

DRAFT MINUTES FOR AGC

Held at Weston Super Mare on 13th

April 2002

**These minutes are issued subject to approval by the
National Committee on 8th June 2002**

The Meeting was opened by Peter Bryant, the Chairman of North Somerset Council who greeted everyone with some motorcycling anecdotes from his own experience of biking before declaring the meeting open.

Questions To National Officers

Question - What is the distinction between MAG UK Ltd and MAG UK?

The Chairman explained the distinction.

Questions were asked about the origin of emails posted on Bikers Web which it was alleged had originated from DBS - the Chairman's employers.

Question - Are there plans to drop the campaign against bull bars?

The questioner was concerned about the implications for custom building represented by this kind of restriction on customising of other vehicles.

The Chairman emphasised that MAG was a bikers' organisation first and foremost and that we had information from the National Association of Bikers With a Disability (NABD) that these devices did pose a safety problem for bikers.

Question - Why do the minutes of the last AGC not make reference to the £35K donation from Yorkshire MAG to MAG Central funds?

The Chairman maintained that the donation had been made by clearing out the Yorkshire MAG bank account by the former Regional Rep as a tactic in making a political point in the knowledge that the new team in charge of the Farmyard Party, which is Yorkshire MAG's primary fund raiser, would have to be loaned substantial funds by MAG UK in order to launch the Farmyard Party in 2002. Thus a misleading impression of the Farmyard Party's profitability under the outgoing management had been created.

Question - Why is the National Chairman producing the reps newsletter, Network?

The Chairman explained that when Phil Neale, who had been producing Network, left to work for the MCIA, the Reps Liaison Officer whose job had historically included the production of Network declined to assume the responsibility that she considered should be the duty of a paid employee. A gap of some months has ensued between Phil Neale leaving and his replacement being found.

Question - Why do not all the National Officers reports appear in Streetbiker?

The Chairman stated that not all officers had filed reports.

Question to the Reps Liaison Officer - The Chairman has provided a long list of his achievements, can you give us a list of yours?

Nicky Basset-Powell – "I don't have a long list I can give you." Nicky then referred to the positions she has held during her time with MAG.

Financial Report

A printed report was provided to the conference but a request from the floor was made for the report to be provided earlier so that members had the time to digest it. Treasurer Julie Stevenson explained that the report from the auditors only arrived the day before the conference, which prompted a further request from the floor to change MAG's financial year to accommodate the expectation of the first questioner.

Question - How many paid up members does MAG have?

Answer - 8,300, although if joint memberships are counted as two the figure is over 9000.

Question - Could we have a simple precis of the accounts ?

Question Are the logos and trademarks registered to MAG?

What control does MAG UK have over the MAG Stall, do profits from MAG products come to MAG?

It was explained that historically MAG Products have not made money but have tied up the time of paid staff and provided cash flow problems. Under the prevailing arrangement the MAGstall is a separate company to whom MAG's name and logos are licensed. MAG UK has shed the administrative and financial burden while meeting members expectations for a product range and retaining the right to earn from the MAGstall should it become sufficiently profitable to become a financial contributor to MAG UK.

The Chief Executive Henry Marks stressed that two and a half years ago MAG UK's finances were critical whereas today they are very healthy.

Question - How are MAG's relations with the BMF?

Answer - Good.

Motion - To re-appoint MAG's Auditors

Carried unanimously

Motion to provide free affiliation for NABD

Carried unanimously followed by brief words of thanks from NABD Chairman Rick Hulse

Network & Network Communications Officer:

A discussion about Network, the reps newsletter, followed with an expression from the Chairman that he was not in favour of dumping the job on paid staff. The view was expressed that the entire National Network Officers job as outlined in the published job description would be too onerous for a volunteer. It was asked why the position was a non voting one to which the response was that by keeping it non voting, the opportunity to pack the NC with cronies of a particular camp of thought was prevented. Such a policy is consistent with the long-standing policy of confining voting rights to democratically elected Regional Reps.

Motion 1 - Manhole And Service Access Covers

That MAG adopt a national campaign to address the problems that manhole covers and service access covers present to two-wheel vehicle use.

Richard Stiling 88797 Chris Selway 84422

Vote - Carried unanimously

Motion 2 - Usage of Dark Visors by Motorcyclists

That the AGC ratifies the published statement on Dark visors which encourages a change in law to permit them with certain provisos.

Neil F. Liversidge 23660 Linda M. Liversidge 23660

Vote - Large majority in favour, 4 against.

