

High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists

Chairman's Report 2015/2016

May I welcome you all to the 32nd AGM of the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists and report on the activities through the year.

In this my second year as Chairman I have once again had the support of an experienced committee and just as last year post AGM an additional member has volunteered and been co-opted onto the committee. Matti Alderson duly joined us bringing the committee to eight members, a minimum number to provide us with good succession. A benefit already with us as Adrian Blackburne our Secretary has expressed his intention to stand down and Matti has agreed to being proposed in that role at the AGM.

During his two years as Secretary Adrian has shown himself to be highly efficient and demonstrated a speed of response to actions second to none in my experience. I would like to thank Adrian for his contribution and hope we will see him again when time allows.

This is an appropriate moment to thank all members of the committee for their efforts through the year which are essential to keep the local group running smoothly. Those not mentioned so far are Peter Gunn - Treasurer, Andrew True - Chief Observer, Jan Caddie - Membership Secretary, Sean Pearce - Website and Valerie Brickell - Events.

You will see that there is an agenda item proposing to make the Chief Observer position on the committee an officer role. The committee feel that observing is the Group's reason for being, it is a very demanding role and as such deserving of particular recognition.

Andrew True who stepped into the Chief Observer role at short notice at the beginning of 2015 has done so most ably. He has made considerable progress in managing the more detailed paper driven processes that have been a part of the Quality Assured Training and Test Programme introduced by the IAM Chiswick in 2013 and one that continues to evolve. Andrew has also had to rebuild our qualified Local Observer numbers after we lost three Observers from a small pool at the end of last year. The training programme which is ongoing has been undertaken by our three National Observers, Andrew, Peter and Keith. Through the year our Observers have worked successfully with Associates and have achieved a local group test rate success matching the national average of around 85%. We offer our congratulations to all those gaining passes.

In addition to normal observing through the year we have worked with the University of the Third Age (U3A) in an initiative instigated by the IAM Chiswick. This offered free assessment drives for U3A members and in all some 50 such drives were undertaken by Peter and Keith. Also adding to the workload have been the free assessment drives resulting from an offer made in the run up to Christmas by the IAM Chiswick, all of which have been undertaken by Andrew.

We continue to consider ways of encouraging young drivers to develop their driving skills through the Advanced Driving Programme though this remains a difficult challenge. It is therefore with particular interest that we welcome our speaker for the evening, Shaun Cronin, who amongst his many professional related driving activities is Chief Instructor in a young driver development programme. Shaun is the Quality Assurance Manager of the IAM Southern Region.

During the year we have held a number of successful and well attended social evenings on driving related topics and plan to continue to hold such events this year starting with Shaun's presentation which will follow once the business of the AGM is completed.

As always we will keep the essential business of the AGM to a minimum to allow us to move quickly into the social part of the evening. Please come and join us, light snacks will be available.

Keith Chanter - Chairman