

Network

MAY 2011

'Produced for Activists, Reps and Interested Parties'

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Motorcycle Action Group

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Important Notice - Due to the amount of Bank Holidays, together with the MEP Run, end April/beg May, Nich & I have discussed the publishing date of the May Network as I am concerned each edition is published later and later. With each edition I get the draft to Nich between 20th & 25th of the month preceding that which is its publishing date with the aim it will be published near to the beginning of the month once Nich has added what he needs to. For many reasons (pressure of work for Nich etc) this hasn't happened so far in 2011 and once it leaves me is out of my hands. So, have telephoned Nich today (18/4) and we have agreed that the May edition will be published by Nich/Louisa on the 3rd May. Hopefully, this will bring us back on track. Thanks for your patience, Anne.

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Editorial

I find it worrying that even bigger lorries will be allowed on British roads. Any of you equally concerned may be interested in the House of Lords debate I've published in this edition.

We have a scenario at present where potholes abound due in part to extreme weather conditions and, surely, heavier traffic isn't going to improve that. The result for us on lighter vehicles isn't looking good. As someone who has always believed that heavy haulage should come off our overcrowded roads and onto rolling stock I ain't a happy woman about this.

Having been alerted by something on Facebook I finally found time to read up on the recorded circumstances of the seeming light sentencing of a 65 year old driver who, having had a boozy lunch sharing 2 bottles of wine with 3 friends, turned across the path of a motorcyclist and killed him, reportedly saying to the police 'I don't mind the fact he's dead, I don't know him'. This happened on the 16th April 2010. A totally innocent rider lost his life because someone was unfit, through excess drink,

to drive. On the 15th March the person, whose actions took his life, was sentenced to 3 years (18 months to be served) and a 3 year driving ban. In my opinion that is most definitely not justice.

Thanks to Neil Liversidge's efforts for bringing it to the attention of Annual Group Conference and I just about got my letter written in time to the DPP. I received a lengthy reply from the Attorney General's Office on the 18th April saying that the AG had examined the case and the sentencing in conjunction with the many concerned letters received and found that the sentence passed down was adequate.

Whilst it may not be the answer we wanted, the thing is we have proven that, where we, as Riders, feel justice has not been served we will stand up and be counted by voicing our concerns.

Due to heavy congestion and traffic flow in Cities its good to see the AA getting back to having Bikes in their fleet - with and without engines.

Until next time, Ride safe and free, Aine

<p>Acknowledgments:- George Legg. Nich Brown. Rowan Publications. Paddy Tyson. Tony Cox. Ian Mutch. Pete Walker. Clive Cook. And anyone else I've forgotten.</p>

EU Type-Approval latest:

WHAT AN ABSOLUTE GEM THIS IS:-

Transport Research Laboratory is offering the public cash prizes, for ideas.

It would appear that although anti tampering legislation is coming, the powers that be may not yet have worked out how to implement something which they say is essential, to curb a problem which MAY PERHAPS have an adverse effect for safety or the environment.

If you click here:- <http://l-cat.trl.co.uk/index.php/tampering-competition/>

you'll see that Transport Research Laboratory is asking the public for ideas as to how to implement anti-tampering.

[Unbelievable. Just about confirms what I already thought – it has absolutely nothing to do with safety, environment or whatever other supposed reasons - its all about control – The Ed.]

more on this from FEMA...

European Commission initiates anti-tampering study

Following the plans of the European Commission to implement new measures to prevent modifications of the powertrain of motorcycles a so called anti-tampering study has already been initiated. At the same time European Parliament has not decided yet whether to empower the Commission to take action on the issue independently. FEMA has expressed its concerns about the Commission's approach towards a European-wide modification prevention act for motorcycles above 125cc. In the proposal for a regulation on the type approval of motorcycles in the EU the European Commission suggests, among other things, the introduction of measures to prevent modifications of the 'powertrain'. The proposal is linked to a delegated act which calls European Parliament to endow the Commission with a mandate to decide independently upon possible measures. Since a European Regulation on tampering of light motorcycles and scooters up to 125cc is already in place for more than 10 years (Directive 97/24/EC), the newly proposed modification prevention would mainly target all motorcycles above 125cc.

The European Parliament is still revising the proposed text on the type approval of motorcycles and the final voting is foreseen by September. In the meantime the British research institute TRL has already initiated a so called anti-tampering study on behalf of the Commission. As the name points out, the study investigates the existing forms of 'harmful powertrain tampering' as well as measures to prevent them. The public is called to investigate anti-tampering measures

TRL is also running a public competition [<http://l-cat.trl.co.uk/>] calling schools and universities to 'identify effective solutions to these tampering events to protect the environment and the safety of road users, including the riders and passengers'. The best solution for motorcycle tampering will be rewarded with €500.

FEMA would have preferred an open approach towards motorcycle modifications. To date no statistics indicate that European Member States are struggling with environmental or safety problems related to technical modifications of motorcycles. Therefore FEMA calls to assess the dimension of a possible problem before starting to work on possible solutions.

Furthermore FEMA is concerned about the scope of action that might be delegated to the Commission. The definition of the 'powertrain', whose tampering shall be prevented, is very likely to comprise all the technical

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parts and units which are commonly being modified. And even though the intention is to prevent 'harmful' tampering only, the definition of what is to be considered 'harmful' might be left entirely to the Commission. Access the type approval regulation (Article 18 deals with powertrain modifications) in your language. The TRL anti tampering website @ <http://l-cat.trl.co.uk>

Read the FEMA position on the FEMA website (Point 6 Powertrain Modifications) http://www.fema-online.eu/uploads/documents/vehicle%20aspects/20101210_FEMA%20position%20on%20TA%20proposal.pdf

Controversial EU survey of motorcyclists' experience

FEMA has a seat in another EU project and is alerting riders to a survey that aims to better understand the needs of riders in terms of safety. "In asking the community about riding experience, strategies and habits, as well as perception of assistance systems, the researchers aim at improving the understanding of riding behaviour in order to recommend adapted safety improvements. The survey is available online in seven languages, and is open to all motorcyclists" say FEMA.

MAG says - there are concerns about the way in which the survey has been designed, the language and options seeming to be biased toward a negative view of biking. FEMA has raised these concerns with the project team

Read on...

"It is well-known in the riding and scientific communities that a better knowledge of motorcycle accidents is needed, in order to design appropriate solutions that suit the needs and demands of motorcyclists.

The MAIDS (Motorcycle Accident In-Depth Study) study of powered two-wheeler crashes in Europe showed that behavioural and ergonomic issues are major contributing factors to crashes. The majority of motorcycle crashes involve a collision with a car, and the primary cause for crashes is the failure of car drivers to perceive two-wheelers.

There has been a lot of research on the role of behaviour and ergonomics in car accidents, leading to a better understanding of accident causes, and the development of effective solutions. However, very little work has been conducted on two-wheelers.

Therefore, the European research project 2-BE-SAFE (Two-Wheeler Behaviour and Safety), which gathers researchers from 10 European countries, Australia and Israel, is attempting to improve the general knowledge of rider behaviour.

Understanding the challenges faced by riders

What are the safety issues motorcyclists face on the road? The best solution is to ask those who know best: the riders themselves.

The quick survey launched by 2-BE-SAFE allows riders to report on their riding experience, their attitude and strategies on the road, and what they perceive as risks on the road.

A new survey on advanced technology on bikes

The second part of the survey also asks the opinion of riders on various safety and assistance systems, including advanced braking systems, navigation units and other riding equipment.

This is the first time since 2008 that riders will be able to give their opinion on intelligent transport systems, which include assistance and information technologies currently being developed in laboratories around the world. It is a unique opportunity for European motorcyclists to say what they expect to be available in the stores tomorrow, and why.

The results of the survey will help with the identification of positive measures for motorcyclist safety, in the form of recommendations for traffic authorities, trainers, manufacturers, and infrastructure operators.

The survey is available online https://www.soscisurvey.de/2BeSafe_en/

The submissions are anonymous. "

The survey closes on May 15th.

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May 16th marks the date of changes to the motorcycle test.

From Paddy:- These are not however, the changes you may be expecting. The Ministerial Review is ongoing and many of those involved, not least MAG, still hope that a single test with easy access for all, will be the ultimate outcome.

In the meantime, the DSA have decided to implement a host of changes to the Mod 1 test themselves and said in a letter to training schools:

“You’ll be aware that the government is working with motorcycle groups, training organisations and others to review the motorcycle test. They’re considering various options around content and delivery.

“As part of this review and DSA’s ongoing monitoring and review process of all tests a number of minor changes have been identified that can be introduced before the main review is finalised. These changes will take effect from Monday 16 May 2011.

“The government working group supports these changes which take into consideration feedback from yourselves and the wider motorcycle audience.”

This is particularly interesting because many of the changes are things we have been asking for since we first heard this Mod 1 format was to be introduced in 2009, and were comprehensively told were impossible and couldn't be offered- like for example, removing the 'stop in a box' element from the end of the swerve manoeuvre, as it was never an EU requirement.

Similarly, and most strikingly, there will be the introduction of leniency (5%) to the speed attained for the higher speed manoeuvres, so that if 48kph is attained, instead of 50kph, that will be acceptable! It is because of the previous strict speed enforcement that the special test centres had to be built at great public expense!

What is perhaps more interesting, is that although it says the 'working group supports these changes' it came as a complete surprise to us. We do indeed support the changes, as we've been calling for them, but even at the last, ironically named, 'DSA Stakeholders' meeting, there was absolutely no mention of these forthcoming changes. One of the reasons that the discussions into the whole Ministerial Review have been taking so long, is that the DSA were adamant that the swerve and stop must be combined and that any changes to it would need thorough and expensive trialling, even just altering the cone layout on approach to make the corner less severe. There will now be 3 possible 'lines' the candidates can choose.

I do hope that this enlightened change of heart will continue to pervade their thinking, but I fear it may not, as the DSA offered only two dates and 21 venues before the changes for all the training schools in the land to witness the changes, in order to know what to teach their students. With less than 2 weeks notice and the Easter holidays approaching, I wonder how many were able to alter their diaries in time.

As examiners also need thorough training, there will be less test booking availability during the busy holiday period. Joined up thinking?

Also from Paddy – 13th April

I am delighted to report that Transport Under-Secretary of State Norman Baker MP, used an interview with John Humphrys on this morning's Radio 4 'Today Programme' to state his support for MAG's founding principles!

In a discussion about the compulsory use of helmets for cyclists, Norman Baker said, "We (the Government) think adults are capable of making up their own minds as to whether they should wear a helmet on or not."

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It is fantastic news that the current administration thinks adults are capable of making their own decisions, and in the light of compulsory protective clothing use in Iceland, it's good to know that our Government will help us thwart any such proposals here.

This may sound a little flippant, but core MAG policy is the rider's right to choose, whether that be to buy a Honda or a Harley, or wear day-glo clothing or black leather.

The current EU Regulation absorbing much of our time, plans to make ABS compulsory without the option of switching it off for certain purposes, like when on gravel roads, and the spectre of mandatory Personal Protective Equipment regularly rears its head.

The weather in Brighton is not always the same as it is in Aberdeen and some of us feel the cold more than others. Being comfortable when riding a bike is essential to being able to concentrate.

When the nation's road network is congested with four wheel traffic, as few barriers as possible should be placed in the way of people choosing alternative transport, and forcing people to buy and wear expensive or inconvenient clothing would certainly make motorcycling prohibitive for some. Luckily Minister Baker also concurs:

"There is an issue of whether or not cars give a wider berth to cyclists with or without helmets, but there's also the point that whether making people wear helmets will actually discourage them from cycling. There are enormous benefits in getting people cycling in terms of health, in terms of tackling obesity, in terms of dealing with air pollution and environmental problems and I don't want to put obstacles in the way of people cycling. I think we should encourage the freedom of cycling, rather than place restrictions on it."

Well done Norman, I'm glad you grasp all the basics of the argument and I'm sure you'll remain consistent when you are referring to motorcycling.

Around the country

Avon & Somerset - Police committed to road safety (Forcewide) 31/03/2011

Avon and Somerset Police recognise the importance of the education programme as a tool in educating drivers and tackling dangerous speeds.

We are seizing the opportunity that the demise of the local programme offers to subscribe to NDORS - the national speed education scheme, which is more in line with national practice and most importantly, offers greater flexibility and a choice of locations nationwide for those people caught speeding in our area.

We maintain our position that should one of our local authorities wish to fund any fixed camera sites, we would process the penalty notices and facilitate either a prosecution or a referral to a driver programme.

Our commitment to working jointly with partners on reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads remains absolute. It is a crucial area of activity for us and we plan to focus our activities on targeting the most affected areas, using mobile speed cameras and working with local communities to tackle speeding in areas which are causing the most concern.

We very much look forward to the contributions from our partners in helping us to select these sites and to working with them to reduce casualties and keep our communities safe from harm.

View the story on the website:

<http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsroom/ViewStory.aspx?nsid=23082>

Receive any further updates to this story, by using the following link:

<http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsroom/SubscribeToUpdates.aspx?nsid=23082>

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Devon – From Clive Cook on his local Riders Are Voters event

“It soon became clear speaking to the candidates, they hadn't previously given our concerns much thought - probably due to no one before raising the issues ? In the short time we were there, they soon realised that the local Powered Two Wheel fraternity are passionate about getting a fair deal. Whether it was more m/c parking, access to bus lanes or just better road conditions. Several of the candidates agreed to joining MAG as corporate members and Bridge themselves said they will join and MAG would be welcome to hold other RAV events there ! Even the Green party candidate changed his stance during the evening and collared Paddy afterwards to find out more about how much cleaner m/c use can be, compared with cars.”

London - 40 charities in London share £4m government funding

Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude and Minister for Civil Society, Nick Hurd, today announced that charities in London would receive a total of over £4million immediate funding. The payouts are part of the second round of awards from the Transition Fund which is designed to help the charities most vulnerable to public spending cuts prepare for new opportunities being created through the Government's Big Society agenda.

Charities benefitting from this support include The Damilola Taylor Trust, which works to reduce knife and gun crime; **the Sparkplug Motorcycle Project** which tackles antisocial behaviour and helps young people into work; and Age Concern North East will all be helped to develop their services and restructure their organisations.

London - additional £5m funding to help improve air quality in the capital.

This exceptional funding is for a programme of localised measures designed to improve London's air quality and help compliance with legally binding European targets.

The Mayor intends to use the money to establish a 'Clean Air Fund' to extend measures in place at the small number of locations in central London that are at risk of exceeding the daily limit value for particulate matter (PM₁₀) including Marylebone Road. These include: trials of dust suppressant technology, redeployment of the cleanest buses on routes through these areas and measures to reduce vehicle idling. Other measures being developed that could now be extended include travel plans for local businesses, traffic smoothing measures, the development of a no-idling zone, local cycling and walking schemes and the introduction of 'greening' (e.g. tree and vegetation planting) to help absorb particles.

The European Commission recently granted the UK more time to comply with legal standards to control particle pollution in London subject to the formal submission to the Commission of more detailed plans on the city's pollution measures.

And Westminster Parking

<http://www.labourmatters.com/westminster-labour/westminster-conservatives-throw-away-another-600000-on-bungled-parking-contract/>

http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/frontline_services_will_suffer_as_westminster_pays_600_000_to_parking_provider_1_841880

New Bikesafe events in the South West

Spring is well on the way – and police in Avon and Somerset are urging motorcyclists to sharpen their skills for the better riding days ahead.

The force, in partnership with local authorities, is running three Ride to Arrive weekends and six one-day Bikesafe events over the next six months.

The aim is to help riders to recognise the skills they need to enjoy their motorcycling and to stay safe.

The one-day events are held once a month, starting on April 17 in Taunton, May 8 in Radstock, July 24 in Bristol, August 21 in Yeovil, September 25 in Weston-super-Mare and October 2 in Kingswood. They cost £20.

The Ride to Arrive weekends will take place between April 8-10, May 13-15 and September 16-18 at the force training centre at Portishead HQ.

The Ride to Arrive motorcycle awareness scheme is for riders with full motorcycle licences who have bikes that have sufficient power to ride up to the relevant national speed limit.

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It is aimed at those riders who have not taken any 'advanced' training.

The course costs of £130 and £170 for people living outside the force area covers two nights' accommodation, all meals and some administration costs.

The weekends offer a wide range of presentations and education sessions, plus the opportunity to enjoy rides in the company of professionally trained police motorcyclists, who will provide you with advice and tips on how to improve your riding techniques and skills.

The weekend courses include sessions on observations and overtaking, cornering, slow manoeuvring and first aid as well as two on-road riding sessions, each of at least four hours duration.

And on Saturday **June 4**, South West regional police forces are staging the second Bikesafe Track Experience and Motorcycle Show at **Castle Combe** race circuit.

The first one last summer was a big success, with 267 riders completing a one-hour on-road assessed ride with a Police Advanced Motorcyclist, followed by a fifteen minute track experience around the circuit. It costs £25.

Parking and entry to the show is free. For an application form and more details on all the events, call 0844 980 0028 or go to www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/bikesafe

Derbyshire Times reports Blitz on biker crashes at blackspots

Undercover speed detection and patrols will be carried out on accident blackspots.

Operation Focus aims to reduce biker casualties and will run on selected weekends or evenings until September. Both marked and unmarked vehicles will be used in the clampdown.

Roads policing Inspector Adam Waterfall said: "Bikers are drawn to the Derbyshire countryside because it has challenging roads, but too many of them are taking risks at speed and running into trouble.

"We hope to prevent crashes by making our presence felt on routes where bikers are regularly coming to grief."

A similar operation last year reduced motorcyclist fatalities and casualties by 40 per cent, added Insp. Waterfall. In total 69 bikers were killed or badly hurt – 46 fewer than during with the same period in 2009.

"This casualty reduction is positive but it won't make us complacent – we'll continue to work hard to prevent casualties in 2011", he added.

Routes covered by Operation Focus, funded by Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership and launched on April 2, include:

A57 Snake Pass – Glossop to Nether North Grain

A624 - Chinley Head to Glossop

A5004 Long Hill – Buxton to Fernilee

A623 - Peak Forest to Stoney Middleton

A621 Baslow to Owler Bar

A54 and A537 - Buxton to Cat and Fiddle pub

A6 - Buxton to Bakewell

A619 - Bakewell to Chesterfield

A515 - Buxton to Sudbury

A5012 Via Gellia – Cromford to Elton Common

A615 - Matlock to Alfreton.

Appeal after drain covers stolen (South Gloucestershire) 8/04/2011 17:18

Police are appealing for witnesses and information after reports that thieves have stolen metal gully or drain covers from South Gloucestershire roads.

Highways have reported 10 covers going missing throughout March and April. It's believed they are being stolen for their scrap metal value.

Gratings are known to have been taken from Whitfield near Wotton-under-Edge; Fernhill, Almondsbury; Tytherington Road, Thornbury and Passage Road, Aust.

Neighbourhood PC Roger Hopes said: "I would appeal for anyone with any information which could help our enquiries to contact Thornbury police station on 0845 456 7000 or call the independent Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

"Missing drain covers can be a serious hazard to road users, especially cyclists and motorbike riders. I would urge anyone who sees someone tampering with ironworks in the road to note any vehicle details and contact police immediately."

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PC Hopes added that thefts of roofing lead, copper piping and other metal are becoming more common across the country, and urged businesses and property-owners to be vigilant.

Call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org We never ask for your name or trace your call.

View the story on the website:

<http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsroom/ViewStory.aspx?nsid=23136>

Mind how you go – and remember, if you see any missing covers or other road hazards, report them at www.getagripuk.org the official website for MAG's 'Get A Grip' campaign .

Motorcycle Monthly reports Bikers needed for Air Ambulance ride

Bikers from across the country are needed to take part in a 100-mile charity rideout in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance.

The Bike4Life ride will take place on Sunday 26 June and cover some of the best biking roads in Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, in association with BMW Motorrad, Kerrang and Michelin.

Now in its second year, Bike4Life will leave at midday from the Worcester Warriors Rugby Stadium. The ride-out is free to enter but participants will be asked to make a voluntary donation to the Air Ambulance Charity.

Now in its 20th year, Midlands Air Ambulance serves the largest air ambulance region in the UK, representing a population in excess of six million.

To join up for the rideout, register online at www.midlandsairambulance.com/bike4life or via the Bike4Life facebook page, or contact Stef Langford-Brown on 0800 840 2040 or email bike4life@midlandsairambulance.com

FACTS

EC Transport White Paper Published

The European Commission has published its White Paper 'Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area - Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system'.

Key goals include:

- No more conventionally-fuelled cars in cities.
- 40% use of sustainable low carbon fuels in aviation; at least 40% cut in shipping emissions.
- A 50% shift of medium distance intercity passenger and freight journeys from road to rail and waterborne transport.
- All of which will contribute to a 60% cut in transport emissions by the middle of the century.
- By 2050, move close to zero fatalities in road transport. In line with this goal, the EU aims at halving road casualties by 2020. Make sure that the EU is a world leader in safety and security of transport in all modes of transport.

The quality, accessibility and reliability of transport services will gain increasing importance in the coming years, inter alia due to the ageing of the population and the need to promote public transport. Attractive frequencies, comfort, easy access, reliability of services, and intermodal integration are the main characteristics of service quality. The availability of information over travelling time and routing alternatives is equally relevant to ensure seamless door-to-door mobility, both for passengers and for freight.

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Nich says...

There are some threats and opportunities for riders in the EU's Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area, especially in the section titled "Towards a 'zero-vision' on road safety" – see for yourself at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0144:EN:NOT>

This latest version of 'zero-vision for road safety in the EU promises to 'Pay particular attention to vulnerable users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, including through safer infrastructure and vehicle technologies'. The specific measures suggested include;

- technology capable of controlling some aspects of vehicle performance (eg; 'smart' speed limiters)
- 'improved' road worthiness tests (EU-wide super-MoT)
- training and education of all users
- promoting the use of safety equipment (including protective clothing and anti-tampering)

TYRESAFE have issued the following guidelines for motorcycle tyre safety

1. Check your tyre pressures from cold at least once a week using an accurate gauge
2. Inflate tyres to the level recommended in the manufacturer's handbook
3. Inspect tyres for cuts, bulges, uneven wear or objects embedded into the tread pattern and replace if necessary
4. Use dust caps to keep dirt away from the valve core and to act as a secondary air seal
5. If your rims are cracked or bent they should be replaced immediately
6. Check that your tread depth is not below the legal minimum of 1mm (for bikes over 50cc)
7. Replace old or damaged valve stems
8. Select the correct type of tyre for your machine and riding style
9. Check that both tyres fitted to the bike are made by the same manufacturer and have the same tread pattern
10. Make sure that your tyre has been fitted the right way round by checking the directional arrows on the sidewall
11. When replacing tube type tyres always use a new inner tube
12. Make sure your tyre/wheel assembly is balanced correctly
13. Keep oil and grease off your tyres using detergent if necessary
14. If you are unsure on any aspect of tyre pressure or tyre condition take your bike to an approved fitting centre and speak to the experts.

For more information about motorcycle tyre safety or bike tyre safety month, visit www.tyresafe.org.

MAG PRESS RELEASES

12-04-2011 Bikers Dream Raffle - Organised by Colne Valley MAG

Colne Valley MAG are running a 'Bikers Dream' raffle. There are many prizes on offer including the spectacular 1st Prize of a Ron Haslam Intermediate and Elite Track Day, worth £658.00!

The full Prize list reads as follows:

1st Prize - Ron Haslam Intermediate and Elite Track Day (worth £658.00)

2nd Prize - 2 Weekend passes for the BSB round of your choice

3rd Prize - Harley Davidson Leeds £50.00 voucher

4th Prize - Beowulf Radiator Cover (worth £45.00)

5th Prize - £50 Track Days voucher

Tickets are £1.00 each and the draw will take place on the evening of Saturday 6th August at the Yorkshire Pudding Rally. Proceeds go to MAG UK and Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Tickets are available from the Royal Oak, Linthwaite, Huddersfield every Wednesday evening from 8.30pm. Or contact: 07981 604859, colne-valley.mag-uk.org/

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Colne Valley MAG is also on Facebook - The new Colne Valley Motorcycle Action Group.
If you want to buy a book of 25 tickets by debit card, please call Louisa/Katie at MAG Central office, on: 01926 844064.

Colne Valley MAG would like to thank the following Sponsors for their generosity: Earnshaws Motorcycles Huddersfield, Cob and Jagger Triumph and Ducation Shipley, Allan Jeffries BMW Baildon, Colin Appleyards Bikes/Cars, Ron Haslam Track Days, Honda Leeds, Motorstrada Shipley, Harley Davidson Leeds, DCs Motorcycles Huddersfield, David Browns Gear Systems Huddersfield, Beowulf Performance Products Halifax, trackdays.co.uk, Tony Archer Huddersfield, Bolster Moor Farm Shop, Rose and Crown Golcar.

12-04-2011 Transport Under Secretary of State Norman Baker supports MAG policy!

I am delighted to report that Transport Under Secretary of State Norman Baker MP, used an interview with John Humphrys on this morning's Radio 4 'Today Programme' to state his support for MAG's founding principles!

In a discussion about the compulsory use of helmets for cyclists, Norman Baker said

"We (the Government) think adults are capable of making up their own minds as to whether they should wear a helmet on or not."

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When the nation's road network is congested with four wheel traffic, as few barriers as possible should be placed in the way of people choosing alternative transport, and forcing people to buy and wear expensive or inconvenient clothing would certainly make motorcycling prohibitive for some. Luckily Minister Baker also concurs:

"There is an issue of whether or not cars give a wider berth to cyclists with or without helmets, but there's also the point that whether making people wear helmets will actually discourage them from cycling. There are enormous benefits in getting people cycling in terms of health, in terms of tackling obesity, in terms of dealing with air pollution and environmental problems and I don't want to put obstacles in the way of people cycling. I think we should encourage the freedom of cycling, rather than place restrictions on it."

Well done Norman, I'm glad you grasp all the basics of the argument and I'm sure you'll remain consistent when you are referring to motorcycling.

End March/beginning of April witnessed amazing developments in the world of GET A GRIP!

"As we were preparing to set up our stand at the 25th TRAFFEX Exhibition in the NEC, we got news that the Association of Chief Police Officers have decided that BikeSafe are now officially supporting the campaign.

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Traffex is the annual showcase event for all things highway: road builders, sign makers, Highways Authorities, everyone. It was a fantastic 3 day event, exposing the campaign to hundreds of people central to road design, construction and inspection.

Paul Turner (MAG Chairman), held the fort on the second day, as Nich Brown and Paddy Tyson went to London and the MAG-driven GET A GRIP! Campaign geared up with a presentation to London Borough officials and Utility companies at London's Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

Sponsored by composite manhole cover manufacturers SSC, in conjunction with installation specialists Instarmac, the three hour session attracted major 'player's.

Primarily presented by MAG's Nich Brown, other contributors to the afternoon included: The Borough of Hackney's Head of Highways- Melvin Tagg, the British representative to the EU-working group on access cover standards- Peter Jennings, John Newton, the composite cover inventor, Paul Mostyn from the Metropolitan Police who promotes Bikesafe in the Capital, plus representatives from Thames Water and a host of London Boroughs, and from the London Cycling Campaign, their spokesman, Charlie Lloyd.

The presentations were followed by a vigorous discussion, all parties speaking favourably of the GET A GRIP! initiative with comments mostly focused on how to take the programme forward.

Particularly significant was the presence of the cycle lobby who clearly recognise common ground with motorcyclists on this issue. The message of financial savings in tandem with enhanced safety, clearly made an impression on the borough officials who left the meeting in a positive mood.

It was a new level of campaigning and for MAG a demonstration of the continuing increase in its professionalism.

The final day at Traffex was as busy as all the others and GET A GRIP! is now in talks with a manufacturer of non-slip white lines and a company who retexture road surfaces, increasing the grip levels of sound, but worn carriageways.

In a final piece of good news, the GET A GRIP face-book site had over 7000 new visitors this month and we are delighted that BIKE TRADER magazine wants to offer support, so now you know where to look for your new bike purchase! It just keeps growing". Paddy Tyson

FROM THE HOUSE

House of Lords - Lords Written Answers

Vehicles: Lorries

Lord Bradshaw:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessments have they made of the road safety implications of allowing longer lorries to use the United Kingdom road network.

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any study has been made of the implications for road surfaces of allowing longer lorries to use the United Kingdom road network, particularly the "scrubbing" effect that such lorries may have on roundabouts, damaging road surfaces; and, if so, what were the findings.

Earl Attlee:

The road safety aspects and potential infrastructure impacts of allowing longer lorries have been considered in two recent, related studies. The first, which reported in 2008 (reference: TRL Report PPR 285), included an assessment of the structural road pavement wear associated with longer and/or longer and heavier goods vehicles (LHVs) but did not consider the scrubbing effects that such vehicles might have on roundabouts. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

The second study has considered a range of potential impacts of allowing a small increment in the length of semi-trailers to permit articulated goods vehicles with a loading length up to 15.65 metres, which is the

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same as is already permitted for rigid truck/drawbar trailer combination lorries. This includes consideration of pavement wear caused by turning lorries. The Government are looking carefully at the economic, safety and environmental arguments for and against such an increase and hope to publish the results of the study shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House when published.

Roads: Maintenance

Lord Fearn:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what help has been given to local authorities in England and Wales to repair roads damaged by recent ice and snow.

Earl Attlee:

In recognition of the abnormal damage caused by the exceptional winter weather at the end of 2010, we announced on 23 February 2011 that we will be allocating at least £100 million of extra resource funding to local highway authorities in England for repairing potholes.

The Secretary of State for Transport has written to leaders of all local highway authorities setting out the conditions for this exceptional additional funding. For authorities that responded by 16 March 2011 confirming their acceptance to these conditions, we undertook to inform them of their allocations shortly after this date. As the damage caused by severe weather was widespread across the country, and in order to minimise administrative burdens for all concerned, we intend to distribute the funds formulaically based on the Department for Transport's existing highways maintenance capital funding formula, which takes into account road length and condition.

The extra funding has been made possible because the department is expected to deliver a saving on its budget for 2010-11, as a result of our prudent financial management, including additional efficiencies made this financial year. It remains the responsibility of local highway authorities to prioritise their resources and build in appropriate resilience as part of their overall maintenance programmes.

Funding decisions for roads in Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government. However the Welsh Assembly Government announced on 1 December 2010 an extra £7 million and, in February 2011, a further £15 million for local authorities in Wales to help them tackle the numerous potholes left by the recent snow storms. This funding, which is additional to the annual grant already allocated, will allow work to begin immediately.

House of Commons - Commons Written Answers

Roads: Accidents

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the merits of introducing stricter liability rules for drivers involved in collisions with pedestrians and cyclists for the purposes of making it easier for victims of negligent drivers to claim compensation.

Mike Penning: I do not consider that there is merit in a change from the current arrangements in favour of stricter liability. The general principle in considering negligence is that the victim needs to prove that the defendant's actions caused the accident. It would be an anomaly if this was changed for collisions with pedestrians and cyclists. Also, it could lead to unfair results in cases where the motorist is driving entirely responsibly and the accident is caused by the irresponsible or negligent behaviour of a cyclist or pedestrian.

[As someone who commutes daily into Bristol and witnesses first hand the overriding disregard for traffic law by 99% of commuting cyclists I find Mike Penning's response quite comforting, Ed]

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport

(1) which organisations have been consulted by his Department's review group assessing the feasibility and safety of proposed changes to the motorcycle test;

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- (2) what discussions he has had with the (a) Association of Chief Police Officers and (b) Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland on proposals for alterations to the motorcycle test;
- (3) who the members are of his Department's review group to assess the feasibility and safety of the changes proposed for the motorcycle test;
- (4) when his Department's review group assessing the feasibility and safety of the proposals to change the motorcycle test will report.

Mike Penning: A public consultation was held on the scope of the review in June/July 2010. There were 489 responses, mainly from motorcyclists (including learners and experienced), motorcycle trainers and examiners. There will be a further consultation on proposed changes to the motorcycle test in due course. There have so far been no formal discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers or the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland. There have been informal discussions with the DfT/ACPO liaison officer.

There is a working group and a technical sub-group assessing the feasibility and safety of the changes proposed for the motorcycle test.

Members of the working group are:

Department for Transport. Driving Standards Agency. Motorcycle Industry Association. Motorcycle Industry Trainers Association. Motorcycle Action Group. British Motorcyclists Federation. Public and Commercial Services Union. Road Safety Great Britain. Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents
The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety was also involved in the initial stages of the review.

Members of the technical sub group are:

Department for Transport. Driving Standards Agency. Motorcycle Industry Association. Motorcycle Industry Trainers Association. Motorcycle Action Group. Public and Commercial Services Union. Biketrain Wales. CamRider. Streetwise Training. Fast-Trak Training was also involved in the initial stages of the review.

An interim report from the working group was published on the DfT website on 20 December 2010. There will be a further report later this year.

ACU

Drag Bike Championship started Easter Weekend

The 2011 ACU Drag Bike Championship began with the opening round of the championship taking place the 22nd to 25th April at the Easter Thunderball held at Santa Pod Raceway. The 2011 championship features five different classes-Top Fuel, Funny Bike, Pro Stock, Competition, and Super Street. For more information about the event and tickets visit www.santapod.co.uk.

The other round of the 2011 championship will take place on the following dates at Santa Pod.
25-26 June . 24-25 September . 8-9 October

TfL and motorcycle industry meet to discuss motorcycling in London

First ever safety action plan for Motorcyclists to be published by TfL in 2011.

TfL to engage with manufacturers and motorcycle industry to develop safety plan Funding for Motorcycle Tasking Team supported for 2011/12.

The Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL) have brought together key motorcycle manufacturers and insurance companies to discuss how motorcycle safety can be improved across the capital in the first ever meeting of its kind to be held in the UK.

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The meeting chaired by Kulveer Ranger, the Mayor's transport advisor, examined how motorcycle manufacturers, along with road safety experts from TfL and the Metropolitan Police's Motorcycle Tasking Team can help reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on the capital's roads. Manufacturer, which included Ducati and Suzuki, agreed to look at how they could encourage more riders to sign up to BikeSafe-London Rider Skills Days when purchasing a motorbike. BikeSafe-London provides riders with practical training as well hints and tips on how to stay safe whilst moving around the capital. It was also announced that TfL is working on a motorcycle safety action plan, and will be engaging with manufacturers and stakeholders as it develops actions and proposals to improve road safety for motorcyclists. The action plan is due to be published later this year.

As well as discussing TfL's current plans for improving road safety in London, the meeting also looked at creating future partnerships between the manufacturers, insurance companies and TfL, which could help promote motorcycle road safety to a wider audience more effectively.

Last year, more than 1,000 riders took part in the Rider Skills Days, and at least a further 800 people have already registered their interest to attend the course during 2011. TfL will continue to fund the team in 2011/12 to ensure that this valuable road safety activity for London's roads continues to be run.

For more information on what TfL is doing to promote motorcycle safety across the Capital, please visit <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/projectsandschemes/roadsandpublicspaces/2291.aspx>

Driving Standards Agency

Business plan 2011/12

The business plan for 2011-12 is now available on the DSA website. This plan sets out the measures, outcomes, and key programmes that the Driving Standards Agency aims to deliver during 2011-12. We want to show how our work will continue to improve road safety both for drivers and riders, and fit into the Department for Transport's vision of our roads becoming safer, less congested and less polluted.

Click here to view the business plan:

http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=bWFpbGluZ2lkPTEyOTI5OTAmbWVzc2FnZWlkPVBSRC1CVUwtMTI5Mjk5MCZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTEyNzY2MDA3NjEmZW1haWxpZD1wcmVzc3JlbGVhc2VzQGRvZHNtb25pdG9yaW5nLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9cHJlc3NyZWxlYXNlc0Bkb2RzbW9uaxRvcmluZy5jb20mZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&100&&http://www.dft.gov.uk/dsa/download.asp?path=/dsa/Documents/about_dsa/corporate_publications/dsa_business_plan_2011-12.pdf

F E M A

Adding (financial) insult to (physical) injury: Iceland's insurance fiasco

An insurance company that sends you a bill for wearing protective clothing sounds like an April fool's joke, and a bad one at that. But it's nothing but the truth, as BLS, the FEMA member organization from Iceland, reports.

Imagine coming home in the aftermath of a motorcycle accident, hopefully uninjured, but definitely a pedestrian, while your beloved bike is being fixed. While you're expecting your insurance to cover the damage to your motorcycle, you discover that you won't get a cent to replace your damaged boots, gloves, jacket or helmet. That's right: your insurance doesn't cover damage to protective equipment. Welcome to Iceland!

The reason behind this policy? Since 2007, in Iceland a law makes it mandatory to wear protective clothing while riding a motorcycle. As a result, the insurance company VIS added a non-negotiable clause in their terms, saying that the rider must wear protective clothing or he could forfeit his claim in case of accident. However, damage to jackets, boots, gloves and other safety equipment is not covered. To add insult to injury, the insurance company generously offers a special insurance package to cover equipment damage. It is in fact the only way to receive a compensation for damaged clothing.

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Many members of the Icelandic motorcycling community feel cheated, and the Icelandic riders' organization and FEMA member BLS is calling for an opposition meeting in Reykjavik this week .

Njall Gunnlaugsson, representative for BLS Iceland, explains that this policy might result in lower security standards for users.

"The rider might be tempted to drop the insurance for the protective gear that he has to wear, and actually buy cheaper and less secure gear instead" says Njall. "Nobody should put a pricetag on security though, imagine what car owners would say if insurance companies didn't pay for damaged security belts or blown airbags!"

Indeed, VIS' stance on this issue puts it in a legal grey zone, as vehicle insurance usually covers all damage suffered as a consequence of an accident - whether it's a broken light, a shattered storefront, a physical injury or a crushed cell phone.

In two cases, icelandic insurance companies were sentenced to pay for the damaged gear in a motorcycle accident, so BLS Iceland will fight this case to court if it has too, Njall explains.

Substandard repairs

And even when the optional equipment insurance comes into play, the results are disappointing.

In one recent case a rider wasn't even paid for his damaged gear when he fell off his bike, but was only offered a substandard repair.

When he got his leathers back the scratches had been blackened out and nothing had been done about stretched seams. Contacted by BLS, the leather suit's manufacturer stated that the safety of the gear could not be guaranteed anymore. Yet the insurance company saw it as a fair compensation.

There are only four major insurance companies in Iceland, and now another company is thinking about putting a similar clause in its terms. The extra cost would come on top of already record-high premiums that put Iceland in the top tier of the most expensive places to own a bike.

"People are fed up" Njall says. "We have been battling very high premiums for two decades. This year the insurance bill for a forty- five year old friend of mine was over 5000 euros for one year, only because he bought himself a Yamaha R6!"

RAC Foundation reports:

Drivers see need for regular eye tests

The majority of drivers back eyesight test every ten years. Four out of five motorists support the introduction of compulsory eye tests for drivers each decade. Seventy-nine percent of those questioned in an Ipsos MORI survey for the RAC Foundation say not only do they back the move but they would also be prepared to pay for the tests which would coincide with the compulsory ten-yearly renewal of driving licences.

The results show support for a regular eye test was high amongst drivers and non-drivers alike. Support did not differ significantly by gender, age group, social status or geographical location, though there was slightly more support amongst women and those aged over 55, and slightly less support amongst those living in London.

The poll coincides with the Government review of vision standards and driving which recommends that the current number plate test is retained and the distance over which it must be read reduced to fit in with EU standards. No other tests of vision function are suggested in the review and under current plans drivers would continue to self-certify their fitness to drive. A number of road safety charities and the Eye Health Alliance have expressed significant concern about the proposal believing a relaxation in the existing rules alongside continued self-certification with no additional support will be harmful to road safety.

Professor Stephen Glaister, Director of the RAC Foundation said: "Introducing an eye test to coincide with the ten yearly driving licence renewal provides a medically robust and practical way to ensure a driver's vision is up to scratch. The number plate test gives only a very basic, indication of a driver's sight, whereas a consultation-room examination is able to look at all the aspects of eyesight and its effect on driving.

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"There are currently many financial pressures on hard-pressed drivers but this survey suggests overwhelming public support for a mandatory, paid-for, eye test at ten yearly intervals. It is something the Government should explore further."

Road Safety GB

Mobile phone risk 'increasing rapidly'

The potential risk from motorists using mobile phones while driving is increasing rapidly, according to a report from the World Health Organisation.

This increasing risk to road safety is due to the exponential growth in the use of mobile phones more generally in society, claims the report 'Mobile Phone Use: a growing problem for distracted drivers'. According to the report studies from a number of countries suggest that the number of motorists using mobile phones while driving has increased over the past 5–10 years from 1% to 11%. Studies also suggest that drivers using mobile phones are approximately four times more likely to be involved in a crash. Using mobile phones can cause drivers to take their eyes off the road, their hands off the wheel and their minds off the road and the surrounding situation. It is this type of 'cognitive distraction' which appears to have the biggest impact on driving behaviour, claims the report.

The report concludes with some of the countermeasures that could be put in place to tackle this emerging problem, including:

- Setting up data collection systems to assess the magnitude of the problem.
- Adopting and enforcing legislation.
- Encouraging policies to address mobile phone use among employers with large fleets.
- Running campaigns to increase public awareness about the risks of the behaviour.

And

Free hi-vis rucksacks for bikers in Leicestershire

Hundreds of hi-vis rucksacks are being given away to bikers in Leicestershire in a bid to reduce accidents and raise motorcycle awareness.

The rucksacks are being given away by Leicestershire County Council and can be collected from any of the county's 16 police stations and three libraries that are stocking the bags. Information for bikers on specialist one-to-one training is included with the rucksacks.

Lesley Pendleton, county council cabinet member for environment and transport, said: "We are working hard with our partner organisations to reduce road casualties and are particularly keen to target motorcyclists. The rucksacks are a novel way of making bikers more visible and I'd urge residents to call in to a police station or library to pick one up."

Visordown

Bike ban in French cities? Worrying legislation from France's Ecology Minister Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet

France' Ecology Minister Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet has proposed a ban on older bikes and cars in eight French cities from 2012 onwards according to French newspaper *le Parisien*.

When we say "older" we're not talking about smoky old strokers but any bike made before 1 July 2004, which would actually account for a large proportion of the entire motorcycle population. Cars get off a bit lighter, with anything made since 1997 still given the OK.

The cities involved in the scheme, a pilot project which is intended to go on for three years, are; Paris, Lyon, Nice, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Clermont-Ferrand, Saint Denis and Aix-en-Provence.

Of course there's no guarantee her crusade will be a success – the scheme could yet be called off – but if it goes ahead it sets a scary precedent for other European cities.

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Department for Transport

Vehicle Licensing Statistics

As at 31st December 2009, there were 1.3 million licensed motorcycles (by body type) in Great Britain. There were 114.9 thousand new motorcycle registrations in 2009 (by body type). This is the lowest annual total since body type statistics began in 2001. By tax class, there were 111.6 thousand new registrations, the lowest annual total since 1996.

Motorcycling test pass rates have remained steady between 64 and 68 per cent from 1997/98 to 2008/09. Over 105 thousand tests were undertaken in 2008/09.

In 2009/10 948 thousand MOT tests were carried out on motorcycles. Eighty seven per cent of the tests resulted in passes.

In 2009, motorcycles drove about 3.2 billion vehicle miles in Great Britain.

There were 5,554 motorcycle riders killed or seriously injured in 2009. This is down from 6,643 in 1999. Roughly 50 per cent of motorcycles exceed the speed limit on motorways, dual carriageways and 30 mph limited roads in free-flowing conditions in 2009.

EVENTS

Fancy a Free 'Fun & Frolics on the Fylde'?

This year, the **Fun Folk** from Blackpool Area MAG are looking for willing volunteers to help Marshall the **Fantastically Famous Fun & Frolics on the Fylde** Rally. As a mark of their appreciation, they are offering a **Full Fun& Frolics** ticket refund for a mere eight hours duty and a **Free Fun & Frolics** T-shirt for those that clock up twelve or more! If this was not reward enough, all **Fun & Frolics** Marshalls will be entitled to **Free Food** for the hours they work.

If you think you may be able to help out, please go to www.north-west-region.mag to download an application form, or phone Tony Cox NW Rep on 0844-2480169 for further details.

They have Big Ones Up North!

The Farmyard Party

The Biggest and Best Motorcycle Rally in Europe.

Duncombe Park, Helmsley, North Yorks. June 17-19 2011

www.farmyardparty.com . Tel: 0800 988 3199. pre-book: £25/OTG:£35

Strictly: No Cars (disabled strictly pre-book only). No Vans. No Pedestrians. No Excuses.
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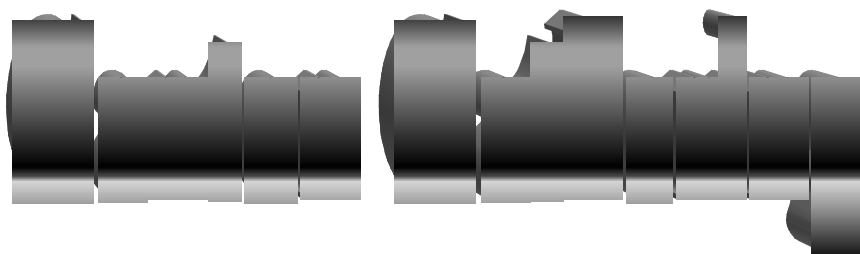
Yorkshire Pudding Rally

Hesley Wood Scout Camp, Chapelton, Nr Sheffield, South Yorks.

5-7 August 2011

Strictly pre-book only:- www.yorkshirepuddingrally.co.uk. Tel: 0800 988 3199. Cheques payable 'Yorkshire Pudding Rally', PO Box 750, Warwick, C34 9FU.

No cars. No vans. No pedestrians. No excuses.

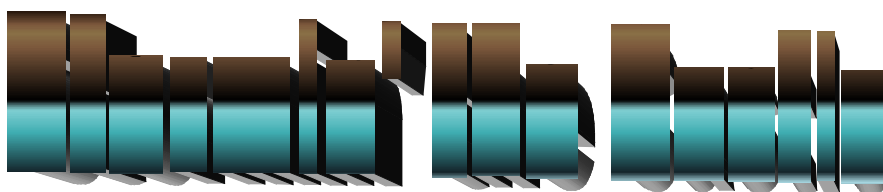


Wold Farm, Ganton, North Yorkshire - 19-21 August 2011

Strictly pre-book only £15.00.

www.gantongathering.com. Credit card Sales: 08442 480191 (£1.50 p.t. booking fee) or cheques payable Ganton Gathering and sent to:- 26 Linden Road, Scarborough, YO12 5SN (book by 1 August)

Disabled car drivers – 07832 125836 after 6 to book (by 1 Aug).



21st Motorcycle Rally and Custom Show

2-4 September 2011

Witton Castle, Witton Le Wear, Co. Durham, DL14 0DE

Pre Book: £25, Kids (5-15) £5. OTG: £35 (only available to those arriving on motorcycle or trike). Car Passes: pre book only £35 (very limited number only).

Cheques (with SAE) payable: "Stormin' the Castle Ltd", PO Box 293, Durham, DH1 4XS. www.storminthecastle.co.uk or 0870 225 8352. Pre-book deadline: Aug 20th

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Wednesday, May 4, 2011 - Horncastle Bike Night

Organiser: Mid Lincs MAG

Start the summer off by joining hundreds of bikers and trikers at this annual event. Hot food and drinks available. All profits go to MAG. Starts 6pm.

Location: Boston Road Horncastle Lincolnshire

Web: <http://www.mid-lincs.mag-uk.org>

Saturday, May 7, 2011 - Show & party

Organiser: Tewkesbury & district mcc

Custom bike & car show, plus trade stands & owners clubs (during day) 'ZZStop' tribute band & rock disco(evening) good camping field

Location: Hunters Inn Buckbury Near Tewkesbury GL20 6AR

Sunday, May 8, 2011 - Rollin to the Stones

Organiser: Riders for Charity (R4C) MAG affiliated

Ride out visiting Stonehenge and Avebury to raise funds for local causes

Location: Meet at The Fox & Goose Inn, Brent Knoll, TA9 4HH, on the A38

Friday, May 13 - Sunday, May 15, 2011 - Bailwood rally

Organiser: Hull and District Motorcycle Club

Come to the seaside..HDMCC are holding their 2nd bike rally on Friday the 13th to Sunday 15th May. If you dare go into the woods on Friday the 13th pt 2Bonfire,Groups,Disco, free tea and coffee.

Location: Aldboro near Hull and East Coast town....

Web: <http://www.hdmcc.com/>

Friday, May 13 - Sunday, May 15, 2011 - The Number One Rally

Organiser: Northy East MAG

Bike Show, Stalls, Bands, Bonfire, Beer, Silly Games, Survival Tent..... Ticket Prices £10 Pre Book / £15 on the gate. For pre-book tickets, send a stamped self addressed envelope with payment to: 16 St Helens Street, Hartlepool, TS24 0EW.

Ticket: Cheques payable to: The Number One Rally Committee

Location: Tunstall Riding Centre, Tunstall Lane, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0NU.

Web: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/event.php?eid=160033380694651>

Friday, May 13 - Sunday, May 15, 2011 - The Bugsplatz MCC Get It On Rally 2011

Organiser: Bugsplatz MCC

Two bands on Friday night and two bands on Saturday night plus Tonto's rock disco, good food and beer, stalls and silly games. No dogs or fires permitted. Blue badge holders are welcome, please make us aware of any requirements otherwise no cars or vans will be permitted.

Location: The Habershers Arms, Knighton, Staffs, ST20 0QH.

Web: <http://www.bugsplatzmcc.co.uk>

Saturday, May 14, 2011 - Peak District Treasure Hunt

Organiser: Peak and District MAG

Start and finish any time between noon and 5pm. Prizes, socialising afterwards.

Location: Anchor Inn, on the A623, Tideswell, Derbyshire, SK17 8RB.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 - Tyne Tunnel Demo Run

Organiser: North East MAG

Starting from the Number One Rally at 12 midday approx. We will then be meeting up at The Wetlands Wildlife Centre in Washington, Tyne & Wear for about 1pm.

Location: 12 midday - The Number One Rally, Tunstall Farm, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0NU. 1pm - The Wetlands Wildlife Centre, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 8LE.

Web: <http://www.senmag.org>

Email: TT2protest@senmag.org

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Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22, 2011 - No Room at the Inn

Organiser: West Oxon MAG

Small friendly rally seeks biking folk to enjoy beer and good live music. Tattooist, showers and proper loos. 120 limit. Under 15 years free. Tickets are £9.99 in advance and £11.99 on the gate - cheaper than last year!!!

Ticket: Tickets available from Gary Wiggins on 01993 703036

Location: Clanfield Football Club, Clanfield, Nr Witney, Oxfordshire.

Enquiries: Simon Cahill : 01367 810680

Email: west-oxon-rep@mag-uk.org

Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22, 2011 - Love Your Nuts Motorcycle Rally

Organiser: Towcester MAG

Small Friendly Motorcycle Rally Raising Awareness for Prostate & Testicular Cancer. With Real Ale, Hot Food, Folk Band Friday, Blues Band Saturday. Excellent Toilets and Showers. No Cars Except Blue Badge. Gates Open 1PM Friday

Location: Towcestrians Sports Club, Greens Norton Road, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 8AW (Signs from A43/A5 Roundabout)

Sunday, May 22, 2011 - CLEETHORPES GRAND DAY OUT 2011

Organiser: N E Lincs MAG / BORN TO BE WHEELED

A BIKE EVENT ON CLEETHORPES SEAFRONT, BIKE AND SCOOTER CUSTOM SHOW PLUS LOADS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. Raising funds for the MOTOR CYCLE ACTION GROUP, HELP FOR HEROES and HEADWAY CHARITY

Location: Kingsway kiosk and Cleethorpes Leisure Centre Cleethorpes N E Lincs DN35 0BY

Web: <http://www.borntobewheeled.co.uk>

Monday, May 23, 2011 - AGM - Medway MAG

Organiser: Medway MAG

AGM, taking place on Monday 23rd May at 20:30H. Please remember to bring your Membership card - no card, no vote. MAG's Campaigns Manager, Paddy Tyson, will also be in attendance to give an update on national campaigns.

Location: Beacon Court Tavern, Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 4RY

Saturday, May 28, 2011 - Eastern Region MAG AGM

Organiser: Eastern Region MAG

Region AGM will commence at 2PM at Mackworths Diner. The meeting will be an interesting and enjoyable get together to elect Officers, hear reports from the local groups and to hear about plans for the year ahead. There will be time to discuss issues which concern you and a National Council (NC) speaker will be present to discuss current campaigns. A social gathering will take place after the formal meeting. A full menu is available from the diner before the meeting and refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon. Please bring your membership card to vote.

Location: Mackworth's Diner, 28 Burton Road, Finedon, NN9 5HX

Sunday, May 29, 2011 - The first Bittern and MAG bike show.

Organiser: Southampton MAG

First bike show to be held at the BITTERN pub, Southampton MAG will be helping to make this bike show a success.

Location: The Bittern, 26-28, thornhill park road. SO18 5YQ

Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2011 - MAGPIE RALLY

Organiser: Colchester MAG

4th MAGPIE Rally new venue at Witham Rugby Club, Bands, DJ's, Comedy Stage, late bar, food & trade stalls. Real toilets & showers Check out the website for full details.

Location: Witham RUFC Spa Road Witham Essex CM8 1UN

Web: <http://www.magpiallly.co.uk>

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Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2011 - 9th Bike. Trike & Custom Show.

Organiser: Unwanted Mcc

booze brothers disco, bands friday & saturday. "Red Sky High" & "Junction", 15 classes to enter, trophies for all winners, cash prize for best in show. Trade stalls & food all weekend, 24hr loos. Tattooist. Disabled friendly.

Location: The Rockbar, Shobnall Sports & Social Club, Shobnall Rd, Burton on Trent, Staffs, DE14 2BB.

Web: <http://www.unwantedmcc.co.uk>

Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2011 - Ag OI Ans an Achaidh Rally

Organiser: Edinburgh and District MAG

Back by popular demand. Live Bands and Rock sounds till late both nights, Cheap MAG bar, Excellent Food, Stalls Prize Raffle, Bonfire, Free rally Badges for Pre-Booked/first 250, £6 Bar Voucher for full MAG members.

Location: West Torphin Farm Harburn, West Calder West Lothian EH55 8RT

Web: <http://edinburgh.mag-uk.org>

Friday, June 10 - Sunday, June 12, 2011 - North East Regional AGM

Organiser: North East Regional MAG

The Annual General Meeting of North East Regional MAG. Free Camping from 10th June, AGM Meeting on 11th From 1pm, Evening Party with free camping. Don't forget your membership card...

Location: The MoorCock Inn Hill Top Eggleston Middleton-in-Teesdale County Durham DL12 0AU

Web: <http://www.north-east-mag-uk.co.uk>

Sunday, June 12, 2011 - Fred Hill Memorial Run (Fred Rides Again)

Organiser: Wakefield MAG

A memorial run, dedicated to the memory of Fred Hill, being held in June to coincide with the anniversary of the passing of the helmet law in June 1973

Location: Meet 9:30am (leaving at 10:00am) at the Grey Horse, Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 4EJ

Web: <http://wakefield.mag-uk.org>

Sunday, June 12, 2011 - 7th Meriden Motorcycle Megaride

Organiser: IFMR

Meet at the Arrow Mill, Alcester at 10am, for a 10.30am start. Via Royal Leamington Spa, where the Ride In starts at 11.30am. To the centre of England! Picturesque Meriden where the venue is open 11.30am - 4pm. Trade stands, 100's of bikes, vintage cars & motorcycles, motorcycle park, village open day, refreshments plus competitions.

Location: Arrow Mill, Alcester to Royal Leamington Spa, to village centre Meriden (nr Coventry).

Enquiries: Neville Riley - 01676 532709

Web: <http://www.megaride.co.uk>

Email: neville-riley@uwclub.net

Friday, June 17 - Sunday, June 19, 2011 - The Farmyard Party

Organiser: Yorkshire MAG

The UK's biggest and best bike only party. No ticket price rises for 5 years. By bikers, for bikers, in aid of bikers and bikers pockets!

Location: Duncombe Park, Helmsley, North Yorkshire.

Web: <http://www.farmyardparty.com>

Saturday, June 18, 2011 - Basingstoke MAG 21st Anniverary Bike Show

Organiser: Basingstoke MAG

Bike show put on for the first time by Basingstoke MAG for many years. Prizes for a range of bikes.

Trade/stalls and club stands. BBQ at the Royal Oak. £2 to enter bike to show.

Location: Moniton Ind Est, Worting rd Worting Basingstoke RG22 5EA

Enquiries: Keith Lovelock 07900 900014

Email: klovelock@live.co.uk

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Friday, June 24 - Sunday, June 26, 2011 - The Saucy Seventh Fun n Frolics on the Fylde

Organiser: Blackpool Area MAG

Superb camping field with great clubhouse. Live music Fri/Sat nights plus Rock DJ Incredible Raffle Prizes, Hot Food & Stalls. Legendary Silly Games and Real Toilets!! Plus Rally Bus Shuttle Service to Blackpool's World Famous Promenade & Pleasure Beach

Location: Blackpool Rugby Club, Fleetwood Road, Thornton-Cleveleys, FY51RN

Web: <http://www.north-west-region.mag-uk.org>

Saturday, June 25, 2011 - EANA MCC Bike show 2011

Organiser: EANA MCC

EANA Mcc bike show & party at The Candlestick public house, Essedon, Hertfordshire, AL9 6BA. Real Ales, food stalls, Bands, games etc. £1.00 on the gate per person, £2.00 for car park. 12.00pm start

Location: The CandleStick Public House, Essendon, Nr Hatfield, Herts AL9 6BA

Web: <http://www.eanamcc.org.uk/index.html>

Friday, July 1 - Sunday, July 3, 2011 - Heart of England Rally

Organiser: West Midlands MAG

Annual Rally with live music and all normal facilities to include the Brum Demo on the Saturday

Location: Kings Norton R.F.C. Hopwood Park, Ash Lane, B48 7BB off the A441.

Web: <http://west-midlands-region.mag-uk.org>

Friday, July 1 - Sunday, July 3, 2011 - Chinnor Bike Dayz XV

Organiser: Wycombe MAG

Best Little Bike Rally Ever. 12 bands (with John Otway). Free bike show and ride-in, stalls, food, beer, camping. Families welcome. Funds to MAG UK and the Air Ambulance Trust

Location: Little Horsenden Farm. Lower Icknield Way. Princes Risborough. Aylesbury. Bucks. HP27

Web: <http://www.wycombemag.co.uk>

Friday, July 1 - Sunday, July 3, 2011 - Barnstormer Rally

Organiser: Estonians MCC

Estonians MCC 3rd Barnstormer Rally, Live Bands, Disco, Late Bar both nights; Games; Bike Show.

Location: Seamer Grange Farm, Nr Stokesley, North Yorks.

Web: <http://www.estoniansmcc.com/>

Saturday, July 2, 2011 - 2nd Midsummer Mayhem Party Night

Organiser: Wakefield MAG

Wakefield MAG's 2nd Midsummer Mayhem Party Night. All the usual MAG party night attractions including live music from local band (and MAG members) Justice Rising, Silly Games, Raffle, Fancy Dress (optional, but prize for the best outfit) and lots more

Location: Duke of Wellington, 220 Horbury Road, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 8RE. 7pm till Late

Web: <http://wakefield.mag-uk.org>

Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10, 2011 - 7th Cock Out Rally.

Organiser: Unwanted Mcc

2 bars open all weekend til late. 4 bands on over the weekend, rock Disco, Silly games, Let us Entertain you, karaoke idol sat afternoon. trade stalls, Food van. Tattooist, 24hr proper loos.disabled friendly. Tinny bar.

Location: The Rockbar, Shobnall Sports & Social Club, Shobnall Rd. Burton on Trent, Staffs DE14 2BB.

Web: <http://www.unwantedmcc.co.uk>

Sunday, July 10, 2011 - Yorkshire Heroes Sponsored Rideout

Organiser: Wakefield MAG

Rideout (to York Racecourse, Knavesmire) in aid of The Yorkshire Regiment Charitable Trust (1114624).

Numerous displays and attractions at the racecourse, incl. Yorkshire MAG stand.

Location: Meet 9:30am (leaving at 10:00am) at the Grey Horse, Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 4EJ

Web: <http://wakefield.mag-uk.org>

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Friday, July 15 - Sunday, July 17, 2011 - Dorset MAG summer party

Organiser: Dorset MAG

Dorset MAG's Over the border bash & summer party! live music, good food available (inc b'fast), ride out, bike show and more... camping Fri/Sat. Collection for Air Ambulance all other proceeds to MAG. £8.50 bike/tent. (Camping avail from 3.00pm on the 15th.)

Location: Virginia Ash, Sherbourne RD, Templecombe, Somerset. BA8 OPL

Friday, July 15 - Sunday, July 17, 2011 - Big Willie's Over The Border Bash

Organiser: Dorset MAG

Dorset MAG's summer party confirmed. Live Music, Bike Show, Ride Out, Camping, Good Food available (incl breakfast) and much more! Camping available from 3pm on the 15th July. Collection for Air Ambulance, all other proceeds go to MAG.

Ticket: £8.50 per bike/tent.

Location: Virginia Ash, Henstridge, Sherbourne Road, Templecombe, Somerset, BA8 OPL.

Enquiries: 07837 585970

Sunday, July 17, 2011 - Wakefield MAG Treasure Hunt

Organiser: Wakefield MAG

The Thinking Riders Rideout. Multiple clues, Multiple answers, Multiple destinations, Multiple opportunities to get totally lost. Prizes for most correct answers (1st , 2nd & 3rd place) plus a booby prize for coming last.

Location: Meet 9:30am (to get clues/instructions) at the Grey Horse, Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 4EJ

(Treasure Hunt will leave at 10:00am)

Web: <http://wakefield.mag-uk.org>

Saturday, July 23, 2011 - Aberystwyth Bike Show & Party 2011

Organiser: MAG Aberystwyth

The Bike Show and Party is back. Following the success of last year we will be returning to the Aberystwyth Rugby Club. This year ***FREE*** camping will be available on Friday and Saturday night. Also, back by popular demand, the fabulous Boogelators will be playing their brilliant music into the wee small hours. Put the date in your diary NOW. Tickets are £5.00pp, or a family ticket (2 adults & 2 u16) is £10.00.

Ticket: Cheques (payable to MAG Aberystwyth) and an SAE should be posted to Bwlch Gwyn, Ystymtuen, Ponterwyd, Aberystwyth, SY23 3AE.

Location: Aberystwyth Rugby Club Plascrug, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 1HL.

Enquiries: Payment by Paypal to: bwlch.gwyn@btinternet.com

Web: <http://www.magaberystwyth.co.uk>

Email: bwlch.gwyn@btinternet.com

Friday, August 12 - Sunday, August 14, 2011 - End of the Road Rally

Organiser: MAG Cornwall

Traditional green field Rally with Trade Stalls, Rideout, Real Ale and Live Music. Held in historic countryside at the most southerly point of mainland UK. Restricted numbers, tickets on a first come first served basis. Tickets are £12.00 in advance (the first 50 also get a badge) and £15.00 on the gate.

Cheques payable to MAG Cornwall. All profits to MAG.

Ticket: Send an SAE to: End of the Road Rally, 23 Parkway, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4HR.

Location: Predannack Paint Ball Site, Lizard, Cornwall, TR12 7AU.

Enquiries: 07778 565945

Web: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/MAG-Cornwall/111280468942007>

Friday, September 9 - Sunday, September 11, 2011 - GWR 2011

Organiser: Weston & North Somerset MAG

Traditional green field Rally, with Real Ale and Live Music

Location: Sandford, North Somerset, BS25 5PF.

On the A368 not far from the ski slope.

Web: <http://north-somerset.mag-uk.org/gwr.html>

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'Never in the field of human transport have so many been represented by so few' – F.O'C

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