



## Eyes on MAINBEAM

Welcome to the first 2014 edition of MAINBEAM. We regret that we had so few editions last year but we also had several changes on the Committee and a lack of time to attend to everything. Simon Smart decided to take a well deserved rest from Committee duties after giving decades of service as Treasurer, Chairman and being the hidden hand performing various other duties behind the scenes.

Sheila Entwistle stepped in to the Treasurer job for several months and we are very grateful to her for undertaking that role so well. Our new Treasurer is Mark Cunnington, a Tutor in the Car Section. Mark has had experience of training and committee work in other car groups and was trained at the Norfolk Constabulary Driving School.

We're pleased to announce Neil Bellingham and David Carter have been nominated to join the Group Committee. Neil is an Advanced Tutor in the Motorcycle Section and David is an Tutor in the Car Section.

Daren Cox has stepped into the role of Group Secretary. Daren is also an Advanced Tutor for our bikers and his enthusiasm is legendary.

The committee hope to see all Group Members and friends at our forthcoming AGM. If you would like to be nominated as a committee member please contact the Group Secretary, Daren Cox (contact details on back page).

*Mike Beavan, Vice Chairman*

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*RoADAR Manchester Group*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 11 March 2013, 7.30pm**

Woodley Civic Hall, Hyde Road, Woodley, SK6 1QG

**Guest Speaker:** Stuart McMillan, our new RoADAR Chief Examiner, who will give us an update of his vision for RoADAR's future, followed by finger buffet.

## Social Events

All Group Members, family and friends are welcome to our Group Social evenings are on:

### → Wednesday 5 Feb 2014, 7.30pm

at Belmore Hotel, 143 Brooklands Rd, SALE, M33 3QN.

**Q&A Night with Martin Ostick:** (GMP Rider & Driver Trainer) & Pie & Pea Supper (£7 served from 8.30pm). A great informal night to meet other members and ask questions on riding / driving (what Martin doesn't know isn't worth knowing!) Those attending, please inform Daren Cox (Group Secretary) - [daren.cox@ntlworld.com](mailto:daren.cox@ntlworld.com) - and pay for supper on the night.

### → Tuesday 13 May 2014, 7.30pm

at Woodley Civic Hall, Hyde Road, Woodley, SK6 1QG.

**Investigating Road Traffic Collisions:** Peter Shields, Assistant Road Safety Manager from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Road Safety Unit and PC Dave Murray, Road Safety Officer from Cheshire Constabulary, will give us an insight into the role they play when attending RTC's .

## Motorcycle Section Ride Outs 2014

### Calendar 2014

Date	Leader	Venue
January		No ride out
February		No ride out
30 March	Glen / Dave	MacDonald's Poplar
27 April	Glynn / Daren	Dreamcatcher Farm
25 May	Neil / Graham	McDonald's Mottram
29 June	Glen / Dave	Lynn's Raven Cafe
27 July	Daren	Dreamcatcher Farm
August		No ride out
28 Sept	Neil	McDonald's Mottram
26 Oct	Graham	Dreamcatcher Farm
30 Nov	Glen	MacDonald's Poplar
December		No ride out

#### Venue details:

- Lynn's Raven Cafe, Prees Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AF.
- McDonald's Poplar Services, Cliff Lane, Lymm, WA13 0SP.
- Dreamcatcher Farm, Bosley Crossroads, Macclesfield, SK11 0PS (the A54 / A523 junction). Large brown building - entrance off A54 southbound.
- McDonald's, Mottram Junction, Hyde, SK14 3AU.



**Note:** for all ride-outs we meet at 9.15am for a 10.00am start. Before turning up for any ride out please first check with Dave Timmins on 01270 610332 or email [ride.with.mchr.roadar@gmail.com](mailto:ride.with.mchr.roadar@gmail.com) to confirm location and availability.

## European Goals for Driver Education (GDE)

The GDE matrix was, as you will know, in the back of the 2007 edition of Roadcraft. The 2013 Roadcraft now gives this subject more prominence with guidance in how to use the four levels in chapter one.

- Level One — Human Factors: How your personal characteristics can increase or reduce your risk of collision compared to those of other drivers.
- Level Two – Risks of the Journey: Preparation, decisions and judgement can impact on the level of risk.
- Level Three – Traffic: Situational awareness and how using all of your senses can increase hazard perception skills.
- Level Four – the vehicle: Part of knowing your limitations is knowing what the vehicle you are driving can, or cannot do.

