

Motorcycle Action Group

Annual Group Conference

Saturday 10th April 2010

Moat House Inn, Kings Coughton

Agenda Commencing 10:30AM

Welcome by National Chairman – Paul Turner

Paul welcomed all members to the meeting today.

MAG (UK) Ltd Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Report by Chairman of the Board. Paul Turner

By the end of today we will have a full set of Directors of the Board. Very active meeting last night and we feel that we are strong and plenty of consideration is given to financial matters. Jane Chisholm will stay on the Board as an adviser to assist us to move forward.

2. Company Secretary: report. Steve Wykes

Steve confirmed MAG UK is solvent and operating legally.

3. Finance Director: report. Justine Travis

Justine reported that she is standing down this year and as a volunteer does her best!

August 2008 July 2009. Majority of income is membership, donations, partnerships, other is bank interest, product sales etc. Yearly comparison given, membership 11,000. Fighting fund down slightly, some events suffered from bad weather. Partnerships are good.

Fighting fund breakdown by region shown to Conference. Yorkshire leads the donations, many regions giving good donations too. Yearly comparisons given across last three years. We have seen great efforts but due to poor weather we may not see the like again from events. Expenditure breakdown shown as Central office, membership, The Road, Political, travel, FEMA and misc.

Neil Stevenson asked how much of £25 membership is it costing us? Justine stated that membership costs £12 of the £25 fee. IC involved in the discussion. We are too reliant on fighting fund.

Rocky comments on corporate membership needing to rise. Justine agreed and suggests the Board are aware that we need to improve this area and Paddy Tyson has made some with a number of companies.

MAG Media £64k turnover. Advertising brings in £10,000. Lose £11k Fighting fund, membership, low donations identified.

Pete Walker sees a loss again. As a riders rights organisation we must employ people like Nich, Paddy and the central staff. The Board are all good but we need business acumen in the organisation.

Jane explained the management systems, communication involved in the organisation structure. Strong time in place and we are trying to move forward. We are growing groups around the country, looking at the banking system and trying for automated services. We are going to look at Corporates.

Paddy spoke about future prospects will speak after lunch on these issues.

(Paddy Tyson will donate 10% of his book; note Mutch will donate 20% of his books to MAG)

Louisa spoke about her role at Central and recognises our needs and will be looking at being a well oiled machine.

Andy questioned will the Board and NC plan a Strategy to raise funds outside of events. Paul suggested that Paddy has some plans to discuss after lunch.

Tory Nottingale Lincs MAG gave a vote of thanks to Justine for her services as Finance Officer. The conference celebrated her work.

4. Reappointment of Auditors: Stanley Yule

Proposed: Justine Travis
Seconded: Steve Wykes

Proposal voted on item and agreed unanimously.

5. Resignations and Election of Directors (*see Manifestos*)

Paul Turner

Jane Chisholm steps down.

Andy Meredith spoke on Den Powell's nomination as a Director. (Notes available)

Jane Chisholm spoke on behalf of Sheila McFarlane as a Director. (Andy McFarlane objected!)

6. Summing up and Chairman of the Board's declaration

Paul Turner

Active Board, brilliant staff and help for the members. We are moving forward and upwards. Declaring the meeting close.

Close MAG UK Ltd AGM.

1. Opening of Annual General Conference by National Chairman.
All Board and NC introduced. Opened the AGC.

Paul Turner

2. Hand-over of conference chair to National Vice-Chairman
Thank you for coming everybody.

Fergus O'Connell

3. **National Officer Reports:** (*Questions on matters related to reports will be taken after each report*).

National Chairman

Paul Turner

We have had a lot of changes and now a strong team at Central. Louisa has shown her merits since joining us and is looking after the two temps who are with us. If we made a wish list a new database would be on that list. Often someone has to spend three days running through bank statements. We are moving office on 23rd April. Board and NC in full agreement of the move. We really need people power and their vans. Fuel will be compensated. The current premises must be decorated. Bill Pugsley will co-ordinate. We need help with this too, fuel compensation available. Tory is available on 23rd for the move.

