

BEDFORD GROUP of ADVANCED DRIVERS & RIDERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8pm on Tuesday 15 March 2011, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre, Kempston, Bedford.



1. Apologies for absence:

Janet and Brian King, Steve Davy

2. Minutes of 2010 AGM:

Minutes of the 2010 Agreed and acceptance proposed by Robert Bethell and seconded by Gregory Simpson agreed unanimously. Signed as correct.

3. Chairman's report:

Another year, doesn't it come around quickly. There have been some stimulating speakers during 2010 and a valuable insight this February into the possible traffic and medical capacity problems that we could face during the 2012 Olympics.

Your Committee have again done a sterling job running the Group on your behalf, and I thank all of the Officers and Committee members for their hard work. I also thank our President who has been a loyal supporter since undertaking the role. We have an excellent facility in our web site, and enjoy good facilities thanks to our colleagues in the Fire and Rescue Service, who not only host these meetings but also our bi-monthly Committees.

On a personal note, as much as I enjoy my role with you all, we do need people to think about 2012. We need members to consider taking on some of the Officer roles, rather than just relying on the faithful few who step up to the plate every year. Certainly there are some of us in Officer roles who have even swapped positions over the years to allow the Group to continue, which means that we lose the benefit of others who could possibly contribute fresh ideas and approaches to running the Group that we had not thought of in the past. We really do need to involve more of you to ensure that the Group continues through the next decade, and continues to be one of the stronger and more vibrant groups in the Eastern Region. Also some of us oldies can retire gracefully (some not of course-at least gracefully).

The Group is still attracting members, and I appealed last year for more members to look at becoming Tutors and for existing Tutors to help to share the load of new Associate Members waiting to be tutored to advanced test level. This has not yet been achieved and there is a waiting list again, which make new Associates despondent if they have to wait month on end to be tutored. My plea remains again this year to turn this around. On that note we enter this Annual General Meeting with several vacant committee posts, notably connected with matching Associates to Tutors and also separately training and developing Tutors. These posts have been outstanding for a year now and being covered by other Committee members which cannot continue. The net result will be that training will come to a halt if no one volunteers, and the group will lose its momentum-so lets look at adding benefit to the Group and stepping up to assist please.

Casting aside the doom and gloom, we have a lively and erudite match of people here who are supportive and good ambassadors for the Bedford Group. I applaud you all for that support and long may it continue.

4. Treasurer's report:

This year we attracted 9 new members, however 13 members have not renewed their subscription this year, giving us a net loss of 4.

The group's income this year was £966.50 and our expenditure was £1,093.71, with £470 being held as test fees, leaving a balance of £3,654.78.

As well as our day to day expenses for printing, postage etc, we also purchased a new banner for £291.40 and some RoADAR Regalia for £232.50. The Regalia is available for members to purchase, so over time this cost will be recovered.

The Group's financial position remains strong and as in previous years, these circumstances were only achieved due to the continuing support of The Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service, who supply accommodation free of charge for both Group and committee meetings

5. Secretary's report:

Firstly I apologise on behalf of the committee that in the last newsletter advising you of the AGM that you were not guided to the minutes of last year's meeting and the agenda for this year both of which should have been on our web site. This was partly my fault as I was not at the last committee meeting (my partner's birthday and we were at the theatre) when it should have been discussed.

I reiterate what the Chairman has said about speakers, we have done really well this year and much of that has been due to members' suggestions and contributions. If you have ideas for meetings please do not hesitate to put them forward to your committee.

I also think I fit into Bill's category of "oldie" but I am not ready to give in yet!

It is unfortunate that we have not had a Better Driving Course since the last AGM, the first had insufficient uptake and since then circumstances have not enabled one to planned but also as the Chairman has said we have too many associates awaiting training without encouraging more. We must hold the next course until we can cope with the intake of Associates. In the meantime I think we as a committee can do more on driver education even if it is to make the public aware that they are vulnerable and need to take care whilst driving. To do this we would need to be actively involved with other organisations, and again we come back to the Chairman's comments about active involvement of members. Perhaps there are some of you that do not wish to be on a committee but would like to be involved in projects, if so do let us know.

RoSPA has taken a step forward and set up a blog site for Group Members to contribute on the web. Your committee will be discussing this at the next meeting and we will advise in your newsletter if there are opportunities for you to contribute, I believe this will probably be for full members only.

What we must not lose sight of is the strength of this Group, but nevertheless it must strive to improve or, like all organisations, it will struggle.

6. Election of Officers for 2011/12:

Chairman – Bill Brady, proposed by Alan Freeman and seconded by Robert Bethell

Treasurer – Melia Taylor proposed by Bill Brady and seconded by Keith Hooson.

Secretary – Stan Jones proposed by Melia Taylor seconded by Terry Barfoot.

Training Officer – No nominations therefore post remains unfilled.

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

7. Election of Committee members:

The following existing members were willing to stand again:

Terry Barfoot, Robert Bethell, Steve Davy, Anne Essen, Alan Freeman; Keith Hooson and Jo Lutley.

The meeting unanimously agreed these should continue as committee members.

There were no other nominations for the Committee. Chair invited all Group members to consider joining the committee.

8. AOB:

The first committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 29th March at Board Room of Fire HQ at 20:00

9. Date of next Annual general Meeting

20th March 2012 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm.