

Chair and Chief Observer's Report – AGM 13 October 2020

Results for last year show that we achieved 53 test passes, a third of which were F1RSTs. We also recruited 104 new associates, an all-time record for the group.

We were on target to achieve over 60 passes but examiner availability was an issue, however, thanks to the support of our Regional Service Delivery Manager (RSDM) this has now been resolved.

Recruitment of associates was once again boosted by our very successful external presentations to groups such as U3A, WI etc. Throughout the year we delivered 13 such presentations and facilitated 120 Taster Drives.

We were delighted with the results of our IAM Group Audit which rated us as top performing across all criteria.

During the year we were very pleased to secure an agreement with the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissionaire, Marc Jones, to sponsor 100 courses for Young Drivers. The first 36 started their training in November. Many of these, despite the delay caused by the lockdown, have completed their courses and we are now about to take on the next tranche.

The group has also been very successful with our Social Media activities throughout the year. This together with our BBC TV and Radio coverage has certainly raised our profile in the community and contributed to our success.

We took the decision to follow IAM guidance and use some of our accrued funds to achieve our Charitable Aims by supporting driver training and in particular Young Driver training throughout the county. We also incurred some capital expenditure with the purchase of a gazebo, pop up banners, observer clothing and observer ID Cards etc. This expenditure has ensured that the group has all it needs to operate effectively for the future and at the same time be seen as good ambassadors of the IAM.

As a part of our ongoing Group Improvement Plan we recently carried out a SWOT analysis and succession planning review.

The support we receive from our members with their group membership fees and raffles at meetings are extremely important to our success and we are very grateful to you all. It was also very pleasing to find that despite the lockdown our membership renewals held up well, unlike many membership organisations!

2020 got off to a flying start with some 70 associates in training and we set ourselves a target of 100 test passes for the year. After the first two months we had 16 test passes under our belt and then we had to stop all training due to the lockdown.

During the lockdown we worked hard to ensure that we kept our associates and observers focused. We did this with a programme of Training Bulletins, Training Videos and Webinars this proved very



successful and when training resumed in July we had over 70% of associates ready to restart training.

Since resuming observed drives in July a further 16 associates have passed their test giving us a total of 32 so far this year. Our target now is to achieve at least 40 passes in 2020, all subject to any future Covid-19 restrictions of course.

As I am sure you will appreciate all of this success has put a great deal of extra work on to the committee and observer team and Ashley and I are very grateful for all their help and support. However, whilst we have all worked extremely hard as a team to achieve these results one person deserves special mention. Ashley Behan, our Vice Chair and Group Secretary, has shown exceptional commitment to both Lincolnshire Group and the IAM. Not just in his role as Secretary and National Observer but for all the hard work behind the scenes with the administration required to operate schemes such as the PCC Young Driver Initiative for example. Every group needs an Ashley but they can't have ours!

Our recent observer and committee meetings may have been virtual but I can assure our members that they absolutely buzzed with enthusiasm and we look forward to being even more successful post Coronavirus.

Finally thank you to all our members for your support and I hope you can see that we are working hard to ensure we achieve our objectives of helping to reduce the number of KSI's and improving road safety in our area.

Roger Hicks
Chair & Chief Observer