



Things are looking up! The Yorkshire Pudding Rally has sold out early (as I found to my cost) and the weather is finally showing signs of picking up. The roads are filling with bikes again. Just make sure you give the bike a proper once over, especially if it's been laid up for a while. As Rosa Luxemburg, the Marxist philosopher once said, *'Those who do not move, do not notice their chains.'*

What the members want

MAG recently ran a survey to establish a snapshot of riders' opinions about what remains technically a potential phase-out of petrol-powered motorcycles. Motorcycles are not currently included in the Government's announcement of the 2030 end-to-sales of new petrol and diesel cars and vans. It is widely accepted, however, that motorcycles are likely to be covered in future announcements as the country works to decarbonise transport. The survey attracted a total of 4,805 responses. Of these, 1,575 responses were from MAG members. The remaining 3,230 were from non-members. It is assumed that all respondents would consider themselves to be motorcycle enthusiasts due to the channels used to promote the survey. This was not a randomised sample of all motorcycle riders.

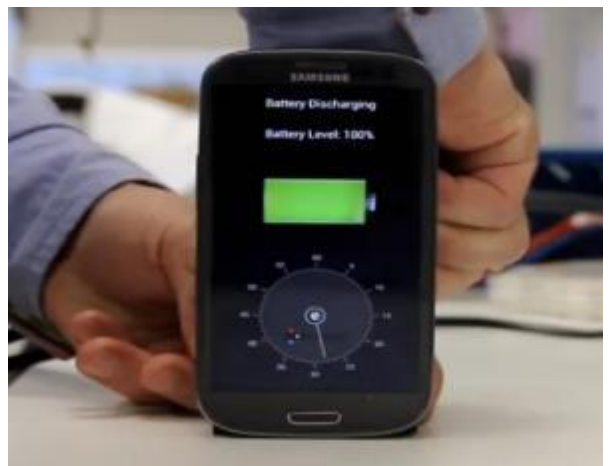
The first question covered opinion on a potential phase-out of the sale of new petrol motorcycles. We refer to the phase-out as a ban for brevity. Just 8% of respondents accepted a potential ban, 36% would want to see a ban delayed and 55% were completely opposed. It is noted that complete opposition was higher amongst non-members than members (48% of members compared to 59% of non-members were completely opposed.) Eighty-three percent of all respondents want to see MAG work with other groups opposed to the ban of petrol- and diesel-powered vehicles.

The third question probed attitudes to electric motorcycles. Asked whether they would stop riding altogether, keep existing petrol motorcycles running for as long as possible, or adopt electric before the end of any phase-out, 31% said they would hang up their crash helmets, 56% would resist the switch for as long as possible and just 13% would make the switch before it was unavoidable.

MAG Chair, Selina Lavender, commented *"I was delighted by the level of response to the survey and I would like to thank all those that took the time to let us know their opinions. MAG always represents the views of all riders, regardless of their choice of motorcycle. We have worked hard to develop the channels that get riders opinions heard by Government. We will not misrepresent those opinions. If you care about motorcycling, you can rely on MAG to voice your opinions at the highest levels. Please do ensure you join or renew your membership of MAG. Your subscription will help support our work to ensure motorcycling has a bright future."*

Towards a better battery

There's obviously an awful lot of research going on at the moment, trying to produce a better vehicle battery. It seems like every week a new advance is announced, promising greater range, faster recharge time and cheaper cost. If this can be achieved, the payoffs will be vast. The latest great idea comes from StoreDot, an Israeli company, promising a five minute recharge time within three years. At present, lithium ion batteries use graphite, a form of carbon, as the medium to store the electrical charge. StoreDot's battery replaces the graphite with metalloid nanoparticles, such as silicon, which somehow allows faster charging (metalloids are those elements whose properties are a cross between metals and non-metals). It claims it has a Chinese



company lined up to mass-manufacture the batteries and that the German car-maker Daimler is interested too. Time will tell if it comes to anything. Let's see what comes along next week.

A Future for ICE?



Meanwhile, heavy plant manufacturer JCB has been pondering how best to move to zero-emissions. Using one of its 20 tonne excavators as an example, they have estimated that appropriate hydrogen fuel cells would run to around £100,000 and that batteries needed to power the behemoth would cost even more, at £160,000. So instead they are looking at converting their existing diesel engine design to run on hydrogen. In the modified engine, instead of a diesel/air mixture, hydrogen/air is injected into the cylinders and ignited with a spark plug. When the hydrogen

burns in the oxygen in the air all that is produced is H₂O, water. One additional problem is the production of toxic nitrogen oxides (NO_x) through the reaction of atmospheric nitrogen with oxygen in the cylinders at high temperature and pressure. JCB propose to get round this by using very low levels of hydrogen (1 hydrogen:100 air) to keep the temperature lower, producing practically zero levels of NO_x. Through using the same production lines, and many of the same components, as their existing diesel engines, JCB say that the cost of each engine could be kept down to about £10,000.

