



Network

December 2014

A networking tool for Activists and other interested parties

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Editorial

You've probably seen on social media the case of Colette Carpenter, the Special Constable who was allegedly on her phone when in a collision with a motorcyclist who was killed has been doing the rounds again. I've included a statement from the MAG Chairman highlighting just what we're doing to try and get things changed for stiffer penalties in cases where there is a fatality.

There's an important consultation which requires your attention on Low Emission Zones - charge for Bikes. Yep that's right - so everyone has an interest in responding.

This months editorial is, of necessity, short. However, wish you all a great Yuletide.

Ride free, AG

New email: aineg@mag-uk.org. Subject heading: Network

[Acknowledgements: George Legg. Trevor Baird. Andy Carrott. John Mitchell. Leon Manning. Alec Groom. And anyone else I've forgotten]

Please note: Photocard License article? Very important.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/motorists-warned-about-scam-emails>

MAG Chairman

Regarding the Colette Carpenter case that has hit the news again lately:

In June 2013, MAG started the Justice campaign with this particular case in mind. The Crown Prosecution Service cited a lack of evidence that Ms. Carpenter was on her phone – even though the Investigating Officer told the inquest that her using the mobile phone was the likely cause of death of David Bartholomew.

MAG asked everyone to write to the Attorney General, CPS and the Ministry of Justice asking for stricter sentencing in cases where deaths were caused by drivers. The letter-writing campaign was successful and it brought MAG to the attention of the MoJ.

MAG was then referred to the Sentencing Council regarding a consultation – which was supposed to take place this year – into the sentences handed down for causing death by driving. (No differential given for careless or dangerous). Due to the General Election, this review has been pushed back until late 2015.

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The problem we faced is the Crown Prosecution Service. It's not the Police who didn't want to prosecute Ms. Carpenter, even though at the time of the incident, she was a Special Constable and they would have thrown the book at her.

The CPS at the time was led by Keir Starmer, a barrister who at one time was a strong fighter on behalf of the underdog – early in his career he helped the McLibel Two 'pro bono' when McDonalds sued them for libel. However, times change. It turned out that that Director of Public Prosecutions had hardly ever prosecuted a case (and was better known for being a human rights lawyer).

MAG is still pressuring the Sentencing Council to bring forward the consultation, and campaigning to reverse the injustice caused in this and other cases. MAG is also meeting with the Crown Prosecution Service about another recent case.

John Mitchell
MAG National Chairman

Low Emission Zones – charge for Bikes – please complete this consultation.

Transport For London (TFL) has an ongoing consultation re Ultra Low Emission Zones where vehicles which don't comply with certain Euro standards (Euro 3 for bikes) will be charged to enter those zones from 2020. Although less than 1% of emissions are predicted to come from bikes, the planned charge is the same as that for cars, vans and minibuses.

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/environment/ultra-low-emission-zone/consultation/intro/view>

Note from Leon on this: "It would be extremely helpful if as many people as possible responded to the consultation. Key point is that modal shift from cars to PTWs is a vital part of lowering pollution. Cheers, Leon."

What do you think?

A recent survey by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) has found 68 per cent of those who completed a survey on drink driving would like the Scottish drink-drive limit introduced across England and Wales.

A total of 2,632 people took part in the survey throughout October 2014. Under the new proposal, the Scottish government will lower the legal drink-drive limit to 50mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood before Christmas in an effort to reduce the number of drink-related accidents and deaths on Scotland's roads.

Over 83 per cent of IAM's survey respondents confirmed that they drink alcohol, and over 47 per cent have said that they believe lowering the limit from 80mg to 50mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood will reduce the number of accidents taking place across UK roads.

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IAM's director of policy and research, Neil Greig said: ³England and Wales are now totally out of step with drink-drive limits across the rest of Europe. Existing research has shown that between 63 and 116 lives can be saved every year by a lower limit. Different limits are also a recipe for confusion and the IAM would urge the Westminster government to review its approach as a matter of urgency.²

The poll further revealed that over 53 per cent would prefer more thorough police checks to target drink-drivers, while only five per cent would support an increase in alcohol prices to tackle the problem.

A story on bike theft which includes this link to an e petition.

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/58837>

I just went to sign it, not that I think it will make the slightest difference but I can't think of a reason not to.

The good news is that thefts are down about 24% comparing 2013 with 2012 perhaps as a result of more marking by the industry at long last.

