

**MOTOR CYCLE ACTION GROUP (UK) LIMITED**

**ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Held on Saturday, 12 April 2003  
at the Army & Transport Museum, Beverley**

**Meeting opened at 1110 hrs**

**PRESENT (see attendance list)**

**1. NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS**

Ian Moore, National Vice-Chairman opened by welcoming everyone to the Annual General Conference.

At this point changes to the agenda of the Annual General Meeting were proposed as follows:-

Item 5 – “Notice of” to replace “proposal for”.  
Item ? - Rick Hulse not J Moore.

The Annual General Conference was then adjourned.

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**1. REPORT BY THE CHAIR**

Aine Gale gave her report to the meeting and went on to remind members that whilst it had been an eventful year MAG remained united to progress riders' rights. She reminded members that the Street Biker Working Group was making progress in lobbying issues. The Working Group were producing guidelines and protocols for behaviour of MAG members and campaigns of the Working Group include government consultations on policy making decisions. All groups were commended in their efforts to raise donations.

**2. COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Henry Marks gave his report to the meeting and held a Q&A session on the administration of MAG.

**2.1 Questions**

In response to a query on Insurances from Castlemead Dave Elrick (16), Henry Marks advised members that public liability had been successfully negotiated for all groups but there would be a 10% increase in price. He went on to explain the difficulties in obtaining

insurance since '911' adding that MAG had succeeded in renewing their policy. All members should contact MAG Central to ensure fixed prices until 18 April 2004.

The Political Report would be given by Trevor Baird.

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Julie Stevenson, Finance Director gave her financial report for the year ended 31 July 2002. Reference was made to the fighting fund donations totalling £84K during the financial year and formally thanked all involved in raising donations.

Members were taken through the financial report which showed an overall financial position of a loss of £16K for the year 2001/02. This was due to reduced membership revenue, fighting fund donations and raffle income, all down from last year. It was noted that NC expenses had come down, bad debts had been reduced and included staff vacancies carried over from 2000/01. Members were reminded that membership recruitment was the responsibility of all group members and this needed to be increased in order to secure a firm financial footing in the next year.

#### **3.1 Questions**

Questions regarding the financial report were taken from the floor. When queried whether MAG UK was solvent, this was confirmed.

### **4. REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

The vote for the reappointment of the Auditors was carried unanimously.

### **5. PROPOSALS 1 & 2**

Aine Gale voiced concern at the loss of membership on the National Committee. She reiterated that in the interests of democracy no elected Directors should be reduced from 7 to 5.

Clause 6 item 3 should read "shall be 3" not 5.

The vote was carried unanimously.

### **6. RESIGNATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Changes in the appointment of Directors are contained within the Financial Report.

Brian Williams and Ian Moore Directorships were up for re-election.

Julie Stevenson's resignation had been received but she will now stay on as Financial Controller.

Neil Liversidge withdrew his nomination for Finance Director.

#### **Proposal 15**

It was agreed to bring forward Proposal 15, proposed by Ian Phillips. A replacement seconder was invited from the floor as the original seconder was absent from the meeting. Secunder – D. Travis (138).

This motion was opposed by J Burchby (115) and seconded by K Drysdale (47).

The vote cast was unanimously against and the motion failed.

Directors:	B Williams	Elected unanimously
	I Moore	Elected unanimously

A point of order was then raised by Neil Liversidge regarding the National Finance Officer nomination. As Neil Liversidge was the only nomination for this post, he nominated Julie Stevenson as National Finance Officer under Clause 5 Part 4 & 5 and Clause 7 Parts 2 & 3 refers. It was explained that National Finance Officer could automatically be nominated if a Director.

Proposer – Stevan Walker (30)      Secunder – P. Kelsey (1)

The motion was carried that Julie Stevenson be elected as National Finance Officer and that this post be elected on an annual basis.

## **7. SUMMING UP**

Aine Gale summed up events over 2001/02.

The AGM adjourned at 1155 hours.

The AGC meeting reconvened.

## **4. NATIONAL OFFICERS REPORTS**

Liz Needham, Networks and Communications Officer gave her report on events over the last year. Issues included an update to the handbook which was due to go on line week commencing 14 April 2003. Also available would be the MAG Repts CD which included links to the website on current issues with pages updated weekly. The activist training weekends were well supported and Liz thanked Yorkshire region for hosting the events.. Training for 2003/04 would be held in the South East region. There was now a full complement of Regional Representatives. Network Monthly had been well received and Liz thanked all for their support.

