



Newsletter

May 2023

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Chair's letter - May 2023

Nick Room



Dear Friends

The TVGAM AGM on 25th April attracted a good many members and guests, which was very encouraging. We also had a special guest – David Fryer, who gave us authoritative answers to questions raised from the floor about several aspects of driving in today's environment. David is a National

Observer Assessor, a Master's Mentor, and an Examiner, so this session after the business of the meeting was well received and we thanked David for his acceptance of our invitation at short notice which arose due to Katrina's indisposition. In feedback later, David was extremely complimentary about our Group, which was a satisfying aside to what was a very pleasant evening.

You will read more about the AGM in this edition of our Newsletter, put together by Alex in John's absence. Thank you, Alex. The key point is that whilst certain members within the current Committee are changing roles, it will be the same team running the Group for the year ahead. William Phaire moves from Vice Chair to Treasurer, and Nicki Kitching takes the role of Membership Secretary, leaving the position of Vice Chair vacant. I am remaining your Chair for another year's term.

We have been able to peg TVGAM membership fees to their present level for another year – but if Hall costs rise significantly, the Committee will review the impact of this upon our finances. We do not anticipate any change, which must be a blessing when everything else has been going up at an alarming rate.

In my closing remarks at the AGM, I referred to the challenge thrown at us to keep bringing in new members – an objective we can all share. We are looking at ways to incentivise 'member get member' – particularly targeted at young drivers and will build on this through the year. I also made mention of raising our profile amongst the wider communities we serve, and the Committee will be consolidating existing partnerships, and inviting selective new ones, where we feel the association with that organisation would be beneficial to TVGAM as a whole.

Hoping to see many of you at our next member's meeting on 23rd.

Best wishes,
Nick

The group meetings program

TUES 23rd MAY at 8 p.m.
ADVANCED DRIVING
TODAY

Chief Observer Des McDermott leads an interactive session on why we need to keep our driving abilities at peak levels and how we can achieve this at no cost, with no risk to our IAM Membership.



TUES 27th JUNE at 7 p.m.
MIDSOMER MADNESS

Our June meeting will be a drive-out visiting some of the towns and villages in the area that have been used in the filming of the television series Midsomer Murders.



Friends, family and visitors are welcome on this max 40 mile saunter through stunning countryside

Buy a fish & chip supper en-route

* A Tues 20th June run is also available if you can't make 27th.

The 2023/24 Committee

The Groups AGM was held on Tuesday April 27th attended by around 40 members.. There were no new nominations received for Committee posts which meant that those members willing to stand for re-election were appointed with three rotating to different posts.. The new line-up:

Group Officials



Chair
Nick Room



Secretary
Karen Allen



Treasurer
William Phaure

Committee Appointments



Chief Observer
Des McDermott



Membership Sec.
Nicki Kitching



Communications
Alex Beeston

Our invaluable non-Committee support team is:
Minutes Secretary - Fiona Brown
Observer Development Co-ordinator - Richard Heathman
Associate Co-ordinator - Alex Beeston
Editor - John Willis
Webmaster - Nick Edgeley



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – May 2023

New Members

A warm welcome to associate member John Owen who has recently re-joined Thames Valley Group to resume his ADC.

We wish you every success.

The total of New Members joining TVGAM in 2023 is: 7

ADC Passes

Many congratulations to the following associates who have recently passed their Advanced Driving Tests or gained Full IAM Membership by Portfolio , and to their respective observers.

Associate

**Russell Ford
Simon Andrews
Fran Faulkner (F1RST)**

Observer

**Nicki Kitching
Des McDermott
Richard Heathman**

The total number of ADC Passes in 2023 is: 5

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

TVGAM

Associates - 1st year is included in your course fee.
2nd and subsequent years is £36.50* payable to TVGAM depending on Committee approval to continue your course.

Full and Fellows - £12 for all members receiving newsletters and bulletins via email.
£22 only for members who depend on newsletters by mail.

Payment methods

Bank transfers: Lloyds Bank, Maidenhead
Sort Code 30-95-36 Account No. 07015567
Reference: Please enter your Group Member ID (e.g. nn/nnn)

IAM RoadSmart

Full Members: £43 Direct Debit *only*.
£48 Cheque / bank transfer / or Debit/ Credit Card

Fellow Members: £61 Direct Debit **only**.
£66 Cheque / bank transfer / or Debit/Credit Card

Payment by Direct Debit minimises the administrative costs in processing Members subscriptions which is why there is a distinct price advantage to using this payment method. They can be set up online at <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/my-dashboard/my-membership/direct-debit>.

Payment methods

Online at <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/renewals> or phone 0300 303 1134.

Membership Records

Please help keep the Group records in order by sending any changes of address, email address or contact telephone numbers to: membership@tvgam.org.uk.

This is my last Membership Matters contribution and I'd like to thank all members past and present for their great support and I'm sure you will continue to give this to Nicki. .



