

## MINUTES OF WESTERN REGION COMMITTEE MEETING

14 JUNE 2015. THE RAILWAY TAVERN, BS16 3SG.

**Attending:** George Legg. Paul Sysum. Keith Hillier. Andy Kerr. Deb Rose. Anne Gale. Alec Groom.

1. **Meeting was opened** by Deb, the Regional Rep.
2. **Apologies:** Geoff Mills. Den Powell. Trace. Mark Hamlin.
3. **Minutes of February 2015 Meeting:** Deemed as correct.

Matters arising: Officer Reports – Action Point:- “**Anne** to send link to Den re Lembit’s Debate Document”. Anne couldn’t remember if she had done this and would write to Den to apologise.

**ACTION: Anne as above.**

#### 4. Officers Reports

**Andy Kerr, Clubs:-** Has received Clubs. The spreadsheet is difficult to work with so George volunteered to sort out the postcodes for our area in an attempt to make it more user friendly.

**ACTION: George as above.**

**Keith Hillier, Treasurer:-** Balance is £2651. £1000 has been sent to Central Office as agreed and acknowledged. £274 is being held separately from the sale of products.

**Paul Sysum, Regional Membership Officer:-** Has received the membership list which is in an unfriendly format. Anne suggested The Chair/Central Office be contacted asking for a format with the relevant information on i.e. Name/address/email/phone number/date membership expired.

**ACTION: Deb to contact Selina and copy in Julie/Carol from Central Office.**

**George Legg, Webmaster:-** Website is up and running and up to date. **Andy** asked what the mid-Wilts web page is like now? A discussion ensued during which time **Taps** mentioned that there was a link to NotAvon on Bristol’s web page.

It was decided that links to the ‘quieter’ groups would be better housed on the Regional site.

**ACTION: George et al.**

**ACTION: Anne to contact Julie at Central Office to get Paul put onto the Activist List to receive Network.**

#### 5.

#### Reps Reports

**Weston and North Somerset:-** Local meetings remain well attended and this is an exceptionally hard working group with a vibrant social calendar!

Group Rep Mark Hamlin organised a very successful pre-election hustings with the help of group member John Bennett. The event was well supported by members from W&NS and neighbouring groups and regions. Candidates from the five main parties attended and an interesting and lively debate culminated in four of the candidates signing up as MAG members. Also, although the green party candidate did not take up membership, one of his supporters did!

Council liaison Bill Harding continues to attend local council and forum meetings and has been successful in "persuading" them to lower some recently repaired 'speed humps' that had been made to high and represented a hazard. These meetings allow us to have input into proposed road schemes/alterations and discuss their implications for P.T.W's.

Far from resting on their laurels W&NS continue to work (and play!!) hard. Plans are well in hand for the G.W.R Rally which W&NS host in September and members will be very much involved in the transport and manning of our stand at events to promote MAG over the coming months.

W&NS had the highest number of members from a group within Western Region in attendance at the recent AGC and also gained the award for highest MAG group attendance at Taunton MAG's Tone Vale Tea Rally.

W&NS continue to have a full calendar of social events which are all well attended (Yea go Weston & North Somerset got to love em!!).

**Gloucestershire MAG (Glos):-** Positive news from Glos too!! Increased weekly attendance and a full, and more rounded committee have resulted in a more grounded, positive and focused group. Thankfully the issue of funds held by Glos has been resolved mainly due to the input from these new committee members. Increased representation on the regional Committee has helped foster better relations and co-operation at regional events.

Glos members recently manned the stand at the Prescott Festival and although no memberships were taken, volunteers reported that they had a positive day and felt awareness had been raised. Paul got talking to a chap who used to edit a Gun Magazine around the time of the knee jerk reaction and amended gun laws. He was extremely impressed with The Road and the professionalism of that and the Organisation per se.

Glos seem committed to working hard and we have not been short of volunteers from this group for their help with transportation and manning of the stand at the planned events on our calendar.

Paul (in Den's absence at this committee meeting) reported an excellent AGM with a good Committee elected to help Den out with all the relevant tasks. All monies had been sent to Central Office with the exception of £250 x 2 charities and £1k retained in Glos' account.

Glos may have been down but they are certainly not out! They are working hard and are back on the way up! (Well done Glos!!).

