



FIFE IAM

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

February 2019

Annual General Meeting

The Kingdom of Fife Group had its AGM in October and we appointed a new chair. We hear more from him in the following pages but a few words from our new Chair are below:

“Thank you all for your continued support of the group over this past year and I hope I can rely on it this coming year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our events.”

Mark Ellis

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Happy New Year

From all at the group, we wish you a Happy New Year and hope you enjoyed the Christmas break. We are certainly looking forward to an eventful year and hope to see you at one of our events at the coming year.

We also welcome the new committee members that joined the group in late last year. The new members should help the group continue to improve in the coming months.



Winter is coming

Not quite a George RR Martin scale of devastation but did you know that crashes as a direct result of winter conditions cost around half a million pounds per year.

Winter weather also leads to an increase in accidents by about one fifth. We'll pick this up inside....

Winter is coming– are you prepared?

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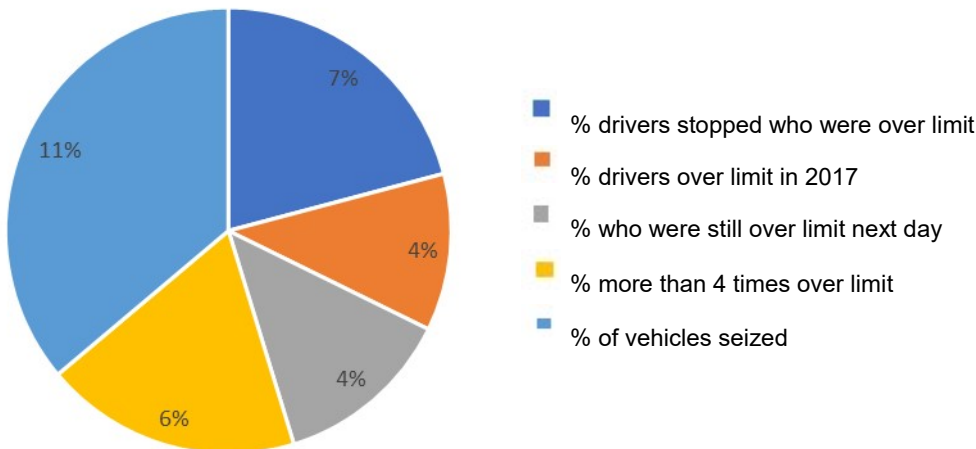


At the start of December the group held its annual Christmas lunch in the Dunnikier Golf Club. Its was great value for money, good quality food and great service. If its not too early to start thinking about Christmas 2019, we plan on being back here and hope you are able to join us.

Some people had too merry a Christmas!

Did you see the news report the other day from [Police Scotland](#) saying that one in every 15 motorists stopped during a 32 day period between 1 December '18 and 2 January '19.

The pie, as if we've not had enough over Christmas, below breaks it down but overall there were more drivers caught over the limit during this year's campaign than the previous years. There are a couple of reasons for this including more targeted stops based on previous behavior as well as acting on information from members of the public.



6% of motorists stopped were more than four times the legal limit of alcohol (that's at least 88mg/100ml breath) whilst at least one driver blew over 154/mg/100ml – over 7 times the limit. One of those reported was a driver in North East Fife who the crashed his car and was lucky not to be seriously injured or even worse, injuring someone else.

The worrying thing about these statistics is that it's not just one drink, although I think we can all appreciate even that can put you over the limit, but these drivers have had numerous alcoholic drinks before deciding to get behind the wheel. It places all road users at risk and I commend Police Scotland for the proactive approach they took over the festive season to tackle this serious issue.

Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over

I really like the American campaign that I've heard on numerous podcasts. Two of their campaigns are: ' Don't be the reason someone doesn't get home for Christmas' and 'If you feel different, you drive different'. They also have a quiz to educate about drug and drink driving. See it here: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/drive-sober>

Update from our new Chair

Mark Ellis, our new KOFG chair has a few words following his election in October.



Well I'd like to start my first report from the chair by thanking our outgoing Chairman Ken Pottinger for his time and guidance of the group over the past year. Thank you Ken and we hope to see you at some events.

For me this has been a busy couple of years with the group. Initially joining the committee to assist and then running the motorcycle section and now I find myself in this position. It's a wonderful group led by a committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure what is put across to the group is as you would expect it to be. We are always open to pointers from you as without you we are not a group.

I would like to welcome our new committee members and thank them all for stepping up to the podium. Remember we are all volunteers here and your time and efforts will be appreciated. Please do bring new ideas or experiences to the group don't be shy in putting ideas forward, we are a friendly bunch and will discuss everything and see how we can fit it into the group. Events are always on the agenda, whether it be the bike or car section or combined as a group, so we look forward to fresh ideas for this coming year.

Looking ahead I would like to see the group expand in numbers. We need your help in doing this, spread the word verbally, through social media or however you can. We have leaflets that we could provide to you if for example you know you are heading to an event but possibly it would be an opportunity to drop leaflets there to promote the group. Perhaps there is somewhere at your workplace where you could leave some leaflets to promote the group? With any expansion in numbers we would need observers too who assist by training the new associates up. Have you thought about becoming an observer? Are you a local observer and want to become a national? Get in touch we will assist you.

Remember you don't have to be on the committee to put group ideas forward. If you have one just let us know and we can discuss it, we appreciate it.

Thank you all for your continued support of the group over this past year and I hope I can rely on it this coming year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our events.

Motorcycle update

As well as being out Chairperson, Mark is also the Chief Observer for the motorcycle section. As you would expect, this time of year is quiet for the motorcycle section - with wind, rain, snow, ice and some more wind, the number of motorbikes out on the road is definitely less than in the summer. As a result, we don't have the same number of associates looking to take up advanced riding.

We've currently got 8 associates who are going through their advanced rider training and our observers are helping them achieve the highest standard possible and if a test pass results from that then that is a bonus.

We expect the next few months to be quieter with more associates signing up as we enter the spring.

We also have several group members currently awaiting their observer training and if you would like to be added to that list, just get in touch - details on the next page.

If you are out riding over the next couple of months, be safe and have fun.

Winter Driving

Back in 2017, the Met Office issued some advice and stats on winter driving. The following information is taken from this website:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/releases/2017/winter-road-safety>

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Increased accidents

The Met Office (2017) worked with the RAC and Highways England to understand the impacts of winter weather on driving. Apparently over 1.5 million drivers have had at least one accident in the last five years as a direct result of winter weather. There is ice, snow, flooding, wind, sun glare and headlight glare to contend with and its not a surprise this impacts on the number of accidents that occur.

Some top tips

Make regular vehicle checks - apparently a high number of drivers rarely check their oil levels or tyre tread. With a higher number of breakdowns and accidents occurring in winter, this will help reduce the likelihood of issues. Also ensuring regular top ups of screen wash (that is effective in cold weather) will help progress on the roads.

Keep a winter kit in the car - this may vary but could include a snow shovel, waterproof trousers and jacket, sturdy boots, a blanket as well as some snacks and drinks. Some of the advice is to keep a hot drink in the car but that's not always that easy!

Your smart phone may not be that smart in winter weather - don't rely on your smartphone being able to provide you with directions or provide light. If your in a rural area you might not have signal and the light on your phone won't be strong enough for a decent light. On that note - you should probably add a torch to your winter kit and maybe a paper map, if they still make such things.

Remain patient - I know from the route I take to work that some drivers struggle with the dark morning / evening driving where visibility is reduced and headlights are shining into their eyes to make driving more challenging. This means that their speed on a national speed limit road can be a frustrating 30-40 mph. Unfortunately this results in some drivers making rash overtake decisions that put their lives and other drivers lives on the line. The reality is that sometimes an overtake isn't on and waiting on the right opportunity is the safe thing to do. It may add 5 minutes to your journey but its better than the alternative.

Allow extra time - winter driving normally means some adjustments to your daily routine. The RAC advises leaving extra time for numerous things. These include ensuring your windscreen is properly defrosted, if its not you could end up with a fine and penalty points. Also allow for extra travel time to account for more traffic, slower speeds or snow or ice leading to accidents and road closures.

Road Stats

Fife Police report to the Council
Committees on Accident Statistics.

	Apr 17 - Jun 17	Apr 18 - Jun 18
People killed	2	1
People seriously injured	17	17
People slightly injured	81	71
Children killed / seriously injured	3	3

Overall the number of people killed or injured has decreased slightly between comparable quarters of April - June 17 and the same period of 2018. There was a decrease of nearly 11% in the total number of people killed or injured on our roads. As a group promoting Road Safety this is certainly moving in the right direction. The table below however shows that there is still some work to do around some of the offences being committed in Fife.

Offence	Apr 17 - Jun 17	Apr 18 - Jun 18
Dangerous Driving	46	62
Speeding	377	395
Disqualified driving	28	38
Driving License	94	107
Insurance	243	283
Seat Belts	77	152
Mobile phones	74	58

The first thing to point out about the table above is that any increases or decreases may be as a result of specific campaigns operated by the police. Almost all the offences listed above have increased within the time range given.

Prosecutions for not wearing seat belts almost doubled followed by Dangerous driving and disqualified driving that both increased by 25% over the period. Driving with no insurance or without the correct driving license was next to increase by 14% and 12% respectively.

Strangely, given the fact that mobile phone use is being targeted just now, see below, the number of prosecutions for using mobile phones was the only offence to fall during Quarter 2 of 2018.

As a group that looks to improve road safety, how can we help? Well there is little we can do about people driving without insurance or the correct license however we can help improve the other issues. Our starting drills would ensure we all have seat belts on and the increased awareness advanced drivers have would help reduce the speeding and dangerous driving. Similarly we should be promoting how dangerous using a mobile phone is whilst in control of a vehicle.

Police crackdown on some of these issues

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/police-scotland-launches-week-long-crackdown-on-motorists-who-flout-rules-1-4869343>

From 11 to 17 February, Police Scotland will use mobile police vans to catch offenders who speed, use mobile phones whilst driving or do not wear seatbelts. Apparently using a mobile phone whilst driving makes them 4 times more likely to crash and its thought that one in three people killed in car crashes are not wearing seat belts. Make sure you stay vigilant during this crackdown.