



## **RoSPA Advanced Drivers' and Riders' (RoADAR) Thames Valley Group (TVG)**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Podium Place, 31A Bone Lane, Newbury RG14 5SH at 11:30**

### **AGM Minutes**

#### **1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REVIEW**

The meeting was opened by the RoADAR TVG Chairman David Tomlinson...

#### **2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The meeting was held in the Paddock Area of the Podium Place at Bone Lane in Newbury. Members were able to register their attendance at the AGM and a total of 22 members attended with two apologies for absence from Adam Hardy and Howard Robinson.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (2023-2024)

The minutes of the previous RoADAR TVG AGM on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were presented and accepted. There were no matters arising.

### 4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

#### a. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Gerry Griffin, reported that the RoADAR Thames Valley Group finances were in 'good health'. There were no questions from the meeting and Gerry concluded his brief but very effective presentation.

#### b. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Allan Craven, the current membership secretary, was unable to continue for 2025 and the membership report was presented by Gemma Allen who has been managing membership since Allan's resignation from the committee.

Gemma explained that membership renewals were now spread out over the calendar year which would help to reduce the membership workload. RoADAR TVG has gained 10 new members since the start of 2025 and there is a steady trickle of enquires.

Recruitment for advanced motorcycle training had been affected by the ending of Police support for Bike Safe in the local area. Andy Ford (Fire Service) commented that he thought this decision might be reconsidered soon which would be good news. In the meantime, Graham Knight is leading a 'Ride Smart, Ride Safe' event with Bahnstormer Motorrad on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

#### c. EVENTS & MARKETING REPORT

Gemma continued with her Events & Marketing report by thanking all of the RoADAR TVG members who had helped at events during the year, this is very much appreciated.

Analysis shows that word of mouth is the most important communication method and attendees at events is increasing. Gemma would welcome suggestions for new events, especially from drivers, please send any ideas for Gemma.

Some RoADAR TVG marketing collateral, flyers and business cards, were distributed at the meeting and members were encouraged to take some with them to pass on to potential new members. Please email Gemma if you would like more business cards.

Digital marketing channels include the website and Facebook. Andy Ford offered to promote RoADAR TVG events using his digital media. **[ACTION: Events & Marketing to send digital media to Andy Ford]**.

d. CAR TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Dominic Harte presented a summary of car training. It has been a very successful year, the best since the COVID-19 panic. The group achieved 12 passes with five at the gold standard, a very good effort. Dominic thanked all the tutors for their hard work. In 2024 23 new associates joined the group and at the end of the year there were 123 car members.

Adam Tesky has retired from tutoring to undertake some travelling, Dominic thanked Alan and his wife for their hard work and support of the group. Mark Gatfield, an ex-blue light driver, has passed the tutor test and is to start tutoring immediately.

Tutor workshops have been going well including a day with Sytner BMW Maidenhead to explore the differences in driving electric vehicles. There was also a new members day at Sulhamstead organised by Paul Sheppy with 8 new members attending. Dominic noted that the group needs to find ways of engaging with members after their test pass. The skid-pan and night-driving courses have been successful as well.

Dominic concluded his comprehensive report.

e. MOTORCYCLE TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Graham Knight presented his motorcycle training report and started by explaining that the motorcycle team faced two challenges (1) experienced tutors have been retiring recently and (2) the distribution of tutors is not even: between the M3 and the M4 and closer to London coverage is good but further west and north towards Oxford there are limited resources available. Graham is having to turn new associates away.

Graham explained that the benefits of becoming a tutor are to keep your own skills at a high level and to help other people improve their riding. Graham is hoping to recruit more tutors in 2025.

The stopping of Bike Safe has affected the flow of new associates to both RoSPA and IAM, about 50% of attendees go on to undertake advanced training. As mentioned previously there is some hope that Bike Safe may be reinstated and, in the meantime, Graham is working with Bahnstormer on the Ride Smart, Ride Safe event for 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Graham asked members to use word of mouth to encourage people they know to undertake advanced rider and driver training.