We want everyone to have a MAG email address. Andrew Meredith is available to organise this for people. Similarly with websites, there are often a number of sites of one group. We have the server and can add group sites to this. Membership figures are due shortly. Thanks to Jane for her work. Thanks to Justine for her work. Fergus is leaving us to and his efforts have been huge.

General Secretary

It's a privilege to work for this organisation. We have started to build a team of staff who are strong, flexible MAG people. In the past we have taken on people to do specific roles. The trouble with this is that if someone leaves, it leaves a hole. Staff related issues of holidays and families can be issues. We are trying to achieve overlap of tasks and the people we have fit that bill. We lost David Short and it left Nich doing two jobs. We have brought Paddy on board and the difference has been shown.

The premises move from the same premises of ten years. We needed this move as the current premises is rent only and the new premises include more services than our current ones and the facilities are superior for approximately 50-100 per month. The deal is for five years and gives stability. Louisa is a very good member of staff and we are grateful for her efforts. Last year cutting administration costs was the focus. Liberating cash to bring Paddy on board. Previous membership cards will be used due to difficulties with printing and finishing. Tell us how they work.

Campaigns – Paddy was asked to focus on the forthcoming election and our image outside, plus accessing group activities in the country. Example would be a group of classic members who Paddy had assisted to be involved with MAG. He has created Classic MAG. This group appears in the next Road issue. Paddy is well travelled and attends global travelling related events. Leading lights are MAG members and realised they should be backing MAG. We are taking a stand to over-land event. Touratech and others have become corporate members. This illustrates that campaigning helps to form a strong relationship with corporate members.

Nich has been keeping an eye on government related issues. DSA meetings looking for change. Catalogues of accidents related to the swive test have been challenged in these meetings. At transport select committee MAG has been key to debates and feature many times in the Government report to DSA. New candidates who promise to support will need to deliver if voted in.

North East member - Have HSA been involved in the accidents? Yes the relationship with DSA is too close and needs challenging.

DVLA persuaded government to make people do the same test at each level of test. We must challenge this one too. Attending conferences of local authorities on road safety, such as new speed restrictions of 50 or even 40. We need to win arguments for each six local authority areas. We should be objecting locally.

Pot holes statistics suggest the roads are the cause of many arguments. Consultations floating around on that.

There are other groups and organisation that we can work with. Mentioning Aine Gale making sure that Network is put together and scheduled. A huge thanks to her on this one.

Ending with a phrase 'that there is nothing to do and Central are doing everything'. We need to focus on this. Getting the message out has been a struggle but giving you a more structured way of dealing with things. Asking groups to provide a structure so that when information comes out there is something in place to work with this model.

Ian Cook flagged up 15% of casualties, this is the sort of ammunition that we need in local groups.

After RAV we can concentrate on such needs.

Jeff Mills engaging with local authorities is very important and fundraising needs to translate into local politics. We have to be more proactive, being involved with councillors. In Bristol the cycling lobby is very strong and we need to have this to. This should be MAG's main focus. Local transport plans are key policies. All authorities are currently reviewing and consultations are being formalised. You need to engage with your transport authorities.

Question from floor on publicity and why there are no young riders advertised. Discussion regarding posters. Paddy informed that we have new posters but we can only manage so much.

Question on DSA testing situation information needed for local groups to get involved. Nich explained that some information is available but Nich tries to balance the tasks to allow him to share as much as possible.

Bill Pusley thanked Nich for his work on 2DLD. The conference supported this.

Clubs Liaison

Fergus O'Connell

Clubs involve a total of 106 with 48,000 members. Sometimes it's a formal meeting or a small group drinking tea. Owners clubs are growing. 16,000 get a MAG page in the 100%, plus email contacts. Clubs are important to our levels of representation. Told a story of attending a transport forum and how to get very actively involved promoting motorcycle issues. Blend in and gently steer it!

Editor of 'The ROAD'

Ian Mutch

In last year we have a new printer service which is about 5-6k saving. The magazine is developing from a design perspective. Interviews are always good content so keep thinking of people we can meet. Humour is a good element. We do not compete with main leaders such as Performance Bikes. We are a road church and I try to balance things. Personalised input is important, such a 'my bike. Letters always oversubscribed and tries to get many in as possible. Please send items in jpegs and pdfs, and size must be at least a mega bite. Campaigning element has become stronger, RAV features in the latest issue. Thanks to all who help with the magazine.

4. **Election of National Officers:** (see Manifestos)

National Chairman

Paul Turner

Proposer Jane Chisholm gave an overview of his commitment and time spent at Central and around the country. Whole hearted recommendation.

Steve Wykes seconded. Unanimously elected.

National Finance Officer

Late nominee Patrick Van Aalst MAAT

Gave an overview of his experiences. CV available through Central.

Cash flow, forecasting and budgets are his key concerns.

Proposer Paul Turner

Secunder Justine Travis

Unanimous decision.

National Clubs Officer

No nominee

Fergus outlined the role. Discussion of a potential split of responsibilities. Neil Stevenson suggested a member of the Board, take a role. This obviously needs further decision at next NC level.

National Network and Communications Officer

No nominee

Jane Chisholm explained Aine Gale has been co-ordinating Network but the Communications is currently a different role. Suggestion made that the role be more clearly defined at next NC.

5. **The MAG Foundation: Report**

Neil Stevenson

Neil explained that the trustees are Pete, Jol, Neil, Nich and Andy. Nich and Steve W have done plenty of work under the guise of MAG Foundation. Stickers are a way of promoting work on behalf of MAG Foundation. The A to Z of motorcycle parking booklet will be soon completed. There will be a tribute to Donna Proctor following a bequest made by her family and friends. Regional reps will be receiving a draft copy to assist checking and updating. Diesel stickers do need to be promoted across a number of key driving organisations. Lengthy discussion of how to promote the use of our diesel spills stickers.

6. **Federation of European Motorcyclists Associations: Report**

Gerard Livett

Sol believes we are really moving forward. Same things are happening in FEMA. 24 organisations in 19 countries. Arctic to Greece. Such a spread can cause problems as such a vast cultural difference exists.

Trying to unite is the wish. Four staff in Brussels. Gen Sec off on maternity leave. Weighted membership has been re-adjusted to represent fairly. He believes we need to increase membership again so we are presented in FEMA. FEMA is your voice in Europe and the EU to some extent. Issues include non petrol motorcycles; crash barriers work; framework regulation bring legislation together such as 100 brake horse power, compulsory abs; compulsory road testing; International Congress planned for the end of June (including MEP ride).

Ian Cook - what do MAG pay and what do we get from FEMA? Justine - approx 14,000 euro. Sol gave an example of wire rope barriers that has been a success for new installations.

Ian Cook - Feedback on issues sent from FEMA needs to be clearer. Nich clarifies that his role includes such feedback from regions.

7. **Riders Are Voters 2010**

Paddy welcomes grumbling today! Deal with issues today with the people that matter. Nich and I have put in many hours this week so bear with him.

An overview of RAV and its effectiveness. It's for opening doors with Corporates and expanding our own membership. By 22nd May we will have started 26 groups in the country. He has not visited active counties as they do not need him as much as others. South East and Southern are growing rapidly.

Paddy spoke about the RAV Question Time events that have been held so far. Manchester and Bristol were great events. We are using bike shops so doors open to them and we gain credibility. Slough was not well attended but the candidates were very vocal and two of the candidates joined MAG.

Next QT Kings Lynn, with three candidates, TV coverage likely. Local elections are the next goal and RAV can be delivered at that level. Ace Café 18th April event to start classic MAG.

MCE Insurance rang to promote MAG to their 80,000 riders. Two Wheel Junkie is online spare company and 35,000 lines, full corporate member, offering 5% discount to MAG members. 700 parcels ever other day and we are offered to include membership forms.

