

New team up and riding

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Photo: Clive Andrews

CTC's team of Cycling Champions are taking up their posts around the country, helping to bring cycling to new audiences such as the disabled and ethnic minorities

The Cycling Champions programme of CTC Charitable Trust is now up and pedalling thanks to the recruitment of new staff across the country. Largely funded by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, the aim of the programme is to bring cycling to sections of society with lower levels of physical activity.

The Community Cycling Development Team will support groups, volunteers and professionals who want to encourage cycling among new audiences. Each team member is working with a local partner organisation, which will host the local CTC office and provide community resources and contacts.

There are two regional managers for the team. Simone Makepeace is regional manager for the south of England and is based at CTC National Office, Guildford, while Steve Bailey is regional manager for the north and is based at Leicester. As Cycle went to press, nine Cycling Development Officers had been appointed.

Clive Andrews is working with East Hampshire DC and the Forestry

Commission at Alice Holt Forest. His experience includes involvement with an award-winning government-funded cycle centre, working in the community teaching cycle skills and bike maintenance.

Juliet Jardine (Sefton MBC) has a background in cycle training and has been working with groups of all ages training for better health. She is looking forward to developing community cycling clubs.

Helen Biggerstaff (Sport Reading) has transferred from CTC's National Office. She worked in CTC's cycle training department where she dealt with bursary schemes to help provide funds to successful applicants in becoming cycle instructors.

Tamina Oliver (Active Swindon) has worked all over the world on various projects, ranging from community development initiatives with ex-refugees in rural El Salvador to managing volunteer groups in India.

Martyn Bolt (North Yorkshire Sport, Harrogate) has many years experience in a wide range of cycling projects ranging from organising events to delivering new routes. He is looking

forward to working with our partners and cycling groups across the county.

Viv Carnea (Bradford Community Environment Project) has a background in adventure activities and experience in the voluntary sector. She has worked primarily with 'hard-to-reach' communities.

Steve Marsden (Heeley Development Trust, Sheffield) is a Sheffield local with a background in community development and cycle training.

Elizabeth Barner (Leicester City Council) is passionate about cycling – for health, for enjoyment, for getting around town.

Amanda Salt (Derby City Council) is a keen mountain biker. She has previous experience working in the not-for-profit sector, empowering 'hard to reach' groups and people with disabilities.

Further appointments in Wolverhampton, Colchester, Manchester and Rochdale are imminent. For more information about the cycling champions and their projects, visit: <http://www.ctc.org.uk/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=4905>.

Love to hear from you

The latest CTC member survey is taking place now. This is your chance to tell us what you think about cycling and CTC, and about the kind of cyclist you are. Everyone who takes part in the survey will be entered into a prize draw for £200 of cycling equipment vouchers.

Knowing about you, your cycling and your opinions helps us check that our current work meets your expectations, but perhaps more importantly we can use it to find out how you feel about the organisation and its future path. CTC has been doing these surveys for many years so we will also be able to look for trends that are emerging.

Regular contributors will recognise some of the questions, but in 2008 we have some new areas to explore. In particular, we are going to compare the amount of cycling you do to government statistics – for example, comparing the number of rides to the same categories as the National Travel Survey. According to some estimates – which we'd like to confirm – CTC members could be saving the country £10million per year in NHS bills and £23M in congestion and carbon emissions!

The survey is being carried out by independent research agency The Marketworld Partnership. You can fill it in online, following



Photo: Cycling Images

a link from www.ctc.org.uk/survey, or you can download, print, and post a copy. If you have no internet access, you can request a copy of the survey by post by phoning National Office. Finally, in April, randomly selected members will be posted a copy of the survey. Please do complete it if you happen to receive one.

SURVEY #2: ROAD HAZARDS

Over 25 years ago, CTC commissioned the largest ever study of how cyclists felt about their safety on the road. *Cycling Accidents*, a poorly-titled but otherwise comprehensive study, was published in 1984 and provided a keen insight into the danger cyclists faced from other road users. Nine thousand of CTC's membership of (at the time) 35,000 took part, an extraordinary response rate.

This report formed the basis of the CTC's policy for the years that followed, and gave national office staff a clear picture of cyclists' experiences from around the country. Over time it has become increasingly out of date, so as part of our latest campaign to reduce road danger, we are commissioning a new study.

We want to see whether the roads are safer now than in 1984; how experienced cyclists feel about major junctions and roundabouts; and how often you have crashed or been hit by another vehicle. We also want to know whether you feel safer cycling now than five years ago.

Like the member survey above, you can fill this in online – at www.ctc.org.uk/survey – or request a printout from National Office. One respondent selected at random will receive a £100 voucher for the CTC shop. Complete both surveys and – if you're really lucky – you could win both prizes!

FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL DAVID ROBINSON



Welcome to the new Chair of CTC Council. On behalf of myself and new Vice Chair of Council John Meudell from the South

East region I'm delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you all.

I would like to place on record my thanks to our predecessors, Jill Kieran and Peter Mathison, who have provided leadership to the board for a number of years.

My day job was as a teacher, but that was 11 years ago. Politics has, however, dominated my life and I served for 21 years as a Chester City Councillor and eight years as a Cheshire County Councillor. I almost got elected to parliament too! Cycling has been my passion for 25 years and I became a cycling and sustainable transport advocate within local authorities – though not always successfully.

My principle mode of transport is cycling and that's where my main interest lies – in promoting cycling and improving conditions for cyclists.

Now I want to use my experience in local government for the benefit of CTC. I am keen to enhance the visibility of the CTC Council and strengthen our relationship with the membership and staff. I want CTC to embrace the full range of cyclists and become the democratic body most cyclists feel is for them. Achieving this is ambitious and perhaps controversial. However, who else but a cycling organisation with 130 years of history should be at the forefront of the cycling movement?

Following our participation in the successful Big Lottery bid we will soon have 15 new staff working in our regions, bringing cycling to many new groups. Through the Cycling Champions programme we will be able to establish the first regional office structure for CTC, which I feel is essential for a national organisation, providing clear links with our members and councillors.

I hope the winter has been good for you. I've certainly managed some bright crisp days on the North Wales and Wirral coasts. I believe that cycle usage in all its form is on the up and I want CTC with its years of experience to be at the forefront, but above all else I want it to be good fun.

David Robinson

NEWSINBRIEF

CTC CLUB KIT

CTC's new range of cycle clothing available now, just in time for spring. Coolmax tops and anatomically padded shorts, plus arm warmers, gilets and the like, are made exclusively for CTC by British manufacturer Impsport. To view the full range, go to www.impsport.com, click the search button and search for CTC, or see the advert in this issue. To purchase CTC kit, contact Impsport on 01522 500 505 or visit the Impsport website.

PHONE RECYCLING

Thanks to everyone who recycled their old mobile phones in the 'phone bags' provided in the Dec/Jan issue of Cycle. So far CTC members have recycled over 1,300 mobiles, which is good for the environment and has earned over £5,000 for CTC's campaigning work. Note that you can still recycle your old phone. Pop it in a padded envelope and send it for free to: CTC phone recycling, Freepost Lon16281, London, WC1N 3BR.

CTC SHOP WINDOW

The CTC Shop catalogue is inserted with this edition of Cycle. With discounts of up to 50% for CTC members, it's your passport to cheaper cycling. The CTC Shop has over 13,000 product lines catering for every type of cyclist – tourers, mountain bikers, commuters, racers and leisure riders – with dedicated sections for women cyclists. CTC shop is unique in that you benefit from discounts and CTC benefits too, with funds raised for campaigning and CTC projects. Order online at www.ctcshop.com (24 hours), or by phone on 0870 873 0069 (weekdays until 8pm, Saturdays until 6pm, and Sundays until 4pm).

SPRING DRAW

CTC Spring draw tickets are included with this issue of Cycle, and there are £4,000 worth of prizes to be won. Tickets are just £1 each and raise valuable funds for CTC Charitable Trust, so please don't bin them. If you are unable to sell them please pass them on to someone willing to do so. To receive additional books of tickets please call CTC on 0870 8730060 or email cycling@ctc.org.uk. CTC regrets that due to the bulk mailing of the magazine it is disproportionately expensive to prevent tickets being mailed to members who have requested not to receive them.

Cross about Crossrail

Crossrail, the proposal to build a new underground railway through central London, looks likely to ban any cycles from the new tunnelled line. The Crossrail Bill is currently passing through the House of Lords and CTC have given evidence against it to the committee overseeing the Bill.

During the evidence session Crossrail made a commitment to continue the dialogue with cyclists and gave assurances on other aspects of CTC's petition. CTC is greatly concerned that the 'working assumption' of Crossrail remains that cycles will be banned from the central tunnelled section of the railway, despite the fact that Crossrail will be serviced by large trains with space for cycles. Crossrail also intends not to provide any cycle parking at two of the central London stations, and minimal parking at many others, all of which appears short-sighted given the Mayor's target of increasing levels of cycling by 400% by 2025..

CTC Policy Co-ordinator Chris Peck said, 'We've explained our position to Crossrail and the



Above: Artist's impression of Ilford Station. As it stands, the cyclist here will be out of luck!

committee. Both the government and rail industry know that cycling neatly fills the gaps between stations, making it easier for people who would otherwise drive to take the train and hop on their bikes at either end.'

He added: 'Underground railways in New York, Paris, San Francisco and Liverpool all allow cycles to be carried – why can't we have the same in London?'

NEW FACES ON COUNCIL

As well as a new Chair and Vice Chair, CTC Council welcomes two new councillors. David Butler represents the North West Region and David Cox represents the West Midlands. Election addresses setting out why the two Davids stood for Council and what they hope to achieve are on the CTC website. There were no nominations for the vacant

post for London.

Councillors are elected for three years. The councillors representing London, East of England, West Midlands, and Yorkshire and the Humber all stand down at the end of this year. A formal call for nominations will be made next issue, but if you have views on how CTC should be run, or have skills that you think would benefit CTC and Council – with the development of a new five

year strategic plan, Council is looking to expand the range of skills available to Council – then do consider standing.

Details of what is involved are on the CTC website. Or you can contact director Kevin Mayne or any existing councillor. All members are entitled to attend meetings of Council as an observer, so another alternative is to come along to one of the next meetings on 5th April or 5th July, both in London. To attend, phone Sue Cherry, tel: 01483 238302.

Millions more for cycling



Photo: JC Decaux

A £500million investment in cycling in London could see bike hire schemes really take off, as in Paris (pictured)

CTC welcomed the Government's announcement in January of £140million new funding for cycling programmes.

Director Kevin Mayne said: 'What is particularly welcome about this announcement

is the involvement of Ministers not only for transport but also for children and health. It's great to see Government recognising that cycling can help tackle the twin crises of obesity and climate change.

'Cycling England needs to get behind local authorities and Primary Care Trusts who are keen to challenge unnecessary car use, introduce area-wide 20mph speed limits, and work with local cycling advocates so that the health benefits of cycling can be enjoyed by people of whatever age or background throughout the country.'

Meanwhile Ken Livingstone announced radical plans to boost cycling in London, promising to spend £500 million over the next ten years. His plans include a Parisian-style cycle hire scheme with 6,000 bikes, a dozen on-road 'cycling motorways' and a network of 'bike zones' centred around town centres throughout Outer London.



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Unlocking Aston Hill

AYLESBURY



Photo: Wig Worland

The gates of Aston Hill, the popular Chilterns mountain bike centre, may have been locked since December, but there are now plans to get things back up and running.

Following a meeting between the Forestry Commission, CTC, and Aston Hill Mountain Bikers (the mountain bike club based on Aston Hill) the future of Aston Hill Mountain Bike Area is looking more certain. Aston Hill Mountain Bikers' Chairman Richard Abbott said 'While

I can't say too much, as there's a lot to get organised, things are looking encouraging.'

Meanwhile Aston Hill Mountain Bikers and the Forestry Commission ask riders to be patient. 'Using Aston Hill while it's closed will only cause more problems for the future,' said Richard. 'We need to work with the Forestry Commission and CTC to get everything in place, so we can get the trails on Aston Hill re-opened as soon as possible.'

One good piece of news is that the 2008 National Demo Series event planned for Sunday 6th April will be going ahead. This will include the chance to test ride mountain bikes from leading manufacturers on Aston Hill's downhill, cross-country and 4X tracks.

The next day, Monday 7th April, there will be a meeting to form a new CTC member group: CTC Aston Hill. It takes place at 7.30pm at the Forestry Commission Office, Upper Icknield Way, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. For details, contact Ian Warby, tel: 01483 238335, or email ian.warby@ctc.org.uk.

NEWSINBRIEF

CHISWICK CTC

A new CTC group is to be formed in Chiswick. If you live in the area, come along to the inaugural meeting on Thursday 8th May from 7pm to 8.30/9pm at The George and Devonshire Public House, 8 Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London W4 2QE. Please contact Alex.geen@ctc.org.uk or 01483 238334 if you would like to attend or for more information.

ASHFORD'S RIVERSIDE CYCLEWAY

This route – NCN route 18 – is now open from Willesborough Road to Great Chart. Ted Prangnell writes: 'It will be of tremendous benefit to cyclists using it for leisure and utility use. It may encourage more people to commute to the station by bicycle, to school and to work, and it means that cyclists from much of Kennington no longer need to run the gauntlet of the A28. It has taken many long years to get this simple facility, but the result is well worth it.'

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Les and Mary Dawson have been Teesside CTC members for over 60 years. They have taken part fully in club activities, with Les attending the inaugural meeting of York rally and taking part the first GH Stancer ride to Pocklington. Both Les and Mary pursued a lifelong interest in cycle racing. Mary was club champion at 10, 25, 50 and 100 miles, won the Yorkshire Cycling Federation 100 mile title, and won the British National Time Trials Best All Rounder titles in 1954 and 1955. She had the distinction of beating a 21 year old Beryl Burton in a 50 mile time trial in 1958, a feat few men could claim. For his part Les has been Teesside Road Club champion and a club record holder at 25 and 100 miles.

ANNIVERSARY IN SPOTLIGHT

Essex CTC celebrated their 80th anniversary in 2007 and published a special commemoration issue of their magazine 'Spotlight'. There are a few spare copies available at £1 each, including postage, from Charles Comport, 'Milestone', Birches Walk, Galleywood, CM2 8TZ, tel: 01245 260391.

EUREKA CAFÉ HONOURED **CHESTER**

The Eureka Cyclists' Café at Two Mills, Chester, has been awarded a CTC Certificate of Commendation. Since its foundation in 1929, the café has served the needs of generations of cyclists. Located on the A540 near its junction with the A550, on the edge of Wirral, it is one of the very few remaining refreshment stops of its kind. Eureka caters almost exclusively for cyclists and has been likened to a cross between a café and an open clubroom.

For over 50 years, Eureka was owned and run by members of one family, the Longmans and their daughter, Mrs Addie Yarrington. In 1986, Mrs Yarrington sold the property to an active cyclist, Neil Chapman and his wife Ann, in order to keep this traditional cyclists' café open. Numerous improvements were made during the 18 years of ownership by the Chapmans, and Eureka began to stock other cyclists' needs such as spare innertubes and similar items. Since 2002, Eureka has been owned by Keith and Anne Peek and extensive alterations have been made to increase the capacity of the establishment.

Eureka is currently open for four days a week; a greater range of cycling equipment is stocked, and cycles are available on sale or for hire. At the same time, the 'ethos' of Eureka, as a cyclists' café, has been maintained. This 'famous eating and meeting place for cyclists' has been feature on television and has twice won Cycling Weekly's Best Café of the Year Award (in 2004 and 2005).

Family rides for all **SHEFFIELD**

On 20th April, Sheffield will hold a ten-mile traffic-free family ride to Forge Dam café. The ride is entirely off-road on riverside woodland trails and will be marshalled by club members.

The family ride is open to both CTC members and non-members and starts from Endcliffe Park Cafe at 10.00. The whole day will be organised with families and children uppermost in mind and will include a treasure hunt for children at Forge Dam café.

This inaugural invitation ride will be followed by monthly ten-mile family rides through the

year. Rides will include a visit to a railway museum along a canal towpath, a ride to an open farm near Barnsley as well as woodland trail rides and picnics starting from various points in the city.

Sheffield City Council are sponsoring the project and Sheffield CTC are hoping to increase club membership and lay the foundation for the next generation of club cyclists.

For further information about any of the planned rides, contact Sophy Hallam, tel: 0114 2016550, or Section Secretary Barry Raynor, tel: 0114 2372630.