You can see these four levels (page 167, 2007 Roadcraft and page 259 and chapter one in the 2013 Roadcraft.

## Fog, Flash and Night Driving

### Questions from the Highway Code

We use it every day, in fact we are meant to strictly follow its rules, but how well do you know your Highway Code?

Here are a few questions to test your knowledge:

**Q: If a driver on the other side of the road lets you through, the Highway Code states you must “show your thanks by flashing your headlights” – true or false?**

It's only common courtesy to flash your headlights to say thanks to fellow road users, isn't it? Not according to the Highway Code, which states you should 'only flash your headlights to let other road users know you are there. Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users'. If you said "false" then you get one point!

You also mustn't flash your headlights to warn other road users of police speed traps – this is not only a misuse of your lights, but you may be fined for obstructing the police.

Finally, you may have heard of the 'danger' of flashing your lights at cars which are driving at night with their own lights switched off. It's long been told that this practice is part of a gang initiation ritual, with gang members challenged to chase drivers who flash at them. Rest assured, this is a myth which has been circulating on the internet for over 20 years.

**Q: You must use your fog lights when you're driving in foggy conditions – true or false?**

If you're involved in an collision while driving in fog with your fog lights switched off, insurance firms may ask you why you didn't switch them on, but Highway Code rule 226 says you *may* use fog lights when driving in fog, but it's a good idea to put them on anyway. So if you said "false" you get another point.

However, you must use dipped headlights if you can't

see for more than 100 metres (i.e. the length of a football pitch). Also bear in mind that it's illegal to keep your fog lights switched on in good visibility, as they will dazzle other drivers.

### Bonus Question:

For a bonus point how many collisions did drivers misusing fog lights in clear conditions on UK roads cause in 2011? You'll find the answer at the bottom of this page...



**Q: Using your headlights at night is optional on roads with street lights – true or false?**

The Highway Code states that you must 'use headlights at night, except on a road which has lit street lighting'. Occasionally it can be safer to drive without headlights – for example, while you're in a slow-moving queue – as you'll reduce glare. So if you said "true" you get a point.

Most roads with street lights have a maximum speed limit of 30mph or lower; driving any faster than that in the dark of night with no headlights could be seriously dangerous.

So, did you guess how many collisions on UK roads were caused by misuse of fog lights in clear conditions? Would you believe it was 300,000?

*Courtesy of [Autobulbsdirect.co.uk](http://Autobulbsdirect.co.uk)*

## Congratulations....!

... to the following Associates from our last two courses on successfully passing the RoADAR Test:



Carl Howard  
Clare Redfern  
Jason Brough  
Jim Gouch  
Paul Brough  
Peter Day  
Peter Gratton  
Angela Dellow  
Peter Ainsworth



Mark Cunningham  
David Chatwin  
Peter Frank  
Roxanne Sharif  
Nicola Molloy  
James Ward  
John Ainley



Adrian Rich  
Chris Matthews  
Aiden Clarke

## Welcome...

... and thank you to the following who have offered their services to the Group by starting their Observer training—good luck!

→ Angela Dellow

→ Nicola Molloy

→ James Ward

## Winter Driving

Winter is upon us once more and as I write this article, it's cold and wet outside.

As advanced drivers we are aware of the need to conduct regular inspections on our vehicles, but when the weather does get colder, do we still take the time to do all the required checks?

I know that for me and maybe a lot of you, will not have a garage big enough for you and or your car! This means I am exposed to the elements whenever I go through my daily and weekly pre-drive routines. I suppose I get a slight warm feeling from knowing that my car is safe and that all the POWDER checks have been done, but a slightly warm feeling does not really keep the cold out!

The point I am making, is that it's not just about driving skills in winter, but also the whole package of our mental state as drivers and the condition of our vehicles as they are subjected to the vast quantities of salt, leaves and on occasion, even ice found on the British winter roads. Let's try to make sure we keep up our routines and plan well in advance before making our next journey. To quote Tom Jones, "It's cold outside!" Safe driving.

*Mark Cunningham, Treasurer*

## Group subscriptions

If you're thinking you've not paid your Group subs for a while and you may be overdue—fear not!

