Bourmemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers

August Newsletter - 2025 (edition 122)

Where are the best motorists?

It might seem like a strange question to ask, but in the last few weeks I've found myself down in Cornwall and up North (well as far in Lancaster if that counts!). Having had the joys of experiencing the roads of Cornwall which offer plenty of narrow and twisty lanes vs the holiday makers dreams (A30 and the A38). Meanwhile a trip up north has offered me the delights of both the m5 and m6.

I can safely say that every time I find myself on a motorway the number of middle lane-hoggers seems to have increased. It is rare to find a modern self-driving car in the wrong place, so technology does have its place. With that in mind maybe the insurance companies favourite for younger drivers the "black box" should be fitted. Big brother can monitor poor lane discipline and then fine the driver for their lack of lane compliance.

My whistle-stop tour of Cornwall offered a different experience, partly because as some of the roads are only the width of a car, so there is liberal use of passing places. In addition knowing how how big your car is really handy. I did spot some people stopping about a foot away from the edge of the road, in essence trying to force the other vehicle into the hedge. Maybe it was sneaky tactics along the lines of not wanting a plant induced scratches running down the side of the car. I'm not sure, but I managed to leave Cornwall with no undergrowth marks on the passenger side (or the drivers side I hasten to add).

What conclusion can I draw? Drivers in the countryside seem to be more aware of their surroundings, where as those clocking up the miles on the motorway seem to be live in their own world. What are your experiences, have you found the same as me or do you have a totally different experience to share?

Stay safe & happy motoring,

Matt Ames
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New Associate Members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group

We welcome the following new Associate members who have recent joined the Group. Observer allocatations, where known are shown below:

Ahmed Sheraz Mohammed Shakeel	-	(pendng)
David Barrett	-	(pending)
David Spense	-	(pending)
Jake Downey	-	(pending)
Manjuladevi Manickavasagom	-	(pending)
Nils Langlois-Cannon	-	(pending)
Roxana Tibuleac	-	(pending)
Ruden Oliveira	-	(pending)
Ruxandra Popescu	-	(pending)
Shelagh Ffoulkes-Jones	-	(pending)

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Richard Jolly - Eulogy

I have had the privilege of knowing Richard for more than twenty years both as a colleague and friend

On behalf of the Group and IAM RoadSmart which we are affiliated to, and are also represented here today, we offer our sincere condolences on Richard's passing.

I superseded Richard as Chief Observer in late 2023 after his twelve years' stint. I still find it a big challenge to fill his boots. He was also involved in the Group's Committee for an extensive period, attending meetings right up to when his illness was diagnosed. He said to me that he didn't like to let anybody down. He gave a lot to the Group over the years and was paramount in bringing our skills to a very high standard. I remember our Assessor, saying that he knew that if one of Richard's Observer was coming for a re-test, it was almost a certainty they would pass. This was how skilled and how well-regarded he was. Latterly Richard took the role of Group Standards Officer - there was no better person suited for the role. This says a lot about Richard and how revered he was.

I've tried to think of one word that sums Richard up. There were too many to choose from. But settled I on METICULOUS.

His technical knowledge was extraordinary and probably one of the best. His response to questions were Meticulous and correct. I called him the Yoda because of this. This made Richard chuckle and he would respond by saying something like, "Well does that mean I am good?" I would retort "You know you are!" This made us both laugh.

His driving was Meticulous too being a Masters qualified driver. For those not in the know, it is seen as the highest UK civilian driving test. So that says a lot about Richard and his passion and love for driving.

He was Meticulous in his mentoring of me to a Masters Distinction. Over a cup of tea, we would fondly re-call the time we were scooting along the Sherborne to Cerne Abbas Road where I misread the road when approaching and going left over a bridge, not realising that the road went immediately right. Richard calmly turned his head towards me and said "That could have gone one of two ways" and chuckled as we continued. BTW the other way was ploughing through a fence and into a field!! This was a sign of Richard's meticulousness in the spoken word. Just a few words were enough to make a point! He had a calm demeanour and I can honestly say that I never saw Richard raise his voice

He would use words which were not commonly used. One I remember is "Punctious" - I still don't know what that means! Conversely, when not on IAM duty, he could speak for England. He was such an interesting person to listen too. My wife would sometimes say "how long are you going to be? Dinner's ready!"

His passion for cars was immense, especially his beloved Healey - which he meticulously kept. He openly would state that it was him who persuaded me to venture into the convertible world after he took me out in it - I think it was 2010. I remember the day. The roof was down and the sun was shining. He looked the part especially with him wearing his flat cap. Yes, I did buy and still have a convertible! In his own inevitable way, he was influential

He was Meticulous in his appearance. Right to the last time I saw him, walking up the lane with Eve (his neighbour), his stature remained upright and he was dressed smartly. This was him whether on IAM duty or not. He had a sense of pride in the way he looked.

