



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

Visit the **BEDFORD** Group online at www.road-a-bedford.org.uk **June 2011**

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June Meeting

Test Your Skills and Knowledge Evening

1. Do you know where all the vital controls are in your car?
Test your skills with our "Know your cockpit drill". How easy is it for you to operate the minor controls and switches in your car without taking your eyes off the road? Easy??? Now try the same test blind folded.
2. Vehicle checks and what lurks under the bonnet. It is a driver's responsibility to make sure their vehicle is roadworthy. Before you set off you should carry out the **POWDER** checks on your vehicle. Today's engine bays appear more "driver hostile" than they are. Test your skills on identifying where the relevant parts are or if you don't know we will be on hand to show you what's what and how to check your vehicle is roadworthy.
3. We have booked good weather!?! So those who would like to experience a demo drive from one of your tutors can have that opportunity too.

If you would like to experience a demo drive please advise me by Monday 20th June via newsletter@road-a-bedford.org.uk or Telephone **01234 404830** after 7PM.

We hope to see you at 8pm on Tuesday 21st June 2011 at the Training Centre of the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service, Southfields Road, Kempston

May meeting: Thank you to those who attended and I hope you enjoyed the two DVDs we showed. My thanks go to Jo Hook, Assistant to Patricia Llewellyn, MD at Optomen TV who kindly arranged the loan of the **Police, Camera Action** episode called

"**The Liver Run**" which shows the driving skills needed to successfully deliver a live organ for transplant by car from Junction 8 of the M11 through the east end of London and the city to the Cromwell Hospital near Earls Court. 27 breath-taking miles covered in 34

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minutes. The journey's events and the statistics are a whole newsletter in itself!

For more information try the web address:

http://www.ukemergency.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1275&Itemid=162

Not only was the driving impressive (to say the least) but it is also "hats off" to the 50 Police Officers co-ordinated by Scotland Yard to clear the route allowing speeds of 60MPH to be safely achieved through a busy and built up area of London. Nice also to hear the growl of the Rover V8 engined SD1 Police vehicles!!

The video is also available on www.youtube.com Type in "The Liver Run". Quality is not fantastic, but watchable on a laptop screen.

We also viewed an episode of "Tonight" called "**Driven to Distraction**" focussing not only on the dangers of using a mobile phone whilst driving, but also on the danger of carrying out other tasks such as eating, drinking and looking for change (for tolls) whilst driving. Emergency stops were demonstrated by drivers talking hands free on a mobile phone that clearly showed that the time taken to react to an emergency whilst talking on a mobile phone was longer than it would be if you were driving at the UK legal blood alcohol limit for driving. A simulation of these stopping tests can be tried out at: www.stoppingdistances.org.uk

Traffic Lights (Again): Last month I reported on a proposal in Portsmouth to switch some traffic lights to show flashing amber to all vehicles approaching a junction at night. Following on from this, in a similar vein, is a proposal in Swindon to upgrade its traffic-light system with next-generation models that automatically turn red when they detect speeding drivers approaching. The lights use a sensor in the road, placed a short distance away, to record how fast

traffic is flowing. If cars are travelling too quickly, a control unit automatically changes the lights to red, bringing traffic to halt.

It's hoped the new lights will encourage drivers to slow down, as they realise speeding could actually make their journey significantly longer.

Blues and Twos Approaching: The next question may well be "What do I do when I am stopped at these traffic lights when an emergency vehicle wants to get past me?" Nothing? Move left? Move Right? Pass through a red light? Or close my eyes? Many thanks to Bob Bethell who advised us of a simple but practical video guide (from the Guild of Experienced Motorist) explaining what to do in these circumstances. The 5 minute video can be seen at: www.bluelightaware.org.uk

We are still in need of a **Training Officer** to look after and be the point of contact for our Tutors. We would like to hear from anyone who must be a **full member of RoSPA and the group** and be an **Advanced Tutor** who is interested in taking on this role. We can assure you that you won't be thrown in at the deep and left totally alone in your role. We need the support, commitment and expertise of our Tutors to equip group members with the skills needed to become advanced drivers. But we also need to make sure that we have consistency in our approach to advanced driving tuition so the Training Officer role is needed to be the focal point for Tutors. We as a group also need to work with our Tutors and take on board and share their views, skills and knowledge. Our Chairman will be contacting the Tutors to look at both a way forward for tuition and to find out what they want from RoSPA. If you are interested in this position please contact one of the Committee members.

Editor: Keith Hooson

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