



Newsletter

May 2022



Dear Friends

Your AGM 2022

Thirty of us gathered at Holyport for the Thames Valley Group of Advanced Motorists AGM on Thursday 28th April. This was a busy meeting as the AGM itself took best part of 45 minutes, followed by our Region 2 Service Manager Stuart Haythorn's update on the IAM. Stuart was able to tell us of the new CEO, Antony Kildare more about whom in a future edition of your Newsletter.

Stuart dwelt upon the progress our Group has made in the past year, adding his reflections on the information given in my Chair's Review of 2021. Stuart drew upon the work Des has done in training and Observer development; the progress made to keep in touch with members throughout the pandemic; the partnerships the Group has formed, and the funding we've received from the Thames Valley PCC Community Fund. Read more of these matters in this copy of your Newsletter.

Stepping Back

Thursday 28th April saw announcements about changes to the Committee. We said goodbye to Tim Taylor who has been the Group Secretary for well over six years and we also said farewell to Andrea Tallis who occupied the position of Vice Chair as well as Chair prior to both Martin Moore and Cyril Mitkov. Both members are staying within the Group and have given great service whilst on Committee. The Committee passed on thanks to these two long-standing members of our Group.

Awards

We used this AGM to launch the annual award of the Horncastle Garage/Shell Trophy – utilising the Trophy that was recovered from the Basingstoke Group and passed to our Committee. If you were not present at the AGM you can read about the winner and the origins of the Trophy itself in the short article below.

We also gave a F1RST certificate to one of our newest members, Harley Jones, a serving police officer based in Wimbledon aiming to use the IAM ADC to assist his ambition to complete the police driver response course at a later date. Harley brought supporters with him, and it was very pleasant to meet his girlfriend and mother.



Your New Committee 2022-23

The following people were elected to serve in Committee positions in the 2022-23 Committee term:

Group Officers (Core Committee):

Chair - Nick Room

Vice Chair - Will Phaure

Secretary - Karen Allen

Treasurer - Dr Nicki Kitching

Committee Appointments:

Membership and Associate Coordinator - Alex Beeston

Chief Observer - Des McDermott

Minutes Secretary - Fiona Brown*

* Fiona is not an official core member but she does of course sit in on all meetings (or requests a deputy) to fulfil her role as our Minute taker.

Our Extended Committee (Committee Plus)

Newsletter Editor - Derek Maynard

Stop Press!

TVGAM achieves 'High Performing Group' status from IAM Roadsmart

Stuart Haythorn, our ASDM, has reassessed our Group performance since the last Audit which was carried out in July 2020. Drawing attention to great test results, exemplary training initiatives, progressive work towards aligning the Group's objectives with those of the IAM, our record on attracting young drivers, the continuous improvement in communication with members throughout the pandemic, and the creativity of the whole committee, TVGAM's audit result was upgraded from Commended to High Performing.

Stuart's email to Chair Nick Room reads:-

"It was great to spend time with you and the team last night whilst looking at the improvements that you have all made in the day to day operation of TVGAM".

I can confirm that TVGAM is a 'High Performing' group, and I will update our records to show this. This recommendation is wholly deserved as you and the team have used the original audit to focus on those areas of operation that needed changing, to be upgraded and developed into the 'model' systems which you now employ. In addition, your innovative approach in identifying solutions for social media, such as finding skilled volunteers outside of TVGAM, has given the group an excellent new website and inviting and regularly updated social media which should all gain great interest and bring in new members.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone involved in the changes and I look forward to seeing the success that these developments bring to TVGAM in the future.

[Stuart Haythorn](#)

The Horncastle Garage / Shell Trophy

TVGAM Premier Driver of the year

Horncastle Garage/Shell Trophy - inaugural award

As featured in the November newsletter, and witnessed at the AGM, we have begun to award this trophy to the associate who gets the best driving competency score in their advanced test. For 2021 the award goes to Tony Milton. An ADI, heavily involved in promoting driving safety, Tony joined our Group in February 2020. Derek Wilson coached Tony through to a heartily deserved F1RST with a competency score of 24. Well done to both Tony and Derek.

[Read more](#)

<https://mailchi.mp/9a1de14c0900/newsletter-in-november>



Tony receiving the Horncastle Trophy from ASDM Stuart Haythorn

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 26th May – 8pm,

Holyport Memorial Hall, Moneyrow Green, Holyport, SL6 2NA



Tim Hill

“FOR YOUR EYES ONLY!”

