

Minutes of Western Region Committee Meeting

June 2010. The Lamb, Iron Acton.

Attending:- Andy Meredith, Chairman. Andy Kerr, Clubs. Di Pugsley, Memberships. Bill Pugsley, NC Liaison. Trace, 'vice' NC Liaison. Kath Aldom, Treasurer. Steve Bradford, Events/Regalia officer. Steve P, Webmaster. Robbie, Forest MAG. Deb Rose, W&NS MAG. Mo Green, Bristol MAG. Denny Powell, Glos MAG. Anne Gale, Admin

Observing: Geoff Mills. Nigel Rose.

Apologies: Eddie Garnier and George Legg.

AWOL: Taff Jones, Mid-Wilts and Hugh Probert, NotAvon (though Hugh probably working).

Item	Discussion Point	Action
2.	Minutes of February Meeting – correctness and matters arising Minutes deemed correct and ready for publication. No matters arising.	
3.	<p>Officers Reports</p> <p>Andy Kerr - nothing much to report. As Andy had already visited them once, George and Bill then visited Somerset Motorcycle Club who requested a 2nd visit with a view to affiliating to MAG. This club raised several concerns which it felt MAG might be able to help with i) speed bumps/traffic calming on entry/exit to Sainsbury's garages; ii) parking of bikes in Torbay council car park; iii) marshalling the club's charity events.</p> <p>At this juncture Anne raised concerns that MAG still did not have a National Officer covering the roll of Club's Liaison. A lengthy discussion ensued during which it was felt that his obvious gap needed to be brought up at NC level and to find out who would be covering clubs and endeavouring to continue what Fergus had built up.</p> <p>Bill to take to NC and report back.</p> <p>Trace - nothing much to report. Had visited Salisbury MAG to discuss the Wiltshire wide Motorcycle Forum.</p> <p>Kath - Balance in account is £1335.06 (Bristol MAG's cheque had the wrong date on so their donation for £500 was not included in this balance. Also not included in this balance is £80 from the Swindon Account). The Slippit Inn/Glos MAG made a donation of £2000 at this meeting.</p> <p>Steve B – Events are posted on a monthly basis with regular updates. Products. Steve had taken delivery of the existing Region regalia and stock held was:- 7 T's, 22 sweats and 120 assorted patches, date bars etc. Regalia account has £44 in it.</p>	Bill P

	<p>Steve had produced some designs for a new Regional logo, however, after discussion it was felt that the next batch of stock to be purchased should retain the existing 'Political Irritant' logo. Specific orders were put in for T's, including one for Troll & Kath requested a 'ladies fit' and it was suggested some hoodies were purchased for stock.</p> <p>Steve asked if someone going with a car to BBS in August could take some stock for the MAG stand, however, it was felt that as the only people going in cars were the organisers it was unfair to ask them with everything else they had to do.</p> <p>It was agreed that a supply of stock could be taken for sale/display at the MAG Stand in a holdall on the back of a bike and Steve was asked to include the supply of patches/stickers/date bars etc., for this event. Also, a price list.</p> <p>Anne to send Old Pipes, Corporate Pipes & Political Irritant logos to Steve B.</p> <p>Di - Nothing to report as no membership lists were being sent out in the absence of a Membership Administrator. Interviews are imminent and Den will be one of the Interview panel.</p> <p>Andy M – nothing to report.</p>	<p>Steve B</p> <p>Steve B</p> <p>Anne</p>
4	<p>Reps Reports Mid-Wilts (Andy K) – Group was ticking over much the same and was organising a Pet Food Run in the Summer sometime.</p> <p>Glos (Denny) – Ticking over at the moment. No information received yet for Hempstead Bike Show from the council. This event is 2nd week in August. Group donated a cheque for £2,000.</p> <p>Swindon (Trace) – Trace is trying to source the signatories for the Group account so this can be closed and all monies handed over to Region. Trace may have to enlist the help of MAG's National Finance Officer with closing the account and securing the money from it. An £80 was handed over which had been Group petty cash. Sadly, there was no contact with any of the old Swindon members at the moment.</p> <p>Weston & North Somerset (Debs) – Weston thanks all for their help with Ollie's Funeral/Memorial Run. Plans for the GWR are ticking along, however, signing up suitable bands was proving a problem. Denny reminded Weston that Glos MAG have some cans left over from the Slippit Inn.</p> <p>Beach Enduro – not sure if this is on or, if it is, if there is a space for the bike park with all the re-design of Weston sea front. The advertised date clashes with Hoggin the Bridge and this would mean that several of the people who usually marshalled for the Bike Park would be either participating in the Run, marshalling or running the MAG stand.</p> <p>Possible meeting up with the new Dorchester MAG Group.</p>	

