

Basingstoke MAG

08/10/10

Rep Keith:

INTER REGION BOWLING WINNER'S

Ladies Little Red

Men's Dennis

Under 14's Aaron

Group Basingstoke MAG.

Well done to all and many thanks to all who turned up.

Paul from JtheBs will be at Winchester MAG on Tuesday 26th October. He is sorry that he cannot make it up to Basingstoke on a Thursday as he is in London. So we are going to see him at Winchester MAG. Leave the Royal Oak at 7,30pm, meet about 7.15pm.

E-MAIL'S

MAG PRESS RELEASE

16-09-10

For immediate use

Bedford Borough Council officially opened their bus lanes to motorcycle access today.

Paddy Tyson, MAG's Campaigns Coordinator, met the Mayor Dave Hodgson and Councillor Charles Royden, Portfolio holder for the Environment and Transport to celebrate the event, which marks the start of an 18-month trial.

Paddy said, "MAG are delighted with the Council's forward thinking attitude and the way it is embracing European Mobility Week, making a real effort to reduce congestion by promoting powered two wheelers. This in turn reduces the burden on road infrastructure, reduces emissions and Improves journey times for all."

Trials across the country of a similar kind, from Bristol to Birmingham

and Swindon to Sheffield, have all delivered positive results and been implemented on a permanent basis.

Bedford's congestion problems are aggravated by river and rail crossings so everything that can be done to help traffic flow more freely is helpful.

MAG regrets the fact that the Government has not implemented a national policy of opening bus lanes to motorcycles. The current system in which every council operates its own trial at an average cost of £250,000 is an extravagance that the country could do without in these difficult times.

MAG fully supports the actions of Bedford Borough Council and the Mayoral Office and looks forward to working closely with them in the future to promote motorcycle use further.

Hello

The EU public consultation into proposed changes to, and harmonisation of, Periodic Technical Inspections for vehicles, ends tomorrow!

Even though the questions are constructed badly, please persevere and consider selecting 'option 1' when you reach the end.

> <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=roadworthiness>

Many of the questions don't let you answer 'no' for example, you can only say how much you want the test fee to rise, not that you are happy with the current price!

Perhaps the most leading question is the first one, when you are asked if you have had an accident or breakdown in the last 3 years. A 'yes' even if you ran out of petrol or were hit from behind, will no doubt lead strength to the argument that the MoT should be tightened up. There seems no other reason for its inclusion.

The last comment box is "have you any additional comments that may assist with PTI for vehicles and their trailers" rather pre-supposes it has been decided trailers shall be registered.

In the meantime, if you are a facebook user, please go here

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=116608511726843&ref=mf>

and join the facebook campaign. According to FEMA, 100 people a day have been joining the facebook group and FEMA web traffic has tripled in the last month, so this is an issue riders feel strongly about.

<http://www.fema-online.eu/index.php?page=rwt>

Please have a look at the above to reacquaint yourself with the topic, but just to reiterate, there are various issues arising from this consultation that are of interest.

First, the timing of the public involvement- there wasn't enough!
Second, the countries most effected don't use English as their first language, yet the consultation is only available in English.
Third, it's only available online.

Fourth, the nature of the questions makes it impossible to answer as you may desire.

Finally, thanks for being on this activist list and being prepared to make a difference. If you have a group of friends who ride, please forward this email to them too.

Page three of the CTC newsletter has this interesting gem. Looks like the cyclists are going to try and force us out of bus lanes using the legal route.

Thoughts?

<http://www.ctc.org.uk/resources/Campaigns/CycleDigest63%282010%29.pdf>

Motorbikes in bus lanes

However, our most serious bone of contention with the Mayor is his decision to carry out a second 18-month 'experiment' allowing motorcycles into bus lanes on TfL's roads. The idea was supposed to improve motorcyclists' safety - in fact the experiment showed the opposite. Cycle safety also worsened compared with the rest of the road network. Motorcycle journey times improved, but this seems to be due to a significant increase in the proportion of motorcyclists breaking the speed limit, something the Mayor's new experiment now seeks to prevent through road safety awareness and enforcement campaigns. These measures, though, do not form part of the Experimental Traffic Order, which is identical to the previous experiment. So making the Order permanent would enshrine the same conditions that have been shown to be harmful, not beneficial, to both motorcyclists

and cyclists' safety.

Well-enforced bus lanes are a much valued 'safe haven' for cyclists in London, and their benefits need to be recognised as a key principle in cycle planning on urban main roads. They have doubtless helped fuel the 117% growth of cycle use in London since 2000, whereas other cities have only recently gained the powers to apply strict enforcement to their bus lanes. We do not want to see this benefit eroded before it has even begun to be felt in other parts of the country.

There is no legal provision for repeating an experimental traffic order once it reaches its 18-month expiry deadline. Otherwise a highway authority could repeat their 'experiments' indefinitely, without ever being required to conduct formal public consultation. CTC and the London Cycling Campaign will therefore be seeking to challenge the new Experimental Order in the courts. Watch this space.

Craig Carey-Clinch

Managing Director

Rowan Public Affairs (RPA Ltd)

+44 (0)7979 757484

<http://www.rowanpublicaffairs.com/>

Attached is the EC response to FEMA's complaint that the consultation document was only available in English.



20100923_PTI_EC_Response[1].pdf

Just thought you might like to see the report and advert that the Swiss contingency have forwarded to FEMA.



Quarterly Report Q2 2010.pdf



8037 Anz Strassenminen 430x3

A.O.B

Colin: Phil M is the Gazette about the beer festival.

Cheryl: Has the product book and any orders to in by the end of October, so she can put the order in the 1st week of November.

Cheryl is doing her fire walking on sat at Basingstoke Rugby Club, 8pm. Sponser money in ASAP.

XL body warmer for sale, plain black £15.

Meeting closed.

EVENTS:

October

26TH October: Ride out to Winchester MAG. To see Paul from JtheBs.715pm at the Royal Oak, to leave at 7.30pm.

28th October: Milestones Museum Meet. 5pm – 9pm

November

9th November: Winchester MAG AGM. At The New Queens Head.

13TH November: Southern Region AGM. At the Royal Oak Basingstoke. 6pm

27th November: Carle Nash Bike Show, NEC 27th November-5th December. £15

December

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

January 2011

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