Road safety

HIGHWAY CODE OVERHAUL

The rules are being rewritten to improve the safety of vulnerable road users such as cyclists, as Keir Gallagher explains

Last summer 16,500 people supported Cycling UK’s response to the Government’s Highway Code Review, making it one of our best supported campaigns ever. The Department for Transport (DfT) listened: it has committed to incorporate the key revisions we called for.

We’ve been pushing for changes in the Highway Code for years, and in 2018 the Government agreed a review was necessary. Since then, we’ve worked closely with the DfT and active travel experts to propose changes to the Code to better protect people cycling and walking. This early engagement paid dividends: when the review was launched, a really positive set of revisions was put forward for consultation. They included:

- The introduction of a hierarchy of responsibility.
- Simplification of the rules relating to non-signalised junctions to tackle ‘left-hook’ collisions.
- New rules to tackle close passes, with a guideline minimum safe passing distance.
- The inclusion of the Dutch Reach, to help prevent car-dooring.

These proposals represent a significant step forward for road safety. They build on Cycling UK’s long-running work to tackle close passing and car-dooring, while ensuring that the Code would recognise, for the first time, that those driving more dangerous vehicles carry a greater responsibility to protect others’ safety.

When the Highway Code Review was launched, we set out the case for making these changes. This is where you, our members and supporters, played a vital part: of the 21,000 individuals and organisations who responded to the Government review, 80% (16,500) did so in support of Cycling UK’s requests.

This overwhelming support means the DfT has public backing to push ahead with the proposals, which they’ve now committed to doing. It’s a big win for cyclist and pedestrian safety.

There’s still plenty to be done to ensure the rules changes make a difference on the road. That’s why we’re calling on the Government to launch a wide-reaching and well communicated public awareness campaign to explain the new rules to all road users, and help the public understand why they matter. But for now, it’s also important to celebrate a well-earned campaign win, which we would never have achieved without your support.

Thank you, once again.

cyclinguk.org/highway-code-win
Flick through back copies of Cycle magazine, and many of the adventures you will recall and have read would have sprung from our members’ and tour leaders’ adventures with Cycling UK’s subsidiary company, CTC Cycling Holidays and Tours (CTC H&T).

The trips were famed for taking members on adventures of a lifetime, whether through the leafy lanes of the home counties to far flung destinations in the ‘stans. The tours covered the broad breadth of abilities and interests of our membership, for the simple reason that they were led by our members, as volunteer tour managers, for our members.

When CTC H&T started 20 years ago, no other travel organisation was able to match or provide that breadth of service and experience our members wanted and expected. And how could they?

Through CTC H&T, participants were drawing on the knowledge of enthusiastic world travellers who were in it not for profit, but rather the opportunity to share that passion of adventure and unique view of the world which comes from the saddle. That’s hard to match for a commercial enterprise.

On tour, lifetime friendships began and romance frequently blossomed. CTC H&T’s popularity grew among the membership as, until relatively recently, if you wanted a cycling holiday, either home or abroad, led by experts in their field – you joined a CTC H&T.

Not all good things can last forever, sadly. In recent years, the earlier, more popular days of CTC H&T have been impossible to match. The result is that, from October, this chapter in our charity’s history will draw to a close. This autumn, CTC H&T ceases trading.

Janet Atherton, chair of Cycling UK’s board of trustees, said: “CTC Holidays and Tours will be forever fondly recalled in the long annals of Cycling UK’s history. The board and the charity would like to put on record our thanks to all the tour leaders who gave so freely of their time and expertise, the directors of the company, and above all everyone who took part in the tours themselves.”

Thousands of tourers have travelled the six cyclable continents during the last 20 years thanks to CTC H&T. Many of those travellers, will be reading this right now – and we’d love it if you could help to preserve the legacy of CTC H&T by writing up journeys past for Cycle’s Travellers’ Tales (see p73).

For more information on submitting an article, visit cyclinguk.org/be-part-cyclemagazine.
Cycling UK kit

The new range of Stolen Goat x Cycling UK kit is arriving soon. You helped us to choose the designs, and Stolen Goat have brought them to life. The Heritage design (above right) has a clean, classic look, while the Contemporary design (above left) has striking geometric lines.

Alongside the jerseys, the collection will include weatherproof jackets, arm warmers, accessories, and even a special Cycling UK plush toy goat. As the UK’s cycling charity, it’s great to be working with a brand that shares our values: empowering more people to spend time on two wheels so the world can be a happier, healthier and cleaner place.

Visit stolengoat.com/cycling-uk and subscribe for updates, so you can be first in line for the new kit.

**CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE**

The Heritage jersey from Stolen Goat incorporates the Winged Wheel, the classic logo we adopted after we changed our name from the Bicycle Touring Club to the Cyclists’ Touring Club in the 19th century.

We always look fondly on where we started. In recognition of that, we’re expanding and updating the history section on our website (cyclinguk.org/history). We’d love to include stories from your cycling life on there too. As an incentive, we’re offering each contributor a discontinued merino heritage jersey (while stocks last).

For details and terms and conditions, visit cyclinguk.org/heritage.

**GRAND DESIGNS**

The Contemporary jersey (left) and Heritage jersey (right) will be available for both men and women.

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**Scotland**

**GREEN GROWTH FOR CYCLING**

A power-sharing deal has been reached to bring Green MSPs into the Scottish Government and has led to a boost for cycling in the new Programme for Government. A commitment to triple active travel funding to 10% of the transport budget meets our Cycling UK Scottish election manifesto funding ask. Scottish Greens co-leader Patrick Harvie MSP has been appointed as Active Travel Minister (a first for the UK) with the task of turning policies into action.
Northern Ireland

BELFAST’S BIKE TO WORK BOOST

Cycling UK is showing how cycling can benefit workplaces and individuals in the Linen Quarter, a commercial district in Belfast. As part of the Linen Quarter Bid, we’re providing training, maintenance sessions, and funding for local businesses to become Cycle Friendly Employer accredited. Find out more about what we’re doing for workplaces: cyclinguk.org/workplaces

Wales

NEW ROADS MORATORIUM

While the UK Government has plans for a £27 billion road building programme in England, the Welsh Government is freezing new road building projects until an external panel conducts a review. The Welsh Government is also issuing new Active Travel Act guidance to assist local authorities in planning and delivering cycling and walking networks. cyclinguk.org/wales

Donations

YOUR CYCLING LEGACY

What better way to remember the joy that cycling brings, and to help share that with others, than with a gift in your will?

As cyclists we are acutely aware of the benefits that cycling brings, giving us the freedom to explore, helping us to stay fit and healthy, and being good fun. For more than 140 years, Cycling UK has been inspiring and supporting people to ride. We’ve worked hard to protect the interests of existing and would-be cyclists. Yet while we remember the changes we’ve brought about together, what about the future?

Imagine a country where everyone cycles, where the streets are free of congestion, and the air is clean to breathe; a country where parents encourage their children to cycle to school, and everyone shares the exhilaration of being in the saddle. That’s our vision.

We’re making our streets safer places to ride, opening up new traffic-free routes across the country, and inspiring more people onto their bikes. But we couldn’t do that without people like you. You can pass on the baton for cycling by choosing to leave a gift in your will to Cycling UK.

Recently, Cycling UK spoke to Paul, who sadly lost his father Alan. Alan was a keen lifelong cyclist, and it was something he and Paul shared together, providing memories that Paul treasures. Alan got to see the changing world by bike. He joined as a member in 1941 and went on to become a life member. It was this love of cycling that prompted him to leave a gift in his will, so that many more parents and children could experience the joy of cycling together.

For more information or to discuss leaving a gift in your will, contact James Newman by email at legacy@cyclinguk.org or call 01483 238346.