

Chief Executive

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES



PAUL TUOHY
Chief Executive

The best legacy from sporting success would be a huge boost in everyday cycling, which is what Cycling UK champions. Chief Executive **Paul Tuohy** explains



Paul speaks to ITV at the launch of the Active Travel (Wales) Act

B RITISH CYCLING'S OLYMPIC heroes did us proud in Rio. By the time you read this, I'm sure our Paralympic cyclists will have brought home a medal haul of their own.

Cycling isn't just about racing and medals though, is it? I stressed this on BBC Radio 5 live when Nicky Campbell asked why we are so good at the sport of cycling when only a tiny percentage of the nation cycles for transport and leisure. If, I said, we funded everyday cycling like we do racing – British Cycling's success was built on a £62m grant they received over the last four years from Sport England and UK Sport – we'd soon be as good as the Netherlands and Denmark!

Our friends at British Cycling made this point themselves. Their medallists wrote a letter to the Prime Minister to ask for the real Olympic cycling legacy to be played out on

“Cycling isn't just about racing and medals, is it?”

the roads and streets of Britain. Like us, they want to get more people in the UK cycling more often. Cycling UK's mission is to make Britain a healthier, happier, safer and cleaner place because of cycling.

CYCLING IN SOCIETY

So what are we doing to make this vision a reality? I have been to Edinburgh, Cardiff and London to make the case for more funding for cycling. I will do all I can to make our governments realise that cycling is bigger than just sport. It's a way of life.

We need gold-standard infrastructure so that more people will be tempted to cycle for transport or for pleasure – riding with our groups across the country, for example. We need projects like the Big Bike Revival (page 8) to help people rediscover the joy of cycling.

We need more councillors to support our Space for Cycling campaign, so they can make a difference in their area. We won't match the Netherlands overnight but, as our feature on Leicester shows (page 42), it's possible to make big strides even in a time of austerity, if the political will is there.

On the topic of making a difference: I must offer a huge thank you to the outgoing Chair of Cycling UK's Board of Trustees, David Cox. Through David's leadership, determination and drive, we have seen major changes at Cycling UK that will have a lasting impact well into the future. (Turn to page 30 for more on David.)

VOTE FOR CYCLING

You will see that this issue of Cycle came with voting papers and candidate information for elections to the Board of Trustees. We were inundated with prospective candidates and the standard is the highest we've ever seen. To those of you who put yourselves forwards: thank you for offering your expertise and energy to the charity. To all members reading this: please take the time to read the candidates' statements and to cast your votes, so we can boost Cycling UK's Board with even more talent, dedication and support.

As this issue lands on doormats at the end of September, I'll be riding with Chester and North Wales CTC. Happy reading, and even happier cycling, wherever you are.

News, views, & events

CYCLE SHORTS

THIS MONTH BIG BIKE REVIVAL RETURNS TO ENGLAND AND BEGINS IN SCOTLAND. CYCLING ACCESS ON THE MAP. PLUS LORRIES, TRAINS, AND SPACE FOR CYCLING.

Stay in touch

CYCLECLIPS: free weekly email newsletter – email your membership number to membership@cyclinguk.org
CAMPAIGN NEWS: monthly campaigns bulletin. Sign up at cyclinguk.org/subscribe-to-cycle-campaign-news



Right: by Joaze Dymond

Over 50,000 people in England and Scotland to benefit from BBR

Cycling events

BBR'S BIG RETURN



For the second year running, Cycling UK's programme to get people back in the saddle has been a resounding success. **Tony Upfold** reports



TONY UPFOLD
Communications & Media Officer

THIS YEAR'S BIG BIKE Revival encouraged an estimated 34,000 people in England to rediscover the joys of cycling over the summer, with another 20,000 expected to benefit as the programme rolls out across Scotland for the first time.

In England, Cycling UK's award-winning project has touched the lives of everyone from asylum seekers, refugees, disadvantaged youngsters and disabled people to an international mountain bike racer and a professional BMX stunt star.

The Big Bike Revival Summer of Cycling helped thousands to bring their bikes back into use by providing cycle health checks, sharing maintenance knowhow and giving people more confidence in the saddle, helping many deprived communities in the process.

