



2016 – the road ahead



If nothing else, 2015 has reminded us that MAG is needed today as much as it has ever been. We haven't yet beaten the armadillo menace in Manchester and we're facing the threat of new legislation on trikes and trailers. On the plus side, MAG has never been more ready to carry the fight into the New Year. This year has seen the arrival of new branches in the region and the launch of the national Pathways to Progress strategy sets out a clear stall of MAG's demands for the future.

All at MAG hope that you've had a good Xmas (and kept dry!) and wish you a Happy 2016. And thanks again for your support this year – MAG couldn't do it without you!

Open Letter to All Bikers in Greater Manchester from Blayz

Pathways to Progress Campaign for Greater Manchester 2015-2016

My name is Steve Blayz Blay and I am the Area Rep for Salford. I would like to ask you all for your support for the campaigns we are undertaking within Greater Manchester on your behalf.

I am addressing this letter to both clubs and individuals that live in Salford, Manchester, Tameside, Oldham, Rochdale, Bolton, Wigan, Trafford, Stockport and Bury.

The Pathways to Progress Document previously shown in this newsletter has been presented to the leaders of the above councils and as I write this we are beginning to get some stock answers back that do not represent direct answers to any of the questions posed.

"So what's new?" I hear you ask. "You", I say. You can make the difference between being fined or not, for using bus lanes, you are the difference between someone getting hurt or not by the increased introduction of light segregation for cycle lanes (Armadillos etc.). Only you know best where to park your bike securely in your town and if more parking is needed, you know where. You live in areas where new developments are planned, new roads are designed, and changes to existing road structures are being undertaken, you can be a part of those plans to make them safe for us bikers. And finally, you know best where the hazards are in your area and with your help we can get them fixed, changed and made better by tapping into a single point of contact for your local council.

So, what do I want you to do? Nothing much, just be yourselves, every time you are out and about and you see something that bothers you, take a note, take a picture, if you hear of a new obstruction going down on the road let me know, be as detailed as possible, if someone you know know, or hear of, has come a cropper because of an armadillo, let me know, give them my details, salford-rep @mag-uk.org. If you know someone on your local council who is willing to be that point of contact, let me know. Let me put the questions about more secure bike parking if you want it. I am making my way around your Local Transport Officers regarding motorbikes and scooters being allowed in bus lanes.

Lastly, if you feel that you want to do more to protect our lifestyle but don't know where to start, or who to ask, you can't go far wrong by reading the Pathways to Progress document and if you agree with its aims, talk to me about how you can help introduce it into our local towns.

If you feel you want to join the growing group of area reps within the Northwest region, ask any rep or speak to our regional rep north-west-region-rep@mag-uk.org.

Happy New Year – onwards and upwards!

This is the modern world – Part 1

After the Paris attacks, and threats to repeat such outrages here, we all look to the police and security services to stay one step ahead of the terrorists. It's a sad fact that this will involve some compromise of our rights to privacy. However we must draw the line somewhere, although exactly where is currently a hot topic of debate.

There are now 8300 nondescript-looking black boxes in this country, mounted at such places as road junctions, lamp posts and motorway gantries as well as in police patrol cars. Don't worry, they're not speed cameras - all they're doing is recording your number plate every time you pass.



The Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) software will then pass that data to the ultra-secretive police National Data Centre in Hendon where it will be stored, along with your name, the location, date and time. This is currently held for two years but that could increase to seven under new proposals. Your trip to the shops this week could still be on their database in 2023! To give you an idea of how busy these cameras are, every day you ride or drive your reg. number will be recorded an average of four times. 35 million number plates are snapped each day, an increase from 14 million in 2010. We have built a vast national database of our movements on the road, with every one of the 43 police forces in England and Wales contributing. Bear in mind that this was not created by act of Parliament, nor has any report on its operation been scrutinised there. It just grew because the technology worked and the "powers that be" find it useful. As well as the police, the National Crime Agency, Ministry of Defence and HM Revenue & Customs all have access. There's no doubt it is a useful tool in tackling crime. Some burglary sprees have been solved by looking for common patterns in the movement of vehicles nearby. And there are definitely certain dangerous individuals we would rather keep tabs on. Make no mistake, this technology could save lives. Nevertheless, we can't escape the fact that well over 99% of the data captured is of totally innocent individuals and history teaches that where government bodies hold such an inordinate amount of power there is a tendency to misuse it. Many of us will have no problem with this. Others will feel uneasy. Either way, it's worth keeping an eye on.

This is the modern world – Part 2

Motorcycle parking is a problem in several parts of the NW region, with a distinct lack of secure, visible options. For cars, however, the situation has in some ways improved, with the 2012 ban on clamping on private land. If you overstay your welcome now, they have to come looking for you. Which is not as much of a problem as you might think.

Private parking companies, including those maintaining car parks, have a legal right to issue penalty tickets. They can also request the name and address of the vehicle owner from the DVLA – all for the princely sum of £2.50. With some companies levying "fines" of up to £250 this seems like a bargain. Last year it is estimated that around 3 million such pieces of personal data were sold. Not a problem? In the past decade almost 600 operators have been barred from obtaining data after abusing the system.

Under new government proposals penalty fees would be limited to £50 (£80 in London) and the number of operators who have access to the database would be restricted. This is a start but it still sounds like a licence to print money.

Bikes in Manchester Bus Lanes – online petition update

A massive thanks to all of you who signed the petition, it's now well on its way to reaching its target. If you haven't yet got round to signing, you can still support it at:

<http://www.change.org/p/transport-for-greater-manchester-allow-powered-two-wheeled-vehicles-full-bus-lane-use>

This month – Salford MAG Anti-Xmas Party Fundraiser 4th December

Another great night, another successful fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who turned out to support Salford MAG - it was very much appreciated!



