



York Cycle Show

 York Cycle Show this year hosted the regional launch of the 2009 Tour of Britain's first stage, which will arrive in the city on 19th September. Local tourist authorities were joined at the show's racecourse venue for the ceremony by Tour of Britain organisers and York's MP, Hugh Bayley.

City of York Council brought a display about their recent Cycling England grant, which is making York one of the 11 new Cycling Demonstration Towns announced last summer. They were joined on the Sunday by an eight-seater bike, which had been ridden by volunteers from Derby, one of the first wave of Demonstration Towns.

Heavy showers on the Saturday didn't dampen the enthusiasm of visitors, and Sunday made up for this with sunny weather. In between grass-track racing and fun events,

the thinkbikes mountain bike stunt display team wowed the crowds several times each day.

Attendance by traders was up compared to 2008, thanks to extensive canvassing and advertising. Halfords, Dawes and Raleigh were joined by Cycle Show newcomers such as Paper Bicycle, Wills Wheels and Vive La Velo. Born to It brought a range of bamboo fibre clothing along.

The York Brewery bar returned by popular demand, with extended hours. The sole caterer of previous years was replaced by a 'food court' with a variety of separate traders. Radio York broadcast live from the show on Saturday morning, while local folk music group The Foresters played to a packed marquee on the Saturday evening.

A packed York Minster hosted the Sunday morning Cyclists'

Service. The parade back to the racecourse lacked a police presence this year. Although local cycling police officers were helpfully on site at the Knavesmire, their planned assistance with the parade was withdrawn by a senior officer. The Cycle Show Committee was not informed and made ad hoc arrangements to steward the ride. This should be resolved next year.

Negotiations are also being sought with the Racecourse Committee, to try to address the loss of the event's customary segregated cycle and pedestrian access. This happened because part of the Knavesmire was leased to the adjoining York Racecourse.

Dates for the 2010 York Cycle Show will be announced in the coming months.

Paul Hepworth, York Cycle Show Committee Chair

EVENTS IN BRIEF

BIRTHDAY INVITATION

While bookings for the weeklong CTC Birthday Rides at Oundle have closed, tickets for its centrepiece, the Birthday Tea, are still available for £10 to day-visitors. The Birthday Tea takes place in the grounds of Deene Park, seven miles north of Oundle (www.deenepark.com). As well as the celebrations, visitors will have the chance to view the gardens and (for £6.50) the stately home. CTC's Adrian Lawson and Chris Williamson will also be on hand at the Birthday Rides from 9th-12th August to discuss ideas about existing and potential CTC member groups. Visit www.birthdayrides.org or contact Max Scott, Birthday Rides Co-ordinator on 01536 712507, br@ctc.org.uk.


MOUNTAIN BIKE LEADER COURSE

CTC's Advanced Mountain Bike Leader course will take place from 22nd to 24th September in Keswick, Cumbria. The course builds on the key elements of CTC's Technical Leader Award and covers all aspects of mountain biking with groups in the mountains. For more information see www.promtb.net and follow the links or contact 0844 736 8463.

WILD WALES CHALLENGE

Up to 600 riders are expected for the annual Wild Wales Challenge, a 90-mile randonnee from Bala on 30th August. Entry is £12.50. Visit www.merseysidectc.com or contact Emrys Jones, tel: 01952 257522, wildwales@merseysidectc.com

CTC's summer sportives

 Fresh from commentating on the Tour de France, Phil Liggett will be riding this year's edition of his famous Peak District ride on Sunday 2nd August. The event starts in Stannington, Sheffield, with 100km and 150km route options that take in classic climbs such as Holme Moss, Winnats Pass and Monsal Head. See www.ctc.org.uk/phil or to book call 0844 736 8451. All participants will receive a certificate.

The month after, join fellow commentator David Duffield for the Severn Bridge Challenge Ride. It sets off from Castle Coombe motor racing circuit with three route options: a 160km (100 miles) route through the Cotswolds, over the Severn Bridge and into the Forest of Dean, and a shorter option and a family route. Rider benefits include technical support and a broom wagon, and £2 from every entry fee is donated to the CTC Charitable Trust to fund valuable campaigning work. For details or to book a place please visit: www.severnbridgesportive.co.uk.

