

Minutes of Western Region Committee Meeting

13h December 2009 – The Ropewalk, Bristol.

Attending: Bill Pugsley, NC Liaison. George Legg, Political. Denny Powel, Glos Rep. Di Pugsley, Membership. Kath Aldom, Treasurer. Geoff Mills, Observing. Trace, vice NC Liaison. Robbie, FoD Rep. Mo, Bristol Rep. Andy K, Clubs Officer. Anne, Admin.

		Action
1	Apologies: Deb Rose, W&NS Rep. Steve Peake, Webmaster. Andy Meredith, Committee Chairman. Steve Bradford, OWP. Hugh Probert, NotAvon Rep. Eddie Garnier, ex NotAvon Rep.	
2/3	<p>Minutes of last Meeting – correct. Matters Arising:</p> <p>5 NotAvon – Ed had submitted Group AGM details on-line but these did not appear in either on web-site or in The Road. Bill spoke to Laynie at Central office and no record could be found. A discussion at the meeting ensued and it was suggested that when details are submitted on-line an automatic message is sent to the person submitting details. This could be built into the programme as an automatic response, thereby giving assurance the details have been successfully submitted. Bill to take this back to Central Office.</p> <p>6 Board/NC Report - WR concerns that if too high a proportion of the Board is made up of Regional Reps and that when the NC must endorse Board decisions there could be a conflict of interests. Mutchie is to put something together which Bill will email out.</p> <p>7 Guest Speaker for Regional AGM is now Jim Newman, Road Safety Officer for North Somerset.</p>	<p>Bill</p> <p>Mutch/Bill</p>
4	<p>Officers Reports</p> <p>Kath – has received annual accounts from Bristol, Gloucester, Forest of Dean, North Somerset and NotAvon. We have £1,749.39 in the Regional Account. Anne asked if Bristol's donation had been received which it has not & she will chase this up with Sian. Kath did mention that both Weston & North Somerset and Glos MAG hold considerable amounts in their accounts, presumably to finance their Rallies. Denny confirmed that Glos will be able to send up more money next year but they have to buy a 3rd marquee for the Slippit In before Easter. Kath's new email address is: kath@clubsuzuki.com</p> <p>Andy K – a) Andy will email lists to Group Reps of their local clubs who are affiliated.</p> <p>b) We were surprised that affiliated clubs in the Region only number 7!</p> <p>c) Denny asked if Reps could be sent a list of the National Clubs who are affiliated so that, if there is a local meeting in the area, they can be included in invitations to local stuff and local groups can liaise and meet up.</p> <p>d) Andy visited Harley Riders – a keen and active club.</p> <p>e) Whitelines haven't rejoined yet and Andy to speak to Clare again. A discussion ensued about filling the Clubs National post which Fergus will relinquish at AGC.</p> <p>Di – In the last 3 months the Region has lost 34 members and only gained 9 new. Denny suggested that a list be sent to the individual group reps so they can follow up lapsed members. A discussion re pink forms & it was agreed that each Group Reps officers card should be valid for the year from the date of the Group AGM.</p> <p>Trace - No vices (he can talk about)</p> <p>Troll – Due to his unplanned flying lessons recently the Troll hasn't done</p>	<p>Anne</p> <p>Andy</p>

	<p>too much. He did hear from the DfT regarding Advanced Stop Lines who say they can't find a council willing to trial it. The new WSM Bike Park is under construction. As Political Officer – he is still awaiting details of Riders are Voters and what is expected of us! The speed humps in South Gloucestershire have caused problems to a Trike rider who had to make an emergency stop. The SHs are of the rubberised square type with angled edges and, from the riders who negotiate them every day, hazardous to both 2 and 3 wheels. It was decided that Den will contact Tony Sharp to discuss this and put the Riders concerns. Local Reps in whose cities/counties these speed humps are sited to look at this problem and report back to the next Regional meeting. Steve Peake – message via Den – can Steve be reimbursed for the expenses of the mail out for the regional AGM = £177.99.</p>	<p>Denny</p> <p>Relevant Group Reps</p>
5	<p>Group Reps Reports Mo, Bristol – is picking it up as he goes along. Group held AGM, some new officers and, of course new rep. Mo took a pink form for him and for Jules as Group membership officer. Andy K, Mid Wilts – Group is surviving. Xmas party is in February. Troll, W&NS – New GWR committee. 3 new members. Good turnouts on group nights. Pub crawl Friday 18th. Denny, Glos - Group AGM held; a discussion ensued on the Group AGM. Denny elected as Rep. Bev as Treasurer. Den now has a Secretary in the form of Vicky. Charity at the Rally will be for MAG UK. Other charity events will be split 50/50 with MAG & a.n.other charity. The newest member is the youngest member of the group. Group marshalled at Gail's (Ogri) Funeral with Forest MAG. Ogri were extremely grateful. Robbie, Forest of Dean - held AGM. Guess who was re-elected as Rep? The Group now has a Membership Sec.</p>	
6	<p>NC/Group Report – Riders are Voters was discussed at length and the committee expressed disappointment that RAV has not produced its manifesto which was promised for December at the Activists Weekend. There was extreme concern that Members and Activists will not be able to do the job they want when the 2010 Election date is announced. The latest an election can take place is June 6th but could take place as early as March. Anne expressed concern because she had been asking for copy for network, which all Group Reps and Activists/interested parties get. Bill took many notes which will be passed on to the Chair & General Secretary.</p> <p>MAG UK Annual Group Conference is now to be held in Rugby.</p> <p><u>NC Report 12/12/09</u></p> <p><u>Officers Reports</u></p> <p>Clubs. Affiliate club numbers remain steady. We have had quite a few new clubs which have made up for those that have not renewed.</p> <p>I shall be contacting area reps for them to chase up the recalcitrant ones.</p>	<p>Bill</p>

	<p>There have been some very exciting enquiries from clubs that I never thought would even consider joining MAG.</p> <p>Currently MAG has 157 affiliate clubs.</p> <p>Communications. All work still ongoing.</p> <p>Neil Stephenson. Stand at NEC show went well. Stand size was smaller than previous years (saved £1000) Memberships at normal level (150) despite reduced attendance.</p> <p>Products now held by Neil, orders go via central. Range of products will increase in the future. Regions requiring products for shows/events can buy at cost (no sale or return).</p> <p>NC were then sounded out by Julie Stevenson about the possibility of a proposal for AGC, from some members in Yorkshire, changing the voting system on the NC to proportional representation. A very passionate debate ensued with all of the voting members of the NC feeling this would have a negative effect.</p> <p><u>Regional Reports</u></p> <p>Regional reports sent out by e-mail, no updates.</p> <p>General information & some statistics.</p> <p>1.3 million bikes in the UK, 9192 MAG individual members (50,000 inc. affiliates).</p> <p>The percentage of MAG members to bike owners is 0.7%. The Western Region has the highest percentage with 2.4% of bike owners being MAG members.</p> <p>About 20 new groups starting up in Jan/Feb including London, Cambridge, Basildon, Towcester, Dorchester, Chichester, Winchester, Beachy Head, Bedford, Inverness, Glasgow & Norwich.</p> <p>New Group in Blyth are starting their action by organising an event to challenge the Tyne Tunnel tolls.</p> <p>29 riders turned up for the first meeting of a new group in South Wales.</p> <p>There is to be a group in Rugby by the end of January.</p> <p><u>General Secretary – Nich Brown</u></p> <p>Staff - Laynie Osbourne has been made an offer she would be foolish to turn down so has left as of Friday 11/12/09. A replacement (Louisa Smith) starts in January.</p> <p>Premises – Lease runs out 10/05/2010, alternatives are being reviewed.</p> <p>Membership – Stands at 9192 ordinary members as of 11/12/2009, about 5% down on last year.</p>	
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DSA want to put in a framework and minimum entry qualifications that all trainers must adhere to, but haven't decided what this is or when to get it done by. They also want a register of trainers, the only road use category that doesn't currently have one! It would be perfect to get this done before 3DLD comes live in Jan 2013, but it's doubtful they'll manage it. If they did, they could entertain interpreting 3DLD through the training option (7 hours before advancement to next licence stage) instead of the testing option, but since they get paid for tests....

