

# Minutes of Western Region Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> August 2006

## The Mayors Arms, Bristol.

### Attending:

Stuart, website; Eddie, NotAvon & Bristol; Di, Memberships; Bill, Committee Chairman & W&NS; Kath, Treasurer; Trace, Regional Liaison, Gloucester and Swindon; Troll (George), MP/MEP & W&NS; Robbie, Forest of Dean MAG; Anne, Admin.

### Apologies

Paul Sysum, Events; Andy M, Communications Officer; Val, Products.

### AWOL –

No one had heard anything from Mid-Wilts so don't know if Taff/paul away.

### Minutes of the June meeting – correctness

All correct

### Matters Arising

*Bristol – Mobile Phones Project.* – Stuart was asked if there was an update on this in the light of a lorry driver recently receiving a 3 year jail sentence for a fatal collision whilst using his mobile. Stuart confirmed this is on going and Sian (Bristol) et al are still trying to decide the best way to take this forward.

The point was made that tests had been done in the U.S. which concluded that even using a mobile hands free changed the attention span of the driver to the equivalent of 80m/g alcohol.

*Regional MAG Stand* – Anne had been liaising with Paul Sysum. Paul submitted the logo's to [www.instantmarquees.co.uk](http://www.instantmarquees.co.uk) but had not received a reply. He is chasing.

In the light of the fact that Bristol was probably the Region's last big presence at a show this year Anne had suggested to Paul that we get this done and dusted over the Autumn in readiness for 2007. Until then we can use the gazebo purchased last year.

It had previously been decided on email that though we didn't like the corporate MAG logo, we felt this should go onto the roof of the marquee with the pipes logo on the sides. *Action* Paul

*Public Liability Insurance* – A discussion ensued on the PL insurance supplied by MAG. Trace mentioned that the NC meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> had revealed a Rep in the East of England had already paid out £200 to MAG UK to be covered for PL insurance at various events he was exhibiting a MAG stand at. A heated discussion ensued whereby it became apparent that the general consensus of opinion was that MAG Groups/Regions/Members should not have to pay MAG UK to promote MAG at events. This is clearly something that requires sorting out within the NC at the earliest possible time.

[Post meeting note: Trace contacted Central to enquire as to whether our MAG Stand was covered at the Bristol Bike Show. In short this led to an email debate with poor old TB – he being the only one able to tackle the subject at Central. Anne has taken out PL insurance with MAG for the MAG Stand at BBS BUT this is something which has to be sorted.

Anne had contacted Clive Gamlin of Castlemead whose company acts as brokers for provision of MAG's

PL insurance. She asked if it was necessary to take out PL insurance for the MAG stand separate to that taken out by Rich Stiling for the Show & which included 'exhibitors, vendors etc'. Clive confirmed I should but that this was free under MAG's global PL cover and purely a paper exercise. A very heated email discussion ensued as Anne was then quoted £26.40 for the day by MAG Central, which was later retracted as this was a stand being put on at a MAG event. Trace to take forward]. *Action* Trace

## **Officers Reports**

*Bill, Chairman* – extremely busy having just had the Bikefest and now busy finalising things for the GWR.

*Di, Memberships* – Di passed round a letter template for comment before proceeding to write to lapsed members.

*Stuart, Website* – Has asked Val for some photos of MAG Regional products so these can go on the website.

*Troll, MP/MEP* – 3<sup>rd</sup> EU Licence directive still ongoing, otherwise comparatively quiet. Busy organising the GWR etc.

*Kath, Treasurer* – Kath gave a report of what we hold in the account. A couple of invoices were handed over by Bill for payment. *Action* Kath

## **Reps Reports**

*Bristol* – Group had an excellent run up to visit Gloucester on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Group busy with Bristol Bike Show. Suggested a letter of "thanks" to the Virago Star Owners Club who are putting some marshals up for the BBS. They also support the Bikefest in big numbers. Clive's shooting weekend went well.

*NotAvon* – Now have a permanent venue which is The Lamb at iron Action who do absolutely amazing food. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.

*Weston and North Somerset* – Had a few Ride outs. 2 parties which were not very well supported. Bikefest and now busy working on the GWR 8-10 September.

*Forest of Dean* – Attendance is not very good. The Group's AGM is soon. Robbie has lots of ideas and is hoping to encourage members. Various people in the Region asked Robbie to let them know if there was anything they could do, he must not hesitate to ask. *Action* All as required

*Swindon* – AGM recently held with Andy Keir of mid Wilts observing. Group now running by Committee in the light of Trace taking on the role of Glos Rep. Trace Is still overseeing the Group which is a little quiet at present.

*Gloucester* – Recently had their AGM which Robbie observed and the Group voted in Trace as Rep. The Group are organising activities and recently attended a BBQ organised by CMA – the venue for this was particularly good and it has been muted that Gloucester will look into maybe organising a Bike Show using the same venue.

*Calne* – thanks to everyone who helped with putting on the MAG stand. Bill had been handed an official form to book for stand space for next year but before completing it would liaise with Taff to see if they might be duplicating work. *Action* Bill/Taff

*Staverton* – West Side Street Rods hold some sort of regular event and this had potential for a motorcycle and MAG presence at some time in the future. *Action* Region

## **NC Report**

*Membership Database* – still a mess and practically unusable. Trevor is to call the technical company in to get them to sort it.

*Ian Moore* – has resigned as Company Secretary of MAG Media and MAG UK. He remains a Director of MAG UK and on the Board of the Foundation. Uncle Sol has taken over the roles Ian vacated.

