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TVGAM News

September 2026

[In this edition](#)

[Letter from the Chair](#)

[Your Committee](#)

[Our Autumn/Winter Events Programme](#)

[Chief's Observations](#)

[Membership Matters](#)

[TVGAM News](#)

[Media Corner](#)

[Next Meeting reminder](#)

[Venue Map](#)



Letter from the Chair

Alex Beeston

Alex provides an update on activities during the summer and looks ahead to the autumn programme.

To read Alex's letter please [Click here](#)

[At A Glance](#)

Your 2026/2027 Committee

Chair and Comms Manager - Alex Beeston

Secretary - Sarah Liddell Treasurer -

William Phaure Membership - Nick Room

Chief Observer - Des McDermott

Associate Co-ordinator - Nicki Kitching

Our Communications Team

Jenny Faulkner-Quick (Media)

John Peters (Editor)

Nick Edgley (Webmaster)



Our Autumn/Winter programme

(dates for your diary)

Tues 22nd September:

Collision Investigations
by Mohammed Zaid, Senior
Consultant & Technical Lead,
at the TRL

Tues 27th October: Older Drivers
Forum - Rob Heard

Tues 24th November: TVGAM
End of Year Event

More details on our website (as
they become available) at
tvgam.org.uk/events



Chief's Observations Des McDermott.

Des will be back in the next newsletter.



New Members

We are pleased to welcome **3** members who have joined since our July Edition:

We wish you all every success on your IAM Advanced Driving Course journey, delivered by TVGAM Observers.

William Spring from **Crowthorne**
Kirill Lyakhovets from **Reading**
Hilary Smethurst-Evans from **Bracknell**

27 New Members have joined TVGAM this year.

Test Passes and Memberships by Portfolio

Congratulations to the following Associates who have successfully achieved Full IAM Membership.

Associate
David Campbell-Montgomery

TVGAM Observer
Karen Allen

A further 7 Associates are Test Ready and we wish them every success on their drives.

12 associates have passed their Advanced Test or gained Membership by Portfolio with TVGAM this year. **6** of these are young drivers.



Don't forget your IAM Membership is now digital so look out for your reminder email six weeks before your annual subscription is due.

Payment can be made online but why not create a Direct Debit instead?

Don't forget to print your IAM Membership Card

Membership

All members must pay both an annual IAM Roadsmart membership subscription and a TVGAM membership fee to belong to TVGAM. Renewals are sent for upcoming renewals early in the month when your TVGAM membership will expire. At expiry (last day of the month), TVGAM memberships are suspended until payment is received, whereupon the renewal is effective until the anniversary of the original expiry (not extended to fill twelve months from payment).

Your IAM Membership is digital so when you receive your annual renewal invitation from the IAM you can pay your IAM membership by Direct Debit (currently saving £4 on renewals) or Card through your IAM website dashboard at Home | IAM RoadSmart or phone 0300 3031134.

For current TVGAM membership fees and payment methods please [Click Here](#).

TVGAM aims to help every Associate **complete their Advanced Driving Course within their first year** of joining IAM RoadSmart. IAM will only approve an extension when a Group genuinely cannot deliver the course within that timeframe.

In exceptional cases, IAM may review individual circumstances. However, if your course continues into a second year — whether delayed or extended — you'll need to **renew your IAM membership at your anniversary**, and **your TVGAM membership one year after joining**.

Associates continue to receive full IAM benefits throughout their course, so IAM cannot offer free extensions when progress falls outside the standard one-year period.

If you have any questions, your Observer or a Committee member is always happy to help.



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.

Nick Room
Membership Secretary

Digital Run Sheets - update

IAM RoadSmart Digital Run Sheets- DARTS Portal Guidance



Digital Run Sheet Project Update

Please be advised: This communication is intended for users who work with Group data. If this does not fit your role (for example, Trainers or Examiners), the information below may be disregarded.

We're sharing an update on the Run Sheets Project. Our internal testing phase has now been completed. If feedback has been provided to RoadSmart, their team is currently addressing the bugs and issues raised during this stage.

Next phase will see the full-scale Group testing/rollout commencing testing at the beginning of January. Once this testing is complete and the system is confirmed as ready, we will begin the rollout of digital sheets. Further information about the onboarding process will be communicated closer to this time.

Upcoming Changes to the DARTS Portal

As part of this project, you will notice several upcoming changes to the DARTS Portal, including:

Two new menu tabs: My Observed Runs and Group Observed Runs

- These tabs will only become accessible once your Group has been onboarded and provided with guidance on the new run sheet process.

A new Observer tab within the Group Assessment section

- This feature will also remain unavailable until your Group has completed onboarding.

Important Reminder: Data Protection Agreement

It is important that when logging into the DARTS Portal, you read and understand the Data Protection Agreement. This is important to ensure you are fully compliant with your data controller and/or processor before using the system.

Run Sheets, supporting **14 of our 28 Associates** currently on their ADC journey. This is a fantastic milestone and a real credit to your adaptability and commitment to delivering high-quality coaching.

Of the **remaining 14 Associates** still on pre-digital run sheets, **7 are already Test Ready**, and the other **7 are well over halfway through their 12 drives**. With your continued support, we can help every Associate maintain momentum and aim to complete their ADC training **within a year of allocation** — a standard that keeps the journey focused, achievable, and rewarding for both Associate and Observer.

Your encouragement, structure, and consistency make all the difference. Thank you for everything you do to keep TVGAM moving forward with energy and professionalism.



TVGAM will be there again this year working alongside Newbury Group

The Thames Valley Police Open Day
Saturday, 19 September 2026
from 10am to 4pm
TVP Training Centre in Sulhamstead,
Reading RG7 4DX.

Entrance to the site is free, and last entry will be at 3.30pm.

We need Volunteers to:

Chat to the public about Advanced Driving and Road Safety
Joining or rejoining an IAM Group
Book Taster Drives online via our website

Contact Alex on 07721 336820 or Chair@tvgam.org.uk asap please

The average attendance at this event is 8,000 – 10,000



One for our IAM President

Photographs by Alex Beeston at Haynes Motor Museum, Yeovil.

Seeing this famous Red 5 Williams at the Haynes Motor Museum in Yeovil — and reflecting on a recent holiday in Jersey — reminded me why we proudly recognise IAM President **Nigel Mansell**. His passion for road safety and his commitment to advanced driving continue to inspire our community. A champion on the track and a champion for safer roads, his leadership strengthens everything we do.

More ADAS on the way



Advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) is the overarching title for the technology in cars.

The UK Government's 2026 consultation confirms **18 vehicle safety technologies** it plans to mandate for GB type approval. These align closely with the EU's General Safety Regulation (GSR2).

15 are designed for fitting in cars and some are already fitted in UK models.

The Government consulted on **19 technologies** but decided **not to** mandate

[Click Here](#) for the full list.

Spain Mandates Emergency Beacons



From 1st January 2026, all vehicles registered in Spain must carry an emergency beacon instead of a warning triangle.

[Click Here](#) to read the article.

Thanks to Alec Mulvey for this item.

Do you follow TVGAM on Facebook or Instagram?
START TODAY by clicking on the icons on this TVGAM News footer.

Join Our Coaching Team!



Love driving and have some time to help others?
TVGAM is always looking for new Observers to coach our Associates to Advanced Driving standard.

 Full support and FREE IAM/TVGAM branded clothing when you qualify

 Last year was a record year for Test passes at TVGAM.
We're already over halfway to matching last year's Associate intake.

If you've got the time and enthusiasm, we'd love to hear from you.
Message us at Info@tvgam.org.uk or Chief@tvgam.org.uk **today** to find out more.

We're delighted to announce that Gary Kemp has joined the
TVGAM Observer Team.

Why not follow Gary's example - all it takes is a quick message.

[Volunteer Vacancies](#)

[We urgently need an Events Coordinator](#)

The group requires an Events Coordinator to help plan and arrange our group meetings and some local events to broaden our public image. We'll give you all the help and support you need to carry out this essential role.

Interested and want to know more! Please have a chat with Alex on 07721 336820.

[Photographer required](#)

We're looking for a photographer to cover Group Meetings and events. If you regularly attend group meetings please step forward and lend a hand. **Contact any Committee Member.**

[Media Corner](#)



To play: Click on the right mouse button and select open in new window.
A smooth drive increases car control, performance, economy and comfort.

with grateful acknowledgement to [Reg Local \(Reglocal.com\)](https://reglocal.com)

Learning advanced driving isn't guesswork — if you want something demonstrated, just ask your Observer

Next meeting

Tuesday 22nd September at 8pm

TRL

Mohammed Zaid

Senior Consultant |
Technical Lead at TRL

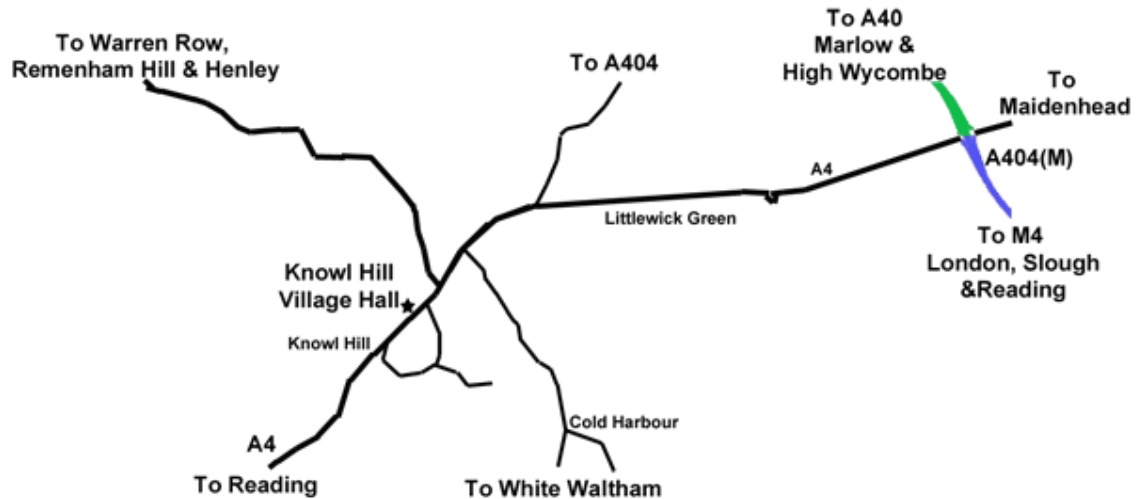
What Crashes Teach Us:
Turning Collision Investigation into Safer Roads

WHAT? HOW? WHY? WHERE?

COLLISION INVESTIGATOR

An interactive talk on Collision Investigations

Venue Map



ADDRESS: Knowl Hill Village Hall
Knowl Hill
Berkshire
RG10 9XB

GPS:51.508778, -0.814432



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Our Emailing address is:

Info@tvgam.org.uk

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