

Minutes

of the

Motorcycle Action Group



Annual Group Conference

**Banovallum School
Horncastle**

April 14th 2007

1. Opening of AGC by acting National Chairman: *Jane Chisholm*

Jane thanked those in attendance for their support and paid tribute to all the hard work of members during the past year, commenting that it had been an amazing year of teamwork, putting the "action" back into MAG.

Thanks were extended to Eastern Region and Mid Lincs branch for hosting this year's conference.

2. Formal introduction of National Vice Chairman, handover of Chair: *Jane Chisholm*

Jane introduced the National Vice Chairman, Fergus O'Connell, and handed over running of the proceedings to him.

3. Adjourn AGC, open MAG UK AGM: *Fergus O'Connell*

AGC was adjourned, and MAG UK AGM opened.

Murray Webb, Regional Rep for Eastern Region, dealt with housekeeping.

He also thanked local bike club, Boston Motorcycle Riders Association, for their assistance in providing drinks for the day.

1. Report by Chairman of the Board: *Jane Chisholm*

Jane reported that MAG UK was working to the legal requirements of the Companies Act, spoke briefly regarding a number of contracts that have been set up and confirmed the current Board membership.

2. Company Secretary report: *Gerard Livett*

Gerard confirmed MAG UK is trading within the relevant legislation and is solvent.

3. Finance Director's report: *Justine Travis* (see Annex 1)

Membership fees and the fighting fund account for the majority of funds. There are plans to increase corporate membership and set up various partner agreements.

The main expenditure is The Road. Membership rose and we are looking to double it. Figures show how much MAG relies on major events for income. It was noted that costs rose slightly due to an increase in permanent staff and equipment upgrades.

4. Finance questions

Jim Coxon, Durham, sought clarification regarding income from the bike raffle. Justine confirmed that profits from this went to the MAG Foundation.

5. Reappointment of Auditors

Stanley Yule were reappointed as Auditors.

Proposed: Justine Travis, Seconded: Gerard Livett. **Carried**

6. Resignation and election of Directors

Resignations: Ian Moore, John Mitchell and John Thomson resigned.
Elections: Steve Wykes, Tony Cox and Ian Cook (Manifestos attached).

Proposers for each candidate spoke briefly to commend their election.

Steve Wykes - Proposed: Gerard Livett. **Carried**

Tony Cox - Proposed Gerard Livett. **Carried**

Ian Cook - Proposed: Sheila McMahan. **Carried**

Neil Stevenson sought clarification regarding Directors' tenure. Jane Chisholm clarified that it is up to four years, and that elections take place annually, but are staggered to ensure continuity.

Wendy Coy, Mid Lincs, requested that the new board members stand so Conference knew who they had voted in. This done, Andy Carrott, Mid Lincs, said he had now changed his mind!!!

7. Summing up: *Jane Chisholm*

In summing up, Jane commented that MAG is going from strength to strength and is looking forward to the year ahead.

8. Close of AGM: *Fergus O'Connell*

MAG UK AGM was duly closed and the AGC reopened.

4. MAG Foundation report: *Neil Stevenson*

There was an overwhelming response to A-Z Safe Parking and a second print is being organised. There have been numerous updates to the original booklet and councils are now approaching the Foundation for advice on parking issues.

The Foundation is now in discussions on how to move forward generally.

It was noted that the Foundation generates its own income - none comes from MAG UK. Submissions for funding from external agencies (e.g. government, lottery) have been unsuccessful so far.

Ian Cook, North East, asked if MAG UK could have donated profits to the Foundation instead of paying tax. Justine said it is difficult to assess profit in advance.

Jim Coxon, Durham, asked about donations to the Foundation. Neil stated he would prefer donations to go to MAG UK.

Rick Hulse, NABD, reiterated that a previous offer of assistance still stands.

5. National Officers Reports

National Chairman: Jane Chisholm

Jane reported on the recruitment of David Short as Campaigns Manager, highlighting that this provided the chance to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities within the organisation.

She commented on recent campaigns and noted that there has been a significant shift in mindset regarding motorcycling generally.

She then touched on internal matters, including upcoming events and campaigns, new posters and leaflets, the new Clubs Pack, and a Corporate Pack (work in progress).

Reps and Activists training had gone well and costs were kept down due to links with the venue. Further training sessions should follow.

Several initiatives were mentioned, including the mini-moto projects designed to encourage youngsters and Shan Tedder's Moto-KL team was cited as a prime example.

Jane then noted that MAG is moving into a new era, mentioning recent positive press coverage and the fact a good relationship is being built with EMAP, and closed with the point that MAG has "very exciting times ahead".

Neil Liversidge pointed out that written reports from the National Officers had not been made available. Jane responded that historically this had not been done, but that they would be included in future. Neil then stated that such reports used to be circulated; Fergus confirmed that this will be the case in future. Neil revisited the point again before Conference was able to move on.

Public Affairs Director: Trevor Baird

Trevor opened his address by pointing out that this was his 10th AGC (applause) and that he was unsure as to whether it constituted a milestone or a millstone.

He reported on a number of issues, including: the Driving Licence Directive (2 years campaigning has resulted in getting MAG known throughout Europe; now we must meet with Government to negotiate the best deal possible); secure parking (ongoing); bikes in bus lanes (long running campaign); motorcycle-friendly crash barriers (in conjunction with FEMA and ongoing, resulting so far in Highways Agencies now ensuring replacement barriers are suitable); changes to European standards for testing barriers (the tests have not included motorcycles); daytime running lights (thankfully the UK government reports that it does not want DRL to be mandatory).

He went on to discuss EVSC (now ISA) and commented that there is a ready-made campaign through the Mulhouse Declaration, as ISA constitutes "a control threat, a technical threat and a political threat". Trevor has test-ridden the bike set up for ISA and stated that it does not work.

Coming right up to date, he mentioned the Kill Spills campaign, noted that the road hazard postcards have been updated and that MAG needs to be targeting sports bike riders. He noted that FEMA will be 10 years old next year and that following a period where the organisation seemed to be losing its way, it is back on track with a new General Secretary and a clear policy and missions.

A number of slides were incorporated into the presentation showing various meetings, campaigns, etc and included a short video of an Australian advert showing motorcyclists riding naked, asking the question "What do we have to do to get noticed?" Thankfully, Trevor did not appear to be advocating this as a future MAG campaign!

Neil Liversidge thanked Trevor for his presentation and asked about feedback from the motorcycle industry. Trevor responded that they are in agreement regarding ISA. Paul Facey, Mid Lincs, who works in the trade, commented that generally speaking retailers and traders have a low interest in the issues that concern MAG. Chris Reeve then asked about how MAG can move along on this and other issues and Trevor stated that this would be covered in the following report from the Campaigns Manager.

Wendy Coy, Mid Lincs, asked if MAG have started planning ahead in respect of the Government white paper regarding devolution of responsibilities to local level councils, etc. Trevor stated that no planning is currently in place.

