

## Western Region Committee Minutes

27<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – The Mayors Arms

Attending:- Robbie, Forest of Dean Rep. Andy Kerr, Clubs. Bill Pugsley, Regional NC Liaison. Di Pugsley, Memberships. Trace, Swindon Rep. Andy Meredith, Regional Committee Chair. George the Troll, MP/MEP/Weston & North Somerset. Denny, Glos Rep. Eddie, NotAvon Rep. Steve, Webmaster. Kath Aldom, Treasurer. Aine Gale, Admin.

Meeting commenced at 13.10.

Item	Discussion Point	ACTION
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1	<b>Apologies</b>	
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Andy Derret, Bristol Rep. Taff, Mid-Wilt.

2/3	<b>Minutes of the last Meeting &amp; Matters Arising</b>	
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Were deemed as correct.

4	<b>AGC Feedback Discussion</b>	
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A lengthy discussion ensued and the following statement was agreed to be sent to the NC List:-

*Western Region Committee wishes to thank Eddie Lowe & his team from West Midlands MAG for hosting the 2008 MAG Annual Group Conference. The venue, organisation and buffet were superb.*

*However, this Committee feels that the lack of paperwork and organisation from the top table should not be repeated and that relevant paperwork for a Financial Report and the previous years AGC Minutes should, in future, be provided in the previously accepted manner.*

*Proposed:- Andy Meredith. Seconded:- Anne Gale*

Steve  
Peake

*Unanimous.*

*27<sup>th</sup> April 2008.*

Steve Peake to speak to Eddie Lowe to ensure him that none of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph above applied to West Midlands MAG and that their hosting of the 2008 AGC was exemplary. Bill

Pre AGC NC Meeting Report:-

- a. David Short was taken to task regarding his PR and stance on VAT on Protective Motorcycle Clothing. This was felt to be such an important issue that the full discussion was held over to June NC meeting which will take up the political comments made by David Short. Our NC Liaison will represent WR in this discussion.

This committee meeting felt that an Apology should appear in Network

- b. It was also felt that the comments made by David Short in his presentation to AGC with reference to voting for the Conservative Party were out of order. MAG has always, hitherto been an 'A political Party' organisation. This will be taken up at NC level by Bill.
- c. There followed a discussion on the text that Andy M was remitted to voice at AGC on behalf of the Western Region Committee copy attached to Minutes). Due to the fact that there would probably be reps from newly affiliated Clubs and possibly from commercial organisations, it had been felt by the committee that to voice this in the forum of AGC would be counterproductive to what we try and achieve by signing up members. It was therefore decided that Andy M would speak to the Chair and secure some undertaking from her to rectify this situation (copy attached) which he had done
- d. Trevor Baird (outgoing General Secretary) had presented an uplifting speech at AGC which secured a standing ovation lasting several minutes. Anne had asked at AGC that the Editor of The Road reproduce this in the next edition in order that the whole of the Membership could see it. Ian Mutch had agreed.

## 5 Officers Reports

### **Troll (with political hat on)**

Not much to report. Bristol and Bath Congestion Charge had been discussed at Bristol Group who wished to work to ensure the exclusion of bikes. David Short had promised feedback to him from a February meeting which had never materialised. Troll had emailed him again for this feedback.

It was decided that if a Regional Officer is emailing any of the 'hierarchy' of MAG UK that, to try and ensure a response, they copy in the Regional Committee. This was made on the understanding that if the recipient can see that this has a wider circulation, a reply would be more likely to be forthcoming.

If no response is then forthcoming this request should then go out via the NC list to further encourage response. ALL

### **Steve P – Webmaster**

- a. Working on setting up a page with Affiliated club information on.
- b. The Future – a discussion ensued between the IT literate whilst the rest of us glazed over and it was decided that Steve and Andy M would liaise together.
- c. Forums – a discussion ensued as to the viability of setting up a Forum. General consensus was against this. However, it was decided to come back to the June meeting with any views of existing Forums to the June meeting.
- d. Links to non affiliate clubs – a discussion ensued and it was decided against this
- e. List of those who offer discount to MAG members. A discussion ensued with the viability of Group Dealer Liaisons sorting out what was still relevant on the list held by MAG UK. However, only one Group appears to have a Dealer Liaison Officer which is John in Bristol.

f. Anne to send Denny John's email details so they can liaise.

**Kath – Regional Treasurer**

Balance in regional account is £3676.92.

ALL

**Andy K – Clubs Liaison**

Not much to report. Troll had handed out 3 Club packs at Bike safe of those interested: Van Diemans; Voyagers (South Glos based and Ed to try and find out more about them) and Mid Somerset & South Bristol Motorcycle Club.

Andy K to visit the Trowbridge group of Harley Riders.

**Di – Memberships.**

Anne

Nothing to report.

Eddie

6 **Group Reps Reports**

**Swindon**

Attendance had improved. Trace had a communication from the Honda Owners Club for a talk. However, this request was delivered to the pub and by the time Trace received it the Salisbury Rep had spoken to them.

**Forest of Dean**

Two new members who regularly attend. New bike shop in Cinderford. Regarding bike parking in the Forest – there was no need!

**NotAvon**

Have their AGM on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Lamb, Iron Acton.

Putting on a stand at Holy Joes, Chipping Sodbury on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Gloucester**

Bev has stood down with immediate effect as co-Rep although she still held the post of Group Treasurer.

