



Network Summary - September 2011

This is a brief summary of the detailed issues publicised in Network by MAG UK. For full details of any of these items or more information about how to become more actively involved please contact your local group representative. If you currently have no active local group and are interested in forming one, please contact Yorkshire MAG for more information. Contact details are noted at the end of this publication.

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25th September: “EU Hands Off Biking – Action NOW”

Urgent Action is required from you all to avert the threats coming from Europe. MAG is working constructively with UK officials & politicians to reduce the impact on UK riders and ultimately to roll-back the tide of creeping restrictions on riders. However, not all the work can be done behind the scenes and thousands of riders have reacted positively to the MAG call for a peaceful show of opposition.

More than 70 confirmed start points for the 25th September protests can be seen on the main MAG website www.mag-uk.org/en/campaignsdetail/a6883.

*There is also an official dedicated FaceBook page where you can find a map of start points and download campaign materials. Please ***Share*** this link with your mates & bike-related pages and groups www.facebook.com/pages/25th-Sept-2011-Action-Now-EU-Hands-Off-Biking/218514361530962.*

What are we doing?

A synchronised rolling protest at precisely 1pm, making our presence felt at a sedate 45-48mph for 15 miles or so before dispersing. This is a legitimate protest not a blockade, the outer lane will be left clear for other traffic, ride responsibly and take care of other road users.

Yorkshire start points:

M1 – Woodhall Services, northbound	M62 – Hartshead Moor Services, westbound
A64 – The Highwayman Café, York, YO32 9TL	M1 – Woolly Edge Services, southbound
M62 – Ferrybridge Services, westbound	A63 – Ferriby Services, westbound

Why are we doing it?

MAG and other organisations have been working with politicians and civil servants to stem the growing interference in all aspects of biking. Now is the time to demonstrate that we are serious about defending what we enjoy and rolling-back the tide of past legislation that creates burdens on biking without providing noticeable benefits.

This is an appropriate & measured protest against unnecessary interference. By taking synchronised action on major routes in all parts of the country we can make a big impact without causing the inconvenience that a traditional street

protest in a city centre results in - doing this at a quiet time of the week shows we can be proportionate in our response and capable of making a bigger impact should we need to in future.

NB: an article in MCN on 7th September states that MAG intends to bring 'mayhem' to the motorways. This is not the case, the protests are designed to stay within the law, let us make our presence felt and then move on.

These protests are intended to be simple & safe to take part in, nevertheless some police forces have come forward to offer assistance. MAG is liaising with police forces but organisers of individual protests should consider informing their local police traffic division. Contact central-office@mag-uk.org for further info.

EU proposals to restrict the future of motorcycling

European Type Approval Regulations that would bring compulsory ABS to all new bikes, alongside anti-modification measures & road-side spot checks, took another step forward on 30th August 2011.

Fortunately, there is something you can do about it –here are the main restrictions proposed on new bikes from 2015:

- **Compulsory Anti-lock and/or Combined Braking Systems on new motorcycles & scooters over 50cc.**
Advanced braking systems add cost & complexity to manufacture & servicing, but do not always help the rider (especially on loose surfaces such as gravel). The Commission's evidence that the costs are outweighed by the benefits is patchy and relies on data from commercial interests. Consumers should retain choice to specify ABS if they want it, and always have an option to disable ABS when necessary.
- **Three new progressively tighter emissions limits to be introduced over 5 years.**
Trials of various sizes of bikes and comparable cars on commuting routes show that bikes offer shorter journey-times and lower fuel-consumption. The Commission's evidence mainly relies on one source & does not adequately consider additional costs & impacts from adding pollution control technology to small lightweight vehicles. The Commission justifies this by emphasising that bikes account for a growing proportion of some pollutants, but the context is that the total generated by all types of vehicle has fallen to a very low level.
- **Devices to prevent modification of the engine or transmission** (including air filter, drive sprockets or rear-tyre). Riders of identical bikes are not themselves identical, nor are their journeys. Bikes used mostly on motorways need different characteristics to those used mostly on urban streets or rural roads, these can be achieved easily, eg; by choosing different drive sprockets or tyres. The Commission wishes to add cost & complexity so that owners will be restricted in modifying their bikes to suit their needs. Partly the Commission wants to stop novice riders tuning their bikes to perform better than their driving licence allows. The Commission prefer to penalise riders who want to de-restrict their learner-bike once they are fully qualified, not to mention already-qualified riders who need or want lightweight bikes with good performance.
- **Computer chips on every bike to monitor and ultimately disable engines**
The Commission envisages chips on all bikes to record breaches of emission limits as a pre-cursor to more sophisticated devices capable of disabling bikes & storing information about riding characteristics.
- **Road-side checks of passing bikes (but not cars)**
The Commission proposes all EU Member States should mount road-side checks of passing bikes as one means of enforcing restrictions on riders' ability to modify their bikes. This iniquitous threat to the free movement of citizens does not extend to people travelling in modified cars.
- **Impact on after-market parts suppliers**
The Commission's impact assessment considers the effect of changes on the manufacturers of original equipment to the detriment of alternative suppliers of after-market components and spare parts, future consumer-choice of replacement parts has not been adequately considered.

What can be done..?

1. There is a very simple way to contact the MEPs that represent you, and put forward our case against further restrictions on bike-design and use of bikes BEFORE these decisions are cast in stone. Vital discussions are going on in the next few days and weeks so please go to www.writetothem.com and tell them how you feel about the points listed above.

There are 6 MEPs representing Yorkshire and Humber. They are: Edward McMillan-Scott (Liberal Democrat), Linda McAvan (Labour), Timothy Kirkhop (Conservative), Godfrey Bloom (UK Independence), Andrew Brons (BNP) and Diana Wallis (Liberal Democrat).

2. UK-wide protests for 1pm on Sunday 25th September - your opportunity to defend riders' right to decide. Details at: www.facebook.com/pages/25th-Sept-2011-Action-Now-EU-Hands-Off-Biking/218514361530962.
3. Respond to the UK government consultation about the impacts it thinks the EU proposals will have on UK biking. The consultation is at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-26>. It is important that both individuals and organisations respond to make sure our message gets across.

In the meantime, MAG continues to lobby our own Department for Transport, UK MEPs and MPs to oppose any further restrictions on bikes and riders.

FIM picks up discussion on mandatory high viz jackets

Federation International de Motorcyclisme (FIM) has pointed to the downsides of forcing riders to wear reflective jackets. FIM calls on governments to work with motorcyclists to find a suitable solution while pointing towards “riders – and passengers – who ride around with nothing on but a tee shirt, shorts and flip flop shoes” as the actual problem.

It is the responsibility of the motorist (who must be trained accordingly) to detect vulnerable road users regardless of light, weather conditions and without regard to whether the road user is wearing colourful or fluorescent clothing.

An investigation of the role of vehicle conspicuity in the ‘Looked But Failed to See’ error in driving was carried out at University of Surry. After reviewing literature and assessing the diverse methods to investigate the LBFS error, this thesis refines previous methodologies. Conclusions suggest that experience need not mean expertise and that LBFS errors may be a cost of experience.

Institute of Advanced Motorists

A third of drivers have had their vehicle damaged by a pothole, according to the latest poll from the IAM. A further 16% have been involved in, or have seen an accident caused by a road user hitting a pothole. Of the 2600 respondents, 88% voted pothole repair the top priority for local council maintenance.

More from FEMA

Study shows that motorcycling is beneficial for society: based on a study in Paris, there is a cost benefit to society together with time savings, reduction in congestion and easier parking, so everyone wins when more commuters take up motorcycling. Motorcycles and scooters, in the end, are the choice that offers the best combination of personal benefit, through lower cost in time and money, and public benefit, through their lower fuel consumption, infrastructure use and contribution to congestion.

