

# **Minutes of Western Region Annual Group Meeting**

**Sunday 25th January 2009 – RAOB Club, Gloucester**

## **1 Welcome and Election of Chairman for the Meeting**

Andy Meredith opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Gloucester venue and introducing our Guest Speaker, Nich Brown, General Secretary of MAG UK. First order of the day was the election of Chair to the AGM. Andy was elected.

## **2 Apologies**

None

## **3 Minutes of the 2008 Regional AGM**

As is usual, due to the length of time between meetings, these had been ratified by the Regional Committee during 2008 and published on the website. File copies were available at the meeting for perusal.

## **4 Regional Report**

In his capacity as Regional Committee Chairman Andy gave the Annual Report:- It has been an interesting year with the weather affecting both Rallies held in our Region and whilst The Slippitt Inn was able to weather the storm, the GWR did not fair so well having to be cancelled at the last minute.

The Region had been well represented at shows and events both by Groups doing Awareness Days and volunteers manning the Regional Stand at various venues, together with The Troll putting in an appearance for MAG at the Biker Nights in W-s-M.

## **5 Presentation of Regional Accounts by Regional Treasurer, Kath Aldom**

Audited accounts were presented and accepted. However, due to the problems experienced by the Regional Treasurer every year in securing Accounts from Local Groups/Reps in order to prepare the Regional Accounts and from Event Organisers throughout the year, the following 4-part proposal was made:-

### **LATE PROPOSAL TO WESTERN REGION AGM**

In order to alleviate the problems of producing our final Regional accounts and to give specific guidelines to Group Reps, Regional Observers and Group Treasurers the following proposals is made:-

1. That each Group ensures their AGMs are held before the end of November each year.
2. That the Regional Observer attending each AGM brings away a copy of the Group Accounts for presentation to the Regional Committee at the next Regional Committee Meeting.

3. That the Regional Treasurer approaches the Group Treasurer and Rep of events held within our Region advising them of when their accounts for that event must be submitted as required under the MAG UK Constitution.

4. That Group Accounts are closed one week prior to the Group AGM and electronically sent to the Regional Treasurer.

Proposed:- Anne Gale

Seconded:- George Legg and Denny Powell

This proposal re-establishes the responsibility of those handling money in MAG's name under the MAG UK Constitution and will make the Regional Treasurer's job much easier.

Carried:- Unanimously

## **6 Election of Auditors for 2009 accounts**

it was agreed to keep the usual Auditing in place for our Accounts.

## **7 Officers Reports**

All officers presented reports. Those prepared in electronic form are attached to these Minutes i.e. NC Liaison, Bill Pugsley; webmaster, Steve Peake; Political Officer, George Legg; Admin Officer, Anne Gale.

Those presented on the day are as follows:-

### **Communications Officer - Andy Meredith**

Has been doing great deal of work Nationally with MAG now hosting its own Server. 'Alias's' for Officers etc., were being created and held on this Server.

Andy emphasised the need to enhance the Group mailing list usage and to encourage non-members to sign up who are interested in MAG's work/ideals and who may join as a result of their involvement in the mailing lists.

Particular emphasis was paid to the need to recruit 'younger' people into MAG and Facebook was discussed at length as a possibility. However, whilst this would 'get to' the youngsters there was a risk of something malicious being put onto such web-sites which then proved to be unable to be removed.

Denny asked, on behalf of Glos MAG, who have an 'unofficial' Facebook if it was OK for them to carry on with this. The point was made that, as with all forums, this was open to misuse.

Nich Brown, Gen Sec, said there is a need to get the next generation of riders in but we have to explore all the avenues open to us and decide which is the best path for MAG to take without jeopardising its credibility.

Andy mentioned that the Ogri facebook has generated quite a few younger riders as this forum often overcomes social barriers.

It was suggested that, when there is a discussion with relevant MAG members as to MAG's way forward on this that 'age related members' attend - i.e. Vicky, Glos MAG and Ryan, W&NS MAG.

## **Membership Secretary - Di Pugsley**

It has been a quiet year, often without the appearance of monthly listings of lapsed members. At this point the Data Protection issues were discussed as to 'who' can actually take delivery of any database membership list.

There was also a discussion on the Membership Database and its many downfalls.

## **Products Officer - Taff**

Taff had been unable to take delivery of the Products. These were still predominantly held by Trace, with a few items by the Bristol Products Officer.

