

Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st December 2025

This report is submitted at the 42nd HWGAM AGM, 3rd March 2026.

2025 was a very active year for our Group. A combination of increased media presence by IAM RoadSmart and our own efforts at local shows and events resulted in a large increase in new Associates joining the High Wycombe Group. We welcomed 31 new Associates during 2025 – up from 17 in the prior year, and we thank all the new Associates for their patience as this significant 82% increase resulted in longer waiting times than usual to be allocated to an Observer.

14 Advanced Driver tests were taken, with 2 F1RSTs and 9 Passes being achieved. My thanks and congratulations to those Associates and their Observers. In addition, one of our Observers, Tara Ridgeway, passed the Masters course. The positive trend is continuing into 2026, as we already had 3 new Associates in the first 2 weeks of January. In order to work through our waiting list as effectively as possible, I asked all Observers to take on a second Associate in parallel – and many responded positively, allowing us to allocate 7 Associates in January alone.

I am also pleased to report that we successfully brought on board 2 new Observers, each of whom bring a wealth of driving expertise and a passion for sharing their skills and knowledge. Please join me in welcoming Paul Royer and Mark Powell to our Observer team. Mark is also a Trustee of IAM RoadSmart. To further expand our capabilities, we currently have another 2 Trainee Observers ongoing. They are already well on the way to being ready for their Observer Assessment and will again bring very relevant expertise into the Group, raising our total number of National Observers to 17. Look out for their profile articles in a future HWGAM Newsletter.

During the first half of 2025 we completed our local group Member Refresher Drive initiative – and now all members who wished to brush up their Advanced Driving Skills have had the opportunity to do so. This local initiative has now been adopted by IAM RoadSmart as a new paid-for offering to members, so I'm pleased that our Group contributed to the creation of additional member value.

I mentioned our efforts to promote IAM RoadSmart road safety within the region. During 2025 our group attended 7 local shows and events in Chesham, High Wycombe and the surrounding villages - including at Fetes, Car Shows, an RAF Base Safety Day, as well as a presentation to the High Wycombe WI. All helped to increase awareness and spread the message about Road Safety initiatives, and the very practical on-road skills that the Advanced Driver course can bring. You, our members, can help too – by handing out a few leaflets to neighbours and friends or having a conversation about some of the key behaviours you have learned and continue to practice as an Advanced Driver.

In 2026, the Group again plans to attend several local events to continue to promote the benefits of the Advanced Driving Course, and with the support of the Committee and additional volunteers, we hope to be able to bring you a few member events this year. Options being considered include a visit to the National Highways Control Centre, an Off-Road 4x4 driving experience, and possibly even an Advanced Driver Team Treasure Hunt. More to come as we flesh out the details.

The digital Newsletter has continued to be well-received, with thanks to Andrew True who created 4 Quarterly issues in 2025, covering a diverse range of topical news items and updates which I hope our members found interesting. Please do provide comments and thoughts about how we can continue to improve these, and indeed send in other ideas for activities, events and information which you would like the Committee to consider.

Affiliated with IAM RoadSmart, the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists is a Charity which exists thanks entirely to the voluntary and unpaid efforts of your Committee and Observers to whom I again offer my personal thanks for the many hours dedicated to supporting this group, and to coaching new Associates out on the road. We do need additional members on the Committee, in particular to help with Digital Media, Communications, planning and running events, and Member Admin support, so if you are able to help steer and support this group, please do speak with me or one of the other Committee members.

I close by again recognizing and thanking my fellow Committee members and Trustees of this group:

Tim Nicholson (Treasurer)
Valerie Brickell (Membership and Observers' Secretary)
Margaret Gordon (Group Secretary)
Sean Pearce (IT Administrator)
Bob Hill
Bern Warr
Tara Ridgeway

Wishing our Members, Fellows and Associates many miles of safe and enjoyable motoring in 2026.



Nigel Mason

Chairman and Chief Observer, High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists.