Campaigns Manager: David Short

David opened his remarks by noting that this is only the second AGC he has attended and that the first one was to receive a cheque presented to Bikesafe.

He continued by stating that it is very important for MAG to safeguard the future by retaining the "grass roots", i.e. fighting for the freedom to ride motorcycles.

The main issues that David has been involved in since he took up the post last October are: building bridges with EMAP (resulting in a very positive outcome and a number of publications now carrying content regarding MAG); involvement with the Transport Select Committee (revision of the Government motorcycling strategy); taking a seat, and indeed the Chair, on the Motorcycle Crime Reduction Unit; a seat on the PACTS committee (enabling MAG to challenge prejudices); exploiting his previous role as a Chief Superintendent to good effect with police (resulting in a more pragmatic approach in respect of exhausts, number plates, etc), local councils, and so on; the counties that are not currently participating in Bikesafe will be encouraged to do so via a new "points win prizes" approach to assessing the performance of police forces; Gerard Livett had been invited to lecture at Huddersfield University.

Elsewhere there has been progress on: development of training opportunities; developing a searchable database to track the progress of campaigns; identifying regional and local campaigns (noting that the people on the ground are best placed to cover such issues but that support is always available); involvement with Local Transport Plans (promoting "the three Es" - Education, Enforcement and Engineering).

David went on to discuss how MAG can attract further membership as there are approximately a million motorcyclists but MAG only represents around 50,000 of them so there is tremendous potential to tap into. He suggested that membership could be increased by 100% if every current member recruited just one more.

He closed his remarks by underlining his commitment to MAG and motorcycling before taking questions.

He responded to a question from Western Region regarding anti-slip manhole covers. The Questioner stated that, after immense local lobbying of Bristol MAG to Bristol City Council, the City Council had installed 30-40 anti-slip manhole covers but is unable to progress this further without relevant Government Legislation. The Questioner then reminded Conference that Anti-Slip Manhole Covers had been adopted by Group Conference in 2002 to be taken forward as a National Campaign and asked why this had not yet happened.

At this point assurances were offered from NC that it would be taken up as a national campaign and that issues regarding signage and road furniture generally has been taken up with the DfT and will continue. A follow-up question regarding the SMA road surfacing prompted assurances that this will also be addressed.

Nigel Czerepara, Mid Lincs, appeared to have his tongue in his cheek when requesting assurances from David that when the MCIA attempt to poach him, he will turn them down. David's response was that he had no axe to grind, that we all have to work together and that we would be "diminished without them". He also gave assurances that he would not be moving on.

Network and Communications: Archi Hipkins

Archi reported that production problems have now been resolved, but that there is a paucity of information coming in from regional and local levels.

He has been working with the MAG Energy working group, assisting Trevor with Reps Packs, has made contact with clubs and organisations from overseas and is involved with a new fundraising event.

Neil Liversidge commented that Network appears to include extensive information from external sources, citing the Daily Mail as an example. Archi responded by clarifying that information is only included if relevant and unbiased. Neil went on to criticise the publication of information from sources he considered to be of dubious reputation. Archi said he would continue to provide the opportunity to other organisations providing the content is relevant. Neil further commented that greater care should be exercised regarding the content of Network; Archi responded that the Constitution states that MAG has no political alignment; therefore anything contributing to debate will be included, regardless of the author's political persuasion.

Rick Hulse commented that energy used by members in sniping at each other could be more usefully directed at work promoting MAG.

Clubs Liaison: Fergus O'Connell

Fergus reported that a number of clubs had been or were in the process of being signed up, and that this included a number of clubs previously uninterested in MAG. Over the past year he has visited a number of clubs, both affiliated and not, worked on a number of MAG stands, and revamped the Clubs Pack. He closed by saying that work with clubs over the past year has been very positive.

Ian Mumford asked if there was a leaflet for clubs equivalent to the "Does MAG represent me" leaflet. Fergus referred him to the new Clubs Pack.

Sal Hayden, Mid Lincs, asked whether affiliated clubs could be offered free PLI yet. Fergus responded that prohibitive costs meant this was not possible currently.

Wendy Coy, Mid Lincs, suggested that it may be beneficial to link up to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, as it may be possible to benefit from preferential insurance rates. Fergus requested information be provided on this.

The Road: Ian Mutch

Ian noted that while personal content in The Road has increased of late, he gave assurances that no submission is ignored and everything is valued. He then noted that he has received 26,000 emails over the past 18 months, and that his inability to remember individual ones has led to a rumour that he is suffering from Alzheimer's disease!

He assured Conference that ideas for content are always welcome and that, in the absence of complaints, he assumes The Road to be going in roughly the right direction.

Thanks to Ian Cook for proof reading assistance were noted as was the hope that the magazine will continue to improve.

7. Guest speaker: *Aline Delhaye*, General Secretary FEMA

This item was rescheduled due to commitments requiring Aline to leave Conference at the end of the morning session.

Aline thanked MAG for the opportunity to speak at AGC, introduced herself and gave an overview of FEMA, explaining where it is based, and that it constitutes 33,000 members, drawn from 23 member organisations from 18 countries. FEMA lobbies MPs, MEPs and campaigns on many issues and can be likened to MAG at European level.

Recent successes include: consultation regarding an infrastructure directive; attaining liaison status regarding crash barriers; becoming active in the area of research.

There are new challenges to be met; e.g. half of the Federation is not against harmonisation regarding Daytime Running Lights. What FEMA needs to do now is gain support from all members of the Federation in respect of retaining choice for all, even if a given organisation is in favour, or not, of a particular legislation.

This was underlined following a question from Ian Cook, regarding harmonising the views of all countries involved when arguing the case for or against a piece of legislation.

A further challenge is the safety debate generated from the desire to reduce casualties and this is something that requires liaison with many political organisations.

Aline closed by stating that debate within FEMA is complex and that the underlying principal of FEMA, like MAG, is that of freedom of choice.

Conference breaks for lunch

6. Election of National Officers (Manifestos Annex 2)

National Chairman: Jane Chisholm

Proposed: Sheila McMahan, Seconded: Paul Turner. **Carried**

National Finance Officer: Justine Travis

Proposed: Archi Hipkins, Seconded: Sheila McMahan. **Carried**

National Clubs Officer: Fergus O'Connell

Proposed: Tony Cox, Seconded: Mick Musson. **Carried**

National Network and Communications Officer: Archi Hipkins

Proposed: Fergus O'Connell, Seconded: Ian Cook. **Carried**

8. Guest speaker: *Rick Hulse*, NABD

Rick began his address by commenting that it had been an excellent year for NABD and that the organisation was very appreciative of coverage received in *The Road*.

He went on to provide a breakdown of NABD's many successes, including: being official consultants to DVLA, DSA, VOSA, Motability, etc; a successful campaign to get bikes and trikes included on the Motability scheme; documentation regarding vehicle adaptation; blue badges for bikes; a pilot scheme for dealerships regarding trikes. He also noted that the next major campaign would be for a drivers assessment centre for disabled riders.

He was disappointed to note that NABD is still being ignored by the National Motorcycle Council; however this is outweighed by the very positive responses from many other organisations such as the ones mentioned above.

He closed by paying tribute to MAG stating that NABD wouldn't exist had MAG not existed earlier still.

9. Interim Policy Statement for Ratification (Annex 3)

This was proposed by Ian Cook, who explained that this Statement was formulated following events at last year's AGC that were deemed slanderous and bullying.

Neil Gardner, Mid Lincs, suggested that "potentially" be struck from "potentially defamatory language". Gerard Livett explained that defamation can only be judged in a High Court. Neil Liversidge pointed out that going to High Court could prove very expensive, and Elaine Hardy sought clarification of the term "defamatory" and requested that "abusive" be defined.

Ian Cook stated that a great deal of work had gone into wording this statement, so that personal attacks cannot take place.

Following further debate, Conference was asked to vote on the Statement.

For: 64, Against: 32, Abstentions: 8. Motion carried

10. Motions to Conference (Annex 3)

Motion 1:

Neil Liversidge stated that if MAG is taken seriously by the industry and that the MCIA is on side, a letter should not be a problem. If they refuse, he said, it would make their position clear.

Jane Chisholm responded for NC, stating that to ask for recognition would make MAG look petty and small-minded. She further stated that MAG currently sits on various illustrious committees and that a request for such a letter implies a junior status or inferiority and that a binding agreement could compromise the organisation, would be counterproductive and could damage MAG's credibility.

Ian Mutch said it made him think of the "I want you to be my friend" scenarios that occur in early schooldays. He further stated that we already have a good working relationship with the MCIA.

Andy Carrott, Mid Lincs, said that whilst appreciating the reasoning behind the motion, it is demanding respect, and we have already earned it.

Pete Walker (seconder) stated that the problem with MCIA is that the relationship is "drifting" and that it needs "drawing up".

Neil then exercised proposer's right of reply by summing up that formal recognition would prove useful because there would be an obligation for them to consult with us.

For: 12, Against: 69, Abstentions: 26. Motion defeated

Motion 2:

Neil stated that the same arguments as for Motion 1 applied and that in addition it would give small organisations "a leg up".

For: 9, Against: 67, Abstentions: 32. Motion defeated

Motion 3:

Anne Gale stated that charging for PLI was an internal exercise and that if such applications are adequately supported with documentation (completion of risk assessment, etc) groups and regions should not be charged.

Ian Mumford sought clarification on the level of responsibility, i.e. would it be for the MAG stand only or extend to the event. Anne clarified that it would be for the stand only.

Steve Wykes proposed a friendly amendment to remove "MAG individual member" from the wording of the Motion to protect the organisation from unscrupulous traders. This was accepted.

Neil Liversidge noted that the National Committee should be able to exercise discretion regarding this matter.

Neil Stevenson requested that if this is passed, that there should be a minimum timeframe of 21 days for paperwork to be completed by, and Anne stated this was acceptable.

Wendy Coy, Mid Lincs, observed that such a Motion would make a significant difference to groups such as Mid Lincs, who attend a number of shows and would do more if the costs were not proving prohibitive. She requested that training in risk assessment be made available.

Further discussion took place before Conference voted. **Motion carried**

Motion 4:

Neil Liversidge spoke about the threat of the compensation culture, that currently no one seems to be doing anything about it and that if we make a start, others will follow.

Gerard Livett replied on behalf of NC, stating that whilst agreeing with the spirit of the motion, MAG is a riders' rights organisation and that this falls beyond our remit. He proposed a friendly amendment to the motion, so that it would read as follows:

"This conference regards the compensation culture and related problems of claimant fraud as one of the most serious threats to motorcyclists lifestyles and to motorcycling in general.

Conference instructs the National Committee to write to the Law Commission urging them to instigate a study of how legislation, practices and codes of conduct might be amended to combat the problem and to request that the Law Commission deliver a comprehensive reply in time for AGC 2008."

Amendment proposed: Gerard Livett, seconded Andrew Davies.

This friendly amendment was rejected by the original Proposer, and was therefore put to Conference to be voted on.

Vote on amendment:

*For: 85, Against: 4, Abstentions: 6. **Amendment carried***

Vote on amended motion:

*For: 85, Against: 5, Abstentions: 4. **Amended motion carried***

Motion 5:

Neil Liversidge apologised for the length of this motion, but pointed out that many organisations have this kind of regulation in place.

Ian Cook spoke on behalf of NC against the motion, stating that it placed an unnecessary burden on NC and MAG resources and was not, in any case, a legal requirement. Section 13vi of the Constitution was felt to cover this matter adequately.

Alan Caine, Mid Lincs, said he agreed in principle but that the Constitution as it stands was sufficient. He further stated that, from personal experience of local and district councils, the trigger point for monetary value was too low and the whole motion draconian. He proposed a friendly amendment whereby the amount of £10.00 be raised to £25.00, and that a simple file be kept to record relevant disclosures. This was accepted.

Rick Hulse, NABD, noted that although it may seem complicated and unnecessary, it is important to be "seen to be clean" and is a good PR exercise.

Neil L commented that, if he was a member of the NC, he would feel protected by such a register, and Neil Stevenson concurred with this thought.

Nich Brown pointed out that the MAG Foundation could not be included in this motion and proposed the words "or the MAG Foundation" be removed. This was accepted.

A £5.00 administration fee for supply of copies of the register was accepted as a friendly amendment.

An amendment from Craig Cary-Clinch (not minuted due to the length and complexity of the amendment) was not accepted by the proposer and was put to a vote.

*For: 23, Against: 34, Abstentions: 45. **Amendment falls***

This was a complicated motion with extensive debate and a number of proposed amendments and suggestions. Conference was reminded of the changes to the original motion before voting took place.

For: 55, Against: 30, Abstentions: 24. Motion carried

Motion 6:

Murray Webb explained that this Motion was being brought to Conference following the defeat of a Motion at last year's AGC to offer discounted membership to students. He said that since then the MAG Energy Working Group had been formed in an attempt to attract younger membership, the average age of a MAG member currently being 43, with only 3% of membership under the age of 30. MAG currently offers Junior MAG but this was felt to be inappropriate to youngsters nearing adulthood. Reducing the age limit of Junior MAG to 7 and creating a new category for 8-15 is in the pipeline, but this still leaves age 16 and over not catered to. Therefore the Motion proposes a discount of £5.00 to members between the ages of 16 and 25. Murray also observed that a number of organisations such as the AA, RAC and the Army all cater for this sort of age range.

Wendy Coy, Mid Lincs, stated that although she agreed in principal, her experience of working with youngsters is that they wish to be treated as equals and asked if any research had been done with youngsters themselves.

Jane Leadbetter observed that many 18-25's are the most affluent and would be well able to afford the current membership fee.

Greg Phillipson proposed a friendly amendment, i.e. that only the first year of membership for this age group be discounted. This was accepted.

Sheila McMahon, Yorkshire, observed that she would prefer the age range to be 16-19.

Chrissie Wood, Yorkshire, said that Conference needed to think ahead and that if we don't get younger members on board soon, everything that MAG has achieved so far will be wasted.

For: 66, Against: 31, Abstentions: 8. Amended motion carried

Motion 7:

Don Stewart said that whilst the motion was proposed with some humour, it did raise the serious issue of opposing unrealistic legislation from Europe.

A delegate from MAG Kent said that we need to do something at home first and Fergus wondered if "storming the French embassy" would fall within that remit!

For: 75, Against: 7, Abstentions: 14. Motion carried

11. Presidents Address: *Ian Mutch*

Ian opened his address by commenting on the fact that a book had been running on how soon it would be before a nautical reference was made. He continued with "When I was in the desert ...", which turned out to be very similar to being at sea inasmuch as he got lost there as well.

Ian spoke about how this year marks a turning point for MAG regarding achievements, the fact that threats to motorcycling are becoming ever more serious, and the breakthrough achieved in respect to media coverage.

He then paid tribute to David Short, Campaigns Manager, noting that an organisation perceived to be rebellious now had its campaigns "spearheaded by a cop", and felt that this situation "twists the picture in a positive and productive way".

He said that there have been changes in perception regarding road safety, and managed to shoehorn in a reference to his appearance on Breakfast TV. He then reminisced on an old episode of Dr Who, the relevance of which was apparent only to Ian himself.

On a more serious note, Ian commented that during the meeting he had changed his mind over two issues under discussion, which he felt underscored both the importance of debate and that postal voting is a Bad Idea.

He closed by saying it was a privilege to be part of MAG.

12. Awards

Freedom Award: Donna Proctor (proposed by Anne Gale) (awarded posthumously).

A moving tribute was paid to Donna, who was sadly killed in an accident the day after returning home from AGC 2006. She had been a staunch grass roots member of and tireless worker for MAG for many years.

Richard Tegg Award: Bill Green (proposed by Tony Cox)

Tony noted that very often work is done year on year by the same teams of people, and Bill exemplified the leadership of one such team.

Steve Tannock Teamwork Award: National Youthbike (proposed by Murray Webb)

Murray was pleased to be able to make this award to National Youthbike for their longstanding work in encouraging youngsters into the world of motorcycling.

Wendy Coy responded for Youthbike, highlighting the 1000's of youngsters it has benefited and thanking MAG, in particular Mid Lincs branch, for their support.

Honorary Life Membership: Julie Stevenson (proposed by Jane Chisholm)

Jane spoke about the huge amount of hard work Julie has done for MAG over the years, including her time as Finance Director.

Certificate of Merit: Elaine Hardy (proposed by Jane Chisholm)

Jane paid tribute to Elaine's work for MAG as Research Officer and wished her well with future ventures. Elaine offered Conference a final statistic regarding presentations, i.e. that 25% of an audience listen, 25% sleep and 50% indulge in sexual fantasies!!

Simon Milward Award (Lifetime Achievement Award): Dennis Howard (proposed by Ian Mutch) (awarded posthumously)

Ian regaled Conference with an amusing and affectionate anecdote regarding MAG's inception, of which Dennis played a significant part, underlining that Dennis had been a "great English eccentric".

The Chairman's Award: Fergus O'Connell (proposed by Jane Chisholm)

Jane commented that Fergus is a great character who brings a "unique perspective" to proceedings. Fergus, unsurprisingly, immediately likened his award to a Quaich (Scottish drinking vessel).

13. Presentation of Donations

MAG Products:	£ 100.00	York branch:	£ 2,500.00
West Midlands:	£ 250.00	Yorkshire Pudding:	£ 9,800.00
Stormin' the Castle:	£66,000.00	Yorkshire Region:	£ 2,000.00

14. National Chairman's closing address

Jane Chisholm reiterated her thanks to delegates for attending this year's AGC and to Mid Lincs MAG for hosting the event.

She underlined that MAG has had an excellent year, and is well placed to move onward and upward in the coming year in its endeavours to increase membership, raise awareness of motorcycling issues and continue to fight unnecessary legislation.

She then formally closed proceedings.

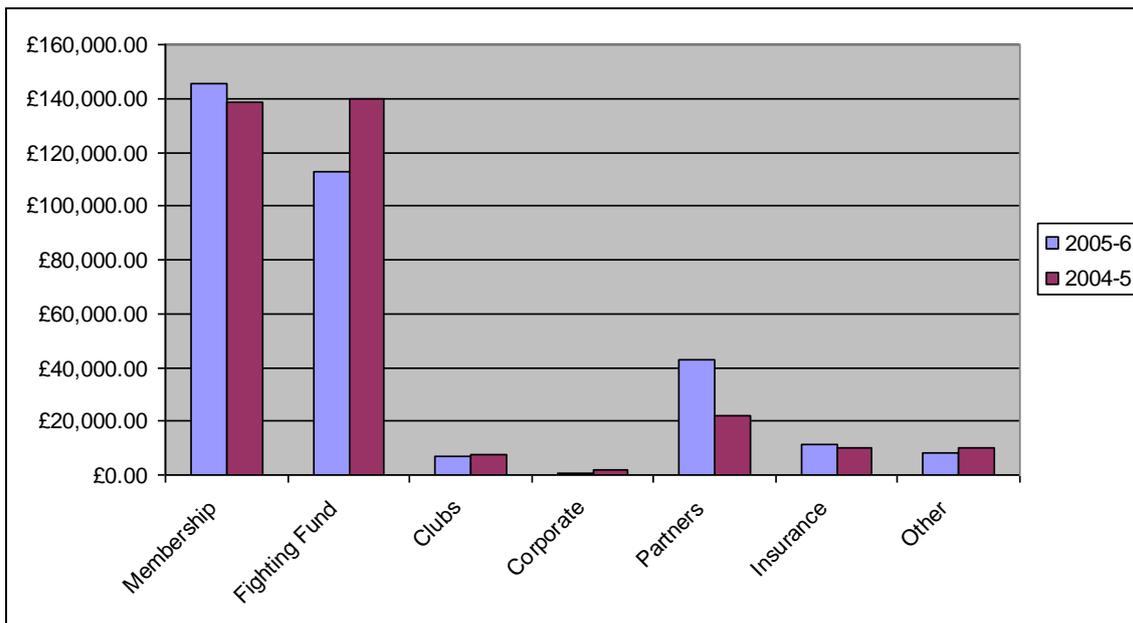
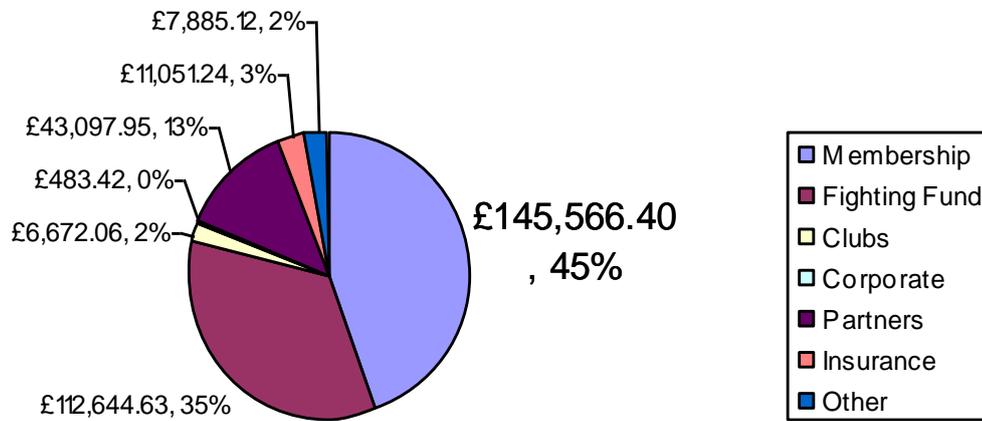
Conference closes.

