

## Minutes of MAG Western Region Committee Meeting

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The Ropewalk Bristol.**

**Attending:-** George (the Troll) Legg – Political Officer. Di Pugsley - Membership. Bill Pugsley – NC Liaison. Denny – Glos MAG Rep. Steve Peake - Webmaster. Trace – vice NC Liaison. Steve Bradford – Products and Events. Robbie – FoD Rep. Anne Gale - Admin. Eddie Garnier - OWP. Andy Meredith – Committee Chairman. Kath Aldom – Regional Treasurer. Andy Kerr – Clubs Officer. Geoff Mills, Observing

Meeting commenced @ 13.10

<p><b>1. <u>Apologies</u></b>:- Mo Green, Bristol Rep – who sent a reminder of the Bristol MAG Quiz Night 4<sup>th</sup> March @ 8.00. Deb Rose, W&amp;NS Rep. Taff Jones, Mid-Wilts. Hugh Probert, NotAvon Rep.</p>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>2. <u>Minutes of December Meeting</u></b> were deemed correct with no matters arising. <b><u>Minutes of Western Region Annual Group Meeting</u></b> – a few changes which would be made prior to publication.</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Officers Reports.</u></b> <b>George</b> – nothing new since Regional AGM until he hears from Central re Riders are Voters.  <b>Di</b> – circulated a draft letter which she intended to send to lapsed members along with RAV literature and a copy of the latest WRAG.  <b>Kath</b> – Balance in Regional Account is £2053.91.  <b>Steve P</b> - nothing to add since AGM.  <b>Trace</b> – nothing to add since report to AGM.  <b>Andy Kerr</b> - nothing changed since report to AGM. Has found that often when approaching Groups they are generally uninterested and so will be leaving any visits until any show interest in becoming affiliated.  <b>Steve B</b> – nothing much to report since AGM.  <b>Eddie G</b> - has been giving some thought to new design/s for WR Regalia. SB will look at ‘providers’ and liaise with EG.  <b>Anne</b> - nothing to add since Regional AGM.  <b>Andy Meredith</b> – nothing.</p>	SB/EG
<p><b>4. <u>Group Rep Reports.</u></b> <b>George, on behalf of W&amp;NS</b> – First meeting of the GWR Planning Committee due to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> &amp; George has reminded them that Nick Hearn has offered to advise in any way he can given his experience of running the Duk Dik/Slippit Inn. Steve P reminded the meeting that he can do on-line bookings for tickets.  <b>Re the new Weston Bike Park and the ‘Big Wheel’</b> – there may be a ‘call to arms’ at some time in the future. The Council seem to have forgotten all the promises they made to Steve B., Anne G &amp; George when they had a meeting with Council Officials during early 2009 wherein they stated that they would always keep us in the loop with any future plans. It was suggested we get NABD involved.  <b>The Bike Park</b> – is due to open in February and with the Pier opening soon</p>	

<p>this would be an ideal opportunity, if we have to, to ensure parking spaces were taken up with bikes. George to keep us informed.</p> <p><b>Glos MAG – Denny P.</b> At present it is rally, rally, rally with 63 pre-books at date of this meeting. Good meeting previous Thursday.</p> <p><b>Trace</b> – mid-Wilts (Taff) willing to book space for the Calne Bike Show</p> <p><b>At this juncture Bill reminded the meeting that he no longer has the facility for transporting the Regional MAG Stand</b></p> <p><b>Forest of Dean MAG – Robbie.</b> Group is ticking along and have arranged an event for July which coincides with Robbie’s birthday – at Littledean House Hotel. There is a new motorcycle club called Forest of Dean Motorcycle Club which Robbie seems to think might be an internet-based club.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p>George</p>
<p><b>5. Loaning/hiring out Regional Marquees.</b> <b>Steve B</b> explained how he had come up with the idea of us hiring out our Regional marquees, as his employer were hiring marquees for a family day in the Summer. He felt, now, on reflection, that this was not a good idea given the problems that might arise on damage, PLI etc.,</p> <p><b>Steve P</b> felt SB had asked and answered his own question. <b>Denny P</b> had loaned out marquees in the past and there had been lots of damage; also that the liability lies with those who erect the marquee. Health &amp; Safety issues were discussed.</p>	
<p><b>6. NC/Board Report</b></p> <p><b><u>NC Report 13/02/10.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Campaigns</u></b></p> <p><b>Riders are Voters</b></p> <p>A good time was spent working through manifesto topics, prioritising and agreeing positions.</p> <p>The Motorcycle Industry (MCI) have pledged £1000 for mailings and also paid for the MAG &amp; RAV stickers.</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> May is likely to be the election date. Yorkshire’s Rally, Into the Valley is the week before and it is possible there will be a national Riders Are Voters demo attached to this.</p> <p>Once election is over we may set up a mass lobby of Parliament to reinforce the message.</p> <p>Transport debate at Fowlers in Bristol is pencilled in for 6<sup>th</sup> April. More info to follow.</p> <p><b>New Test Fiasco</b></p> <p>The DSA are still analysing data from the first three months, Nich smells a</p>	

