

# BEDFORD GROUP of ADVANCED DRIVERS & RIDERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8PM on Tuesday 21 March 2017 at Lecture Room, Bedford Athletic Stadium, Barkers Lane, Bedford



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

Andrew McGrorey, John Circuit, Kate Twigden

Later apologies received in the post but postmarked days earlier from Janet, Brian and Denise King.

Stan Jones introduced himself as Secretary and in the absence of the Chairman will chair the meeting. He explained that the Chairman, Andrew McGrorey was on an anniversary holiday.

SJ asked members to introduce themselves as there were new members present.

## **2. Minutes of 2016 AGM**

The minutes had been available on the web prior to the meeting. Acceptance was proposed by Alan Freeman and seconded by Paul Millbank. They were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

No Chairman's report had been submitted.

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

At the end of 2016 we were forced at short notice to give up our regular venue at the Barkers Lane Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue for monthly membership meetings, and also for bi-monthly committee meetings. For all this accommodation we were not charged. This has obliged the Group Secretary to negotiate separate venues for the group meetings and the committee meetings, and you will understand this has involved the Group in new expense.

In December we held a Better Driving course, and hopefully this will encourage further recruitment.

You will see from the Receipts & Payments sheet that the total payments are more than double the receipts this year. But given the strong legacy funds accumulated over recent years you will see from the balance sheet that the carried-forward balance is just £500 less than the brought-forward sum. Over the years the Group has built up a financial base of over £5k, with which the Group can continue to promote advanced driving in Bedfordshire.

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

2016 has been a difficult year finishing without any accommodation for our meetings having had the benefit of the community room in the fire station for some time. That room is being converted into offices. Numbers have been falling at our general meetings and so the decision was made, after consultation with members, to only meet every other month. Another reason is that for the first time we have been unable to find free accommodation for our general meetings. Since we are known at the Bedford Athletic Stadium, opposite the fire station, we have used it for the Better Driving Course, and because members know the car park which we use anyway, it was decided to use their lecture room. This obviously results in charges which currently we can sustain. Meetings will continue to be on the third Tuesday of the month but only on the odd months.

Next we had to find accommodation for our committee meetings. Alan Freeman was successful in obtaining the use of the vestry in Elstow Abbey church where we can continue to meet as before, every odd month. A donation has been made for its use.

One of the major issues for the committee is obtaining speakers and could be why numbers at the meetings are dwindling. I have speakers lined up for May, a talk about driverless cars by Daniel Auger from Cranfield University, and July, a talk by Dave Williams about formula 1 motor racing and the experience of being a team manager. Future meetings will be the responsibility of the newly elected committee. It has been a very poor year for speakers and I hope the next two we have booked will generate some interest with members.

Following the update of our Better Driving Course Steve Davy and myself ran the course during the year. The number of attendees was much less than usual but this was due to lack of publicity. However the course was well received.

We have not been able to find a replacement during the year for Training Coordinator so I took over the job temporary and since then our Training Officer Paul Millbank has offered to take that on with his current role.

I mentioned at the last AGM that RoSPA had designed a new logo, this is now in use which I am sure you will have all seen.

Over the last two years, despite advising that I would be missing many of the meetings, and indeed I have, and despite advising I wished to stand down, I have continued as your Secretary. Circumstances are that I will continue to miss meetings and would ideally still like to stand down as Secretary. I will not however give up the duties until a replacement is found. I will also be around to handover. The Secretary must be a full RoSPA member.

## **6. Election of Officers for 2016/7:**

*Chairman* Andrew McGrorey nominated by Bryan Mason and Seconded by Alan Freeman. No other nominations and agreed unanimously that Andrew McGrorey be elected Chairman.

*Secretary* Richard Hales received nomination for Stan Jones by Richard Hales and seconded by Alan Freeman. No other nominations and unanimously agreed that Stan Jones be elected Secretary. Stan Jones took the Chair.

*Treasurer* Richard Hales nominated by Stan Jones and seconded by Greg Simpson. No other nomination and unanimously agreed that Richard Hales was elected Treasurer.

*Training Officer* Paul Millbank was nominated by Greg Simpson and seconded by Tony Glasson. There being no other nominations it was unanimously agreed that Paul Millbank be elected as Training Officer.

## **7. Election of Committee Members for 2017/8:**

Existing Committee Members: Anne Essen and Alan Freeman were nominated by Stan Jones and seconded by Clive Croot and were duly re-elected.

An appeal for new committee members was made by Stan Jones, supported by Alan Freeman. AF advised that we need more committee members to ensure we have a quorum at the meetings. Subsequently Sylvia Budd agreed to join the committee. She was nominated by Stan Jones and seconded by Alan Freeman.

## **8. Change to Constitution:**

Proposal by Stan Jones to change clause 7 of the constitution to read '...Annual General Meeting to be held in May...'. This to allow more time for the Treasurer to prepare and have audited the accounts for the year to the end of February. Seconded by Alan Freeman and unanimously agreed.

**9. AOB:**

Clive Croot asked the number of members in the Group. Richard Hales to check and the number to be advised with the minutes. (Note: number subsequently identified as 85).

Only one member, Greg Simpson, gave details to SJ of membership and was therefore presented with the new RoSPA lapel badge. It was decided that full members attending the AGM would receive badges

**Date of next AGM:**

Tuesday 15th May 2018.

Meeting declared closed at 20:47