

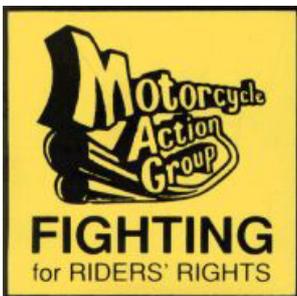
The WRAG

April 2016



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MAG AGC	1
Gloucestershire MAG AGM	1
MAG Hatters Rally	2-3
Events	2



Not a MAG member?

Why not join now, by going to:
<http://www.mag-uk.org/en/joinmag/a6318>

And sign up on line!



MAG AGC Hosted by BaD MAG

MAG's Annual Group Conference is the ideal opportunity for members from all corners of the country to come together to discuss the organisation's successes, the way forward, and to vote on matters such as Motions that have been brought to the Conference, along with some of the posts that will be up for election. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge MAG groups and individuals for outstanding service. Although MAG is obliged, by law, to hold an annual conference and certain due processes must be observed, it is by no means a dry and dusty event; there is plenty of lively discussion and exchange of ideas and a chance, in the evening, for some downtime to catch up with friends old and new and to celebrate the country's leading riders' rights organisation.

Location: Shaw Lane Rugby Club, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 6HZ



Gloucestershire MAG AGM

Well I was reappointed as group rep for her 8 or 9 year's (I can't remember which). . Others appointed were Paul Sysum as Political Officer and Julie Sysum as Treasurer. It was decided that the roles of memberships and clubs liaison would be dropped as this role is undertaken at a regional level.

After a long discussion, it was agreed that Glos MAG meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month. We will try to arrange ride outs on the other Thursday's and maybe some unofficial meetings. As the group has no one to run the website it was decided that the Glos MAG Facebook page will be used to let people know what's going on. Mark Whitehead agreed to make myself and Deb Rose administrators in line with MAG policy.

My thanks goes out to all who attended, to Paul & Julie for stepping up to help me in running the group and to Deb Rose for coming over to be our regional observer (I bribed her with a roast at the pub before the meeting). Den Powel

MAG HATTERS 2016 report from the trenches

Planning for this event started many months ago with a wide open brief regarding type of site i.e. pub, scout hall or green field traditional rally.



After several suggestions were investigated the Owen Harris Memorial Hall at Eastington was deemed the best venue because it had the most flexibility.

With the demise of old regional rallies, the Duk Dik & the Slippit Inn, and the decision of Weston Mag that there would be no more GWR rallies, as a region we have a massive amount of kit. I then made the decision that the Glos Mag kit was best placed, but had not been looked at for 3 years. A weekend was sorted out and me and my wife Julie, Nick Hearn, Den (the Glos Mag rep) & Phil her husband met up and after a few rain soaked hours we had it all sorted out to what was needed.

The Wednesday before the rally myself, Steve Pritchard and Pete Hobbs were to meet up where we stored the Glos MAG rally kit. Pete had an evening of stress regarding no trailer lights (just a blown fuse) we eventually met up around 10.30 pm, all we could do was drop off the trailer, Pete didn't get home until midnight, Steve then stayed over with me ready for an 8 o'clock start the next morning.

Pete couldn't now meet us the following morning; Den & Phil again stepped in and joined us to help load the trailer with the rally kit.



While all this was going on Julie, on her way to an hospital appointment was collecting barrels of beer from a local brewery (Bespoke) Also Bev Hearn and her mother in law were collecting more beer from a brewery close to them (Uley). I feel that it is important to say that with the exception of Julie Nick Den & Phil none of the others are Mag members.



Around 10 people were waiting to lend a hand, please don't hold it against me if I don't name you I had a lot on my mind and can't remember all of your names, but your help was MAGnificent.

Claire of Bristol MAG fame soon whipped the marquee into shape, I hid from her, and set up The Troll's home for the weekend or as I call it the control tent. Anne Gale & George then set up the mysteries of paperwork that control requires. After a few hours they asked for the whole control tent to be moved to a better location. Its best said that I rather grudgingly agreed (Anne you were correct it was better placed in location two)

We were all good to go by around 6 in the evening on the Thursday, and as we had no punters to party with we made our own fun for the evening running up a tab behind the bar! I emerged from my tent on Friday morning with a biblical hangover, very glad that the lion's share of work had been completed the day before. I blinked and groaned my way into the bar marquee started to clear up and spotted the tab from the night before, I think the last time I drank like that I was young enough to handle it so no more for me this weekend.



