

Minutes of Western Region Committee Meeting

11 December 2005

Bill P. Chairman; Di, Ad Hoc; Troll MP MEP and Regional Newsletter; Eddie, Not Avon; Spider, Web; Kath, Treasurer; Donna P, Glos Rep; Paul S, Regional Events; Alan J, Mid Wilts Trace, Swindon Rep; Judge, Observer.

1. Apologies from Aine, Robbie, Brian, Andy W, Derwen, Val, and Paul McCulloch.
2. Minutes of last meeting - Got wrong minutes.
3. Matters Arising - to be discussed with NC Report.

4. Officers Reports

Bill -Nothing to report

George - Broadband running well but computer keeps shutting down. E-mail connection is very quiet. 614 labels received so membership up this year. Will be busier with 3rd directive.

Paul - Membership information from central is rubbish it's out of date by a month and too difficult to action.

Stuart - Bristol website now up so looking at Western website. Want to ask Andy to create website for Not Avon as they have more members than Bristol.

Kath - Balance same as last meeting £3500.78, waiting for any donations for end of year and account statements to be sent from individual groups. (Comment from Bill, we need local account information and Products before January)

Di - Nothing to report.

Andy - Nothing to report.

5. Reps Reports

Eddy - Not Avon

Now have possible permanent home at The Lamb at Iron Acton, landlord friendly. Yate speed bumps are giving problems but Council agrees they are wrongly placed. Bike Safe in South Glos. Want more rider information but 2 of the accidents are driver fault.

Donna - Gloucester

We are doing well and socially it's great. Working towards Duk Dik. One of the new members is Environmental Agency worker who is going to prove useful. Website is getting lots of hits. Santa Run for Barnardos was really good and very well organized, refreshments etc., will need more marshals for next year. The run made you feel really good and would also be good for MAG to have a larger presence. Party is 18th February, £6.00 approx. per ticket with real ales bands etc. We need a small PA system for the region.

Alan -Mid Wilts

Successful Xmas Party. AGM on 4th, Trace to adjudicate. Possibility of getting walkie-talkies for runs - ? are they legal? Do we need a license? Legality of use of radio waves?

Trace - Swindon

Meeting has moved to 1st and 3rd Tuesday because the skittle alley is always free on these days. Membership is steady. Made £34.00 profit from party sent to Central.

Eddie - Bristol

Soup Run raised £120.00. Halloween Party was good with great costumes. Will be concentrating on Mobile Phone campaign next year. Need to get public informed of fines and dangers. Van/lorry £2500.00 fine. Car £1000.00 fine. In Gloucester, 690 people have been prosecuted.

We also produced a letter re. change of format Streetbiker to Road, everyone liked the format but complained the were no campaigns mentioned. The Road is the only contact for any member that does not attend meetings.

Streetbiker was really useful at shows and events to approach the public with, we now have nothing like that. If the Board decided we should sell them should this not have been a NC decision as it's a policy action? If we are not happy with the Road should we not be writing to NC expressing our views? We write to MP's so why not NC? Also is there not a conflict of interest as we seem to get mainly Muchys views expressed. Bill gave Muchy a cd with pics etc. of the GWR but there is no sign of anything in The Road.

Question for NC

Proposed - Andy M

Seconded - Trace

No votes against.

While Western Region agrees pricing of a magazine is a commercial and therefore a Board issue when did NC approve policy change to make The Road chargeable in the first place?

Weston

Our Rep is indisposed with family problems. Garage Daze event raised over £300.00 for Freewheelers, the next event will be in May and others to come. Please support.

6. NC/Board/Report - Trace

Membership hopefully will be 10,000 by Xmas. If an event is held for the Foundation some money must go to the Foundation, this gives tax breaks as it's a charity, but there must be a papertrail.

Political Report

Riders rights were concentrated on at The Bike Show. NC needs to know if there are any mentions of anything to do with motorcycling mentioned in the media, so that they can reply if necessary. The 3rd Directive has been delayed by bureaucracy because no country can afford to change all driving licenses. GB, Austria and Finland are not interested so that takes care of the next three years, even if it was implemented there would be a 5 year delay.

Trace asked who we target regarding the Directive as MP's and MEP's just give the party line and we need to know the best way to target letters. Stuart says we write to the Parties not MP's. MP's only get 1

minute to talk in Parliament but we need to make sure our MEP's know where we are coming from. Sol was very pro-active saying that training etc. has to be the same throughout Europe.

Trevor said GAGEM is now meaningless, it used to be a useful talking shop but now you have to talk to each government department.

Network has examples of insurance policy change without notification, several people have been caught out. No responses.

FEMA now has a mission statement re. core business, riders rights.

Road hazard cards have been re-designed and are on the web where they can be filled in and emailed.

Foundation has produced 6 copies of secure bike parking places. They want to publish it with sponsorship and give it away. Good idea but all details from Swindon Council were incorrect.

Membership could be paid by standing order at £2.00 per month but don't expect it to happen.

Public Liability Insurance: Yorkshire want to withdraw PLI from affiliated clubs because we could be sued. This should be looked at before April or MAG could lose its PLI. PLI risk assessment forms are going direct to the insurers instead.

There is a training weekend in Leeds the possibly one down south. Leeds has 30 places but there appears to be 20 instructors, so how many are having training. There is a problem filling in risk assessment forms, needs to be sorted by training.

The Simon Millward Run is now an official annual event at the end of April.

Someone is trialling a local web group forum where each group has a site for sending messages to others. Its like the local e-mail list but completely closed. New membership forms are appearing soon.

Trace - The Reps don't seem to say anything.

Bill - Could the Reps raise anything?

Trace - Any other business is the last 15 minutes, they have to get something on the Agenda before it can be raised.

Stuart - If there is no RAMS meeting there is no reason for the Reps to challenge the Board.

Andy - RAMS was an informal arrangement but it was useful.

Trace - Anything the Reps raise has to go through Jane Chisholm.

Question to NC.

Proposed Andy

Seconded Stuart

Vote none against

Under what authority was the RAMS meeting closed down?

7A Post-AGM Committee Meeting

Decided 12.00 April 16th at Duk Dik but will go off site.

7B Anyone is to let Aine know if they are not re-standing.

8 Regional Award to go to Richard for the Bike Show, he's turning up to give a talk on manhole covers so will be there.