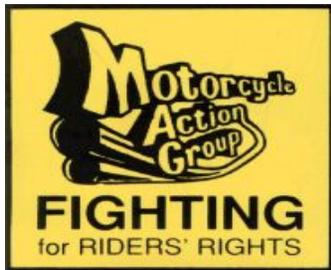


The WRAG July 2014



Western Region MAG

Mid-Wilts MAG AGM

The Annual Group Meeting of Mid-Wilts MAG will take place on Thursday 17 July 2014 at 8:30pm prompt at The Kingfisher, 307 Hungerdown Ln, Chippenham SN14 0JL:

<https://maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=SN14+0JL&hl=en&geocode=+&hnear=SN14+0JL,+United+Kingdom&t=m&z=16>

The AGM will be held for Mid Wilts MAG members to elect their committee for the coming year. As well as dealing with elections it will be an opportunity to make plans for the coming year. There will also be plenty of time to discuss issues which concern you.

It will also give you a chance to have your say and what you think should happen next.

The branch is keen that all members should be able to attend the AGM.

Please remember to bring your current membership card or you will not be eligible to vote!

Membership forms will be at the meeting to renew lapsed memberships.

Plan 2B or not 2B? That is the question

MAG 'amazed' at BMF support for 'Killer' Roundabout scheme



The Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) has expressed amazement at the British Motorcyclists Federation (BMF) 'inexplicable' decision to cave in to the Council's proposals to build a dangerous roundabout in the town. MAG Chairman, John Mitchell, has said 'if this insane Bedford scheme goes ahead it strikes a killer blow against motorcyclists' rights to have their safety considered in line with other vulnerable road user groups such as cyclists. I can't understand how a riders' group like the BMF can possibly be supporting it, unless they really have failed to grasp what this scheme is all about – and that it's a potential killer.'



The latest plan to introduce what are known as 'turbo roundabout' principles in central Bedford were hastily drawn up by pro-cycling group Sustrans last month, after MAG caused Bedford to abandon two earlier proposals on grounds of safety. The proposal includes two 'pinch points' to 'squeeze' traffic into a narrowed channel on a roundabout used by 25,000 vehicles per day. Unglamorously known as 'Plan 2B,' it also uses raised 'spurs' of kerbing to funnel all vehicles into two channels on opposite sides of the roundabout. These channels are less than half the width of the current lane. MAG's Policy Adviser, former BMF Chairman Dr Leon Mannings first challenged Bedford's proposals in April 2013. Dr Mannings says, 'the Council is doing this in the hope it would make cyclists 'feel safer'. MAG has no issue with schemes to help cyclists feel safer - unless the measures have significant adverse impacts on safety for those on scooters, mopeds and motorbikes – and indeed bicycles. Sadly, ALL the proposals have included new obstructions which many experts in the motorcycling AND cycling fraternities regard as new hazards that could seriously injure or even kill bikers on machines with motors or pedals.' Dr Mannings and his colleague Lembit Öpik, MAG's Director of Comms & Public Affairs have had a series of talks with the DfT to discuss MAG's objections: the DfT is allocating £420k of taxpayers' money to the scheme via their Cycle Safety Programme. MAG described the sessions as 'seemingly productive.' Thus it came as a total surprise when they learned that Graeme Hay, the BMF's newly Government Relations Executive, had submitted a report in support of Plan 2B. Leon adds 'up till that point, the BMF had expressed no interest in Bedford's proposals, nor had they had any involvement at

all with discussions during the preceding 18 months. Indeed, Mr Hay had only taken office the week in which he wrote and submitted his report.' The DfT has now given Bedford the go-ahead to implement the scheme and the council has told MAG that they will start work in the next two weeks. In response, MAG has insisted that Bedford conduct a public consultation about the new proposal as it is so significantly different to the original proposals. Leon adds 'this scheme is crazy. If the BMF continues to support it, I have to assume they simply haven't understood the basic dangers of it. MAG will campaign for Plan 2B NOT to be built, despite the BMF's apparent last minute support for a scheme that can kill riders.'

Somerset Bike Day

Weston & North Somerset MAG took their stand down to the first Somerset Bike Day held at Haynes Motor Museum.



The Emergency services along with Motorcycle training organisations were all in attendance, but the main attraction on the day had to be Avon & Somerset Constabularies Ariel Atom.



It was quite amazing how many folk have never heard of the Motorcycle Action Group, so it is always good to do these events even if it's only to fly the flag so to speak!

Events:

July 4 - 6. Heart of England Rally: West Midlands MAG

July 4 - 6. Chinnor Bike Dayz:
<http://goo.gl/7WxNPR>

July 4 - 6. Moon Rally 2014: Rusty Sprocket MCC:
<https://www.facebook.com/MoonRally2014?fref=ts>

July 5. Brum Demo: West Midlands MAG

July 11 -13. The Third Dead End Rally: Furness MAG:
http://www.bikersinfurness.co.uk/furness_mag/fmdead.php

July 11 - 13. Bikes Trikes 'N' Stuff Summer Rally 2014: Bikes Trikes 'N' Stuff

July 11 - 13. Wear the Fox Hat rally: Sheffield and Rotherham MAG: [Mexborough Miners Welfare & Athletic Club New Oxford Rd Mexborough S64 0JL](http://www.mexboroughminerswelfareandathleticclub.co.uk)

July 17. Mid-Wilts MAG AGM: Western Region

July 18 - 20. Sent To Coventry No2: Coventry MAG: [http://Facebook Motorcycle Action Group \(MAG\) Coventry](https://www.facebook.com/MotorcycleActionGroupCoventry)

Aug 1 - 3. The Yorkshire Pudding Rally: Yorkshire MAG:

<http://www.yorkshirepuddingrally.co.uk>

Aug 1 - 3. Burning Budgie Rally: West London Harley Riders:

<http://www.westlondonharleyriders.org>

Aug 1 - 2. All Night Pussy Rally 6: White Tigers MCC:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/399218680175295/>

Aug 7 - 10. End of the Road Rally 2014: MAG Cornwall:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/321775297970566/>

Aug 16. Bristol Bike Show: Bristol Bike Show Organisation

Aug 16. Bristol MAG After Show Party: Bristol MAG

Aug 29 - 31. The 3rd 1815 Rally: Peak and District MAG: <http://padmag.org.uk> or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/padmag)

Aug 29 - 31. Stormin' the Castle:
<http://www.storminthecastle.co.uk>

Sept 5 - 7. GWR Rally 2014: Weston & North Somerset MAG: <http://north-somerset.mag-uk.org/gwr.html>

Sept 19 - 20. Spat out of Hull: East Yorkshire MAG: <http://east-yorks.mag-uk.org/>

The Motorcycle Action Group accepts no responsibility for the content of this publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or MAG.

A Demented Troll publication