

Guildford Group of Advanced Motorists

Secretary's Report to the 10 October 2024 AGM

Group Committee and Officers

Your Officers remained in post at the last AGM and under Gordon's leadership we have continued to hold online committee meetings, with ad-hoc discussions and meetings through the year.

After more than thirty years service in the role Paul Whitehead has handed over the Secretary role to me but has kindly agreed to act as Membership Secretary until a replacement can be found. I'm sure that members will wish to thank Paul for his sterling service.

At the last committee meeting, held in September this year, two new committee members were coopted, namely John Munn who has agreed to become Associate Coordinator and Lesley Pearce who has joined as an ordinary member.

The committee still have a vacancy for Newsletter Editor. Consequently, production of the quarterly newsletter has been suspended. We also seek a Marketing Manager who will have the objective of increasing the number of Associates and increasing the retention rate among Members.

Associates and tests

At present we have a total of 52 Associates who are distributed as follows -

- Allocated to Sunday runs 23
- Allocated to a single Observer 17
- Awaiting test 7
- Awaiting induction 5

In addition, there are six people awaiting a free taster.

In the year since last September we have had 25 test passes of which no less than 9 were F1rst. We had two failures, but one of these candidates passed on the second attempt.

Observers and Training

Currently we have fourteen Observers all of whom except one are National Observers (those approved and tested by HQ and registered with IMI). Observers carried out over 200 Sunday runs in the year and a further 85 AOR runs. It has been a busy year for the Observers, and we send our sincere thanks to all those who have given up a lot of their free time to train Associates for their test. 'Appointed Observer Runs' (AOR) are popular, with over 40% of Associates allocated to this route. However, we retain our monthly Sunday meetings as these have benefits in allowing Associates and Observers to meet on a regular basis, and, when space allows, to extend our reach to member refresher drives, charity assessments and new Associate 'taster' sessions.

IAM Region and HQ liaison

Our Area Manager, Stuart Haythorn, has, after several years of service, decided to retire and enjoy more travel. We wish him well in this endeavor. At the time of writing HQ is seeking to recruit a replacement.

We retain a good working relationship with the staff at IAM HQ who help us with Membership matters and Associate progress. Your Chief Observer and Secretary are scheduled to attend a Region 2 meeting on 12th October. We expect this to be a great opportunity to discuss matters with fellow Group staff.

Newsletter, web site and social media

As noted above the Newsletter has recently been suspended as the workload could not reasonably be undertaken by the present committee. Having said that, four newsletters were produced during the year, all of commendable quality and Gordon deserves our thanks for coordinating and producing them. However, to restart the Newsletter we really do need a new editor. It's only 4 issues each year and we have several sources of relevant information, so please consider if the journalist inside you is keen to find a new outlet for your skills.

The GAM web site has been operating effectively and Clive Heavens keeps the web site updated and continues to make improvements along the way. Our social media activities

have also benefitted from Clive and others taking the time and trouble to ensure that we remain well connected and as relevant as possible in the modern world of communications.

Other Matters

For around forty years GAM has enjoyed the free use of Guildford Borough Council's depot as a base for our Sunday runs. The Council has plans to move next year to a new site in the Slyfield Industrial area. Consequently, funds were not being spent on the upkeep of the original site, which gained an air of neglect. The committee therefore decided to move our base of operations to the newly constructed Ripley Village Hall. Our first meeting was held there in August. Because of ongoing bookings by others and the potential lack of parking spaces, we changed the normal run day from the third to the second Sunday of the month. Feedback on the new facility has been positive.

John Holcroft

Secretary, GAM