

**MRAA**  
Motorcycle Riders' Association  
Street  
Australia  
Melbourne

**Head Office**  
22 Ross  
South  
Vic 3205  
Tel: 03 9699  
Fax: 03 9699

Email: [mraa@rabbit.com.au](mailto:mraa@rabbit.com.au)  
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1833

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MRAA Meeting Minutes

**BOARD MEETING MARCH 18 2003 (Draft Copy Only)**

**PRESENT: Alex Money, Marcel Gomperts, Faye Kerridge, Heather Ellis, Michael Czajka, Grace Placencio (Public Officer), Anton Lange**

**APOLOGIES: Simon Rosenbaum**

**INVITEES: Damien Codognotto**

**MINUTE TAKER: Dale Meggs**

**Meeting opened 7:45 PM**

**Chaired by Alex money.**

**President's welcome.**

**Motion: "That the meeting be tape recorded"**

**Moved: M Czajka**

**Seconded: No seconder**

**Motion: Lapsed**

**Address to the meeting:**

**Damien interjected and produced a copy of the MRA constitution and stated that unless the meeting was conducted in accordance with the constitution, he would not participate. All present were in agreement.**

**Damien pointed out the various areas on which he was working ie: Coroners Court in relation to the death of rider Toby Noble.**

**Grace suggested that we not dwell on specific issues at this time but use the meeting and any resolutions to move forward in a positive way.**

**Alex stated that the MRA is plagued by a range of issues, which need to be addressed, and that it is counterproductive if we are in conflict each time a new problem emerges. There has been too much energy wasted on the many issues confronting us all from time to time. He went on to state that it was recognized**

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that over the years, Damien has been instrumental in making great progress for motorcycling in general and the MRA in particular, but it was the consensus that many negative images have undone the good work.

Damien interjected to ask that he not be patronized.

Alex suggested that we could perhaps brainstorm and discuss how the board and Damien will relate to each other for the benefit of everybody, that we should not argue about the rights or wrongs.

Heather believes that Damien has a huge contribution to offer the MRA with his knowledge and access to historical data and suggested that Damien be put in charge of historical information and artifacts in relation to the MRA.

Damien replied that he is not interested in any formal position of this type and cited the "mysterious" loss of valuable items including a J. Flood book. He made accusation that M. Gomperts and others had taken records and items of value from MRA premises during a "spring cleaning" project. Damien alleged that these items were taken to the tip in spite of his opposition.

Marcel and Fay rejected Damien's claim, stating that he had been asked several times to be in attendance to assist in the clean out, but that Damien did not attend on any occasion. Both Marcel and Faye stated that only hard rubbish which was removed from the warehouse that the MRAA was paying for, was thrown out. MRAA documentation or historical items were retained and placed in the current Head Office. Marcel stated that Dr John Pigot expressed his wishes to have all historical paperwork archived and possibly forward onto the State Library to be the official caretakers if the MRAA was not able to have the resources to keep the records.

Damien said that he would prefer to stay in his present roles i.e. Member of Advocacy Committee, MRA rep. on RSRG.

Grace asked Damien for an answer on whether or not he has respect for the present Board Members.

Damien replied that in line with the provisions of the constitution, he had looked for mediation.

Damien stated that the only area he believes he can work is within the road safety committees. He recommended that M. Czajka should work with him and M. Gomperts restrict his activities to the Events Committee.

It was agreed by the Board that Damien retain his position on the RSRG for up to 2 meetings if necessary to train a replacement.

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**A. Money asked whether Damien will agree to pass on all information to the Board and also requires that Damien will fully obey the Board's directions.**

**Damien replied in the positive.**

**M. Czajka supported Damien's positive response on information sharing.**

**Damien then stated that he could not and would not work with M. Gomperts at all, as he had no respect for him and cited the Toy Run. Called Marcel "an empty vessel".**

**A. Money said that if he is unable to work with Marcel, then Damien has effectively abandoned his position on the Advocacy Committee, since Marcel is the chair. The meeting was asked to recognize this fact.**

**A. Money stated that the Board and the Public Officer, as trustees of members funds, are required to ensure the accuracy and validity of financial undertakings of the MRA and said that there had been a great deal of rumour and hearsay about the matter of an alleged loan but investigations had failed to uncover any proof of debt. Alex requested that Damien provide documented proof to legitimize the alleged loan. Alex stated that actually being able to quantify the exact nature of any formal debt on the weak evidence provided, as distinct from voluntary donated time, effort or funds would present the MRA with an impossibility to define.**

**Damien responded that the details were sent to S. Rosenbaum as follows  
Interest free loan of \$15000.00 over 10 years  
Breakdown: To cover costs of the following:  
Stock of T shirts  
Rent at 380 Elizabeth Street  
Consumables.**

**Damien referred to the Boards knowledge of the debt in the early days. It was acknowledged and agreed by Michael C, Faye K and Grace P that the loan was recorded in financial statements prepared by the Treasurer of the time. Faye stated that whilst this may be true, she had never been able to get a clear line on the nature of the loan. Faye said the outstanding "loan amount" according to the treasurer report is \$6500, unquote.**

**Damien said that the date of the loan was around 1992-1993, that MRA and his insurance company shared shop front in Elizabeth Street. Damien stated that loan repayments ceased in December 2002, and that the debt remains at approximately \$6000. This has been confirmed in the past, by Faye K as per financial records.**

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**Damien requested copies of MRA financial records for the past 3 years. The Board agreed that Damien could view the records in the company of a Board Member (Treasurer), but was not permitted to remove or copy them.**

**Heather E enquired as to the relationship between NMC and MRA and the arrangement of the shared rent. No explanation was given. It was mentioned that when an insurance policy was taken out, a contribution of \$25 was made to the MRA in payment for the Policyholders membership. Faye K confirmed this arrangement.**

**Damien asked that the minutes contain reference to the fact that the President (A. Money) stated that if there were no proof of debt, then there would be no payment made. Alex M affirmed his decision.**

**Damien issued a threat to Alex to "step outside and settle this matter" and became abusive and intimidating to Grace P, Heather E and Marcel G. He referred to the TAC incident as proof of the Boards intention to blacken his name. Marcel G stated that Damien was in fact at some fault at TAC and insisted that Damien admit that he did in fact take confidential documents from Marcel as claimed. Damien said yes he did. Marcel asked that this be entered into the minutes as a record of admission.**

**Motion: "That Damien is instructed to provide proper documentation to substantiate the legitimacy of the alleged loan."**

**Moved: A. Money  
Seconded: A Lange  
Carried.**

**Grace P stated that she believes the board does indeed acknowledge the debt to Damien, but understands the need for some proof. She offers to give some financial assistance to the MRA to repay the money.**

**Damien rejected the offer, saying that the money was no longer an issue, it was now seen as a "Debt of honour" and he now holds Alex M personally responsible. He vows to "make Alex pay, no matter how long it takes or what I have to do."**

**Damien said that the MRA refusal to pay will "force legal matters."**

**Alex M responded that Damien has two choices, take the matter to court, or provide documentation as proof of debt. The Board could not authorize payment base on the lack of evidence at hand.**

**Marcel G says that if we accept the existence of a loan of this magnitude, there is a possibility that we could be insolvent and the Public Officer would then be held to account.**

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**Damien again said to forget the loan, it is a debt of honour which the President (A. Money) will be made to pay.**

**Alex M then referred to the item Members Code of Conduct, saying that the unofficial or premature publication of MRA matters into the public arena is a continual problem and we (MRA) need to reach a workable resolution agreeable to every body, it was noted that this practice was not restricted to just Damien and is seen as disrespectful of the Board's authority. An example was given, the email to a large grouping the community of matters relating to 2 March 2003 QGM released by Damien.**

**Damien reacted loudly and forcibly that this was unacceptable and was a clear case of failing to recognize freedom of the press; he accused the Board of trying to take away his basic right of freedom of speech by not allowing him to publish accounts of meetings.**

**At this point Damien became totally uncontrollable and the meeting was closed.**

**Meeting closed 10:00PM**