

Minutes of Western Region Committee Meeting
14th August 2011.
The Lamb, Iron Acton

Attending:- Andy Meredith, Committee Chair. Eddie Garnier, OWP. Dominic Lowe, vice-Rep, Not-Avon MAG. Kath Aldom, Regional Treasurer. Steve Peake, Web-master. Steve Bradford, Products, Events etc and representing W&NS MAG. Robbie Harris, Rep Forest of Dean MAG. Trace, Regional NC Liaison and representing Glos MAG. Anne Gale, Admin.

Apologies:- Andy Kerr, Clubs. Deb Rose, Rep W&NS MAG. George, the Troll, Legg, Political, Newsletter etc. Taff Jones, mid-Wilts MAG. Hugh Probert, Re, Not-Avon MAG. Den Powell, Glos MAG Rep.

AWOL: Mo Green, Rep Bristol MAG.

Those Groups not represented at this meeting:- Bristol. Mid-Wilts.

		ACTION
2	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting Correctness – minutes were deemed as correct. Matters Arising – How did our Business Case to host the 2012 AGC fair? Trace reported that it was beaten by one in Reading as being cheaper and with Friday overnight camping. The Minutes were accepted.</p>	
3	<p>Officers Reports <i>Those received prior to the meeting were:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trolls Report for Sunday 14th August 2011 <p>Sorry all that I can't be there instead of being stuck indoors, hopefully I'll be mobile again soon</p> <p>PC Thanks to Taff for obtaining the new PC, its certainly a lot faster than the old one, now I can make mistakes much quicker. Also thanks to Steve for transporting the new PC.</p> <p>Political I'm being asked an awful lot about the thing on the 25th September to which I have no answers! Its rather annoying that someone has turned what was a request to Reps to give their opinion on the idea of the 'Demo' to something that was set in stone! How am I supposed to answer their questions if nothing has come down from central? Personally, I have grave reservations over the style of the proposed Demo, my main concern would be the safety aspect. Has anyone considered the outcome if one of these Demos caused a serious accident on a motorway? Hopefully Trace has brought back some enlightenment from the NC meeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webmaster's report August 2011 – Steve Peake 	

	<p>Short version: I bought a book</p> <p>Slightly longer version: Still experimenting, but no progress to demonstrate yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs Officer - Andy Kerr. <p>Spoken to Enice of Bristol Christian Bikers – keen to rejoin but must speak to other clubs within BCB and may take some time. Bath Classic MCC – checking to see if rejoined, if not will ring. Forest of Dean – hopefully Robbie will have spoken to them. Waggoners – Troll gave them a membership pack at the White Tigers and will follow this up next week. Have been asked to marshal at Hoggin the Bridge and will do.</p> <p>Treasurer’s Report – Kath Aldom Present balance is:- £2355.51</p> <p>Products/Events (presented on the day) – Steve Bradford.</p> <p>Sale of products is slow. Regional stand is housed in mid-Wilts area at the moment for Castle Coombe and Ogri after which it will transfer to Weston for storage to accommodate the GWR and Hoggin.</p>	
4	<p>Group Reps Reports Not Avon (Dom Lowe)– Local MP Steve Webb will be at the October Meeting and Hugh requires numbers from Groups who will be attending and any questions they might be raising BY 6TH SEPTEMBER. Anne will send this out to list for all group reps to respond. Hugh has organised a few Runs throughout the Summer. Group is ‘business as usual’. The paperwork for Not Avon change of Treasurer to Stacy is sorted.</p> <p>Forest of Dean - Group is ticking along. Skittles match on 20th August.</p> <p>Glos MAG (Trace) – Group is a bit quiet. They have sorted their motorway demo for 25th. Anne asked Trace if Glos MAG were sending anything up to Region after the Slippit Inn Rally. Trace was under the impression this had been done and will chase up the Accounts and any monies to be passed up.</p> <p>Weston and North Somerset (Steve B) – Good attendance. Had Ride outs to Taunton and Dorchester. GWR planning/prep is going really well. Have regular meetings with North Somerset Council including non slip manhole covers being installed. Looking at access to bus lanes and potential bike parking.</p> <p>Bristol short update from Anne in the light of Mo’s no-show – Group (Anne & Claire) were still trying to find a venue for the AGC which met the criteria. Anne had been to Coalpit Heath Village Hall (too expensive) and The Salutation (too small). Planning to visit Iron Acton Parish Hall in vnf. The biggest problem in</p>	<p>All Group Reps Anne</p> <p>Trace</p>

