

From the Chair

Our Christmas meal at the Bold Hotel on 17th December was a success once again. It has proved to be very popular with all places taken. It is always a pleasant and sociable occasion. Paulette and her partner Norman organised the “at table” entertainment with wrapped prizes to guess and a very difficult quiz won by Mike Brown. Andy, one of our members, also supplied some close up photos of parts of his car to try and guess. Strange car, I was sure that one of the photos was an alien escaping from an egg. Must have been the wine – I wasn’t driving!



This is the final month for new associates to join for the January or May course before the price rise on 1st February. 2007 was a successful year for the Sefton Group. Our membership numbers remain fairly constant as does attendance at our meetings at the Royal Clifton. This is very pleasing to see when so many organisations struggle to remain viable. Our committee is at full strength but come the AGM in May we will be electing members and so if there are any full members out there who think they may be interested, come and talk to me at a meeting or give me a ring to discuss. I wish everyone a happy New Year and safe driving for 2008.

Stella Owen
(Chair)
Sefton Advanced Motorists

New Associates

Sefton Group extends a warm welcome to



Pamela Walmsley	from	Southport
Honora Ormesher	from	Southport
Nathaniel Singleton	from	Liverpool
Bernard Ashton	from	Southport

Obituary: Ted Clements MBE 1930 - 2007

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) regrets to announce that Ted Clements, IAM Road Safety Adviser and former IAM Chief Examiner, died 11th December 2007 after a short illness.

Ted, 77, was a well-known figure in road safety. During his time as an IAM Examiner, Ted tested countless drivers and riders of all standards - literally, from royalty to racing drivers. Nigel Mansell, now the IAM's President, Sir Stirling Moss and John Surtees were just some of the well-known names that Ted tested before they achieved advanced driver status.

Ted received an MBE in 1989 for his services to road safety and he regarded this as a highlight in his career, which started in 1953 when he joined the Metropolitan Police. In 1960, Ted moved to the Met's Traffic Division, which led to his lifelong interest and involvement in road safety.

In 1965 Ted joined the IAM and started carrying out advanced tests for the IAM in his spare time. In 1978 he retired from the police and became the IAM's Deputy Chief Examiner, succeeding Alec Jones in 1984 as Chief Examiner. While he was attached to Hammersmith Police Station, Ted acted as police adviser for probably the first of many police TV series, "Dixon of Dock Green". It was also while he was a PC at Hammersmith that Ted dealt with a serious incident which he told colleagues sparked off his dedication to the road safety cause. "It involved a pupil at the Royal Ballet School who lost both her legs in an accident while crossing the road near the school," he said. As a result, Ted asked for a transfer to Traffic Division where he became involved in every aspect of road safety.

After he retired in 1996 as the IAM's Chief Examiner, Ted was given a unique position in the road safety world when he was appointed the IAM's part-time Road Safety Adviser. When he retired from the IAM, colleagues commented at the time that Ted never seemed to age: he remained as passionate as he had ever been about the need to improve the standards of driving and motorcycle riding.

Ted lived in Effingham, Surrey. His wife Sadie died in 2006. The couple were devoted to each other. He was a keen gardener and would regularly present his female colleagues at IAM House in Chiswick with fresh flowers.

David Kenworthy QPM, the IAM Chairman, said: "Ted was always cheerful and delightful company. His dedication to good driving and riding was unswerving. He will be sorely missed by colleagues and all who knew him in the road safety world."



Test Passes

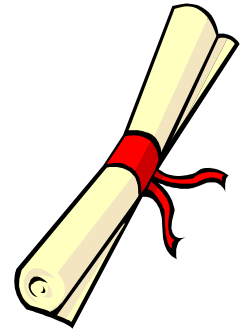
Hearty congratulations go to

Walter Kaln Observed by Terry Gray

Paul Looker Observed by Mike Brown

Motorcyclists:

Paul Rigby & Richard Bryant



WOMEN DRIVERS (very tongue in cheek).



Driving to the office this morning on the M25 motorway, I looked over to my right and there was a woman in a brand new BMW doing 90 miles per hour with her face up close to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner!

I looked away for a couple of seconds and when I looked back she was halfway over in my lane still working on that makeup!

It scared me (and this coming from a bloke....) so much that I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the bacon roll out of my other hand.

In all the confusion of trying to straighten up the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my mobile from my ear, which fell into the coffee between my legs, causing it to splash with painful consequences, causing me to scream, which made me drop the cigarette out of my mouth, ruined my shirt and DISCONNECTED AN IMPORTANT CALL.

Bleep, bleep, bleeping Women Drivers!!!!!!!