AN EVENT-FULL SUMMER

Cycling UK Development Officers based in Southampton, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Sefton (Merseyside), Reading, Plymouth, Surrey, Hampshire, Yorkshire and Essex liaised with dozens of bike recycling centres and other venues and groups to put on around 1,500 events throughout England. And this year, for the first time, the programme has extended north of the border, following the launch of Big Bike Revival Scotland in Stirling on 19 September.

English BBR events took place throughout July and August, and will be followed in October by hundreds of led rides organised by Cycling UK groups for the thousands we have helped get back into cycling or to ride for the first time. From those surveyed while taking part in the Department for Transport-funded Big Bike Revival, 44% have been non-regular cyclists – above the 40% target set by Cycling UK.

We also expect to generate 45 new Community Cycle Clubs up and down England. As these clubs are developed as sustainable groups, their work and impact will extend well beyond the Big Bike Revival, helping to realise our ambition to make cycling a normal everyday activity available to everyone.

INSPIRING CYCLING

Friendly cycle mechanics were on hand to make repairs or show people easy maintenance tips at a wealth of centres and events during July and August, while there were also activities for all ages to enjoy, cycle instruction, and plenty of ways for adults and youngsters to learn how to make the most of the summer by bike.

Among those helping to spread the Big Bike Revival word were Cycling UK member Hannah Escott, one of the world's top 4X (four cross) mountain bike racers, and Pro BMX flatland rider and Guinness World Record holder Matti Hemmings.

The Big Bike Revival is now also underway in Scotland for the first time, with funding from Transport Scotland. There are hundreds of events, rides and activities in every local authority across Scotland. These events will continue until the end of October.

Find out what is taking place where by visiting the Big Bike Revival website: bigbikerevival.org.uk



The official launch of the Active Travel (Wales) Act in Cardiff



SAM JONES
Campaigns & Communication Co-ordinator

Cycling access

PUT CYCLING ON THE MAP

Welsh local authorities need your cycling provision suggestions, while Cycling UK wants your feedback on off-road access in both England and Wales. **Sam Jones** reports

LOCAL AUTHORITIES across Wales are now asking for residents' help to map cycling and walking provision that would make a difference. In order to facilitate this process, Cycling UK built a bilingual online tool to enable people to contact their local authority and register their willingness to be involved.

This was a joint initiative by Cycling UK, Sustrans Cymru and Living Streets. The official launch by the Welsh Government Minister with responsibility for Active Travel, Rebecca Evans AM, took place on 8 August.

If you live in Wales, make sure to register your interest at cyclinguk.org/activetravelwales.

OFF-ROAD ACCESS

One of the reasons Cycling UK was asked to be involved was the work we did with Trails for Wales. This campaign, which focused on increasing off-road access in Wales, resulted in the largest consultation response the Welsh Government had ever had: there were 5,800 responses, over 4,000 of them from Cycling UK supporters.

This high level of response and interest from members and

the wider cycling community demonstrated that there's a real appetite for tackling off-road issues. Until Trails for Wales last year, this was not an area which Cycling UK had tackled in earnest since we fought successfully for a presumed access policy in the Scottish Land Reform Act (2003), and ensured that the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) included provision for restricted byways rights to be claimed on the basis of past cycle use.

Working with advocacy group OpenMTB, we're now holding the UK's largest off-road access survey, which will allow us to establish an accurate picture of riding behaviour – and how it fits with the present access arrangements in England and Wales. It will also provide an opportunity to look at the health, economic and social benefits of off-road cycling in all its forms.

Preliminary findings have already fed into our response to Parliament's Environment Farming and Rural Affairs

Committee's inquiry into England's Rural Economy, where we highlighted the tourism potential that could come through increased access. The survey remains open until 31 October.

Quick releases

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

We were overwhelmed with the number of candidates wanting to join Cycling UK's Board of Trustees. You'll find statements from the shortlisted candidates, as well as a voting form, on one of the separate inserts included with your magazine. All details for voting are on the form. If yours is missing, please contact Cycling UK's membership team on **01483 238301** during office hours or email membership@cyclinguk.org.

MEMBER GROUP AGMs

Autumn is the time to find out what your local Cycling UK Member Group has been up to during the past year, and perhaps look at how to get involved. All groups have AGMs in October or November and all Cycling UK members are invited. Many groups include the AGM as part of a ride to a local tea-shop, pub or village hall. To find your nearest AGM, see the map at <http://tinyurl.com/z9rj7ah>.

MICHAEL MASON CASE UPDATE

After two years of heartache, U-turns and let-downs, Cycling UK's Cyclists' Defence Fund has issued proceedings against the driver involved in the collision that led to the death of London teacher Michael Mason. The private prosecution for causing death by careless driving follows months of fundraising, after the Metropolitan Police declined to prosecute. The first hearing was on 13 September at Westminster Magistrates' Court. The driver, Gail Purcell, indicated she would plead not-guilty. The case has been transferred to Southwark Crown Court for later in October. For updates, visit cyclinguk.org.



CYCLING IN TRAFFIC TIPS

What's wrong with this cyclist's position (above)? See bit.ly/cyclinguk-10tips

Lorries & trains

LOOKING OUT FOR CYCLISTS

Cycling UK's campaigns team has been busy pushing for safer lorries, more space for cycling, and better cycle carriage on trains. **David Murray** reports

ONE OF THE GREATEST concerns in urban areas is the risk from lorries. Despite only making up 2% of urban traffic, they're involved in a quarter of cyclists' deaths. Cycling UK believes that current design, with a high cab and massive blindspots, makes HGVs largely unsuitable for our town and city streets.

We are eager to see new direct-vision lorries, made by companies like Dennis Eagle and Mercedes (above), more widely taken up. These lorries bring the driver to road level, similar to a bus, allowing them to spot cyclists and pedestrians more easily.

We're pleased to say that new London Mayor Sadiq Khan has listened to us and is looking to increase the use of these lorries in London. We'll push for the rest of Britain to follow in London's footsteps.

SPACE – THE FINAL FRONTIER

Direct-vision lorries are one way of making our roads safer but it's Space for Cycling that will make the biggest difference in helping more people cycle more often. We need

“Current HGVs are largely unsuitable for urban areas”

networks that anyone can use safely, no matter their age or ability. We now have around 600 councillors signed up in support of our campaign, but we want more. Get your local representatives on board through our website space4cycling.org.uk.

If you want to get more involved in our campaign, we're running a series of campaigns workshops this autumn and winter. See page 49 for details.

RAILING AGAINST RESTRICTIONS

It's not just our roads that need Space for Cycling – so do our trains. Our 'ZeroStars for Eurostar' campaign last year saw close to 10,000 people write in protest to the international train operator about their proposal for all cycles carried to be boxed. Since then, we have been in discussions with Eurostar and are confident we're close to reaching a solution, which we hope to report on in the next issue.

Meanwhile, Great Western Railways (GWR) caused a stir with a new policy of mandatory booking on their intercity trains. Fortunately, public backlash from Cycling UK members resulted in a temporary rollback from this position. In the coming weeks, we're teaming up with Exeter MP and keen cyclist Ben Bradshaw to discuss GWR's decision with a view to improving their cycle-carriage.



DAVID MURRAY
Head of Communications & Campaigns

Quick releases

CYCLING MOO KAY REPLACED

The theft of Cycling UK's fundraising, fibre-glass cow from the top of Box Hill made headline moos in late August. Cycling Moo Kay was rustled in the dead of night from her plinth in the Surrey Hills. Organisers of the Surrey Hills CowParade kindly provided Cycling UK with a replacement. Moo Kay II is now being painted by Dorking artist and Cycling UK member Charles Rowbotham and will be ready in time to raise funds for our charity at auction. The cows will be auctioned at Sandown Park, Surrey, on 20 October and in a gala auction at Hampton Court Palace on 17 November. Online bids can be made at ewbankauctions.co.uk.

BRITISH CYCLE QUEST SUCCESS

Fred Porton of Herefordshire recently completed the nationwide British Cycle Quest after visiting all 402 checkpoints. He began his cycle-touring quest in 2003 and is the tenth winner of the scheme since it was changed in 2000, and the 18th since the start of the original Touring Explorer Award in 1982. For more details about BCQ, see cyclinguk.org/british-cycle-quest.

MIDDLEBURN NO MORE

We're sorry to report that Middleburn Cycle Components closed down in August. Its assets will be sold off. Middleburn was known for its durable, finely-engineered components, such as the RO2 chainset we reviewed just last issue.