Opinion

THIS MONTH OFF-ROAD ACCESS, CARGO BIKES, THE 300,000 MILES CLUB, TRAFFIC LIGHT TIMING, AND MORE

Letters

The letter of the month wins an SKS Compit+, courtesy of Zyrofisher. This mounts your phone securely to your handlebar and charges it on the go, wired or wirelessly. When we tested it in the Dec 20/Jan 21 issue, our reviewer said: “I was impressed… A rock-solid mount that keeps your phone topped up.” The prize includes a Compit phone case. For more details, or to find your local stockist, visit zyrofisher.co.uk

Win an SKS Compit+ & case worth £89.98

Let’s a resident of west Cornwall, I was interested to read the article in Cycle about the launch of the West Kernow Way. Any development of our limited off-road cycling network is a good thing.

The article says: “We’ve delved into the archives and identified routes that have strong evidence for being used as a bridleway or byway in the past”, which is great. However, the article goes on to say: “These routes may be currently shown as footpaths but the right to ride on them still exists.”

If these route sections are designated as footpaths, are cyclists or horse riders riding on them breaking the law? Does the right to ride on them exist in law? Isn’t there a risk of upsetting other footpath users and perhaps increasing resistance from walking groups to re-designating these sections as bridleways or byways?

Judging by the number of unmaintained footpaths, bridleways and byways, it seems unlikely that Cornwall Council will be able to process the existing applications that they have for re-designation. I hope I’m wrong.

Andrew Hayle

The piece on p12 goes into this in more detail, and there’s more online: cyclinguk.org/lost-ways. Rest assured that you’re not breaking the law as a cyclist by riding on a route that’s incorrectly shown as a footpath on a modern map. (In fact, you’re not breaking the law even if it’s correctly shown as a footpath, since cycling on a footpath is a civil not a criminal issue.)

Delivering the goods

Cargo bikes are not new, although the electric version might be. In the ’60s I had a Saturday job delivering meat for a local butcher, using a trade bike (as it was known).

Health and safety regulations were just about non-existent then. The joints were not individually wrapped, and when I fell off and the contents of the basket rolled down the road, I simply picked them up, put them back, and continued delivering. This happened quite often, especially in the icy winter of 1962/63. And no one seemed bothered at all.

Fred Newton

Cycling milestones

Just received my Cycling UK magazine and was saddened to read that Chris Davies has died. My late husband Bernard and I met Chris and Neville several times at our 300,000 Miles Club reunions, and had lots of interesting conversations about their travels. A shock when Nev died, I think; Chris really missed him. Sadly, Chris hadn’t cycled for a while but he recorded a great mileage in his life.
My grand total mileage up to 2020 is 545,548 miles. Years back, Bernard and I submitted our mileage charts to Cycling. I am fortunate that I can cycle out to meet friends in Cheshire. For my 90th birthday, I rode 92km (not miles) so was happy, as I don’t ride very far in a day now.

Trust you are well and fit and ride very far in a day now.

Joyce Blow

Traffic light timing

One aspect not mentioned in the Cyclopedia article about traffic light timing is the role of the highway authority, which is generally the body responsible for the traffic lights. In my experience, it is worth contacting them and asking for the phasing of the lights to be adjusted. This may not work every time, but the authority should be aware that (especially if the problem has been brought to their attention) they might be held at least partially liable if there is an accident arising from badly adjusted traffic lights.

Robin Muers

Cateran country

We visited this area last year, staying at the Lodge at Lochside in Lintrathen. We had an excellent stay but didn’t manage to sample the cakes in the Wee Bear Café, being out on the bikes too long. But the breakfasts were excellent.

We hired electric bikes from Lintrathen Cycles next door. I have MS now so am finding hills a bit demanding. The owner was extremely helpful in recommending alternative routes to the options we had researched.

Chris Wyatt

Obituaries

Are published online at cyclinguk.org/obituaries. Contact publicity@cyclinguk.org

Photo of the month

Cheltenham & County CC

2021 is a special year for Cycling UK affiliate Cheltenham and County Cycling Club – it’s our centenary! Originally founded as a section of the Cheltenham and County Harriers, 23 October 1921 saw the first club group ride with a run to Broadway. We currently have around 300 members who regularly ride with the club. The website is cheltenhamandcounty.cc.

Peter Seaward