

QUICK RELEASES

***This month:** Eurostar's U-turn on cycle carriage. Mandatory re-tests for drivers. Political parties' plans for cycling. Big Bike Revival figures*



● Eurostar's boxed-bike policy, set to come into force in November, has been dropped

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IT WAS CTC WOT WON IT! EUROSTAR IN U-TURN

Eurostar abandons plans to make cyclists box their bikes thanks to CTC's 'Zero Stars for Eurostar' campaign. **Tony Upfold** reports

CTC IS CELEBRATING after Eurostar backed down over its controversial plans to make cyclists box up their bikes. In a resounding victory for CTC and our supporters, Eurostar's Head of EU Public Affairs Pierre Delalande emailed us on Friday 13 November, just as this issue of Cycle was going to press, to say: 'You will be pleased to know that we are not intending to go ahead with the requirement for all bikes to be carried in boxes and will accept fully-mounted bikes.'

Eurostar proposed to make cyclists dismantle and box up their bikes to travel from Sunday 1 November – a plan which sparked a public outcry across Europe.

More than 10,300 people signed up to the 'Zero Stars for Eurostar' campaign spearheaded by CTC and the ECF (European Cyclists' Federation).

PROPOSALS HIT BUFFERS

CTC galvanised support from leading politicians on both sides of the Channel. The UK's All-Party Parliamentary Cycling Group criticised the move, as did the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, and the Mayor

of Paris, Anne Hidalgo.

London's Cycling Commissioner Andrew Gilligan and CTC's Head of Communications and Campaigns David Murray discussed the issue in a special meeting with Mary Walsh, Eurostar's Director of Communications, at City Hall on 10 November.

Now, in a victory for common sense, the high-speed train provider has decided to make a welcome U-turn. CTC Chief Executive Paul Tuohy said: 'It's fantastic news that the views of so many of our members and other cyclists across Europe have been listened to. This proves how a successful, well-run campaign can be a massive force for good and make things happen.'

'We at CTC would like to thank everyone who supported our online action, as well as other cycling bodies across Europe, the APPCG, and the Mayors of London and Paris.'

Ed Lancaster, Policy Officer for ECF, said: 'Thanks to everyone for their hard work on this campaign. We would particularly like to thank the CTC team for leading the way over the past few weeks.'

HIGH-SPEED CAMPAIGNING

Eurostar admitted that their proposal 'concerned some passengers'. A spokesman told the Press Association: 'After careful thought and planning, we have taken the decision to continue to allow fully-mounted bikes on board, but of course this can only be a small number because of the space constraints. We always listen carefully to feedback.'

The multi-lingual 'Zero Stars for Eurostar' campaign was launched on 14 October. A tip-off from CTC member Joseph Banerjee, who had correspondence with the train company, alerted us to Eurostar's proposals.

"More than 10,300 people signed up to the 'Zero Stars for Eurostar' campaign, which was spearheaded by CTC and the ECF"

STAY IN TOUCH

CYCLECLIPS: CTC's free weekly email newsletter – email your membership number to membership@ctc.org.uk

CYCLE CAMPAIGN NEWS: CTC's monthly campaigns bulletin. Sign up at ctc.org.uk/subscribe-to-cycle-campaign-news

● Under threat: the opportunity to secure spending of £10 per person per year on cycling



Left © Rob Wilkinson / Alamy Stock Photo

URGENT: FUNDING4CYCLING

CTC is launching a final push to persuade Ministers to provide the funding for its promised Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. You can help, says **Roger Geffen**

BY THE TIME YOU read this, the Department for Transport (DfT) will be carving up its funding allowance from the Treasury for the next five years. This is due to be announced as part of George Osborne's Spending Review and Autumn Statement on 25 November.

The question is: how much will go to big road and rail projects, and how much will they earmark for cycling and walking?

PROMISES, PROMISES!

The Government is legally committed to a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS), following a successful campaign by CTC and its allies last year. It also supported the EU's 'Declaration of Luxembourg on Cycling', adopted thanks to a campaign by the European Cyclists' Federation (of which CTC is a member).

Yet The Times newspaper recently suggested that the Treasury is reluctant to find funding for CWIS, preferring the money to be spent on the Government's major road and rail investment strategies.

HUGE BENEFITS

Members of the All-Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG) therefore sent a letter to George Osborne, drafted by CTC, pointing out that investing in cycling provides a vast range of economic, health, environmental and other benefits. They reiterated the APPCG's parliamentary 'Get Britain Cycling' report's call for investment of at least £10 per person annually, rising to £20

over time. They have already met David Cameron to discuss cycling and cycle safety, and are due to discuss CWIS with Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin MP. Cameron himself supported calls for at least £10 per head during CTC's 'Vote Bike' campaign ahead of this year's general election, as did cycling minister Robert Goodwill MP and many other MPs of all parties. Yet it seems that the Treasury doesn't yet agree!

The APPCG's letter to Osborne cites DfT's own evidence, which estimates that investing in 'active travel' (i.e. cycling and walking) is worth at least £5 for every £1 spent – while a Department for Health review found that the average of other researchers' estimates for this benefit-to-cost ratio is 13:1. Either way, it's well above the 4:1 ratio regarded by DfT as 'very high value'. Leading transport experts overwhelmingly agree that cycling and other small-scale local transport schemes generally provide far better value-for-money than major road and rail projects.

TAKE ACTION

CTC is calling on you, our members and supporters, to ask your MP to back the APPCG's funding call – especially those MPs who supported it during CTC's Vote Bike campaign. With the Government setting five-year budgets, we need as many MPs as possible to declare their support for long-term #Funding4Cycling!

It's simple to take part. Visit ctc.org.uk/funding4cycling.

CYCLE SHORTS

● BENEFITING FROM THE BIKE BOOM

Cyclists from across the UK travelled to Warwick University on 10 October for CTC's inaugural members' conference. The theme was 'benefiting from the bicycle boom'. Six workshops looked at ways in which CTC could benefit nationally and locally from the surge in interest in cycling. The day began with a welcome from CTC Chief Executive Paul Tuohy, followed by a speech by Joe Saxton of NFP Synergy which examined how the UK's social demographics are changing and what the implications are for CTC.

WORKSHOP SOLUTIONS

Then the conference split up into workshops. 'Making Space for Cycling count' was a campaigns workshop that dealt with the practicalities of local campaigning, illustrating how members could get – and had got – a better cycling environment in their area. 'Promoting cycling in your local area' was aimed at local groups. Group representatives shared their success stories. The third workshop of the morning was 'Making cycling open and welcome to all'. This focused on the Big Bike Revival, and in particular on the fantastic bike recycling, education and restorative centre, Cera Cycloan, based in Stockport.

Lunch was followed by more workshops. The afternoon campaigns session was 'What the political context means for us'. It was a primer on the latest Government plans and thinking on cycling. The other two workshops tackled groups and inclusive cycling again: the local groups workshop focused on social media, while the inclusive cycling workshop heard about the success of Cambridge's You Can Bike Too. Prior to that, Paralympic cyclist Mark Colbourne gave an inspirational talk about the transformational effect cycling had for people with disabilities – including himself.

There will be another CTC members' conference in 2016. Details to be announced.



Right: Bob Seago. Below: Jonathan Keenan Photography



● Space for Cycling rides were held in Brighton and (below) Manchester to capitalise on party conferences there

POLICY CYCLES

Autumn conferences are an opportunity for campaigners to quiz the current crop of politicians about their plans for cycling. CTC's **Sam Jones** reports

ALONG WITH fallen leaves, shorter days, and students returning to school or university, there's another sign that autumn has returned: political party conferences. Each party lays out its direction and vision for the months ahead, with cities across the UK playing host to politicians, lobbyists and campaigners for a few days.

With so many politicians collected together, it's too good an opportunity to miss. So, during the autumn conference season, CTC and local cycle campaign groups were at their most active with a series of rides in England and Scotland.

CONFERENCES CALLING

The season kicked off with a successful Space for Cycling ride at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton at the end of September. Together with Bricycles and local campaigners, CTC met Labour's Shadow Transport team: Lilian Greenwood MP (Shadow Transport Secretary), Daniel Zeichner MP (Shadow Cycling Minister), and co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG), Ruth Cadbury MP. Greenwood gave a rousing speech promising to work towards a safer environment for cycling.

We held a similar ride for Space for Cycling in Manchester at the Conservative Party Conference a week later with the Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign. Despite inclement conditions, over 200 cyclists took to the streets. Unlike Labour, the Conservatives were unable to field a minister to address the gathered cyclists on

behalf of the party. Instead, Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the Transport Committee, Treasurer of the APPCG and a parliamentary cycling champion, shrugged off the rain to promise that she will continue to 'campaign for conditions which will make cycling a safe and viable transport option'.

