



North West Newsletter

March 2017

BREXIT

What will the future hold for bikers?

Well, it's official now, we've triggered our exit from the EU. But what will that mean for us bikers? Many are hoping for an end to European interference in our transport laws, while others doubt whether, in the global community of today, we will be able to chart our own path in such matters. Britain's Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) has called upon the government to continue to adopt the EU standards and allow businesses within the industry to "secure EU labour", in other words business as usual on regulation and immigration. What is certain is that we need MAG fighting our corner in Westminster as Brexit rolls out. And MAG needs your support to be able to have an effective voice.

This Month – Manchester Bike Show 25th-26th March

Massive thanks to all of you who dropped by the MAG stand at this year's show at Event City. The weather was fantastic which made for a good turn-out but was a tad frustrating for those manning the stands. As ever, MAG got great feedback from bikers at the show and loads of interest in what we're all about. Bikers by nature don't much like ill-informed, unnecessary regulation, which is why so many join MAG. The mystery is why the rest don't. Guess we'll have to keep plugging away!



Looking ahead – Salford MAG Autojumble 9th April



Fancy grabbing a bargain or just clearing out some of those old bits from the back of the garage? Why not help the MAG fighting fund at the same time? Salford MAG's autojumble is on **Sunday 9th April** at the **Bird In Hand pub, 304 Liverpool Rd, Patricroft, Manchester M30 0RY**, from noon until 5pm.

There will be music to keep you entertained and the usual selection of Joey Holt's beers to sustain you through the afternoon. Plots start at only £10 so contact salford-rep@mag.org.uk to book a slot.

Looking ahead – St.George's Rock Knight Saturday 22nd April

After their brilliant event in Whalley last year, Red Rose MAG will present their second rock night on **Saturday 22nd April**. This year it will be hosted by the **Whittingham & Goosnargh Social Club, Old Hospital Grounds, Whittingham, Preston PR3 2JE**. This has the advantage of camping being available, so you can relax and not worry about having to get home.

Live music will be provided by the excellent "5th Element", who have played the "You've Been NABD" rally several times – and if Rick Hulse will have them back they must be good!

There will be the usual raffle and food is available from the bar. Tickets are only £5 on the door, all profits to the MAG fighting fund. See you there.



"Speed Trap Jammers" could cost you a prison term



If you use one of the "laser-jammers" to confuse speed cameras then you could be looking at doing time. Recently a 41 year old BMW driver was given a two month sentence for using such a gadget and it was only his "exceptional character" and charity work (i.e. he had a good lawyer) that got the sentence suspended. These devices are easily available on the internet (including eBay) for under £300. They work by picking up the incoming beams from mobile speed cameras and then sending a beam back on the same frequency, making it impossible for the vehicle's speed to be recorded. Unfortunately, it also rouses the suspicions of the camera operators.

Technically, this is "perverting the course of justice which usually warrants a custodial sentence. The BMW driver escaped this time but also received 5 points on his licence, 100 hours community service and £2200 in fines and costs. It would have been cheaper to take the speeding fine.

“March of the Robots” continues apace

No matter what Brexit throws up, the future seems bright for autonomous vehicles. However, as the technology develops there is also a need for legislation to keep up. The government’s new Vehicle Technology and Aviation Bill will cut red tape and make it easier to run such vehicles on the road.

Under the Bill, drivers will have to take out an insurance policy to cover both driver error and vehicle malfunction. This will ensure that victims only have to lodge one claim and that policies will pay out even if the crash is caused by hacked software. The government seems to have decided that it will be the “driver” who will bear the responsibility for accidents, which will probably mean hefty premium increases to cover these extra risks.

Meanwhile, the House of Lords science and technology committee has suggested that new driving tests should be introduced for drivers of such vehicles, even for those who also hold a licence.



Ideas about driverless vehicles have been around since the 1950s

They envisage problems when an emergency occurs and the vehicle hands back control suddenly to the driver – tests have shown that in such circumstances drivers can be up to six times slower in braking than in conventional vehicles. The new tests would check that drivers are up to this task.

An £8 million government backed trial by the Transport Research library has concluded that an increase in driverless cars will be likely to cause an increase in risky behaviour amongst human drivers. It found that drivers were more likely assume the other vehicles would adapt to their behaviour, such as pulling out into smaller gaps. There seems to be little interest in developing autonomous motorcycles at present (thank God, some of you may be thinking) but a large number of such vehicles on the road is bound to affect us. MAG is keeping close watch on this one.

