



NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Mrs. Sue Prutton – 01603 413890

DriveLines

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

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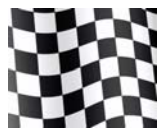
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Happy New Year to all Members and readers. I hope you all had a good, safe and healthy Christmas. We had illness in the family and that rather put a dampner on it. It does seem to happen a lot at this time of year but I hope most of you missed it and had an enjoyable time. Ah well only another 350 days until next time!

At the moment there is quite a debate going on about causing death whilst driving. What difference is there between Dangerous Driving and Careless Driving? However the driving is described if death or serious injury is caused, the driver must be culpable. Surely if a driver causes an accident it must have been lack of attention in the first place that made it arise. This is where the debate comes in, was it careless or was it dangerous. The law has been tinkered with from time to time and an offence of causing death by dangerous driving was introduced to replace causing death by reckless driving. Reckless driving is always very much more difficult to prove than dangerous driving. I have always felt that there should only be one offence, that of dangerous driving. Careless driving should be dropped and the charge should be dangerous driving. The Courts making the distinction on the seriousness of the offence as to what degree of danger was caused and the consequences of the drivers actions. A momentary lapse of concentration is dangerous, but obviously not as much as the 'boy racer' overtaking dangerously, or falling asleep at the wheel or even using your mobile telephone. The Courts would make the decision and pass sentence accordingly. One of the biggest problems with prosecuting motorists for more serious offences is that every-body in the Court is a driver, from the judge, jury or magistrate and they look at it 'as there for the grace of god go I'. Do the sentences then reflect this attitude (or am I very twisted?)

It would be interesting to get your views on this subject. Please let me know by letter or E-Mail for publication later.

Now I have to apologise for the errors in the last edition. It was checked by two people before it was published and we all missed the mistakes. We had a good turn out at the Christmas meeting so I think everyone realised that my dating of the meeting was wrong. The November meeting was billed as the December meeting. I do not think anyone would have turned up on 28th December for a meeting anyway. Sorry. At the meeting I was accosted by several people over these mistakes, the main one being on the quiz on Norfolk village names 'Fun Bratto' should have another 'r' therein. The full answers are later in this issue. Many apologies..

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**

MEETING - JANUARY 2008

Wednesday, 23rd January 2008

Andy Warnes – Norfolk Constabulary

It is always a very interesting evening when we have a Police Officer to come and give us a talk. Andy is a first response Officer. He will be a fully trained patrol car driver and I am sure he will have lots of interesting, and sometimes gruesome, stories to tell us. Well worth noting and coming along to support us.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 27th February 2008

Dr. Tovey - Lecturer UEA

Dr. Tovey is a Research Lecturer at the University and he will be giving us an interesting talk on the development of bio-diesel. Will it be worth converting? Will it be easily obtainable.

MARCH

Wednesday, 26th March 2008

Group Annual General Meeting

Name to be announced - Talk about hearing dogs for the deaf.

APRIL

Wednesday, 23rd April 2008

Dr. J. Applegate – General Practitioner

Dr. Applegate is a member of the Norfolk Doctors Accident Response Team. His practice is at the Acle Medical Centre and therefore he is in a prime position for attending serious accidents on the A.47 between Norwich and Yarmouth and surrounding roads. He has given us a talk in the past and he brings a lot of expertise to us and I know that this will be a very interesting evening. Definitely one for your diary.

WHY DO SOME COUNTRIES DRIVE ON THE RIGHT AND OTHERS ON THE LEFT?



PART 2



Some anecdotes....

While some countries have transferred from left to right, the only case recorded of a transfer from right to left is in Okinawa on 30th July 1978.

A newspaper story one April Fool's Day suggested that, to further European integration, the UK was to convert to driving on the right. However, owing to the huge amount of work this conversion would cause, it would be apply for the first six months to buses and taxis only.

