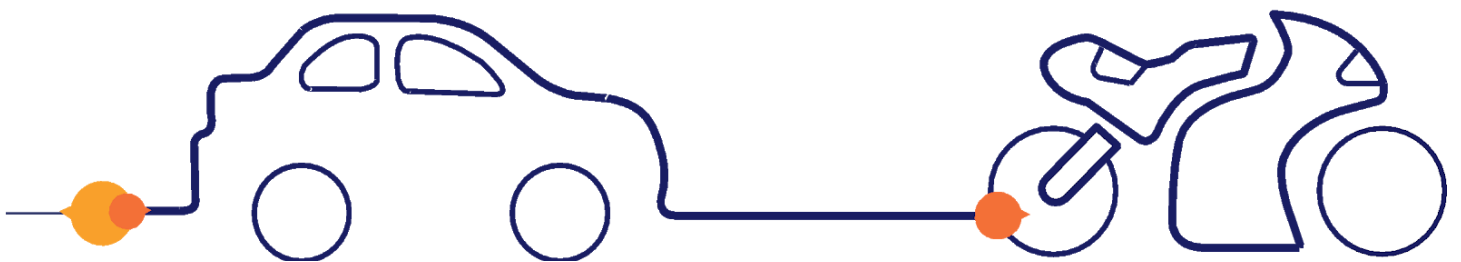


R^OSPA
Advanced Drivers
and Riders

Eastern Region Groups' Newsletter

December 2020
Simon Burgin
Regional Co-ordinator



View from the East

December 2020



Hello, welcome and season's greetings to you all.



In the news:

Annual Drink Driving Campaign: It will not surprise many of you that Policing nationally focusses more than ever on Drink and Drug driving at this festive time. Whilst I will be unable to give you the numbers until the New Year, what I can tell you is that so far, despite Covid Restrictions we are still seeing similar numbers of people being caught and prosecuted as in previous years.

One case reported last week was the driver of an articulated goods vehicle (a 44ton truck) was caught with a breath alcohol limit of 130mg of breath. The legal limit is 35 per 100ml of breath, so more than 3 times the legal limit and in charge of 44 tons of moving machinery. He was put before the court the following day and Magistrates sent him to prison.

Me myself and I -

Investigations: This month another of our fatal investigations was brought to a conclusion at Peterborough Crown Court.

This collision involved a driver of a motorcar travelling on an urban road on a lovely sunny day.

He failed to see a female pedestrian that was crossing the road from his right to left (thus across the full width of the carriageway) for 14 seconds. He struck the female who sadly died at the scene.

The whole incident was captured on the drivers own Dash Cam, and makes for very scary viewing, as he made no attempt to avoid the pedestrian by reducing speed or adjusting his position.

Whilst the investigation maintained a very wide view of all of the circumstances, the overriding factor that could not be ignored was that the offending driver's eye sight. It was so poor that he was only able to read a properly formatted vehicle number plate at 7 metres, **yes just 7 metres**.

At 30 mph you cover about 13.5 metres per second, and with the average reaction time of 2 seconds for a driver, with such poor eye sight the collision was inevitable.

He was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment suspended for 12 months, and disqualified from driving.

Testing times: December saw just 3 tests for me, 1 car and 2 motorcycles, excellent results with each one.

What's Next?

Christmas Duties: I had a late shift on Tuesday 22nd December so was out and about educating and enforcing. 2 vehicles taken off the road, 1 for no insurance and the other for No Insurance and No License. I issued another driver with a speeding ticket for 50mph on a 20mph limit, his excuse was his girlfriend had phoned him in a panic and was very upset as she thought her rabbit was dying, never a dull day. I am working a late shift as Collision Investigation cover on Christmas Day and then I have a nice break until the New Year.

When I reflect on 2020 (avoiding the inevitable subject) it has been very busy. As Collision Investigators we average 6 fatal collision investigations per year (not including those that do not die and our crime work). This year I would have dealt with 11. Be in no doubt that every single one of them has been as a result of poor decisions leading to poor driving, as we say in advanced driving and riding circles "Fail to Plan – Plan to Fail".

I know many of you have had your training and testing interrupted, but I can assure you as soon as we can we will get back on track because every single mile tutored, every single mile tested, and every single mile driven at an advanced standard prevents or reduces the likelihood of you being the victim of a collision.

Please keep in touch with your group, stay safe and I will see you at a meeting at some point in 2021.

Simon.

Simon Burgin

Eastern Region Co-Ordinator

Resources

Please remember the free RoSPA e-newsletter covering all safety matters including road-safety for all RoADAR members.

RoSPA's premier health & safety newsletter brings you the very latest safety news, expert views and advice.

Every issue includes news on road safety, workplace, home and public safety, also details of events you will find interesting! When you sign up you'll receive access to an exclusive collection of e- books covering a wide range of health and safety topics.

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