

CYCLE NEWS

CTC'S ROUND UP OF CYCLING NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS



Drivers are obliged to look where they're going, so SMIDSY is a weak excuse



Stop SMIDSY!

'Sorry, mate, I didn't see you.' Too often it's a fig-leaf excuse for bad driving. CTC's new campaign challenges this careless behaviour



In early October CTC launches Stop SMIDSY, a new campaign to stop the social acceptability of bad driving, as epitomised by the phrase 'Sorry, mate, I didn't see you.' Every long-term cyclist has heard this at least once, but it doesn't excuse an act of bad driving that puts lives at risk. As relatively vulnerable road users, cyclists know that collisions that would be fairly minor in a car can have dire consequences on a bike, where there's no crumple zone.

Over the next few years, CTC will be collecting stories from cyclists and pedestrians about their experiences of bad driving – and what the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, and the courts have

done... or not done. The aim is to enforce the idea that bad driving is never okay.

To track incidents, CTC has set up an online tool for reporting your stories of bad driving: www.stop-smidsy.org.uk. By logging your experiences of bad driving on the site you can contribute to the body of information that will help CTC raise awareness of the extent of the problem of how the institutions vested with ensuring our safety on the roads so frequently let down vulnerable road users.

The online reporting tool also includes a short travel survey to help CTC better understand how cyclists travel and how frequently cyclists have crashes. A third feature of the reporting tool is a briefings

library, which contains information about the law and how it works in practice in order to help cyclists either contend with the aftermath of a crash, or simply learn more.

Stop SMIDSY is CTC's campaign to change how the police, the CPS and the courts deal with bad driving and road traffic crashes. Please join the campaign by visiting www.stop-smidsy.org.uk and logging your stories, taking our survey or reading up on road traffic law.

If you would like to chat with the campaigns team about the Stop SMIDSY campaign, don't forget that they'll be at the CTC stand (C11) at the Cycle Show at Earl's Court from 9th-11th October. For more information about the show, turn to page 62.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSNET CTC'S WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER –
 Send your CTC membership number to membership@ctc.org.uk

FROM CTC CHAIRMAN DAVID ROBINSON



Three of our existing CTC councillors will not be standing for re-election this year. Whilst I would encourage

others to come forward and stand, as there is still a vacancy to be filled in the South East region, I would also like to take this opportunity pay tribute to the fantastic work these councillors have done. CTC councillors are volunteers who share the rewarding and challenging job of steering the direction of our organisation.


Barry Jordan (South East) has made a major contribution in his three years on Council. He successfully established a diversity policy for CTC and travelled the whole country championing the cycling rights of many minority groups. It will be difficult to replace the energy with which Barry has carried out this role.

John Cutler (East Midlands) has focussed his efforts on Right to Ride and has been able to bring to the table direct experience of being an activist for cyclists' rights at local level. He will now be devoting much of his time to developing a series of maps showing traffic density and helping the route choices that cyclists make.

Richard Bates (South East) has combined his council work in local government with a full time job and his position as a CTC councillor. He is passionate about rights for cyclists and plans to devote his energies to bringing change at a local level. His contributions to a range of CTC committees will be missed.

I look forward to seeing all three at CTC social occasions or out on the road.

Asda backs Bike Club

 Supermarket chain Asda has made Bike Club the beneficiary of its main fundraising endeavour this year. Following an announcement by Asda CEO Andy Bond and Kevin Mayne of CTC (pictured, right), Asda's Pedal Power campaign has raised over £1 million for Bike Club in a variety of activities involving staff and customers.

Chief among Asda's fundraising efforts has been an epic Land's End John O'Groats ride by CEO Andy Bond. Riding a ten-day route planned by CTC's Mark Waters, Andy's ambitious 1,100 mile ride veered away from the traditional LEJOG plan in an effort to visit as many Asda stores as possible. Each branch has been raising money for Bike Club, with a flurry of bike rides, collections, cake sales and other activities.


One of the biggest welcomes for Andy Bond took place on Friday 28th August as he passed through Asda's Manchester Eastlands store. CTC's Bike Club team was there, demonstrating how cycling activities can be used to provide adventurous learning opportunities for children. Using training methods and techniques pioneered through CTC's Cycle Champions programme, young riders were coached through a skills course involving slow-speed riding skills, one-handed cycling and even challenging 'North Shore' off-road obstacles. Children who began the afternoon wobbly and lacking in confidence quickly picked up new skills and discovered hidden abilities.



Bike Club is a partnership between CTC and two youth charities – UK Youth and ContinYou. It aims to increase the number of 10-20-year-olds who regularly cycle. Further information can be found at bikeclub.org.uk



Changes on Council

 CTC's governing body, National Council, is made up of ordinary CTC members who feel they have something to offer the Club. Members are elected for a three year period with one third of Council standing down each year.


Nominations were recently sought for members to represent the North West, East Midlands and South East for the three years from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012. Current councillor for the East Midlands, John Cutler, did not seek re-election and only one nomination was received, so John Catt has been declared duly elected.

There are three Council posts for the South East. Nominations were received from current

councillor John Meudell and from Graham Smith who are declared duly elected. There is one post still to be filled. Council is seeking further nominations. If you are interested, see the CTC website for more details. Nomination forms must be received by 30 October.

In the North West region there were three nominations for its two seats. Members in that region received a ballot paper with this magazine and all are urged to vote. Any North West member who has not received a ballot paper or requires extra papers for family members should contact the Returning Officer at National Office. The results will be announced in the next issue of Cycle.

Where next for CTC?

 Following the motions at the 2009 AGM, CTC Council is reviewing the governance and structures of the organisation. As a result, the Council has commissioned an internal Governance Group and external advice from Cass Business School. We will be sharing the advice received with members in the run up to the 2010 AGM. The early findings of the Cass review, carried out and reported by Hilary Barnard and Ruth Lesirge, are below. – David Robinson, Chair of CTC.

'This article shares with the membership of CTC the emerging conclusions of our independent review of the governance of CTC. Cass Centre for Charity Effectiveness (Cass CCE) at City University works with a wide range of not-for-profit organisations, helping them improve governance so that they are better able to run effectively and deliver benefits to their members and the wider community.

'We were asked by CTC Council to undertake this review to see how the overall governance of CTC might be improved. The Cyclist's Touring Club was founded in 1878. The CTC Charitable Trust was established in 2004/5. Since then, charity law has been modernised significantly by the 2006 Charities Act, allowing a very strong case to be made that all CTC's activities are charitable.

'We have spoken with all Council Members and advisers, as well as with senior staff and former CTC Honorary Officers, to make sure that we understand their perspectives.

As part of our brief, we have looked particularly at the possibility of creating a single membership organisation as a charity.

'Our review comes at a time when many good things are happening in CTC. Membership stands at 60,000. Although there is a long way to go, Government and public authorities are finding they need to respond more positively to cycling and cyclists. There is a real diversity of CTC activities for every type of cyclist, which in turn is an asset to CTC's current and future campaigning.

'We shall deliver our final report in late September, but here are some of our early findings:

- There is strong support for CTC's dual role in a) providing services to members and b) getting more people on bikes;
- There is a clear wish to move forward with unifying CTC the Club and CTC Charitable Trust. This will bring financial benefits as in extra Gift Aid, an improved system of accountability and a clearer system for CTC Councillors to govern;
- The current structure of English regional, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish representation within CTC Council should be maintained.

'We will be recommending that Council puts specific proposals to the next AGM; these will be to create one charitable organisation, retaining the current structure of representation.

'If accepted, this will enable CTC to bring into one organisation the objectives of both CTC the membership club and CTC Charitable Trust.

'We will also recommend a restructuring of Council Committees to ensure more focus on policy development and financial oversight.'

Hilary Barnard and Ruth Lesirge, Cass Business School

FROM THE CAMPAIGNS DEPT **ROGER GEFFEN**



This summer the Prime Minister announced the intention of the Government to produce a new

'National Cycle Plan' in the autumn. We assume it will only be relevant to England. Officials have suggested to CTC that there will be insufficient time for a full consultation, so we are proposing some ideas and want your feedback on what you want the Plan to prioritise.

We want your views on the level of cycling we should aim for; how much should be invested in cycling; what deters you from cycling or makes cycling unpleasant; and what steps could do the most to increase levels of cycling.

Please join in the consultation on CTC's website – www.ctc.org.uk/nationalcycleplan – or contact CTC National Office if you'd prefer a paper copy.

We'd also like your feedback on our new Right to Ride to School campaign. Back in June, the parents of 11-year-old Sam O'Shea (whom we featured in Cycle back in Feb/Mar) contacted CTC for help with reversing the cycle ban at Sam's school. CTC offered to meet with the school to explain the risks and benefits of cycling, but the head teacher was not available until after Sam left for secondary school.

