



BEDFORD GROUP of RoSPA ADVANCED DRIVERS ACCREDITED

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021 held at 8pm on Tuesday 8 June 2021 via Skype

Present: David Chamberlain, Alan Freeman, Tony Glasson, Jenny Holliday, Val Jones, Martin Kidds, Melia Taylor, Rosemary Whittington, David Worgan

Martin Kidds (Secretary) in the Chair welcomed all to the meeting. The AGM had been rescheduled from Tuesday 18 May following unexpected technical issues with the Skype link.

Stan Jones

The meeting began by noting the sad death of our outgoing Chairman Stan Jones on the evening of 17 May, after a spell in hospital. Stan was a founding member of the Bedford group from its inception in 1999 and his contribution to the group and involvement in advanced driving goes back more than 25 years. He has served at various times as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and has been a friend and mentor to many over that time and he will be sadly missed. The meeting offered our condolences to his wife Val and Stan's family at this difficult time. The committee hope to publish an appreciation of Stan in the RoSPA magazine *Care On The Road* later in the summer.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Judith Slaymaker.

2. Minutes of 2020 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 15 September 2020 had been previously publicised prior to the meeting. Acceptance was proposed by David Worgan and seconded by Val Jones, subject to the following amendments:

- Under item 6. Election of Officers for 2020/21 / Chairman – “seconded by Rosemary Worthington” to read “seconded by Rosemary Whittington”.
- Under item 7. Election of Committee Members for 2020/21 to add Jenny Holliday to the list of committee members nominated and elected.

The minutes were then unanimously agreed (as amended) and signed as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

The following report submitted from outgoing Chair Stan Jones was presented:

It has been an unusual year for everyone with the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdowns and the priority has been to try and keep safe and free from infection.

Activities within the group have clearly been restricted, but we have still managed to keep in touch through our virtual meetings and newsletter.

Our meetings may have taken a different format, but have been able to continue to maintain the group. Advanced driving tuition and retests have been affected but with the lockdown lifting we are able to resume these as long as both parties are comfortable and Covid-friendly safety measures are in place.

The new *Roadcraft* edition was released on 8th October 2020. Look out for our Secretary Martin Kidds' article in a forthcoming issue of *Care on the Road*.

Other successes - David Worgan (our Treasurer) achieved yet another gold in his latest Tutors' retest. Congratulations also to Mary Arnold (Tutor) who also achieved another gold.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Account Summary for the year ending 28 February 2021 was distributed prior to the AGM to all members of the Group. It was proposed by Martin Kidds that the audited accounts presented be accepted by the meeting and this was seconded by David Chamberlain. Agreed unanimously.

The Opening Bank balance was £5143.61.

It has been a strange year due to Covid-19 restrictions that came into effect in March 2020 and continued in Tiers until the final restrictions that started in December 2020. This affected what the Group could achieve during this financial year.

I am pleased to say that the vast majority of the membership supported the Group by renewing their membership even though we could not carry out any activities including any tutoring.

From the accounts it can be seen that 3 people joined and with their joining fees totalling £105 for 50 people renewed and with a kind donation of £5 from Paul Burchel the income for the year is £610.00.

A payment of £100 was donated to Elstow Abbey PPC where the use of the vestry was granted but due to the Covid restrictions the committee were unable to use it and the committee meetings were held via Skype. There were the usual Secretary and newsletter expenses, Stationery £39.99, Postage £41.71 plus the maintenance of the website £80.34.

It was agreed by the committee that the Tutors should be given the new version of *Roadcraft* for their commitment of their free time to tutor new and retesting members. This totalled £94.95.

The Miscellaneous expenditure is made up of £15 for a bouquet for a committee member whose husband had died. Plus the return of the membership and admin fees of £35 to a member who was out of the area but was being tutored by a member who lived nearer to her, but we were unable to continue the tutoring due to the illness of the tutor. At the time of year ending, the cheque had not been presented therefore the amount is outstanding and is reflected in the amount shown in the bank statement.

The actual closing balance at the end of the financial year amounts to £5346.62.

The accounts were audited by Graham Follett on the 5/4/2021 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.

