



I prefer an open-face helmet but on a long run up to the North-East recently it looked as if the weather would turn foul so I opted for my full-face. I like to keep the bike topped up and as I paying for my fourth fill-up it dawned on me that no-one seems bothered anymore about me wearing my helmet. When the whole world is wearing a mask, why should they? However, I wonder if the number of robberies from petrol stations has increased this last year? If not, will we have to go back to that "remove your helmet" nonsense once all this is over?



## Covid claims Bike Show again

Despite the very best efforts of Blackpool MAG, the council have decided that the event on 4<sup>th</sup> July cannot run this year. It's a massive disappointment to lose one of the highlights of North West MAG's calendar, especially when it seems to defy logic. How many thousands will be crammed cheek-by-jowl at the final of the Euros? Or on the centre court at Wimbledon? But apparently these don't pose as much risk as a few bikers strolling round the Italian Gardens in Stanley Park. Next year maybe?

## Welcoming Roads – a new vision for road safety.



MAG has launched a new vision for road safety. "Welcoming Roads" is an evolution of Vision Zero (VZ). It promotes safer roads for all road user groups including pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, horse riders and, of course, motorcyclists.

Improvements in UK road casualty statistics have stalled. For many years, MAG has voiced significant concerns about elements of the VZ brand. We support aspects of the VZ approach but believe that the ideological goal of zero casualties falls short of the test of pragmatism (especially for motorcycles!). Our proposal seeks to preserve the successful aspects of VZ whilst shedding unhelpful 'baggage'.

We believe this could break the stagnation currently encountered by the VZ philosophy.

MAG has created a manifesto detailing the vision, and is distributing it to road safety professionals and stakeholder groups to generate debate. We will welcome any offers to help refine and develop the proposal. MAG's Director of Campaigns & Political Engagement, Colin Brown, said:

*"This proposal is not an attack on Vision Zero. Nor do we deny that more needs to be done to improve safety on our roads. The vision to end all road casualties is laudable, but I fear that in the real world it is seen as impractical and unachievable by many. Casualties occur in the imperfect real world. Ignoring this obvious fact can lead to a rejection of efforts to improve safety. There is much baggage that comes with the ideological aspect of the current Vision Zero mantra. Certainly for many motorcyclists there is a feeling that their safety gets neglected in a rush to promote active transport modes. I do not believe this is the intent, but perception is critical - especially when the goal is to change behaviours."*

MAG is calling on all interested parties to enter into debate on the merits of the proposed vision. We hope that it will be received as a positive contribution to road safety for all road users.

## Smart motorways – the Greens get involved

Highways England has put plans for 19 miles of “Smart” motorway on hold because of the threat of legal action by a retired vicar. The changes to the M62 Pennine route between Rochdale and Brighouse were to cost almost £400 million and the legal action also casts doubt on other “Smart” motorway plans.

Because the conversion to “Smart” motorways does not require the use of any extra land than the existing road, they don’t need planning permission or an environmental impact assessment (the extra lane comes from using the current hard shoulder). Mark Chapman, an environmental campaigner from Rochdale, has however challenged this

claiming that the impact of the extra carbon dioxide produced by the increased traffic should be considered before the scheme goes ahead. Highways England predicts that the scheme will eventually roll out as planned.

Up until now most objections to these roads have been on safety grounds but now it looks like the green lobby is getting stuck in too.



## E-scooters – how’s it working out?



When you consider the number of hoops learner motorcyclists are expected to jump through these days in order to get a licence, it makes you wonder who thinks helping complete novices to fly about on electric scooters is such a great idea. And yet councils such as Birmingham, Salford, Liverpool, Cambridge, Newcastle and Nottingham seem to be falling over themselves to set up rental schemes. You can spot a few places there where there may be trouble.

So, how has it gone so far? Research shows that from 7608 rental scooters there have been:

- 1100 complaints about anti-social behaviour.
- 210 people injured in collisions
- 122 people banned from riding them.
- One 75 year old dead from a fall while trying to move an abandoned scooter off the pavement.

The average life span of a rental scooter is three months, after which they are scrapped. So, not that good for the environment either then.

## North West Motorcycle Alliance

**Because of the extension of Covid restrictions, meetings will now resume on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, to be hosted by Shieldmaidenz MCC.**

**The 25<sup>th</sup> August meeting will hopefully 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** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 1pm & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7.30 at the Ellesmere Rd Rec Club, Bolton

**Ronin MCC** – every Saturday night @ the Plough, Hazel Grove

**Road Slayers Brotherhood** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at the Veterans’ Garage Barton – **restarts 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 7pm & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 3pm

**Leyland Eagles MCC** meet 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ Hope View farm, Astley M29 7LH – free food!



**Throttle Twisters MCC** every Monday – North Chadderton Social& Bowling Club, open night every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:billgreen@madasafish.com) and I'll put it into the newsletter next month.

Bill

NW Political Rep

**Der  
Kommissar**



**Blackpool Stanley Park Bike Show**  
Sunday July 4th 2021  
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