



High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

May I welcome you all to the 38th Annual General Meeting of the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists which we shall hopefully be holding "live" at Liston Hall rather than conducting it using the Zoom facility. This is my second report as Chairman and again I have to report on reduced activities particularly in the first half of the year, although we have been more active than in 2020 when we were affected by coronavirus throughout most of the year.

Firstly, I am extremely saddened to report that our Membership Secretary, Jan Caddie, passed away unexpectedly in July. Jan had been a stalwart of the Group spending many years on committee and carried out her tasks in a very conscientious and competent manner. She will be greatly missed by the Group.

Valerie Brickell who had previously taken over the Committee Secretary's position took over the Membership Secretary's role and is also supporting the Chief Observer. Andrew True has decided to step down as Group Chief Observer at next year's AGM and Nigel Mason will be working with him for the coming year before taking over from him. We are therefore looking urgently for someone who is willing to take over as Committee Secretary from Valerie and further volunteers to maintain the committee as part of the IAM RoadSmart succession requirements. I can assure you that being on committee is not onerous or time-consuming and is not a "job for life"! If you would like to join the team, please contact Valerie as per the instructions shown on the Election of Officers form included in the AGM notice pack. Other members are Andrew True (Chief Observer), Tim Nicholson (Treasurer), Sean Pearce (Website), Nigel Mason (Chief Observer designate) and Bob Hill. I should like to thank all the committee for their hard work during what was another difficult year.

For the year 2021 we had 5 National Observers and we should congratulate Nigel Mason who qualified as our 6th in January 2022. Our plans are to train all our Local Observers to National Observer standard. I am pleased to report that Tara Ridgeway qualified as a Local Observer bringing our total of Local Observers to 9. We have a further 3 members currently training as Local Observers. I should like to thank all our observers for their efforts, willingness and readiness to observe and particularly Andrew True and Valerie Brickell for overseeing and completing the paperwork required for the observer qualifications. If you are interested in becoming an observer, please contact Andrew.

Although we have lost some members for various reasons, we have gained a similar amount so we remain at 84. The number of joiners decreased by 1 to 12 but we have been receiving a steady increase in applications so we hope to soon return to the pre-covid levels. We were only able to have restricted observed drives during the first half year but we have tried to catch up on the backlog of associates and we have managed six passes, two of which were graded as a F1RST.

I should like to thank and congratulate the associates and observers involved in what has been a difficult year. Associates undertaking the IAM RoadSmart Advance Driving Course at 31st December totalled 18.

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During the year, led by Nigel Mason and Andrew, we have prepared and issued the Local Observer Onboarding guide booklet which complements the Associate Mentoring Plan Observer Guide, Second Check Drive Guidance Notes, and Guidelines for Public Assessment/Taster Sessions. I believe we are one of the leading Groups with regard to our training and guidance booklets for local and national observers.

Our planned Ultimate Car Control Day on 4th April 2020 which was eagerly anticipated by 30 members and associates unfortunately had to be postponed but we are intending to hold it as soon as the covid restrictions are lifted and everyone feels relaxed about the risks involved. Please do contact me if you would like to join us as places are available and it plans to be a very enjoyable day as well as improving driving skills. No other social events were held during the year but we are looking at some possibilities this year starting with a summer function.

Following the official business of the AGM we shall be presenting a summary of the major changes in the Highway Code which came into effect on 29th January 2022 with which you can familiarise yourself online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/updates>. It is our intention to send all members a complimentary copy when they become available in April.

Let's look forward to a much-improved 2022!

Peter Gunn - Chairman