

Prize Crossword Edition



Summertime...

I can't believe that it has been almost too hot to ride the bike. Having seen some nasty tumbles in my youth involving mates who were only wearing t-shirts, I always make sure that I've some sort of jacket on, so I've been baking alive. Not that I was complaining, days like these are what it's all about.

Many of us are in the habit of renewing our MAG membership at the same event each year – that's how we remember. However with the Manchester Bike Show, Into the Valley, Blackpool Rally and Bike Show and now the big Motorcycle Live show at the NEC in November all now cancelled, we've lost that reminder. So please make sure you renew anyway, preferably by Direct Debit – MAG needs you more than ever!

MAG Demands Government Action



This week saw Segway, the weird two-wheeler manufacturer, announce that it will stop production in July due to falling sales. Having only "ridden" one once I can't say I'll miss them - I felt like I was about to head-butt the tarmac the whole time. There's a reason that bicycles and motorcycles are built the way they are – they work. There's no need to re-invent the wheel (alignment). They're also pretty good for the environment with their lower emissions. Plus motorcycles are also the safest travel mode to limit Covid-19 infection, because riders must wear personal protective equipment - and naturally we ride over 2 metres apart.

The much heralded improvements in air quality during the lockdown have already been reversed, as commuters shun public transport in favour of cars. So the Motorcycle Action Group is making the common sense demand that the Government includes motorcycles in the Covid lockdown exit plan. Demand for motorcycles and scooters are rocketing and the government should encourage this by:

1. Specifically recognising the role of motorcycles and scooters as a socially distanced, congestion busting and sustainable transport mode.
2. Making all local authorities immediately allow motorcycle and scooter access in all combined bus and cycle routes.
3. Making all local authorities immediately provide secure two-wheeler parking facilities that can be used by both motorcyclists and cyclists (we're not selfish!).

This could be a quick fix to the transport problems in our major cities. So why isn't it being adopted eagerly? Perhaps too many in the Green lobby refuse to consider any conventionally powered vehicle as a way to reduce both congestion and emissions. They want the "ideological purity" of electric vehicles - never minding the numerous drawbacks, including an estimated 35 000 children employed mining cobalt for the batteries in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thefts in Lancashire

We've received disturbing reports of more motorcycle thefts around the Accrington area. After one theft the police pursuit was called off after the riders took their helmets off and proceeded to flee. The bike was later found abandoned, the police had it recovered and the owner of the bike had to pay the fee. The police will be taking no further action due to the costs associated with pursuing the case. This was not an isolated incident however, the BB5 postcode (and Lancashire as a whole) is becoming more and more of a hotbed

for this particular crime. For example, the cocky idiots behind the Instagram accounts below are actively bragging and encouraging others to engage in bike thefts.

Police response to this varies greatly across the UK as there isn't a national policy. Some forces like the Met will continue pursuit even if riders do not have helmets but as London accounts for 40% of all bike thefts nationally they are under pressure to crack down hard on the scumbags. Tony Cox, NW MAG rep, has been in touch with Merseyside police trying to set up a meeting with a Community Policing Chief Constable over there but Covid has scuppered that for the time being.

Unfortunately, the Police are under resourced, as we all know, and bike crime is not a high priority. The MAG Foundation is supporting a number of Stolen Bike Recovery initiatives in London, Bristol & Sussex and locally MAG has been trying to assist SMART Northwest, who organise patrols looking for stolen bikes. Ultimately though we all have to make sure we make our bikes as hard to nick as possible.

https://instagram.com/ossy.accy_repo?igshid=1u5a9dobapmt7

https://instagram.com/accy_repo?igshid=tzxs1cz2ikhg



Ban on ICE* machines

The government's Committee on Climate Change is recommending that the ban on the sale of petrol engine cars, motorcycles and hybrid vehicles should be brought forward to 2032, three years before the 2035 date that was set in February (itself 5 years before the previously 2040 target set in 2018). This will spell the end of all new petrol motorcycles in the UK. It might well turn out to be impossible to implement, but if they make it a policy that will still wreck the entire motorcycle industry as we know it. We literally face an end to our right to choose to buy petrol machines by as early as this decade.

What do you think about this? If you're not happy then you have until **31st July 2020** to get your comments into the Department for Transport at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consulting-on-ending-the-sale-of-new-petrol-dieseland-hybrid-cars-and-vans>

(*Internal Combustion Engines)

British Engineering Makes Electric Better



Battery powered electric vehicles have many advantages but one big downside - you have to spend at least 45 minutes recharging every 100-150 miles or so. Now British engineers believe that they can cut this to 10 minutes because they have found a way to get round the main bottleneck on fast charging.

One of the big problems with charging quickly is that it generates a lot of heat internally which must be removed. Batteries take a long time to charge up not because it is hard to get electrical energy in but because it is difficult to get heat energy out.

The solution may come from a completely different type of technology - fusion reactors. The temperature in a nuclear fusion reactor can reach five times the centre of the sun. Obviously, this requires a high-performance cooling system.

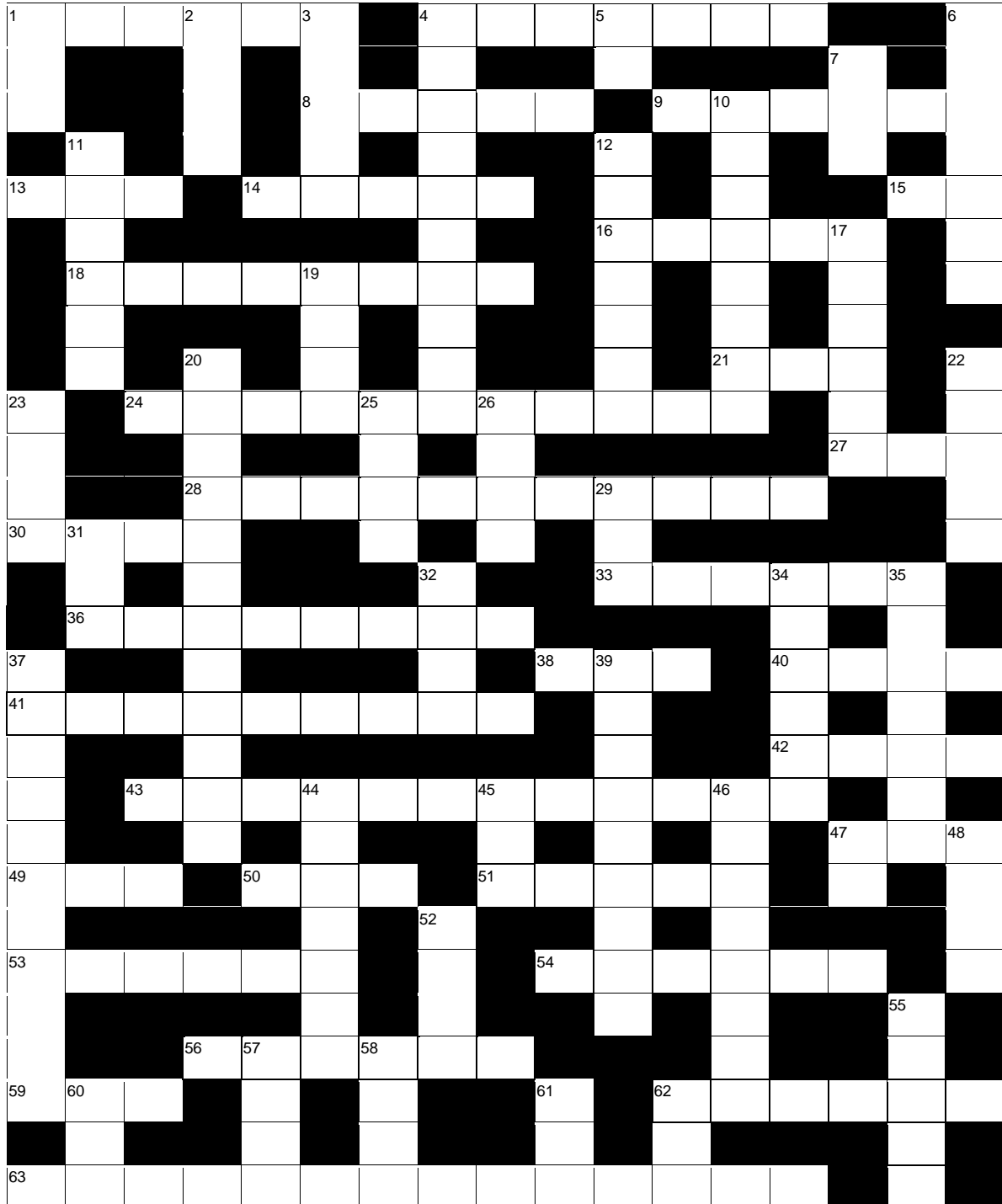
The solution to both problems could be to use metal plates drilled with a precise alignment of holes. As well as increasing the surface area for heat loss the pattern allows the heat generated to move quickly and be lost evenly through the plate. Rather than the present technique of placing plates on the outside of the battery, where it takes longer for heat from the inside to reach the exterior, they connect directly to the centre, drawing heat away, like "highways" to get the heat out faster.

At present, if you need to go 300 miles you have two options. Either you get a battery large enough to hold charge for 300 miles, in which case you don't have to stop at all. This however is costly as batteries are the main expense. Or you get one that can go 150 miles and stop once for just ten minutes. This allows you to effectively increase your range but almost halve the price. And, as importantly for a bike, cut the weight.

