



MAG LAUNCHES MANIFESTO FOR RIDERS

The Motorcycle Action Group has launched its manifesto for riders in the run-up to the 2017 General Election. MAG has released its 12-point plan – a manifesto for riders – and invited all candidates and parties to share their views in advance of the General Election. Selina Lavender, Chair of MAG, said “*we have taken the views of our members into account when drawing up our manifesto. We know mopeds, motorcycles and scooters have a major part to play in helping cities and towns overcome some of their transport issues. We need the politicians to wake up and understand the need to include powered two-wheelers in transport plans today, not tomorrow. The riding community understands the advantages of riding rather than taking the car. We are happy to inform and educate the elected representatives. Our lines of communication are open, and we invite all riders to help us spread the word.*”

MAG has consistently sought to work with all the parties and Government Ministers in the interests of riders' rights. The election provides an ideal opportunity for all riders to quiz their local candidates regarding their views about motorcycling, which is a vital element in tackling congestion and reducing pollution as well as commuting times. Biking is part of the solution regarding the promotion of ecology, economy and liberty. We recognise that walking, cycling and rail can't do what motorcycles and scooters do. This is our agenda for riding, and we will work with member of all parties and none to achieve it. These are our 12 key policy targets.

1 MAG seeks exemptions for Powered Two Wheelers (PTWs) regarding all road-user charging schemes. All the evidence proves that motorbikes and scooters reduce congestion, pollution and commuting costs. Often the least wealthy use them to get to and from work. MAG has worked across the UK to win support from local authorities and road operators for exemptions to user-charging. We apply this rationale for an exemption in relation to congestion charging, road tolls and clean air zone charges.

2 MAG seeks a better approach to road safety. Despite passing official 'Safety Audits,' many 'road safety' schemes have bad impacts on motorbike and scooter safety. Examples include pavement 'build-outs' and speed cushions which encourage cars into the path of riders along the centre of roads. Reallocating road space for 'cycle-only' lanes - and changes in junction design –cuts space for motorcyclists and the 97% of traffic that isn't bicycles. We want to review this imbalance.

3 MAG calls for Powered Two Wheeler access to bus lanes to be a nationwide policy. A huge bank of evidence from London and other UK towns proves motorcycle access to bus lanes reduces congestion, doesn't hinder buses and cuts CYCLE accidents by 11%. Over 40 UK towns, including Brighton and Hove Council, run by the Green Party, allow bikes in bus lanes. MAG wants this to be a nationwide policy.

4 MAG calls for Powered Two Wheelers to be treated on a par with bicycles. A shift from four to two wheels helps everyone, cutting congestion and enabling shorter journey times. We want local authorities to provide bike and scooter parking for the UK's 1.5 million riders – just as they do for cycle parking. Bikes are not cars, and can't be treated like cars just because they have number plates. We've as much right to park our vehicles as other congestion-busting vehicles.

5 MAG seeks zero-rating of Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) on eco-friendly motorcycles. It's illogical to exempt some cars from road tax while taxing eco-friendly motorcycles and scooters. MAG wishes to review this anomaly with policy-makers.

6 MAG seeks a review of the rider testing regime. MAG opposes the substantial barriers to achieving a full motorcycle licence, which ignore the social, economic and traffic-flow benefits that bikes and scooters offer. We want Government and the motorcycle industry to work with us to find a fairer system. MAG also calls for a review of the practical aspects of the motorcycle rider test that currently have to be conducted in a relatively small number of off-road test centres – which followed implementation of an EU Directive. Now, as the need for UK compliance with EU Directives comes to an end, we propose that testing a rider's capacity to gain a full motorcycle licence should be carried out on the roads they would be fully qualified to ride on.

7 MAG will engage with innovations such as electric motorcycles. Electric bikes offer breath-taking economy and clean travel. Many road-going models are already on the market. MAG will work with Government and industry to explore these and other revolutionary, low-pollution vehicles, while insisting on the riders' right to choose conventionally-powered machines.

8 MAG will work with industry and the police on safety. MAG is a riders' rights organisation, not a road safety group. But many 'road safety' schemes increase risks to bikers (and cyclists). This flies in the face of considering our safety alongside other vulnerable road users. We want a level playing field for our safety – with cost-effective improvements for all road users.

9 MAG seeks a review of sentencing for those causing fatal and serious injury. MAG works to raise awareness and challenge sentencing decisions that don't reflect the seriousness of offences that lead to the death or injury of motorbike and scooter riders.

10 MAG opposes the erosion of liberties through telemetry and auto speed restrictions. MAG is philosophically committed to libertarian principles of personal choice. We oppose the use of technology to erode personal freedom for marginal returns. We seek confirmation that candidates share our commitment to privacy and liberty.

11 MAG seeks solutions to deal with crime against bikes and bikers. Motorbike-related crime is an epidemic. MAG is working with the authorities, including the police, to protect bikers and bikes from crime.

12 MAG supports a common-sense approach to motorcycle clothing. MAG is concerned by the growth of ideologically-led gimmicks that have seen requirements for riders to dress in specified ways being introduced in some EU countries. MAG contends that road safety is largely a feature of rider and driver attitude and it is in this area that safety initiatives should focus rather than inhibiting riders' rights of free expression in how they dress. MAG invites candidates to confirm that they recognise this common-sense approach.

This Month – You've Been Nabbed 26 5th-7th May

NABD celebrated their 26th You've Been Nabbed rally with a new venue – the Royal Cheshire Showground. Now, I was very fond of the old venue, Astle Park, and wasn't sure how successful the move would be. I needn't have worried, the Showground is a cracking site and much easier to get to, being just off the M6. The entertainment was well up to the usual high standard and a good time was definitely had by all. MAG, as ever, were there and the stand saw a steady flow of existing and prospective members over the weekend. Thanks to everyone who dropped in to say hello and offer support, it was appreciated.



Warrington Wheels Youth Motorcycle Competition – 26th May



It was great to see the fantastic little bikes built by the kids for the Warrington Wheels competition – the sun shone and, by chance, every bike managed to win a trophy. MAG cares deeply about the future of biking and thinks events such as this are a good way to get youngsters on board. NW MAG helped by sponsoring a trophy. Afterwards, organiser Bob Towler thanked the sponsors of trophies for their support of the seventh annual Motorcycle Building Competition: *“Without the assistance of people like yourselves, the event would not have been possible. The day was well attended and all those who participated had an enjoyable time. The competition has become an annual event for young people in and around Warrington and it is expected be held at a similar time next year”*. So feel free to spread the word, or even better supervise an entry. Individuals or groups aged 18 or under. For more information visit www.bobsbikeclasses.co.uk



Next Month – Farmyard Party – 16th to 18th June

Almost time for the UK's biggest bike rally, now in its fourth decade. It really is a fantastic weekend, set in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. The profits from the rally are a major source of funding for MAG so it's in all our interests that it continues to be a great success each year. I'll be there – hope you will too.



Next Month – Blackpool MAG Rally – 23th to 25th June



The Blackpool MAG rally returns and it looks like being a belter again. There will, as ever, be some great music, excellent cask ales, decent toilets and hot showers. Good weather, it goes without saying, is guaranteed. And if you fancy venturing further afield then Blackpool and Fleetwood are just a short tram ride away. The venue is again **Fleetwood Rugby Club on Melrose Ave**. So why not come along and support MAG while having a great time – tickets are available on the gate. All profits go straight into the fighting fund, defending our rights as bikers.

Brexit causes bike sales to fall – or to rise?

The National Motorcycle Dealers Association has reported a drop in sales of 16% in April which they are blaming on the economic uncertainty around Brexit. Stephen Latham, the association director, said that after Article 50 “consumers are likely to be holding off on high cost purchases until things become clearer”. Scooter and small motorcycle sales were down 30% however sales of larger bikes (650-1000cc) were up 8%. He didn't say whether this was also due to Brexit. Perhaps older bikers, who may be more likely to buy larger bikes, are more optimistic about the future?



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 **DDMC Bolton** at the **clubhouse** at **8pm** on **Wednesday 28th June**. Please check the NW Alliance website for any last minutes changes to venue/dates – they do happen! 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 (at the clubhouse on 27th May as usual)

Black Diamonds open night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley

Allegiance MC Open Night first Saturday of month at the clubhouse Aintree

Salford MAG meeting – meet at Bird in Hand, Eccles, last Thursday of month - suspended for time being

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

Ecclestone Delph Bike Meet every Tuesday until end of season, café open till 9pm.

Station Wanderers - meet Station pub, Ashton under Lyne every Tuesday

MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday, donations to “Hounds for Heroes”

Gypsy Divas meet – 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

Road Reapers MCC - meet 1st Sunday 1pm & 2nd Wednesday at 7.30 at the Elsmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton
Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite – every Monday (except last in month) 7-9pm Anchor, Liverpool Rd, Hutton PR4 5SL
Bury the Hatchett MCC - meet at the Two Tubs pub Bury at 7.30 last Thursday of month
Ronin MCC - meet every Thursday at the Grey Horse Hotel, Glazebury, Warrington.
Avernus MCC Open Night 2nd Saturday each month, at the clubhouse, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5BW
Hell's Belles WMC Open Night last Monday of month at clubhouse Radcliffe – Everyone welcome - The Cauldron, Globe Industrial Estate, Darbyshire St, Radcliffe, M26 2TA
Cogheads MCC meet every Thursday (except 1st) at 8pm, Forts Arms, Clayton-le-Moors
Road Slayers Brotherhood meet every 2nd Friday at Rock Hotel pub, Peel Green Rd, Barton M30 7AY
Accrington MCC meet at Poplar Club, Wellington St. Accrington on Sunday 16th April then every other Sunday thereafter at 8pm.

Known upcoming events –

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
24th June RBLR 1000 Mile Run in 24 hours starting from Squires café, Sherburn in Elmet
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
21-23rd July Running on MT Rally – Copple Gate Farm, Heywood, OL10 2NL
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 – Hamilton House Farm, Tarnacre Lane, St.Michaels PR3 0TB
25th – 27th August - Great North West Motorbike Festival, Winter Gardens, Blackpool
28th August MT Head's Bike Show – Rochdale Town Hall car park
2nd September Last Bastion MC Open Night at HA clubhouse, Cotton St. Liverpool
3rd September Millennium 2000BC Bike Show Baron's Rest Chorley PR1XA
23rd-24th September Ramsbottom Motorcycle Show
15-17th Jesters Rally Whittington & Goosenargh Social Club
28th October Accrington MCC Fright Night Poplar Club Wellington St, Accrington
28th October Millennium Halloween Rock Night
25th November Cogheads Nightmare 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



Believe it or not, some bikers still don't think they need to support *MAG!*

MAG & Affiliated Club Events

THE MOTORCYCLE ACTION GROUP YORKSHIRE PRESENTS:

THE FARMYARD PARTY 2017



16 - 18 June 2017
Duncombe Park, Helmsley,
North Yorkshire

MASSIVE line-up of bands and
music from 12pm on Friday!
Pre-book: £37.00 • OTG: £50.00
Under 16s: Entry Now FREE!
(Limited Thursday & Saturday Tickets Available)

info and booking at:
www.farmyardparty.com
freephone: **0800 988 3199****

Cheques (with SAE) to: 'The
Farmyard Party', P.O. Box 247,
Beverley, HU17 6BB

Disabled Bikers in Cars: Strictly
pre-book only by freephone
(both close 02/06/2017)

No Colours to be worn on site please
No glass allowed on site

*T&Cs apply: see website. **Web and phone
close 11/06/2017, Booking fee applies.

BLACKPOOL MAG



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



THE 6TH DEAD END RALLY

14-16th JULY 2017

DALTON UNITED F.C.
BECKSIDE ROAD
DALTON IN FURNESS
LA15 8DP

200 LIMIT

STRICTLY PRE-BOOK ONLY

NO CARS

LIVE MUSIC BOTH NIGHTS



DISABLED PARKING BY
PRIOR ARRANGEMENT
ONLY, NO FIRES OR
BBQ'S PLEASE.
deadend.rally@gmail.com

[www.facebook.com/
DeadEndRally2013/](http://www.facebook.com/DeadEndRally2013/)

TICKETS £15.00
PAYPAL LINK ON FB
RALLY PAGE
FOR MORE INFO
AND POSTAL TICKETS
CONTACT
07583001181
07951480486

15th ANNIVERSARY CAVEMAN BASH

13-16 JULY 2017

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LIVE BANDS
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£18 ADV
£23 OTG

MARQUEE
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KIDS UNDER 7 FREE
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CAR PASS £50
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CARS INC. BLUE BADGE PRE BOOK ONLY
TICKET & TRADE INFO
07563703365

TICKETS FROM 1 FEB-17 (INCLUDE SPK)
MILLENNIUM 2000 BC,
86 WESTFIELD DRIVE,
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BUY 10 TICKETS GET ONE FREE
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CHECKE CLT. OFF 23RD JUNE

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CHARITY RUN AND PARTY NIGHT 22ND JULY 2017

From Bulbeck Inby Via Rivington Barn
to
Saddle Inn
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PR4 0RS

Party night at the Saddle Inn
Good Beer
Good Food
3 Great Live Bands
Big Parking and Camping Area

UNDERWORLD RALLY 2017

MAD MAX 5: RETURN TO THE UNDERWORLD

25-28 AUGUST
HAMILTON HOUSE FARM
TARNACRE LANE
ST MICHAELS-ON-WYRE
PR3 0TB

AWESOME BANDS
ROCK DISCO
TRADE STALLS
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CHEAP BAR
GREAT BATTLE PRIZES

REAL BOGS
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BIKE SHOW
500 TICKET LIMIT

STRICTLY NO PEDESTRIANS

TICKETS £20
BUY IN SETTING PRICE

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OR BUY THEM SECURELY ONLINE FROM: www.underworldrally.co.uk
LIMITED CAR PASSES AVAILABLE AT £20 EACH (SEE THE FULL PROGRAM)

THIS RALLY SELLS OUT FAST
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT

2017

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

www.gmwmt17.co.uk

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

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MOBILE CHAOS MCC KAMIKAZE CAVE RUN RALLY

5TH - 8TH OCTOBER

2017

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more info to follow
www.mobilechaosmcc.co.uk

CUM'N DRIBBLE I'NT RIBBLE 18 15TH-17TH SEPTEMBER 2017

DETAILS OR BOOK ONLINE:
WWW.JESTERSMCC.ORG.UK £12.00 PREBOOK OR £15.00 OTG
MOB: 07971530190

CHEQUES TO:
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NIGHT

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