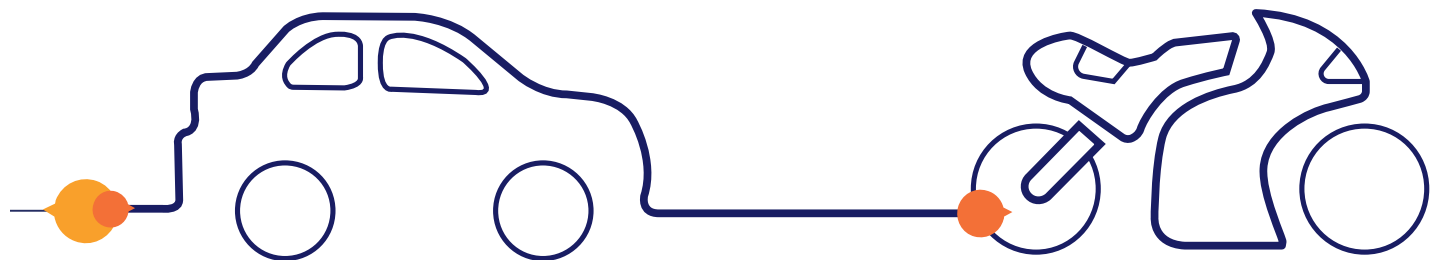


View from the East

June 2019



Introduction

Firstly apologies for the lack of newsletters, but as is normal in my world the moment the motorcycle season starts I swap home for work and it gets very busy.

I would like to report that my day job as a Forensic Collision Investigator has been quiet and dull, but sadly the office and myself remain as busy as ever. We have all attended numerous fatalities across the 3 force collaborated units area, I even found myself in Rickmansworth 2 weekends ago for a Bus V Pedestrian fatality. That was a blue light run of just short of 1½ hours.

I am just about to go into week 2 of a Death by Careless Trial at Peterborough Crown Court. It was originally listed as a 5-day trial, but we are still going. I'll say more about it in July's update!

Topic of discussion.

The Eyes have it, the Eyes have it...

If like me you are getting weary of the endless House of Commons updates the phrase above will be all too common. But if you are a devotee to the good book of Road Craft you will understand that part 1 of the system is all about information.

Most of the information we receive to formulate our driving or riding plans comes through our eyes. Fail to look, look to fail.

The way in which our eyes build a picture is by scanning, and then filling in the blanks by what they miss. If our eyesight becomes defective through slow degradation due to illness or age, or if effected by drink or drugs, we make ourselves a danger to ourselves, and those that we share the road with.

We have had recent crashes where drivers have failed the basic roadside eyesight test. In one case not only could they not see the number plate and read the letters and numbers until just 7 metres away (should be 20.5m), to make matters worse at first they could not even see the Police 5 Series BMW the number plate was attached to!

How many people use and train the pneumatic POWDERY or similar. The 'Y' of course being "Yourself". You know having completed the POWDER checks that your vehicle is safe, but have you ever stopped short of your car, or looked across the road to a neighbours driveway and checked to see you could read a number plate? As part of the RoSPA test your examiner should check your documents, and then a simple eyesight test. That will be repeated in 3 years time, could your eyesight have deteriorated in 3 years?

My favourite phrase when I give any form of training is **"REMEMBER, YOU ARE SHARING THE ROAD WITH THESE PEOPLE, YOU HAVE SEEN THEM, BUT HAVE THEY REALLY SEEN YOU?"**



They came, and we delivered.

As a Police Officer I have thoroughly enjoyed my career and there are many memories, some I would like to forget, but for the most part some which I am immensely proud of and will remain with me forever.



Whilst on Holiday in Norfolk in May I was summoned back to force 2 days early to go to London to support the Metropolitan Police with the visit of US President Donald Trump and remain for the week to support the 75th D Day Landing celebrations. Myself and 2 fellow motorcyclists from Cambridgeshire formed a familiar VIP team, with a 'Met' motorcyclist to assist as a pilot.





Our team was charged with looking after 'Trooping The Colour' rehearsals on day 1.

Then VIP runs from Kensington Palace to Buckingham Palace and return on banquet day. There is something very special about travelling on a police motorcycle at high speed on South Carriage Drive and The Mall. I will never forget it.



On the day of the 75th celebrations we had to make sure the Chancellor of the Exchequer MP Philip Hammond arrived within a 5-minute window in Portsmouth. No mean feat when we had to get out of London at rush hour and then blast south on the A3(M) to Portsmouth, a distance of just over 75 miles.

Not a problem when you can tell everyone when you want to leave, but Mr Hammond decided the departure time, which meant we practiced for an average speed of 90mph on our simulated runs the day before.

Unfortunately on the day he was running 10 minutes late, at which point I stopped looking at the time, and the speedo for that matter. We made it with 1 minute to spare!

