

Southampton Cycling Campaign Newsletter

November 2003



I am shamed. I have just spent a few days on the quiet roads and scenic paths of the Isles of Scilly and, despite week involving transport on trains, a plane, boats, buses, cars and lots of walking, I didn't once get on a bike! Needless to say that as soon as returned, I was keen to rest my tired walking muscles (and notch up 7 modes of transport in a week) and get back on my bike.

In this issue, George Platts describes how he raised his family on bikes (not literally). There is also lots of news of cycle routes and events. Some of the negative aspects of cycling, namely bad driving and threatening behaviour, are also raised for discussion. Please let us know what your experiences reporting these to the Police have been. The brainstorm competition is still running. Are you curious to know what 'brainfood' is? We have a special Christmas event instead of the meeting in December – everyone is welcome – bring along any food and drink you think is appropriate. Also, bring along to this event any Campaign literature that you would like us to archive (I know a few people who's floorboards will be celebrating!)



Stay warm and rosy, and Merry Christmas!
Izzy

In this issue...

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Going Dutch | page 2 |
| How the Netherlands inspired one man's lifestyle | |
| News | page 3 |
| So many snippets, we've put them all together | |
| To Report or Not To Report? | page 4 |
| How do you deal with bad driving and abuse? | |
| A small workout for your mental muscles | page 6 |
| Our latest competition | |
| Events | page 7 |
| All hands on deck! | page 7 |
| Contact information | page 8 |
| Membership application | page 8 |

Going Dutch

George Platts

I'm 53 and cycling has been my main means of transport for nearly 30 years. I did not travel outside of the UK until my mid-twenties, when I visited Holland. Visiting Dutch friends in Rotterdam, I borrowed a bicycle and explored Rotterdam and visited Amsterdam. "This is the pace of life I would like to have in England" I thought and from that moment I decided to live as a Dutchman in England.



Photo courtesy George Platts, Sustrans, Winchester and Bristol

A multi-storey bike park in the Amsterdam

For the fraction of the cost of a small car I have a very good touring bicycle, large panniers and a wardrobe of clothes to keep me comfortable throughout the year. I cycle 12 miles to work (Winchester to Southampton), my bicycle carrying up to 15 stone (I am 6 feet tall and weigh twelve and a half stone, the rest is luggage/ shopping etc.).

I spend time in Bristol where I have another bicycle waiting for me at Temple Meads station (locked to the stands outside the Transport Police Office on the main platform) and when I travel to visit family and friends in London, Leeds and Newcastle-upon-Tyne I can book my bicycle onto a train for free.

My daughters, now 21 and 19, were ferried around Bristol from a very early age on a modified mountain bike (for sturdiness and low gears). I always managed to find a safe route through the busiest parts of the city at any time of day by using parks, pedestrian crossings and bridges etc. By the time they were teenagers, Rita and Maisie knew their way around the city and were confident to travel around the city by foot, bicycle, bus and occasionally taxi. They had not been inactively strapped into the back of Dad's / Mum's Taxi.

On a recent visit to Amsterdam I observed a number of parents ferrying babies and toddlers around the city in a modern version of a butcher's bike : small front wheel / large plastic container for baby carrier or toddler(s). I saw two little girls happily playing with dolls as Dad cycled through the traffic near the Centraal Station ! It could double as a good container for the weeks' shopping too.

News

Recent and forthcoming happenings

Cycle Forum

The latest Southampton Cycle Forum was held on 23rd September. This was run as a workshop looking at the cycle network of Southampton. The workshop produced maps of desired CORE cycle routes in Southampton, then adding LINK routes on to these and finally looking at particular black spots. We look forward to the outcome of this soon. Thank you to Jennifer Bourdillon and John Heath who represented the Campaign.

Chandlers Ford station

The new Chandlers Ford railway station officially opened Sunday 19th October. This has cycleways connecting directly to it with signing showing distance to it along the cycleways in Valley Park. A new cycle ramp from Bournemouth Road into the station has been built in place of an old flight of steps. Cycle parking is available for commuters.

Active Transport event

Southampton City Council are in the early stages of planning a “mega” event for January 2004 with Solent Transport partners and the Southampton City Primary Care Trust as 'Active Transport' with a health and fitness emphasis.

In Southampton Without a Car

This event on 7th October was organised by Magnus Mullinor, Academic and Development Management of Southampton Institute, in partnership with Southampton City Council. The event aimed to promote getting around the city on a bike, by bus or other means but not using a car. External companies such as Halfords, Portswood Cycles, Sustrans, Southampton City Council, Hampshire County Council, Primary Care Trust, to name a few, supported the initiative. Students, staff and local community groups were invited to the event. Unfortunately, we did not know about the event until after it had happened otherwise it would have been an ideal opportunity for our public consultation stall. Maybe next time!

Sustrans

Southampton City Council have given Sustrans consent to put signs along the NCN routes in the City. Sustrans are currently waiting for the signs to be delivered. Also, Nick Farthing (Sustrans Hampshire Regional Contact) is hoping to organise volunteer days for undergrowth clearance and surveying of Sustrans routes in the City.

In Eastleigh, the Wide Lane cycle way scheme from Parkway station to Lakeside should be starting on site in February. This will include a controlled crossing on wide lane where the refuge is by Parkway station and another controlled bike crossing on Stoneham Lane by Concorde Club Permission is currently being sought to sign the Sustrans route between Otterbourne Hill and Concorde Club and from Fleming Park to North Baddesley.

To report or not to report?

Isabel Sargent

Over the last few years I have wondered how much the Police care to be told about traffic offences witnessed by the public. On a number of occasions I have

reported incidents by 'phone or in person, and the following is based on the responses I received.

