time! All this now means I am pretty much "confined to barracks" therefore I have not been able to get out to observe (gripe!) about the motoring public at large and have missed the last two socials, which I regret.

To put the situation in perspective, we are receiving great help and support from the Community Nurses, St Barnabas Care at Home Team, Marie Curie team and "Lincare" (for myself); plus the great help from family and friends.

I hope also, in the next six weeks, to have my left knee replaced so maybe by the end of March some semblance of normal service will be resumed. In the meantime, drive safely, as I say frequently, they're not all locked up yet!

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KNOW YOUR STUFF

The Cockpit Drill

We encourage all of our associates to understand and undertake a Cockpit Drill.

Whilst it is not a compulsory part of the Advanced Driving Test, a good Cockpit Drill prior to the test sets the scene and shows the examiner that you are familiar with the car. It is also a good opportunity to add any specific points you wish to make about the cars controls and its characteristics.

The Advanced Driving Test aside, a Cockpit Drill is a skill all advanced drivers should understand. When getting into an unfamiliar car for the first time, for example, a cockpit drill is the perfect way to familiarise yourself with the new vehicle.



What to include

Your Cockpit Drill should not be seen as just a checklist of items. Keep it short, sharp and relevant.

- A description of vehicle, transmission and how to select reverse. (I am driving a Volvo V40 which has a six speed gearbox driving the front wheels, reverse is "push down away and forward"). State you are familiar with the controls.
- Handbrake is on, check the doors are closed.
- A static brake test (Firm pressure on the foot brake, release the parking brake, is the pressure maintained and is there space for travel below the pedal). Load the steering wheel prior to turning on the engine (this checks the power steering is operational).
- Turn on the ignition and note the warning lights go off
- Seat, seatbelts and mirror adjustment (for control, comfort and vision)

Be logical and ordered, understanding what you are trying to achieve. A good tip is to follow your eyes. For example, start



at the top of the car and work down (Checking my mirrors, they are set to me, down to the steering wheel and general car controls with which I'm familiar. The car is in neutral, our seatbelts are fastened, doors are closed.)

Controls in an unfamiliar car

Can we demist the car? Can we find the hazard warning lights without taking our eyes off the road? How do we operate the fog lights? if we stop to let a passenger in where is the door lock? Start in the centre console, particularly heating and ventilation controls, take time to understand them and how to direct the air or control the temperature. Where are the vents aiming? Minor controls (often fog lights will be controlled from here) and some window switches. Often a central locking button.

Move across to steering column stems, these will control indicators and windscreen wipers and often headlights and rear wash wipe systems. Again take time to understand the functions and where the manual and auto settings are and which settings are appropriate for your journey. Is the horn here? Some operating systems for cruise control or speed limiters may be on a secondary stem. Move to the driver's door, mirror adjustment is normally found here, understand how it works. Window switches if not already located and possibly the central locking button. If you still haven't found window switches you may have stepped back in time and have to wind the window (or really far back in time and have to slide it) Onto the steering wheel you may have a number of functions or nothing. You can often control radios, mobile phones and navigation systems from the steering wheel, each system is different, know how yours works.

Moving Brake Check

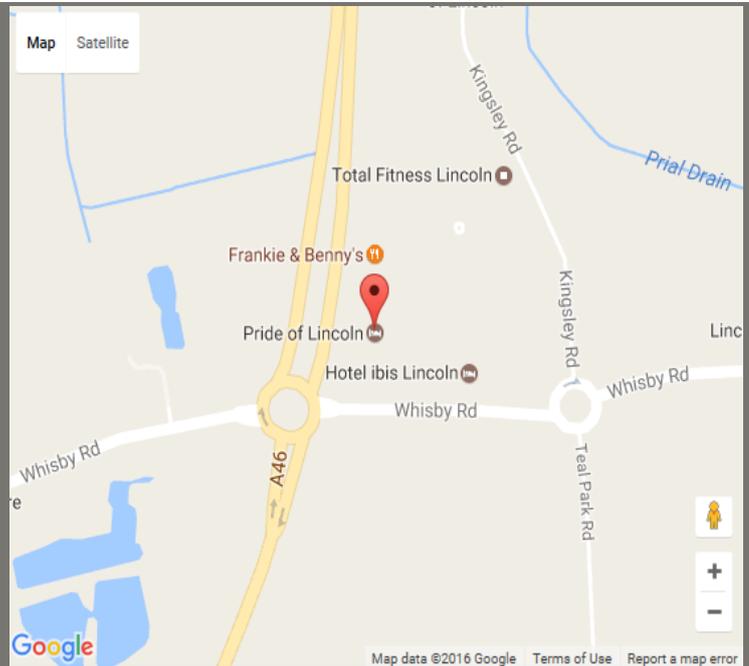
If you have completed a Static Brake Test in your Cockpit Drill, a Moving Brake Check is not necessarily required, however, if you are in an unfamiliar car it can be helpful to find the 'biting point' of the brakes. Ideally achieve 30mph in a non-retarding gear and apply the brakes in a progressive manner. The vehicle should pull up evenly and as expected, you should now know the required pressure to slow and stop your car. If it is not possible to conduct this check due to traffic conditions or other factors, you must ensure you introduce the brakes early for a hazard until you are satisfied with their performance.

OUR VENUE

WHERE TO FIND US?

Windmill Farm (formerly the Pride of Lincoln) (Function Room) for a **7.30pm start** Kingsley Road off Whisby Road Lincoln LN6 3QZ

Our events are subject to change; please visit the Events section of our website prior to attending and for further details about specific events.



2019 EVENTS

January 2019

No meeting

Tuesday 12 February 2019

An Evening with Mike Quinton, IAM RoadSmart CEO

March 2019

No Meeting

Tuesday 9 April 2019

Emergency First Aid at Road Traffic Collisions

Sunday 19 May 2019

Black Cat Travel

Tuesday 21 May 2019

AGM

Wednesday 12 June 2019

Training to Fly with RAF Cranwell

Tuesday 9 July 2019

Advanced Driving Refresher Event (7pm)

August 2019

No meeting

Wednesday 11 September 2019

Michael Pace LLP, Motor Legal Expert

October 2019

No meeting

Tuesday 12 November 2019

Advanced Driver Development

Wednesday 11 December 2019

Christmas Social

NEXT EDITION *Spring19*