

news

CTC'S ANALYSIS OF
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN
THE CYCLING WORLD

PAGE 10 SHOULD CYCLISTS BE SEGREGATED? TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS



GOOD TIMES

Cycling in Britain has received a huge political boost thanks to The Times's 'Cities Fit for Cycling' campaign

THE TIMES has launched a major campaign to promote cycling and protect cyclists. Its eight-point manifesto calls for: more cycle facilities; action on major junctions; the fitting of sensors and mirrors on lorries; and better data on cycle use and cyclists' safety – all topics on which CTC had briefed Times journalists beforehand. The AA has also backed its call for 20mph speed limits to be the norm for urban streets.

The campaign resulted from a collision between a lorry and Times journalist Mary Bowers right outside the Times's offices in November 2011. She has not regained consciousness. Her colleagues, led by features writer Kaya Burgess and transport correspondent Philip Pank, launched the campaign to prevent further devastation to cyclists' lives.

Thanks to several front-page stories and editorials – not to mention two supplements and numerous additional

news stories – the campaign has had a huge political impact. It's been supported by cycling, road safety and motoring organisations, rival newspapers, and the UK public. David Cameron endorsed it during Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament on 22 February.

Support in Parliament

Times editor James Harding and numerous senior Times journalists had earlier held a meeting with CTC and other cycling organisations to discuss the future of the campaign, and pledge their support to it for the long term. On 25 February, the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG), which CTC supports, called a three-hour Commons debate on cycling and gave advance briefings to all MPs.

The debate saw 77 MPs cram into Westminster Hall, while just nine were sitting in the main Commons chamber. Led by APPCG co-chairs

Julian Huppert MP and Ian Austin MP, 57 MPs spoke eloquently about the benefits and joys of cycling, but also about the risks cyclists face, and the appalling weaknesses of the legal system's response when collisions occur.

There was an extraordinary cross-party consensus that action must be taken both to maximise the benefits and to minimise the risks that deter people from cycling themselves and from allowing children to do so.

CTC will be attending Transport Minister Norman Baker's 'Cycling Stakeholder Forum' and its safety sub-group, arguing the case that these fine words now need to be turned into a properly resourced action plan for more and safer cycling.

For more on the Times campaign and the Commons debate, see ctc.org.uk/cyclesafe

CTC'S GOT TALENT

YOU DON'T NEED to audition for a place on CTC Council, but you will need to win a few votes if you want to be part of CTC's governing body. If you have something to offer CTC by standing for Council – perhaps you have a real passion for some aspect of CTC activities, or you have business or other skills that are necessary to run a multi-million pound organisation – all you need to do is get a nomination form signed by other CTC members.

Full details and the formal call for nominations to represent members in the South East, North West and East Midlands will be in the next issue of Cycle. If you want to know more, why not see CTC Council in action and attend a meeting as an observer? You can also speak to any existing Council member or telephone Carol McKinley at National Office for information. Or have a look at the CTC website where there are details of how to stand, what is involved, and also the statements from existing Council members about why they stood. See ctc.org.uk/council.

GET MORE ON CAMPAIGNS

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



(Above) CTC Councillor for the North West Welna Bowden addresses the 2011 AGM



TIME TO CAST YOUR VOTE PAGE 14

It's the CTC AGM on 12 May. Here's what we'll be voting on. If you can't be there, fill in the proxy voting form you received.



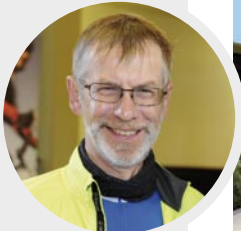
CTC CHALLENGE RIDE SERIES PAGE 19

CTC's sportives kicked off in February. Join us for the next two events in Guildford (26-27 May) and York (23 June).

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

Being on CTC Council is a privilege but it means time spent in meetings and on the computer when it would be tempting to go cycling instead.



Recently, however, we've had – as Ian Dury used to sing – some 'Reasons to be Cheerful'.

Recovering from a weekday ride, I was delighted to receive a call from the Charity Commission for England and Wales. This started a very positive dialogue. Full details of the progress made are in Barry Flood's article on page 12. They now understand all that we do to encourage cycling and its public benefit, and have suggested a clarification of our objectives. These draft objectives will be voted on at the 2012 AGM. I urge you to use the proxy form provided and vote in support of Council's motion so that we can all get on doing what we do best: supporting cycling.

Second reason to be cheerful is our lead story, the success of the Times campaign and the House of Commons debate. It's encouraging to see this mainstream support, with so many MPs declaring their own enthusiasm for cycling, backed up by letters sent in by cycling constituents. Lobbying of local MPs does work.

Third reason to be cheerful is that, following Kevin Mayne's move to Europe, we have been successful in appointing Gordon Seabright as our new CEO. Gordon will work with Council on a new strategic plan. Where do you want cycling to be in 2020 and how can we achieve our ambitions? It's the start of a conversation and I'm looking forward to hearing your views.



Pictures: Transport for London's plans for Bow roundabout

London junctions in spotlight

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON (TfL) has launched a review of cyclists' safety at key junctions on its Cycle Superhighways and other locations. Cycle safety in London is a major political issue: 16 cyclists were killed in the capital last year, most of them at junctions and 12 of them involving lorries, buses or vans. Two cyclists died at the Bow roundabout in east London within weeks of a new Cycle Superhighway being opened through the roundabout, contrary to the advice of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC).

TfL has also published a proposed redesign for the Bow roundabout, featuring advance signals for cyclists – something CTC and other groups have long called for in the UK. CTC feels that the current proposals are

inadequate but, with minor tweaks, could become a model of best practice.

Meanwhile LCC has launched its 'Love London, Go Dutch' campaign, aimed at enlisting support from the London Mayoral candidates for a vision of a city with much higher and safer cycle use. With polls showing Boris Johnson and Ken Livingstone running neck and neck, the cyclists' vote could really count.

LCC has published proposals for a people-friendly redesign of Parliament Square and Stratford High Street (near the Olympics site). It is also organising 'The Big Ride' on Saturday 28 April, ahead of the Mayoral vote, calling for cyclists to demonstrate support for a vision of more and safer cycling.

More at lcc.org.uk and tfl.gov.uk/bowroundabout.

NEWS IN BRIEF

› 500 WORST JUNCTIONS

The Times has launched a website where cyclists can identify the junctions that most need to be redesigned in the interests of cyclists' safety, thanks to a suggestion put to them by CTC. When the Times's manifesto called for action to identify 'the 500 most dangerous junctions', we said that looking at cyclist casualties might prioritise junctions that are well used by cyclists, rather than ones which cyclists avoid because they are too hazardous to contemplate using. We suggested the best way to deal with this was simply to ask cyclists to identify the junctions they felt most needed attention. The Times agreed to our suggestion, and will share the data with us and with local cycle campaign groups. For more information, or to nominate junctions, visit thetimes.co.uk/cyclesafe

› PEDALLING ON THE PROM

Conwy Council has finally agreed to permit cycling on the wide seafront at Llandudno for a one-year trial. This follows a nine-year campaign by CTC's local Right to Ride representative Roy Spilsbury in the teeth of fierce opposition from some local councillors, residents and the landowner, who persistently claimed that a badly drafted bylaw meant it was illegal. CTC always disputed this, while arguing that the prohibition was in any case irrational when cycling is permitted on around 125 seafronts around Britain. The ambition of the former Wales environment minister Jane Davidson to have a cycleable Wales coastal path is one key step closer to being achieved, thanks to Roy's incredible patience and tenacity. For more information, visit the CTC Cymru website that Roy maintains: cyclingnorthwales.co.uk

› MAGAZINE PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to GV Fones of Wombourne, South Staffordshire, who was first out of the hat to win £250 worth of Ana Nichoola cycle clothing, which was the prize draw last issue. Nicky Vaughan of Martock, Somerset, won the runner-up prize of £125 worth of Ana Nichoola clothing.



CTC OFF-ROAD NEWS UPDATES GO ONLINE
to ctc.org.uk/mtb for CTC's roundup of mountain biking news and events.

Dalby Forest is England's biggest trail centre and was twice the venue for the MTB XC World Cup (below)

Dalby gains Pace

CTC HAS JOINED with Pace Cycles and the Forestry Commission to operate a new trail centre business, Dalby Bike Barn, at England's biggest off-road venue. Dalby Forest has over 40 miles of waymarked routes, including the World Cup cross-country course and one of the original bike parks, Dixon's Hollow. There's great road riding there too, as well as a Community Resource Centre and Go-Ape's zip wires.

Pace Cycles Ltd is one of the UK's original and iconic mountain bike brands, and the firm has a long history of involvement with North Yorkshire's Dalby Forest. Pace is based at Low Dalby, and Pace MD Adrian Carter has been

developing bikes in the forest for almost 25 years.

Pace and CTC's goal is to make Dalby Forest a recreation and social hub for local, regional and national visitors, a Centre of Excellence that builds upon its reputation as a World Cup venue and Tour of Britain stage finish.

CTC's Education and Training dept will use Dalby as its flagship base to provide on-road and off-road courses and qualifications. 'We will also seek additional funding in the area to support local and diverse communities,' said CTC Senior Off-road Officer Dan Cook, 'enabling access to environments and cycling in line with CTC's empowering

communities programmes.'

Dalby Bike Barn will provide a full cycle hire service in conjunction with a high quality retail experience supplying a range of bike brands and accessories. For more information, see promtb.net and pacecycles.com.



CTC Scotland's new team

CTC SCOTLAND IS delighted to announce the appointment of Chris Oliver as the new Chair of CTC Scotland. Chris, a trauma and hand surgeon, is based in Edinburgh and takes over as Chair from Peter Hawkins, who stepped down from the post last October.

'Times are changing very fast for cycling in Scotland,' Chris said of his appointment, 'and CTC has an important role in being the voice for all cyclists in

Scotland. I'm looking forward to leading the new Scottish CTC team and championing more and safer cycling.'

In addition to Chris, the CTC Scotland Committee consists of Secretary Donald Urquhart, Treasurer Mike Gray, National Councillor for Scotland Peter Hayman, and co-optee Liz Farnworth, plus delegates from both the CTC Member Groups and Right to Ride network and the wider membership. More details at ctcscotland.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF (CONT)

▶ LOCAL CYCLING LINKS

CTC local campaigners are celebrating important new cycle facilities in Weymouth, Wendover and Cambridgeshire. CTC campaigners Ken Read and Ann Neale were proud to see a new wheelchair-friendly cycle and pedestrian bridge installed across the Newstead Road in Weymouth, as part of a Sustrans 'Connect 2' project, which they had strongly supported. In Wendover, former CTC Councillor Laura Ferguson successfully overcame objections to the creation of the Wendover Cycle Path, enabling the scheme to go ahead with full backing from Buckinghamshire County Council, who formally opened it at the start of March. Meanwhile in Cambridgeshire, local Right to Ride representative Peter Quest has written an article in the new issue of Cycle Digest (see ctc.org.uk/cycledigest) describing the new cycle track alongside the Cambridge to St Ives guided busway as having been turned around from the original plans for a poorly surfaced token facility into possibly 'the best new route in the UK'. He sees it both as an excellent link between Cambridge and other nearby settlements, and as a wonderful day out in some lovely Cambridgeshire countryside.

▶ AUTUMN CHANGES

Some Autumn Tints Cycling Comrades may not be aware that there have been meetings to discuss the future of the Tints due to insurance concerns. In November, the committee resigned. A letter has been sent out to known members; if you have not received one, please contact fellow Tints or your coordinator for the latest situation. There may not now be a national club due to the expense and effort required, so be sure contact your coordinator. John Radford

▶ STOUGHTON BIKING

Following the success of the partnerships between the Forestry Commission, CTC and the Aston Hill, Rogate and Tilgate Mountain Clubs, we are continuing to expand the concept, adding another site in Stoughton. On Wednesday 9 May, mountain bikers will be meeting in the Hare and Hounds pub in Stoughton to form a new CTC member group. For more details, contact CTC's Ian Warby: 07776 203803, ian.warby@ctc.org.uk.