

National Committee Attendance Sheet

National Committee Meeting				Date: 11/10/2014	
<i>Surname</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Region/Post</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
Carrott	Andy	AC	Lincolnshire Rep	✓	
Carrott	Jane	JC	Minute Taker	✓	
Cox	Tony	TC	North West Rep / Director M.A.G. (UK)		✓
Ford	Roger	RF	Warwickshire Rep	✓	
Davison	Pete	PD	Director TMAGL	✓	
Dore	Paul	PDo	South East Rep	✓	
Gale	Aine	AG	Network Editor	✓	
Hammond	Dave	DH	Eastern Rep	✓	
Hughes	Bill	BH	North Wales Rep (Acting)		✓
Lavender	Selina	SL	Vice Chair / East Anglia Rep / Director M.A.G. (UK) / Director Nice Employer Ltd	✓	
Legg	George	GL	Western Region Rep	✓	
Lewis	Gareth	GarL	Thames Valley Rep	✓	
Liversidge	Neil	NFL	Director M.A.G. (UK) / Director TMAGL		✓
Lowe	Eddie	EL	West Midlands Rep		✓
MacVe	Juliet	JMV	East Midlands Rep		✓
Mannings	Leon	LM	Campaigns & Policy Advisor	✓	
McFadden	Phil	PM	South Wales Rep / Director TMAGL	✓	
Metcalfe	Jon	JMe	Herts / Essex Rep (Acting)		
Mitchell	John	JMC	National Chair / Director TMAGL / Director Nice Employer Ltd	✓	
Mutch	Ian	IM	President / Editor "The Road"	✓	
O'Kane	Steve	SOK	N. Ireland Rep (Acting)	✓	
Öpik	Lembit	LÖ	Director Comms & Public Affairs	✓	
Peregrine	Tim	TP	Southern Rep	✓	
Rooney	Wayne	WR	Yorkshire Rep	✓	
Rose	Oliver	OR	Clubs Liaison Officer	✓	
Smith	Tracy	TS	South West Rep	✓	
Turner	Paul	PT	Director TMAGL / Foundation Trustee	✓	
van Aalst	Pat	PvA	Finance Officer / Director M.A.G. (UK) / Director TMAGL		
Wigham	Dave	DW	North East Rep	✓	
Wykes	Steve	SW	Scotland Rep / Director M.A.G. (UK)	✓	
Bridgewood	Alex		Observer, Lincs Deputy Rep	✓	

Motorcycle Action Group: National Committee Meeting
Date: August 09, 2014 Time 12.00 pm Venue: Wren Hall, CV35 7ND

Immediately prior to the meeting a gift hamper was presented to Carol Ferrari for her work and support.

1. Introduction and Register of Interests

JMC thanked all for attending. All attendees introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence:

Recorded on attached attendance sheet.

3. Adoption of NC agenda:

Adopted without amendments.

4. Ratification of previous NC Minutes:

Minutes were unavailable.

SL noted that the AGC 2014 Minutes had been circulated and required amendments before ratification. JMC requested earliest action on this. SW moved a vote of thanks to JC for the Minutes.

5. Matters arising from previous Minutes:

None, due to unavailability of Minutes.

6. Board meeting report:

It was noted that PvA had indicated his intention to stand down as NFO at AGC 2015, but that concerns had been subsequently expressed in regard to a lack of input, and inactivity generally.

The matter of the Board's issue of no confidence in one of its Directors (originally item 8) was covered here and has been minuted separately as a confidential item.

A finance report was circulated. SL reported that all employees are working well. She reported that the database is a work in progress but is going well.

The PO Box, having been frozen by the Royal Mail, will be available again shortly.

Contractors annual leave dates were clarified. An appraisal date for Julie Sperling has been set.

The "go to" roles of Directors have been clarified as:

Finance: pending
Corporate Liaison: PM
Communications: JMC
Events: PD
Office "backstop": PT

Constitutional matters: NFL

NFL reported that the liquidation of M.A.G. (UK) Ltd had gone ahead and that feedback from the lawyers was very positive. A formal liquidators report will follow. TMAGL has bought the assets of M.A.G. (UK) Ltd and everything is now as good as it can be.

Neil Stephenson has resigned from his position in MAP. The Board will report within 10 days regarding forthcoming events where the national MAG stand is booked. SW asked whether any light could be shed on the resignation. SL stated that it was a matter between Neil and MAP.

JMV has been re-elected as regional rep. PT noted that he requires an observer for Cumbria AGM; WR requires one in October. SL suggested that it would be helpful if neighbouring regions could assist each other in this to cut down on travelling.

There were no resignations.

(JMV leaves the meeting)

7. Appointments and Resignations:

Covered under item 6 above.

8. Ratification of Board decision re. resigning Director:

Covered in item 6 above.

9. Campaigns update:

LÖ opened his remarks by circulating a working document that provides a snapshot of all ongoing work/campaigns. He said that a policy position is ready for approval and that the new reporting system was proving very effective.

He continued by reporting that he has undertaken visits and made many contacts. He noted that the membership seems to appreciate and value the increased activity, further noting that in light of the forthcoming general election all four main political parties have been met with regarding motorcycle policy, that there have been outstanding developments in Northern Ireland due in large part to Acting Regional Rep SO'K and that MAGSport is on schedule to be revitalised in 2015.

He also noted that picture image quality has now improved with the purchase of an appropriate camera, that there are ongoing improvements to The Road and that it is now being taken seriously by corporate members.

LÖ has attended the Belfast Motor Show, which he described as "not great" but that a joint stand with Emerald Racing had stood out.

MAG Ireland has noticed the activity by MAG N.I. and made contact.

LM gave an update regarding the Bedford roundabout scheme. SW observed that it appeared to now be a *fait accompli* but that the situation needs to be monitored. In response to a question from WR, LM clarified that the build included extended raised-kerb islands and "floppy" bollards. He also noted that there had only been two serious cycling accidents in the last ten years and that even some cycle lobbies are not happy with the proposed scheme.

LM went on to advise the NC that they should consider supporting direct action in respect to the Salford "armadillos". There is to be a consultation and there is the potential for support from cyclists.

It was further noted that numbers of new motorcycle licences is down and that the reasons for this need to be looked at. Also, there is increasingly coherent information regarding the use of bus lanes by motorcyclists now available for regions to make use of. A template letter was circulated.

Following the launch of the single "It Means So Much" by Stranger, Guy Stanway is offering the same deal with a band, The Wholls, i.e. profit from two gigs, so there is further fiscal potential from this. JMC suggested that the original version of "It Means So Much" could also be released.

SL and TS have taken ownership of the national stand and raffle at major Yorks-based events. The money raised is being ring-fenced so it gets used for specific purposes. It is helping to draw people in and to purchase required equipment, etc. The aim is to develop a team for this.

TP advised that the BMF Government Relations Officer has done a presentation to Southern region regarding the Bedford roundabout scheme and has extended an invitation to present to other regions. As a result of this presentation Southern region requested the following proposal be presented to the NC:

"We in the Southern Region propose that the effort currently being expended on the Bedford Roundabout Scheme is no longer warranted. The primary issue concerned the raised lane dividers which have now been removed from the design. We believe that this results in a win and we should move onto other issues.

The extreme language and rhetoric being issued in the recent press releases is tantamount to bringing MAG into disrepute, as a professional organisation focuses on the facts and not the various bodies involved. Terms such as 'Killer Roundabout' adhere to the tabloid language utilised by less professional organisations. MAG has over the years put great effort into being taken as a serious organisation by both local and central government.

Furthermore this issue is primarily a local issue and many areas of the country already display various features of turbo roundabouts which do not increase the likelihood of rider incidents. If the scheme does not result in reduced congestion as one of its main aims states, then this argument can be used when consulting on other proposed traffic improvement schemes."

Extensive discussion followed and AC suggested that LM should also visit the region to discuss the matter, as they seem to have been "steered" by the BMF presentation. NFL wondered if it was an attempt to "get himself off the hook".

SL stated that LM should not apologise for anything, that MAG is a passionate organisation that generates debate and that unfortunately this scheme appears to be a done deal now. LM confirmed that he will work with whoever he needs to. It was felt that this scheme should be monitored and it was asked whether there is any evidence to draw on in favour of the scheme or is it speculative. TS asked if it was time for MAG to step away from this particular campaign. LM stated that action must continue because the scheme will set a precedent. LÖ noted that LM and the BMF's GRO need to discuss the matter and that LM can report back to the October NC meeting.

JMC reported that organisation of the August 23rd Demo's is progressing well and details will be finalised over the next couple of weeks in the run-up to these events. He will contact the Triumph Owners Club as they also have a major event on the same weekend and need to be on-side. OR will email a draft clubs letter to the NC.

PM showed a tee-shirt design for the event and noted that shirts could be printed back and front for £8.00.

JMC said that a leaflet is being produced to hand out at the demos to explain what it is about. He said that at the present time there are five demos guaranteed and requested that all information regarding is uploaded at the earliest opportunity.

12. (i) *AGC 2015 tenders:*

A business plan submitted by S.W. region was circulated and discussed. A venue with all the required facilities and good transport links has been sourced.

To accept the tender from S.W. region to host AGC 2015.

Proposed: TS; Seconded: TP. Carried.

10. FEMA:

NFL reported that Aline may be departing FEMA to set up a consultancy. It appears that she is looking to FEMA as a potential customer.

(LÖ, LM, DW, IM and TS leave the meeting)

11. Reports:

i. Regional Reps

August 2014 Western Region Report to NC

The Region Stand has been out to some events, the Calne Bike Meet being the most recent outing, whilst no memberships were taken membership form were taken away, but the biggest issue that we were asked about was the letter from the Insolvency Company dealing with MAG (UK) Ltd, there are a lot of very worried folk out there!

Whilst I was dealing with this we had a visitation from a certain BMF chap of Leon's acquaintance!? Who was taken to task by Anne.

We also had a visit from the Salisbury MAG Rep.

As can be seen from Bristol MAG's report, they are well into organising the Demo for Bristol, Bristol City council seems quite OK with it, just some details to be worked out.

Bristol MAG

Had a couple of brilliant and well-attended weekend ride-outs / camping trips.

Had another couple of new / returning members arrive at the Thursday night meet and take copies of the new membership & DD forms away to fill out.

Building up to the Bristol Bike Show and have started selling tickets for the MAG fund-raising party the same evening.

Haven't even started on the Bike Parking update yet

Organising Now you see us Demo for Bristol, details still being finalised but flyers and poster going out.

Mid-Wilts MAG

Mid Wilts finally held a belated AGM! With Andy Kerr elected as the group rep.

Nothing else happening, apart from Xmas party still going ahead.

Weston & North Somerset MAG

Group remains active with good attendance. Members have been actively involved in raising awareness by either manning or assisting with transport of MAG stand at various events. Final preparations underway for the 10th anniversary GWR in September hope to see lots of you there.

George Legg

Eastern Report 9/8/14

Worked at local rally with Peterborough MAG put on by corporate members Bikes Trikes & Stuff. £200 donation received from them

Went with MAG stand to a local bike show put on by an affiliate club.