Eye floaters, what they are, and how they can be dealt with.

Fellow member and observer Tim Hill will bring his personal experiences to this talk about the importance of good eyesight to driving, and the inconvenience – and danger – of ‘floaters’, defined as visible deposits that can manifest themselves in front of the retina.

Refreshments will be served, and, as usual, there will be an update on Committee initiatives

Electric Vehicles and me - a user's journey – by Nicholas Edgley

This is the third and final instalment of Nick Edgley's long article on living with an electric vehicle. (For previous instalments, see our January and March Newsletters).

As before, these are Nick's personal comments and are not necessarily endorsed by TVGAM.

I'd like to thank Nick again for his contribution and encourage members to submit items for editorial consideration to editor@tvgam.org.uk, or myself.

Nick Room

chair@tvgam.org.uk

Instalment 3



Nick Edgley

The cost.

There is no argument that currently EVs are expensive when compared to equivalent petrol or diesel engine cars, especially at the standard family saloon end of the market. This is still true, but less so, at the larger and performance end of the market.

I am fortunate to have my own business and, as a company car purchase, the capital cost was 100% tax deductible as opposed to 18% of the price being tax deductible for a car with emissions of 1-50g/km or just 6% for cars with emissions over 110g/k. The numbers may well have changed but you can clearly see the Government's thinking. There was also a government grant of around £5,000 (from memory) towards the purchase which the dealer already deducted from the purchase price quoted.

The Benefit in Kind tax liability to the user of a company car was 7% of the car's value in 2017 but in tax year 2020/21 was 0% rising to 1% and 2% respectively for the next two tax years. Rates for high emissions vehicles could be as high as 37% for comparison.

There is zero Road Fund Licence and exemption from the London Congestion Zone charges. In the Royal Borough of Westminster in London to park on a meter you must purchase 10 minutes parking, usually around 70p, and can then stay for the maximum time allowable for that bay, normally four hours.

The Future.

Figures vary but EVs convert around 85 – 90% of their energy into propulsive power. A petrol vehicle converts 12 – 30% of its petrol (not sure about diesel) energy into propulsive power. The real issue with EVs is energy density and charging ability.

Petrol and diesel have a large amount of energy by volume when compared with batteries. Hence my car weighs over 2 tonnes whereas my Mercedes had a fuel tank which sat underneath the rear seats and held 80 litres of fuel which weighs around 68kgs.

Barring a breakthrough in technology then, in my view, batteries are going to remain large and heavy for some time.

As far as charging is concerned there are now, according to the website zap-map.com, almost 17,500 charging locations offering over 47,000 connections. That number is growing. However, there are many different companies operating public chargers and their reliability is patchy. According to Dispatches on Channel 4 the other night at any one time over 10% of such chargers are unserviceable. Also, each company varies in how you gain access to their network. Some you need a smart card, some an app and so on. Again, this emphasises the benefits of the Tesla network where queuing is rare and reliability close to 100%.

Much is made of the future of Hydrogen. I am open to persuasion, but the hurdles are significant. Hydrogen is 2,700 times less energy dense than petrol meaning that weight and volume of storage systems are an issue. Distribution requires significant new infrastructure. Hydrogen also requires energy to produce.

I have an open mind and am willing to change and adapt as required.

I think the UK date for banning the sale of new petrol or diesel cars will slip but, like the California tail pipe emission legislation in the 1966, it is often the case that manufacturers only change course when forced, usually by legislation or by consumer demand.

There is much discussion about cobalt mining and, without question, the ethics need addressing but it should not be forgotten that car batteries are only one of the many worldwide uses of cobalt.

It is also a fact that all cars, whether electric or petrol/diesel, are environmentally unfriendly in manufacture and at end of life. What I do like about EVs is that they do not pump out noxious fumes into the heart of towns and cities leading to the appalling air quality we now experience in built up areas. Admittedly the power generation causes pollution and that too will need addressing.

There are many valid arguments for and against greener vehicles but one thing I am certain of is that throughout history humankind finds solutions to changing problems.

I really enjoy my Tesla and, if I am selfish, the longer people resist change the longer I benefit from the multitude of government and council incentives!

I know that at some point the Government will have to devise other means of collecting revenue to compensate for the loss of duty and tax from petrol and diesel sales but in the meantime.....

