



MAG's letter writing campaign starts to get results

Big thanks to all of you who got a chance to write to your MP about MAG's "Three Demands". As a result many MPs did write to the Secretary of State, and there have been a number of formal Written Parliamentary Questions raised. If you remember, the demands were for the government to recognise and encourage the role of motorcycles and scooters as a sustainable transport mode, to make all local authorities to immediately allow motorcycle and scooter access to bus and cycle lanes and to make all local authorities provide emergency secure two-wheeler parking facilities that can be used by both motorcyclists and cyclists. Chair Selina said *"We are delighted by the response of our members to our rallying call, and by the heed taken by many MPs. The number of responses and questions being raised has had an undeniable effect. I am pleased to say that we have now opened communications directly with officials in the DfT"*

Theft Stats Wrong



Meanwhile, MAG has shown that London is getting worse for bike theft. This data was received via Freedom of Information applications to the UK's 45 police forces. We looked at motorcycle theft for the year 2019 and ranked them in terms of thefts per thousand registered motorcycles in each area. The results are that London ranks worst. The Metropolitan and City of London forces are further behind solving the bike theft issue than any other police force. The gap is getting bigger too, the theft rate for London being almost twice that for the next worst police force area. In contrast, the most improved force areas include Cleveland, Nottinghamshire, West Midlands, Merseyside and

West Yorkshire. All these forces were ranked in the bottom seven for 2018. Figures for Greater Manchester - the last of the bottom seven ranked forces in 2018 - were sadly not available.

However, MAG has concerns that the theft problem could be worse than is being reported. MAG analysed all recorded motor vehicle theft reports in 2018 from the Metropolitan Police and MAG's count for motorcycle theft was more than 15% higher than had been returned in the FOI response. Colin Brown explained:

"It seems that the accuracy of entries for make and model is poor. Just one example was a Yamaha YS125 being recorded with Ford as the manufacturer. Obviously Ford doesn't make motorcycles. Interrogating the theft entries for motorcycle thefts, all Fords would be filtered out from a search. Errors like this thus lead to an under-reporting of motorcycle thefts. A simple solution would be for each theft recorded to include the vehicle class. Even if the person recording the theft cannot tell the difference between a Yamaha and a Ford, they should be able to count the number of wheels."

The Motorcycle Action Group has campaigned on the issue of motorcycle theft and secure parking provision for many years. MAG is a member of the Motorcycle Crime Reduction Group and engages directly with many police forces and Police & Crime Commissioners. Local MAG activists - lobbying councils and private parking operators to provide secure parking rails and ground anchors - have achieved many local successes over the years.

MAG offers a reward scheme for information leading to the conviction of motorcycle thieves who steal members' bikes and, in addition, runs an ongoing "Lock It or Lose It" campaign that aims to advise riders on security issues. The **MAG Foundation** runs a "Lock to Lock" campaign promoting a 'daisy chain' practice for motorcycle chains where no ground anchors are provided and has also financially supported a number of stolen motorcycle recovery groups.

What's your favourite motorway?

A poll of road users' satisfaction levels with UK motorways has ranked the M61 in third place nationally. Bottom place went to the M20, which links London and Dover, and is currently being "upgraded" to a "smart" motorway (at a cost of £92million of taxpayers' money). Strangely the good old M6 seems to be ranked middling. I'm sure we've all spent many a happy hour sat still on that one.

The rankings were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. M11: 92% satisfaction score, | =9. M6: 82%, |
| 2. M40: 91%, | =9. M1: 82%, |
| 3. M61: 89%, | =9. M5: 82%, |
| 4. M3: 88%, | 12. M25: 75%, |
| 5. A1 (M): 87%, | 13. M27: 74%, |
| 6. M56: 86%, | 14. M4: 70%, |
| =7. M65: 83%, | 15. M23: 64%, |
| =7. M62: 83%, | 16. M20: 63% |



Source: Transport Focus poll of 8,000 motorists between April 2019 - March 2020

Smart motorways = more serious crashes



Severe accident rates have worsened after the hard shoulder is removed, according to an analysis of reports published by Highways England. In one case, there was an average of only one serious collision per year before the conversion into a "smart" stretch, but this increased to six after the change. However, in balance the number of fatal and slight collisions dropped on most stretches after the change. There are now 200 miles' worth of these motorways, with plans for another 300 miles over the next decade, but concerns have been raised that the system is unsafe, with some vehicles left stranded in live lanes in the event of a breakdown. On the M6 between junctions 10a and 13, there was one serious accident a year before the change, and six in the following year.

Phoning while driving? – Not a problem!