	<p>finding a venue is the disabled access criteria – were it not for this then finding something suitable would not be so much of a problem. Bristol Bike Show well under way as is the After Show Party at the Saracens Rugby Club.</p> <p>Mid Wilts Mid Wilts report – Group ticking along, we would like to thank other members from the western region for helping out with the stand at Calne bike day. We have now booked a pub (Audley Arms, Chippenham SN14 0DY) and band for our Christmas do the first Saturday in December cost will be £3 on the door. Wildlife run was a good day out; Thanks Taff</p>	
5	<p>NC AND BOARD REPORT</p> <p>NC Meeting - 13th August 2011 Central Office, Hatton. Meeting started 10:00 (MAG time ie about 10:15am)</p> <p>CAMPAIGNS UPDATE</p> <p>a) EU Framework. The Rapporteur has reported back back to the committee and amendments have been tabled, for a committee vote in early October. UK MEP on committee is Paddy's MEP, and has stated his position (Yes to ABS switch, No to on-board diagnostics). Finns have pushed for ability to build one-offs. British Government not happy about the 'delegated accs' , where the experts write the details after the vote has been taken by MEPs at a later date, ie the MEPs would be voting only on the rough draft of the bill, details to be added after the event.</p> <p>b) 25th September. Initially proposed to be a national 'flash mob' event to show our ability to put lots of bikes in action in multiple places around the country at a designated time. Reports are to be fed to national press and travel report media from Central on the day. Groups of riders to start off in as many places as possible at 1:00pm on 25th September, preferably along the inside lane of a major route at 40-45mph for a suitable distance, and then disperse. 'Flash mob' name now difficult to use after recent events, so it will probably now be called something like 'National Action' and promoted through personal media (Facebook etc - already 12 facebook pages dedicated to event at least). T-shirts with a simple message to be available to wear over jackets as a simple message.</p> <p><i>There was a lengthy discussion at our Committee Meeting about this event in general and some very strong views around the table. There was extreme concern expressed about the fact that it had been agreed to use Twitter/Blackberry to co-ordinate this event. Given the recent riots and this being their mode of communication, this idea was generally felt to be bad. There was also concern at the way this had not been mentioned at the June NC but immediately after. The question was asked 'did the Chairman ask for a formal vote on email?' before this gained so much momentum it was published via various media between NC meetings. Was it constitutional? It was also mentioned that Tony Cox, North West Rep, reported that the police in his Region were using ASBO's for motorcycling/transport based problems.</i></p>	

Due to the obvious high feeling son the subject As a result of these discussions, WR Committee Chairman asked those present:-

*“Is it a good idea to record our general discontent in the way this has been done?”
Unanimous.*

As a result of this, Western Region Committee would like to record the following observations:-

- Objections to the way this has been initiated – unanimous*
- Have real concerns, especially in the light of recent events around the Country, about the potential for major negative impact this could have on MAG and we are unsure what positive impacts there could even be – unanimous*
- This Regional Committee feels that it would be wise to postpone, if not cancel this event – unanimous*
- A formal response to our concerns would be appreciated – unanimous*

The Committee asked that Trace disseminate this to both the Chairman and NC.

Continuation of NC Report:-

c) Day-Glo.

Voted in favour of support for FEMA policy to oppose mandatory wearing of Hi-viz or warning vests.

d) EU Ombudsman.

Recent request for copies of info of John Strong's questions about EU committee activities has highlighted to the ombudsman a concern about said activities.

e) UK Riding Test.

Recent seminar held by MCIA with DfT, DSA, MAG and representatives from 100 training schools, as well as gov't minister was very interesting. Minister didn't realise schools were so angry, DSA were silent. Minister now keen to act. Working group on Tests has be resurrected, and will visit the TRL to observe research.

f) Get A Grip.

A bit quiet, apart from supporting local groups with GAG issues and talking to other suppliers of non-slip products. Foundation to report on GAG finance position soon.

g) Bias In The Courts.

Report page in the Road, several instances are being investigated, but the campaign is still in formative stage.

h) No To Bike Parking Tax.

The chairman of the group in London has resigned, meaning that the group is effectively leaderless. Can MAG provide leadership for motorcyclists in London?

i) Campaigns Communication Policy.

