

# Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers



## June Newsletter - 2024 (edition 109)

### Can I predict the future?

Probably not, but in the last newsletter I wrote about the importance of maintaining your vehicles and how we often see cars littering the side of the M27 and A31 across the New Forest. Late Wednesday afternoon I was driving back from Farnborough after spending a few days in the office (sounds like a good excuse for cutting it a bit fine with this newsletter).

Some of the vehicles were business based, such as the white Mercedes Sprinter van which was spotted with its bonnet up on the M3. Following the German theme; a 3 series BMW was parked up near to Cranford Bottom with its hazard lights on and bonnet open. You always like to think of German engineering as being some of the best around (maybe they just don't like the heat!). Closer to home a Vauxhall was parked on the side of Weymouth Way. The passenger rather bizarrely was making the most of the sunshine and leaning against the back of the car reading a book when I passed! Finally a Nissan (can't remember what model) was spotted in the hard shoulder of the M27. Most likely not the best of days for their drivers/owners.

The current issue of IAM RoadSmart has an article about carrying out maintenance on your own vehicle. I guess I fall into the same camp as many of our members who grew up helping their Dad's work on the family car. We learned the basics of engines, and gained skills such as oil changes, replacing brake pads and disks (or shoes/drums), timing, and even cambelt changes. For my earlier cars I carried on this tradition, however there are some jobs that I now shy away from. I do keep the tradition alive for some tasks.

There are a number of reasons; those being the cramped engine bay which we have to work in, and quite often there is a need for a special tool (or tools) to complete the job. I've never used a cam locking

kit, instead some careful markings with tip-ex from the old to new belts and a 5.5mm drill bit worked as a suitably locking pin. That was on my old Skoda Octavia mk1 which covered around 250k miles under my ownership before I part ex'd it. Since then I've not tackled a cambelt change, and likewise my current car needs its gearbox serviced every 40k miles. Not an overly challenging task, but one that I've taken the view on: I could do it, or I could let an local auto-gearbox garage do the work. They are well versed with the procedure and have all the tools. If time was on my side, then I'd be more tempted to have a go, but having a garage with a nice lift certainly is better than crawling around on the garage floor. More excuses I know. However, I do think that having the basic skills and knowledge is more likely to make for a mechanically-kind driver. If you understand how all the components in the braking-system work, you may change your approach to driving (although I am sure that none of us as advanced drivers need to regularly go stamping on the brakes). I always feel that anyone who gets out of my car and slams the door (or boot) is someone who lacks mechanical sympathy.

In an earlier newsletter (February, I think) I published an article mainly focused at our members from the Bournemouth and District Group, in particular those who were paying their membership by Standing Order. A slightly updated version of that article is included here, as different parts will apply to all members. I would like to add that if you opt to pay your Group Membership by Standing Order then it makes my admin life much easier – and also means less faffing about with cheques and visits to the bank!

Once we have all the Group Memberships figured out I'll then be looking collect Gift Aid forms (for those which it is appropriate), as we can claim 25% back on top of your membership fees. This all helps to support the local Group and continues to enable us to do our bit to make the roads of Dorset safer through the IAM Advanced Drivers course.

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As always, I hope you find this newsletter informative and if you have any articles which you feel would be interesting to members, or topics brought up for discussion then I am all ears.  
Stay safe & happy motoring,

*Matt Ames*

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### IAM Test passes for the Group

Congratulations to our latest Full members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group who have recently passed their IAM RoadSmart test:

Patrick Atkinson - Peta Steadman Bee  
Brian Carr (F1RST) - Martyn McCarthy

Great driving and thanks to our Observer Team for helping you achieve your pass.

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### Forthcoming Social events

#### 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Scheduled, but with a change of speaker (TBC).

#### 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024

No social event planned.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Keith Mitchell who is Governor at Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation will be talking to the Group.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Alyson Moore from Dorset Police will be talking to the Group about various police matters.