Road Safety GB

DfT to rip up paper licences: the counterpart driving licence is set to be axed and will be replaced by an online database, the DfT has revealed (Auto Express). The document will be scrapped in 2014 and the old style paper licences will be abolished shortly after the new system is introduced, labelling it a “logical follow-up to abolishing the counterpart”.

Other Items – Titles only

European Ombudsman upholds MAG member complaint
French riders call another round of national protests against forced Day-Glo
Ireland’s riders support protests
Electric Bike
Around the country
Star Rating Roads for Safety

Regional and MAG UK Events

Friday, September 16 - Sunday, September 18, 2011 – Spat out of Hull

Organiser: East Yorkshire MAG

An exclusive 2 night party. Bonfires, comedians, live bands, excellent food and much more.

Ticket: £12 in advance or £15 on the gate – strict 500 limit.

Location: Dene Park Sports Club, Beverley Road, Dunswell, HU6 0AA

Web: <http://east-yorks.mag-uk.org/events.html>

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 – Colne Valley MAG AGM

Organiser: Colne Valley MAG

Location: The Royal Oak, Linthwaite

Saturday, September 24, 2011 – Magic Action Promotions (MAP) AGM & Farmyard/MAP Events de-brief

Organiser: MAP

As it says in the title! Official proceedings start at 1pm. Buffet available from 7pm.

Location : Breighton Ferry Pub, near Selby

Sunday, September 25, 2011 – EU: Hands Off Biking – Action NOW Demo

Organiser: MAG

See website for further details of meeting points near you – or contact MAG Central,

Web: www.mag-uk.org

Saturday, October 22, 2011 – Yorkshire Region AGM

Organiser: Yorkshire MAG

Hosted by Barnsley MAG at Barnsley Rugby & Football Club. Meeting from 1pm to start official proceedings at 1.30pm.

Location: Barnsley MAG at Barnsley Rugby & Football Club, Shaw Lane, Barnsley, S70 6HZ

Contacts

MAG UK Website: <http://www.mag-uk.org>

Yorkshire Region Website: <http://www.yorkshire-mag.co.uk/home.html>

Regional Rep: rep@yorkshire-mag.co.uk Tel: 07561 553616

Political Officer: politics@yorkshire-mag.co.uk

Clubs Co-ordinator: clubs@yorkshire-mag.co.uk

Events Co-ordinator: events@yorkshire-mag.co.uk

Website administrator: support@yorkshire-mag.co.uk

Group	Website	Email	Meetings
Barnsley	http://barnsley.mag-uk.org	barnsleymag@hotmail.co.uk	Mondays 8pm @ Barnsley Rugby Union Football Club, S70 6HZ
Colne Valley	http://colne-valley.mag-uk.org	dawn.robinson557@ntlworld.com	Wednesdays @ 8.30pm The Royal Oak, Linthwaite
East Yorkshire	http://east-yorks.mag-uk.org	k5vda@yahoo.co.uk	2 nd & 4 th Thursday @ 8.30pm Lady le Gros, 155 Norwood, Beverley, HU17
Huddersfield	http://www.huddersfieldmag.co.uk	Huddersfield.mag@ntlworld.com	Wednesdays @ 9pm Field Head, Quarmby Road, HD3 4FB
Leeds	http://www.leeds-mag.co.uk/	Leeds-rep@mag-uk.org	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays @ 8pm The Cross Keys, Leeds, LS27 0AU
Scarborough	http://scarborough.mag-uk.org	stuartis@talktalk.net	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday Ye Olde Forge Valley Inn, West Ayton
Sheffield & Rotherham	http://sheffield.mag-uk.org	Sheffield-rep@mag-uk.org	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday @ 9pm Royal Oak, Blackburn Road, S61 2DW
Wakefield	http://wakefield.mag-uk.org	wakefield-rep@mag-uk.org	Wednesdays @ 8.30pm Grey Horse, 219 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 4EJ
York	http://www.york-mag.co.uk	nickirep@york-mag.co.uk	1 st Tuesday & 3 rd Thursday @ 8pm. Rose & Crown, Lawrence St, YO10 3BP