In Scotland, CTC's head of development there, Suzanne Forup, and Councillor Lizzie Reather were active in the new Scottish cycle-walking campaign 'We Walk, We Cycle, We Vote'. Through this campaign at each of the Scottish party conferences (SNP, Labour, Lib Dem and Green), Scottish politicians were urged to sign up to pledges on investment, infrastructure and road safety.

These rides have helped to provide invaluable contacts for the months of work ahead. They have also demonstrated the power of collaboration with local groups, and we'll look to build on this momentum as we head through the winter into the new year.

For more on Space for Cycling, see space4cycling.ctc.org.uk.



CYCLE SHORTS

● CYCLE-RAIL AWARDS

The National Cycle Rail Awards were presented in November to operators and individuals taking steps to make it easier to integrate cycling and rail use. Merseyrail won Operator of the Year, thanks to its Bike and Go hire scheme (below) and secure cycle storage. Brighton was named Station of the Year for its new cycle hub. Best Customer Service went to South West Trains, for its handling of the Ride London event. Jonny Wiseman of East Midlands Trains won Cycle Champion. The Innovation award went to Citymapper, a smartphone app which helps people to navigate around complex cities, making best use of all the transportation options available to them. For a full list of winners, go online to cycle-rail.co.uk.



● YEAR RECORD ATTEMPT

There will be another attempt on the world record for the furthest distance cycled in a year in 2016. This time, it will be an attempt on the women's record by Nottingham-based cyclist Kajsa Tylen. She will set out to beat the long-standing record of Billie Fleming (nee Dovey), who rode every day of the year in 1938 to achieve an astounding 29,603 miles.

● TURN LEFT ON RED?

There has been plenty of recent media comment about Paris's cyclists now being allowed to turn right through red traffic lights (the equivalent of turning left in England), where this can be done safely and providing they give way to pedestrians. This follows similar schemes in Idaho (USA) and in other French cities like Nantes. CTC's road safety campaigner Duncan Dollimore recently saw the Paris scheme in action and has explained in a blog that it's unhelpful for the media to describe this as 'jumping red lights'. CTC has yet to formalise its policy on this idea, however, and we'd like to know your views. Do you think we should push for a similar idea in the UK? To read Duncan's blog and feed in your comments, visit bit.ly/ctc-leftonred.

BBR'S WINNING NUMBERS

Back in May, CTC partnered with bike recycling centres to refurbish neglected bikes and get their owners riding them again: **the Big Bike Revival**



“I will be asking for additional funding to build on the legacy of BBR, which would help the Government ‘Get Britain Cycling.’” – Paul Tuohy

CYCLE SHORTS

• CTC AGM: CALL FOR MOTIONS

Notice is given that the AGM of the Cyclists' Touring Club is to take place on Saturday 7 May 2016. The venue and time will be confirmed in the next issue. CTC members wishing to propose a motion for the 2016 AGM should send it in writing to CTC Chief Executive Paul Tuohy at CTC National Office by 1 February 2016. The motion should be proposed and seconded by two members. Motions may be accompanied by an explanatory note, which should not exceed 100 words inclusive of the wording of the motion itself. CTC Council strongly recommends that members wishing to propose a motion contact their CTC Councillor (details on p78) or Paul Tuohy well before the deadline for a discussion about it. It is important, for proxy voters in particular, that the purpose of any motion on the agenda is clear.

• CHANGES ON COUNCIL

It was announced in the last issue of Cycle that a ballot was needed to elect three Councillors in the South East. Ballot papers were issued with the last issue of Cycle, and as a result of the ballot, Ian McCabe, Jonathon Naughton and Ian Wescombe have been elected to Council. Chair of Council David Cox said: 'On behalf of Council and our members, I would like to thank our retiring Councillors for their contributions to the running of CTC over long periods. I am sure that they will all remain active advocates for CTC and for cycling.'

'Graham Smith has brought some very valuable expertise to Council from his professional life in urban design. Philip Benstead's knowledge of cycle training for children and adults, and his activities with new riders in London, have helped guide his views on CTC strategy. I am sure he will continue to be well-known in the London cycling community. Richard Bates' long service on Council has been guided by his experience of local government. He has been assiduous in raising member issues and I will miss his detailed accounts of Member Group AGMs – including assessing the quality of the beer!'

• CLUB SHORTS

- The Annual Regional Meeting of the CTC East Midlands Region will be held at 2pm on Saturday 23 January 2016 at the YMCA Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN.
- A new CTC Member Group has formed: St Helens and Warrington. Contact Paul Riley 01928 575508 or ctc.org.uk/groups.