The DSA have promised stakeholder meetings every 6 weeks.

DVLA lost entitlements meeting.

Meeting in the last week. DVLA agreed to return old licences with hole punched in the photo part and "cancelled" stamped all over paper part IF a SAE is included.

That is for any transaction which CANNOT be done online, including 10 yearly renewal. This 10 yearly photo renewal is more than 30% of all transactions!

For anything that can be done online, eg, change of address, name or entitlement, there is no need to send in your old license until the new one arrives with you. If it is like for like replacement you can then compare your entitlements. If it is an upgrade to a newer style licence and therefore different category names (often called the "Decimal"

edition) there will be a translation document included that lets you compare category names, to show that you haven't lost entitlement, the entitlement category just has a new name.

The corner can't be cut off the plastic licence because nasty fraudulent drivers will apparently cover that cut bit with their fingers when the police ask to see it and anyway, a sharp cut edge will rip the envelop and fall out in transit.

Of the "thousands" of lost entitlements MCN reported, there were in fact 72. After the Watchdog programme of April 09 106 new cases came forward.

Many of those were people who didn't understand the categorisation name change and the rest were fraudulent claims that the police are now investigating as part of the 2000 cases annually of people trying to get entitlements they never qualified for. DVLA have now reinstated all their old micro fiche systems and their old paper files so that they can track a person's driving history 30 years.

We had wanted the initial letter the DVLA sent out, telling people that their licence needed renewing, to include the entitlements they already had, so that they could compare before sending off their old licence.

Didn't get that, so discussions continue until something is sorted for those 30% who need to change their photos every 10 years. DVLA say they can't accept photos on line and can't yet work out how to do it. This