	<p>Bike Night – Wagon & Horses, Frome on 19th June.</p> <p>Bristol – Bike show preparations going well – struggling with bands. Group is making a collection in Ollie’s memory to send to MacMillan Nurses over the next few weeks. MAG Awareness day at Fowlers was a success signing up several new members. Rep has been asked to chase up the membership card of a new member who joined at the BMF show. Group had a ride out to the Salutation a couple of weeks ago and had another planned to the Weston Bike Night. John Stacey had stepped down with immediate effect to concentrate on his Union work. John had made such a huge impact since he had been in office. New member, Bill a retired police officer is keen to step up to the mark. Research is being done on the 20mph limits which seem to be in operation in parts of Bristol. Whilst there was no objection to residents 20mpph zones, it was a problem on arterial roads for pollution, air-quality, traffic congestion etc. It was emphasised that Bristol should be contacting Councillors NOW on this. Also, find out the official MAG stance on this by emailing Nich. Pauline Stacey steps down at Bristol AGM as Web-mistress and Tony Wood had already volunteered to step up to the mark at that time. Another MAG Awareness Day planned for later in the year at Riders.</p> <p>Forest MAG (Robbie) – Group is ticking along. Old Tupps event is July 17th, tickets available at £5. Each. Robbie hopes it rains on those choosing Quo & Westonbirt over his birthday bash!</p> <p>Lunch break 2.20 Meeting resumed 2.50</p>	Mo Mo
5	<p>Proposal – ‘That we discuss and decide on an amount to send to MAG UK from the Regional Account to arrive prior to MAG UK’s financial year end in July’.</p> <p>Kath was asked to give a projection of how much it will cost to run the Region for the forthcoming year taking into account Troll’s PC/internet connection; hosting/running AGM etc and it was felt this would easily be covered by £1000. Anne then proposed: “That we send up £2,500 to MAG UK”; seconded by Bill Pugsley; Unanimous. Kath to send cheque immediately after meeting so amount shows on MAG’s figures for their current financial year.</p>	Kath
6.	<p>NC/Board Report Bill made the following report:-</p> <p><i>Campaigns</i> Meeting with roads minister Less than two weeks after the formation of the new government, the DfT got in touch with MAG Central inviting the 'Riders Are Voters' campaign organisers to meet Mike Penning MP, the new Minister with responsibility for Britain's roads.</p>	

<p>Mike Penning MP started riding in the 1970's. Trained at age 16 to be an army despatch rider, he had a succession of bikes until the demands of raising a family forced him in to the all too familiar choice. He is a down to earth guy who has been in the army, fire service and a journalist before getting into politics.</p> <p>The hour-long meeting included 3 civil servants and covered a number of subjects.</p> <p>The minister is to review the new rider testing arrangements that came in to force last year, as well as the proposals to introduce further changes in 2013. Within the first week in office he had r visited one of the DSA's 'Multi-Purpose Test Centres' to witness the new bike test for himself, there is a suspicion that the test he witnessed was taken by an examiner.</p> <p>The review will be taken by the DfT not the DSA.</p> <p>The minister wants to continue to have a Government Motorcycle Strategy, this guidance from the DfT needs to be bulkier in favour of M/cycles.</p> <p>There was then a discussion within NC about Local Transport Plans and the DfT guidance.</p> <p>Manholes.</p> <p>A manhole cover has been developed made from a synthetic material with the grippy stuff within the mixture so there is no problem with the grip top wearing or peeling off.</p> <p>Crash Cushions for posts NC were shown some plastic cushions that can be put around lampposts etc, there was a debate on the pros and cons.</p> <p>Future of RAV</p> <p>RAV has not died with the end of the election process as was expected. A debate was had on the future of MAG working with the BMF, MCI and possibly ACU. NC agreed to take this debate to the regions.</p> <p>Demo/Festival of motorcycling.</p> <p>No real details of what form this may take but it was agreed that this will go ahead probably sometime in September.</p> <p>Government Spending Review.</p> <p>The government is calling for input from the public on what to cut spending on and what to leave. Nich will compile a letter on behalf of MAG but the call is out to all members to write with comments.</p> <p>Emergency budget. It was decided that to try and influence this was not an effective use of Nich's time.</p> <p><u>Board Meeting</u></p> <p>Appointments & Resignations. Discussion of Directors roles and responsibilities. Finance There were long discussions with new Finance officer. Pat questioned the Board on what they would like to see on a regular basis. Pat then went through his thoughts and ideas. It was agreed he will provide monthly statements to the Board and two monthly statements to NC. It was agreed that Kalpna, Accounts, would attend a SAGE course.</p>	
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	<p>The second hand server that has been on loan to MAG has been offered for £500, agreed by the board to purchase. Donation to No To Bike Parking legal fund. NC to decide to donate or not, Board to decide how much NC decided to go ahead and make a donation, there was some debate on the amount but in the end went with the board's recommendation of £100. A collecting bucket will be at the Farmyard next week and some NC members will be making individual donations.</p> <p><u>Central Office</u> April figures New – 10 more than in April 2009 Renewals – 54 less than in April 2009</p> <p>Paddy Tyson's contract has been extended to the August board meeting.</p> <p>Premises. Old premises still to be vacated. Only 2 offers to help paint the downstairs meant that the NC took the decision to pay contractors to do the work rather than continue to pay the rental fees.</p> <p>End of Board Meeting.</p> <p>FEMA – Nich Brown Report from spring meeting in Geneva. Nich was pleasantly surprised that the meeting was positive, the infighting has now all been sorted. The multi directive that includes 100bhp etc may be delayed.</p> <p>FEMA Report</p> <p>3 National Organisations gave presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>UK – RAV</i> 2. <i>Norwegians</i> - Full Control Booklet on how to ride a bike properly written by bikers. Available on FEMA website in number of languages including English 3. <i>Swedish</i> - Study carried out on Safety of Towing by bikes. Swedish introduced loophole in EU Directive that vehicles cannot tow a trailer heavier than manufacturer states. As motorbike manufacturers don't specify it means you can't tow. Swedes got people to a track with bikes and trailers and proved to Swedish Civil Servants that it was safe to tow. <p>Europe - increasing road safety action plan now downgraded to information and therefore does not carry as much weight.</p> <p>Belgium presidency of Europe - concerns that this could be detrimental to bikes as they wanted to do a lot with PTW. UK currently does most of what they suggested compared to rest of Europe.</p> <p>MAG pays £14000 to be members of FEMA.</p>	
	<p><i>At the end of the NC/Board Report Bill put it to us that there was a need</i></p>	

	<p><i>to re-instate some form of National Reps Liaison post and asked how we all felt about him resigning as our NC Liaison and taking over this role.</i></p> <p><i>Den spoke about the respect with which Bill's suggestions/opinions appeared to be treated.</i></p> <p><i>Anne said that this was a role which had been sadly missed in her opinion & could only benefit MAG UK if re-established. This was the system which had been in place when she first represented WR at NC and it had worked very well. It meant that the RRs had the forum without any other officers/employees/contractors present in which they could express their concerns/suggestions and come up with ideas to address them.</i></p> <p><i>After due discussion and after Trace, the Region's vice NC Liaison, had agreed, the following proposal was made:-</i></p> <p><i>'That Trace, who was elected at the Regional AGM a vice- NC Liaison, take over the role of Western Region NC Liaison Officer'.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed: Andy Meredith. Seconded: Anne Gale</i> <i>Unanimous.</i></p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p><i>'That, in the event Trace cannot attend an NC Meeting, Denny Powell deputises to represent the Region at NC level'</i></p> <p><i>Proposed: Andy Meredith. Seconded: Anne Gale</i> <i>Unanimous.</i></p>	
7	<p>Events at which the Region is being represented.</p> <p>Bikesafe – Castle Coombe is all arranged – Bill & Di will take the MAG stand for the day and later on to Taff's to be held in storage until Calne Bike Show which s all booked.</p> <p>Hoggin the Bridge (17th October) was discussed as months ago we were asked if we would like to help out by marshalling and also if we would like a stand.</p> <p>Several of us agreed to marshall/man our stand. However, it now appears that this clashes with the Beach Race at Weston. A discussion ensued on whether, with the new road system underway on Weston Sea Front there would, in fact, be a place for a secure bike park. Also, was the BR actually going to take place in 2010? Debs said that the money from the secure bike park was something that helped out her Group if the GWR didn't make a profit and she felt that, though some of the people who normally help out at the secure bike park would be either participating or helping with Hoggin, W&NS would be able to put enough marshalls on the ground to run the bike park.</p> <p>Regarding the Regional Stand, it was suggested that we approach Arf to see if we could have the Stand at Aust for when all the riders assembled rather than Chepstow. Anne felt that the potential for recruitment was excellent and the possibility of asking Nich or Paddy to attend was discussed. However, after discussion, it was felt unfair to take up their time at weekends and the usual crew could manage.</p> <p>Anne to ask Arf about the possibility of having the Regional stand at Aust.</p>	Anne

	If the stand was to be in Chepstow then it would be courteous to ask the Wales Rep if he had any objections and if he could come and help out.	
8	Any Other Business Mo briefly mentioned the new bus lanes which were scheduled to be installed in Bristol – specifically right outside Bristol’s venue, The Portcullis and whether Bikes would be allowed in these new lanes.	

Meeting Closed at 16.15

Next Regional Committee Meeting: Sunday August 15th. Ed & Anne to see Brendan to book The Lamb.

Also: Sunday 10th October. Sunday 12th December.