Myanmar (formerly Burma) was a British colony until 1948, and drove on the left until 1970 when it changed. It is said that the ruler of the country, Ne Win, interpreted a dream to mean that all traffic should keep to the right. However, virtually every vehicle is right-hand drive, since there are still many old cars and buses driving around and almost all the modern cars are second-hand imports from Japan. You can still even see old traffic lights in downtown Rangoon on the wrong side of the road.

Location of the steering wheel....

Almost always, in countries where one drives on the right-hand side of the road, the cars are built so that the driver sits on the left-hand side of the car. Conversely, driving on the left-hand side of the road usually implies that the driver's seat is on the right-hand side of the car. It used to be different, though.

All early automobiles in the USA (driving on the right-hand side of the road) were right-hand drive, following practice established by horse-drawn buggies. They changed to the left-hand drive in the early 1900s as it was decided it was more practical to have the driver seated near the centreline of the road, both to judge the space allowed when passing oncoming cars, and to allow front-seat passengers to get out of the car onto the pavement instead of the middle of the street.

Ford changed to left-hand drive in the 1908 model year. A Ford catalogue from 1908 explains the benefits of having the controls on the left side of the car; *'The control is located on the left side, the logical place, for the following reasons: travelling along the right-hand side of the road the steering wheel on the right-hand side of the car made it necessary to get out on the street side and walk around the car. This is awkward and especially inconvenient if there is a lady to be considered. The controls on the left allows to the curbing without having to turn the car around. In the matter of steering with the control on the right, the driver is farthest away from the vehicle he is passing in the opposite direction; with it on the left side he is able to see even the wheels of the other car and easily avoid danger'*.

Nowadays, the driver always sits on the side of the car that is nearest to the centre line. However, there are exceptions, among other things certain kinds of specialised service vehicles. For example, street sweeping may have the reverse driving position to place the driver next to the gutter. Italian-built trolley buses were right-hand drive for many years in order to observe the passenger doors better.

Until the mid-60s, all Lancias, even in left-hand drive Italy, were manufactured as right-hand drive. Lancia intended the cars to be suitable for use on the Alpine passes, so when driving on the right, the driver was also on the right so that he could see the edge of the road. Falling off the edge of the road was considered a greater danger than head on collisions. Modern Italian trucks in the Alps are still often right-hand drive for the same reason.

Some countries restrict import of vehicles that have their controls arranged differently from the norm for the country, but foreign tourists are usually allowed to drive their odd vehicles while they visit. Non-standard vehicles maybe required to display a sign on the back announcing this such as 'Right hand drive' or just RD or LHD. Cambodia (which drives on the right) recently banned all right-hand drive vehicles in order to control imports of stolen and smuggled vehicles from Thailand. It also required all car owners to have their vehicles modified so that the steering wheel is on the left or risk confiscation. About 80% of the officially registered vehicles in the country had to be modified in order to comply.

One comfort in all this is that the arrangement of the pedals and the gear shift is the same worldwide. An International standard was arrived at some time ago which determined the order of the pedals, no matter which side the steering wheel was located. Right to left the order is always A – B – C, or accelerator, brake and clutch. This means if you rent a car in a country where they drive on the other side to norm, a driver will be able to cope with the controls immediately. The manual pattern on a gear lever is also always the same, mainly for commercial reasons, and is located in the centre of the front of the vehicle.

Japanese people sometimes import left hand drive models of cars, whereas the standard Japanese car in Japan is right-hand drive. This is done purely for prestige. A Mercedes or BMW with the steering wheel on the left is seen as more authentic and carries something of a cachet. It is also more expensive than the right hand drive version of the same vehicle!

Following are lists of countries that have left hand or right hand drive rules:

List of left driving countries

1. Anguilla
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Australia
4. Bahamas
5. Bangladesh
6. Barbados
7. Bermuda
8. Bhutan
9. Botswana
10. Brunei
11. Cayman Islands
12. Christmas Island (Australia)
13. Cook Islands
14. Cyprus
15. Dominica
16. East Timor
17. Falkland Islands
18. Fiji
19. Grenada
20. Guernsey (Channel Islands)
21. Guyana
22. Hong Kong
23. India
24. Indonesia
25. Ireland
26. Isle of Man
27. Jamaica
28. Japan
29. Jersey (Channel Islands)
30. Kenya
31. Kiribati
32. Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Australia)
33. Lesotho
34. Macau
35. Malawi
36. Malaysia
37. Maldives
38. Malta
39. Mauritius
40. Montserrat
41. Mozambique
42. Namibia
43. Nauru
44. Nepal
45. New Zealand
46. Niue
47. Norfolk Island (Australia)
48. Pakistan
49. Papua New Guinea
50. Pitcairn Islands (Britain)
51. Saint Helena
52. Saint Kitts and Nevis
53. Saint Lucia
54. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
55. Seychelles
56. Singapore
57. Solomon Islands
58. South Africa
59. Sri Lanka
60. Suriname
61. Swaziland
62. Tanzania
63. Thailand
64. Tokelau (New Zealand)
65. Tonga
66. Trinidad and Tobago
67. Turks and Caicos Islands
68. Tuvalu
69. Uganda
70. United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)
71. Virgin Islands (British)
72. Virgin Islands (US)
73. Zambia
74. Zimbabwe

List of right-driving countries

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. American Samoa
5. Andorra
6. Angola
7. Argentina
8. Armenia
9. Aruba
10. Austria
11. Azerbaijan
12. Bahrain
13. Belarus
14. Belgium
15. Belize
16. Benin
17. Bolivia
18. Bosnia and Herzegovina
19. Brazil
20. British Indian Ocean Territory (Diego García)
21. Bulgaria
22. Burkina Faso
23. Burundi
24. Cambodia
25. Cameroon
26. Canada
27. Cape Verde
28. Central African Republic
29. Chad
30. Chile
31. China, People's Republic of (Mainland China)
32. Colombia
33. Comoros
34. Congo
35. Congo (former Republic of Zaire)
36. Costa Rica
37. Croatia
38. Cuba
39. Czech Republic
40. Denmark
41. Djibouti
42. Dominican Republic
43. Ecuador
44. Egypt
45. El Salvador
46. Equatorial Guinea
47. Eritrea
48. Estonia
49. Ethiopia
50. Faroe Islands (Denmark)
51. Finland
52. France
53. French Guiana
54. French Polynesia
55. Gabon
56. Gambia, The
57. Gaza Strip
58. Georgia
59. Germany
60. Ghana
61. Gibraltar
62. Greece
63. Greenland
64. Guadeloupe (French West Indies)
65. Guam
66. Guatemala
67. Guinea
68. Guinea-Bissau
69. Haiti
70. Honduras
71. Hungary
72. Iceland
73. Iran
74. Iraq
75. Israel
76. Italy
77. Ivory Coast
78. Jordan
79. Kazakhstan
80. Korea, Democratic People's Republic of (North Korea)
81. Korea, Republic of (South Korea)
82. Kuwait
83. Kyrgyzstan
84. Laos
85. Latvia
86. Lebanon
87. Liberia
88. Libya
89. Liechtenstein
90. Lithuania
91. Luxembourg
92. Macedonia
93. Madagascar
94. Mali
95. Marshall Islands
96. Martinique (French West Indies)
97. Mauritania
98. Mayotte (France)
99. Mexico
100. Micronesia, Federated States of
101. Midway Islands (USA)

102. Moldova
103. Monaco
104. Mongolia
105. Morocco
106. Myanmar (formerly Burma)
107. Netherlands
108. Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius, Saba)
109. New Caledonia
110. Nicaragua
111. Niger
112. Nigeria
113. Northern Mariana Islands
114. Norway
115. Oman
116. Palau
117. Panama
118. Paraguay
119. Peru
120. Philippines
121. Poland
122. Portugal
123. Puerto Rico
124. Qatar
125. Réunion
126. Romania
127. Russia
128. Rwanda
129. Saint Barthélemy (French West Indies)
130. Saint Martin (French West Indies)
131. Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France)
132. Samoa
133. San Marino
134. Sao Tome e Principe
135. Saudi Arabia
136. Senegal
137. Serbia and Montenegro
138. Sierra Leone
139. Slovakia
140. Slovenia
141. Somalia
142. Spain
143. Sudan
144. Svalbard (Norway)
145. Sweden
146. Switzerland
147. Syria
148. Taiwan
149. Tajikistan
150. Togo
151. Tunisia
152. Turkey
153. Turkmenistan
154. Ukraine
155. United Arab Emirates
156. United States
157. Uruguay
158. Uzbekistan
159. Vanuatu
160. Venezuela
161. Vietnam
162. Wake Island (USA)
163. Wallis and Futuna Islands (France)
164. West Bank
165. Western Sahara
166. Yemen

ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Quiz 1: Driving on the left. The answers to be found above.

Quiz 2: Cars 1. Model T Ford 2. Rolls Royce Silver Ghost 3. Lotus Elite 4. Mini
 5. McLaren F1 6. Bentley (1932)

Quiz 3: Highway Code 1. True 2. False 3. True 4. False (Green)
 5. True 6. True 7. True (Unusual to have central res. on Zebra)
 8. True 9. False (315 feet!) 10. True 11. False 12. False

Quiz 4: **Malaysh** - **Aylsham** **Fun Bratto** (6+4) - **Barton Turf**
 Lolliscath - **Coltishall** **Ming Had Itch** (11) - **Ditchingham**
 Astone - **Easton** **Brifleg** - **Felbrig**
 Shell Grasen (11) **Gressenhall** **Mingha** - **Ingham**
 Glynninks (5+4) **Kings Lynn** **Dog Linow**(8) - **Lingwood**
 Sly Deemun (9) **Mundesley** **Chinrow** - **Norwich**
 Lutoon - **Oulton** **Shopperten** - **Pensthorpe**

How did you get on? I hope you all enjoyed having a go and found them interesting as well as informative.

NOTICES 1

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IS DUE:

All Members are reminded that renewal of Membership and fees are due as from the 1st January 2008 with the exception of those people that joined us, and paid their fees, from September last year. [Click Here](#) to download and print a renewal form which you can post to Peter Matchett with the fee (£10) or you can hand it in at the January or February meetings. If you pay by cheque please make it out to 'RoSPA Advanced Drivers And Riders, Norfolk and Norwich Group'. If you have problems with the form just bring your fee along to a meeting or post it to Peter but ensure you include your name and address for identification purposes.

Please renew promptly as it helps to keep our books straight. Many thanks.

If you have decided that you no longer wish to be a Member of your local group can you please inform Peter to save chase up correspondence, and may I say on behalf of the Norwich and Norfolk Group a big thank-you for joining us and improving your driving and wish you all well in the future. But I hope you will re-consider and stay with us after all.

TRIVIA

Some interesting or uninteresting facts about roads (depends on how you look at it!).

ROAD or street: In the Middle Ages 'road' or 'way' only meant the direction of travel. The built road was called a street, a Roman word from the same root as 'stretch'.

LONG roads: The longest road in the world is the Pan-American Highway. It stretches some 30000 miles from Alaska to Argentina, except for one section in the Panamanian forest known as the Darien Gap, which is protected because of its biodiversity. The worlds largest war memorial is the Great Ocean Road in Australia – the 160 mile thoroughfare along the south-east coast was built by servicemen during the inter-war years to honour fallen comrades

ROAD signs: William Phelps Eno, an American credited with developing the stop sign, the roundabout, one way streets, island crossings, bus stops, taxi stands and traffic signal towers never learned to drive. He much preferred to ride horses. He was chauffeured in a car everywhere. The name 'Roundabout' was coined by another American, Logan Pearsall Smith, who suggested it to the BBC Advisory Committee on spoken English in 1927. Until then British roundabouts were called 'gyratory circuses'.

ROAD safety: Eno's innovations didn't come in time to save Bridget Driscoll. In 1896 she became the first road traffic fatality when she was struck by a car travelling at 4 mph while on her way to a folk dancing display at Crystal Palace. The Coroner at her inquest hoped 'such a thing would never happen again'. Now more than a million people die in traffic accidents each year, but you can still only run the same risk of being knocked down and killed crossing the road as you do of contracting CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease): 1 in 365 million. 38 per cent of UK pedestrians who die on the roads are drunk!

RUDE roads: Between the 13th and 16th centuries, London had various streets known as Pissing Lane or Pissing Alley, which were used for the purpose suggested. There was also a Dunghill Lane and Dunghill stairs. Sherborne Lane has nothing to do with Dorset: It was once Shiteburn Lane. Sadly, the chief street of the London stews (the medieval red light district) hasn't survived. Grope Lane became Grub Street and is now Milton Street. Similarly named streets in Oxford and Bristol fared no better: they are now called Magpie Lane and Hoist Street.

ROMANTIC road: Some 2.5 million pulped Mills and Boon novels were mixed into the tarmac of the Midlands Expressway, better known as the new M6 Toll. The construction company that laid the road used 92000 books per mile for a 16mile stretch to help the surface absorbency. An engineer said, 'They may be slushy to many people, but it's their no-slushiness that's their attraction to us!'

ABBEY Road: Abbey Road Studios was once an enormous house with nine bedrooms and five reception rooms – number 3 Abbey Road. Bought by EMI it was christened EMI Studios and became the first purpose made recording studios in the world. The studios only became known as Abbey Road in 1970 after the eponymous Beatles Album. Abbey Road and St. John's Wood Mutual Benefit Building Society was founded in 1874 in a Baptist Church in Abbey Road. It became the Abbey National Building Society in 1944.

NOTICES 2

RETIREMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Sue Prutton has given your Committee notice that she fully intends to retire from the post of Chairman as from the Annual General Meeting in March this year. Sue has been our Chairman for 8 years and she now feels the time is right to step down. She has done a lot of good work for us and will be a difficult act to follow. But that is the reason for this Notice. Have we any Member out there who feels that they could take on the mantle and become our next Chairman. We have a cross section of people of varied occupations as Members and I am sure there are some among you with initiative and drive that feel they could happily carry out these duties. The only stipulation we require is that they are already Gold or Silver passed Advanced Drivers.

If you would like to be considered for this position as our Chairman please contact Sue or myself, or any Committee Member as soon as possible. We cannot operate without a Chairman so please consider joining your Committee to help keep the Group running and to keep up the good work of spreading the word of Advanced Driving and Road Safety.

NOTICES 3

REQUIREMENT FOR TUTORS/OBSERVERS

We are happily experiencing a number of new Associates and as a result we require some more Tutors/Observers to bring these people up to Standard for the Test. If you are a Gold or Silver Grade holder of the Advanced Test we could use your expertise. If you would like to become a Tutor please contact Tony Self, Sue or myself to show your interest. It is hoped that shortly we will have a training session for Tutors and any new people will have to have a test to carry out these duties. Go on, give it a go, you only have to pass on your knowledge to eager and keen Associates.

That is all now for this month. Letters or stories are still required from you our Members to keep this Newsletter entertaining, please forward anything you think will be of interest to our readers to me at the address below. Please consider joining us on the Committee and I hope we have several Members from whom we can choose as either Chairman, for the Committee or on the training side as Tutors. See you at this month's meeting.

Safe motoring.

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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.