



Feature

CYCLING CHAMPIONS

This summer saw the return of Cycling UK's Going the Extra Mile Volunteer Awards. **Julie Rand** presents the winners

After a break of a few years due to the pandemic, this June saw the return of our annual Going the Extra Mile Volunteer Awards. The slimmed-down format had just four categories open to anyone connected with Cycling UK: most inspiring individual; most inspiring group; most inspiring campaign activity; and most engaging volunteer-led event.

We wanted to celebrate the diversity of our activities and recognise those outstanding individuals and groups whose commitment to encouraging millions more people to cycle supports Cycling UK's vision of a better world by bike.

It was difficult to single out winners from the dozens of impressive and thought-provoking submissions received. The shortlist (see 'And our runners-up were') consisted of those who had received the most outstanding nominations and best reflected the different ways in which our members, volunteers and supporters contribute to the charity's mission and incorporate our values.

Clockwise from top left: Kim Suleman (yellow and white top) with the Exhibition Park group; [centre] with Lucy Fenwick and Bill Goldsmith; [third from left] with the Roker team; and [third from right] with the Kirkley group



MOST INSPIRING INDIVIDUAL

Kim Suleman from Cycling UK-affiliated group Linskill Riders Community Cycle Club (CCC)

We were inundated with people wanting to pay tribute to Kim, who only took up cycling in March 2021 aged 61, despite having to overcome spinal injuries. "Kim worked hard to get herself out and about on her bike," one of her nominations said. "She is an enthusiastic and supportive member of our CCC. She only qualified as a ride leader last year but hasn't looked back. Not only does she help facilitate rides, she also now regularly leads her own. Kim is an inspiring, very motivated volunteer, and she works hard in her role as a group leader."

Linskill Riders was set up as a Cycling UK CCC in April 2021 under the umbrella of the Linskill and North Tyneside Community Development Trust (a registered charity). It is based at a community centre in North Shields. The club delivers basic maintenance lessons, learn-to-ride sessions, regular monthly rides and takes part in our Big Bike Revival.

Kim organises several rides each week, devoting 8-10 hours to the group. It means that people have more rides to choose from, and those who live on their own have the opportunity to ride in a group and make new friends.

Kim said: "I am very humbled and surprised that people have taken the time to nominate me. I had been there with the wobbles and knew if I could do it, so could everyone else, with a little encouragement. I completed a Cycling UK ride leader's course, which boosted my confidence.

"I love volunteering, meeting people from all walks of life. I have become a more assured cyclist and enjoy giving a little of my time to ensure the members of our group keep on cycling."