

Roger Hicks and Ashley Behan from the IAM Roadsmart institute, formerly called the Institute of Advanced Motorists, were our guest Speakers today.

Their objective is to improve car driving standards, motorbike riding standards and to enhance road safety. Their talk and tutoring is all about giving hints and tips to people to help improve those standards.

The two Speakers are official providers of the IAM Roadsmart courses, just one of one hundred and seventy nationwide.

They showed a short video of a person called Marc Jones who has worked with young drivers and endorsed the achievements of our guests in their work.

Roger Hicks described looking out for possible happenings that may occur while you drive and anticipating what may occur in front of you.

Roger explained that the key elements of their course are:-

1. Safety and legality
2. Observation
3. Use of correct gear changes
4. Mirrors and rear observation
5. Your spoken thoughts and commentary as you drive.
6. Your ability to control your emotions
7. Steering
8. Braking
9. Cornering
10. Overtaking
11. Restraint and progress
12. Slow manoeuvring

Roger stated that 92% of accidents are due to driver error, not a surprise really with what I've personally witnessed by some drivers on the roads in today's environment. I do think that a lot of drivers get in their cars and forget to bring their brains out with them.

Ashley then took over the talk. He showed us all a video entitled 'What is Advanced Driving?'

The video gave us a scenario of a driver driving his car, first on a motorway and then on a country lane. The driver gave us a step by step commentary on his approach onto the motorway, followed by his observations of vehicles around him in their individual lanes as he approached slower moving vehicles in front of him. He stated his intentions as to overtaking these slower vehicles, using correct speed, mirrors, all round observation and correct indications of his vehicle.

The country road followed, again commentary was used as to his observations of the narrow lanes, with potential of larger vehicles possibly coming in the opposite direction, road position on bends, correct speeds to be used and observing road signs for possible hazards. Ashley showed stills slides to demonstrate the potential hazards that a driver could come up against.

He also mentioned the 'Two Second' rule that drivers should observe when behind another vehicle, leaving the correct distance between you and the vehicle in front.

He finished by going through the latest Highway Code and the newer additions and alterations that are now in force in it. For example 'Priorities' on the roads which include pedestrians and cyclists etc.

I think all the members found the talk very interesting and informative. No matter how long we have all driven, we can all still learn from the items that the two Speakers brought up in their talk to us and maybe rid us of some of the bad habits that we can all get into over time.