



Borders Observer

www.bordersiam.org.uk

June/July 2004

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Borders win again!

Members of the Borders Group and Alnwick and District Group of Advanced Motorists, met at Cornhill Village Hall on Sunday 25th April for a competitive and friendly motoring quiz. Both teams were fairly well matched BUT the Borders Group scored 167 points to win by ten overall in what was a very enjoyable afternoon. The social side of meeting up with other Groups is essential to the well being of the club and members are encouraged to participate in the rematch in September - more details in next issue.



The competitors, shown above, were as follows:
Borders Group - Glen Guthrie, Colin Ross, Grant Morrison and Mike Dall.

Alnwick Group - Peter Slater, Gillian Hogg, John Atkin and Kevin Whitehead.

Moto Roadstars

The Institute of Advanced Motorists has teamed up with MOTO, Britain's biggest motorway service area operator to find the country's safest driver.

This competition, which has three classes: car, truck and motorcycle is easy to enter and carries excellent prizes.

You can enter by picking up a form at any of the MOTO service areas around the country or by completing form on-line at www.moto-way.co.uk

Answering the questions correctly on the entry form could see you on your way to winning an ultimate driving experience day or a day at the Ron Haslam Racing Academy. Either of these are great prizes.

Successful entrants will compete in



regional finals and those winners in turn will compete in national finals. Judging by the questions in the application form, members of the IAM will have an good head start. Go on, get a form, enter and become a winner for the Border Group. You know you've got it in you.

The closing date is 9 July 2004 so you'll have to get a move on.

Mike Dall

Forthcoming Events

6 July - Inside TRL

TRL (Transport Research Laboratory) has been at the forefront of transport and road safety research for over 70 years. Kevin Hamilton, a Senior Researcher at TRL will give an insight into the history and work of TRL. **Bucleuch Arms Hotel, St. Boswells. 7.30pm**

3 August - Foreign Motorcycle Travels

Our monthly evening meeting where local motorcyclist, Ken McLean will give an account of his exotic travels with his motorcycle. This promises to be an interesting talk. **Bucleuch Arms Hotel, St. Boswells. 7.30pm**

15 August - Observation Drive

Something a bit different to get you out and about on a summer afternoon. A combined bike/car run starting from the Kingsknowe Hotel, Galashiels (to be confirmed) with observation points along the way. Finish up with a high tea at the Kingsknowe (please note that at the time of printing, the venue was still to be confirmed - confirmation available from Morag Sterrick or Mike Dall). **King-sknowe Hotel, Galashiels. 2.00pm**

AGM - May 2004

The 2004 AGM was well attended and the following reports were made by each of the office bearers:

Chairman's Report

I would like to say thank you to all the members for the help given during the past year. The committee members for all their time and commitment in the organising and running of the group. The Assessors who give of their time willingly to assist new members prepare for their the Advanced Driving/Riding Tests.

Peter Sandison has intimated that he no longer wishes to continue as news Editor. We thank him for the time and work that he has already given to this. The Group will be looking for a replacement.

This year it is a pleasure to tell you the Group has been successful in the various competitions in which members have participated. The social side of the club is important. To those members who are working towards their Advanced Test good luck and to those who have been successful congratulations. A new programme of events for the coming year is being finalised and a new syllabus will be out soon.

And finally a word to all members, the Group belongs to you, so active participation is required for its future success.

Treasurer's Report

As you can see from the account sheet it has been a good year for the Group with us managing to acquire a lottery grant of £4737. This was spent on the computer equipment and radios for the new motorcycle section.

The major increase in expenditure compared to last year is the cost of insurance. This has risen on two counts. Firstly the original agreement with HQ has ended and a new agreement was put in place. Secondly the extra cost for the computer equipment the Group now owns.

Membership fees are up from last year due to the new motorcycle members we have. We must thank Mike Dall and Glen Guthrie for the work they have put in to this new section.

Secretary's Report

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the Borders Group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists 2004 Annual General Meeting.

Tonight brings to a close what has been possibly the most exciting and busy year that we as members of the group have ever witnessed. It certainly has been an exciting and eventful first year for me in my position as Secretary of the Group.

2003 saw the group receiving funding from the National Lottery. This funding allowed the Group to purchase a truly State of the Art Dell laptop computer along with a large package of software, a composite compact disc, DVD and video player and projection equipment. This equipment package has immediately allowed the Group to apply an even greater level of professionalism to its presentation to our new Associates, at both the Spring and Autumn Car Courses. The same equipment has also been used most successfully at talks given to outside groups.

The Laptop will allow benefits to the group's publishing capabilities as well. We can therefore, it is hoped, expect an expanded, more regular and more informative newsletter this coming year.

This equipment has been purchased for the group and is therefore for the use of the membership and it is hoped that any member requiring it, may have the use of it for worthwhile projects.

