

NEWS

This month CTC's new Chief Executive, a Government review of driving offences, an appeal for CTC Councillors, and more

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Paul Tuohy was CEO of Mentor, a drug and alcohol prevention charity

EXECUTIVE DECISION

CTC Council have appointed a new Chief Executive to replace Gordon Seabright. Club cyclist Paul Tuohy starts mid-July

PAUL TUOHY takes over as CTC Chief Executive Officer on 14 July. Previously, he was CEO of Mentor, a charity working in schools on drug and alcohol prevention. Paul has been employed in the charity sector since 1984 and has led charities as a CEO since 2004, largely as a change-management specialist, focusing on building brands, fundraising and income generation. He's also been an adviser to governments.

Even though CTC is 135 years old, the organisation has been a registered charity for just two years. Paul believes the challenge is to build on CTC's heritage and history to promote cycling to the masses. CTC Council expect Paul to bring a fresh perspective

on CTC's development, as it continues to grow in terms of national recognition and membership numbers.

'We already have over 65,000 members,' said Paul. 'I want to get to 100,000 and will be asking our current members to help me. We're all in this together!'

Paul has been a passionate cyclist since his youth. Having grown up on the notorious Doddington Estate in Battersea, he says that early involvement with St Christopher's Catholic Cycling Club, particularly the mentoring and friendship from the mainly older clubmen and women, gave him huge aspiration and motivation for doing something positive with his life. These days he enjoys weekend

rides with his wife Wendy, as well as commuting, club runs with Catford CC, audaxes and Sunday racing.

'Cycling has not just been a part of my life, it's changed my life,' Paul said. 'To ride to work now as the CEO of the national cycling charity is a tremendous responsibility and dream come true.'

He added that he was happy that CTC championed the regular cyclist: the ordinary person who wants to enjoy riding his or her bike for work or pleasure.

Gordon Seabright stepped down as Chief Executive at the end of May, becoming Director of the Eden Project. In the interim period, before Paul Tuohy joins CTC, Carol McKinley is acting Chief Executive.



Right: iStockphoto.com

● CTC welcomes a Government pledge to review all driving offences and sentences

DRIVING OFFENCES IN SPOTLIGHT

THE GOVERNMENT

will conduct a full review of driving offences and penalties over the next few months, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling said in May.

Just days later, CTC's Road Justice campaign was praised in Parliament as MPs began debating plans to increase the maximum sentence for drivers who cause a fatality while disqualified from driving, unlicensed or uninsured, from two to ten years. A separate offence of causing serious injury whilst disqualified is also proposed, with a maximum sentence of four years. The Government aims to bring in these changes in early 2015.

CTC Road Justice

Campaign Coordinator Rhia Weston said: 'We strongly welcome the Government's commitment to a full review of all driving offences and penalties. CTC has long called for tougher sentences for those who flout driving bans, so we are pleased that custodial sentences for those who cause death and serious injury whilst disqualified will be increased.'

The Road Justice campaign is also pushing for much greater use of driving bans for those who commit driving offences, and wider use of non-custodial options. To this end, the Road Justice campaign is hosting a debate on the sentencing of driving

offences on 13 June, hosted by CTC President Jon Snow. See the feature on page 52 for more details about how you can get involved.

The Government's announcement follows a 7,000-signature petition instigated by the family of Ross and Clare Simons. They were killed while riding their tandem in January by a driver who was disqualified at the time, having had 11 previous convictions for driving whilst disqualified and four for dangerous driving. He received a sentence of 10 years and 6 months.

For more on Road Justice, see roadjustice.org.uk – and the feature on p52.

FROM THE CHAIR OF CTC

DAVID COX

ON SUNDAY night I unfolded the Brompton for the last time at Bournville's purple Cadbury World station and pedalled the last mile home. The 2014 CTC AGM was over, but even after the long journey back I was still buzzing from the weekend.

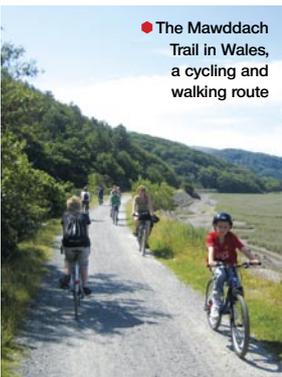
Glasgow was very welcoming. We began with a seminar run by Parliamentary Outreach. Gary Hart took us through the processes of policy making and outlined how we could influence our elected representatives.

At the AGM, Gordon Seabright presented the Annual Report of Council for his last time. We had resolutions on subscriptions and on the implications of devolution for CTC.

The Annual Dinner and Awards followed that evening, with a welcome from the City of Glasgow by Baillie Thomas and an excellent talk by Alison Johnstone, MSP for Lothian. Alison wanted to become 'minister for joining the dots', linking the health, transport, and sustainability advantages of increased levels of cycling.

The awards were handed out, and Stevenage & North Herts CTC and Chester & North Wales CTC again took home the bulk of the prizes.

The Sunday rides led by Glasgow CTC featured trips to Loch Lomond, a whizz around the Commonwealth Games road circuit, a cultural ride to transport and art museums, and a ride to the amazing Whitelee Windfarm.



● The Mawddach Trail in Wales, a cycling and walking route

WELSH POLICY ON TRACK

CTC has secured a place on the new Active Travel Board in Wales, thanks to CTC Councillor for Wales Gwenda Owen and CTC Head of Development Ian Richardson. The board oversees Wales's groundbreaking Active Travel Plan, which comes into force this year, making it a requirement for local authorities to map, plan, and improve their walking and cycling infrastructure.

There is now a public consultation on the draft Active Travel Action Plan, which CTC members in Wales can comment on. Visit bit.ly/1iKLHoT before 4 August to have your say.

CTC has been working closely with Sustrans Cymru and Welsh Cycling to create a strong, coherent voice for cycling in Wales.



Right: by Seb Rogers

● Cycle contributor Steve Worland died unexpectedly in March

STEVE WORLAND RIP

VETERAN cycling journalist and Cycle contributor Steve Worland died of heart attack on 29 March, while running in Ashton Court woods, Bristol. He was 58. Best known as a mountain bike tester, Steve was an all-round cyclist, who also enjoyed expeditions and cycling around town; he was a long-standing CTC member.

He began in journalism testing bikes for Mountain Biking UK in the early 1990s and went on to edit What Mountain Bike magazine, before being made technical director of Future Publishing's mountain bike titles in 2005. His other writing included The Haynes Mountain Bike Book. After he was made redundant

by Future in 2011, he resumed his freelance career.

'It was easy to forget for those of us who bumped into him at bike shows that he was approaching 60,' said Dan Joyce, who first met Steve while working for MBUK in 1995. 'He was just as interested in cycling when I last met him as when I first met him 20 years ago. That open-minded fascination made him always interesting to talk to – and interesting to read. I wish more cyclists, especially journalists, shared his clear-eyed curiosity and non-partisan opinions. They made him an engaging, prescient commentator on the cycling world.'

Steve leaves behind his partner Jo, daughter Holly, a wide circle of friends in the cycling industry, and countless cyclists who were inspired or guided by two-and-a-half decades of his opinions.

On 7 June, Bristol Bikefest will have a mountain bike race in his memory: the 'Steve Worland ride singletrack hard and drink a swig of cider per lap memorial cup 2014'.

Details at bike-fest.com

STEER CTC TO SUCCESS

ELECTIONS ARE ahead for CTC Council, the body elected by you, the members, to take CTC forward and ensure that what we do benefits cycling. Chair of Council David Cox said: 'Do you have what it takes to guide CTC into a new chapter of growth and development? We particularly need people with expertise in finance, fund raising, law and research.'

Councillors are elected for a three-year period to represent the members in their region, and nominations are now being sought for members to represent Eastern, London, West Midlands and Yorkshire & Humber from 1 January 2015. We also have a vacancy in the North East. Nomination forms are available on the CTC website and from National Office.

They must be returned by 15 August 2014.

To find out what's involved, visit the CTC website, or talk to an existing councillor or the Chief Executive at National Office. You could even come along to a Council meeting to see how Council works in practice. Telephone Sue Cherry on 01483 238302 to arrange that.

The nomination forms include the full requirements for standing. You need signatures from other members to support your application, but need not know them personally and Council can help you contact other members.

Council wants to ensure it is representative of all CTC members, and that it has a diverse balance of skills, so the likelihood is that you would be just right!

NEWS IN BRIEF

● CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Mike Halstead of West Yorkshire CTC has been awarded CTC's Certificate of Merit. Mike has been a member since 1969 and he joined the committees of West Yorkshire and the Huddersfield and District section within two years, serving on them almost continuously ever since. He's been chairman, vice chair, and awards secretary. He has ridden many club standard rides, and later marshalled them, supplying hot drinks to riders at control points. This year might be his last as a committee member, so his award is timely.

● DONATIONS WELCOME

Last month, CTC Suffolk donated £1,000 to the Cyclists' Defence Fund and another £1,000 the Road Justice campaign. The donation to the Road Justice campaign will help build local campaigner capacity to influence the justice system at a local level. Meanwhile, members from Cheltenham CTC visited the headquarters of the Midlands Air Ambulance at Strensham to hand over a cheque for £500. Twice in the last two years, a member of Cheltenham CTC has received rapid treatment from the air ambulance.

● EXPRESS VICTORY

The winner of the European Bike Express competition from the February/March issue of Cycle was Mr B Zaba from Denbighshire.

● EUROPEAN CYCLING FEDERATION AGM

The European Cycling Federation (ECF) met in Dublin on 26 April for its AGM, with delegates from as far afield as Russia and Ukraine. Richard Bates and Barry Flood attended for CTC Council. ECF President Manfred Neun outlined ECF's Cycling Manifesto, calling for 10% of the transport budget to be spent on cycling-related infrastructure and HGV safety. Secretary General Bernard Ensink reported that the ECF Vision 2020 was for 15% of European trips to be made by bike. ECF's Development Director Kevin Mayne (formerly CTC's Chief Executive) spoke about his role with the leadership programme, and obtaining financial support from the cycle industry. More information at ecf.com

● STOP PRESS

Former Chair of CTC David Robinson sadly died of heart failure, after a short illness, just as this issue of Cycle was going to press. He was 67. A former teacher, he was a Labour councillor for Cheshire West and Chester. His obituary will appear next issue.