



FIFE IAM NEWS

Kingdom of Fife Group IAM, helping improve road safety in Fife and beyond.

August 2018

A belated newsletter

We've had a few issues putting the newsletter together but we hope to be getting newsletters out to you more frequently from now on.

Average Speed Cameras

If you've been living in Fife for the last few years you'll be very familiar with Average Speed Cameras. From the building of the new bridge to the south through to the A9 cameras in the North ensured that we've been more used to them in Scotland than most others in the Country.

New speed cameras were activated on the A9 between Dundee and Stonehaven in October 2017 that replaced the fixed standard cameras and mobile speed vans. We look at the effects they've had on page 2.

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A90 speed camera

The average speed cameras that have been on the A90 have been in the news quite a few times in recent months.

This article is taken from information provided by Transport Scotland on the website A90road.info



Average speed cameras are more common now than ever.

Registered Charity No. SC0 25300.

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Speed cameras continued from front page

The A90 between Dundee and Stonehaven is a stretch of road around 50 miles long. Previous surveys showed that over 23,000 vehicles use the road on a daily basis and three in five of those vehicles were exceeding the speed limit. Moreover, one in five of those vehicles was exceeding the speed limit by 10mph or more. This demonstrated the need for greater action to be taken to address safety concerns.



Since the speed cameras have been introduced, only 1% of drivers are thought to be exceeding the 70mph speed limit. That equates to 230 vehicles per day however it's a drastic improvement on the nearly 14,000 vehicles that were exceeding the speed limit on a daily basis before the average speed cameras were introduced.

More importantly, only 4 vehicles per day are thought to be driving at 80mph or above. Prior to the introduction of the speed cameras this was thought to be around 4,500 vehicles exceeded the 80mph speed limit on a daily basis.

From an IAM point of view, I'd think that we would rather drivers were more educated and reduced their speeds based on the consequences but measures like average speed cameras clearly play a part and have already demonstrated an improved safety record since their introduction in Dundee.

What about other speed cameras?

There has been a 36% reduction in people killed or seriously injured on the A9 between Dunblane and Inverness. The Symington to Girvan road on the A77 has resulted in a 74% reduction.

Average Speed Cameras by number

55%

*Reduction in people
Killed or seriously injured*

59%

*Reduction in number
of vehicles speeding*

£2m

*Cost of installing this
section of cameras*

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Motorbike section



The motorcycle section welcomes two new National Qualified Observers to it's fold Stephen Lally and Stephen Young. Both have brought across experience and will assist the group in moving forward. This now means that the motorcycle section is self-sufficient. We also offer congratulations to Hywel Merrett on becoming the KoFG. Local Observer

On 13th May the group had a ride out (picture above). First stop was at Tullybannocher café for a tea and scone, great little stop this. Ridden past too many times don't know we haven't used it before, well recommended. Then onto Kenmore for a refreshment, then we headed out to the small glen and onto Kinross services where we finished.

On 23rd June another group ride out took us down to the borders for a visit. Good weather, which is always a brucie bonus. Headed down the A701 to Moffat where we stopped for a cuppa and cake, well it would be rude not too. However, as we left the Rumbling Tum café there was a historic car event on. Some lovely cars going through the town, and in great condition too. The rally took them along to St. Mary's Loch which was our direction of travel too but hey ho. So due to the number of persons gathered there it was not possible for a photo stop. On to Galashiels for another stop then up the A7 back home. Photo to right was one of our many stops.



We will continue with a monthly run so keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

We have several associates going through their training and nearing test ready. We wish them well come test time.

Car section



Our Observers have been very busy over the past few months. We currently have 9 Associates preparing for the IAM Test and presently have no Associates on the Waiting List. There are 10 Associates on our On Hold List as due to commitments they are unavailable to progress with preparation for the IAM Test.

The Group has had 6 Test Passes this year and we must congratulate all the Associates and their Observers for all their hard work.

The Group has 3 National Observers, 7 Local Observers which includes 3 Observers under training. All our current Observers will be registered with the IMI (Institute of the Motor Industry) as either National Observer or Local Observers.

We recently had an Observers Training Day for all our Observers and the Observers attend many of the Practical Driving Events and Theory Events throughout the year. Observers carry out a vital role in the Group and without Observers the Group cannot function. If you feel you would like to take on the role of an Observer in the Group we offer a training programme and support and will register you with the IMI.

Events

We hold a range of events throughout the year for members and their families.

Make the most of your membership and take part.



Recent events

Our most recent event, the photo above, was at the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance located in Perth. They work in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service to attend time-critical emergencies. The helicopter can be in the air within 5 minutes of receiving the call and can reach 90% of Scotland's population in 25 minutes. It was a great trip and the members who were in attendance were fortunate the air ambulance didn't get called out as it gets called out at least once per day.

Quiz night - earlier this year we held a quiz night in Lochgelly High School and community use. The weather may have affected attendance but disappointingly it was only the committee members, family and friends that attended.

In early August we held an event promoting the KOFG IAM and the wider IAM organisation. This was held at Tesco Extra car park in Duloch Park, Dunfermline. We hope to get a few more members as a result of this.

Upcoming events

- September - TBC
- October - AGM followed by a presentation
- November - Quiz night
- December - Christmas lunch

In other news



THUMBS UP
For Great Driving And Riding!

Thumbs up campaign

During the month of August, the IAM are running a campaign to promote considerate driving and reward and encourage courtesy between all road users. For further information visit <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/campaign-pages/end-customer-campaigns/thumbsup>

Eye tests

Did you know that the DVLA is proposing compulsory eye tests for all drivers at least every 10 years but could also be as frequent as every 2 years. Thousands of deaths or serious accidents occur every year as a result of poor eyesight and now the DVLA are looking to address it. The DVLA is reminding people that legally they must be able to read a license plate at 20 metres. That's 5 car lengths or 8 parking bays. If you are struggling to do that then the advice is to see an optician.

Traffic lights on motorways

Did you happen to see the news late last year that the Highways Agency were planning to install traffic lights on Motorways to help ease congestion? The plan is to place them on link roads on the M6 to help ease traffic congestion and provide smoother traffic flows. The plan was to trial them for a year so we'll hopefully have an update on how they worked in a newsletter later this year.