The 2003/2004 season also saw the introduction for the first time to the Borders Group of a Motorcycle section. Those of you who know me will be aware of how close to my heart this particular subject is.

Our first year has been a great success with four Associates taking up the challenge and we have already commenced our second season with a new influx of Associates. The original four are getting closer to being ready to sit their Advanced Riding Tests and should provide the Group with its first "Group generated", Full Members of Borders Group of Advanced Motorcy-

clists. Let's all wish them success in their endeavours. The Lottery funding also allowed the Group to purchase two-way radio sets permitting bike to bike communication and Hi-Viz vests complete with the IAM logo applied for the Motorcycle Observers to wear during training rides. This equipment is already in use and is proving highly beneficial.

Glen Guthrie, our Senior Motorcycle Observer spent some time preparing for his Senior Observer Examination and passed this test mid-season.

Glen also competed in the EDAM annual motorcycling competition, the Laidlaw Trophy. This is a particularly difficult competition to do well in and to earn a place on the podium at all, is a great achievement. Congratulations are therefore due to Glen for his efforts as he was placed runner-up. We do however expect a win next time Glen!

The Borders Group has taken part in several other inter-group competitions throughout the season. Richard Scott represented the Group this year at the National Inter-group competition held in Fife.

Recently we put together a team to contest the Fred Welch Trophy. This is an annual, postal inter-group quiz and it is set by the most devious minds on the planet and takes two hours to complete. (Or maybe it only seemed to take that long!) All the Scottish Groups take part in this so there is fairly stiff competition. Our team, which consisted of Mary Davison, Kevin Hamilton and myself, came in a creditable, close, second place to the Gordon Group, with Livingston trailing in third place.

Even more recently, The Borders Group took part in the cross-border competition against our near neighbours, Alnwick Group. Our Team, Glen Guthrie, Grant Richardson, Colin Ross and myself soundly beat them (yet again!) 167 points to 157. No doubt they will attempt to turn the tables on us the next time so we'd all better prepare ourselves to utterly trounce them.

These competitions are really good fun and we really would like to see more members getting involved in

AGM Reports (continued)

them. Even members coming along as supporters would be great. We hope that by producing more regular newsletters, carrying news of these as forthcoming events, will go some way towards achieving this.

We've had some good talks this year from our various invited speakers and members have had the opportunity to visit the Ambulance Station in Galashiels. Most unfortunately several events and talks have had to be cancelled off at the last minute this year. This is very regrettable but could not be helped. Our speakers are all volunteers and sometimes their business commitments and schedules change at the last minute. This year these coincidences conspired to occur with maximum effect on our programme.

Hopefully the coming season's programme of events will not be spoilt like this and we will all enjoy a good mixed bag of interesting talks and outdoor events.

There have been two additions to the Group's team of Assessors this season. Martyn Buckley has re-joined the ranks and Ian Sinclair has joined us also. These two gentlemen will be a great asset to the Group in their Assessing role.

Whilst on the subject of new Assessors, The Group would like to mention the help and assistance offered to us by

Motorcycle Member Dave MacFarlane. The Operations Director of David Harrison of Peebles, Dave very generously offered the Group the use of a new Focus C-Max to assist us in training our new Assessors over a weekend. This was a fantastic offer and we'd like to thank Dave and Harrison's once more for this.

Both the Car Courses this year have been well subscribed and there have been some Advanced Driving Test successes already from these, with more to come we are sure. Congratulations to all those who have succeeded so far and best wishes and encouragement to those still in the process of adopting the ways of the Institute.

Grateful thanks are once again due to the Groups core of Assessors who volunteer their time and expertise to the Group and their Associates. Thanks are also due to the individual members of the Group's Committee for their efforts in providing the programme of events, the Newsletter, and the man(and woman)power at all the events.

The year ahead, 2004/2005 looks exciting and interesting. There will be challenges for every one to meet, if they so wish, in the form of Advanced Driving and Riding Tests, inter-group competitions and so on. There will be plenty of fun to be had too. Glen and I along with our respective ladies, are

off on an organised, annual jaunt this month along with the EDAM group to Plockton for a long weekend of concentrated motorcycling on empty, brilliant roads. There are thirty bikes going and we have literally "taken over" the village for the weekend having booked out all the B+B's and the Hotel. Our own Motorcycle members can expect plenty of "fun-runs" alongside their training schedule to fill out their year and perhaps we could organise some car and bike runs too to involve everyone.

The Group as a whole always needs its members to volunteer to help out at the events it promotes and especially looks to the members to join in with all the competitive events.

The Group is very much looking to expand the size of the Committee this year. We are looking to our members to step forward and join the Committee and the various sub-Committees which will be formed to help suggest, plan and run the events during the coming months and so help develop and expand the Group and its activities further.

I will close now with a final thanks to all of you the members for your support through the year and your attendance tonight and I hope that you will continue to support the Borders Group of Advanced Motorists into the future.

