



Apologies for the late arrival of July's NW Newsletter. As I set off on the bike a couple of weeks ago for a 1200 mile tour of northern France and Belgium I had a nagging feeling that there was something I should have done first. And this is it.

Blackpool MAG Rally 28th-30th June



A big thanks to all who supported another great Blackpool MAG rally. The sun shone, the music played, the beer flowed and a good time was had by all. Thanks also to Blackpool MAG branch who worked tirelessly over the weekend to make the rally run so smoothly in order to raise funds for the cause.

Last Month – Blackpool Stanley Park Bike Show 7th July



Surprise, surprise – it was cracking the flags again for Blackpool MAG's annual bike show in Stanley Park. Like every year! Now a firm fixture on the north west biking calendar, the show attracts a steady flow of visitors throughout the afternoon as well as lots of intrigued holidaymakers. It also raises a healthy amount for MAG. Thanks again to all who attended.

Next Month – Cum'n Dribble in't Ribble 20, 13-15th September

Almost time to get yerself down to the Whittingham club again for the famous Jesters of Preston rally, now in its 20th fantastic year. The long-time MAG supporting club have got plenty of experience in organising a great weekend, with plenty of decent ale and live music both nights. Tickets are just £18 on the gate. See the poster below for details.

Zero Vision?

Vision Zero finds new ways to contradict itself. Do you remember the phrase "Vision Zero"? This is the concept that by some date in the near future, all deaths and serious injuries can be prevented on the roads of Europe. This has set in motion a whole load of policy measures designed to improve safety on the roads.

Unfortunately, they haven't really thought it through. The very same people who promote Vision Zero also promote cycling and walking. What they seem to have failed to grasp is that cycling and walking are both almost invariably more dangerous than the modes of transport they're meant to replace. In other words, at the same time as they're trying to reduce deaths and injuries, they're trying to get people to use modes which increase them. This lack of logic is absolutely typical of what Colin and Lembit come up against all the time.

It gets worse. The safety fanatics seem to be happy to promote cycling and walking – but they don't extend the same support for powered two wheelers, which are evidently in the same category of low pollution and high efficiency transport. What is to be done? The Political Unit are doing what they always do – using facts and robust evidence to undermine the rubbish being presented all the time in official meetings. MAG always wins the arguments. It's a matter of getting those wins to alter policy. That's not easy but we will continue on this path. If you hear your local politicians discussing Vision Zero or proposing changes to road systems, which often actually increase the risk for bikers, let the Political Unit know at MAG HQ. We'll help to challenge bad policy with good evidence. If necessary, we'll even threaten 3 them with legal action if it looks like they're willing to kill more riders in favour of other road user groups.

Paris bans 2.7 million vehicles to combat air pollution



Paris has banned about a third of the vehicles in the region from entering the capital on weekdays to improve air quality and reduce deaths from particulate pollution. The measures — some of the most restrictive in Europe — come after the publication of a report showing that Paris has higher levels of the pollution than any other EU capital. Under the policy introduced on July 1 by Anne Hidalgo, the city's mayor, diesel cars and vans made before January 1, 2006 have been banned from the capital between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday, along with all motorbikes and three-wheeled vehicles made before June 30, 2004.

Those who flout the ban face fines of €68 (£63) while lorry drivers can be fined up to €375. A total of 2.7 million vehicles registered in Paris and its suburbs are affected by the ban: one third of all the vehicles in the region, according to AAA Data, a consultancy.

Those vehicles will still be able to drive in the suburbs, at least in the short term, but as soon as they cross the Paris ring road, the Périphérique, to enter the capital, they will be breaching the ban.

Ms Hidalgo says council staff will use CCTV to note registration numbers, to check the age of the vehicles and to send out fines. By 2021 computers will take over the job after the introduction of a system that will automatically read registration plates and issue fines.

Fake insurance alert



Meadowlands Avenue looks much like any other well-to-do area. The gardens of the 11 detached homes on the cul-de-sac are all manicured, the drives are packed with gleaming family cars. You would never guess its residents are the victims of a crimewave that has seen at least 204 phoney motor insurance policies registered there. It is making the lives of residents a misery and putting road users at risk. The fraud works like this. Drivers who want cheap cover are offered a deal by a fake

insurance broker. The driver hands over the premium and receives insurance documents showing their car and address details. In reality, however, they have been sold cover tied to an address in a cheaper area, such as Meadowlands Avenue — which has some of the lowest premiums in the country because the drivers there are cautious and low-risk. This Aberdeenshire street is not alone: householders in Norfolk, the Orkneys and the Highlands have also been targeted by scammers.

Ghost brokers, as the scammers are known, simply apply for insurance online and send doctored documents to their unwitting customers. The genuine paperwork, meanwhile, goes to the long-suffering

residents of Meadowlands Avenue and other such areas. The motorist may use their car without any problems because it appears — to them and to the police — that they are covered. But if they are in a crash, their cover will be invalid — and it is up to the insurance company to decide whether the drivers involved receive a pay-out. The Ghost brokers usually target motorists who face high premiums, such as the young.

The Association of British Insurers advises buyers to:

- Check the insurance seller has a legitimate website and a UK phone number and address. A genuine broker will not give a mobile as their only contact number.
- Check they are registered with the British Insurance Brokers' Association (biba.org.uk).
- If buying directly from an insurer, check they are a member of the Motor Insurers' Bureau (mib.org.uk).
- If they claim to be a financial adviser, check with the Financial Conduct Authority (fca.org.uk).
- Report suspicious ads to Cheatline via insurancefraudbureau.org/cheatline or on 0800 422 0421.

