

FINAL

National Committee Attendance Sheet

National Committee Meeting				Date: 14/04/2018	
Surname	First Name	Initials	Region/Post	Present	Apologies
Armstrong	Michael	MA	Cumbria Rep		✓
Boyd	Martyn	MB	Contact for Northern Ireland		
Bridgwood	Alex	AB	Lincolnshire Rep	✓	
Brown	Colin	CB	Director Campaigns & Political Engagement / West Midlands Regional Rep	✓	
Carrott	Andy	AC	Vice Chair / Lincolnshire Deputy Rep / Director TMAGL	✓	
Carrott	Jane	JC	Minute Taker / National Reps Liaison	✓	
Churchlow	Ian	IC	Director TMAGL / NEL	✓	
Cox	Tony	TC	North West Rep / Director TMAGL		✓
Davison	Pete	PD	Director TMAGL		✓
Fawthrop	Tim	TF	Contact for Greater London		✓
Gale	Aine	AG	Network Editor		✓
Hughes	Bill	BH	North Wales Rep	✓	
Lavender	Selina	SL	Chair / Director Nice Employer Ltd / Director TMAGL	✓	
Legg	George	GL	National Web Research Officer / Western Region Rep	✓	
Lewis	Gareth	GarL	Thames Valley Rep		
Mallett	Steve	SM	South East Rep		✓
Manton	Richard	RM	Yorkshire Rep	✓	
McFadden	Phil	PM	South Wales Rep (acting)		✓
Mutch	Ian	IM	President / Editor "The Road"	✓	
Öpik	Lembit	LÖ	Director Comms & Public Affairs	✓	
Peregrine	Tim	TP	Southern Rep	✓	
Smith	Tracy	TS	South West Rep	✓	
Vacant			East Anglia Region		
Vacant			East Midlands Region		
Vacant			Eastern Region		
Vacant			Herts / Essex Region		
Vacant			Clubs Liaison Officer		
Wigham	Dave	DW	North East Rep	✓	
Wykes	Steve	SW	Scotland Rep / Director TMAGL	✓	
Atkins	Chris		Deputy for SM	✓	

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Motorcycle Action Group: National Committee Meeting
Date: April 14, 2018 Time 12.00 pm Venue: Wren Hall, CV35 7AF

1. Introduction:

SL thanked all for attending and dealt with housekeeping. She also noted a Point of Order, i.e. that Colin Brown (West Midlands RR) would no longer exercise his voting right in the interests of transparency now that he has been appointed Director Campaigns & Political Engagement.

All introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence:

Recorded on attached attendance sheet.

3. Appointments and resignations:

Colin Brown appointed to post of Director Campaigns & Political Engagement.

Michael Egerton stood down as Eastern Regional Rep. No replacement available.

Tony Cox (North West RR) and Dave Wigham (NE RR) both returned to post.

4. Adoption of NC agenda:

Adopted with revisions.

5. Ratification of previous NC Minutes:

i. Minutes of previous NC meeting.

To accept the February 2018 NC Minutes.

Proposed: Richard Manton; Seconded: Steve Wykes. Carried.

ii. Minute of any email votes taken between NC meetings.

None recorded.

Note: Several of the following items were taken out of order due to unforeseen circumstances.

Items 9. and 10. taken at this point in the meeting (see details below).

6. Matters arising from previous NC Minutes:

February 2018 Action Points were circulated, discussed and amended.

Item 8. Board report taken at this point in the meeting.

7. Campaigns/Priorities:

NC report of the Political Unit

This version: 2018 04 03

Here's a summary of a number of projects the Political Unit has been working on since the February 2018 meeting. As always, the letter denotes the category of the priority and the number gives a rough guide to its level of priority within each category. Some items are not included, as there's nothing sufficiently major to report, which is why the numbering jumps forward in some places.

At the end of the NC meeting we will establish the priorities for the next two months. The Political Unit now consists of Colin Brown (Director of Campaigns & Political Engagement) and Lembit Öpik (Director of Communications & Public Affairs) so the team is back to full strength.

A1 Clean Air Zones (CAZs)

CAZs represent the greatest threat to the internal combustion engine in the history of road transport. Emissions targets are being used to set limits on where powered vehicles may go, and we are in the firing line along with all other conventionally powered machines. MAG needs to decide what to do about this. The Political Unit proposes a choice between three options:

- 1 *Do nothing – in which case we will be banned together with all other users of private transport powered by the internal combustion engine (ICE).*
- 2 *Campaign for an exemption for powered two wheelers – which, at best, would give us a 'stay of execution,' meaning a little longer to abandon our ICE powered machines. At worst, it will do nothing and we will be banned along with the other vehicles at the same time. Lembit believes this latter scenario is more likely than the former.*
- 3 *Form an alliance with other ICE users facing prohibition and work together to campaign for parity of treatment with hybrid and all-electric machines. Note that electric vehicles are ecologically flawed and we can mount an effective campaign by highlighting the scientific inconsistencies in the current policy agenda. Ultimately, this could lead to a court case based on discrimination.*

The Political Unit recommends Option 3. We recognise others propose Option 2. We would like the NC to determine which option is to be pursued – or to provide a fourth option for us to follow. Dozens of local authorities are already adopting the CAZ model, and the list of local authorities is likely to expand very quickly. We need to act - or be prepared to accept the risk of being banned.

- Colin is trying to influence Transport for West Midlands to use the Northampton model for West Midlands. This model recognises the modal shift benefits of powered two wheelers for congestion and pollution.
- We continue to seek data on emissions for like-for-like journeys on PTWs versus other modes to make a coherent assessment of this.
- The CAZ policy document is ready and available to NC.
- Colin is overseeing the comprehensive list of the areas at risk of CAZ implementation – and he's identifying the policy towards powered two wheelers in these areas, now totalling 60 local authorities since the 3rd legal ruling in March.
- London is a leading location for our campaigning work regarding the CAZ threat, with motorcycles and other road vehicles set to be banned in Islington – where Bike Shed is based – from July 2018.
- We now have data on the environmental damage electric cars create, but we need more and this is a priority for our research.
- Lembit has spoken with Tony Cox about shortcomings relating to catalytic converters, which are compromised in traffic and at low speeds due to the burn temperature in the engine.
- We are planning to create a leaflet to send to all MPs about the issue, with a cover note from the MAG Chair. Michael Armstrong will test the leaflet with his regional MPs who aren't yet MAG members.

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- We are appealing to members to write to MPs to challenge CAZs – and also to councils which tend to be leading on this. This needs to be assessed in the light of what the NC decides on the issue.

A2 Crime and Home Office interface

16,000 motorcycles were stolen in London alone last year. We Ride London held a successful demonstration in March, and there is a lot of energy for getting solid action from the authorities on the crime epidemic.

- Colin is leading our work on crime, with Tim Fawthrop heading up matters in London. Steve Bolton continues to contribute too.
- Colin has been in touch with the Home Office to agree our involvement on the Home Office Round Table 'working groups.' It looks like we'll have to take quite a proactive approach in this regard, which Colin will explain at the meeting.
- Colin is also engaging with Tony Campbell (MCIA) and Craig Carey Clinch regarding the creation of a shared policy position, bearing in mind the industry's frustration at being blamed for not doing enough to tackle the problem.
- As previously mentioned, Keith Prince (GLA) suggested a crime phone number and we can pursue this when Tim meets Keith again, which both have agreed to do.
- Colin is trialling a security awareness event in the West Midlands as a template that can be repeated in all crime hotspot areas in the UK. This will be run in partnership with police forces giving the opportunity for bikers to air their concerns directly to the police, and promote MAG's work and initiatives locally and nationally
- Colin is also exploring corporate membership/member benefit deals with selected potential partners that relate to the crime issue.

A3 Cradle to grave analysis

In keeping with the need for solid data on the true effect of different vehicles upon the environment, we're finishing up the work we started last year on this definitive analysis of emissions from building, operating and disposing of different vehicles.

- Colin is assessing the data we've got so far and the work we must now do to complete it. He met with MCIA in Coventry, which had only limited use – we'll have to generate the answers for ourselves.
- Colin will finish this up with Alex Bridgwood.
- Success is to prove that motorcycles produce less pollution than vehicles which are proposed to be exempt from the charges in London, and therefore potentially elsewhere. This could prove very important should we take the matter to Parliament or court.

A4 PRs and media

Colin's arrival has increased the news output because there's even more to report now. We always welcome suggestions for PRs – so please do suggest them, using the letters 'PR' as part of your email's title.

- We're generating PRs on a regular basis.
- Lembit visited The Editor of The Road in March to finish up the campaigns and some other pages. It's set to be a great edition.
- Subjects for PRs include: ULEZ; Clean Air Zones.
- Colin attended crime event in the North and generated a PR for that.

A5 Consultations

There's a continuous flow of consultations local and nationally. We've found an efficient way of keeping up to speed with them, and Colin has already made his first submission to a London consultation. George Legg is a fantastic asset in keeping tabs on what's coming through the consultation pipeline.

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- Lembit is meeting Iain Stewart MP, who's heading up a Prime Minister approved project involving Oxford and Cambridge on hi-tech, part of which relates to transport. Both risk banning vehicles from the centre of their cities and Lembit expects to clarify the Government's perspective on this sort of initiative. This meeting is on 18th April 2018. Lembit will then ask for a meeting with the Oxford Council proposers of the traffic ban. Gareth in Reading will also be involved in this.
- The latest ULEZ submission was submitted by 27th February 2018, as scheduled. This is on-going work and they don't seem to be listening but the fact we've made our submissions clearly and with data may become very important as matters progress towards a potential legal challenge.
- MCIA and MAG are in regular talks about the TfL position on charging.
- Following talks with Tony Cox, we're assessing the case for submitting some Parliamentary Questions regarding low speed vehicle operations and Euro 6 emissions levels, as the technology may not be effective in those conditions. That means these 'ULEZ exempt' vehicles could be pumping out more emissions than non-exempt ones.
- Some superfast research work by Colin/Lembit meant we got a MAG submission to the 'London Draft Plan' in record speed.

A6 GLA

Our relationship with the GLA Transport Committee is strong and stable. Its Chair, Keith Prince, is a good ally to MAG's agenda and he has arranged to meet the Mayor to discuss matters of concern to MAG.

- Colin is organising a MAG reception at London City Hall, hosted by Keith Prince. The theme is access to bus lanes (so we'll be inviting representatives from the London Boroughs) and also ULEZ charging and our concern for PTWs (so we're inviting the relevant individuals from the GLA and TfL). We'll be seeking sponsors, including businesses, MCIA. Lembit is working on the costs.
- MAG arranged for the MCIA to share its Motorcycle Framework – which MAG endorses - with Keith Prince. This meeting occurred on 29th March 2018 and appears to have gone very well. This helps to solidify the shared messages on biking in a wholly constructive manner.
- Tim Fawthrop and Colin are managing the 21st April Demo. One option for the demo is the '1 for 1' policy of showing how, if we're paying like cars, we'll take up a car space each. Other options for further demonstrations include wearing helmets on Public Transport and calculating the miniscule emissions created by the demo itself.
- We Ride London had a well reported demo in March, but it's likely the demonstration path will be primarily the responsibility of MAG from now on. We Ride London said that, from here on they will support MAG events and they'll focus on writing campaigns instead.

A7 Parliamentary Reception

Stephen Timms MP has offered to host a MAG reception in Parliament about motorcycle crime. This is a big issue for the Home Office and we're likely to secure a Minister to speak at the event too.

- Colin is leading on organising the reception and timetable for the MAG reception in British Parliament, hosted by Mr Timms MP. The focus will be biker victims of crime, public victims of crime and how to reduce these effects. We are considering whether to combine this with a lobby of Parliament.
- We're seeking sponsors to address cost of reception. Squire, MCIA and MCRG are all options. Lembit is finding out the costings via Parliamentary estate. The target reception date is June or July 2018 – and if that's not feasible as soon as possible after that.

A8 Membership Drive Amongst Politicians

Lembit is pursuing the signing up process. The aim is to maintain a steady strain in recruitment. Lembit has submitted a feature on new member Keith Prince in The Road which is available at the NC meeting.

A10 Potholes and manhole covers

Lembit has been assisting those who are contacting their local authorities about road surfaces. We've also raised this as an agenda item at the Highways England meetings.

- The Political Unit has been working with Tim Peregrine in his area to see if we can get action by the local authority regarding slippery manhole covers. We've also made contact with Preformed Markings to ensure we've still got a favourable financial relationship with them when we direct business in their direction.
- We're keen to roll out an action plan to engage with local authorities and utility firms on the matter and seek a lead activist to progress this campaign.

B2 Radio profile

A lot of members have been on the radio recently, including Tim Fawthrop, Steve Mallett and others.

- We continue to encourage activists to promote MAG on radio phone-ins.
- We're creating a simple 'how-to-get-on-air' guide for activists and are happy to provide a short media training session for members.

B4 VMCC

Lembit has repeatedly contacted VMCC, and is hoping to meet them at the Classic Bike Show on the weekend of 21st-22nd April.

- We need to confirm who'll attend the VMCC meeting. If the group is represented at the show, Lembit might be able to do it there. Otherwise, it is likely to be handled by The President, Colin or another individual such as Steve Mallett.

B6 Highways England

There's a full write up of the most recent developments at the most recent Highways England meeting in The Road.

- Lembit and Colin attended the meeting on 13th March 2018.
- The next one is 17th April. Lembit will attend.

B3 Events

Colin and Lembit are sharing the events attendance portfolio effectively.

- Lembit attended the Event City show in Manchester: 23-24 March 2018.
- Lembit will attend the Classic bike show: 21st April.

C2 ULEZ Action Day April 2018

The London MAG group is organising a major demo on 21st April 2018 in London, entitled, 'Motorcycle Matters.'

- Tim Fawthrop is leading on this with support from Colin Brown.
- Speakers are being organised, and the President as well as the Chair are expected to address the demo. MPs are also being invited.

C4 PACTS

Lembit attended PACTS meetings, 8th March in Parliament. Some useful info was available there. It's a safety orientated committee, and we get to see the thinking of the authorities by attending.

C5 Silvertown Tunnel

MAG awaits the decision on charging for the proposed new Silvertown crossing of the Thames. This is expected in May 2018, and will have great importance regarding whether motorbikes are charged or not. MAG submitted a comprehensive case opposing such a charge and we await the verdict of the Department for Transport.

Lembit Öpik & Colin Brown

Motorcycle Action Group

CB opened his report to the meeting by noting that Clean air Zones (CAZs) are a big threat to motorcycling, with many proposed and some already approved. There will be two types: charged and uncharged and the number of Zones mandated so far has reached 62.

London's ULEZ is going ahead with no progress in engaging with TfL, who are not listening. MCI is not on board with fighting this issue, although it acknowledges that "MAG is right but this ship has sailed".

The cradle-to-grave vehicle analysis is ongoing.

We have reached a point in respect to the internal combustion engine (ICE) where we have to decide on the way forward: do nothing, go it alone, work with others, or some other way.

AC noted that if MAG was to align with other organisations it would have to be selective. RM felt it is a single-track vehicle issue that should not be diluted. TP agreed but felt it may be appropriate to work with other, similarly-minded organisations. AC said that the issue is about protected personal transport delivery, whatever that might be. Following further discussion, JC provided wording for a motion on the way forward:

To robustly promote powered single-track vehicles as part of the solution to transport congestion and environmental issues. In addition, to consider strategic alliances with other organisations where their mission complements MAG's brief.

Proposed: Richard Manton; Seconded: Steve Wykes. Carried.

CB then reported that response to an FOI request to all Police forces has been "patchy". In addition, Bikesure has provided some information based on insurance claims, which is useful as a guide but cannot be used as official statistics.

Following Hull force's Operation Yellow Fin, it is clear that forces are not sharing best practice, highlighting the importance of engaging with as many forces as possible, as the approach among forces is inconsistent.

Negotiations are in progress with Crime Stoppers regarding the "MAG Protected" scheme and it is hoped to offer a package.

Consultations and parliamentary receptions are ongoing. Problems with potholes and manhole covers are ongoing and should be reported to the relevant Councils.

CB noted that it is easy to raise profile via radio by ringing in to shows.

Road structure planning has been shown to consider PTWs in exactly the same way as cars.

The April 21st "Motorcycles Matter" demonstration in London was described as an "ambitious project".

A decision regarding the Silvertown Tunnel project is pending.

8. Board meeting report (including FEMA):

Apologies received from TC and PD.
No appointments or resignations.
Minutes of previous meeting accepted.
Action Point: AC added as Director.
Clubs pack nears completion.
Training feedback to follow.
Report from JS.

(IM, IC and LÖ leave the meeting)

A contra-deal in respect of The Scottish Show has been approved.
There is no movement in respect to IT matters and the website.
IC attended FEMA, and also gave a presentation about GDPR.
Vision Zero is on the FEMA agenda.
The Foundation held an AGM in February and new Trustees have been registered apart from Debz Rose.
The Lock2Lock campaign is moving forward and the Foundation is working on this.
IM has been tasked with finding a Director for MAG Media.
There are no issues for NEL.
The political team priorities were clarified.
There are potential member benefits in the pipeline.
The deadline for GDPR is approaching and the database is being brought into line with new regulations and there may be a requirement for separate insurance for this. Old membership lists must be destroyed.
A new Theft campaign sticker for members has been introduced.
CB, LÖ and JS to plan and execute a resource library.
The political team gave a report.

9. Forthcoming events:

A number of events were noted.

10. Requests for AGM Observers:

Duly requested and arranged.

11. Reports (circulated on email list prior to meeting):

i. Regional Reps

The following points were noted in addition to circulated reports:

Western: reference to MAD Hatters in regional report should read MAG Hatters.

Yorkshire: The Combined Authorities Bikes in Buslanes trial is a waiting game.

Southern: The proposed Stonehenge Tunnel may well have implications for motorcyclists and the TRF is involved.

British Independent Islands: (vacant)

No report available.

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Cumbria: Michael Armstrong

Whitehaven MAG.

Meetings are going well.

Group's AGM was held late January. No change in officers but one new one, Colin Hemming elected as Whitehaven MAG Political Officer.

Easter Egg Run was held on the 25th March; Sarah Robinson (journalist) came on the run with Trudy Harrison MP and Sue Hayman MP. Good turnout of approx. 140 motorbikes

Furness MAG.

Piel Island party organised for the 14th of April. (group camping social event)

Dead End Rally being organised for July, Myself and John Marsden Group Political Officer have sent out invites to local MP's and County Councillors. The group has also bought National MAG merchandise for re-sale at the rally.

Andy Cochrane (local member) joined The Daft Way Up crew up to John O'Groats.

RR Report.

Send NC emails to Furness/Whitehaven MAG.

Attended as many Whitehaven MAG meetings as possible.

Local MP's invited for the Easter Egg Run and The Dead End Rally.

Received a written request for a motorcyclist's point of view on the Major Road Network Consultation.

This was posted on Facebook as well as other topic to debate prior the Easter Egg Run.

Sent out the three questions posed by Lembit and Colin on the ULEZ for London to the local MP's and encouraged other Cumbria MAG members to do the same.

East Anglia: (vacant)

No report available.

Eastern: (vacant)

No report available.

East Midlands: (vacant)

No report available.

Greater London: Tim Fawthrop

Secured a stand at the Excel bike show, with the help of Steve Mallet and other volunteers we managed to put together a great presence. We signed up and renewed nearly 30 people, but the focus was trying to get people to go online and fill in the TfL consultation on the ULEZ extension because it affects everybody.

Saturday unable to attend the NC and submitted my report.

Organised and led the Fred Hill run after helping Peter who had a stand at their Motorcycle Awareness Day (MAD) event, organised some photos for the road and talked to Bike Safe etc, Attended MAG at the Bikeshed, this venue is ticking along nicely and depending on the weather can have anything between 2 and 15 people attending.

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Set up the stand at the show followed by three days on the stand with a great bunch of GL MAG and South East region volunteers. Steve Mallet helped me set up the Stand on the Thursday we had a good group supporting us at the show and we managed to sign up quite a few new and returning members. Arranged for the sofa to be collected by British Heart foundation, they raised about £80 reselling it. Attended MAG Mondays at the Ace, the first one of our campaign MAG Mondays, we've changed it from the third Thursday to the third Monday. This was Peter's idea and it seems to be working great. The attendance at this venue seems to be a bit hit and miss, we will have to try and raise the attendance in some way.

We have had a meeting at our new venue the Iron Horse Sidcup; I wasn't able to attend due to work. Peter has organised this venue and he reported that the attendance was good for a first night. Steve Mallet is supporting GL MAG in lots of ways and has attended both nights at this branch.

Spent a lot of time on the #MotorcyclesMatter ride.

I spend about a couple of hours a day on social media every month.

Attended a meeting with Westminster council regarding motorcycle safety on accident rates for PTW's in the borough of Westminster. Started planning the routes for the #MotorcycleMatters ride and filled in various council forms for permission to hold parts of the ride in the selected venues. Started promoting the event, unfortunately this went pear shaped because I got knock backs at Hyde Park and Burgess Park. Still it's all a learning curve.

Appeared on Radio talking about bike theft and managed to get the subject on to ULEZ and pollution. Was asked if I would come back and talk about the pollution, ULEZ and motorcycling, I'm still awaiting the invite from the shows presenter (Lembit something or other).

More work done on the ride.

Had meetings with both Lembit and Colin, these covered everything from City of London to bike theft. Colin has produced a few fine videos for the ride and campaign which have been posted to YouTube. Returned the Stuff we borrowed for the bike show to head office and finally met Julie and Carol. They have been giving me great support every time I talk to them.

Attended the branch meeting at The Bikeshed, another lively meeting and new members have turned up to this great location.

The Ace meeting was cancelled due to the weather, Minus 4 at teatime. The Iron Horse was very well attended; Peter has done a fantastic job setting this up. Steve Mallet and a couple of his regions members came along to support the meeting. Peter is looking for a venue in the South West, preferably somewhere near the Junction of the A3 and South Circular for the first Monday of the Month, and then we will have a meeting every Monday of the Month, the fifth Month will be a social event. Monday 30th April 2018 will be at a restaurant in Dorking that yet again Peter is organising.

We are still looking for a regional treasurer and secretary; we are also trying to get a branch rep for each of the branches we have so that Peter and I eventually will not have to cover them all the time. John Jacques has taken on the role as auditor for the AGM.

I have been distributing flyers with gay abandon at all the shops and garages when I travel down the road.

Lembit and Phil Hobden and I had a meeting to sort out a plan for the upcoming meeting with the City of London. They are working on a 25 year Transport Strategy; they plan to publish this in July. Phil has produced a presentation for them and when it's finalised I will post to the NC.

Greater London MAG as a messenger group called MAG activists! The members of this group planned and executed the Twitter campaign; this was for its size very successful. They are constantly posting to Twitter, Facebook and emailing. We have had some great help and suggestions from Anton and hope that he keeps this up.

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Lembit has helped us secure Keith Prince AM and Stephen Pound MP to speak at the end of the ride. There is still a bit to do for the ride and I'm slowly getting through the list, and thinking of new things as well. Next year's ride will be easier. We plan on repeating this on the 6th April 2019, 2 days before the London Bike Tax comes in on the start date of the 8th.

The region managed to raise some money from raffles we hold at each meeting, donations and the raffle we had at the AGM, we have spent all this money on flyers etc. We hope to have some merchandise to sell for the ride. We would like people to have whistles which we would like to sell; this we hope will encourage a more carnival atmosphere and not have people revving their engines.

Herts & Essex: (vacant)

No report available.

Lincolnshire: Alex Bridgwood

Lincolnshire Region is still relatively quiet so nothing to report this time. Lincoln MAG is still keeping contact with Lincoln City Council regarding the official opening of the new multi-storey car park.

Work is still progressing, albeit slowly, on the cradle to grave analysis. I have worked on more of the figures since the last meeting but had a lot on work wise since so little chance to put much work or research into it. I have a basis to go off now and know what other information is required to go forward so will start to source places for this information in due course.

North East: Dave Wigham

The AGM was held and the usual bunch stepped up again. We have had a change of treasurer as Greg was becoming overloaded and needed to give something up.

We're now planning for supporting the Yorkshire and North East events.

Our Durham City one day happening, Durham City Custom and Classic show is coming together and we've just had a very productive meeting with the Durham Markets people. To bring in outside expertise I recruited Jen from the Stormin committee as she has worked professionally with the Durham City people in her previous employment.

As part of the Master Plan we have now been asked by two other Northern Cities to do exactly the same event in their city. For 2018 I've turned one down as we need to sort the Durham show before rolling it out at another venue and we're talking to the people who want us to do the other event. So in 2019 there may be three of these events.

Politically we're trying to support the Humberside demo. Since the reinvention of the North Eastern Combined Authority we're still trying to get to grips with the new departments and structures.

Northern Ireland: Martyn Boyd

No report submitted.

North Wales: Bill Hughes

Still looking for a way of overcoming the usual apathy among the PTW-ers of North Wales and trying to convince them that simply paying a membership, although important, is not the end of the road and my job would be so much easier if there was more involvement.

Although Flintshire CC were supposed to be improving Holywell car park with more designated motorcycle spaces with security provision, nothing has happened yet and Anthony Stamford, Flintshire CC, appears to be avoiding me for some reason. I WILL get him.

The Pub where Abergele MAG Group meets has changed hands and will not be open on a Tuesday night so the monthly meeting has had to be moved to the last Thursday of the month. The new landlord, however, is enthusiastic about the bike show and plans are progressing well. Band booked, trophies ordered and interest is encouraging.

Was talking to a biker from Bala a few weeks ago, who was telling me that a new bike club started up there about 6 months ago. It is a nice ride to Bala, so when the nights pull out a bit more, I will be taking a ride over there and see if there is any enthusiasm there for MAG and if so, see if we can get another group going there which would serve a different catchment area. We can but try.

North West: Tony Cox

9th February: Board meeting MAG Central

Attended the Board meeting, minutes will be available at www.mag-uk.org

10th February: MAG Foundation AGM

Rory Wilson, Finbar Coulson and myself held an AGM and discussed a number of different ideas, separate minutes available

10th February: NC Meeting, Wren Hall, Wroxley

Attended the MAG NC meeting, minutes will be available at www.mag-uk.org

11th February: Fred Hill Run, Blackburn Cathedral

The 14th Fred Hill run went well and despite the snow and freezing conditions we had a good turnout. I was suffering from a broken wrist and so rode shotgun with Bishop Michael in his warm & dry automobile.

11th February: NW AGM, Petre Arms, Whalley

A well-attended AGM and many thanks to Dave Wigham, NE Rep, for attending and witnessing proceedings. A few changes to the Regional Committee, separate minutes are available and will post on NW website when I get chance.

10th March: Ghostbikes Open Day, Preston

NW MAG was asked to assist with this event by providing parking assistance and general help at the launch of this new superstore in Preston for Ghostbikes who sell Motorcycling apparel. All of our efforts were well received and on the back of this developing relationship Ghostbikes have become MAG corporate members and taken out full page advertising in the Road for the remaining editions this year. I was asked to interview John McGuinness and Lee Johnson which worked very nicely as was able to include this dialogue in the TT special April Edition of the Road.

Manchester Bike Show, Event City, Trafford Park

This show goes from strength to strength and once again we had a prime spot in the premium hall due to doing a contra-deal with the event organisers. Memberships taken at the show were down on previous years but feedback from the office was that people had signed up on-line after the show stating visiting the MAG stand as their reason for joining. Made a great discovery at the show which Lembit will be able to give more details but basically, thanks to the work that Lembit did shortly after joining MAG, the

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change in legislation that prevented new drivers from riding a Trike on a car license was revoked for months after its introduction, but nobody was informed. We will certainly be informing folk now and putting it down to another MAG victory!

MAG Foundation

Lock 2 Lock labels have been designed, looking at quotes for manufacture. Hoping to re-launch the scheme for June edition of the Road. Deborah Rose and Phil McFadden are now also on board as trustees of the Foundation. There should be an update in the latest issue of the Road as to where we are at and where we are planning on going with the charity but to summarise, it was the energy and enthusiasm of Ian Williamson which kept the Foundation going in recent years. The Trustees are determined to honour Ian's memory, including ensuring that his efforts are built on.

National IT Matters

Still trying to work on the new website but not getting much time and it has dropped somewhat on my list of priorities. I am still keeping the old site up-to date as much as possible, and have found a way to include PayPal links onto the events page for those who do not have a regional web-site to host these links.

I am continuing to keep the National web-site up-to-date with the news items and meeting/contact details as well as the affiliated clubs page until the new site is ready for release

Other News and future events

- It is with great sadness that I have to report that my contact within Merseyside Police that I had been working with on a number of issues died quite suddenly of a brain tumour. I have yet to re-establish links with the force.
- I have spent a lot of time & effort pulling together advertising and content for the TT special which is included in the April Edition of The Road. We are having 700 extra copies printed for distribution across the IOM during the TT fortnight as the edition will be a few months old but still current. Hoping that it raises the MAG profile with the 100,000 spectators who visit the racing every year and we pick up lots of new members on the back of it!
- I have bought a large box trailer from my own funds to support the bike shows and rallies where custom bikes need transporting about. Worked a treat at the recent Manchester Bike Show.
- Busy promoting the 2nd Great North West Motorcycle Festival will be held at the Blackpool Winter Gardens again with much help required from NW MAG members, BH weekend August 25-26th.
- Red Rose MAG St George's Rock Knight on Saturday 28th April where I will be resident DJ.
- Blackpool MAG busy planning the 21st consecutive rally, last weekend in June, two weeks after the FYP this year so may hopefully get a few more from across the Pennines attending? Special rates on ticket price will be offered to FYP Marshalls.
- Morecambe MAG, Wirral MAG, Manchester MAG and Salford MAG still functioning, not heard back from Liverpool or Macclesfield MAG for a while and trying to get some feedback on group activities of late.
- Continuing to help produce and distribute the monthly NW Newsletter. Past issues can be viewed on the North-West MAG website. <http://north-west-region.mag-uk.org>

Scotland: Steve Wykes

Verbal report.

South East: Steve Mallett

A busy 2 months with various AGMs/ meetings, resignations and 'holes in dykes' needing plugging. Karen (Kaz) Baker resigned as both E Kent rep and Dep SE rep just 2 weeks after her own branch AGM. This also left us without a SE rally co-ordinator.

Kalona Simmons has stepped up to run East Kent for now.

I have co-opted Julian (JC) Quinton as SE Dep Rep.

SE Rally committee now headed up by self.

February

FINAL

8th Attended Brighton Branch meeting
11th Feb, N Kent and Greater London Fred Hill Rides
12th N Kent Branch Meeting
13th Gave a talk about to Royal Enfield OC at Luddesdown, Kent
15th Setting up MAG Stand at Excel
16th, Manning Excel MAG stand with 2 x N Kent members
18th E Kent Branch AGM, Barham
26th Attend/support Greater London MAG start up meeting in Sidcup

March

5th Spoke on Lembit's new late night radio show with GLA's Keith Prince, motorcycle safety in London/congestion /pollution etc.
8th Pothole day, N Kent members and associates rang Highways England about the state of the M2, specifically coast-bound adjacent to the 228 on and off ramps. Now classed as a priority. Other, local, roads, were repaired after our representations but within a few days the repairs had been washed out again due to substandard work.
12th N Kent Branch Meeting
20th Meet with SE Dep Rep (K Baker) @ Pluckley to discuss her resignation /handover of rally papers etc.
24th Magcrew Rally Committee meeting @ Hastings.. K Baker gave her official resignation speech and I took over running the rally.
26th Attend Greater London Sidcup Branch meeting with Chris Atkins, SE Treasurer. Take delivery of flyers for the April 21st London Demo.
27th Meeting with JC Quinton ref SE Dep Rep position and Rally PLI applications.
30th Guested on BBC radio Kent (Lembit's News review) and got in a good plug for the April 21st Demo.

April

2nd SE committee meeting+ meet with Tim Fawthrop @ the Oakdene cafe. Organise the distribution of London Demo flyers/ discuss the route of demo and test rides etc.
4th Attended branch meeting at Brighton to ensure branch 'on side' with rally situation.

N Kent AGM to be Mon 9th April and Chris Atkins to observe.

Southern: Tim Peregrine

Hampshire Road Safety Council Meetings

There are three of these held in the County, although core members or organisations are continuous, occasionally there are subtle changes at the meetings.

I attended the Central meeting with Richard from Portsmouth attending the Southern meeting. Generally a routine meeting however motorcycling came up a couple of times.

- The new Fire Safety officer informed the meeting he was a keen motorcyclist.
- Hampshire & Thames Valley Road Safety Police Sergeant told the meeting he is a keen rider and shared a couple of observations.
- When questioned by an older councillor on course of action when behind a Fire Engine in full motion, the meeting was told that their drivers are taught more roadcraft now compared to 2 years ago, so much more ability to read the roads.
- The Councillor chairing the meeting asked if I was aware of the issues raised by CANS. He was at the initial meeting of CANS. I was able to share that we attended the same meeting and remain in communication; however it was not a discussion for this meeting. Hampshire Police Sergeant was supportive of this stance. He had assisted us in contacting colleagues and CANS

Identified Consultations and raised with Members or appropriate Group Reps on:
M25 junction 10 to A3 Wisley Interchange consultation
Stonehenge Tunnel Consultation.

