

## **Chairman's Report 2017/2018**

May I welcome you all to the 34<sup>th</sup> AGM of the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists and provide my report of activities through the year.

Before moving into the main body of my report I would like to welcome Paddy Hopkirk to our Group. Paddy, known to many for his international rally exploits is already involved with IAM RoadSmart as Mature Driver Ambassador and has kindly accepted to become our Honorary President. We are indeed privileged to have such a wealth of driving experience available to us.

Once again, in my fourth year as Chairman I have enjoyed the support of an excellent committee, none more so than in the past month or so when my activities have been limited as a result of a medical MOT pointing out the need for a few repairs. As a result I will probably miss the AGM but Peter Gunn our Treasurer will kindly take the meeting on my behalf. My special thanks to all our committee members; Matti Anderson (Secretary), Peter Gunn (Treasurer), Andrew True (Chief Observer), Jan Caddie (Membership Secretary), Sean Pearce (Website), Valerie Brickell (Events) and Teji Barnes who has unfortunately felt it necessary to step down from the committee as a result of time pressures from other commitments.

The essential work of the Group in taking Associates through the Advanced Driving programme has been consolidated following the progress made in 2016/2017. Our hard working pool of Observers is steadily enlarging and now stands at eleven, three National and six Local Observers, all qualified under the new IMI system, with two more in training. Our pass rate to the end of February matched that of the Regional average with the first two months of 2018 achieving a very high level of ten passes. Thanks are due to all the Observers and we should perhaps remember the hard work of our Associates who commit themselves to modifying their driving habits into those of an Advanced Motorist under the watchful eyes of their Observers.

Two well attended social events were held during the year. The first of these immediately followed on from the 2016/2017 AGM when we welcomed as our speaker Alan Murray, one of the police examiners who test our Associates. Rather than a formal presentation Alan invited questions which resulted in a most interesting and informative session; our thanks to Alan for providing such an enjoyable approach. Also thanks to our secretary for the evening, Valerie Brickell, who took on the daunting and unexpected task of taking detailed notes of the Q and A session which has provided us with a first hand view of what examiners are looking for when carrying out tests.

The second event held in June was a repeat of last year with an evening held at St Katharine's, a lovely old country house and gardens. The format was as before when driving was to the fore with members and guests able to have demonstration or observed drives with our Observers. Driving videos were shown through the evening whilst the house and gardens provided a relaxing environment in which to chat with like minded people.

Our next event will follow the official business of this evening's AGM when Pat Doughty, Charity and Operations Director of IAM RoadSmart, will be our guest speaker in place of Sarah Sillars, CEO, who had to step down at short notice. He will speak on a range of topics including charitable objectives, membership, new products and will also be looking to the future.

We will aim to keep the essential business of the AGM to a minimum so we can move quickly into what promises to be an interesting evening. Please come and join us.

Keith Chanter - Chairman