No vote was taken to launch the 25th September 'campaign', seemed to be decided by consensus of opinion on NC list.

NC to see items in advance of going out on activists list, and only urgent short-time items for activists list to be decided by Nich / Paddy / Mutchie / Paul T.

j) Political Parties.

After recent requests from local branches of political parties to affiliate to MAG, the policy of being apolitical was confirmed (ie. no direct links to any political party).

Extra Item:

Allister Preston read a report / request from MAP / Yorkshire MAG with concerns about how MAG was being run, with specific questions about office staff, database and website. Quite confrontational, and caused shock around meeting. Seems like info from meetings getting garbled between NC and Yorkshire. Some legitimate concerns allayed with reports from Board report.

This item took ages.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

Discussion regarding circulation of minutes, which this time was very late, and linked to request for NC meeting agenda to be circulated in advance of the meeting (2 weeks before it would appear to be good). An Action List to be published less than 2 weeks after each NC meeting.

A minute-taker is also being sought. If none of the regions can find one, Mutchie may contact political department of Warwick uni, or Nich may hire a minute taker for meetings.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Rob Easthope has resigned as Thames Valley rep.

Phil McFadden now officially South Wales Regional Rep.

Jeff ??? now North Wales Rep.

Neil Stevenson has resigned as events officer (contractor)

OFFICER'S REPORTS.

Chairman: Been Busy. Tees Riders situation now being handled by Pete Walker.

Rep's Liaison Officer: Bill is now getting back to speed. Completing a full list of reps and contacts. Has produced a standard sheet for observers to use at regional AGMs.

Finance Officer: report in Board report.

REGIONAL REPs REPORTS

Basically all by email.

Eastern Region - organising 1st MAG Classic Bike Show at Jack's Hill Cafe at Towcester.

Simon Mouncey reported a possible workplace based group of Underground engineers who use their bikes to travel to urgent workplaces (who have queries from their bosses about their competence to ride).

Eddie Lowe presented a cheque for £710 from Heart Of England rally.

BOARD REPORT.

Still trying to reduce costs of Club Affiliation Scheme.

We have vacancies for 2 directors in April 2012.

Finance: Fiscal Year 2010-2011. We appear to have a surplus of £9000, depending on report by auditors. Membership numbers up on 2009-2010 but still below 2008-2009 levels. Sub-contractor costs have been spread throughout the year. Direct Debit payment will be trialed later this year, and rolled from 1st January 2012 if successful.

Central Office: Nich broke his ankle and has been off work for a month, but is now back on crutches. Katie still not fully up to speed on memberships. Hardware - computers need replacing.

Database: Stop-gap database being investigated for £2000-5000.

WebSite: New website is estimated to cost £2000ish using free software.

Road on-line: The previous issues of The Road are now available on line, but questions remain regarding it's worth as a fund-raiser.

Neil Stevenson: As previously noted, Neil Stevenson has resigned from his shows role, and also from the Foundation. This appears to be due to a lack of communication (both ways).

Dr Leon Manning: His role is still being discussed.

Business Plan 2011-2016: Draft plan has been circulated.

GENERAL SECRETARY - nothing extra to report.

	<p>-----</p> <p>FEMA: FEMA have asked for the supporters scheme to be pushed, but this would take funds away from MAG and dilute our message. An observer from FFMC (French rider's rights group) will be at the next meeting.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>AGC 2012: The NC thanked both regions for their business plans, which they thought were both very good. the vote was 7-3 in favour of Wycombe.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>AOB: British Parking Association. Simon Mouncey attended a recent meeting, and MAG have been invited to put a motorcycle parking chapter in their next report to go local authorities for recommendations about parking 'best practice'. MAG have also been offered free associate membership of the BPA.</p> <p>Finish at 4:45pm.</p>	
7	<p>Forthcoming Events – BBS & After Show Party, GWR & Hoggin. These are all events where the MAG Stand is required (except BBS as Bristol will use their own). Query why Ogri not included in this list and Anne explained she had thought this all sorted as it was only 2 weeks away.</p> <p>Stand is sorted for Ogri, GWR and Hoggin.</p>	
8	<p>Regional AGM Venue – See Anne’s report for Bristol.</p>	
9.	<p>Regional Treasurer’s Post – Kath had given us a ‘one year notice’. Was Steve Peake still willing to do the job? Yes.</p>	
10	<p>Any Other Business None</p>	

DATE OF NEXT MEETING SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER