



Safety in numbers

CTC is campaigning for more and safer cycling, which go hand in hand



CTC President Jon Snow launched CTC's new 'Safety in Numbers' campaign in May to ensure the Government aims for more as well as safer cycling in its new Road Safety Strategy for the next decade, which is now out for consultation.

New CTC research, based on a comparison of cycle use and cycle safety in different English highway authority areas, shows that cycling gets safer the more cyclists there are. The findings were presented at the Velo-city international cycle planning conference in Brussels (p13).

CTC's analysis shows that the places in England with highest cycle use – York, Cambridgeshire and Hull – are also the safest places to cycle. London, meanwhile, has seen a 91% increase in cycle use since 2000, together with a 33% reduction in the actual number of cyclist casualties over roughly the same period.

Speaking before the campaign's Parliamentary launch, CTC President Jon Snow said: 'My own experiences as a regular cyclist tell me that London's streets

have started getting a lot safer thanks to the growth in cycling over the past decade. We all know that more cycling is good not just for our own health but also for our communities and the environment. I hope decision-makers throughout the country will now heed CTC's message that more cycling will improve road safety too.'

CTC's campaign was launched only days after the Government began consulting on its new Road Safety Strategy. The draft Strategy already includes a target called for by CTC's New Vision for Cycling: to halve the risks of cycling within 10 years. CTC believes the best way to meet this target is to harness the power of the 'Safety in Numbers' effect by adopting CTC's other New Vision target, i.e. to double cycle use over the same period.

CTC Campaigns and Policy Manager Roger Geffen said: 'Local councils are often reluctant to encourage cycling for fear that this would undermine their casualty reduction targets. So we're delighted the Government has taken on board our suggestion that their new cycle safety targets

should be measured in terms of the risk per mile cycled, not simple casualty numbers. We hope this will encourage local authorities to aim for more as well as safer cycling.'

TAKE ACTION

Lobby your MP to back more and safer cycling. Ask him or her to sign a parliamentary Early Day Motion (EDM number 1431) in support of CTC's Safety in Numbers campaign. You can do this in two minutes by going to www.ctc.org.uk/safetyinnumbers.

You can also ask your MPs to support the call from CTC and other environmental transport groups for the Department for Transport to set up a Carbon Reduction Fund, to promote low carbon transport. This fund – worth up to £5 billion over the next 10 years – could pay for measures put forward in CTC's New Vision for Cycling to achieve a doubling of cycle use.

You can download CTC's New Vision for Cycling and support CTC's call for a Carbon Reduction Fund by going to www.ctc.org.uk/newvision.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSNET CTC'S WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER - Send your CTC membership number to membership@ctc.org.uk

Bike Club boost

 Ten staff across England are being recruited to run Bike Club, CTC's new £2.5m Cycling England-funded project to develop new cycling clubs and cycling opportunities in after-school and youth club settings. As Cycle reported last issue, CTC will be working in partnership with UK Youth, the leading national youth charity, and ContinYou, the experts in extended services provision.

The staff will deliver the project over the next two and a half years. Recruitment is already underway and the first staff should take up their posts during June, with a formal launch scheduled for early July.

For more information on Bike Club, on where the projects will be based and on what the team will be doing, visit www.ctc.org.uk/bikeclub.



STOP PRESS: ASDA SUPPORTS BIKE CLUB

As Cycle went to press, the ASDA Foundation confirmed that they will be supporting the Bike Club project through their Pedal Power initiative. CTC fought off tough competition to win the backing of the supermarket giant.

ASDA Chief Executive Andy Bond will be attempting to raise £1m by riding from Land's End to John O'Groats this summer, stopping off at numerous ASDA stores on the way. The funds raised by Andy will help extend the reach of Bike Club beyond the borders of England and help CTC bring the benefits of cycling to thousands more young people.

FROM THE CHAIR OF CTC DAVID ROBINSON



CTC Council is looking for CTC members who have a very important quality: they must be different!

In addition to its elected members (see below left), Council can co-opt a small number of members who can extend the reach of the board, perhaps because they do a different type of cycling, they have useful professional skills or because they are from those parts of society under-represented on the board.

There are currently three vacancies. They are open to anyone but Council would like to encourage applications from women, ethnic minorities and younger people. On the cycling side, mountain bikers and those working with young people are under-represented.

Working for CTC in a voluntary capacity as a Councillor is very rewarding when you can see results that are clearly good for CTC, good for cycling and good for the wellbeing of the nation. Councillors will be imbued with the spirit of cycling and will wish to work with others in promoting cycling. They will be supportive of CTC and share a conviction that the best prospect of growth of cycling in the UK requires the involvement of an active, progressive and effective national cyclists' organisation.

As with any voluntary activity, satisfaction and influence are largely determined by the amount of time, expertise and energy individual Councillors have and are able to offer. But the experience as a company director is also an exciting and valuable addition to your CV.

For information go to www.ctc.org.uk/vacancies or contact Sue Cherry, tel: 01483 238302.

Above left: iStockphoto. Others by CTC

New CTC website

 A new CTC website is under construction: how would you like it to look? All visitors to the existing site are invited to add their voices to the design process by filling in an online survey at www.ctc.org.uk/websurvey. Let us know your thoughts and needs.

All feedback will help inform the design team, who will be developing the redesigned site this summer, with the launch of the new site due in spring 2010. The closing date for the survey is 12th June.



Your chance to get involved

 Why is CTC doing that? I think CTC should be doing this! If these thoughts have crossed your mind, now could be the time to do something about it. CTC policy and direction is set by National Council which is made up of ordinary members of CTC just like you. Members of Council are elected for a three-year period to represent the members in their Region, and nominations are now being sought for members to represent the North West (two seats), East Midlands (one seat) and South East (three seats) for the three years starting on 1 January 2010. Nomination forms are available on the CTC website and from National Office and must be returned by 15 August 2009.

To find out more, visit www.ctc.org.uk, talk to an existing councillor or come along to a Council meeting - phone Sue Cherry to arrange this (tel: 01483 238302). The nomination forms include the full requirements for standing.

FROM THE TOURING DEPT MARK WATERS



No doubt your main cycling trips for the year are already planned, but with Sterling still suffering against the Euro

there's rarely been a better time for weekend – or longer – touring breaks at home in Britain.

For ideas, start by browsing some CTC route sheets – check them out on www.ctc-maps.org.uk. Any route that's submitted to the route library is one that someone thought was a great place to ride, so it's worth finding out why.

Most cycle tourers love maps and there's no better source of inspiration. Combine this with some 'Googling' of villages in the area you're thinking of visiting and you'll quickly amass a collection of interesting things to see. You could also include visits to a couple of British Cycle Quest checkpoints. Or just buy a guidebook and go – that £10 spent in advance could transform your trip.

Finally, don't forget that CTC's annual celebration of fixed centre cycle touring – the Birthday Rides – takes place in Northamptonshire in mid-August. Join hundreds of like-minded individuals for a week of cycling self-indulgence.

On the subject of touring, it's a pleasure to be able to welcome the doyenne of cycle touring authors, Josie Dew, to CTC. Josie is CTC's new Vice-President. She will need no introduction to long-standing CTC members, but for those who haven't yet read about her globetrotting trips, get down to the travel section of your local bookshop or visit her website: www.josiedew.co.uk. She hasn't only written about far-flung places, either. Check out Slow Coast Home for her big UK trip.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CDF SEEKS TRUSTEES

New trustees are needed by the Cyclists' Defence Fund (CDF), the independent charity founded by CTC which deals with legal matters relating to cycling. You do not need to be a lawyer, but knowledge of any of the following would help: strategic planning and campaigning; road traffic law; publishing; fundraising; or marketing and PR. To apply or find out more, please email info@cyclistsdefencefund.org.uk.

MARK BEAUMONT'S NEXT TRIP

CTC honorary member Mark Beaumont, who holds the record for the fastest circumnavigation of the world by bike, set off in May to cycle the longest mountain range on earth: the American Cordillera. This runs from the Alaskan Ranges past the Rockies to the Andes. The trip is expected to take eight months and will be covered on radio, TV and online by the BBC.

ROAD RAGE POLL

Over 90% of cyclists have suffered abuse from other road users, according to a poll on road cycling website road.cc. Of those voting, 59% said they suffered occasional verbal abuse, 10% reported regular verbal abuse, and 22% said they had suffered worse than verbal abuse, with only 9% never having had a problem. One London cyclist was punched by motorists on two separate occasions for pointing out that they were driving the wrong way down a one-way street. More at www.road.cc.



Lifting the lid on helmets

 If cyclists were forced to wear helmets, the resulting health costs would be far greater than the benefits saved from any possible reduction in injuries, according to new research reported recently in *New Scientist* magazine.

Piet de Jong of Macquarie University has devised a new mathematical model to weigh up the value of the injury savings. His research shows that the value of any head injury savings that might be achieved through helmet laws are far outweighed by the loss of health benefits due to the fact that helmet laws significantly reduce cycle use.

