

Hi all,

Well we have had a busy couple of weeks.

Following the invite to Arundel Fire Station to see a demo of the New Driver Awareness (NDA) presentation and discussion. A joint venture between the emergency services and Sussex Council to reduce accidents with the 16 to 25 year olds in Sussex.

The presentation, this being the first time shown, did have some great facts and figures which you and I would be interested in, but was noted that a 17 year old needs something a bit more visual for them to sit up and take note that perhaps driving on the road is not quite the same as on their Xbox 360 where they have unlimited life's.

There was some great pictures and videos included in the presentation, we also pointed out that there are some great, hard hitting, videos on YouTube - where we was advised that due legal reasons not all of these can be shown...

Approximately 20 instructors from both Worthing and Chichester areas attended this 2 hour presentation which was followed by a discussion on how to get the new drivers to attend. Everyone agreed that promotion of the event would be key to its success, something that had failed when they tried to do this at Chichester Fire Station. There was a discussion on perhaps having the Fire Brigade cut open a car with some of the "pupils" inside, it was thought this would be something for them to want to come and be part of.

Watch this space for updates to the NDA scheme.

Last week we had the discussion by Carl Knapp, Sussex Police on a similar subject of accidents involving young drivers.

Carl provided an informal discussion relating to accidents and gave us some figures and key points that we could / should incorporate in lessons. These being:

The KEY areas for stopping drivers are being - Young, Old, Motorcyclists, Drink / Drugs or Van drivers.

Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) caused by the Fatal 4:

- Mobiles
- Drinking
- Seatbelts
- Speed

In 2011 there was 64 fatalities In Sussex.

13 were young person caused...(16 to 25 yrs)  
(this is approximately 12% increase from 2010 - Not good)  
each fatality costs in the region of £1.9m - although there is a case going through court at the moment and it's estimated cost is in the region of £20m because the injured person will need 24/7 care for the rest of his life. Was a young person in a very well paid job.....

The top 4 main causes are:  
Failed to look.  
Inexperience.  
Failed to judge speed.  
Loss of control.

Carl was also promoting the use of Operation Crackdown..

[www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)

A simple way of reporting dangerous driving - like using a mobile phone or wheel spinning in a car park. If the owner of the reported vehicle was "young" then the police may pay them a visit and let them know that their actions have been reported and it has been noted. Or if it was a speeding vehicle they may set up a speed trap.

We also discussed some of the ways of "telling some one off" by what was once a slap on the wrist. Now that's not allowed they have Section 59, which, for example, can be issued for not driving correctly. If they receive another Section 59 within 12 months then they could enforce section 165 - car seizure - so even if it's the parents car - is impounded!

At a cost of £150 tow away plus £20 per day.

Not forgetting that if it was an insurance problem, they would have to show (and possibly purchase) the insurance before the vehicle could be collected.

Followed a discussion about "others" collecting the car - showing their insurance, which is not acceptable!

Just to confirm that due the break up of the skid pan at Goodwood the event scheduled for today was cancelled - and rescheduled for SUNDAY 22nd APRIL, please let us know if you would like to attend...

Next few events:

Monday 26th March, a few of us are off to Manchester for the DIA Seminar.

Sunday 22nd April - Skid Pan at Goodwood.

Wednesday 16th May - Forum - further details to follow....

Regards

Steve Pearce.