



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Teenager died in mystery accident. Apr 21 2007 by Carl Butler, Daily Post

A TEENAGER who was a week away from starting his apprenticeship as an electrician died **when he lost control of his car on a bend**. But a Wrexham inquest **heard** yesterday that the accident last September was **not caused by excessive speed**.

Iain James Hughes, 18, of Lightwood Green, near Overton, was a young man with everything to live for, said northeast Wales coroner John Hughes.

The inquest heard Iain died of a fractured skull on September 3 when his **Ford Ka came around a bend on the A539 country road between Overton and Ruabon and went broadside into an oncoming Renault Megane**.

Brendan Hussey from Lincolnshire was driving the Megane and had been visiting his mother in the Ruabon area. He was driving about 40-45mph on his correct side of the road. "Suddenly without warning there was an obstacle in my path. It happened spontaneously and before I knew it my airbags had deployed," he told the inquest.

A police vehicle examiner could find no faults with either of the vehicles in the crash. Accident investigator WPC Diane Mann said there was no evidence of excessive speed and although the road was wet there was still sufficient grip. It seemed more likely Iain had oversteered on one bend and then lost control while trying to correct it.

The coroner, recording a verdict of accidental death.

The PPP comments ... Are we and the families the only people who take these deaths seriously!?. This story is full of inconsistencies and even nonsense. The road was wet after drizzle after a longish dry spell. All experienced motorists know that a significant loss of grip will occur due to oil, rubber and dirt accumulating during the dry spell. What is the condition of the surface on this bend ? The surface texture on many of our roads is below standard and the wear on sharp bends is worse than elsewhere. He had obviously lost control therefore, by definition, his speed exceeded the safe level for the road conditions at the time. Assuming the car's tyres were in good order (note: the police inspection didn't adversely comment) he must have exceeded the available grip by the high cornering forces combined with, maybe braking when he realised, too late, that the surface was slippery. IF Accident investigator WPC Diane Mann is accurately quoted she needs further training AND her stats19 report will be of little value for future analysis. The PPP strongly recommends Steve Haley's book 'Mind Driving' www.minddriving.org for PC Mann & ALL drivers' pre and post test education, nay brainwashing.

The Abusive or even reasonable use of speed cameras and mindless dabbling with speed limits will not prevent this type of incident.