

Reports of RoADAR Northeast Committee Members for AGM 2010

Acting Chairman: Lynne Wood Forsyth

I have only recently stepped into this role, having being asked to stand in for Harry Moir due to his continuing ill health.

The committee have worked extremely hard over the last year to try to further the aims and objectives of the group. We have tried to do this by attending more local events with the intention of making people more aware of the group and what they are trying to do. I remind you that it is only due to the voluntary unpaid services of the committee and members that we are able to attend these events and would encourage anyone who could help us out at any of the events, even if it's only for a few hours, to contact or speak to one of the committee members.

Publicity was one of our weaknesses and we are trying to put this right. The website now shows a diary of events which is usually at least a few months ahead. We have also had diary cards printed and sent out with the latest newsletter to inform members of when the meetings are to be held and a diary sheet is available at each of the monthly meetings listing the upcoming events that have been organised.

We thank you for your valued and continued support over the year and hope that this continues. If you have any suggestions for improving the service we provide to our members, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the committee.

Acting General Secretary: John Steele

The bulk of the Secretary's work this year has been done by John Crammen – so a thanks from the committee and the group for John's work both as a committee member and as someone always willing to help out at events.

I took over the job of Secretary only in February and so my tasks so far have been limited to Agendas and Minutes for a single committee meeting and this AGM. I look forward to continuing this work alongside my driver tutoring.

Treasurer: Lynne Wood Forsyth

Despite a fall in membership from the previous year, numbers have remained reasonably healthy and produced an income of £1950. This is a huge relief in an area where other groups have suffered a significant loss and, in at least one instance, actually had to close.

At last year's AGM I commented that the group had money sat in the accounts that needed spending and that as a group who existed not to make a profit we would be looking to reinvest that money into the group. This we have done. We've purchased a waterproof Gazebo, 3m x 3m in size and emblazoned with the logo 'RoSPA Northeast Advanced Drivers and Riders'. This means that when attending events volunteers have a dry place to work, the means to secure any displays, and a more prominent image of the group is projected. This has been our biggest expenditure for some years

but being made out of galvanised steel and heavy duty vinyl panels, should last us a considerable length of time. It is also part of our push to try to increase awareness of what the group does.

We've also bought a laptop so that we can more easily show presentations via the laptop and project them onto a screen rather than having to rely on guests bringing their own equipment.

Worth mentioning is that the raffle we hold at the monthly meetings covers the cost of the rental of the room and goes toward buying further raffle prizes.

There has been considerable redesigning of the website. This, so far at minimal cost to the group thanks to the time and patience of volunteers on the committee and our web administrator John Ennis. Most of the cost in this year's accounts is from last year but that needed to be paid at the beginning of this financial year. At the time this was for the monthly charges for that website. I believe we've now changed that and it currently costs us less.

Printing and postage costs have remained about the same relative to the number of members and a small increase in the cost of the stamps.

Our British Motorcycle Federation membership renewal is actually only £129 this year. There was an oversight in our renewal - we didn't receive one - and this had to be chased up resulting in the payment coming out of this year's budget.

Training Officer:

Ray Forsyth

During this past year, there have been some changes in role responsibilities and duties within the training sections of the group. Although the two training secretaries Doreen, & Neil, have remained fairly untouched by these changes. I have altered my schedules to fit in with the group requirements as our President Jim Muter has an ever-increasing workload and I am unburdening him of some of the tutor training responsibilities that are being carried out in the car section of the group.

All new tutors who pass the rigorous tutor training programme are being issued with the group training document as was outlined in my previous report, and is being well received and utilised. This is testament to the sterling efforts of John Steele, who collated and produced the training document that is now in current usage.

It is my intention with the help of certain parties within the motorcycling section to see if this year there can be a tutor-training document initiated for this section so there is a commonality of training literature across all sections of the group.

One major breakthrough has been the increase in numbers of motorcycle tutors. The training secretary for 'motorcycles', Neil Hamilton has brought the numbers up to the required level. This has meant that unlike last year we are now up to full strength and for the near future do not require any additions to the motorcycle trainer base.

However the car section is still lacking in tutor numbers, and there is an availability to immediately train two potential candidates for this section with there still being a further requirement for an increase in numbers to reduce the increasing waiting lists in this section.

The lack of tutor take up was due in part to some associate members reconsidering, and unfortunately not taking up the opportunity to give something back to the group in this capacity. This I am hopeful will change in the coming year with a fresh influx of associate members wishing to give of their time to further the aims and objectives of our group, and by joining the ranks of the tutors further reduce the waiting times that the car membership have to endure at the moment.

All of the details for the current tutor base have now been forwarded to Elizabeth Wragg at RoSPA HQ. Therefore, the registered listings can be amended for insurance reasons. In addition, the tutors that have fell away from the group through either natural wastage, or other means have had their details amended on the tutor list so as not to incur any extra expense for HQ insuring those members that are not requiring group insurance cover.

