

BEDFORD GROUP of RoSPA ADVANCED DRIVERS & RIDERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8PM on Tuesday 21 May 2019 at the Lecture Room, Bedford Athletic Stadium, Barkers Lane, Bedford



1. Apologies for absence:

Mary Arnold, Bob Bethell, Ann Essen, Alan Freeman.

Also Paul Millbank with the following message:

"Hi all. I will be unavailable for this meeting. As previously mentioned, I will not be putting myself forward for re-election as Training Officer. My work commitments and the resultant limited private time have me focused on new vehicle safety systems, cutting edge 'engineer operator' training and high performance car dynamics education."

They say; "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" but in my case, I'm lucky to love my work.

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM

The minutes had been previously publicised prior to the meeting. Acceptance was proposed by David Chamberlain and seconded by Tony Glasson. They were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

Good evening every one and welcome to the 2019 AGM of the Bedford Group of RoSPA advanced drivers and thank you for attending.

I have served as chair of the group for some six years and this will be my last report as chair as I have decided to stand down from the post and from the committee. I feel that for the moment I have contributed all that I can and there is a need for fresh blood and a different perspective to move the group forward.

There have been so many changes to both RoSPA nationally and to the group since I became chair it would take an age to list them. We have changed meeting location twice and the fact that we now have to pay to hire this room was one of the considerations for stopping

the monthly meetings all together along with the difficulty in attracting interesting speakers and the attendance when we did.

However, one of the perpetual highlights of my tenure has been that the better driving course has continued to run and has been updated to reflect the changes that have happened to Roadcraft though I hasten to add I can claim absolutely no credit for the better driving course or the update. For some reason the take up for the course always seems to have us on tender hooks as to whether it's worth running it particularly as we have to pay for the venue and although we did fail to break even on the last course I still consider it a success as it has attracted new members to the group.

I cannot sit down without expressing my sincere thanks to all of the committee but I do need to highlight the work of a few. Alan Freeman who acts as webmaster and does so much behind the scenes to keep the web pages updated as an internet presence is very much a shop window to the world these days and we all know how an attractive window display can draw your attention. On this subject in the last twelve months the internet presence has been transformed and thanks must go to David Worgan, Steve Davy and Stan Jones as well as Alan for their contributions to that project.

David Worgan has settled in as Treasurer now and his scrupulous attention to detail and his way of presenting information with regard to the group's finances at committee meetings is absolutely top notch.

Paul Millbank who unfortunately has had to resign as the Training Officer due to pressure of work has given the group outstanding service in that role.

And last but not least Stan Jones who really is the glue that binds the committee together and without whose efforts I am convinced the group would have folded some time ago. I have been a perennial trial to Stan due to my lack of organisation and haphazard planning and poor administration but he's kept me on the straight and narrow and very rarely let any exasperation show so my personal thanks to you all but particular thanks to Stan who though far too diplomatic to show it will be glad he no longer has to "look after" me

I would just like to close by saying thank you to you all but issue a warning - if new blood doesn't come forward to serve on the committee the group will inevitably fold. The stalwarts on the committee may face challenges in their personal lives in the months and years to come which means that they are not able to devote the time and efforts they currently do and without new faces and ideas. Well, you know the result. None of the committee roles are particularly onerous so please consider stepping forward.

4. Treasurer's Report:

1. General

I took over as Treasurer at the AGM but the previous Treasurer resigned at the end of the financial year on April 2018. In the interim, Stan Jones managed the accounts and Membership list and I would like to thank him for his help.

I and the auditor for the previous financial year found it difficult to work our way through the previous account presentation and I compiled a simpler and straight forward method which was agreed by the Committee and the auditor agreed the accounts in record time without any problems.

2. Finances

The previous financial year finished on the 27th February 2018 with £5275.07 showing in the bank statements but £780.00 was declared in that year as training for the tutors therefore the opening balance for the new financial year was £4495.07.

2.1 Receipts

There were 11 new members for the year so the subscriptions and joining fees have been shown separately for the accounts amounting to £110.00 each entry. Fifty nine members renewed showing £590.00. There were no regalia sales declared. The Better Driving course brought in £400.00. There were £60.00 donations comprising of £10 from Susan Cakebread, £40 from Pat Godfrey and £10 from Paul Burchall, many thanks to them for their generosity.

That brings me on to the Bank refund; this was donated by Barclays as when I was asked to submit documentation to them to be a signatory for the Group, their documentation stated that there should at least one utility bill but not a mobile bill and they would take a letter addressed to me. I supplied the council tax demand and a letter from the 3 mobile company. However they rejected the letter as it was from a mobile company but I pointed out that it was letter addressed to me as per their documentation but when I phoned them they agreed the that I compiled to the documentation and they still rejected my application. This required another trip to my local branch and I was offered the £25 compensation for their inaccurate documentation.

