

WESTERN REGION COMMITTEE MEETING
Draft Minutes Sunday 9th June 2013
The Railway Tavern, Station Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3SG

Attendees: 100% turnout on bikes: Trace, vice NCL. Eddie, Products. Keith, Treasurer. George, Political. Andy M, Committee Chair. Anne, Admin & 'Trace' for the NC Meeting of previous day.

1. Apologies:

Deb Rose, W&NS Rep. Den Powell, Glos MAG Rep. Andy Kerr, Clubs Officer, Tim Derricke, Bristol Rep. Steve Bradford, Regional Stand. Steve Peak, Web-site.
AWOL: Joe Thomas, Bristol Vice. Taff, mid-Wilts OWP.

2. Minutes of February meeting:

Were deemed as correct and ratified accordingly.

3. Officers Reports:

Anne, Admin: AGC went very well. Feedback at NC was great. Thanks again for all the help.

Trace, vice NCL: Liaising good. Keeping up with emails on NC list.

Eddie, Products: Products and paperwork are now in Anne's garage as have moved into temporary accommodation. £210 in the products fund.

Keith, Treasurer: AGC net costs to Region = £1432.49 once the following income was included in outgoings = Raffle, £415 & Door takings, £172. Regional funds stand at £3320. After a short discussion it was decided to send up a £2,000 donation to Central Office.

There was some storm damage to the Regional marquees at the Taunton Rally – poles, canvas etc. – and repairs are being undertaken by various people. The Taunton Rally was a huge success.

Troll, Political: Nothing much Political coming out of Central. Anne had ascertained from The Chair that things were being taken care of – Leon Manning for London/South; Paul Turner elsewhere. She had also asked at the NC meeting that updates be posted to the Activists List.

Andy M, Communications: Nothing to report.

4. Reps.Reports:

W&NS, Keith: The Group had helped Taunton with their Rally – there were terrible gales causing problems erecting the marquees causing damage (as aforementioned). Group has a Ride-out a week Wednesday to the Glastonbury Bike Night. Now have a Band sorted for Saturday at the GWR Rally.

Glos, Trace: Attendance is a bit worrying.

Not Avon, Ed: is trickling along quite nicely.

Bristol, Ed & Anne: Group going well, good attendance. Archie passed away in Thailand and his Wake was held on 8th June which was well attended. Plans for the Bristol Bike Show going well, as ever, courtesy of Claire.

Forest of Dean, Trace: Den has still not been able to get any response from her contacts with Robbie and was resorting to good old Royal Mail.

Break for lunch: 13.50 to 14.15

5. NC/Board Report

Anne (for her sins!)

Anne had enjoyed her NC meeting so much she spoke to John, The Chair, asking to be included on the NC list and attend NC meetings (when I first volunteered to take on Network 5 years ago I did so on the understanding with the then Chair & NC that, although accountable to the NC, would not want to be on the NC list or attend NC meetings). John agreed.

NC Report to Western Region Shrewley Village Hall, 8th June 2013

1. Confidentiality of NC email list and meetings

Hitherto it has been assumed that NC emails are confidential unless otherwise stated. However, emails are being leaked whether they are marked Confidential or not.

A lengthy discussion ensued and, obviously Reps want to be able to pass on information of use to their members so it was felt that the best way forward was for NC emails to remain Confidential unless otherwise stated until other acceptable guidelines had been worked out.

A discussion then ensued on why emails are being leaked. It was agreed that a workable Proposal be worded to sanction those receiving these emails & who refuse to say who leaked them.

2. Board Meeting Report

The Minutes of the Board Meeting are to be circulated later this week.
Briefly –

Database - there has been an exchange of emails with the Company meant to be doing this for us, who are, apparently, setting up or have set up a centre in India.

John Wilmer, Vice Chair, has volunteered to set up a new access database as an approach system [as if I knew what that meant!!] to Central within the next 6-8 weeks.

Staffing - Julie and Carol in the Office are extremely happy and, along with Paul Turner, working extremely hard to keep MAG ticking over and are doing it well.

At the moment, thoughts are to employ an Office Manager and Research/Campaigns but that has yet to be finally decided .

At this juncture I did voice my opinion and which I have said for many years at our Regional Meetings – i.e. that I feel we don't need 5 members of staff; I had, in the past, questioned where the title Assistant General Manager came from but got no answers. Anyway its irrelevant now. As I understand it, job descriptions are going to be tailored to what MAG actually needs.

A discussion ensued wherein various aspects of paperwork concerning the 3 members of staff, who had resigned, were discussed.

I said now was our chance to restructure to MAGs requirements and move forward stronger. To bring the discussion to a conclusion I made the following proposal:

“That a ratified Joint Board/NC Statement be circulated with just facts, as can be legally disclosed, at this time”. Proposed: Anne Gale. Seconded: Andy Carrots. Carried. The Chair asked if I would like a turnaround of 7-10 days, to which I agreed.

A vote of Confidence in Pete Walker and Neil Liversidge was proposed by John Mitchell. Seconded : John Wilmer. Carried.

Appointments and Resignations

New Chair: John Mitchell. New vice-Chair: John Wilmer.
Three staff.

