

Basingstoke M.A.G. Minutes

03/03/2011



Rep Keith:

Emails:

A note from Mutchie to clarify the Charity removal from the MAG Constitution - this proposal does not stop groups raising funds for charity just takes the emphasis on it out of the constitution. Red:

I've had the following from Wycombe MAG and responded to it. I wonder if it might be worth putting something like my response on the Facebook page to try and stop the wrong impression growing.

I rather wish I had been more strident than I was in my defense of keeping the AGC in the Midlands partly for internal political reasons and for financial ones. I think we do all have to be very careful about the way we make decisions like this. Much as I value Yorkshire's offer of hosting the meeting, as an NC we should be careful of creating real problems in pursuit of addressing problems which may be only imaginary ie overcrowding.

Hi Ian,

I hope you are well.

I have long been a staunch supporter of MAG and everything it stands for. Here at Wycombe MAG we are very concerned by the wording of the proposal to remove "raising money for charities" from the activities local groups are permitted to do. If we are not permitted to run our annual event "Chinnor Bike Dayz" in support of a charity as well as MAG, it would not be viable to run the event at all.

As I discussed with you at the regional AGM earlier this month: Over the years Wycombe MAG have formed close ties with our local community. Businesses give us huge support with free or massively discounted services, because it is a charity event. We have bands play for free, because it is a charity event. Many of our visitors aren't bikers but still they come, because it is a charity event. Many of our local members are involved only because we run a charity event. Not only does this enable us to raise money for MAG, we raise awareness too.

We are fully aware that MAG needs funding and agree this need should be highlighted. However, we disagree with this motion on two counts: 1. On principle. MAG is all about freedom of choice - this motion seeks to take away the choice of where we donate our hard-earned funds. 2. This is financial suicide. As stated above, without the symbiotic relationship with our local charity and the support that gains us, we would not raise a fraction of what we are currently able to do. (Half of nothing is nothing!)

The motion has not been passed, yet and I appreciate that after a vote, it may not be. However, just the proposal of this motion is already doing damage. Perhaps because it has been proposed and seconded by two directors of MAG, the perception is that this is a MAG proposal. The concern is that it is a "done deal". That is only reinforced by the disenfranchisement felt by our members who must travel around 4 hours to vote on it. The fact that this years AGC is being held in Yorkshire MAGs back yard doesn't help either. There are three major fundraising events take place in the region every year, events which only raise money for MAG. (And good on 'em for it!) But does this mean the local members will turn out in force to support a motion which seems perfectly reasonable to them? Meanwhile, those of us with an appreciation of another way of doing things, travel hundreds of miles to be completely outvoted.

You can I hope, see the concern? If nothing else this has opened up a huge debate locally. I only hope the ramifications of forcing the debate do not cause insurmountable issues with the members who are currently wondering if they joined the right

club!

Best Regards

Jon
Political Rep (TBC), Wycombe MAG

Hi John

A question of balance

I can see now that I should have put more explanation alongside the motion on charities in the ROAD. To clarify:

There is no proposal to stop groups from raising money for charity. There is an amendment to the constitution to extract a line which seems to actively encourage charity fund raising. We are trying to address the perception that raising money for charities is what MAG chiefly exists for. We are trying to send a message by shifting the emphasis but there is no compulsion about this at all – none.

We had got into a situation where at the extreme end of the scale, some groups quite literally did not know that they were supposed to raise money for MAG at all. They did not think it was part of a group's reason for existence. This came as a surprise to me but Paddy has been getting around so many groups and launching new ones at such a rate that it has provided us with a lot of extra feedback from grass roots level, much of which is good but some of which reflects a level of 'mission creep' that jeopardizes our future.

Quite possibly some people think that MAG can run on the membership fee alone which would be great but is sadly very far from the truth.

When this situation has been clarified for groups some have been quite surprised and in some cases quite significant sums have been happily handed to MAG Central, which has been extremely welcome.

The problem we are trying to resolve has developed over recent years during which MAG donations from the regions have fallen to the point where we can not afford critical computer systems that offer major efficiency advantages for our membership administration. In consequence we are squeezing every drop of blood and patience from our staff in order to cope with admin and communication roles that have expanded hugely in the internet age.

Some may point to the smaller staff we had years ago and wonder why we need more resource today. There are two main reasons for this.

One is that we are more ambitious than ever before. MAG is dealing with so many issues on so many fronts and the adoption of every fresh issue involves an attendant workload. Since MAG has attained consultative status on so many forums, this means that to take advantage of the opportunities this creates involves sending people to the relevant meetings to ensure that the rider's voice is represented. Our office in Warwick is rural-based and therefore cheap, far cheaper than an office in the capital would be, yet it is to the capital that our principal lobbyists must go regularly to do the work we pay them for. This eats time and money. For anyone to relocate from outside London to inside is not an economically practical option. Very wealthy companies that can pay staff relocation costs but I don't think MAG's members would thank us for spending the hundreds of thousands of pounds this would require, even assuming we had it.

