



LDC News and Views Spring 2008 Edition



Learner Driving Centres Newsletter

Feb 2008



In this fun packed issue.....

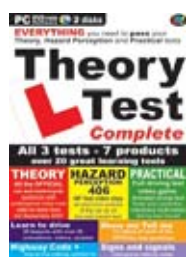
Pictures of the New building now we are in and settled (well almost) Pages 3-4



This Issue's featured Instructor is John Wright from Leeds. Page 5



If you would like your profile published then please let me have it at
bob.morton@learnerdriving.com



Product updates
And news from
DSA regarding
changes to test fees
Page 2

Head office profile Page 6, is Mr Roger Larsen



He was supposed to be featured in the last edition, but concerns over witness protection issues meant that a little more time had to be taken (lets hope it was worth the wait :))

Pages 7 8 and 9 are pictures of the new LD instructors joining us in November, January and February a warm welcome to you all. It was fun meeting you all at induction, and by now you should be easing in nicely, please let me have updates as to how you are doing
Bob.morton@learnerdriving.com

Page10 is the wonderful Deirdrie our resident Agony Aunt, fresh back from a tour of municipal buildings and public conveniences, she returns flushed with success and ready to answer your every question.....(Come on send it in....you know you want to)

Page 11 is dedicated to things for sale do you have something to sell?

Or perhaps a story to tell?

Email
bob.morton@learnerdriving.com

Congratulations to the following people who have passed part three of the qualifying exam. (Part two passes included for January)

OCTOBER 2007

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Ian Heyer | 2/10/07 |
| Andy Broxholme | 2/10/07 |
| Mark Stones | 11/10/07 |
| Tony Hume | 15/10/07 |
| Gordon Cairns | 11/10/07 |
| MArie Haddon | 22/10/07 |
| Fiona Wilkinson | 22/10/07 |
| Jennifer Lowe | 16/10/07 |
| Pauline Crookes | 19/10/07 |
| Kim Burgoyne (Mr) | 16/10/07 |
| Paul Knowles | 22/10/07 |

NOVEMBER 2007

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Rosalind Clemmens | 1/11/07 |
| Keith Lawton | 5/11/07 |
| Mark Fisher | 7/11/07 |
| Lesley Austen | 5/11/07 |
| David Croan | 6/11/07 |
| Andrew Newberry | 20/11/07 |
| Dipak Nanavati | 8/11/07 |
| Deborah Sidsaff | 6/11/07 |
| Jasmine Mitchell | 22/11/07 |

DECEMBER 2007:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Gary Brownhill | 3rd Dec |
| Carl Brookes | 1st Dec |
| Stephen Haigh | 4th Dec |
| Gary Shead | 10th Dec |
| Linda Alden | 19th Dec |
| Sascha Jacob | 13th Dec |

And in January passes as follows

Part 2

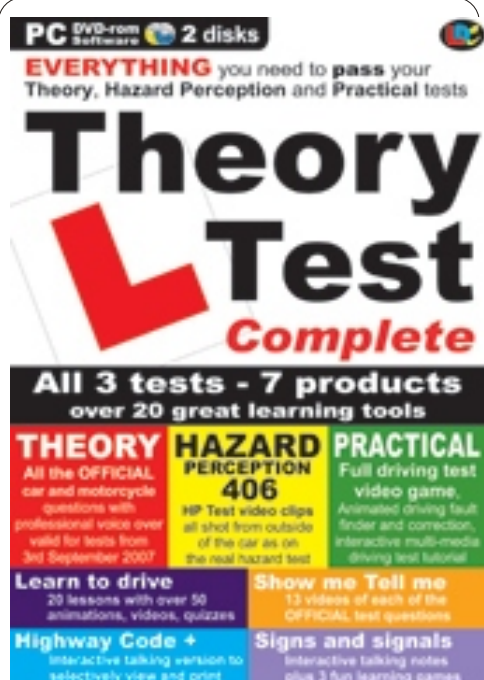
Donna Green
Tim Alexander
Stephen Feast
Alan Balsillie
Tony Bryson
Yvonne Walton
Helen McCloud

Part 3

Margaret McKenna
Mark Marsden
Graham Humphries
David McBurney
Jamie Haydon
Jason Threlfall
Rae Cook
David Pitt
Graham Lowe
Matthew Haile
Tim Wilson



New Products and DSA News



Important news for all LDC instructors.

