

HIGH WYCOMBE GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

40th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm
at Liston Hall, Marlow.

Present

Committee - Peter Gunn (PG) Chairman, Margaret Gordon (MG) Secretary, Tim Nicholson (TN) Treasurer, Nigel Mason (NM), Valerie Brickell (VB), Sean Pearce (SP), Andrew True (AT). Apology received from Bob Hill.

Members – David Barnacle, John Bennett, Keith Chanter, Robert Frost, Nigel Hammond, Stephen Lowry, Ronald Macdonald, Janet Marchant, Philip Moody, John O'Shea, Mark Powell, Tara Ridgeway, Jayjit Shah, Graham Smith, Bernhard Warr, Stuart Whiteman, Robert Williams, Phu Wong,

PG introduced Jack Richards, Crew Commander, High Wycombe Fire and Rescue Service and his crew of two who had been invited to deliver a presentation on service's attendance at road traffic collisions and the equipment used. As the team were on duty and alert for any emergency calls, PG took the decision to start the meeting with their presentation in case it had to be interrupted.

PG advised that after the formal business of the AGM there would be a presentation to Andrew True who is stepping down from the committee after 10 years' service, most of which has been spent as Chief Observer. There would also be a short break for refreshments including the cutting of the 40th anniversary cake after the presentation.

PG opened the formal AGM meeting at 8.42pm, welcoming the members to the 40th Annual General Meeting adding that he was pleased that the meeting was attended by so many. He introduced guests from the Thames Valley Group, Alex Beeston and Nicki Kitching, and Stuart Haythorn, Southern Area Service Delivery Manager, IAM RoadSmart.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Ian Allard, Juliet Auld, Alan Baker, Teji Barnes, Judith Bradford, G. Chandler, Michael Croome, Adam Crosby, Fiona Curley, Romina Dawson-Hall, Ruth Dobson, Richard Elliott, Robert Flower, Mark Hall, Ray Hall, Eric Hambling, Anthony Harrison, Matthew Harvey, Angela Hector, Patrick Hopkirk, Tim

Lawrence, Mary Ledingham, Stanley Lees, Daniel Munday, Venkatramanan Panapakesan, Roger Payne, David Pinnock, Roger Payne, David Pinnock, Laurence Redfern, Martin Saunders, Carol Shufflebotham, Helen Smith, Guy Stroud, Peter Woolley.

2. Minutes of the Last AGM.

The minutes, which had been circulated with the AGM notice, were accepted by all as a true record without comments or questions from the members.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report.

This was circulated with the AGM notice, in advance of the meeting. PG thanked the members of the committee and the observers for their efforts throughout the year.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts.

TN had circulated his Treasurer's Report, together with the 2023 Income and Expenditure statement, with the AGM notice in advance of the meeting. TN advised that our financial situation was stable and reasonably robust with a total cash balance of £9,945.87 at 31st December 2023.

The accounts were adopted by all present.

6. Election of Officers (All Officers must retire annually)

Chairman – PG advised that he is stepping down after four years and was pleased to say that NM (Chief Observer) had volunteered to take over. All present voted in favour.
Treasurer – TN advised that he was willing to stand again. All present voted in favour.
Secretary – MG joined the committee at last year's AGM, taking over the secretarial duties from VB. She advised that she was willing to stand again. All present voted in favour.

7. Election of Committee (1/3rd must retire annually)

PG informed the members that the committee currently comprises NM (Chief Observer), VB (who continues as Membership Secretary), SP (Web Master), Andrew True and Bob Hill who is without portfolio but is still a very valuable member of our team. We therefore have five members and one-third must retire annually. Andrew will retire and will not stand again. Nigel will be taking on the officer role of Chairman in addition to his Chief Observer Role.

However, as PG and AT will both stand down, it therefore appears that the new committee will be two members short. PG added that he was very pleased that two of our recently qualified National Observers, Tara Ridgeway and Bern Warr had agreed to be nominated by him and seconded by NM.

All present voted in favour.

8. AOB.

There was no AOB.

9. Date of Next Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday 4th March 2025.

The formal business of the AGM concluded at 8.53pm.

PG invited his predecessor as Chairman, Keith Chanter (KC) to make a presentation to Andrew True.

KC addressed the meeting by reminiscing that he had known AT for more than 25 years. He remarked that he had never met anyone so conscientious and eager to drive change. He moved the group away from the old-fashioned forms making it fully compliant with new systems. It was his true vocation. He presented AT on behalf of the Group with a case of wine and a certificate.

In response, AT thanked KC for his kind words and wondered how he would continue to share this vocation in future. He coined a new word, 'vocationing' as he offered to continue to engage with the group by producing the Newsletter. He offered his special thanks to VB with whom he had worked closely during the transfer from Jan Caddy's role and was sorry to have missed Peter Woolley whom he had known for some 20 years. He ended by congratulating Peter as he embarked on his new role.

On behalf of the Group, NM thanked PG for all his work with the Group and presented him with a gift of a stainless-steel bowl and a certificate in recognition of 16 years of

service to HWGAM and IAM, as Observer, Treasurer, Chair and Masters' Mentor. PG explained that he had been invited to become an Examiner but will continue as a Masters' mentor and remain a Group member.

FIRE SERVICE PRESENTATION

Jack Richards of High Wycombe Fire and Rescue Service accompanied by two crew members gave the group a presentation on the service's role and procedures when attending Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's,) using some graphic videos and stills.

The Fire Service works to a comprehensive Six Phase protocol, incorporating adherence to the Golden Hour rule - the time from the incident occurring until delivery of the casualty to A&E.

Phase 1 - Scene Safety and Risk Assessment.

Phase 2 – Stabilisation and Initial Access to the Casualty

Phase 3 – Planning

Phase 4 – Glass Management

Phase 5 – Space creation and full access

Phase 6 – Immobilisation and casualty extrication.

Safety of all personnel and casualties is paramount.

When attending an RTC, emergency services act as a team, assessing the road conditions, traffic density and speed on neighbouring carriageways, hazards, glass, debris and casualties.

Airbags pose a particular hazard as not all airbags may have activated immediately in an RTC, so safety distances must be observed. If an airbag activates unexpectedly the rescuer will suffer injury whilst attempting to access the casualty. Seat belts must be disengaged, and head rests may be removed to facilitate access to the casualty.

Hybrid and Battery Electric vehicles which are powered by lithium-ion batteries are potentially dangerous hazards. The group were shown an alarming, yet sobering, video illustrating the dangers faced by fire crews when crash damaged batteries ignite. Excessive heat is produced, and noxious gases and acids emitted. Furthermore, some may even ignite days after the collision. There are over 1.6million electric vehicles on our roads.

Blocks, wedges, straps, and metal struts are used to stabilise and limit any movement of the vehicle before attempting to remove the casualty. The teams use the vehicle's design features to determine which parts can be moved, opened, or manipulated. (Battery and Plug-in hybrids)

Creating space for crews and medics to work and access the casualty is vital, therefore glass and trim removal is carried out using protective adhesive film which is placed over the windscreen before extricating it. This prevents any dust or glass fragments from injuring the casualty and allows the debris to remain in one piece. Windscreen saws, cutters and rams are also employed to remove doors. Removal of the roof where possible allows full access.

It was at this point that the presentation was terminated as the crew received an emergency call. The team were warmly applauded for a fascinating insight into the complexities and skills required in their rescue work. They received a gift of Easter chocolates for the watch and commented that they would be happy to return on another occasion. It is not often that our guest speakers depart so very quickly to the sights and sound of 'blues and twos'!