

SoRSA Annual Conference– 22nd – 23rd June 2026

Speaker Profiles

Monday 22nd



Jack Adair, Motorcycle Law Scotland – **Liability in Collisions**

Synopsis: A seminar on the differences between civil law and criminal law in the context of road traffic accidents/crashes. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the civil law and how liability is assessed.

The aim will be to inform and challenge delegates to consider how liability may be split between parties involved with special attention on how a road layout may affect this.

The intention will be to get a better understanding of how general motorists and those lower down the hierarchy of road users can be assisted in making the roads safer for vulnerable road users.

A number of real-life case studies and video footage will be used to provide practical examples of where road layout has created greater risk of accidents with the aim being to make roads safer for all.

Matters such as relative blameworthiness and causative potency will be looked at where there is contributory negligence on the part of one or more parties.

Bio: I am a Scots law qualified solicitor with two years previous qualified experience. During this time, I have developed a niche practice of pursuing personal injury compensation following road traffic accidents/crashes, particularly those involving in motorcycles. I have won cases in the Sheriff Court on liability and helped hundreds of vulnerable road users secure compensation.

I hold full (and clean!) A (motorcycle) and B (car) driving licences. I also enjoy cycling and have travelled on urban, outskirt and rural roads by bicycle. My experience of driving, cycling and riding motorcycles gives a unique experience of the safety implications on the road for each allowing me to best represent my injured clients and secure them the best possible outcome.

I am passionate about making the roads safer for vulnerable road users. I have a special dislike for potholes and road defects.



John Addy, Barrier Matters – **VRS Workshop** assisted by Eric Hill

Synopsis: The need for road restraint systems.

Bio: John is a chartered civil engineer, Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation, with 51 years professional experience in design and construction.

This experience includes 10 years in safety barrier contracting, 17 years working on developing and promoting Road Restraint Systems including 6 years developing new systems for approval and use on the global stage.

This is now supported by 13 years of independent consulting involving technical reporting on bespoke solutions, assisting local government and National agencies on Highway Asset maintenance and condition.

Expert opinion which includes independent reporting of injury related RTC's and assessments of non-harmonised VRS products.

Tuesday 23rd



Paper 1. **Zahraa Kadri, Arcadis** – Leveraging Big Data on Driver Behaviour for Smarter Road Safety Audits.

Synopsis: Road safety audits traditionally rely on limited site observations over relatively short durations. This presentation demonstrates how road authorities can harness large-scale, continuous driver behaviour data – sourced from connected vehicles, sensors, and crowdsourcing – to gain deeper, objective insights into real-world road safety challenges. By moving beyond snapshot observations, authorities can prioritize design changes or other interventions more effectively and respond proactively before incidents occur, transforming safety management with data-driven intelligence.

Bio: Zahraa is a Principal Consultant and Chartered Mathematician at Arcadis, with over a decade of experience applying advanced analytics to road sector challenges. She specialises in data centred approaches to road safety, driver behaviour and asset management, by combining mathematical expertise with practical industry insight to address complex transport problems. Her work has been recognised by CIHT West Midlands and Women in Data UK for its impact on road user safety and data driven insight. Zahraa also contributes internationally as a member of the PIARC Technical Committee, helping shape global thinking on the future of roads.

Paper 2. **Mark Philpotts**, City Infinity – Pedestrians and Urban Design

Synopsis: Side Road Junctions: The questions we should be asking.

Mark's presentation will give a flavour of current thinking on side road junction design which will draw on his experiences from working in partnership with Robert Weetman on the development of a Priority Junctions Design Framework for Manchester City Council.

He will provide an overview of the concept of "pedestrian-friendly" design and explain the range of factors and features which influence design and the importance of network level design. Mark will also talk about continuous footways, where they can be used and where they should not be used; and he will touch on emerging side-road zebra crossing practice.

The presentation will give road safety engineers and road safety auditors some insight into this developing area of practice and equip them to ask the right questions.

