



Massive thanks from MAG

So it's almost the end of 2020, the year that just keeps giving. I imagine that many of us will be happy to see the back of it and look forward to a better 2021. As MAG Chair, Selina Lavender, says:

"This year has been both extraordinary and extraordinarily difficult; not just for MAG, but for the entire world due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Since March, we have had Lockdown and Lockdown 2.0; restrictions on travel and gatherings; and countless cancelled social and fundraising events. At the outset, MAG tasked its Executive Officer with a close scrutiny of funds to ensure that the organisation could continue fighting for riders' rights during a time when all the major fundraising events had to be cancelled. Fortunately, MAG runs a tight ship financially at all times, so we knew we could continue our work in both the short- and medium-term by identifying any small savings and dipping into reserves. Plus, we were eligible for a support grant and our membership rose to the occasion with many donations gratefully received.

Although life as we knew it disappeared almost overnight, our work continued apace: Board and NC meetings swiftly moved on-line; Colin and Lembit became "Virtual Colin and Lembit" but no less effective; and we even managed to run one of our smaller premier events later in the year – no mean feat given the circumstances. I can only thank each and every one of our members for their amazing level of support during these strange times. I wish you all a healthy and safe Christmas, and I look forward to working with you in 2021 when, hopefully, we will begin to emerge into better times again."

Happy New Year from NW MAG – stay safe and we'll see you soon!

Smart Motorway death may lead to corporate manslaughter charge



A coroner in Doncaster investigating the death of a 62 year old grandmother on a "smart" section of the M1 has said that Highways England may face a charge of corporate (or gross negligence) manslaughter. Nargis Begum was in a Nissan Qashqai that broke down near Woodall services in September 2018. After more than 16 minutes passed, and warning signs to close the lane had still not been activated, another vehicle hit the car, which then hit her. It was yet another 6 minutes before the warning signs were finally switched on. The coroner adjourned the hearing to give Highways England's lawyers time to prepare their response. The hearing will start again in February. The CPS decided against prosecuting the driver who crashed into the car.

Less traffic = more potholes

Vehicle use has predictably declined during the pandemic this year, at one point falling to just 23% of pre-lockdown levels. Yet despite this there has been a significant increase in complaints about the state of the roads. This seems to contradict government claims in May that it had provided £2.5 billion to mend the estimated 11 million potholes at that time.

Every council has a responsibility to inspect roads for damage and put it right. If they don't they may be liable to pay compensation to road users. The expected time-scale for prompt repairs can vary from less than a day for the worst potholes on the busiest roads to up to 3 months for minor damage. Last year councils paid out more than



£8 million to road users who suffered injury or whose vehicles had been damaged by poor road surfaces. However, if councils can show that the damage to the road had occurred after an inspection had been carried out, and it had not been reported, they are not likely to be held liable.

Full-size “Scalextric” to be tested



Range and recharging time are seen as two major drawbacks with electric vehicles. Now a new trial in Coventry could see whether charging on the move is a practical solution. Electric coils, powered by the mains, would be built into the tarmac of the road's surface. This would induce a current in a “receiver” on the vehicle's underside which in turn would charge the battery. That's the theory at least.

Critics have claimed that the system would be too expensive to install and would not produce efficient charging. If it does work though it would be particularly

useful for vehicles such as electric buses and HGV's which use a lot of power and are almost constantly on the move. Meanwhile Coventry University is conducting a feasibility study and, if this is positive, the trial itself will be announced in 2022.

Don't blame me, I was watching telly

One of the legal problems that could arise with self-driving vehicles is the question of who is to blame when things go wrong. If you're not actively controlling the vehicle, should you be liable for any accidents? The Law Commission has decided that the answer should be no.

They have stated that if the vehicle is in self-drive mode, responsibility for errors such as speeding, careless driving or running red lights should with the vehicle's developer or manufacturer. The ultimate responsibility (and corporate liability) would then fall to the directors of the company. This decision will



pave the way for all occupants of the vehicle to be able to legally amuse themselves by reading, watching movies etc. whilst on a journey. However, they would need to stay under the drink-drive alcohol limit just in case they have to take charge (for the time being at least). All this is not as futuristic as it sounds - such self-driving vehicles are already undergoing trials in Oxford.

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 –
Nothing until further notice!



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@masafish.com and I'll put it into the newsletter next month.
Bill NW Political Rep



MAG

Safety & Security **Foundation**

WE are Promoting



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www.mag-foundation.org
202K 84384



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