Time: Doors open from 1900

Location: Wimborne Town Football Club, Ainsley Road, Wimborne BH21 2FU

Drinks can be purchased from the bar from 1900, talk starts at 1930. Accessing Wimborne Town football club can be a bit of a fine art. Recommended access is to follow Lonsdale Road (from the B3073) through the new housing estate, and then turn left onto Ains-

ley Road, and park in the ground's carpark on the right.

As always the latest information about Group Social evenings can be found on our website at: <https://www.bdiam.org.uk/social-events/>

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### Group Annual Membership fee

With the recent merging of the Dorset Group with the Bournemouth & District Group, as previously communicated we have decided to take the opportunity to re-align our membership renewal date. Group membership cost will remain the same at £10 per member, or £15 for couples for the year commencing 1st December 2024.

For any ex-Dorset Group members your existing Standing Orders will fail to transfer funds, as the Dorset bank account (held with HSBC) has now been closed so we would recommend that you cancel the existing Standing Order via online banking (or in your local branch).

Members of the ex-Bournemouth and District Group the bank account details remain the same; but the payment date should be changed to the 1st December (paying annually). Please ensure that the reference is your IAM Membership number. If you make a change to your existing Standing Order please can you let me know (membership@bdiam.org.uk) so that I can make a note on our records, otherwise we'll have to assume you have cancelled it and need to set up a new one.

We will be emailing all members in due course asking them to set Standing Order payments via their online banking app. Those who don't have this facility we can provide a form to be filled in - please let me know if you need a copy, as these will need to be completed and returned to me in advance of the first payment being due. As you can quite imagine checking the Group's accounts for payments is quite a time-consuming task, so your assistance in promptly setting up the payments will be very much appreciated.

We shall also be taking the opportunity to review the Gift Aid form we hold, so will be asking all those who are eligible for us claim Gift Aid on your membership to complete the form. As always thank you for your continued support of the Group.

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### Mandatory speed limiters in the UK explained

On 6th July 2022, speed limiters became a legal requirement for all new cars manufactured in Europe.

From 7th July 2024 onwards, all car manufacturers will be legally required to ensure any cars on sale in their showrooms have speed limiters fitted. This means that any showroom cars without speed limiters will need to have the technology retrofitted.

Speed limiters (which utilise smart speed-limiting technology called 'intelligent speed assistance' [ISA]) are becoming increasingly common on UK roads. In this guide, we will explain what speed limiters are, how they work – and what the new regulations will mean for drivers.

### Do the speed limiter laws affect the UK?

Although the speed limiter legislation introduced in July 2022 was passed by the EU, it was also ratified into UK law, which means it still applies here, even though the UK is no longer part of the EU.

According to the legislation, all new cars sold in Europe (including the UK) must be fitted with speed-limiting technology.

Manufacturers also have until July 2024 to retrofit speed limiters to the existing models in their showrooms.

Please note: Although the legislation states that speed limiters must be fitted to new cars, it does not necessarily require them to be activated. Furthermore, as we will explain later in the article, the definition of 'speed limiter' is flexible – and not all devices will physically slow down a vehicle when the driver reaches the legal speed limit.

### What is the ISA system?

The intelligent speed assistance (ISA) system is designed to ensure that vehicles cannot exceed mandatory speed limits.

Why are speed limiters being made mandatory? UK Government figures show that 50% of cars speed in 30mph zones – and a third of all road fatalities are caused by excessive speed. Speed limiters are being introduced to reduce the number of road collisions.

### How do speed limiters work?

Some speed limiters utilise an ISA system, which employs cameras to detect traffic signs. Others use Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, which combines information on the driver's location and the local speed limit.

(Some speed limiters may use a combination of the above methods.)



### How do speed limiters stop cars from driving above the speed limit?

There are three main types of speed limiters. Here is quick explainer on how they each work:

An informative or advisory ISA prevents speeding by showing a warning symbol or alert if you exceed the speed limit, whilst also reminding you of the legal limit.

A supportive or warning ISA increases upward pressure on the accelerator pedal, making it harder to push down on the pedal if you exceed the speed limit.

