



RoADAR Avon Group Newsletter January 2009

a great help to all with his tremendous knowledge from his riding and driving experiences. We will never forget you Dave!

Chairman's Chat

Hi All,

A Happy New Year to you all, hope you all had a good Christmas. Yes I know it seems a long way off now. No doubt you have been practising your skidding ready for the skid pan event in May with this adverse weather we have been having. One day I took a 10 minute journey by car which actually took 45 minutes another I decided to walk what would normally be a 35 minute walk, it did not take too much longer but I was drenched from the traffic when I got there. I have always tried to steer clear of water especially when there are pedestrians about but obviously it is a game to some to see how wet they can make you. I hope as advanced motorists like me you try really hard to avoid wetting the pedestrians. Well let's hope we have some good weather for the summer and we can all get our bikes out!

This newsletter brings with it some very sad news, Dave Tew one of our founder members passed away on November 23rd 2008 at St Peters Hospice, Knowle, our heartfelt condolences go out to his family. Dave was a lovely man and

Drive Safely,
Val Clare
Chairperson

Editor's Piece

Hello everyone,

I hope this Newsletter finds you happy and well!

We have some events including theory nights with Alistair Andrews and a Skid car event which is sure to be a good day out and a good learning experience as well. So we hope to see you there. Please see the Events section for details.

We have a new committee member Ray Champion who joined us on the 11th February. If you would like to join the committee then please let us know.

Please can you send any driving articles or stories maybe about the recent snowy weather to me by 14th March. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Take care,

Cheryl Lenny
Editor

Driving Articles

If you would like to send in an article for the newsletter then please do. I will look forward to seeing them. Email articles to Newsletter@roada-avongroup.org

RoADAR Avon Group Test Passes

Congratulations

Congratulations go to **Andy Smith** who has achieved an excellent Gold award. **Ian Bosworth** who passed with an excellent Gold award and he was tutored by John Lee. Also, **Terry O'Sullivan** who passed with an excellent Silver award and he was tutored by Ian Lassman and Alistair Andrews.

Have you recently passed your test at Bronze, Silver, Gold or Diploma level? Please let us know as we have no way of finding this out except by you telling us. Please remember to let your Tutor know and tell me for the Newsletter. Thank you.

New Associates for 2009

Welcome to the following new associates who have recently joined us:

*Charnia Weightman
Mark Saliba
Kathleen Paley
Sandy Riley
Robert Riley
Trevor Graham
Stephen Lewis
Sharon Randall*

We hope you enjoy becoming a safer driver and good luck for your test. We look forward to meeting you. If your name is not there please let us know for the next time.

Note for anyone ready for their test or re-test. Test application forms are available from Mark 0117 951 8008 Secretary@roada-avongroup.org. Or you can download your test application from the R.o.S.P.A. website www.roadar.org/drivers/members/ then click on "Download application form".

The cost for an advanced car test is £48, advanced riding test is £54 and advanced LGV and PCV test is £58. Please enquire if you want to do more than one test as membership and re-test costs may differ. Once you have completed your test you automatically become a Member of RoSPA Advanced drivers and Riders. Membership is subject to an annual fee of £20 and in return you may enjoy a range of membership benefits.

R.o.S.P.A Tutors

Can all Tutors contact Paul with their current availability for new Associates please? Thank you.

Skid Control Training

On 12th November 2008 we had Max Tyler visit us to discuss how fun it is to have a go on the skid pan. Were you there? If you had other commitments then don't worry as I will discuss what it was about. Max is from the Actiondrome skid car based in Wroughton and did a great presentation.

He discussed a bit about practising your skid techniques in simulated conditions. However, you will not need to be an expert before you go because Max explained that even the best of drivers will learn something new. For those of you who attended, I'm sure that you enjoyed it and the committee hope that you will be able to meet with the group and have a fun day out.

Have a look at the article James wrote about the taster session from the July 08 Newsletter at www.roadavongroup.org/newsletters/july2008.pdf

We will get a discount when we book up and need a minimum of four people so email James on events@roadavongroup.org with your contact details.

Our Honorary Life Member,

For those of you who knew Dave Tew I'm sure that you will agree he was one in a million, a truly determined man, a great driver and outstanding rider but most of all a great friend....



