



**RoADAR Avon Group
Newsletter
August 2008**

Chairman's Chat

Hi All,

Well where were you all? The AGM had one member and an associate plus some of the committee. It was a disappointing turnout. There is a Training officer/Associate coordinator vacancy so let us know if you are interested??

What can I say about the talk that was put on for you by Alistair, well the few of us that were there had a very interesting evening. The same people as at the AGM except the Associate is now also a full member.

Alistair has also agreed to do an associate evening for us, so please get your associates there if you can, you can always learn something, and see inside for more information about this.

I hope you have all enjoyed the sunshine, take care as the roads will be slippery when the sun hits the tarmac, Councils will often put sand down at appropriate points.

Those of you going on driving holidays take care and have a splendid time, Hope you all find the good weather, as I write this the

heavens have just opened and the noise of the rain was tremendous.

Drive Safely,
Val Clare
Chairperson

Editor's Piece

Hello everyone,

I hope this Newsletter finds you happy and well! How time goes so fast I can't believe it is August already!

Please note the Events section. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Please can you send any driving articles to me by 14th Sept. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

If you would like a copy of the newsletter sent via email then please email me your request at Newsletter@roada-avongroup.org

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 to **Waveney Payne** who passed and achieved a fantastic Bronze award. Waveney was tutored by Paul Gould.

Congratulations to **Gary Matthews** who has passed and achieved an excellent Gold award and his tutors were Alistair and Mark Chamberlain.

Congratulations to **Rob Warren** who achieved an excellent Silver award. Rob was tutored by Val Clare.

Congratulations to **Marc Appleyard** who passed and achieved an excellent Silver award. Marc was tutored by John Lee and praised John's tuition "may I say that he was a fine tutor, professional and knowledgeable throughout." Also, Marc praised Ian Tremlett examiner saying he "was courteous, understanding and gave a thorough debrief, together with hints and tips from his own experience."

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 ask your Tutor to pass this on to me for the Newsletter. Thank you.

New Associates for 2008

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

Ian Bosworth
Gareth Burnett
Alan Peters
Robert Mapstone
Ann Hunt
Max Peters

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.

Test Application Forms

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.

Skid control training

I have often thought that the only grey area of advanced driving is skid control.

Whilst ROADCRAFT thoroughly covers the theory of skid control, there is no way of practising this during our everyday driving.

There is a resolution, to visit a facility such as the Actiondrome skid car in Wroughton, Swindon. I was offered the opportunity to visit the facility for a “taster” session by Max Tyler of Actiondrome. Accompanied by Mark Chamberlain, we did exactly that on Saturday 5th April.

The skid car differs from the usual slippery track facility as it is specially adapted with a hydraulic cradle that lifts the car to give the same lack of grip as in poor road conditions. The cradle is operated by one of the instructors in the passenger seat who can individually control every wheel on the cradle to simulate every type of skid imaginable.

I had no base for comparison between this system and that of the slippery track but Mark however had previous training

at the Castle Combe facility. It was Marks opinion that the skid car is the better method due to the precise accuracy of control of the cradle where you can literally choose a skid.

Whilst I had the experience of driving on ice, front wheel and rear wheel skids, Mark also had the experience of driving on ice and rear wheel skids but also the opportunity to “avoid the granny that would step out in the middle of the road in front of the car”. The granny was of course not a granny but a traffic cone. This simulation gave Mark the opportunity to practise emergency braking and steering also cadence braking as the vehicle was not equipped with ABS. The first time round, the poor granny didn’t make it but in Marks defence, only because he forgot that due to the cradle, there is extra width to the car and the wheels on the cradle are difficult to see when driving in a straight line. You will be pleased to hear that granny survived the second attempt!

The idea of the taster session was really to give a brief overview of the facility and promote the full course that

they run. Whilst we were not given any instruction as such, we were given a few helpful tips that certainly saw me in good stead.

My opinion is that this is a fantastic facility and both of the instructors that took us out were clearly very experienced. The cost of the full course is £85 and lasts approximately three hours. There is no minimum requirement in terms of group numbers but they have a maximum allowance of twelve people per session. The time is divided between driving and theory and you do get full instruction. It was discussed that in an ideal world after having done the full course, a refresher would be taken every year to keep practise up but even after such a short time in the car, I feel I have learnt a very valuable lesson. I would highly recommend anyone to consider the course not only due to the skills acquired, but also due to the fact that it is great fun.

If you would like further details on the skid car, you can visit the website at www.actiondromeskidcar.co.uk. I am organising the full course now. If you are

interested, please e-mail me. I hope to see you there!

James Maggs.

Events for your 2008 diary

Theory Night by Alistair Andrews for associates and members due there retest on *10th September* at 8pm in the B.A.W.A. club.

Skid Pan Event. Details to follow soon. Contact James if you are interested. events@roada-avongroup.org

Go-Karting Event to be arranged soon and with an inter group challenge.

Talk on Skid control by Max Tyler from Actiondrome on *Wednesday 12th November 08* at 8pm in the B.A.W.A. club.

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

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

AGM Update

If you attended the AGM you may be aware that Paul Gould has stood down from his role as Training Officer due to

personal reasons and is now our ADI representative. Paul thank you for all you hard work!

Associate Co-ordinator Wanted

We are looking for a volunteer to join our team and help co-ordinate associates with tutors and help keep track of associate progress. This role was originally the Training Officer's role. However, you are not required to be a tutor to fulfil this role. If you are interested or want to find out more then please contact Mark Chamberlain at Secretary@roada-avongroup.org

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.roada-avongroup.org

How to contact us:

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If you are reading this and you are interested in joining the Group, please contact the Secretary. Thank you!