

## **BEDFORD GROUP of ADVANCED DRIVERS & RIDERS**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8pm on Tuesday 17 March 2009, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre, Kempston, Bedford.



### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Brian King, Andrew McGrorey and Melia Taylor

### **2. Minutes of 2008 AGM:**

Minutes of the 2008 Agreed and acceptance proposed by Anne Essen and seconded by Alan Freeman agreed unanimously. Signed as correct.

### **3. Chairman's report:**

Advanced driving is now becoming the fashionable thing to be skilled in, and road safety professionals accept that drivers and riders with extra skills tend to have less crashes and injuries on our roads.

Bedford Group continues to attract members who want to improve their skills, and the struggle now is for enough tutors to be available to cope with the demand for tuition.

The past year as your Chairman has been rewarding, and the respect for our group from other organisations is very satisfying to see. Meetings in 2008 have seen interesting speakers on varied subjects, and this is set to continue in 2009.

The reason that we continue to flourish is because of your hard working Committee and dedicated Officers and Tutors, all of whom make our reputation what it is. Most of all we succeed because of each and every one of you our members in the Bedford Group, who uphold the values of good and safe driving.

I have been proud to serve you all for the past twelve months, and thank every one of you for your ongoing support to RoADAR.

### **4. Treasurer's report:**

This has been a very quite year for the Bedford group, with only 11 new members, two of which are full members, and who can hopefully be persuaded to train to become tutors.

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 2009/10. In addition, they have recently also agreed to supply within the fire station itself, our committee meeting facilities for the forthcoming year.

As a direct result of their generosity, the group's financial position continues, as one of strength. However, with the reduced membership, the income this year was only £1,199.00; expenditure was £721.80, leaving a balance of £4,109.64, of which £390 is held as advanced test fees.

Last year we ran one successful Better Driving Course and already have the next one planned, starting early May; with the intention of running at least one, if not two more before this time next year.

As far as major purchases were concerned, the only extraordinary items purchased last year were the fleeces; these were purchased, as an acknowledgement of the time given by the tutors to the group and more specifically the associates. If you would like a fleece and have achieved a pass at either gold or silver – have a word with Bill after the meeting!

Talking about acknowledgements, traditionally, the group has presented all members once they successfully passed the test with a lapel pin, - this has not been forgotten but regrettably, RoSPA discontinued these with the change of logo. The good news is they have designed a replacement – the bad news is that it is now the size of a 50 pence piece!

Looking to the future we need to generate more members and we know from past experience that one of the best recruitment media's are our Better Driving Courses. With more courses planned, we will be looking to replace our very old laptop and to look to the purchase of two free-standing display units to promote the group, but more about these next year.

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. This should be the responsibility of us all, so spread the word. And should you have any good ideas about attracting new members, please don't keep them to yourself!

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Terry Barfoot and seconded by Stan Jones and agreed unanimously.

##### **5. Secretary's report:**

Our constitution states that the objective of the Group is to encourage interest in road safety, to improve driving standards and in particular to help drivers pass the Association's Advanced Driving Test. Are we achieving our objectives, I believe we are.

We encourage people to join the Group through our web site and through word of mouth. Some will benefit from the Better Driving courses, Tutors have been busy training associates the art of Roadcraft with a view to passing the Test.

Assisting in our aim has been and we hope will continue to be our main supporters Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Service and St. John Ambulance. The Group benefits in various ways and an example is this facility. Also Beds Road Safety and you will all know that changes are taking place and I am confident we will receive continued similar support from the Road Safety Officers of Bedford Borough and Central Beds.

We have had a variety of quality meetings through the year including general discussion led by our own Officers, manoeuvrability tests, incident investigation by the Police, our own member Marcus Hall and RoSPA's Eric Simpson.

The Committee, by varying means, continues to strive to achieve the Group's objectives.

## **6. Election of Officers for 2009/10:**

**Chairman** – Bill Brady, proposed by Melia Taylor, seconded by Stan Jones

**Treasurer** – Adrian Bailey proposed by Terry Barfoot and seconded by Alan Freeman.

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

**Training Officer** – Andrew McGrorey proposed by Bill Brady seconded by Adrian Bailey.

There being no other nominations, all officers agreed by the meeting unanimously

## **7. Election of Committee members:**

The following existing members were willing to stand again:

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

The meeting agreed these should continue as committee members plus Keith Hooson who has agreed to stand and also to take over the production of the newsletter.

## **8. AOB:**

Member Mike Arkley of Maulden raised the question regarding waiting list and what was the average waiting time for a tutor to be appointed. As the training coordinator was not present this was discussed the by the Chairman. The matter was explained about the number of tutors and the need for more. Mike said why, in the Treasurers report, was it suggested we need more members when we cannot train those we have? The Chairman promised to look into the matter. John Marks expressed thanks to the Officers for all they have done in the past year.

## **9. Date of next Annual general Meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.