

## MINUTES

### Western Region Committee Meeting

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009, Gloucester

**Attendees:-** Steve Peake, website. Trace, Vice & Swindon contact. Eddie Garnier, NotAvon Rep. Andy Meredith, Committee Chairman. Denny Powell, Gloucester Rep. Robbie Harris, Forest of Dean. Deb Rose, Weston & North Somerset Rep. Bill Pugsley, NC Liaison. George, the Troll, Legg, Political & WRAG Editor. Di Pugsley, Membership. Anne Gale, Admin.

**Observing:-** Keith Hillier, W&NS Treasurer.

Item	Discussion	Action
1	<b>Apologies:-</b> Andy Kerr, Membership. Kath Aldom, Treasurer. Steve Bradford, OWP.	
2/3	<b>Minutes of the August Meeting:-</b> <i>Correctness</i> – deemed as correct.	
	<b>Matters Arising –</b>	
	<b>Item 11 (AOB)c) ABS&amp;FEMA Report in Network</b> Outstanding from the June WR Minutes – Bill has spoken to Nich Brown expressing concerns on the relevant statement. Bill to email Nich & the NC re stats to back up FEMA statement.	
	<b>Item 4 Officers Reports – Andy Kerr</b> – Action to email round list of clubs to local groups.	BILL ANDY K
	<b>NC Report</b> – Denny asked for clarification on when new membership fee is starting AND <b>Existing Members</b> – when is the deadline up to which they can renew their membership at £20?	
	Bill P presented <b>Andy M with his Hon Life Membership Badge</b> . Andy was awarded Hon Life Membership at April's Group Conference for his outstanding work on MAG IT etc. over the years. Most deserved	
4	<b>Officers Reports</b>	
	<b>Troll:</b> MAG has changed its Daily Bulletin provider from De Havilland to Rowan Publications for alerts. These are now much easier because they are specific to our needs instead of us having to trawl through stuff that is totally irrelevant.	
	<b>EDM184</b> on motorcycle test centres needs signing by your MP <b>before 9<sup>th</sup></b> November.	
	<b>Riders are Voters (RAV)</b> = What's happening? <b>Bill</b> = MAG is putting together a Manifesto to go out at local level and will be produced for December. <b>Comment</b> = should be earlier!	
	<b>Di:</b> circulated a draft letter that she sends to lapsed members for comment etc., as she feels that with the forthcoming General Election in 2010 the wording should be	

different & relevant to that event.

**Steve P:** website updated and ongoing in a big way. Helping with RAV technology.

**Trace:** No 'vices' at all.

**Andy M:** Bytes are still biting.

## 5 **Reps Reports**

**Glos** – ticking along. 3 members at the Activists Weekend. Group AGM is 19<sup>th</sup> November. Xmas Meal on 19/12 = 'food fight'. Donation up to Region is £500, smaller this year as the Group have to buy another marquee for the Easter Rally.

**W&NS** – Thanks to all who helped at the Beach Race with the secure bike & helmet park. Hewish is booked for the Regional AGM. Ticking over. Group AGM is 18/11.

**FoDean** – Rep would, quite rightly, like to point out to anyone who thinks/assumes otherwise that the Forest of Dean is **NOT** in Wales and requests that Bill passes this on to Paddy who has been taken on a 6 month contract to stimulate Groups!  
[Quite right too, Robbie, old Offa didn't build his dyke for nothing!!]

FoD membership labels indicates membership has halved but the Group is ticking along.

**Glos/FoD** – are to put to their respective AGMs a suggestion of possibly holding alternate meetings at each others venue for a 12 month probationary period. SP pointed out that there have been problems in the past with alternate weeks/venues.

**Bristol** – Andy Derrett has stepped down as Rep suddenly at the last Group Committee Meeting [which means the author of these Minutes has been lumbered with preparing Agenda for the Group AGM to be held on 26/11 & she is not a happy bunny] due to having a lot on. Sadly this means he won't be doing his work with BCC so we need to fill this void, locally, asap.

