



NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Robin Apps - 01953 488003

DriveLines

No: 1/14

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The monthly newsletter for the Norfolk and Norwich Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Association.

www.roadanorfolk.org.uk

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Your Chairman and Committee wish all members and families and readers a very happy and safe new year. It is hoped that you all had a very happy and relaxing Christmas Season.

2014 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE AS FROM 1ST DECEMBER 2013

£10 subscription is now due for the next year (unless you have paid for your subscription since September 2013 then yours is not due until December 2014). Please pass your cheques/money (cheques made payable to RoSPA Advanced Drivers/Riders Association, Norfolk and Norwich Group) to Membership Secretary, Peter Matchett, 61 Stylman Road, Cloverhill, Norwich, NR5 9ET. Alternatively please hand to Mrs. Meryl Butcher at our monthly meeting. Please ensure you include your name and address. If you are not going to renew please let Peter know (Tel: 01603 742238).

What's On

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED
7.30PM AT THE PAVILION, OAKFIELD ROAD, CRINGLEFORD

**ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE MEETINGS ARE HELD ON
THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.
THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE LAST WEDNESDAY**

MEETINGS

JANUARY

Wednesday, 22nd January 2014

In house 'Down Memory Lane' evening.

John Laycock our Meeting Co-ordinator will be showing us some of his own motoring related DVDs. It was felt prudent in view of the often unpredictable weather in January to have an in house evening in case an outside speaker cannot make the venue. John says that all members will be able to relate to the films and they will conjure up memories and give us some pointers for our driving! This 'Down Memory Lane' evening is an excellent idea for this time of year, and do not forget the raffle and free tea, coffee and biscuits. Hope you will be able to make this interesting time.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 26th February 2014

Wind-power in Norfolk.

This evening will be a talk on the history of 'Wind-power in Norfolk'. In the past our countryside was alive with windmills carrying out all sorts of tasks and the talk this day will be given by the Curator of the Wind Museum near Potter Heigham. A different but I am sure it will be interesting and informative.

MARCH

Wednesday, 26th March 2014

Annual General Meeting

This is the evening for our Annual General Meeting followed by a Members Forum. Details of the AGM appear elsewhere in this Edition. We would like as many Members as possible to come along. Make a note in your diaries. Remember it is your meeting about your club!

APRIL

Wednesday, 23rd April 2014

Sundials – Not just 'sundials'. It is sundials with a difference!

[A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE-CHAIRMAN, Brian Dack.](#)

Happy New Year to all our members (young and old), and I hope you all enjoyed Christmas. I only wish I could say the same. A real corker of a cold started just before Christmas Eve and hung in there until today New Year's eve. Went to the quack yesterday and he has put me on anti-biotics for a chest infection. Hey Ho! That 's enough of my problems.

Regarding 2013: We didn't have as many tests take place last year, although I know of at least two members who did not get their tests through as expected and are running into 2014. The reason for this is as far as I can make out.....The examiners have been passed the information and paperwork but for whatever reason they have been sitting on them. What I do not think the examiners understand is... that at the time of me doing a pre-test drive and saying yes lets go for it and an application for test is forwarded to H/Q you members are at your peak. You have completed your training, had a run out with myself and you are ready. Now because of the rather long delay, it has all got to be repeated. I apologise to those concerned. Robin our newly elected chairman has done his utmost to get things put right but it does seem to be falling on deaf ears. We will see if things work out better in 2014. My records show we had about 12 tests taken last year, with 2 more running into 2014, down slightly on last year but when I look at the test dates, between January 8th and May 3rd we had nothing happen as far as tests are concerned. Maybe it was due to bad weather.

A few thanks are due for the past year, and we will start with Noel and his dear wife Enid who together, put our wonderful newsletter together every other month, correcting all my spelling mistakes! Thank you both. To our instructors, well done, we cannot manage without you, thanks. Jason has done another great job with the raffle, thanks mate, keep pulling my numbers out. To Robin our chairman and his committee, many thanks. If I have forgotten to mention anybody, sorry, from putting the chairs away after meetings, to washing up the dishes - WE ARE A TEAM. Thank you.

Regards Brian vc

Following on from Brian's message, Robin Apps our Chairman and Training Officer has sent this information

Advanced Driving Test Results Apr-Dec 2013

Member	Grade	Tutor
<i>Jim Whiteside</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Malcolm Bishop</i>
<i>Judith Huggett</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Mike Hadfield</i>
<i>Alistair Wilcock</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Peter Matchett</i>
<i>Barbara Vidion</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Tony Self</i>
<i>Simon Appleton</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Peter Matchett</i>
<i>Jamie Kaufman</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Brian Dack</i>

Six of our new members successfully underwent training with our tutors, took their initial advanced driving tests, and achieved the results listed above. Many congratulations to you all and to the tutors concerned.

Training Officer Comment - Training Delays

Those of you waiting for training have been very patient. I would ask you to understand that the delays are mainly due to the lack of daylight hours available for training with the tutors. I will refrain from including the weather, tutor distances and the odd illness as reasons for the delays, but they don't help!

DVLA News

Tax Disks are History (well, they will be soon!)

On Thursday 5 December 2013, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the government will change the law in 2014 to reduce tax administration costs and burdens associated with vehicle tax.

DVLA will offer motorists the ability to spread their vehicle tax payments should they wish to do so. From 1 October 2014 motorists will be able to pay vehicle tax by direct debit annually, biannually or monthly. There will be no additional handling fees for annual payments but to limit the impact on the public finances there will be a small surcharge of 5% of vehicle tax for biannual and monthly payments. This is half of the 10% surcharge that is currently applied to 6 monthly tax discs and which has been in existence for a number of decades.

Also from 1 October 2014, the paper tax disc, first issued on 1 January 1921, will no longer be issued and required to be displayed on a vehicle windscreen. Vehicle tax will still need to be paid but with DVLA having a digital record of who has and has not paid, a paper tax disc is no longer necessary as proof that vehicle tax is paid. The vast majority of motorists pay their vehicle tax with latest figures confirming that over 99% of motorists' tax their vehicles on time. Most on-road enforcement action is now based on using Automatic Number Plate Readers. These cameras use the number plate rather than a visual inspection of the tax disc. The police also have access to DVLA records via the police national computer. There are significant savings for fleet operators and other businesses from not having to handle the administration of tax discs.

Motorists will no longer need motor insurance policies to be checked when getting their vehicle tax.

The change, announced by Roads Minister Robert Goodwill, is part of a package of measures to get rid of unnecessary red tape. The changes, which came into force on **16 December 2013**, also mean that motorists will only need to tell DVLA **once** when they declare their vehicle off the road. Currently, motorists who make a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) have to renew their SORN every year. Last year, around 4 million -- SORNs were made, with over 1 million of those being repeat renewals

With thanks for the above from Robin Apps

[Further from Robin:](#)

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Have you made your new year's resolution yet? Did I hear you say Yes(?); well we don't believe you! Although we are now back into the period of days getting longer, we still have the nightmare of low sun (if you can find the sun). So, why not start the New Year by giving the inside of your car's windows a really good clean to remove that awful haze that appears from nowhere and turns to fog when the sun shines on it – it also encourages moisture to settle too. The best results I have found is using Autoglym Fast Glass Cleaner (other glass cleaners are available) and a clean microfibre cloth; but not cotton-dusters, rags or paper towel. Don't forget the rear window - you'll be amazed at the difference.

HQ NEWS

This was recently received from HQ:

“I have been asked on a few occasions to confirm the stance of dual-membership; I can confirm the following;

Should you have a car and bike membership you are only required to pay one subscription fee of £23.00 a year, your car re-test will be free of charge and included in your subscription and your bike test will be charged at the retest fee of £40.00. I hope this clarifies any uncertainty and ensures that members with dual subscriptions are receiving the benefits of the dual membership.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CAR?

No, it is not one of those questionnaires! Everybody has their favourites and their aspirations. I thought we ought to applaud a British Triumph for a change. It has just been announced that Jaguar/Landover have had an excellent year with sales of Jaguar cars on the up, world-wide. It has also been suggested that the car of the year will be the Jaguar F-Class Coupe! At costs from £58,000 it is not cheap but not one of the most expensive. So I have no qualms in putting its photograph here!



Unfortunately I will have to stick with my ‘Scenic’.

Annual General Meeting - 2014

All members are requested to note that the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk & Norwich Group will be held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at the usual meeting venue. The AGM will commence promptly at 7.30 pm. If any members wish to raise any points for inclusion at the meeting, please forward them to the chairman at least seven days prior to the AGM. If any Member wishes to join us on the Committee will they also let Robin know prior to the meeting. The AGM will then be followed by an open forum/discussion on any topic, even motoring!

Now for something completely different – Something for the Ladies!

Preserving ones' modesty:

'For the lady who was bold enough to take to two wheels, a bicycle was made available which had a special tilting saddle so that her dress would not be caught when mounting. A 'safety cycling skirt' could also be purchased from a limited number of tailors.

The "HART" Patent Safety Cycling Skirt

IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE BEST; IT IS PERFECT.

It has all the advantages possible.

Perfect for
Walking,
Golf, or
Tennis.

Orders arriving
daily
from all parts.

SMART AS A
RIDING HABIT.

Every client is
delighted.

If you see this you
will have no other.
BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

Full Particulars, Patterns, and Self-measurement Forms on application.

LICENSES. A limited number will be granted to Ladies' Tailors throughout the country.

Terms of Patent, CHAS. H. HART 23, SACKVILLE STREET.

JAMES HART & SON, 23, SACKVILLE STREET, W.
And EASTBOURNE.

This was produced in the late 1800s. Puts Lycra to shame.

And Finally:

My questions this month? How about the latest from the Department of Transport – large section of the M.1 to be mandatory 60 miles per hour. I do not understand their argument that it is to try and cut down on pollution. I can understand for safety reasons to slow vehicles down, it is a notorious accident area. Surely it is the same number of vehicles taking longer to pass, issuing pollutants for longer. Your thoughts. Their other idea is to expand the use of the hard shoulder as another lane in busy times on Motorways. Experiments on the M.42 appear to have been a success. When I last used that road you could only use the hard shoulder if you were leaving at the next junction. I am worried that danger would be caused to vehicles which breakdown (I know they say there will be refuges every few hundred yards, but surely you cannot always make that). What about Emergency Vehicles trying to get to an incident. Also, of course, there will be the expense of signage and building of safety zones. Again your thoughts please. Send them to me via E.Mail or snail mail, let's get some conversation going. See you all soon. Drive carefully.

Noel Baker
Editor

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