

Minutes of Regional Meeting – 15th December 2013

The Railway Tavern, Fishponds, Bristol.

Attending: Trace, vice Rep. Andy M, Communications. Troll, Political. Eddie G, Products. Andy K, Clubs. Den Powell, Glos MAG Rep. Steve B, MAG Stand. Deb Rose, W&NS Rep. Keith, Treasurer. Sally Smart, Bristol vice Rep. Anne G, Regional Admin.

1. **Apologies:** Tim Derrick, Bristol Rep. Steve P, Website.

[The start of the meeting was delayed due to Keith having taken a bad fall. Eddie took him to hospital and Andy M took the relevant site photographs.]

Meeting commenced at 13.20.

2. **Minutes of the October Meeting** were agreed and ratified.
3. **Officers Reports.**

Anne – I am making slow progress after stroke and although I've cut down on some stuff, still doing MAG work.

Trace – has visited every Group in the past few months.

Andy K – White Tigers MCC are thinking of affiliating and have a question about PLI. Andy to contact Julie at MAG Central Office.

Steve B – nothing to report.

Troll – Quiet at the moment.

Andy M – still waiting for the Database!

In Keith's absence from paperwork he'd handed to Deb we deduced a balance of £1305.56 in the Regional account.

4. **Reps Reports**

Glos – Den. AGM held, 12 attendees. Den Rep –no other volunteers. Den is the Group Treasurer. Duk Dik – not on as there are not enough members to take on the overall responsibility that Den used to take on before her illness. There is a total of £5k which is the float for putting on a Rally. Thoughts should be given to putting on a Regional Rally.

Anne said she had previously been asked by two people about putting on a Regional Rally and thinks now is the time for those people to step up.

AGM Agenda item: Regional Rally. Info to go onto websites with the Agenda.

Forest of Dean – Trace. Trace has arranged the Group AGM.

Bristol – Sally/Anne. Homeless Run a success with lots of donations and a great cash collection. Xmas outing into town. Facebook page set up.

ACTION: Sally to speak to Alec re making page invite only.

Andy K – mid Wilts. Had Xmas party on 7 December. – profit £35. AGM on 16 Jan.

W&NS – Deb. Had AGM. New Committee for the GWR 10th Anniversary Rally 2014.

Break for the Lunch @ 2. Re-convened @ 2.15

5. **NC Report – Trace.**

NC Meeting - 14th December 2013
Shrewley Common village hall, Warks.
Report to Western Region committee:
Start time: 12:15

John Mitchell was away at a family event in Ireland, so the meeting was chaired by Jon Wilmer.

The minutes of the October NC meeting were ratified. The only matter arising from these minutes was a comment that the implementation of E10 fuel appears to have been put back a year to 2016.

The meeting was a bit muddled, as several sections appeared to merge, but from the Appointments/Resignations topic was the confirmation that Lembit Opik had been hired as an employee, in the Director of Communications & Public Affairs role, and that Leon Manning has had his time expanded to 2.5 days per week in the campaigns role. It was also requested that all requests for information and campaigns help be sent to Central, who will feed these out to the relevant person for action.

From the Board report, we had further news of the database, which will undergo background checks for a January 2014 test, and hopefully to go 'live' a couple of months later. Another point was the search for new premises, suitable for the new 'slimmed-down' staff levels.

Right2Ride: There has been a definite thawing of relations between Right2Ride (Trevor Baird & Elaine Hardy) and MAG, to the extent that Trevor had been approached to acquaint Lembit Opik with the roles at Central, and then to introduce Lembit Opik to industry figures at the NEC bike show. Trevor had then been invited to talk at the NC meeting, after which it was generally decided to share information and research with each other.

Campaigns:

The Rainsford Road situation is ongoing, but Leon has persuaded Brent council to keep the motorcycle ban temporary. The links with Brent council have led to talks on introducing bikes in bus-lanes in the borough, which have led to Brent putting the idea forward to the West-Trans group of London boroughs. The Bedford 'Dutch' roundabout now appears to be undergoing a re-think, as is the DfT procedure for signing off road projects.

In connected news, L&L have been starting a series of meetings with manufacturers (starting with Piaggio), and the MCI. They also attended an electric bike demo, and between Christmas and New Year Lembit is meeting with representatives of the American MRF group, to see if anything can be learned.

Lembit Opik ideas/proposals:

This took up a significant part of the meeting, with a powerpoint presentation, but I'll keep it short by

listing the main points. Note that the NC voted in favour of these points in principle, but they require further investigation before being signed off for action:

Website Redesign - some screenshots were shown, and the price of £800 is very good, although discussions are required with the MAG experts.

Video to use as adverts on stands, websites and a MAG youtube channel.

Draft manifesto for 2014 Euro elections.

Corporate/Club affiliation costs. Lembit to start by discussing with dealers.

Motorcycle Sport - Closer links to make motorcycling 'glamorous'. Lembit will speak to race series organisers to see if there is any common ground.

MAG Champions - The idea is for people from each region to act as the public face of MAG whenever required.

FEMA: The salary bill is un-sustainable, and the idea of EU projects is wrong. The present RiderScans project is vast and troublesome, but should be possible to complete by October 2014. The Task Force Tiger report into the re-organisation of FEMA will report to the next meeting in January, but will definitely include reducing participation costs for meetings.

AGC 2014: The NC recommends that Tony Cox and Steve Wykes be returned as candidates for (re)election to the Board. Similarly, the NC recommends that Anne Gale be returned as Network Officer.

Finish Time 16:15

6. **MAG STAND**

Most of the venues where the stand is required are not now in Weston-super-Mare. Most of the venues are in the mid-Wilts area.

Steve Bradford will be standing down at the Regional AGM, therefore we need an Officer to take over the storage, care and transportation of this Regional Equipment. Regular events attended with the Stand are:- BikeSafe. Calne Bike Show. Hoggin the Bridge.

Action – Anne. For inclusion on the Regional AGM Agenda.

7. **Regional Officers.**

Re-standing – Andy M. Keith. Troll. Anne. Trace. Andy K.

Action – Anne to contact Ed & Keith

8. **Not-Avon MAG – Trace.**

A discussion ensued concerning Not-Avon MAG not having a Rep. They have a contact. Anne said that Groups had functioned perfectly well in the past with no Rep so until someone comes along they need our support.

9. **Forest AGM – Trace – 20th January 2014.**

10. **AOB – none.**

Meeting ended 3.10