Bio: Mark has over 30-years civil engineering experience including traffic and highway engineering, maintenance, bridge management, development management, and consulting. He has been an associate member of SoRSA since 2010.

Sustainable mobility is Mark's area of professional interest. He has extensive knowledge of design detail and how street features fit together, which often makes the difference between good and great schemes; it's also key to ensuring designs are accessible and inclusive to as wide a range of people as possible.

Mark is a proponent of getting out of the office to look at street layouts and places to watch how people interact with infrastructure, as it gives real insight into how design can support people's mobility.

Some of his most recent work includes developing a priority junction design framework for Manchester City Council and a review of priority junctions along four corridors in Oxford.



Paper 3. **Emma Hind**, Police Scotland Forensic Collision Investigation – The Road Factors

Synopsis: I will talk about Collision Investigation in general and various facts about Police Investigation of same. This will lead into a discussion around road layout being a potential contributory factor to collisions and various other factors i.e. lining etc as previously mentioned. I think my talk will be interesting for all parties attending this conference.

Bio: I initially joined Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary in 2009 & worked locally as a divisional response officer before applying for the Road Policing department in 2017 after a 6-month secondment to the department. I thereafter completed my Road Policing Officer core courses including my Advanced Driving course & Tactical Pursuit and Containment course. In 2021, I showed a real interest in collision investigation & the intricacies of the job, so after attending numerous serious & fatal road traffic collisions, I managed to obtain a place on my initial 5-week Module 1 course, which was then followed by 300 hours of practical collision investigation work which led to me to then completing a further 3 week Module 2 course before being fully signed off in April 2024. I then carried out various Collision Investigation deployments whilst operational within the department, travelling to various areas within Scotland.

Paper 4. **Becky Guy**, RoSPA – Roads and Collisions

Synopsis: This session will explore the safety implications of the rapid growth in e-scooter and e-bike use from a policy and risk perspective.

It will provide an overview of current casualty trends, known risk factors, and emerging issues associated with micromobility. The session will also consider how these modes sit within the wider safe system approach and active travel agenda, and where policy, behaviour and real-world use may not yet align with existing road environments.

Rather than focusing on technical design solutions, the session will aim to support delegates by:

- Highlighting what the available evidence tells us about risk
- Identifying gaps and uncertainties in current data
- Exploring how user behaviour and vehicle characteristics influence safety outcomes

Raising key questions for consideration within road safety audit and design processes.

BIO: Becky Guy is a Senior Policy Manager at RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), where she works across a range of road safety issues, including vulnerable road users, vehicle safety and emerging transport trends.

Her work focuses on understanding risk, analysing evidence and translating policy into practical insight to support safer outcomes across the road system. She has contributed to national policy discussions and consultations on topics including automated vehicles and road safety standards, and regularly engages with stakeholders across government, industry and the wider road safety sector.

Paper 5. **Shaun Rutherford**, Northumbria Police – Operation Snap.

Some of you may be aware that Northumbria Police recently lost one of their colleagues. Inspector Patterson, who was due to co-host this next session is the Senior Investigating Officer for this awful incident. However, we still have Shaun Rutherford from the Operation Snap Team.

Synopsis: An overview of Operation Snap – a key reporting initiative that enables the public to submit video footage of road traffic offences directly to the police. The session will focus on how Op Snap supports proactive road safety enforcement, prevention and harm reduction beyond what is witnessed by police officers alone.

It will cover: -

The impact on road safety:

- Types of offences that can be reported
- How public-submitted evidence increases detection of offences that would otherwise go unreported
- Behavioural change among drivers through increased perceived risk of being caught
- Contribution to reducing collisions involving vulnerable road users such as cyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians

Enforcement and Outcomes:

- Overview of disposals (prosecution, driver education courses, warnings)
- Data trends & analysis demonstrating compliance, improvements and collision reduction potential



Paper 6. **Tawab Kazemi**, 4E Consultants – RSA's in the Middle East

Synopsis: This presentation is aiming to provide details about the current Road Safety Audit practices and standards in the Middle East

I will try to discuss on how SoRSA members can get involved in RSAs in this region, what they require and what are key differences between RSAs in UK and Middle East.

