

CYCLE LETTERS

Write to: Cycle Letters, CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX, or email cycleletters@ctc.org.uk

CYCLE MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

Your query on cycle mileage allowance – is 21p per mile very generous? – sparked me into making a reply.

One would have to make some assumptions, but if a commuter has a round trip of 10 miles, five days a week

for 48 weeks per year, we have an annual mileage of 2,400.

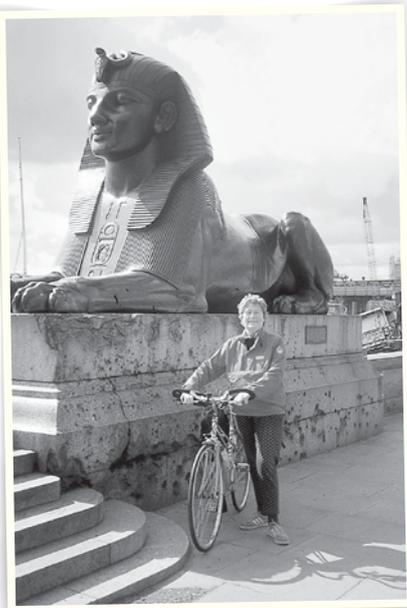
The costs would be in the order of:

- Depreciation £200 (Five year write-off of £1,000 bike)
- Insurance £80 (CTC recommended insurance broker premium)
- Weatherproof apparel £90 (Four-year replacement)
- Tyres, chain, cassette etc £110 (Annual replacement, minimum)

This very minimal list alone adds up to £480. Divided by the mileage, that is 20p per mile! Using this format is the way an accountant would calculate motoring costs, so why not for a bike?

John Noolnongh, Watlington

ANNE MUSTOE R.I.P



The same day that I received the Dec/Jan issue of Cycle, I saw in the Daily Telegraph that Anne Mustoe died in Syria on 10th November 2009.

Anne wrote a number of cycling books, including 'A Bike Ride' and 'Lone Traveller – one woman, two wheels and the world'. The second book was the feature of a full-page article by Sophie Campbell in the Daily Telegraph, referring to the two-and-a-half year ride across Europe, Asia and South America. Anne had been the head teacher at St Felix's School in Suffolk and in 1987 set out on her round the world ride.

She was an inspiration to cyclists, especially women of a certain age, and I feel that something about her would be worthy of inclusion in the next issue.

Mrs Glenn Abbassi

Anne's death is a loss to the cycling world, and in particular to cycling travel writing. But there's some comfort in the fact that she died doing what she had come to love: touring the world by bicycle. She had set off from home in May and died in hospital in Syria after becoming ill. She was 76.

She quit her job to cycle around the world, despite not having ridden a bike for 30 years and having no interest in or aptitude for cycle maintenance. She always said that she couldn't mend a puncture. Perhaps because of her lack of interest in the vehicle, her books focused on her journey, on the route's history, and on the people she met – and they were stronger for it. She was a CTC member too. The picture shows her about to embark on a trip to Heliopolis in Egypt, for her book 'Cleopatra's Needle'.

END TO END ADVICE

I agree with Colin Langdon's article on the End to End, especially the comment about the hills of Cornwall and Devon, which I found hard work. I cycled it five years ago at the age of 58. It took me 12 days on my own, which has some disadvantages – the main one being that if you are having a bad day there is no one to pull you through it.

Having said that, I would recommend doing it to anyone. You see, smell and hear things that you don't when travelling at 50mph in a car. It makes you appreciate what a beautiful country we live in.

THAT WAS THEN

25 years ago...

Letter to Cycletouring, Feb/Mar 1985

To me the attraction of our sport and pastime is that we have the freedom to go near enough anywhere we like at our own speed and wear anything we like. Now a minority want me to wear a crash hat. I don't want to be made to wear something uncomfortable strapped to my head. I am not a tearaway motorcyclist with a space age image. Cycling is peace and quiet round the lanes. If some folk wish to wear a helmet, let them. I can accept that. But don't tell me to do it. May I suggest that all those people who write to magazines telling others to wear helmets use their energy in writing to MPs etc asking for slower motoring speeds and more space given when overtaking cyclists. Don't accept being knocked off as an occupational hazard of cycling – we could all end up in suits of armour.

Bob Mansell, Warley, Sandwell

One thing I would suggest is to go south to north. If you are cycling south on wet roads and the sun comes out, the reflection off the road is blinding even behind sunglasses. Travelling north, the sun will be behind you.

Neil Mills, Hebden Bridge



Photo by Colin Langdon

CTC MEMBERS IN THE MAG

Clearly Chris Davies' cycling achievements are quite something and worthy of note (Dec/Jan letters, 907,000 Miles & Counting). It makes my own annual mileage of 3,000 to 4,000 miles seem quite miserable.

Whilst I already find Cycle an excellent publication, I would like to suggest there



FINANCE DEPARTMENT MANAGER

circa 35k

Can you count beans as well as sprockets? CTC is looking for a qualified accountant to head up the Finance Department of the country's largest and longest established cycling organisation.

With turnover in excess of £4million a year the Finance Department is key to managing CTC's continued success. You will have a good overall accounting knowledge and, as well as ensuring that the accounting function operates properly on a day to day basis, be able to produce management, project and statutory accounts; assist in the development of financial processes and CTC's Sage accounting system; and be able to run the Sage Payroll system.

For more information including a job description, person specification and interview dates, please go to www.ctc.org.uk/vacancies. To apply please send a full cv and covering letter to Sue Cherry, CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 9JX or email sue.cherry@ctc.org.org.uk. Closing date 8 February 2010.

CTC Charitable Trust is fully committed to equality of opportunity in everything it does. Registered Charity Number 1104324

SMIDSY? LIGHT UP

Your new campaign SMIDSY will be welcomed by all cyclists as the delights of cycling are so frequently spoilt by the fear of an accident involving a careless motorist. As an urban cyclist (and motorist) of 50 years safe travelling in and around London I wish you well with your efforts to promote better awareness of cyclists by car drivers and indeed the police who seem to lack 'bite' in bringing an offender to court.

We should concern ourselves about bad driving but cyclists so frequently carry no or ineffective lights and wear completely black or dark non-reflective clothing, making it nearly impossible for drivers to pick them out after dark!

In Islington with half an hour to spare at about 5.30pm – it was dark – I counted 50 commuter cyclists with only 21 carrying lights or wearing reflective gear. It is vital that we do give motorists a chance and not alienate them by appearing almost invisible in the winter darkness.

Richard Burfoot, East Twickenham

It's a good point, but even those of us cycling with lights or in conditions of excellent visibility regularly encounter the SMIDSY problem. For more on the campaign, see www.stop-smidsy.org.uk.



needs to be more on members such as Chris. The CTC is nothing without its members and it would be good to know more of their exploits, experiences, equipment etc. At the moment they usually only get a mention in the Obituaries. Let's learn from them and celebrate their achievements before they reach this point. I would suggest a one or two page feature in each edition would further enhance Cycle for its readers.

Graham Roberts, by email

The new 'CTC & me' column is for profiling anyone with links to CTC – and that definitely includes CTC members. If you know anyone who would make a good subject for this part of the magazine, do drop me a line. (See 'Cycle magazine editor' in the contacts listings at the back of the magazine.)

YOU'LL NEVER RIDE ALONE

I realised recently that I have now taken advantage of all the different aspects of CTC membership (listed on page 72).

1. After an accident in Scotland one year, CTC put me in touch with the DA secretary there who was able to gather information regarding a dangerous obstacle.
2. Through various active sections I have been party to changes in cycling policies.
3. The magazine keeps me in touch with aspects of cycling that I am



Photo by Matt Hodges

not involved in and with members who I may never meet but feel I have communicated with via the letters pages.

4. Irrespective of where I've been travelling I have had discount on cycle equipment and repairs.
5. The e-newsletter has given me quick access to petitions and policy changes and enabled me to share interesting issues with non-members.
7. The touring department has been a great reference, so that my tours abroad have been enhanced.
8. Technical advice at the end of a telephone has prevented my making unnecessary purchases.
9. Access to cycle holidays has given me some great ideas to do on my own.
10. Advice from the legal team helped me to decide whether to make a claim. I missed out number 6, which has got to be the best and least advertised benefit of CTC membership. I have now



OBITUARIES

COLIN WOOD

Died aged 71 on 3/12/09 after a prolonged illness. A popular CTC member, Colin had a great collection of bikes for all cycling activities. His main passion was touring and he introduced both his sons to it. When illness sapped his strength, he bought a tricycle to keep cycling. His wife Marilyn appreciated the pleasure Colin took from being a club member and the friendships they both formed. *Brian Hinners*