Paul Sheppy asked if Graham had statistics on the grade of test passes. Paul also

noted that the test was a contract between RoSPA HQ and the associate and the information about the test was confidential unless the associate chose to share it with RoADAR TVG, which they often did. The car training team does manage to collect test pass information.

Graham explained that this is not always the case with motorcycle training but noted that with the high standard of preparation and cross-checks RoADAR TVG has not had an associate fail the RoSPA advanced riding test and it was some time since a bronze pass had been recorded.

Dominic Harte suggested the group could approach RoSPA HQ to get anonymous statistics to help improve driver and rider training. David Tomlinson agreed to approach Andy Nixon at RoSPA to see what could be done. **ACTION: Chairman to approach RoSPA HQ to see if anonymous test statistics could be made available to RoADAR TVG.**

There was also a useful discussion of why some associates did not take their tests at the end of training. There appear to be many factors, including the weather which can dissuade from riders from taking the test. Peter Caton suggested that RoSPA could offer a discount for winter tests and remarked that sometime there was a long delay between booking and taking the test.

Gemma suggested that the new RoSPA IT system should now remind current members when their re-test is due.

## 5. ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer, Gerry Griffin, presented the RoADAR TVG accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 which showed a healthy surplus of £2,500 due to some event cancellations and changes.

A motion to accept the accounts for 2024 was proposed by Paul Sheppy and seconded by Tony parish. The motion was accepted unanimously by the meeting. David Tomlinson thanked Gerry for his excellent work as Treasurer.

## 6. ELECTION OF SECTION OFFICERS

The current RoADAR TVG committee is standing again for 2025/6 except for Allan Craven who unfortunately has had to retire as membership secretary. Fortunately, Robin Carlyle has put his name forward as membership secretary. A motion to propose Robin Carlyle as membership secretary was proposed by Gerry Griffin, seconded by Steve Moxey and was unanimously accepted. Robin Carlyle abstained from the vote on the grounds that he was a new candidate for the committee.

The motion to elect the RoADAR TVG Committee en-bloc, excepting the Honorary President Peter Caton, was proposed by Gerry Griffin, seconded by Gemma Allen and the committee was approved unanimously by the meeting.

### **RoADAR TVG committee for 2025/6**

Honorary President	Peter Caton
Chair	David Tomlinson
Secretary	Dr Steve Moxey
Treasurer	Gerry Griffin
Newsletter Editor	David Tomlinson/Dr Steve Moxey
Events & Social Secretary	Gemma Allen
Car Training Officer	Dominic Harte
Motorcycle Training Officer	Graham Knight
Membership Secretary	Robin Carlyle
Webmaster	Gemma Allen
Committee Member	Paul Sheppy
Committee Member	Tony Parish

Gemma agreed to update the RoADAR TVG website with the new committee details.

**ACTION: Events Officer to update the RoADAR TVG website with the 2025/6 committee details.**

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting continued with a discussion on how RoADAR TVG could reach out to new members, especially the younger generations. The idea of Meetup for events was raised as allows RoADAR events to be promoted by the Meetup platform to those who may be interested in the event.

It was decided that the committee would discuss the use of Meetup and decide if it was useful for RoADAR TVG. **ACTION: Secretary to schedule a discussion on Meetup.**

Andy Ford offered to help by advertising advanced driving/riding as part of the Fire Service promotion of initiatives such as Bikerdown.

Paul Sheppy suggested that whilst leaflets might be useful, especially with the support of the Fire Service, the best method of recruitment was by face-to-face contact which needs the right events for RoADAR TVG.

Tony Parish thought that there was no silver bullet to getting people interested in advanced driving/riding but everyone wanted a saving on insurance costs and RoADAR TVG could emphasise the avoidance of accidents? The idea of RoSPA insurance was raised but the organisation is not large enough to make this viable.

Andy Ford thought that hazard awareness was very important, and that graduated licensing might be part of the answer to reducing accidents. There is a campaign for graduated licensing, 'Forget Me Not', run by bereaved families.

Some members thought that the image of RoSPA was 'good but scary' and might discourage people from starting advanced driving/riding. The idea of RoSPA high-visibility vests was also raised.

The chair, David Tomlinson, thanked everyone for their ideas and the meeting closed at 12:40.