



## MAG has never been in better shape!



MAG held its Annual Group Conference in the small town of Manea (pronounced “*may-nee*” not *mania*, as I discovered) in Cambridgeshire, over the weekend of 29th September- 1st October, 2017. The well-attended event demonstrated the confidence and momentum that has been building up in the group over the last few years.

Selina Lavender, who was re-elected unanimously as MAG’s Chair, said “*the AGC’s mood and determination to maintain the gains in terms of influence and action underline the confidence of the movement in promoting riders’ rights locally, nationally and internationally. When we reviewed the extent to which the riding community has engaged with local authorities, ministers and other key bodies such as Highways England, it’s impossible to ignore the strides we’ve taken over the last few years*”. So, what’s next on MAG’s agenda? Selina continued: “*One target for us now is to continue attracting new members. The dramatic rise in membership across London shows it’s very possible to achieve this, and we just need to get the message across that signing up is an act of self-interest, to protect your own rights as a rider.*”

The AGC also heard Dr Leon Mannings’ announcement to retire from his role as Policy & Campaigns Advisor after seven years. In an emotive speech, he shared his belief that ‘direct action’ may be increasingly required to get traction with some more resistant authorities. He also observed that he’d never seen the organisation in better shape.

“*The next step is planning the year ahead to continue with no major course corrections,*” adds Selina.

*“ We’re doing it right and we’re doing it well, and we don’t need to make alterations to a winning formula. Leon’s departure brings on changes, and we’re considering how best to evolve our structure to get the most out of what we spend and how we spend it. There’s a lot to campaign on, and we know that crime problems, limits to road space and the pollution agenda will all feature in this. We expect a lot from ourselves in 2018 because we have a lot of people to represent, and a clear agenda. It’s looking good and I’m delighted to continue as Chair during such a productive time in the movement’s history.”*



## **Last Month – North Manchester Custom & Classic Bike Show 24<sup>th</sup> Sept**



It was cracking the flags again for the Ramsbottom Bike Show – what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than having a pint and checking out custom bikes? Well, plenty of folk seem to have had the same idea as the show was packed. A big thanks to the organisers and here’s looking forwards to another great show next year.



## **Last Month – Ribble Valley Mod Weekender 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September**



The scent of two-stroke hung over Clitheroe last month as hundreds of ardent scooterists invaded the town for the latest Mod Weekender. Saturday afternoon on Castle St felt like Brighton front circa 1965, although the Steve Marriott haircuts were a lot greyer and the fishtail parkas fitted a bit more snugly round the middle. And there was no scrapping with Rockers either!

Seriously though, this is a superb event – there is a great atmosphere around the town and loads of (mod) bands playing in the bars all weekend. Plus, of course, hundreds of (ridiculously valuable) vintage Lambrettas and Vespas lining the streets. These lads are nothing if not passionate about their machines, as witnessed by the high standard of scooters on show. As a life-long biker I’ve never really “got” scooters but soaking up the vibe over the weekend I couldn’t help but feel that I was missing out on something. Legally, of course, we’re all regarded just the same. A law restricting powered two-wheelers hits both bikes and scooters. So it’s good when bikers and scooter riders find common cause to defend our freedom to ride.

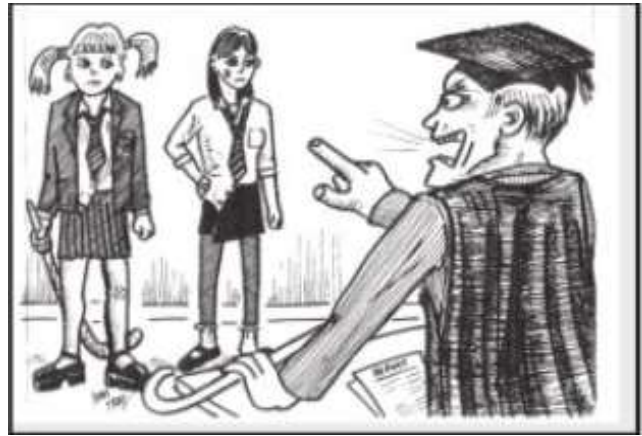
## **Next month - Blackpool MAG’s Halloween & Bonfire Party 4th November**

Summer may be over but cheer up, it’s almost time for Blackpool MAG’s famous Bonfire party. Halloween fancy dress is encouraged (but not compulsory). There’ll be live music, prizes, food and drink aplenty plus, of course, that bonfire. So why not have some fun supporting MAG and get down to Blackpool Rugby Club? Tickets only a fiver – bargain!



## MAG National Training Weekend – York Racecourse November 10-12th

MAG is pleased to announce the return of the Activists Training Weekend. This first event for several years will be held at York Racecourse over the weekend of November 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2017. Arrive Friday for a meal and informal chat about MAG, followed by structural training sessions on Saturday and Sunday. Depart Sunday lunchtime. The training covers aspects of running an event both big and small, putting on stand at someone else's event, communication & campaigning skills, how Central Office operates and loads of other useful stuff! Accommodation is on-suite twin rooms. A £25 per person deposit is required to secure your booking (returned when you attend)



Priority is given to serving MAG Officers but with only a few weeks to go there are still places available. If you are interested in attending please email your details to [central.office@mag-uk.org](mailto:central.office@mag-uk.org) or phone 01926844064.

### Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.



*"I wish I'd bought that Panther 25 years ago but I'm not paying those silly prices now!"* I've lost count of the number of times I've heard something like that said. Sadly, I'm afraid, many of us have simply missed the boat for a cheap classic. However, an old friend of mine recently shared an interesting theory with me: the price of classic motorcycles, which has risen so much in the last few years, is set for a fall. This won't happen in the near future but gradually over the next couple of decades, probably through prices stagnating and being eaten away by inflation. As you can imagine I was sceptical. Classic bikes seem to have been a sound investment for years

now, surely they will only go up? Well, this is the way he looks at it.

At 16 he started an apprenticeship at British Aerospace. Britain was still very much a manufacturing nation and most of the lads he went to school with ended up in similar "spannering" trades. Now, like many of that generation, they understand engineering principles are all confident working with their hands. Maintaining a quirky, often unreliable old bike is no problem to them; in fact it's fun. His two sons however work in admin and have zero training in mechanics. Modern vehicles require little maintenance, which is just as well as they wouldn't dream of getting their hands dirty anyway. At home, if so much as a lightbulb need changing they have to send for Dad. Were you to suggest to them that they could spend a contented Sunday afternoon stripping down an Amal Monobloc, they'd look at you like you were daft. So, he suggests, as the older generation die off who is going to pay the same sort of money for these old bikes? Of course, there are some blokes out there who will buy them simply as an investment. They may not even be able to ride a bike but will look at them the same way they would view paintings or fine wines – so long as the price goes up they're happy. But a great part of the intrinsic value of a motorcycle is in the experience of riding it. If vanishingly few people are capable of maintaining it to that standard, the resale market will dry up. This is not the environment to encourage rising prices.

As I said, I was sceptical. But a report last month on the classic car market would seem to back him up. Apparently, figures from Coutts Bank suggest that the value of antique vehicles has flatlined or even fallen over the last 12 months. At a classic car auction at Sotheby's almost half of the lots failed to sell (about twice the proportion of a year ago). One expert has claimed that this is linked to the move from the "grease monkey generation" who had the necessary skills to the high-tech generation who are more at home with an iPhone and so favour more modern designs.

Well, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and it'll be interesting to see what happens over the next few years. After all, stuff is only worth what someone is prepared to pay for it.

## 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 **Rigby's Guardians MCC** at the **Gardeners Arms, 266 Hollin Ln, Middleton, Manchester M24 5LE** at **8pm** on **Wednesday 25th October**. 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 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**

**Allegiance MC Open Night first Saturday of month at the clubhouse Aintree, (not Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept)**

**Red Rose MAG** - meet every 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Petre Arms, Langho nr Blackburn

**Ecclestone Delph Bike Meet** every Tuesday until end of season, café open till 9pm – last one 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept

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

**Rigby's Guardians** - meet every Sunday 6.30-9.00 at the Gardener's Arms, Hollin Lane, Middleton M24 5LE

**Road Reapers MCC** - meet 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 1pm & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7.30 at the Elsmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton

**Brotherhood Quest Bike Nite** – every Monday (except last in month) 7-9pm Anchor pub, 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 Greyhound pub, 44 Leigh Rd, Worsley M2 1LR - open night every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

**Avernus MCC Open Night** at the clubhouse, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5BW – **last one Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**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 1<sup>st</sup>) at 8pm, Forts Arms, Clayton-le-Moors

**Road Slayers Brotherhood** meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at Rock Hotel pub, Peel Green Rd, Barton M30 7AY

**Accrington MCC** meet at Poplar Club, Wellington St. Accrington every other Sunday (after 16<sup>th</sup> April) at 8pm.

**Chorley Wildhartz MCC** – meet first Thursday of month at Seaview Inn, Preston Rd, Chorley

**British Bulldogs MCC** – every Wednesday at the Balcarres Arms, Wigan WN2 1PA

**Spartan MCC** meet every Thursday at Railway Linnet pub Middleton, M24 1GQ

### Known upcoming events –

**13<sup>th</sup> October – Avernus Drink the Clubhouse Dry Moving Party** at the clubhouse, Coppull

**14<sup>th</sup> October - Crisis Crew MC Party Night** – Ship, Irlam, tickets only £2.50

**21<sup>st</sup> October - BDMC Gaz's Memorial Ride** leaving from the Black Diamonds clubhouse Hindley at 1pm

**28<sup>th</sup> October - Accrington MCC Fright Night** Poplar Club Wellington St, Accrington

**28<sup>th</sup> October - Millennium 2000BC Halloween Rock Night**, Canberra Club

**28<sup>th</sup> October - Hells Belles Samhain Rock Night** at the clubhouse, Radcliffe, Band, free entry & food

**28<sup>th</sup> October - Spartans MCC Halloween Rock Night** Royton Band Club, OL2 5QP

**4<sup>th</sup> November – Blackpool MAG Halloween Party Night** at Blackpool Rugby Club

**11<sup>th</sup> November - British Bulldogs Rock Night** – Balcarres Arms, Wigan

**25<sup>th</sup> November - Cogheads Frightmare Before Christmas** Poplar Club, Wellington St, Accrington

**25<sup>th</sup> November - Ronin MCC Rock Night** - Greyhound pub, 44 Leigh Rd, Worsley M2 1LR

**9<sup>th</sup> December - Avernus MCC Anti-Christmas Party** at the Red Herring pub Coppull PR7 5BW

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 - Road Reaper's St. Patrick's Rock Night**, Ellesmere Club, Bolton

**28<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Red Rose MAG 2<sup>nd</sup> St.George's Rock Knight**, Whittingham & Goosnargh Social Club

**28-29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - HAMC Manchester Rally**

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





Lest We Forget

November 11<sup>th</sup>

**Blackpool MAG's Halloween & Bonfire Party**  
**Saturday 4th November 2017**

**£5 on the door** **All Profits to**  
**8pm Till Late** **MAG's Fighting Fund**

**Blackpool Rugby Club,**  
**Fleetwood Road. FY5 1RN**

**Featuring:**  
**Live Music, Rock Disco,**  
**Hot Food, Silly Games,**  
**Fancy Dress Prizes,**  
**Raffle, Free Camping!!!**

**8th WARRINGTON WHEELS YOUTH  
 MOTOR CYCLE COMPETITION 2018**

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 25th MAY 2018. (11.30am-2pm)  
 Presentation at 1.30 Bring a gazebo

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 2018

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](mailto:bobtowler57@hotmail.co.uk)  
 HAPPY BUILDING!



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