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on p76

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rate' not premium rate.*

Cycle promotes the work
of CTC. Cycle's circulation
is approx. **51,000**. CTC is
the UK's largest cycling
membership organisation,
with **66,724** members
plus affiliates

CTC Patron:
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Cyclists' Touring Club
(CTC) a Company Limited
by Guarantee, registered
in England No 25185,
registered as a charity
in England and Wales
Charity No 1147607 and in
Scotland No SC042541.
Registered office:
Parklands, Railton Road,
Guildford, GU2 9JX.

Cycle Magazine
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Cycle is published six
times per year on behalf of
CTC by James Pembroke
Publishing, 90 Walcot
Street, Bath, BA1 5BG.
Tel: 01225 337777. Cycle
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CTC. Advertising bookings
are subject to availability,
the terms and conditions
of James Pembroke
Publishing, and final
approval by CTC.
Printed by
Precision Colour Printing
Haldane, Halesfield 1
Telford, TF7 4QQ.
Tel: 01952 585585

Cover: This year's Tweed
Run, by Selim Korycki

{ FROM }

THE EDITOR



'HIT SOMEONE over the head
with a discarded chrome fender
and kill them: life. Take the
precaution of attaching the
fender to a car and kill them: six
months, licence to drive
temporarily suspended.'

That's from Autogeddon,
Heathcote Williams's polemic
against the motor car, published
in 1991. If anything, the second
part is exaggerated: it's common
for drivers who kill to receive no
custodial sentence at all.

The law deals with intent as
much as consequences. So
drivers who kill aren't literally
getting away with murder. How
about manslaughter? Killing
through 'gross negligence'
sounds apt for the worst cases.

Time and again, however, self-
evidently dangerous drivers are
not even charged with
dangerous driving. They're
charged with the lesser offence
of careless driving. Careless!
Careless is when you spill a cup
of coffee. Not looking where
you're going in a vehicle
weighing upwards of a tonne, at
a speed of up to 60mph, is surely
by definition dangerous.

The roll call of cyclists who
have been killed or injured by
drivers who couldn't be
bothered to look where they
were going would make grim
reading, and the paltry sentences
they got would make grimmer
reading still. For the cyclists'
families, it must be devastating,
insulting, infuriating.

We should be angry. Turn to
page 46 to read about CTC's
campaign for Road Justice.

DAN JOYCE



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Left: Steve Fabes

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