

The Road Safety Wales Low Down

"What's happening in the world of road safety?"

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Scarlets Join Forces With Gari Gosafe



The Scarlets are giving high profile backing to help teach children in Carmarthenshire about the importance of road safety.

The rugby region has joined forces with Carmarthenshire County Council's Road Safety Unit and its mascot Gari Gosafe to help boost awareness and educate pupils about road and car safety – including crossing roads, being seen when out and about, cycling safely, walking to school and staying safe in the car.

And the popular and colourful seven foot Gari Gosafe mascot recently meet up with his Scarlets counterpart 'Cochyn', some Scarlets players and their children to launch the Scarlets support initiative.

The Scarlets will be producing a range of road safety materials and education packs in association with the Council that will be distributed throughout the schools of Carmarthenshire on Scarlets visits and during the region's packed summer touring schedule. The Scarlets will be raising road safety messages through a range of initiatives including player profile cards, wall charts, team posters, car fresheners, sticker books and stickers and signage.

Scarlets and Wales international Dafydd Jones joined up with Gari and his young children to kick start the new campaign.

Dafydd Jones said: "Becoming a Dad, you are much more aware of keeping your children safe in the car and when you're out and about. It's really important to keep the message out there and with Gari Gosafe, it's a brilliant and fun way to highlight that amongst younger children.

"We'll be doing all we can to help promote road safety in the coming months."

Julie David, Hospitality and Marketing Manager at the Scarlets said: "We will be taking out the messages about Road Safety in as many of our community sessions with school children as possible.

"We have a busy community activity programme at the Scarlets and it's an important part of maintaining our close links with our big Scarlets family and supporters young and older. As part of our networking, we are delighted to support important initiatives when we are out and about – such as promoting road safety to children.

"Our campaign with the Council will highlight a number of key areas to prevent any accidents including keeping safe by being seen, crossing roads safely, staying alert walking out and about, cycling safely, how to stay safe in the car and walking to school.



The Travel Code was introduced in January 2010 to help improve the safety of children and young people as they travel between home and school or college. Poor behaviour has contributed to some tragic consequences in the past and the Travel Code aims to tackle this.

All children and young people between the ages of 5-19 are covered by the Travel Code, whether they walk, take the bus or train, bike or even travel by car.

It's a parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure their child (or children) abide by the Travel Code. There are implications if a child doesn't follow the Travel Code, such as a Local Authority may withdraw access to free transport.

Ensuring every child understands and sticks to the Travel Code will not only help to save lives, but will make the pavements, buses and streets happier places to be for everyone.

The Travel Code has been launched with a fantastic competition to win a trip and tickets to see Wales play international rugby at the Millennium Stadium in November 2010.

You can download the Travel Code [here](#) and visit the website at www.travelcode.org

Make every journey a good one. Stick to the Travel Code.

Simplification of Speed Limits for HGVs



Proposals to simplify motorway speed limits for buses, coaches and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) have been published by the Department for Transport.

The changes are needed because of differences that have arisen between new vehicles, which are fitted with speed limiters, and older vehicles which are not. This means that while newer HGVs are limited to 56mph older vehicles are able to drive at up to 70 mph on the motorway. Similarly, new passenger vehicles with over eight seats are limited to 62.5 mph on the motorway but older vehicles are able to drive at 70 mph.

This can cause confusion for other drivers and creates a disincentive for companies to invest in safer and more fuel efficient vehicles. In addition, vehicles with speed limiters are not allowed to use the right hand lane of three lane motorways but those without speed limiters currently are.

The proposals put forward in the consultation include:

- Setting a 65 mph limit for all buses, minibuses and coaches with more than eight passenger seats regardless of whether or not they are fitted with a speed limiting device;
- Setting the motorway speed limit at 60 mph for all HGVs over 3.5 tonnes regardless of whether or not they are fitted with a speed limiting device;
- Prohibiting all HGVs between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes and all buses, minibuses and coaches with more than eight passenger seats from using the right hand lane of motorways with three or more lanes.

