



DRIVING WITH CONFIDENCE AND SAFETY



Tired, battered, worn out, but happy and extremely satisfied.

SPARK DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE



Rows and rows of participants! Even big boys like the Lancer Evolution and GT-R came to join in the fun.



Pulling up to share some personal experience with the other participants.



The instructor giving the safety brief, as well as short reminders of what was taught earlier in the morning.



Do not underestimate the Swift Sport. These little 1,600cc machines are quick, agile and nimble, as though they were bred for such course-work.



The Golf R showing why it's an award winning, turbocharged Euro hatch; taking the corners like a boss.

We all have seen our shares of dangerous driving, be it online or witnessed by our very eyes. While most of these accidents are often minor in nature, with both parties nursing bruised and scratched bumpers, it would be terrible if these were translated into human injuries. It is imperative therefore, that drivers assume a defensive stance while driving.

With that in mind, SPARK held their Defensive Driving Course on the 1st to the 2nd of March 2013, at the Singapore Turf Club. Held at the generous parking space of the coach bay, the objectives of the event were to educate participants on the aspects of safe driving, as well as the handling of their vehicles in "undesirable" situations. The 2-day course included various aspects, such as theory coaching and the practical aspect of it; driving the vehicle within its limits defensively.

The theory aspects involved recalling simple driving physics and fundamentals that driver could

understand and apply to their daily driving. Some of the topics covered included the proper seating position, steering and braking techniques, how the vehicle would handle if it was mishandled or handled properly, as well as the common mistakes that drivers often commit. Participants were further educated on skid recovery techniques; on how to recover their vehicles if they were to find themselves in oversteer or understeer situations. Collision avoidance was also taught, which would be useful in a major traffic junction or oncoming traffic situation.

However, it was the practical aspect of the SPARK Defensive Driving course that many looked forward to. After lunch, the course resumed to much enthusiasm. Thoroughly enjoying themselves, participants were coached with the personal help and guided aid of the instructors present; driving their vehicles of various makes, from large saloons, wide cruisers, to performance cars.

Participants watched carefully as instructors performed a demonstration round through the set of planned courses. These courses included a slaloming course, which they later tackle, employing the lessons that they learnt earlier, in handling adverse driving conditions and in times of emergencies. The course allowed them to try their vehicles beyond the usual operating limit, allowing them to better understand how their vehicle would react in a particular situation. Later, water was used to simulate a wet road condition, asking for participants to pull a handbrake turn and a reverse flick. Though initially wary and apprehensive, participants slowly opened up and began to perform maneuvers like professionals.

At the end of a very sun-battered day, the participants went home happy and satisfied, all but none a better driver, ready to tackle the public roads with much confidence and caution, with many thanks to SPARK for the incredible fun-packed day.



Even common domestic cars like this Hyundai Verna came to join in the fun!



The Lancer Evolution showing some gymkhana magic; turbocharged and Super AYC in-sync.



High powered machines like the Impreza WRX made quick work of the slaloming course.