FINAL

There has been dialogue with TRF member about this as the proposal also impacts Rights of Ways and reassigning routes. In addition the routes, I am told, higher rates of incident. The TRF Member in contact has attended meeting with others that include, HE – A303 project manager, Councillors, etc.

Communities Against Noise and Speed (CANS).

Unable to attend meeting, however appears to be losing some steam. Concern is that once the better weather returns, local residents will again become more active. Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, a major target of the CANS Group, is under more local fire due to the cuts in Hampshire Police services, however recruiting for his own office and a Police and Crime Commissioner.

Preformed markings.

After meeting with HCC, who made a comment about the time and investment it took to recoat covers, Lembit passed me details and spoke to Mark with a view of connecting them. Mark talked through the process and how quickly recoating is done, with minimal impact to the traffic.

AGC Venue search

Ongoing search for AGC venue including Calshot activity Centre, who declined.

As a Region, we meet once a month at venues around the Region, so communication is usually quite effective. In the Region:

Basingstoke.

The Group are consistent in numbers and activity. Basingstoke Rep continues to be active in supporting Thames Valley Groups and ensuring "cross-border" relations.

The local Group are progressing with plans to play a major part in local annual Festival of Transport.

Portsmouth

The Group Rep attended the County's "South" Road Safety Council meeting, which is positive continuity with the City meeting.

Regional Deputy Rep attend Portsmouth Transport Liaison Group meeting.

The Group have positive social events and

Salisbury.

Whilst there are actual members, it is a struggle to see them at meetings. This is something that was very evident at the recent AGM.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing this, the Spring Surprise Show in the City Centre will not proceed due to a number of reasons, which includes the lack of commitment from personnel.

The Leader of the Council in Salisbury and a Council colleague visited the AGM to show commitment to the event and discuss how they are changing policies to enable events rather than hinder them.

The Group will be discussing plans to host a smaller event later in the year.

Involved in A303 Consultation.

Southampton.

The Group remains quite quiet, however plans for show and other events move forwards.

Moved Venue to a new location which is felt will see improved memberships.

Pursuing contacts in the Council regarding Clean Air Policy in the City.

Group Members very concerned about theft incidents in the City and how it is addressed.

Winchester.

The Group is very small and unfortunately lost one of their Members, however continue to meet and discuss MAG business and plan a small show in the summer.

Decided not to hold their own Show but the members will be supporting other Groups.

South Wales: Phil McFadden (acting)

FINAL

In a bloodless coup Phil has replaced Rory as acting Regional rep.

Rob recently arranged another Mods & Rockers Run, this time to a steam fair at Pembrey Country Park. Participants in the run paid a donation & were granted free entry to the show (Rob had pre-arranged this with the show organiser, who was happy to help as long as we provided marshals (several volunteers led by Alex Thompson of Brecon MAG)). A contingent from Aberystwyth MAG set up a ride so they could also attend. In total, monies raised amounted to £285 for MAG (towards the cost of this year's AGC) and £200 for the charity Autism Puzzles.

South Wales members continue to actively contribute with stands at various bike shows and at the road safety partnerships' "engagement days", which are seen by all parties as effective in reducing casualties. Uptake by riders in the several schemes in West Wales, including first aid/emergency practice for riders as well as Bikesafe & ERS, has been reducing, and so budgets to these is cut this year: the road safety forum has recognised that other road users are a major factor in incidents involving bikers and so has targeted them for extra training and other initiatives accordingly! Accident figures for bikes last year in Dyfed Powys were lower, with NO fatalities.

Another consequence of our loss of Ian Williamson is that we no longer have anyone as able and available to attend the Welsh national road safety meetings. We hope to address this in the near future. We also have a vacancy for membership secretary, as Simon Walsh has recently resigned due to starting his new business venture - a pub which used to host Cardiff MAG meetings, which also has ample camping space...

South West: Tracy Smith

A donation of £457.00 was made to Central by North Devon MAG.

The Groups are all pretty stable and consistent and have been supporting each other as ever. CORNWALL – After an EGM held purely to enable them to hold their overdue election they have a new Rep in the guise of Steve Dandy. All present at the meeting thanked Mike Baker for his vast number of years of holding the position. They are looking forward to their rally. Out of the same meeting came the possible birth of Mid Cornwall MAG

NORTH DEVON – They are keeping an eye on the activities of the Exeter Council with the possible congestion charging. In their continued social events they held their Come Dine With MAG event and raised £457 that they sent to MAG Ltd. They also had a fish and chip night at a local fish restaurant and joined Taunton MAG at the Beer and Curry night ND also hosted the Dafties on their first stop over on their epic fundraising ride. ND fed all the ride team and they were housed for the night at the Reps house. TAUNTON – A Beer and Curry night was enjoyed by a large group of Taunton members and a Daft Way Up sponsor form was passed round. Plans for the rally continue

EAST DORSET – ED has already been out with their stand and are promoting MAG in their area

WEST DORSET – Are involved with a Bike show and hope to promote MAG at the event

REGIONAL REP – We are due the next regional meeting on April 15th which will also be our regional AGM. I intend to take a large screen so that we can continue to utilise the training presentations. I have created one about VED to add to our library here too. I have asked the groups to get active and make contact with the Mayor of London with the questions raised by Lembit. I have emailed the Mayor with my own version.

I continue to post events on the national FB page. If anyone has a MAG event please send it as a message to the FB page (RRs can send it direct via email too) with a poster and any additional text required

I have responded to the Exeter consultation survey in ref to their potential clean air zones

Sadly we are unable to have a stand at the BMAD event this year as the expense was too great. We are looking into how we can reduce that and make it possible for next year.

FINAL

I attended Cornwall MAGs EGM and took part in the meeting. From that night we have a new group being created. Anna Matthews is spearheading the new groups rise and Mid Cornwall MAG is due to happen in June which will ensure that it is publicised as much as possible to the Cornwall members and will be in the Road too. They have started meeting and are promoting the launch etc.

Thames Valley: Gareth Lewis

No report submitted.

Western: George Legg

Most of the local groups are quiet at the moment. However Geoff Mills (Regional political Officer) working with Joe Thomas (Bristol RR) are working on the Bristol ULEZ, and Geoff is looking into the proposed Bath ULEZ. Geoff is also attending the West of England Partnership meetings.

We have just had our Regional Rally, the MAD Hatters rally, which suffered from rather wet weather, and we may just break even this year.

West Midlands: Colin Brown

This will be a very brief report as much of my personal work will be covered in the political team's reports, given my appointment to the role of Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement.