## **Clubs Liaison - Andy Kerr**

The number of locally based affiliated clubs was now 8. There had been a lot of interest at stands all leads of which had been pursued. The Regional web-site now hosts a Clubs page.

There was a suggestion of a 'presentation team' to polish our act in order to make presentations to interested clubs. Steve Peake is making a presentation to the BMW Club in March (I think) and he would like to be supported in that effort. Those who expressed an interest were:- Eddie G, Bill P, Andy M and Adrian Stone. These members were also interested in becoming part of the Region's "polished Act".

John Stacey - Bristol MAG asked why the BMF Public Liability Insurance is cheaper than our own PLI system. Nich Brown explained that the BMF & MAG's systems were operated differently. With the BMF PLI was obligatory on affiliation. Nich gave a brief synopsis of MAG's PLI scheme which he is analysing at the moment for the best way forward.

## **1400 hours - break for lunch**

## **8. Election of Officers for forthcoming year**

NC Liaison Bill Pugsley (re-standing)  
Proposed: Andy Meredith Seconder: Denny Powell  
Vote carried

Committee Chairman Andy Meredith (re-standing)  
Proposed: Denny Powell Seconder: Bill Pugsley  
Vote carried

Treasurer Kath Aldom (re-standing)  
Proposed: Denny Powell Seconder: Robbie Green  
Vote carried

Webmaster Steve Peake (re-standing)  
Proposed: Vicky Parker Seconder: Bev Hearne

Vote carried

Communications Officer Andy Meredith (re-standing)  
Proposed: George Legg Seconder: Taff Jones  
Vote carried

Political Officer George Legg (re-standing)  
Proposed: Di Pugsley Seconder: Andy Meredith  
Vote carried

Regional Newsletter Ed. George Legg (re-standing)  
Proposed: Taff Jones Seconder: Andy Kerr  
Vote carried

Regional Events Co-Ordinator George Legg (re-standing)  
Proposed: Robbie Green Seconder: Trace (Bryan Chapman)  
Vote carried

Regional Administrator Anne Gale (re-standing)  
Proposed: Andy Meredith Seconder: George Legg  
Vote carried

Membership Secretary Di Williams (re-standing)  
Proposed: Anne Gale Seconder: Eddie Garnier  
Vote carried

Clubs Liaison Officer Andy Kerr (re-standing)  
Proposed: Kath Aldom Seconder: Taff Jones  
Vote carried

Products Officer Taffy Jones (re-standing)  
Proposed:- Deb Rose Seconder: Trace (Bryan Chapman)  
Vote carried

Officer/s without Portfolio - posts for willing volunteers!!  
Steve Bradford  
Proposed:- Deb Rose Seconder: Di Pugsley  
Vote carried

### **Guest Speaker - Nich Brown, MAG UK General Secretary**

Nich's presentation was much about the work he had been doing at MAG Central Office to improve the efficiency of the administration. With a complete new staff he was now able to implement time and cost saving measures.

It became evident during 'question time' that, due to MAG not having a Campaigns Manager at present, the campaigning aspect of MAG was suffering. Nich has identified some cost saving measures which would enable us to employ a Campaigns Manager, albeit possibly part-time.

In the 10+ years he had been out of the MAG circuit his return saw a change in how MAG functioned and urged that it become, once again, more 'member driven'.

Anne emphasised the onerous workload Nich has at present and how this can be eased with volunteers coming forward to take on some tasks, however small.

## **9. Proposal from Regional Committee:-**

The Regional Committee proposes we re-instate the post of Vice-Rep/NC Liaison to the Regional Committee until further notice."

The proposal is brought to AGM for the following specific reasons:

- a) the 'vice' can stand in for the NC Liaison at NC meetings when NC Liaison is not able to attend.
  - b) the 'vice' can accompany the NC Liaison to NC meetings if desired
  - c) at present we have Trace (who was our NC Liaison for xx years) whose recent experience of NC meetings and knowledge would benefit Region and you know what they say - Use it or lose it!!!
- Voting in favour of this proposal was Unanimous.

[Post meeting note:- Once this vote was taken we should have voted Trace into this position, however, due to the fact this was overlooked, Trace was then co-opted into this position by the Regional Committee].