## **5. CLUB LIAISON OFFICERS REPORT**

Debbie Jones gave her report of Club Liaison events over the last year. She reiterated that momentum and direction was needed. Although she was standing down from Club Liaison, she would offer a supporting role as the new Club Liaison Assistant. She would fill the new South Wales Regional Representative position. Debbie thanked all National Committee members for their support over the years.

## **6. PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Trevor Baird gave his report on political and public affairs over the last year. Improved political and PR links had been forged with National and European Parliamentary and Assembly groups and with local government groups and councils. He reported on current motorcycling issues taken forward by MAG and added that website links were now available to lobby local MPs, MEPs and local councillors. Safety issues were expected to receive a hard time during 2004.

### **6.1 Questions**

Aine Gale urged membership support for Trevor Baird who was the best Public Affairs Officer MAG had ever had.

Improvements regarding communication at MAG Central Office were noted from the floor K Drysdale (47).

The AGM was adjourned at 1215 hrs.

The AGC resumed at 1215 hrs.

**Proposal 14**

Proposer - Ian Phillips (36)

Seconder - Jan Hurley (113)

It was noted that this proposal would remove the need for Motion 2. It was proposed K Drysdale (47) that a 5 minute slot be added to future agendas for a speaker from NABD if the proposal was carried.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

This proposal eliminates item 9 on the Agenda.

**7. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES**

Neil Liversidge reported that this item required input by MAG members. The National Committee would draft a revision to circulate to individual groups and post on the MAG website. This would then be presented to the 2004 AGC for ratification. It was proposed that the item should not be voted on today but would be progressed in-year via the Working Party.

Questions were taken from the floor.

When queried on MAG's constitution J. Coxon (23) Neil Liversidge explained that MAG UK are not a separate entity and that the proposal would bring the constitutional documents together. He went on to explain that the balance of power would remain with the National Committee.

A simplified version was requested from the floor M Webb (61). Neil Liversidge responded by reiterating that the lengthy wording was a legal requirement but that a summary would be drafted for members.

The move to pass item 4 was then motioned and was voted unanimously.

Proposal 3 was withdrawn from the Agenda.

**Proposal 5**

Aine Gale voiced her support for this proposal as this took away any ambiguity. Any representations must be received by MAG Central Office by 31 December 2003.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

**Proposal 6**

Brian Williams proposed that Scotland submit one regional representative in the absence of active group membership in Scotland. This was ratified from the floor R Vivian (107), S Wykes (111) and P Kelsey (1) although representation was made by Jim Coxon on keeping the 3 regions open. This was confirmed.

The proposal was carried with 2 votes against.

**Proposal 7**

The proposal was outlined by the Proposer J Hill (35) and reaffirmed by G Livett (58).

The proposal was carried unanimously.

The ACG was adjourned at 1245 hrs for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 2.20 hrs.

Ian Moore, Chair circulated statements to the national Committee relating to Item 10 on the Agenda. A statement from Geoff Eborall were passed to the National Committee prior to the commencement of the hearing.

#### **8. HEARING OF APPEAL (Article 2, Clause viii – Geoffrey Eborall)**

A statement of Events that lead to the suspension of Geoff Eborall's honorary life membership was read to the meeting by Aine Gale (appended).

Aine Gale reiterated that the statement was based on facts appertaining only to the appeal. She then handed over to Geoff Eborall.

Geoff Eborall made reference to the series of events outlined above including the availability of the minutes of the Yorkshire held in October 2001 referring to the presentation of the annual accounts. He then read out a prepared personal statement previously circulated to the national Committee (appended), where he stated that all accounts were available for full ratification by Yorkshire members.

When asked, Jane Chisholm confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2001 were not circulated to Yorkshire reps and were therefore not ratified.

Geoff Eborall went on to refute dealings with Magic Action Promotions Farmyard Party accounts which were under the direction of Paul Wordsworth, MAP Finance Director. Geoff Eborall refuted receiving the said correspondence by Recorded Delivery as he had changed address a couple of months prior to this date.

Aine Gale at this point brought a point of order as MAP was not in question and subject to an independent board. Geoff Eborall agreed but referred to the posting of events on Biker's Web and so was responding to public domain.

#### **In Support of Appeal (from the floor)**

When asked whether the request for accounts and minutes was made during or after appointment as regional rep, Jane Chisholm (Yorkshire Regional Rep) replied the request was made when Yorkshire Regional Rep.

Further clarification was requested from the floor R Hulse (147) on whether the accounts had been received since the original request. The Chairman responded they had not.

Geoff Eborall responded that he was not asked during the Yorkshire Rep meeting at Boroughbridge for an independent audit of the accounts. He went on to reiterate that the 2000/01 accounts had always been in the public domain and had been presented at the Yorkshire AGM that year.

Julie Stevenson responded by commenting she had requested sight of the receipts and a breakdown of expenditure at the meeting but this was not minuted.

Geoff Eborall responded by objecting to the presentation of accounts to MAG central and added that he had presented them one month prior to the AGM under normal procedure. He denied withholding the accounts in his possession from local reps.

Ian Moore made reference to the presentation of supporting documentation in question, ie receipts.

Geoff Eborall reiterated that notification had been circulated to regional reps regarding the availability of the accounts for inspection.

Neil Liversidge reiterated the need to keep back up documents, ie receipts, for all accounts. He commented that several times he had requested sight of the minutes and was ignored. He felt that every opportunity was afforded to Geoff Eborall to present the accounts and that that this was not taken up. Neil Liversidge also confirmed that at the Scarborough meeting he had requested an independent audit.

Questions were taken from the floor.

In response to queries on why the accounts were not presented to the National Committee, Geoff Eborall responded by commenting that the accounts had been presented in accordance with MAG procedure since 1995 and that receipts and invoices did not form part of the procedure. The previous year's accounts had been audited only at the meeting's request.

Julie Stevenson accepted that Geoff Eborall had presented the accounts without the receipts but these were usually requested under normal procedure.

When queried on whether any other region/group were asked for supporting evidence with year end accounts, Julie Stevenson confirm this was the case.

It was raised from the floor R Hulse (147) that if it was not standard practice for accounts to be lodged with NC, then it should be.

Aine Gale reiterated the National Committee comment that a clear message besent to elected officers of MAG of their accountability to the MAG electorate.

Phil Neal sought clarification on the vote and whether the vote was only against honorary life membership. It was clarified that the appeal was against the indefinite barr to apply for honorary life membership and that application to apply for membership was not at issue.

Members were advised that votes for the appeal to support Geoff Eborall should vote Yes (A).

A point of order was noted from the floor J Hughe (116) if the vote should go against MAG, would MAG be in dispute. It was clarified that honorary life membership was the issue of the appeal.

Vote recorded:

For the Appeal (A) – 16 votes

Against the Appeal (B) – 85 votes

It was noted that the Appeal failed.

A point of order was brought from the floor A Timms (69) in that abstentions should be counted and recorded. Neil Liversidge confirmed that no account should be taken of abstentions under MAG's constitution.

An further point of order was raised from the floor C Singh (75) regarding the terminology 'unanimously' which was technically incorrect. It was agreed to use the term 'majority vote' throughout the proceedings. This was carried under Clause 5 Part xxi which reaffirmed G Livett (58).

### **Proposal 8**

Nick Brown presented the proposal which he explained was held over from last year. The seconder of the proposal was not present and the meeting and Aine Gale agreed to second in their absence. However, it was agreed to withdraw the proposal.

### **Proposal 9**

Neil Liversidge read out the proposal.

Questions were taken from the floor.

In response to a query on timescales for record keeping, K Moren (128), Julie Stevenson suggested that records be kept for 5 years within the Region and then forwarded onto Central office after this period. A query was raised on why accounts should be sent to Central, J Coxon (23), as accounts would already be independently audited and commercial information would be in jeopardy. Discussion ensued on whether the proposal was a duplication of efforts and that reference should be made of this proposal in the Articles of Association.

Neil Liversidge reiterated that that the Memo of Articles and the inclusion of the proposals has to be open and transparent. The motion is proposed to close the loophole in the accounting procedure.

Archie Hipkins commented that MAG had no right to accounts and that receipts were not always available for every expenditure. A question was raised, J Lawson (4), on the usage of the MAG banner for Stormin the Castle event. J Coxon (23) responded that Stormin the Castle was not advertised as a MAG event, this was organized via a limited company and therefore abided by company law.

It was noted P Kelsey (1) that the arguments applied to all 5 proposals (9-13). Limited company status was to be used as a flag of convenience not to hide behind. It was further proposed, N Stevenson (102), that accounts for events with over 500 attendees should be presented to the National Treasurer.

The proposer, R Vivian (107), proposed that the meeting vote all 5 proposals as 1 composite vote and forward to the National Committee to consider for inclusion in the Memorandum of Association and that it be included in the said Memorandum as soon as agreed. Neil Liversidge accepted this proposal and was seconded by A Wightman (38.)

The motion was voted with a majority vote (noted 9 votes against).

It was confirmed that current constitution be applied until the new constitution came into rule.

When queried about item 13, Neil Liversidge clarified that MAP members were involved in the proposal and it was there to aid transparency.