The LDC driving test complete CD/DVD Rom, acclaimed by auto express has now been improved. Not only does it cover all three exams, i.e. Theory test multiple choice, Hazard perception and practical test as well as carrying an array of additional sections like the 13 official show me tell me questions and signs & signals as well as a complete copy of the new highway code, and has recently had the hazard perception clips section increased to 406 clips. This product is available now, and at the same price as the original i.e. £6.00 each to LDC Instructors (£9.99 full r.r.p.)

For more information visit <http://www.learnerdriving.com>

To place an order call Ern on 01977 691810

DSA Press release

Modernising Arrangements For Driving Tests

The Driving Standards Agency today confirmed the driving test fee structure that was proposed last summer.

Theory tests for car drivers and motorcycle riders from 1 April will be £30 while practical tests for car drivers will be £56.50 from that date.

When the new, more demanding, practical motorcycle test is introduced on 29 September, the fee for that test will be £80. A new off-road part is being introduced to the test before riders will be allowed to progress to the on-road element, which requires a new network of test centres to be constructed.

Chief Executive Rosemary Thew said:

“The Driving Standards Agency has to cover its costs in providing driving and riding tests to learners throughout the country. We are already planning to make efficiency savings of £4.8m this year and a further £6.0m in 2008/9, but to make sure we continue to offer an excellent service the fees we charge must match our costs.”

The new fee structure was confirmed as the DSA published its response to the Improved Services for Customers and General Fee Increases for 2008 consultation.

The complete Response to Consultation Report is available on www.dsa.gov.uk

Proposed increases in ADI test and Registration fees from April 1st 2008

Part one £80

Part two £99

Part three £99

ADI Registration £300



New Building



New Building

Here it is in all it's glory, now finished and we have all moved in it is a wonderful environment, light and airy (and i have my own desk!!!)



View from Reception desk



As you can see, a lot of light gets into the building.



Food goes here!



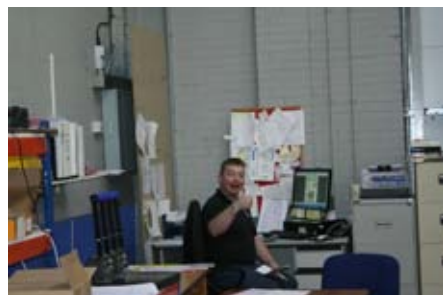
Classroom where starting from March inductions and training meetings will be held. State of the art overhead projection and surround sound.....nice.



Pat hard at work in the training department.



View from where the sofas and plants will eventually be.



Ern Morris tucked away in a small corner of a very large room.



New warehouse stocked with LDC goodies



MD Paul plotting the downfall of the Instructor college.



Ann sorting out your work!



Rebecca
We aren't having fun really its work work work around here.



New Building



New Building



Ahem! Time gentlemen please



Sharee who you all know from training, who patiently listened to all those calls for help.....is doing the Great North Run in October and needs sponsors.....so dig deep and email her at Sharee-training@learnerdriving.com She is running on behalf of the N.S.P.C.C.



Sales team in full flight!
In their nice new environment



Claire and Sarah



Emma



Di..
.Somehow I didn't quite get the pic right!



