

**MAG – One Slick Operation!**

I can't remember a time when MAG was such an effective force in the fight for riders rights. From grass roots volunteers, on the ground at a local level, through knowledgeable and well experienced lobbyists such as Lembit and Leon, to Europe-wide FEMA rattling

the doors of the EU, MAG has never been in better shape. But it all hinges on the membership of bikers throughout not only the UK, but the whole of Europe. Without them, backing up their beliefs by putting their hands in their pockets for membership subs every year, the EU's control freaks would have a clear field. So, thanks. MAG couldn't do it without you!



**This month – Is Europe treating us like “trailer trash”?**



FEMA, the Federation of European Motorcycle Associations, is MAG's voice in Europe. The fact that so much of the legislation that affects us today originates in Brussels means that it is vital that we get to hear, and act, fast. FEMA secretary, Dutchman Dolf Willigers has recently spotted a problem with the new driving licence rules regarding towing motorcycle trailers. It seems that the Eurocrats, in their zeal for conformity, didn't realise that it even happened! Dolf wants this sorted and has asked for more information at national levels:

*Dear colleagues,*

*Request for information*

*I would like you, if possible, to provide me with some information about the driving license regulation in your country and with your experiences with trailers behind motorcycles.*

*The facts:*

*In the development of the Third Driving License Directive (3DLD) the fact that sometimes motorcycles pull trailers is not taken into account, unlike cars. The reason for this is that the European Commission (EC) seemed not to be aware that there are motorcyclists who sometimes ride with a trailer attached to their motorcycle. This omission was noted by none of the experts. The Dutch government apparently also did not notice this but it has included the trailer in the national scheme for the A-license. The response of the EC was "Are there really motorcycles with trailers?". Ultimately, it was concluded that driving with a trailer behind the bike was not part of the 3DLD and so it is not regulated at European level, and virtually nowhere on national level.*

*We realized what the consequence of this is: anyone who goes abroad with a trailer behind the motor is in fact riding without a valid license. In most countries this is so even within the country itself! For this reason, we have asked the EC several times if they were really sure that this was the case and whether they realized what the consequences of this were. The answer both times was "yes".*

*I would like to know if you are aware of riders having trouble with this (stopped and fined by the police, insurance issues etc.). After we have the facts clear, it is important to get this both at national level and at European level on the agenda to fit the national legislation and the 3DLD.*

*Best regards,*

*Dolf.*

Do you tow a trailer with your bike? Have you had any negative experience with the police or your insurance company, either in the UK or in Europe? If so, please let us know, at the email address below, and we'll pass it on to Dolf.

## Macclefield MAG tackles the politicians



NW MAG's very own Macc Lads have hit the ground running when representatives from Macclesfield M.A.G. recently had meetings with two of our local M.P.'s . The first was on Friday 18th September with **Mrs Fiona Bruce** (left) the Conservative M.P. for Congleton. Paul (Macclesfield rep) writes: "We were very well received by Mrs Bruce and introduced her to the concept of M.A.G. (which she was unaware of). She was questioned on the lack of motorcycle parking within her constituency and the poor condition of many of the local roads,

including the rapid degradation of "non-slip" road surfacing. She has agreed to look into the parking situation and informed us that central government have released a substantial amount of funds for road repairs.

We also discussed "armadillos" and the matter of Powered Two Wheelers using bus lanes (although neither of these are an issue in the area). The increasing number of motorcycle thefts was also talked about, as were the abysmal penalties for causing death or serious injury while using mobile phones or drunk driving. Mrs Bruce was very interested in our cause and has said she will look out for any relevant parliamentary discussions and get involved in them.

The second meeting was with **Mr David Rutley**, Conservative M.P. for Macclesfield. Again we were very well received by Mr Rutley and his assistant Jacqueline Pattison. This meeting again involved discussions on the lack of parking in the borough, although this situation is likely to change very soon with the new town centre regeneration (which we now hope to be involved in). We also brought up the matter of "how to prove purchase of a parking ticket" if it is necessary to park in a car space, as well as the condition of road surfaces, (including the horrible method of spraying and throwing loose gravel around). Also mentioned were "rubberised" manhole covers and motorcycle thefts. Mr Rutley suggested a possible tie-in with the groups promoting cycling, as we share some of the same goals.



The common suggestion from both M.P.'s was to send emails regarding any concerns to your local M.P. and they will get looked into!!!! (BUT keep it to one individual problem per e-mail as its easier for them to follow up)

We shall be keeping in close touch with both M.P.'s as well as arranging meetings with other local M.P.'s and are currently attempting to get someone from the local police force to act as a regular liaison officer."

I'm sure you'll agree that is great example of MAG building up good relations, and winning over hearts and minds, with the very people who can help us the most. The vast majority of those in power know next to nothing about biking, or the threats facing it. It's honest dialogue such as this that'll get results in the end. Well done, Macc lads, you've done us proud!

## Next Month – Blackpool MAG Hellfire Rock Night – 7<sup>th</sup> November



As we all know, Blackpool has long been the party capital of the North (and, some would claim, the world). So, it is only fitting that Blackpool MAG should host some of the best Halloween Rock nights. And I'm assured that this year will be no exception. If you're a fan of bonfires, good music and the odd half of shandy then get down to Blackpool Rugby Club, Fleetwood Rd, Blackpool FY5 1RN on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Just £5 on the door, all profits to the fighting fund. Bring your tent!

## 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 25th November**, hosted by **A59ers MCC** at the **Petre Arms, Whalley Rd, Langho, Blackburn BB6 8AB**. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday night of month from 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Coppull Mill, Mill Lane PR7 5BW**

**Mid-Life Crisis Meet'n'greet, BBQ - finished until April 2016**

**Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite - every Monday (Anchor in Hutton on A59 from 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.)**

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

**Gypsy Divas meet – 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Woolpack, Haslingden from 8.00pm.**

**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 –

**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  
Band "Nameless" - £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.  
Merchandise on sale. Free buffet at Rigby's Guardians MCC afterwards.

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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Dec - Salford MAG Anti Xmas Fancy Dress Fundraiser**, (with Powertrip) Donations on the door

**12<sup>th</sup> Dec – Lionhearts MCC HoHoHo Xmas Party** – Greyhound, Leigh Rd, Boothstown M28 1LR

**12<sup>th</sup> Dec – Rigby's Guardians Xmas Party** – Gardener's Arms, Hollin Lane, Middleton M24 5LE (near Junc. 19 M62)  
Free entry.

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

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Brotherhood Quest Rock Night**, Vernon's Club, Factory Lane, Penwortham Preston PR1 9SN £5 OTD  
camping available.

**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. £270 for 10 days, hotel inclusive.

**24-26<sup>th</sup> June – Blackpool MAG Rally** – the North-West's No.1 Riders' Rights Rally! – Fleetwood Rugby Club

**24-26<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Warrington MCC Rally** – Rylands Recreation Ground, Gorse Lane, Warrington WA2 7RZ £12  
advance £16 OTG

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 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@masafish.com](mailto:billgreen@masafish.com) and I'll put it into the newsletter next month.

Bill NW Political Rep





# ***Are you happy with Europe fencing you in? Support MAG - Ride Free!***

## **Smalls**

Red Rose MAG member Tony Holt is donating his collection of motorcycle magazines to raise money for MAG. On offer are loads of old:

- ***100% Biker***
- ***Motorcycle Sport & Leisure***
- ***Streetfighter (full set)***
- ***Classic racer***
- ***Motorcycle Racing (from the '70s)***
- ***On Yer Bike (70s)***
- ***On Two Wheels (70s, full set)***



If you fancy a trip down memory lane, why not make an offer? Buyer collects from Bury. Bids to [billgreen@madasafish.com](mailto:billgreen@madasafish.com)

**Blackpool Area MAG Halloween  
Fancy Dress & Bonfire Party**  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
8pm till Late  
Free Camping !  
Blackpool RUFC  
Fleetwood Road  
Blackpool  
FY5 1RN

DJ & Live Music from  
**DEATHWISH**  
and others

£5 OTD

All profits go to The Motorcycle Action Group  
"Fighting For Riders RIGHTS"  
[www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org](http://www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org)