Fatal distraction – IAM speaks up about killer calls

MAG has endorsed the Institute of Advanced Motorists’ “IAM Roadsmart” campaign highlighting the dangers of using a mobile phone illegally when driving a vehicle. Steve Mallett, who has been leading MAG’s campaign to reduce illegal driving and dialing has added his personal support for IAM Roadsmart’s statement: *‘They have correctly pointed out that using a hand-held mobile phone while on the move is a fatal distraction and we welcome the increased penalty for those who decide to ignore the risks.’*

From now on, those who are found guilty of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving will be fined £200 and receive six points on their licence – twice the penalty that used to apply. IAM Roadsmart reminded the public of the case in November 2016 when lorry driver Tomasz Kroker was jailed for ten years after an accident he caused killed a family of four in a crash. He was looking for music on his smartphone at the time of the crash. The organisation’s research indicates that almost nine out of 10 people felt UK motorists thought distraction caused by mobile phones had become worse in the last three years.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Research, said: *‘Addressing the growing problem of smartphone use whilst driving will require a combination of enforcement and education as well as drivers, passengers, companies and individuals taking more responsibility.’* Steve Mallett agrees: *‘We may be able to pool our resources on this. A lot of people are sick of other drivers making the roads more dangerous just because they can’t wait to legally dial up their friends or family. The law’s the law on this one, and it makes a lot of road sense because an illegal call can easily become a careless kill.’*

MAG backs 'congestion and pollution smart Severn toll proposal'



MAG realises that what happens in one part of the country sets a precedent for the rest. With this in mind, MAG has formally submitted its support for the Severn Bridge toll proposals in the recent consultation regarding arrangements for the future. Motorcycles are currently exempt from the tolls and the proposals for the future include a continuation of this strategy, which MAG firmly agrees with. *'While you might expect a riders' rights group to be supportive of the exemption for bikes, the benefits extend far beyond the riding community,'* explains MAG's Director of Communications & Public Affairs. *'Every bike which is used instead of a car reduces congestion, and with that we also reduce pollution. The Severn Bridge operators are well aware of this, and MAG welcomes this sensible approach, whereby these benefits are reflected in their charging strategy.'*

Research has shown that a 10% shift from cars to bikes leads to a 40% reduction in congestion in some traffic scenarios. As such, making riding attractive financially is a good way to promote less car use and more bike use, thereby easing the pressure on one of the busiest road stretches in Britain.

'MAG never expects a free ride – we make our case on the basis of evidence. It's good to know that others have come to the same assessment as we have, and that we're working to a common cause – namely what's best for everyone. This is a congestion and pollution smart toll proposal and it is welcomed by the thousands of riders who cross the bridge every day, largely to get to and from work. We invite other commuters to leave their cars at home, and enjoy the many benefits of two wheels, including the toll exemption.'

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 **Road Slayers Brotherhood** at **8pm on Wednesday 26th April** at the **Rock pub, Peel Green Rd, Barton M30 7AY**. 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.

1st April – Allegiance MC April Fools Open Night at the clubhouse, Aintree

8th April – BDMC Diamonds Night with Circus Freak at the clubhouse, Hindley – free entry and free food.

9th April - Salford MAG Autojumble - Bird in Hand, Liverpool Road Eccles, M30 0RY 12-5pm

14th April - Westsiders Good Friday Party Banner pub, Hindley with Sin City, free entry, free food

16th April - Lionhearts MCC Charity Run and clubhouse opening, Tram St. Wigan 11am start

22nd April – Red Rose MAG St.George's Rock Knight – Goosenargh & Whittingham Club, camping available

23rd April Cogheads Pet Food Run from Forts Arms, Clayton-le-Moors at 12pm

28th-30th April - Into The Valley at new weatherproof site with heated inside area – pre-book only

30th April Motley Crew MCC Bike Show Packhorse, Albert Lane, Bury

5th-7th May You've Been Nabbed – new site: Cheshire Show Ground, Flittogate Lane, Tabley, Knutsford WA16 0HJ

6th – 21st May – Ibiza Run – £250-270 pp, see Ant from Avernus MCC if you want to go.

12-14th May Leyland Eagles Rally – the Showground, Whorles, nr Kirkham

26th May - 7th Warrington Wheels Youth Bike Competition – Woolston Brook School, Warrington, WA1 4JL

27th May HAMC Manchester Open Night is at the Rixton Food and Drink Festival

25-28th May – Big Barn Rally.

16th-18th June Farmyard Party – Helmsley, North Yorkshire

18th June Rising Moon MCC Bike Show - Euan Fields, Hyde

23rd-25th June – Blackpool Area MAG Rally, Fleetwood Rugby Club – the North-West’s Premier Riders’ Rights Party
30th June Crisis Crew MC Rock Night at the Ship, Irlam.
2nd July - Stanley Park Bike Show Blackpool – all proceeds to the MAG fighting fund.
1st-2nd July – Crisis Crew MC Bike Show at the Ship, Irlam.
8th July - Limefest
13-16th July Millennium 2000BC Caveman Bash Canberra Club Samlesbury BB2 7LF
4th-6th August Yorkshire Pudding Rally Escrick Nr York – pre-book only
18-20th August – HAMC Rock & Bike Fest, Rixton, Warrington WA3 6EA – custom show, camping and bands.
25th-28th August - Avernus Underworld Rally
25th – 27th August - Great North West Motorbike Festival, Winter Gardens, Blackpool
3rd September Millennium 2000BC Bike Show Baron’s Rest Chorley PR1XA
15-17th Jesters Rally Whittington & Goosenargh Social Club
28th October Accrington MCC Fright Night Poplar Club Wellington St, Accrington
25th November Cogheads Frightmare Before Christmas Poplar Club, Wellington St, Accrington

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 and I’ll put it into the newsletter next month.
Bill
NW Political Rep



We'll need MAG to help settle this one!

7th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2017

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 26th MAY 2017, (11.30am-2pm)

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 JUNE 2017

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

Or E-mail bobtowler57@hotmail.co.uk

HAPPY BUILDING!



www.bobsbikeclasses.co.uk



Red Rose MAG
presents the



St. George's Rock Knight



Saturday 22nd April 2017

Whittingham & Goosnargh Social Club, Old Hospital Grounds, Whittingham, Preston PR3 2JE

Live music from 5TH ELEMENT

Free Camping

Raffle

£5 on the door

All profits go to the Motorcycle Action Group Fighting Fund
Defending Riders' Rights!

MUSIC DRINKS

SALFORD MAG PRESENTS M/CYCLE AUTO-JUMBLE SUNDAY APRIL 9TH FROM 12 NOON - 5PM

REAR OF THE BIRD IN HAND PUB
304 LIVERPOOL ROAD ECCLES
M30 0RY

PLOTS AVAILABLE FROM
£10.00. for more info contact
salford-rep@mag-uk.org

BLACKPOOL MAG

MUSIC - PROPER TOILETS & SHOWERS - GOOD FOOD - REAL ALES - SUPERB CAMPING FIELD - LIVE MUSIC

20TH

RALLY

23rd-25th June 2017

£15 pre-book

PayPal via <http://north-west-region.mag-uk.org>

Cheque & SAE to 29, Lincoln Avenue, Cleeveleys, FY5 2DT

£20 OTG

Fleetwood Rugby Club, Melbourne Avenue, Lancs. FY7 8AY

All profits to The Motorcycle Action Group Ltd
Protecting our "Right to Ride"

Blackpool Stanley Park Motorcycle Show

Sunday 2nd July 2017
11am-4:30pm

Live Music in the Bandstand
Cadence, Free Roll, Secrets



£2 per bike/trike parking
which gains free entry in
the show. Trophies for best
in each class and overall

All profits to MAG's Fighting Fund
Protecting "Riders' Rights"

Further details at
www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org

2017
Previews 25th August 2017
Opens 26th August & 27th August 2017

www.gnwmt17.co.uk

A BRAND NEW FAMILY FESTIVAL FOR 2017 CELEBRATING THE BEST OF BIKES

Exhibitors Traders Live Music Demonstrations Gaming & much more

WAV WEST GARDENS BLACKPOOL

Official opening by Carl Fogarty
plus Q&A and meet and greets available.

The Great North West Motorbike Festival, a brand new family friendly event, opens into Blackpool's famous Winter Gardens for the inaugural event in August 2017.

Featuring a wide range of major exhibitors, traders both large and small plus demonstrations and Q&As with industry experts and star guest Carl Fogarty, The event promises to offer something for the entire family with an interactive simulation zone, heritage collection, live music & much more across the stunning venue.

Tickets
Just £10 for Adults & £5 under 12's
VIP Packages just £50.00
Visit www.gnwmt17.co.uk to find out more & book

MAG
Motorcycle Action Group