2.2 Payments

Hall hire; the Group no longer has access to free meeting rooms therefore any meetings now cost the Group, this amounts to £308.55 for the year. Stationery for the secretary and newsletter editor amounts to £19.39. Postage for the secretary and newsletter editor amounts to £84. The Tutor training which was arranged in the last financial year came to £282.57. The Better Driving course expenses of £529.15 was made up of the use of the meeting room for 6 sessions. The first session included refreshments supplied by the venue the remaining refreshments was supplied by the Group to keep the costs down. The Miscellaneous payments consists of payment for the domain name and hosting the website.

2.3 Closing Balance

The Closing balance shown on the accounts is £4511.86 and the corresponding bank statement showed £4922.46 with the difference being an outstanding cheque for £410.60 for the hall hire for the last 5 sessions of the Better Driving course.

3. Membership

With the handing over of the membership list from the previous treasurer it was evident that any member who paid by cash, usually new members, were not notified when their subscriptions were due. Stan Jones contacted as many members as he could asking them if they wanted to renew. Therefore when I took over I could maintain an up to date list and prod those as their renewal date arose.

At the end of the financial year the totals were:-

- Full – 31
- Associates – 19
- Social – 10

Number of members not renewing from the trawl – 45

New members for the year - 11.

The chairman asked for the audited accounts presented be accepted by the meeting and this was proposed by Clive Croot and Seconded by Tony Glasson. Agreed unanimously.

5. Secretary's Report:

Since the EGM of November 2017 and following last year's AGM the group has had a more constructive committee and similar support from its Tutors. Paul Millbank our Training Officer completed Tutor Training at Millbrook. Our Tutors continue training our Associates enabling those that wish to, to go on and take the RoSPA test successfully.

Following a change of Treasurer it was agreed to remove the records of members who had not been active for over seven years. We have been very fortunate that David Chamberlain took on the role of Training Coordinator which had previously been administered by myself and Ian Wade continues to produce our Newsletter which keeps you all informed of the Group's activities along with the website.

We have been fortunate in being able to run this February another successful Better Driving Course attended by sixteen participants. The course was led by Steve Davy and supported by David Worgan and myself. As the Chairman has just reported it made a justifiable loss, however, since completion, six have joined the group, two were already members, whose fees have wiped out that loss.

A Privacy Statement was agreed by the committee which has been added to the web site.

In an effort to reactivate contacts that the Group held with the Police and Fire & Rescue a number of years ago, I had meetings with our Deputy Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Fire & Rescue. Subsequently I have had a meeting with the Police Road Safety Manager and have another appointment with Fire & Rescue later this month. I hope these will lead to mutual support. This will need to be developed by the new Chairman.

RoSPA held a free Road Show at Silverstone for all full members. I was the only attendee from the Group but it gave me the opportunity to discuss issues with like Groups and also Examiners. Also to talk to staff from HQ. It is evident from discussions with other groups that many had stopped regular meetings before we also made that decision. It is usual for Groups nationally to have similar problems to own.

Your committee meets alternate months at Elstow Abbey and we have to thank Alan Freeman for this arrangement. The new committee may discuss future arrangements if it so wishes.

I now come to this AGM and elections that are to follow. After many years this will be the first when there are no nominations, except a nomination from Ian Wade for David Chamberlain for the committee. Andrew McGrorey, (Chairman), who we must thank for his chairmanship over the last few years; and Paul Millbank (Training Officer) are standing down. Before making nominations or accepting nominations I make the following observations that both Steve Davy and myself are prepared to stand as Chairman. Steve Davy is also prepared to stand as Training Officer but not both. The Chairman must be a full member of RoSPA. The Training Officer must be at least an Advanced Tutor.

6. Election of Officers for 2019/20:

Chairman Steve Davy nominated by Andrew McGrorey and seconded by Stan Jones. No other nominations and agreed unanimously that Steve Davy be elected Chairman.

Secretary Stan Jones nominated by Andrew McGrorey and seconded by David Worgan. No other nominations and unanimously agreed that Stan Jones be elected Secretary.

Treasurer David Worgan nominated by Tony Glasson and seconded by David Chamberlain. No other nomination and unanimously agreed that David Worgan was elected Treasurer.

Training Officer No nominations, therefore position remains vacant.

7. Election of Committee Members for 2019/20:

Existing Committee Members: David Chamberlain, Clive Croot, Ann Essen, Alan Freeman. Tony Glasson and Rosemary Whittington were nominated by Andrew McGrorey and seconded by Christine Davy and were duly re-elected.

8. AOB

Tony Glasson asked what happens next after the Better Driving Course. Steve Davy explained that all participants were given an application form at the end of the course and encouraged to join the Group.

Judith Slaymaker asked what we do to encourage younger drivers. Steve Davy responded advising that is something perhaps we should address again. Stan Jones said that if we come up with the answer she will be able to share with Groups nationally.

Rosemary Whittington mentioned that it is necessary to display a green 'P' for a year after passing the test. The response was that in England the display is voluntary.

Tony Glasson mentioned insurance which was discussed.

Date of next AGM:

Tuesday 19th May 2020.

Meeting declared closed at 20:42