

Guildford Group of Advanced Motorists

Secretary's Report to the 10th of November 2025

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.

Noting that this is the 50th AGM I think GAM gets full marks for longevity to complement our excellent test results as mentioned by our chairman.

At a recent committee meeting Paul Woods was coopted on to the committee, acting in the important role of AOR Manager. Paul offers himself for election to the committee at the AGM.

The committee still has vacancies for Vice-Chairman, deputy Membership Secretary and News Editor.

Associates and tests

At the time of the last committee meeting GAM had 52 Associates at various stages of preparation for the test, including some who have not yet started the course. So far this year Associates have achieved 20 passes of which 10 were F1rst, with 3 failures.

Observers and Training

Currently GAM has 13 National Observers and four Trainee Observers. 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. As in previous years we operate a mix of monthly "Sunday Runday" meetings and Allocated Observer Runs (AOR).

David Clifton, your Chief Observer, organises regular Observer meetings. Our most recent meeting was held on 20th August and comprised a mix of talks and drive outs with paired Observers.

IAM Region and HQ liaison

We maintain a good working relationship with the staff at IAM HQ who help us with Membership matters and Associate progress. GAM routinely sends representatives to attend Region 2 meetings.

Web Site, Social Media and IT

The GAM web site has been operating effectively. Clive Heavens keeps the web site updated and continues to make improvements along the way. At a recent committee meeting we agreed that a working group should be set up to assess the best way to proceed on content for social media. It was agreed that the first phase would focus on age group 25 to 55 using Facebook.

Several years ago GAM published an article on our web site which included an image copied from mainstream media. The image did not carry any attribution. GAM has been contacted by PAMedia, the copyright owner of the image, requesting payment of a significant sum, much higher than the normal licence fee. GAM's position is that there was no attribution on the original image, thus making purchase of a licence impossible. GAM has offered retrospectively to purchase a licence at the advertised price, but this is not accepted by PAMedia. Your chairman continues a dialog with PAMedia.

As arranged by Alex Masters, our IT Support expert, your committee uses a free Microsoft E1 licence for email services and for storage and sharing of documents. Unfortunately, this licence will expire on 1st December this year necessitating a migration to Microsoft Business Basic, which is also complimentary. This migration is not risk free, so we have plans to make safety copies of documents.

John Holcroft

Secretary, GAM