Held a regional meeting at which only Peterborough turned up.....looks like RAD MAG & Towcester are just ticking over.

Attended Peterborough Armed Forces Day event, myself & Peterborough Rep where on the organising committee. They needed a cavalcade of bikes which we organised. Although it raised no money it did improve the profile of MAG and made us useful contacts.

Off to work at Pudding this weekend ;-)

Peterborough MAG NC Report
15/06/2014 – 09/08/2014

Have been approached by PCC to help organise a bike show on the Embankment 2015 with other organisations & businesses. Provisionally accepted

New signage goes up after complaints of push bikes using m/c area.
Motorcycle parking only Lower Bridge Street & Priestgate.

New direction signage to the m/c parking areas are sat in the PCC dept awaiting fitting.

London Road Bus Lane is still awaiting traffic order.

Travel Choice to include motorcycles on website after being approached with relevant documentation.

Invites for the MAG stand continue to come in.

Corporate members donated £200 to Peterborough MAG after we put in a team of marshals & first aiders for their rally, sadly they will not be holding another rally as they made a loss again this year.

13th May £600
10th June £200
22nd July £200 sent up to MAG Ltd

Armed Forces Day saw Peterborough MAG organise a cavalcade again through the town centre.

BTS Summer Rally ...Marshal, First Aiders & MAG Stand

Sawtry Bike Show ...MAG Stand

9th Aug will see us having a joint MAG stand with East Anglia MAG at the Stilton Bike Show

Renewal & new membership is steady.
3 more members have come on board the committee.
Between 15 & 25 members attending fortnightly meetings.
Continuing building relations with PCC, road safety & local business.

Hi all,

Well things have seemed to settled down a bit in the south west now. But the membership is still dropping. A mix of many things are responsible for this from the tribunal fall out to personality clashes to elderly riders giving up biking, and ironically the lack of scary legislative issues to grab peoples attention.

Cornwall has the End of the Road rally the same weekend as the NC meeting. I spoke to Mike Baker at a recent bike night in Cornwall and he is happy with how things are going for their event.

East Dorset have moved venue and there have been some issues with a local club. I believe this has been sorted out now and things have settled down.

Mid Devon have been having some bike nights at their venue which attract about 40 bikes. I have made some suggestions for signs etc to promote the event a little more.

South Devon are likely to fold as interest there has dwindled to 3 members. They have an AGM shortly

North Devon have a bout 20+ regular attendees and have held another bike night and despite having had a scare with the council the bike show plans are in full swing. There are some signing issues on a new piece of road and the local rep is to approach the council to make improvements.

Taunton have invested the profit from their rally into the future events and they will be holding their tone vale tea party at the end of August

West Dorset consists of about 3 chaps who are struggling to get any interest. Several approaches have been made to members in their area but to little effect atm

We held our regional meeting at our house... as the pub where we were meeting closed suddenly ...a small number of members attended and were all fed and watered for their trouble. Alan Langmaid the PO will not be restanding in October at the AGM. He laid out his reasons to the room.

Exeters assets ie stand items mainly, were split up among the attending groups.

We discussed the Demo but it was felt that the SW could not hold one of their own this time. Our motorway demos had been a great success but atm we have little support and no one in the 2 cities in the region. So those who are keen intend to support elsewhere.

I have attended several bike nights. North Devon, Mid Devon, Bude but work commitments have taken over this month and I have been unable to spend much time on MAG. Hopefully as work has settled down I can apply myself again.

As we head to the Yorkshire Pudding I have managed to persuade 2 folk from North Devon to come and marshal. Not only is this their first time marshalling it will be their first proper event. Plus the Taunton 2 will be marshalling as well. So I reckon 5 flks from "France" isn't a bad call.

I have been lucky enough to have been donated a Bluetooth compatible Helmet for us to raffle at Pudding which we hope will offset the cost of a bag for the display boards we keep in the MAP containers so that they stay in good condition.

I have been printing and laminating for the display boards. After asking the NC for any flyers/posters/pics or items for the boards and having received nothing I have managed to collect a nice pile of pages for it myself.

Toffee vodka is on order for pudding ..only hoping its here on time

That's about all for the moment

Trace

Northern Ireland

Over the last few weeks we have been trying to raise awareness of MAG here in Northern Ireland and one thing we have been trying is to encourage is the traditional 'bike night', which pretty much isn't done over here. We have organised two over the last month, running in the weeks that our normal meetings aren't and so far the response has been good, it has even encouraged a couple more to turn out for the meetings. We are going to continue with it and are working now to have a night held in other towns and areas of NI.

Myself, Lembit and Sarah attended the Belfast Motor Show along with two of our volunteers Rus and Stephen. The response was great, we had lots of questions asked and even met a few existing members that we hadn't until then, which was brilliant! Unfortunately the show has received some negative publicity, but it is not an opinion we personally share, our experience was very positive, we found it to be a good platform to raise awareness and explain to people who hadn't heard of MAG before who we are and what we do. We are more than happy to attend again next year and we have agreed that we would meet with the organisers to help with any suggestions or ideas from a promotion of motorcycling point of view.

We are continuing to work with Erin Thomas from Emerald Road Racing magazine and are confident that it is their road racing team that will be the platform from which MAG Sport is launched.

Also in regard to MAG Sport, we have been talking to Woolsley Coulter, he is keen to work with MAG and we are arranging details with him, so far he has talked of giving discounts to MAG members for his ART Academy sessions and also an idea of giving MAG a one to one session with himself to have as a competition prize or similar (this normally being worth around £600). His ART Academy, though track based, is more teaching of skills and confidence building. We ourselves are currently arranging to attend a session with him on 15th August, we are hoping to have Emerald Road Racing there too, photographers and any other newspaper or media coverage we can get to attend too.

We also had a positive talk with Maria Costello, who is running her own track days and events which are more geared towards female riders. We have agreed to keep the lines of communication open and may possibly work with Maria and Woolsley together on projects in the future.

We are in contact with MAG Ireland who are keen to work with us, as we are with them. Here in Ireland as a whole we have opportunities for grants and financial support via the medium of 'hands across the border', so we are keen to see what we can tap into in that manner. Lembit also has an idea of how MAG and MAG Ireland can mutually benefit one another in regards to media which we intend discussing with them. They will be in the North on 15th August, at present we are hoping to meet with them at Woolsley's ART Academy, killing many birds with one stone.

Lembit and Sarah took part in a collision simulation at the Belfast Motor show. The display involved the ambulance, police and fire services and the story line played out as a driver over the legal alcohol limit hitting a motorcycle, fatally injuring the motorcyclist and seriously injuring the passenger. It was very well received and shocked quite a lot of people. Lembit and Sarah came up with an idea of filming the incident using Sarah's helmet camera to be used by MAG in future. This went well and we're hoping it can possibly raise awareness and funds in the future.

Still looking into the 23rd August demo, but to be honest I don't think we personally will be doing much, basically due to lack of interest by members here! There are several major events that same weekend which would be great platforms for promotion and networking and our thinking at present is swaying more towards attending these instead as it would be far more beneficial.

Riderscan project for Northern Ireland is still being worked on by Sarah. So far meetings and discussions with police and licensing bodies have been completed. Some great feedback has been found and interesting aspects of problems related to motorcycling faced by the police and DVLNI that we didn't know existed until now. She is currently working on the roads section and is having problems distinguishing between the DRD and DOE, it seems they have things split between them and each

question seems to have to be asked of a different department!? It's a mine field she is continuing to pick through.

Lincolnshire Regional Report

This may seem an odd thing to say but it's a bit quiet because everyone is so busy. Branch events/calendars have been finalised for a while now so from a Branch activity level there's little left to do. MAG has had a presence at two of the biggest events in the county - Lincoln BIG Bike Show and Boston Bike Night, both very popular events but neither of which generated any memberships on the day. A lot of Lincolnshire members attended the Farmyard Party where I also assisted on the MAG stand. Local feedback is that it was the best FYP for a few years.

Mid Lincs MAG continue ticking over and have a few social events and one fund raiser remaining in this year's main riding season. I recently attended the Lincoln MAG AGM where unfortunately their Rep stood down and there was no one to take over. However they still hold regular meetings, have a fund raiser planned for September and have asked local riders to help with a parking survey in Lincoln to assist with their motorcycle parking campaign. Two of their main activists are both Regional Officers so I still have a direct route of communication to the Branch. NE Lincs MAG exist with a Facebook presence only but are still organising social events (e.g. a pet food run) so MAG still has some presence in the area. They are still in the process of changing bank details and as soon as this is complete a cheque should be on its way to Central.

I've had a few enquiries regarding the insolvency letter and on explaining the situation the members have gone away content with the response. I've a couple of local members who have an ability to say the right thing on Facebook without getting carried away. They have made sensible postings on the MAG national page which I hope has helped, even just a little bit.

Andy Carrott

Lincolnshire Regional Rep

North East Regional Report August 2014

This is currently a quiet time for the groups as rally season is in full swing.

Blyth have now had their first proper AGM and returned officers to key posts. As a group they continue to grow in size through their social activities. They have suffered quite considerable losses over the last year in terms of deaths and accidents on the road but remain steady. The demo is being organised by Blyth as it is on their turf and they have the contacts and experience for the type of demo that will go ahead. This will be the first real political activity they have organised. Initial ideas for the demo were quashed by the local authorities, the main problems being that areas that we wanted to access are strictly pedestrianized and any activities in these areas require months of prior admin with key local officials.

Darlington will be having their AGM on the 13th August and their Custom Show on the 17th. It's hoped that after the AGM some new life may be breathed into the group. Group members are preparing for Stormin.

Durham are having a quite summer, meeting attendance is good but after a burst of activity they are now awaiting outcomes, bus lane sign changes, new parking etc. Mostly members are preparing for Stormin.

David Wigham. North East Regional Rep.

South East Region

Well, this report is right up to the wire - yes, it's been that busy!

This is most likely going to be my last report as South East Rep. Becoming National Chairman so soon after returning to the role I left six years before, wasn't part of the plan and I spent the last year or so trying to do both, unfortunately, not being able to get around as much as I would have liked – however, regional meetings and events have always been well supported and I've still managed to criss-cross this fair-sized region (120 miles from end to end) over the past year or so.

Becoming a Director of The Motorcycle Action Group Ltd. and MAG Management Services Ltd. added to the workload; and then to top it all off, I manage to land a tasty permanent day job in a busy central London design agency (with high-profile clients such as the Bank of England and various government departments) to add to the mix. Getting re-elected for a second term in April meant that I have had to realise that I can't take on too much. However, the South East is still there and I'm very grateful for the support of the reps when I've needed it. I hope to leave the region in good hands – more on that at the upcoming AGM.

Like I say, this report is up to the wire as I've had a spate of AGMs – two in the past two days. I'm very happy to say that both branch reps – Alex at Brighton and Graham at Chichester were returned by their respective branches. Both have done a brilliant job this past year. Both branches get a very active turnout to their meetings and are the mainstays of the region (which in Chichester's case is amazing because they were only formed last year on the back of the Ride2Chi event which they got stuck into supporting straight away).

Brighton has certainly outgrown its venue, though the beer garden last night was perfect.

North Kent is in slight dormancy at the moment, due to the resignation of Dave Sawicki, however the meetings are still taking place on an ad-hoc basis, with Dave, Nellie Tappenden and Steve Mallett (who was a very welcome addition to the marshals roster at the Farmyard Party this year) keeping things going when they can. Between them, they're organising a demo feeder run up to London on August 23rd.

Hastings is looking to change its venue, as for whatever reason, the Carlisle's standards have slid a bit. At the last event we held there, we had to deal with broken toilets and just a rather run-down feeling to the place, which is a shame as I have fond memories of MAG meetings past. Hopefully Jake will sort a decent venue out soon.

This report sees the return of an old MAG stalwart, Beachy HEAD (Heathfield Eastbourne and District) MAG, which was a very successful branch years ago. I decided to get it up and running after the old Eastbourne branch folded – of course, I must thank Mick Taylor and Eric Ware for trying to keep Eastbourne going for so long. We've returned to the biking mecca of the Six Bells, Chiddingly and if the first meeting is anything to go by, it'll be successful again.

East Surrey is quiet but ticking on and Chris is still there – he's busy as SE Region treasurer as well, so all's good on that score.

East Kent's venue is still rather unsettled, which doesn't help them much – however, there might be hope of a branch nearer the Margate/Canterbury areas in due course.

The next big event in the South East is the Lock Up Your Sheep Rally Part Deux. After a mildly successful last time, the committee thought it'd be a good idea to hold the rally at the same venue and time, in the hope we get the crowds who loved the cider and the lovely South Downs countryside, who have told their friends. Middle Farm has been accommodating this year and I'm quite looking forward to it now – though at one point, I'd got a bit worried as advance takings weren't as good as I'd hoped – however, it's a good rally and people have said they're coming, which is a bonus. Thanks again to the branch reps for helping out with the upfront costs and it's been nice to see everyone pull together.

So there you have it...

John

NW Report June-July 2014

14th June- National Committee meeting, Shrewley Village Hall
I attended the MAG NC meeting, minutes on www.mag-uk.org

25th-30th June Blackpool MAG Rally.

Numbers were disappointing but there four other events on that weekend in close vicinity which did not help. Lembit paid a visit on the Friday night which went down well. He brought along Conservative MP David Morris who he had just signed up to MAG. Need to work out a different format for next year's rally as it looks like we lost money on this year's event

30th June NW Alliance Meeting, Leyland Eagles MCC, Farrington

Another productive meeting. Calls for a 12month rolling electronic calendar to be made available to hopefully prevent clash of weekend events which happened at the recent Blackpool MAG/NCC events.

6th July Blackpool Bike Show

Great success again with well over 250 bikes, trikes & scooters turning up on the day. Weather was fantastic again.

30th July NW Alliance Meeting, Road Slayers Brotherhood, Irlam

Much discussion about recent events. Had chance to discuss MAG matters with the local reps from the region. We are looking at the possibility of MAG starting its own internet radio station in the NW!

Other news from around the region

Still got big issues in Salford with plans afoot to modify the road infrastructure to apparently aid cyclists but to the detriment of Motorcyclists. Have been in touch with the MAG rep for the Gold Wing Owners Club UK, who lives in the NW. There was concern raised at a Reading MAG meeting that MAG were to cease club affiliation but it seems that the individual who was spreading these rumours has an axe to grind and GWOCGB have now been put in the picture. They are also planning on attending the South Wales demo on 23rd August as they have a weekend event in the area. The Manchester demo on the 23rd has been postponed due to the clash with the Lee Rigby ride of respect. I have been in discussions with the organisers of the event and the local MAG reps in the NW and it though wise that we did not try and run a demo on the same day. I have been kept busy tweaking the various MAG web-sites and put a lot of work into re-configuring the on-line membership form to incorporate the increase in membership fees which came into effect on 1st August. Been kept busy running Blackpool MAG local group of late as the local rep has issues which has restricted his involvement with the group. Hoping to get this resolved very soon as I am really struggling to keep on top of my MAG responsibilities on top of my current day job's workload.

Best Regards,

Tony Cox, NW Regional Rep.

East Midlands Region

Not much to report. The whole region is struggling to retain / recruit active members. The AGM was attended by, I think, 13 people. The region won't be taking part in the commuting test due to low numbers.

Everything seems to be on track for the 1815 Rally in September, run by PaD MAG.

No growth in Leicester. The political officer has now stood down and has not renewed his membership.

The Rutland rep had to stand down for personal reasons and nobody else seems willing to take the job on (a change in personal circumstances for the deputy rep means he can't take over).

No changes in Derby MAG

Juliet

Yorkshire Region

Yorkshire regional report August 2014.

The region donated £8000 to the Motorcycle Action Group Ltd.

We have just held the Yorkshire Pudding rally, which was a great success and saw a few more French Devon folk marshalling, for which we are extremely grateful.

This years Pudding, saw Lembit become the Barber of Seville while shaving off Manny's (Leeds rep) hair, all in the aid of NABD & MAG raising a total of £520

As you will all be aware since the last report we have held the Farmyard party as well as Pudding, which involves a lot of effort from all my groups, so while they continue to hold social and fund raising events, this report will be quite short.

Huddersfield

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

Held ride outs + Social & general meetings

Barnsley and Doncaster

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

Post Demo BAD MAG have a charity rock night planned for the 23rd of July

Leeds

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

Continue to press the council to allow bikes in bus lanes in the city.

Have another Curry, Cakes & Comedy night on the 23rd September.

Sheffield and Rotherham

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

The "wear the fox's hat", was successful.