As yet, motorcycles are not included in the government's 2030 petrol/diesel ban. How long that will be sustained is anyone's guess. Recently polling of MAG members shows that most of us are not over the moon about this. However, developments such as those at JCB may mean that predictions of the demise of the internal combustion engine (ICE) may be premature. One day we may be "firing up" new bikes on hydrogen.

MAG to guide on "orcas"



Wirral MAG has challenged the local council about the installation of 'Orca' Cycle Lane Separators along the mandatory cycle lane at New Chester Road, Wirral. This is a long-standing bugbear as these plastic blobs have been shown to be a hazard to both bikers and pedestrians but hold a special attraction to councils owing to their relatively low cost. In response to local rep. Dave Pearson, the council has confirmed that they are monitoring their effectiveness and suitability and that MAG is invited to join their group of consultees, with whom they liaise prior to the introduction of any highway improvement type scheme. Another example of grass-roots MAG taking the lead on matters affecting all bikers.

Low Traffic Zones – the downside

London, and other cities, have attempted to reduce pollution and road deaths by stopping traffic from entering certain areas. This can take the form of blocking roads with bollards or plant boxes, allowing only pedestrians or cyclists to get through. Or indeed young thieves on mopeds.

All good ideas seem to have unintended consequences and Low Traffic Zones seem to be making life hard for police and emergency services. Criminals have learnt that if the police are chasing you just head through one of these zones and you'll lose them. Fire-engines have had to mount pavements to get to a call and there have been reports of firemen and paramedics having to abandon their vehicles and walk in. This is all worth bearing in mind when one is proposed in your neighbourhood.



Support Ride To Work Day - 21st June

Motorcycles are a key part of a sustainable future for transport. They provide social, economic and environmental benefits in a world dominated by cars, which are often driven with no passengers. Many workers have been displaced from public transport over the last year and motorcycles offer a Covid-safe way to fill the gap between active travel and reduced public transport, without relying on the car.

21st June is national Ride to Work Day, which is a chance to show, as well as tell, that motorcycles are part of the solution to current transport problems. It is also an important mode of transport as part of the UK's 'transport recovery' from Covid-19. This is something which needs broader recognition by both local and national government. Using motorcycles, scooters and mopeds for work, education and for domestic activities, helps reduce traffic congestion and pollution. They are also easier to park and in the majority of places this is free.

So why not join in by riding to work? Also spread the message, particularly among work colleagues that motorcycling opens a world of opportunity and enjoyment, not just for work, but also for recreation and leisure.

Details can be found on the website at: <http://ride-to-work-day.mag-uk.org/>

North West Motorcycle Alliance

Meetings will resume on Wednesday 30th June, to be hosted by Shieldmaidenz MCC.

The 28th July meeting will be hosted by Lioness MCC.

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 meetings to be arranged (St.Chad's Club is out of action)

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

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

*Der
Kommissar*



RIDE TO WORK

Celebrate 30 years of finding a better way to commute to work

Ride To Work Day 2021
Monday 21st June



6TH - 8TH AUGUST 2021

THE 18TH
Yorkshire Pudding
RALLY

Sold Out

Motorcycle Action Group
POSE

18-20 JUNE 2021

Cancelled



MAG
Safety & Security Foundation

WE are Promoting

**DIESEL SPILLS KILL
DON'T OVERFILL
SECURE YOUR FILLER CAP**

**WE are Supporting a Number of
Stolen Bike Recovery Schemes**

**YOU Can Financially Support US
by Shopping On-Line at**

Give as you Live®
Shop at over 4,000 leading stores via the www.giveasyoulive.com website, Donation Reminder or app and you'll raise free funds for The MAG Foundation.

amazon

When you shop via the smile.amazon.co.uk website, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the MAG Foundation, if we're your nominated charity.

Visit the MAG Foundation website for more information
www.mag-foundation.org
The MAG Foundation Registered Charity no. 1100274

Blackpool Stanley Park Bike Show
Sunday July 4th 2021
11am - 4pm

Motorcycle Action Group

MAG
Motorcycle Action Group

**£2 Bike/Trike Parking
Entitles Entry to the Show**

**Live Music in the
Bandstand Featuring
Rupert Fabulous**

**Trophies for
Various Classes and
Best in Show**

Details at www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org
All Profits to the MAG Foundation Registered Charity 1100274

STORMIN' THE CASTLE
3rd-5th Sep 2021

**Stormin The Castle
Bike Rally & Custom Show**
Witton Castle, Co Durham DL14 0DE

Join us for our 30th Anniversary in 2021

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RIBBLE 21**

**17TH - 19TH
SEPTEMBER
2021**



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THE
EDGE**



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