



# The **BEDFORD** Group of RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Members Newsletter

Visit the **BEDFORD** Group online at [www.roada-bedford.org.uk](http://www.roada-bedford.org.uk) *April 2011*

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## UApril MeetingU

**“It’s amazing to me how much we all tolerate the carnage that occurs on the world’s highways” is the opening line from Dr Steve Olvey in this month’s DVD**

**We will be showing**

### **Surviving A Car Crash**

**The programme looks at on going research into “making the car that you can’t crash” starring amongst others a few people that many owe their lives to**

### **‘The Crash Test Dummies’**

**We hope to see you at 8pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at the Training Centre of the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service, Southfields Road, Kempston**

**March Meeting:** This was our AGM which was well attended and the catering services supplied a fantastic selection of cakes – we were spoilt for choice as there are only so many pieces of cake you can consume in one sitting. Thank you , thank you, thank you from all who attended to the caker makers. This month we are back to ‘tea and biscuits’!

#### **The Following Officers were elected / re-elected:**

Chairman	Bill Brady
Secretary	Stan Jones
Treasurer	Melia Taylor
Training Officer	Vacant

**Committee Members:** Terry Barfoot, Robert Bethell, Steve Davy, Anne Essen, Alan Freeman, Keith Hooson and Jo Lutley.

All please note we still have a vacancy for the Training Officer Position. If you are interested in taking up this position please let one of the committee members know.

**Our President:** Dr Lisa Dawn gave us a resume on her work last year which had been working with “Road Safe For Parents”, an organisation which looks to recruit parents to look after their children on the road with particular emphasis on the “early years of solo

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driving” where inexperience and an over estimation of ability seems to result in unnecessary injury and death for young drivers and their passengers. Their website can be found at [www.roadsafeformparents.com](http://www.roadsafeformparents.com). Lisa also gave us an insight into “In Vehicle Monitoring Devices” otherwise known as “black box technology”. The monitoring devices can be used for a wide range of things including vehicle monitoring for fleets and as a way of analysing driver behaviour with a view to both improving driver (and road) safety and also decreasing fuel consumption. Similar in car technology has already been installed by some insurance companies who specialise in insuring younger drivers. The devices allow them to monitor car usage including times of day and adjust premiums (downwards) where young in-experienced (particularly male) drivers are seen to be driving sensibly at times of the day when risks are known to be lower. See further details at [www.greenroad.com](http://www.greenroad.com).

Interestingly, the question also came up: “What makes a high risk driver?” Often the immediate response is “The high speed driver” or “under 25s” or “Over 60’s”, but not every fast driver, young driver or older driver is a high risk driver. The research Lisa has been involved in seems to indicate that the highest risk drivers can be identified as those who have a passion to use both the accelerator and brake pedals as much as possible. It is those that accelerate like mad, leaving you behind at every opportunity, slam on their brakes at the next junction, where you gently brake to stop behind them and so the process continues. What are they lacking? Probably most of the things that advanced driving teaches you: Proper use of the car’s controls, an awareness of what is around you (in all directions) and importantly anticipation through planning ahead. Enough said?

**RoSPA Blog:** I have been asked to publicise this again ..... but having looked at RoSPA’s website tonight, which has been

relaunched, I was unable to find any links to it to point budding contributors in the right direction! So hopefully by next month I will have found out where the blog is hidden and can tell you more then.

**Driver Distraction:** I attended, thanks to Unison, a Seminar last week run by the Road Safety Charity Brake [www.brake.org.uk](http://www.brake.org.uk) on “Eliminating Driver Distractions”. Still at the top was the Number 1 distraction of using a mobile phone though a bigger concern now seems to be heading towards ‘Texting whilst driving’. I will vouch for this as being as common as those who still persist in using a hand held mobile phone whilst driving. As one speaker said “Ask someone to shut their eyes for 5 full seconds whilst driving at 60mph and they will think you are mad, yet they will happily take their eyes off the road for that length of time to use a mobile phone whilst driving”. The message emphasised throughout was that “too many road incidents” still result from driver distraction and the list of distractions is not a short one. Other distractions include eating and drinking whilst driving, the placing of objects in a vehicle (e.g. hanging your jacket up on the nearside rear window creating a blind spot), sat nav positioning, programming a sat nav whilst driving, using in car audio equipment, stress, fatigue, vehicle technology (including systems like BMW’s I-drive and Ford Synch) and even the crazy practice where 3 rotary controls to control cabin ventilation are replaced by 10 or more tiny buttons!

“**Driver Distraction** is the diversion of attention away from activities critical for safe driving towards a competing activity”.

“**Concentration** may be defined as the full application of mind and body to a particular endeavour, to the complete exclusion of everything not relevant to the endeavour.” (Roadcraft 1960).

Keith Hooson