

PAGE 45 WHAT BERLIN COULD TEACH BRITISH CITIES ABOUT TRANSPORT

CYCLISTS TAKE TO THE STREETS

Mass rides in London, Edinburgh and Rome as cyclists demand a cycle-friendly transport environment

THOUSANDS OF cyclists took to the streets in both London and Edinburgh on 28 April, just days before the elections for the London mayor and for local councils throughout Scotland.

The London Cycling Campaign predicted 10,000 people would join its Big Ride – and they did, defying awful weather to support LCC's 'Love London, Go Dutch' campaign. The day before, LCC reported that all five leading mayoral candidates had signed up to its campaign demands.

Meanwhile in Edinburgh, the Pedal on Parliament event (pictured) attracted 3,000 riders – ten times as many as had been expected by the grassroots coalition who organised it. This included individuals from CTC, the Edinburgh/Lothian campaign group Spokes, Glasgow-based Go Bikes, and the Cycling Embassy of Great Britain.

The ride was led off by round-the-world cyclist (and honorary CTC member) Mark Beaumont, along with Ian and Lynn McNicholl, father and step-mother of Andrew, a cyclist who was killed in Edinburgh in January.

CTC member Dave Brennan, one of the organisers, said: 'Today has shown our politicians that Scots want Scotland to be a cycle-friendly nation. Now it's up to them to act on the proposals we've set out in our manifesto.' He was referring to an eight-point list of demands similar to those of The Times' 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign.

Romans numerous

The Times manifesto has also provided the inspiration for the 'Salvaiciclisti' campaign in Italy, which attracted 50,000 cyclists onto Rome's streets on the same day. Their manifesto has gained the support of the mayors of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Ferrara and Naples.

The Times itself sponsored a mayoral hustings on cycling two days later, organised jointly with Sustrans. Like the other leading candidates, Boris Johnson – since re-elected as mayor – pledged to improve safety for cyclists and to support the expansion of London's cycle hire scheme. Johnson faced criticism for his policy of 'smoothing the traffic', but responded robustly, declaring his commitments to cycling in the capital. We now need to hold him to them.

For more, see lcc.org.uk/big-ride and pedalonparliament.org

**GET MORE ON
CAMPAIGNS**

Sign up to Cycle
Digest, CTC's quarterly
campaigns journal. Email
cherry.allan@ctc.org.uk



PEDALLING POWER PAGE 10

CTC President Jon Snow and Vice-President Josie Dew brief the Transport Select Committee on cyclists' safety



WELSH FESTIVAL OF CYCLING PAGE 13

Saddle up and head to Ruthin in North Wales this July for several days of scenic cycling in the Berwyns and beyond

SUBSCRIBE TO CYCLECLIPS, CTC'S FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER: SEND YOUR CTC MEMBERSHIP NUMBER TO MEMBERSHIP@CTC.ORG.UK

FROM THE CHAIR OF CTC

David Cox

It was a sunny Saturday in Sheffield for the 2012 AGM. Sheffield CTC, enjoying their centenary year, were very welcoming.



There were 55 people voting in the room and 8,888 participating through their proxy votes – a good level of engagement for a national organisation. There was full discussion on all the resolutions, and I was delighted to see the new Articles of Association approved by a substantial 93% majority. Not only does this clear the way for CTC's charity registration in England but it leaves a legacy of some clear, modern objectives to support cycling and cycle touring for the future. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this debate.

At the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation, it was wonderful to recognise the enthusiasm and hard work of so many volunteers and trophy winners. Reidvale Youth 'n' Action won our Youth Project of the year award. They were the young representatives of the fabulous renaissance in CTC Scotland.

Kaya Burgess from The Times gave a keynote address about the well-researched and CTC-supported Times campaign, 'Cities fit for cycling'. He has led this, inspired by the terrible collision involving his friend and colleague Mary Bowers outside their offices.

Next morning, more wonderful sunshine and CTC Sheffield invited visitors out on a choice of six local rides. I'll have to return to ride with them because I was off to a pharmacy with a prescription from the local Walk In Centre and a horribly sore throat!

CTC members agree that cycling facilities need to be of a higher standard



Photo: Geoff Waugh

Facilitating cycling?

WHERE AND when are well-designed cycle facilities a good option? That question was the subject of the survey to which over a thousand of you responded since the last issue of Cycle.

The respondents fall into three camps: 'hardened sceptics', who think segregation is dangerously designed and fear that refusing to use paths leads to antagonism with other road users; 'softened sceptics', who understand the need for good facilities, especially for children and novice cyclists; and 'segregation enthusiasts', who want to see more cycle facilities whatever the circumstances, arguing that segregated cycle tracks are key to achieving a big increase in cycle use.

The 'hardened sceptics' suggest that top priority be placed on improving road user behaviour. Both they and the largest group – the 'softened sceptics' – are

dissatisfied with both design quality and the maintenance of the road and cycle path network. The 'segregation enthusiasts' focus instead on the longer term strategic need for a good network of routes that feel safe; most still acknowledge the problem of bad design.

Despite this divergence of opinion, there remains a consensus that cycle facilities need to be of a far higher standard than they are, and for them to be only part of the solution alongside measures such as reducing traffic speed and volume.

The survey will inform CTC's future direction on cycle facility design and policy on infrastructure. CTC already lobbies to improve design on cycle facilities but a stronger campaigning stance will be required if we are to improve facilities to the standard cyclists desire.

A report on the survey is at ctc.org.uk/facility.

UK-WIDE CYCLING PUSH

ALONGSIDE EFFORTS

to influence the Whitehall Government's Cycling Stakeholder Forum (see page 10), similar efforts are underway across the UK.

Scotland's Transport Minister Keith Brown reiterated his target to increase cycle use to 10% of trips by 2020, during a very positive cross-party debate on cycling in the Scottish Parliament. A week earlier, he had held a meeting with cycling stakeholder groups on safety issues, where CTC Scotland's new chair Chris Oliver gave the opening presentation. Topics included the spread of 20mph limits in Edinburgh, cycle facilities in Glasgow and the promotional activities in both cities.

The Welsh Government has published a White Paper outlining an Active Travel Bill, thanks to a campaign led by Sustrans Cymru – see tinyurl.com/d2ttqy2. It would establish duties to create and maintain a network of high-quality walking and cycling routes. CTC will support this whilst arguing that the Bill must define 'high standards for cycle provision'.

Northern Ireland Assembly Member Conall McDevitt (SDLP) intends to introduce a Private Members' Bill calling for 20mph speed limits to be the norm for residential streets.



Scotland's Transport Minister Keith Brown reiterated his target: 10% of trips by bike by 2020

CTC AGM RESULTS

CTC MEMBERS VOTED

overwhelmingly in favour of amending CTC's Memorandum and Articles, in order that the organisation can be registered as a unified membership charity in England and Wales. (CTC is already registered as a charity in Scotland.) Almost 9,000 members voted at the AGM on 12 May, just before this issue of Cycle went to press, with 92.7% voting in favour.

An even bigger majority of 96.8% voted in favour of motion 2 – to enable those members who ask for it to receive CTC information by electronic means and not solely in printed form.

All other CTC Council supported motions were passed. The passing of Motion 7 means that the ordinary subscription rate will rise to £41 on 1 October 2012. Motion 8 was passed as a 'statement of intent', with the details to be worked out. Motions 3, 9, and 10 were lost.



93% voted to change CTC's articles and objects to enable registration as a charity



Maurice and Anthea Truby of CTC Eden Valley

Outstanding CTC members

THIS SPRING Certificates of Merit were awarded to Maurice and Anthea Truby of CTC Eden Valley and Brian Penny of the Southeast Essex Member Group for their services to CTC.

The Trubys founded what is now CTC Eden Valley in 1996. Thanks to their enthusiasm and hard work, it is an active group of 80 members. They have also led more than 40 successful CTC tours, primarily to Italy but also to Sri Lanka and at home in Cumbria. Both are Sustrans Rangers, active members of the Eden Cycling Campaign, and CTC Right to Ride reps. Maurice and Anthea are moving to Norfolk this year, and their

Certificate presentation provided an opportunity for CTC Eden Valley to say thanks and farewell.

Brian Penny is a cornerstone of the Southeast Essex Member Group and its parent organisation, Essex CTC. In 34 years, his roles have included president, welfare officer and promotions officer for Essex CTC and secretary, treasurer and minutes secretary for Southeast Essex. He has also served as event organiser for both groups, arranging many tours at home and abroad.

For more on CTC Awards, see tinyurl.com/82o9hnp

NEWS IN BRIEF

► CTC GRAND DRAW

The 2012 Grand Draw tickets are enclosed with this issue of Cycle. It is bigger and better than the last few years, with over £6,000 worth of cash and prizes to be won. Ticket prices are held at £1 each. This year we are distributing two books of ten tickets with every magazine and have extended the sales deadline to the end of August. The prize list includes a grand prize of £3,000, a Felt carbon road bike valued at £1,800 (pictured), a Giant Hybrid bike valued at £800. See the separate magazine address insert for details.



► BELLES ON BIKES

Bike Club in Scotland is delivering a project called Belles on Bikes, aimed at getting more women cycling in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Funded through Cycling Scotland, Bike Club officers have been recruiting female cyclists to impart their skills and knowledge to non-cyclists. The volunteers are being trained up as cycle instructors to deliver Bikeability Scotland Levels 1-3 to women, and will be provided with basic maintenance and leadership training. After this, the cycle instructors will deliver a series of fun events and local bike rides targeted at women returning to or new to cycling. Contact amy.hickman@bikeclub.org.uk (Edinburgh) or victoria.leiper@bikeclub.org.uk (Glasgow).

► CYCLISTS GAIN ACCESS

Cyclists have been granted access to a new Bus Rapid Transit route between Fareham and Gosport, after lobbying by Gosport Borough Council and CTC's local Right to Ride volunteer campaigners. It has been built on a disused railway line and will provide an alternative to the busy A32. It provides a direct route exclusively for cyclists and buses between the towns. Currently the new route only covers a third of the distance but existing links and access to the local train station make it a practical cycle-commuting option.

► CORRECTION

Last issue (p34) we said Hadleigh Farm was in Sussex. It is in Essex.

Your chance to get involved

CTC COUNCIL is the body elected by you to take CTC forward and ensure that what we do benefits cycling. Chair of Council David Cox said: 'CTC has a rich diversity amongst its membership and it is essential that this is represented on Council. Whatever your professional or cycling background, if you are interested in being on CTC Council, please get in touch.'

Council can assist those who want to stand but need help contacting members to

back their nomination.

Councillors are elected for a three-year period to represent the members in their region. Nominations are now sought for councillors for the South East, North West and East Midlands from 1 January 2013. Forms are available on the CTC website and from National Office. They must be returned by 10 August 2012.

If you want to know more, visit the CTC website, or talk to an existing Councillor (details on page 78) or the Chief



Chair David Cox wants you to get involved in helping steer CTC's future

Executive at National Office. You could also come along to a Council meeting to see how Council operates; call Sue Cherry on 01483 238302 if you are interested.