BILL

**NotAvon** – Ed submitted AGM details to the MAG UK website but these were not published! Bill to take this up.

Group AGM is 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Eddie will be stepping down as Rep.

Dominic is making a slow recovery.

Applause to Ed for his years of service in both Group and Regional capacity.

**Mid Wilts** – No one was available to give a report, however, they will be putting on a party around Xmas or just after.

**Swindon** – Trace was able to meet up with the Group Treasurer at the Mid-Wilts venue where there was a good turn-out of members. Trace has the accounts but has to see HSBC and may have to contact the National Treasurer to gain access to

the funds.

## 6 **NC Report 10/10/09**

**Appointments & Resignations** Southern Region – ‘Little Red’ has taken over from Jez

Yorkshire Region – Josef? Has taken over from Sheila (Sheila now doing Foundation work)

Clubs office/Vice Chair (Ferg) is standing down at next AGC

**Officers Reports. Finance.** Looking at breakeven or a possible minimal loss for year ending 31/07/2009.

The present balance is looking similar to last year, unsure of size of the Stormin’ donation for this year. There is still a need for a finance working group and also a new treasurer to take over next April.

MAGIC ACTION PROMOTIONS have donated £70k for the use of MAG UK logo. Also £12500 donation from Yorkshire Region.

**Communications.** Local Group Expansion Plan document update is nearly complete. Pink Forms, major discussion on who should fill in pink forms, receive membership data etc.

Outcome:- Pink forms need to be filled in by: Local – Rep & Membership Sec

Regional – As above

National – All officers & Board members.

If there is a need for some form of ID for shows etc these can be produced regionally.

Next to update will be the reps handbook – Bill/Western to provide info on ‘Run by committee’

**General Secretary:** Online renewal. System being tested, switched on very soon.

Making slow progress on website, please bear with Central as they know most of the problems there are with the website they just need to find ways to fix them. Working on poster/leaflet/adverts/website(s) updates needed for membership price changes.

### **Campaigns:**

**New Bike Test fiasco:** Nich to give evidence at the Transport Select Committee next Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup>).

**DVLA lost entitlements meeting:** DVLA now accept that it happens and gave a figure of the low 1000’s that it has possibly happened to, they are now asking for MAG’s help in coming up with ideas to ensure mistakes can be rectified.

**Automatic liability in pedestrian/cyclist collisions:** Are we against or should we be calling for the same to motorcyclists. View from NC was Against.

**Riders are voters (RAV):** Much work going on behind the scenes. Local groups also need to be preparing by finding out who the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPC’s) are.

**FEMA - Nich Brown:** Report from FEMA meetings 2, 3 October 2009

This round of FEMA meetings took place in Brussels over; Friday (Executive Committee 'EXC'), Saturday (Committee of all member organisations 'COM'),

Sunday (member seminars on 1. communications and 2. the impact of global recession on the bike industry (I missed this last session so I could get back before Monday).

Summary of key points from EXC and COM meetings...

Political: European Parliament –

FEMA Secretariat continues to monitor changes to MEP 'lists', building-up database of contacts, investigating views/connections to motorcycling.

Framework Directive on Motorcycle Type Approval –

European Commission is still consulting member states and others about what the content of this proposal to revise current Type Approval regulations (and put all future decisions in hands of unelected experts). No recent developments on individual issues (eg; 100bhp limit).

Motorcycle industry (ACEM) claims recession means the market is shrinking and so cannot afford cost of major technological changes (eg; for emissions improvements, safety, etc.)

Threat to right to tow trailers (possibly also sidecars) -

Framework Directive may effectively prevent trailer towing either directly or indirectly. Type Approval regs already being used as basis for trailer ban in Italy and Sweden (possibly Ireland?). EC says it does not want to liberate towing for safety fears, but are 'willing to find solution'!

\*MAG ACTION: Contact MEPs to raise issues around Framework Directive, eg; Parliament being asked to give-up rights to debate technical issues, such as anti-tamper, ABS, etc.

MAG should alert UK-based companies manufacturing or importing tow bars/trailers and seek support.

Road Victims – The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently organised a conference of 'road victim' campaign groups. The aim was to organise support for measures that would reduce road casualties much more radically than is currently being attempted. FEMA recognised the threat to motorcycling (often considered by such groups to be a source of road danger) and attended the conference to negotiate a change their thinking. There were some positive agreements (recognising motorcycles are not like cars, need for roads and vehicles to be engineered with bikes in mind etc.) However, there were too many negative aspects (a victim ideology, emphasis on restriction on motor vehicles, demand for strict liability whereby blame and compensation would go against motorists regardless of fault). FEMA does not support the list of demands.

Roadworthiness Testing Directive – Confirmed that the scope of this draft Directive does not incl. PTWs. However, a plan to include PTWs may be introduced when Belgium takes over the EU Presidency next year and also could be pushed within EU Road Safety Action Plan.

FEMA intends to organise the '1<sup>st</sup> Motorcyclist's International Conference' in June 2010: The idea is an evolution of MEP Ride(2008 MEP Ride had forum/track tests, etc. - no MEP Ride 2009), to strengthen the international coalition of riders groups (EU, USA, Canada, Australia) through exchange of information / best practice and exposure of political decision makers / meeting opinion formers. This two-day international PA/PR conference (up to 100 attending) would focus on setting riders' agenda for future of biking (NB: industry is dominating global agenda, riders lobby needs to re-gain ground). This would run alongside FEMAs MEP Ride with test-tracks / a 'rally' / ITS expo / FEMA fundraising /Concert [up to 500 audience]. Still being investigated, final decision in November.

FEMA priorities for 2010: We need to tell FEMA what we most want to see them working on in 2010 so they can set budgets and allocate staff time. The priorities they have been working to in 2009 are...

1. Infrastructure/Guardrails
2. EU Road Safety Action Plan / PTW safety
3. ITS development
4. Framework Regulation
5. Training / Initial Rider Training
6. Transport Policies / Environment
7. Driving Licence Directive / Road Worthiness Testing Directive /Collaboration

Organisation:

FEMA finances are on a downward slope. FEMAs income has been lifted by the payments from EU for taking part in projects on mobility, safety, etc. All NOs (including MAG) are asked to suggest ways to strengthen FEMAs future income.

National Organisations (NOs) are seeing a decline in membership and so are contributing less to FEMA, also the number of NOs in FEMA is reducing, especially among the smaller NOs. In some cases this reflects dissatisfaction of NOs with how FEMA is run - internal democracy and campaigning direction seem to be the biggest concerns. MAG(B), founding NO, threatening to leave.

Proposal to replace EXC with Board of Directors (previously circulated to MAG(UK) NC). Board would comprise individuals specialising in: Finance, Communication, EU Parliament Liaison, Strategy, Personnel, etc. There would also be a change of functions of Secretary/President to provide leadership – proposals before next (December) EXC, for approval by (February) 2010 FEMA

General Assembly.

FEMA President Gerard Livett conducted a survey of member NOs prompted by complaints from MAG(B). Responses varied widely between FEMA member NOs. There appears to be no consensus in many important areas, this may well be why FEMA is not as strong as it once was. The President emphasised some positive ideas 'We should concentrate on what we have in common not what divides us', concentrate on core issues, prioritise based-on "what's in it for bikers?", channel resources to make the most difference, FEMA should open the door for NOs to their MEPs in Brussels, etc. Actions should have clear and visible results and these should be well publicised. 'KISS'. The President will circulate his 'Action Strategy'

which will include proposals for reform of the FEMA voting system, replacing the EXC with a Board, returning power to COM, widening the appeal of FEMA and its membership.

Newly appointed Research & Policy Officer (Mario Nelo) resigned to return to live in UK - Post to be re-advertised.

FEMA General Secretary (Aline Delhaye) due for maternity leave March-June 2010 - Communications Officer (Hugo Roebrook) to deputise as GS during her absence.

