



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

[www.northwiltroadar.co.uk](http://www.northwiltroadar.co.uk)



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

**December 2012**

# Newsletter



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## Dates for Your Diary

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

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January**  
Christmas/New Year meal

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
Meeting: Swindon Borough  
Council Traffic Management



# Merry Christmas

from the  
**North Wilts RoADAR**  
Committee



**Do you have a topic you would like discussed, or know of an interesting speaker? Please contact Monica!**

Please let Monica know if your town or village are holding any events next year. We are hoping to publicise the group more in 2013 so want to compile a list of local events that will be taking place. This could be fetes, village shows or carnivals as well as motoring related events such as bike meets and car shows. We will then consider the events on the list and decide which ones we will attend.

## Forthcoming Meetings

**Monday 11th February, 7:15pm for 7:45:**  
A representative from Swindon Borough Council's Traffic Management department will be coming to talk to us.

## Events

**Bike Ride-outs:** Don't forget that regular Bike Ride-outs take place on the **3rd Saturday of each month.**

### Welcome!

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

**Dave Venman** (car)

**Paul Barnes** (car)

**Keith Johnston** (bike)

**Helen Bodmer** (car)

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Ian Hart** who recently passed his car test with a Gold grade. His tutor was **Roger Tamplin.**

### A plea from Monica...

We really need more members to help the group by joining the committee. PLEASE can you give some thought to this! Some of our existing committee members are finding it difficult to regularly attend committee meetings because they live or work outside of the area. This has resulted in a very low attendance at committee meetings recently.

The committee meetings are held once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7.30pm at Liddington village hall. If you could spare a few hours to come along and help the group we would be very grateful. We understand that it may not be possible to make every meeting but we need some new faces to bring in some fresh ideas.

Please contact Monica if you can help.

## RoADAR Awards 2012



2012 is the second year of the RoADAR awards and this year, to take full advantage of the opportunity to gather together members from all groups, the awards ceremony was combined with a “Networking Conference”. Nick and Monica attended to represent our group, starting early on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November to arrive at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham for a 9:30 registration.

Around 120 members from all around the country were gathered in the conference centre, filling the large conference hall almost to capacity. We were seated at tables with members of various other groups, and having introduced ourselves and been welcomed by Tom Mullarkey, Chief Executive of RoSPA, we settled down to listen to Kevin Clinton, RoSPA’s Head of Road Safety, giving a background to road safety through the year.

Kevin’s message centred on the need to further reduce KSI figures and the slight blip in the downward trend that has occurred in the last year. Of note was the increase in cyclist casualties and Kevin spent some time on the new “black box” technology which is a first step towards rewarding better driving by insurance companies. This was familiar and topical for us after our speakers for November, who told us about the WST project in Bristol, based around similar technology.

Next up was Chief Examiner Bob Smalley, who welcomed the group representatives and set us to work as teams to come up with ideas on how RoADAR can attract more members, retain them, support local groups, and how we saw the future. Several tables (not the ones we were at) were invited to summarise their thoughts, and a number of common themes emerged:

- Lack of enthusiasm for “Care on the Road”.
- Need for an incentive programme similar to other organisations – insurance, tyres, servicing, etc. RoADAR should be promoted to the ABI.
- Lack of coverage for RoADAR versus IAM on national press and TV.
- Thoughts around revising the 3 yearly retest regime – the consensus was “don’t”.

Now it was time to move onto the main business of the day - presentations by the finalists for the various awards. For “Best Car Group” we heard from:

- **East Midlands**
  - Out and about with a purpose built trailer booth and reaction test equipment.
  - Excellent website.
  - About to launch an online tutoring and knowledge testing programme (watch this space!).
- **South East Wales**
  - Strong focus on driving, works as a fraternity – once a member passes their test, they become a member of the Group for life.
  - No social activities – it's all about driving.
  - Active in company training. Having acquired the business of a financial services company, they then took that a step further by getting sponsorship from them to train members of Mountain Rescue.
- **Kent**
  - Strong website technology allowing online management of their membership.
  - Online joining and payment.
  - Campaign to attract drivers with new families.

Then it was time for lunch, and a buzz of conversation filled the room as we enjoyed a good buffet lunch and took time to network with our colleagues from around the country and asked some of the finalists to expand on the ideas they'd been presenting. Lunch seemed to finish all too soon, and it was back to the hall for presentations by the Bike Groups, and the finalists for Best New Group.

The Bike finalists were:

- **Shropshire and Powys**
  - Strong new branding for their website and literature.
  - Good partnership with Powys CC, where the Group are engaged to provide the equivalent of BikeSafe in other counties, also the local IAM.
  - All tutoring video recorded, producing videos of biking routes for Powys CC.
  - Commercial partnerships bringing in sponsor money for other activities.
  - Strong social programme of rideouts.
- **Merseyside**
  - Quite a new group, only been going for about 2 years.
  - Strong links with the Road Safety Partnership and other local organisations.
  - First voluntary group in the country providing the Enhanced Rider Scheme for recently qualified bikers.
- **Derby**
  - A stunning presentation by Andy Stoll who formed the group virtually on his own about a year ago. Derbyshire is a honeypot for bikers but has some very dangerous roads.
  - Excellent links with Derbyshire CC and Road Safety Partnership – including consultation on signing for high casualty routes.
  - Very comprehensive, high quality tutor training programme (Gold riders only).

