

Basingstoke M.A.G.

Minutes

16/06/2011



Rep Keith:

Thanks to all who helped in cleaning up the car park. Special thanks to Winchester MAG, who came up just to help do the car park.

E-mails:

Supporting the French demonstrations against compulsory dayglo et al:

The French are facing a raft of new domestic legislation; compulsory day-glo, immediate jail terms for those breaking the speed limit by 30mph, the removal of radar warning signs, bigger number plates for bikes so that owners can be identified, confiscation of any gadget that has the ability to map the location of speed cameras (i-phones, gps), removing the right to filter through traffic...

The list is long, but not surprisingly the French riders aren't taking it lying down and rather than grumble down le pub, they'll be out on the streets.

If you aren't going to The Farmyard Party and live in the south of the country, you may want to lend your support.

Demonstrations are happening all over the country and I will be in Lille (an easy hour from Calais) if you want to join me. Meeting by 2pm at the following map point, near the airport.

> http://maps.google.fr/maps?hl=fr&xhr=t&q=crt+lesquin+plan&cp=0&pg=crt+lesquin+plan&rlz=1R2ACPW_frFR354&biw=1419&bih=671&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_p.w.&wrapid=tljpl30709238629730&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wl

If you want to know more, or would like to support a different regional event, all the Departments (counties) have got something on, so have a look at the FFMC website (MAG equivalent) or see the FEMA links

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

Remember, Ireland has now decided that full sleeve dayglo is a good idea too and the EU anti-tampering regulation, compulsory ABS et al, is still ongoing, so I hope that as many of you as possible will be in Birmingham to demonstrate on the 2nd July.

Liberty, equality, fraternity, demos and wine: There's a whole lot of stuff the French do well (but maybe they could work on those squat toilets...)

See you in Lille? I'll be getting a 10.30am Chunnel

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Kind regards

Paddy Tyson
Campaigns Co-ordinator
MAG (UK) - Motorcycle Action Group

Statement of support from the Motorcycle Action Group UK, to the Union des Usagers de la Route:

Nich is sending a short statement to be sent (in translation) to the various FFMC groups organising demos around France at the weekend. It's hardly Churchillian and he has avoided references to stopping-up the breach with our English dead, but it is designed to refer directly to the traditions underlying French society and he has taking a few cues from his conversations with the FFMC delegate to FEMA.

Fraternal greetings, to our fellow riders and all supporters of the *Union des Usagers de la Route*, from the 60,000 individual and affiliated members of the Motorcycle Action Group in the UK.

We fully support your opposition to those who seek to impose their view of the world on even the most basic human activities.

We have a right to choose how and when we travel and a duty to watch out for each other. We have a right to expect that others will treat us reasonably and a duty to treat others with care when we share the road.

But that does not mean we should surrender our enjoyment of life or personal liberty simply to satisfy a set of theories about road safety, or because it suits political ambitions or because those entrusted with a position of authority have since forgotten why they were first entrusted.

Whenever we venture out in the world we know that we are taking a series of risks, but they are small risks that allow us to live our lives as we wish. We cannot remove risk from our lives without removing ourselves from life itself.

If we choose to wear luminous clothes, or light-up our vehicles in the daylight, or encase our heads in a helmet or strap ourselves in to a seat that is our decision. If we are forced to do those things because someone else has decreed it is best for us, then our ability both to reason and to give effect to our own liberty are diminished.

The social contract is once again being strained to breaking point. We are to be coerced on pain of losing our property or our liberty because it is deemed good for us - that is a misuse of power. We are to be trapped by hidden surveillance designed to catch every minor transgression to swell the government coffers - that is a misuse of power.

Modern Europe was first shaped here in France over 200 years ago when people found an answer to the question - does the state serve the people, or do we serve the state? Let us remind ourselves, and those who seek to govern us, that there can only be one answer to that question.

Riders are voters, all road users have a vote; remember that when the professional politicians and the public officials who depend on them to channel your taxes in their direction ask for your support.

In the meantime, let us use the very road itself to demonstrate our opposition to this anti-social obsession with public obedience.

Dayglo position statement:

Nich's observations

There are two obvious ways to address this (bear in mind there is no UK proposal on compulsory hi-viz yet)

1. base our position on the principle: freedom of choice in personal safety. Then discuss the pros and cons of hi-viz in the context of bikes that are already produced with headlights hard-wired and cars with DRL.
2. base our position on arguing for or against a proposition about hi-viz. Then discuss the pros and cons.

Either way, we need to at least refer to hard evidence rather than anecdotes and opinions.

We also need to think about who we are trying to convince - is this aimed at riders or politicians or technocrats?

Nich

On 09/06/2011 15:38, Ian Mutch wrote:

> I have been asked to prepare a position statement here | what I have

> Writen

- > Friendly amendments additions welcomed
- > The adoption of high visibility clothing as a means of reducing the risk of accidents to motorcyclists is a tactic of unproven value.
- >> There is a distinction between riders being seen¹ by motorists and the conscious mind of the motorist recognizing the motorcycle as an issue that must be addressed.>
- > Anecdotal evidence, often provided by emergency service riders, supports the reality that motorists frequently pull out on such riders however conspicuous their appearance.>
- > It is reasonable to speculate that riders who adopt high visibility clothing and daytime headlight use, believe themselves to be more visible and compensate for the enhanced safety margin they believe themselves to have, by riding less cautiously.>
- > Many riders claim to feel safer when using high visibility tactics.
- > This is a very dangerous way to feel.>
- > In some cases where motorists claim "the rider came out of nowhere"¹ some blame may attach to the rider for accelerating or overtaking inappropriately.>
- > If an object between the rider and the motorist obscures the motorist's view of the rider then the rider's clothing is irrelevant.>
- > In some circumstances, clothing which is thought to be high visibility can actually camouflage a rider.

- > It is significant that in wartime lights have been used in daytime to obscure military aircraft, particularly when flying toward targets out of the sun.¹>
- > To compel riders to wear high visibility clothing or use headlights in perfect visibility is completely unacceptable. Such a requirement unfairly shifts the onus of responsibility from the "unseeing"¹ motorist to the rider.
- > It can also be counterproductive for the reasons above.
- > If we accept that any protocol or choice that offers less risk than its alternatives must be adopted then we fundamentally recognize that the right to private transport must ultimately be surrendered.

Compulsory Dayglo getting closer to home:

Compulsory dayglo clothing for riders is getting a lot of press lately and rightly so.

Demonstrations in France this weekend are about that and the banning of bikes older than 7 years from cities and a host of other anti-bike legislation.

However Ireland, which at least feels closer to home than France, is also pressing ahead with 'Full Sleeve' dayglo.

The Irish Government "... proposes the introduction of regulations for the mandatory wearing of high visibility upper body clothing with full sleeves for rider and pillion passenger."

Quote taken from Section 4.4.5 of the Irish Road Safety Authority's NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2014

http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Road%20Safety/Motorcycles/National_Motorcycle_Action_Plan.pdf

Please remember that there still is no research on which to base this decision, but more importantly it is another case of putting the onus of responsibility on the victim and undermining any element of freedom of choice for the rider.

IF it was a justifiable safety issue, then surely the bikes most frequently involved in accidents (under 125s in an urban environment) would be the ones to concentrate on, but bizarrely the French plan is to exempt these!

MAG has already had the Leeds Demo (in May) and the Brum demo is on July 2nd. We need to be vocal.

I feel this'll be a summer of MAG activity...

> <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Say-No-to-Day-Glo/206289546073856>

Red tape challenge:

WE have to get all the activists taking advantage of this red tape challenge immediately, we only have a week left. I've been on the site abut can't find anything about motorcycle legislation. Can anyone help me ?

<http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

Bikes in Bus Lane Petition:

I've just been forwarded this
"regarding the link in MCN from a MAG member in Brighton concerning the petition for bikes in bus lanes it's

www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/brightonmag1 "

Please encourage people to sign it.

A.O.B.

Keith: Please all come to our Bike Show this weekend.8am to help set it all up, 12 noon show starts.

Keith: Still want prizes for the raffle.

Cheryl: Its time again for adopting a animal.. Nominations in by end of month. Vote first week of July.

Colin: Asked if Basingstoke MAG is planning another holiday aboard for 2012.

YES we are planning to have anther holiday, we will look at it in more detail after the show.

Miller: If anyone has any ideas for social events please email him.

2011 Events

June:

The Farm Yard Party, 17th-19th June. Pre book £25 otg £35.

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

3Bs Rally. 24th-26th June. Bordon.

July:

Help for Heroes: Sunday3rd, Gosport – Popham Air field. Contact Kev 07990 878596.

Basingstoke MAG ride out to Donkey Sanctuary Sidmouth. 9TH July.

Andycap Rally. 15th-17th July At Wells, Somerset.

South West Bike Day. 15th July. At Wells, Somerset.

Basingstoke MAG Ride out to Ace Café Show at Brentwood – 31st July. Time of meet to be arranged near the date.

August:

The Bull Dog Bash. 11th -14th August.

Popham Bike Show. 21st August.

September:

Rog and Lyn Charity Run: Sunday 25th September.

2012.

Basingstoke MAG 2012 AGM. 22nd March, 8pm at The Royal Oak.