

The last twelve months has been a busy time for our group. We have seen a reverse in the previous year's downturn in associates and I am pleased to report that no less than seventeen enrolments. As reported elsewhere in the meeting, we have had a similar number of test passes, with over 50% scoring an IAM F1rst. This is a credit to both our associates and observers and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and support.

The committee has been rather small in number over the last twelve months, thus requiring all members to put more time than expected into volunteering for the group. We have worked well as a team and overcome the hurdles of the IAM rebranding and the near completion of the new Observer qualification roll out. Nick Stein was appointed as Chief Observer earlier on in the year and has got to grips in leading the Observers through these changes. Everyone will agree, that some of these changes are what the group has been crying out for, for many years and we welcome IAM RoadSmart in producing the new material. Along with the rebranding, we also chose to modernise our website. Working alongside Sean Clarke at Clarke Design, I am pleased to report that we have a more modern website, which is also mobile friendly. Slowly, the 1960's image of the organisation is moving into the distance!

Many members will know that the group is now holding regular 'DriveTime' sessions and whilst we had very low attendance at the start, numbers are now picking up. Members can reintroduce themselves to the group and see if their driving is still up to the highly respected standard that it was when they passed the test

One aim for next twelve months must be to identify the potential that our members have, and find rolls for them within the group, making use of their skills, as with such a small committee, we can't do the vital work that is required, between just a few of us.

If the membership is happy to have me as Secretary for a further twelve months, I am happy to stand for re-election.

James Sinstadt
2nd October 2016