

BEDFORD GROUP of ADVANCED DRIVERS & RIDERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8pm on Tuesday 18 March 2008, Kempston Fire & Rescue Service training centre, Kempston, Bedford.



1. Apologies for absence:

Alan Freeman, John Marks

2. Minutes of 2007 AGM:

Minutes of the 2007 Agreed and acceptance proposed by Bob Jack and seconded by Anne Essen agreed unanimously. Signed as correct.

3. Chairman's report:

I believe the most important feature of the past year is the introduction of the proposed certification of Tutors and Advance Tutors. You may remember from last year that our own Observers had been renamed Tutors and a certificate was issued to existing Observers. Developing from that, we had 3 successful entrants into the Advanced Tutor test. We have a strong contingent now of 3 diploma holders and 3 Advanced Tutors. Last year I said we would try to inject some interest into the MK area for Tutors; the response to our letters sent out by RoSPA to all gold members failed.

Membership now stands at 91, against last year's 88. I am pleased that we have maintained such a high number of members. Unfortunately we have had no Better Driving Courses this year where we get many of our new members. We will try and rectify that this year as there are a number of associates who would benefit.

We have been fortunate again this year to have these excellent facilities and our thanks go to Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Service for their continued support. Your Committee has arranged another series of excellent meetings through the year and your Secretary will expand on that. We have been forced to look for alternative premises for our Committee Meetings since Beds Road Safety moved out of Cauldwell Street. Bill Brady has successfully obtained the use of St.John's Ambulance HQ in Bedford, he has also negotiated their use for Better Driving Courses.

This year your Officers have been working well on your behalf – Bill Brady Secretary, Adrian Bailey Treasurer and Steve Davy Training Officer. Thanks to Alan Freeman for keeping the web site updated and for putting on the AGM minutes and agenda. Alan enables us to maximise the site's use. Thanks again to Andrew McGrorey for his thankless task of producing the newsletter and maintaining interesting content. In her first year as Training Coordinator Melia Taylor has done a stirring job, contact Melia for your training queries. We have one resignation from the Committee, Bob Jack who living in Corby is finding the time difficult with an ever increasing demand at work. We thank Bob for his past support.

I have decided this year to stand down as Chairman as I really believe that a fresh mind is needed at the helm. Having been appointed in March 1998 I have worn out many Officers and Committee Members, except two, our Training Office Steve Davy and Treasurer Adrian Bailey. Originally we were concentrated around Mid Bedfordshire where a previous Group existed. A number of venues

have been used for our Committee Meetings too; Team Flitwick in Flitwick, Millbrook Proving Ground and on to Beds Road Safety at Cauldwell Street. We have also moved Better Driving Courses from a Church Hall to Autoglass in Priory Park and on to Cauldwell Street. I thank all for their support both past and present and I am pleased to be able to hand over a strong active Group.

You will be asked to vote for your Officers and committee this evening and if you are interested please put yourself forward for the committee.

4. Treasurer's report:

This year we attracted 15 new members but we lost 12 giving us a net gain of only 3. Sadly, we also lost one of our newest members Sean Walsh, who regrettably passed away on Christmas Eve. Sean was hoping to be an example to us all. Despite his considerable physical difficulties Sean had already passed the advance test, both with the IAM and at a gold level with RoSPA, and I know that he was hoping in 2008 to stabilise his condition and was looking forward to become a tutor.

One reason for the loss of a number of these new members was the delay in associate training. This has the potential to become a very serious matter because most of our training relies on the dedication of a small number of tutors. They and our future associates need your help. We need new tutors and this is, without doubt, the best way I know to maintain and even improve your own driving standards.

As in the past, our financial reserves have been greatly assisted by the support of Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service who have most generously provided us with this excellent accommodation for our monthly meetings, a situation I am happy to report that will continue in 2008/9. In addition, we have recently received the additional support of the St John's Ambulance who in 2007/8 came to our rescue by supplying our committee meeting facilities. A most sincere thank you to both organisations.

The group's financial position continues, as one of strength and in this financial year your committee invested some of this money into funding and developing our training resources.

Income this year was £1419.00 and expenditure was £1585.35, with £430 being held as advanced test fees, leaving a balance of £3,202.44.

As mentioned earlier, our increased expenditure was largely down to investment in the group's future. We have purchased a new, lighter and more robust projector (we sold the old one on Ebay) to assist with Better Driving Courses and training in general. Equally, we have also invested in our personnel, sponsoring three tutors under the guidance of Steve Davy, to the qualification of Advanced Tutors – which means that they are ready and able to train you to join, and support our tutor panel.

In conclusion, the group's finances are sound but, the future of the group relies on attracting new members, retaining them and providing them with the training they desire and this should be the responsibility of us all, not just a dedicated few.

5. Secretary's report:

Another successful year for the group, with some interesting and informative meetings having been held. Many new edicts from RoSPA HQ have given us

food for thought in the way that we run the group for the future, and much debating from your committee members at meetings. The group will undoubtedly change in the next few years, and your Committee will continue to strive for your best interests.

This Annual meeting in 2008 will be my last as Secretary after several years in the post. I hope that my work has been of some value during my time, and wish the incoming Secretary all the very best for their time ahead.

I thank Stan Jones for his term of office as Chairman

6. Election of Officers for 2007/8:

Chairman – Bill Brady, proposed by Terry Barfoot, seconded by Anne Essen, and agreed by the group.

Treasurer – Adrian Bailey proposed by Bill Brady and seconded by Stan Jones

Secretary – Stan Jones proposed by Bill Brady seconded by Alan Freeman

Training Officer – Andrew McGrory proposed by Adrian Bailey seconded by Terry Barfoot.

All officers agreed by the meeting unanimously

7. Election of Committee members:

The following members were willing to stand again:

Terry Barfoot, Anne Essen, Alan Freeman and Melia Taylor.

Proposal by Stan Jones to elect all seconded by Bob Jack

8. AOB:

None

9. Date of next meeting

17th March 2009 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm.