

## FIRST CLASS FLEET TRAINING



Simon Protano is welcomed by TTC Group director Graham Wynn OBE (right)

**Fleet drivers received a boost with the announcement that the highly acclaimed TTC Group aims to move to the forefront of the national fleet driver training industry.**

Road risk training for companies has become a major priority for the driver training specialists who have just announced the opening of a new division for delivering tailor made solutions to the corporate sector.

Newly appointed Head of Department of the Corporate Risk Management & Driver Development division, Simon Protano (36), a former head of Rospa's fleet driver solutions, said it would be a "fresh new division" for the Group focusing on the fleet market.

"This will be a completely clean sheet and will enable me to bring all my past experience to create a new and exciting provider to the forefront of the industry.

"My plans are to develop a network of trainers, which are truly the very best in their field to ensure TTC's reputation for delivering a quality service is maintained

and ensure our clients receive high quality training.

"I also intend to develop a range of products and services that truly give added value to clients, no matter how big or small. This includes utilising the existing courses that TTC offer and bringing them into the fleet market."

The TTC Group are national experts in educating motorists in speed awareness, driver improvement and alcohol and drug related driver education.

They provide hundreds of successful speed awareness courses for police in Merseyside and Yorkshire and have been acclaimed for their National Driver Improvement Scheme courses in Kent.

The UK's leading provider of education for drink drive offenders, they put more than 10,000 drivers each year through courses which have been praised by the Transport Research Laboratory for reducing re-offending.

The company is experiencing a rapid and substantial growth in its national police diversionary training programmes in which it puts drivers through speed awareness courses and the National Driver Improvement Scheme.

Simon, who said he is "passionate" about driver training, has been involved in top level fleet driver training for a number of years including time spent with Rospa, the IAM, and a major fleet education provider. A qualified Advanced Driving Instructor, he has been involved in providing duty of care solutions for business and fleet driver education for professional and advanced drivers, as well as running his own driver training business.

He has been directly involved with the Driving Standards Agency in developing Continued Professional Development for the ADI industry.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**The TTC GROUP** will deliver more than 367,000 hours of driver training at over 100 nationwide venues each year. The firm's new £1.25 million HQ, officially opened by the Princess Royal last year, has given the company a platform to continue a rapid expansion in driver training, said Group Director Graham Wynn OBE. "We are going from strength to strength, creating jobs and our contracts are expanding with councils and police forces across the UK."

**NEW CONTRACT WON:** Cumbria police has awarded a three year contract to the TTC Group to provide speed awareness, NDIS and the RIDE scheme for motorcyclists

**NEW DIRECTORS** Five new directors have been appointed to the board to spearhead company growth.

**BEST PRACTICE:** Group director Jenny Wynn has been appointed chairman of the Association of Drink Drive Approved Providers of Training. Jenny will represent training providers and meet with the Department for Transport to liaise on industry best practice.

**FRENCH TV:** A news programme about road safety in France and England featuring the TTC Group was broadcast on prime time French TV. The 90 minute programme on the France 2 TV station compared road safety in the two countries with the spotlight on how the UK reduces road crashes by educating motorists.

**DRIVE EDUCATION** Magistrate Roz Harrison said that everyone must know about essential information on alcohol. "I found this such an interesting course and that is why I attended twice. We all learned a lot."

**CASUALTY REDUCTION** Road safety officers praised the education course for drivers which is helping to reduce road casualties in the county of Kent. They renewed the contract with the TTC Group for another three years to continue providing the National Driver Improvement Scheme (NDIS).



Reporter Tony Belshaw

picture courtesy Sheffield Star

# SPEED LIMIT SHOCK

**A speed awareness course in Yorkshire run by the TTC Group was given a “test drive” by Sheffield Star reporter Tony Belshaw who praised the course saying it was “very useful” in increasing awareness of speed limits.**

The experienced transport correspondent at the top evening newspaper told of his shock at realising that he had been breaking the speed limit regularly for years while believing he was driving within the law after making false assumptions about speed limits.

Many speeding motorists in Sheffield were either unaware or “didn’t care” that the speed limit in many of the city’s wide arterial roads was 30mph, said the reporter:

“If there are two key messages the course tries to hammer home it is that streetlights mean the speed limit is 30mph unless there are signs telling you otherwise and that 80 per cent of pedestrians hit by a car travelling at 40mph will die – at 30mph, 80 per cent will live,” said Tony.