Oliver is the "main man" re the Demo, as it is being held through Sheffield, to date the police and the council are on board, just waiting for Meadowhall (start point) to confirm. The plan is to ride into the city centre, have speeches, hand out leaflets, both before and after, make noise and then go quiet just before a siren goes off at 1pm (everyday in Sheffield), then disperse and attend BAD MAG's do.

Scarborough

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

Small group, mainly social.

East Yorkshire

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

The "Spat out of Hull" rally is this year on the 19-21st September.

York

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

Another more social group currently rebuilding numbers.

Wakefield

Marshalled both Farmyard & Pudding

Continue to hold regular ride outs and weekly meetings.

Yorkshire AGM

Our AGM is to be held on the 19th October 2014, venue TBC, I will not be seeking re-election, but I will be seeking an observer.

Wayne

AC also reported that he had recently accepted a trophy on behalf of MAG at the National Youthbike awards for outstanding contribution.

ii. Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair's report incorporated into SE Rep report

JMC noted that he will be handing over his duties as S.E. Rep to concentrate on the Chair and his Directorships.

iii. National Clubs Officer

Clubs Report - August 2014

Last two months have mostly been quiet, at least as far as direct interactions have been concerned. The majority of my time has been spent on organising Yorkshire's leg of the national demo, and running my branches first rally.

I have had some interesting news come in over e-mail, especially from Tony regarding the Goldwing Owners being told that the club scheme was being shut down. I'm aiming to contact them ASAP to reassure them of the truth on this matter, although they have already gone through with their renewal following Tony's conversation. On a more positive note, we should be getting a reasonable increase in revenue from the Bandit Owners, as their conversation with Paul in relation to other matters highlighted a discrepancy between our records and their current membership size. It also appears that the issues with the Triumph Owners Club MCC are continuing to rumble along in the background, so an attendance may be required between now and their renewal. I've also recently heard from Norfolk Advanced Motorcyclists, who appear to have received the insolvency letter. This also tied in with their renewal date, so their renewal is still pending at this time. If possible, I'd like to ask a local member who is appropriately briefed to attend a meeting with them and reassure them that we're moving in the right direction.

At the time of writing, the club affiliation review is still in progress - I'm in the office on the 8th to find out the costs involved in the scheme. I've also received a set of documents from Selina which have been interesting reading, as it looks like this has been something on the cards for some time. The request for assistance went into the magazine this month, so we will see whether this has the desired effect of engaging people who might not normally be activists. If this doesn't work then I shall ask in Network to see if assistance is forthcoming, and failing that, go ahead with the volunteers from the last NC meeting.

I've also had a request from the Honda Owners Club GB, who would like Lembit to attend their AGM in October to talk about "the current state of MAG, motorcycling generally and his ambitions for MAG in the future." My response was to see what his boss had to say before committing to anything, which I'll do when I'm in the office. I will be attending

Membership

Numbers are currently pending, as I don't believe the sheet I received from the office - either people have been hiding their successes from me (to the tune of 90 clubs/7000 members), or I've got some expired ones in the list.

-- Oliver Rose

OR noted that although the number of affiliated clubs is slightly down, the number of affiliated members overall is up.

iv. *National Finance Officer*

No report – however, financial data added to end of minutes

v. *Executive Officer*

MAG Membership Services Ltd and The Motorcycle Action Group Limited Report from Julie Sperling Executive Officer.

Updates

Database – Kieron has completed the time scheduled for the repair of the database. There are still some improvements to be made regarding reporting and postcode region areas. Possible to either have a service contract or use on ad-hoc basis but would recommend his services as a preferred supplier and request permission to continue with development of the database.

Website – Content to be added ready to launch, unable to complete for AGC requires NC/Board input – the delay has caused problems with the introduction of the new pricing structure. The weekend of 1st August to early 4th August the old prices were charged. I have put these through with a discount so all figures will reconcile.

MAG (UK) – Insolvency has caused some major issues. MMSL produced and sent out all the liquidation letters almost 4,000 in total. The result of the mail out has caused the phones to be busier, email enquiries and such. The knock on effect is that Direct Debits have been cancelled around 25 to 30 at present, so not large numbers in the grand scheme of things but just administration wise time consuming.

The merchant bank accounts for the web and the pdq machine are still in MAG (UK) Ltd's name, I have arranged for the change over and waiting for the final advice to come so that these can be transferred to the correct business. Monies paid into MAG (UK) will be held for TMAGL and will not be part of the liquidation monies. I have also asked that we do not have a terminal based here but go onto a virtual terminal, accessed at the time of the phone call card payment, so removing a time constraint and possible cost if the card details are incorrect.

Another issued caused by the liquidation is that our account with Royal Mail was put on hold, even though I had been in contact with them to open a new account over a month prior and had a meeting at Central Office. No notice was given by Royal Mail, we also found that our PO Box addressed items are being held at Warwick sorting office. I have spent a few days going round in circles trying to get this sorted out as quickly as possible, I was not getting far at all. I have made a formal complaint regarding the handling of this. To resolve the situation short term I have purchased stamps for a 2 week period and arranged a Pro-Forma invoice with Pensord (our printers) to process The ROAD through their account. Since arranging this I have managed to speak to the original person at Royal Mail and I am now in process of the new account almost being completely set up and transferring the PO Box address to TMAGL. So we will be up and running again mid August.

Information required by Booths has been a little more than I had expected, so slightly behind but catching up.

Staff – all working well as a team, all area's extremely busy and everyone assisting each other as team should be. The support by all staff has been very much appreciated by me.

Need the Board to discuss an extension to Leon's time allowance for another 2 months. This can then again be reviewed in October and hopefully by then we may have some admin support with your agreement (see L&L report).

