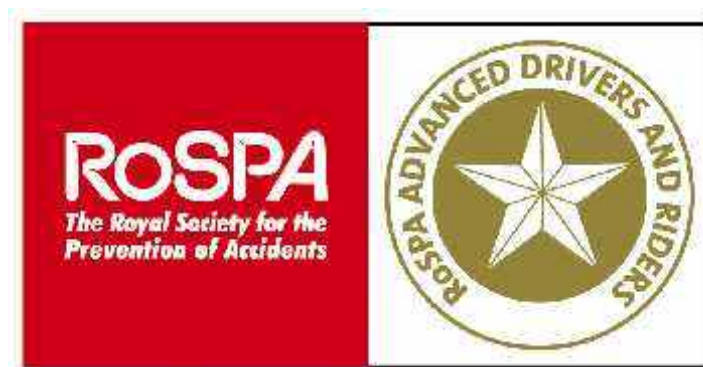


RoADAR Avon Group Newsletter Sept 2009



Editor's Piece

Hello everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you happy and well! I have changed the layout of the newsletter a little and added a touch of colour which I hope you like.

We have been trying to arrange a few more events for you to come along to and you can find out details of these in the events section. Please do join us for these if you can. If you have any ideas of events which you would like to either attend or be involved in please let us know.

Cheryl, Editor

Chairman's Chat

Hi everyone,

Well I hope you all enjoyed the Associate evening on Wednesday 9th September and are putting it into practice. Every little helps to pass that test!

I notice it is gradually getting darker in the evenings now, and turning quite cold at night. So, make sure your lights and windscreen are nice and clean, it makes such a difference. The muck that gets on them from the motorway even if it hasn't been raining is astonishing. There is lots of grime and dirt out there.

I have just had new glasses and they have some sort of clear coating on them to help against the glare of the headlights. (Anything for safety). Please remember to have regular eye tests and if you don't at present wear glasses or lenses check your eyes have not deteriorated in any way.

So drive carefully always with safety in mind and hope to see you all at our map reading session in November.

Val, Chairman

Driving Articles

How the examiner marks your advanced test

The examiner will be writing notes as you drive so that they can complete a report on your driving which you receive in about 6 weeks after your test/re-test. There are 5 parts to the report and shown below is the 1st part. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list but just some general guide lines

Section 1 – Use of controls

PREPARATION

Introduce yourself to the examiner mentioning your driving history, types of vehicles you've driven and how many years you have been driving. Introduce your vehicle to the examiner mentioning engine capacity (CC), manual (number of gears), automatic or semi-automatic and any modifications from manufacturer spec.

Walk around your vehicle and point out external checks including points of Traffic Law (i.e. Valid road tax displayed, legal tyres, windscreens front and rear clean and clear, operation and checks of all external lights). Looking for areas of damage mention all checks including fluid levels under the bonnet and general look around without actually opening the bonnet.

In the cockpit, conduct a cockpit check and in doing so mention any 'gizmos' that you have which are pertinent to your vehicle (i.e. No ABS, ABS, Traction Control, ESP/VSP ETC – you should know how yours works).

STEERING

Looking for pull-push and full use of steering wheel and where appropriate hands meet at 6 o'clock and or 12 o'clock. Generally, you would use the ten to two hand positioning. Only one hand steers the wheel at any one time but both hands must be on the wheel when you steer. Steering must start when it should and finish when it should. Steering is the no 1 priority of all controls.

USE OF CLUTCH

Looking for invisible gear changes both up and down the gear box by accurate use of the clutch to match engine speed with road speed.

GEARS

Looking for selection of gear and timing of gear change and rate of gear change (i.e. try to drive the vehicle for at least 5 seconds with the clutch fully out after a gear change – driving for less than 5 seconds before another gear change could mean it was an incorrect gear selection or poor timing of gear change). Gears are the 4th priority of all controls.

BRAKES

Look for timing and use of brakes in all circumstances because brakes are used to slow the vehicle, to stop the vehicle or to stop the vehicle going faster. Remember braking will transfer Kinetic energy to the front suspension and this too has to be released before stopping. Try using little and light braking. Brakes are the 3rd in priority of all controls.

USE OF ACCELERATOR

Looking for smoothness with 'acceleration sense' to demonstrate progressive use and remember the accelerator is used to go faster, to maintain a constant speed or to stop the vehicle from slowing down. The accelerator is the 2nd in priority of all controls.

USE OF MIRRORS

Mirrors are used in the 1st phase of the 'System of Car Control' in conjunction with effective observation. Look for effective use and timing of using mirror. Remember to use the left door mirror before turning or emerging left and the right door mirror before turning or emerging to the right. Try to use mirrors as seeking permission to alter speed and/or direction and to confirm all is well (or not) after altering speed and/or direction.

USE OF HORN

Not often used but looking for reason, timing and how much sound produced. Try using a 'butler's cough' – very light and gentle without causing offence. The horn is not an instrument of rebuke.

