

Minutes of Western Region Committee Meeting

9th October 2011

Attending:- Dominic Lowe, NotAvon MAG. Deb Rose, Weston & North Somerset MAG. Den Powell, Glos MAG. Robbie Harris, Forest of Dean MAG. Taff Jones, Mid-Wilts MAG. Andy Kerr, Clubs Officer. Steve Bradford, Events and Products Officer. Mo Green, Bristol MAG. Eddie Garnier, OWP. Steve Peake, Web-site Officer. Andy Meredith, Committee Chairman. Anne Gale, Admin Officer.

Groups represented: NotAvon. Weston and North Somerset. Glos. Forest of Dean. Mid-Wilts. Bristol.

	Meeting commenced at 1307	ACTION
1	Apologies: George, the Troll, Legg. Trace. Hugh. AWOL: Kath Aldom, Regional Treasurer	
2	Minutes of the last meeting: Anne left out Taff's report for August Minutes. She will add these before sending to Steve P for publication.	Anne
3	Officers Report: Den, Membership Sec: No reports due to Louisa's illness. There has been a massive influx of new members. Den will send list of overdue renewals to Mo for the Bristol area. Andy, Clubs: Bath Classic have rejoined. Forest of Dean MCC – ongoing. The Waggoners – talking to them. The Board are revising the cost of club affiliation. Eddie, OWP: Nothing to Report. Steve B: Products will restock over the winter. Neil Stevenson can get products discount. Events: the last outing for the Regional Stand is Hoggin the Bridge and due to cost of fuel and bridge Steve will be reclaiming those expenses. Steve P – Website: Nothing to report except aiming to get something done with the Glos MAG web-site and hopes to have a 'new' Regional Web-site for the AGM in January.	Den Steve B
4	Group Reps Reports Glos MAG: Looking at possible new venue. AGM is 10 th November at The Double Gloucester. Group proposes to forward £5k to the Regional Account leaving enough in the Group Account to ensure they have enough to manage the expenditure prior to the Slippit Inn Rally which will be held 6-8 April 2012. On the run for the 25 th September they had 100 bikes. Mid-Wilts MAG: 460 bikes left the Services on 25 th September Run plus some cars which had signs in the back informing other motorists what the Demo was for, AGM is 20 th October. Xmas Party on 3 rd December. NotAvon: Steve Webb, local MP and Cabinet Minister attended the Group meeting on the 4 th October which received good support. The meeting went very well with positive feedback. On reflection, they should have	

	<p>hired the upstairs room at the Lamb and any future meetings of this kind would be done on a more formal basis and more 'homework' in advance of the visit. Group has now finished its Tuesday runs over the Summer. AGM date tbc (post meeting note: this was held on 1st November) Question from Andy Meredith : 'do you think it was worth the effort to drag your MP out?' Reply from Dom: 'Yes, outside of election time'. Either Dom or Hugh will be doing a piece for The Road.</p> <p>Forest of Dean MAG: Not very good turnout at meetings at the moment. Has requested address labels for Group AGM – date tbc.</p> <p>Bristol MAG: The After Show Party made around £500. Six memberships were taken at the Riders MAG Awareness Day. Mo wants email addresses of potential new members to be collected at Awareness Days to go on the list. Andy M said a Group in the SW are using email lists properly, so much so that the Group is now becoming two! Mo requested Denny to send the lapsed membership lists for Bristol. Soup Run is 23rd October. Burrington Combe 10.30 for 11.00 start.</p> <p>ACTION POINT FOR TROLL:- Please circulate your post code figures/diagram – we know this is a few years old but it is something to work with and amend accordingly.</p> <p>Weston & North Somerset:- New site was a success. Good feedback from neighbours and there has been an offer of an adjacent orchard for any over-flow to the main camping field. £600 profit. Groups has committed to putting on the Rally for the next 3 years taking them to the 10th Anniversary. 2012 event is 7-9th September. Roger is string the marquee at the moment, however, the Group has to provide storage. New members are turning up at meetings. Group AGM 16th November.</p> <p>Lunch 14.15 – 14.40</p>	<p>Dom/Hugh</p> <p>All</p> <p>Denny</p> <p>George</p>
5	<p>NC/Board Report by Steve Peake MAG NC Meeting 8th October 2011</p> <p>Campaigns Update</p> <p>1 25th September</p> <p>40,000 bikes appear to be a conservative estimate – police reckon it was a lot higher. No national coverage, but good local TV, radio and papers. Good MEP response. Labour vote block is now in favour of optional ABS (or at least an off switch)</p> <p>MCN trying to get MAG's endorsement/support for another demo (and petition) to ride to Brussels on 22nd November – this is being driven by a UKIP official. This is meant to coincide with IMCO vote - which was postponed from 6th October, and may be postponed again, which makes this a lousy Tuesday for a demo. MAG feels that it is without merit but is looking for a way to tell MCN they are wrong without getting bad press from them.</p> <p>NOTE: UKIP had been canvassing at some demo meeting points, when they had explicitly been told not to. Did this happen in our region?</p>	

