



Borders Observer

www.bordersiam.org.uk

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In the nick!

On the 5th April, 14 members voluntarily entered the Galashiels Police Station for a superb visit with PC Derek Turnbull and WPC Karen Irvine. The grand tour included the CCTV operation room to see the "other end" of the cameras around the town (they can identify "wanted" vehicles using number plate recognition), and a detailed look inside a Volvo patrol car and onboard equipment and a demo of the "Stinger". The planned visit to the cells was cancelled at the last second due to the arrival of "Customers".

After coffee and cakes we were treated to three short films - a Strathclyde driver training video; a video footage of an actual high speed chase in Edinburgh taken in 1996, (due to new operational and public safety guidelines this would have been called off if happening now); and finally a short video,



made especially for our visit by Derek, showing his drive through Galashiels without commentary, then re-run with Derek pointing out hazards and his observations. These were most interesting.

We also experienced a hand/eye co-ordination test wearing a very strange pair of spectacles! Each member put on the said spectacles and was asked to look upwards for a second or two before putting a teabag into a bowl. Of course, we all thought this would be easy but the spectacles give the wearer the 'drunk' effect and it proved a lot more difficult than expected.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable evening.

Bob McKendrick and Morag Sterrick

Events Programme

3 May 2005 - AGM and Talk on 'The Advanced Driving Test'

Andrew MacLean, one of the IAM examiners for the Borders will give a talk on the IAM test process. 7.30pm Buccleuch Arms Hotel, St Boswells

7 June 2005 - Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue

(postponed from December)
7.30pm Mountain Rescue Centre, Goslawdales, Selkirk

2 August 2005 - BMW Selkirk

(postponed from February)
7.30pm Dunedin Motor Company, Riverside Park, Selkirk

9 September 2005 - Alexander Bus Factory and Falkirk Wheel

This trip around the famous Alexander bus factory promises to be an interesting day out. After a tour of the factory, we intend to visit the Falkirk Wheel. Please note that is on a Friday so get the date in your diary and places are limited to 20. More details in the next newsletter.

4 October 2005 - Driving Standards Agency Talk

7.30pm Buccleuch Arms Hotel, St Boswells

1 November 2005 - SEAT Dealership, Earlston

7.30pm J Rutherford SEAT dealer, Earlston



From the Chairman

Once again another Annual General Meeting is just a few days away. Please make the effort to attend the meeting. The committee of the Borders Group have worked very hard to address the issues raised at last years AGM. I would like to think that the membership can see the results that have been achieved. If you have any matters arising that you want to voice then please do so.

into the forth coming programme, has decided that due to family commitments she is unable to give any more time to this position. Therefore the committee would welcome someone to fill this role for the future.

The past year has been very successful. Both the car and the motorcycle sections have attracted new members. What I would emphasise is that associates have to put in the work at becoming an Advanced Motorist. There is a standard to be maintained, but any enthusiastic motorist should be keen to rise to that challenge. With the numbers that have joined up and under guidance by our volunteer observers, the Borders Group should have one of the best Test results in its history. Morag Sterrick our events secretary who has done an excellent job in arranging the monthly meetings for the past year and

Unfortunately due to committee members' work commitments the Borders Group is not always represented at local and national IAM meetings that we should and would like to attend. This is something that we need to address. There is always room for new blood on the committee. The more members that become involved in the running of the group the easier it becomes for all.

Finally our guest speaker following the AGM is Andrew McLean, IAM examiner for the Borders. The topic of his talk will be "The Advanced Driving Test". I am sure this will be of great interest to all concerned - particularly those Associates who are currently preparing for their Test! I hope to see you all there.

Raymond Black

Grant Passes!

Yet another test pass for the Borders Group. Group Chairman, Raymond Black is pictured above congratulating Grant Morrison on his recent success whilst presenting him with his well deserved certificate.

Bob McKendrick

Selkirk Rotary Club

On Wednesday 30th March Bob McKendrick gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Rotary Club of Selkirk, covering the work of our Group, the IAM, and what Advanced Driving is all about. Their club is small, but most members came to their weekly meeting, filling the room with an enthusiastic, interested and lively audience. Ten "Skills for Life" leaflets were taken, with one gentleman showing a keen interest in signing-up.