	<p>idea would help them through this difficult time.</p> <p>Riders are voters (RAV).</p> <p>RAV is hopefully self explanatory on the leaflets and the website- but the stunts to come will include:</p> <p>Using main dealers as debating chambers for PPCs to get bikers engaged in politics that matter to them in a premises that doesn't alienate them. Talks are ongoing with dealer networks for suitable venues.</p> <p>Nick and I (Paddy) will be travelling the country visiting local MAG groups, meeting Candidates, talking to the (local) press, in a journey that will be "uniting the MAG nation" and bringing our demands to every constituency in the land!</p> <p>"There is already tangible support from the industry for this" which I believe is vague enough at this stage and won't upset any of the commercial discussions we are having.</p> <p>Every scooter riding commuter needs to hear that we are on their side and care about how they use their machines as much as Harley or R1 riders. We want 0% road fund licence on congestion busting bikes that don't damage infrastructure and have a low carbon footprint. We want loads of issues addressed, and as the suggestions keep coming in from riders via the website and at the bike shows where the ballot box helmet is on show to let people add their suggestions, we shall tailor the campaign to what are particularly common causes.</p> <p>Please put the feelers out for anyone who could put Nich and I up for a night or two. We can start to arrange the cheapest route around constituencies then.</p> <p>3DL D</p> <p>Consultation ends 12/02/2010. IAM, ACPO, MAG, MCIA etc all consider it to be a farce as the document is unreadable. There is a questionnaire which seems to have loaded questions.</p> <p>The Fire Service. The news is that Wales fire service have asked us for help with their involvement in accident reduction. They want to know where bikers go, what sort of bike their firemen should use to get people talking to them etc. They want to open the doors of all their stations to MAG for a stall on any of the days they are doing any traffic awareness stuff.</p> <p>RAT (road awareness training) is something all fire services are involved with because since 2004 it has been law for them to go to RTAs and they don't want to if they can help it, so they want fewer RTAs to happen.</p> <p>Please look at what Essex and Haslemere fire services are doing too. Get in touch with your own fire service and offer MAG help. We have the</p>	
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	<p>knowledge. You have the local knowledge and you certainly have bike knowledge. We have a great opportunity to cement relationships and be taken seriously. We may even be able to get MAG stickers and Foundation Diesel stickers on all the fire engines and the bikes they use to attract riders attention, whether that's an 1198 Ducati or an R1150RT BMW.</p> <p>Getting a free spot at every fire station open day in the land, wouldn't be a bad way to get our name about either.</p> <p>Finally</p> <p>With Bristol fitting grippy manhole covers and Credigion council in Wales looking at trials for same, I am planning to contact all the utilities companies who own utilities covers and make them aware of what we want. To this end, I have begun talks with BT.</p> <p>Feel free to contact your local water board or telecomms supplier. It's good to start with their PR departments and use the angle of social responsibility. Alternatively, just dig around for names and numbers and I'll do it when you give me the info. If you make contact yourself, please let me know so that we don't look silly doing it twice.</p> <p><u>FEMA – Nich Brown</u></p> <p>Possible reforms within federation, Board to replace EXC committee and change to voting system (covered at last NC)</p> <p><u>Foundation.</u> A-Z update ongoing</p> <p><u>Board Meeting</u></p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Current situation – same position year to date as last year.</p> <p>Draft accounts 2008/09 £11k loss, Justine to do line by line analysis.</p> <p>Replacement for National Finance Officer at AGC discussed.</p> <p>Central Office</p> <p>Laynie has left us with some observation/thoughts/recommendations</p> <p>Membership, joining online is now operational.</p> <p>Fees increase update. Awaiting new bank account details & flier.</p> <p>Salaries & Contractors review.</p> <p>Cost of living increase for Nich Brown, Ian Mutch & Neil Stevenson.</p> <p>Kalpna salary increase to reflect outstanding performance.</p>	
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	<p>All other items covered in NC meeting</p> <p>BOARD MEETING ENDS</p> <p><u>End of NC meeting</u></p>	
7	<p>Regional AGM – Mail out just after Xmas. Pre-AGM meeting for Regional Committee will be held at 11.00. Catering £120 allowance.</p>	
8	<p>Plans for 2010 – held over to first meeting after AGM (February).</p>	
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Links to RBLR website:- Anne asked why no link had appeared on the MAG UK website to the Royal British Legion Riders website. 3 to 4 months ago she had emailed General Sec, Chair, Mutchie & copied in Bill to say that the RBLR website held links to all major Motorcycle organisations except MAG and asked for reciprocal links to be set up. Mutchie was the only one to email back and that was a definite ‘yes’. Especially in today’s climate Anne felt that support for RBL should be ‘out there’ and this liaison could be beneficial to both organisations. Why the delay/lack of action? Bill to take back to Chair/General Sec.</p> <p>b) Officers without Portfolio – With regard to Officers re-standing Anne had liaised with all 2009 elected officers – most in the affirmative. Steve B is willing to re-stand, however, is not sure what he can offer with his present professional workload; Taff wishes to relinquish the Products Officers post but put himself up for election as OWP; Anne had also liaised with Eddie re becoming an OWP now he had resigned as NotAvon Rep because of his experience, the expertise he has to offer and his rational. A discussion ensued during which the point was made by Den that if officers posts aren’t filled earlier on in the elections then those willing to stand as OWPs should be willing take on one of the un-filled roles. It was generally accepted. However, the point was also made that elected officers, in whatever capacity, should make the effort to attend the 6 Regional meetings during the year to ensure as much input/opinion was added to the mix for the benefit of the Region & MAG. Troll was quick to propose Ed as an OWP.</p> <p>c) 2010 Regional Committee Meetings – all held on a Sunday:- February 14th April – tbc June 13th August 15th October – tbc December 12th</p>	<p>Bill</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 5p.m.</p>	