

DRAFT
Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting
9th December 2010
The Lamb, Iron Acton.

Attending: Trace, NC Liaison. George, the Troll, Political. Andy K, Clubs. Taff, mid-Wilts vice-Rep. Andy M, Committee Chairman. Kath, Regional Treasurer. Geoff Mills (Observing & part-Chair). Mo Green, Bristol Rep. Denise Powell, Glos MAG Rep. Dom Lowe, NotAvon vice-Rep. Di Pugsley, Memberships. Bill Pugsley, representing W&NS in absence of the Rep. Anne Gale, Admin.

Item	Discussion Point	Action
1	Apologies: Steve Peake. Eddie Garnier. Deb Rose. Steve Bradford.	
2	Minutes of last meeting/correctness & matters arising: The Minutes were deemed correct with no matters arising.	
	<p>The Chairman then said he was bringing forward a suggestion that had gone out on email which would normally be under item 7 and that he was absenting himself for the duration of the discussion, which he did.</p> <p>The email was a suggestion for discussing the benefits or not of proposing a Chairman for our Regional AGM independent of the committee in light of the initial decision taken on the hiring out of the regional marquees.</p> <p>There followed a lengthy and often heated discussion during which Denny Powell suggested taking the matter of hiring out the marquees to the Regional AGM.</p> <p>Denny absented herself from the meeting a couple of times to talk to the incumbent Chairman, who asked for a confidence vote in him as the Committee Chair to be taken. This vote was conducted by Geoff Mills, observing. Vote:- 11 for. 2 against.</p> <p>However, the Chairman decided to resign in the interests of harmony.</p> <p>At this time, it was suggested that the decommissioning of the Communications Officers Post be included on the AGM Agenda as the incumbent officer had felt this post to be redundant for some years.</p>	
3	<p>Loan of the Regional Marquees</p> <p>A proposal was made:- “That issue of hiring out of the Regional Marquees should be taken to the AGM with all relevant facts and posted on the Regional website and given to all local Reps by the end of the year.”</p> <p>Proposed: Robbie Harris. Seconded: Andy Kerr. Vote carried. 1 abstention.</p>	
4	<p>Officers Reports</p> <p>Kath, Treasurer: Balance is £1522.98. Kath confirmed the Bristol cheque for £500 has been paid into the account.</p> <p>Andy K, Clubs: Despite the workload at Central office Louisa had sent a spreadsheet. Expired clubs include – Whiteliners exp 2008; WIMA exp 2009; A38rs exp 2010-12-22 CMA exp 2010-12-22 FoD MCC exp 2010; 5 Valleys exp 2010.</p> <p>Current club affiliations in our Region:</p> <p>George, Political: No new information as yet on the ‘multi directive’. The ‘Get a Grip’ campaign has been launched. Liaising with North Somerset Council and getting non-slip manhole covers put onto the Agenda.</p> <p>Trace, NC Liaison: Every Group has held its AGM except mid-Wilts and Trace has attended them all.</p> <p>Anne, Admin:- Nothing to report.</p> <p>Di, Memberships: Organisation is not retaining memberships. Di’s letter chasing up lapsed members to include a post-paid reply back card which we hope will entice people to respond to a few questions as to why they have allowed their membership to lapse. Di has no way of checking if members rejoin. Membership at present stands at 8100 of which 1300 are Life Members.</p>	

5	<p>Group Reps</p> <p>NotAvon – Dom, being vice-Rep, is to deputise for Hugh at Regional Committee Meetings. Local council has been contacted about the state of the roads, particularly within the local Yate area. However, nothing will be done until the Tesco project is finished.</p> <p>South Glos following Bristol with non-slip manhole covers</p> <p>Events – 2011 – possible MAG Awareness Day</p> <p>Weston & North Somerset – held their AGM and elected Group and Rally Committees. GWR has possible new location – tba. Group is ticking along nicely.</p> <p>Forest of Dean – Robbie re-elected as Rep. AGM went well. Old Tupps 2011 is on. Putting letter together re traffic lights at Cannop Cross Roads to the council.</p> <p>Gloucester – AGM held on 25th November – good attendance. Rally going ahead. Limit on number of cars to 5 @ £10 each. Den voted back in as Rep. Bev – Treasurer. Nick – Rally Officer. Steve P – webmaster and products. Pete Greaves – political officer. Rachel Trull – Secretary. Pet Food Run to Teckles in June. Bev’s Mystery Tour – whenever. Picnic at Sharpness Docks. Post Xmas Party is on 8th January 2011. Group has new venue – Double Gloucester – good landlord, good facilities. All profits from the Party will go to MAG UK. Group Accounts – Balance is £4915.35. Thermal Mugs will be produced for sale at the Rally with logo.</p> <p>Bristol – held AGM for which there was a good attendance. Anne stood down as Committee Chair. Pete Webb put himself forward and was elected into that post. Sian Lewis wishes to stand down as Treasurer and will give us 3 months to find a replacement. Tony Wood has taken over as Web-master and it was suggested he speak to Steve Peake (Regional webmaster) if he needs to. No was re-elected as Chair; Elle as Secretary and Jules as Membership Sec. Group held Xmas meal with 34 members – good evening. Bristol Bike Show is arranged. Arranging Skittles do one Sunday afternoon. Pat Healey, Bristol’s Political Officer is doing lots of stuff and attending lots of meetings on behalf of the Group.</p> <p>Mid-Wilts – Accounts stand at £482.17. The Xmas party raised £177.64. Possible ride-out after Calne Bike Show.</p> <p>Swindon – still dead. Sadly, nothing came of Trace’s email to the NC entitled Swindon re-launch! Group bank account – still ongoing trying to trace signatories etc.</p> <p>Geoff stressed the importance of keeping web-sites up to date and also that Groups should get on top of their Local Transport Plans.</p>	
6.	<p>NC/Board Report</p> <p>MAG National Committee Meeting - 11th December 2010 Hatton, Warwickshire.</p> <p><i>Campaigns:</i></p> <p>Type Approval Framework Regulation - Update: Fortnightly meetings taking place in Brussels with FEMA and DFT being included. These consultation meetings will probably end in about 6 weeks, which will lead to a final draft of the Regulation in late Feb / early March 2011 for a spring vote by the Euro Parliament. Very difficult to get many of our points through, with anti-ABS being equated to anti-Safety and anti-Tampering equated to anti-Environment. NC have asked for a PDF briefing document (1-page header sheet and a backup 4-page explanation document to explain what it means) to go for the popular reaction.</p> <p><i>Riding Test Review - Update:</i></p> <p>Meeting next Tuesday with Minister Mike Penning and all relevant bodies. Attempt to re-unify testing procedure for road use could be possible but would require trials. A new draft report about the testing procedure is to be presented to the minister. The DSA have agreed that changes to 2 sections of the 2DLD test can be modified, but will not budge on the 'swerve & stop' procedure, which is not actually required as a combination by the 2DLD. A new complication is a group put</p>	

together on facebook by one Training school that says nothing is wrong with the tests, and this group appears to have the ear of the DSA.

Get A Grip:

Manhole covers go National and Flash. New campaign launched at the NEC, with great effect. New standalone website, just like RAV, and a different approach to campaigning. No cost to MAG (except Paddy's time) because funds have been donated by organisations to run the campaign (£18k so far). Website includes a map to place dangerous cover locations, and a petition. There will be a Get-A-Grip roadshow travelling around shows and big events. Shadow Transport minister approached stand at NEC with a wish to take information to NJUG (National Joint Utilities Group) in near future. Covers are being trialled in several authorities. Info cards were provided.

Mass Lobby:

About 100 people signed up, and about 50 people at any one time were in the room talking to MPs. There was a great variation in the level of debate, but some observers said the event seemed unfocused. About 60% of those taking part were noted as MAG affiliates, 5% from the BMF and the rest from RAV. This was almost an exercise to keep RAV rolling towards next year's local elections. Support from BMF was non-existent.

