

# Basingstoke MAG

21/10/2010

**Rep Keith:**

## **E-MAIL'S**

Advert for MAG(NL) magazine - maybe this would boost circulation of TheROAD

Hi all,

Nothing serious, but this short video was made by one of our members:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRPEimglmuw>

Greetings,

Wim.

MAG NL on Facebook: <http://www.motorrijdersactiegroep.nl/facebook>

Hi Folks,

I am probably going to be bombed from orbit for the criticism voiced in this message, but I think it needs to be said. This is an example of one of the things that is worrying me about the use of Facebook and other sites outside of MAG's democratic control, but in MAG's name.

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000867338721>

At first blush, it looks like any one of the thousands of other interest groups and pages that Facebook users will be invited to join or "like" every time they log on, but it's not. It is an full account of the kind that you or I would create to get a profile on Facebook. In the same way as you friending another actual friend, any person friending this account will open all of their information to the human controlling the account; every last twitch and photo.

Organisations and such should not be using full accounts like this, they should be using pages or groups. For the majority of Facebook subscribers this will simply not occur to them, however, those that have a bit more understanding of what Facebook actually is and how it works, will not see these accounts in the same light.

Why are people doing this? It could be one or more of the following:

1 - They understand and want to abuse the accounts

They understand full well what extra benefits accrue from using accounts rather than pages or groups and they intend to take advantage of these extras, which would in all fairness be a breach of trust, if not strictly the rules of the system.

2 - They understand and have a technical reason

They do understand the extra access, but are only using an account because the Facebook programmers interface is a bit fluid and some stuff only works with accounts and not pages or groups.

3 - They don't understand

MAG is online putting itself in a position to abuse member and supporter data, because the account holder doesn't understand the difference between an account and a group or page. Again, some people might feel that this is perfectly fine and that we all just muddle along, but there will be a constituency that sees MAG and MAG's online activity in a sour light because of it.

4 - They are not who they say they are.

If I wanted to grab a load of private data from a bunch of random strangers, I would create a user account called, not "Andrew Meredith" but "Ban the use of Tiger gall bladders in NHS medicines", with a picture of a dead tiger. They'd flood to my account in double time. I would then be able to see every aspect of those people's online life. This is not fiction, it is already being done every day for all sorts of unpleasant reasons and Facebook have created a security alert mechanism to kill the accounts off as people create them.

How can it be stopped?

Yeah, and here's the rub, our very constitution and decades of precedent means that MAG is a grass roots run organisation. The local groups operate as individual elements. The structure provided by the Constitution is universal, but outside of that, it is bottom up, not top down. So this sort of thing can only be stopped when the members who are doing it understand the implications and the impression it gives others and no longer do it ... just in time for the next lot to do exactly the same thing, recurse ;-)

**A.O.B**

**Cheryl:** Product book is here,  
Sponsor money is asap for my fire walk.

**Colin:** Has e-mail Hein Gericke for any prizes for the Christmas Raffle.

Great Escape 2. see web page for detail see [www.greatescape2.net](http://www.greatescape2.net)

**Keith:** Need to sell tickets for MAG raffle.£1 per ticket.

**Keith:** The band playing at the Royal Oak for Halloween party which is fancy dress.

**Keith:** Milestone Museum next Thursday then on to MAG. Meet from 7pm at Milestone.

**Meeting closed.**

## EVENTS:

### October

**26<sup>TH</sup> October:** Ride out to Winchester MAG. To see Paul from JtheBs. 7.15pm at the Royal Oak, to leave at 7.30pm.

**28<sup>th</sup> October:** Milestones Museum Meet. 5pm – 9pm

### November

**9<sup>th</sup> November:** Winchester MAG AGM. At The New Queens Head.

**13<sup>TH</sup> November:** Southern Region AGM. At the Royal Oak Basingstoke. 6pm

**27<sup>th</sup> November:** Carole Nash Bike Show, NEC 27<sup>th</sup> November-5<sup>th</sup> December. £15

### December

**18<sup>th</sup> December:** Basingstoke MAG. Christmas Children's Run and Evening Party at the Royal Oak.

The band is STRICKEN 22.

**30<sup>th</sup> December:** NO BASINGSTOKE MAG MEETING.

**30<sup>th</sup> December:** Basingstoke MAG Christmas Meal. 7.30pm at AM top of town.

**31<sup>ST</sup> December:** NEW YEAR EVE at THE ROYAL OAK. Ticket for the night.

### January 2011

**15<sup>th</sup> January:** Salisbury MAG, AGM. At The Village Pub in Salisbury.