

BEDFORD GROUP of RoSPA ADVANCED DRIVERS & RIDERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8PM on Tuesday 15 September 2020 on Skype



1. Apologies for absence:

None at the meeting but Martin Kidds and Melia Taylor had tried unsuccessfully to access using the link and gave apologies. Both have been contacted to give our apologies that they could not join the meeting.

2. Minutes of 2019 AGM

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

3. Chairman's Report

Good evening every one. Welcome to the delayed 2020 AGM of the Bedford Group of RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders and thank you for attending. For the first time many of us have, in recent months, had to get used to video conferencing including for this AGM. I hope none of us tonight have to shout out the new phrases we have become familiar with such as "you're on mute!." Thank you, Stan for setting up the arrangements for Skype meetings both for the Committee meetings and this AGM.

I offered myself as Chairman to the Group at last year's AGM after hearing the difficulties the Group had been in the last few years and there was a lack of other volunteers for the role. For many years this role of Chairman is not a role I would not have chosen – my comfort zone was the practical aspects of training associates and tutors.

My main target for my time as Chair was to try to start to recruit new members as I believe that is the only long term approach for a sustainable future which I know everyone here would want to enable drivers in Bedford and surrounding areas to become safer drivers and reduce the death and injury on the roads. As is always said at the Group's AGMs we need new blood and impetus to make the Group more sustainable.

Last year the Committee discussed how we could get new members in to the Group and we made some excellent plans to attend events such as the Elstow May Festival and to work

closer with local authority road safety teams who run weekend events for young drivers at Millbrook Proving Ground. I would like to thank everyone on the Committee for their help and support in some very lengthy discussions about creating a plan for the future. However outside events (and I do not think I need to dwell on these) meant that these plans, and plans for further Better Driving Courses, have had to be put on hold.

The Committee has also had to take difficult decisions around the guidance to re-start training activities in a covid-secure manner that have been issued by RoSPA. The guidance for re-starting in-car tuition was included in a recent newsletter and the Committee, to my mind, made absolutely the right decision, that both the tutor and the associate must equally be happy to commence or re-commence in-car tuition and that the Committee would support whatever individual decisions are taken on this matter.

At last year's AGM I explained that Christine and I were planning to move away from the area but would be happy to serve as Chairman whilst I was still living in Bedfordshire – and I did secretly have plans how I could combine the attendance at Committee meetings with some meetings for work that I would still need to return to Bedford for even after we moved!

Our planned move away from Bedfordshire has not taken place as quickly as Christine and I would have hoped. However I need to inform this meeting, before the election of the new Committee commences, that we are now in the process of buying a house in Wales and we are hoping to move next month. However these are uncertain times and of course this is not a certainty.

Finally I would like to re-state my thanks to the Committee members who have served for whole or part of the last 17 months since the last AGM. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all and serve as your Chair. Thank you.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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.

The Account Summary was distributed prior to the AGM to all members of the Group.

The Opening Bank balance was £4922.46 with an outstanding cheque from the previous fiscal year to the value of £410.60 brought the true Opening balance to £4511.86.

There were 16 new members showing £160.00 with the associated Joining Fee of £265.00 resulting of the total Receipts of £905.00.

There is the sum of £81.12 for the Hire of the Hall for the 2019 AGM which was very late being presented to the Group. We had booked the hall for the 2020 AGM for May but this was cancelled due to COVID-19 and therefore at no cost to us. There were Stationery (£2.85) and Postage (26.37) and the sum of £71.91 being the cost to host the Group's website and the Secure Licence. There is a Miscellaneous cost of £90.00 being the amount repaid for two joining fee as these people were ADIs and part of a Driving School which were redirected to RoSPA as commercial training. These resulted in the total Payments of £273.25,

The Closing Balance for the Group taking into account of the above values to £5143.61.

The accounts were audited by Graham Follett on the 24/3/2020 without any problems. The accounts are self-balancing so that any discrepancy will be detected so that the accounts being presented will be error free.

The entries for Regalia will be removed from the Account going forward as the Group no longer holds and stock of RoSPA regalia and if anyone wishes to perchance any then they will be directed to RoSPA HQ.

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.

At last we have an AGM, albeit on video. It is getting rather confusing as the AGM was due in May and obviously that had to be cancelled along with many other events due to Covid-19. RoSPA suggested we hold the AGM by video conferencing and so here we are. I have to remind myself that my report has to be for the year ending February this year which is really prior to Covid-19 but I will include advice we have received during this period.

Until the pandemic, and following last year's AGM, we had been operating well with a strong committee. Unfortunately our Newsletter Editor, Ian Wade resigned due to ill health and we have to thank Ian for all his contributions and hard work for the Group. Following the members' meeting we held at the Fire HQ, Val Jones took up the roll and was co-opted onto the committee. Val needs to be voted on when it comes to elections later. Unfortunately we lost the services on the committee of Ann Essen and Clive Croot.

All activities ground to a halt in March and as Steve has said it is only now that Tutors and Associates can possibly start to consider training again. After a number of meetings with the Police and Fire Authority, in October I met with our new contact Ian Smith at Fire HQ. Ian can arrange for meeting rooms in the Fire HQ Training Centre to be available if they are free. The first benefit we had of this arrangement was that we held a members' meeting in January. We were fortunate to have the presence of Tony Gabb, RoSPA's Regional Senior Examiner. Tony has now moved away. We had also just decided to run another Better Driving Course and had the dates planned when the pandemic hit. I hope that once we can start meeting again these facilities will still be available.

Adrian Bailey, who like Steve and myself, was an original member, Tutor and Officer has resigned due to ill health. Adrian has been a great supporter over the years.

I turn now to the elections particularly of Officers. Steve has reported that he is off to pastures new, all he has to do now is learn welsh! We wish Christine and Steve every success in their new home. We have nominations for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, but more are welcome. The Training Officer must be a Diploma or Advanced Tutor.

I hope the next year helps us to pick up the momentum we had at the end of last year.

6. Election of Officers for 2020/21:

Outgoing Chairman Steve Davy presided over election of Chairman.

Chairman Stan Jones nominated by Jenny Holliday and seconded by Rosemary Worthington. No other nominations and agreed unanimously that Stan Jones be elected Chairman.

Stan Jones then took the chair.

Secretary Martin Kidds nominated by Stan Jones and seconded by Jenny Holliday. No other nominations and unanimously agreed that Martin Kidds be elected Secretary.

Treasurer David Worgan nominated by Stan Jones 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.

Election of Committee Members for 2020/21:

Val Jones had been co-opted on at a Members' meeting and needed to be elected. Nominated by David Worgan and seconded by Jenny Holliday.

Existing Committee Members: David Chamberlain, Alan Freeman. Tony Glasson and Rosemary Whittington were nominated by David Worgan and seconded by Stan Jones and were duly re-elected.

7. AOB

Rosemary Whittington questioned the validity of electric scooters on the highways. Steve Davy explained that they can only be used on the highway if they are hired and only then in certain areas. After incidents some authorities have withdrawn their approval. Val Jones said she had included an article about e-scooters in the August newsletter.

David Chamberlain referred to the new type of roundabout in Cambridge (again subject to article in the August newsletter) which after initial difficulties is successful.

Date of next AGM:

Tuesday 18th May 2021.

Meeting declared closed at 20:39