

Chairman's Report 2018/2019

May I welcome you all to the 35th AGM of the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists and provide my report of activities through the year.

I would like to start by thanking our Honorary Vice President Paddy Hopkirk for his enthusiastic support through the year and what is now our very experienced committee for their continued hard work in keeping our group running smoothly. May I remind you who they are and their roles starting with Peter Gunn (Treasurer) who not only fulfilled that role but also most ably stood in as Chairman for me for much of the year when as indicated at the last AGM I was unavailable. He was supported by Matti Alderson (Secretary), Andrew True (Chief Observer), Jan Caddie (Membership Secretary), Sean Pearce (Website), Valerie Brickell (Events and Asst. Observer Admin), Viv Silverman (Without Portfolio). Over the last five years we have maintained a committee of eight members and whilst we can respond in the short term to unplanned situations it would be right for me to ensure that there is long term succession. We are able to increase our numbers and it would be good to see an additional one or two members join the committee to become familiar with the way it operates. If you would like to join us nomination forms are available from the Membership Secretary but please contact me or any other committee member if you would like to know more.

The work in enlarging our pool of observers, so essential to fulfilling our role in taking Associates through the Advanced Driving Course, continues to be a challenge. There has been a further small net increase in numbers this year with a total of thirteen, including those in training, whilst one observer has retired. Congratulations are due for Sean Pearce, Don Firminger and Tim Nicholson each of who has now qualified as a National Observer. Tim has also become a Fellow and obtained a first on his test. Finally congratulations to Bob Hill who has obtained his Master's Certificate, in all a significant rise in the level of our observers' qualifications. The pass level of our associates continues to match that of the region and includes five firsts over the year. Congratulations to them and sincere thanks to the work of the observers in guiding associates through the Advanced Driving Course.

We had two well attended social events during the year. The first of these was immediately following the 2017/2018 AGM when two speakers were welcomed:- Pat Doughty (Charity and Operations Director of the IAM) and Paddy Hopkirk our new Honorary Vice President. These are reported in the minutes of last year's AGM which are included in the papers that you have received.

Our second event was another mid-summer visit to St Katharine's though with a changed format. Rather than driving opportunities with observers we had two very interesting presentations starting with Mike Quinton, the new IAM CEO followed by David Gallagher the IAM Young Drivers Ambassador. Once again the house and gardens at St Katharine's provided an ideal venue for such an event. Later in the year Mike Quinton again visited us as he familiarise himself with how local groups work, this time joining us at one of our observer meetings.

Our next event will follow the official business of this evening's AGM when Gary Baldwin, Senior Forensic Collision Investigator, will be our speaker. We will aim to keep the essential business of the AGM to a minimum so we can quickly move into what promises to be a fascinating presentation. Please come and join us.

Keith Chanter - Chairman