Lembit – no real change but is beginning to work smarter and reduce his hours, though he does work most weekends and evenings he is not always doing MAG business during the 'normal' working day as most volunteers are only available in the evenings and weekends. We accommodate this by Lembit's TV filming taking up part of days during the week and longer lunches.

Pension options available (NFL lead on this) - decision required.

Dongle required for mobile internet access for Lembit – this was agreed at last Board meeting but not actioned yet by JS.

Lembit requires a probationary review, we had booked this but had to cancel due to a higher priority issue. Update will be given upon completion asap.

Sub-Contractors contracts – preparing schedules and contract for all. We need to agree with Ian all copy and release dates of The ROAD as the impact of amended deadlines compromises the work that we have already agreed – action required to set all deadlines for the next twelve months.

My role – still very busy with several projects running at the same time. I have taken extra care in the accounts to ensure that full transparency with the transfers between MAG (UK), TMAGL and **MMSL**. This has taken longer than anticipated as it was not a simple task and it continues until the completion of the liquidation.

No movement with working with Jane Carrott with the handbook but needs the office perspective considered.

All policies and procedures to look at including staff handbook, but waiting until the database repair completed as this may change procedure. Staff handbook will start to go through with SL as workload settles.

Almost a year need date for my appraisal – action required (knock on – for me to complete appraisals of staff – recommend that I do this October/November to report back at December Board meeting). Bank Accounts – TMAGL set up and working well (also set up a deposit account – small amount of interest). All directors have been added as signatories. Santander account for MMSL does not comply to the 2 signatory signing in process of setting up new Lloyds account with all MMSL directors to sign, almost complete. On line access completed for TMAGL account.

Stationery – we've had many requests regarding the 'MAG Members Welcome' and 'MAG Members Discounts Here' window stickers. These need re-designing and ordering – am I ok to sort this – action required as not given authority JM is also looking into this.

We still have stock of stationery as the supplies are depleted design replaced with TMAGL. The amendments are complete at the printers and we now have single membership card stationery with newco. Leaflets need amount amended for August start design etc. needs to be looked at – action required in process of design.

New card options – printer ordered and blank stationery to start trialing the new cards. Need to consider if a signature strip is required or not as additional cost. Asked Lembit to look into a possible sponsorship deal (Triumph) to cover the costs of production of a card advertising one of their bikes, may be an annual deal or longer term. Need to communicate between all parties if this is successful. Other deals considered if any contacts are known to the Board.

vi. *Contractors*

Though I say it myself the latest issue of The ROAD went extremely smoothly with people getting material to me in plenty of time which makes everything so much easier. I know I go on about this a lot but it is more important than it might seem partly because I can never really plan properly until I see material. Sometimes people tell me they have 500 words and a picture coming and I think OK I'll save a page then it eventually comes and the text is just too waffly and has to be cut or the picture is 50kb and I can't get a bigger one as I can't get hold of the person who has just vanished on holiday; then I get a last minute message telling me there are loads of other shots on a website. Here I am treated to a plethora of 50kb images with the assurance on enquiring that a Mr X will be able to supply the full res versions but on investigation Mr X has caught his neck in a mangle and is permanently indisposed.

I mention this here to emphasise again the critical importance of getting stuff early. Remember I might be waiting for one item of an anticipated size and so cut another one that I already have when actually that deserved far more space than the one I have been waiting for.

So much for that. You may notice in this issue that I have whittled all the corporate text down to something like what they are entitled to which is really only a listing after their introductory 100 or 200 words. This has saved a page, which gives me more room for new product reviews and trade news which gives Tonks more hooks to sell ads against. The ads were a little up this time thanks to HC Travel coming in with a full page and Yamaha and Altberg boots. A lot of coverage for Yamahas new bikes aimed at the young as I wanted to make sure that we got that ad that I screwed up last time.

Big feature on Honda but they are not playing ball on the ad front. WE really have to work on these importers and make them see advertising with us as an investment in their own fortunes. I already mentioned the two column lay out as advised by John which characterizes most of the mag now. I can embrace this further to make all of it two column. I have to say I think it looks better and punchier. I continue to move toward more heavily pictorial spreads to make the magazine less bookish which has been a criticism of observers in the past. I've never had letters from members on this issue mind you but other people in the publishing world have looked at it and commented that by modern standards it looks rather wordy.

Big pictures pack punch and you'll see that in the custom feature in particular and other places. I didn't get any contributions from Farmyard so I wrote it myself and reflected on the future of MAG fund raisers to involve the membership in that debate. I increasingly think that we need to take a leaf out of the HOG book and try more rallies with fixed facilities and comfortable accommodation. Holiday camps can offer all these advantages to the ageing bikers of today. I'm not thinking of myself here obviously as I am getting younger.

On the overseas news front FEMA continues to be a source of nothing with all my material coming from the USA or Ray Douglas of the West London Harley Riders. I couldn't believe hearing that the French had big demos about a proposed 50mph limit on their A roads and FEMA told us nothing. I have emailed Aline about this twice but had no reply.

You may notice I am breaking up the letters pages with ads so that section is less grey. Continental get a lot of mention but then they keep taking full page ads with us so I think the realistic thing is to go on giving them that profile. A set of tyres for best letter is a hell of a good prize really and far better than MCN's measly T shirt. The bloody thing was white too and I do not wear white T shirts. Anybody want an MCN medium T?

There is a picture of Jol's wife Adele looking rather sensuous in a My Bikes feature but Jol assures me that she is not pre pubescent and I am taking him at his word. I've maintained a WW1 theme with the Lawrence of Arabia spread which also ticks the vintage box. Sport gets a double page with a feature from Duncan Baillie who remains a MAG member though we no longer subsidise him as I think we once did in a small way.

