Scotland

CYCLING CHAMPIONS

It’s been a time for heroes in Scotland as we honoured the Cycling Champions of the Year. They included Shgufta Anwar (above), a charity founder empowering other women to ride; an extraordinary cycling grandmother; a community-focused bike shop in Shetland; and a bike-friendly Edinburgh hair salon. We’re proud to join three other cycling organisations in highlighting their amazing work. cyclinguk.org/cycling-champions

Northern Ireland

SAFER CYCLING INQUIRY

This October, in our role as Secretariat for the Cycling All Party Group (APG) in Northern Ireland’s Assembly, Cycling UK organised an expert panel focusing on 20mph speed limits and the GB Highway Code changes (not adopted yet by NI). These measures are part of the APG’s inquiry into ‘10 short-to-medium term interventions to increase the uptake and safety of cycling’, which Cycling UK backs. cyclinguk.org/NI-apg-inquiry

Awards

100 WOMEN IN CYCLING 2023

November saw the unveiling of Cycling UK’s annual 100 Women in Cycling 2023 list. Although women are still underrepresented in cycling, each year we are amazed by the number of nominations we receive for wonderful candidates – women who work to make cycling a more inclusive space and encourage others to start riding.

Along with guest judges Hannah Dobson, managing editor of Singletrack World, and Michelle Arthurs-Brennan, digital editor of Cycling Weekly, we have given equal consideration to women in four categories: those achieving athletic feats; influencers who make women’s cycling more visible; entrepreneurs who ensure women are represented across the industry; and people who put in the hours to have a positive impact on their local communities.

This year’s list includes Fatima Patel, who started cycling after a mental health crisis, joined Cycle Sisters and became a ride leader. She is now a role model for other Muslim women, sharing the joy that she discovered through cycling.

Rosemary Hill, project coordinator at Sheffield Cycling 4 All, is also on the list. She is passionate about supporting disabled people and anyone who can’t ride a two-wheeled bike to cycle. Emily Williams, meanwhile, is Scotland’s first ever bicycle mayor. She is an ambassador for cycling and has been integral to bringing Kidical Mass to the Inverness area – a movement organising rides where children reclaim the streets for bikes.

Read about these inspirational women and others at cyclinguk.org/100women/2023.

Cycling development

WINTER BIG BIKE REVIVAL

In October we announced a £3m funding boost from Active Travel England, which will support Cycling UK’s Big Bike Revival for the next 18 months. Our staff are already out there as winter begins, with a programme of events to engage people who don’t cycle regularly. They’ll provide cycle skills, social rides and repair sessions, and will encourage people to keep riding through the colder months. If you know of a community centre that would be ideal for hosting events, funding applications are still open until 15 December. cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival/current-programme