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 **British Bulldogs MCC** at the **Balcarres Arms, 1 Copperas Lane, Haigh, WN2 1PA** at **8pm on Wednesday 21st August 2019**. **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 - free entry, great bands, food available, open 7.30 'til late

Red Devils MC Open Night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley

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

MT Heads Meet – Flying Horse Rochdale 8pm every Monday

Road Reapers MCC - meet 1st Sunday 1pm & 2nd Wednesday at 7.30 at the Ellesmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton

Bury the Hatchett MCC - meet at the Two Tubs pub Bury at 7.30 every Thursday

Ronin MCC – Plough, Hazel Grove

Road Slayers Brotherhood every 2nd Friday at the Veterans' Garage Barton

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

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

Brigantia Rebels MCC meet at the Old Springs, Spring Rd, Wigan WN5 0JJ 1st Saturday at 7pm & 3rd Sunday at 3pm

Leyland Eagles MCC meet 3rd Mondays at Leyland RAFA Club

Avernus MCC – meet at the Red Herring Mill Lane Coppull PR7 5AN alternate Wednesdays and Sundays

RBLR meet 2nd Mondays at St.Chad's Club, Whittle-le-Woods

Life Behind Bars MCC meet every other Sunday – Hare & Hounds, 170 Outwood Rd, Radcliffe

Lioness MCC 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ Hope View farm, Astley M29 7LH – free food!

Throttle Twisters MCC every Monday – The Rifle Range pub, Burnley lane, Chadderton (**reopens 17th June**)

Veterans Garage open at Barton Aerodrome every Monday 6pm onwards

Rising Moon Bike Night – Wednesdays at the Travellers Call, Bredbury. Bike Night every month

Norsemen MCC – every 2nd& 4th Wednesday of every month @ Irlam Social Club

Wild Bulls MCC meet every other Thursday at 7.30 in Speakeasy Bar, Preston.

Accrington MCC meet every other Sunday at the Poplar Club, Accrington

Boggarts MCC meet every 1st & 3rd Wednesday at Hope View farm, Astley M29 7LH

Hell's Belles WMC meet last Monday of the month at the Cauldron Radcliffe

Phoenix Rising MCC meet 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm Tempest Arms, Chorley Old Rd, Bolton

Coyote MCC – meet every Tuesday Old Cock Inn Oldham Rd Middleton M24 2EB

Pist'N'Nuts MCC – meet every Friday 8pm @ Spring Gardens, Compstall Rd, SK6 5HE

The Sisterhood – meet first Tuesday of month @ 7pm at The Cart & Horses, Astley M29 7SD

Millennium 2000BC meet at Broadfield Arms, Leyland, every other Monday

Shieldmaidenz MCC meet at the old Lionhearts clubhouse Platt Bridge, timings TBC

Road Kill MCC meet at the Veterans' Garage, Irlam every Monday evening about 6pm.

Known upcoming events

10th August Coyote MCC Charity Fundraiser Night at the Old Cock Inn, Middleton M24 2EB

17th August Lioness MCC Barbeque & Band at Hope View farm, Astley M29 7LH (see Facebook for details)

23rd – 26th August – Avernus MCC Underworld Rally – **unfortunately CANCELLED and replaced by:**

23rd-24th August – Avernus MCC Purgatory Rally Adlington Cricket Club - 100 limit

8th Sept – MT Heads Ride in, Rock out Bike Show, Rochdale Town Hall

13-15th Sept - Jesters of Preston MCC Rally at Whittingham Club, Goosnargh

20-21st Sept 2019 – Lioness MCC in conjunction with Boggarts MCC Rally, Hopeview Farm, Astley, M29 7LH.

5th Oct – Avernus MCC Rock Night – Red Herring Mill Lane Coppull PR7 5AN

19th October – RDMC Manchester – 1st Anniversary Party at the clubhouse,

26th October – Accrington MCC Rock Night – Poplar Club, Accrington

3rd November - Hell's Belles WMC Samhain Night at the Cauldron Radcliffe M26 2TA

9th November – Millennium 2000BC Rock Night @ the Canberra Club, Salmesbury with free camping

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



***Good luck to French
protesters
(you don't often hear that said)***

**CUM'N
DRIBBLE IN'T
RIBBLE 20
13TH-15TH
SEPTEMBER
2019**

**JESTERS M.C.C.
PRESTON**

FRIDAY SATURDAY

**KING
ROCK** 

ALL THE USUAL PARTYING AND
DEBAUCHERY YOU CUM TO
EXPECT

LIVE BANDS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

WHITTINGHAM CLUB
OLD WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL
GROUNDS
WHITTINGHAM
PRESTON
PR3 2JE

**£15.00
PREBOOK
OR
£18.00 OTG**

DETAILS OR BOOK ONLINE:
WWW.JESTERSMCC.ORG.UK

Mob: 07971530190

CHEQUES TO:
JESTERS MCC, 109 COLLEGE COURT PRESTON PR1 7RU
LIMIT OF 350 TICKETS THIS YEAR

CARS OR VANS: PRE BOOK ONLY (LIMITED NUMBERS)
PARKING AVAILABLE FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS