

Dorset IAM RoadSmart



December Newsletter - 2020 (edition 68)

The Trustees would like to wish
all our Members, Associates,
and readers a very
Happy Christmas and
a Safe New Year



Dorset IAM ventures into the online era

First of all, welcome to the final newsletter for 2020. This new schedule of producing a monthly newsletter can be a bit challenging at times. I no longer have 3 months to think about it, but instead have less than a month. I always start each month with the best of intentions; however, it is all too easy-to-get side tracked. Hopefully you are enjoying the increased frequency of the newsletters. When published, they are added to the Newsletter part of the website, and I send an email to all members who have expressed an interest in receiving such a notification. If we don't have an email address on file then we post the newsletters out, generally in batches a couple of months together to reduce our postage costs. If you have moved recently, please ensure you let us know your latest contact details as we've had a couple of non-deliveries.

December should have been a month of leave from work, as I've been terrible at taking it throughout the rest of the year. However, in the true tradition of working for the company, there are always deadlines to be met. Just before I 'stopped' work in November, I had a quote for licenses land in my email. I glanced it over and forwarded it onto those with the bags of cash. The licenses in question need to be renewed annually and allow a bit of data transformation to take place. For this pleasure we are stung to the tune of about £12,000 (as we have to license our Production, Test and development systems). Come early December, and with this thought in my mind – 'the existing system is clunky and hard to maintain, plus it has an expensive annual cost'. You can guess what happened next – torn between the options of Christmas prepa-

rations or a little project. Obviously, I accepted the self-set challenge to write a replacement. Three and a half days later of effort I had a working solution which completes the same task in a mere 140 seconds vs the original which takes about 45 minutes (and required a couple of expensive contractors to write!).

Anyhow, back to writing this newsletter which I started after the AGM, and then put-on hold.... Where was I, oh yes: On Monday evening I started the process for the Groups AGM, which enabled those with a simple telephone or a computer (and internet connection) to join us.

We started the AGM with eight members of the Group present (and an apology from a member who was a little wary about the installation of the Cisco Webex client). You may say that seems like quite a low turnout, but the previous year which saw us gathering in Brownsword Hall in Dorchester (with food after) we barely touched double-numbers. Not bad for our first online meeting I think!

With everyone 'seated', proceedings quickly got underway. The minutes from the previous year's AGM were approved, we then went to the various reports, from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. For those who attended (or read the AGM calling notice), you will know that Ian, our current Chairman is not re-standing for the position which leaves the Group in an awkward position. Without Ian at the helm, we are left with a couple of options – hope that someone with plenty of motivation (and ideally an IAM background) will step up and take on the position. Otherwise, a merger with another Group might be the one on the cards, this could potentially be the Bournemouth Group, but such a decision wouldn't be taken lightly and certainly not with an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting).

Given the current COVID-19 climate, it is likely that an EGM would take place online, in a similar fashion to that of the AGM, so should we have to go down

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this route, I really urge you to get involved. Likewise, if you think that you could take on the position of Chair, then please let us know. From a 'back office' perspective we are pretty much sorted, and our Observers always do is proud when it comes new Associates, training and Test passes.

As we've now slipped towards the end of December; a new tier has been made and the rules for Festive celebrations changed, I wish you all a Happy Christmas period, maybe not in quite the fashion you were thinking it might have been at the end of the celebrations in 2019. Family wars over a game of Monopoly might not get to take place this year. It wouldn't be a motoring related Newsletter if I didn't switch topics to one of my other hobbies. Back to running this time, and as our club activities for training have been somewhat disrupted one of the club members assembled a game of Wey-nopoly. 28 locations were selected, and grouped up into various categories. The teams were given the location list and their associated monetary values 24 hours before the 'event' opened for running. The idea was a bit a forward planning meant the most profitable route could be determined, ideally with a few bonuses thrown in. I'm still collating the results, but it seems that those who took part enjoyed it. I guess we'll see if any inter-teams wars break out when the final scores are listed! As I was privy to the venues list in advance I was unable to take part, maybe next time!

As the year draws to a close, I've totted up some distances (miles):
Walking: 75
Running: 930
Cycling: 1765
Motoring: ~6000 (pretty much all at the start of the year)

Happy Christmas all and hopefully 2021 will start to see the return of some normality.

Matt Ames
Newsletter Editor

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AGM notes from our outgoing Chair

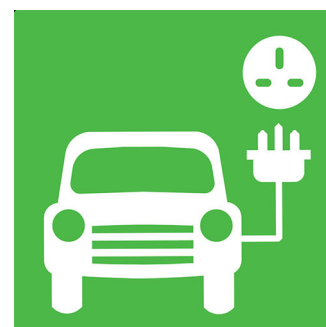
The 'virtual' group AGM was held on the 7th December as you will be aware. 8 members attended in total, a slight drop on last year when 12 people attended. The minutes from the last AGM and the finance report were both passed with no matters arising. Our secretary and treasurer were both willing to stand for re-election and were voted in for an extra term in office. Andy Temple (our chief observer) was elected onto the committee as a new trustee. I was not able to stand for the post of Chair again and no-one was willing to stand for the post. For some time now (mentioned at last AGM) the feelings of the committee and observer group have been that a merger with the Bournemouth Group would be the best outcome for us as we would be able to pool our resources. This would be decided by both groups in an Extraordinary General Meeting which would decide on the composition of its committee and any name change.