Lesley Organ with Dave Tew in 2005

Dave Tew 1952-2008

Dave was one of the founding members of Avon Group, along with Lesley Organ. He worked closely with the Group for many years. Serving on the committee, giving talks, lectures and helping out wherever he could. Dave was also our local Examiner for both car and motorcycle. I took my first car and bike tests with Dave more years ago than I care to remember.

Dave retired from the Police Force in 1998 and concentrated his efforts on IT, although he was still heavily involved in Rider and Driver Training, both in the UK and Greece.

Avon Group made Dave an Honorary Life Member in 2005, unfortunately by this time Dave had been diagnosed with cancer. In May 2006, Dave started his own charity 'Let's Beat Cancer' to raise awareness of 'The Quiet Cancer'.

Dave passed away on November 23rd 2008 at St Peters Hospice, Knowle.

To make a donation to Dave's charity please go to the website at <http://letsbeatcancer.co.uk/default.aspx>

Mark Chamberlain

Speeding. No one thinks big of you -
Stof til eftertanke (bedre kvalitet)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgYA2c5iyzs>

Rospa Advanced Drivers and Riders safety bulletin can be found online at http://www.roadar.org/ebulletin/rs_january09.pdf

OBSERVATION LINKING

Roadcraft

The following list is basic observation links that will be encountered on most drives.

1. A red traffic light - may change to green.
2. A green traffic light- may change to red.
3. A cluster of street lamps in the distance - possible roundabout ahead.
4. A single street lamp may indicate a junction ahead.
5. One vehicle pulls into a petrol station - another may exit
6. Pedestrian waiting near the kerb - may be seeking to cross the road.
7. A cyclist ahead - may wobble or pull out without looking.
8. Sign warning of children's playground ahead- children may be nearby.
9. Sign warning of minor junction to near side/offside - vehicles may emerge.
10. Sign warning of cattle crossing - possible cows or debris on the road.
11. Sign prohibiting overtaking - other vehicles may ignore it.
12. Mirror on pole to the offside - blind junction to the near side.
13. Acute bend ahead - oncoming vehicles in the middle of the road.
14. Low arched bridge ahead -large goods vehicle may be in the middle of the road.

15. Passenger stands up in bus ahead - bus may pull in at bus stop.
16. People standing at bus stop on near side - the bus is behind us.
17. People standing at bus stop on offside - bus coming towards us.
18. Smell of freshly mown grass - tractor/mowing machine round the next bend.
19. Pedestrian walking towards us carrying petrol can - broken down vehicle ahead.
20. Stationary blue flashing lights ahead - possible road traffic accident.
21. Orange flashing lights ahead - possible road works.
22. Exhaust smoke from driveway - vehicle about to reverse onto road.
23. Exhaust smoke from vehicle ahead - engine still cold.
24. Vehicle ahead moves towards centre white line on motorway - may lane change.

Val Clare

Directions to BAWA

From the A38 Filton roundabout in north Bristol exit (heading west) towards Henleaze. After a mile and a half and two sets of lights, look for a sports ground on your right. Turn into the drive and over the speed humps. Make your way to the pavilion building and the main entrance. In the entrance lobby turn to your right, go up the stairs and the meeting will be held in Room 2. For a map please see the Avon group website. www.roda-avongroup.org

Events for your 2009 diary

Theory Night

Wednesday 11th March at 20:00 hours in the B.A.W.A Club, Filton, Bristol. Talk for Associates but all members welcome. Alistair Andrews will present a talk on Observation, Anticipation and Planning.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13th May at 19:30 hours in the B.A.W.A Club, Filton, Bristol. Guest speaker Bob Smalley from HQ, Birmingham. Refreshments provided.

Skid Car Event

Saturday 16th May. Join James for a fun day out at Actiondrome in Wroughton. Contact James if you are interested. events@roada-avongroup.org

Theory Night

Wednesday 9th September at 20:00 hours in the B.A.W.A Club, Filton, Bristol. Talk by Alistair Andrews on commentary skills for Associates but all members welcome.

Do you have any ideas for future events, guest speakers, and social events?

Please let us know your suggestions and contact *James Maggs* at events@roada-avongroup.org Thank you!

How to contact us:

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