Using a mobile phone whilst in control of a vehicle is one crime they can't accuse bikers of committing (very often). However, we've all had experience of the car in front weaving erratically because they're on the phone or even texting. Now a government review has shown the "bleeding obvious" - that drivers may be getting away with using their mobile phones at the wheel because of the patchy provision of police patrolling roads, itself linked to a decline in dedicated traffic police. Figures show that their number dropped by a third in ten years, from 3,766 in 2007 to 2,643 in 2017. It's a combination of increasing crime and fewer coppers to detect it. Surveys by the DfT show that



about 75 per cent of people believe that mobile phone laws are not being properly enforced. I reckon this would be a lot higher if they just asked bikers.

New Speed Limits proposed for Isle of Man Rural Roads

The Isle of Man Cycling Association recently submitted a letter to IOM government calling for a reduction in Island speed limits in towns and rural areas to 20mph. This has now been passed in Tynwald and will shortly come into force. Links to the news articles can be found below.

[Cyclists call for 20mph speed limit in towns and villages](#)
[20mph limit to be introduced on residential roads, towns and villages?](#)

There is also a push now to bring in speed limits on all other roads that could be as low as 40mph. Many on this Island feel this could have a negative effect on TT races & Festival of Motorcycling visitors.

A petition has been launched for anyone who may wish to offer their support in opposing these plans, link below.

[All Island Speed Limit Petition](#)



Hi-tech security systems could be the spy in the camp



Down at the NEC Bike Show last year I spotted quite a few stands there touting the benefits of security cameras that allow you to monitor your home, and garage, over the internet via smartphones. If someone tries to nick your bike, your phone alerts you immediately and even allows you to see them at it. It sounds great but nothing is perfect. It seems that criminals could use the way that such systems work to find out what you are doing behind closed doors. They do this by simply monitoring the levels of data processed by the cameras, and all without having to view any of your video footage.

Researchers looked at systems that link cameras to the internet via a home Wi-Fi system. The devices,

made by manufacturers such as Netgear, Hikvision and Nest, upload video to a shared storage system, from where the footage can be downloaded. Obviously, the cameras do not upload material when nothing is happening at home. If they do not detect movement, they essentially just remain on standby. However when something moves, the cameras send a message to the user, alerting them that they may want to check it. This means that different amounts of data travel through the Wi-Fi system depending on what activity was being recorded. A slight change in activity, such as standing up from a chair can cause a small amount of data to be transmitted. More data will be transferred when there is greater movement, such as somebody pushing your bike out of the garage. By just monitoring the different amount of activity at different times of the day criminals can find out when people are at home and what their daily routines are.

The research reveals that it is surprisingly easy for a criminal to access this information with just a laptop and the right software. Burglars can monitor many homes at once - they don't need to be watching or stalking somebody, they can just use the software to do it for them. So your bells'n'whistles security system could be telling burglars when the best time is to come calling.

Prize Crossword

Many thanks to all those who entered last month's competition. Our winner was Rob McAllister of Ellesmere Port who has won an Oxford HD MAX Disc lock (choice of colour) and reminder cables (RRP £25 + £4 for the cable). Well done, Rob! The solution is at the end of the newsletter.

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 **HAMC** at their clubhouse on

Liverpool Rd, M44 5BQ at 8pm on Wednesday 26th August 2020. Please check the NW Alliance FB page for any last minute 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 – in normal times!

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 Manchester Open Night every Friday at the clubhouse in Hindley

Red Rose MAG – meetings suspended until new venue found

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

Ronin MCC – every Saturday night @ the 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 & Linnet pub Middleton, M24 1GQ

Brigantia Rebels MCC meet at the George, Southport 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 every other Friday

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 – North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club, open night every 3rd Monday

Veterans Garage open at Barton Aerodrome every Monday 6pm onwards

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

Boggarts MCC meet every 2nd & 4th 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 Thursday 8pm @ The Pear Tree, 431 Hadfield Rd, Hadfield SK13 1PY

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 clubhouse, 198 Liverpool Rd, M44 5DB 1st Friday of the month

Road Kill MCC meet at the clubhouse, Unit 10, M44 5AZ, Irlam every Monday evening about 6pm.

Rally Rebels RC meet at the Cock & Rabbit, Manchester Rd, Southport every other Sunday 3-5pm

Antagonist MCC meet every Wednesday at the Church Inn, Chadderton OL1 2RR

Union Riders MCC meets at the Malaga Drift, Eccles M30 0DY every 1st Friday from 8pm

Gawsworth Jesters MCC meet at the Harrington Arms, Church Lane. Gawsworth SK11 9RJ, Weds evenings from 7.00pm.

Heathens MCC – meet at the Top House, Oldham OL4 5TB first Wed of month @ 8pm

Wiccan Wolves MCC meet @ Radcliffe Cricket Club M26 3RF every other Friday

Known upcoming events – the further off they are, the more chance they'll happen.

7-9th August Big Barn Rally – **postponed until 13th Aug 2021**

8th August – Invictus Summerfest- details to follow

14-16th August – Avernus MCC Back to the Underworld Rally – Park House Barn, Milnthorpe LA7 7EB.

4-6th September – Stormin the Castle – Witton Castle, Bishop Auckland DL14 0DE

11th-13th September - Jesters MCC Rally, Whittingham & Goosnargh Sports & Social Club, Preston PR3 2JE

18-19th September – Lioness MCC Rally – Hope View Farm, Astley M29 7LH

24th October- RDMC Manchester 2nd Anniversary Party at the clubhouse Hindley Green

25th-27th September – Farmyard Party – Helmsley, N. Yorkshire

31st October – Accrington MCC Halloween Night - Poplar Club, Accrington

28th November - Avernus Rock Night, Red Herring, Mill Lane, Coppull PR7 5AN

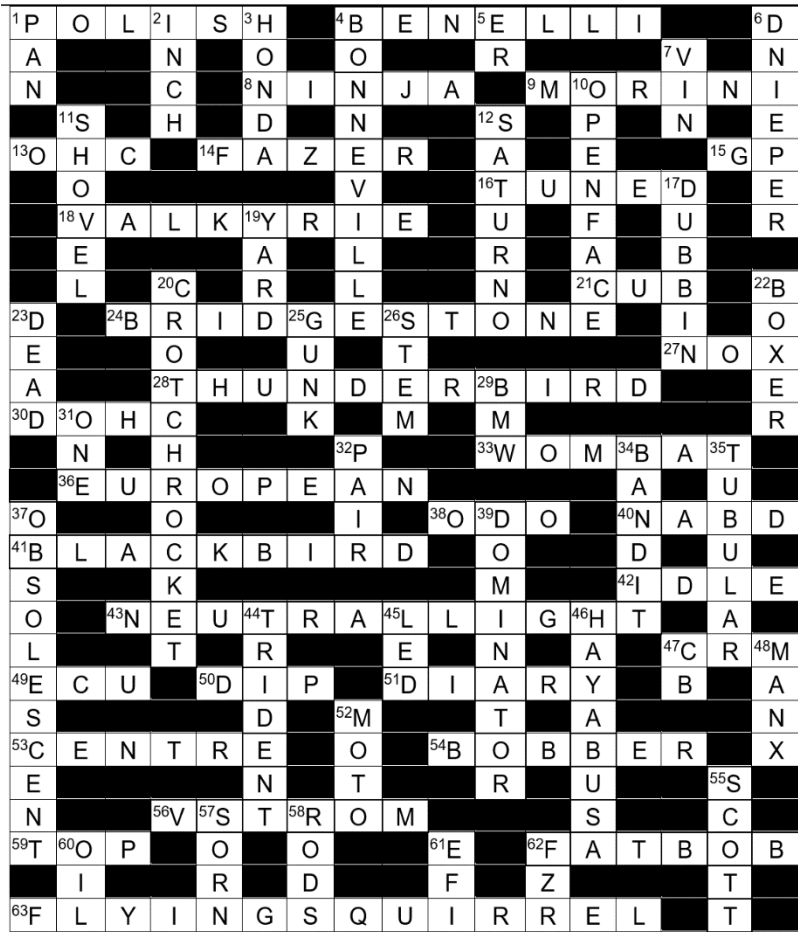
5th December – Coyote MCC Xmas Party Old Cock Inn Oldham Rd Middleton M24 2EB

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





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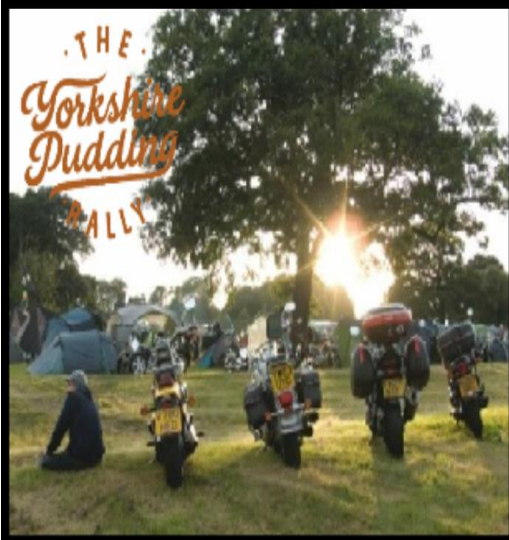


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Visit the MAG Foundation website for more information www.mag-foundation.org

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