



U17CC Press Release:

Date: 11/03/2016

Subject: U17CC – IAM Partnership Announced

## **Under 17 Car Club to work in partnership with the IAM**

The leading road safety charity for young drivers is joining forces with the renowned Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

The partnership will make the Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust an IAM approved training provider.

Celebrating its fortieth year in 2016, the Under 17 Car Club will now offer a direct path for young people to progress from their first experience behind the wheel to being recognised as some of the best drivers on the road.

Car Club members meet most Sundays at a variety of nationwide locations where they learn to drive in a safe off-road environment, supported by expert volunteer instructors. Using a graduated learning system which can see young people driving from the age of 11, the charity produces mature drivers of exceptional ability. This is achieved at remarkably low cost, as members typically drive their parents' cars.

The charity also caters for rising 17s with its week long Pathfinder programme run during school holidays using the same learning methodology.

The new alliance with the IAM, which specialises in post-licence coaching, offers a route to lifelong learning and a well-proven record of achievement. Former Under 17 Car Club and Pathfinder members have, on average, far fewer crashes or convictions than other drivers.\*

"This is a remarkable opportunity for the leading young driver charity to work alongside the leading charity for experienced advanced motorists," says Paul Silverwood, President of the Under 17 Car Club.

"We will offer the IAM the very best of a younger generation of enthusiastic advanced drivers. We will provide opportunities for existing IAM members and their families to get involved in driving in a safe environment.

"And we will share the experience of the best specialist instructors and proven learning methods developed over decades."

The Under 17 Car Club Charity provides a range of experiences to develop young drivers. Once they have mastered the family car, there are opportunities to fine tune their vehicle control on a skid pan. First Aid, motorway, night driving, and learning to operate the latest double decker buses and 44-tonne articulated lorries are all part of the training. Membership can cost as little at £8.68 for a driving day – that's just £1.45 an hour!

Shaun Cronin, the Car Club's Chief Instructor and IAM Regional Quality Manager, says: "For a young person getting behind the wheel years before they can legally take to the road is a one-off opportunity. But this is about having fun too – our members get the opportunity to spend their Sundays driving a wide variety of cars, lorries and buses – and even learning advanced skills on a race track.

"The bottom line is this: working together with the IAM, the Under 17 Car Club can prevent a lot of crashes and, hopefully, we can save young lives."

## Operational Notes

**For all media queries** please contact:

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**Interviewees** available on request: current Club members, recent graduates, trustees and instructors based throughout England.

### Background - About the Under 17 Car Club & Pathfinder

The Under 17 Car Club (U17CC) was founded by children's author Sandy Barrie and racing driver Barrie 'Whizzo' Williams in 1976 to offer a safe, organised environment in which children with an interest in driving, cars and motorsport could learn to drive and practice their skills.

Four decades later U17CC continues to offer parents or guardians ("Associates") safe venues where they can bring their children ("Members") to learn to drive, following a graduated curriculum over a number of years between the ages of 11 and 17. It is designed to develop driving competence equivalent to IAM or RoSPA Gold advanced driver standard.

U17CC is a voluntary organisation and part of the U17CC Charitable Trust that offers a methodology delivered by skilled Roadcraft instructors. The Club operates at 8 different sites offering around 35 weekend events each year. It welcomes young people from all walks of life.

Since 1976 around 4,000 pre-licence drivers - and also their Associates - have developed positive attitudes to road safety and high levels of driving skill with the Club.

Through its commercial arm (Under 17 Drivers Pathfinder Ltd) the charity also offers Pathfinder, the only nationally available, not-for-profit young driver programme for rising 17 year olds. This week-long intensive programme of attitudinal learning and driver development receives sponsorship from Martin Surl, Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and supported by Gloucestershire Police, Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership and Gloucestershire IAM Group. Evaluation of the benefits were formally conducted in 2014 and early indications from the first two student groups are very encouraging – see below.

### Key stats - road casualties amongst novice drivers

The U17CC Charitable Trust is unique in addressing the challenge that approximately 1 in 5 novice drivers (DfT statistics) will be involved in a reportable collision during their first year on the road post DSA test. This is the only organisation to offer the methodology, duration, and parental engagement with pre-licence drivers which are fundamental to this work.

Pre-licence tuition with commercial providers offers a very limited curriculum which focuses on providing a 'fun' driving experience. These prohibitively expensive experiences cannot offer the richness of U17CC or Pathfinder nor, we believe, can they make any truly meaningful contribution to road safety or collision/ casualty reduction. The skills, knowledge, competences and experience required to provide such a programme are not available to young people through traditional routes.

The Trust undertook formal surveys in 2006, 2012 and 2014 which reveal an accident rate of 1 in 20 for Car Club participants, far better than the national average.

	Published 2006 survey		2012 survey	Combined surveys
	General Public	Members	Members	Members
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Accident Rate	1 in 5	1 in 12	1 in 20	1 in 16
DSA Test Pass Rate (X/1)	47%	92%	84%	89%
DSA Test Pass Rate (All)	47%	80%	79%	79%
Points on Licence	14.3%	5.4%	1.6%	4%
Pass Plus Participation	15%	34%	43%	37%
IAM/RoSPA Rate	0.5%	10%	8%	9%

<http://www.under17-carclub.co.uk/uploads/images/Public%20Documents/SurveyReport080414VF2.pdf>

These surveys show that participants are more than **4 times** safer than their peers. Critically, members also report a much lower motoring offence conviction rate with NO convictions reported by male respondents in 2012 and only one female.

These findings are encouraging and evidence the Trust's belief that appropriately structured and delivered pre-licence driver development, which focuses on developing an appropriate risk-aware attitude as well as technical skill, delivers significant safety benefits to this vulnerable group. The beneficial effect of attending Pathfinder is becoming clear primarily in terms of a contribution to Road Safety through reduction in collisions and casualties.

## Further information:

The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust: [www.u17ccctrust.org](http://www.u17ccctrust.org)

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The Under 17 Car Club: [www.under17-carclub.co.uk](http://www.under17-carclub.co.uk)

The Pathfinder Project: [www.under17driver.co.uk](http://www.under17driver.co.uk)

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For further details visit the website:  
<http://www.under17-carclub.co.uk>



Pat Doughty, IAM Operations and Charity Director with John Beckford, Under 17 Car Club Trustee & Vice President