

DRINK DRIVING – The Conference

Alcohol, health, the law and the latest new technology to catch drink drivers was on the agenda at the 6th TTC conference attended by more than 40 trainers who deliver the drink drive rehabilitation course to offenders.



Dr Rob Tunbridge

he unveiled the new £8,000 machine designed to carry out roadside breath tests and gather evidence for court prosecutions at the same time.

A six month test of the machine in eleven police force areas ended in May 2006. The system is used widely in the US, Germany and France. Once it becomes law in the UK, it is likely to be used in rural areas or at targetted operations such as race meetings, said Dr Tunbridge.

The UK was now the "third worst" in the world for police enforcement of drink driving.



Dr Rob Tunbridge shows TTC's Jenny Wynn the new evidential roadside breath test machine.

people were getting home later after drinking longer.

But Dr Neil Fisher said that the medical profession was "disappointed" at the new licensing laws as deaths from liver disease were on the increase.

It should have been linked to a public education programme about the dangers to health, drink driving and driving "the morning after," said TTC Group Director Jenny Wynn.

A 28 per cent increase in drink drive deaths over the past six years was of great concern, said Graham Wynn.

Police enforcement, which reduced drink driving, had fallen over the last three years, said Dr Rob Tunbridge, who advises the Government on transport trends.

Enforcement levels reduce drink driving and cut fatalities, he said as

The new licensing law to extend opening hours was both praised and criticised at the Shropshire conference. MP David Wright, Parliamentary Under Secretary to David Milliband, said it was "a better regime" as it stopped the 11pm rush to down drinks but meant that



Dr Neil Fisher

Magistrates praise "superb" TTC course

Many more magistrates are due to be visited as part of a TTC tour to give an insight into our drink drive rehabilitation course.

By the end of 2007, a total of 2,500 magistrates and senior court staff will have witnessed an overview of the training course acclaimed for reducing re-offending rates.

Visited this Summer were magistrates from Wigan and Cheshire while magistrates in Tameside, Manchester, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Warrington, will receive the course later this year.

Wigan magistrate Gwenda Thompson said: "The talk from TTC was absolutely superb. We



Wigan magistrates Gwenda Thompson, Tony Bent, Geoff Billings and Andrew Bullen with TTC's Mel Hughes.

were riveted by the information we received and it was useful in our role as magistrates as we are now better informed about what the alcohol awareness course entails. It is also valuable information on alcohol and health for individuals."

Visits in 2007 will include magistrates in St Helens and Knowsley, Rochdale, Bolton, Trafford, Stockport, Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands.

TTC manager Mel Hughes presents the seminars which give a clear insight into the 18 hour rehabilitation course which offenders volunteer to attend in exchange for up to a quarter of their driving ban.

The vast majority of drink drivers who attend the course, say they wished they had the knowledge about alcohol, units, absorption rates, health and effects on driving ability before they broke the law.

NEWS IN BRIEF

• **The UK Traffic Commissioners** have called in the TTC Group to educate 4,000 lorry, bus and coach managers and owners on alcohol and drugs in a 10 month "transport roadshow" which will reach from Scotland to the Isle of Wight totalling 25 presentations. Drink driving was "a very important issue," said Chris Cooper, of the Vehicle Operators Service Agency (VOSA) for both operators and the Traffic Commissioners'.

• **TTC sent training videos** used on their drink drive education courses in answer to an SOS from a South African road safety group which urgently needed educational videos for schoolchildren.

• **TTC director Jenny Wynn** is leading a major education initiative in schools in southern England in which pupils are being educated on alcohol.

• **John Price, of TTC,** represented the UK at a Dublin conference aimed at improving road safety in Ireland and attended by road safety professionals from across the world.

• **Director Graham Wynn** showcased TTC's drink drive education courses to a global audience at the World Driver Training conference in Dubai aimed at reducing road crashes through education and driver training.

• **A new TTC Group headquarters** now under construction will open later this year, announced Director Graham Wynn. The 9,000sq ft office development in Telford, Shropshire, will be the corporate HQ for the drink drive rehabilitation programme, alcohol and drug education courses for industry and TTC's Road Safety Division which runs the National Driver Improvement Scheme in Kent.

• **The TTC Group** (Telford Training Consultants), of Central Park, Telford, run 30 per cent of the UK's education courses for convicted drink drivers, acclaimed for reducing re-offending rates. They also run corporate driving and speed awareness courses as part of their aim to reduce the death and injury toll on UK roads.



Mock trials

TTC provided a "grand entrance" for the national final of the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition held this summer.

The drink drive education organisation was one of the sponsors for the event and provided awnings outside Trafford Magistrates' Court which hosted the finals.

Trafford Youth Orchestra played as the finalists from 16 schools entered the building after being greeted by the Trafford mayor, her consort and the Trafford Bench Chairman.

Inside the court, the students presented two cases of taking without consent and a racially aggravated assault at a football match. They played every role in the court proceedings including magistrates, crown prosecutor, defence lawyer, legal advisor, court ushers and witnesses.

Pupils used reasoning skills to argue their case while thinking on their feet with the performances judged by magistrates and legal professionals.

The mock trials, which attracted numerous schools from across the UK in the initial stages, were organised

by the Citizenship Foundation with the support of the Magistrates' Association. The Citizenship Foundation's aim is to empower individuals to engage in the wider community through education about law, democracy and society.

Trafford magistrate Kate Hughes said: "It was a privilege for the National Finals to come to Greater Manchester and to be asked to be the local organiser, especially at the court where I sit.

"Over the past eight years I have organised the local and regional heats of the competition and can now add the finals. I would like to thank everyone nationally and locally, especially the sponsors, who have supported me. I hope all the schools enjoyed it. They have all worked so very hard."

TTC Group Director Graham Wynn said: "We very much value the ideals which the Citizenship Foundation is aiming to achieve and were very pleased to be one of the sponsors.

"It was a great success and an event which has been supported by magistrates and courts nationwide."



What size is your glass?

Just one glass and you could be over the drink drive limit - that is the message to drivers from TTC.

MP David Wright (pictured left) and TTC Group director Graham Wynn used a pair of 3ft tall wine glasses to make the point that people may be drinking much more than they realise as alcoholic drinks are now stronger than ever before and served in much larger measures.

"TTC has made me very aware of the dangers. Their education courses are having a dramatic impact on people nationwide.

"A single glass of wine served in a 250ml measure will put a woman over the drink drive limit. I don't believe that many people realise this," said the MP, who advocates a "zero" alcohol limit when driving.

Wine is now regularly sold in 250ml measures in pubs and clubs across the UK.

"It equals three units of alcohol which will put a woman over the drink drive limit. Two glasses will put a man over the limit as well," said Mr Wynn, whose award winning company is the UK's largest provider of rehabilitation courses for convicted drink drivers.

Many people were now being caught drink driving after being stopped "the morning after" totally unaware that they were over the limit.

"Extra strong beers and stronger wines and spirits sold in larger measures are getting people into serious trouble. The safe limit when driving is zero and that is the message we are aiming to get across," added Mr Wynn.

A 'Gem'...

Asked in a feedback form what part of the drink drive education course had benefited him the most, one attender said: "Getting Gemma's phone number..."