

'The Quester'

A miscellany of bits and pieces of what is happening in the British Cycle Quest world!

Issued Quarter Yearly

Number 4, July, 2018

It was one of those stupid things that should never have happened, and as I pen this note something very similar has happened to another follower of the quest – we have had catastrophic breakdowns of our bicycles! In my case I was out to test my knees and stamina after a couple of years off the bike (for domestic reasons), when a dozen miles from home there was an almighty bang, and the inner tube pressure managed to blow a hole through the rim, burst, and tear a significant hole through an expensive 'nomad' tyre. Because I ride an expensive hand made cycle it took two months to get a replacement wheel – indeed I opted to replace both, just in case! My correspondent says in his case the flange parted from the hub, on tour, of a superior handbuilt wheel, and he had to make do with a “massed produced” one from a local bike shop to continue!

So – what do we learn, NEVER leave cycle maintenance (even checks) undone, or for a more convenient time, it could cost you dearly in terms of enjoyment of your sport. -In my case had it happened on tour, I would have had to abandon my holiday completely and find an expensive way to get back home, in my correspondents, he would have been spared the worry and in-convenience!

Jeff.

Some practical stuff:

Sarah Merrington, our CyclingUK representative, has moved home, and as a consequence has left CyclingUK staff. We thank her for her sterling work on our behalf, and hope she soon settles into her new home in Kent.

Gjoril Berg, Sarah's assistant currently has taken charge. We all met up in May for coffee and cakes in Guildford, (work was never like this when I was last in full-time employment), and several matters were ironed out, and shortly she hopes to visit Jeff in Rutland to continue our liaison.

Latest News:

I am delighted to report we have another who has visited all 402 checkpoints. **Niel Hemmingway**, from Stockton (Yorkshire), achieved that highlight this spring. He says he is presently lost for inspiration where to go to next, and is considering extending his cycle miles to visiting Ireland in more depth!

For only the second time I have been validating your findings, I have welcomed back someone who had to put cycle-touring on hold – Welcome back Nigel Dryden, may your coming years make-up for a five year absence!

I have re-vamped the Leader Board 1. It was becoming difficult to read, and even more so to manage, so I hope the increased print size (font), and layout is acceptable, together with an extension to two pages.

Since the last edition of Quester, it has been good to welcome several more cycle-tourists to the 'validated' category. We all hope **Bob and Karen Bending**, **Mick and Michelle White**, **Chris Groombridge** and **Simon Atkin** will enjoy following the Quest to find new places, and a relaxation/contentment in following our sport.

(continued over)

Answer Cards for Validation and Checkpoint problems to:

Jeffrey. R. Eaves

68. Sherrard Close. Whissendine. Oakham Rutland LE15 7HE

Tel 01664 474 454 (sorry. no mobile signal).

email: jeffreyeaves456@btinternet.com

Extracts from Jeff's postbag -

I am never really sure what is going to drop through my letter box: In May I had an innocent looking letter from a cycle-tourist simply saying she didn't have a computer, and could I send her a copy of the Staffordshire BCQ questions? (This county has real highlights for visiting, part in the Peak District, and yummy cycling patches of its own such as Cannock Chase or the area around Rudyard Lake for example).

It was what she went on to say that captured my interest – she was in her 80's, and been a cycle tourist more years than mentionable, and followed the Quest quietly and gently, but not now sending in her answers for verification, (since T.E.A. days?), In winter though, when cycling was not practical she was painting water-colour pictures of the checkpoints she had visited in the previous year, indeed on a few occasions she regreted not taking photographs of them as she was not quite sure of detail when she came to paint! I myself have always kept a log-book of my cycle touring (when I get to old to cycle, I can relive my touring in an armchair), but this surely is a first and better way to re-live those miles, places and happenings? I am sure that Margaret will be hearing from me from time to time!

Jan and Ian write to say they have bought a caravan, so they can stay in regions longer to enjoy their cycle-touring, whilst Jacqui sends me obscure postcards, sometimes a view, others comic cycling related ones telling of her enthusiasm/delight for the places she visits .

To ALL OF YOU who enquire, or tell me of your adventures, a big heartfelt *THANKYOU*, for these snippets or even post-it notes. They change my designation of 'validating officer' into something much more personal and are appreciated. *And that includes Steve with his two pager, as we went to press!*

Can you help with –

You will have noted that I have been able to return to following the Quest on my bike, again, indeed one priority was to revisit an area last visited sixty or so years ago. It was whilst there that I found some of our checkpoints/questions were not as clear/helpful as they should be – on one occasion it took an hour to find it! (I hadn't an OS map or sat.nav device, on another I had left my question sheet at the farm I was based and had to rely on memory). So- if you find a similar problem, DO LET ME KNOW, and if possible suggest a remedy/answer. My aim is to make the Quest as accessible to as many as possible, and keep it up to date. If anyone can even suggest a way around the ever ongoing checkpoint amendments problem, you will be doing the Quest a real service. (On the continent there is a similar scheme, but instead of questions, the participant merely has to visit a designated area's local shop/garage/hotel etc. and ask them to rubber stamp the participants Record Card).

One last find –

Whilst visiting my last checkpoint on my latest tour, I was horrified to find tucked away in the hedge a notice, giving advice of a forthcoming planning application to ban access by virtue of the intention to build a Hydro Electric Power Station – they'll do *anything* to make the needs of providing checkpoint amendments. (Don't worry, I have found two replacements to chose from, if necessary).

Wishing you all happy, contented & relaxing Cycle Touring adventures this coming season.

The British Cycle Quest

Promoted and supported by –

Cycling UK. Parklands, Railton Road. Guildford. Surrey GU2 9JX

www.cyclinguk.org/british-cycle-quest