**Mid Wiltshire MAG (Mid-Wilts):-** A quieter and less active group, but with some hard working members. Notably their Rep, Andy Kerr. Andy is key to ensuring the group continue to meet locally and is a valued member of the Regional Committee.

Despite dwindling numbers Mid-Wilts organised a ride out to Salisbury MAG's bike show recently and have been instrumental in arrangements for the stand at the Calne Bike Meet in July.

Mid-Wilts venue has changed and they are now meeting at The Fortune Inn (Chippenham). Apparently this is due to "and excessive rise in the price of beer" at their previous venue. Well done Mid-Wilts glad to see you've got your priorities sorted!!

**Swindon MAG:-** Another quiet and less active group. Swindon does not at present hold regular meetings. Trace acts as a contact for the group and keeps the regional committee updated with developments in this area.

Trace reports that there is nothing significant at present. A difficult situation for Trace and we appreciate his hard work and dedication.

**Bristol MAG :-** Another exceptionally hard working group, with an exciting social calendar and well attended meetings.

Bristol Rep Taps also organised a successful pre-election Hustings, despite being let down at the eleventh hour by two of the candidates, Taps led another excellent debate giving the three parties that did attend something to think about! All three candidates signed up as MAG members, although the UKIP guy was a tough nut to crack and had to be "leaned" on a bit by the Regional Rep! Bristol also work closely with their council and of particular concern at the moment are the "tombstones" or "Toby Bollards" being trialled in Bristol at present, watch this space!

Taps has also been busy printing flyers to use as a promotion aide on the stands and organising a regional raffle which will be drawn at our regional AGM. Bristol members have volunteered with help in the transport and manning of the stand at upcoming events.

Bristol has an exciting social calendar and continues to support other group's events, with good attendance at the AGC and Tone Vale Tea Rally. (Excellent work got to love these guys too!).

### **Regional Rally**

**Paul** had asked for some feedback a while ago on feasible sites and had only received 2 replies – Taps and Anne. He had visited 2 sites but neither were suitable. A lengthy discussion ensued during which time it was ascertained Paul will speak to Mark Whitehead about 2 sites he visited. Meanwhile, members are requested to seek out suitable sites. Green field sites would be ideal, however, a suitable venue where we would be able to stock the bar and give the site owners 50% of the takings.

Please give this a priority.

**ACTION:- Reps, please take back to your Groups for them to visit suitable sites and report back.**

Paul mentioned the he is perfectly capable of organising/co-ordinating the Rally/bar etc., but will require help from Region for setting up/dismantling etc.

6. **NC Report:** due to a delay in getting them prepared they will be published later. If anyone has any questions please contact your Regional Rep, Deb Rose. Also, copies will be provided for all the branch reps at the next regional meeting so you can also contact your Group Rep should you wish.

**7. Transporting Regional MAG stand.**

**Events where we will be having a MAG Stand and updated volunteers for transportation:**

27-28 June Somerset Bike Weekend A&S Police – W&NS MAG

11 July National Bike Safe Castle Coombe - W&NS MAG

*[Deb emphasised that although the above are being manned by W&NS anyone else was welcome]*

25 July 2015 Calne Bike Meet. Andy K confirmed that stand space at Calne has been booked. Thanks Andy.

**ACTION: Paul to speak to Mark, who is holding the Regional stand at present, to see if he will transport to and from Calne then it will be in an ideal position to be taken to Hoggin.**

18<sup>th</sup> October Hoggin the Bridge.

8. **Proposal: “As voting for time of Regional Committee Meeting was a tie I should like to propose we alternate times i.e. June @ 11. August @ 1. Etc.” Anne Gale.**

Seconded: Deb Rose. Carried.

9. **Any Other**

**Business**

- (a) **Bristol After**

**Show Party** – Anne explained why, this year, Claire and Tim couldn't oversee organisation of the party. She explained that, out of respect for the years of work C&T had put into this event and the thousands raised through the event for MAG there was a determination to make this as successful as possible. Anne asked Reps to please return to their Groups and ask for as much support for the event as possible.

- (b) **Meeting closed**

**at 13.57**

- (c) **Regional Committee Meetings (day after NC meetings as usual)**

9 August 2015

11 October 2015

13 December 2015