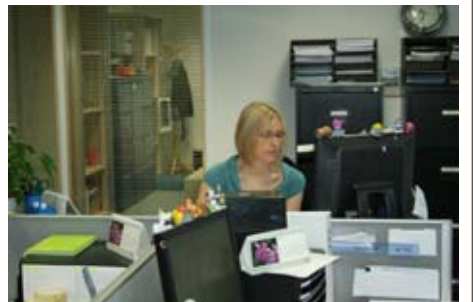
Helen



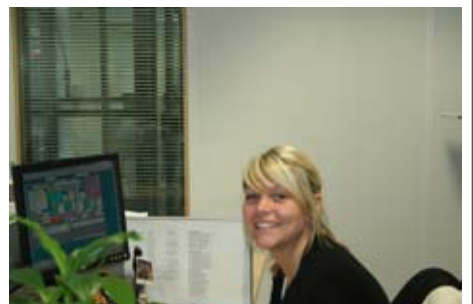
Jo and Chris



Sarah



Charlotte



Leanne



Instructor Profile

John Wright Leeds

Instructor Profile

John Wright - Leeds



John Wright

I was born in Planet Road, Adwick-Le-Street near Doncaster in 1953 a typical mining area but very friendly and family orientated. I can remember standing in the back yard (next to the outside lav) and seeing five mines Skellow, Bentley, Askern, Bullcroft and Broadsworth all now demolished including the part of Adwick where I was born and brought up. It is now an industrial estate. Being brought up in a mining community there was always the chance of becoming a miner just like my father and brother.

However, on leaving school I spent three months at Broadworth Colliery prior to joining the Royal Navy in January 1969 in the catering division. This was a fantastic experience for me and I had a wonderful time in my twelve years service visiting many foreign countries throughout the world. I was a keen sportsman playing football, cricket, rugby squash, tennis and boxing.

Whilst stationed at the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar in 1972 I met my wife Ina who was a nurse within the hospital and in 1973 we were married and a year later had our first child Hannah Louise. Our son Stephen, John was born 3 years later which made our family complete.

My last two years in the Royal Navy was very special to me as I was stationed at HMS Rooke in Gibraltar with my family. Being very involved with sport I became the sports representative for our division and had a very successful time. Greatest achievement was the Rock race (only the Royal Navy would be daft enough to do this have you seen how steep it is). I advertised for applicants 14 people replied, I broke the field down to 2 teams of 5 and 1 of four. The hardest job was selecting A, B & C team. With my knowledge of individuals and discussions with them I produced the teams. Over 100 people entered the race, the starter set us on our way, I led the field out of the dockyard gate and on the steep climb past the casino I was overtaken by an Ateam member, a short while later another A team member and so on. The race ended with the 5 A team members placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th yes I came seventh my excuse was only the first 4 counted so I eased off. The trophy was presented to me by Miss Gibraltar 1979.

I left the Royal Navy in April 1980 and prior to the end of my contract I obtained The Diploma in Hotel and Catering Management

After leaving the Forces, I developed my management skills and knowledge in various management positions encompassing hotel management, catering management in departmental stores and licensed restaurants. I held the position of Outside Catering Manager for Crawford's Catering (U.B. Restaurants) in Edinburgh holders of The Royal Warrant for four years, catering for Royalty and some very prestigious events including the Royal Garden party in Holy rood Palace for over 10,000 people, Royal Highland Show, Royal Archers, Law Society to name a few, prior to taking up the position as Multi Unit Manager (U.B. Restaurants) in Durham. I was responsible for the day to day Operation of Pizzaland Licensed Restaurant, Crawfords Restaurant and a very busy City Centre bar The Manhattan Bar.

In May 1987 I joined Vaux Breweries as a Sales Representative to develop the Free Trade sales in the Durham area. I was promoted to Field Sales Manager before joining the Tenanted Division looking after outlets in the South West Durham Area. Due to the acquisition of Public Houses in the North West and Yorkshire areas, I was re-located to my present address in Leeds.

My appointment to Regional Manager in the north west region responsible for 250 public houses with a team of five Business Development Managers, Building Surveyor and two Secretaries in 1995 was short lived as Vaux were sold to Pubmaster in 1998 leaving my position redundant. However, I am pleased to say that in this time I improved the overall standards and profitability and became the best performing region within the company. I then joined Avebury Taverns however; in 2004 Avebury taverns were sold to Punch Taverns leaving my position once again redundant.

Now I am not as young as I used to be and the thought of moving back into the Liquor Industry was not for me. The pub business has become increasingly difficult to find people with finance to operate poor located pubs with high rents etc.

One day early in 2005 I saw this advert "Become a Driving Instructor", be your own boss and you can earn up to £30,000, so I sat back and thought about it. I love driving, I am very passionate about teaching and yes, why not be my own boss!

So I contacted, yes wait for it The Instructor College and paid £4,500 to complete their residential course in Sheffield. This was a great experience and on leaving the course proceeded to pass my part 1 and part 2. I then completed a further 20 hours to be accepted on a Trainee Licence.

