



### **Pathways for Progress**

So, what is MAG getting up to at the moment? One area of focus is trying to convince local traffic authorities (LTA's) that PTW's (powered two-wheelers) are not a problem but part of the solution to both pollution and traffic congestion. To this end Dr. Leon Mannings, MAG's campaigning mastermind, has put together the policy note "**Pathways for Progress: Reducing congestion, improving mobility and cutting casualties**" which is summarised below:

Powered Two Wheelers (PTWs) aka motorbikes and scooters offer more sustainable options to meet transport needs than cars or vans – and reduce congestion related problems. But, this mode and the interests and safety of riders is often overlooked or undervalued in the UK.

In response, the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) identifies five pathways for progress.

**1. Urgent review of road furniture and 'safety' schemes to identify and eliminate elements that have potential for adverse impacts on PTW rider safety'**

Currently, there is significant room for improvement in this area for consideration by highway engineers and designers... this problem results in schemes that inadvertently raise risks of injurious conflict for PTW riders that have resulted in serious injuries or fatalities.

**2. Lifting bans on PTWs in all with-flow bus lanes**

An overwhelming bank of evidence shows that PTW use of bus lanes has environmental benefits and improves the safety of riders of motorcycles and cyclists. And, no evidence has ever been produced to show any adverse impacts on bus services.

**3. Provision of parking facilities for PTWs should be on a par with bicycles**

Demand for parking PTWs should be treated in a similar way to demand for parking bicycles as use of both modes helps to cut congestion related problems. The provision of Motorcycle Parking space on public highways should be as extensive and free of additional charges as it is for bicycles. And, wherever possible, some anti-theft provisions should be provided like ground anchors or bars for riders to chain their bikes to.

**4. Ensure that PTW rider safety is considered as much as other vulnerable road users in all road scheme consultations - and from the outset of all scheme developments**

A significant number of proposals for road schemes across the UK are initiated and developed with no input from representatives of PTW riders. This frequently leads to that area of due concerns being overlooked or undervalued.

**5. The introduction of a Motorcycling Officer in all LTAs**

Currently, every LTA in the UK has a Walking and Cycling officer but very few have an officer with specific responsibility for PTW riders – and even though they form one third of the main groups of Vulnerable Road Users.

Despite being riddled with TLA's (three letter abbreviations), it all sounds like common sense to me. Let's hope the message hits home. Last week it was announced in Cardiff that, following a six month trial period, the opening of the bus lanes to private hire taxis and motorcyclists has been a success, with no formal objections received, no adverse comments from interested parties and no incoming public documents indicating a concern. In short, it's being made permanent. Another small victory for MAG – let's keep plugging away at it!

## This Month - Spat At The Tsunami 18-20<sup>th</sup> September



It was a trip down memory lane for many long-time MAG members as a “mini-Farmyard” returned to the old site for one weekend. It is 10 years ago that the “Sunday tsunami” flooded through the valley, carrying away all before it. Where does the time go, eh? If it had occurred a mere 12 hours earlier there could have been a huge loss of life but, as it was, the damage was restricted to property. It was hard on those who lost their gear but it could have been a lot worse.

To commemorate the occasion East Yorkshire MAG put on this cracking one-off rally, limited to 500 tickets on sale at the Farmyard Party only. For once the Yorkshire weather lived up to the occasion, giving us a proper “indian summer”, as you can see. The bands were in tune, the comedians were funny and the atmosphere was chilled – what more could you want? Plus, of course, more brass in MAG’s coffers!



### Quiz

Sadly, there was no answer as to what was the first production motorcycle to be fitted with a green neutral light. Personally, I went from an early sixties Triumph T100 which definitely didn't have one (although it did have a little gear indicator dial on top of the gearbox, if memory serves) to a Honda CB250G5 that did. Somewhere between the two that little green godsend, taken so much for granted, must have appeared. Life would be much trickier without it!

The Honda Cub-loving band were, of course, early nineties “Madchester” ravers World of Twist.

## This Month - It was a Classic MAD Ride to the Rammy Show

MAG Affiliated MAD MCC & Morecambe Classic Bike Club put on a superb ride down to the North Manchester Custom & Classic Bike Show taking in the scenery along the Trough of Bowland. The ride was in aid of NW Bloodbikes and raised £300. The show was very well attended and a fantastic atmosphere with clubs from every corner of the spectrum having the crack!



## This Month – Salford MAG fundraiser 11<sup>th</sup> September

Thanks to everyone who supported Salford MAG's latest fundraiser. A great time was had by all and the band, Deathwish blasted out all the Anthrax, Megadeth, Metallica and Ozzy your heart could desire. As Salford rep Blayz puts it, "Thanks to everyone who came and supported MAG's Fundraiser at The Duke of York, Eccles. You were awesome and to those who didn't, you missed a cracking night with a great band!"

If you had a good time, or couldn't make it this time, remember that they're having another in December – this time in fancy dress!



## Next Month – Hercules Run 2015 Preesall to Penrith !!



This year's Hercules run is on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> leaving Pressall Charity School at 9:30am, heading for Brougham Hall near Penrith. The run is aimed at all on two wheels from mopeds to monsters and the route has been planned to take in some spectacular scenery around Lancashire Cumbria and a bit of Yorkshire thrown in for good measure. NW MAG will once again be responsible for the Road Marshalling and so if anyone is able to help out please get in touch with the NW Regional Rep, Tony Cox. If you just want to come along for the ride, an entry form can be downloaded from the NW MAG Website [www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org](http://www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org)

### 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 Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October** by **Mid-Life Crisis MCC** at the **Ship Hotel, 538 Liverpool Rd, Irlam, Manchester M44 6AJ**. 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.

#### Regular monthly events

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

Avernus MCC – open clubhouse every Saturday night from 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. Coppull Mill, Mill Lane PR7 5BW

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.

Rigby's Guardians meet every Sunday 6.30-9.00 at the Gardener's Arms, Hollin Lane, Middleton M24 5LE (near Junc. 19 M62)

#### Known upcoming events –

27<sup>th</sup> Sept -The North Manchester Custom & Classic Bike Show Ramsbottom Cricket Club, BLO OBS

2-4<sup>th</sup> October – Rising Moon MCC Rally, Lowerhouse Cricket Club, Burnley £10

3<sup>rd</sup> October Ride to the Wall – meeting at Knutsford Services + other start points (early meet – check Facebook)

6<sup>th</sup> October Coyote MCC Charity Bake-Off, Church Inn Oldham OL1 2RR – judging at 9.15pm, contact the club for more details.

10<sup>th</sup> October – MidLife Crisis MCC Birthday Bash – Ship, Irlam – with music from Heston

17<sup>th</sup> October – Black Diamonds MC '70s Nite with '70s tribute at the clubhouse Hindley – free entry!

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

24<sup>th</sup> October – Rochdale Roadrunners Rock Night, Royton Band Club, Sandy lane, Royton OL2 5QP - £5 on door

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

8<sup>th</sup> Nov – M60 Ring of Red for Poppy Appeal, meet at Birch Services (M62) 10.30am on, leave at 12 noon.

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.

4th Dec - Salford MAG Anti Xmas Fancy Dress Fundraiser, (with Powertrip) Donations on the Door

27th Feb 2016 – Red Rose MAG Rock Nite – Judge Walmesley, Whalley, BB7 9NT £5 on door

Avernus trip to Ibiza 16th -26th 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.

22nd – 24th July 2016 – HAMC Manchester 81 Bike Show/Rally (full weekend free camping – live bands& DJ all weekend, bars till late, pole dancers, trade stands, merchandise, food, cash prizes) – Rixton Green (1.5miles from M6 junc.21)

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



**Enjoy the autumn biking but watch out for those wet leaves!**



### Events around the Region

