



Norfolk and Norwich Group

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Chairman – Robin Apps - 01953 488003

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www.roda-norfolk.org.uk

Hello Everyone

As you may have noted, our Drivelines editor is away on his holidays in Spain for several weeks. Therefore, to keep you in the picture, the Chairman thought it best to highlight a few things before they pass us by. Firstly, I'm not the editor of Drivelines and not a deputy either – so please don't berate me over the lack of content – all donations gratefully received!

Monthly Meetings

This month's meeting on Wednesday 22 November headlines as:

MEET the EXAMINER.

We are very fortunate to have a new (to us) examiner who has agreed to come and talk to us. So, this is your opportunity to inundate him with questions relating to Advanced Driving, the Advanced Driving Test and to seek his advice on all motoring matters. Remember too that this meeting will be the last for this year (no meetings in Dec and Aug) and that there will be Pre-Christmas snacks and nibbles available in addition to the usual teas/coffees and, of course, not forgetting our extravagant Christmas Raffle (all prize donations gratefully received!)

Please make this meeting a "must" on your busy calendars.

Reader's Contributions

The newsletter includes relevant issues, and, as I drive a white van for a living and cover a lot of miles, both in the U.K. and in Europe, I decided to contribute some thoughts. I don't necessarily claim to be right, or indeed, claim to know what I'm talking about.

To begin with – **smart motorways** and what you can expect to see.

- 1) 50mph limit for no obvious reason,
- 2) No reduced limit when an ambulance crew is attending an incident on the hard shoulder,
- 3) 60mph limit when you are stationary in a traffic jam,
- 4) No reduced limit when a broken down vehicle is being retrieved on to a low loader on the hard shoulder.
- 5) Differing speed limits showing on the same gantry, and last, but not least,

6) Lots of speed cameras.

Sat-Navs on the Driving Test.

Well. It's probably a personal thing, but sat-navs have instructions that tell you how to use them.

Encouraging drivers to use a sat-nav by introducing them in to the driving test may give those drivers the idea that they are a vital tool or aid to driving. I have a sat-nav but also have maps. It's easy to jump into a vehicle, turn the sat-nav on and put in your destination. With maps, you can plan your route. My sat-nav assumes I will achieve the speed limit on all roads and, for the time/distance calculation ignores junctions, roundabouts, traffic lights etc. I found that setting my sat-nav at a limited speed of 56 mph gives a more realistic estimated arrival time. Having said that, I have found that the average mph I achieve driving around the UK is 40mph and, in Europe, about 50mph.

I ask myself, should any of the driving test be used to find out if the driver can use follow sat-nav or should that time be spent ascertaining whether the person taking the test can park, drive and see?

Sat navs are subject to VAT at 20%. Maps (generally) are zero rated.

Thanks Eurostu. I too, have reservations on the need to introduce SatNavs into the revised Driving Test – I wonder what our members think about this. RMA.

Membership Renewals

This is just a reminder that membership renewals are due at the beginning of December, but if your membership card is marked 2017/2018 you do not need to renew till December 2018. **If you do not take advantage of the reduced Standing Order (SO) membership renewal scheme, then please pay promptly.** If you do use a SO, then please relax, put your feet up, and just think of Christmas.

Finally, the Chairman and Committee wish all our members a Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

