



NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Robin Apps - 01953 488003

DriveLines

No: 6 /15

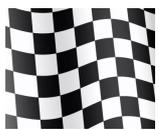
November/December 2015

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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I wonder what vehicles we will end up with in 20 years time? There now appears to be several experimental vehicles either running around or in the design/construction stage. It is difficult to keep up with. The latest one I saw is being run on 'hydrogen'. There are now vehicles on 'gas' or 'battery' as well as usual or ultimate petrol or diesel. When you read articles about these vehicles, they all sound that they will be the best type for us to have. There are of course the usual drawbacks, such as 'hydrogen' costing about £58000 with very few refilling stations. 'Gas' has to be used in conjunction with conventional petrol engines and having a very large tank in the boot! 'Battery' vehicles are mostly limited in their range and speed. All are much more expensive than an ordinary powered motor vehicle. I would like to have an 'electric' car, but I could not get to see the grandchildren in London without stopping and plugging in at the Services on the M.11. Also although they have 'clean' engines they are very expensive, even with grants from the Government! A lot of their cost is taken up by the batteries, either buying them when you buy the car or by means of rental, which to me could negate the hoped for savings in the costs of petrol. The way the scientists and engineers are working they will get our vehicles running on 'water' by the time 20 years is up! Do you think the petrol companies will allow that?

As it is November this is also the December and Christmas edition. I will make my usual plea as winter and another holiday season is coming up, to make sure your vehicles are winterised and safe to use. Do not wait for the snow to come before you put the life saving (could be) equipment in your vehicles. A blanket or duvet. Torch. Shovel and something to use as tracks. Some biscuits and chocolate. A bottle of water or sugar drink.

Make sure your mobile telephone is fully charged before each journey. By winterising I mean check that your battery is good enough for the winter mornings to start you. Check that the coolant is up to the standard to withstand minus temperatures before freezing. Check that your tyres are still legal which means you have sufficient tread to assist on icy surfaces and in snow, and not likely to earn you penalty points if they are checked by an official. Do not forget your bodywork! Possibly it will need a good coating of wax to help preserve it through all the weather winter can throw at you. This is obviously not an exhaustive list, but it is a start. Help to keep you going and the in-car articles can be very useful if you become stranded or held up on a motorway or in a country lane.

All that it leaves me to do now is wish you all and your families a very

“Happy and safe Christmas and New Year“

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

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 25th November 2015

Unfortunately Mr. Davenport from the Magic Museum cannot make it this evening and so for your entertainment at great expense we have managed to employ the services of:

Mr Jon Read telling us "Tales of the Old Gas Works" Mr Read is a popular speaker and although this will be his first visit to RoSPA, he is frequently invited back to clubs to give another of his talks. Please support this meeting, the last for 2015. There will be the usual bumper raffle and a Christmas buffet. This is our Christmas Social Evening and Jon is a good speaker with many amusing anecdotes so come along and enjoy the fun.

DECEMBER

NO MEETING

JANUARY - 2016

Wednesday, 27th January 2016

Malcolm Cooper - Norfolk Seaside Holidays.

Malcolm will be giving us a talk all about Norfolk Seaside Holidays. This will give an insight into the history of how and why Norfolk developed into a holiday destination and where it stands to-day in relation to the rest of the country. Anybody who is interested in how and why Norfolk developed is advised to come along as is all our Members to support our evenings.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 24th February 2016

To be confirmed.

Chairman's Chunterings!

HQ RoADAR News

In the May/June issue of Drivelines we advised that HQ were seeking to recruit a new Chief Examiner. I have now received the following information from the RoADAR Manager:

Dear Chairman and Secretaries,

Over the past few months we have been carefully considering the role of RoADAR Chief Examiner.

We have consulted the Groups Advisory Panel (GAP) and the Regional Senior Examiners (RSEs) and agreed that some changes to the Chief Examiner role are needed. After our discussions with RSE and GAP we have concluded that a technical role is required to replace the Chief Examiner role, the new role will be to produce and update RoADAR examiner policies, testing procedures, guidelines and other technical or guidance manuals, provide technical advice about advanced driving and riding and to provide quality assurance of examiners and tests. The role also needs to advise on new developments in the field of driver and rider training and testing and implement any agreed changes to ensure that RoSPA and RoADAR standards, tests and procedures remain up-to-date and relevant.

We are now in discussions on the post, exact title name and whether the role would best be filled by a suitably qualified individual or by a standards panel and will keep you update as matters progress. In the meantime, please do contact your GAP representative if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Amy

So, changes could be afoot which may impact on the way we conduct our training and the testing procedures. We can only wait and see.

[Did you know that you can receive Highway Code updates by email?](#)

[Read on:](#)

The Highway Code UPDATES

Please find a list of latest Highway Code updates

[Rules for drivers and motorcyclists \(89 to 102\)](#)

2 March 2015 : Updated rule 96 to reflect the change in law that you MUST NOT drive if you have illegal drugs or certain medicines in your blood above specified limits. [Read more >>](#)

5 December 2014: Updated rule 95 to reflect the change in law for lower drink drive limits in Scotland.

[General rules, techniques and advice for all drivers and riders \(103 to 158\)](#)

1 October 2015: Updated rule 148 to include that you MUST NOT smoke in a private vehicle carrying under 18s.

[Read more >>](#)

6 April 2015: Updated the national speed limit for goods vehicles (of more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in England and Wales on single carriageways from 40 miles per hour (mph) to 50mph, and on dual carriageways from 50mph to 60mph. [Read more >>](#)

2 September 2014: Updated rule 147 about throwing things out of a vehicle from 'should not' to 'MUST NOT'.

2 April 2014: Changed 'Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)' to 'Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)' in rule 107.

Annex 3. Motor vehicle documentation and learner driver requirements

8 June 2015: Removed references to needing a paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence.

1 October 2014: Removed references of needing to display a tax disc in vehicles following their abolition.

Annex 5. Penalties

5 June 2015: Updated the penalty table to remove the £5,000 limit on fines for the most serious offences.



Test Results

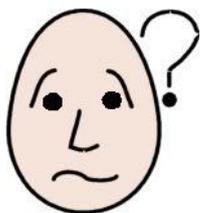
During Sep/Oct, we were notified of the following test passes:

Dan Robertson **Gold (Initial)** **Tutor Robin Apps**

Anthony Harrison **Gold (Initial)** **Tutor Alan Rockley**

WELL DONE to both of you and particularly to Dan; he was only nineteen at the time of his test and had been driving for just one year. Please remember if you take a test or retest, let us know or we cannot publicise your achievement!

Refresher Drives



So.....

Do you remember when your next test is due or that we offer refresher training drives prior to your triennial retests? These drives are intended to assist you in maintaining or even improving your grade. With three years between the tests, please plan early – the offer of refreshers is there for your benefit. If you wait until a month before the retest is due, this is likely to be too late, especially if remedial practice is recommended. Such short notice can also be quite disruptive to the tutors' scheduled drives and their personal commitments.

Observation & Information



Please plan ahead!

Contact the Training Officer in plenty of time

A CAUTIONARY TALE.

My friend told me this tale of woe suffered by his brother:

Peter at the age of 82 applied for renewal of his driving licence, only to be asked to attend for an eye test as he had recently had a cataract operation. Making the appointment by phone for Wednesday, May the 13th. he made a note on the calendar later that day with the time of the required attendance. At the appointed time Peter turned up to be told, "So sorry sir, but you are a week late as today is the 20th." Peter volunteered to take the test there and then. "I'm sorry but that's not possible as you have been recorded as a non-attendance and your licence has therefore been revoked." On enquiring how to rectify the error Peter was told he would have to fill in the appropriate form and send it off to the D.V.L.A.. This he of course did. After two weeks a phone call seemed to be in order enquiring as to what was happening in respect of his application. "Sorry sir but we have a huge back log it will take five or six weeks." Four weeks after the phone call the form came through the letter box, with it a note pointing out Peter had not ticked a couple of the boxes and requesting he complete the form fully and return it forthwith. Peter duly obliged. The obligatory six weeks passed, hallelujah a letter from the D.V.L.A. but, it contained once again the dreaded form, and once again a request to complete it as one of the boxes had remained unticked. Peter has done his duty again and is awaiting developments and an appointment for an eye test. He is a law abiding person and not driven his car since the 20th of May which, at the time of writing, is four months, this now being the 25th. of September

John Bean

A DRIVING QUIZ

1. A vehicle is fitted with ABS. What does ABS mean?
2. What is an International Motor Insurance Certificate more commonly known as?
3. Whom must you notify when, as a vehicle owner, you buy or sell your vehicle or change your name or address?
4. Name the emergency vehicle that uses a green light?
5. What is a 'Toucan' crossing?
6. By law everyone must wear a safety helmet when riding a motor-cycle on the road. True or False?
7. If your car needs an M.O.T. certificate and you drive without one, what could be invalidated?
8. What is the legal minimum depth of tread for cars, light vans and light trailers?
9. You are travelling on a motorway when you see a flashing amber sign on the central reservation with a speed of 50 mph. Is this speed advisory or mandatory?
10. Are passengers allowed to ride in a caravan whilst it is being towed?

Just to help you pass a few minutes. None of it is onerous. Results will be published in January.

End piece:

At the beginning of this Newsletter I mentioned 'winter driving'. With the bad weather eventually due, I ask you all to do some revision about skidding, the types and how to get out of one or at least minimize the consequences! 'Roadcraft' goes into it quite thoroughly. A quick look back into the Chapter could save you some damage to your car or yourself or other people. I have described skidding quite thoroughly in previous Newsletters. Let us make it a safe winter this year.

I have been compiling this Newsletter for well over 10 years and have been asking for someone to take over. I have had no offers but I am trying once more. Is there one of our Members who would be willing to take this off my hands? It is not very onerous, but unfortunately I do not get much support from Members by way of material to publish. I also make my usual plea for some articles from Members to help me to carry on. You can contact me or Robin if you would be interested or for more information.

It just leaves me to remind you all of our next meeting, our Christmas Social. Hope you can all make it. See you there.

Finally – On behalf of our Chairman and committee may we wish you all, and your friends and families a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Safe driving.

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This Newsletter is produced for the interest of the members of the Norfolk and Norwich Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Association. It details forthcoming events and has articles of a general interest to our members, which have been supplied by the members, the committee and Editor. As a result any views expressed are those of the local Group only, unless so detailed and not of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents being the parent organisation.