Road Safety Minister Paul Clark said:

"We want to provide clarity for everybody - drivers, operators, other motorists and the police - as well as making sure that there is a level playing field for those operating in the bus, coach and road haulage industry.

"These proposals simplify motorway speed limits for buses, coaches and lorries so that everyone has to abide by the same rules regardless of the age of their vehicle."

The consultation, closes on Tuesday 27 April can be found here: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open>



The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' main site - www.rospace.com - has been totally refashioned to help fulfill the charity's aim of leading the way on accident prevention in the 21st century.

Easier to use, the site, which was designed and built by RoSPA's in-house web team, looks brighter and sharper than its predecessor. However it still provides plenty of life-saving information about preventing accidents at home, on the road, at work and at leisure. There are also sections dedicated to child safety and safety and risk education.

Among other things, visitors can now view a series of videos and use an interactive heritage timeline which charts many of RoSPA's campaigns and successes during its 93-year history, as well as check up-to-the-minute news about all of RoSPA's campaigns, products, services and training. Visitors will also have the opportunity to customise their homepage and to set up RSS feeds.

Tom Mullarkey, RoSPA chief executive, said: "This is a very exciting development that shows we're still at the cutting edge of saving lives and reducing injuries.

"It's vital that in the age of information technology we have a big, interactive presence on the web. Our previous website received 2.92million visits in the last year and we look forward to many more visitors in the future.

"Our aim has always been to advise and educate as many people as possible about the risks they face in everyday life. This website should help carry our messages into the homes and workplaces of millions of people who we hope will use it time and again as a valuable resource.

A dedicated web zone for RoSPA members, which holds exclusive content including access to the Infocentre catalogue (which stores details of more than 28,500 documents), has also been integrated into the site.

Bold New THINK! Campaign to Cut Motorcyclist Deaths



Motorcyclists will see their names up in lights as part of a bold new THINK! campaign to save lives on the roads.

The new TV adverts shows bikers with flashing neon signs attached to their bikes. The signs show the rider's name and describe personality traits such as 'shy retiring type' or 'new dad'. The voiceover at the end asks drivers to look out for motorcyclists next time they're out driving.

The new £3.5 million campaign - launched by Road Safety Minister Paul Clark today - marks a radical departure for THINK! after research showed drivers are more likely to notice motorcyclists on the roads if they personally know a biker.

The adverts put motorcyclists at the centre of the new campaign in a bid to encourage all drivers to see the person behind the helmet - and so tackle the huge over-representation of motorcyclists in road casualty figures. Despite only accounting for 1% of traffic motorcyclists make up 19 per cent of deaths on Britain's roads.

Paul Clark said:

"We are working hard to tackle the unacceptable number of collisions where motorcyclists are killed on Britain's roads and our THINK! campaigns are a vital part of this.

"Previous adverts have warned drivers to look out for bikes in specific situations such as at T-junctions or in their blind spots and showed the deadly consequences of failing to do so. This exciting new campaign goes a step further by asking drivers to reconsider the way they look at bikers."

"I hope this bold new approach will help to reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or hurt in crashes with cars."

The new 'Named Riders' campaign started on Monday 1 March and includes TV, radio, cinema and online advertising.

There will also be a campaign called 'Be Alive to the Road' which will encourage new motorcyclists to wear protective clothing and take up further training.

New Safety Measures for Mobility Scooters

A series of reforms aimed at modernising the regulation of mobility vehicles have been announced by Transport Minister Sadiq Khan. The proposals aim to ensure that disabled people maintain their independence whilst increasing safety for mobility vehicle users, pedestrians and other road users.



Sadiq Khan said:

"Evidence suggests that over the last few years there has been a steady increase in the number of mobility vehicles and, with an ageing population, this trend is likely to increase.

"On top of this, the technology for the vehicles themselves is becoming increasingly sophisticated. It is only right then that legislation is brought up to date to reflect these advancements.

"Mobility vehicles are a vital lifeline for many people and we want to ensure that everyone who needs one is able to use them safely and securely."

The consultation - which will be open for 12 weeks - sets out a number of ways in which safety might be improved including:

- changes to the legal definition of scooters;
- changes to the maximum permitted weight of scooters, and whether they should continue to carry only one person;
- changes to design speeds and permitted speeds for those vehicles which can be used on the highway;
- moving to mandatory, rather than voluntary insurance;
- changes to the registration arrangements, either through reforms to the current DVLA system or through a move to a more locally based scheme;
- improving the collection of data regarding the number and safety of these vehicles.

The consultation will cover both mobility scooters which are intended to help people with reduced mobility and powered wheelchairs for those who need help with everyday movement.

The consultation can be found here <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-10/> and will close on Friday 28 May 2010.

Highway Code for Mobility Scooter users can be found [here](#)

Chief Driving Examiner Welcomes The Publication Of Scientific Study

Chief driving examiner and director for safer driving Trevor Wedge has welcomed the publication of a new scientific study into how driving instructors can develop their coaching skills.

The EU-funded 'High Impact approach for Enhancing Road safety through More Effective communication Skills for driving instructors' (HERMES) project began in March 2007 and was completed in February 2010. Its main aim was to create a short training course for driving instructors to allow them to develop their communication and coaching skills.

In addition, a number of coaching scenarios have been developed to enable instructors to coach in on-road training, track training and the classroom, and to meet a range of goals in the driver education process. Since the successful 2008 consultation 'Learning to Drive', the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has been working hard on modernising driver training. Trevor Wedge said: "DSA has followed the work of HERMES closely over the past three years, and we welcome the publication of its findings.

"Coaching offers the potential to develop self-responsibility and awareness in learner drivers at a very early stage during training."

Details of the project, and the full report, can be found at alles-fuehrerschein.at/HERMES



On 2 March governments around the world took the historic decision to increase action to address the road safety crisis over the next ten years. The UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming a Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 was tabled by the Government of the Russian Federation and cosponsored by more than 90 countries. WHO welcomes this proclamation which seeks to save lives by halting the increasing trends in road traffic deaths and injuries worldwide.

Through the Decade, Member States, with the support of the international community, commit to actions in areas such as developing and enforcing legislation on key risk factors: limiting speed, reducing drink-driving, and increasing the use of seatbelts, child restraints and motorcycle helmets. Efforts will also be undertaken to improve emergency trauma care, upgrade road and vehicle safety standards, promote road safety education and enhance road safety management generally.

This recent initiative comes on the heels of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in November 2009. The "Moscow Declaration" issued by ministers and senior officials from 150 countries underlines the importance of protecting all road users, in particular those who are most vulnerable such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

A draft Plan for the Decade, which was prepared by WHO with support from members of the UN Road Safety Collaboration, is now open to all stakeholders for comments. Visit the Collaboration's web site at <http://www.who.int/roadsafety>. All are invited to circulate this draft Plan among their respective networks to encourage awareness of the Decade, gather input on proposed plans, and garner support for the implementation of related activities.

The proclamation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 is the result of concerted efforts by a large number of stakeholders, and is a great achievement. Next, members of the UN Road Safety Collaboration meet to further discuss and plan implementation of the first activities to take place in the context of the Decade.

[Draft Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 \[pdf 153kb\]](#)

Keeping Our Rural Roads Safe

Conwy and Denbighshire Councils' Highways & Infrastructure Services are asking farmers and those in the agricultural industry to help them keep rural roads safer for everyone. The Authorities have published a guide to Farming and Public Roads, which explains the role of the Highways Authorities and the responsibilities for anyone working on public roads, whether cutting hedges, using agricultural vehicles or moving animals.

Stuart Davies, Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure for Conwy and Denbighshire Councils explained, "The booklet brings together useful information and advice for anyone running a rural business that has an impact on public roads".

Copies of the Farming and Public Roads leaflet are available from Council offices and libraries or click on the following link. [Keeping Our Rural Roads Safe](#)

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