

## Basingstoke M.A.G.

### Minutes

07/04/2011



#### Rep Keith:

#### Welcome:

Chess and Paul from Southampton MAG.

#### E-mails:

#### Incredible 3 days for GET A GRIP!

This week has 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.

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 focussed 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 road, but worn carriageways.

In a final piece of good news, the GET A GRIP facebook 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

**BikeSafe/ GAG press release:**

BikeSafe have agreed to support GET A GRIP!, and they've done this immediate news story to get the ball rolling

<http://www.bikesafe.co.uk/News/Article/Get-A-Grip.aspx>

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**FEMA ITS Position:**

Dear Members,

The Secretariat is happy to inform you that an updated version of the FEMA ITS position is now available online, at the same address:

[http://www.fema-online.eu/uploads/documents/ITS/20110110 FEMA ITS position.pdf](http://www.fema-online.eu/uploads/documents/ITS/20110110_FEMA_ITS_position.pdf)

We decided to update the document with data from a recent research paper that we have received in the past week. Because the subject is both very wide and very technical, we will of course have to write more simple versions when needed, depending on who we are talking to (press, riders, MEPs...). But this can be considered our core position on the subject. Your comments and suggestions are more than welcome. Again, we thank all our members who found the time to contribute to the document with their comments.

Ride free,

**Changes to the motorcycle test:**

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

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 there are only two dates (below) when all the training schools in the land will be able 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 will be able to alter their diaries in time.

Information will be available to trainers at the following venues, but as examiners also need thorough training, there will be less test booking availability in the busy holiday period. Joined up thinking?

12 April (4.00-6.00 pm) Burgess Hill, Darlington, Edinburgh  
Musselburgh, Gillingham, Lee On Solent, Nottingham, Swansea, Wolverhampton

14 April (4.00-6.00 pm) Atherton, Bristol, Cambridge, Chester,  
Enfield, Exeter, Farnborough, Greenham, Inverness, Rotherham, Swindon, Wakefield  
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**Note from Mutchie:**

Have just sent this to the affiliate clubs whose addresses have not bounced yet.

Hello

Another issue of The ROAD is finished and I have returned to sorting out the affiliated club lists. Many thanks to you all for your support of MAG. I have purged the list of failed addresses and narrowed down the 150 affiliated clubs to 82 for whom I have working email addresses, fingers crossed.

Please would you let MAG know if your club contact changes so we can keep our lists up to date. You are welcome to contact me at this address until we get a Clubs Officer again.

MAG is open to volunteers who might like to be clubs officer.

A reminder that MAG's Annual Group Conference is this coming Saturday. Your club is entitled to a number of votes dependent upon the size of the club.  
All individual MAG members are entitled to vote.

Location

Beverley Rugby Club  
155 Norwood, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 9HT. (Located behind the Lady Le Gros pub)

Doors Open from 9.30AM, Free tea and coffee plus sandwich on arrival.  
Conference starts at 10.30 prompt.

For any information and to book camping please call Kev Davison on 01482  
863237 k5vda@yahoo.co.uk

Please find attached a concise statement on the current issue of the EU threat to engine tuning. Please feel free to use this in your club magazines and websites.

If you are signed to the MAG Activist list then advice on campaigning tactics will be sent to you.

To join the Activists list please email mag-hq@mag-uk.org

Thanks again for your support.

Ian Mutch MAG President

## A.O.B.

**Colin:** Done some road signs for the bike show. Been to Blacks to see if they wanted to do a stall at our show. They will get back to him.

Bike for sale. Zawasaki ZR-6R 1998 R reg Tax and MOT until June £1850 contact lee 08719870047  
Lee-pinnell@o2.co.uk

**Red:** Off to the AGC in Hull this weekend

## 2011 Events

### April:

**Shoosmith Easter** ride out to Saxon Wood School and St Michaels Hospice. 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Southampton MAG** bike show is on 17<sup>th</sup> April

**Basingstoke MAG 17<sup>th</sup>**. ride out to Haslemere Fire Station Bike Show then down to Southampton Bike Show. LEAVE THE ROYAL OAK AT 9.30AM.

**BASINGSTOKE MAG Easter party at the Royal Oak. 16<sup>th</sup> Aril. 8pm. Band is called RIPSLLIDE.**

**Barkshire Egg Run. 22<sup>nd</sup> April.** Meet noon at Norcot Rd Ind Estate ride to Reading Abbey Rugby Club.

**Reading MAG** Easter bike show is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. at Reading Abbey Rugby Club.

### May.

**Basingstoke Festival of Transport, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May.** at The War Memorial Park.

**NABD Rally.** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May. Cheshire.

**Basingstoke MAG** ride out to Donkey Sanctuary Sidmouth. 14<sup>th</sup> May

**Winchester MAG.** 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May Bike show.

**Sun Flower Motorcycle Run** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Ivel Barbarians Rugby Club Somerset

**Clay Pigeon Shooting.** 29<sup>th</sup> May. 10am-2pm about £35 £10 deposit end of March.

### June:

**The Farm Yard Party,** 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June. Pre book £25 otg £35.

**Basingstoke MAG 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Bike Show.** 18<sup>th</sup> June. At the small car park by The Royal Oak.

**Lion Rally.** 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June. Reading.

**3Bs Rally.** 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June. Bordon.

### July:

**Andycap Rally.** 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July At Wells, Somerset.

**South West Bike Day.** 15<sup>th</sup> July. At Wells, Somerset.

### August:

**The Bull Dog Bash.** 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Popham Bike Show.** 21<sup>st</sup> August.

### September:

**Rog and Lyn Charity Run: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September.**

## 2012.

**Basingstoke MAG 2012 AGM.** 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 8pm at The Royal Oak.