Responsible drivers wouldn't even dream of doing anything other than drive with full concentration to the important task in hand.

A bit of useful advice.

This actually happened to someone's daughter.

Lauren was 19 yrs old and in college. This story takes place over the Christmas/New Year's holiday break. It was the Saturday before New Year and it was about 1.00pm in the afternoon, and Lauren was driving to visit a friend, when an UNMARKED police car pulled up behind her and put its lights on.



Lauren's parents have four children (of various ages) and have always told them never to pull over for an unmarked car on the side of the road, but rather wait until they get to a service station, or similar place of relative safety. So Lauren remembered her parents' advice, and telephoned 112 from her mobile phone. This connected her to the police dispatcher she told the dispatcher that there was an unmarked police car with a flashing red light on his rooftop behind her and that she would not pull over right away but wait until she was in a service station or busy area.

The dispatcher checked to see if there was a police car where she was and there wasn't and he told her to keep driving, remain calm and that he had back-up already on the way. Ten minutes later four police cars surrounded her and the unmarked car behind her.



One policeman went to her side and the others surrounded the car behind. They pulled the guy from the car and tackled him to the ground..... ..the man was a convicted rapist and wanted for other crimes. I never knew that bit of advice, but especially for a woman alone in a car, you do not have to pull over for an UNMARKED car.

Apparently police have to respect your right to keep going to a "safe" place. You obviously need to make some signals that you acknowledge them, or call 112 like Lauren did.

Too bad the mobile phone companies don't give you this little bit of wonderful information. So now it's your turn to let your friends know about 112 (112 is an emergency number on your mobile that takes you straight to the police because 999 does not work if you have no signal). This is good information that I did not know!

Please pass on to all your friends, especially any females.

Side-swiping (continued from page 6)

VOSA is also delivering a five-fold increase in the number of vehicles checked at the main ports of entry and using increasingly modern technology, such as weigh-in-motion sensors to detect overweight vehicles and automatic number plate recognition technology to spot those who have a poor safety record.

Meanwhile, new European legislation which requires the fitting of improved mirrors to all new goods vehicles above 3.5 tonnes is providing a further substantial contribution to optimal driver vision. Existing goods vehicles, first registered from January 2000, will be retro-fitted with wide-angle and close proximity mirrors on the passenger side by March 2009.

New initiative more than halves truck side-swiping .



.... 'Fresnel lenses' now being rolled out across the country

An innovative trial to tackle 'side-swiping' incidents involving left-hand drive trucks has shown a 59% reduction in accidents and work is now underway to roll it out across the country. This was an announcement by Road Safety Minister, Jim Fitzpatrick, in early December.

The results follow the distribution of 40,000 window-mounted lenses - known as Fresnel lenses - to left-hand drive trucks entering the UK across the Dover Straits. The

Highways Agency will now distribute a further 90,000 lenses, targeting major ports in both England and France.

Road Safety Minister Jim Fitzpatrick said: "Side-swiping is an issue we are determined to tackle. It's important that all truckers whether from Britain or overseas are able use our roads safely. However, many drivers here don't realise that left-hand drive lorries can't easily see a car overtaking them on the right, such as on a motorway. This has resulted in more than 400 side-swipe incidents in 2006 alone. As well as being dangerous these incidents cause delays and congestion.

"The Highways Agency and VOSA have been working closely together to identify new and innovative solutions to prevent side-swipes and we are delighted this trial has proved such a success. Not only does research show that incidents in the south-east have more than halved, but we've seen evidence of truckers coming into overseas ports with their Fresnel lenses still attached and ready to be re-used.

"The two agencies are now rolling out the distribution of Fresnel lens to ports across the country to ensure that we continue to drive down side-swiping incidents."

All trucks have a blind spot alongside the cab on their passenger side, which can cause cars alongside to disappear from the driver's view. This is a particular problem for left-hand drive trucks operating in the UK, when they change lanes to overtake. Fresnel lenses offer drivers of left-hand drive vehicles a wider field of vision through the passenger window.



The trial was conducted by the Highways Agency, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and the Immigration Service. In total, 40,000 stick-on Fresnel lenses were distributed free of charge at three French ports to drivers of left-hand drive lorries coming to the UK. The new wave of 90,000 lenses will be distributed at Liverpool, the Hull ports, Newcastle, Heysham and Harwich and in France at Calais, Coquelles and Dunkerque.

This work sits alongside a wider Government package to improve the safety of overseas vehicles using our roads. An extra £2m of funding was recently announced, dedicated to VOSA's enforcement operations, and last summer the Department for Transport announced plans for new measures which mean that overseas hauliers who flout the rules of the road face on the spot penalties and having their vehicles immobilised.

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