The Department for Transport (DfT) is currently engaged on a three-year cycle safety study, whose findings on helmets are due to be published by the end of this year. CTC hopes DfT will take note of de Jong's research, which also appears

only weeks after a High Court case where the Judge said he thought that cyclists could in principle face reduced compensation for head injuries they suffer if it could be shown that wearing a helmet would have made a difference.

Justice Griffith Williams nonetheless awarded full damages to Robert Smith, a cyclist who had suffered serious injuries due to a collision with motorcyclist Michael Finch. The Judge decided not only that Finch was at fault but also that a helmet could not have withstood the impact forces involved. Every other similar case which the courts have considered has reached the same conclusion and CTC's legal advisor Paul Kitson believes the case will in practice have little if any legal effect.

For a CTC commentary on the *Smith v Finch* case see www.ctc.org.uk/helmets.

Fixing potholes faster

CTC's Fillthathole.org.uk website has been relaunched, with extra functionality to make it easier for cyclists to report potholes, and for local authorities to note when each pothole has been fixed. Cyclists now have the option to register with the site, to keep track of the potholes they have reported, to report their own potholes as fixed, and to upload photographs more easily.

If a pothole causes you to crash, you can now complete a quick questionnaire about your crash on Fillthathole.org.uk, which will be forwarded to CTC's Accident Helpline. They will contact you and advise you on your legal options. If you spot a pothole – or any other road defect, for that matter – don't just to ride round it: report it! Councils can be slow getting inspectors out to find potholes, but when cyclists report them they can get fixed surprisingly quickly.



WALES, SCOTLAND & IRELAND

New cycling targets set

W ambitious new targets to increase cycle use have been adopted in Wales, Scotland and the Irish Republic.

Wales's Walking and Cycling Action Plan aims to treble the proportion of children cycling to school and adults cycling to work by 2013, compared with levels in 2006/2007. The plan was launched in February, thanks to the efforts of Wales's transport and environment ministers Ieuan Wyn Jones AM and

Jane Davidson AM. The plan will promote: travel behaviour change; cycle-friendly planning and design; the integration of cycling with health and other policy objectives; and good monitoring, in order to record and learn from successes.

Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework (NCFP), recently adopted by the Irish Republic, aims to raise cycle use to 10% of trips by 2020. This would mean reversing a steep decline over the past two

decades, from 7% of trips in 1986 to just 2% in 2006. The NCFP puts forward admirable proposals, covering everything from cycle-friendly planning ('hard measures'), to awareness-raising activities and incentives ('soft measures', including cycle training), as well as legislative changes. Crucially it promises to revoke the regulations that force cyclists to use pavement cycle tracks where they are provided, and to consider making 30km/h the default speed limit for residential streets.

The Scottish Government, meanwhile, has begun consultation on a draft Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS), which is expected to be adopted this autumn. Like the Irish Policy, its target is for 10% of trips to be made by cycling by 2020. CTC has provided input into developing the strategy and is pleased with its commitments on cycle planning and design, the focus on awareness-raising and promotional activities (e.g. cycle training), and particularly the suggestion to consider how the law might be changed to make it easier for cyclists to gain compensation from drivers who hit them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GOING DUTCH

MPs and Peers from the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group visited Holland in April to look at how the Dutch provide for cyclists. The group also included CTC staff and representatives from the Merseyrail and Northern Rail franchises. As guests of NedRailways, the focus of the trip was Dutch cycle planning, especially at major rail stations. The tour was filmed by Carlton Reid of Quickreleasetv. There is a 10-minute video of the trip at www.vimeo.com/4381805.

OXFORD GETS 20MPH LIMITS

The campaign for more 20mph speed limits is gaining momentum, with Oxfordshire County Council agreeing to introduce 20mph speed limits on most of the city's streets apart from the main roads. Meanwhile the Greater London Assembly's Transport Committee has urged Mayor Boris Johnson to allow at least two London Boroughs to apply 20mph speed limits on most of their roads as a pilot project.

CYCLIST VICTIM 'DAMAGED CAR'

When 12-year-old cyclist Sam Scott, from North Shields, was recovering from cuts and bruises after a collision with a car, the last thing he expected was a letter from the motorist's insurance company demanding he pay the driver's excess of £150 for damaging the windscreen! CTC's Roger Geffen said: 'This shows how the law in Britain is stacked against both pedestrians and cyclists.'

