



## MAG Annual Group Conference 9<sup>th</sup> April 2005 The Cattle Market Salisbury

Prior to the start of formal business the National Chairman Ian Moore asked the President Ian Mutch to say a few words in memory of Simon Millward who had been killed in a bike accident in Malawi while returning from his round the world bike ride.

Ian expressed the considerable loss that Simon's death represented to the riders rights movement by outlining some of Simons achievements since he had known him.

Ian had first got to know Simon's during his tenure as Regional Rep for the South West Region, where Simon's enthusiasm and commitment to riders' rights had made a tremendous contribution to the success of the region. Not content with success at regional level Simon had virtually single handedly been responsible for the foundation and running of FEMA for eight years to bring riders rights organisations across Europe together to combat European bureaucracy. Where his inimitable style and enthusiasm had won many MEPs over to the riders rights cause.

Then in 2000 Simon had set off on a once in a lifetime 18 month round the World bike trip. Not content with the hardships and demands of such a trip. He had used the trip as an opportunity to raise funds for the Flores Indonesia Health for all project, which on a daily basis now delivers primary healthcare by motorcycle to 50,000 people. Such was Simon's commitment to help those who have none of the opportunities that we take for granted that the trip had stretched to five years prior to being cut short by his tragic accident.

Simon's selfless commitment to riders' rights and humanitarian causes epitomised the best traditions of riders' rights movements and his loss would be keenly felt by all who had known him.

Ian then called on the conference to pay their respects in the traditional way by observing a minutes silence.

Ian Moore then welcomed those in attendance to the AGC and handed over the chair of the conference to the National Vice Chairman Ian Churchlow.

### **MAG (UK) Limited AGM**

1. Ian Moore indicated that it had been a very successful year for MAG with many positive aspects. Membership was increasing steadily after a period of decline and finances were also showing signs of improvement. He was greatly encouraged by the hard work and professional approach by National officers and members of the National Committee (NC).

2. Ian indicated that the accounts had been sent to Companies House and explained the Finance report distributed to attendees. While income had been down in 2004/2005 expenditure had also reduced and that as a result the deficit experienced last year had been minimised. Operating costs for the MAG stand had increased, but were under review by a contractor, while a loss of £5.5k from the MAG stall had been written off. Income from new MBNA cards had reduced due to reduced uptake, though MAG still benefited from a 1% royalty on outstanding balances. An article would be placed in Streetbiker explaining the benefits to MAG of the deal, though the value was expected to continue to decline.
3. Questions on the accounts were then invited from the floor.

The expenditure on contract staff was questioned, since this was believed to be expensive. It was pointed out that this was not the case when they were committed MAG members and savings well in excess of the cost had already been achieved, while further savings were expected.

Nich Brown asked what the state of the reserves was and was informed that there were sufficient funds in the bank to ensure that MAG could continue for 10 to 12 months, even without any additional income. Income was rising and finances were expected to be in surplus in 2005/2006. While income from the current insurance deal was reducing a new deal was under investigation which would be very attractive to members.

The question of how much money had been transferred from the fighting fund to the MAG foundation was asked. It was stated that very little money had been transferred, primarily when the MAG Foundation was being set up, but that the Foundation was now self-funding.

4. Questions to other Directors.

The question of why MAG insurance was not branded as MAG as promised was raised. Ian Moore indicated that we were aware of the problem and were discussing the matter with Motorcycle Direct, but that we were also negotiating with another company with regards to a much better deal for members.

5. Motion that Stanley Yule & Co. be re-appointed Auditors of MAG (UK) Ltd. Proposed Justine Travis, Seconded Ian Moore – Approved.
6. Election of Directors and Confirmation by Election of Director appointed since 2004 AGM.

Ian Moore indicated that at the last AGC the decision had been reached in principal to expand the Board of MAG UK from five to seven directors to overcome the problems associated with fewer co-opted directors. This emergency proposal would be placed before conference later in the proceedings. In the meantime it was proposed to elect the directors on block.

The following directors had been proposed and nominated as indicated in their manifestos.

Ian Moore, Ian Churchlow, Justine Travis, John Thomson, Gerard Livett, Jane Chisholm and John Mitchell.

**Carried**

7. Summing Up (Chairman of the Board of Directors)

Ian Moore declared that MAG UK was solvent and trading lawfully.

8. This concluded the business of the MAG UK Limited AGM.

**MAG Annual Group Conference**

**National Officers Reports**

1 MAG Foundation

Neil Stevenson presented a report on the MAG Foundation (MAGF), which since its inception in October 2003 has been putting in place the structure and funding to carry out its remit of performing independent research on Road Safety and Security issues affecting motorcyclists.

The results of MAG's surveys on Motorcycle crime had been presented at a seminar organised by the Foundation in September 2004, which dealt with security, motorcycle theft and the identification of stolen motorbikes and was very well received by the audience.

The Foundation was currently surveying councils on secure parking provision and performing research into Motorcycle Training, the costs associated with it and the benefits achieved. It was hoped that the results of this research would be available in approximately two months time.

While Neil admitted that the results from research carried out by the Foundation had taken some time to get going, it had been necessary to ensure that funding was in place to cover costs and employ assistance to avoid having people doubling up on MAG UK and MAGF work.

The funding was now in place and an addition person was being employed to apply for grants under Trevor Baird's direction.

John Hughes asked if VAT could be claimed back on events donating to the MAGF. Neil indicated that this would be the case for any events being run solely for the MAGF as it was a registered charity, but that it was important that the level of donations to the MAG UK fighting fund continued.

Currently thanks to bequests from two motorcyclists' estates that had wanted to donate to a charity which would benefit riders, the MAGF had two to three years funding in place.

Andy Meredith asked if the funding going to the Foundation had been at the expense of donations to the MAG UK fighting fund. Julie Stevenson indicated that with the exception of the proceeds of the Buell Raffle all the funds had been new money from sources which wouldn't have come to MAG.

## 2 National Network Communications Officer's (NNCO) report

Archi Hipkins advised that he had been co-opted into the NNCO role by the National Committee (NC) at their meeting in February in order to produce Network and improve communications within MAG.

He saw Network as key to restoring communications between all levels of MAG and publicising the activities, successes and difficulties faced. He stressed that it was important that Network should communicate what was happening within the Board, NC, Foundation, Regions and Groups to members and clubs and provide feedback from the members. It was primarily a publication aimed at providing topical and background information for groups and affiliated clubs and acting as a forum where members can participate in discussion and debate to the benefit of MAG as an organisation.

To this end he was conducting a revamp of the Network database held at MAG central to ensure that Network is being sent to all those who should receive it.

## 3 National Clubs Liaison Officer's (NCLO) report

Alan Wooley indicated that he had been contacting clubs with the aim of getting them to affiliate to MAG, but that while this was reasonable practical with National clubs, there was a need for regions and groups to assist with clubs in their region or local area. Club membership had remained fairly static over the past three years and a concerted effort was now being made to give presentations to clubs about the benefits of affiliating to MAG.

Paul Sykes from Gloucester MAG indicated that there were clubs in the area who could be persuaded to affiliate, but he was experiencing difficulties in obtaining club affiliation packs. Alan explained that the packs had recently been updated to take account of changes to rates and benefits and that the revamped packs should now be available at MAG central for those who require them.

Alan was asked if we had any visibility of the reasons clubs fail to renew. He was now reviewing the club membership lists to determine those which have not renewed and was asking those clubs who had not renewed why they had not renewed their affiliation.

John Mitchell said that within Kent, local groups had been raising the profile of MAG with bike clubs and were looking to help - with such events as the Pissed Indian Rally and as a consequence clubs in the area were becoming aware of the need to affiliate.

## 4 National Research Officer's report

Elaine Hardy outlined the research she had conducted for MAG indicating that surveys importance was becoming more and more apparent. The surveys on motorcycle crime as well as providing the data for input into the Foundation seminar also provided a profile of MAG members that showed their risk of accidents and theft to be low. These findings which be used to provide leverage to obtain low insurance premiums for MAG members.

Along with Trevor Baird, Elaine had analysed the MAIDS report, determining that many of the findings were ambiguous and open to interpretation. This critical review was important to prevent the report being accepted as definitive and enable any assumptions drawn be the EU and any resultant measures based on the report to be challenged.

The research into daytime running lights had also been analysed and challenged. Little or no evidence shows any significant safety benefits, though manufacturers have somewhat cynically used the pro DRL arguments to implement Automatic Headlights On saving an average of 59p at a cost to riders of choice and a 3% increase in fuel consumption.

Government information which can be flawed also needs to be challenged, for instance the figures for the increased risk of motorcyclists being involved in a fatal or serious accident of 20, 30 or 40 times that of car drivers so often quoted are very wrong.

Graham Hoose from North Herts, asked if research had been carried out to determine why people wouldn't join MAG. Elaine replied that a survey had recently been conducted among members, but that it was very much more difficult to survey non-members.

The rational behind the proposed bike ban in Paris was questioned. Elaine indicated that in any research the question of who is conducting the research and why has to be considered in order to determine any bias. For this reason it was important to look at other peoples research and evaluate their findings. Any research looking to justify the proposed bike ban in Paris appeared to be highly suspect and would be unlikely to take a balanced view of the contribution that PTW's make to transport in Paris.

### **Director of Public Affairs report**

Trevor said that it had been a good year for MAG with a positive outcome for riders from the Governmental Advisory Group on Motorcycling producing their final report. This report, while not shying away from the negative issues which detract from the promotion of motorcycling, was very supportive and made many suggestions and recommendations which would benefit riders. This is the culmination of considerable effort from MAG and their partners on the National Motorcycling Council (NMC) since 1997 and while some might believe that this had taken a long time to come to fruition, the reality was that this was quite a short time-scale for government. The challenge now would be to ensure the report's recommendations are implemented.

In Europe MAG continues to work with the twenty two plus riders rights organisations in FEMA to engage with the bureaucrats and counter unwelcome legislation such as air bags and leg protectors which still feature among possible "safety features". MAG has also been active in opposing some of the more ill thought out proposals contained in the "Third Driving License Directive" (3<sup>rd</sup> DLD).

Another aspect being investigated is what causes injuries to riders. Discounting injuries caused by collisions with other vehicles the single largest cause of injuries is inappropriate street furniture and poor crash barrier design. Currently bikes and bikers are not considered in crash barrier testing and MAG is working with the Highways Authority, MAG Netherlands and the Norwegian riders rights organisation to ensure that the crash barrier directive is amended to take account of rider's needs. With crash barriers regardless of which type is employed, the greatest danger to riders is from the upright posts. Consequently MAG are campaigning for additional protection to be fitted to create motorcycle friendly crash barriers.

With the date of the General Election having been announced MAG are launching our Bikers are Voters campaign on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April and all groups were urged to contact their prospective candidate to seek their views on motorcycling.

Other campaigns and lobbying activities being pursued are obtaining adequate funding from Government for the Bikesafe initiative. Getting a consistent and favourable position nationally for bikes in bus-lanes. Ensuring motorcycles are adequately catered for in the latest Local Transport Plans to help combat congestion and to make sure that motorcycles are exempt from road tolls and congestion charging. In this respect sustained and vociferous lobbying of Transport for London (TfL) has resulted in a change of position regarding tolls on the new London crossing, with TfL now saying that motorcycles will be exempt. MAG has also been actively supporting the Diesel Spills Kills campaign.

As Elaine had indicated there was a need to review road casualty statistics in order to provide a more balanced view and counter some of the more hysterical claims bandied about by our opponents. There is also a need to review and campaign for improved road safety education in schools and to change attitudes.

Murray Webb from Mid Lincs, asked what progress was being made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> DLD. Trevor was still awaiting feedback from our draft amendment.

The question on progress on the tinted visor issue was raised. Trevor said that the NMC had a concerted position in favour of allowing tinted visors, but that government had rejected these views. This issue will be raised again after the election and the campaign will be reviewed.

Rick Hulse asked what progress was being made on the Green lanes access issue. Trevor explained that owing to the volume of objections raised to DEFRA's proposal to ban mechanically propelled vehicles. DEFRA were struggling to respond and Sue Fitch was keeping MAG informed of any developments.

Owing to an unavoidable delay to the guest speaker, who was attending an accident. Ian Churchlow provided the audience with some light relief by getting members of the NC to describe the type of bike they would be and why, before continuing with business by asking Rick Hulse to give his address on NABD.

### **Address by Rick Hulse, Chairman of NABD**

Rick outlined some of the successes of 2004 and actions NABD were taking to assist riders in getting back on the road. In 2004 NABD had received donations totalling £160K, which had allowed them to carry out conversions on trikes and bikes and help 400 bikers back onto the road in 2004 alone. The total number of conversions carried out since NABD's foundation in 1991 now stands at over 5000.

During the year they had held discussions with Motability to try and get bikes and trikes accepted as legitimate vehicles under the Motability scheme, but despite initial assurances, Motability had reneged on providing bikes and trikes. As a consequence NABD were now looking to mirror the Motability scheme for bikes and trikes, but without the gravy train aspect of Motability.

NABD were also looking to set up the worlds first assessment centre for bikes and trikes and were confident of receiving full funding from the Department for Transport.

In summing up Rick said that 2004 had been a fabulous year for NABD and the relationship between NABD and MAG was better than ever. He hoped that the assistance being given with regards to the MAGF would go some way towards helping pay back MAG's help to NABD over the years.

The conference applauded NABD's efforts.

### **AGC Proposals**

#### Proposal 1

That the wording of sections 7 and 8 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

7.iiiA Regional representatives, their delegates or other duly elected person, elected by their regions.

7.vii To appoint any Regional representative (or equivalent) in an emergency or where it is not practicable to fill any vacancy by election at the group conference.

8.ii MAG members listed in the regions below shall decide the best structure for the effective management of their region, subject to approval by the National Committee. Each region shall elect a Regional Representative, or an officer to represent the region on the National Committee. No MAG member shall participate in elections for regional committee members in any region other than

that in which they reside. The National Committee shall determine any dispute as to the region in which a member is entitled to vote in an election.

8.iv Only regional representatives, or other duly elected persons, shall enjoy voting rights on National Committee business, (as distinct from board business) save where the Chair shall exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

Proposed by the National Committee.

The question of whether this amendment would allow a rota of representatives from a region to attend National Committee was raised. It was believed that this would not preclude attendance by different representatives from a region, providing they were duly elected to fulfil the role by their regional committee.

The question of NC confidentiality was raised. It was accepted that where a representative was reporting back to a regional committee by definition the members of the committee would be party to occasional items of a confidential nature, in these instances the rule of NC confidentiality would be extended to include the regional committee who should not disseminate this information further.

The reason for the amendment was queried. Derwen Hinds explained that the proposal had come about because Western Region had had problems with burnout of regional reps and that as a result, Western region had been run by committee to enable the workload to be shared. The proposal had been tabled to formalise this arrangement, remove the existing constraints on regional representation and enable other regions who had experience difficulty in electing regional reps to operate in a similar manner. In Western Region he had been elected to undertake the role of NC observer.

Concern was expressed that regions without a regional representative would not have the accountability that a regional representative has and that the NC would be weakened as a result. It was pointed out that this was also the case for regions that do not have a regional rep at present. Further ultimate responsibility within a region would lie with the Chairman of the regional committee.

It was argued that if this was the case then the regional committee chairman was, in all but name the regional rep. This was accepted with the proviso that some of the responsibilities and duties of the rep, such as attending NC, could be shared amongst the regional committee.

**The proposal was carried with 84 votes for and 13 votes against.**

With the arrival of the guest speaker the ACG proposals were interrupted to allow him to give his address to conference.

## **Guest Speaker**

### **Dr Brando Tamayo – British Association for Immediate Care (BASICs)**

Dr Tamayo described the work of the BASICs organisation, in Hampshire the charity works closely with the Ambulance service to ensure that doctors, can provide immediate care at the scene of serious accidents. In a typical year they attend approximately seven hundred accidents in Hampshire.

Since the charity equipped with bikes two to three years ago attendance at incidents is frequently available prior to the arrival of the ambulance, which may well be held up in traffic. This more rapid response frequently makes a significant contribution towards saving life and minimising the affects of trauma. Switching to bikes has also proved to be cost effective.

In addition to attendance at serious accidents the charity is also active in providing first aid and first on scene training courses to bikers, while they also provide courses in conjunction with the police Bikesafe assessments.

With a core team of doctors trained up to use their bikes the charity is now looking to extend the scope of cover available to paramedics and nurses.

In summing up Dr Tamayo said that the introduction of bikes had made a significant positive impact on the speed and level of coverage they have been able to give.

Dr Tamayo was thanked for taking the time from his busy schedule to give a most interesting talk to conference.

## **AGC Proposals (Continued)**

### Emergency Proposal

Ian Moore presented the emergency proposal, agreed in principal at the 2004 AGC, for ratification.

It was proposed that the wording of section 6 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

6.i The board of MAG UK Ltd. shall consist of not fewer than five and not more than seven directors.

**The proposal was carried**

### Proposal 2

That section 6 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:-

6.iv A simple majority shall decide all question, except as laid down below with regard to the dismissal of Directors, which shall require a minimum of at least half of the Directors, plus one, voting in favour.

6.v The Board shall be empowered, subject to at least half plus one, of its members voting in favour, to dismiss and replace with a candidate of its own choosing, any Director whose presence on the Board is deemed not to be in MAG's interests. Any such action shall be subject to ratification by the next NC meeting on a simple majority vote. Any replacement Director appointed by the Board shall be subject to election at the next AGC for a term expiring on the same date that the Director replaced would ordinarily have been due for re-election.

6.vii All Directors shall be elected for a four-year term.

Proposed by the National Committee.

An amendment requiring only a simple majority to vote off a director was proposed. The rationale for choosing the precise wording was explained as requiring four directors to dismiss a director when the board consists of five or six directors, or requiring five directors to dismiss a director when the board consists of seven directors. This had been chosen to ensure that in these circumstances dismissal would show a clear message from the Board. This was accepted and the amendment was withdrawn.

An amendment to the proposal was proposed by the NC to further amend section 6.vii to read:

6.vii All Directors shall be elected for a four-year term subject to at least one Director being elected at each AGC. Where necessary, the Director who was least recently elected will stand for re-election.

**This friendly amendment and the proposals were carried with a two-thirds majority.**

### **Election of National Officers**

National Chairman - Ian Moore membership no 97145

Proposed by Tony Cox membership no 114555  
Seconded by Andrew Meredith membership no 77250

National Finance Officer – Justine Travis membership no 97513

Proposed by Jane Chisholm membership no 106527  
Seconded by Ian Mutch membership no 003

National Clubs Liaison Officer – Alan Wooley membership no 112017

Proposed by Paul Turner membership no 116205  
Seconded by Alan Waldron membership no 113429

National Network Communications Officer – Archi Hipkins membership no 90809

Proposed by Robin Straughan membership no 103901

Seconded by Jim Coxon membership no

National Research Officer – Elaine Hardy membership no 116837

Proposed by Derwen Hinds membership no 75432

Seconded by Ian Moore membership no 97145

Directorship of MAG UK Ltd. – Gerard Livett membership no 92282

Proposed by Ian Mutch membership no 003

Seconded by Christine Harris membership no 92282

None of the above posts was opposed and all officers were elected.

### **President's Address**

Ian Mutch delivered the presidents address, indicating that he had been much heartened by the enthusiasm and dedication of members striving to put on events and runs for the benefit of riders across Britain. He had tried to use his bike to attend events to prove that he does actually ride a bike and had even ventured North to Scotland to attend the MAG Scotland Easter egg run. Years of navigational experience, a sudden lowering of the mist and horizontal rain told him he had arrived in Scotland. While he had long suspected that Scotland was in a different time zone, he was surprised to find that it was actually the case (The clocks went forward that weekend) non the less he was impressed with the turn out, despite poor weather.

Ian was pleased to report that MAG was winning many of its arguments and was a torch bearer for common sense and reality. Leading a growing swell of opinion that is counter to the unrealistic concept of zero risk the safety zealots espouse. Looking at the membership database Ian had been surprised to find that the average age of MAG members was now 45, though this probably explained why MAG now has so many influential and prominent members. These include Lembit Opik and the Bishop of Westminster and Ian was always pleased to be able to introduce them to the press as MAG members, much to their discomfort. This was always satisfying as for years the press has consistently belittled the riders' rights movement and particularly the role that MAG has played, though he sensed that this was starting to change.

This was among the many pointers that showed that MAG was making progress and he was confident in MAG's continued success in the future.

### **Open Forum**

Steve Newman gave a very detailed presentation on developments and advantages of two stroke engines which could be used to bolster two stroke

sales and reduce or rework government legislation so that two strokes are less severely affected.

Nich Brown indicated that new models were starting to be introduced by manufacturers with better emissions and a new generation of two strokes was starting to emerge. Government legislation was heavily influenced by the reports from Technical Committees and to change their advice would require influence from FEMA.

The conference voted in favour of MAG taking the necessary steps to bring this issue up with FEMA.

Andy Meredith indicated that there was a requirement to appoint a MAG webmaster and proposed that Graham Hoose from North Herts be asked to fulfil this role, this proposal was seconded by Trevor Baird. Graham indicated that he would be prepared to take on the role and conference endorsed his appointment.

Murray Webb from Mid Lincs, pointed out that while working the MAG stand he had received a barrage of complaints from people who had experienced delays in receiving their membership cards, there was also a problem with members not receiving renewal letters or receiving renewal letters late. Ian Moore explained that very often delays were due to the banks taking a long time to process banking details, while this was outside of MAG's control the situation with regards to reminders could be fixed and this would be put at the top of the agenda for the Board. Dave Elrick was also asked to investigate mail being sent from MAG UK as in the past instances of Post Office fraud had resulted in missing membership cards and Streetbikers. MAG would look to improve their processes, but could do little to address the failings of the Post Office, who are apparently allowed to lose up to 2.5% of mail.

Ian Moore talked on the life-members audit currently underway. He apologised to any members who had misinterpreted the letter sent out as meaning that a failure to respond would result in a lapse of membership, but pointed out that to date it had been a very successful exercise.

Of the 1150 members surveyed, 216 wanted to receive the improved membership card, which better reflects the value that MAG places on life members and introduction of the new card would now take place for those wishing it. 104 new standing orders had also been received, while 82 members had elected to no longer receive Streetbiker. The survey had also highlighted cases where Streetbiker was being sent to addresses that were no longer valid and to members who had died.

In total the exercise had so far resulted in savings and additional revenue of approximately £6K. Again he apologised for the letter, which in hindsight could have been worded better and stressed that a failure to reply would only result in a suspension of Streetbiker and not membership and that members could re-instate deliveries of Streetbiker at any time.

Jol from East Yorkshire MAG drew the conferences attention to the petition forms concerning tolls on the Humber Bridge and urged the conference to obtain signatures and return the completed forms in the envelopes provided.

A member questioned whether the Simon Milward memorial run would be an annual event or if a prize would be awarded in his memory. Ian Moore said that we would look into this, but in the meantime the South Eastern memorial run would take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> April in Kent.

### **Presentation of Donations**

The following donations were gratefully received.

West Midlands MAG - £2K from the proceeds of the Heart of England Rally

Middlesbrough MAG - £4K from the proceeds of the No1 Rally

Jim Coxon representing the Stormin committee - £35K from Stormin the Castle

### **Awards**

#### Steve Tannock Teamwork Award

To be awarded to the local group, region or other team of MAG members who, in the opinion of the National Committee, have made a significant joint contribution to the work of the group.

Awarded to the MAG Scotland Easter Egg run team of Norrie Taylor, Tina Taylor and Stuart Regan. For organising a run which now attracts up to 4000 riders, donates approximately £16K to the Yorkhill Foundation and involves clubs and individuals from across Scotland and other part of the UK, helping to raise MAG's profile in the Scottish press and across the riding community.

#### Freedom Award

To be awarded to the individual who, in the opinion of the National Committee, has made a sustained contribution to riders rights.

Awarded to Jim Coxon for his sterling work on the Stormin the Caste organising committee since 1999 and helping contribute many thousands of pounds to the MAG fighting Fund.

#### Richard Tegg Award

Awarded to the MAG member who, in the opinion of the National Committee, has made a sustained, significant and positive contribution to the work of the Group over a period of years at local level.

Awarded to Billy Simpson for his work over a period of nearly twenty years in support of The Farmyard Party, Into the Valley and the Yorkshire Pudding Rallies.

### Honorary Life Membership

Awarded in respect of significant work over a sustained period on behalf of the group.

Awarded to Brian Hodgeson for his efforts in building up and maintaining groups and membership in Cumbria.

### Certificate of Merit

Awarded to an individual who, in the opinion of the National Committee, has made a significant positive contribution to riders rights.

Awarded to Keith Buck for his determination to have two bike thieves prosecuted, despite significant victimisation and threats to his welfare.

### Life Time Achievement Award

Awarded to an individual who, in the opinion of the National Committee, has made a sustained, significant and positive contribution to riders rights over a period of years.

Awarded to Rick Hulse for his tireless efforts in NABD to get Bikers with a disability on the road.

### The Chairman's Award

Awarded by the National Chairman to a group or individual that has made a significant and otherwise unrecognised contribution to the work of the Group.

Awarded to Gerard Livett aka. Uncle Sol for his tremendous efforts and dedication on behalf of Greater London Region and MAG UK in discussions with Transport for London (TfL) and other London based bodies. The chairman indicated that this effort was all the more remarkable given that Sol had been suffering from a debilitating illness whilst undertaking these duties.

### **National Chairman's closing address**

Ian Moore said that MAG had had a very successful year and had turned the corner from a period of decline with membership and finances increasing, an improvement in retention of members and an improvement in press coverage with some cracking adverts in 100% biker and BSH.

He praised the contribution Trevor Baird has made on the political front, which he believed was now in a safe pair of hands.

He thanked John Thomson and his team for their efforts in hosting the AGC.

Finally he thanked those attending conference for making the effort to attend and helping make the conference a success and hoped that those staying on in Salisbury would enjoy the evenings entertainment.

Conference closed at 5.10 pm.