

JULY



## MAG? What's the point of them?

Welcome to the July issue of the newsletter – and it's still July (just!). It's been a busy old month in the North-West, what with a rally, a bike show and not one but two new branches opening. It's really good when like-minded bikers get together, But lets not forget that there's a serious aim behind it.

Don't dream for a second that the "powers that be" have forgotten about us or are content to leave us alone to look after ourselves. Just this week I've heard that Northern Ireland is thinking of making helmets compulsory for all riders and passengers on trikes. This is despite there being only two fatalities and three serious injuries on trikes in the region since 2008, and no evidence to suggest that wearing helmets would have prevented them. Every accident is a tragedy but these numbers are very low. However, yet again the authorities would like to ride rough-shod over civil liberties in order to solve a problem that isn't there. As MAG President Ian Mutch said, this "seems to be motivated more by an unhealthy appetite for conformity than any objective assessment."

Once such a law is established in one area of the UK it makes it much easier to cite precedent and extend it to the rest. It isn't starting in England so even the Scots may adopt it! Rest assured MAG will be there, trying to "head it off at the pass" before it ever reaches the statute book. If we succeed then, as ever, the vast majority of bikers will be unaware that there was ever a threat in the first place - "MAG? What's the point of them?"

## Last month – Blackpool MAG Rally – 26<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> June



A great new rally site and cracking the flags weather – what more could you want? There was nothing but really good feedback for Blackpool MAG's 2015 rally – the bands were great, the camping field was flat and ale was spot on. For those of that disposition there was even a bit of line-dancing on the Friday night - yee-haw! (seriously though, they'll be gone next year).

The really big rallies, such as Farmyard, are great fun but you can't beat the friendly vibe of smaller "intimate" events such as this. See you there next year!

**Last month - Liverpool MAG launch - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

**This month – Macclesfield MAG launch – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July**



Two new branch launches in just over a fortnight – it shows that bikers are still willing to stand up and be counted. A big “welcome on board” to all the new branch members and good luck over the next months. If you’ve been toying with the idea of getting more involved, then there’s never been a better time to take the plunge!

**L’pool MAG:- 8<sub>pm</sub> at the Old Swan Fire Station, 628, Queens Street, Liverpool, L13 5UD 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays**  
**Macclesfield MAG 8:30<sub>pm</sub> at the Church House, Buxton Road, Congleton, CW12 2DY 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

**This month – Blackpool Motorcycle Show 5<sup>th</sup> July**



A massive thanks to the hundreds of you who turned out to support the show – it was well up to the usual high standards. In fact it was a near enough perfect afternoon until those dark clouds appeared and July suddenly became January. That’s an English summer for you!

I’m not sure how much we raised for the fighting fund but it will have been a fair bit – all those £2 add up!



**Next Month - Jesters Rally 14-16<sup>th</sup> August**



MAG affiliated club Jesters MCC will be holding their annual rally at **Whittingham & Goosenargh Social Club**. As ever, MAG will be represented and available for advice etc throughout the weekend.

It’s a cracking rally with a great atmosphere so why not get down for the weekend? Plus I’ve heard there’s going to be a heatwave in August!

## **Answer to trouble in Wales?**

The NW newsletter provides an open forum for all members in the region to voice their thoughts. Last month NW MAG member Rick D'Rozario wrote about what he considered was North Wales' Police's heavy handed approach to bikers. It seems that others disagree - MAG member Phil Green puts an alternative viewpoint:

***"I live in Cheshire and frequently ride in mid and north Wales and have done for 30 years. The only contact I have ever had with the Police has been discussing the merits of different bikes in cafes or car parks! I would not describe myself as "saintly", however, neither do I shout "Stop Me" by having illegal number plates or daft slogans on a legal one! One day last week, I was at the Ponderosa, when a convoy of Police cars and bikes came into the car park on a "practice" run. One officer strolled round chatting to people. Just after that, an AGNI (All the Gear No Idea), on a Repsol Fireblade rode round the car park, complete with illegal visor and number plate. Fortunately for him the cops were otherwise engaged in their debrief, but he would only have himself to blame if he were stopped! We bikers expect others to obey rules about mobile phone use, signalling etc etc, but some of us can be very selective about which rules we apply!"***

MAG member Stewart Lowthian (who is also Editor of The BMW Club Journal) also writes:

***"I found the paragraph headed "Same old trouble in Wales?" and wondered when, if ever, motorcyclists will come to terms with being part of society. The law specifies the size of a number plate: if you can't cope with having one of legal size then pushbikes aren't subject to state control yet ..... Like your correspondent Mr. D'Rozario, I don't ride in North Wales, but for different reasons. I can cope with the law being enforced, although like you I hoped that Brunstrom's departure would bring a less aggressive approach to motorists, but what I choose to avoid is those, on two wheels or four, who show little or no respect for anyone around them ..... I don't consider that offence has been caused by the original article: I hope that what it has done is stimulate debate regarding the way motorcyclists are perceived, both by themselves and the wider community."***

Thanks for your interest and I hope, along with Stewart, that it has stimulated a bit of debate. Bikers are a broad church and have been so for as long as I can remember. One biker's fun day out may be another's reckless stupidity – we'll never resolve that one! The law is the law and you can't argue with that. However, the situation is not helped when it is not enforced evenly by every region and what may be accepted practice in one area is picked upon in another. MAG has always recognised that with rights come responsibilities and that with freedom of choice must come consequences. MAG also tries to find common ground between bikers of all persuasions because unless we stand together then they'll just pick us off one by one. If you have any thoughts on this or any other matter, please email Tony Cox or me directly on the address below.

## **Appeal for Volunteers North Wales Blood Bikes**

Jason Lampka writes:

I'm setting up a group of Blood Bikes in North Wales, we'll be based initially in the Wrexham area but covering most of the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and linking it with other health boards. Our ultimate goal is to cover all of Wales. Blood Bikes provide a free service transporting urgent medical supplies, (including blood, breast milk, equipment and medical records) out of hours. Where our service isn't available the NHS currently use either taxis (which cost a substantial amount) or ambulances which then takes them out of service to respond to 999 calls).

We (Blood Bikes Wales) currently have several groups covering South and West Wales up as far as Aberystwyth, but we would like to extend our service to cover all of Wales.

I would be extremely grateful if you could ask your members of MAG if any of them would be interested in helping us to start this much needed service here in North Wales. We need members to become riders and collectors. Young and old, male and female. The National Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) are a registered charity, we are all volunteers and rely on members and donations to keep this service functioning. If you would like any more information, please either contact myself at [jason.lampka@outlook.com](mailto:jason.lampka@outlook.com) or you can go to [www.bloodbikeswales.org.uk](http://www.bloodbikeswales.org.uk) or our Facebook page [BloodBikes Wales](#).

## Insurance Woes

NW MAG member Arf Fenton writes:

*“As my insurance was coming up for renewal I did as most bikers would do and hunted around for a good deal. I sorted a better deal out with another insurance company than the one I was with and told them I would not be renewing with them. I still had a couple of weeks left. I then got a letter from Askmid, who are the Insurance Data Base Agency, saying that I was not registered. I phoned Askmid and they confirmed that I was not on the system. When I told the person at Askmid that I was still insured until my new insurance commenced in a week’s time, I was amazed to hear from them that they were powerless to do anything about it. It was solely the responsibility of the insurance company and only they can put me on the data base and that I should contact them and sort it out. Should I receive a fine from the DVLA for not being on the data base I must send them my insurance policy to prove that I am insured and also carry my insurance policy with me in case I get pulled up by the Police . I phoned the insurance company up straight away and they said they couldn’t understand it and they would put me on again but it could take from 7 to 14 days, which was no good to me as the insurance with them only had a week left. It just seemed funny that when my new insurance kicked in it was on straight away. What is the point of having this agency that just sits between the Insurance companies and the DVLA but can’t do anything - is it another made up job and red tape? Anybody can go online and check if they are on the Data Base by going to Askmid and putting in your reg. It will tell you straight away by a tick for Yes and a cross for No. It’s well worth checking.”*

What is it with big government IT projects? They cost millions but too often they don’t work as intended. Oh well, never mind, it’s only tax-payers money.

## Golden Years

Congratulations to NW MAG member Dr Steve Johnson who has recently retired and can now get that Harley he has long wanted. Good luck mate – time to treat yourself!

## North West Motorcycle Alliance

This is not a MAG organisation but a monthly meet for all bike clubs, organisations and interested bikers anywhere from Cheshire up to Lancaster. The next meeting is at **8pm on Thursday 20th August** hosted by **Black Diamonds MC** at the **Clubhouse, Hindley**. Here is the latest, up to date list of biker events which the Alliance has put together, which includes a few changes from last month.

**HAMC Liverpool Open night 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month, open 7.30 ‘til late**

**HAMC Manchester Open night last Saturday of month, open 7.30 ‘til late**

**Black Diamonds open night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley**

**Salford MAG meeting 8pm last Thursday every month, Duke of York, Church St, Eccles**

**Mid-Life Crisis Meet’n’greet, BBQ - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, Ship Inn Irlam M44 6AJ**

**Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite**-every Monday Black Bull Pope Lane Penwortham Preston PR1 9BA

**MT Heads Meet** – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

**Gypsy Divas meet** – 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Woolpack, Haslingden from 8.30pm.

**14-16<sup>th</sup> August Jesters Rally**, Whittingham & Goosenargh Social Club

**15<sup>th</sup> August** – HAMC Liverpool Charity Fundraiser at the clubhouse

**15<sup>th</sup> August Millennium Bike Show** - 12pm onwards, Bay Horse Adlington

**21<sup>st</sup> August** – Road Slayers Brotherhood Rock Nite Royal Oak, Eccles

**21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August Rigby’s Guardians MCC Ride & Weekend** – Mayfield Rugby Club, Rochdale OL11 3AG

**28-31<sup>st</sup> August Avernus MCC Underworld Rally** Hamilton House Farm Tarnacre Lane St.Michaels PR3 OTB

**26<sup>th</sup> Sept** – AAVMC Party for the Alliance - Canberra Club, Salmesbury

**10<sup>th</sup> October** – MidLife Crisis MCC Birthday Bash – Ship, Irlam – with music from Band of Gypsies

**17<sup>th</sup> October Gypsy Divas Bike Show/Rock Nite Haslingden Cricket Club** £5 per-booked £6 OTG

**31<sup>st</sup> October** – Millennium Halloween Rock Night, Canberra Club £5 on door

**7<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Blackpool MAG Hellfire Rock Night – Blackpool Rugby club, £5 on door

**21<sup>st</sup> Nov** – Avernus MCC Anti-Christmas Party, Red Herring pub, Mill Lane Coppull (then back to clubhouse) £3 on door

**4<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Leyland Eagles Rock Nite – Leyland& Farrington Social Club, Derby St, entry by donation.

**Avernus trip to Ibiza 16<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> May 2016** – Rock festival, 1497miles – anyone interested contact Ant 07584098610 for details of discount. Itinerary, costs available for next meeting

JT is organising the "MMM Run" in 2016 (Manchester, Minsk and Moscow) – 5000 miles round trip. Any like-minded intrepid and foolhardy adventurers please contact Jimmy for details.

22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 – HAMC Bike Show Rixton

As ever, if you would like to have your say on anything vaguely MAG-related, or sell something bike related, just drop me a line at [billgreen@madasafish.com](mailto:billgreen@madasafish.com) and I'll put it into the newsletter next month.

Bill NW Political Rep



## 130 years of the motorcycle (which one are you?)



1885



1950



2015

## MAG Affiliated Club Events

**CUM'N DRIBBLE I'NT RIBBLE 15 2014 12<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

ALL THE USUAL PARTYING AND DEBAUCHERY YOU CUM TO EXPECT, BILLY GAMES AND TOP TROPHIES, LIVE BANDS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

**JESTERS M.C.C. PRESTON**

WHITTINGHAM AND GOOBNARGH SOCIAL CLUB  
890 WHITTINGHAM LANE  
GOOBNARGH, PRESTON, PR3 2AU  
£12 PRE-BOOK £15 OTG

DETAILS OR BOOK ONLINE:  
[WWW.JESTERSMCC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.JESTERSMCC.ORG.UK)

Mob: 07778755110

CHEQUES TO:  
JESTERS MCC, 32A KING STREET, WHALLEY, BB7 9SL

LIMIT OF 350 TICKETS THIS YEAR

NO CARS OR VANS: PARKING AVAILABLE FOR BLUE BADGE

**MOBILE CHAOS MCC 19<sup>TH</sup> KAMIKAZE CAVE RUN 2015**

With Bands  
Death wish  
Massive Wagons  
Blackmail Snaps  
our own cheap Tinney Bar  
Food vans, Stalls, and Tattoos

£16 Pre book  
£20 OTG.  
£20 Car Pass

9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015  
Silver sapling campsite  
Silverdale

CONTACT SUE 07908426606

**ROAD SLAYERS BROTHERHOOD**

Presents our monthly Social night with **RSB**

**Cheese Puff Death Squad**  
Friday 21st August  
Raffle and food

M30 0EN  
@ Royal Oak Eccles  
8pm - Late

**Mid-Life Crisis MCC Presents**

**BBQ NIGHT**  
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month  
From 8pm Onwards

All welcome  
The Ship, irlam  
2015