



## High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

May I welcome you all to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists which we shall be holding at Liston Hall in Marlow. This is my fourth and final report as I shall be standing down as Chairman and I can report that we have had another steady year but we still have not yet returned to pre-covid levels of activity.

Andrew True announced last year that he was stepping down as Group Chief Observer and he now leaves the committee after ten years of valuable and conscientious service and I thank him for the support which he has given not only to me but the whole of the committee. You will have recently received the first issue of our Newsletter which Andrew produced and he has very kindly promised to continue to publish two or three times per year for which we are very grateful.

Valerie Brickell began the year as Committee Secretary and Membership Secretary as well as also supporting the Chief Observer and during the year she handed over the Secretarial duties to a new committee member, Margaret Gordon. Valerie and Margaret are the backbone of the administrative side of the Group and Margaret has been particularly active in the preparation and publication of various advertisements which spread the word of who we are and what we do in order to attract new members.

Nigel Mason stepped up to become Group Chief Observer and he was immediately confronted by IAM RoadSmart's decision to dispense with two levels of observer with the task of training our local observers to complete the IMI observer qualification requirements. As a result 7 local observers were successfully trained and passed the qualification with a new member, Bern Warr, going straight to National Observer which leaves 3 to be still assessed. We now have 16 observers in total plus 1 trainee.

The remaining committee members are Tim Nicholson (Treasurer), Sean Pearce (Website) and Bob Hill. I should like to thank all the committee for their hard work during the year. If you would like to join the team, please contact Margaret as per the instructions shown on the Election of Officers form included in the AGM notice pack.

As usual, we have lost some members for various reasons, but we have gained a similar number so we remain static at 86, which is actually quite encouraging. The number of joiners at 15 was one more than last year. However, it is disappointing that the number of passes decreased from 15 to 7, although 3 of those were graded as a F1RST.

I should like to thank and congratulate the associates and observers for their efforts and success. Associates undertaking the IAM RoadSmart Advance Driving Course at 31<sup>st</sup> December totalled 12 as for the previous year.

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As those of you who attended last year's AGM may remember, the meeting was followed by a presentation by Graham Feest the well-known Road Safety Consultant and we had hoped to hold a second social event in September with the even more well-known Reg Local but the meeting had to be cancelled at short notice due to unavoidable personal reasons.

Following the official business of this year's AGM we shall be joined by Adam Moore who is the Amersham and Beaconsfield Station Commander for the Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service who will be explaining particularly the problems arising in collisions from such issues as airbags and electric vehicles and which should prove to be a very interesting presentation.

Peter Gunn - Chairman