15th October – there is a militant online group (guessing FB?) that is trying to repeat our demo with the express aim to block all motorways in the country. We are obviously distancing ourselves from this – police are already involved in blocking this incitement to commit crime.

Considering Euro Demo for next spring to coincide with Parliamentary vote on Framework Regs. France rider groups are keen (Frederick from FFMC was at the NC meeting) as are Holland. Germany non-committal, Belgium not interested.

Suggested a less distributed UK demo (possibly April) – e.g. synchronous M1 and M4 runs to head towards London in an orderly fashion (no “mayhem” or “flash mob”) but to disperse and not try and trash London. May have difficulty calming the hotheads down and making them go home. Police would be more receptive to this kind of event.

Question raised about lack of MAG petition on Number 10 petitions website (no longer called that, but you know what I mean). Not done yet as this is EU legislation so UK Parliament has nothing to do with it.

Despair at poor spelling of current anti-EU petitions on there – misspellings include “pertition” and “mororcycle”.

T-shirts went well and we could have sold 10x more had we committed to them earlier. Idea of producing regular sized shirts to commemorate – e.g. “I rode on the 25th” or “I supported the 25th”

2 EU Framework

Based on Nich’s discussions with FEMA and Malcolm Harbour (sp? Don’t know who this is – ask Trace):

AHO – almost inconceivable that this won’t stay

ABS – more favourable to now include bypass switch, and allow other cheaper options on smaller bikes

Anti-tampering(power train) – this looks likely to be dropped.
Parliament and council don’t like it and feel the Commission has over-stepped it’s remit. TRL competition was spoofed, with no workable ideas. TRL withdrew it’s bid to provide solutions. Germany volunteered TUV as a replacement – no one likes this except the Germans.

3 FFMC

Frederick from FFMC (Chairman, I believe) was at the meeting to give an overview of the French situation.

There have been more demos, and some have been linked with car organisations. Legislation has not been implemented yet, and is unlikely before the elections in June 2012. Serious backpedalling on Hi-Viz – apparently they only wanted reflective bands on jacket arms. Still suggesting 120 Euro fine for not having these token Hi-Viz markers. One anecdotal case of biker having insurance payout reduced due to lack of Hi-Viz.

Government is trying to crack down on number plate sizes – wants them bigger than UK plates. They have also removed lots of speed camera signs, and are pushing for Periodic

Technical Inspections. French Transport minister is also EU Transport Minister and wants to roll these out EU wide.

One positive note is the road construction standards are all being re-written to include consideration for PTWs.

4 **Ministerial Review of UK riding test.**

Trials are underway of new manoeuvres – suggesting brake then swerve, not swerve then brake. DSA is currently showing these to trainers. Confusion in mainstream of bikers that we are trying to put “MOD 1” on the road – not the case, it will be a new test.