The argument is often put forward that the power distribution network would not cope if we all bought EVs. Indeed, it wouldn't but we will not all buy EVs overnight much as we didn't all buy petrol cars overnight in the earlier 20th century.

Currently most car charging takes place overnight. A time when the grid has excess capacity, hence cheap overnight tariffs, so electricity demand is not a problem yet.

A piece written late last year by Graeme Cooper of National Grid makes interesting reading where he claims 'There is definitely enough energy and the grid can cope easily.' (Source: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/stories/journey-to-net-zero-stories/can-grid-cope-extra-demand-electric-cars>)

There are many valid arguments for and against greener vehicles but one thing I am certain of is that throughout history humankind finds solutions to changing problems.

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MOTORING



Tyre Dust

Did you know....

Tyre dust could be around 1000 times more harmful than exhaust fumes according to **Emissions Analytics**.

We all know that tyres wear down, but have you ever considered where all those particles go? UK based start-up The Tyre Collective has been working on tackling the problem of tyre wear.

According to the UK government, the dust they emit is the second largest **microplastic** pollutant in our oceans.

A team of students from Imperial College and the Royal College of Art have developed device which attaches to a car tyre and uses electrostatics and the aerodynamics of a spinning wheel to collect the dust as it is produced. The device can remove up to 60% of tyre wear particles on the road.





Driving Ambitions to Reduce Emissions

TVGAM in partnership with IAM RoadSmart and IAAPS (University of Bath) will be holding a series of interactive exhibition roadshows in 5 locations across the Thames Valley Group area this summer. Plans for the first 3 are well under way with **WINDSOR** and **BRACKNELL** scheduled for September:

JUNE 25th Altwood C of E School, **MAIDENHEAD**, SL6 4PU.

JULY 11th The Forest School, Winnersh, **WOKINGHAM**, RG41 5NE.

JULY 25th John Madjeski Academy, **READING**, RG2 8AF

Students from our partners, the UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems based at the University of Bath, will be interactively exhibiting on topics themed around 'What does driving look like in 2040'. From road design, alternative fuels, to how drivers must change their habits to reduce carbon emissions. We all have a responsibility to reduce the carbon emissions creating climate change for our and future generations. It isn't just what vehicle we drive, or what fuels it, but how we drive it.

TVGAM will have stands promoting IAM RoadSmart courses, displaying Advanced Driving videos, plus a Drive Clinic where visitors can come to discuss issues about their own bad driving habits with an observer, and the opportunity to purchase ADCs, book taster drives and assessments.

We want members to support this and be a part of it and help to attract new members, so please get involved by volunteering to help at these Saturday morning events (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

Contact: Will Phaure (events@tvgam.org.uk) or Nick Room (chair@tvgam.org.uk) to register your interest.

Meet Will Phaure- our new TVAGM Vice Chair

For those who don't know me already, I have been a member of the TVGAM since late 2019 and passed my Advanced Driver's Course with a F1RST in December 2019. Full credit goes to my observer at the time, Richard who was excellent in ironing out all my bad habits and teaching me stuff I was simply not aware of. Albeit I do have a passion for cars, my true passion is wine. Like cars the hardest question to answer is: What is your favourite wine? The answer is often an essay as it starts with a wine from Italy and somehow ends up in France! The same can be said about cars when asked what is your favourite car? The answer is easier as the country stays as Germany - speaking of Germany, I am rather partial to their Rieslings as well!

My real job is selling wine to restaurants and designing wine lists with recommended selling prices (yes I am the one that recommends the restaurant wine prices based on costs) which does however involve a lot of admin as well as the glamorous side of wine tasting. The train is a better option at this point! My job allows me to drive a lot going from one customer to another and driving many roads that are new to me. The advanced driving course has been an absolute asset for this part of my job which has made driving more fun and a safer experience especially when you are in work mode. When I am back from my daytime job, I am involved with helping to promote TVGAM with the events side of the Group which I will continue to do with my new role as Vice Chair. This will help to support the current committee especially with the exciting times and events ahead.



Will Phaure

New to the team

Meet **Fiona Brown** – our new Committee Minutes Secretary

There isn't much to say about me really just that I am a fairly new member of TVGAM having passed my advanced driving test in August last year and have taken on the role of Minutes Secretary.



I'm **Derek Maynard** your new newsletter Editor. I moved to Reading last year to be closer to the family. I went on to YouTube website to see how to use Publisher and at times it seems to have a mind of its own! Putting some photos in was a problem as well, but should be easier next time round. I passed my IAM test last century, and I also help to run Stammering self help group in Reading area: www.stamma.org



I will give more details of myself in the next newsletter, The dog is Peppa named by grandchildren after Peppa pig, who likes to sit on my lap.

Exciting TVGAM Website News!



Members are invited to visit our new website which has been thoroughly updated and is now live at

www.tvgam.org.uk

The site has a range of new features useful to all members, offering increased functionality, and represents a major investment in our communication with you. Please take some time to familiarise yourself with the new website.

As with all modern business organisations, we are looking to promote TVGAM to a much wider audience and therefore please tell your friends and family about the new website. Our members are our best ambassadors. We will also have the facility to capture enquirers if they agree to leave their contact details on the site, enabling us to develop a relationship with new prospects, and hoping they will be encouraged to engage with an IAM Roadsmart course.

All feedback welcome.

Chief's Observations

I recently attended the Thames Valley Community Fund presentation, which was organised by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. TVGAM were awarded £1,000 by the community fund following a bid that we made in 2021. The funds will be used by TVGAM to promote our road safety initiatives in the Thames Valley area over the next year. The event was really well organised and was attended by all of the organisations who were successful with bids that were made in 2021. Suffice it to say, there is only a limited amount of funds available and the demand for them is very high. To put this into context, the organisations that were successful in their bids run charities that make a significant difference to our communities. This included domestic violence and abuse, mental health, search and rescue and homelessness charities across the Thames Valley. A theme that emerged on the day was that all of these organisations rely heavily on volunteers and require funding to help with their everyday operational costs.

It was also very clear from the presentation and the discussions that I had afterwards with representatives of the other charities how road safety was really valued by the attendees. Many of the people that I held discussions with commented that they were interested in advanced driving and improving their own driving standards. There was also interest in what IAM RoadSmart offers to younger drivers in particular so I took the opportunity to share the success that TVGAM has had in recruiting younger drivers to the organisation. The awards were presented by John Campbell (Thames Valley Chief Constable) and Matthew Barber (Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner) who commended TVGAM on the work that we are engaging in to promote road safety in the area. Following the Community Fund presentation, TVGAM has been invited to the next Thames Valley Road Safety Summit. This is a series of events designed to reduce the number of deaths on roads in the Thames Valley area and it will bring together a wide range of organisations and road users to put a strategy in place to that end. This is an excellent opportunity for TVGAM to share our experiences of road safety and to make our roads safer for all users. A special thank you to the TVGAM committee, and Nick Room in particular, for all of the hard work in winning the bid.



Safe driving

Des McDermott
Chief Observer



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS - May 2022

New Members

A warm welcome to all new Members who have recently joined the TVGAM group.

Associate Members:

Ross Lewis from Henley Niraj Arora from Maidenhead Umar Alyas from Reading	Oliver Atwal from Reading Jason Tisdale from Bracknell Frances Faulkner from Eton	Jake Rouse from Wokingham Martin Withers from Reading
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We wish you all every success with your Advanced Driving Courses.

The total of New Members joining TVGAM in 2022 is: 13

Test Passes

Many congratulations to the following associates who have recently passed their Advanced Driving Tests and to their respective observers.

Associate	Observer
Harley Jones (FIRST)	Nicki Kitching
Kieran Cubbage	Nicki Kitching

The total number of Test Passes in 2022 is: 3

TVGAM Annual Membership fees:

A proposal to increase TVGAM members subscriptions was tabled and passed at the Groups AGM last month. Subscriptions have not been increased since 2014, but with operating costs increasing it was unanimously agreed that an increase was in order. Effective from **June 1st** renewals and members transferring in will be asked to pay the new rates of **£12** (email newsletter) and **£22** (postal newsletter – restricted circulation)

Associates: 1st year is **included** in your course fee. 2nd and subsequent years will be **£36.50**

All other £12 for all members receiving newsletters and bulletins via email.

Members: £22 only for members who depend on newsletters and bulletins by mail.

Payment methods

Bank transfers: Lloyds Bank, Maidenhead Sort Code 30-95-36 Account No. 07015567

Reference: Please enter your **Group Member ID** (e.g. nn/nnn)

Cheques: Payee: **Thames Valley Group of Advanced Motorists** (full Group title please).
Please post to my home address on your email reminder.

Alex Beeston - Membership Secretary



Please help keep your membership records up-to-date—email changes to membership@tvgam.org.uk