Friday passed in a blur, welcoming old friends and sorting out all the 101 small jobs that needed my attention. As more people arrived, and beer started to flow, the atmosphere built. I checked in with Martin our caterer, this was his first rally and he was amazed by the amount of food and beverages being sold.

Claire again showed her considerable worth by sorting out the bar staff rota, she gave me the late stint from 10 until closure (thanks mate). Eddie Garnier sorted out some cider that apparently only he liked, after a quick bout of good natured character assassination the incident is now called cider gate.

The Mesito Blues Collective arranged by Claire kept people partying until the small hours, as I was stone cold sober around 1.30 I went to bed leaving things in Marks hands.

Saturday morning I was peacefully lying in my tent having a think about emerging into the light of day, a quick look at my watch showed it was 6am so as I turned over to go back to sleep I thought it's a bit windy best get up and have a mooch about, the wind was getting stronger very quickly, I realised that the control tent was in trouble so I parked my land rover in front of it and walked back towards the marquee to see the regional Mag stand a foot in the air! I have no



idea where the people came from, but I think that Fee, Pete's partner, started running around the tents raising people. Such was the speed of response that some didn't even bother dressing giving us a view of tasteful pyjamas (Cath).



The Mag stand was hastily dropped down as light bulbs smashed around us, some one realised that the electricity supply was still on, the main marquee was in big trouble by now! We braced the legs using ratchet straps; all that did was to bend the frame until welds on the joining steel work started to snap.

By now around 30 people were holding the whole twisting and buckling thing down, a quick look at my weather app said currently 30 - 40 mph winds rising later in the day to 60 -70 mph with heavy rain joining the party. I had no choice but to take the marquee down and while 40mph wind lashed us the barrels of beer were carried like sleeping babies into the warm safety of the memorial hall, the marquee was dismantled safely with no injuries and within ½ an hour the bloody wind



calmed right down. Mind you, it was the right decision, as another wave of wind, rain and sleet hit the site in the afternoon.



After resetting up the bar and moving around the tables in the hall, all was good to go and in time for breakfast full English for £5 well done Martin.

A chap from Bristol said that he and a few others, including Bowser from the Ogrri, were holding down a corner of the marquee, when Bowser moved to give me a hand they all lifted about 6 inches into the air (see Bowser you do have a use!)



Some of the more sensible amongst us decided that enough was enough and left for home, leaving 6 broken tents in the rubbish, the hardier stayed, and a brave few joined Dan & Stacy on their ride out.

Saturday's entertainment The Rock Lord and Broken Image, again arranged by the mighty Claire, was enjoyed by all, and my resolution not to drink lasted until around 11pm on Saturday night. And if I harassed anyone whilst wearing a pair of pump up pants (Cath & Fees creation) you have my deepest apology.



As most of the packing up was forced on us Saturday thanks to storm Katie, there was not a lot to do Sunday, just load up the various vehicles and give the hall a good clean up. This type of event always need a big mouth to force it along, but without all of the other helpers could not go ahead, Thank you all. Paul Sysum



Events

April 9. MAG AGC: Hosted by BaD MAG

April 14. Barnstaple Bike Night: North Devon MAG

April 29 - May 1. Into The Valley: Yorkshire MAG: <http://www.intothevalley.co.uk>

May 12. Barnstaple Bike Night: North Devon MAG

May 27 – 29. Tone Vale Tea Rally: Taunton MAG: <http://taunton-mag/tonevaletea.htm>

June 9. Barnstaple Bike Night: North Devon MAG

June 10 - 12. LION RALLY: Reading MAG: <http://www.lionrally.com>

June 17 – 19. The Farmyard Party: Yorkshire MAG: <http://www.farmyardparty.com/farmyard-party>

June 24 – 26. Blackpool Area MAG's High Chaperall-y: Blackpool Area MAG: <http://www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org>

The Motorcycle Action Group

<http://www.mag-uk.org/en/index/a6296>

Western Region MAG

<http://western-region.mag-uk.org/index3.html>

The Motorcycle Action Group accepts no responsibility for the content of this publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or MAG.

A Demented Troll publication