Finally, an intervening (or mandatory) ISA reduces the engine power if you are speeding, ensuring a gradual speed reduction (with no braking required). This type of speed limiter works similarly to a cruise control system by ensuring the vehicle does not exceed a certain speed (in this case, the legal speed limit).

### Can you deactivate the speed limiter?

Yes, it is possible to deactivate a speed limiter. However, the technology will be reactivated whenever the car is restarted.

### How do you deactivate the speed limiter?

All types of speed limiters can be overridden by pressing down forcefully on the accelerator. It is important to be aware that exceeding the speed limit is illegal under any circumstances and you may incur penalties by doing so.

However, it may be appropriate to override a speed limiter if the device misread the local speed limit (e.g. if it interpreted the limit to be 50mph and you know that it is 60mph).

### What are data loggers?

Data loggers monitor your journey, so that if an accident occurs, your insurer can retrieve data telling them how you were driving when the incident occurred. This information may also be used for prosecution.

### How do data loggers work?

Data loggers use a combination of GPS technology and in-car sensors. By utilising this technology, they can provide data on your speed, car position and whether you were braking or cornering hard.

### Issues with speed limiters

Speed limiters can sometimes be unreliable for various reasons. For example, a speed limiter may misinterpret a sign displayed on the back of an EU lorry as a road sign or, it may misread a speed limit sign due to the view being obscured.

Furthermore, not all speed limiters are placed in the direct eye line of drivers, which can cause a distraction. For example, the Tesla Model 3's cockpit would have to be remodelled completely to accommodate a speed limiter in the driver's eye line. (However, this issue may become less commonplace as manufacturers get used to integrating speed limiters.)

### The future of speed limiters

From 7th July 2024, it will become a legal requirement for all new cars to be fitted with speed limiters, regardless of where they were launched.

Other details about the future of speed limiters are currently unclear. However, the technology may become stricter as speed limiters become more commonplace.

source: [webuyanycar.com](http://webuyanycar.com)

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### Keep yourself and others safe by not drinking or driving after the football game

from the IAM Blogs

We are midway through Euro 2024. Spread over 31 days, and with 24 football games to watch, there is a lot to get excited about. Hosts Germany kicked the competition off against Scotland this, with England facing Serbia on Sunday, June 16. You might be watching your team in the pub, at home in your back garden, or over at a friend's house, but have you thought about how you'll be getting home?

According to the latest research from IAM RoadSmart, the UK's largest independent road safety charity, more than a quarter (27%) of drivers think there are circumstances when it's okay to drive under the influence. Our guide below helps you enjoy football this summer safely:

Do not succumb to peer pressure to drink; stick to your guns if you are driving, and your head will thank you in the morning!

Know how much you are drinking. Alcoholic drinks consumed at home or a friend's house are often larger or stronger than those in public venues and may hold a lot more units of alcohol than you think.

Be a mate: If you notice someone about to get behind the wheel after a few beers or wines, try reasoning with them or taking their keys away, and encourage other friends to support you. If the situation escalates, order them a taxi, offer them a couch, or even call the police.

Be careful of the 'morning after.' You may still be over the legal limit even if you have had a good eight-hour sleep. The way alcohol affects you depends on many factors, including your age, sex, weight, and metabolism.

It's not just driving while drunk that you can get caught for. Being 'in charge' of a vehicle extends to having the keys and being in the car collecting items from the car and is not limited to sitting in the driver's seat with the engine running. Leave the keys and the vehicle at home! Why take the chance of having to explain your intentions to the court?

If you use public transport or book a cab, then you won't have to worry and can enjoy the game. Remember, there are strict penalties for being caught over the drink-drive limit, being in charge of a vehicle while over the legal limit or unfit through alcohol.

Director of Policy and Standards Nick Lyes says: "We all love long, warm summer days, and when the Euros are on, it provides the perfect backdrop to get together with friends and family to support our national team. Our advice is to plan, use public transport or taxis, organise a designated driver, and stick to the golden rule of none for the road."

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