VISIBILITY/CONSPICUITY

How clean are all of your windows (inside and out) and if you have to use wipers (front/rear) – how often and at what wipe speed. Consider the condition of your wiper blades before the test.

What the newspapers say

1843 – Road markings using white stones at the side of the road were introduced

1843 – Lamps were introduced for use at night

1864 – The mile was introduced

1896 – Danger signs such as the Skull and Crossbones were introduced

1903 – Parliament – on the 14th July new speed limit procedures would shift the responsibility for this controversial area to County Councils

1903 – The Government is rejecting proposals for a driving tests, vehicle inspections or penalties for drunk driving

1905 – On the 29th July the AA was founded as a result of car owners voicing concerns at Police hostility and Parliamentary prejudices against motorists

The AA's main task will be to help motorists to avoid the increasing widespread of speed traps in which policemen often use conventional stop watches to estimate the speed of cars. Anyone driving faster than the 20 mph legal speed limit will be arrested.

10 One Liners

We are other peoples other people

If you fail to plan you plan to fail

Use intelligent communication as opposed to mindless signals

Seek pace with space and grace

When it's clear select the gear – then can I go yes or no?

Fix your speed then proceed

The brakes stop the wheels but the tyres stop the car

Don't change gear – change the situation

On approach to junction be fast enough to go or slow enough to stop

Let Isaac Newton take you down – let Isaac Newton slow you down

Alistair Andrews

Treasure Hunt Navigation Event to follow

Some of you may be interested in joining us for a table top exercise on 11th November 09. So here is a little piece to give you an idea of what it is going to be about. This following was written by Bob and Ginny Sackley:-

The Night Rally

Back in the mists of time when I was a lad and maps still had large blank areas marked: 'Here be Dragons', I was taught the art of map reading by my geography master. This included six figure references, the production of vertical cross-sections with gradients, and the ability to visualise the topography from the wealth of detail on the then 'I' O.S. maps. They were invaluable lessons which have stood me in good stead over the years and I hope that this teaching continues and has not been consigned to the scrap bin along with the log tables and slide rules of my youth. Perish the thought that we became totally reliant on Satnav!

At the recent club night these map reading skills were put to the test by our taking part in Bob and Sandy Riley's table-top exercise entitled: 'Night Drive on the Map Exercise 2009'. This involved an imaginary drive across part of the O.S. Map 172 following the given route instructions and answering various questions along the way. The journey started at the Aust Services on the M48 and headed across the Severn and Wye Bridges to the land where dragons are and still exist. After a brief tour of the Chepstow and Caldicot areas it was back to England via the M4 Second Severn Crossing with no toll payable to leave Wales! A serpentine route took us from Almondsbury via Olveston, Thornbury, Tytherington and Falfield to our destination at Leyhill Prison. We passed various items of interest and at one point we were asked to state our height. It was tempting to answer 6'1" in shoes, but the correct answer was a more mundane 83 meters above datum. What was not expected was the very low level of lighting in the room at the Ring O' Bells, which required many people to use a torch to see the map. A night rally indeed! Apparently the electrician was due to fix the lights the following day.

Earlier in the week we had rather extravagantly purchased a new O.S. map to replace our somewhat dog-eared 1988 edition which did not include the M48, M49, Second Severn Crossing or the Avon Ring Road! It proved to be a sound investment, without which items our winning the 'Rally' would not have been possible.

Thank you, Bob and Sandy for putting a great deal of work into testing our map reading skills and for providing an excellent evening's entertainment. B. & G.S.

So, if you would like to attend our table-top Treasure hunt exercise. You will be involved in using ordinance survey maps 172 (please bring along your own copy if you have one and a pencil and ruler). You will be aiming to pick up clues and try to collect the most points. There will be prizes for winners but spaces are limited. Please contact Mark with your interest on 0117 951 8008 or Secretary@roada-avongroup.org

RoADAR Avon Group

Test Passes

Congratulations to *John Lee*, who is one of our Tutors. You achieved a fantastic R.o.S.P.A Gold award on your re-test on the 1st September. Well Done!

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.

Test Application Forms

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".

New Associates and Tutors

Welcome to all our new Associates including *Maria Cahill, Ian Howard, Chelsea Meakins, Constantin Jabarin and Richard Stallard*. We hope you enjoy learning the advanced driving theory and putting this into practice. We wish you luck for your test when you and your Tutor feel that you are ready for it. Also, thank you to our new Tutor *Anthony Skrebys* for volunteering to help get others through their test.

Events for your Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
11 th November 2009	Treasure Hunt Navigation	B.A.W.A, Filton, Bristol
10 th February 2010	Meet the Examiner night with Ian Tremlett	B.A.W.A, Filton, Bristol
TBA	Theory night	B.A.W.A, Filton, Bristol
12 th May 2010	Avon Group AGM and talk from Freewheelers motorcycle charity	B.A.W.A, Filton, Bristol

Directions to BAWA Club

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.rodaa-avongroup.org

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