



**RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders
North Wiltshire Group**

www.northwiltroadar.co.uk



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

April 2013

Newsletter

Secretary:

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Dates for Your Diary

Monthly meetings are all held at
Liddington Village Hall opposite the
church.

Monday 13th May

Meeting Devizes Police H.Q: Wiltshire
Police Driving School

Monday 10th June

Meeting: Andy Poulton, RoADAR
Examiner

Saturday 29th June

Strawberries and Steam Festival,
Wanborough

Saturday 27th July

Calne Bike Event

Sunday 8th September

Emergency Services Show

We're changing!

**At the Special General Meeting
held on Monday 8th April,
members voted to go ahead with
the proposal to change the name
of the group to Wiltshire
RoADAR.**

We're changing!

Following the vote held at the Special General Meeting the group will soon be changing it's name from North Wiltshire RoADAR to Wiltshire RoADAR. This name will more accurately reflect the locations of our members, and will help us to attract new members throughout the county. The committee has already started to make the changes that are needed in order to operate as Wiltshire RoADAR. These are just some of the things that we must do:

- Printing new leaflets, cards and other promotional material
- Changing our documents and document templates such as letter headings, tutor and training materials
- Purchasing new regalia and merchandise (and selling off existing items at bargain basement prices! - see page 6)
- Making administrative changes, such as changing our bank details
- Changing the web site including acquiring a new domain name

Clearly all these things are going to take a little while to sort out. Our intention is to have completed the most important tasks by the end of July. This will allow us to operate as Wiltshire RoADAR from that date. We do not anticipate that everything will be done by then; some things will take time to organise so there will be a period where you will still see some North Wiltshire RoADAR branded material around, but we should be in a position to promote the group using the new name by then.

In the longer term there may be other changes that come about indirectly through this name change, such as making a more concerted effort to attract members from a wider area by promoting the group at events in the south of the county. There has also been a suggestion that we should move the location of the monthly meeting to a more central location within Wiltshire, or perhaps alternate between several different locations. These things are all possible (subject to finding a location with facilities of a similar standard to Liddington) but will depend upon the views of our members. So feel free to let us know of any changes you'd like to see (or, even better, consider joining the committee)!

This is a really exciting time for the group and we feel this change will help the group to move forward. We look forward to your continued support.

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 13th May, 6:30 pm: Wiltshire Police Driving School, Devizes Police H.Q. See below. **Let Monica know if you wish to attend this.**

Monday 10th June, 6:30pm: Andy Poulton, a RoADAR Car Examiner will be our speaker.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the following members who have all recently joined the group:

Jay Murphy (car)

Nick Edwards (car)

Luke Martin (car)

Events

Saturday 29th June, 10:00am – 5:00pm: Strawberries and Steam Festival, Lower Wanborough near Swindon

Saturday 27th July 9:00am – 5:00pm: Calne Bike Event

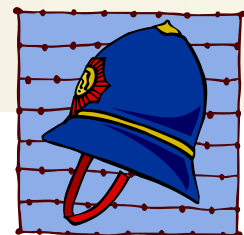
Sunday 8th September: Emergency Services Show

Help required. We are hoping to promote the group at the above events. If you can lend a hand on any of these days please contact Monica.

Bike Ride-outs: Don't forget that regular Bike Ride-outs take place on the **3rd Saturday of each month.** The ride-out calendar is available on the web site.

Wiltshire Police Driving School Meeting

On Monday 13th May, our regular monthly meeting will not be held at our usual location. Instead we have a special evening arranged at **Devizes Police H.Q.** Bob Ward from the **Wiltshire Police Driving School** will be our speaker and, together with other officers, he will be giving a presentation about the Driving School. There will also be a chance to view some of the vehicles they use, both cars and bikes. The evening will start at **6:30pm** since some of the officers involved need to start as soon as they finish their duties. For security purposes we need to provide a list of names of people who will be attending this evening in advance so please let Monica know if you will be attending.