Bob McKendrick

Kelso BikeFest

17 July, Springwood Park, Kelso

The BMF Bikefest, held in Kelso's Springwood Park on the banks of the river Tweed, is "probably the most relaxing motorcycle show in the world". Included in a weekend camping pass (£18 in advance) are live bands and evening entertainment on Friday and Satur-

day, organised ride-outs to local places of interest on Saturday, and Kelso Bikefest itself on Sunday. Arena displays, trade stands, an indoor bar with seating area and a funfair all go to complete this great event. Admission for the Bikefest day on Sunday is £8.

The Borders Group will be represented at the event and if you'd like more information, see the BMF website at:

www.bmf.co.uk/events05mini/kelso05/index.html

Welcome

To the following new members of the Borders Group:

- Graham Pogson**
- Andrea Pogson**
- Bill Smith**
- Chris Palgrave**

Contributions

If you have any comments on the newsletter or if you feel like contributing, please contact the newsletter editor,

Kevin Hamilton on 01506 412386 or e-mail: iam@kevham.co.uk

Your articles and contributions would be gratefully received - after all, it is YOUR newsletter. The copy deadline for the next issue is **Friday 17 June.**

Congratulations

Bruce Baker

who passed his Advanced Driving Test recently.

Well done !

NOTICE
Annual General Meeting
Borders Group
of Advanced Motorists

To be held on Tuesday May 3rd 2005
at the Buccleuch Arms Hotel
St Boswells
7.30pm

AGENDA

- 1) Chairman's Welcome
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Minutes of the 2004 AGM
- 4) Matters arising
- 5) Chairman's report- Raymond Black
- 6) Secretary's report- Mike Dall
- 7) Treasurer's report- Marjorie McKendrick
- 8) Nomination of Committee and Election of Office bearers
- 9) Programme for 2005
- 10) AOCB

Date of the next AGM

Address to members from Andy MacLean our IAM Examiner and of Lothian and Borders Police Traffic Dept.

Mike Dall
Secretary

Journey observations

I consider myself to be above average when it comes to reading the road ahead. I have been trained to have keen powers of observation through 360 degrees. But sometimes I wonder how observant the majority of drivers are out there? Many drivers at the wheel of a moving vehicle (some professional) seem to have their mind on other matters entirely. Drivers can be seen eating, drinking, lighting up, reading the back page of the morning paper, delivery notes, map reading, steering with their elbows, combing their hair - sometimes with both hands. Regarding the use of both hands I observed recently a PCV driver negotiating a busy roundabout, right hand holding a mobile phone to right ear, left hand used to move gear lever - enough said! What do YOU see when you are driving?

Raymond Black

Scottish Motorcycle Show

The IAM was well represented at the Scottish Motorcycle Show in March. This is the biggest single motorcycle event in Scotland and is a focus for the motorcycling community in Scotland as it heralds the start of the riding season. The show had lots to see including stands from most of the major bike manufacturers, a display of vintage and classic bikes and safety initiatives including Bikesafe. Glen Guthrie and Mike Dall helped man the IAM stand over the course of the weekend and a total of 58 'Skill for Life' applications were received - 4 of these for the Borders Group.

Kevin Hamilton



White Van Woman

Studies of young drivers in America and Japan have revealed that females are now just as aggressive as males and display similar levels of competitiveness and sensations seeking behind the wheel. According to the latest edition of *Advanced Driving*, the magazine of the IAM, this trend is beginning to affect UK roads too. *Advanced Driving* quotes latest Home Office figures stating that although men still account for the vast majority of motoring offences, the number of women getting traffic convictions, particularly speeding, has risen by 50 per cent in the last eight years.

Commentators attribute the rise in female lawlessness to women's changing social roles and greater independence, as well as the fact that more women are driving big, powerful cars which give them an exaggerated feeling of personal security and lead to a less cautious approach on the road.

"Bad driving by either sex is a cause for concern. We don't need the lad-ette culture putting our safety at risk. I know that 'White Van Woman' may not actually be in a Transit but she could have attitudes that can create problems for the rest of us on the road," said Christopher Bullock, IAM Chief Executive.

Source: IAM Press office

Last month's competition

Last month's competition winner was Bob McKendrick who correctly answered all ten questions. The correct answers were:

**Q1 - A, Q2 - C, Q3 - C Q4 - B,
Q5 - C, Q6 - B, Q7 - B, Q8 - A,
Q9 - C, Q10 - A**

Britain's Roads Get Safer



- Unless you're a Biker

Britain's roads are getting safer to drive on, according to an AA Motoring Trust report that assesses the risk of road users being killed or seriously injured. The report, *EuroRAP 2005: British Results*, analyses accident data from 850 main roads and colour-codes them on Risk-Rate maps under standards set by the European Road Assessment Programme (EuroRAP). The Trust's report also reveals that if similar road types, such as single carriageway roads, with above-average risk rates improved to just the average safety rating, more than 200 lives would be saved annually.

A 'mini massacre' of motorcyclists on some rural main roads continues to undermine significant safety improvements. The impact of motorcycling is such that the most high-risk road listed – the A537, Buxton-Macclesfield – would be among Britain's safer roads if there were no motorcycle accidents.

The key results from the report are:

- * British roads are getting safer – roads rated as high- or medium-risk for death and serious injury have fallen by almost 30% since 2002;

- * The risk of death or serious injury on Britain's roads is one of the lowest in Europe;

- * Highest-risk roads are ten times more dangerous than the safest;

- * Large numbers of motorcycling accidents on some rural roads un-

dermine the overall improvement in the safety of Britain's highways;

- * On the most dangerous stretches of road, one person, and as many as seven, is killed or seriously injured for every mile over the three-year measurement period;

- * 60 per cent of road deaths (more than 70 per cent in Scotland) occur outside built-up areas, mostly on single carriageway roads.

Bert Morris, Director of the AA Motoring Trust says: "We now know the roads where deaths and serious injuries are routine and predictable. Our analysis highlights where resources can be targeted to save most lives. 'Big-wins' in road safety, such as compulsory seatbelt wearing or changing attitudes to drink-driving have saved thousands of lives.

"The report shows how relatively simple road-engineering solutions, together with speed compliance technology, on 'unforgiving' roads could also slash the death toll on British roads. All roads can be made much safer for the great majority of responsible road users.

Morris adds: "The identification of the relative dangers of British roads has yet to provoke a major public response. There would be an outcry if similar league tables were published about the relative safety of different stretches of railway, even though death and injury rates are far lower than on roads."

Source: www.eurorap.org.uk

Lexus Most Satisfying Again!

Lexus has once again topped the J.D. Power and Associates UK Customer Satisfaction Study, claiming the 2005 Gold Award for an extraordinary fifth successive year. The luxury car brand scored a total of 848 points out of 1000 in the ownership satisfaction survey, well above the industry average of 786 points.

In addition to topping the rankings for overall satisfaction, Lexus was the industry leader in the Quality/Reliability and Vehicle Appeal categories. The Lexus IS200/300 range was the second highest placed model overall in the survey.

The 2005 J.D. Power survey, presented in conjunction with What Car? magazine, was conducted among drivers of cars registered between September 2002 and August 2003. The results were drawn up from more than 23,000 completed questionnaires from both private owners and company car drivers.

Steve Settle, Lexus Director, said: "We are thrilled to be awarded our fifth consecutive Gold Award, a worthy acknowledgment of the excellent work done by our

network of centres and the Lexus GB team to ensure our customers experience superior levels of satisfaction. "It is also quite significant that we are still number one this long after we first topped the survey. This current survey assesses customers that purchased their vehicles after we had been awarded Gold Awards in 2001 and 2002, so these owners had even higher expectations of Lexus delivering exceptional customer satisfaction.

"The next 12 months will see an exciting range of new models join the Lexus line up and we will continue to strive to deliver even higher levels of customer service to all Lexus owners."

In 2005 Lexus has also retained its number one position in the latest Dealer Attitude Survey conducted by the National Franchised Dealers Association and was again named Best Manufacturer in the 2005 Driver Power report published in Auto Express magazine.

Source: www.lexus.co.uk

Wake up!

A new driver tiredness campaign was launched at Easter with two new radio ads, publicity campaign materials and brand partnership activity.

The campaign is centred primarily on radio advertising as this enables us to target drivers in-situ, at a point when the driver tiredness message will have most relevance to them. The advertising is supported with publicity materials and reinforced with the key message: Tiredness kills. Make time for a break.