## **10. Any Other Business**

### **a) 2010 Regional AGM**

Suggested Date: Sunday 31st January. Weston & North Somerset Group volunteered to host this on the suggested date of 31st January 2010.

## **Written Officers Reports submitted prior to AGM**

### **Administration Anne Gale**

I almost didn't do a report because of being so exasperated with the way MAG is managed at the moment.

- \* There's been no NETWORK for at least 6 months possibly longer
- \* There are no 2008 NC Minutes posted on the website
- \* There are no 2008 Annual Group Conference Minutes posted on the website
- \* There are barely any details for the 2009 Group Conference on the website although all those for 2008 including directions etc., remain in situ which must be very confusing for anyone looking for information on this years event.
- \* The Constitution on the website is dated 2005 and I'm sure it must have been updated since then
- \* In a nutshell, Activists, Officers and Reps are getting no information and MAG appears 'dead in the water'
- \* Consequently, as MAG & FEMA Rep for my National Club, I'll also be stuck when it comes to writing my report for their AGM.

I feel that MAG is being badly managed, that the NC don't appear to take ownership of anything and are failing to recognise that MAG is falling down on its campaigning & transparency via the website etc; that the Board, who are Nich's employers, should make recommendations to the NC to ease his workload as MAG is not in a position at the moment to employ a Campaigns Manager.

To this end, last week I volunteered to co-ordinate Network. This was put to the NC who have agreed. I want to emphasise that I needed another job in MAG like a hole in the head & question my own sanity, however, I have stipulated that although I would be accountable to the NC, Nich and the Chair, my sole purpose would be to produce Network and get the information out to those who need it in order to get the ACTION back into this organisation. George, who is also a busy person, has agreed to be my first proof read with final proof read being done by Nich.

I also stipulated I do not want to attend NC meetings, that I can only produce Network with relevant copy sent to me via Regional Reps, Officers and Nich & that this is purely a volunteer coming forward to take on this workload short term until such time as a Campaigns Manager can be employed and the production of Network can be taken in-house to Central office.

I aim to get a Network out for 1 April and monthly thereafter, hopefully before.

I also know that, at her own instigation, Jane has asked Regional Reps to come back to her within 10 days with suggestions of what they can take on to ease Nich's workload.

### **Bill Pugsley - NC Liaison:-**

I have represented the region at all but one of the NC meetings over the last year, the only one I missed was the one that clashed with the beach races and I thank Trace for standing in for me. There are times when a stand in for the e-mail traffic on the National Committee (NC) list would be useful as there will be days with no e-mails then, it seems, all the NC have something to say at the same time! This can lead to a bit of a delay if there is anything to circulate to the regional committee. The e-mails from the General Secretary asking for views, replies etc I treat as a priority as I am well aware of the workload there must be at central and any delay in responding is withholding the information Nich, as an employee, needs to do his job efficiently.

The other part of this position is being the point of contact for the region, there is a regional e-mail address and telephone number that are both directed to me. However, I am surprised (but not complaining) how little this is used (apart from spammers!).

The NC meetings in Rugby are not as heavy going as all the rumours make out, well I don't think so anyway, and observers are welcomed, so if anyone wants to observe how MAG functions at the national level, feel free to contact me. I tend to use the car, so there is a spare seat if transport is an issue.

### **STEVE PEAKE - WEBMASTER**

Nothing revolutionary to report. We still have a website, and it's being updated more-or-less on time. I've recently added an Affiliated Clubs page, showing their contact details. This will be added to over the coming year.

I'm already selling event tickets online for Glos MAG and would be happy extend this service to other Western MAG groups. It may be worthwhile adding a Tickets page to the regional site.

### **George Legg - Political Officer**

#### **Political Officer Report**

It has been stated often, that a lot of MAG's work goes on behind the scenes.

Well, that's all well and good but unless the Political Officers and Reps are kept informed as to the latest developments, and how discussions with the government departments are going? Things will get very confusing!

Ok, we don't need to know every tiny detail but we should be kept informed with an overview, hence Network, remember Network?

Ok it isn't perfect but it was a regular monthly item that kept Activists informed!

Apart from alerting MAG folk to the Early Day Motion on PTW testing centres, your Political Officer has had very little to do.

What is going on? What are the NC doing?

Will MAG survive the next year? If it does it needs to get Activated now, and get sorted out, any problems that has dragged MAG down.

George Legg 112454 Political Officer Western Region MAG