

Association of South Eastern Driving Instructors

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 February 2004 (ac)

Venue: The Old Lighthouse Inn, Capel-le-Ferne.

Members Present:

Steve Bailey, Lindsay Hodgson, Peter Glenn, Andy Brown, Tony Simcock, Andy Carter, Jason Pain, Steve Lavender, Jeff Williams, Phil Plant, Sue Banks, Fred Henniker, Terry Hughes.

Apologies Received:

Peter Cotterill, Hazel Leng, Jon Turbutt, Bryan Coward, Tony Flisher, Colleen Young.

Lindsay Hodgson opened the meeting at 8:05, on behalf of the Chairman.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record: Fred (Prop), Tony Simcock (Secd)

Lindsay reported the death of Sid Adams, and will send a card on behalf of the Association.

School Outing: it was suggested to try the Rare Breeds Centre at Tenterden. Lindsay will contact the school to arrange a date and possible numbers. The outing is likely to be in June.

Lindsay and Steve Bailey are to meet with Michael Howard MP, on Saturday, to discuss the DSA proposals regarding HPT testing for ADI's; they called for questions that could be asked.. Lindsay has been in contact with some Maidstone ADI's who are talking to Anne Widdecombe.

Barbara Trafford, from The ADI Federation, will be attending the March meeting.

Kevin Titmarsh, from The Highways Agency, will be attending the April meeting to discuss Road Signs and Markings, Parking, and other matters.

Trevor Wedge has accepted an invitation to a forthcoming Association meeting. It is likely to be the June meeting.

The DSA have agreed with their Union, (PCS), that they will be working to rule. The likely implications of this are that pupils will not be telephoned if their examiner is sick, and test routes will not deviate to take account of abnormally heavy traffic.

If a test is cancelled due to a strike, the DSA will automatically rebook the appointment. A claim form will be sent to the candidate, allowing them to claim for 1½ hours of Car Hire, and other expenses. The DSA may also consider paying for a Theory Test appointment if the candidates Theory Certificate expires whilst waiting for the new test date.

It was noted that following the strike on 17 February, one instructor experienced a delay for their pupil of 9 weeks for the new appointment.

An instructor reported that they had found recently that a blown side-light bulb had resulted in a test being cancelled. This was thought to be a little harsh, given that side-lights are rarely used in isolation. It was agreed, however, that if fitted these lights must work to comply with the law. DSA examiners allow 5 minutes to make minor repairs.

An ADI focus meeting is to be held at Folkestone DTC on 30 March. Any ADI wishing to attend needs to register their interest by calling 020 7468 4577. A place must be pre-booked.

Tony Simcock presented a draft proposal for an in-house CPD system. Members were asked to consider any further categories they felt appropriate, and a final release for this system would be forthcoming by the April meeting. The system will be voluntary, but members were encouraged to take it up. Tony proposed that the Association pay for “proper” copies of the marking card, possibly to the value of £50. This was seconded by Jeff Williams, and the motion therefore carried.

Steve Bailey reported that the Association was financially “healthy”, and offered that a full breakdown of expenses and receipts would be made available following the internal Audit. Membership numbers are also healthy, with four new members this year so far.

Andy Brown proposed that all open meetings should be chargeable to non-members. Steve seconded this motion, and offered to collect the monies on the relevant nights. The motion was carried, and the charge set at £2.

All local ADI’s could be invited to these open meetings more easily if they gave email addresses to the Association. A form will be available at the next meeting, and one may be allowed to be posted in the Test Centre. Terry Hughes will look into this.

It is noted that despite rumours, the Wyevale Garden Centre in Folkestone is NOT likely to close in the near future.

The newly formed Driving Instructors Democratic Union is calling for more members. It is trying to gain recognition from the T.U.C., and may be able to do so once a particular number of members are signed up. Membership forms were available. The fee is £15 pa. Further details can be found on their website at www.didu.org.uk

Any Other Business:

Peter Glenn has spoken with Barbara Trafford to confirm the meeting and share directions. Barbara will be willing to discuss CPD as well as the HPT testing issue. Members should start thinking about relevant questions.

A number of road-related matters were discussed. These are listed below.

An instructor recently tried to listen to a post-test debrief through an open window, but was spoken to by the examiner. The examiner felt that the pupil had declined the invitation for the ADI to listen, however the pupil could not remember being asked. The situation with regard to debriefs needed some further clarification, which may be gleaned from the focus meeting next month.

Another instructor has spoken to some of their pupils and parents, with regard to HPT testing of ADI’s, and notably that the ADI is to be tested at the same standard as Learner’s. The general feeling was that the “teacher” should be better tested than the pupil. It was discussed that other instructors may wish to speak with their pupils about this. It may then lead to extra signatures for the campaign.

There was a recent incident at Dover Seafront, where an instructor had pulled the pupil over to explain something. A parking attendant had then shouted across the road, and required the vehicle to move on. In Ashford, the council has conceded that Parking requires the driver to switch off the engine and alight.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all members for attending, and also thanked Andy for taking the minutes, and Tony Simcock and his team for producing the CPD worksheet.

The meeting closed at 9:50.

The following road-related matters were discussed, the list would be made available to Kevin Titmarsh when he attends in April.

- Tile Kiln Lane, by Hollis Motors: Bollards have been knocked over leading to danger at night, by the possibility of drivers hitting the island.
- New Street junction with Grace Hill: “Pass Either Side” incorrect sign.
- New Street junction with Dover Road: Give Way sign still missing.
- Cherry Garden Avenue (South-bound) by Cherry Garden Lane (North, by Car Wash): need sign to show speed limit.
- Cheriton Road, junction with Middelburg Square: Give Way lines unclear.
- Spitfire Way, Hawkinge: Uphill shown as 30mph, downhill as NSL. (It was discussed that the limit should be NSL, given the type of road and the area. The DSA expect this speed also.)
- Heron Forstal Avenue junction with Uphill, Hawkinge: Road signs and markings contradict, with regard to left turn, major to minor.
- Roundabout Haven Dr/Pannel Dr, Hawkinge: Pass Either Side signs, instead of Keep Left!