*Elaine Hardy* – had produced some casualty statistics

*FEMA* – smaller European countries are asking for a change in FEMA voting – watch this space.

*Bus Lanes* – due to Planning conditions Swindon Bikes in Bus Lanes looks to be permanent by default.

## **Public Affairs Report**

*2<sup>nd</sup> EU DL Directive* – with the imminent implementation of this Directive it seems there is some confusion over the ‘off road’ part of the motorcycle test as there does not appear to be enough room for this manoeuvre at most test centres in GB.

*All Party Group* – Bill Wiggin has taken over from Lempit Opek.

*External Vehicle Speed Control* – Trevor B had tried out the bike under controlled conditions. However, even outside the controlled conditions the bike did not behave appropriately.

*The EVSC Petition* – this is still ongoing and about to go on-line for people to sign up to it over the web.

*Road Hazard Cards* – have not been re-vamped as promised. On-line access has been suggested.

*Cable Crash Barriers* – briefing document available. The Netherlands had recently removed the last of theirs after severe lobbying and Norway were not installing any more.

*Day-Time Lights* – Belgian MAG had done some research which came out against compulsory DTLs on motorcycles and strongly opposed it.

*MEP Ride* – this year was just a buffet lunch and networking. [Post meeting note: knowing how strongly we felt about networking in suits with a drink in one hand a roll-mop in the other. Anne G liaised with Trevor who tells me this was a one-off and the MEP Ride would be re-instated next year as exactly that – a Ride – and used for its original purpose]

## **Board Report**

*Campaigns Manager* – applications have been received for this post.

*Spam from E-bike* – anyone receiving spam from E-bike, this is a contractors mess up and being sorted.

*6 wheel breakdown service* – from Boncaster, underwritten by Equity Red Star and excellent value at around £50. It was pointed out that the problem with RAC, AA is that their European Recovery will only cover repatriation of your bike to the value of Glasses Guide recommended value of your machine.

*Ian Moore* – produced an ‘A’ frame sign which folds out and can easily be carried on the back of a bike with “Join MAG here”. Central looking at getting these. Will be excellent for our Biker Nights or wherever we can turn up without the MAG Stand.

*Paignton Bikefest* – Yorkshire said this is a nice little Show and suggest this region have a stand at it!!!

*Track Day* &ncash; Mallory Park 22<sup>nd</sup> August

*Motorcycle friendly benefits* – John Thompson creating list. Regions/Reps to get back with information.

*Neil Stevenson* – contract has just been renewed at very little cost.

*Membership Gift Tokens* – to be made available in case anyone wants to give membership as a present.

## **NC Meeting - continued**

*Reviews* – of The Road and Network have/are being done. Network Editor requires more Regional input.

*Foundation Report* – Now on second print of the Secure Parking Booklet

*Website* – no update on the revamp of the web-site

*2007 Annual Group Conference* – Horncastle, Lincolnshire on 14 April 2007. A few concerns regarding lack of B&B facilities in the area.

*Mentoring System* – has been suggested for Regional Reps

*Central Office* – to publish details of all the relevant publications.

## **Regional MAG Stand –**

already covered in Matters Arising.

## **Regional Exhibition Material –**

Bristol MAG – Plastering Table, Display Boards, Banner.

Weston & North Somerset = Banner – large.

## **Regional First Aid Kit –**

being purchased in time for GWR

## **Update on GWR**

Health and Safety and First Aid are all up together with personnel covering.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Loan of a van and collection of Marquees and other relevant stuff from Gloucester.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – putting up marquees and erecting bar/setting up beer.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – will be a clear up evening

## **Any Other Business**

1. A discussion ensued regarding the legalities/feasibility of having a ‘name and shame’ page.
2. Glos MAG are holding £4,000 which is proceeds from the Duk Dik. They would like this to be donated to the MAG Foundation in the name of Donna.  
Committee thought this was a wonderful idea and that suitable press coverage of the donation and in whose memory it is made was a necessity.

3. Discount offered by Fowlers seems to be somewhat erratic and Eddie has asked if we can contact Stephanie Fowler to ascertain exactly what is discounted to MAG members. Anne to try and find email address to contact her. *Action Anne*
4. Krissie Carpenter (nee Willis) is going to Holland for stem cell treatment in September for her MS. She is holding a charity Rock event in Taunton in November and would like support from as many MAG members as possible. This is to try and raise some money to repay the £13k which is being lent to her to under this treatment. It was pointed out that we felt nearby camping would be an incentive to get people down there as it was a long haul for an evening if people wanted to drink.
5. In Memorium Patch for Donna. Anne had spoken to Paul about this and he was in favour of a simple patch. She had offered to take on the task of getting quotes from jacquard Weaving and ordering etc. Anne to speak to him further to try and move this forward. People were very keen to wear this patch out of respect to Donna. *Action Anne*
6. Regional Annual Group Meeting – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2007. Weston had offered last AGM to host this, however, trouble with their pub. Suggested Hewish Village Hall. Di, Kath & anyone else volunteering would do the food and hot drinks. Troll/Bill to look into this after GWR. *Action Troll/Bill*
7. Lifetime Achievement Award – Troll & Anne had proposed to Committee in April that we nominate Donna for this, the highest accolade MAG offered. 100% support. This now has to be taken forward to the NC at the appropriate time by Trace. *Action Trace*

Meeting closed at 17.10

2006 MEETINGS – Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday December 10th