BMF Closer Co-ordination:

There have been a couple of meetings between MAG and BMF. BMF have put forward a document with some suggestions, but the NC thought that it would be no gain to MAG after the experience of BMF help in recent events. MAG will keep communications open, but will not agree to anything yet.

Mandatory Hi-Viz Clothing:

This appeared from a confused answer from an EU official to an unrelated question, and caused an uproar around the NC. Apparently there is nothing being done yet, but we are watching to see if the seed has been planted in official's minds.

Euro Demo 2011:

Nice idea, but hell to organise. The last UK demo to Brussels had about 100 riders because it was UK only. For a mass Euro demo we need a real 'reason' with many countries involved, and even for the Type-Approval subject the FEMA countries can't agree. The debate then moved to include UK demos which get no help from Police, unless named Freedom Rides or Celebrations of Motorcycling.

AGC:

The NC are to propose that the 'organise for charity' note to be removed from constitution. This is not to stop any group raising money for charity, but to encourage people to raise money for MAG. Debate about the timetable of AGC planning, with the outcome as follows:

1. At AGC ask for thoughts of next years event.
2. Business plan required by August NC meeting.
3. AGC location stated in October Road, with request for proposals & nominations.
4. Final reminder for proposals etc in December Road.

National Officers Reports:

Chairman: Didn't send out a report, not done much except loads of phone calls and some time at the NEC.

Finance Director: Money income is slightly up on this time last year, but not keeping up with inflation or costs. Membership is approximately 8100, of which 1300 are Life members. We are still better at recruitment than retention. Basically, money is tight.

Clubs Officer: We may have a volunteer.

Debate about the National Network Communications Officer position. Total confusion.

Vice-Chair: Worked with Reps Liaison Officer.

Reps Liaison Officer: With Vice Chair had tried to sort out problem in West Mids region without success. Now waiting developments from Warwickshire. Sorted out AGM observers. Kato will be observing at WR.

Regional Reps Reports.

	<p>All sent out by email. Request from Colchester MAG for help with a stand for promotion at rallies. Request to get Herts & ? contact onto NC list to aid communication.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Board Report - hopefully produced by Den.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>MAG Foundation: New website done by Sheila M, still in formative stages. Secure Parking booklet 90% done, just trying to sort out some adverts.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>MAG Fundraising: New MAG Shop online. Loads of Pacman stuff. Head to Toe raffle was drawn - late due to postal delays.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>General Secretary Report: Staff: Ceri has gone, temp in place now. Replacement being sought. Julie Sperling has fitted in well in finance role (been in place for 10 weeks now). NEC show: Report should be available next week. Get-A-Grip was really well received. There appeared to be fewer people in attendance, but a better response to the MAG stand.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Request from Sheila (Red) for abbreviations to be explained in emails and documents, and for emails to be signed with more info (ie name and position, not just nickname)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>End of meeting 1600 hrs.</p>	
7	<p>Regional AGM – Bristol were hosting this at the Not Avon venue in Iron Acton. However, in consideration of possible road conditions if the inclement weather were to persist and the lack of disabled access to the room hired for the meeting Den proposed that we change the venue to that of Glos MAG – The Double Gloucester – which has adequate disabled access and facilities. It was decided to go with this and to ensure everyone knew of the change of venue via the mail out and websites etc.</p>	
8	<p>Regional Mailout – Steve P taking care of this.</p>	
9	<p>AGC 2012 – Den suggested that we use the Glos Rally site for the AGC which would be the week following the Slippit Inn Rally. Den asked to draft a business plan.</p>	
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Taff – burger vans b) Bill - observed at Southern Region’s AGM and reminded us of Salisbury MAG’s Bike Show which is Sunday April 3rd (Mother’s day) c) Anne asked for Regional Officers to let her know if they were re-standing so she can prepare the agenda. She will send an email. d) Pre-AGM committee meeting to be held at The Double Gloucester to start at 11. e) February Committee Meeting to be at The Lamb, Iron Acton as normal 	
	<p>Next meeting February 13th 2011</p>	