NATIONWIDE

Shop locally & save money with CTC

W lots of cycle dealers around the country offer bike, equipment or service discounts to CTC members who present a current CTC membership card at the till. To find the dealers in your area who do this, please visit the website, www.ctc.org.uk, and then click through to Cyclist Welcome for 'bike shop locations'.

If you would prefer to receive the list in the post or as a PDF by email, please phone 01483 238300 or email cycling@ctc.org.uk.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you have negotiated discounts with bike shops who are not listed, please let us know so that we can add them. That way, all CTC members can benefit. Just email cycling@ctc.org.uk with the bike shop's address details and the discounts on bikes, equipment and services that are available there.

LONDON

Bike removal thwarted

W parked bikes won't be arbitrarily removed by council wardens in London, thanks to the London Cycling Campaign who successfully fought off threatened legislation in the London Local Authorities and Transport for London (No. 2) Bill. The Lords Committee examining the Bill also rejected its proposals to allow different London boroughs to choose what fines they would levy for pavement cycling, depending not on the gravity of the offence but merely on how strongly 'anti-cyclist' their Councillors wanted to be in the local media.



Left: Carlton Reid

Volunteers of the year 2008

 Cathy Francis of CTC Ireland was named CTC Volunteer of the Year for 2008 at the National Dinner and Prizegiving on 25th April at the Queen Hotel in Chester. She was presented with the prestigious Moss Medallion by the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport, Paul Clark (pictured right).

Cathy won her award for services to CTC Ireland. She was instrumental in organising and hosting the 2008 CTC AGM and National Dinner in Belfast, and setting off rides the next day. As president of CTC Ireland, she is also the driving force behind the member group. She leads rides, organises events, promotes the club, and works hard to make new riders welcome.

Tom Wells was second placed CTC Volunteer of the Year, as well as Volunteer of the Year for Wales. Tom's nomination was slightly belated: in 2008 Tom stood down after several years from organising the Welsh Festival of Cycling, which in 2005 was combined with the CTC Birthday Rides at Bala. Tom remains the treasurer of CTC Cymru and a Right to Ride rep.

Alan Sprod, who was named Volunteer of the Year for East of England, was third nationally. He is an articulate and active participant to the Bedfordshire County and the Mid-Beds District Cycle forums, making the case for cycling by debating technical and controversial issues with elected members and highways engineers.

The winner of the CTC Volunteer Group of the Year was Nuneaton CTC. A member group that was already strong on traditional touring rides reached out to the local community, securing funding to publicise the joys of cycling to a wider and younger audience. Shorter, family-friendly weekend rides have been added to the regular diet of club runs.

CTC Dumfries & Galloway was named runner up as CTC Volunteer Group of the Year. Since 2002, the member group has been running Discovery Rides – short rides of 12-18 miles that show new and returning cyclists their local area. The group is also



active in local campaigning.

This year saw a new award for campaigning: the Gordon Selway Memorial Award. Winners were Cambridge Cycling Campaign. They have developed a sophisticated online cycle journey planner and also overturned a long-standing ban on cycling in Cambridge city centre.

Simon Geller was runner up for the CTC Campaigning Achievement of the Year. A Right to Ride rep and all-round cycling advocate, Simon campaigns effectively for better conditions for cycling on the roads and taking bikes on public transport.

Regional winners

Barry Raynor was named Volunteer of the Year for Yorkshire and the Humber. Barry has been the main force behind South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire DA for decades, setting up a family section, editing the local magazine, *The Pedaller*, and working as a cycle trainer.

Volunteer of the Year for the West Midlands region was John Bennett. John campaigns for cyclists in Birmingham, leads rides, and helps organise the Heart of England CTC membership group.

Keith Lakin was named Volunteer of the Year for East Midlands. He has sat on the committee of Leicestershire and Rutland CTC for 22 years and is currently president, in which role he runs events and represents CTC at National Forest meetings.

Volunteer of the Year for South West England was Andrew Holdstock. A long-time cycle trainer who has taught and encouraged many children to cycle, he also used to organise the cycling aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Dilys Gartside was named Volunteer of the Year for South East England. Discouraged from cycling as a child, Dilys bought her first bike at 26 and then taught children to ride – initially through the cycling proficiency scheme and latterly as a National Standard cycle trainer.

Mary Mitchell was declared Volunteer of the Year for North West England.

Mary is a volunteer with the Manchester Champions Project, and has helped build a family cycling group of 30-40 riders in Manchester's Debdale Park from scratch.

Mark Hagger was named Volunteer of the Year for Scotland. A Right to Ride rep for Aberdeenshire, Mark has represented cycling interests in the long-running public enquiry into the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Road – a trunk road on which cycling would be banned.

The awards committee gave a Highly Commended award to Richard Abbot of Aston Hill Mountain Bikers, in the South East region. Richard became the group's chairman in 2007 and succeeded in getting Aston Hill re-opened.

For more details about all the winners, visit www.ctc.org.uk/volunteerawards.

EVENTS IN BRIEF

YORK CYCLE SHOW

CTC's premier cycling rally returns to York Racecourse on the weekend of 20th-21st June. Thousands of cyclists are expected. Each day sees rides for all abilities setting off into the surrounding countryside, and on site there will be the traditional exhibition and trade marquees and entertainments as varied as cycle polo, recumbents, mountain bike stunts and the cycle auction and saddlebag sale. For more information on the show, visit www.yorkcycleshow.co.uk or call 0844 736 8456.

VELO-CITY

As Cycle went to press, CTC campaigns staff were heading to Brussels for the international cycle planning conference, Velo-city 2009. It takes place every two years, and this year ran from 12th-15th May. Its theme was 're-cycling cities'. Delegates discussed ways to integrate cycling into urban transport policy and explored ways of promoting cycling as means of everyday urban transport. For more information, visit the website www.velo-city2009.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLROUNDER

Singletrack magazine is hosting a three-part event in Lee Quarry, Lancashire, to find 'the best overall mountain biker in the land'. Over the weekend of 4th-5th July, competitors will take part in three events: trials, downhill riding, and cross-country racing... all on the same bike. Entry costs £35 for the weekend. www.singletrackworld.com/weekender.

CTC AGM

Hands up for change

 **CTC Council will work up proposals for the reorganisation of CTC's structure, after the motion in favour of this was passed at the 2009 AGM in Chester on 25th April. This was the biggest item on the AGM agenda and it lays the groundwork for change next year. (See page 13 last issue for more information.)**

Most of the other motions were matters of 'housekeeping', and they passed with easy majorities. However, any CTC member can put a motion before the AGM, and there were three that reflected strong-held convictions of their proposers.

Motion 10 required that detailed charts illustrating the structure of CTC's organisation be published as part of the Annual Report. This was defeated, though such charts would be made available on the website, on request, and to anyone attending an AGM.

Motion 11 required that the Winged Wheel be used as the sole emblem of CTC, and that it be used on all official and unofficial papers. This was defeated, as it was in 2001. The policy of using both logos, where practical, remains. Motion 12, to require CTC Shop to stock Winged Wheel

badges of certain sizes, was withdrawn.

The AGM and Dinner were in Chester because Chester and North Wales CTC had lobbied to host them, as 2009 is the group's 70th anniversary. Chester has also recently been granted the status of a Cycling Demonstration Town, and to celebrate that the local council had put on a cycling festival in the city to coincide with the AGM.

Before the AGM got underway, Chair of Council David Robinson gave thanks to Pat Strauss, who steps down as Vice Chair of CTC this year after 23 years as a CTC Councillor. After the AGM finished, local CTC member Alan Mealing led attendees on a tour of the city. Voluntary donations from this totalling £41 were given to Chester's Backford Hospice.



Dates have been confirmed for CTC's series of three sportive-style Challenge Rides this summer. The Ron Kitching Challenge departs York Cycle Show on 20th June; the Phil and Friends ride in the Peak District is on 2nd August; and the David Duffield ride in Wiltshire is on 13th September.

Each has something for all cyclists, with a range of distances from short family routes up to 150km romps across some of the most picturesque terrain in England. Why not ride all three – or pick one in an area you've never explored by bike before? All three are great days out in glorious landscapes, and they each raise vital funds for the CTC Charitable Trust.

The Ron Kitching ride heads north from the plain of York into the heather-clad heights of the North Yorkshire Moors, and as it starts and ends at the site of the York Cycle Show it's easy to make a weekend of it.

On the Phil and Friends, you can join former CTC President and Tour de France commentator Phil Liggett on a hilly loop through the Peak District, starting and ending at Sheffield. Can you make Winnats Pass without walking?

In a change to last year's order, the series finishes with the David Duffield ride and a selection of new routes heading west from Castle Combe motor racing circuit in Wiltshire towards the Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean via the old Severn Bridge.

For further information, visit: www.ctc.org.uk/challengerides or contact CTC on 0844 736 8450, email: cycling@ctc.org.uk.