The Department for Transport carried out focus group research on the driver tiredness campaign last year and it is this new research which has given a fresh insight into how the driver tiredness campaign should be developed. The qualitative research explored attitudes to the driver tiredness campaign

and identified the best ways of taking it forward.

The main findings of the attitudes among the sample were that drivers believed a good journey was one that could be made without stopping at all. For many, the solution to fatigue was to wind down the windows and turn up the music and for male drivers refuelling the car or stopping for food or to go to the toilet was seen as 'taking a break'. Male drivers aged 23-27 years, felt the government's advice was unrealistic, however some business drivers were intrigued by the 15 minute rest break concept. From this research the DfT has been able to develop a new and integrated campaign focusing on three key areas targeted at three key audiences:

* 18-30 year old males - primary target group as research suggests that

SLEEPING PARTNER?

IF YOU'RE IN BUSINESS YOU NEED TO WAKE UP TO THE DANGERS OF DRIVING TIRED



Tiredness Kills. Make time for a break.

www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk

THINK

they are more likely to fall asleep at the wheel.

* Leisure drivers - driver further distances at key bank holiday times than they are used to.

* Driving for work - 40% of all fatigue related crashes involve someone who was at work at the time.

www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk

Competition Time

This month's quiz is for the bikers with all the answers to be found in *Motorcycle Roadcraft*. Yet again, Raymond has agreed to provide a small mystery prize for the winning entry. Answers on a postcard or by e-mail to be received by **31 May** to Raymond Black, 8 Station Cottages, Cornhill-on-Tweed, TD12 4SB e-mail: raymond@bordersiam.org.uk.

Q1 From Roadcraft it says that for more than 90% of traffic accidents the cause is:

- A Accident black spots
- B Road or vehicle defects
- C Human error
- D Disobeying road signs

Q2 Roadcraft says that a moving machine is at its most stable when:

- A It is under deceleration
- B Under firm acceleration
- C Just pulling without increasing speed
- D Accelerating on a curved path

Q3 What is the "Basic Riding Safety Rule"?

- A Never exceed the machines capabilities
- B Be able to stop in the shortest possible distance
- C Always wear a safety helmet
- D Be able to stop on your own side of the road within the distance you can see to be clear

Q4 Roadcraft says when "using the gears" you should aim to

1. Know the approximate maximum road speed for each gear of the machine
2. Make all gear changes smoothly
3. Know how many gears your machine has and use them all
4. Develop good hand and feet control for a smooth gear change
5. Know where neutral is
6. Be in the correct gear for the road speed and traffic situation

Is it?

- A 1 – 3 – 4
- B 1 – 2 – 6
- C 3 – 5 – 6
- D 2 – 4 – 5

Q5 What is the standard advice for manoeuvring?

- A Rear observation, manoeuvre, signal
- B Signal, rear observation, signal
- C Rear observation, signal, manoeuvre
- D Manoeuvre, rear observation, signal

Q6 From the chapter in Roadcraft on observations what is the advice regarding metal covers?

- A Avoid them at all costs
- B Avoid them where you can
- C Ride over them slowly
- D Accelerate over them

Q7 In planning for hazards what should be taken into account when deciding 'what to do'?

1. What can be seen
2. What cannot be seen
3. What might reasonably be expected to happen
4. Which hazard represents the greatest threat
5. What to do if things turn out differently from expected

Are they?

- A 1 – 3 – 4 – 5
- B 1 – 2 – 4 – 5
- C 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
- D 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

Q8 What is the "limit point"?

- A A point where your view reappears
- B The furthest point along the road to which you have an uninterrupted view of the road surface
- C The farthest point along the road that you can see clearly without vision aids
- D A point in the distance where a new speed limit starts

Q9 Roadcraft advises with regard to positioning that "when riding along a row of parked vehicles get into the habit of asking yourself":

- A Am I close enough to avoid oncoming vehicles
- B Could I stop in time if a child ran out
- C Do I need to consider a horn warning
- D Am I making sufficient progress to avoid holding up following vehicles

Q10 In the information phase what do the letters T.U.G. signify?

- A Time. Use. Give.
- B Take. Use. Grasp.
- C Take. Up. Grasp.
- D Take. Use. Give.



Borders Group of Advanced Motorists

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Views expressed in Borders Observer are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Borders Group or the IAM.