He challenged Yorkshire motorists to drive down Sheffield roads with streetlights – in other words nearly all of them – and look for speed limit signs. “Don’t see any? Well then it’s 30mph. How fast have you been driving down it?” asked the reporter.

“The whole idea is to try to change people’s mentality and make motorists into safer drivers,” he told readers.

TTC Group director Malcolm Jones told the Sheffield Star: “In a recent survey most drivers said they believed speeding is a problem but only 10 per cent admitted they do it. By alerting motorists to the dangers on our increasingly busy roads we can help to ensure that they are a safer place for both pedestrians and drivers.”

## DRIVE FOR WORK

Chief Executives, Managing Directors and anyone who has a responsibility for staff who drive for work, must ensure they are “bullet proof” in a police investigation after a fatal work related road traffic incident, warned Ian Brooks, FORS Manager for Transport for London.

He reported the words of one fleet manager who said: “If the police went into every company with a fleet and investigated them in the same way I was, 99 per cent would be ripped to shreds. It was a harrowing experience and one I would not want repeated.”

One third of the 3,000 annual deaths on UK roads are work related. Each week there are 200 road deaths and serious injuries with work related fatalities the biggest cause of death at work, said Graham Feest, secretary of the Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers (AIRSO).

Companies can save lives, improve performance and cut costs, he told a seminar aimed at reducing work related crashes jointly organised by TTC, AIRSO and Telford and Wrekin Council.

Firms must assess driver competence, ensure they are fit and healthy and that vehicles are fit for purpose. Journeys must be planned and work schedules realistic with enough time for business trips. Be aware of the risk of fatigue, have a mobile phone policy and write a detailed policy which is workable, monitored and reviewed.

Lawyer Michael Appleby said that in the event of a court case, employers must prove that they have taken reasonably practicable steps to control health and safety risks. With an increase in Corporate Manslaughter investigations, the management chain will typically be “interrogated” to find the root causes for a work related death.

## ...EXCUSES

Some of the excuses given to policemen by speeding motorists range from: “I didn’t realise the limit was 30mph” to the bizarre “I really wanted to meet a policeman” to the unbelievable “I have a body in the boot that I am hurrying to dispose of,” said TTC course tutor Michelle Hudson, a grade 6 driving instructor.

## BRILLIANT

A Yorkshire company director and a housewife both praised the speed awareness course: “I thought it was brilliant. I had never been caught before. Some of the things we did I never knew like the difference it can make if you hit a person at 30mph instead of 40mph.”

“I didn’t even realise I was speeding until I got the letter. I never would have known in a million years it was 30mph. I was in a bit of a rush as I had to pick up my daughter. I know better now.”

## SATISFACTION SURVEY

A total of 87 per cent of clients say our courses are “good” or “very good” in a client satisfaction survey.

## COURSE INFORMATION

For more information about tailor made courses for your company fleet drivers call 0845 270 4363 or visit [www.ttc-uk.com](http://www.ttc-uk.com)

## MUM AND SON ON SAME SPEED AWARENESS COURSE

A Merseyside mother and son attended the same speed awareness course after being caught speeding in separate motoring incidents.

Marie Patrick (51) got a letter through the post informing her that she had been travelling at 37mph in a 30mph limit while son James was caught by a speed camera during a business trip to Chester.

“I was told I could attend a speed awareness course but I thought I would rather have three points on my licence,” said Marie, a nursing home activities organiser.

However the two agreed to attend the one day course in Knowsley – and never looked back.

“At first I wished I had taken the points but after attending the course, I’m glad I didn’t. It was a very good course and we both learned a lot. It made us both much more aware.”

Marie said she now drives her car in third gear when driving in a 30mph – a tip she learned on the course delivered by Bill Crewe, a trainer with course provider the TTC Group – one of the UK’s largest

driver training organisations.

“I’ve never been described as a speed fiend but just keeping in third gear in a built up area stops you driving over 30mph,” said Marie, of Lower House Lane.

Both mother and son kept their licences clean after successfully completing the course.

TTC Director Malcolm Jones said that Merseyside drivers who attended the speed awareness course “got a lot out of it” and enjoyed the experience. The course,

which includes theory and practical work with a trained instructor, helps people to stick to speed limits and is a positive alternative to penalty points and a fine.

“We are working in partnership with Merseyside police to reduce casualties and improve road safety throughout the region. Most drivers agree that the offer of a course is a much more proactive way to influence driver attitudes in the future.”

The courses, which began in February 2008, are held in Liverpool, Knowsley, Birkenhead and Southport.