

MAG Western Region Committee Meeting

26 October 2008

The Mayors Arms, Bristol

Attending:- George, (The Troll) Legg, Political/Events/The Wrag. Eddie Garnier, NotAvon Rep. Bill Pugsley, NC Liaison. Di Pugsley, Memberships. Geoff Mills, Observing. Kath Aldom, Regional Treasurer. Anne Gale, Admin. Andy Kerr, Clubs. Trace, Swindon Rep. Andy Meredith, Committee Chairman and IT. Denny Powell, Glos Rep. Steve Peake, Website. Robbie Harris, Forest of Dean Rep.

Apologies:- Andy Derrett, Bristol Rep (working on further secure bike parking). Taff, Mid Wilts.

2/3 Minutes of the August Meeting – correctness and matters arising

Minutes were deemed correct with no matters arising.

4/5 Officers/Reps Reports (those submitted on line included below)

Although I do have a bunch of things I plan to do wrt the region's IT, it is all currently on hold pending major changes for our central IT provision. However, that seems to have stalled. The new central based server has been specified, but has not been purchased.

Andy M, Communications Officer and Regional Committee Chairman

Political Report

It is hoped that Nich can get things sorted out at MAG UK soon, because to be honest there is somewhat a dearth of information coming out from central.

Network has disappeared, and Press Releases have ceased, I know I complained about this state of affairs last year, and only re-stood on the understanding things would improve, however from my point of view the situation is now much worse.

As an organisation built on campaigning from a grass roots level, it just isn't good enough, after all how can we campaign if there is no communication?

The Troll (George Legg), Man of Many Hats

FoD MAG report Ticking along numbers attending vary from 3 to about 8. nowt else. Cheers **Robbie, (The Woodland Troll), FoD Regional Rep**

Webmaster's report:

Managed to get the August update done IN JULY! Unfortunately, September and October updates were a bit tardy (blame work and a family funeral respectively)

Clubs page is now functioning but sparse. Still not "live" (i.e. not linked from the main site) - do we want to do this or wait for a few more names on the page?

<http://western-region.mag-uk.org/clubs.shtml>

Regards Steve

Swindon MAG Report Oct'2008:

Nothing to report. Swindon MAG is comatose.

Swindon MAG AGM will be Tuesday 2nd December (if anybody turns up).

- Trace

NC Liaison

Having not gone up to Rugby there is little to report, just keeping up with the e-mail discussions on the NC, adding the views of the region where required and forwarding as needed. Bill.

Admin

Here's mine - Nothing to report. Admin'ing as usual which means 'flogging an almost dead GeeGee trying to get reports 😞 *Aine*

Club Officers Report :

I contacted Mid Somerset & South Bristol Motorbike Club back in August, the guy that runs it asked for someone to give a talk the following Sunday. I explained why was unable to do this as it was the weekend of the Calne Bike Show and Mid Wilts Mags summer run, and offered to go along to another meeting, but he still hasn't come back to me.

I will now start contacting the remaining clubs to see if they want to be added to the new web page, I was planning to do this a while back, but have been too busy until now.

We decided at the last but one meeting to wait until we had more entries on the page before launching it on the main site, hopefully I will hear back for some of the other clubs in the next week or so.

Andy Kerr.

NotAvon

Notavon is pretty quiet at the moment - most of the usual suspects still present...

A couple of old faces have recently returned. I'm not sure if this is a good thing as it reminds me how many others are missing\lost in action.

On a lighter note the credit crunch has helped me get back on my feet. My bike's been repossessed.

What's the capital of Iceland?
About £3.50.

Bradford & Bingley employees are concerned they were given no notice of the takeover by Santander Bank.
A Government spokesman said: 'No one expected the Spanish acquisition.'

sorry. Ed

The following points were also discussed as Items which MAG should be campaigning on Nationally:-

- a. **VED on Motorcycles** – it was felt that MAG should be taking this up Nationally, especially in consideration of the variation in cost of cars.
- b. **VAT on Visors** – whilst there is no VAT on helmets, there is on Visors. As these are essential to the correct use of what is a compulsory item, it was felt that MAG should be campaigning to get Visors as a VAT free item.
- c. **Manhole Covers** – Can we have feedback as to where we are Nationally on this? We seem to remember that David Short left it with a relevant Government body and just would like to know what progress is being made.
- d. **National & Local Campaigning** – Bristol is continuing to campaign strongly on various fronts (manhole covers, secure bike parking in the City) **Denny** was not aware Bristol were campaigning & mentioned that she would like to see some support/backing from Central on local campaigns. A discussion ensued wherein **Anne** pointed out that in Bristol we had always found that face2face discussion with the relevant parties to get them on side as being the most essential ingredient to progressing locally. **Denny** would like to see more support/guidance from National as to what local Groups should be lobbying on.
- e. **NETWORK** – where is it? What's happened to it? Why has it seemingly ceased? And, **most importantly**, when will it be back on? As an important Activist's tool – most essential.

