

Minutes of the Western Region Committee Meeting

Sunday 15th June 2008 @ The Mayors Arms

Attending: Eddie Garnier, Not Avon (later elected as Committee Chair); Steve Peake, Webmaster; Andy Kerr, Clubs; Trace, Swindon Rep; Robbie Harris, Forest of Dean Rep; John & Pauline Stacey, Observing, Bristol MAG; Anne Gale, Admin.

Item	Discussion Point	ACTION
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1.	Apologies	
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Andy Meredith, Bill & Di Pugsley, Denny Powell, Taff (due to petrol shortage).

AWOL Kath Aldom, Regional Treasurer.

2/3	Minutes of the last meeting – correctness and Matters Arising	
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The Minutes were accepted as correct.

Matters Arising

4 AGC Feedback – the Committee’s statement to the Chair on the inaccuracies of AGC 2008 etc., had been acknowledged by the Chair/NC and will be addressed for forthcoming Conferences.

4	Officers Reports	
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Troll - Political

Bristol proposed congestion charging. A discussion ensued re the feedback from David Short on this issue wherein the 3 year consultation period will begin in October. This is the time, it was stressed, that Bristol MAG had to become active at the outset.

Steve – Webmaster

The new format George has been using for the newsletter is far easier to upload onto the website. This is uploaded every month keeping the website active with up-to-the-minute news.

Clubs page will be active shortly.

Steve hopes to make progress on the web-site before the next meeting. A short discussion ensued re material etc. The more news/information sent to George for the monthly newsletter the more interesting our website will become.

Fuel Duty Protest – 14th June – this was discussed at length. Turn out for Riders had been very bad with only 5 present. It was pointed out that some of the most active had prior engagements i.e. MAG Awareness at Riders & John/Pauline busy at Fowlers and that due to the short notice it was impossible to change plans. Andy K, who had attended, felt that this was a missed

opportunity.

The example of the 500 strong riders who protested in Manchester & which made the national headlines was discussed; also the possibility of a properly organised National Demo and Regional Demo's.

It was decided to ask the Chair & General Secretary MAG's policy on Fuel Duty Protests and the policy on MAG's involvement in Demo's.

Anne to send this on to the relevant parties on behalf of the Committee.

Andy Kerr – Clubs

"Shortly contacting (initially) Mid Somerset & South Bristol Motorcycle Club."

Anne

"Local CMA Chairman resigning"

Nick is stepping down due to other commitments. I don't think this should be put on any of our publicly available documents, if recorded at all - he just mentioned it to me in conversation.

"some question mark over whether they had re-affiliated for 2008."

There is no question of them not re-affiliating as far as I am aware.

Van Diemens had affiliated thanks to Troll's efforts.

5

Reps Reports

Forest of Dean, Robbie (affectionately known as The Forest Troll)

Group ticking along quite nicely. Members had gone along to.....?.....*Robbie please let me know* and Robbie will try to get a report from them for Troll's publication.

Robbie

NotAvon

Had their AGM and next AGM fixed for 2nd December 2008 in order to fall in line with producing ratified accounts for the Regional Treasurer in time for Regional AGM.

Gloucester – Steve

Day out with the kids in Gloucester at the request of the police had gone well with 12 bikes attending. Police were very pleased with the attendance. An excellent bridge building exercise with the local police and road safety. A short discussion ensued on supporting this type of event & the bridge building that can be achieved with the police and within the community.

Swindon – Trace

Numbers are very low – moribund – as Trace put it. There are 85 MAG members in the Swindon area which makes the attendance very disappointing. Trace may call an AGM to close the Group if things do not improve.

Weston & North Somerset – Troll

Trundling along quite nicely with 12-20 members at meetings.

Resumed the summer monthly ride-outs which are 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Troll takes his ‘mini’ MAG stand to one in every two Biker Nights organised by the British Legion which are proving very successful.

Bristol – John

Sandeman’s are hosting 100 delegate conference on the anti-slip manhole covers at the Marriott Hotel on 24th June. Both David Short and Andy Derrett have been invited to speak.

A few riders are required for a demonstration to be filmed during the afternoon of 24th.

Mid-Wilts – Andy K

Ticking over but quite quiet. Suggestion put forward by Pauline, Observing, for a MAG Awareness Day at George Whites.

A short discussion ensued with input from Trace’s experience of trying to get dealers to host these in the past.

6 NC Report

Bill, off on holiday that morning, had sent a bullet point report which was read out. Contents below:-

A very quick bullet point kind of review of what happened at NC.