RICHARD CLARKE

Died in hospital on 22/8/09 aged 73, the result of a tragic incident. A former racing cyclist, organiser of reliability trials, treasure hunts and a marshal in many cycling events, Richard helped found the Diss section of Norfolk CTC. He organised our first weekly all day Tuesday rides to give new members experience in club riding. A skilled craftsman, thatcher, and woodturner, he previously served 20 years in the RAF. *Dennis O'Connell*

BOB JEFFREY: 1921-2009

Bob joined CTC in 1937 and was a dedicated member of Lothians DA, holding over 40 years almost every post on the committee. While chairman he volunteered the DA to host the first Scottish Birthday Rides in Melrose. Due to failing eyesight, he switched to stoking a tandem, only stopping the year before he died aged 88. Cyclists knew they would always receive a warm welcome at weekend camps he organised. *Audrey Fyfe*

RONALD BREATHERICK DUFFIELD

Ronnie died on 13/7/09 aged 80, after 63 years holding every office within Bramley Wheelers' Cycling Club. For over 40 years Ronnie served as a top-ranking timekeeper for the RTTC. He could be seen most Sundays sitting at the roadside with clipboard and stopwatch anywhere between the Humber and the Tees. Ronnie received merit awards from Bramley Wheelers' CC, the RTTC and Yorkshire Cycling Federation. *EB Buttrey & SK Dunning*

LEGACY

CTC member Mrs Hilda Smart from Ilford, Essex sadly passed away and left CTC £30,000.

ridden with nine different sections, and I would like to make a special mention of Kidsgrove Wheelers, Plymouth CTC, and North Yorks CTC.

The list of member groups in the magazine is my starting point now whenever I'm planning a tour. It gives me local knowledge and often provides the opportunity to make new friends. Thank you, CTC

**Jacqueline Mountford-Green,
Cambridge**

FALKIRK VANISHED?

Falkirk CTC member group has been on the go from 1952 and we are doing very well at the moment, all things taken into consideration. We as a club are very disappointed with CTC as we are no longer listed in the CTC local group contacts and haven't been for at least a year. Could you please explain why?

Denis Callaghan, Falkirk CTC

Apologies. There have been a lot of changes to the list lately, following the new member group structure introduced last year. While no groups who supplied their details were deleted, it looks like Falkirk disappeared inadvertently. If your group is missing or has incorrect data in any issue from now onwards, contact Local Groups Support Officer Adrian Lawson (adrian.lawson@ctc.org.uk, tel: 01483 238331) and he'll put it right.

HOW MANY BIKES CAN YOU...



There was a good photo of 'about 50' bikes on the Nene Valley Railway in the Birthday Rides article in the Oct/Nov 2009 Cycle magazine. So: how many bikes can you get on a tram? We had 34 bikes – two with child seats, one tandem and one neat folding trike on our Golden October Tram-Assisted ride from

Sheffield out to Rother Valley Country Park last year. Here's a photo of half a tramful.

From there we split into three different rides: 18 cyclists on a local CTC ride to Langold and back (just under 30 miles); 10 – including toddlers – on a CTC Family ride to Treeton Pond and back (just over 10 miles); and eight women on a Pedal Ready Women-Only ride along the Chesterfield canal towards Shireoaks and back (just under 20 miles).

We're planning to repeat the experience this March – see www.cyclesheffield.org.uk.

**Polly Blacker & Tony Cornah,
Sheffield**

THE NEW CTC

I have read the reports from Cass Business School and Russell-Cooke Solicitors, which list significant benefits for CTC members and the nation if CTC becomes a unified charity. I say go for it.

I was elected to serve on Council following co-option onto a Publicity and Promotion Committee when it was clear that CTC, in terms of management and presentation, needed changes to meet challenges at the turn of the century. But serving as Vice Chairman and Chairman I found resistance to any changes within a minority of membership, changes that set the scene for significant increases in membership, financial resources and standing as a leading player promoting safe cycling.

The current Council is to be congratulated in recommending that CTC becomes fully a charity along with Sustrans, London Cycle Campaign, etc.

I will ask my touring and audax friends to use their votes to support the motion.

**Brian Morris, Former Chair CTC,
Hon President Reading CTC.**

For more on this topic – which has sparked some debate – turn to page 36.

IF THE BAG FITS

Reading 'It's in the bag' (Dec/Jan) takes my mind to Bastogne 1985, a control in the Tillf-Bastogne-Tillf sportive. A Dutchman saw me and my bicycle, with its Carradice saddlebag (as always, since I began in 1949) saying, 'Ah, Carradeece. You must be Engleesh!'

Happy memories.

Neville Chanin, Stroud