



Comment

3rd EU Driving Licence Directive

We have sent our first letter to those identified as able to help our special campaign. It is important for the future of motorcycling in Europe.

This is another example of the synergy between sports and general motorcycling. Some disciplines such as Trials and Enduro require a normal motorcycle licence. It is important that riders are aware of the need to get on a small motorcycle or scooter as soon as possible to obtain an "A" licence at age 20. "Direct Access" to category A will be raised to 24 years of age! Trials and Enduro motorcycles may not be very powerful, but their light weight means they are unlikely to comply with the power to weight ratio restrictions of category A2.

This is explained (in English only) in a guide to this issue produced by FIM & UEM. We have added it as an Annex.

Achilles Damen, President of the Commission for Mobility, Transport, Road Safety and Public Policy, FIM

Jean-Pierre Moreau, President of the Commission for Road Safety and Mobility, UEM

National motorcycle show - UK

November and Birmingham was the venue for the UK show. The British Motorcyclists Federation promoted their plans for new shows in 2010 when they will celebrate their 50th anniversary. Funds raised by the calendar of BMF events - the largest of their kind in the world - are used to protect the interests of motorcycling in the UK. The BMF of course (in partnership with ACU) has worked for many years with the FIM.



BMF Chair Anna Zee with (left) Pete Laidlaw and right John Nelson

It is now many years since the famous brand name Triumph was revived to the modern company we know today. 2009 saw the relaunch of that other famous British motorcycle - Norton. It may look like a 1973 Norton but this is a totally new design which is Euro 3 compliant.



ACEM moves to make motorcycling even more environmentally friendly

The majority of motorcycles and scooters have a light impact on the environment. It is partly a function of smaller engines and partly a function of the way they are ridden and can ease through traffic congestion. However, on some specific measurements PTWs do not compare to the greater advances that have been made by the car industry.

In December ACEM announced to the EU Commission its commitment to a two stage process to ensure PTWs of the future match those achieved by the car industry. It is a huge technical challenge given that a smaller vehicle has far less space to fit equipment to control pollution levels. Catalytic converters also of course run at high temperatures and this restricts design if safety of the rider and passenger is to be maintained.

ACEM made its announcement at the EU Commission Motorcycle Working Group and it was well received by representatives of the Member States of the EU and the Commission. The meeting was held in the iconic Berlaymont building. Many years ago pollution problems were identified there (asbestos) and the whole building took years to clean and rebuild. Now the home of the EU Commission it was our first return there for many years.



2010 fund raising ride for Asia Injury Prevention Foundation (AIFP) & FIA Foundation helmet vaccine campaign

Bob Tomlins of FEMA was the first person to draw attention to the work being done in Vietnam to make basic but affordable motorcycling helmets for adults and children. FIM is supporting the endeavours of the FIA Foundation to ensure this proven Vietnamese model is replicated in countries with similar levels of economic development.

In 2010 John Chatterton-Ross intends to repeat a fund raising ride he did 25 years ago on a Norton police motorcycle, this time raising money for AIFP. He explains:

"In 1985 the Norton factory lent me and my friend Jeremy Dodd a couple of police specification Nortons. They were the Interceptor model powered by a rotary Wankel engine. (Still in limited use today in Norton racing machines).

We did a tour of the four compass points of the UK mainland starting at the southern tip: a place called Lizard Point in Cornwall.

In 2010 probably in June, I plan to repeat the journey 25 years on, possibly in the other direction! It is over 3,300 km so it will take a few days. I am hoping to obtain some support from friends in the international police motorcycle club for serving and retired officers, the Blue Knights. The late and much missed Roger Renoy recruited me to the club. I will ride my Honda but hope to call in on the new Norton factory at Donington near the famous race circuit there."

More details as 2010 moves on.



May 1985: John staring out to sea at the UK's most easterly point

News from Canada

We are pleased to report that Ken Morgan, Canadian member of the FIM ERTS Network (rider training instructors) was inducted into the Canadian Motorcycle Hall of Fame.

The picture shows Ken (on the right) and Past Hall of Fame Chair Peter Sheppard.



News from North Africa

Two road safety festivals will take place shortly in Morocco and Tunisia:

- The 2nd Global Road Safety Film Festival on 18 and 19 February 2010 in Marrakech. This event follows on from the Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety held recently in Moscow. For more information, visit: <http://www.roadsafetyfilm.com/>
- The 6th session of the International Festival for road safety campaigns from 4 to 6 March 2010 in Tunis. For more information, visit: <http://www.tunisia2010.net/en/html/general.html>

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Enclosure Guide on the new 3rd EU Driving Licence Directive

About the FIM (www.fim-live.com)

The FIM (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) founded in 1904, is the world governing body for motorcycle sport and is an independent association formed by 101 National Federations throughout the world. It is recognised as the sole competent authority in motorcycle sport by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Among its 49 FIM World Championships the main events are MotoGP, Superbike, Endurance, Motocross, Supercross, Trial, Enduro and Speedway. The FIM also deals with non-sporting matters such as leisure motorcycling, mobility, transport, road safety, public policy and the environment. The FIM was the first International Sporting Federation to enforce an Environmental Code in 1994.