

NTDA backs Campaign for Safer Roadside Rescue and Recovery



Campaign for Safer Roadside Rescue & Recovery

Having recently become a stakeholder in the Slow Down Move Over campaign, the NTDA has now become a supporter of the Campaign for Safer Roadside Rescue and Recovery (CSRRR).

One of the key figures behind CSRRR is Richard Goddard, Managing Director of Automania Group, here he explains more about the genesis of the Campaign, its aims, and why the partnership with the NTDA seemed like a natural fit:



Having worked in the professional recovery industry for over 30 years, I have always been appalled by the dangers our Vehicle Recovery Operators are forced to endure as they go about their work, and by the lack of recognition for the vital public service our industry provides. No one should have to go to work fearing for their life. Yet that is what I have witnessed time and again amongst my colleagues in the industry.

In this, vehicle recovery operators and commercial tyre technicians have much in common. Commercial tyre technicians, like recovery operators, work in all weather conditions, at any time of day or night and working close to traffic travelling at high speed, with motorists showing no regard for amber flashing lights and the operatives working on the verges, in refuge areas or on the hard-shoulder.

Every year I attend the UK Professional Recovery Tow Show – a conference for all those involved with the industry – and



every year I hear similar shocking stories about incidents involving recovery personnel. I would hear from those who had lost loved ones on the nation's roadsides, and also spoke with those who had been injured as they worked. For years the industry has tried to organise a push for change, but we continually fell into the trap of talking amongst ourselves, not speaking to those we needed to influence to effect change. A sense of frustration amongst many in the industry continued to build.

But after a spate of tragic deaths in 2017 I met Sam Cockerill, whose partner Steve Godbold was hit and killed as he recovered a vehicle on the M25 in September 2017. Sam's commitment to forge a legacy for her late partner by improving the safety of others who work on the roadside moved me to action, and I decided to form CSRRR.

To avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, we made the decision to enlist the support of Peter Carroll, a seasoned professional campaigner. Peter made his name in the world of campaigning following his successful Gurkha Justice Campaign. Spearheaded by Joanna Lumley, the campaign secured the right for Gurkhas who had fought for this country the right to live here. A former road haulier, Peter also led the Fair Fuel UK campaign, which successfully lobbied the government to abolish the fuel duty escalator and achieved the longest fuel duty freeze in British history. He is now Managing Director of Tendo Consulting, which manages CSRRR.

The campaign has already secured the support of a number of MPs from across the political spectrum and an All-Party Parliamentary Group under the Chairmanship of former transport minister Sir Mike Penning has been formed.



CSRR campaigners meet with Sir Mike Penning and Tracey Crouch MP at Westminster

Amongst the asks of the campaign is that those who work on the nation's roadsides – including commercial tyre technicians – be able to use flashing red lights, rather than the inadequate amber lights they are permitted to use at present. The campaign is also pushing for the Government to collect data specifically on the number of incidents involving those who work on the roadsides, and for the Government to halt its roll out of All Lane Running smart motorways until it can demonstrate improved safety.

These asks, we believe, will go a long way to improving the situation of everyone who works on the nation's roadsides, not just recovery personnel. With the support of the NTDA, and the experience it has already gained through the highly successful REACT scheme, we have an even better chance of achieving this. If you would like more information or to find out how you can help please visit www.csrrr.co.uk or email contact@csrrr.org.

Richard Goddard and Peter Carroll will be speaking about the CSRRR at the NTDA Tyre Industry Conference at the ICC Birmingham on Thursday 3rd October 2019.

Another bumper month for new NTDA members!

January proved to be another excellent month for new recruits to the Association. The team at Aylesbury has welcomed four new members. **Comparetyres.com** becomes the latest tyre price comparison site provider to join as a supplier member and Vehicle Tracking and Asset Management solutions provider **ABAX UK** added further depth to the NTDA's already impressive aftermarket supplier membership.



Two tyre distributors namely **P Harrison & Co. Ltd** based in Clitheroe Lancashire and **Dynes Tyre Services Ltd** of Erith in South-East London also joined, adding a real 'North and South' dimension to the latest intake of full tyre retailer members.



NTDA Chief Executive Stefan Hay said; "We welcome all of these new members and are particularly pleased to have quality family run businesses with excellent local and trade reputations such as P. Harrison & Co and Dynes Tyre Services joining our growing network of professional tyre distributors. As always, we look forward to working with, and for, them in the future."