A query was raised, Ian Hill (117), regarding MCCs ability to raise private profit and to work at rallies without being expelled from MAG.

At this point a split of proposals was requested, P R Black (42), and Julie Stevenson suggested a friendly amendment to Proposal 13 that the MAG UK Finance Director is to sign a confidentiality agreement.

This was proposed by Neil Liversidge and seconded by L Needham (26).

The motion for this friendly amendment was carried with a majority vote.

The motion for the amendments to the 5 proposals was carried with a majority vote (noted 11 votes against).

A point of order was raised by Neil Liversidge regarding the 2/3 majority vote ruling. There was a request for a recount and this was accepted by the Chair. The votes were recast as follows:-

For – 106                      Against - 10

The motion was carried with a majority vote.

### **Proposal 16**

Ian Phillips read out the proposal.

A friendly amendment was proposed, G Livett (58), in that the word limit be set at a maximum of 1200 words. This was accepted by the proposer and seconded by Neil Liversidge.

The motion was carried with a majority vote (noted 6 votes against).

### **Proposal 17**

This proposal was withdrawn.

### **Proposal 18**

The proposer, C Muncaster, read out the proposal. Concerns from the floor included that cases put forward to the Crown Prosecution did not always go to court. It was suggested MAG increase its efforts towards this.

It was further proposed, R Straughan (8), that the wording be clarified, ie “3<sup>rd</sup> party”.

Neil Liversidge agreed to amend the wording to include the phrase “MAG shall campaign for more rigorous..... “

Henry Marks commented that MAG had pursued cases like this but the Crown Prosecution Service were the stumbling block to successful prosecutions. Further debate ensued on whether this proposal should include MAG and non-MAG bikers.

The proposal was amended to read “MAG shall campaign for more rigorous prosecution of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties responsible through their fault for cause, death or injury to motorcyclists”.

The motion attracted a majority vote (noted 3 votes against).

## **9. ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS**

### **9.1 Chairmanship**

Candidate – Aine Gale

The motion was carried by a majority vote to elect Aine Gale as National Chairman.

### **9.2 National Committee Officers**

Candidate – Liz Needham – National Network Communications Officer

The motion was carried by a majority vote.

Candidate –Jan Hurley – National Clubs Liaison Officer.

The motion was carried by a majority vote.

## **10. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS**

Ian Much, MAG UK President gave his address.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **11.1 MAG Events**

Clarification was sought from the floor J Chisholm (20) on whether Stormin the Castle was a MAG event. Jim Coxon (Director) clarified that it was a NE MAG event which raised £39K in donations this year and did not welcome MAG central control. Julie Stevenson (18) assured members that MAG UK did not want to take control of the event. Jim Coxon raised the issue of previous attempts by MAG UK to register the event under MAG UK and that it was now registered with NE MAG. Neil Liversidge commented that the National Committee had no knowledge of this attempt and he asked for documentary evidence to be submitted to the Committee. If this was the case, this would be followed up.

### **11.2 Neil Liversidge Correspondence**

A query was directed to the Chair, A Hipkins (64), on whether agreement for MAG logo be used on correspondence from Neil Liversidge was sought to from the National Committee? Reference was made to correspondence sent to Yorkshire Newspapers from Neil Liversidge regarding an advertisement placed by Jane Lambert. Neil Liversidge responded that the MAP investigation was authorised at the Yorkshire meeting and was for record collating purposes only.

Aine Gale responded that representation on such as this should be made via the Regional Representative and NC channels; that this did not belong at AGC. She further stated that NC were aware that Neil Liversidge was continuing to gather information for the MAP investigation.

### **11.3 Cheques/Donations**

Western MAG presented a donation of £1.1K

North Eastern MAG presented a donation of £34K

### **11.4 Awards**

#### **Steve Tannock Teamwork Award:**

Presented to the Organising Committee of the Duk Dik Rally (proposer Eddie Garnier, Gloucester MAG).

#### **Richard Tegg Award:**

Presented to Neil Stevenson (Proposer Pete Walker, East Yorkshire MAG).

#### **Honorary Life Membership:**

Presented to Neil Stevenson, Dave Walker and Ron Gillard.

#### **Freedom Award**

Presented to Trevor Henning (Nominated by Ian Mutch).

#### **Certificate of Merit (Special Award)**

Presented to Gareth Edwards.

## **12. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING ADDRESS**

The Chairman gave her closing address and expressed thanks to all participants at the Annual General Conference. Special thanks were expressed to Yorkshire MAG for hosting the event.

### **12.1 Chairman's Award**

Aine Gale presented the Chairman's Award to Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire MAG.

The AGM closed at 1700 hrs.