June Meeting

We were all looking forward to the presentation by PC Robbie Noble from the Police Traffic Division on "Cruisers" and his work with young drivers in the Borders. However an urgent unscheduled operational requirement on the day had him driving to Inverness rather than to the IAM at St. Boswells. We knew there was a small risk that an emergency duty would take precedence, and Robbie has offered to give his talk at one of our nights when he is off-duty. Committee member Bob McKendrick became "substitute speaker" for the night.

First he presented a video (thanks to the Police Road Safety Unit). This was a compilation of 14 road safety adverts prepared for Irish television, aimed at the effects of drink, drugs and speeding on driving and their contributing factors in crash situations. The attitudes and restrictions in Ireland are different to here, and this excellent video presented in very realistic graphic detail simulated accidents. Every clip gave a hard hitting message in a way and detail we do see on our television screens.

Before showing the video, there was a lot of chat and humour in the room. The stark contrast of silence at the end demonstrated the profound impact it had. The discussion that followed gave a unanimous opinion that this "shock tactic" way of presenting a road safety message would be beneficial in the UK.

The second part of the evening was the presentation of selected parts from a new Observer Training CD, with some audience participation to keep the grey cells active.



Marie Curie Driving Challenge

Ever wanted to drive a fire engine or a bus? Well now you can and raise money for charity to boot! Marie Curie Cancer Care is holding a 'Driving Challenge' on 17 October at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston. The challenge is open to teams and individuals and is dependent on raising £75 sponsorship. A couple of brave souls from the Borders group are putting themselves forward and if you are interested you need to pay a £10 registration fee. For details and registration pack contact Anne MacIntyre on 01573 224 440.

Vintage Outing

As a result of having given a presentation to them in March 2004, the Borders Vintage Agricultural Association kindly invited the Group to attend their Annual Rally at Springwood Park, Kelso, on Sunday 16th May. Two of our more "vintage" members, Bob McKendrick and Peter Sandison, duly set up a table in the new Exhibition Hall, sandwiched between the stalls of the model boats and the donkey refuge! Our display included the IAM introductory video and a laptop programmed to give a new PowerPoint presentation about the Institute. Although it was classic ice-cream weather, and we were of course inside, we managed to attract the attention of quite a few passers-by to pass on the advanced motoring message. We even managed to recruit some new members, which made the effort put in to attending the Rally very worthwhile. We did not win a prize for the best display, but at least had time to do a lightning visit of the rest of the Show and see some of the award-winning exhibits.

The Rally is highly recommended to all as an outing on a lovely summer's day!

Peter Sandison

Helmet Safety

It seems that horse riders get better information about the safety of their helmets than bikers. The British Horse Federation has a helmet assessment programme which is far better than anything available to motorcyclists. A recent IAM conference highlighted the issue and suggested that a rating system for helmet safety be introduced.

John Taylor, IAM staff examiner said "I was surprised to find that horse riders have a wealth of information regarding the standard of hats and helmets available to them - but there is no real equivalent for motorcycle riders. Jokey ears are not so funny if you come off a bike. I am sure many riders are unaware that they can actually increase the injuries received by increasing the likelihood of rotation on impact."

"We all need to be better informed about the helmet we are choosing to buy," said Mr Taylor. "The adoption of the EuroNCAP scheme star rating for motorcyclists' helmets would help greatly in this regard. You would finally be able to choose your helmet based on its ability to protect you - something that is currently missing - unless you are a horse rider that is!" For further details see the IAM website at www.iam.org.uk.

How safe is your car ?

On 24 June, the latest round of safety tests from Euro NCAP are announced. The Euro NCAP programme gives motoring consumers reliable and accurate comparative information regarding the safety performance of individual car models. Whilst all new car models must pass certain safety tests before they are sold, legislation provides only a minimum statutory standard of safety for new cars and it is the aim of Euro



NCAP to encourage manufacturers to exceed these minimum requirements. The Euro NCAP tests include front impact, side impact, pole impact and pedestrian safety. Cars are given scores in each test and are then awarded an overall 'star' rating.

You can visit the Euro NCAP website at www.euroncap.com to see whether your car achieves the coveted 5-star rating.

Newsletter News

You may have noticed that the newsletter has changed slightly from previous editions. The plan is to provide you with regular updates of Group news and events together with some interesting snippets of IAM and motoring news.

If you have any comments on the new format or if you feel like contributing, please contact the newsletter editor, Kevin Hamilton on 01506 412386 or e-mail:

iam@kevham.co.uk

Congratulations

Bob Britton

Who recently passed the IAM
Advanced Driving Test

Welcome!

To the following who recently joined
the Borders Group:

Full Members

Vickie Wood

Associates

Christopher Butler, Louise
Butler, Bill Allison, Willa Carr,
Laura Murdanaigum, Thomas
Rumble, Callum Smith

Motorcycle Associate

Anthony Graham

