

ADVANCED ROAD DRIVING SKILLS in 2015

We all know that we can be very vulnerable to larger road users (think lorry wheelnuts near your left ear) when driving your Westie so anything to improve our skills and subsequent safety has to be a good thing.

AO Andrew plus Joel McParland, James Fraser and Jan Syzmanski each spent 1.5 hours under the eagle eye of Chris Ellis our instructor who has long experience in and gives entertaining talks on his time in the Red Arrows, top level police driving schools and working for Honda in their performance team.

Driving four-seat tintops and working in pairs, one as driver/pupil, Chris instructing and one as back seat observer we drove a circular Cotswold route starting from the AV8 café on Kemble airfield.

Initially Chris simply observed then he began commenting –“Nice speed there -- you can go faster here — leave more space in front” and so on. It was all about intelligent/conscious driving rather than strict observance of the Highway Code. In fact his bible is the police driver’s handbook “Roadcraft”!

Chris reckons his techniques will get you from A to B more quickly, lull your passengers to sleep and use less fuel by applying them.

ROSPA Gold or Silver qualifications can be the target —I believe that such qualifications can earn you a discount off car road insurance premiums – I certainly noticed on my recently returned Car Insurance document an entry place for “driving qualifications”!

CONCLUSIONS:

- Your first session will be as described above -- a second session could lead to an actual ROSPA assessment
- Obviously you must want to learn and improve
- Chris’s charges are very modest – just £10 per session and that includes a written report – we suggest a small donation to charity on top of that
- Training sessions are usually over a weekend so if you are interested contact me and I’ll put you in touch with Chris.
- For some of us “mature “ drivers you realise that you’ve dropped into habits many of which can benefit from refreshing with a more conscious approach both to technique and especially mental attitudes.

Andrew Reeves
Cotswold AO