

Southern Driving Instructor Association

(South Coast, Portsmouth/Lee-on-the-Solent area)

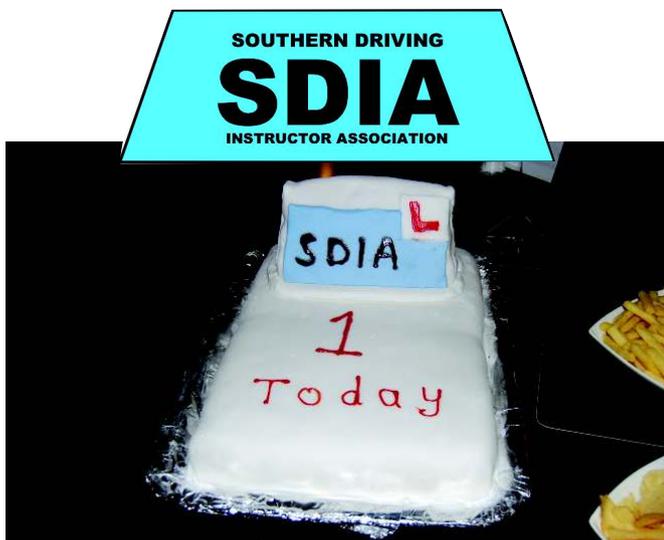
The Southern Driving Instructor Association was formed on 1st March 2010 following an enthusiastic gathering of 70+ local ADIs at an 'ideas evening', ably chaired by our current secretary Mrs Jane Holt. Jane had initially rallied interest at test centre waiting rooms by asking ADIs whether the formation of a local group would be good. It worked, and this fruitful evening of flip charts and presentations paved the way for where we are today.

Whilst understanding the importance of maintaining an up-to-date knowledge within the driver training industry, our ADIs felt that the relatively isolated environment within which they worked challenged their ability to improve themselves and communicate effectively, particularly in a world of ever increasing CPD.

Leading on from our initial meeting, a committee sat to formulate a constitution that reflected the views of all our fellow members. In short, the main purpose thus far has been to promote road safety within our Hampshire homeland, and improving communication between local instructors, the DSA and other relevant agencies and associations. This improved dialogue between the different groups with us at the centre should then also lead an established and organic provision of CPD for our members.

Working Together

During the relatively short existence of the SDIA, the association has met and easily exceeded its constitutional commitments through the provision of educational and motivational meetings and courses. Some of our members



have bonded closely together in the past twelve months, working with dedication to achieve their DipDI and PTLLS qualifications; a great example of how bringing our local instructors together has distinctively helped individual ADIs recognise and realise personal goals. Some members join the association to broaden their day to day knowledge and expertise, whilst sharing words of wisdom from their own experiences. As we are all only too aware, many instructors come into the profession as a second career whilst others, for a variety of reasons, surrender their Green Badge, but wish to stay in contact with ex colleagues and keep abreast of industry news.

Wide Interests

A speaker who has really captured the imagination and attention of our group was an ex-ADI who had to pursue a new career following a car accident. In this case he was able to come and tell us of his new life as a financial adviser, raising our awareness of the importance of planning for the unforeseen; after all, you never know what is just round the

corner.

The road safety charity BRAKE has been our nominated beneficiary since the association began back in 2010. Evening events supported by informative talks and discussion led by Police Road Safety and Fire Service officials have helped raise significant donations for this charity, with regular planned meetings often seeing between 50 and 100 local ADIs in attendance.

With a varied and carefully scheduled programme of events to encapsulate every taste, our meetings see an agenda with anything from official up-to-date guidance from representatives within the DSA talking on a variety of subjects, to understanding why our learners (and other road users) think as they do, and through to how our knowledge can help educate all drivers towards a safer and more conforming method and style of driving. Working within the community will continue to be a big focus for our SDIA group. Recently our work with a local primary school had a big impact on helping to develop pupils' understanding of road safety.

Following a competition, we have partly funded a playground chart so the children can measure their growth, and whether their parents should still have them in a booster seat! Outside of our core planned evening meetings, we have also provided other useful opportunities where a need has been identified. One of our first additional focuses was working with a neighbouring skid pan provider. Many of our instructors took to the challenge and, whilst recognising the potential for educational benefits, much fun was had by everyone taking part. Within the bounds of the classroom, first-aid lectures saw a number of ADIs gaining official first-aider status. The popularity of ADIs wishing to attend our certificated 'Introduction to Coaching' meant that two days were necessary to accommodate all those delegates wishing to attend. Many instructors have gone on to incorporate this method of teaching into their lessons.

Such a complex and versatile group would not be complete without a certain social element. Since forming, SDIA has seen two excellently attended Christmas functions where members and their guests have attended a dinner and dance; and the recent AGM was concluded by a skittles evening where members were able to relax and chat informally.

Join In

If you live and work in or around the Hampshire area, why not get involved? More details about the SDIA and forthcoming events can be found on our web site: www.southerndia.org.uk.

adi

If you belong to an association, why not tell everyone about it - where, why, what and when it does what it does. Write to us at the addresses on page 3, or call 01273 573869