He has left a void in our organisation which will take a lot to fill. He was well liked and valued by not only our members but also across the wider IAM RoadSmart organisation.

This week's Committee Meeting will honour Richard in the best and appropriate way we can.

I will close by saying farewell Richard, you will be sorely missed. Keep chuckling! Not only were you Meticulous, a Colleague, and a friend, but most of all you were a true Gentleman

Thank You!

Neville Kapoor
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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 (observer is listed beside them):

Anastasia Herring	Keith Bowers
Daniel Constantinescu (First)	Mark Bister
Gemma Cammidge	Keith Bowers
Keith Jackman	Martyn Mccarthy
Nick Kennedy (First)	Peta Steadman-Bee

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

Electric skateboard.... are you insured?

Or can you even get insurance. Recently an 'unlucky' skateboarder was handed a £300 fine and six penalty points on a license they don't yet have!

Why you may ask? The answer is simple current regulations classify electric skateboards as motor vehicles that require insurance and registration. The same applies to those people who ride modified electric bikes which don't require pedaling before the electrical assistance 'kicks in'.

Hired Beryl bikes (and scooters) when used in their appropriate areas are all above board and covered by insurance, so for any Beryl riders out there, there is nothing to be concerned by.

Marketing for the Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers Group

David Groom

Further to the initial article in the May Newsletter on Group Marketing Planning the Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers (BDIAM) Marketing Team held its inaugural meeting at the end of July with a follow-up meeting in mid-August.

Matters discussed included the following:

1. A review of the outline marketing plan previously drafted
2. Proposed areas for marketing focus
3. Suggestions for targeting priority areas
4. Additional support required, and
5. The anticipated financial impact of any proposals.

The next meeting is planned for mid-September.

We are looking at creating some targeted marketing literature and will be initially exploring what is adaptable from existing IAM RoadSmart resources. However, as it is likely that we will want to tailor make the message to our Group's catchment area, would any member who has good previous experience with graphic designers/printers please email marketing@bdiam.org.uk with their contact details.

We would also be keen to hear from anyone else interested in joining the Marketing Team to help contribute to the growth of our Local Group. If you would like to get involved, please contact Alan or David at the above email address.

Forthcoming Social events

4th September 2025
Alex Money will be talking to the Group.
Time: 1900

2nd October 2025
(tbc)
Time: 1900

6th November 2025
(tbc)
Time: 1900

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 Ainsley 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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New road safety themed driving adventure launches in North Wales
from the IAM Blogs

- Scenic treasure hunt road trip combines learning, fun, and a chance to win a £50 voucher
- Collecting points en route, participants will see some of the most spectacular scenery in Wales

A new initiative combining a great day out with road safety has been launched across one of the most picturesque regions in Wales, inviting drivers to take part in treasure hunt-style road trip while testing their knowledge of road safety.

Starting and ending in Betws-y-Coed, teams will earn points by checking in at designated locations and solving clues, whilst enjoying the views of Snowdonia National Park and the coastal town of Llandudno.

The team challenge, launched by the UK's road safety charity IAM RoadSmart, is suitable for all ages and helps build a better understanding of driving rules—all while making for a fun and memorable day out.

Teams must consist of a minimum of two people per vehicle, making it an ideal activity for friends and families to do together. Participants are encouraged to make the most of the region's spectacular scenery, with plenty of opportunities for rest stops, sightseeing, and photographs along the way.

Tickets to take part in this exciting adventure are available online

The experience runs throughout the summer until the 31 October 2025, offering people flexibility to plan their trips at a time of their choosing or schedule it as an activity for when they visit the region, with the winners announced in the Autumn once the event closes.

Helen Doran, Head of Product Development at IAM RoadSmart, said:

"As the UK's leading road safety charity, we wanted to create an experience that blends challenge, learning, and enjoyment. This initiative gives drivers the chance to test their knowledge while exploring the stunning landscapes of North Wales, all for a small fee. To make it even more engaging, the team with the highest score at the end of the season will win a £50 voucher. We are thrilled to offer this unique opportunity to everyone through the Goosechase App and our routes have been carefully mapped out and tested by experts."

Instructions, rules and terms and conditions can be found when booking a place. Participants are required to conform to all road traffic laws and have all the correct licence and insurance documentation. This is not a race and is an experience for pleasure and educational purposes. Participants are strongly advised to check the route is fully open for the dates they wish to go and avoid clashes with other events and possible road closures.

We regret that owing to the interactive element, this is not currently open to motorcyclists and is for cars only where passengers can control the interactive element.

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