For Best New Group, we heard from:

- **North East Essex**
  - Isolated in a small corner of Essex (from Colchester to Harwich).
  - Good use of the local press for publicity.
  - Targeting ADIs as a source of new members.
- **Cornwall**
  - Used to be an IAM group, but broke away because of lack of freedom in how to run their affairs.
  - Out and about at any public event – shows, fairs etc.
  - Good participation from younger members.
  - Aggressive pricing for specific markets (young, old, on benefits etc.).
  - Devised a “short course” which condenses the normal training into half a day, and acts as a leader for full training if the candidate “gets the bug”.
- **Merseyside** also entered this and were judged on their previous presentation.

After a break for tea and biscuits, we heard the results the judging panel had decided upon:

Best Car Group – winners **East Midlands**; runners up **Kent**

Best Bike Group – winners **Merseyside**; runners up **Shropshire and Powys**

Best New Group – winners **Cornwall**; runners up **North East Essex**

Then it was time to get in the car and drive (safely) home in the torrential rain and heavy spray. It had been a long, full but very rewarding day. We learnt a lot from our colleagues around the country and came away with a revitalised interest in new techniques for improving our profile.

**Nick Carrington**



## December Meeting Report:

### Swift Medics



SWIFT Medics is a registered charity providing pre-hospital emergency care in Wiltshire. James, who is a Doctor based in Cheltenham, Alex and Sam (who are in the process of being trained to become SWIFT Medics) attended our meeting and gave a presentation describing what their role entails. SWIFT Medics was established in 1996 and gained Charitable Status in 2010. Their head office is in Marlborough.

James gave an amazing insight of what goes on behind the scenes of potential collisions throughout Wiltshire and some neighbouring counties, but even more eye opening was that all of the ten Doctors within Wiltshire give their time for free whilst managing their normal roles as Doctors. Can you imagine doing a full time job and then being called out at the drop of a hat to work even longer hours, no matter how exhausted you may be?

They only use GPs and hospital based staff trained for Critical and Emergency Care, and all of them are Members of the British Association of Medical Care. Calls are filtered to them via the 999 system, so they could just be sitting down to eat their dinner and then get called out.

They are the only Doctors available in Wiltshire to attend RTC's, stabbings, assaults, head injuries, burns, to name but a few, and are on call by the NHS funded Great Western Ambulance Service and Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Due to their skill sets they can make life changing decisions at the scene of the incident, whether it be treating the patient at the scene or directing the emergency services to take the patient to the most suited hospital care for their injury.

During a six month period, February – August 2010, they responded to 72 incidents of which they treated 115 Casualties.

They get no funding at all from the NHS or Emergency Services so they need to do plenty of fundraising throughout the year. This comes from Fun Days, Rotary Clubs, Waitrose Counters and charity pots left around various locations. They need to raise £38k a year (that's some serious organisation needed there).

What also surprised me was that they have to supply all their own drugs (this isn't done for them) but they do have some good connections with Swindon Hospital that helps with restocking and reducing their costs.

James then went on to talk about the "Blue Light Training" and he highlighted the fact that, although all the members of the SWIFT medics team undergo advanced driver training, anyone with a driving license can drive an emergency vehicle as there is currently no legislation to stipulate any further training.



James also talked about how his car had been adapted so he could do the blues/twos run. He had to have on board cameras fitted, blues lights and sirens installed and he also had to be able to fit a stretcher in if needed.

We discussed the potential exemptions/non exemptions that the law provides whilst driving an emergency vehicle and the key ones are:

Exemptions:           Speed limit can be exceeded  
                              Traffic Lights can be treated as a give way  
                              Can go right at a keep left bollard

Non Exemptions:    Driving against traffic  
                              Give Way Signs  
                              Cannot cross solid white line

However all their actions need to be justified, they can't just do things because they want to!

So what driver training do the SWIFT medics undertake? Initially they have to learn the basics through RoSPA or the IAM. They then undertake additional training covering emergency response through Wiltshire Police Driver Training Unit. This is a 2 week course. Every two to three years they take a refresher course, again through the Police. The refresher course costs £1k for a week and they have to use their holiday entitlement to attend.

The biggest challenge for anyone driving on blues/twos is the unpredictability of other road users so they have to try to put the car in a position that gives the maximum visibility to surrounding traffic. Their planning skills are vital!

James also informed us that, as the first Doctor on the scene they would be entitled to bill for the cost of their services, but they don't do this as it is likely that they would stop being called to assist.

James also told us that we are incredibly lucky in Wiltshire as we have a helicopter that can be used during the night due to its thermal imaging equipment. Without this, the hours that it could be used would be incredibly limited particularly during the winter months. Due to the connection between the Air Ambulance and SWIFT Medics, they fly and train with them so they have achieved an understanding of the helicopter controls.

James finished by saying that it was hard to quantify if they made a difference but he hoped that they did.

If you want to keep up to date with what they are up to, you can follow them on Facebook and Twitter by using the following links:

<http://www.swiftmedics.net>  
[@SWIFTMedics](https://www.facebook.com/SWIFTMedics)

**Babs Grillo**