### **Foundation**

As mentioned earlier, Shelia Mc Farlane is doing some foundation work.

Money donated is now ring-fenced for specific items.

Yorkshire rally marshals donations & gift aid has gone to producing new versions of Diesel spills & Think Bike stickers along with updating Road Hazard cards.

Money from the collection made at Donna's funeral will be used to produce an updated Parking A-Z, Den/Glos MAG to provide a write up and photo.

### **Board Meeting**

#### **Appointments & Resignations**

Still one director down, ideally someone with financial background to support Justine, or someone willing to become Treasurer when Justine stands down at the next AGC.

#### **Central Office**

Membership: 480 down on this time last year. Recruitment is down but renewals staying steady. These figures are not a growing trend.

Buildings: True cost of rental of premises is £320 per employee per month. Lease is up for renewal in April, other options under review.

0870 numbers discussed regarding future price increases, but deferred at present until premises decided upon.

#### **Commercial approaches**

These are fairly regular, should have a work group with negotiation skills and standard response prepared. Offer corporate membership?

BOARD MEETING ENDS.

*A discussion ensued at WR on exactly 'who' is a Director as well as a Regional Rep. The argument was made that if there are too many Regional Reps (RRs) who are also Directors there then becomes a conflict of Interests. This is because the National Committee (NC), composed of Regional Reps & who are the only one's who can vote on NC, oversees the actions of The Board of Directors. Thought is being given as to whether to take a Motion to AGC to limit the number of RR's to that of less than the Quorum required at Board level to make decisions. We will re-visit this at December meeting.*

### **Defining Roles (Board/NC)**

Some discussion, Ian Mutch to produce a draft document for further discussion.

7 **GWR Feedback**

Debs told us the event had made a loss of £445.46p which was being off-set by the proceeds from the Beach Race Bike & Helmet Park (Glos MAG had previously offered the donation of £500 now going to Region would go to W&NS MAG but this is not now required). Numbers were down – only 100 attendees. It was reiterated that when the Group brought the event back on to the calendar they were on a 5 year plan and would run the event next year. However, a) it was hoped different members would serve on the rally committee & b) Keith, as W&NS Treasurer, would sit on it to keep an eye on how expenditure was likely to roll along prior to the event.

Nick, who has been one of the main players in organisation of the Duk Dik/Slippit Inn, has offered to advise. It was noted that, just to break even the event would have required 45 'otg' attending so overheads must be way too high.

8 **Regional AGM 2010**

Hall booked (thanks Debs).

It was decided to send out cards prior to the event reminding people.

Steve P to send out – stamps/address label discussion.

STEVE P

Guest Speaker:- "Tony" from South Glos Council (Post meeting note:- "Tony" not now available)

DENNY

9 **A.O.B.**

A) *Collection Tins* – Troll would like to have donation tins for donations. Discussed – this is a bit of a minefield so decided off limits at present.

B) *Stretcher Bars* – for the back and sides of our MAG Stand to stop flapping. It was decided to find out the price. Troll to follow up [Post meeting note: some 2<sup>nd</sup> hand bars available @ £25 each]

C) *Regional logo on the back panel* – it was agreed that Eddie would look into this as he had 'friends' in the business.

TROLL

D) *Royal British Legion Riders – link to them and vice versa* – this suggested by Anne some months ago because the RBLR website has links to other bike organisations. Anne requested an update as to where Central Office were on this and whether anything had been done on it. RBLR is one of the fastest growing M/C clubs in the country and a good opportunity for MAG to be linked with it.

EDDIE

BILL

E) Di & Bill no longer have an Estate car and so can no longer transport the MAG stand. [this should be on agenda for December]

F) *Wrist Bands for next year's rallies*: Anne/George to take care of this

G) *Volunteers who helped with the secure Bike and Helmet park will be please to*

*know they made £650 for MAG.*

**NEXT MEETING – Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>. Venue to be advised (new landlords at the Ropewalk so have to liaise with them)**