

Committee Reports to RoADAR Northeast AGM 2009

Secretary: John Steele

Compiling Agendas and writing Minutes for committee meetings is the main task of secretary. The committee now meets monthly for most of the year which is a major change from the past. In addition I have corresponded at some length over some issues including

(i) with HQ concerning proposed setting-up an additional local riding group in the area (a project which has been abandoned) and

(ii) attempting to provide tutoring for a youth group in Allendale. (Sadly, despite a great deal of work by the committee, this never got off the ground).

HQ has this year sent to all Secretaries and Chairpersons a lengthy questionnaire concerning basic statistics for local groups and attitudes to HQ resources and assistance. This is most welcome and should, in my opinion be repeated on an annual basis to assist in central policy making. It is to be hoped that HQ will at some point provide feedback on their findings.

The Guide for Car (Approved) Tutors (28 pages in all, co-authored with Training Officer, Ray Forsyth) was completed and approved by local examiner (and President) Jim Muter. It is now available for all car tutors on demand (and is distributed on qualification and at refresher courses). So far, we have had no feedback on this: in the likely event that the document is *not* perfect, we would much appreciate any comments from tutors receiving it. It is hoped to produce a version for motorcycle tutors in the near future.

I completed the new Constitution for our local Group which was passed at the last AGM and subsequently approved by HQ. This hopefully will provide a more secure basis for the future operation of the Group.

I have continued to gather materials for distribution at the various events the Group has attended this year, mainly focussing on materials for children. HQ has much improved its act this year providing balloons, pens and other such useful small objects plus banners and a tent with logo. I am also happy to report that my dealings with HQ (in the person of newly appointed Elizabeth Wragg) have been a huge improvement on previous experiences and I hope the Group continues to encourage and even exploit this change.

I have been delighted to be associated with a considerable improvement in the local Group's image over the last year: comments from HQ have included commendations for the high level of local activity (at events such as Bikewise, Durham Wildlife Trust's Fun Day and the Durham Cruising Event – it is nice to know that they notice) and a “bouquet” in “Care on the Roads” (our National Newsletter) centred on a letter from a one of our associates highlighting the issue of advanced driving for disabled drivers.

Partly for health reasons and also to focus on tutoring and on other (more musical) activities I am leaving the committee. However, with the welcome change in scheduling of the monthly meetings, I hope now to attend at least the Thursday events and meet more members. I wish the Local Group and in particular the hard-working committee the very best for the future and would encourage every member not already doing so to

consider helping out either by becoming a full committee member, an associated helper or a tutor.

Training officer: R.T.Forsyth

Following on from my last report that was extremely brief as I had 'nothing to report' because I was appointed to role shortly before the 'AGM' I shall attempt to carry on in a similar fashion.

The year started with a continuation of works regarding a comprehensive training brief being completed for all car tutors. This was to be given to all new tutors upon completion of their tutor assessment day, and those existing tutors who attended refresher sessions to validate their trainer status within the group. This document was devised and completed by the effervescent John Steele, with a little help from myself.

The roll out of tutor refresher training is now well underway and we are seeing a good level of acceptance by the tutor base, to have their skills refreshed from our..... (p)resident know it all, and all round good egg 'jim'. The tutors are being contacted when there is availability for the training sessions to take place, and as I have mentioned there is a good level of take up.

Sadly we are still very short of motorcycle trainers within group and, one of our members Neil Hamilton will hopefully be able to sort out this problem for us. One of our biggest headaches in previous years was the training to tutor standard, and the availability of examiners for the motorcycle tutor testing.

Overall there have been improvements within group, and we are now achieving a commonality of standard within the car tutors, this bodes well for us at both a local, & national level as we are being proactive in our commitment to our tutors, and ultimately our clients. Thank you.

Membership Secretary: Colin Burrow

Altogether, there are **131** members within the group, including the 4 honorary members. Of which,
9 members paid cash
88 members paid by cheque
30 members paid by standing order.

The ratio of men to woman has not changed with **16** members being women, a ration of **8.1875:1**.

11 members under the age of 25, with 1 being a female member.

9 members under the age of 25 being new members.

2 members under the age of 25 not renewing membership.

8% of the members are under the age of 25, this has increased from 5% last year.

15 existing members not renewing memberships.

26 new members not renewing their membership.

Making **41** non renewals

78 renewals

49 new members

R.T.Forsyth,

15.03.2009

Training Secretary : John Ennis

My role as training secretary has involved matching tutors to associate members who have requested training, for both drivers and riders. The principal criteria for matching are geographic, and beyond that, availability. The number of rider associates has been half that of drivers, and there have been little or no delays in providing tutors for riders. Initially new driver associates were matched to tutors quickly, usually within a week or so. But demand gradually outstripped driving tutor availability, particularly since Christmas, such that eight drivers are currently awaiting tutors.

There have been 37 drivers who have, or who are being, tutored; and 18 riders who have, or who are being, tutored. There are 11 active driving tutors and 5 active riding tutors.

The following table summarises tuition activity for the year 2008/09 :

	Car	Bike
New Tutors	1	1
Active Tutors	11	5
Tutors Lost	1	0
Test Passed	6	4
Re-test Passed	2	2
Currently Training	24	9
Dropped out	7	5
Awaiting tutor	8	0
Pass Results Gold	7	3
Silver	1	2
Bronze	0	1

I am stepping down from the role of training secretary, but would like to offer my sincere thanks to both driver and rider tutors for their co-operation throughout the year, and wish the new training secretary every success.

Media Editors: Mel Leitch

Newsletters continue to be produced approximately quarterly. However obtaining articles from the membership remains difficult. December 2008 newsletter was in colour and the plan for future newsletters will also be colour but A5 size.

Interestingly some positive feedback did follow the publication of the December 2008 newsletter. Some of this was local but what took me by surprise was the interest from HQ (note they reproduced a letter from our newsletter in the current edition of "care on the road", they also like our tutor profile series which they plan to replicate)

The next Newsletter will be early April and contributions will be very welcome.

300 RoADAR Northeast Group business cards containing the monthly meeting dates were printed and approx half were distributed with the Dec 2008 Newsletter. The remaining half will be distributed at events throughout the year.

Publicity Co-ordinator: Allyson Miles

2008 was my first year as publicity coordinator and working together with all the members of the Committee we managed to set up shop at 3 external events to raise our profile. As we go further into 2009, we are looking forward to joining the Durham Easter Egg Run in April (weather permitting) and repeating our stands at Rainton Meadows in June and Bikewise in August.

We also continued to advertise on the local Bikewise site and increased our presence on several bike forums, which attracted potential new members and even resulted in a few rideouts.

Our programme of meetings has been outlined on both our website and latest newsletter and we aim to offer interesting and useful topics to both drivers and riders alike. However, not all our members were able to attend, so this year we are running our monthly meets on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Finally our Group needs the support of its members so what can you do? Spread the word to your friends and family? Gift a membership to that special person who has everything? Organise a social evening? Lead or suggest a favourite road for a rideout or driveout? Put up a poster at work? Join in our events even if its for half an hour? Give us feedback on our meetings and activities? It all counts and if anyone has any other ideas for increasing our publicity or has any outings, events or presentations they'd like to see, please contact me or any of the other Committee members at the meetings or use our contact details on the website and forum.

Other reports were presented verbally at the meeting.