Motion 3 - Abolishing the post of Reps Liaison Officer and replacing with that of Network Communications Officer

To this end Clause 7 Section iii part B of the MAG Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:- The National Chairman, National Finance Officer, National Representatives Liaison Officer and Network Communications Officer elected by the group conference.

Neil F. Liversidge 23660 Brian Williams 87099

Vote - carried by 135 for, 61 against

Motion 4 - Tellers

Withdrawn

Motion 5 - Closing Date for Motions

That in view of the high cost of circulating motions received after the copy date for StreetBiker, Clause 5 Section 1 of the MAG Constitution shall be amended to provide that Motions for debate at the AGC shall be received in writing not later than 31st December so as to enable all Motions to be included in the February/March edition of StreetBiker, the closing date for copy being 15th January of each year.

Amendment proposed: Make the closing date the last December working day by MAG Central

Julie Stevenson 65371 Neil Liversidge 23660

Vote - carried 191 for, none against

Motion 6 - Closing Date for Nominations

That in view of the high cost of circulating nominations received after the copy date for StreetBiker, Clause 5 Section ii of the MAG Constitution shall be amended to provide that nominations for National Officers shall open on 1st December of each year and close on 31st December so as to enable all nominations and manifestos to be included in the February/March edition of StreetBiker, the closing date for copy being 15th January of each year.

Julie Stevenson 65371 Neil Liversidge 23660

Vote - 186 for, none against

Motion 7 - Conflicts of Interest

That part vi be added to Clause 13 of the MAG Constitution to read as follows:

Any member that sits on the MAG NC shall disclose to the NC any associations with any organisation that may result in a conflict of interest. In respect of such disclosures, the NC is instructed to be far more rigorous in determining whether an actual conflict of interest exists as a result of that individual's membership of the MAG NC and his or her membership of, or employment by other organisations directly or indirectly concerned in matters to do with motorcycling that are, or may reasonably become of interest to MAG and its Membership.

John Yarham 100000 Aine Gale 63175

Vote - carried 187 for, 22 against

Motion 8 - Nomination to the Board of MAG (UK) Ltd

With regard to the fact that Neil Liversidge and Nicky Bassett-Powell will be standing against each other for the post of National Chairman of MAG (UK) Ltd it should be noted that the unsuccessful person will not be expected to seek re-election to the board of MAG (UK) Ltd.

Nicky Bassett-Powell 88210 Steve Bennett 83357

Withdrawn

Motion 9 - Appreciation of all MAG Volunteers

Withdrawn

Motion 10 - Eligibility of National Officers for Board Membership

That Clause 6 [xi] of the MAG Constitution be changed to read: -

Directors of MAG (UK) Ltd are not eligible for election to National Officer posts and visa versa.

K. Drysdale 112762 M. Drysdale 112762

Vote - Failed 5 for, 191 against

Motion 11 - Limitation of Term of Office & Amendment

That the following wording be inserted into Clause 5: -The term of office for all National Officers will be two years and, after a maximum of two terms of office in that position, the incumbent will be ineligible for re-election to that post.

K Drysdale 112762 A Hipkins 90809

Proposed Amendment - Amendment to Limit the Term of the National Chairman only. The term of office for the National Chairman will be two years and, after a maximum of two terms of office in that position, the incumbent will be ineligible for re-election to that post.

J A Hughes 94392 J M Hughes 94392

Vote on amendment - failed 5 for, 211 against

vote on motion - failed 18 for, 207 against

Motion 12 - Role of the Board of MAG (UK) Ltd

Insert new clause in Constitution. The primary business of the Board is in relation to the running of the company and commercial affairs of MAG (UK) Ltd and not the generation or promotion of new policy, campaigns or wider organisational structure which remain the preserve of the appropriate officers, NC and AGC.

Nich Brown 62244 Nicky Bassett-Powell 88210

vote - passed 153 for, 72 against

Motion 13 - Ratification of Unopposed Candidates

That the MAG Constitution be amended to provide that if there is only one candidate for an NC post at the AGC and a majority of members present vote against that candidate, or if a vote of no confidence in an NC member is carried by the members voting at an AGC or EGM, subject to the appropriate rules for bringing such a motion having been correctly followed, the NC member should be obliged to step down from their position.

Mark Dicker 75739 Karen Marsden 105247

vote - failed 48 for, 182 against

Motion 14 - Separate Elections

(Composited from two similar motions, hence alternative proposers and seconders.)

That Section vi be added to Clause 13 (Miscellaneous): All elections in MAG at whatever level shall be held by way of a separate vote for each candidate standing in that election.