Corporates – some stuff is in kind. Two Wheel Junkie will provide spares for Nich and Paddy to run bikes around the country. Membership form is received well. The designer works with focus groups and full MAG member. He works for big companies such as Proctor and Gamble and they are working on a presentation to go to all the manufacturers. They will ask these large companies to donate to MAG.

'Corporate fee yearly from industry is the goal'. Each year 100,000 bikes having a membership form in handbooks would be a fantastic goal.

Passion is something we all have and we should continue to fight. Paddy suggests a Hyde Park Demo suggestion for September 2010. Press coverage needs to be strong to promote such an event. Post election party may be an option. Ann Main MP EDM1002 116 out of 642 signatures was a strong result. (MPs names are available). Urge all emails and access to websites are correct to keep us active. We are trying to work for it.

IC highlights sell out issue needs to be clarified. Jess Mid Lincs don't see an issue here.

Pete Walker clarifying corporate membership still exists in its simplest form. More than suggestion MAG Partnership, in there is credible people such as manufacturers, media, mica etc.

The conference expressed confidence in the work that Paddy is towards the growth of the organisation.

8. **Motions to Conference**

Motion 1 - Eastern Region Division

Selina Lavender motion last year to split Eastern region. Lincolnshire would be on its own 2/3 was needed but not met general feeling but not successful. Noel Corrigan is managing Lincolnshire. NC is confidence that this will work. Look for someone for rest of Eastern. Discussion was held on how the previous AGC voting had gone and was we are now. For: 55 Against: 13 Abstentions: 7

9. **Pete Walker on Events**

Received a call for John Westlake MD from MCN. We took out £10,000 advertising in MCN 22,000 readership. 100% Biker have pulled out and MCN now what to have a tent known as the MCN Rock Marquee. They will push our event through editorial. We hope to get 2,000 extra people makes 60,000 more profit. Bower Media group member too.

This work will be part of increasing our credibility.

10. **Ian Taylor Vice Chairman for NABD**

NABD builds it success. 48 adaptations on bikes 33 trikes and others across the country. Ian gave an overview of the adaptation work. You've Been NABD still a very successful rally and the autumn event is building. Rich Hulse

works with the DFT on needs for riders with disabilities. 125 adapted bikes scheme still exists. Tickets still available. We of the NABD look forward to our continued relationship with MAG.

12. Awards

Certificate of Merits:

Phil McFadden and Rory Wilson – for raising the profile of MAG in Wales which is fantastic.

Jackie Francis for making the RAV campaign happen

Mark Williams MP from Wales for his work towards promoting issues for motorcycling

Mike Newcombe from Devon council

George Legg – Aine Gale accepted his award. His sterling work for MAG, the Troll!

Steve Tannock Teamwork Award:

Southern Region nominated as a region are really working hard. Little Red nominated.

Richard Tegg Award

Stuart Regan works hard to pull events and websites, raising MAG awareness. Steve Wykes nominated

The Chairman's Award

Nich Brown and Paddy Tyson are nominated for their incredibly hard work they have done. Recognition is required.

Simon Milward Award (Lifetime Achievement Award)

Ian Mutch nominated Fergus O Connell for this award. His contributions have been vast. A well deserved award.

12. President's Address

Mutch gave us stories from his travels, the 1970s, previous AGC's, shoeboxes, new groups forming, getting people to join face to face, delayed fulfilment, the new swerve test, celebrating our skills, keeping up with progress and how much he has appreciated the work that has been continuing while he has been away. On to greater things!!

13. Presentation of Donations

Dorchester MAG donated £1,000 (only going for five weeks)

Yorkshire MAG and MAP recognition for their donation of £82,500

14. National Chairman's closing address

Grateful thanks to Fergus, and how could we replace him. He has approached Jol Lawson from East Yorkshire to be his replacement, which will be voted in at NC after the AGC.

Concentrate on getting MAG name out. Carry application forms

Paddy interjected by speaking of South Birmingham MAG and their assistance for any donations at all will be gratefully received.

15. AGC 2011 arrangements

Future announcement will be made.

AGC close
[5.02pm]