April Meeting Report:

Rob Jones Chief Motorcycle Instructor, Castle Combe Circuit

Rob has 40 years riding experience and during this time has been a Rospa Tutor and advanced rider. He has experience on a range of machines; from a moped in his youth, side car racing and finally solo riding a Blade and Ducati. His ambition is to win at Castle Combe. Rob has been a technical official at the British super bike and UK Moto GP for over 4 years. For over 3 years Rob and the other instructors from Castle Combe circuit have been running their Rider Performance Safety Day which concentrates on skills of breaking, cornering and hazard avoidance. Rob explained the importance of developing these three skills.

The sessions are open to all and there is always a mix of bikes at each session with the training adapted to suit all needs. The morning session looks at the theories of why accidents happen and how to avoid them, basic maintenance - POWDER checks and how to pick up a bike. This session is run by Mike Small.

The afternoon session includes slow riding exercises which, as Rob stated, is something that not enough of us practice. These exercises give bikers the opportunity of learning to ride through cones at a slow pace, developing their sense of control and what's going on around them. Other exercises teach how to deal with hard braking, including locking up the front and back wheels. This helps riders to increase their skills, learning how to react to hard braking in a safe way. The purpose is to make this training second nature when dealing with difficult situations on the road.

The day also includes cornering exercises using the track where there is plenty of space for any mishaps, and riders are also given the opportunity to ride in the wheel track of an instructor around the circuit.

The cost for these days is £99. Participants have to wear Textile/leathers for Track days and leathers for Performance Days.

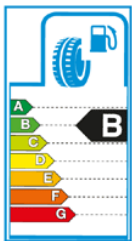
Mark Sealey

CONGRATULATIONS!

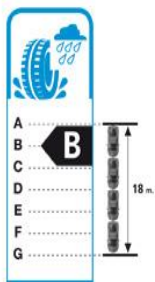
Congratulations to **Ursular Ganz** who recently passed her Advanced Test with a Bronze grade.
Her tutor was **Bill Reed**.

Tyres

Buying new tyres for your car has always involved a bit of guesswork. Do you go for the more expensive known branded tyre or the unknown make that the dealer recommends as 'good value'? We all want to be safe but how much do we have to spend to be safe? This decision should now be easier because from the 1st November 2012 a new European regulation (no 1222/2009) came into effect. This is to improve consumer information on the performance of new tyres. This means that all new tyres should have a label on that looks similar to the labels normally found on things like washing machines, fridges and freezers etc. The new label is designed to provide information in three key areas, safety (wet braking), environmental impact (rolling resistance) and external noise. This should take some of the guesswork out of buying new tyres as you will now be able to compare the performance of a cheap tyre with a more expensive established brand.



The new labelling will have a symbol similar to this which shows how fuel efficient the tyre is. The fuel efficiency is graded from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient). This means that based on 4 A rated tyres fitted to a vehicle travelling at 50MPH. There will be a 7.5% saving in fuel compared with G rated tyres.



Arguably the most important symbol that can be found on the label shows the grip efficiency in wet conditions. This chart grades the tyre from A (shortest stopping distance) to G (longest stopping distance). This means that based on a car fitted with 4 A rated tyre travelling at 50MPH, the stopping distance will be up to 18 metres less than a G rated tyre. This equates to a 30% shorter stopping distance. This grading could be quite important if you have ever experienced one of those seat gripping moments! Remember this is wet braking performance and not dry braking performance.



The last symbol of the three could have a significant bearing on the tyres we fit to our open topped cars where we are not insulated from road noise that can be very tiring on a long journey. This symbol shows the tyre's noise levels from outside the car in decibels (dB) and how it relates to future European limits. Three black waves means the tyre complies with current noise limits but may not meet future regulations. Two black waves means that the tyre is up to 3dB lower than future noise limits. One black wave means that it is a low noise tyre that is at least 3dB below future noise limits.

The three methods of grading tyres are not the only factors when buying tyres but this system does give some guidance that was not really available before. There are

also many other external influences on tyre performance such as tyre pressures, type of vehicle, road surface and driving style.

Paul Bennet

Merchandise

Due to the group's forthcoming name change, we need to sell of our existing stock of North Wiltshire RoADAR branded clothing. Therefore we will soon be offering some items at ridiculously cheap prices. Keep an eye on the merchandise page of our web site for details.

www.northwiltroadar.co.uk/merchandise

Don't forget too that we already have a range of books, such as Roadcraft, Motorcycle Roadcraft and the Highway Code available at discounted prices!