



Don't Drink and Drive...

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SAFER ROADS BY EDUCATING DRIVERS

## BANNED STAR SAYS DON'T DRINK & DRIVE



Actor Simon Gregson outside the Rovers Return

Coronation Street TV star Simon Gregson, who was arrested by police for driving over the limit, agreed to help the TTC Group by making a nationwide public appeal to people not to drink and drive.

The 32-year-old actor, who plays Steve McDonald in the popular soap, volunteered to attend one of our rehabilitation courses after appearing before Greater Manchester

magistrates. He said he had learned his lesson and now knew "so much more" about alcohol.

Simon joined seven other offenders to learn about alcohol and its effects during 18 hours of education over three days.

"I had many reservations about attending - but it was great. The trainers and the other people on the course were brilliant. I was genuinely interested. There is so much information on alcohol that we didn't know and everyone should know."

He is calling for young drivers to take the course as part of their test and for pubs, clubs and restaurants to publicise units and how long alcohol stays in the blood to prevent people driving while over the limit the next day.

Speaking on the set of the Rovers Return, Simon said: "I was calculating my drinks as losing one pint an hour. I now know that is total rubbish. It is one unit of alcohol on average that the body gets rid of every hour. People need to know about units."

He was fined £3,000 with £1,000 costs and banned for 16 months after being caught with a reading of 60 micrograms on his way home from a charity event.

"There must be goodness knows how many people driving to work over the limit the next day," said Simon, who readily gave up his lunchtime break during a busy filming schedule to be interviewed and posed for pictures allowing his personal story to be publicised across the UK in a bid to deter others.

TTC trainer Martin Bowen, who ran the course said the TV actor "got stuck in" and contributed to the course which involves classroom debate on alcohol issues. He praised the popular actor for speaking out about alcohol in a bid to raise public awareness, particularly among young people.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**DRINK DRIVE GUILT** Mansfield drink driver George Labana (42) is believed to be the first motorist to refer himself onto a course after being unable to live with his guilt. He is now much more aware about alcohol and urged everyone to get educated.

**FOREIGN DRINK DRIVE RISE** There has been a sharp rise in the number of foreign drink drivers attending alcohol education courses. In one course there were four foreigners in a class of 15 - a disproportionate number of immigrants and a situation mirrored in many course areas, said TTC Group Director Jenny Wynn.

**BINGE DRINKING** Two lorry drivers were "stunned" after being arrested for drink driving. After attending a course in Nottinghamshire, they both realised they had been binge drinking by consuming large amounts of strong lager at the weekend leaving alcohol in their system at the start of the week.

**BEST PRACTICE** TTC 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. There are 22 organisations educating 35,000 convicted drink drivers in the UK each year.

**MORNING AFTER SOLUTION A** "morning after" breathalyser may stop motorists from driving over the limit, said TTC Group Director Graham Wynn OBE, who gave the stamp of approval to the new Alcosense breathalyser unveiled at TTC's annual conference.

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

**TTC LIVE 24/7 ONLINE** TTC's investment in the latest online technology means that people can book onto a speed awareness course at any time of the day or night - even Christmas Day.

## JP'S ON DRINK DRIVE COURSE

Staffordshire magistrates know all about our rehabilitation course for drink drive offenders after attending a "taster" session at Newcastle under Lyme Magistrates Court.

Mel Hughes, of course provider the TTC Group, gave 60 JP's a "walk through" of the three day course on which they send newly convicted drivers.

"We had some very good feedback from magistrates. They were quite amazed about information on alcohol units, the time it takes for alcohol to be

absorbed and health issues on alcohol. They now really appreciate what we put course participants through during the drink drive rehabilitation course," said Mel.

Magistrates learned how one in five drink drivers are caught in the morning unaware they are over the limit from the night before.

JP David Alcock said magistrates had been "surprised" by some of the information on the course relating to how long alcohol stayed in the

body and the fact that drinks are now stronger and served in larger glasses.

"The course was excellent. It was a very powerful message about the effects of alcohol. There needs to be some sort of education programme for young people to drive this message home," he said.

Hundreds of magistrates and senior courts staff from across TTC court areas have already attended similar taster sessions which are continuing across the regions.



Newcastle under Lyme magistrates learn about alcohol, left to right, bench chairman Kath Reader, Ann Yoxall, TTC's Mel Hughes, Tony Bailey and David Alcock

# TTC TACKLES CRIME

**A scheme to turnaround offenders backed by the TTC Group has gained national recognition after the story of a young burglar was aired on BBC News 24, the Today programme and BBC breakfast news.**

Martin James (22), who was sentenced to a two year suspended jail sentence and ordered to do unpaid work for his first burglary offence of a sports shop had been homeless when he committed the crime.

