

Notes from Portsmouth TCM Meeting 23rd January 2013

1. ROUNDABOUTS

Boarhunt roundabout going over the motorway, approaching from Boarhunt Road/Swivelton Lane.

Too many candidates are failing the test due to approaching the roundabout in the right lane and then proceeding on to the roundabout in the left hand lane, without checking blind spot first, a few near misses have occurred.

Sheila thinks that having a single white dotted line would help candidates from drifting and staying in the correct lane. An email to roads@hants.gov.uk would help Sheila's case with Hampshire County Council, and extremely appreciated.

Rusty Cutter, Bedhampton roundabout, approaching from the A27, being asked to follow road signs for Bedhampton in the independent part or under instruction turn right third exit. The problem at this roundabout has been pupils approach roundabout in the right hand lane but move over to the left lane too early and end up in the A3M lane, realising this then move back over to the middle lane. Again too many near misses and no blind spot checks!

Sheila has asked us to go through roundabout basics with pupils, ask them to read road signs and road markings, count exits. Also explain if they can't exit due to traffic on their left side that it is acceptable to drive round again. I'm sure you all do but please emphasise these points again as they are causing lots of failures unfortunately.

2. COSHAM ROAD WORKS

These have been forecasted to take 20 weeks to complete. Examiners will try to avoid this area until the initial confusion settles down. When and if the area becomes acceptable for test these routes will be resumed.

In the meantime if tests run late due to the previous test getting caught up in the mayhem, if no other examiner is available, Sheila will take the test. However if there is a buildup Sheila requests that you will be patient and the test will go ahead as soon as possible on the same day.

3. REVERSING MANOEUVRES ON TEST

Sheila wanted to point out that when out on test that the examiner has had to move on (sometimes halfway through a left reverse manoeuvre) because another ADI vehicle has pulled up nearby or opposite causing a traffic blockage and the exercise becomes dangerous. Sheila wanted to point out this causes undue stress to candidates and they are also on time constraints to complete the test.

To hopefully resolve this Sheila will ask the examiners to raise their clipboard to point out that they are on test, as she respects it is sometimes difficult to see due to the reflection on the windscreen to see the fluorescent tabards.

4. DSA NOTICE ON VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING ON DRIVING TEST

Reference was made to the notice up in the waiting room stating that any video or audio recording on a driving test is strictly forbidden. A copy of this notice will be displayed on the SDIA website for reference.

Please make sure all recording equipment is switched off. Sheila also pointed out that some equipment may obscure vision for the taller examiners and may have to be removed before the test can progress.

5. SCREEN WASHER

Please make sure that the screen washer is in proper working order when presenting your vehicle for test, especially in this cold spell. If liquid is frozen or empty and comes to the examiners notice at the beginning or during the test, the test will be terminated.

6. PORTSMOUTH TEST CENTRE LEASE

The lease at the centre will expire on 1st November 2013, the original lease was agreed for 10 years. The Agency will now only agree a lease on a yearly basis, so this may cause problems when negotiation with the landlord starts in March.

Sheila has been looking around for other possible sites, IBM Lakeside, Hilsea is one potential option. If anyone has any suggestions Sheila would like to hear from you.

If an agreement cannot be found before this date Portchester Community Centre will be used for the interim period, but this will not happen before the 1st November 2013.

Any more details will be released when known.

7. OBSERVER ETIQUETTE LEAFLETS

Sheila has some leaflets in the waiting room for ADI's detailing tips and helpful guide to good observer etiquette.

Unbelievably it has been witnessed Instructors sat in the back texting on their phone, and reading a newspaper!

Please take time to read the guidelines. A copy can be found on the SDIA website and is included at the end of this document.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A question was asked from the floor about the changes to the paper counterfeit being abolished, how this will be done and any date. Also about ADI's having access to check endorsements, etc.

Sheila advised that this is still in consultation and no decision has been made yet.

9. NEXT TCM MEETING

This will take place Wednesday 20th March 12 noon.

Observer Etiquette



The following tips are a helpful guide to good observer etiquette

➤ **Turn off your phone**

Your pupil's concentration may be affected if a phone rings on test, so make sure both you and your pupil have turned off your phones and avoid use throughout the test.

➤ **Lend a helping hand**

Helping your pupil lift the bonnet if they are struggling is fine, but don't interfere unnecessarily.

➤ **Take a back seat**

Sitting behind the pupil is probably the least intrusive, but sit where you are most comfortable and don't forget to wear your seatbelt.

➤ **Prompting your pupil**

Don't be tempted to try and help your pupil, or interfere with the test. This may result in the test being terminated by the examiner.

➤ **Do move if necessary**

Changing position to improve your pupil's visibility is perfectly acceptable, but try to keep this to a minimum.

➤ **Take note**

Taking notes to help your pupil is fine. However, be aware that if your pupil sees you rigorously note taking it might worry them – when actually they might be doing fine.

➤ **No comment**

At the end of the test, do listen carefully to the feedback so that you and your pupil can work together. However, don't be tempted to involve the examiner in discussion. If you have, genuine concerns about the test speak to the centre manager, or follow the complaints procedure.