5 **Get a grip**

Quiet over summer whilst focussing on demo. Sponsorship has been raised for the NEC stand.

6 **Bias in the courts**

No progress other than speaking to a few bereaved families.

7 **80 MPH motorway limit**

No official consultation yet. Suggested government viewpoint that it will lead to a rise in accidents and pollution, but this CAN be acceptably offset against economic growth. Weird argument, but does set a precedent for combating Safety Nazi mentality.

Some suggestion that the 80mph limit would be enforced more strictly.

Considered opinions sought from MAG members – do we care?

8 **Bike Theft**

Motorcycle Crime Reduction Group trying to stop removal of specialist bike crime officers in Met Police. Discussed restarting “MAG Protected” scheme and highlighting the cash reward protecting members’ bikes.

Biker FM (in conjunction with Datatag and Road Angel) want to do regional bike theft announcements – information provided by police and riders, but linked to MAG banner. (aside – FFMC endorse locks they’ve personally tested and make money from this scheme)

9 **Dr Leon Manning**

Independent Motorcycle Lobbyist – currently on £100 per month retainer to represent MAG at London meetings that Nich or Paddy can’t make. He brought suggestion to increase this to £500 per month – for this MAG gets significantly more of his time.

Debated value for money, etc. My proposal was to accept this change, with performance reviewed after 12 months and reporting/promotion of MAG reviewed after 6 months (he hasn’t been excellent at formal reporting so far). I also added a condition that external factors (e.g. MAG finances) could change these review periods. Passed 9 to 4.

Matters Arising:

Improved agenda/minutes production still required. Action list needs to be issued more promptly – Di/Bill actioned on this.

Appointments/Resignations:

John (missed last name) from Wycombe MAG is now the Thames Valley Rep.

National Officers Reports:**Paul Turner:**

MAP AGM – agreed donation/fee, but amount wasn't mentioned. Lots of regional news stations called about 25th September demo.

Vice Chair (missed name – Jol?)

Problems at Number 1 rally now resolved. After investigation rally organisers were found to be partially liable due to issues with insurance, licence, gate numbers, risk assessment. Bike club in question has apologised for physical assault. A one-off payment (without admission of liability) has been made towards rebuilding damaged premises.

Pat – Finance officer

Audit currently in progress. Membership currently at 8650. August, September and start of October all increased compared to last year.

NOTE: Nich mentioned membership delays reported by Anne Gale – have you received his Response?

Reps Reports:

We may now have and Isle Of Wight Rep.

MORFs (Pink Forms)

Local and regional reps should all sign these each year. Also consider anyone who has access to membership database (although not strictly required by DPA).

Board Report:

- 1 Sheila McFarlane has resigned from the board.
- 2 Direct Debits – should be in place by January 2012. We need to provide an indemnity (equivalent to 1 months payments) but are still arguing with the bank about how much this should be – they reckon £20k, we reckon £5k
- 3 Finance report – surplus of £12k for year 2010-2011. Audit being tendered as current company not brilliant.
- 4 Membership fees unchanged. Need to examine affiliate fees – Nich to produce scheme based on covering costs, not making money from clubs.
- 5 Business Plan. MAP & Yorkshire region have demanded one, and it's about time we had one. We need to set targets – ideas to be emailed to Pat as to what we expect from MAG in the next 1-5 years. MAP presentation last meeting wasn't intended to be hostile. Business plan to include examining staff levels and work load.
- 6 Central Office update. Membership secretary has not been kept past her probation period.
- 7 Products. Neil Stephenson now doing these. Special offer for reps – three items hoodie/sweatshirt/fleece, polo shirt & printed or embroidered t-shirt) for £30 plus £5 postage.

Gen Sec report

- 1 Extra ADSL line into Central Office – need to tie up router configuration with Andy Meredith.
- 2 Membership Database – waiting for an opportunity for meeting with Louisa present as she has most experience working with the DB.
- 3 Website – waiting for the DB to be in place before starting.
- 4 Xmas closing – proposed to close office (to outside callers) one week before Xmas to allow staff to clear backlog and finally finish moving in.

