



NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

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DriveLines

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

www.roadanorfolk.org.uk

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There is NO MONEY!

This is now what we are always being told these days, especially if we require any work on our roads or worse still any new roads built! It is now July but I am sure you can all name roads where 'pot holes' still exist left over from our severe winter. The Councils appear to have a 'magic' stick for measuring the depth of each hole, if it is less than a certain size not considered dangerous and left, but do they think about our two wheeled friends (including pedal cycles) and they could come a cropper so easily on hitting a hole. Alternatively a colour is sprayed around the hole, indicating that at some future, indeterminate, date it will be seen too. Major road schemes are being abolished, the main one I know is the A.14 in Cambridgeshire. This is one of the busiest roads in the country, two lane and takes all the traffic from the A.14 East (Felixstowe and Norfolk) and off the M.11 to connect with the A.1 or M.1, M.6 Midlands and North. It is even signed off the M.25 to connect with the A.1.. On some occasions it just appears to be a goods vehicle road with nose to tale vehicles. As you can imagine this leads to accidents galore and frequent road closures and hold ups with consequent congestion in local towns and villages. This road was due to have extra lanes added and then veers off and join the A.1 missing out Huntingdon. Cancelled. How is the A.11 fairing, the Elveden stretch, the notorious bottle neck and accident black spot, and dualling of the A.47, especially the Acle straight! Planned but on the back burner. Once again the motorist is hit, the easy target! If, as seems to be the case these days, that when you contact the Highways Department of the County Council and request

action invariably they come back with "Sorry there is no money, no can do". Perhaps if Highways cannot do anything the County Council could save money by closing that Department as it appears they have no work and are not cost effective! It just all boils down to the fact our roads are bad and are only going to get worse.

Holiday time is coming up and I re-iterate my usual plea to ensure you have your vehicles checked over before you go away. For a lot of people it is the one time of year when the vehicle will be carrying its full compliment of passengers and full luggage load. This puts an added strain on vehicle and engine. Be sure to carry out all the safety checks, fluids, tyres, brakes and lights. This is not a complete list but as our members are all responsible drivers I am sure you will cover all aspects. SatNavs are fine but do not rely on them completely. I find that a good old fashioned map is just as good, except finding a specific address. Notwithstanding the above it is a time for relaxation (after you get there) and I wish all our readers a very happy and safe holiday.

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

JULY - Wednesday, 28th July 2010

Mrs. Barrett. 'Follies'.

Mrs Barrett will be giving us a talk on those, sometimes strange, sometimes beautiful, but usually just a show off, 'Follies'. I am sure we all know of at least one locally, but I am sure we will be surprised at the number in Norfolk and surrounding counties. Why are they there? What do they represent? This lady is very knowledgeable and this will be a very informative and interesting evening.

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

SEPTEMBER - Wednesday, 22nd September 2010

Arrangements are being made for a speaker for this evening. This speaker I know will be very interesting, informative and I suspect sometimes comical with his stories. But before we announce who it is, this has to be confirmed so please make a note in your diary for this evening and look out for this space in the September newsletter.

GALA DAY (ex POLICE GALA DAY) - Showground, Costessey – SUNDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER 2010

Due to circumstances beyond our control we will not be having our usual stall to try and recruit members to our Advanced Driving Group on this day. Thanks to all our usual helpers who I am sure were looking forward to participating again this year and we are sorry to disappoint you. The event is still going ahead and if it is up to its usual standard it will be a very enjoyable day out for you and your families, and well worth a visit.

'QUOTES FROM THE GARAGE'

I said to the garage man "Will you service my car?" He looked at it and said, "Try Lourdes!"

Wanted: 'Man to test batteries and take charge' (sign seen in a garage window)

'A garage told me my battery was flat. Big deal. What shape is it supposed to be?'

A garage mechanic: 'A grimy surgeon who rarely loses a patient, although he sometimes performs unnecessary organ transplants.'

CAPTION COMPETITION



Last month's Caption Competition (for fun) was a great success and I had a good response from our Members. All the entries are below:

From Pat Brown, one of our Founder Members (Good to hear from you):

1. I have told you before you are not a horse and cannot practice jumping for the National
2. Another fine mess you got me into Stanley

From Sue Prutton:

“Well, the pupil was saying he was eager to see Australia, but this is a bit too keen”

From Chris Warner:

1. “I know you said if I touched the kerb I'd fail, but...”
2. “The new BSM Micra team failed to land upright after clearing 20 double deckers”
3. “OK Officer, but for my arguments sake you couldn't prove that a pink unicorn ran out from the hedge”

From Hilda Kaye

‘This just goes to prove a beetle really is helpless on it's back!’