Minutes taken by Jane Carrott, 72474, Secretary Mid Lincs Branch and Eastern Region.

ANNEX 1

Financial Report

MAG UK Annual Accounts - 2005-2006



Membership

£145,600

50% goes to MAG Media to produce The Road

Rose last financial year

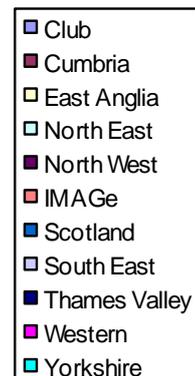
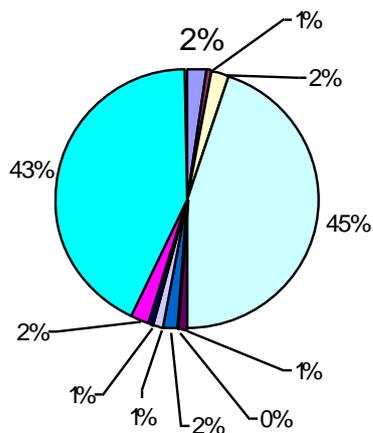
Only 1/3 by SO so no guaranteed income

Business plan target is to double

Fighting Fund

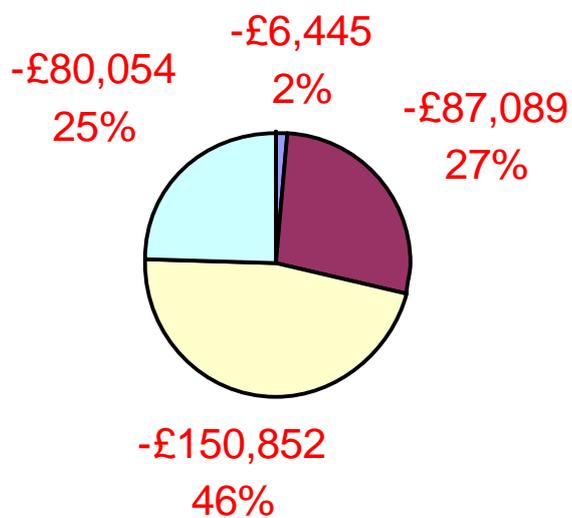
From regions - £120,000

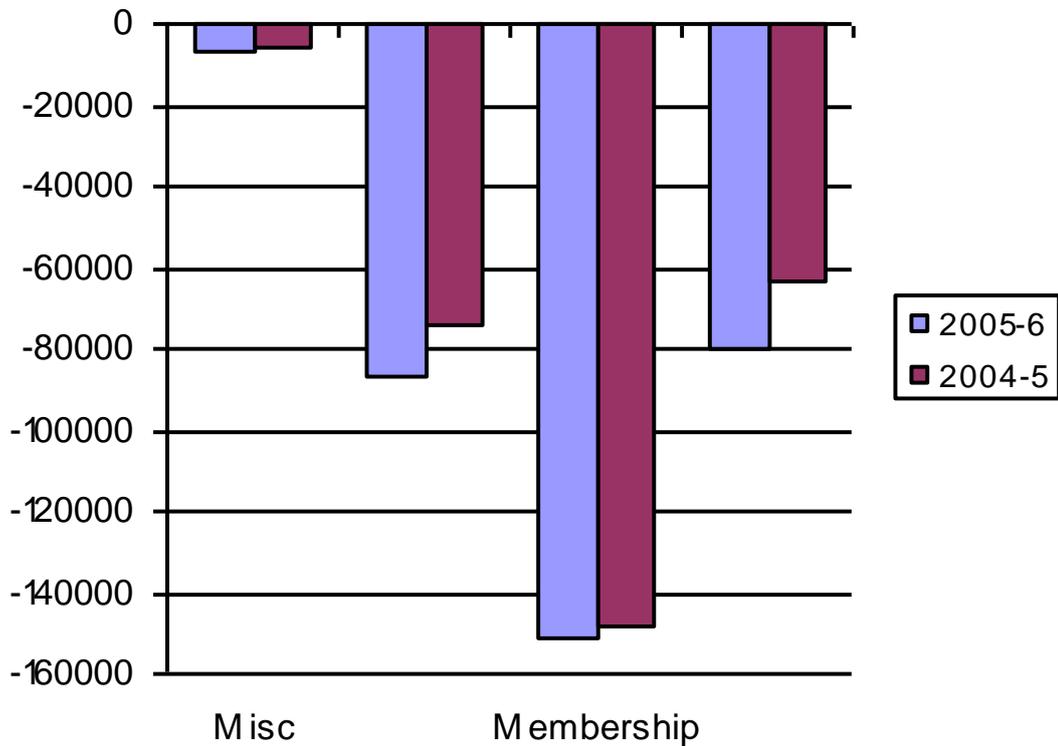
Region	Amount	%
Club	£3,000.00	2%
Cumbria	£1,100.00	1%
East Anglia	£2,700.00	2%
North East	£53,000.00	44%
North West	£1,500.00	1%
IMAGe	£100.00	0%
Scotland	£2,000.00	2%
South East	£1,230.00	1%
Thames Valley	£915.00	1%
Western	£2,800.00	2%
Yorkshire	£51,681.91	43%



Expenditure

£322,500





MAG Media

The Road costs

£78,500 turnover

Printing, 6 issues @8,500 per issue - £31,500, so less than £1.50 per magazine to member

Advertising brought in £20,000

Summary

Profitable year (£4000)

Increased membership

Fighting Fund stayed much the same

Costs rose

Additional staff

Fighting Fund is still funding much of

Political activity

Central Office costs

Need membership to increase (Business Plan)

Targeting of clubs and local shows has caused only slight change in income from membership

ANNEX 2

Manifestos National Officers

Manifesto for the position of Chairman of the Motorcycle Action Group

Jane Chisholm
Membership Number: 106527

Hi, I'm Jane Chisholm, BA (hons), currently Chair of MAG UK. I work in education as a teacher in a secure unit for children with behaviour problems and live in Jackson Bridge, West Yorkshire.