MAG have been urging the industry to do this for over ten years. In fact, some years ago there was a great furore in the Jubilee Room at the House of Commons when a certain loud Yorkshireman, who shall remain Neil Liversidge, accused the industry of being deliberately lax in the belief that stolen bikes led to more sales of new ones.

It was a tad contentious but that is the kind of contentious initiative to be applauded.

Just in case someone asks you what the rules are regarding getting a full licence, they are here.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/369984/routes-to-your-motorcycle-licence.pdf

Motorcycle Parking

Lincolnshire Region MAG recently completed a consultation response in respect to a "Plan for Central Lincolnshire". The plan is centered around planning, growth, accessibility, transport, health, etc. Not with standing they completely forgot to include the county's own Motorcycle Strategy, the word motorcycle is not even mentioned once. The donkey work for this was completed by Lincolnshire Region Political Officer Trevor Bridgewood with support from Leon Mannings for some of the technical stuff (we sent a copy of the consultation and our draft comments to Leon who then made a few additions and recommendations). The process was quite straight forward – Trevor simply had to register on the consultation website and was able to enter our responses over a period of time before finally hitting the send button when we had settled on the wording of our comments.

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In formulating our responses I saw a common thread developing all the way through the document in respect to increasing powered two wheeler use. That common issue was parking – if there is no where decent to park people will not use ptws (and tourists will go elsewhere). More ptw use hits almost all of the intended targets for the plan – social mobility, accessibility to transport, reduced congestion, reduced pollution, tourism, etc, but encouraging more ptw use will only have limited success if users find decent and safe parking facilities.

The county's own parking strategy suggests 1 bike space for every 20 car spaces – in the city of Lincoln alone they fall short to the tune of over 100 parking spaces in the council run car parks. The local Lincoln MAG branch is working with the council to improve this issue, but if we want to see more riders we all need to take a good look at the parking provision in our towns and cities.

Your county may have a motorcycle strategy. If it doesn't, it should. The following link gives an example:

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/transport-travel-and-roads/transport-planning-and-development-control/motorcycle-strategy?tab=downloads>

Keep your eye on your council website for local consultations and make sure you get motorcycles (and motorcycle parking) included.

More good news on Bus Lanes

Doncaster are to begin trialling Bikes in Bus Lanes from April 2015.

Article from Auto Express;

<http://www.autoexpress.co.uk/car-news/consumer-news/89399/mps-want-killer-drivers-to-face-manslaughter-charges>

Concern that offenders are being let off too lightly has led to call in Commons for stiffer penalties

Ministers are calling for killer drivers to be charged with manslaughter to ensure they serve longer prison sentences. Under current rules, if a motorist is found guilty of death by dangerous driving, the maximum sentence they face is 14 years.

Now a number of ministers have called for the more serious charge to be introduced as part of the wider review of motoring offences due in 2015.

Talking in the House of Commons, Conservative Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West, highlighted a case in which an offender was driving a stolen car while disqualified and two-

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and-a-half times over the alcohol limit. He then hit and killed two cyclists and was given a prison sentence of 10 years.

FEMA – Defending Motorcycling

Early in November FEMA – the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations, FIM – Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme and FIM Europe representatives met in Brussels.

FEMA your rider representatives in Europe have since July with these other organisations have worked on the draft OECD*-ITF report on the safety of powered two wheelers.

(OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development based in Paris, which also hosts the International Transport Forum).

FEMA has hailed this as a new co-operation to defend motorcycling and this group will now coordinate responses to the final report which is expected to be published shortly.

FEMA was represented by representatives from its national organisations by Morten Hansen (NMCU – Norway), Dolf Willigers (MAG NL – Netherlands) Rolf Frieling (BU – Germany). From FIM Europe the representatives were Silvio Manicardi, from FIM Jesper Christensen and John Chatterton-Ross.

FEMA say that, common ground was established on the issues connected to motorcycling and mobility. Also on training, awareness of riders by other road users, infrastructure, intelligent transport systems, and the need for more research.

The group all agreed that the OECD-ITF report will have a major impact on policy by governments and the EU institutions for many years to come.

The meeting also served as a basis for a future with further cooperation between the organisations.

Original Source: <http://www.fema-online.eu/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=411&cntnt01returnid=15>

FEMA – Presents Infrastructure

On November 5th, FEMA was invited to speak about motorcycling and infrastructure at one of the most important infrastructure expert platform worldwide.

With over 100 participants from all over Europe, at the European Union Road Federation event, including many national road infrastructure authorities FEMA's General Secretary – Aline Delhaye gave a presentation to the event.

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This was a unique occasion to raise awareness about the importance to include powered two wheelers in all phases: design, maintenance, road safety inspections, audits and black spots identification processes, the initial training of road engineers.

FEMA conclusions in its presentation to the event includes:

PTW riders are more sensitive to road design and maintenance than car drivers.

The design of roadway elements influences how a road user interacts with the roadway. These elements include bends, junctions, the road surface and the roadside.

General influence of road environment factors on the driving speed, level of vigilance, attention paid accident severity

An environmental perturbation can be easily managed by car drivers but be a challenge for a PTW rider

Finally to the attendees from the world of road infrastructure – “Your work can make a significant contribution to improving motorcycling safety.”

Presentation – Motorcycling and Infrastructure - http://www.fema-online.eu/uploads/TRBAFB20_AlineDelhaye.pdf

FEMA – At Road Tolls

Again in early November FEMA attended, represented by Dolf Willigers (MAG NL – Netherlands) a hearing on European road toll systems for private vehicles

The hearing was at the MEP TRAN Committee (Transport and Tourism) of the European Parliament in Brussels.

The event was organised in two parts:

- Road financing and legal aspects
- Toll systems in Europe – case studies

Dolf Willigers reported on the meeting that that three things became clear:

- “1. Road users pay a lot more than they get back. Motorcyclists, car- and truck drivers just contribute to the member states’ finances,
2. The German toll (Maut) plans are not legal, as they are discriminating outlanders,
3. The European Commission refuses to take position against the Maut plans because they are still plans. That never stopped them before....

Fortunately there are MEPs like Dutch MEP Wim van de Camp who fight for our rights and stand up against the EC! (that was the fourth thing that became clear).”

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Maut – The proposed new toll (Maut in German) would apply to all roadways in Germany, not just the country's famous autobahn network. German motorists are to be compensated through a vehicle registration tax rebate, the proposed German system may violate EU law. Austria and the Netherlands have already complained about the German proposal being a violation of EU anti-discrimination laws.

FEMA – Website – www.fema-online.eu

FENA – On Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Federation-of-European-Motorcyclists-Associations/193674387342050?sk=timeline>

Safety Recall for Suzuki GSXR Owners

Via the ACU – Auto-Cycle Union who have been notified by Suzuki of two important Safety recalls for GSXR owners.

Chain Adjuster Recall - the possibility of a concern with Drive Chain Adjuster Blocks – full details –

<http://www.acu.org.uk/Uploaded/1/Documents/GSXR%20Chain%20Adjuster%20ACU%20edition.pdf>

Front Brake Master Cylinder – the possibility of a concern with the Front Brake Master Cylinder – full details – <http://www.acu.org.uk/News/2014/11/Important-Safety-Recall-for-Suzuki-GSXR-Owners/>

www.acu.org.uk

Driving licence changes you need to know about

This is also a good time to give your driving licence a thorough health check at the CDG clinic to ensure you're not about to be struck down by big fines.

Here's our at-a-glance guide to all you need know about driving licence-related changes, fines and other pitfalls that are just waiting to spoil your day.

So what's the big change?

Unlike the tax disc, your driving licence isn't being abolished entirely – just the paper counterpart that goes with your photocard.

When is this happening?

The changes take effect from January 1, 2015... so, set your alarm for early o'clock, jump out of bed, tumble jauntily downstairs, locate your paper counterpart and destroy it without

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delay – before realising you're suffering a severe hangover from NYE celebrations and head straight back to bed for the following two days.

What else do I have to do?

Nothing. Providing your details are correct and up to date, your photocard is all you'll need.

I don't have a photocard – just an old paper licence. Do I destroy it?

No! If you have an old-style paper licence issued before the photocard was introduced in 1998, you should not destroy it. Furthermore, the green paper licence remains legal and – providing the details are correct – you're under no obligation to change it to a photo-based version. If you do want to upgrade, though, this can be done for free.

How can I see information about my licence now?

The paper counterpart of your driving licence can be used to tell you how many penalty points you have, when they expire, what classes of vehicles you can drive and when the document itself will expire. So, how will you be able view this vital information once the paper part of your licence disappears? Most of this information is available on the back of the photocard, but is not that clear and easy to read. To help address this, the DVLA has launched its online 'View Driving Record' service, which lets you see the data you need by entering your driving licence number, national insurance number and postcode.

View Driving Record at: <https://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence>

Hold on – employers or car hire firms need to see this information, too?

Very true. Many interested parties – such as employers and holiday hire car firms – will want to see the paper counterpart to prove you haven't got a record for instantly becoming a homicidal psychopath once behind the wheel. Obviously, this won't be possible with the abolition of the paper counterpart, so the DVLA is developing a new online service to provide your real-time driving data to those who have a genuine reason to request it. The information will only be provided with the knowledge of the licence holder.

I've moved and need to change my address... how can I?

The paper counterpart allows you to change your address, so abolishing it could cause confusion for motorists who've just moved home and find the additional cost of a £1000 fine

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somewhat distressing. Not a problem, simply use the DVLA's online service to change your address.

Change your address: Update your driving licence here:

<https://www.gov.uk/change-address-driving-licence>

Is that it, then?

Yep! It's not a huge change, but keeping abreast of such changes will ensure you avoid any problems when hiring a car or checking your validity to drive other types of vehicles. This in turn could save you large amounts of cash in fines.

In fact, many motorists will find the changes helpful by cutting the amount of documents they need to carry while travelling both in the UK and abroad.

The Government has revealed the cost of getting or renewing a driving licence is to be cut following a public consultation. The new prices include the following reductions and come into effect from October 31, 2014.

New provisional licence: Falls from £50.00 to £34.99

Online renewals: Fall from £20.00 to £14.00

HIGHWAYS AGENCY – M4 Junctions 3-12: Smart Motorway

We believe that the proposed smart motorway scheme meets the strategic, economic, social and environmental objectives better than any other scheme option (see section 3 for details of the proposed scheme development to date), providing a robust transport solution that addresses national, regional and local needs in the most appropriate way. However, it is important for us to understand the views of the community and other stakeholders and to consider these as we continue to develop our scheme proposals.

We previously held public exhibitions during the early stages of the scheme's development to provide members of the public and stakeholders with the opportunity to understand the smart motorway concept and our initial scheme designs for the M4. These public exhibitions were held over a six week period between the 18 March and 30 April 2014 and enabled us to talk to local people about smart motorways and to seek their views. The feedback received from this exercise has enabled key issues raised by the community to be properly considered and addressed as part of the development of our proposals.

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We will now be undertaking public consultation as part of the statutory process set out in the Planning Act 2008. This consultation exercise will run from until 21 December 2014 during which we are inviting comments on the scheme proposals. For more information about our proposals and how to take part in the consultation please read our consultation brochure which is available on the publications page. Feedback received from this consultation exercise will help shape the final scheme proposals and form the basis of our application for a Development Consent Order.

Public Consultation

In order to make sure that the local community and road users have the opportunity to understand and comment on our proposals we are undertaking a public consultation which will end on 21 December 2014. The consultation documents can be found under the Publications tab above and is also published on **GOV.UK** along with a **questionnaire to gather feedback**.

Public exhibitions will be held at eleven locations along the route of the scheme to give people an opportunity to view the scheme proposals, speak with the project team and provide comments:

- The Royal Berkshire Conference Centre, Madejski Stadium, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 0FL. Tuesday 18th November 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
- Stockley Pines Golf Course, Stockley Park, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB11 1AQ. Thursday 20 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
- Theale Village Hall, Englefield Road, Theale, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5AS. Friday 21 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
- Holyport War Memorial Hall, Moneyrow Green, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 2NA. Saturday 22 November 2014 (10am – 4pm).
- Datchet Womens Institute Hall, The Green, Datchet, SL3 9NU. Wednesday 26 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
- Queensmere Shopping Centre, High Street, Slough, SL1 1LN. Thursday 27 November 2014 (9am – 7pm).
- Winnersh Community Centre, New Road, Wokingham, RG41 5DU. Friday 28 November 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
- Colnbrook Village Hall, Vicarage Way, Colnbrook, Berkshire, SL3 0RF. Saturday 29 November 2014 (10am – 4pm).
- The Pavillion, Heston Sports Ground, Crane Lodge Road, Cranford, Middlesex TW5 9PQ Thursday 4th December 2014 (2pm – 8pm).
- The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough SL1 4UT. Friday 5th December 2014 (2pm- 8pm).
- Iver Village Hall, Grange Way, Iver, Buckinghamshire, SL0 9NW. Saturday 6 December 2014 (10am – 4pm).

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m4-junctions-3-12/> - IF YOU GO TO THE WEBSITE AND TAP THE PUBLICATIONS TAB THIS WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE CONSULTATION ETC.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from Brussels:

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For your information.

The personal protection equipment (PPE) proposal will be debated in the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) on Wednesday 3 December, 11.30 – 12.15. This debate is probably going to be streamed, so if you want to you will be able to follow it in any European language of your choice. *This proposed regulation is about conformity of PPE, not about wearing it! *As motorcycle gear is just seen as a form of PPE it isn't even mentioned in the regulation or the annexes (which means that it isn't excluded also).

Link to the documents:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2014:0186:FIN:EN:PDF>

Link to stream (EUTV):

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/schedule>

Best regards, Dolf Willigers. MAG NL

Bristol: From Taps – new Bristol Rep.

Please note that the proposals and a feedback survey for the Bristol Metrobus scheme are now available here:

<http://www.travelwest.info/NFHPconsult>

There's quite a lot to wade through but I would urge you to make the effort and see how you might be affected. If you have trouble downloading or viewing plans then let me know & I'll attempt to produce paper copies for viewing at a local MAG meeting.

The good news for bikers is lots of new bus lanes along major routes, and we're allowed in almost all of it. A few speed limits have dropped but a 40mph bus lane is probably easier than filtering at 40mph through the usual gridlock.

The bad news – we're currently excluded from the lanes around the centre – maps 5.2 & 5.3 in section 5. I think this needs to be contested – powered two wheelers have been shown to reduce congestion, take up less parking space, and we pose much less danger to cyclists than taxis and buses!

Clearly the intent is to get people on buses but this won't work for everyone and the scheme looks awful for cars so we may yet get a few more people on motorbikes.

Dartford Crossing fees, exemptions and penalties

From 30 November 2014, you'll no longer pay at the barriers when you use the Dartford Crossing.

The new payment service is called Dart Charge.

You must pay to use the Dartford Crossing between 6am and 10pm. You must pay by midnight the day after you cross.

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The fee depends on your vehicle type and whether you've set up an account. You can get a discount if you live in Dartford or Thurrock.

Cameras read your number plate when you cross.

You'll get a Penalty Charge Notice if you don't pay the Dartford Crossing charge.

You may not have to pay the charge if you don't pay vehicle tax because you're disabled.

You'll be sent a Penalty Charge Notice if you don't pay by midnight on the day after you made your crossing.

Remaining in place – You don't have to pay if you cross with a moped, motorcycle, motor tricycle or quad bike.

<https://www.gov.uk/dartford-crossing-fees-exemptions-penalties>

European Motorcyclists Forum

Safer Motorcycling in Europe now!

How can we tackle motorcycle safety challenges for the next decade?

The Forum is hosted by the Transport Committee Vice-Chairman, Dominique Riquet (ALDE) and the European Parliament Members Inés Ayalá-Sender (S&D) and Wim van de Camp (EPP). This year's forum will comprise of a full day workshop on the CEN-CENELEC premises, followed by a Debate Session in the European Parliament.

The full-day workshop on Monday 2nd of February will present and cover the outcomes of the EU co-financed project A European Scanning Tour for Motorcycle Safety www.riderscan.eu including the state of the art of motorcycle safety knowledge, access to powered two wheelers, traffic and road environment, and the means to convey safety messages to the riding community, in order to set up a result-based PTW safety strategy.

The Debate-Session in the Parliament will take place in the morning of Tuesday 3rd of February and will further expand on motorcycling safety in the context of the mid-term evaluation of Commission road safety policy orientations 2011-2020.

With the outcomes of the RIDERSCAN project and the publication of the OECD/ITF report on motorcycling safety (to be released by the end of 2014), we believe that the 2015 European Motorcyclists' Forum (EMF 2015) is an excellent opportunity for all parties to discuss concrete actions to improve PTW safety in Europe.

www.fema-online.eu

On Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanMotorcyclistsForum>

Follow the tweet on the EMF 2015 – <https://twitter.com/hashtag/RiderscanEMF?src=hash>

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More information on the EMF 2015, including conference registration instructions-
<http://www.fema-online.eu/riderscan/-EMF-2015-49-?lang=en>

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