FEMA REPORT

FEMA Priorities

FEMA are asking us to select a MAXIMUM of 5 items from the following list (which is in a particular order) and then to prioritize them (1 : most important, 5 : least important).

- A.[ENVI] Environment: Push forward the environmental role of motorcycles
- B.[MCSAFETY] Pro-actively promote all motorcycle safety measures FEMA is in favour of
- C.[INFRASTRUCTURE - CEN standard]: Dissemination of the guardrails technical specification
- D.[INFRASTRUCTURE - others] Campaign for better infrastructure for motorcyclists (other CEN standards – e.g. skid resistance standards for manhole covers)
- E.[CONSUMER PROTECTION] Campaign strongly for better consumer protection (product warranty, freedom of choice for maintenance and parts, fight against compulsory periodical inspections)
- F.[FRAMREG] Deal with the Type-Approval and Market Surveillance proposal both on Commission (technical) and Parliament/Council (political) levels
- G.[ITS] Lobby for EU/Global ITS policies to rightly address motorcyclists issues with ITS
- H.[TRANSPORT Policy] Define a pro-motorcycling strategy; recognise motorcycling as part of sustainable mobility

The 2011 priorities were:

1. [FRAMREG] Type-approval regulation
2. [MCSAFETY] Motorcycle safety
3. [INFRA - CEN] Infrastructure, guardrail standard
4. [ENVI] Environment
5. [CONSU-PTI] Consumer issues, periodical technical inspections
6. [INFRA-OTHERS] Other infrastructure-related issues
7. [TRANSPORT POLICY] Lobbying for more pro-motorcycling strategies
8. [ITS] Intelligent transport systems

FEMA reasonable safety strategy – what are we willing to do to tackle motorcycle safety?

Nich needs suggestions asap.

MAG used to send a volunteer along with a paid employee to each FEMA meeting.

Suggestion that this resumes to take pressure off Nich/Paddy for reporting and to provide a fresh viewpoint.

AGC 2012

Possible problem with venue (three rugby matches now scheduled that weekend – may be able to move 2, but one is confirmed) Awards nominations – see P Turner's piece in latest Road

	<p>Motion to AGC – Proxy Voting:</p> <p>It is proposed that item 5, xii be amended to read: Voting at group conference shall be on the basis of one vote for each individual member in Attendance. A member may also cast a proxy vote for up to ten non-attending members from with their local area providing that: 1: Membership of proxy voter and representative is current at time of AGC 2: A proxy form, identifying each proxy voter and their representative, has been forwarded to Central Office not less than 7 days prior to AGC or has been presented on arrival at AGC.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>Continuous Insurance and MID. Nich to confirm officially the grace period DVLA is allowing to cover delays in updating the MID.</p> <p>Membership card print quality – new printer 3 months ago, so we need to know how old these cards are.</p>	
6	<p>Regional AGM</p> <p>Anne has negotiated the Royal British Legion Hall for the AGM on behalf of Bristol. Catering is being arranged via the guy who usually does the functions for the venue @£120-£130. Drinks over the bar. Steve P is happy to do the mail out as in previous years.</p>	
7	<p>25th September – Andy Kerr</p> <p>Andy queried how the Committee had reached its conclusion at the August meeting about the planned run for 25th? It was explained that a) we felt it had not been a Constitutional decision. B) the August NC/Regional meeting were at the end of a week of riots in many cities in the country. C) we were told that the 25th demo was to appear ‘spontaneous’ and to be co-ordinated via blackberry and twitter – the very medium that had been used to co-ordinate the riots. D) the potential for this going very badly was explained by Andy M.</p>	
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>Mid-Wilts website is very dated and not used properly and they are thinking of turning the site back into a postcard site with a link to the Regional website. Steve Peak is happy to put up any content.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at 17.10 Next meeting is Sunday 11th December.</p>	