So we do the best we can on our budget and stretch our lobbying staff to the elastic limit of what humans being can cope with and given the demands on them they perform at a level which is extraordinary.

The other big factor is the double-edged sword of email. On the one hand this is a powerful asset for a lobby group, which must disseminate information and campaign. On the other, it means that our staff live in a perpetual blizzard of information overload with hundreds of requests and suggestions pouring into our office and to the ROAD magazine on an almost daily basis. In the days when one had to write a letter on paper and organise envelopes and stamps, the scale of communication was a small fraction of what must be coped with today. If we had several more staff members they would be put to work at

once as the volume of projects that MAG could take on or pay more attention to is almost limitless.

In a way it's a good thing that our members care enough to communicate so much with us but the expectations which modern IT breeds is way out of step with our resources.

Against this background we have had to cope with dwindling contributions from many groups, some of which have simply given most or even all their profits to charities.

The positive factors about raising money for charity are understood and the concessions and opportunities that some fund raising for charity brings is recognised. What we are talking about is not an all or nothing hard choice but simply a nudge back in the direction of upping the proportion of money raised for MAG; in short it is as The Moody Blues said – 'simply a question of balance.'

I've taken time to put this issue into context Jon as it would be tragic if a motion that is motivated only by MAG's best interests should end up operating in a counterproductive way. My apologies again for not explaining this more clearly in the last issue of The ROAD.

Ian

Hi Fellow Motorcyclists

Here is the first update poster from us, a magnificent turnout by Tom and the guys at W.M.Snell's and Ducati, so if you wanna take advantage of this wonderful offer, come along to the show.

More posters to follow shortly, as mentioned previously please would you help us to promote this show to all of your motorcycling friends and work colleagues.

Many Thanks

Regards

The 'Ready to Ride' Team

SEE POSTER AT END OF MINUTES

The FairFuelUK Campaign is making a difference

A massive thank you for supporting FairFuelUK . With oil prices sharply up and instability all across the Middle East we simply have to win our fight to have the massive April Fuel Duty rise scrapped (it could be 23p a gallon!) and new measures brought in to stabilise pump prices at an affordable level.

At noon on Wednesday Quentin Willson will lead our team up Downing Street to hand in the first wave of your petition at the door of Number 10 – we hope you might see it reported in the media. We expect to be handing in over 120,000 signatures – gathered in just over 5 weeks!

We have heard that groups up and down the country are getting so frustrated and full of despair that they are planning 'Direct Action' – Go Slows on Motorways and demonstrations outside refineries. We understand their frustration but do not support action of this kind as we feel it only hurts and inconveniences businesses and other road users who are already hurting enough and are not the people causing the problem! That's why we have to keep the pressure up on the politicians who DO have the power to sort this out. **Therefore, the FairFuelUK campaign will go on right up to the Budget on the 23rd March so there are still things you can do to help...**

1. If you haven't already contacted your MP and told them how you feel – please do that now. If you want to email you can find their email address on our web site at http://www.fairfueluk.com/is_your_mp_supporting.html with suggested text. Even better than email why

not write to them! All you have to do is write a quick note and address it to House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA putting their name on the envelope and letter. Be sure to include your name and address as many MPs will want to check that you are a constituent. These emails and letters will have more impact if they are written in your own words.

2. This issue is SO important, why not call your MP and ask for an appointment so go and see them. You can contact them by calling their constituency office. You should be able to find this out by looking them up on the web.
3. The petition we send in on Wednesday is just the first stage. Please spread the word about www.fairfueluk.com to everyone you know encouraging them to sign.

At FairFuelUK we believe that we can win this by political lobbying without causing massive disruption to the economy and to society – but only if the whole nation joins us...

Very kind regards,

Peter Carroll

Fair Fuel UK Campaign Organiser

Don't forget to get a Car Sticker too, from the website...

<http://www.fairfueluk.com>

"I, Superbiker" - In Cinemas across the UK for one night only on Monday 14th March 2011

"I, Superbiker", the new no-holds barred full length motorcycling documentary film, will be presented in a special screening event across the UK, for one night only on Monday 14th March and Ace Cafe London has a pair of tickets to attend the evening screening at the Apollo Cinema, Piccadilly. The winner of this pair of tickets being chosen at the cafe on the evening of Friday 5th March, monthly Streetfighter night at the Ace.

DVD's of "I, Superbiker" are also up for grabs as raffle prizes at the cafe on each of the five Friday evenings through April, being the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th with a pair of VIP tickets to attend the Easter BSB race weekend at Brands Hatch being the top prize at the cafe on Streetfighter night, Friday 1st April, no fooling!

The high octane documentary intimately follows the great British hope Tommy Hill, whose parents have sacrificed their home, holidays and finances to support his burning ambition to be Britain's number one superbike racer. Tommy commented, "British Superbikes is motorcycle racing at its very best and this film shows that brilliantly. It's amazing to see BSB on the cinema screen. It's a massive sport with a great following - now hopefully people who don't know it that well can see what an incredible event it is."

Alongside Tommy Hill, "I, Superbiker" is a revealing portrait of the highs and lows of fellow racers, James Ellison, Josh Brookes and Gary Mason, riding through tortuous conditions and risking life and limb at every race meeting. Motorcycle fans and thrill seekers alike will be able to experience the gladiatorial speed, strength and tenacity of the riders as they battle their way through the dramatic 2010 BSB season.

The film's writer, producer and director Mark Sloper of 400TV commented "I wanted to capture the emotion and passion of motorcycle racing - a classic motorcycle racing film that might be set in the 2010 season but can still be fresh in years to come." He added, "I also wanted it to appeal to people outside of the motorcycle industry and fan-base. And I wanted to try and change outsiders perceptions of motorcycling."

www.isuperbiker.com

Has anyone else got any Fred Hill runs for me or any other regional stuff for the Road

Mutchie has so far
London Fred Hill run
Devon Moto X fundraising for MAG
N Devon inaugural meeting
Devon Fred Hill run
Cornwall Fred Hill run
Fred Hill Thames Valley and AGM
Wakefield auction

And that is it, got loads of in house ads for events as follows

4 Products
14 Rescue
40 Lion Rally
49 Classic Show at Bath & West Showground
52 MAG Travel
insurance half p land
52 My books
58 Access Legal (AKA Shoosmiths)
67 Ally Pally andy Greenwood 1/2 landscape
68 W Mids Egg Run
68 Blackpool MAG 1/4 page
68 HOE
68 HFH Lincolnshire
70 Into The Valley
72 Farmyard Party
74 100%
77 Digby Brown Scots solicitors
66 American V new copy?
79 Reading MAG bike show
83 MBNA
83 info block
11 SE Biker?
slippit in
66 End of the ROAD Rally
51 GWR
stormin
66 Wakefield sponsored ride out
68 BSE Egg Run
66 Moo Summer Rally
66 End of The Road
66 Aberystwyth MAG
40 Lion Rally
64 Whitehaven MAG
64 E Anglia Poker run
64 Chinnor MAG
64 Dirty Donkey

MAG Poker Run

We are hoping you will join us on the 29th April 2011 for the first East Anglia MAG Poker Run - Poster attached.

Selina

MAG Regional Rep for East Anglia



Poker Run 2011.pdf

Where there's muck there's brass!

MAG members from Devon put a whole new spin on fundraising at the weekend. They braved the cold to marshal at a motocross event on one day and raised a stunning £570 for their efforts!

This was a truly fantastic effort on the part of John Groves and all the other enthusiasts who raised the money while having a great day out at the racing. It is another example of the great new ideas that are reinvigorating MAG both socially and financially. Well done.

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Kind regards

Paddy Tyson
Campaigns Co-ordinator
MAG (UK) - Motorcycle Action Group

2011 Events

March:

Basingstoke MAG 2011 AGM. 24th March, 8pm at the Royal Oak.

April:

South West Peninsula Spring Rally. 2nd April Bridgwater Somerset www.somersetadvancedmotorcyclists.org.uk

Salisbury MAG bike show is on 3rd April

Southampton MAG bike show is on 15th April

BASINGSTOKE MAG Easter party at the Royal Oak. 16th April 8pm. Band is called RIPSLED.

Reading MAG Easter bike show is on Sunday 24th April. at Reading Abbey Rugby Club.

May.

Basingstoke Festival of Transport, Sunday 8th May. at The War Memorial Park.

NABD Rally. 6th-8th May. Cheshire.

Basingstoke MAG ride out to Donkey Sanctuary Sidmouth. 14th May

Sun Flower Motorcycle Run Sunday 22nd May. Ivel Barbarians Rugby Club Somerset

June:

The Farm Yard Party, 17th-19th June. Pre book £25 o/g £35.

Basingstoke MAG 21st Anniversary Bike Show. 18th June. At the small car park by The Royal Oak.

Lion Rally. 10th - 12th June. Reading.

3Bs Rally. 24th-26th June. Bordon.

July:

Andycap Rally. 15th-17th July At Wells, Somerset.

South West Bike Day. 15th July. At Wells, Somerset.

August:

The Bull Dog Bash. 11th -14th August.

Popham Bike Show. 21st August.

September:

Rog and Lyn Charity Run: Sunday 25th September.

2012.

Basingstoke MAG 2012 AGM. 22nd March, 8pm at The Royal Oak.

Update Poster 1

This year sees local Ducati dealer
W.M.SNELL bring the DUCATI Roadshow to
'Ready To Ride'



The all new Ducati Diavel

W.M.SNELL
ALTON HAMPSHIRE



As well as the display truck with the 2011 range they will also be bringing a fleet of 12 demonstrators available to try on the day. So if you fancy trying a Ducati including the Multistrada 1200, the latest Superbike or the all new Diavel for free then bring both parts of your driving licence and your credit card.

Terms and conditions apply - bookings can only be made on the day on a first come first served basis.

Ready to Ride 2011

Haslemere Community Fire Station, West Street, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 2AP