

NEWS

***This month:** CTC Councillor John Radford passes away; the Big Bike Revival; cycling politics; and the prospects of funding for cycling*



Photo: Huddersfield Daily Examiner, examiner.co.uk

● John Radford shortly before the incident. He had just handed CTC's Road Justice booklet on policing to his Police & Crime Commissioner

JOHN RADFORD R.I.P.

Shortly after the driver who hit him was found guilty of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, CTC Councillor John Radford died as a result of the injuries he sustained

CTC COUNCILLOR John Radford has died, 16 months after he was the victim of a road rage attack that left him with brain damage, and just days after driver Michael Gledhill was found guilty of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. As *Cycle* went to press, Gledhill was due to be sentenced on 25 November, which would have been John's 71st birthday.

'John put as much into cycling as he got out of it,' said friend and newly-elected CTC Councillor Martyn Bolt. John had been Chair of Huddersfield and District CTC for 14 years and Chair of what was the West Yorkshire DA. He was also active with Autumn Tints, a regular participant in audax events, and a CTC Councillor for Yorkshire and the Humber.

He was involved in the Phil & Friends Challenge rides, which raised money for the

Cyclists' Defence Fund. He had been knocked off his bike before, and took up the cause of CTC's Road Justice campaign. He presented the campaign's booklet on policing to his Police and Crime Commissioner in July 2013.

Chair of CTC Council David Cox OBE said: 'John was one of our Councillors for Yorkshire and the Humber. It was good to have someone with his cycling experience and local roots taking an interest in national CTC business. We will now be inspired to work even harder to make the roads safer for all cyclists.'

Road rage attack

The trial of Michael Gledhill for 'causing serious injury by dangerous driving' at Leeds Crown Court lasted four days and was attended by various representatives from

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CTC, the Cyclists' Defence Fund, and Slater & Gordon Lawyers, who are representing the family in their civil claim. The jury took three hours to return a guilty verdict, and sentencing was deferred until 25 November. Gledhill's driving licence was withdrawn and he was told he will face up to five years in prison, the maximum sentence for this offence.

However, West Yorkshire Police have now notified the Crown Prosecution Service of John's death, paving the way for possible referral to the Attorney General. This could see Gledhill re-prosecuted for the more serious offence of causing death by dangerous driving (maximum sentence 14 years), or even manslaughter (which carries a maximum lifetime sentence).

The incident began when Gledhill sought to overtake John and blew his horn. John remonstrated with Gledhill for attempting to pass him on a bend. After overtaking, Gledhill stopped his car further on, saying in court he wanted to 'give him some stick'. When John caught up with Gledhill's car, there was an exchange of words between them.

After the altercation, which was witnessed, John cycled across the road to the oncoming carriageway. Gledhill followed John in his car. Forensic examination of John's bike found paintwork from Gledhill's car in the bike's mudguard, demonstrating that car and bike made contact. John fell from his bike and hit the road, suffering a serious head injury.

John is survived by his wife Pat and daughters Emma and Helen. His funeral was on 19 November. Many mourners arrived by bicycle, in accordance with the family's wishes.

Gledhill's sentencing will be published online at ctc.org.uk and in *Cycle*.