Throughout my life the constant theme has been bikes and I currently ride a Harley 883 Custom Sportster, XL53 C. My biking travels have taken me through most of the touring roads in the UK and Europe and it is this love and pleasure and the wish to continue to enjoy it for many a year that drives me to promote and defend riders rights in our own country through MAG UK.

My style is definitely a hands on approach. I was Yorkshire Regional Rep for three years and through the local group expansion plan extended the region to 10 groups and over 1300 members.

Between 2004 and 2006 I coordinated efforts in putting on the Yorkshire Pudding Rally which approaches its fourth year and has already made approximately £25,000 for MAG.

Between 2004 and 2005 as Vice Chair of MAG UK I worked on re-establishing training weekends to equip our activists with the knowledge and skills to help them engage effectively. Uniting the efforts of individual members is the key of our organisation and I believe that it is imperative to have a hands on approach to keep in touch with the grass roots membership in the UK. We have a wealth of talented volunteers and employees who give their hard work and dedication.

We need their support in order to rally our members but to do that it is imperative that the leadership of MAG UK is ever present and receptive to the advice and expertise of these people. As a dedicated member, I recognise that MAG UK is a democratic organisation, therefore it is imperative that all actions must follow procedures as laid out in the constitution and the Chair must be accountable to the members at all times.

The nature of my work in education means I have developed and use skills in: planning; forward thinking; organising; problem solving; communication and team building. In my role as Vice Chair, and Chair I believe that I have brought these skills to benefit MAG UK. I have worked for several years at local, regional and national level and feel I have valid experience and perspective of the organisation as a whole.

In April 2006, as Chair of MAG UK, I started work with Directors of MAG UK the NC and Staff at Central. Our initial work was to take stock of exactly where the organisation was and to make movement towards improving the structure and efficiency. These areas include communication, political planning, business plans, supporting the membership and recruitment. Work is in progress in all these areas and you will have a full report at conference.

I want what is best for MAG and I believe I have demonstrated this by giving time, commitment and dedication. The role of Chairman is demanding and requires constant attention and dialogue.

Furthermore I believe that the chair cannot work in isolation, but as part of a team. There is still much work to do in the year ahead.

For these reasons I will be standing for the position of Chair of MAG UK at the April AGC 2007 and I ask you for your continued support.

Proposed by Sheila McMahon
Membership Number: 120584

Seconded by Paul Turner
Membership Number: 116205

Manifesto for the position of National Finance Officer

Justine Travis

Membership Number: 97513

I hate preparing a manifesto for AGC, it is definitely the worst part of the role and an annual dread and each year it gets more difficult to say something new. If I can work out a good formula I could be like 'Only Fools and Horses' and repeat it annually.

I have been National Finance Officer and a Director of MAG UK since 2004, during my time I have seen MAG grow in the expertise and commitment from its volunteers shown by the great results from the fighting fund donations. In recent years this has enabled us to grow the organisation with the appointment of a Campaigns Manager and we are no longer reliant on temporary staff for peak periods, this has meant more continuity and we now have the luxury of looking ahead to see where MAG needs to go in the future.

One of the key initiatives has to be to increase membership, there is no magic formula for getting people to join and there is no way to see what finally makes someone sign up, maybe the possibility of Fergus leaving them alone is enough. We need to look ahead and make MAG such a strong image bikers can't avoid it and feel they have to join. We are still great value for money and I would never like to see us grow complacent and not have to get the biggest bang for our buck and I see ensuring that as part of my role.

For anyone new into MAG or who has never attended the AGC before it is always hard to vote in complete strangers so a bit of personal info may help. I passed my test in 1994 and am the resident National Committee 'scooter girl' as I ride a Honda Silverwing 600cc scooter, I also have a Suzuki TU250 chosen when I heard it regularly featured on polls of ugly bikes but I like it. My day job is managing budgets as an IT Project Manager which has helped me in the Finance role, but what has been of far more use is being married to a Yorkshire man, 'NO you can't spend that' has long been a familiar phrase and has come in very handy. One of the major highlights of the role for me is being presented with large cheques for no effort on my part and I hope I always accept them with the correct amount of dignity, hugs and kisses are only awarded to 5 figures.

I now ride my bike less but know more people than ever and I hope I have made some life long friendships, but above all I can feel I am doing something worthwhile to help protect the lifestyle we have all chosen.

To summarise, my outstanding qualifications for being voted in as National Finance Officer :-

Stupid enough to want to do it

Clever enough to add up

Too stupid to cheat

Proposed by Archi Hipkins

Membership Number: 90809 Life

Seconded by Sheila McMahon

Membership Number: 120584

Manifesto for the position of National Clubs Liaison Officer

Fergus O'Connell
Membership Number: 25618

I have now been the clubs officer again for 16 months. After this years AGC the harbingers of doom thought we would lose many of our clubs after we had to change the format of the PLI scheme (Public Liability Insurance). This has not been the case. Our affiliated membership is pretty much at the same level as last year. There are several clubs still to renew, which may sound surprising but it is all down to their AGM's and the timing of. However the level of interest is beginning to rise and I am sure that we will see a significant uplift in numbers in 2007.

During the last year I have been pretty busy. I have visited as many clubs as I can. I have also attended several of our affiliated clubs AGM's and given a speech to them. Our fight is all about getting the message out there in an informative way. People are very surprised to hear the sheer scope of our activities and the measures of our success. I have also worked on quite a few stalls.

The highlight of the year for me was when I visited Polar Cycles (Stez of Stez Sez fame). Stez and Billy had set a club up that operates out of the shop and I understood they were keen on affiliation. When I turned up, they signed up on mass. Twenty one members in one night (thanks lads and lasses).

It has taken me a little while to get back into the post and I hope I reflect the confidence given me by the members in voting me in last year. I have been in contact with numerous clubs over the last year both on a personal and electronic basis and whilst our affiliate numbers remain steady I expect these numbers to rise over the next year.

One of the key things I have worked upon is feedback from the clubs to create a more inclusive relationship. Instead of stumping up their money once a year and simply being affiliate members, I want the clubs to realise they are part of a movement that will strive to protect their way of life and preserve it for the future generations. I believe the club pages in The Road reflect the beginning of this relationship, which is vital to us all.

The strength of the biking community lies in its clubs, whether it is a foggy night in January with a few lads having a pint down the local or a full blooded ride out in June. Bikers/motorcyclists are sociable creatures and lets face it everyone likes to belong. Even the loners like to belong somewhere along the line.

For 2007 we are to have our own club village at The Farmyard Party, this continues my ideas of inclusion. Welcome one and all whether ye be affiliate or full member. I did mention last year that it is impossible to quantify how important our affiliate clubs were for individual membership. My experience this year has underlined this belief and I hope the given the chance I will help to build upon it.

This coming year presents a number of challenges for the whole rider's rights movement. You can rest assured that MAG and its representatives will be at the forefront of the fight to come.

'Never in the field of human transport have so many been represented by so few'

Goodnight

Proposed by Tony Cox
Membership Number: 114555

Seconded by Mick Musson
Membership Number: 117657

Manifesto for the position of National Network Liaison Officer 2007

Archi Hipkins

Membership Number: 90809 Life

I have been involved in communication at inter and intra organisational levels for a number of years, both professionally and within MAG UK. For the past two and a half years, I have used this experience in my role as National network Communications Officer.

This has also meant being involved with the setting up of another fund raising event for MAG in Whitley Bay which is aimed at being an annual event. Additionally heavily involved with MAG Energy; a programme aimed at involving pre adults in MAG as they are very much the future.

Network remains one of MAG UK's most effective tools of communication. I believe this must continue and be developed further. Network over the last year has been tweaked in format which has received positive feedback from members. Many of the adjustments have been asked for by the NC for the good use and benefit of MAG UK and by continuing in this role; which I believe requires thoughtful presentation of facts, I will endeavour to increase its take up in the interests of all MAG UK members and of other organisations that have the same philosophy.

Therefore, I will continue to work alongside the NC and authors of submitted articles to present a balanced and honest briefing document. In striving for that I do not align Network with any political party. Finally, I will continue to maintain the register of reps. in liaison with Central Office and be involved in reps. training sessions.

Proposed by Fergus O'Connell

Membership Number: 25618

Seconded by Ian Cook

Membership Number: 106476

Manifestos for Directors

Manifesto for the position of Directorship of MAG (UK) Ltd.

Steve Wykes

Membership Number: 89454 Life

I have been a member of the board of MAG (UK) Ltd. since June 2006 and am seeking ratification from this AGC.

Having been on the National Committee as regional rep for Scotland for four years I am acutely aware of the importance of the business side of MAG in helping ensure a sound financial framework. Healthy finances are essential to fund our research, political and campaigns work effectively and provide the background of informed argument that so much of our political lobbying is dependant upon. Without adequate funding MAG would still be fighting from the fringes of the political sphere rather than from the heart of the decision making process.

MAG has for many years sought to ensure that members' contributions are wisely spent and that commercial arrangements provide not only good benefits to our members but help fund riders rights. That we have been successful in that endeavour is demonstrated by our influence in key decision making bodies which is consistently far in excess of other organisations whose resources should have guaranteed far greater political clout. This is in no small way due to the backing and initiative of MAG's grass roots activists. I hope that my background as a long standing regional rep and activist in Edinburgh and District MAG for the last ten years will enable me to ensure that the necessary tools and support are available to encourage continued active involvement by ordinary MAG members.

Away from MAG in my day job I am systems engineer in a large hi-tech manufacturing company that specialises in airborne radar and avionics systems, working on projects which require not only sound engineering solutions, but require a good understanding of financial constraints and costs as well as a systematic approach to project management and the ability to present technical arguments in support of modification programs.

I would like to think that my background within MAG and engineering would be an asset to the board of MAG (UK) Ltd. and to furthering the aims and objectives of MAG.

Proposed by Gerard Livett

Membership Number 92282

Seconded Fergus O' Connell

Membership Number: 25618

Manifesto for the position of Directorship of MAG (UK) Ltd.

Tony Cox

Membership Number: 114555

I have been the North West Representative for MAG for the past three years, having previously been the local rep for Blackpool Area MAG. I am a graduate engineer, B.Eng (Hon) Mechanical Engineering, working towards becoming chartered with the ImechE. I am employed as a manager for an R&D site, designing and testing automotive emissions systems.

I manage the test area at this facility, and as such, I am responsible for an annual revenue budget in the region of £500k and a capital budget, which can vary from £100k to £1M, depending on how big my "wish list" is. Before joining this company, I ran my own transport business, and was responsible for all the tax returns and VAT payments. During my time as sole proprietor of this business, I became very familiar with the current transport/employment/H&S laws at the time.

I have been a motorcyclist since my teens, and have always had a mad passion for the lifestyle and freedom it offers. All my present bikes are Hondas which include an ST1100 Pan, a VFR 750 and an FT 500.

Over the past few years as Regional Rep, I have been busy increasing the awareness and membership of MAG across the NW by running stalls at various events in the region with a great deal of help from a dedicated group of members. I have also been successful in getting a MAG stall back at the Isle of Man TT again with help from the IOM members, and will be doing the same this year for the 100th anniversary. I am hoping soon to get a local group up and running over on the Island.

I am passionate about MAG and all it stands for and I believe that I have many positive attributes to offer MAG UK as a member of the Board of Directors.

Proposed Gerald Livett Membership Number 92282

Seconded Justine Travis Membership: 97513

Manifesto for the position of Directorship of MAG (UK) Ltd.

Ian Cook

Member Number 106476

I have been a MAG member for around 10 years now, but only active for about 3 years, since I left full-time work. I started as acting Rep for the re-launched Darlington and District MAG in August 2004 and I was elected as NEMAG Regional Rep in March 2006.

Since then I have been doing my best to raise the profile of MAG in the North East, with some small successes with the help of the NEMAG team. The NE members just re-elected me at the AGM in March, so I must have been doing something right!

I work part-time as a technical consultant and trainer in the pharmaceutical industry. I have been the Director of my own Limited Company for 3 years now and, until 2004, I was Technical Director of my previous employer's company, so I am familiar with the legal duties of a Director, and Company law.

I started riding bikes in the seventies, as soon as I was 16 and, apart from a hiatus of a few years when I was married, I have been a biker ever since. I currently ride a Honda VF1100 Magna and I am rebuilding an ex-army Armstrong MT500.

If elected, I will do my best to ensure that MAG continues to move forward to meet the increased challenges of the 21st century. I have been involved in several change-management and business-development exercises in my previous jobs and I feel that I will be able to help with the development of MAG to enable us to fight for riders' rights as effectively as possible.

Proposed by Sheila McMahan
Membership Number: 120584

Seconded: by Ian Mutch
Membership Number: 003

ANNEX 3

Interim Policy Statement

Interim Policy Statement Issued by the MAG National Committee

The National Committee issues the following policy statement to be implemented with immediate effect:

Any person attending a MAG meeting who uses abusive, threatening or potentially defamatory language, signs, or behaviour shall be required to leave that meeting and their conduct may be reported to the National Committee for the consideration of further action.

Proposed by Ian Cook North East Regional Rep.
Membership Number: 106476

Seconded by Tony Cox North West Regional Rep.
Membership Number: 114555

Motions to Conference

Motion 1

The MAG National Committee shall request from the MCIA Ltd a formal statement recognising MAG - and the BMF if it so desires - as the legitimate representatives of motorcyclists' interests in the UK, and a commitment in future to consult with MAG before acting on matters that can be reasonably be said to be of significant interest to MAG and its members.

Proposed by Neil Liversidge
Membership Number: 23660

Seconded by Peter Walker
Membership Number: 60087

Motion 2

Yorkshire MAG calls upon the MAG National Committee to request, via FEMA, a formal statement from ACEM recognising FEMA as the legitimate representative of motorcyclists' interests in EUROPE, and a commitment in future to consult with FEMA before acting on matters that can be reasonably be said to be of significant interest to FEMA and its member organisations.

Proposed by Neil Liversidge
Membership Number: 23660

Seconded by Peter Walker
Membership Number: 60087

Motion 3

That where a Group, Region or MAG Individual Member (the Exhibitor) exhibits a MAG stand at an event to publicise MAG, upon submission of a relevant completed risk assessment form, cover should be forthcoming for Public Liability Insurance under MAG's umbrella PLI Policy at no charge to the Exhibitor.

Proposed by Anne Gale
Membership Number: 63175 Life

Seconded by George Legg
Membership Number: 112454

Motion 4

Compensation Culture

'This conference regards the compensation culture and related problem of claimant fraud as one of the most serious threats to motorcyclists' lifestyle and to motorcycling in general. Conference instructs the National Committee to:

1. Immediately commence a study of how legislation, practices and codes of conduct might be amended to combat this problem.
2. To bring forward proposals by 31 October 2007 at the latest, in support of which MAG members can be organised to lobby MPs, the insurance industry, the Law Society and other involved parties.'

Proposed by Neil F Liversidge
Membership Number: 23660

Seconded by Linda M Liversidge
Membership Number: 23660

Motion 5

REGISTER OF INTERESTS, HOSPITALITY AND BENEFITS

'MAG Central office shall maintain a central Register of Interests, Hospitality and Benefits, on which all Relevant Persons (defined as Directors, National Officers, Regional Reps, Co-opted NC Members and employees) shall declare and record relevant items according to the formula laid down below:

Relevant Persons shall declare on the register -

Interests

The nature of any interest, e.g. a shareholding, ownership, office or employment in, or remunerative contracts with any company, firm or enterprise entering into any form of financial transaction with MAG (UK) Limited, or the MAG Foundation, in which they have any significant degree of control or influence over the placing of that business, and where he or she might stand to benefit directly and personally from such placement, and paid work or contracts with any commercial entity involved in or directly related to motorcycling.

Hospitality

Any gifts, meals, flights, excursions, travel costs, hotel accommodation or other hospitality valued in excess of ten Pounds (£10) in a single transaction or aggregating to more than £100 in any calendar year, in circumstances where such hospitality is provided by persons employed in or having commercial interests related to MAG and/or motorcycling.

Other Benefits

The gift or loan for longer than one month of any motor vehicle or the provision of such a vehicle at less than a market cost, and the gift or provision on such loan of clothing, accessories or other items with an open market value when new of £10 or more.

EXCLUSIONS / GUIDANCE ON DECLARATIONS

Relevant Persons shall not be expected to declare refreshments such as tea, coffee and biscuits provided at meetings they attend, nor rounds of drinks, nor fraternal gifts such as T-shirts, patches and pins from other motorcyclists' organisations.

Declarations regarding Benefits and Hospitality shall show:

1. The name and position of the person making the declaration.
2. Who offered the hospitality or benefit (individual name and name or company or firm)
3. On what date it was offered.
4. In what circumstances it was offered.
5. Its known or reasonable estimated market value.
6. Whether it was accepted or declined.

Declarations of Interests shall include all relevant dates and amounts of the transaction in question and shall explain the nature of the transaction and how the Relevant Person is concerned in it.

COMPILING, KEEPING AND AVAILABILITY OF REGISTER

1. Submissions by Relevant Persons shall be made to MAG Central Office, wherever possible, by electronic media (email, CD ROM or similar) as Emailed Text, Word documents or Excel files.
2. A primary electronic copy shall be kept at MAG Central Office of the declarations as submitted.
3. A secondary copy of the electronic register shall be kept at MAG Central Office in the form of paper copies of the electronic submissions, with an accompanying index of declarations received.
4. Receipts shall be issued to Relevant Persons making declarations by the member of staff charged with its keeping. The onus shall be on the Relevant Person to obtain a receipt for declarations made. No receipt means that no declaration was made.
5. Electronic copies of the entire register shall be made available to MAG Members free of charge on specific request, save that MAG Central Office shall not be obliged more than four such copies to any Member in any single calendar year. Standing requests for MAG Central to diarise and send copies at regular intervals shall not be accepted.
6. Paper copies shall be available to all MAG Members from MAG Central Office by post at a cost of £1.00 per side of A4 payable with the request.

ENFORCEMENT

Saving employees, this document shall be made available to all Relevant Persons a), at the point they become a Relevant Person and b), annually, immediately after the AGC. At these times Relevant Persons shall be required to sign and return a copy of the document to MAG Central Office, confirming that they have understood and agreed to abide by its contents.

Saving employees, in the event that any Relevant Person knowingly fails to make a required declaration then the National Committee shall determine the nature of any appropriate and proportionate advice, reprimand or penalty.

Where employees are concerned these requirements shall be made known upon commencement of employment, with appropriate reminders at annual reviews, and breaches shall be dealt with by the Board.

In the event of the board or NC having to decide upon a question in which a Relevant Person has an interest, all decisions will be made by vote, with a simple majority required. A quorum must be present for the duration of the discussion and decision; interested parties will not be counted when deciding whether the meeting is quorate. Interested board members may not vote on matters affecting their own interests.'

Proposed by Neil F Liversidge
Membership Number: 23660

Seconded by Linda M Liversidge
Membership Number: 23660

Motion 6

The MAG Energy Working group proposes that this National Conference adopts the policy of offering a £5.00 discount from full MAG membership to young adults between the ages of 16 and 25.

Proposed by Murray Webb on behalf of the MAG Energy Working Group
Membership Number: 88029

Seconded by Gerard Livett on behalf of the National Committee
Membership Number: 92282

Motion 7

We the undersigned propose that MAG (Motorcycle Action Group) begin a campaign for the re-invasion of Normandy. This successful campaign will ensure that the 3rd (third) DLD (Driving Licence Directive) and all previous and subsequent legislation becomes null and void.

Proposed by Don Stewart
Membership Number: 119657

Seconded by Kaz Stockdale
Membership Number: 119657