The standard of training for my part 3 was in my opinion very poor from the college. I was not given a clear understanding of the test and I found each trainer had different opinions on how to carry out the PST's. Confusing I must say!

After failing my first and second attempts I called the college for further training, however, I was very disappointed with the availability of further tuition. I felt unsupported and confused which resulted in me coming to the conclusion that the College did not deliver on the crucial final stage to becoming an ADI.

Fortunately there was light at the end of the tunnel! I was recommended to contact Pat Firth who became my saviour. Pat gave me the correct understanding of the part 3 examination in no uncertain terms. I passed my part 3 in October 2006.

At that time I was franchised to a local driving school under the trainee licence. However, I needed more direction and business support to deliver a standard of teaching I could be proud of.

After discussions with Pat I was very impressed with the support given to pupils with LDC. The training literature provided to compliment the practical lessons from LDC was in my opinion exceptional.

I am pleased and proud to say that in January 2007 I joined the LDC Franchise and being part of this organisation has improved my image as an Approved Driving Instructor and my ambition now is to become Ordit registered and help Potential Driving Instructors become qualified.



Head Office Profile

roger Larson



Head Office Profile

Roger Larson



Vital facts (lies, damned lies and statistics):

Who is he? For those of you who didn't know (and where have you been the last 10 years?); Roger is the LDC Instructor Support Manager and the most famous Norwegian to work for LDC (ever).

Born: Yes, but apparently under protest. Roger arrived in this world in the frozen north of Norway, in a decade before anyone outside Scandinavia had heard of Abba and Bjorn Borg. Rumours have it he is still thawing up.

Roger early realised he had a brain for languages and apart from Norwegian did English, German and French at school. He also played football for the local team (quite badly) and the guitar (maybe not quite so badly, but not quite like Page/Hendrix/Blackmore). After college he also made some brave attempts at learning Finnish, Dutch and Spanish.

Because of his knack for languages, Roger had a desire to travel the world and learn them all. The tourist industry seemed to be the best avenue, so he decided to train to work in the most luxurious hotels in the world (The Wentvale?). This included training as a chef (rumours have it he can scramble a boiled egg), waiter, receptionist and bartender.

After working for a while in the (hot) kitchens of (cold) northern Norway, an opportunity arose to work as a travel rep in Lanzarote. Roger promptly grabbed the chance and started entertaining the tourists who hadn't already succumbed to food-poisoning, sunstroke or a not insignificant (and unexpected?) hangover.

Roger's career then took an upward (?) turn when he moved to Tenerife. Here he remained for almost a year before it got too hot (!!!!) for him, and he booked a flight back to Norway to re-group. However, things were now starting to get complicated; Just a few days before his (non-refundable) flight back, destiny very inconsiderately(?) introduced him to a lovely Geordie lass. She made a profound impression on him, so much so that after his return to Norway, although he was now working as the assistant manager of a hotel, after a couple of recce missions, he decided to make the move to England and Northumberland.

Here he started his career in catering all over again, i.e. working as a cook in a café, before moving on to restaurants/hotels, whilst also becoming a dad. However, this time destiny dealt him a cruel blow and Roger started suffering from dermatitis (must be something in the British water); so much that after around 4 years he had to stop working in kitchens and look for other work. During his time in the British catering/tourist industry, Roger had realised working conditions were a lot less favourable than when he had worked for Norwegian firms, so he started looking for other areas outside catering that could benefit from his (by now considerate?) skills.

This was where the driving school business caught his attention, and he enrolled on the training course with the best organisation, BSM (only joking). Of course, LDC was the one and only school to sign up with. The training went reasonably well (fitted around a full time job, wife and daughter), and Roger passed parts 1 and 2 on the 1st attempt.

Part 3 training was done with the now not unfamiliar to most of us, Bob Morton. Roger enjoyed the training, although he suspects he may have been hard work for Bob. 1st attempt was nearly passed, according to a very nice SE, Maurice Deagle. However, the 2nd and 3rd attempts were assessed by a not-quite-so-nice-and-wearing-extremely-thick-glasses SE, (Roger can't remember his name now). Unfortunately, Roger may have mentioned something about his glasses on the 2nd attempt, and got a not very good score on this and the 3rd attempt (not warranted, he felt at the time).

Despite failing at part 3, someone must have seen something good in Roger, because he was offered a job at LDC head office, to help build up a new sales team (by now he had split up from his lovely Geordie lass and moved out of the family home). This move must have worked pretty well, because he is still at head office.

Nowadays, he tries to keep up his fitness by persevering to play football (quite badly) and he still picks up the guitar now and then.



November Induction



November Induction

14 New Instructors joined the Franchise in November 2007. As usual keep an eye out for them, and say hi.



Bob
Thompson
Northampton



Carl Jones
Isle of Wight



Dave Dear
St Ives



Debbie
Foster
Littleborough



Jed Svarc
Plymouth



John Garton
Warrington



John Murphy
Carmarthen



John Self
Ipswich



Julian Hurren
Norwich



Ken Wardle
Stockton-on-Tees



Les Bare
Brighton



Neil Willis
Bilston
Staffs



Nigel
Hawker
Exeter



Steve Barrie
Aberdeen



January Induction



January Induction

21 new Instructors joining in January.



Andy
Newberry
Kirkaldy



David Andrews
Glasgow



Graham
Tuffey
Essex



Graham
wood
Wigton



Ian evans
Newton
Abbott



JamesWalker
Coalville



Jamie
Hayden
Pershaw



Jonathan
grant
Ayr



Julian
Atudosie
Brighton



Julian Green
Gloucester



Keith lawton
Huddersfield



Mandy Drake-
Worth
Plymouth



Mark Marsden
Norwich



Pete Jones
Liverpool



Peter williams
Ferrhill



Rebecca
Butcher
Huddersfield



Richard
Anderson
Guildford



Roger Swift
Redditch



Rob Bennett
Llandodno



Sascha
Jacob
Cornwall



Rick
Wooldridge
(OK we don't
have a pic of
him!!!)



February Induction



February Induction

17 new Instructors joined in February.



Alison Paxton
Drifffield



Keith Rout
Chelmsford



Steve
Ellington
Bishop
Stortford



David Evans
Stoke



Margaret
Cloughley
East kilbride



Tim Wilson
Crosby



David Morley
Newmarket



Mark Barnes
Halifax



Tony
Beeching
Telford



Javed
Saddique
Burnley



Nathan mould
Batley



Tony
Crump
Sutton
Coalfield



Kaniz Fatima
Oldham



Nick Colman
Leicester



Ray warner
Edenbridge



Keith Farrow
Chippenham



Patrick
Bishop
Slough



Dear Deirdrie....



Our resident Agony aunt Dierdrie sorts your problems



Dear Deirdrie :
I am an 18-year old, bubbly, attractive young girl. I overheard my parents, yesterday, plotting to get me married to a bald, pot-bellied man who is twice my

age. This man has inherited a vast fortune and my parents feel that I would be financially secure. I hate the very idea. I am desperate. Please advise.

*Yours, Harried half-his-age,
Huddersfield*

Deirdrie says :

Dear Harassed Half-His-Age, pre-marriage counselling was what I specialized in, when I did my masters in Psychology and therefore can claim correct credentials to counsel. Though it is not clear, from your question, if your apprehensions about marrying this man pertain to his baldness, his pot-bellied-ness or the fact of his being twice your age, let me tackle all three. Baldness should actually lift your spirits as it is well-established that a receding hair line is due to increased hormonal activity and is reflective of the man's virility. A whole body of research material is available to provide conclusive evidence that pot-bellied men make better fathers, more competent cooks and have a keener sense of humour. About his age, let me disabuse you of the notion that you will continue to be half his age for ever. When he is 100 years old, you will not be 50, as you seem to presume in your childish innocence ; you will be a doddering, toothless, octogenarian yourself. So, all your concerns are baseless. Don't give it a second thought. Plunge right ahead and splurge his riches

Dear Deirdrie :

I am a 27-year old bachelor. I am a born loser. The girl I loved has married my cousin. My parents have disowned me . I have been fired from my job. To top it all, as I was trying to hang myself from the ceiling yesterday , the rope broke . What do I do ? *Suicidal Subbu , Todmorden*

Deirdrie says

: Dear Suicidal Subbu,

I am related on my father's side to Yogi Berra, on my mother's side to Yogi Berra and therefore have inherited some yogic techniques. What you need to do is meditate and deceive your troubled mind into believing that everything is hunky dory. Lie flat on your back, close your eyes and try this gentle, thought-experiment guaranteed to give you much-needed peace of mind. .

Imagine you are in a scenic park, surrounded by trees.

You are standing near a pond

The sun shines warmly on your back

The sky above is blue.

The birds are chirping.

Lotus flowers spring majestically out of the pond.

Their scent is dancing majestically throughout your olfactory system

All is calm.

All is quiet.

The whole ambience is serene.

The water in the pond is crystal clear.

So clear that you can see the wrinkles on the face of the person, whose head you are holding under water.....

There, aren't you feeling rejuvenated already ?

Dear Deirdrie

: I am a 15-year old girl with a terrible malady. I have a huge pimple right on my nose and it is spoiling my otherwise blemishless looks. I have applied all kinds of skin lotions on the pimple, but nothing seems to work. Please help.

Yours,

Pimpled-princess, Pershaw

Deirdrie says :

Dear Pimpled- Princesss :

Peculiar Problem, but I have the Right Remedy. My grand-uncle was a practitioner of Ayurvedic therapy from the Kottakkal school and I have observed his methods closely. The thing about pimples is that , in a blemishless skin, they stand out and get noticed. What one needs to do is not attack the pimple directly, but concentrate on making the rest of the face blemishful, thereby making the pimple less conspicuous. Try this method. Mix two spoons of raw mango juice with lime pickle, add some green chillies and mustard and fry over a high flame for a few minutes. Apply the paste on all parts of the face except the pimple. Magically, you will find that nobody will notice or comment on the pimple any more. Simple.

Do you have a problem that Deirdrie could help you with?

A driving Instructor related one?

A nasty rash that simply wont clear up?

Send them to

Bob.morton@learnerdriving.com and he will pass them on to Deirdrie



For Sale



Items for Sale

I would like to offer this wonderful Suzuki Swift for sale @ £7,800. It's a real snip as this is the top of the range. It was originally bought for the job but hubby and I fell in love with it so much he didn't want any smelly bodies in it if he had to drive it too so we bought another vehicle for the Driving Instructing. However since then hubby's mum has moved in along with her wheelchair accessible vehicle and now that makes 4 vehicles including our works van so the only one actually unused is our little Suzi.

As Tom said in the last newsletter they sell themselves.

Here's the rundown anyway.

14,000 miles

Kashmir Blue

Suzuki Swift GLX VVTS 1.5 {petrol}

Keyless Start {though for lessons key can be used}

Keyless entry.

side curtain airbags, front and rear

driver & passenger airbags

Alloys,

CD PLAYER , can be operated on steering wheel

I know I have missed loads, you can tell a woman is writing this.



If you have any questions please call me 07766 080328 or catch me on the forum...every day.. Lois2626



For sale:

Solitaire ring, Brilliant cut diamond, pierced scroll shoulders each with 5 channel and collet set diamonds.

Weight 2.3 grams

18K Gold

Finger size K

Valued at £650

Will sell for £250 o.n.o.

Please contact Helen on 01977 691851

Or mob 07956 050370



FOR SALE: CHAMPAGNE BRIDAL/EVENING GOWN £99.99

The dress was originally intended as a wedding dress, however my plans have since changed (new dress, not the wedding!) hence the reason for me re-selling it.

Brand new, never been worn with labels still attached.

Champagne colour, made from high quality taffeta with a boned body and comes with matching scarf/wrap. The corset style bodice which ties at the back allows loosening/tightening to fit bust size. (A hooped crinoline underskirt has been used in the picture which is not included.)

Measurements as follows: Bust 35" - 36", Waist 26" - 27", Length 58" from shoulder to floor - to fit size 10.

It would make an ideal wedding dress, evening gown or bridesmaid dress.

Please contact Charlotte on 01977 691815 or email charlotte.cooper@learnerdriving.com if interested.



And finally...



And finally...



LD Instructor Graham Lowe getting his name in the papers for Teaching Mr. Schumacher!!



LD Instructor Neil Willis who joined us in November last year pursuing his hobby of single seat racing, you see him here travelling at just below the National speed limit.