Bit of experimentation in the layout with the Triumph Whols tie up. I do plan to trot along to Bath applestore to take advantage of software instruction; the college in Street turned out to be pants though getting lost and wandering into classes of student girls was nice. You can only play that 'Sorry wrong room' card so often before you get the Rolf Harris treatment however. I've got a volunteer to replace Kevin

Williams on the road safety front but I hear that Heli Bikes who have provided the opening feature are no more; will advise. I think it's a worth while element of the mag as it addresses the misconception that we are suicidal nutters who wish to paint the tarmac with our blood. I thought Kevin Williams articles were excellent and several members have written bemoaning his loss.

You'll notice the AGC review simply focuses on the awards, which I reckoned was a safe way to approach it. I am a great believer in not giving people hooks to hang things on.

I went to the Brum demo and made a speech, which was inspired by a Persian pair who rode in swimming gear. Lovely people, they promised me they'd join and I must follow them up as I want to know more about them.

There is a picture of a girl with a lolly pop in her mouth on the events page but I am assured that while this is also a sensuous image, she is not only beyond prepubescent but is a grandmother. Anita from Western region is the girl in question and I once wrote a rally report mostly about her and how she belongs in one of those idealized paintings of women in snow covered landscapes curiously dressed in tattered leather bikinis with a brace of polar bears on a leash in one hand and a bow in the other but I seem to be rambling. I have to admit that she isn't a MAG member at the moment as she was friends with Nich Brown and is upset. I have offered to explain everything to her when she comes to mine for dinner though her rather tall boyfriend wants to come too as he has obviously heard that my cooking is exceptional. I predict they will both rejoin.

The soapbox this time comes from an Aussie and is guaranteed to upset a few dayglo dereks but hell that's the soapbox column and I think it is rather good.

I have Jack to thank for getting this issue out a week ahead of schedule as I was housebound for 11 days before heading for Scawwwwtland. I left Leon to complete a couple of pages and get them to the printers while I was shirking on the high seas.

Unlike my other foreign trips of which there have been none since 2012 would you believe; this one really was work free as the Scottish isles on a yacht really is a wifi-free zone. No problem getting internet in West Africa but the Western Isles of Scotland - no chance. No offence Steve.

I am still hoping to make my long promised Jordanian trip and have met a Christian preacher from Gaza who pops in Holy Joes may accompany me on his Harley Ultra Classic. I'd better hang on see how everything pans out on the legal front first I guess. Whatever unfolds we shall overcome and ride forth into that glorious sunlit valley. Fades to sound of Jerusalem

Mutch

(LÖ rejoins the meeting)

12. Any other business:

- i. *AGC 2015 Tenders*
Item already covered between items 9 and 10.
- ii. *New membership leaflet*
JMC circulated a mock-up leaflet. Discussion included the potential for sponsorship, having some available for the August 23rd Demos, should there be mention of clubs, a space for local contact details, and the possibility of a limited run as it is likely to evolve.

AC suggested comments via email, as it is not possible to design something with 20 people involved.

PT requested that the pad with membership application forms be provided in A5 size rather than A4 for ease of carrying about.

iii. *The Foundation*

PT reported that Trustee application packs have been sent out to potential trustees. He stated that MAG can invoice the Foundation for services and LÖ noted that negotiations are currently ongoing to find a way forward for the Foundation.

AG asked about Donna Proctor's memorial fund and what would be an appropriate use for it as it was originally going to be used for producing the Parking A-Z booklet. PT noted that the booklet is out of date very quickly, but that use of an App with an "in memory of" note would be an alternative way forward with this.

TC asked a question about satellite web pages/sites and the need to update or take down those that are out of date or irrelevant. LÖ and PT to progress.

iv. *Membership Certificate for donating a membership*

SL circulated a mock-up of the design for a donated membership certificate. These can be purchased by a MAG Branch or Region from Central Office at a cost of £20.00 and would only be activated when returned by the recipient of the certificate. The certificates will be embossed and serialised.

JMC to provide a sample copy for Dropbox.

v. *Expenses claims*

SL reported that Julie is still receiving expenses claim forms without receipts and explained that receipts must be attached and have a date on or close to the event that has generated the claim.

SL and Julie will provide guidelines regarding what can be claimed and whether to claim from a relevant region or from Central. SL will also provide these guidelines to JC for inclusion in the revised Handbook.

TP sought clarification regarding claiming expenses for regional meetings and it was felt that it was not appropriate.

vi. *Scottish insurance offer*

SW has attended a presentation by Motorcycle Law Scotland regarding a partnership with MAG.

vii. *Website*

AC asked for an update regarding the website. LÖ reported that it is 90% complete and there should be movement on this within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

viii. *Vacancy for Director*

PT noted that there was a vacancy for a new Director, with immediate effect and NFL added that a second Directorial position would soon fall vacant with PvA leaving his position by AGC 2015.

To appoint SW to the Board of Directors with immediate effect.

Proposed: PT; Seconded: JMC. Carried.

ix. *Update on A Bridge Too Far*

SW will chase up progress on this.

- x. *Scottish independence*
AC asked what potential organisational implications of Scottish independence might have to be addressed. This caused amusement, but did not generate discussion despite it being a serious question.

- xi. *Members' concerns*
It was noted that the only concern members seem to have is that MAG continues, in whatever form. SL said that reassurance is essential in response to any concerns raised and that, where appropriate, contact details should be taken and the enquiry escalated to Central.

- xii. *OldCo/NewCo details*
All were asked to ensure that all contact details, etc on literature are correct following the change of Company.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 11th October 2014.