He successfully completed the innovative Skills Builder Programme and aims to get a job with his

new skills - never to re-offend.

Criminal Justice Training Solutions, with the full support of the TTC Group, aims to tackle re-offending in the UK by rolling out the new skills programme nationwide, if it gets the backing of the Government.

CJTS works with probation and the prison service to steer people away from crime through "high quality interventions" to turnaround low risk offenders leading to greater public protection.

"We intend to make a tangible difference. The best outcome for an offender and for society is for them to secure a job. We hope to bridge the gap and encourage employers to

take a measured risk and give them a chance to stay on the straight and narrow," said Des Morrison, former Head of Youth Offending who wants to reduce crime by educating offenders, equip them with skills and get them into employment.



Offenders on the course with trainer David Ellcott and Janet Hickey of Derbyshire Probation Service



Martin receives his first ever skills certificate



Des Morrison talks to the BBC

Ex-burglar Martin James

## POLICE CHIEF PRAISE



Chief Inspector Ian Bint

A senior police officer has praised the TTC Group for providing speed awareness courses throughout South Yorkshire.

Chief Inspector Ian Bint said that calling in the experienced driver trainers to deliver courses meant that police could concentrate on their "core" business without being diverted into creating their own training programme. The "off the shelf" speed awareness programme has been very successful since its launch last year.

"It is incredibly easy to administer from our perspective and allows us to deliver the courses without having to design them. It allows us to concentrate on our core business without being diverted into providing training and handling cash," said Chief Inspector Bint.

"A big benefit is the 24 hour online booking service which allows people to book at any time of the day or night. People have busy lives and this way we

get a big takeup of courses. We have a complete overview of the courses and we monitor the footfall which is excellent."

Part of the administration costs from the courses have been re-invested by South Yorkshire Police into Operation Octane, a scheme aimed at educating motorcyclists to reduce casualties throughout South Yorkshire.

By ploughing back money from administration charges they are helping to fund a number of initiatives including projects working alongside the Safety Camera Partnership.

"We are re-investing in new road safety measures," said Mr Bint, who aims to combat the road casualty figures for South Yorkshire.

TTC Director Malcolm Jones said the speed awareness courses had received positive feedback from both police and motorists.

"The courses are easy to book either online or through our call centre. Most people, almost 90 per cent, book online and motorists who attend the course say they have been able to improve their knowledge by re-learning forgotten driving skills. After the course they are much more aware of speed limits and the road safety reasons for sticking to them."

He said there was a "growing realisation" by both local authorities and police that they must take action to combat 40,000 serious road crashes in the UK each year.

## RANDOM BREATH TESTS

Random breath tests as proposed by the Government have the full backing of the TTC Group.

Tougher enforcement will lead to a reduction in drink driving and bring the UK into line with the rest of Europe and other countries worldwide. The UK and Denmark are the only two European countries which do not have random testing.

Introduced in 1982, New South Wales saw an immediate 36% decline in alcohol-related fatal crashes.

TTC Group director Graham Wynn said that it would act as a "successful deterrent" if drivers could be stopped at any time and breathalysed.

"Half of the UK's drink drive deaths are in young drivers aged between 17 and 29. This is one way in which we can reduce those tragic statistics. It is long overdue."

Mr Wynn, who received the OBE for services to road safety, said that blood alcohol levels must also be cut from 80 to 50 to fall in line with the rest of Europe.

TTC trainer John Kavanagh who teaches convicted drink drivers about alcohol said that he was breathalysed for the first time in his life while on holiday in Australia.

The 64-year-old ex-detective superintendent, said: "The only way to prevent drink driving is to detect it. If people believe they will be caught then they won't do it"

"My son-in-law has been breath tested about 20 times over the past ten years. Everyone expects it and they just don't mind. It took just 20 seconds for me to be breathalysed in a road check in Victoria. It is accepted police behaviour and no-one bothers."

## SPEED AWARENESS

*"Accepting sometimes that you are going to be late and that speeding is just not worth it is something I have taken away. I thought it was a fantastic course," said ex-nurse Clare Allen (43), caught on camera driving through Sheffield at 38mph in a 30 mph limit.*

*"I had got blasé about driving. I just thought it was about getting from A to B. The course has made such a change to the way I drive. My boyfriend said he noticed the difference straight away."*

*Barnsley secretary Sarah Thorpe, caught on camera at 52 mph on a 40 mph dual carriageway, said: "Everyone found it beneficial. It has helped me to be more aware especially of what limit you are in. It makes you realise just how many people are driving too fast. People push you from behind to go faster. I find that the majority of drivers are over the speed limit."*

*Sarah says she now sticks to the speed limits and is much more aware of her driving and other traffic.*

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