

Basingstoke MAG

09/12/2010

Rep Keith:

The ride out to the kids home in Old Basing has been set for 18th Dec 2pm at The Royal Oak. See the flyer at end of minutes.

Party at night from 7.30pm at The Royal Oak.

E-MAIL'S

Whilst this will be of great disappointment to the more nuttier elements of our community, due to the adverse weather conditions & the resultant treacherous road conditions, the NTPBT Head of Marshalling, has declared that this Sunday's demo ride-out from Ace Cafe London cannot safely be marshalled, and thus it has been postponed until Sunday 19th December 2010, allowing us to incorporate it as our Xmas get-together.

Arrival at Ace Cafe London on Sunday 19th December will be an hour later at 9am for an 11.30am departure. The afternoon arrival back at the cafe will also be an hour later, after which Mark & Linda Wilsmore cordially invite us all to remain for their annual Xmas Carols at 7pm complete with traditional mince pies.

We are also informed that the cafe will soon be running a policy of a free hot drink, to all attending on a bike, should the temperature be 0 C or below!

For more details, please visit www.notobikeparkingtax.com home page & forum

He went to the DfT Department of Transport for a meeting about diesel spills. He came up with some jolly moot points about MAG's early work in this area in conjunction with FEMA who engineered changes to the pan European construction criteria to enhance the venting arrangements for the tanks of commercial diesel vehicles. He regretted that we had been unsuccessful in getting Europe to mandate an arrangement to prevent the ignition operating without the fuel cap in place but one out of two aint bad. The people to impress were Chris Hodder from the BMF, Tony from the highways agency and some bloke from the Dft plus the guy from the killSpills campaign who took the BMF shilling to give them top billing as the group helping their campaign when they still had a shilling. They started talking a language Mutch didn't understand that was about political protocols and viabilities and technicalities and he was reminded of the last time he was at the beast house and there were a load of east end lads talking about football and they might as well have been talking mandarin.

The Harley-Davidson Riders Club presidents meeting was safer territory. He was booked to give a talk to 400 Harley club presidents from all over Europe meeting at the Tower Hotel, his old mate

Jeremy from Harley Davidson was down for the do to give the company position. Naturally this was all good for MAG. Mutch felt his talk went superbly. He only had ten minutes so had to make it short and punchy, he focussed on a couple of victories and the threat from current european proposals. Will any good come of it? Mutch hopes so when he returned in the evening for the dinner he got a wonderful reception from the British Harley club people on reception. A MAG life member called grasscutter told me that if he could be anyone else in the world it would be Mutch which was very nice of him and his wife said she had never heard MAG sold so concisely in such a hard hitting way. This was of course wonderful. In fairness, most of these guys were from other countries so Mutch told them to hit FEMA in google and sign up for the groups in their own country as there was no way they were going to join a UK group.

Mutch went to the REmembrance day ride setting off from Warr's in Chelsea the next morning but when He got there they'd all gone as he was an hour out. He made apologies by text and was thanked for making the effort. He rode home and stopped on the embankment for the two minute silence.

He went to Nick Sanders (round the world biker, author etc) party in Wales, he told Mutch he is a MAG member but isn't so Mutch is working on it. He then headed off to the North Wales MAG AGM. He was hoping to get to a road safety conference in Cardiff on the Monday morning. it was not to be however so he drove home, 708 miles.

Just in case you were wondering Mutchie does not book car hire or his foreign trips to MAG as apparently questions have been asked. He thought it right to clarify the situation as he felt we can't have people thinking that MAG presidents are like MPs with their expenses.

Mutchie went to the NEC Bike Show, he felt his performance at the show was poor as he spent too long trailing around with the shadow roads minister, so he only got round to meet half our corporate members who were at the show which he feels is unforgivable.

He has also been hard at work sorting out the next issue of The Road with the services of Dr LEon Mannings helping to fine tune the pages from a cosmetic perspective. The result he hopes is that this issue will look more polished though it has added enormously to his 11th hour stress.

On top of all this he had a bout of the flu.

If you have been looking at the MAG Foundation, Sheila McFarlane (MAG Foundation) is working on the website with help from her brother Stephen. She has put some news on the news pages and the Registered Charity number on the first page. Her problem now is how to put pictures on but she will get help over Christmas from number one son Jake.

Not directly biking related but affects a lot who go to the TT and the Manx Grand Prix: Good News

Petition to:

Reinstate the Reciprocal Health Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man
Submitted by Alexander Norori-McCormac – Deadline to sign up by: 11 March 2010 – Signatures:
9,294

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to Reinstate the Reciprocal Health Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man. Just like the Channel Islands will have to from April 1st 2009, from April 1st 2010 health care in the UK for Manx residents and vice versa will no longer be free, due to the UK governments decision to withdraw from the agreement! This is clearly against the best interests of all the parties involved, and we wish it to be continued, for the mutual benefit of all those on business, holiday, education or any other reason.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/HealthcareIOMUK/>

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Government response

On Thursday 9 September, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, Anne Milton, announced that following discussions between the Department, the Isle of Man Government and the devolved administrations, a new reciprocal healthcare agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man will come into effect from 1 October.

The new agreement will put the current temporary arrangements on a permanent footing meaning that UK residents visiting the Isle of Man will receive free, state provided healthcare, as will Isle of Man residents visiting the UK.

Under the agreement, no public funds will change hands and this brings the Isle of Man into line with other agreements that the UK has with a number of non-European Economic Area Countries.

The new agreement represents a sensible and logical conclusion and provides certainty for travellers on temporary visits between the UK and Isle of Man.

<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/epetition-responses/petition-view.aspx?epref=HealthcareIOMUK>

We appreciate this is a sensitive area and some members like to raise money for charity but to be blunt the situation has got completely out of hand and we have mission creep on an unsustainable level. I would appreciate some feedback from Local Reps on this because we do have to do something.

Please note we are not saying do not raise money for Charities just some perspective MAG needs funds.

Mutchie has been reviewing the situation with The charity issue and he raises some good points : one of the stories submitted to The ROAD for the regions section he felt could not be run as it was written. All the emphasis was on what a fantastic amount of money had been raised for the Air Ambulance. Then there was a fraction of that sum for MAG and it just sends the

message to other MAG groups that MAG is all about raising money for charity. Similarly he has a poster for the Cleethorpes Big Day and was going to use it full page as it's such a good piece of artwork but then he thought no, because it promotes charities with MAG sort of tagged on almost as an afterthought. This one majors on the Help For Heroes and the argument is that loads of people will support the event because of that and we understand that and most of us are supportive of the charitable efforts, but the charitable donation didn't stop there. Fifty for HFH and MAG I could just about accept given the anticipated swelling of support but then there was 25% to Headway - the head injuries fund, so now MAG is down to 25% of the profits. The point was made that Headway can help bikers who get head injuries and that's as maybe but there has to be some kind of reality check here.

We can always find a thread of connection between any cause and bikers' interests if we try hard enough but we have to prioritise.

The NHS budget is not just millions, it is billions of pounds a year, be it the main NHS or Headway or the Air Ambulance it's all health and rescue public services and collectively it could consume the entire GDP of the UK let alone MAG's. MAG cannot fund the NHS, it is beyond our remit, we can't even make a pinprick of difference to the NHS budget. That is what we pay taxes and National Insurance for. MAG cannot support GB Ltd. **What MAG can do is make a huge difference to MAG.**

Right now we are utterly desperate for an updated database and we cannot afford it. We can barely afford to pay our staff and we are pushing them closer and closer to the edge. We can no longer maintain a big enough nest egg to see us through a disastrous summer on the events front if we get hit like we did when Stormin got flooded out. And against this challenging background there are a large number of articles sent for The ROAD waxing lyrical about how much MAG groups have raised for charity.

Mutchie says "We are trying to do deals with businesses and some of them may come off, certainly the number of corporate members has mushroomed thanks principally to the effort of one individual. I can foresee a charge arising before long however that MAG is selling out to the industry. I may be a little pessimistic here but I do wonder if someone will level such an accusation. If it comes then it will come without a shred of defense as MAG has not diluted it's principles by one iota in seeking corporate patronage nor has any such partner even asked that we modify our political programme. We are however faced with a funding problem and if riders in huge numbers will not join MAG and even MAG members themselves prefer to raise money for every cause under the sun bar motorcycling then what on earth do we do – discuss . . .

I shall try the clubs again as my last appeal to them, all 40,000 of them or is it 50,000? produced a donation of just £50. All praise to that one small club but if we look at that from a fund raising per head basis that is 0.1p per affiliated member.

Possibly we need to be more specific and public about what we need money for, as it seems that even MAG groups don't understand this. Shall we have a big thermometer the height of a page with a target figure? Suggestions welcome."

Sorry I haven't been able to get to any of the Basingstoke meetings. Still struggling with parents.

At the AGM there was mention of ideas to encourage visitors to the MAG stand.

Andy Tiernan who sells and restores vintage bikes (see <http://www.andybuysbikes.com/index.htm>) produces a calendar each year to promote his business and raise money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. The calendars are beautifully drawn featuring classic bikes and have a different theme each year. They are becoming collectors items themselves.

I could get a dozen to sell at the stand – they might attract attention – but the cost (£5) money would have to go to the EAAA. However, anything over this amount could be added to the fund.

A second thought is to approach Nick Ward – who draws the pics – to maybe do something specifically for MAG/BMF/RAV as a commission? My initial thoughts would be of a range of bikes with their owners showing a range of riders (from all walks of life) alongside their machines (also a wide a range as possible). The riders would be in their 'occupational dress'. Only an idea at this stage as this has not been raised with Nick or Andy Tiernan at this stage. This could be used by all partners of RAV to get the idea that biking is 'for all' across.

Just a thought.

AC

I got this from Di in the Western Region. Just a thought... I might sort a Southern Region one for next year...

Our Troll has put together a local MAG calendar printed on his computer using 12 A4 sheets (one per month) with a local MAG pic at the top of each page and we are selling them at £1 each – they make a good cheap pressie for local people to give out and it gets attention for our local group if given to bikers who are not members – Bill will be bringing one up to NC for others to see.

Di

Keith: MAY BE WE SHOULD LOOK IT TO DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

A.O.B

Keith: Names to me if you coming to The Royal Oak for New Years Eve so I can get the tickets.

Red: Following the Southern Region AGM (Annual General Meeting) I have got the two requests as items on this Saturdays MAG NC (Motorcycle Action Group National Committee Meeting). The two requests being, Cheryl's asked that we explain abbreviations and put full name and rank of originators of emails so grass roots members can understand where they are coming from, and Jims question as to whether or not MAG is considering a mass Euro Demo (European Demonstration) against the proposed new driving licence directive.

Meeting closed.

EVENTS:

December

18th December: Basingstoke MAG. Christmas Children's Run and Evening Party at the Royal Oak.

2pm at The Royal Oak for the ride out to the children home in Old Basing. The party is from 7.30pm.

The band is STRICKEN 22.

30th December: NO BASINGSTOKE MAG MEETING

30th December: Basingstoke MAG Christmas Meal. 7.30pm at AM top of town.

Names to Keith please so I can book the tables.

31ST December: NEW YEAR EVE at THE ROYAL OAK. Ticket for the night.

January 2011

6th January: The first Basingstoke MAG meeting of the new year.

15th January: Salisbury MAG, AGM. At The Village Pub in Salisbury.



Basingstoke MAG

Xmas Toy Run & Party

Sat 18th Dec.



Meet at the Royal Oak, 414 Worting rd RG22 5EA
@ 2pm for ride out to childrens home in
Old Basing @ 2.30pm

Evening Party
From 7.30pm at the Royal Oak
With live music by STRICKEN 22
Fundraising raffle, great prizes



