



Reasons to be cheerful (in tier three)

Heard any good news lately? It pretty much seems all doom and gloom. I do hope you're keeping well and not getting too down in the dumps about the state of the world and the deteriorating riding weather. All things must pass, as they say. Personally I'm just looking forward to a better 2021 when I can get out and about on my bike without the need for all these restrictions. Even now MAG is working away to ensure that biking has a future. Thanks for your concern for riders' rights and for your continued support for MAG. Together we'll see better times.

Watch your speed p.1

Plans are being drawn up to expand "community speed-watch" schemes - those manned by local volunteers, armed with Hi-Viz jackets and speed-cameras.

If these concerned citizens manage to clock somebody travelling at 10% or more above the speed limit the cameras will record the registration number and pass it on to the police. Although the police can't prosecute using evidence from volunteers, they will usually send a warning letter and record repeat offenders.

Doubts arise about the scheme, with critics calling it ineffective and "policing on the cheap". However, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners is calling for it to be used nationwide.

If nothing else it'll give you a fright I suppose.



Watch your speed p.2



Racked up 12 penalty points and facing a ban? Well, just claim that it will cause you "exceptional hardship" and you'll be OK?

Not for much longer.

Magistrates have been told not to take such claims on trust. In future you will have to prove the hardship that you will suffer and to swear to it in court, leaving yourself open to perjury charges if you're fibbing. For example, courts will expect you to demonstrate that you can't reasonably use public transport to get to work.

On a brighter note a prosecution against a learner driver has failed on the not unreasonable grounds that all learners make mistakes.

When 17 year old Joseph Bell misjudged heavy traffic and stopped just past a red light he was caught by an automated camera. This led to the police issuing him a fine. However in court the bench decided to cut him some slack owing to his inexperience and he won't be fined or face costs or points on his licence. They described the police action as showing "overwhelming bad judgement".

At the risk of sounding like an old codger, this sounds to me like the shortcomings of yet more "policing on the cheap". When I learnt to ride there were no cameras. If I made a mistake (and I made plenty) it was spotted by an old-time copper who usually gave me a firm but friendly rebuke and sent me on my way chastened. I'd have been banned before I took my test these days.

Green light for bicycles

We think MAG are good but when it comes to lobbying the cyclists are second to none. Every month there seems to be some new initiative to benefit this planet-saving mode of transport. Take for example traffic lights.

No-one likes having to stop at red lights but many cyclists respond by just ignoring them. Now a new generation of “smart” traffic lights will give priority to the pedalists. They will automatically detect approaching bicycles and turn to green for them. This new technology will be tested in Southampton, Wolverhampton and Coventry at a cost of £700 per light. I wonder if it will be able to tell the difference between a bicycle and a motorbike?

In addition the government plans to overhaul the Highway Code next summer to add further



protections for cyclists. Ideas being floated include a “hierarchy” that give priority to cyclists over other vehicles, even suggesting that other vehicles give way to them at junctions (similar to the mad “priorité a droite” rule that makes riding in France so much fun). The cycling lobby is also pushing for a change to rule 66 regarding riding two abreast. Instead of advising against it on busy roads the new rule would suggest adopting it as the norm, only switching to single file if the cyclists themselves deem it safe to be overtaken. That won’t cause any problems then. Let’s hope at least that they ride in single file while they’re on the pavement. If not, you’d best not complain too loudly. Under draft guidelines for the media it has been suggested that referring to cyclists as “Lybra louts” should be considered a hate crime. As I said, cycling lobbyists are second to none.

E-scooter saga continues



Despite all the problems with the trial rental schemes, the powers that be still seem keen to get us onto electric e-scooters for our daily commute. Last month Coventry suspended its hire scheme after a predictable spate of trouble caused by kids blasting round the pavements and shopping centres, terrorising pedestrians. Two teenagers in Middlesbrough have apparently managed to get themselves filmed travelling at 70mph on one along the A19 – that’s more than I could get out of my moped, no matter how I tweaked it. Plans though are still in place to fully legalise their use.

The latest wheeze is to fit them with disabling technology which will make them grind to a halt whenever they go on a pavement or other such space. In theory the GPS will detect where the scooter is and kill the power. It has been said that this can take 30 seconds to take effect although its American designers claim it will respond in under a second. Watch this space.

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. However, under the current circumstances, very little on the calendar will actually be taking place.

Please check the NW Alliance FB page for any last minute changes

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 – **Not running at the moment**

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 – **restarts 2nd week in September**

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 Tuesday 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 – don't hold your breath!

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



MAG *Safety & Security* **Foundation**

WE are Promoting

- LOOP CHAINS FOR EXTRA SECURITY Lock 2 Lock
- DIESEL SPILLS KILL DON'T OVERFILL SECURE YOUR FILLER CAP
- Get a Grip

WE are Supporting a Number of Stolen Bike Recovery Schemes

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