Salford MAG – change of venue

Please note that Salford MAG have now moved out the Duke of York. The next meeting will be at **The Bird in Hand, 304 Liverpool Rd, Eccles M30 0RY** (opposite Wangies) on **25th February 2016**.

Many Thanks to Goldwing Owners Club GB

A big thank you goes out to the Goldwing Owners Club of Great Britain for the £100 donation to NW MAG which will be passed onto MAG Central campaign funds. MAG cannot survive on membership fees alone and much of our income relies on monies raised at events and donations from affiliated clubs such as this. Next time your club is having a fund raising event, why not consider making a donation to MAG, and you will be helping us to maintain and improve our Rights as Riders!!



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 hosted by **Avernus MCC** at the **Clubhouse, Coppull Mill** at **8pm on Thursday 28th January**. Here is the latest, up to date list of biker events this autumn which the Alliance has put together, which includes a few changes from the previous month.

Regular monthly events

HAMC Liverpool Open night 3rd 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 – moved venue, no meets until Feb

Red Rose MAG meet every 1st&3rd Wednesday, Petre Arms, Langho

Anvil MCC meet every Wed 8pm Smithy Bridge Pub, Littleborough, OL15 0DY Contact Ray 07747748946

Avernus MCC – open clubhouse 3rd Saturday night of month from 17th 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

MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

Gypsy Divas meet – 1st&3rd 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 –

10th Feb – Anvil MCC 1st Annual Bash, Smithy Bridge Pub, Littleborough, OL15 0DY Contact Ray 07747748946

14th Feb – Annual NW Fred Hill Run leaving Petre Arms, Langho at 1pm

20th Feb 2016 – Red Rose MAG Rock Nite – Judge Walmesley, Whalley, BB7 9NT £5 on door

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

8th-10th Feb Rising Moon MCC Rally, Lowerhouse Cricket Club, Padiham

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. £270 for 10 days, hotel inclusive.

24-26th June – Blackpool MAG Rally – the North-West's No.1 Riders' Rights Rally! – Fleetwood Rugby Club
24-26th June 2016 Warrington MCC Rally – Rylands Recreation Ground, Gorse Lane, Warrington WA2 7RZ £12 advance £16 OTG
8th – 10th July Salford MAG Rally – detail to be announced
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)
22nd – 24th July 2016 AAVMCC Not Forgotten Rally, Bradford on Avon
16th-18th September Jesters MCC Rally – Whittingham Social Club, Goosenargh
7th-9th Oct Rising Moon MCC Rally, Lowerhouse Cricket Club, Padiham

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 and I'll put it into the newsletter next month.


Bill
 NW Political Rep



Don't fancy wearing a helmet on your trike?

There's a way round every problem!

Events around the Region



12th Annual Fred Hill Run
Sunday 14th February 2016
 Meeting at
 The Petre Arms, Whalley Rd, Blackburn BB6 8AB
 leaving at 1 pm.
 Details of run dependant on the weather.
 All riders welcome.

Fred Hill died in prison, still fighting for his beliefs that bikers should have the freedom to ride. Each year we remember him, and continue the struggle.

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance!"

Contact Bill on 07754891485

North West
MAG
 the heart & soul of biking



RED ROSE MAG
FREEDOM & CHOICE

Red Rose MAG Rock Night February 20th 2016
 Judge Walmsley Hotel, Whalley Rd, Billington, Lancashire BB7 9NT
 8.00pm till late top rock band
 £5.00 on the door all proceeds to the MAG fighting fund

COGHEADS MCC

Pet food run
17th April 2016

Departing at 12.30pm from The Black Bull
 Lower Gate Road, Huncoot, BBS 6LN

**PLEASE DONATE ANY
 PET FOODS,
 PET SUPPLIES OR MONEY
 ALL COLLECTED ON THE DAY**

Supporting RSPCA, Altham
 &
 Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary

Please contact **STREAK**
 Vice Chairman / Rally sec.
 On 07584 095298
 for further details

Manchester

BIKE SHOW 2016

THE NUMBER ONE MOTORCYCLE SHOW IN THE NORTH



**2ND & 3RD
 APRIL 2016**
 9:30AM – 5:00PM

EventCity

NEXT TO THE INTU TRAFFORD CENTRE, MANCHESTER, M41 7TB
 ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WWW.MANCHESTERBIKESHOW.COM
INFO@MANCHESTERBIKESHOW.COM | 01484 667776

SPONSORED BY:  

6th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2016

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MOTOR CYCLES?



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER A LOCAL MOTOR CYCLE (OR MOTOR CYCLE RELATED VEHICLE) BUILDING COMPETITION TO TAKE PLACE AT WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE, WA1 4JL ON FRIDAY 27th MAY 2016. (10am-5pm)

ENTRANTS CAN BE TEAMS OR INDIVIDUALS AGED 18 YEARS OR UNDER.

ENTER AS MANY VEHICLES AS YOU CAN BUILD.
 (Any type of bike, running or not)

ENTRANTS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER THEIR EXHIBITS IN THE NATIONAL YOUTHBIKE COMPETITION (www.youthbike.com) HELD IN LINCOLNSHIRE 24-26 JUNE 2016

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BOB TOWLER
 C/O WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, GREEN LANE, WARRINGTON, WA1 4JL
 01925 818549

Or E-mail bobtowler97@hotmail.co.uk

HAPPY BUILDING!



www.bobsbikeclasses.co.uk

Happy New Year!



Resolution #1. Start smoking.