I am remaining as point of contact for the West Midlands Region until someone "volunteers" to take on the role

Working with Staffordshire Motorcycle Focus Group

My work as part of this initiative continues. Staffordshire road safety can demonstrate a 34.3% reduction in motorcycle collisions over the last 10 years, in comparison with the national average reduction of just 12.6%. This demonstrates that a great deal can be achieved when a level of funding is applied to the issue.

Secure Parking - Birmingham

Birmingham City Council's "trial" of secure PTW parking is getting closer. Latest information is that installation in 4 locations is hoped to happen in May.

Birmingham Clean Air Zone

A frustrating lack of progress in this area. The drawbridge has been raised and no communication happening at present.

Brum Demo

Planning work for the event is ongoing. Camping on the Saturday night for anyone wanting to travel from further afield is now a possibility. Details will be released soon.

Yorkshire: Richard Manton

Political officers Steve Bolton and Ian Whittaker have had meetings with Kirklees, Calderdale and Wakefield councils re secure motorcycle parking, bikes in bus lanes and pot holes.

Manny has met with Leeds City Council and secured more and better placed secure parking. An email has gone to leader of LCC for an update on bikes in bus lanes and we're awaiting a reply. If no suitable reply is forthcoming, MP's will be involved.

East Yorkshire – new rep Rob Emptage. Fred Hill run well attended on 11th Feb. Theft still high in Hull. There's a theft protest in Hull that is being promoted Yorkshire wide on Sunday 15th April.

FINAL

Huddersfield – Had a meeting with Kirklees council re pot holes. Held a “pie night”. Top box sale was postponed due to snow.

Leeds – Fred Hill run well attended on 11th Feb. Met with council to discuss secure parking and updated PTW parking map. Email sent to leader of LCC regarding bikes in bus lanes.

South Yorkshire – Meetings poorly attended but a campaign is allegedly happening to kick start the group.

Wakefield – Meetings with local council re – secure bike parking. Held post-Christmas auction and bingo night.

Scarborough MAG – dormant. Regular emails going out to request setting a new group up but no interest so far.

York MAG - dormant. Regular emails going out to request setting a new group up but no interest so far.

MAP (Yorkshire rallies) – all rally tickets are on sale at last year’s prices. Marshals needed at all events. Everything ticking along nicely.

ii. *Chair and Vice-Chair*

Chair:

Chair NC report Feb / Mar 2018

Attended

Staff meeting at Central (part of my NEL Director role)

Board & NC meetings

Thetford & District Motorcycle Club (they have now affiliated as a direct result of my visit)

In contact / worked with Julie & Carol (including sending letters to lapsed members prior to GDPR coming in) at Central, Tim F in London, Lembit & Colin.

Handed over some of the admin work on minutes and posting out Network (for not Internet members) to the office.

Created & updated Trollings list for Dropbox.

Vice Chair:

Mostly routine activities for me at the moment. I missed the February Board and NC meetings due to family problems. Work and home has been particularly busy so had little time to focus on anything but the day to day issues of the national Facebook page, PR team work, plus NC and Board emails. Facebook messages have included a band asking for work, a request to promote a survey, a suggestion we market trackers for motorcycles, plus requests for advice in respect to accidents and prosecutions.

My latest article in South East Biker has managed to get MAG a mention in the editorial so raising our profile in that edition. I have contributed to the new clubs pack and assisted in proofing an article for The Road.

iii. *National Reps’ Liaison Officer*

Ongoing:

Work on building a procedure manual for hosting AGC remains close to draft stage, and will be picked up again soon.

FINAL

Continue to support Regional Reps with welcomes, provision of information and general support. In addition, have provided guidance to Reps and Central regarding a couple of queries brought up by members.

Continue to support Chair/Vice Chair with admin tasks.

Provide final proofing support to the PR team.

Also provide proofing/editing to key documents.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the February 2018 NC Meeting due to a death in the family.

Looking ahead:

Work on Version 2 of Reps' Handbook, which will include more information and guidance in respect to matters I.T. related.

Develop an induction process for new officers. Hopefully this will be moving up the priorities list going forward in 2018.

iv. *National Clubs Officer (vacant)*

No report available.

v. *National Web-based Research Officer*

Continuing to research stuff for Network and the NC.

vi. *Network Officer*

Short as usual. Not much to say other than going along nicely.

vii. *Executive Officer*

Nice Employer Ltd and The Motorcycle Action Group Limited Report, Julie Sperling Executive Officer.

Updates

Offices – Main door would not close and was struggling to open with all the wet weather we've had. Site Manager John took a look and planed some wood off where it was sticking, it is better but not perfect. John will return and take the door off as the main problem is on the bottom currently waiting for a dry day. Two radiators were not working, the thermostatic valves had jammed, and both are now working. I will ensure that they are inspected when the boiler is serviced next.

IT – No progression on RR database access for reporting at this point. Leslie has unfortunately had other priorities which has delayed this and he has confirmed that he will complete this task ASAP. New back-up drives have been purchased and are working well. Facebook old sites for MAG groups that are no longer functioning have been requested to be removed, I do not believe that this has happened as yet. Colin has now been set up on the office PC, access to the office server externally is being organised via a VPN. We have had to purchase a laptop to allow this as Colin's was not quite up to the office level especially regarding security.

FINAL

MAG Foundation – AGM prior to last NC meeting, new Trustees elected. They are currently working on relaunching the Lock to lock campaign and have started a column in The ROAD to communicate to members.

Staff – Carol is up to date and continues to perform to a high standard. Colin joined the team on 1st March, the first day of heavy snow in the Midlands, so was unable to physically come to the office. But that did not stop the work that he started on. This is having a positive effect on Lembit and he feels more so supported. Lembit and Colin are working well as a team and showing positive moves forward in terms of priorities. They are complimenting each other's work and has been a seamless transition. ***

Lembit agreed to the flexible working hours suggested so to allow him to visit his family in Bulgaria monthly. ***

Appraisals have not taken place as yet but will during April/May. This allows for the new flexible terms for Lembit to settle in and does not add any pressure workload wise.

Lembit, Colin and I meet formerly on a bi-weekly basis and I am in contact as needed by each.

The Employee Handbook this is under review, I have not been able to progress this further as there have been other priorities. ***

SMART Pension continues to work simply and easily. We cannot now offer the pension on our previous terms of employment i.e. after 6 months employment with us. It can be postponed for a maximum period of three months for each new employee but they can choose to opt in straight away. This would then start from the following month after opting in. Colin has decided to opt in therefore Employer contributions start from 1st April. I have now set this up as our normal terms and will amend the handbook/contract if necessary.

Sub-Contractors contracts – No change.

My role – I continue to be busy and workload just about manageable. There are a fair few campaigns at the organisation stage and will improve once launched. I have started to audit groups/regions for constitution purposes to ensure groups/regions are operating within the model rules, this was after Jane Carrott had asked for some specific information. This is now with Jane which will help her to complete her tasks. I will follow up regarding some missing details and/or paperwork. I have started to write office procedures down on a task by task basis. *** GDPR compliance is progressing forward with the main hold up being the integration of the database and the email lists. I will complete a basic online GDPR training course (Ian C and Carol to also complete) and will look at the Data Protection Officers course as soon as it can be fitted in, these courses are very costly at the current time for obvious reasons.

Health & Safety – office temperature was low due to two radiators not working, resolved very quickly as thermostatic radiator valves were stuck closed. Front door sticking, issue in case of emergency, temporary fix but will be sorted properly in dry weather.

MAG Member Benefits

MAG Legal helpline – SorryMate wish to have full back page advert in The ROAD. Leaflets to be discussed again.

Bikesure/Go Compare – Annual review booked 16th April.

*** Denotes redacted text

viii. Finance and membership figures

SL highlighted a 35% increase but will obtain clarification on the figures from JS.

FINAL

AC noted that the Office and the Directors are “very prudent” with funds and cash flow.

(DW leaves the meeting)

ix. Contractors

Another fun issue of the mag has gone to bed with some stonking content. The second half of Leeds MAG's travels in Germany is in this one.

I made North Devon's Fred Hill run this year having just got the bike MOTd in the nick of time. You'll notice in my column that I don't like getting cold, actually I never have done but these days I find it just miserable to a degree that is totally unacceptable. Nonetheless I valiantly rode up onto Dartmoor slicing around the bends of the winding narrow roads like an Olympic bobsleigh champion. Some critics may have recorded slightly different impressions but the truth will out.

The following week saw me back at the sphinx plinth in Barnstaple for a MAG fund raising dinner that was a truly wonderful affair of gastric joy that raised loads of money for MAG. I guess it's time I hosted another such dinner myself.

Got a letter of criticism on the last issue being too London centric which I guess it was on the news front with ULEZ and crime being such a big deal at the moment. I think it's a little less so this time.

You'll find the return of Kevin William's road safety articles in this one that I am really pleased about as I always found his articles to be very sensible and on message with MAG's ideology.

Bit of a squeeze getting everything in and I had to axe a page of jokes late on in the schedule as Tony has managed to sell a full page ad for the whole year ahead which is brill. I made an executive decision about the cost of this which is way below card rate but given how hard it is to sell ads into print magazines these days I felt it was the right thing to do as I want the advertiser, Ghost Bikes, to feel he is getting a good deal and so takes more ads.

You'll find a piece in this issue about why it is so important to have full time lobbyists and you are all welcome to send it to clubs who might be affiliated or not and see if they will post it on their websites or print it in their print magazines if they have them. If we could turn half our affiliate members into individual ones we would have the biggest print magazine sales in the country.

I've covered a couple of shows personally for this issue. The Shepton Mallet Classic show is down the road from me and the Excel Show is close to where I used to live.

Made a couple of good contacts at Excel I think so worth going. Good effort by Tim and his team who manned the stand that we got for nothing by Tim playing the Mexican standoff game. I didn't really work the stand but it was worth going to get the pics and make the contacts.

You'll spot Colin on the cover and inside as new kid on the block.

I have circulated a list of the questions that I think a member's survey might include and subject to NC approval Leslie can go ahead with getting this on the MAG website.

I went on an egg run recently organised by Taunton MAG. A local member Kyle led as we rode across the Somerset Levels to the group's pub the Maypole.

I made a flying visit to the MAG Hatters which turned out to be far farther from here than I thought, The weather has been diabolically wet so I took the car and surfed across the Somerset levels with water swishing up the side windows in waves which was all rather exiting. I ate a portion of chips and had a coffee and chat to various folk I hadn't seen for a while and took some pictures.

Many thanks to my proofers - nearly all of it got proofed. One day we'll get to 100%.

x. *Foundation*

No report submitted.

12. Any other business:

i. *Marketing MAG*

Held over to June meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

ii. *Membership survey*

Held over to June meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

iii. *Do we actively defend the internal combustion engine? And if so, how?*

Covered under Item 7. Campaigns.

iv. *Media terminology campaign*

Following a letter to the BBC regarding biased reporting regarding moped crime, a response has been received but does not acknowledge that this was the case.

CB will circulate the letter so that it can be used as a template for contacting media outlets wherever there appears to be bias against motorcyclists in the language used in reporting.

To roll out a national campaign of media engagement in respect to reports using lazy stereotyping in the language used to describe crimes using powered two wheelers.

Proposed: Steve Wykes; Seconded: Tim Peregrine. Carried.

v. *Employment of fixed term personnel re. organisation of research/database*

Covered under Item 8. Board meeting report.

vi. *MAG Patron*

Held over to June meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

(IM, IC and LÖ rejoin the meeting)

vii *FEMA Simon Millward award*

FEMA has approached MAG with a request to take on the Simon Millward Award so that it can be extended to a Europe-wide award. Simon's family are happy for this to be the case.

FINAL

The Simon Millward award (currently awarded by MAG) to be given over to FEMA to provide a Europe-wide award in Simon's name.

Proposed: Ian Churchlow; Seconded: Andy Carrott. Carried.

To retain the original physical award in MAG and provide a new one to be formally presented to FEMA at MAG's Annual Group Conference.

Proposed: Richard Manton; Seconded: Tracy Smith. Carried.

viii *Moped raffle*

RM is interested in raffling off the C90 he rode for the Daft Way charity ride and noted that Leeds MAG has a raffle licence. Following discussion around the pro's and con's of doing so, it was agreed to go ahead with the raffle and that it should be pushed at various events, etc.

ix *Vision Zero*

IC reported that FEMA is looking to get involved with Vision Zero, which promotes the notion that road deaths are "ethically unacceptable" and that "motorcycling" is not part of the plan. FEMA feels that it needs to engage with Vision Zero because it does not actively include motorcycles but seems to be missing the point that VZ considers motorcycles to be a big part of the problem and should therefore be removed from the equation altogether. Following discussion, the following motions were tabled:

That MAG does not wish to support Vision Zero.

Proposed: Richard Manton; Seconded: Bill Hughes. Carried.

To actively oppose the FEMA position of supporting Vision Zero.

Proposed: Andy Carrott; Seconded: Richard Manton. Carried.

xi. *Replacement of Simon Millward award*

RM suggested that a new award be created to replace the Simon Millward award, potentially in the name of Ian Williamson.

JC asked, with due respect to Ian's memory, why do we need an award in the name of a particular person.

AC suggested a Williamson-O'Connell award to remember Fergus O'Connell too.

SL said the discussion would be taken to the NC list for further discussion with a view to being taken to the Regions.

SL to circulate the Awards information to the NC list.

Priorities

SL stated that the resource library was extremely important and also time-sensitive so would be priority number one. Other priorities to find their natural place and JS will manage this.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 9th June 2018.