5. Secretary's Report

Martin Kidds presented the following report:

This is my first report since joining the committee in September 2020 and I would like to start by thanking the rest of the committee for making me feel so welcome. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role and feel it is a privilege to help support the group.

I would also like to thank our Members, who after all are the lifeblood of the group, for continuing to support us, despite the suspension of group activity for much of the year due to the covid-19 pandemic. In particular we feel for Associates who have not been able to progress with training while tutoring and tests were suspended and also our Tutors who have similarly been prevented from seeing Associates progress through to a good test pass. As David's report testifies our retention rate has been remarkable and this enables us to plan for the future with confidence.

My main focus over the last eight months has been 'learning the ropes' and supporting committee business, as well as dealing with a number of enquiries from existing or potential members. With the latter various colleagues at RoSPA HQ have been enormously helpful, at what must have been a difficult time for them given that the pandemic will have disrupted their operations.

One significant event in the year was the publication in October of a new edition of *Roadcraft* and it was instructive to review this for our newsletter. As a former librarian I'm always excited to have a new book on the shelf but there is also now an online version available which may be of interest in the future.

Looking to the year ahead, I am hoping to organise a virtual meeting for the group with a guest speaker – look out for details via the Newsletter – and now that we are seeing restrictions ease exploring the possibility of some kind of social meeting to enable the group to reconnect. I'll also endeavour to support the committee with the resumption of 'normal' group activities such as the Better Driving Course and tutoring.

Our former Chairman Steve Davy and longstanding members Thomas Emmett and Ian Wade did not renew their membership; Steve and Thomas due to moving away from the area. We thank them all for their support over many years and offer our best wishes. We have also had two new members join, Carol O'Brian and Colin Griffiths and we extend our warmest welcome to them. Finally, as activity has begun to resume, we have had positive news of two test passes at Gold, one for David Worgan our Treasurer and one for Mary Arnold who has supported the group as a Tutor for many years; we join Stan in offering our congratulations to them both.

Despite covering far fewer miles than in a 'normal' year I've still found ways to continue to learn and develop as a driver and I feel very fortunate to have benefitted from the skills RoSPA has helped me to develop. As our Regional Co-ordinator Simon Burgin reminds us the need to make our roads safer remains as acute as ever. With that in mind I do want to do everything I can to help the group continue to thrive.

So, subject of course to item 6 below, I really look forward to working with you over the coming year; if you feel I can assist in any way please don't hesitate to get in touch.

6. Election of Officers for 2021/22

The unusual circumstances of the last few months had left the committee with a need to fill the Chairman's role left vacant by Stan's passing. The committee had proposed combining the Chair and Secretary's role for the coming year. Therefore:

Chairman Martin Kidds nominated by David Chamberlain and seconded by Jenny Holliday. No other nominations and agreed unanimously that Martin Kidds be elected Chairman.

Secretary Martin Kidds nominated by David Chamberlain 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.

7. Election of Committee Members for 2020/21

Existing Committee Members: David Chamberlain , Alan Freeman, Tony Glasson, Jenny Holliday Val Jones and Rosemary Whittington were nominated by Martin Kidds and seconded by David Worgan, so were duly re-elected.

No other nominations were received but we will always welcome any members interested in joining the committee – please contact the Secretary.

Martin thanked the committee for agreeing to stand again and for their support.

8. AOB

Rosemary raised concern about the safety of electric scooters particularly when they were often ridden illegally. Tony mentioned that some areas were trialling their use and there were some hire schemes in operation (a rider would have to have a provisional licence). Martin suggested Rosemary could write to *Care On The Road* and offered to pass on the editors' details.

Val mentioned that she had started work on the next issue of the group newsletter. Martin agreed to enquire as to whether she could receive *Care On The Road* as our newsletter editor, as Associate Members wouldn't automatically receive a copy.

Val also pointed out that RoSPA had recently relaunched the RoADA sections of their website and members of the group are encouraged to take a look.

Martin mentioned that a Tutors' meeting was being arranged soon so we could plan future activities. The group is currently without an Advanced Tutor (needed for training more Tutors) and circumstances had seen a reduction in the number of Tutors the group has over the year – we will look to see how we can address this. We hope to share more information via the newsletter soon.

Date of next AGM:

Tuesday 17th May 2022.

Meeting declared closed at 20:30