To start off with we had a presentation from an insurance claims management service, possible members benefits – more to follow.

Our new General Secretary then gave his report.

After three weeks in the job he has been reviewing the way MAG central works (or not as the case maybe) under three headings - Admin, Organisation,

MAG UK Ltd. These are the areas he is going to target first.

Admin

Central office tend to just deal with memberships and bookkeeping, they do not support the organisation as much as is possible – needs to change.

IT systems in the office to be updated and some kind of IT support is needed. £100 a month will cover this.

E-mail servers need to move into the office.

There needs to be some stock control of promotional items.

Membership database.

Organisation

Any organisation review needs to involve all, not come from the top.

MAG UK

Financial information to be reviewed to provide NC and others with more detail.

Campaigns Managers report

Need some feedback from activists on Network.

Lively discussion took place on press releases etc. Agreement reached where a press release covering established policy can be released if Nich Brown, Ian Mutch and David Short all agree, others, and if there is any disagreement to be circulated on the NC list for a 24 hr turnaround.

It was agreed that there needs to be a review of all the policy MAG has

David then congratulated the WR on bringing the Manhole covers issue to the point where there is a Launch day being held in Bristol on Tuesday 24th June.

There was a quickly organised demo in London for the benefit of the BBC who were doing a item on Bikes in Bus Lanes.

AGC 2008

A good constructive discussion took place, all issues covered.

AGC 2009

A good business plan put in from Greg from the North East, so AGC 2009 will be in the Durham area.

We had to leave at this point.

I left with confidence that Nich's influence will see some of our concerns resolved.

Please note that this is very brief, there is a great deal more detail.

I am now offline until Wednesday 25th June. Bill.

Anne reiterated that she had much confidence in the way things would go forward with Nich Brown as General Sec. NOT that this was to take anything away from the previous incumbent or detract from the excellent work he had done particularly in light of the fact that the Political bit was really Trevor's forte and which he had been able to pursue once other posts were introduced.

7 Withdrawn by Proposer

8. **October Committee Meeting date**

The usual date would clash with the Beach Race, Sunday after is Hoggin' the Bridge. It was decided to provisionally booked 26th October as the meeting date & to send an email to the remaining Committee members for clarification.

9. **Update on Regional Marquee situation**

In the light of the GWR being only 3 months away Anne tabled this motion for an update on the Marquees which were severely damage due to the weather at the Slippitt Inn Rally over Easter.

Steve is pretty sure that the catering tent survived in tact and that one good one can be made out of the remaining two.

Steve to arrange a working party from the Region for visit to Dave's farm to look at these Marquees. Possibly weekend of 28/29 June. We know that welding and a heavy duty sewing machine will be required.

Steve to contact Denny to find out the position on the Marquees and to ascertain the latest position on a) Damage and b) the Insurance claim.

Steve

It was emphasised that before repairs are undertaken adequate photos are recorded for insurance purposes.

Steve/Denny

Calne – 19th July.

In the absence of Taff, Anne to send email to him to see if he has booked stand space etc.

Anne

Sandcastle Run – 29th June

Anne's apologies – motocross.

Boat Inn Run, Redbrooke, Wye Valley 12/13 July

Anne's apologies as she has a memorial service to go to.

Note for Di – 13th September NCC Show at Lysley Arms, please book Regional Stand if not already booked.

Di

Possible Glos MAG skittles/BBQ night.

Bristol Bike Show and After Show Party August 16th.

Volunteers for marshalling required.

10 **BMW Owners request for speaker at their AGM**

8th March 2009 at Easter Compton Village Hall 13.30. Steve Peake has offered to do this.

11 **Any Other Business**

John (Dealer Liaison for Bristol) –

- a. asked if it is OK to put his posters into Dealers outside the Bristol Group area. Not a problem.
- b. Incentives for enticing members to join by standing order at MAG Awareness Days. A lengthy discussion ensued on incentives that had been used in the past; at the Farmyard etc and it was generally decided that the object of the MAG Awareness Day was not necessarily to sign up members but to make people aware of us and our work. If they join then that is a bonus.
- c. Products – Trace & Anne concerned over only having bigger sizes in stock. We do need small/med T's in particular. It was decided to shelve this subject until Taff could be at a meeting.
- d. Anne suggested we ask Ed to come up with another Regional Logo to run alongside the existing one. Something with the same impact as his last wonderful design (grovel). We left this with him.
- e. Robbie sends his apologies for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 4.30

Next meeting Sunday 10th August.