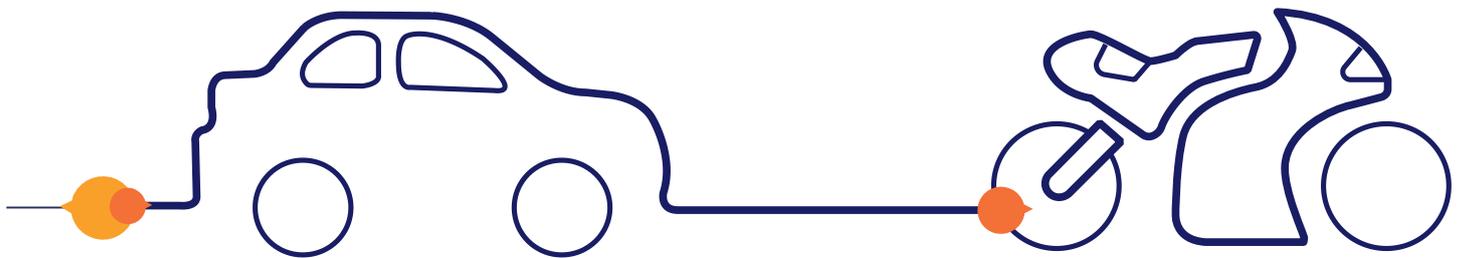




Eastern Region Groups' Newsletter

November 2021
Simon Burgin
Regional Co-ordinator



View from the East

November 2021



Hello and welcome.

In the news:

11 fatal road traffic collisions this month. These have occurred at all times of day and night, on Motorways and the Rural Road network involving a range of vehicles from Motorcycles to HGV's. Early indications suggest Fatigue, Drink and Drug driving and Using a Mobile Phones. It has been a very busy month for all the emergency services with December and the Christmas season upon us. As advanced drivers and riders we recognise the hazards around us and plan for what we can see and what we cannot. Our safety comes from the expertise and training we have had over many years of perfecting our skills, and these are more important than ever before. Keep up the excellent work you all do to promote Advanced Driving and Riding.

Cop 26

On 26th October, myself and 5 colleagues headed to Glasgow for the “*Conference of the Parties 26*” to provide Royal and Special Protection Escort services to dignitaries from around the world.

Due to expected rear tyre wear on the motorcycles, they were transported from Huntingdon by low loader to our rally point near to Glasgow Airport. On arrival in Glasgow we were reunited with our machines, just in time for the rain and cold wind to begin. This remained with us for the next four days, causing localised flooding, including the M8 and M80 Motorways. I cannot recall a time when I have stood on my foot pegs of my motorcycle to ride through deep water on a Motorway.

Thankfully by the time the tactical deployments started the rain had eased and much of the localised flooding had abated. Due to the location of our dignitary the bikes were based at Glen Eagles Golf Resort, and we were based in Perth. This did add to our days as we were moving from East to West to perform our duties, and then back west to east at the end of the day, over 1 ½ hours each way.





From our perspective the event went very well without incident.

Royal Visit

Having arrived back from Scotland myself and some of the team were back at it providing escort duties in Cambridge for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He made a visit to the Market Square in Cambridge, Homerton College and Astrozenica. The sun shone all day and the visit went extremely well, where our riding is always heavily scrutinised and we strive for perfection. 'Pace with grace' is the aim of the game.



Regional Senior Examiner and Regional Co-ordinator Meeting Wednesday 24th November.

This was the first opportunity for us all to come together with a very full agenda since Andy Nixon took over the reins from Amy Brant.

It was a very productive meeting with all of us given the opportunity to put our thoughts and concerns forward with some positive proposals on the future.

- The ROADAR team will feature in 'Car on the Road' with a clear structure so that members and groups can see just who is responsible for what, and to highlight how few people are doing so much work. The ROADAR team is small considering the work load they have, and I believe it is important for us all to recognise that. My own personal view as that some members think that RoSPA is a massive organisation with many staff in the ROADAR arena, I can assure you that is simply not the case.
- Diploma – I am acutely aware of the decision to change the diploma qualification caused some considerable upset amongst members and groups. A great deal of work has taken place and new products will be forth coming. From a personal point of view as someone who works in the training environment from time to time, it is incumbent upon those involved in training that they remain current with the latest developments and understanding of different learning styles and client-based learning experiences and that accreditation is robust. Keep an eye on Care on the Road for further updates in the new year (likely Feb 22).
- Membership numbers – it will not have gone unnoticed that groups nationally are struggling to recruit new members. This is an area of work that involves all of us. How we promote what we do and the advantages of what advanced driving and riding has to offer is tricky. One option being explored is the re-introduction of advertising literature at Road Traffic Offence Intervention courses (Speed awareness etc). I have no magic answers here, but rest assured it is noted and if anyone has any ideas on how to progress our cause please get in touch.

Driver and Rider Training/Testing

Rushed off my feet. October was a very busy month for tests. Great to see so many familiar faces and some new ones too!



Covid is still very much with us, and online meetings sadly are still very much a way of life. Keep going though, we will get there.

Please keep in touch with your groups and likewise keep your websites up to date with any offerings of online meetings and learning opportunities.

Take care and stay safe

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.

Don't miss out, sign-up via <https://www.ospa.com/safety-matters>

Also remember to check out the members Benefit Platform too!

