



The **BEDFORD** Group of RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Members Newsletter

Visit the **BEDFORD Group** online at www.road-a-bedford.org.uk **March 2011**

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March Meeting

AGM

The meeting on March 15th 2011 will start with our AGM including the election of Committee Members.

Don't Panic: the formalities will not go on for hours.

Our President Dr Lisa Dorn will then give an update on her work focussing on Driver Behaviour In the Department of Human Factors at the University of Cranfield University

We hope to see you at 8pm on Tuesday 15th March 2011 at the Training Centre of the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service, Southfields Road, Kempston.

February Meeting: We welcomed, again, Peter Kendall who following on from last July's talk on Lessons from the Bunsfield Oil Depot gave us another fascinating insight; this time into emergency services planning for the 2012 Olympics.

Plans that hopefully won't have to be put into full swing at the 2012 Olympics are being co-ordinated by the "Emergency Preparedness Division of the Department of Health". The Olympics were originally badged as the "Very Healthy Olympics" until along came Coca-Cola and McDonalds as sponsors!

These Olympics will see 10,500 athletes from 206 nations participating in 26 sports. Along

with that will come a entourage of officials and VIPs totalling some 140,000 people in all! And during the visit all will be entitled to free healthcare.

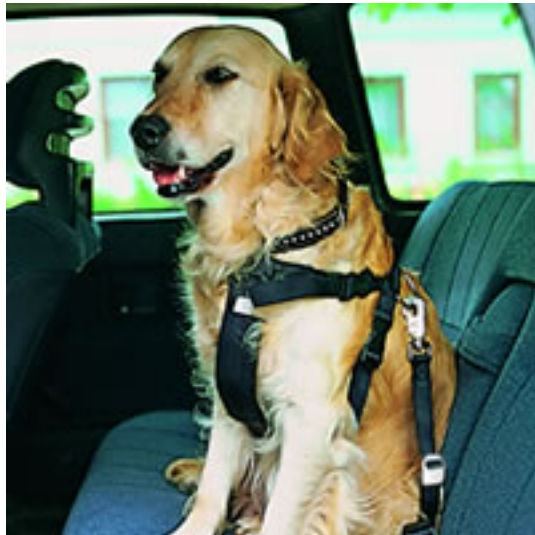
Then we have the need for VIP protection, the possibility of "domestic conflict meets sports competitors" and the constant alert for Terrorist Activities. There are, prior to the Olympics, sites (sports venues) around the UK that will open their doors and house and feed the athletes as they make sure they are in the best shape for the competition. The famous M4 bus lane may have gone, but expect to see in its place "Olympic protected Traffic Lanes" in and out of the main venues. Such reserved lanes will be reserved for

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designated vehicles, but at the moment not emergency vehicles!

Going back to last month's article on seat belts, due to running out of space, I forgot to add make sure that you do not leave unrestrained articles inside the vehicle that could do you some harm if they were to hit you.

And don't forget all family members need to belt up too



And for the younger pouch:
Are we nearly there yet?



Shock Research?

Thanks to our Webmaster Alan for a tip off on some research spotted in the free London newspaper "The Metro".

Research carried out by the University of Kansas suggests that drivers who engage in secondary tasks such as talking on the telephone may perform better under certain circumstances, such as toward the end of a monotonous drive.

It quite surprised me this one and took a bit of tracking down on the 'interweb'. Like many things it pays to read on before making a full conclusion and in fact the conclusion was not very much different than all of the other research that shows that mobile phones and driving do not mix.

The takeaway message from Paul Atchley, Associate Professor of Psychology is that it's almost always dangerous to talk on the phone and drive, but there might be some limited situations where cellular technology can improve safety." The word to emphasise here is 'might' and the circumstances were 'not what to most of us would consider to be normal'.

A short drive, a boring drive and the driver already fatigued. So you should not be driving in this condition anyway, even when not using a mobile phone!

For more detail see:

www.oread.ku.edu/~oread/2011/february/21/stories/driving.shtml

Keith Hooson