Alex Beeston - Membership secretary

IAM Member benefits

- A subscription to our magazine, packed with driving and riding inspiration, interviews, news and more.
- Priority ticket access to our popular circuit-based skills days – a chance to further develop your skills with qualified instructors.
- Use of MIAM/FIAM/MMIAM (Member/Fellow/Master member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists) after your name
- The chance to join your local group for social activities with like-minded individuals.
- Access to competitive insurance quotes with our partner, Cornmarket
- Access to our shop where you can buy exclusive IAM RoadSmart merchandise items.
- Supporting us with our mission to reduce the number of people killed or injured on the roads in the UK.
- Access to exclusive member benefits and discounts across a great range of products and services
- A subscription to our member's e-newsletter filled with tips, blogs,

Awards and Achievements



Horncastle Garage/Shell Trophy Winner 2022

This trophy is awarded to the associate who achieves the best competency score on their Advanced Driving Test or Membership by Portfolio qualification in the calendar year.

Many congratulations to our 2022 trophy winner Harley Jones who achieved a best possible score of 23 (1 in every category). Harley was coached by National Observer Nicki Kitching and has now achieved his ambition to become a Traffic Officer with the Met.

Test pass awards

Congratulations to associates Russell Ford and Jake Rouse (F1RST) on passing their Advanced Tests and gaining Full IAM Membership. Both Russell and Jake were coached by Nicki Kitching.

A special note of thanks to Russell for his support in the training of trainee National Observer Joe Ashworth



Derek becomes TVGAM's latest National Observer

Congratulations to Derek Wilson on becoming the first TVGAM Observer to upgrade from Local Observer and qualify as a National Observer since IAM RoadSmart announced the LO role will discontinue from April 2025.



Nicki clocks up 40

Congratulations to National Observer Nicki Kitching who has achieved 40 test passes (including 18 F1RST's) since her IMI Qualification as an observer in late 2014.





Chiefs Observations

Des McDermott

A day out with car enthusiasts

I spent two days of the recent Bank Holiday weekend at the Gaydon Land Rover Show with car enthusiasts. These were mostly people who were Land Rover owners and therefore discussions tended to focus on off-roading. It will come as no surprise to regular readers of this newsletter that there are lots of transferable skills from advanced driving that can be applied to off roading. However, many of the people I talked with were unaware of advanced driving courses and more to the point that advanced drivers apply many of the same principles to on-road driving. Moreover, many of the Land Rover owners use their cars as everyday vehicles – on the road - all year round. They spend a lot more time on the tarmac than off road.

This raised a question for me about what do people think about when the term advanced driving is mentioned? Holliday Grainger is a character from the crime fiction novels by J.K. Rowling. Holliday works alongside Cormoran Strike as private detectives and in one of the episodes demonstrates her driving skills when they get stuck on a country lane. Holliday took a short cut across several fields at speed and informs Strike at the end of the drive that she had recently completed an advanced driving course. Suffice it to say, what it resembled was more akin to rallying than advanced driving. This is probably what many people think about when advanced driving is mentioned.

As advanced drivers know, the knowledge and skills that we develop are not about driving around at breakneck speed like rally drivers but applying good observations, anticipation, and planning with the system of car control (IPSGA). These are skills for life and will keep you safe on all roads and in all conditions. I provided the details of IAM RoadSmart to many of the people I met at the show. I also added the recommendation that the advanced driving course was very good value for money and a lot cheaper than many of the products and services on sale at the show.

If you are ever in the Gaydon area (just off the M40) and would like to take a break, I would highly recommend the British Motor Museum. It is full of great cars and motor-bikes and with lots of references to their social history. It was a thoroughly enjoyable two days and very reasonable priced.

Des

Current motoring news

A new generation of road safety camera on trial

The new AI speed camera has been installed on the busy A23 in Lambeth, South London, as part of a Transport for London trial before it can be given Home Office approval.



The camera is able to look inside cars and detect whether the driver is on the phone or not wearing a seatbelt. The 4D radar and super-resolution cameras can be linked to the DVLA and police databases and check insurance on the spot, monitor six lanes day and night and check average speeds when combined with other units.

Yet more Highway Code changes

Drivers are being urged to be aware of new rules coming in this year which could see more motorists facing fines. Changes are being implemented to the Highway Code this month with new driving laws impacting electric car parking fines, introducing more clean air zones, and a seeing handful of Highway Code Changes.

Among these are:

Newly passed younger drivers could face strict new rules, as any new motorists under the age of 25 may soon be stopped from carrying passengers under the same age limit in their vehicles to boost road safety. The proposed move would see a 'graduated driving licence', restricting fresh-faced motorists from certain activities for a set, short timeframe

Regulations in the Highway Code are also changing. While it's not illegal, motorists who run out on fuel while driving and obstruct traffic can face £100 fine and points on their licence. This penalty has been extended to electric car drivers.

Councils seek powers to fine rule breaking drivers

Reading and Wokingham will soon be able to issue fixed penalty charge notices to drivers for some moving traffic offences which would previously done by Thames Valley Police. Yellow Box junctions, banned right turns, weight restrictions, buses only and keep left signs at certain locations will be monitored and fined. Fines will be a fixed £70 reduced to £35 if paid early, or rising to £105 after a 'charge certificate' is issues.

Next meeting

Tuesday MAY 23rd

Advanced Driving TODAY

Des McDermott—TVGAM Chief Observer



KNOWL HILL - Village Hall RG10 9XB at 8.00 p.m.

Venue Map