To assist any families in a similar situation, CTC launched the Right to Ride to School campaign in September. Families that find their children banned or discouraged from cycling can download an information pack that provides arguments and advice for campaigning against cycle bans, and for sharing tips with other families. Visit www.ctc.org.uk/righttoridetoschool.





WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR LOCAL STORIES
We'll publish the best here and online. Email publicity@ctc.org.uk

LEICESTER

Right to Ride conference

 The first ever national conference for CTC Right to Ride Representatives is to be held in Leicester Town Hall on 17th October.

Since the publication of the CTC Vision in 2007, the advisory group of CTC National Councillors and CTC management has been working to identify ways in which CTC can better support and extend the Right to Ride network and improve the effectiveness of the network in changing provision for cycling at local, regional and national levels. The result is a package of measures designed not just for National Office to provide support for local

volunteers, but also for volunteers to support each other.

This conference seeks to help campaigners develop their skills, e.g. understanding and influencing your council, or using the media. It will also outline CTC's plans for enabling our volunteers to develop new campaigning skills, and you will have a chance to influence how those plans are delivered.

All Right to Ride Representatives are welcome, as are other CTC members interested in campaigning. Full details of both the conference and how to register can be found at www.ctc.org.uk/righttoride/conference.



NEWS IN BRIEF

CYCLIST KILLS PEDESTRIAN

CTC was asked to comment by the media on the case of cyclist Darren Hall who was sentenced to seven months in prison for killing an elderly man walking on the pavement. While this was only the third instance of a pedestrian being killed by a cyclist on a pavement in a decade – compared to 40 pedestrians killed each year by motor vehicles on pavements – CTC's line is that drivers and cyclists must know that, if they act recklessly, they will face the full force of the law.

NO TICKET FOR CARELESS DRIVING


The Magistrates' Association has repeated its objection to the proposal to make careless driving an offence that police could enforce using a 'fixed penalty notice', similar to the way in which some other road traffic offences are dealt with. CTC supported the idea but only if used where no injury occurs. We believe that many incidents of bad driving are being ignored by road traffic police.

HELMET LAW DOWN UNDER

One woman is fighting Australia's law on mandatory cycle helmets. Sue has been cycling without a helmet since the ban came into force 20 years ago. This year she was stopped by police and will appear in court to defend her decision not to wear a helmet. See www.copenhagenize.com/2009/08/cyclist-versus-goliath-fighting.html for details.

CHILTERNES

Off-road back on at Aston Hill

 This summer CTC, Aston Hill Mountain Bike Club and the Forestry Commission joined forces to create a special CTC membership package that provides access to and funding for one of the south east's best off-road trails.

Aston Hill is a technical mountain bike trail in Buckinghamshire that attracts riders from all over the UK.

Until recently, the future of Aston Hill was in doubt and the gates were often locked, disappointing many mountain bikers who wanted to ride the trails.

The new partnership agreement will ensure Aston Hill's future. It will also provide funding for a team of Forestry Commission rangers who will look after the site. Aston Hill Mountain Bike Club will continue to manage the site on land owned by the Forestry Commission.

Aston Hill's technical trails are very different to the family cycling routes offered at nearby Wendover Woods. Aston Hill has reduced pressure and conflict on other sites within the wider Chilterns area, and has increased safety for all.

Senior Chairman of Aston Hill Mountain Bike Club Richard Abbott said: 'I think I speak for all the guys that have worked so hard over the past year running the club when I say we are really excited about this new partnership. We have big plans for the future. With the help and cooperation of CTC and the Forestry Commission we hope to develop Aston Hill into the best mountain bike venue in the south of England.'

CTC Aston Hill Membership is £68 and provides access during opening hours for a year, plus full CTC membership and third party insurance. Other memberships are available, including junior memberships and day passes.

aston hill
LEICESTER PARK

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Partner links

- Forestry Commission
- CTC
- Mountain Mario/Bafu UK
- Cycle Care
- Masternsigns
- Firecrest MTB Coaching

For all things 'hill' related

As well as contacting us via email news@rideastonhill.co.uk we now have a dedicated mobile number. So if you don't have time to email a question or need to know the trail conditions that day please feel free to call 07979 826914.

A number of us, along with the help of none committee members moderate and contribute to the Aston Hill forum at Southerndownhill forum. This can be a good place to ask for extra advice and even scrounge a lift so take a look at the following link...the Aston Hill is about halfway down the page.
<http://www.southerndownhill.com/forum/index.php>

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