

News, views, & events

CYCLE SHORTS

THIS MONTH AWARDS TIME AT CYCLING UK'S GET TOGETHER. LORRY SAFETY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN. MOTIONS FOR THE 2017 AGM



Will Hsu, Charles Stevens and Tom Hibbs with Welna Bowden

Annual Get Together

WINNING JOURNEYS

Young Cycling UK award winners pointed the way to a bright future at our Annual Members' Get Together in October. **Tony Upfold** reports



TONY UPFOLD
Communications & Media Officer

YOUNG CYCLISTS Tom Hibbs, Charles Stevens and Will Hsu took centre stage at Cycling UK's Annual Members' Get Together in Manchester. Tom, Charles and Will had taken very different cycling journeys, but they had one thing in common on 8 October – they were all winners of our top annual award. They were presented with the Arthur Moss Medallion as our Volunteers of the Year, having also been named joint winners of our Young Achiever of the Year accolade.

Tom (21) was homeless little more than a year ago but has turned his life around since being introduced to Ceracycloan, a bike restoration and education centre in Stockport which is affiliated to Cycling UK and involved in our Big Bike Revival project. School friends Charles and Will, who have both now started at university,

pedalled 10,000km from Beijing to Tehran over 114 days this summer, raising more than £30,000 for a children's charity. Charles (19) and Will, who was 18 at the time of the ride, have submitted a claim to Guinness World Records to be recognised as the youngest people ever to cycle the Silk Road.

The achievements of Tom, Charles and Will were among many inspirational stories as the conference floor of the Holiday Inn near Manchester Piccadilly station was taken over for a celebration of all things cycling. About 100 Cycling UK members attended the Annual Get Together.

They were joined by four special guests: Isla Rowntree, founder of children's bike specialists Islabikes and a champion cyclocross and cross-country MTB racer; Julian Sayerer, who broke the world record for a circumnavigation of the globe by bicycle in 2009; Caroline Russell, transport campaigner, London Assembly Member and Green Party Councillor for Highbury East ward in Islington; and Stephen Fabes, a London doctor who spent six years pedalling 53,568 miles across 75 different countries.

CYCLING WORKSHOPS

Cycling UK Chief Executive Paul Tuohy welcomed everyone to the Get Together and highlighted the work carried out by Cycling UK over the past year.

He then hosted a Q&A session involving Stephen, Julian, Caroline and Isla, with questions both from the audience and from members via email. Topics included equipment for endurance rides, how to encourage more women to cycle, and making streets safer.

Members then split into three workshop groups to listen to presentations and get involved in discussions about the Space for Cycling campaign, the Big Bike Revival, and Member Groups promotion. Stella Shackel (Merseyside Cycling Campaign) and Eric Booth (Bristol Cycling Campaign) spoke about Space for Cycling, while helping showcase the Big Bike Revival was Eve Holt, project co-ordinator for Whalley Range on Wheels (one of our award winners). Colin Waters, secretary of Fleet Cycling, shared his experiences and tips about using social media in the Member Groups workshop.

After lunch, it was awards time – starting with the winners of the Tourist Competition, which resulted in a clean sweep for Chester & North Wales CTC.

Stay in touch

CYCLECLIPS: free weekly email newsletter – email your membership number to membership@cyclinguk.org
CAMPAIGN NEWS: monthly campaigns bulletin. Sign up at cyclinguk.org/subscribe-to-cycle-campaign-news



Lorries with better visibility will be mandatory in London

Lorry safety

HANG BACK? HANG ON...

Government video blames cyclists for bad driving by lorry drivers, but the London Mayor is pushing for safer lorries in the capital. **Duncan Dollimore** reports

LORRY SAFETY was in the spotlight again this autumn. In the last week of September, there were conflicting messages for cyclists. Monday's news was full of woe with the launch of the Government's new cycle safety THINK campaign, featuring a now infamous 'Hang Back' video, which implied that it was always the cyclist's fault if they found themselves on the inside of lorry.

On Wednesday of that week, Cycling UK wrote to Andrew Jones, the Minister responsible for the campaign, explaining why 'Hang Back' was half-baked and politely inviting him to withdraw the victim-blaming campaign and re-think THINK. He didn't.

There was a tacit acknowledgement that the video showed the lorry driver and not

the cyclist performing an unsafe manoeuvre: THINK explained that cyclists needed to be aware that HGV drivers might make fatal errors. But it's a strange road safety message to ignore the lorry driver's responsibility and tell the cyclists to expect and avoid careless drivers.

Fortunately, Friday's news was more loving and giving: London Mayor Sadiq Khan picked an opportune moment to announce his plans to implement a five-star safety rating system for lorries in the capital. The standard is based on the level of vision the driver has from the cab. The most dangerous lorries, where the driver can't directly see pedestrians in front of the cab or cyclists on their nearside, get fewer stars and will be banned from London's streets by 2020. Only the safest lorries will be allowed by 2025, and from next year Transport for London (TfL) and the Borough Councils will require safer lorry standards in all their contracts.

Earlier this year, Cycling UK responded to a TfL consultation on safer lorries, setting out a suggested 'road map' towards the wider uptake of safer lorries with better vision standards, using council procurement powers to promote this. The Mayor's new plan reflects our recommendations.



DUNCAN DOLLIMORE
Senior Road Safety and Legal Campaigner

Survey Results

OFF-ROAD ACCESS

Cycling UK's off-road survey, designed to give us an idea of how people use the Rights of Way network in England and Wales, closed shortly before Cycle went to press. We'll have a full report soon. For background details, see bit.ly/cyclinguk-offroadsurvey

11,482

PEOPLE completed the survey



91

PERCENT rate off-road cycling fairly or very important for their mental health

65

PERCENT of those using footpaths quote 'lack of choice', 52% 'to avoid traffic danger'



OVER 50 PERCENT

back 'increased access' as the number one off-road campaign goal

62

PERCENT say off-road cycling is their primary form of exercise



TWO-THIRDS

of rights of way rides are local, beginning at the rider's door

90

PERCENT say off-road cycling is fairly or very important for their physical health



74

PERCENT consider the rights of way system unsuitable





DAVID COX
Chair of Cycling UK's
Board of Trustees

Cycling UK AGM

MOTIONING US FORWARD

Cycling UK policy is steered by AGM resolutions, some of which are proposed by members. Careful consideration and wording are key, as **David Cox** explains

WE WOULD like to welcome three new Trustees to our board at Cycling UK. With an unprecedented 3,460 votes cast, Dr Janet Atherton (1,875 votes) and Rachel Kirkwood (1,200) were elected into post and are due to start in office from January 2017. They will be joined by Dr Julian Huppert (2,066 votes) as our Senior Independent Trustee.

Cycling UK has gone through a massive, positive transformation in recent years, affecting governance, organisation, and branding. It is encouraging to see that our members are behind us. Take our Annual Members' Get Together in Manchester in October, which brimmed with energy and a strong desire from all who attended to help develop our work and impact as a thriving membership charity (see p10).

The richness of all democratically-driven membership organisations lies in the thoughts, feelings and expectations of their members. One of our recent campaign



victories, Eurostar's back-peddalling on boxing up bikes for travel, started life as a concern raised by members. We raised the issue with Eurostar and put pressure on them to change their policy.

Eventually, we tipped the balance in favour of cycle-friendly travel.

Beyond our campaigning efforts, our AGM helps to guide us on the effective administration of our 138-year-old organisation. It helps to steer governance, how we market ourselves to prospective members, and how we develop programmes to help people who could benefit most from making cycling a part of everyday life.

As we head towards our 2017 AGM, our staff and Trustee teams are seeking motions from our members. With your help, we can make our next AGM a truly progressive, clear-minded debate. To feed in your ideas for potential practical future policies ahead of the AGM, first read our online guide at cyclinguk.org/agm2017 or write to national office for paper copy. We will also be sending out this guide to our Member Group secretaries for local circulation.

We look forward to reading your proposed motions, and to discussing them with you as we head towards another vibrant AGM in spring next year.

“We are seeking AGM motions from our members”

Quick releases

SPACE FOR CYCLING

Our reinvigorated Space for Cycling campaign hit the road in Cambridge with a local campaigners' workshop and hasn't stopped since, so far taking in Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh and Crewe. We've been exploring the local and national political landscape round cycling, and sharing the means to lead effective campaigns in your local area. The roadshow is now due to visit Bristol, Cardiff, Plymouth, Durham and London. Find out more and sign up to attend at cyclinguk.org/space-cycling-workshop.

JUSTICE FOR MICK

On 11 October, Cycling UK's Cyclists' Defence Fund was in the Old Bailey, as our private prosecution of Gail Purcell for causing the death of cyclist Michael Mason by careless driving went to its second hearing. Ms Purcell pleaded not guilty to the charge and the case will now go to trial on 3 April. Thanks to over 1,700 members and supporters, we've raised close to £66k, but given the case is listed for a six-day trial, we still need to raise more funds. To support Justice for Mick, head to: justgiving.com/fundraising/justiceformichael.

BRITISH CYCLE QUEST

Roger and Jenny McNae from Herefordshire have completed the British Cycle Quest, cycling 11,000 miles around the UK to visit all 402 checkpoints. Days later, Sue and Stuart Worthy of Nottinghamshire completed it too. For more, visit cyclinguk.org/british-cycle-quest.

MIDDLEBURN LIVES ON
Middleburn Components has been bought by BETD Components. See mountainbikecomponents.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The Annual Cyclists' Carol Service at Meriden is at 1pm on 18 December at St Laurence Parish Church.