

Position paper

## **'Getting Started'**

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If I understand the purpose of the title correctly, we are discussing people 'getting started' in Cycling. Many (young) people can hardly wait to get a car. Comparatively high Western Incomes and relatively low motor operating costs now make this feasible. Once this is achieved, they are generally lost to Cycling and soon become absorbed in 'Car Culture.' Presumably, in other Countries, as in the UK., it is possible to obtain a full Car driving licence with very little experience and road craft.

To overcome this, I have devised a scheme which I describe as 'Progressive Licensing.' In essence, (up to a certain age limit) a driving licence could be obtained instead, only by 'progressing' through gradual stages.

Firstly, the prospective driver would be required to pass an advanced form of Bicycle Proficiency test. He/she could then apply for a provisional motorcycle/scooter licence. Only when riding proficiency on a powered two-wheeler had been proved, could the prospect be allowed to graduate to a provisional car-driving licence to train for the car test.

By this means, having served something of an apprenticeship, it is felt that the newly-competent driver would:

- Know how it felt to be vulnerable
- Be more aware of the needs of other road-users
- Be guaranteed to experience other modes (including the pedal cycle)
- Adopt an attitude of 'the right tool for the job'
- Be a better all-round road user
- Be less likely to succumb to 'car-culture' (where this is regarded as the only viable mode)