This presentation is aimed at all Road Safety Auditors particularly those who may be interested in taking on projects in the Middle East.

The key sector that can benefit from this presentation is road safety practitioners, auditors and road safety advisors and consultants. The issue here in the middle east is shortage of qualified road safety practitioners and road safety related training course. These two issues could be highlighted to shore up possible interest in working in this region.

Bio: I have been working as traffic and transportation engineer for more than 29 years, both in the UK and internationally (UAE, Qatar, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, KSA and India). I have been working in the Middle East since 2007; where I have held senior managerial positions with Aurecon, ARRB, TRL and 4E Consultants which I co-founded in 2017. I am currently the Managing Director of 4E Consultants; based in the UAE, which has 10 employees. The company's main focus is provision of road safety consultancy services including road safety engineering, road safety audits, road safety education, enforcement, transport planning and traffic engineering. Another focus area is advice on provision of enhanced environments for pedestrian and cycle transport modes.

Paper 7. **Debbie Sims** - Road Safety Audit - A complete and Utter Waste of Time...?

Synopsis: It is 35 years since Road Safety Audit was first made mandatory on Motorways and Trunk roads. My talk will ask: -

- What has been achieved?
- How has RSA evolved?
- What might the next 35 years bring??

The presentation will applaud the resourcefulness, integrity and resilience of Road Safety Auditors over the last 35 year, take stock of their achievements to date, and offer some 'blue sky thinking' on what the next 35 years might bring.

Bio: Deborah worked for over 25 years as a highway engineer specialising in road safety and asset management. As a Senior Lecturer at the University of Greenwich at Medway, she taught Engineering Professional Skills, Construction Management & Technology, and Highway Engineering. Deborah was employability champion for Engineering, contributing to the development of the university's assessment policy, and the employability, professional registration, and industrial aspects of a new university wide curriculum.

A member of CIHT for 40 years, she has sat on numerous committees, working groups and panels, and served as a professional reviewer since 2003. She is a Past President, Professional Reviewer, member of the Education and Professional Development Strategic Board and Self-Assessment Panel and represents CIHT on the JBM board. She is EDI lead for the SE Regional Committee.



Workshop **Is this a problem?** – Eric Hill, Ian Medd & Tristan Brookes

Eric Hill

I initially joined Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary in 2009 and worked locally as a divisional response officer before applying for the Road Policing department in 2017 after a 6-month secondment to the department. I thereafter completed my Road Policing Officer core courses including my Advanced Driving course and Tactical Pursuit and Containment course. In 2021, I showed a real interest in collision investigation and the intricacies of the job, so after attending numerous serious and fatal road traffic collisions, I managed to obtain a place on my initial 5-week Module 1 course, which was then followed by 300 hours of practical collision investigation work which led to me to then completing a further 3 week Module 2 course before being fully signed off in April 2024. I then carried out various Collision Investigation deployments whilst operational within the department, travelling to various areas within Scotland.

Ian Medd

Ian spent 37 years at Hampshire County Council pursuing a career in road safety education and engineering. For the last 19 of those years, he was responsible for developing and managing the Road Safety Audit service. Following early retirement Ian continues to work with road safety consultancies on audits and safety engineering projects. He is a visiting lecturer on Southampton Universities Transportation M.Sc. course. Ian is a founder member & former chair of SoRSA. Ian is a lifelong motorcyclist and also helps with the family equestrian interests.

Tristan Brooks

Tristan is a chartered transport planner with over 25 years' experience. He became involved in Road Safety Audits in 2006, when the chance offer to spend 10 days out of the office at a training course was too good to turn down! He has undertaken numerous Road Safety Audits, Collision Investigation Studies, Risk Assessments, Transport Assessments and Travel Plans. He joined the SoRSA committee in 2020 and has been a member of SoRSA since 2013.