

**41st Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7.30pm
at Liston Hall, Marlow.**

Present

Committee: Nigel Mason (NM) Chairman & Chief Observer, Tim Nicholson (TN) Treasurer, Margaret Gordon (MG) Secretary, Valerie Brickell (VB), Sean Pearce (SP), Bob Hill (BH), Tara Ridgeway (TR), Bern Warr (BW)

Attendees: Heather Allen, David Banes, David Barnacle, John Bennett, Keith Chanter, Kapil Dhir, Robert Frost, Julian Grigg, Peter Gunn, Eric Hambling, Annette Jepson, Ronald Macdonald, Maria Marston, John O'Shea, Philip Moody, Paul Royer, Andrew True, Ian Walker, Stuart Whiteman, Peter Woolley.

Guests: Alex Beeston, Communications Manager TVGAM and Nicki Kitching, Membership Secretary TVGAM.

Apologies: There were 12 apologies.

NM opened the meeting at 7.30pm, welcomed members and guests to the 41st Annual General Meeting and set out the programme for the evening. After the AGM a short break for refreshments would be followed by a presentation from Dr Richard Lambourn (TRL) entitled 'Forensic Traffic Accident Investigation.' Following degrees in physics at Oxford, Richard joined the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory in 1973-96 and from 1996-2000 was Principal Scientific Officer with the Forensic Science Service (FSS). Since 2000 he has been attached to TRL and throughout his career he has provided forensic investigations for police, solicitors, and insurers. He is a Member of The Institute of Traffic Accident Investigators (ITAI).

2. Minutes of the Last AGM.

The Minutes were circulated in advance of the AGM and accepted by all as a true record, signed by the Chair.
Proposer BH and Seconder Stuart Whiteman.

3. Matters Arising.

SP raised a point of order. When the Elections take place, only members of HWGAM are eligible to vote.

4. Chairman's Report.

NM circulated his first Annual Report as joint Chair and Chief Observer in advance of the meeting.

The High Wycombe Group membership remains stable at around 90 members, with a modest increase in the number of new Associates from IAM RoadSmart embarking on the ADC course in 2024, bringing the total to 17. He was pleased that 2025 started positively with five new Associates, and hopeful this trend would continue.

In his dual role as Chief Observer he reported that 11 Advanced Driving tests were taken last year, with two Firsts, six passes and four dropping out before completion.

He congratulated three Committee members TN, BW and SP for passing their MASTERS with Distinction with a special reference to BH for recertifying his MASTERS qualification with a Distinction. Applause was received from the attendees.

Several initiatives were undertaken last year to engage with our members and promote the benefits of Advanced Driving techniques to the wider driving public.

- The group participated in the Safety and Wellbeing Day at RAF High Wycombe in May.
- A stand with IAM branding was taken at The Big Meet car show in West Wycombe in July.
- In October, members enjoyed a thrilling and instructive Skidpan Experience Day at the Thruxton race circuit and a tour of the Mini assembly plant at Oxford.
- In December, January and February three First Aid training sessions were organised at no cost to our members. NM expressed his thanks to Maria Marston for initiating and sharing her expertise in this field. All participants benefited from informative and practical experiences in administering first aid which included the use of automatic defibrillators.
- Four long term ADC members participated in the first wave of the Observed Members, Refresher Drives, which provided an opportunity for them to review their skills and keep pace with developments in modern-day driving. The feedback was positive with Wave 2 launching soon.
- HWGAM Newsletter for members created and compiled by Andrew True: three issues were produced last year containing current and seasonal road safety updates, guidance and advice on advanced driving situations. NM hoped members found these informative and interesting and encouraged them to forward their thoughts, comments on improvements, ideas for activities and events for the Committee's consideration.

NM closed his report by expressing his personal thanks to the Committee and Observers for their unpaid efforts and dedication, whilst also requesting additional help and support from any full members who would like to join the Committee.

Maria Marston was presented a gift in recognition of her generosity and contribution accompanied by enthusiastic applause.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts.

TN circulated his Treasurer's Report, together with the 2023 Income and Expenditure statement, prior to the meeting.

The current account balance stands at £1,620.56 and the deposit account balance is £7,277.56 with a total of £8,898.12, down from £9,945.87 at the end of 2023. The net reduction in the total account balance is due to:

- Investment in IAM RoadSmart branded equipment to be used for shows and events.
- Advertising costs.
- Leaving gifts for the outgoing Chairman and Chief Observer
- Reimbursement for Masters' fees for Observers.
- Insurance payments with premiums for 2024 and 2025 having been paid in the 2024 calendar.

Despite a reduction of total assets of around £1000 over the past two years the financial position is still good with no cause for concern.

To reduce this downward trend, the Committee is increasing the Members' subscriptions by £3.00 to £15, together with a 50% reduction in the Masters' course fee for Observers.

The accounts were adopted by all present. Proposed by SP and seconded by Eric Hambling.

6. Election of Officers (Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary)

All Officers must retire annually

NM, TN and MG are all willing to stand again.

Chairman/ Chief Observer: NM Proposed by Stuart Whiteman, Seconded by Maria Marston

Treasurer: TN Proposed by Stuart Whiteman. Seconded by Maria Marston

Secretary: MG Proposed by Stuart Whiteman. Seconded by Maria Marston

All present voted in favour.

7. Election of Committee (One third must retire)

SP retired & stood for re-election, proposed by David Barnacle, seconded by BH
VB retired & stood for re-election, proposed by David Barnacle, seconded by BH
All present voted in favour.

The Committee comprises:

Chairman and Chief Observer	Nigel Mason
Treasurer	Tim Nicholson
Group Secretary	Margaret Gordon
Membership Secretary and Observer Coordinator	Valerie Brickell
Webmaster	Sean Pearce
Without Portfolio	Bob Hill
	Tara Ridgeway
	Bern Warr

8. AOB.

No matters were raised

9. Date of Next Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday 3 March 2026.

The formal business of the AGM concluded at 7.50pm.

PRESENTATION BY DR RICHARD LAMBOURN (TRL)
Techniques of Forensic Traffic Accident Investigation

The team at the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) consists of 12 Full time expert consultants with a range of experience, backgrounds and specialist fields, such as, highway construction and traffic lights. They investigate individual accidents for the purposes of civil and criminal litigation on behalf of solicitors, insurance companies, police forces and companies with large vehicle fleets.

Using a combination of still images and actual incident video records, Dr Lambourn illustrated two methods by which experts in Collision (Accident) Investigation can collate, verify and present evidence at a crash site.

- (i) Classical method – how investigations of collisions were carried out in the past. Measuring, identifying and marking tyre trails present at the scene, skids, gouges in the tarmac, debris location. All evidence, including mapping and latterly computer-generated images of the speed and direction of travel of the vehicles can be calculated using various mathematical formulae.

Detailed analysis of the radius of curvature of skid marks, the distance over which a human body may be projected by an impact, and the distance travelled by a skidding motorcycle on its side, are all useful inputs for the 'PC Crash' computer program to model the crash scene. More recently laser technology is deployed to create a full 360-degree scan of the crash scene, which is then fed into the computer to produce animated graphics of how the vehicles became involved in a crash.

- (ii) Recorded data – advances in technology have revolutionised accident investigation enabling the police and experts to collect and accurately predict and evaluate a crash as it occurs.

- (a) Modern tachographs installed in lorries record on waxed paper the speed and direction of travel of a vehicle at regular intervals throughout the day. On modern digital tachographs Speed points are taken 4 times every second.

- (b) Speed cameras, as well as recording speed, provide high resolution images of vehicles also identifying drivers involved. In the event of a collision involving a cyclist the speed of both the vehicle and the cyclist, together with the speed on impact can be calculated. If needed experts in crash helmet construction and effectiveness are consulted.

- (c) CCTV cameras are a valuable source of information in supporting an investigation. Pre collision footage of all road users on the scene can provide accurate and valuable evidence which has on occasion been found to contradict that of eyewitness statements.

- (d) Event Data Recorder systems are now installed in all new cars with very stable memories even if the vehicle is badly damaged. A combination of data recording and, if fitted, CCTV is automatically triggered by a serious collision. Vehicle speed, direction of travel, engine revs, accelerator pedal position, brake application (on/off) are all recorded at 0.1 second intervals for the 5 seconds preceding the triggering of the Safety Restraint System (SRS) and a printout of the data can be obtained.

- (e) Dash Cam videos and doorbell videos are also used supplementing evidence of any before and after crash data involving all road users in a collision.

- (f) GPS Trackers, sometimes worn by joggers can be a valuable additional source of evidence though the quality of the resolution is not perfect. Using the data together with mathematical calculations the investigating team can determine the distance, direction and speed of the jogger and the vehicle.

Dr Lambourn received enthusiastic applause from the members. NM thanked him for a revealing and sobering hour, presenting him with a gift.

Signed: ----- Chair: Nigel Mason

Date: -----