It only remains for me to say that this past year has once again been an improvement upon previous years, due to the levels of hard work and diligence displayed by all concerned, whether at committee, tutor, or associate member level.

Finally, although we as a committee are here to, steer the group through the years events, and, to the best of our abilities carry out our positions of office with the full agreement of our committee colleagues. We also carry forward the wishes of the membership, we represent. Moreover, with this in mind if you have any queries, or ideas, for any of the meetings be it from a training perspective, or indeed any other quarter, please pass on these thoughts to myself so they can be presented at committee to be progressed where possible from idea into reality.

It only remains for me to say that although it has been a busy year it has also been particularly rewarding, and I look forward to serving the group in whatever capacity I am required to do so.

Membership Secretary: Colin Burrow

Last year's stats: 131 members - 16 women 115 men.

(41 not renewing from previous year)

This year (2009-2010)

104 members - (27 fewer members than last year - a drop of 20%).

10 Women members (37.5% fewer) 94 men (16.5% fewer)

Training Secretary (Drivers): Doreen Elvin

The year started with a very hectic time as new Driver Training Secretary. I needed to establish links with the team of tutors and try to place students after a sudden, large intake. My task began with 37 students either waiting to be tutored or already out on the road with tutors. At one point, there were more than 20 students awaiting placement. With a list of 18 tutors, 3 who wanted off the list for various reasons, it seemed as if this was something I did have second thoughts on doing.

Things have now changed and we seem to be working more as a team now, with thanks to Ray Forsyth, John Steele and John Ennis and not forgetting Lynne Wood-Forsyth, and Colin Burrow who have all been wonderful supports to me. We ploughed on and got good results.

At the end of last year we gained 6 new tutors and we now have 21 students under instruction and 11 students awaiting a tutor at the moment.

Pass tests last year (2009)

6 GOLD

4 SILVER

2 unknown result.

Pass to date 2010

2 Gold.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all tutors who have replied to my e-mails, texts and phone calls and to the ones who have been very patient with me. May I also express my sincere thanks to ALL of our TUTORS for their work and ask them please to keep me updated on your students' progress.

Training Secretary (Riders): Neil Hamilton

Currently only one tutor is without an associate.

We have had eight new members join over the year, two (Bill Cavney and Paul Jackson) were already silver and gold holders respectively. Mark Batey was accepted into membership by virtue of his Police Class 1 qualification (awarded by Paul Henry).

The following have been trained and certified as tutors:

Mark Batey

Alan Halliday

Paddy Jarvis

Mel Leitch

RoADAR Northeast was represented at the Durham Police BikeWise event by John Crammen, Mel Leitch and myself. Lots of people visited our stand with many expressing interest in advanced riding and our local group. I met up with a few and guided them to a couple of our meetings but have not seen any of them over the winter.

Media Editor:

Mel Leitch

RoadAR Northeast Group newsletters continue to be produced. Since the last AGM there have been 3 issues (Spring 09, Summer/Autumn 2009, February 2010). The last two issues have been in A5 booklet format and in full colour. This size is easier to handle and post. After emailing the membership prior to newsletter copy deadlines obtaining articles from the membership has improved but I still need more submissions.

Interestingly the latest edition of the newsletter has attracted positive feedback from HQ.

At present the plan for future 2010 newsletters is that they will be published early May, late August and November (corresponding copy deadlines 30th April, 31st July and 31st October). Contributions will be very very welcome.

RoadAR Northeast Group business cards containing the 2010 monthly meeting dates were again printed and distributed with the last two newsletters. These cards will also be distributed at events throughout the year.

Website Coordinator:

John Ennis

My role of I.T. Coordinator has principally involved maintaining the contents of our public website www.roadar-northeast.co.uk

The actual content of the website has been provided by both past and present members of the committee with peer-review of the majority of the contents before being displayed on the site.

My main objective when taking over the role was to ensure that the Events Diary on the website was kept up-to-date and accurate, as an additional, hopefully effective means, of communicating the Club's plans to members. I believe that this has been achieved, and can be improved further next year.

The previous I.T. Coordinator Richard Jones, had done a good deal of work in preparation for updating the website, and I used his work to update the website in June 2009. Then, in order to move to a 'standard' tool to manage the website content, I updated it a second time, to its current format, in October 2009.

It appeared throughout the year that there was little demand for the Forum facility. Although this facility is temporarily inaccessible, it will be re-introduced next year.

I am currently working on a proposal to establish the Club's [Data Protection] information usage policy, and am planning to include a facility in the website to enable payment of subscriptions using credit/debit cards in addition to the existing cash/cheque/Direct Debit methods of payment.