

Minutes of Western Region Annual Group Meeting

31 January 2010 @ Hewish Village Hall

1. **Welcome.**

Andy Meredith welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Members to election a Chairman for the duration of the meeting. It was agreed Andy would Chair the meeting but step down for the elections of Officers when Red, the NC Observer, would take over.

2. **Apologies.** Nick Hearn, Glos MAG.

3. **Minutes of the 2009 Regional AGM** – File copies are available. Due to the length of time between AGM's, these were ratified by the Regional Committee after the 2009 AGM and appear on the Regional website.

4. **Regional Report by Committee Chairman**

5. **Presentation of Accounts.** These were presented to the meeting and accepted.

6. **Election of Auditors** – same as for previous years.

At this point Andy Meredith stood down from the Chair and Red, our NC Observer, took over.

7. **Officers Reports** – are attached to these Minutes under Appendix 1.

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

NC Liaison Bill Pugsley (re-standing)

Proposed: Deb Rose Seconded: Paul Watts

Vice NC Liaison Trace (re-standing)

Proposed: Denny Powell Seconded: Andy Kerr

Committee Chairman Andy Meredith (re-standing)

Proposed: Den Powell Seconder: Bev Hearn

Treasurer Kath Aldom (re-standing)

Proposed: Eddie Garnier Seconder: Steve Bradford

Webmaster Steve Peake (re-standing)

Proposed: George Legg Seconder: Bill Pugsley

Communications Officer Andy Meredith (re-standing)

Proposed: Easter O'dell Seconder: Andy Kerr

Political Officer George Legg (re-standing)

Proposed: Steve Bradford Seconder: Alec Dick

Regional Newsletter Ed. George Legg (re-standing)

Proposed: Derwen Hinds Seconder: Dominic Lowe

Regional Events Co-Ordinator Steve Bradford

Proposed:- Andy Meredith Seconder: Denny Powell

Regional Administrator Anne Gale (re-standing)

Proposed: Deb Rose Seconder: Mary Hillier

Membership Secretary Di Pugsley (re-standing)

Proposed: Anne Gale Seconder: Paul Watts

Clubs Liaison Officer Andy Kerr (re-standing)

Proposed: Andy Meredith Seconder: George Legg

Products Officer Steve Bradford

Proposed: Steve Peake Seconder: Vicky Parker

Officer/s without Portfolio

Nomination Eddie Garnier

Proposed: George Legg Seconder: Andy Meredith

9. Riders are Voters (RAV) presentation by Paddy Tyson

[bullet points]

- **MAG & BMF** members combined add up to only 2% of the biking population (so, in a sense, MAG are 1%ers). We have to reach out to the other 98%.
- To that end this is why we have re-worded our hitherto Bikers Are Voters to Riders Are Voters so as not to distance anyone on two/three wheels.
- RAV is now also backed by BMF, MCIA and the ACU. Having the Auto Cycle Union on board has given the campaign even more credibility.
- ACU logo to appear on all promotions.
- ACU offering tangible support.
- ACU could expect to issue up to some 9,000 sports licences in the next 3 months all of which go out with RAV promotional material and RAV & MAG stickers. So it may be that competition riders will be sporting these stickers, which is all good publicity.
- It is intended to re-float MAG Sport and so vital for that to have ACU on board and the ACU gives us a chance to get to sports riders so MAG will have a voice.
- RAV began at the NEC.
- Anti-tampering is back on the Agenda in Europe with a proposal that all bikes under 600cc to be fully anti-tamper.
- One of the main points of RAV is to give MAG a spring board to new members.
- The 1st RAV letters of introduction have gone out to all potential candidates.
- Next will be the RAV manifesto.
- Conservatives response to RAV is a national roll-out of bikes in bus lanes.
- MCIA – financing stickers; mail-out; manifesto print.

- Relations though, are better now than they have ever been between the organisations and I feel can only get better. The best bit is that other people are now listening to us on the back of it all and that is worth millions. Doors are being opened that before were firmly bolted. It's all about associations.
-
- MAG SPORT – if it re-ignites will come from the suggestions of Sport Riders with ideas for its return by mid-February.
- MAG Classic – a working group has been formed & reported back. 18th April is the date for launching MAG Classic at the Ace Cafe. – Supported by the Ace and Watsonian Sidecars.
- MAG Overland being launched in June 2010 at Horizons Unlimited with possibly BMW attending with some bikes.
- Membership Drive – posters will be specific to circumstances/venue.
- New membership forms have been designed & available soonest.
- New Groups: Rhondda 25th February. Dorchester 17th Feb. New Groups starting up around the country. This starts with a mail out to existing members, writing to journalists, the web-site and facebook.
- New Group needed in North Devon & Exeter
- With RAV we need political events at Dealers (Fowlers??)
- MAG Facebook Page – become a fan.
- RAV Facebook Page – become a fan.
- Paddy has a full list of parliamentary candidates for all major parties. Contact him for a list if interested in making contact with them. Introductory letters have been sent and MAG's manifesto goes out in 3 weeks time.
- **Questions to PT: 1)** Taff = what is MAG doing to attract younger members? PT = colleges, dealers, young Moto-Crossers.
- **2) Andy K** = how does MAG stand now on employing a Campaigns Manager full time? Last year we were told MAG couldn't afford one and it seems ridiculous for a Campaigning Organisation to be without a Campaigns Manager. PT = employed on contract until after the election this year.
- **3rd Driving licence directive** – consultation document has been badly worded and the 11 questions confusing. Anyone interested in responding to these 11 questions, consultation closes 5th February.

