

MAG Western Region Annual Group Meeting

28th January 2007

Minutes

Present

Ian Mutch, MAG President, Observing on behalf of the National Committee.

38 Attendees

Welcome

Bill Pugsley, WR Committee Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Anne asked everyone to join her in a minutes silence out of respect for those in our ranks who had lost loved ones during the past year and for Donna & Griff.

Apologies for absence:

Kath Aldom & Geoff Mills

Minutes of the 2006 AGM

As is the normal procedure with annual meetings these had been ratified by the Regional Committee and published on the website. Copies were available for anyone who hadn't been able to read them on-line.

Regional Report by Bill Pugsley

Presentation of Accounts

In Kath's absence Bill presented her audited accounts which were accepted by the AGM.

Proposal to send up money to Central but only after we had paid for our new Regional MAG Stand.

Election of Auditors

The Group decided to appoint the same auditors as in past years.

Officers Reports

Reports were presented to the Group by NC Liaison, Trace. Webmaster, Stuart Duckworth; Communications Officer, Andy Meredith; Political Officer, George Legg; Membership Secretary, Di Williams; Admin Officer, Anne Gale.

A short discussion ensued around the reasons for Anne Gale's Motion to Annual Group Conference regarding the charging to Groups etc., for Public Liability Insurance, for publicising MAG at an event using a MAG stand. This was felt to be bad practise.

Election of Officers for forthcoming year

- NC Liaison
Trace (Bryan Chapman)
Proposed: Anne Gale
Seconded: George Legg
Unanimous
- Committee Chairman
Andy Meredith
Proposed: Bill Pugsley
Seconder: Spider
Unanimous
- Treasurer
Kath Aldom
Proposed: Bill Pugsley
Seconder: Eddie Garnier
Unanimous
- Webmaster
Stuart Duckworth (re-standing)
Proposed: Anne Gale
Seconder: Bill Pugsley
Unanimous

A short discussion ensued. Stuart will be standing down from this post in September due to undertaking a College Diploma. Steve Peake has volunteered to take over the post as from that time. The AGM thanked him.

- Communications Officer
Andy Meredith (re-standing)
Proposed: George Legg
Seconder: Trace (B Chapman)
Unanimous
- Political Officer/Regional Newsletter Editor
George Legg (re-standing)
Proposed: Anne Gale
Seconder: Bill Pugsley
Unanimous
- Regional Events Co-Ordinator George Legg
Proposed: Bill Pugsley

Secunder: Les Jevens
Unanimous

This post is one we felt should be resurrected mid-2006 to help avoid clashes of dates for Events organised either by Groups or individuals thereof within the Region.

- Regional Events Officer
This post was created for and held by Paul Sysum in the light of the Duk Dik being a Regional Rally and for Paul to advise on other events should the need arise. The Duk Dik is no longer and the Region do not now have a Regional Rally.

I (AG) have been in contact with Paul who we asked if he would like to retain a Committee position as his input has been invaluable on all MAG matters. He does not wish to serve on the Committee at this moment in time but may return in a year or two. However, he asked me to assure anyone requiring advice or assistance to please contact him as he will be only too pleased to help.

This meeting has to decide whether we drop this post for the present time.

Post remains vacant.

- Regional Administrator
Anne Gale (re-standing)
Proposed: George Legg
Secunder: Trace (B Chapman)
Unanimous
 - Membership Secretary
Di Williams (re-standing)
Proposed: Robbie (FoD MAG)
Secunder: Spider
Unanimous
 - Clubs Liaison Officer
Andy Kerr
Proposed: Andy Meredith
Secunder: Taff Jones
Unanimous
 - Products Officer
(For the Region to function 100%, we need to fill this post)
REMAINS VACANT
(This post involves holding a reasonable supply of Regional Products & re-ordering when necessary. Liaising with members who might be putting on a MAG stand and ensuring they have a supply of products for sale at such an event if the Products Officer is unable to attend. Accounts must be kept and submitted to the Regional Treasurer once a year in time for Accounts to be audited for the Regional AGM).
Those present were asked to return to their Groups to see if anyone was willing to take on this post.
 - Officer/s without Portfolio - posts for willing volunteers!!
Taff Jones, mid-Wilts
Proposed: Di Williams
Secunder: Andy Meredith
Unanimous
-

Guest Speaker: Ian Mutch kept us entertained

His speech included, amongst other things: Membership up to over 10k. Using club magazines as a source of recruitment. David Short, MAG's new recruitment officer; very optimistic as David's background as a Chief Inspector of Police allows him to liaise well with people at all levels. New posters available for exhibiting and available on the MAG UK website. Working hard dispelling the myth of MAG's hitherto perceived image. Motorcycle Monthly – new magazine out which is good & MAG friendly and wherein there is a 2 page interview with Mutch. If you get this new magazine, please feed back to the Editor of Motorcycle Monthly. With DS on board, MAG admin will now be fronted by Trevor who has been severely stretched over the past 3 years. DS will take on campaigns and front-line political stuff. MAG stands for freedom and the draconian ways are not acceptable – travel tax was mentioned. The technology required to establish this is just 'big brother', and completely unnecessary if this is just about relieving congestion as higher taxation on fuel would have the same effect.

A short discussion on this ensued. The general consensus being that this is all about controlling peoples lives.

The question was asked: Are MAG alongside RAC, AA, Assoc British Drivers etc?

MAG sits on the Motorcycle Advisory Group where these organisations are also represented.

MAG's official position is that if Travel Tax comes in then motorcycles should be exempt.

Anne advised anyone who hadn't done so to go on-line to sign the 10 Downing Street Petition opposing this; even if you don't have your own email address then find a friend who has and sign up. At the time of the meeting nearly 600,000 signatures had been appended. [post meeting note – at time of going to press on these Minutes over 1million signatures!]

Proposals

Proposal 1: That the Constitution, Standing Orders and Rules, as presented at this AGM, be adopted for management of MAG Western Region.

Proposed by:- Western Region Committee 2006

Seconded by: Les Jevens

Overwhelming Majority Vote.

Any Other Business

- Regional AGM suggested date: Sunday 27th January 2008 accepted.

Mid Wilts Group have offered to host the event.

- Ded-Duk Rally @ Easter. Nich said that he realised some people may have thought the name a little disrespectful but that, due to the time constraints and prior planning, they had to stick with it for this year but may re-think the name for future years. On behalf of Glos MAG, he asked for as many to help as usual for setting up on the Thursday before Good Friday.
- The Regional Committee emphasised that Observers to our Regional Meetings were always welcome. These were usually held at The Mayors Arms, Bristol's venue. 2007 dates were: February 11th. June 10th. August 12th. October 14th. December 9th. April meeting is to be decided because we have Bikesafe, Rally and Group Conference.
- Bristol MAG - holding a Day of Action on 10th March to support the new law on hand held mobile phones which comes into effect on February 27th. This will be held in the Centre of the City and Bristol would like as many MAG members to put in an appearance as possible. Watch out for details on Bristol's web-site.

New Law: If you accept a roadside fixed penalty notice, you will receive three points on your licence and a fine of £60. If a case goes to court, in addition to points you could face discretionary disqualification on top of a maximum fine of £1,000 (or £2,500 in the case of drivers of buses, coaches and goods vehicles)

The use of a hands-free phone or other equipment is not specifically prohibited because it is difficult for police to see it in use. However if you drive poorly, because you are distracted by a phone conversation for example, the police can prosecute for failing to have proper control of the vehicle. The same penalty applies - three points and a £60 fine. If there is an incident or a crash, the use of any phone could be justification for the charges of careless or dangerous driving. The penalties on conviction for such offences include heavy fines, endorsement, disqualification and - in serious cases - imprisonment.

Meeting closed at 4.00