Due to bad health Denny had not been able to pick up emails as much as she would

have liked.

Motorcycle First Aid Course was great.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June the police have asked MAG to enlist their help in going to a specific area of Gloucester with their bikes to talk to the youngsters. This area is giving problems with stolen vehicles and it is felt by the Police that if MAG riders can attend and engaged in conversation with these youngsters, they will see the 'human' side of owning a bike and maybe some relationships can be built.

Denny to send out details asap. For devolving down to the Groups.

### **Weston & North Somerset**

Troll's report:- We are burbling along nicely at Weston MAG.

The Fred's Run was well supported and with over 240 bikes taking part, and Roger & Lyn would like to thank everyone especially those who helped with the event. Denny

We are putting together the bones of the GWR, despite a hiccup with booking a caterer; we now have one who is based in Bristol.

However the condition of the marquees are a concern, and we would be much relieved to know we can rely on two being Ok.

### **Mid-Wilts**

Attendance is fairly low but with core members turning up on different weeks. Had the MAG stand at a show in The Shires. Group has a new banner. Organising a Pet Food Run. MAG stand at Calne in July. If NCC have a show they will require the MAG stand.

*Note to all those requiring the MAG stand – please notify Di of the dates you require it as soon as your know so that the date can be secured.*

## **7 NC/Board Report**

Bill will be emailing out for a Report from the local Group Reps 2 weeks prior to AGC with a one week turn around in order for him to compile a Regional Report to take to NC meetings.

All Group Reps to respond.

GRP  
REPS

## **8 Portable Stand Pack for Troll.**

George had found a lightweight gazebo and portable table that he would be able to carry on his bike to the small shows that he often has a MAG presence at. At one show last year he had got sun burnt and it was felt this protection was needed.

Cost is around £63 not including carriage.

Proposal by Anne G that the Region purchase this. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bill Pugsley.

Unanimous.

George was handed a cheque by the Treasurer, for £70. He will then let Kath have the receipts.

George

## 9 **Slippitt Inn Rally Feedback**

340 people attended. Total profit £3820 – Excellent Gloucester!

a) The Beauty Club had been evicted because they turned up in cars which hadn't been pre-booked, despite the fact pre-booking for some had appear on every bit of advertising. They were told they were very welcome but the cars had to be parked off-site which they refused to do.

b) The First Aid learned on the course was put into practise at the Rally due to Stef insisting on getting intimate with the brazier. Due to the treatment and quick thinking of First Aider's treatment he had relatively little to show for his encounter.

c) Marquees took a severe battering due to the weather. Glos take out plant hire insurance with MAG UK because these marquees belong to the Region. Denny had thus far had little success in getting anywhere with a claim and Anne suggested she contact Neil Stevenson who is Events Manager to further the claim. If the insurance company appear to be slow in settling the claim we are all to muster at the farm to sort out the marquees, what has to be done, what can be done, to ensure that we have adequate marquees for the GWR at the beginning of September.

Denny to keep us informed.

- d. OGRI got the best turn out award.
- e. Complaint about Munchies – several people complained about the prices etc., this year. Reps to ascertain from their Groups if they have any issues with the catering and to email Den.

DENNY

GRP  
REPS

## 10 **Suggested Speaker at Regional AGM**

Anne circulated a leaflet which had been handed to Troll at Bikesafe. It is far too early yet to make that decision but this was a suggestion to bear in mind for a Speaker.

Bill told us that Nich Brown, incoming General Secretary as of end May, would like to come to the Regions to 'catch-up'.

11 **Regional Events where MAG Stand is required**

Calne – July

Freewheelers – possibly although it was pointed out that this show is to be held on Weston Pier and it may not be possible to have the stand due to the constraints of room.

12 **15<sup>th</sup> June – Bikesafe, College Green, Bristol**

This clashes with our Regional Committee meeting and Bristol had been asked if they would have a MAG stand there, however, this had not been discussed at the last Bristol Committee Meeting.

Anne

Anne to check up with Bristol Rep and Committee that this will be covered and feed back.

13 **Any Other Business**

- a. Bikesafe, Sparkford - had resulted in 3 new clubs interested in affiliation and whilst it was acknowledged there wasn't much 'passing trade' it had been a worthwhile exercise exhibiting with the Regional Stand.
- b. Royal British Legion Biker Nights on Weston Sea Front –

George would be taking his newly acquired 'portable MAG stand' there on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month.

Cost to anyone turning up for these Biker Nights is £1 which will go directly to the Poppy Appeal.

- c. Suggested by Andy M that the MAG stand is taken to Lysley Biker Nights sometime.
- d. Ian Mutch has lost the Photos given to him by people wishing to appear in the 'My Bike' Column of the Road – please re-send to him.
- e. Ian Mutch had sent Anne an email saying that he had been told 'there was a conviction in Western Region that MAG had paid for his holiday in Morocco this year'. Both Andy M and Anne had replied immediately to IM saying this was news to them but they wished to investigate the matter. The Regional Committee were asked if they knew of anyone who was putting this around or had heard it at all – the response to which was bemused, blank faces. It was decided that we should email Ian Mutch asking for the name of the person who had told him this. Anne to email and copy in the Regional Committee so we can investigate further.
- f. October meeting date – to be decided at June meeting.

Anne

**Meeting Closed at 16.50.**

**Date of next meeting is 15 June**