Brief Campaign Update

Leon has been working extremely hard. There was a very confidential report which I cannot comment on at the moment.

The subject of ‘Dutch’ Roundabouts came up, the design of which is extremely dangerous for PTWs and which Leon feels would be an excellent Campaign for MAG to adopt – **VISUAL**. **The strip** which separates the lanes to protect cyclists is raised plastic. A car could go over it but it would have a PTW rider off. It was pointed out that if the strip were painted in a non slip material this would then not affect vulnerable road user groups.

I also have another **VISUAL** which will be of use to local activists concerning road markings and furniture.

It was pointed out by Leon that Councils of have a duty of care to road users.

FEMA

Pat, National Treasurer, attended the last FEMA meeting (he is also, of course, FEMA Treasurer).

Periodic Technical Inspections went through its 2nd committee stage with the FEMA changes i.e. that member states should make up their own minds on this issue. We are not out of the woods yet though as it has to go through the 3rd stage which is the environmental committee in July. So please keep canvassing your MEPs on this issue.

It is planned to organise a demonstration in Strasbourg in the form of a couple of riders per FEMA member organisation with their flags. We don't think we have one but Tony Cox was asked if he could have the 40th Logo printed onto a Union Flag [*which, subsequent to the meeting we have discovered it is illegal to do this so other arrangements are being made*]

Neil Liversidge's experience with FEMA goes back to the 80's, when it was the FEM and as there are some concerns as to how FEMA is functioning, Ian Mutch Proposed that Neil Liversidge attend FEMA Meetings on MAG's behalf. Seconded: Steve Wykes. Carried.

Reports

RRs were circulated prior to the meeting.

Finance Officer Fighting Fund is on budget this year. Renewals are down some 640 on this time last year. On the back of last years demos we took new memberships but it appears many of these are not renewing. Renewals down on last year but up on 2011. We were asked that when taking memberships to push the direct debits as this is the best way to retain members.

Paul Turner Office is ticking over well. Attended the Motorcycle Crime Reduction Group and was greeted with 'its nice to see someone from MAG here for once'!

MAGs Travel Insurance and Breakdown Cover Contract has been signed, though its not a big 'earner' for MAG it is a good benefit offered to Members.

It was discovered that there had been a considerable lack of contact to Corporate Members. A couple of hours work by Carol and Julie resulted in £1k into the bank from Corporates.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Paul Turner and the two girls for everything they have done over the last 3 months. Carried.

The Road. Ian Mutch reported that the proofing mechanism now in place seems to be working well.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Future Political Lobbying/action – Anne Gale. This item is the result of a couple of conversations with our Political Officers i.e. George and John Stacey who had expressed concerns that over the last few months nothing had gone out on the Activists List. Though it had been confirmed, when I first submitted this item for NC discussion that Political Issues are being covered by Leon Manning and Paul Turner, I asked if things could begin to go out on the Activists Lists to keep members informed.

I know they are extremely busy but they will endeavour to get this going.

2 Working Groups, the Chairman – volunteers are required to get various things sorted and I will circulate the list as soon as I receive it from John Mitchell.

It would appear there are some things which have been neglected and which need updating so John is asking for volunteers for Working Groups to ensure things are current.

Neil D, Eastern Region. Also, clarification of the MAG Protected Scheme is required.

Membership Retention Plan, the Chairman. New membership lists will be circulated by Wednesday next week and Regional Membership Secretaries are asked to correspond with lapsed members in an effort to get them to renew membership.

Selena is putting up a Farmyard Poster on MAG's facebook page with 'Is your Membership up to date, you will need it to claim your beer vouchers'. They will be able to take more electronic memberships at Farmyard.

A review of what MAG membership provides to its members is to be prepared.

MAG Night Feb 16th – Neil D would like to see a definitive list of what was raised by this event so we can see if it should be repeated.

April Minutes – Chairman. John asked that everyone read the Minutes so they can be ratified by Wednesday of next week. [nb. I know Trace has ratified them on email].

Meeting ended at 1600 hours.

6. AGC Post Mortem:

No need as it went extremely well. The 'No Alcohol in Conference Hall' Rule was abused by a couple of people. Anne will make The Chair/Vice Chair aware of this. **Action: Anne**

7. MAG Stand/Sundowners/Calne/Hoggin:

Due to various personal issues for the team who normally work the Stand it was decided not to do the Sundowners.

Calne, to our knowledge has not been booked. Anne did receive an email from Andy Kerr who had been contacted by an Organiser to say that the Stand spaces were being snapped up pretty quickly. Taff is away for a week. It was decided Anne would contact Andy K and ask him to book the space before he goes away on holiday. *[Post meeting: This was done, Andy has booked the space & paid the cheque. He will let us know where we are to exhibit once he hears from the Organisers].* **Action: Anne**

Bristol Bike Show, we will use the stand provided by Claire/Bristol Group for the MAG Stand as usual.

Hoggin', stand space is now being sited at the Racecourse.

Ogri, - Volunteers wanted to run the Stand. **Action: All**

8. **Any other business**

Nothing.

Next Meeting : August 11th.

Western Region Committee Agenda