



# Regional Coordinator Newsletter February 2025



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Date: 13<sup>th</sup> of FEBRUARY 2025



Welcome to my February 2025 newsletter. In September last year, responding to requests, I offered to arrange either a virtual meeting for all tutors or a face-to-face. I asked for suggestions on dates, location and preferred subject content. Unfortunately, even though I reiterated my offer, apart from those who originally asked me to progress this, I have had little or no response. I therefore assume there is currently no enthusiasm for a general tutor event. However, I would like to offer all groups that I am available to attend any in-house tutor/group meetings and happy to discuss anything which particularly affects your group. I have already made two such appointments for March. Please contact me either via email or call me.

P.S. Thought you might be interested in this recent photo which you may have missed in the news? This is looking east to west at the California Cross junction in Finchampstead, in Berkshire at the junction of the B3430 and the B3016. As you can see from this photo, some drivers do not seem to be aware they should steer around these 'roundabouts' or provide direction signals. Fortunately, there are signs on the approach roads pre-warning there are two mini roundabouts ahead. However, the photo does not suggest that blue mini roundabout signs are co-located at the 'roundabouts'. As for the unlucky pedestrians anticipating their H2 priority at the jazzy 'areas for crossing'?!!!



## ● This month's discussion Topic.

### Driver/Rider Distraction (Part 1)

Driver/rider distraction is a critical safety issue on the road today. It refers to anything that diverts a driver/rider's attention away from the primary task of driving/riding. Distractions can be broadly categorized into three types: visual (taking eyes off the road), manual (in cars, taking hands off the wheel), and cognitive (taking the mind off driving/riding).

What's interesting is that driver/rider distraction isn't limited to young people or those who are new to driving/riding. Studies show that even experienced drivers/riders can become distracted, and sometimes they don't even realise how much their attention is diverted.

If distraction is discussed within the context of advanced driving and riding within RoADAR, generally it is about other road users being distracted.

Do we (RoADAR), ensure we look inwardly regarding distraction?

One aspect in particular is the influence of new technology, mainly in cars. As many RoADAR riders are also car drivers, for those, this may also be directly relevant. For those who only ride, it may be indirectly relevant if you meet a distracted driver.

While modern features like infotainment systems, voice assistants, and automatic braking systems are meant to enhance convenience and safety, they can also contribute to distractions if not designed with usability in mind. Although these systems, designed to enhance the driving experience, they often require attention, interaction, or mental engagement that can divert focus from the road.

When driving normally, do we interact with Infotainment systems; advanced driver assistance systems; automated features; smartphone integration; heads-up displays or vehicle's notification systems?

While they offer convenience, they often require the driver to:

- Physically interact with the screen (tap, swipe, etc.), taking their hands off the wheel.
- Look away from the road to locate and operate the controls.
- Navigate through menus to find the right function (as well as simply changing the radio station or selecting a destination), which can be mentally engaging and distracting.

These systems can be frustratingly complex, especially if they're not intuitive, leading to drivers spending excessive time trying to figure out how to use them while driving.

In the question above I stated 'When driving normally'. During RoADAR training sessions, unless it is discussed beforehand, I would expect any possible distracting system is switched off. What may be the impact if they are switched on?

Ask yourself or your associate, 'What are your thoughts on how technology is influencing driver distraction today?'

Next month, I will look at the new technology systems which are common and available in many vehicles and further discuss why, drivers also play a crucial role in being mindful of how they use these systems and staying engaged in the driving process.



## Additional RoADAR topics



Roadarbenefits.co.uk

### Make use of your RoADAR member rewards

Visit [RoADAR Benefits](https://roadarbenefits.co.uk) today to see what offers are currently available to you.

- 🗨️ **RoSPA Testing:** Three RoSPA tests have been taken In January in Scotland. There was one test taken during January in the Republic of Ireland. North Cumbria and SW Scotland had one test taken in January and there were no tests taken in January in Northern Ireland.
- 🗨️ **ScORSA –** There are no webinars expected during January. The next scheduled webinar is the 25<sup>th</sup> of February and I will provide more details in my next newsletter. All previous webinars and podcasts are recorded and available on their website.
- 🗨️ **Ayrshire Road Alliance** is offering a Biker Refinement event on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 at the Riverside Building and Car Park, Ayrshire College, in Ayr between 10am and 4pm. All potential Riders who wish to attend must have a full license. I will provide more details next month. Please help to spread information of the event to anyone who lives in Ayrshire you feel may benefit.
- 🗨️ I would like to ask all motorcycle members to remember if you have recently purchased new PPE, please consider donating your unused but useable PPE to a young rider who may not have the finances to purchase proper PPE.

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