Prize Crossword



As a special one-off this month we have a bike-themed prize crossword, the prize being an Oxford HD MAX Disc lock (choice of colour) and reminder cables (RRP £25 + £4 for the cable) to help stop some little scrote having away with their pride and joy, courtesy of the **MAG Foundation**. The Foundation (the charity arm of MAG) is working hard to promote safety & security as well as supporting the volunteer groups recovering stolen bikes. We were hoping to publicise this at the Manchester Bike Show and would have been giving away these locks with every new membership, however that was not to be. One of these fine disc lock will now be awarded to the first correct solution to the Prize Crossword drawn out of a helmet on Friday 24th July.



Across

1. How to shine in Warsaw? (6).

4. Italian manufacturer gone west? Quite the opposite! (7)
8. Kawasaki GPZ900R was the first (5)
9. see 52 down
13. Engine design without pushrods (3)
14. Yamaha FZS600 (5)
15. IoM series of races in late August/early September (2)
16. Correctly set up, engine- or piano-wise (5)
18. see 3 down
21. Honda's biggest ever seller – a baby bear? (3)
24. Brand of tyres (11)
27. These exhaust gases sound hard (3)
28. These Triumphs are go! (11)
30. Twice 13 across (4)
33. Hodaka 125 (and marsupial) (6)
36. see 1 down
38. This measures how far you've come – the same back (3)
40. Bikers' disability charity (4)
41. This Honda was the fastest road bike - until 46 down came along (9)
42. Just tick over and do nothing? (4)
43. A green glow that says you're going nowhere? (7,5)
47. 90s Honda 250 trail bike (3)
49. Engine computer (3)
50. Do this to your oil or headlight (or sheep) (3)
51. Make sure you write down all the MAG events in this (5)
53. see 59 across
54. Bike with all excess bodywork stripped off (6)
56. Suzuki DL650/1000 (6)
- 59, 23 down & 53 across. The best cemetery in town? Pistons can't get any higher (3,4,6)
62. Robert's piled a few pounds on, so it'll be a Harley (3,3)
63. see 55 down

Down

- 1 & 36 across. Honda's continent crosser (3,8)
2. see 31 down
- 3 & 18 across. F6C (5,8)
4. A good city in France (or a salt flat in Utah) (10)
5. Kawasaki 500/650 twins (2)
6. Ukrainian version of a 29 down (Eng. spelling) (7)
7. Usually found on a plate to the right of the headstock (3)
10. Type of helmet (4,4)
11. This "Harley-head" has it in spades (6)
12. Old Gilera sounds out of this world – runs rings round it? (7)
17. Waterproofin' – Arise Sir Wax Jacket! (6)
19. Thirty six times 31 down (4)
20. A firework down your underpants? That'll be fast! (6,6)
22. see 29 down
23. see 59 across
25. Degreaser (4)
26. Part of a flower– or valve (4)
- 29 & 22 down. Bavaria's answer to Mike Tyson? (3,5)
- 31 & 2 down. Imperial equivalent of 25.4mm (3,4)
32. Valve to inject air into the exhaust to reduce emissions – sounds like two of them (4)
34. Suzuki thief? (6)
35. Type of tyre, frame or bell (7)
37. What 61 down has made carbs (11)
39. This bike sounds like a joint effort by Honda and Norton (9)
44. The three points that Triumph made (7)
45. Type of lights on a Zeppelin? (3)
46. see 41 across (8)
47. Range of Hondas (and walkie-talkies) (2)

- 48. Classic racing Norton (4)
- 52 & 9 across. Italian bike manufacturer - 3½ anyway (4,6)
- 55 & 63 across. Caledonian airborne rodent? Classic British water-cooled two-stroke twin (5,6,8)
- 57. Bike off the road, I declare! (4)
- 58. Push and con – engine parts (4)
- 60. Slippery stuff (3)
- 61. Fuel delivery system controlled by 49 across (3)
- 62. 80/90s Yamaha sports bikes (3)

Entries can be submitted in the following ways:

Print off the grid, fill it in and either post it to

“*NW MAG Crossword*”, 98 Pimlico Rd, Clitheroe, BB7 4PT

OR

email a photo of the completed grid to billgreen@madasafish.com

OR

just email the solutions. Whatever is easiest for you.

Good luck!

North West Motorcycle Alliance

Meetings of the Alliance are obviously suspended at the moment in accordance with government guidelines. Likewise many of the events listed will be subject to cancellation.

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.

19th July – 2nd HAMC Liverpool Ride in Bike Show at the clubhouse Cotton St L3 7DY – prizes, food, bar, music – **this is definitely happening!**

25th July – 2nd HAMC Manchester 666 Thunder Run – leaving from the clubhouse, Cadishead at 1pm

29th July - Gawsworth Jesters MCC Bike Night

31st July - 2nd August - Yorkshire Pudding Rally

7-9th August Big Barn Rally – (see FB)

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

*Der
Kommissar*



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www.mag-foundation.org

The MAG Foundation Registered Charity no. 1100274

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