



WELCOME to South of London Advanced Motorists



www.slam-iam.co.uk
Registered Charity No 1043684

Now that you have joined the IAM as an associate member, you'll want to know something about your local group, the South of London Group, where you will be prepared for your advanced driving test.

This leaflet explains who we are, how we work, what you can expect from us and what you will need to do to prepare for the test. It is part of a package of resources designed to help you get the best from your membership.

As a member, you have special access to both our and the IAM's websites. These contain material which explains and supplements the guidance in How to be a Better Driver. You will have received a copy of this as part of your membership package from the IAM.

We are one of over 200 local IAM groups across the UK. Collectively, these groups, all run by volunteers, represent a unique resource with unparalleled experience and expertise to share. In addition, they provide a forum where full and associate members can share ideas and contribute to the IAM's important work in developing and promoting innovative road safety strategies.

Local groups also provide a social focus, where members can meet and enjoy the company of fellow driving and biking enthusiasts. Our group caters for cars, but others cater for motorbikes, LGVs, PCVs, minibuses, and the Caravan Towing Test.

Who are we?

The South of London Group of Advanced Motorists is a registered charity whose main activity is preparing people for the IAM's advanced driving test although we also undertake other road safety activities. We are not a driving school and those who will help prepare you for the test are not driving instructors. They are volunteers trained to national standards under an independently accredited training programme. We call them 'observers' because they will observe your driving in your own vehicle and give guidance on what you may need to do to reach the advanced driving test standard.

The group was formed in 1957 and covers an area stretching from the centre of London out to the M25. Although we are affiliated to the IAM, we are a separate charity in our own right.

How do we operate?

We operate our observed drives from two centres – New Malden and Banstead on the first and third Sunday mornings of each month respectively. You can book your observed drives on-line via the members' area of our website, over the phone - 07919 245 332 - or at our drive centres when staffed.

We also arrange visits and members' evenings where we have speakers or demonstrations on a wide range of topics - not all driving-related. However, we try to get an IAM examiner along at least once a year to pass on tips to those preparing for their test. We publish a newsletter every quarter and this carries our programme of activities. Newsletters are also published on-line and you can see back copies on the website. To save costs, we encourage members to view newsletters on-line rather than receiving a copy through the post. Unless you say otherwise, we will generally communicate with you via email so please make sure we always have your up-to-date address.

In order to organise our activities we have a management committee whose members are also trustees of the charity.

As well as observers, we also have volunteers who operate reception desks at our drive centres, organise our members' events, maintain our website, publish our newsletter and many other functions. Although the management committee members must be full members of the group, there are many ways in which, as an associate member, you could play a part in running the group and we are keen for members to get involved where they can.

What you can expect from us

Supportive and honest comments.

Help to improve your standard of driving.

Advice to enable you to reach the IAM test standard.



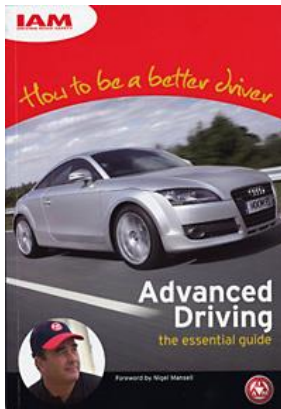
What we expect of you

PRACTISE between sessions – essential.

Tell your Observer if you have any concerns.

Study the Advanced Driving manual and the Highway Code (*do you have an up-to-date version?*).

Meet all legal requirements for driving your vehicle.



How long will it take?

It's very difficult to answer that because it depends so much on you and how much practice you are able to put in. As a general rule of thumb, we reckon people should be ready for the advanced driving test by around six observed drives and this is the time when you'll have a drive with a senior observer to review progress.

Those who have difficulty are usually those who do not practise sufficiently in their own time. It is easy to pick up poor driving habits over time and these can take time and effort to correct.

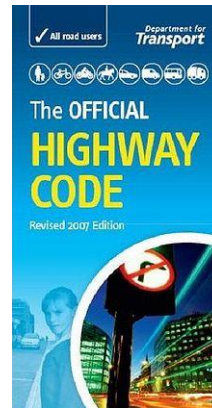
What's after the advanced driving test?

Once you've passed the advanced driving test (and most people do!) you'll become a full member of both the IAM and this group. Please bear in mind that the group is separate from the IAM so, after your initial year's membership, you'll receive separate invitations to join both (and will need to pay the group's subscription as well as IAM's). We hope you'll want to continue membership and join in our programme of events and perhaps give something back by becoming an observer or helping in another way.

You may find that you'll qualify for cheaper insurance as people who have passed a test like the IAM's are significantly less likely to be involved in crashes.

Visit the IAM's website for an up-to-date list of member benefits – you may be able to make savings which cover the costs of annual membership subscriptions!

We recognise that people



who have passed the test can still pick up poor driving habits or fall below advanced driving test standard so the group offers all its members an annual observed drive with one of our trained observers. The IAM also has a range of driving products which members can take to maintain or improve their driving skills even further.

As the group is entirely run by volunteers, we welcome offers of help and need fresh faces and fresh ideas to keep the group active.

How can we work better?

We welcome views on how we can improve or enhance the service we provide, so if you have any ideas, please let us know. Also, your experiences can be invaluable to other associate members preparing for their test and you can share these with us directly or via the newsletter. We welcome contributions either in the form of articles (not necessarily driving-related) or letters to the editor - we assume letters to the editor are for publication unless you tell us otherwise.

What if things go wrong?

Nobody is perfect and we recognise that things can sometimes go wrong. If you feel that we have let you down in some way or you feel uncomfortable with what we are doing, please tell us. If you can, raise it at the time with the person concerned but if you don't feel comfortable with that, speak to any of our reception staff or management committee members.

Data Protection

The group stores names, addresses, telephone numbers and membership details on computer files to assist with the management of the group and the distribution of group correspondence. We share membership details with IAM but do not pass your details on to anyone else.