There has been an unfortunate delay over the last quarter because our bank ended the type of Club Account we used. Coupled with our new Treasurer having to fill out a 32 page form in duplicate this has meant we haven't been able to send out renewal notices for a while!

So look out for a renewal notice soon by either email or post! The good news is the Group has invested in new database which means you will also be able to pay securely online using your debit or credit card—making it really easy to renew your membership and make it easier for our Treasurer too. You will also have the opportunity to check and amend your contact details.

# 50:50 Club

Here is your chance to purchase a share in the RoADAR Manchester Group 50/50 Club, to raise funds for Group events.

For many years now we have run our 50:50 Club starting in each November. This year we thought we'd try inviting old and new supporters to join via email. Unfortunately it seems many members didn't receive the email as it possibly ended up in junk or spam email folders.

However, our new Treasurer has come up with a new idea enabling new members to sign up at anytime during the year—you will even get the chance to pay online when you receive your annual subs renewal notice.

Meanwhile if you would like to participate, please complete the application form below and send it with your cheque payment.

50% of the proceeds go to the social fund, with the remainder being used as prizes. The Group sell 'shares' at £12 each and these are entered in the draw that takes place on the first Associate Sunday of each month. A winner each month is drawn out of the hat. There is no limit to the number of shares each participant can have and the scheme is open to Group Members, Associates, their family and friends. Good luck!



## 50:50 Club Application Form

To: Mark Cunnington, RoADAR Manchester Group Treasurer, 17 Alamein Drive, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 4JW.

I wish to take.....share(s) at £12.00 per share in the 50/50 Club to run for 12 months.

My cheque/postal order payable to “**RoADAR Manchester Group**” for the sum of £..... is enclosed.

Please PRINT the name(s) and address(es) of shareholder(s) below:

.....

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Applicant:.....Applicant's Signature:.....

## HONOURS AND COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>Adrian Farrow</b>
<b>HONORARY MEMBERS</b>		Syd Hinks (1975); John Holland MBE (1988); Peter Croft (1991 - 2006); Phil Harrison (1991); Neil Ashton (1995); Margaret Dyson (2004—2009); Jean Farmer (2006); Mike Beavan (2009); Adrian Farrow (2010); Simon Smart (2013).
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>Jeremy Dent</b> chairman@safedriversandrider.com	07710 191550
<b>VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>Mike Beavan</b> membership@safedriversandrider.com	01625 428444
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Daren Cox</b> daren.cox@ntlworld.com	01625 265552
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Mark Cunnington</b> treasurer@safedriversandrider.com	07707 045497
<b>TRAINING OFFICER</b>	<b>Cars: Lee Davies</b> info@lee-davies.info	07966 101441
	<b>Motorcycles: Tony Brammer</b> tony@brammernet.co.uk	07712 106899
<b>ASSOCIATE ORGANISER</b>	<b>Cars: Lee Davies</b> info@lee-davies.info	07966 101441
	<b>Motorcycles: Dave Timmins</b> ride.with.mchr.roadar@gmail.com	01270 610332
<b>MEMBERSHIP SEC</b>	<b>Mike Beavan</b> membership@safedriversandrider.com	01625 428444
<b>EVENTS ORGANISER</b>	<b>Brian Southworth</b> southworth25@btinternet.com	0161 336 5581
<b>SOCIAL SECRETARY</b>	<b>Hughie McAdam</b> hughmccadam@ntlworld.com	0161 335 0615
<b>CAR TUTORS</b>	Stephen Bate, Mike Beavan, Jason Brough, David Carter, Mark Cunnington, Lee Davies, Jeremy Dent, Nick Doran, Chris Gandy, Rod Hewitt-Dean, Tony Hughes, David Kenworthy, Hughie McAdam, Debbie McNamara, Mike Perris, Simon Smart, Brian Southworth, Bill Watson, Nigel Yardley.	
<b>MOTORCYCLE TUTORS</b>	Tony Brammer, Neil Bellingham, Graham Cook, Daren Cox, Glyn Hughes, Alan Tainsh, Dave Timmins.	

Contributions to **MAINBEAM** are welcome and should be sent to Mike Beavan: [membership@safedriversandrider.org.uk](mailto:membership@safedriversandrider.org.uk)

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