



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

Visit the **BEDFORD** Group online at [www.roadada-bedford.org.uk](http://www.roadada-bedford.org.uk) Jan 2017

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## January Meeting

**The meeting will be centred on a general discussion on advanced driving. With bad weather on its way, you may have questions or views on driving in poor weather conditions**

**Please note our new meeting venue is at the Bedford Athletics Stadium** which is located opposite our former venue at the Barkers Lane Fire Station.

Join us at 8pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the **Bedford Athletics Stadium, Barkers Lane MK41 9SB**. Parking is available at the Bedford Athletics Stadium.

A happy new year to you all. I hope your Christmas and New Year break was enjoyable.

Many thanks to those who attended the meeting in November where we discussed the group, its meetings, venue and times along with the problems we have had regarding finding speakers to talk to the group. We intend to survey the whole group in the near future to seek their feedback.

Following the feedback we (the Committee) have decided that the open meetings will now be held every two months not monthly starting from this month. They will still be on the third Tuesday of the month and will be in January, March, May, July, Sept and November in 2017. The venue has changed to The Bedford Athletics Stadium (ground floor room), which is the building opposite the

Barkers Lane Fire Station – car parking will be the same. The meetings will commence at 8PM.

The Athletics Stadium houses a gymnasium, so do take care not to accidentally end up in a spin or fitness class or in the sports hall – unless of course your New Year resolution is to get fit!!

### **Cash for Flash:**

The insurance fraud of “Crash for Cash” where a driver causes a crash (often a rear end collision instigated by braking harshly for no safety related reason,) seems to be on the decline. More claims investigators are getting wise to this fraud and several high profile prosecutions have taken place. The increasing availability of ‘DashCam’ evidence may also be

making these false insurance claims less successful.

However, “Cash For Crash” is now being replaced by a new scam known as “**Cash for Flash**”.

**Cash for Flash** occurs where a driver waiting to leave or enter junction (including turning across oncoming traffic) or a driver manoeuvring in a tight space is targeted by an unscrupulous driver. The unscrupulous driver flashes their headlights appearing to indicate to the other driver “**After you**”, but as the targeted driver moves forward the other driver then crashes into them. The driver who caused the impact (on purpose), then claims that the flash of his headlights was to indicate that he was there, not a signal to the other driver to proceed.

The scam driver’s reasoning (and insurance claim) is based upon the **Highway Code Rule 110 Flashing Headlights**: “Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there. Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users”.

The key reason for the liability for the crash is based upon “**Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message .....**”

Flashing headlights are not (as the majority of drivers seem to believe) an invitation to proceed / go first, or move into another lane, or exit/leave a junction. It should only be used and interpreted as a warning to other drivers that another road user is there – **no more no less**. Learner drivers are taught this, however the majority of drivers then seem to forget this and use the flashing of headlights as a courtesy not as a warning. “**After You – Sir or Madam**” has become the common interpretation of flashing headlights.

When thinking about this (wrong) interpretation, why then do drivers, when seeing flashing headlights on emergency vehicles, interpret the emergency vehicle drivers signal correctly as “**Warning I am here**” and then they add to that warning “**I need to get past you, so please move out of my way safely and quickly**”? No one appears seems to interpret the emergency vehicle flashing headlights or indeed anyone approaching you at speed behind you as saying “I am in a hurry, but please go first”.

#### **Advanced Notice AGM March 21<sup>st</sup> 2017:**

Stan has been able to book David Williams, who took over as General Manager at Williams Grand Prix Engineering to speak to us, following the formalities of our AGM. David managed Williams Grand Prix Engineering after Founder and Principal Sir Frank Williams (no relation to David) suffered a life changing car accident in 1986. During David’s period with Williams Grand Prix Engineering, the team took 7 World Constructor’s Championships and five Drivers Championships. After twelve years with the team David moved to Jordan Grand Prix Engineering. I feel sure this will be a very interesting and informative evening. Don’t miss it.

**Newsletter Editor Vacancy:** I will be relinquishing the role of Newsletter Author after the AGM in March; a role I first took over in April 2009! The Group will therefore need a new Newsletter Author/Editor from April 2017. The task involves writing the newsletter which does not necessarily always have to be solely focussed on road safety every month. Access to a computer and printer is needed. This is usually the most time consuming part of the role. The newsletter is then distributed to the group members. The majority of members receive the newsletter via email, so there aren’t too many envelopes to fill. Stamps, envelopes and stationery costs for the newsletter are met by the group. If you want to know more about the role, please contact me.

Editor: Keith Hooson

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