Thank you all for your contributions, I think they are all brilliant and I would not like to choose one over the other. I will run another one of these later on in the year. Well done.

SIGNS - YOU MAY HAVE SEEN!

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels."

On a Plumber's truck

"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

On a Church's Bill board:

"7 days without God makes one weak."

In a Non smoking Area:

"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door:

"Push. Push. Push."

At an Optometrist's Office:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Fence:

"Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive!"

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:

"Drive carefully, we will wait"

Sign on the back of a Septic Tank Truck:

"Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"

Scams: Watch out!

Scams are schemes to con you out of your money. They usually come by post, phone or email.

There are hundreds of scams - fake lotteries and prize draws, get-rich-quick schemes, bogus health cures, investment scams, pyramid selling. The list goes on.

Every year, three million people fall victim in the UK, often losing hundreds or even thousands of pounds. The scammers are clever, and all kinds of people from all walks of life get duped. There's a scam for everyone - no matter how alert or clued up you think you are.

Spotted a scam?

If in doubt, don't reply. Instead, bin it, delete it or hang up. You can also report the scam to Consumer Direct at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/scams

If you think you've been caught by a scam, call Consumer Direct for advice on **08454 04 05 06**.



Don't let them con you

Don't let the scammers con you. Follow these tips to avoid getting tricked out of your money.

Be sceptical

Beware of extravagant promises. Remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don't be afraid to bin it, delete it or hang up.

Take your time

Scammers don't like to give you time to think. They will try to pressure you into making a decision by telling you that if you don't act now, you'll miss out. Resist any pressure to make a decision right away. Consider asking a friend or family member for advice, or even an accountant or solicitor if big sums of money are involved.

Know who you're dealing with

Be suspicious if you're contacted out of the blue by someone you've never heard of. This is often a clear warning sign that it's a scam. And don't be fooled by official looking websites and marketing materials. Scammers are very good at making their scams look authentic.

Protect your financial information

Never give your bank account details and passwords to someone you don't know. Trustworthy firms will never contact you to ask for this information.

The above is just a small extract from an informative booklet issued by 'The Office of Fair Trading' "Scambuster". One of the most difficult aspects of Advanced Driving as an Associate, and sometimes with qualified drivers, appears to be giving a Commentary. Personally I cannot see any problem with it, but I do understand the reticence and nervousness. Whilst you are driving what you are seeing and doing is running through your mind all the time, the Commentary just lets you talk out loud instead of keeping it in. I do not apologise for re-iterating the Commentary, I think it is a most important part of driving as it assists in sending your eyes much further up the road and taking in forthcoming hazards. It is not part of the test, but if you can give one, your examiner will know how far you are looking ahead and what important points you are picking out. Go on give it a go!

COMMENTARY

'Mirror check – describe conditions behind. I am driving a (describe car) along the (road number and name) towards (name of town). The road surface is (describe road conditions, dry/wet slippery from water/ice/gravel or good condition and good or bad for braking efficiency) Mirror check (describe the conditions behind). Type of road, (single carriageway, dual carriageway or other). Speed limit and whether in country or town. Traffic conditions front and rear. (Look as far ahead as possible) Describe road lay-out, bends approaching, right or left, traffic signs (if any) (early warning gives more time for anticipation and action). Hazards with what action you will or are taking (changing to a lower gear, braking, etc). Before any action, mirror check (with result). Describe your aids to safety (people waiting at

bus stop, anticipate a bus shortly, time of day for school-children, etc., shadows, junctions and reflections. The list is endless, but you get the idea. Mention anything which helps you in your drive. (Every so often during the drive) examine your controls for temperature, oil pressure and fuel or other warning lights.) Mirror Check.'

Practice makes perfect.

Well that is all now until September. Remember there is NO MEETING or NEWSLETTER in AUGUST, but I will still be around and require items for publication in YOUR Drivelines so please keep sending them through to me. I hope to make the July meeting so if you are coming I will see you there.

Have a good holiday and drive carefully.

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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.