Mark Dicker 75739 or Robin Straughan 103901

Ruth Strachan 67567 or Jim Coxon 81974

vote - failed 111 for, 127 against

Motion 15 - MAG Policy and Manifesto

(Composited from two similar motions, hence alternative proposers and seconders.)

In recognition of the fact that issues need addressing between MAG annual conferences we move that Clause 14 be added to the Constitution as follows: -

MAG policy shall be made as follows:

i. MAG policy shall be made as follows:

- a) By way of resolutions passed by the membership at the Group Conference.
- b) By way of Interim policy statements issued by the National Committee.

ii. Interim Policy statements shall be issued as required by the National Committee.

iii. For an Interim policy statement to be issued at least two thirds of all Regional Representatives must indicate their assent to the statement.

iv. All Interim policy statements shall be notified to the membership by the Regional Representative via the Local Representatives, in order that an Interim Policy Statement can be made to cover any immediate eventualities and published in the December issue of StreetBiker at the latest, in order that any amendments may be submitted by Members in time for discussion at the AGC the following April.

v. All interim policies shall require ratification at the following AGC.

vi. Where an Interim policy statement is amended by the following AGC the amended statement shall be recorded as the formally ratified policy of MAG on the issue in question.

Neil F. Liversidge 23660 or Archi Hipkins 90809

John Hughes 94392 or Linda M. Liversidge 23660

All amendments were received as friendly

vote passed - 240 for, 1 against

Motion 16 - Relations with External Organisations & Amendment

That the interests of the Motorcycle Action Group, and the future of motorcycling itself, are best served by a constructive working relationship between all elements of a united motorcycle community to promote motorcycling and protect the interests of motorcycle users.
Craig Carey-Clinch 67834 Heather Ford 80777

Proposed Amendment:- That the following words be added to this Motion after motorcycle users: Conference notes that this Motion is submitted by two paid employees of the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA). Conference furthermore endorses the view of the National Committee expressed at its February meeting when it passed the motion that - The NC reaffirms its confidence in the way in which MAG' s relationship with the motorcycle industry and associated bodies has been conducted. Whilst the NC is happy to maintain a close working relationship in the future as in the past it should however be accepted by all concerned that MAG essentially represents the interests of consumers, ordinary motorcyclists that are the customers of the motorcycle industry. To this end MAG asserts its right to take a separate and independent view from the industry when it sees fit. Conference moreover notes that this motion, moved by Martin Burnett and seconded by Aine Gale was carried unanimously by all Regional Reps and that separately every other member of the NC indicated their support for it also.

Neil F. Liversidge 23660 Aine Gale 63175 Life
vote on amendment - tie 119 for, 119 against
re count - passed 123 for, 124 against
motion passed 181 for, 133 against

Motion 17 - Conduct of Persons Representing or Conducting the Business of MAG & Amendment

Insert new clause in Constitution:- 13 v. When engaged in any official activity, business or communication on behalf of MAG, the elected officers, employees, agents and members of MAG shall at all times conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner so as not to bring the organisation into disrepute. Failure to ensure reasonable standards of conduct shall normally be dealt with supportively by offering advice and training where appropriate and practical. Where this is not practical or appropriate, or in cases of sustained failure to comply with reasonable standards, disciplinary measures may be taken including formal warning, suspension or dismissal from position or service depending on the severity of the case.

Nich Brown 62244 Philip Neale 78304

Proposed Amendment:- That the following words be added to this Motion after "On the severity of the case:- Conference notes that this Motion is submitted by two paid employees of the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA). Conference calls upon that body to set an example by better governing the activities of its own representatives in the future.

Neil F. Liversidge 23660 Henry Marks 106234

Vote: Due to lack of time this motion has been held over until the next AGC

Motion 18 - Role of the National Chairman & Amendment

Insert new clause in Constitution

National Chairman and Vice-Chairman

(i) The National Chairman shall be elected each year by the group conference to be responsible for the management of the business of the National Committee, to represent the established policies and interests of the group in a fair and balanced manner without fear or favour, both inside and outside the group, and to ensure that all issues and matters brought before the NC are dealt with in the same manner.

Nich Brown 62244 Karen Cooke 78218

Vote: Due to lack of time this motion has been held over until the next AGC

Chairmanship Election

Each candidate was given 5 minutes to present their case followed by five minutes of questions from the floor to each candidate.

Vote: Nicky Bassett Powell 137
Neil F Liversidge 126

President's Election

One candidate- Ian Mutch

passed by a large majority, one against