

# Association of South Eastern Driving Instructors

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2004 (ac)

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

### Members Present:

Lindsay Hodgson, Steve Bailey, Peter Cotterill, Hazel Leng, Jill Ward, Tracy Amos, Renatta Wilcoxon, Keith Davies, Jason Pain, Fred Henniker, Bryan Coward, Steve Lavender, Andy Carter, Peter Glenn, Terry Hughes.

### Apologies Received:

Jon Turbutt, Tony Flisher, Colleen Young, Andy Brown, Jeff Williams, Roy Hayes, Robin Burgess, Jackie Cowens.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8:05, and introduced Steve Skelton as the guest speaker. Steve is a retired local Traffic Police Officer.

Steve gave a very interesting, humorous and animated talk about his life as a Traffic Officer within Kent. He recounted many tales, and kept everyone easily entertained. He closed by commenting that, in his opinion, it is not possible to change someone's personality just by putting them behind a steering wheel. A person's true attitudes and emotions will always show through. Everybody agreed!

At 9.05 the Chairman thanked Steve, and called for the members to do the same. He then moved to discuss ASEDI business.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record, with Steve Bailey proposing such and Peter Cotterill seconding.

The Children's Outing will now be to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, as the Rare Breeds Centre was unable to accept the booking. Members were reminded to attend Cheriton Primary School, in Church Road, at 9.00am on Tuesday 29 June.

The entrance fee is £4.50 for "Supervisors" which is what each member will be.

Steve Bailey collected monies from members, and the Chairman reminded that a £5 donation was expected from each member, but that any additional contribution up to £10 would be welcome. Steve will also liaise with the AA Instructors to arrange collection of children from the George Spurgeon school.

Kent Fire Service had not yet confirmed their attendance.

Balloons will be made available for the children to decorate the cars.

Members were reminded that Derek Roberts was to retire in June. A card was circulated.

Maureen Roberts is to retire in August. They have both been invited to the September meeting.

The Chairman is in receipt of a letter from the ADI-NJC. This was read to the meeting. A number of ADI representatives had visited John Thurso MP, in the House of Commons. Mr Thurso agreed that "some actions of the DSA were flawed", but stated that it may be difficult to overturn the process due to the amount of progress that had already been made. Mr Thurso also agreed to represent the ADI-NJC in the House.

The letter also recommended that any direct action may only serve to lose public support.

The letter is on file.

A new CD Rom is now available entitled "Learning to Drive Step by Step". The Chairman was given the opportunity to buy one at a discounted price, and circulated a notice about this. Further details are available on the publisher's website at [www.absolutemedia.co.uk](http://www.absolutemedia.co.uk).

Members were reminded that the next meeting would see Trevor Wedge as our guest. He is thought to be attending with Steve Spitty and Bob Millard. Members were asked to consider questions that they may like to ask, but were reminded that the meeting would not be a “free-for-all”.

An email has been circulated to most members, and a copy was available during the meeting. An ADI has started this and is suggesting that the whole population should boycott Esso and BP petrol with a view to forcing them to reduce prices. It is thought that this would work better than not buying fuel on a particular day – as was the trend during the last “fuel crisis”. A copy is available to all members via the ASEDl Website.

The cycle lane on Shorncliffe Road has caused a problem with a few driving tests. It was unclear whether candidates travelling north along Shorncliffe Road, turning left into Shorncliffe Road before the Folkestone West train station, should enter the cycle lane. The “left-turn” lane previously here has been removed. The Chairman agreed to contact the DTC with regard to this. *[Following the meeting, contact was made with an examiner who gave his opinion: the cycle lane can be used so long as it is clear and suitable checks are made. The examiner made it clear however that Paul Allen is on leave, and until his return there could be no definite answer. The Chairman will take this matter up again upon Mr Allen’s return.]*

A lady had been heard on the radio, complaining about learner drivers using her car and her street when performing parallel parking exercises. She lives in Broadstairs. No further details were available as to how the Association could help this lady.

A new edition of the Highway Code was released this week. Changes seem to include a few roadsigns and the Mobile Phone regulations. Copies had all sold out in some stores, and are not available currently from DSA or TSO (formerly HMSO). The price is still £1.49.

A number of mistakes seem to be included in the printed Driving Test Routes that members had obtained. A copy has been passed to Steve Spitty by a member, and was apparently forwarded to Folkestone for action/advice. Nothing is yet forthcoming. The Chairman was asked to look into this. *[Since the meeting, it was found that Paul Allen is on leave, and therefore this matter would need to await his return.]*

The Bus-stop on the roundabout on Prospect Road in Hythe is unclearly marked, and cars often use it incorrectly. Details to be passed to Kevin Titmarsh at Shepway DC Highways Dept.

The text “E.N.D.” is shown on some of the Maidstone Test Routes. It is not known what this means. It does not seem to appear on Folkestone routes.

The Driving Tests at 16:40 are charged at the higher rate of £48, but the 07:30 test remains at the normal price of £39. The waiting list is equally long as for other times. On the day of the meeting, one instructor had booked a test for 19 July – about an eight-week wait. *[These prices were verified after the meeting and contrary to what members were previously led to believe.]*

Two members have learned of driving tests being moved. One letter had moved a test from 23 June back by three weeks. The letter stated this was due to “unforeseen circumstances”. No further details were available.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:45, by thanking everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 June at The Old Lighthouse Inn, Capel-le-Ferne.