

PAGE 54 HOW BICYCLES KEEP RURAL AFRICAN ECONOMIES MOVING



Photo: Adam Coffman

Cycling MPs Ian Austin (Lab), Sarah Wollaston (Con) and Julian Huppert (LD) will be key panellists for the inquiry

CYCLING TO GET NO. 10 BACKING

As the campaign to Get Britain Cycling gathers momentum, a high-level announcement on cycling is expected soon

PRIME MINISTER David Cameron or his Deputy, Nick Clegg, is expected to launch a new cycling policy framework in the coming months. Transport Minister Norman Baker MP indicated to delegates at an Active Travel conference in Leicester last November. Mr Baker said that the Prime Minister supported The Times's 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign, and that we could anticipate hearing more on this from the PM or Deputy PM early in 2013. The announcement followed pressure from CTC and other cycling groups to 'Get Britain Cycling'.

An effective plan for more and safer cycling would require cross-departmental support, as CTC and Sustrans made clear to former Transport Secretary Justine Greening MP last summer. That's because cycling's benefits are so diverse, improving not just transport but also the environment, health, businesses, and sport. Sharing the costs as well as the

benefits among different departments would provide a properly-resourced plan. This in turn requires cabinet-level co-ordination and leadership.

There are some signs this message on cross-departmental, and even cross-party, support for cycling is being heeded. The Leicester conference was opened by politicians from all three main parties.

It also saw the launch of new guidelines on the promotion of Active Travel from NICE, the National Institution for Health and Clinical Excellence. These focus on promotional measures, such as encouraging cycle use in schools and workplaces; CTC's Workplace Challenge programme is specifically commended. The NICE guidelines also recognise that the transport environment for cyclists, and people's perception of it, both need improving, and that there is no single solution to get people cycling.

There are other signs that political

support for cycling is growing. Many submissions were made to the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG) inquiry on how to Get Britain Cycling. These came from local authorities, transport and engineering institutions, health organisations and the police, as well as from CTC and other cycling groups. The final report is due in April, after which the APPCG is planning another parliamentary debate on cycling.

There is already a parliamentary Early Day Motion to Get Britain Cycling (EDM 679), supported by 119 MPs at the time of writing. Go online ctc.org.uk/get-britain-cycling to urge your MP to sign it, using an automatically generated email. If your MP has signed it, the website will suggest a 'thank you' email. Do send this: it is important for MPs to know that their support is recognised.

For more, see <http://tinyurl.com/a2yjk9m>

Coming up



TEAM CTC LAUNCHES

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CTC is launching a women's cycle racing team for 2013 to promote and inspire women's cycling in the UK



DRIVING OUT INJUSTICE

PAGE 12

Government minister supports dialogue on the legal system's inadequate response to the issue of bad driving



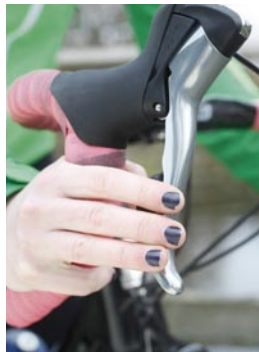
CTC TOURIST COMPETITION

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Chester and North Wales dominated the CTC Tourist Competition, winning ladies', team and overall prizes

GET MORE ON CAMPAIGNS

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



As Cycle went to press, five riders were confirmed for the team of six. Guest riders will also race with the team

CTC'S WOMEN'S RACE TEAM

CTC IS launching a UK-based women's cycling team. The team will be made up of six core riders of Elite, Category 1 and 2 status, as well as guest riders.

Chief Executive of CTC Gordon Seabright said: 'There's clearly an imbalance in the sport, especially when it comes to funding the women's side. We want to show by actions and not just by words that we support women's cycling.'

He continued: 'We're hoping that CTC's support will translate into inspiring more

women to take up cycling. Getting women riding for sport or leisure is of course doubly important as women often are the ones encouraging the next generation to cycle, cementing a lasting legacy for women's cycling in the UK.'

The team will compete in six overseas high-profile UCI races and the National Women's Individual and Team Road Race series, whilst also taking part in the Smithfield and Newport nocturnes.

Riders on the team will also act as cycling ambassadors,

encouraging cycling as part of an active lifestyle by taking part in events and mass participation rides.

Confirmed Team CTC riders are: Lydia Boylan (Elite), Nicola Juniper (Cat 2), Helen McKay (Cat 2), Tamina Oliver (Cat 1) and Astrid Wingler (Cat 2).

The team will be fuelled by green energy uk and protected by specialist cycle insurers Butterworth Spengler. Team riders will be kitted out by Madison and equipped with top-end N7even 2013 bikes by Merlin Cycles.

Action stations!

AN AUTOMATED folding-bike hire facility and the addition of 2,000 cycle spaces across one operator's network were two of the achievements celebrated at this year's National Cycle Rail Awards. The awards, run by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), recognise the work by train companies, industry groups and individuals across the country to encourage the combined use of cycle and rail travel.

The Brompton Dock Hire facility won the Innovation Award. It is fully automated and is open 24 hours a day. Users register online and pay for bike hire automatically with debit or credit cards. It was installed in July at Guildford station, and has been rolled out to four other stations with plans for installation throughout the UK by summer 2013.

Paul Best from Southern Railway was named Cycling Champion of the year. He helped install 500 more cycle parking spaces than his 1,500 target, and did so 19 months ahead of schedule.

Awards also went to South West Trains,



This Brompton Dock Hire facility is entirely automated

Photo: ATOC

for Best Customer Service, and Southport Cycle Centre for the Station of the Year. More details of these and the other 2012 Cycle Rail Award winners are online at cycle-rail.co.uk.

Not all parking installed at stations is worthy of awards, of course. Commuter Simon Mungford had his head cut open at Sevenoaks station on 2 November when the upper tray of a two-tier rack fell down as he was parking his bike in the lower rack. Sevenoaks Cycle Forum has criticised the facility, while Network Rail has said they are 'working with Southeastern and the cycle rack manufacturer to establish what happened.'

FROM THE CHAIR OF CTC

David Cox

FIAB is CTC's sister organisation in Italy. I was invited to their conference to talk about how we had expanded our membership, services, influence and income to become one of the major European cycling organisations.

It was a wonderful weekend in the little town of Cremona in the Po Valley, meeting fellow cyclists and comparing cycling and campaigning in the two countries. FIAB is a federation of local cycling groups focusing on utility cycling and touring.

Italy is also seeing a rapid expansion in cycling. The Times's excellent 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign was copied by a new group, SalvaCiclisti, whose bloggers persuaded Italian papers to adopt the same eight-point plan. They then used social media to organise 50,000 cyclists to 'pedal on parliament' in Rome.

Campaigners and enthusiasts have all been waiting for years for the tide to turn in cycling's favour. Now it has, in the UK and in Italy, and there's a whole new wave of cyclists. The successful cycling organisations will be those who ride this wave.

They will offer a genuine welcome to the new cyclists and take maximum advantage of opportunities to improve conditions for all cyclists. This should ensure a modal shift to cycling as a safe and enjoyable means of transport and delight for future generations.

CTC exists to Promote, Inspire and Protect cycling and we need to be a dynamic, efficient, ambitious and outward looking organisation. I hope that you will agree that we are up to that challenge.

Back in Cremona, between conference sessions I borrowed a hotel bike and pottered around the town. I'd like to return for some relatively flat touring!



EDINBURGH TRAM TRACKS UNSAFE

THE CYCLISTS' Defence Fund (CDF) is supporting a legal challenge to the failure to consider cyclists' safety in the design of Edinburgh's tram scheme, after Edinburgh-based Thompson's Solicitors found that over 70 cyclists have reported falls or injuries linked to the tram tracks, before the trams have even started running.

The Cyclists' Defence Fund charity was initially set up by CTC to address issues relating to cycling and the law. Lothians-based cycle campaigns group Spokes had long been concerned that cyclists' safety was being compromised, as the scheme ran increasingly late and over budget. Spokes, CTC Scotland and other campaigners are now calling for Princes Street to be for trams, cycles and pedestrians only, as a way to free up the space needed for cyclists to be able to use the street safely.

Last year, the publicity surrounding cyclists' deaths in London prompted calls for private prosecutions for corporate manslaughter over allegedly unsafe junction designs. However, CDF now believes it may be more fruitful to raise the issues of designers' liabilities through a challenge in civil (rather than criminal) law. In this respect, the sheer numbers of tram-track-related injuries in Princes Street are therefore important not just in their own right, but also as an opportunity to raise wider points of legal principle.

As CDF Chair Chris Field explains: 'Local cycle campaigners had repeatedly voiced concerns about the hazards of Edinburgh's



Photo: iStockphoto.com

tram scheme. It is clear that they were right. However this legal challenge isn't just about cyclists and tram-lines. It is about the duties of highway authorities to take proper account of cyclists' safety, whatever they are designing. Given the media focus on cyclists' deaths at Kings Cross and the Bow roundabout in London, this case clearly has a much wider significance.'

To donate to the Cyclists' Defence Fund visit cyclistsdefencefund.org.uk or text BIKE38 plus the amount you wish to donate (£3, £5 or £10) to 70070.

SIGN UP FOR CYCLECLIPS

CTC's free weekly email newsletter: email your membership no. to membership@ctc.org.uk

Alex Moulton dies



DR ALEX MOULTON, the pioneer of small-wheeled bicycles, died on 9 December 2012. He was 92. Just a month earlier, there was a celebration at his Bradford on Avon home to mark the 50th

anniversary of his eponymous bicycle, which became an icon of the 1960s. Still made today, his bicycle uses front and rear suspension to put small wheels back on par with larger ones in performance terms – unlike the suspension-less designs of the 1970s that came after his. Moulton frames also split apart for easier transportation.

Dr Moulton was involved with another 1960s icon: the Mini car. With Sir Alec Issigonis, he designed the 'Hydrolastic' and 'Hydragas' suspension systems, which were used in the Mini and in other British cars such as the MGF. He had studied Mechanical Sciences at Cambridge and had joined the family firm, Spencer Moulton rubber manufacturers, in 1945.

More information on Dr Moulton and his bicycle is at moultonbicycles.co.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

► JAMES HARDING CALLS TIME

CTC was saddened by the resignation in December of Times editor James Harding. A cyclist himself, he provided unstinting support for The Times's 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign, launched in the aftermath of the horrific injuries to Times journalist Mary Bowers – see page 12. Harding appeared alongside CTC President Jon Snow and Vice President Josie Dew as a witness at the Commons Select Committee's inquiry on road safety last Spring, as well as chairing a hustings event on cycling for the London Mayoral candidates last April. Writing to him on his departure, CTC Chief Executive Gordon Seabright said: 'If 2012 marks the year when we finally started to Get Britain Cycling, this will be something for which you will deserve a great deal of personal credit.'

► NEW CTC MEMBER GROUP

Thirteen CTC members have signed a notice calling for the formation of the Wombourn CTC Member Group. This resolution will be considered at a meeting to be held at Wombourn Institute, Church Road, Wombourn, WV5 9EZ on Friday 22 February at 8pm. Assuming members attending are in agreement, the Wombourn Member Group will be formed in accordance with the Policy Handbook for CTC Member Groups, Organising Committees and Regional Groups.

► CTC GOES GREENER

CTC National Office has moved to an environmentally sensitive electricity provider, green energy uk, in line with the new strategy. This follows the switch by Cycle magazine to paper approved by the Forest Stewardship Council, which guarantees that felled trees are replaced.

► CYCLE HUBS OPEN

Secure, undercover cycle parking monitored by CCTV has been installed by Transport for Greater Manchester in City Tower, Piccadilly Gardens in the city and in Bury. Access to the new Cycle Hubs is via a membership swipe card, which costs £15 per year for parking or £30 for parking plus locker space and shower use at the City Tower site. **For more information, visit cycling.tfgm.com.**