Cases of bad driving, which include arguably dangerous acts such as overtaking too close and lack of attention to road conditions, can be prosecuted. However, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is unwilling to prosecute cases where there is little possibility of securing a conviction. To guide people reporting these offences, Hampshire Constabulary has drawn up a form with the following three questions - a 'no' answer to any of which indicates that the CPS is unlikely to take the matter to court:

- 1) Is there another independent witness to the incident who is not connected to you?
- 2) Did you note down the registration number of the offenders vehicle?
- 3) Are you and any witnesses willing and able to attend court to give evidence?

In my experience, it is a rare occasion that someone's driving is so bad as to warrant one to want to report it. Usually during such occasions keeping life and limb intact takes precedence over finding an independent witness. Really, it doesn't seem likely that bad driving witnessed by members of the public could ever be prosecuted. My approach now is to write to the employer of the driver - if it is a commercial vehicle - or simply to let the matter pass for the sake of my own sanity.

Reporting road rage and threatening behaviour seems to be an altogether different kettle of fish. It appears that road rage is a high priority issue and I have found the Police happy to take down all the details I can give. Although they rarely prosecute for one-off incidents, I have been given the impression that all reports are recorded and used to determine if certain drivers are repeatedly offending. On at least one occasion, I understand that the police telephoned the driver to inform him that his behaviour was unacceptable and he may be prosecuted for a similar offence in the future.

At the very least the reporting of cases of bad driving increases the Police's awareness issues of concern to vulnerable road users. It also may be cathartic. If you feel that a less stable, experienced or robust cyclist or pedestrian may have been endangered by the incident you witnessed, why not report it?

Have you been affected by bad driving, threats or abuse? Have you tried to report the offender? What was your experience? In the next issue I hope to put together a report on other's experiences, so please let us know.

A small workout for your mental muscles

Competition

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to take the following list of aims and objectives of Southampton Cycling Campaign to a quiet and inspiring location (such as The Newport Inn, a Douglas fir on the Common, a bath). Consider each aim in turn and jot down any ideas you have, silly or sensible, that may help us achieve this aim. Don't make any judgements about your ideas until you have finished - sometimes the best ideas seem utterly ridiculous at first! When you've run out of ideas, can you think how we can make any of them work? If not, don't worry, it may still be a good idea so don't discard it. Now for the hard part, rather than keeping your cunning plans to yourself, tell us by emailing brainstorm@southamptoncycling.org.uk or 'phoning 023 8077 1689. Prizes of 'brainfood' will go to the to the best "its a crazy idea, but it just may work" suggestion to arrive before 2004.

Southampton Cycling Campaign Aims and Objectives:

- 🚲 To advise, during the planning of developments in Southampton and area, on the provision of cycling facilities in conjunction with those of other road users
- 🚲 To advise and represent the views of cyclists in matters of cycling, safety and security
- 🚲 To promote cycling as a health enhancing exercise and recreation
- 🚲 To promote cycling as a low pollution, efficient form of transport that uses little of the Earth's renewable resources
- 🚲 To promote MORE cycling as an economically advantageous form of transport, both for the user and in terms of public expenditure
- 🚲 To promote interest in cycling by compiling and publishing interesting and efficient cycle routes
- 🚲 To advise and represent the views of cyclists in other cycling issues
- 🚲 To promote cycling for any other reason beneficial to cyclists and the community as a whole

Events

December 2003

Mon 10th Southampton Cycling Campaign Christmas event.



Bring mince pies and good cheer. Also, we are going to sort out our archive to be stored at the Council offices, so bring along any Southampton Cycling Campaign literature, photos, letters etc...this could be a very interesting trip down memory lane!

January 2003

Mon 12th Southampton Cycling Campaign Meeting (see back page)

TBC Southampton Active Transport event (see page 4)

Other events at www.hants.gov.uk/cycling/events.html

Let us know about your events (see back page for details).

All hands all deck!

So you can't always make meetings? There are other ways that you can help the Campaign that won't take your valuable time or energy. The simple jobs that are essential for running a successful Campaign include:

- 🚲 Helping out on stalls for a couple of hours - chatting to the public, eating biscuits um, that basically it!
- 🚲 Distributing newsletters - do you know somewhere that would take a small pile for display?
- 🚲 Writing articles - absolutely anything to do with cycling of any length is accepted
- 🚲 Highlighting news items - let us know the details of a cycling or transport-related item that has come up on the local news or papers that we should respond to
- 🚲 Can you do any of these? Please let us know by contacting up (see the back page). Your Campaign needs you!

Get in touch

Chairpersons Pete R 023 8034 0261

Izzy 023 8077 1689 / izzy@southamptoncycling.org.uk

Secretary Angela 023 8055 4715

Membership 12 Fontwell Gardens, Horton Heath, Eastleigh, SO50 7NL

Want something raised at a meeting? Call Pete R or email agenda@southamptoncycling.org.uk.

Newsletter articles and letters in plain text and preferably by email to newsletter@southamptoncycling.org.uk, or on a floppy disk or typed to SCC Newsletter, 41A Pentire Avenue, Southampton, SO15 7RT.

Deadline for January/ February issue is 19th December 2003.

Events listings to events@southamptoncycling.org.uk (date, time, place, short description and contact details please)

And finally, to keep our meetings on track, how about getting that winge out of your system by emailing winge@southamptoncycling.org.uk



Meetings at 19:45 every 2nd Monday of the month at Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Road.

See you on 8th December and 12th January!

This newsletter is available online at www.southamptoncycling.org.uk

Membership application

Join us and help make a difference!

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Annual fee (please circle) £10 Waged / £5 Unwaged

Return this form with your fee to SCC Membership Secretary,
12 Fontwell Gardens, Horton Heath, Eastleigh, SO50 7NL

Cheques payable to **Southampton Cycling Campaign**, please.