



**A high number of Eastern Europeans are appearing before the courts for drink drive offences.**

Motorists living and working in the UK from Poland, Latvia and Estonia – countries with a heavy drinking culture – are volunteering to attend drink drive rehabilitation courses after being sentenced by magistrates.

Almost a quarter of those referred to TTC in one month were in the high risk offender category - more than two and a half times and sometimes three times the drink drive limit.

A total of 120 Eastern European drivers appeared

# Drink Drive "Goes West"

before magistrates in TTC court areas in June 2007 – more than 10 per cent of the total referrals, latest figures reveal.

"I started to notice an influx in a couple of our court areas at the beginning of the year and they have steadily increased across a large part of the country," said Pauline Hall, manager of the TTCs head office.

A Polish teaching assistant

told TTC trainer Roz Burch that she had "no idea at all" about UK drink driving laws.

Group director Jenny Wynn said: "We had almost 1,100 referrals onto our courses in June and more than ten per cent were Eastern Europeans. This is a disproportionately high figure."

A total of 28 out of the 120 Eastern European referrals were "high risk offenders" stopped by police

with readings of between 87 and 100 micrograms of alcohol in their breath. The limit is 35.

Many did not speak English very well and did not understand either the court procedure or the benefits of accepting the education programme which they can volunteer for in exchange for up to a quarter off their ban.

"We are now producing our course information in their language. We need to address cultural issues so that we can successfully change their attitude to drink driving."

Mrs Wynn urged the authorities to inform potential arrivals to the UK about our stricter drink driving laws.

## "Valuable" JP Training

**Magistrates "learned a lot" about the law relating to driving at a magistrates conference organised by the TTC Group and attended by more than 150 Greater Manchester JPs.**

Drug driving, driver improvement, speed awareness, accident investigation, police roadside testing, field impairment testing, the drink drive rehabilitation scheme and the role of the Traffic Commissioner – they were all on the agenda at the None 4 The Road & More event held in Salford in May.

Inner Manchester Association secretary Richard Monkhouse said the information available to magistrates at the conference had added a great deal to the training they receive in the normal course of events.

"The information from this conference will help magistrates make more rounded judgements in court. It was very valuable and should be made more widely available."

Elliot Griffiths, a member of the Magistrates Association Traffic Committee, praised TTC for the far reaching programme including valuable information for JPs on the new Road Safety Act and the alcolock ignition system.

"There is so much for magistrates to learn. There are new laws coming in and there is a need for training. There was excellent information at this conference that I did not know."

Conference organiser Graham Wynn said: "We packed a lot of information into it for magistrates. The day was themed around motoring and there were a varied list of speakers and workshops which attracted a great deal of interest."



To be the very best is the aim of The TTC Group with its sights set on achieving even greater performance levels through the Investors in Excellence programme. TTC Group directors Jenny and Graham Wynn OBE are pictured receiving a commitment certificate from Judy Hart, of Midlands Excellence, who said the organisation was a role model for others to follow.

## Yes to Units

TTC Group Director **Graham Wynn** welcomed putting alcohol units on bottles – a scheme the organisation had

been championing for many years.

"People need to know about alcohol units so that they are not over the limit the next day," he said.

# Drivers must see Nichola's tragic film

A hard hitting film about the death of a teenage girl in a drink drive tragedy should be broadcast nationwide, urged a Stafford magistrate.

Harold Emery, deputy chairman of Stafford Magistrates, watched the short clip with colleagues during a national training seminar to teach them about the TTC Group's successful alcohol rehabilitation programme for drink drive offenders.

The film is shown each year to more than 10,000 motorists as part of an 18¼ hour education programme aimed at changing their views on drink driving. The film recreates the true story of how a 17-year-old girl was killed by a drink driver.

"I believe it should be on the TV as a campaign against drink driving. It is so hard hitting it would get the message over to people that you must not drink and drive," said Mr Emery.



Stafford magistrates Harold Emery, Lynn Kemp, TTCs Mel Hughes, Anne Simcox and Howard Stemp.

Mel Hughes is on the second year of a nationwide courts tour to give magistrates an insight into the drink drive rehabilitation scheme run by TTC in 14 counties and mid and north Wales.

Magistrates hear how one in four drink drivers are caught in the morning unaware that they are still over the limit from the night before and that the vast majority of drink drivers who attend our course wish they had knowledge about alcohol, units, absorption

rates, health and effects on driving before they broke the law.

By the end of 2007 a total of 2,500 JPs and senior court staff will have been given an overview of the training course which they send drink drivers onto.



Drink drive victim Nichola Hilton

## Young Victims

More young people are dying as a result of drink driving than ever before with half of all drink drive deaths in the 16 to 29 age group, warned Graham Wynn.

There had been a 28 per cent increase in all drink drive deaths over a six year period from 1999.

"Younger drivers take more risks and we are still not getting through to them. We need to do more," he told the annual TTC conference.

UK law should be brought into line with the rest of Europe with the drink drive limit lowered from 80 to 50 and more motorists breath tested at the roadside.

## Drink Drive Course

The TTC Group is the UK's largest provider of the drink drive rehabilitation course putting more than 10,000 convicted drink drivers each year through the scheme which they pioneered in 1993.

It also provides training for the corporate sector on alcohol and drug awareness as part of a detailed education programme for fleet drivers. They also run a National Driver Improvement Scheme in Kent and are ready to launch speed awareness programmes nationwide. For more information call 0845 270 4380 or visit [www.ttc-uk.com](http://www.ttc-uk.com)

## Rap Song Message

A rap song urging youngsters not to drink and drive is being used by road safety organisations to raise awareness in schools and colleges.

Rap singer Love Isaac Sackey (49), wrote the

lyrics and the music after attending a course in Nottingham in which he was moved to tears after watching a film about the victims of drink driving.

"I never intended to drink drive but just didn't think until it was too late," said Love, who came to the UK from Ghana at 22.

"The course was excellent. It opened up my mind about drink driving. I was surprised that all ages were on the

course. They showed us a video about victims. It moved me a lot and I decided to write the song and get it produced onto a CD. Everyone needs to know about drink driving."

"We want to thank Love for making this CD. It is helping us in our campaign to highlight the dangers of drink driving," said TTC Group Director Jenny Wynn.

Copies of the CD are available from TTC.



Love