<p>rat! There is suspicion that the accident stats are dodgy.</p> <p><b>3DLD</b></p> <p>Thanks to all those who filled in the questionnaire online. MAG, along with others has lodged a formal complaint on the consultation.</p> <p><b>Manholes.</b></p> <p>Nich has been to Taunton to meet utilities companies at the invite of Devon Council.</p> <p><b><u>Board Meeting</u></b></p> <p><b>Appointments &amp; Resignations.</b></p> <p>Jane is not going to re-stand as director at AGC, however, she has been invited to be an adviser to the board for 12 months as her knowledge is too valuable to lose.</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>Current situation – £85,000.</p> <p>Finance officer expressed concerns regarding the lack of donations due in the coming months. A call to all regions for donations where possible.</p> <p>AGC report being prepared</p> <p>Replacement for National Finance Officer at AGC discussed.</p> <p><b>Central Office</b></p> <p>Membership. New/renewals over the first 6 weeks of 2010 have been the same as 2009. At the start of the year 40% of renewals were opting to pay the increased rate, this had gone up to 90% by the first two weeks of Feb.</p> <p>Database &amp; systems.</p> <p>Work is still ongoing to explore options and requirements.</p> <p>Premises.</p> <p>Central is to move to fully maintained premises. The cost will be the same as at present but the responsibility for maintenance lies with the landlord. There is the opportunity of making some savings by holding Board &amp; NC meetings at the location.</p> <p>Ticket sales.</p> <p>Sales going well, there was trouble with the spreadsheet, now resolved and to be tested next week.</p> <p>Workload.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p>
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<p>Need to prioritise and establish leads among board &amp; NC. To be put to NC.</p> <p><b>Products update.</b></p> <p>Neil Stevenson sold indoor stand for £1000, would like to buy a 3x3 gazebo for £500. Need to reorder a limited number of most of the products range. Board agreed that NS may use the £1000 to buy gazebo and products. Treasurer will be informed of eventual prices.</p> <p>End of Board Meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Resignations</u></b></p> <p>Yorkshire rep has resigned, vice rep, Nikki Cage, has taken over.</p> <p><b><u>Boundary review</u></b></p> <p>Rep for Lincs attended so there was a discussion on the Eastern region/Lincolnshire border issue that arose at last year's AGC. This will be raised once again at this year's AGC .</p> <p><b><u>FEMA – Nich Brown</u></b></p> <p>Reform of federation, board of directors has replaced the executive and the voting system has changed as discussed at previous regional meeting.</p> <p>NC spent time working through framework directive (EU anti-tampering/100bhp limit etc) to produce a position for MAG to pass back to FEMA</p> <p><b><u>Foundation</u></b></p> <p>Nich has re-sent accounts to charities commission due to them not receiving the first copy.</p> <p><b><u>End of NC meeting</u></b></p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p>
<p><b>Adjourned for lunch at 13.50. Reconvened @ 14.20.</b></p>	
<p><b>7. Political Evening at Fowlers, Bristol – was to be arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> April.</b></p>	
<p><b>8. Combined Products &amp; Events Role held by Steve B.</b> SB to email the <b>Events</b> List he compiles to Steve P to upload onto the Regional website at the same time copying in the Group Reps &amp; Regional officers. All those wishing to organise an event would be well advised to contact Steve B before finalising the date to avoid clashes. SB would be collecting the remaining <b>Regional Products</b> from Taff as soon as he could. As the quantity of what/how many etc., was unknown it was decided to have <b>Regional Stock</b> as an Agenda item for the next meeting.</p> <p>Anne re-iterated what she had mentioned at the AGM which was keeping proper accounts of stock held and monies held etc. This was a Constitutional requirement. Anne has offered to help SB with this as there is no need for a complicated system which can be either electronic or in</p>	<p>Anne G</p>

<p>hard copy.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Regional account will probably have to finance the first outlay that SB makes on Regional stuff. AG suggested that prices should be set to ensure adequate income to replenish stock in future and also to make a little money for MAG which could be handed to the Regional Treasurer at the beginning of December when the Products Officer present his accounts.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p>
<p><b>8.5 Glos MAG – this item slotted in since the final agenda was prepared.</b></p> <p>Denny asked that no offence be taken at what is about to be read out:-</p> <p><b>Agenda Item - Glos MAG</b></p> <p>“I want to know what issues people have with the way Glos MAG has kept money in our account to cover the cost of the rally. I will be honest that I am sick of having to justify why we have done this. I have discussed this in detail at a number of meetings and I want to get a few things straight. Annie, this is not aimed at you, your email was the final straw for me after a very difficult week. Please let me go through the list before you comment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I have discussed with active Glos MAG members how they feel about me as their rep</li> <li>2. I don't appreciate emotional blackmail. When it comes to Donna I know exactly what she was like I had to deal with accounts for her. The reason she could send as much as possible to wr was because the rally was bankrolled by Paul, Alec and Nick and me to a lesser extent</li> <li>3. We can no longer afford to bankroll the rally. The credit crunch has hit us as well as MAG UK</li> <li>4. The reason I can afford to put money up for the wristbands is because I got us a really cheap deal on JD this year. I will not discuss my offer to purchase ink for George in this matter</li> <li>5. If we pass all the money up to WR what happens if we make a loss on the rally – we've only sold 50 tickets up to now</li> <li>6. We have calculated that in order for us to buy another marquee we have to hold back £3000. If you would prefer to pass this up to central then we will need one of the marquees from Weston mag. We haven't got the transport at the moment so will need to ask someone to bring it up. I also do not think it will last the rally out and therefore the region will have to look at buying a new one for Weston MAG before September</li> <li>7. Our rent on the site is going to significantly increase as we now are paying for the toilets and the electric on site – we don't know how much this will be at the moment</li> <li>8. We calculated that with everything we need £3500 in the bank to ensure we can pay all the bills if something goes wrong</li> <li>9. I have repeatedly said that if everything goes well this year we should be able to give a substantial donation. The marquee we are buying is hopefully the last big outlay for us for a while</li> <li>10. Bev, Nick and I have discussed this in detail and if you feel we should give a bigger donation then we will hand over all the money in the account and walk away. Western Region can then put on the rally and use the money as they see fit. This is not emotional blackmail before you say. It is 3 people who have had enough. We give our all to Glos MAG and at the rally we work our socks off and pay for the privilege. I think we do a good job. We do this because of our love for Donna and Glos MAG. So if you think you can do it better we will hand it over. I will say though if this happens Bev and I will not be at the rally and I will look at standing down as rep and withdrawing from MAG completely. This is the strength of my feeling. The only thing that will keep me being the rep is Glos MAG members. They have also said that they will not be at the</li> </ol>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p>