1. Any Other Business

Denny Powell:- Slippit Inn tickets available here at AGM. After discussions with Andy M and Anne G., has submitted her Manifesto for a Directors post on the Board of MAG UK Limited.

Derwen Hinds:- Q =Will there be provision for proxy voting at AGC. A= there never has been & the reason for this is that the way members might vote is often determined after open discussion on the topic – thus encouraging members to attend.

Andy Kerr:- Q = Has anyone come forward to fill the post of National Clubs Officer which Fergus will vacate. A= this will not be known until Manifestos are published in February edition of The Road.

2. 2011 Annual Regional Meeting will be hosted by Bristol Group on 30 January 2011.

Any member is welcome to Observe at Regional Committee Meetings.

Meeting closed at 3.26.

Appendix:- 2009 Officers Reports for AGM:-

- **The Trolls Political report 2009**

Once again it has been a quiet year on the political front, within our region, although the re-introduction of The Network allows us to keep an eye on what's going on.

My main focus for 2009 was, with the help of Weston MAG, the planned remodelling of Weston's Pier Square, which meant the loss of the bike park that MAG had campaigned for successfully a few years ago.

A new bike park has been included in the redevelopment after consultations with the planners, which will be 20% larger, and it is hoped that anti skid inspection covers will be trialled on the roads around the redevelopment.

Of course this year we will have a general election at some point, so MAG has launched RAV, Riders are Voters, a revamp of the old BAV (Bikers are Voters) that was so successful last time around.

We need you all to find out who your constituency candidates are going to be, and using the RAV campaign as a starting block contact them and find out their views on issues affecting biking, such as; Bikes in Bus Lanes, Secure Bike Parking, Anti Skid Inspection Covers, etc.

- **NC Liason, Bill Pugsley**

I have only missed one of National Committee meetings in the past year and my thanks go to Den for standing in for me on that occasion due to Trace also being unavailable.

Much of my MAG time is spent reading & answering e-mails as there can be up to twenty or thirty e-mails a day on the National Committee mailing list. The challenge this year has been trying to balance a keen and active region & regional committee with the restrictions there have been at central with regard to employees. The issuing of a short term employment contract to Paddy Tyson has eased this somewhat and he has done some good work on the Riders Are Voters (RAV) campaign.

As Paddy will be talking about RAV later, I can end my report here with the usual invite that any MAG member is welcome to observe NC meetings but there is a limit to the number so prior notification is needed.

- **Andy Kerr, Clubs Liaison Officer.**

"Affiliated clubs in our region has been steady this year, but numbers have fallen from 8 down to 7, due to one small club that had started recently, ceasing to exist. I gave a presentation to one small club, this was well received but lack of finances prevented them from affiliating. A number of committee members also gave a presentation to the regional branch of the BMW Owners club, which again was also well received, but affiliation for this club has to be decided at a national club level, which has not happened to date.

Based on the experience I have gained over the past 3 years in this role, it seems that getting to know clubs is the way to recruit, rather than just approaching them on the off chance. This comes from contacts established by local groups with clubs active in their area, either through friends or by meeting up at locally held events. If any local members have contacts with clubs that maybe interested in affiliating, and would like to arrange for myself or other committee members to speak to them, then please approach me about this."

- **WR Committee Chairman - Andy M**

Its been a mixed year for the Region. The Slippit Inn at Easter made a good profit of around £3k; Bristol After Show Party made £600+; GWR didn't do so good. Lots of representation at events around the Region.

Trace, Vice-Rep Report - January 2010

Not a great deal to report from the previous year.

Financial constraints have led to a drastic reduction in events attended, and the one time when I was asked to stand in at a meeting was the one weekend that I was not available.

Attempts to contact Swindon Council with regards to their Local Transport Plan have so far failed. I will continue to try to get through to the council because I have other questions to ask. That's about it unfortunately. Hopefully the coming year will be more active.
- Trace

- **Steve Peake – Webmaster**

Website is still more functional than pretty, but I hope to be improving this in the coming year.

The big addition this year was online ticket sales for the GWR, which seems to have worked well.

If any groups within the region want help with online ticket sales, I'm happy to either help set it up, or run the online sales for you as has happened this year for Weston & North Somerset MAG.

- **Di Pugsley – Membership Secretary**

Membership Secretary Report as follows:-

Current membership stands at 543, of which 78 are life members.

Western Region has the highest percentage of MAG members to number of registered bikes.

But it's still only 2.4% which means there are over 22,000 potential members still out there.

That's it – keeping it short and sweet.

- **Anne Gale, Admin**

As usual, there is not much to say about taking & transcribing Minutes but being part of the Regional Committee is rewarding.

Having resurrected NETWORK (on a voluntary basis) last January, the last 12 months of my compiling & editing the publication has been a learning curve.

Time consuming & often very frustrating in the time it takes to reach the Activists & Officers after it leaves me, this is no ones fault but really down to Nich's heavy workload & the pressure he is continually under.

Not the most personally 'rewarding' job I've ever undertaken in MAG but obviously much appreciated considering the feedback.

Thanks to everyone in this Region whose provided me with copy – you know who you are and thanks to George who is my proof reader and who often un-earth's stuff relevant to Riders Rights that would otherwise have gone un-detected.

- **Steve Bradford, Officer without Portfolio**

"it's been a fairly quiet year for me from a MAG perspective. I've used the time to gain a good understanding of the workings of both the local and regional committees.

Unfortunately, due to a change of job, the task that I would really have liked to tackle I.e. Regional event co-ordination, went largely untouched due to a lack of free time. This is something I would really like to remedy this year."

- **Andy Meredith, Communications Officer**