ACTION: Bill on all the above (and more I suspect!)

6. NC/Board Report (circulated prior to meeting)

MAG FOUNDATION – suggestions had been asked for as to what we wanted the Foundation to be concentrating on:-

Mobile Phones – a lengthy discussion ensued on this emotive subject to the effect that the increased penalty under the law was generally being ignored because there was a severe lack of police officers patrolling to enforce it. How many Police officers have been taken off the road because of the installation of speed cameras? Speed

cameras cannot pick up if a driver is on the phone. Much more publicity should be rolled out, over all medias, on this and emphasising that the maximum penalty will be enforced.

30mph Moped Legislation - is now dangerous and outdated putting Riders at risk. The Foundation should be doing something on this.

Braking Systems – ABS on Bikes is dangerous. Should the Foundation be researching ABS on Motorcycles?

It was generally felt that MAG should reinstate the post of Research Officer to assist the Foundation in their work.

ACTION – Bill to pass on to the Foundation

MAG UK

AGC – a discussion ensued as to whether members just wanted an AGC or an event. A poll was taken of those that normally attend = as an event with evening party = 4; Just an AGC = 2.

OECD Report – includes a list of 19 subjects appertaining to Motorcycling some of which are potentially quite damaging such as legislation on Protective Wear & Intelligent Braking Systems (or not intelligent as the case may be!!**).

ACTION – Bill to circulate & Anne to include in the Minutes

Position Statements – the NC should be ensuring these are all up together & up to date.

7. Regional Events

Halloween Party, Bristol on 1st November

WTF (Fund Raiser in lieu of cancelled GWR)

W&NS AGM is on 18 November – Observer required

Bristol AGM is on 27th November – Troll Observing

Swindon AGM = 2nd December – Observer required

Mid-Wilts = Pet Food Run on 6 December with Party in evening

8. Beach Race Report

Very good turnout of about 400 bikes. Took £118 in the helmet park. Bike parking fees are normally 50/50 MAG?organiser. Bill has had a request for about 500 words for The Road.

9. Regional AGM – 25th January 2009

England's Glory pub, Gloucester venue is booked

Steve is doing the postcards for members.

Steve will investigate electronic postage (however, I have a feeling more paper is used by this method as you print them off) – personally I like the old fashioned way because whilst Troll is lickin' stamps he's not terrorising goats!

£150 for Buffet.

Bill is requesting labels after NEC.

Committee Meeting at England's Glory at 11.00 – prior to AGM.

9. Any Other Business

- a. Kath requests Group Treasurers Reports & donations by end of November latest.
- b. Local Transport Plans now allow authorities can implement Congestion Charging whenever they wish.
- c. Eddie asked if MAG are having a Stand at the NEC – yes, being organised by Neil Stevenson. Sadly no requests for volunteers to help out and it seems a bit of a 'closed shop'.
- d. Troll – Biker Nights on Weston Sea Front held throughout the summer raised £6000 for the Poppy Appeal. Troll to review what sort of stand he wants next year.
- e. Denny – Glos has been looking at the Finances as the Rally Marquees will not see another year for the Easter Rally. Glos MAG are purchasing two which will be Glos MAG property and not Regional. Denny & Bev are going to Attwolls to see about heavy duty marquees
- f. Also need another Control Tent so anyone who hears about second hand frame tents let Glos know.
- g. Bill has received a request to give a talk to Bridgwater HOG and will get back to them to arrange. Would be good if a couple of HD Riders could go with him. ACTION – BILL
- h. Andy M told us that MAG has been given a month to transfer off the existing central server. MAG website & email will go on the blink.
- i. Steve told us that Deb (his better half) has passed her bike test. Congratulations Deb.

Meeting Closed at 4.50. Next meeting Sunday December 14th