



Working for Safety on the Road

REPORT OF THE ROAD SAFETY GROUP 2007

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the report of the Road Safety Group, in which I will cover some of the work undertaken in respect of the year 2007. The Road Safety Group ensures that the Association continues to promote its position as a leading Road Safety organisation representing as it does the widest possible opinion from its professional membership base.

The Road Safety Group met on four occasions during the year.

STRUCTURE OF THE ROAD SAFETY GROUP

The Road Safety Group is made up of those Members who have been appointed by the Council of Management to "Head up the Road Safety Work of the Association". The Secretary is also a Member of the Road Safety Group.

The number of annually elected Members is eight.

The Council of Management appoints the Chairman of the Road Safety Group on an annual basis and the Chairman of the Association is an ex-officio Member of the Group.

I, together with the Secretary, have the authority to invite any additional Member(s), whom it is considered would enhance the work of the Group,

The Membership of the Group for the year 2007 was:-

Chairman

Susan Cooper

Secretary

Graham Feest

Chairman of the Association

Lyn Morris (ex-officio)

Portfolio Members

Cars & Light Goods Vehicles
Large Goods Vehicles
Passenger Carrying Vehicles
Law
Motorcycling
Health & Safety/MORR
Road Safety Engineering/Integrated
Transport
Education, Training & Publicity
Emergency Services
Road Safety Vehicle Engineering

Graham Hurdle
Edward Handley
Martin Robinson
Roger London
Ian Kerr
Graham Feest/David Vallender

Nick Stillwell
Tina Housego
Robert Jackson
Steve Reed

Elected Members

Owen Corrigan
Robin Cummins OBE
Colin Pettener MBE
Patrick McEune

Ted Clements MBE
Paul Montgomery
Ian Powell
Maureen Simpson

Additional Members

Nil

We welcomed Steve Reed as the new Portfolio Holder for Road Safety Vehicle Engineering in place of Marianne Page who, whilst maintaining her AIRSO Membership, is now training to be a Doctor in Swansea.

After a long period of service on the Road Safety Group David Wilkinson stood down as an elected Member and we welcomed Robin Cummins in his place.

The Road Safety Group was also sad to learn of the death of Ted Clements MBE at the end of 2007 after a short illness. Ted had been an elected Member of the Road Safety Group since 1997 which not only made him the longest serving elected Member on the Group but also he was the only remaining "founder" of elected Members.

WORKING FOR ROAD SAFETY

National Blue Light Users Conference

The 10th Anniversary National Blue Light Users Conference was held over a two day period in the Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire. This was the first occasion that we had used a hotel for the event and indeed, the first that had been formally held for two days with a Conference Dinner on the first evening.

The event itself was a great success bringing together a number of high quality papers and some distinguished speakers.

At the conclusion of the event Robert Jackson stood down as the Conference Chairman – a role he had performed for the past ten years and who had the vision of bringing together those who manage and train drivers in the emergency services. The Association thank him for his dedication and direction of this conference during this time which has profiled AIRSO in the field of the emergency services.

The Association is grateful to Wincanton Plc for their financial support with this year's conference

I would also like to thank those Members who gave of their time over the two days to help manage the event.

Road Safety Conference Wales

We were pleased to organise a Conference in Wales this year which was part of the AIRSO Chairman's aim of raising the profile of the Association in the Principality.

The Conference was organised with the active support of the Welsh Assembly Government and RoSPA Wales and we were grateful for the financial support we received from the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

We were also grateful for the practical and promotional support we received from Norwich Union.

The Conference, held at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff covered four specific themes and was well received by those attending.

Driving with St John

Our work with St John Ambulance continues and again we organised a Conference for them based in Northampton and aimed at those who have responsibility throughout the counties in England for managing and authorising those who drive St John Vehicles.

We are grateful to IAM Fleet for their sponsorship of the Delegate Pack at this Conference

We have continued to provide support and guidance to individuals and counties with regard to their practices and policies in respect of driving matters - a greater part of which has been in connection with managing the risks associated with those who they select and deploy as drivers.

Like with many organisations they are very focussed on front line ambulance drivers but need to do much more with regard to their support staff that drive as part of their programmes or to run their organisation.

We are pleased to be a Member of the St John Commission on Transport.

Road Death Investigation Manual

The Association hosted a meeting in London with a number of representative bodies and individuals in connection with the revision of the Road Death Investigation Manual. The purpose of the meeting was to hopefully persuade the "revision authors" who were present, to include more specific advice as to how the police should be investigating management failings

FORS (Freight Operators' Recognition Scheme)

The Association has played a leading role in the delivery of Road Safety Workshops surrounding the areas of Managing Occupational Road Risk for the FORS project which is run under the auspices of Transport for London. The Workshops are held on a monthly basis and currently surround five key areas.

Road Safety Expo 2007

A new event in Road Safety terms took place in November of this year under the banner of Road Safety Expo 2007 and AIRSO were pleased to be linked closely with this new venture. During the build up to the event we had the opportunity to influence the way in which the event ran on the day and overall we took control of managing the programme and speakers.

The event was organised by Publications UK who have been associated with professionals working in Road Safety for a number of years so we were very pleased to have been able to work so closely with them.

Other Road Safety Conferences

The Association has been linked with other "Road Safety" Conferences during the year and has provided input as follows:

Corporate Manslaughter Conference - organised by Symposium Events
Health & Safety Officers of the Emergency Services – organised by Packford & Young Ltd
Emergency Services Show & Conference – organised by Emergency Service Times
The Fleet Forum – organised by Symposium Events

CONSULTATIONS AND THE WORK OF THE ROAD SAFETY GROUP

The Association has been consulted during the year by various statutory and non-statutory bodies and where appropriate has provided written comment

The following Consultations were discussed:

- DVLA Fee Proposals and the Introduction of a New Fee Structure for Driver Enquiries
- RoSPA Occupational Road Risk (RORRMS)
- RoSPA Minibus Safety – A Code of Practice
- DfT Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.
- DfT Improved Signing of Cameras
- HM Government Consultation Staying Alive
- DSA Certificate of Professional Competence
- DfT Amendment to the Speed Limiter Regulation
- DfT Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 3
- DVLA Drivers Fees
- DSA Improved Services for Customers & General Fee Increases for 2008
- Scottish Parliament Lowering the Drink Drive Limit in Scotland
- DfT Use of Seat Belts and Child Restraints by Child Passengers on Buses and Coaches
- DVLA Improving Bus and Passenger Safety through the Driver Licensing System
- RoSPA Vehicle Technology – A Managers Guide
- DVLA Trial of Smart Card Provisional Driving Licences
- ORRA Development of Occupational Road Risk Strategy

In addition, the Road Safety Group shared, at one of its meetings a dialogue with the Driving Standards Agency looking at their Safe Driving for Life Change Programme – “Life Long Learning Driver Development” and on another held a direct exchange of views with a number of members from the Driving Standards Agency on issues such as Motorcycling and the future of the ADI Register. Consultation in this way provides a good opportunity to discuss various issues and provides a greater opportunity to influence those who are at the forefront of making policy.

The Association has also concerned itself throughout the year with regard to the discussions which have been taking place in Government circles about Young Drivers and the issues which have been highlighted over Graduated Licensing, Night Time Curfews and the Restriction on Carrying Passengers for newly qualified drivers. The Road Safety Group has not as yet a position on these matters and is awaiting the consultation which is due in 2008.

We took part in a meeting arranged by the Conservative Party with regard to future transport strategy which covered a wide range on issues across the whole gambit of transport modes where we were able to represent very positively issues relating to Education, Training, Publicity and Enforcement etc.

ROAD SAFETY ARTICLES

We have been pleased to contribute regularly articles for magazines and journals and in particular ADI News. Whilst the majority of these have been written by Members of the Road Safety Group we have and do welcome contributions from all within AIRSO.

RESEARCH

In my report last year I referred to some research which we were hoping to undertake in association with Exeter University. I am pleased to report that we have made some progress in this area and as a result two pieces of work are to be undertaken which will both assist those students seeking their degrees and provide some added information to influence the development of future Road Safety Strategies.

The first looks at the attitude to rule breaking by learner, novice and experienced drivers and the second on how in reality people structure their programmes of learning to drive.

We expect the results of these scoping studies to be available during 2008

MEMBERSHIP OF EXTERNAL BODIES

We are pleased to be represented on the following National Committees/Groups

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| RoSPA National Road Safety Committee | Susan Cooper |
| PACTS | Edward Handley/Graham Feest |
| London Accident Prevention Council | Ted Clements |
| Occupational Road Risk Alliance | David Vallender/Graham Feest |
| RoadSafe | Graham Feest/Susan Cooper |

In addition we have been part of various national-working groups over the year which include

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|---|-----------------------------|
| PACTS Road User Behaviour Working Party | Edward Handley/Graham Feest |
| PACTS Road Environment Working Party | Nick Stilwell |
| IPCC | Robert Jackson/Graham Feest |
| SURVIVE Working Group 1 | Nick Stilwell |

It should also be noted that Graham Feest is a Member of the judging panel for the Prince Michael Road Safety Awards and was appointed as Vice Chairman of the National Road Safety Committee during the year. He also is a Member of the Department for Transport Working Party Driving for Better Business. He also acts as the Road Safety Adviser for the ADI/NJC. Whilst it is him personally who is the Member of these Groups he works these roles and positions under the banner of AIRSO

CONCLUSIONS

Finally I would like to conclude by thanking the Members of the Road Safety Group for all their efforts during the past year. I am particularly appreciative of Members who have hosted and sponsored the meetings of the Road Safety Group – The Driving Standards Agency, Slough Borough Council Road Safety and Northamptonshire County Council Road Safety.

Susan Cooper
Chairman
Road Safety Group 2007

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