Ian Lingwood
Chairman (2019-2020)

EV feedback (no that isn't a pun!)

A couple of members have been in contact, so thank you very much. I intent to write a follow up piece early next year based around the email's I've received so if you have any observations then please do get in contact.

I'd certainly be curious to know how much 'night time' or 'winter use' affects the projected distance, and if that turns into a real concern for trips. I guess you wouldn't want to be sitting stuck in traffic jams due to snowy/closed roads with no heating!



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Watch out for the £70,000 drink warns road safety charity from the IAM RoadSmart Newsroom

The UK's largest independent road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart, is today warning motorists of the severe financial penalty they could face as the consequence of a drink drive conviction.

The charity has calculated that the personal financial cost of drink driving could be as high as £70,000 or more when taking into account fines, legal fees, higher car insurance premiums, alternative transport costs and potential loss of earnings following conviction.

IAM RoadSmart's research team found that costs following a drink drive conviction now include: fines of £5,000, although since these are now unlimited this could be much more; legal fees of £11,000 which is the average following conviction after a not-guilty plea; increased insurance premiums of £13,500 over five years after a driving disqualification; £2,000 for taxi and public transport costs for alternative transport during a ban; and £38,500 loss of earnings for 15 months following a conviction, based on an average UK salary.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy & Research, said: "In the run up to Christmas this year, many people's drinking habits will have changed as a

result of the coronavirus. So, whether you're raising a glass for the festive season at home or, where you're able, in a restaurant or pub, it's important to remember that an extra drink comes with a huge hidden cost if it pushes you over the limit."

Roads Minister, Baroness Vere, said: "Drink driving kills, so during the festive season don't be tempted to have a drink before getting behind the wheel – it's irresponsible and incredibly dangerous. We are working tirelessly, through schemes like our award winning

THINK! campaign, to tackle attitudes and behaviours that could lead to people drink driving, and we continue to invest in policing and enforcement on our roads."



Neil continued: "Drink driving wrecks lives and is totally unacceptable in any circumstance. However, some people still think they are safe to drive when they've had just a couple of drinks or are using home measures, which can quickly push them over the limit.

"The £70,000 impact of being convicted of drink driving is very sobering. This should be more than enough, let alone the thought of causing any other suffering for yourself, your family or the other people you put at risk on the road, to stop those drivers who are tempted to have an extra drink and get behind the wheel.

"Our advice is therefore quite simply to always stick with 'None for the Road'".

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IAM RoadSmart appoints Tony Greenidge as CEO

from the IAM RoadSmart Newsroom

The UK's largest independent road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart, which improves driver and rider on-road skills through coaching and education, has appointed Tony Greenidge as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will lead the organisation, which has around 85,000 members, in a new phase of growth.



Tony joined IAM RoadSmart in 2017 as its Business Development Director before stepping up to become Interim Chief Executive Officer earlier this year. Since joining, he has overseen the continued year-on-year growth of the charity's drink drive rehabilitation and fleet divisions, while more recently leading the organisation through both coronavirus lockdowns.

Having successfully run his own consulting business, Tony brings with him more than two decades of sales and leadership experience in road safety, risk management, mobility and the corporate fleet sector.

Chairman, Derek McMullan said: "I am delighted to have been able to appoint Tony as IAM RoadSmart's permanent CEO.

"Tony brings strong leadership and a deep knowledge of IAM RoadSmart's activities in these challenging times, helping to safeguard the future of our charity and driving forward our work with our Group volunteers on a number of UK-wide road safety initiatives."

Commenting on his appointment, Tony Greenidge said: "The last six months have been challenging, but I have been enormously impressed by the way that the whole IAM RoadSmart team – including our staff, members, and volunteers – have come together to

mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Looking forward to 2021 we are well poised to continue with our core objective of improving safety for all road users and I am very honoured to be leading our collective efforts towards achieving this.

"I would like to thank everyone within the organisation and our key partners for their support, particularly over the last six months, and I very much look forward to continuing to work with them to positively influence and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads each year."

Random Car Trivia

Aston Martin

1. 1922
2. David Brown
3. 4.5 seconds

BMW

4. Bayerische Motoren Werk
5. 1972
6. A four-cylinder BMW engine

Ferrari

7. Maranello
8. Fiorano Circuit
9. F40

Jaguar

10. Emu
11. 2
12. 298
13. Sidecars for motorcycles

Land Rover

14. Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey
15. In the middle
16. 4 [Octopussy (1983), The Living Daylights (1987), Tomorrow Never Dies (1997), Skyfall (2012)]