

# The Borders Observer

Newsletter of the Borders Group of Advanced Motorists

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## Inside this Issue

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- New members shown the ropes
- Programme for 2001/2002
- Review of year to date
- Changes to level and method of subscription

Editor: Peter Sandison

Please address any comments or contribute articles to the Editor. These would be gratefully received!

## Chief Examiner to visit Borders

Frank Stewart, the IAM Chief Examiner for Scotland, is to visit the Borders Group on Tuesday 13th June.

Mr. Stewart, who retired four years ago as a Chief Inspector after twenty years in the force, holds the Class 1 Police Advanced Driving Certificate, as well as the Police Advanced Driving Instructor's Certificate.

He has taught driving at all levels for many years, and has been an IAM Examiner for the past twenty years.

He was appointed Examiners' Liaison Officer for Scotland ten years ago, the first such appointment made by the Institute anywhere in the UK.

Coming as he does with such credentials, he is

ideally placed to give members an insight into all aspects of advanced driving and its testing.

His presentation should have something for everyone.

For new and prospective members he will be talking about what to expect on the test, and how to prepare for it.

For experienced members he will be giving details of the recently introduced "Special Assessment", which sets out to challenge even the best of drivers.

Details of the "Special Assessment" are given in the Summer 2000 issue of the IAM Magazine, *Advanced Driving*, but it will be interesting to get the "inside story" from someone so closely involved with the scheme.

Members who have had the privilege of hearing Mr. Stewart on a previous visit will remember his enthusiasm for the cause, and store of memorable driving anecdotes!

He may even give us the odd tip as to how we can avoid having a brush with members of his former profession!



## New members shown the ropes

The Group has continued to attract recruits to its introductory courses for new Associate members.

The last course, which took place over a weekend last month at the Kingsknowes Hotel, Galashiels, introduced eight

new members to the basics of Advanced Driving. They are now putting into practice the principles they learnt on the course, and will hopefully proceed to take the test later this year.

The next course is scheduled for the weekend of

the 16th/17th September, and we would welcome referrals from your friends, family, or colleagues.

We have had little advertising to do recently, as word of mouth has provided sufficient new recruits!

# Programme for 2000/2001 unveiled at AGM

Our Events Coordinator, Don Wainwright, has arranged a skilful blend of regular and new items on the programme for the coming year. Amongst the highlights are visits to:

- The Galashiels Ambulance Station, which proved extremely interesting on our last visit
- Borders Region Emergency Control Centre, for the first time
- Bells of Coldstream Mercedes dealership, a highlight of one of our previous programmes
- Open Road Classic Car Hire,

a new and exciting business venture in the Borders

- Glenvarigill Co. Ltd., a young dealership based in Selkirk
- Redpath Tyres in Duns, another highlight of a previous year's programme

Amongst the Guest Speakers for the coming Year are:

- The Chief Examiner for Scotland
- Borders Road Safety Officer
- Director of Technical Services of Scottish Borders Council

In addition to our regular monthly events, we are also planning some additional items, for which we require expressions of interest in advance. These include:

- Pro-Kart Racing at Race-land, Gladsmuir, East Lothian
- Skid Pan Training at Knockhill in Fife, which proved a "knockout" last year!
- HGV Manoeuvring in real HGVs!

Please register an interest for any or all of these events now!

## A positive start to the Millennium!

Highlight of the year to date was the visit in March to Edinburgh Airport, where members gained a fascinating insight into the work of the Airport Fire Service. We were given the opportunity to clamber on board the massive fire tenders, and were treated to a demonstration of the awesome "fire power" of the onboard water jets.

The 1999/2000 programme ended on a high note, with a very suc-

cessful AGM. The existing Committee were re-elected, and the evening was rounded up by a fascinating—if at times sobering—insight into the history and current practice of Accident Investigation. The presentation highlighted the most important cause of all so-called

"accidents" - the behaviour of road users. The antidote to this sorry toll lies in the three "E"s—Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. The Borders Group of the IAM will continue to play its role in helping to raise the level of the first of the "E"s—better EDUCATION.

*Advanced Test pass—*

*Congratulations to:*

**Julian Guest**

## Good Housekeeping

It was decided at the AGM to raise the membership fee for Full members from £7-50 to £10 per annum, and for Friends to £15. The Group has not raised its subscription for many years, and the Committee felt that we could be financially vulnerable if we did not do this now. In addition to this, we would like to implement some changes that would save costs and make

life easier! For example, we would encourage you to complete the attached Standing Order Mandate, which would make the collection of subscriptions much quicker and simpler for us all. And instead of having a variable start date for subs, we would like them to run from 30th September each year. We would hope to maintain the new level of subscription for as

long as possible, and continue to streamline our operation. In particular, we could make much more use of modern communications, by, for example, sending out information and newsletters by email for those who are "wired up".

If you have any comments or suggestions, please let the Editor know!