<p>rally either.</p> <p>11. If you do want this to happen tell me how you want us to do it and who is going to run the rally as there is a hell of a lot to do. You will need to arrange for someone to pick up everything from my house and liaise with Dave about the site</p> <p>12. If you don't want this to happen please back off, let us get on with it and put on a fantastic rally for the people who want to come and enjoy themselves.</p> <p>I am really sorry it has come to this but as I said this is from 3 people who have had just about enough – with all the normal stresses of life and trying to sort out the rally we have no more capacity to also deal with this all the time.” <b>Denny Powell</b></p> <p><b>Comment from Alec &amp; Marion on behalf of Glos MAG</b>  Marion and I would like to voice our support for Den our Rep regarding this matter. We think this is being blown out of all proportion we are quite happy with things as they stand and think we should be left to get on with it as we always have and we know that we speak for the rest of the group in this matter seeing as this matter has been dealt with previously, we fail to see why it should be raised again.</p> <p><b>Anne</b> explained that, although she realised things were often misinterpreted in emails, she had asked the one question: “.....if Glos was hanging onto their money for any particular reason apart from that put by for marquees and the Slippit fund etc., as Region weren't able to make a donation this years at AGM”..... She had asked purely because she knew that MAG UK funds were somewhat low and realised the need to sustain our HQ &amp; staffing levels.</p> <p><b>Andy M</b> said that so far as he understood the Constitution, Groups were autonomous and MAG had no call on their funds no matter how much is held in a Group account.</p> <p><b>Anne</b> replied that if ever there came a time when MAG members either can't or feel intimidated to ask a question then we were all wasting our time both in MAG and sat around this table.</p> <p>Two proposals were put from the Chair:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That if Denny gets any more questions they should be put through the Regional Committee Chairman. Passed unanimously</li> <li>2) That the Slippit Rally should be run as outlined by Denny Powell. Passed unanimously.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>9. Date of the April meeting.</b> As there is to be an NC meeting the Sunday following AGC Bill &amp; Di wouldn't be able to get back in time to attend a Regional meeting. A discussion ensued and it was agreed this will be a Regional meeting conducted on email.</p>	All
<p><b>10. Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>A) Lunch:</b> AG put forward for discussion that we begin paying for our lunch due to the low funds in the Regional Account. Andy K mentioned that in the Regional accounts this had been the highest amount. A varied discussion took place. Post meeting: AG agreed with AM that there could be this discussion on email at a later date but before our June meeting</p>	

<p>took place.</p> <p><b>B) The Bill</b> for lunch from the landlord of the Ropewalk had included a “£50 staff cost” in addition to the cost of 14 x lunches @£2.50 plus tea/coffee. He would not be moved on this additional cost. A whip round took place and we raised £28 towards the cost of the bill. Ed went with Kath to pay it because AG was afraid she might lose Bristol their venue if she went down to confront him. The landlord had never mentioned a ‘staff cost’ and it is not something she would have even contemplated. It was agreed to pay the bill and hold our committee meetings elsewhere. Although Glos offered it is a long way for certain people if we have it there all the time. Eddie to ask the Landlord of their venue – the Lamb in Iron Acton well in time for the June meeting. If this was not possible and if Bristol had not moved to a better venue then Glos could accommodate the meeting.</p> <p>AG sent an email to the Bristol Rep informing him of what had happened.</p> <p><b>C) Trace</b> asked what had happened to the <b>Fred Hill Runs?</b> Everyone seemed a bit vague on why they have either happened &amp; not been advertised or not happened in the first instance. It was agreed these were a <b>fundamental</b> part of MAG history.</p> <p><b>D) Hempstead Motorcycle Festival</b> is being held the weekend before Bristol Bike Show (14<sup>th</sup> August) for which Denny needs the MAG stand.</p> <p><b>E) NABD</b> requires to borrow our stand for The <b>Cider Rally</b></p> <p><b>F) Andy K</b> has offered to store the MAG stand in Trowbridge</p> <p><b>G) George</b> will require the MAG stand for <b>Weston Bike Nights</b> (first one of each month) and there is going to be a problem getting this to Weston in time (as it starts at 6). Previously Bill &amp; Di had been able to ensure it was there and collected as they were right on the doorstep, however, they have stored it for a few years and feel it should be someone else’s turn. This probably needs to be discussed prior to the first Bike Night.</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 16.10</b></p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p><b>Eddie</b></p>
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