



Cycle 2008

 The future of cycling will all be under one roof at Earls Court 1, London, on 10th-12th October, for Cycle 2008 – the UK's biggest cycle show.

This year's show brings together hundreds of high end brands showcasing 2009 products. You can try many of them on the Mountain Bike Experience and Commuter Test Track. The new Cycle Arena will feature regular cycling fashion shows and celebrity Q&A sessions. Watch and compete in the free-to-enter duathlon and take home the latest clothing from the Retail Zone.

CTC members can take advantage of a special ticket offer, too. Save £5* off the £14 on-the-door price and pay just £9 by booking online in advance. Visit www.cycleshow.co.uk/CTC and enter the promotional code 'CTC' when prompted.

Earls Court is easily accessible by bike, and secure cycle parking will be provided. By public transport, Earl's Court and West Brompton stations are right outside.

Cycle magazine will be previewing some of the new products that you will be able to see at the show in the October/November issue.

*Ticket offer applies only to adult tickets booked in advance. This offer is calculated off the 'on the door' ticket price of £14.00. All tickets are subject to availability and a £1 booking fee applies per ticket.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MILDENHALL CYCLING RALLY

The annual Mildenhall Cycling Rally in Suffolk returns on the August Bank Holiday weekend (23rd-25th), with its usual mix of grass track racing, touring, family events and trade show. There will also be an early season cyclo-cross event and a children's duathlon. Suffolk CTC will be running a 300km randonee ride from Mildenhall, as well as 100 and 200km audax rides. For more details, see www.mildenhallrally.org.uk or send an A5 stamped SAE to 7 Jellicoe Place, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2JU.

BROMPTON RACING

Up to 500 competitors are expected at the third Brompton World Championship on Sunday 28th September at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. Competitors are obliged to wear a suit jacket, collared shirt and tie. The event is a two lap race of a 6.5km course, and entry costs £1750 per rider. For more, see www.brompton.co.uk

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL

The Isle of Wight Cycling Festival runs from 13th-21st September this year. Day one has a cycle show at Seaclose Park, Newport, where there will be a mountain bike stunt display and the 'Sink or Swim' crossing of the River Medina for hopefuls on home-made pedal-powered watercraft. The rest of the week includes social and family rides, a triathlon, an off-road orienteering event, and a bike skills day. For more, see www.sunseaandcycling.com or tel: 01983 821000.



The BBC were reporting from this year's York Cycle Show



Lightweight campers (left) and mountain bike skills (below)

YORK

Rain doesn't stop play

 Despite the weather, thousands of cyclists flocked to York racecourse on the weekend 21st and 22nd June to enjoy the annual York Cycle Show. Saturday afternoon saw heavy rain, which was hard on the 87 riders taking part in the Ron Kitching Ride, while Sunday had gales that gave the lightweight campers and display tents a buffeting.

Traditional show favourites like grass-track racing and the saddlebag sale were supplemented by a mountain bike stunt show and, new for 2008, a real ale bar. Nokia had a stand where you could compete in a virtual race with James Cracknell, using turbo trainers linked to a computer. It was good to see some new products at the show too, such as Islabikes' high-quality children's mountain bike and trike-manufacturer ICE's recumbent bicycle.

OPINION

Changing times

Bike designer Mike Burrows, CTC member and long-time fan of the York Cycle Show, looks to its future



'The times they are a-changing,' Bob Dylan sang. Very true. Little in our man-made world remains the same for long. Dylan's song is a warning from the young to the old, it being a fact that the young welcome change and the old don't.

So what has this got to do with the price of innertubes? The York Rally, or York Cycle Show if you prefer. It has been with us forever and it is known and loved by millions. Well, quite a lot of us. But it is not 'changing' and no one wants to see it 'sink like a stone'.

Here are a few ideas I had to boost attendance. First and a bit heretical: how about we invite Bike Events to run a ride? Our Saturday rides and the Ron Kitching Ride are fine for club members, but Bike Events attract large numbers of novice riders who are provided with full back-up in case of breakdowns (punctures!). This could bring a lot of new cyclists to the showground to see what CTC and the exhibitors have to offer.

And those exhibitors: surely we should have more of them? There are lots of companies who target our members through their adverts in this magazine. So why not give the show and its exhibitors a bit more of a write up? After all, it is one of CTC's big events of the year. Two pages of preview



Mike Burrows en route to the York Cycle Show

Left: courtesy of Peter Eiland

and two or three of reporting would seem reasonable. It could mean more exhibitors, more revenue, and more shiny toys to see.

Famous names are a good way of getting some media coverage. So maybe if we get our Mr Boardman to give a talk? And then have him stroll around a bit? It'd be best to keep it short. We don't want to spend hours indoors when we could be out in the sunshine (if we get it!) enjoying ourselves – or else buying a pair of cheap shoes in the bargain tent (which *must* stay).

A large board proclaiming the existence of the event could be erected at the roadside to inform the world that we are here.

“If I can think up a few things to try, then so can you. It is, after all, your York Rally”

These seem like good ideas to me, but what do I know? Certainly nothing about organising. But I know a group of people who do: the York Cycle Show Committee, the people whose effort and expertise have kept it going in all its glory for this long. They are the first people to talk to about changes – or volunteering! – and very diplomatically too. They will understand the problems and in many cases will already have thought of ideas that may well not have worked at the time but which might work now.

The point is that if I can think up a few things to try, then so can you. It is after all your York Rally. So write down your ideas – ideally with a pen on paper, rather than firing off a rash email or message board complaint – and send them to John Taylorson, via CTC National Office, or (if you must!) email yorkcycleshow@ctc.org.uk.

I just love the York Rally. I love the Saturday rides, the grass-track racing, the catering that makes my attempts at cooking seem quite reasonable. I love the tents full of cheap clothes, tyres and tools. We don't need to bulldoze any of this. Yet we could add bits on to the edges.

SHEFFIELD

Festival for Phil & Friends



The UK's very own 'etape', CTC's Phil and Friends

Challenge, returns on Sunday 31st August with a choice of 150km and 100km sportive routes in the Peak District. The event headquarters will be adjacent to the inaugural Sheffield Festival of Cycling, which will offer local CTC-escorted family rides, mountain bike skills sessions, great northern food and beer, music and trade stands.

The 150km ride is one of the hilliest in the UK with over 2,600 metres of climbing. Both it and the 100km ride take in the long grind of Holme Moss and the fearsomely steep Winnats Pass.

Each ride starts and finishes at the Wood Lane Countryside Centre, Sheffield, S6 5HE, in the grounds of Myers Grove School. The 150km departs at 8.00am and the 100km at 9.00am, so you'll need to arrive early to enter on the day. To enter in advance, see www.ctc.org.uk/challengerides or call 0844 736 8450.

Entry to the ride costs £12.50 for CTC members and £15.00 for non-members. Each ride counts towards the CTC Tourist Competition and raises vital funds for safer cycling.

Entry to the Sheffield Festival of Cycling is free. And local campaign group Pedal Pushers have arranged for the tram to carry bikes there on the day. Details from www.pedalpushers.org.uk, 07854 803195.