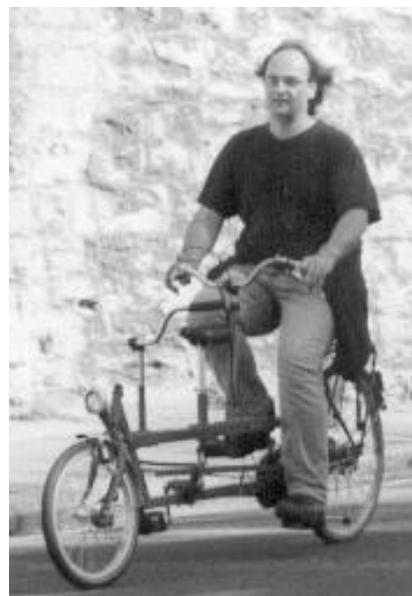


Southampton Cycling Campaign Newsletter

September 2003

Ah, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness – and stops for apple pies every 3rd km of course! We hope you've enjoyed the heat of summer and are looking forward to the fresher breezes and berry forays of Autumn. This issue of the newsletter contains the winner of the writing competition, an article about inspirational family determined to bring their children up in a way that will not harm their future. Lyn Brayshaw wins an Ordnance Survey interactive map – well done Lyn! On page 3, Eric Read briefs us on his experiences at the opening of NCN23 on the Isle of Wight. There is a write up of Winchester's Bike Week events and some news from the Campaign. Finally there is a new competition, a chance to try brainstorming and help Southampton's cyclists. Details on page 6. Enjoy!



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Our dilemma (well, one of them)

Lyn Brayshaw

We have a dilemma. We don't have a car. We don't want a car. But how do we safely transport a one and three year old around? Most places we can walk to. Some places we can easily get a bus to. But take Tumble Tots for instance. The children love it. But it starts at 10am so I sometimes have to hassle them to get us out of the house in time. And I hate hassling them; they will have enough of that later in their lives. A bus can take us half the way, then it's a reasonably pleasant 20 minute walk on a good day. The buses are not reliable - due to cars, as they come from Winchester or Chandler's Ford - so we have to allow a long wait at the bus stop. Now, if I could easily transport the children by bike, we could leave the house and be there in 10-15 minutes. We have not bought a bike trailer, as we just aren't sure about safety - because of cars. Also, we weren't sure how supportive it would be if a baby fell asleep in one. We do have good bike seats but these can only be used at weekends, as it's one child on each adult bike.

I got very excited once when I saw a picture in enCYCLEopedia where a tug was on a bike as well as a bike seat. But I contacted the company and they said it wasn't safe (as tug movement is restricted by the seat). We spotted a double tug in Southampton once - so in a few years that would be our answer (and if it's yours, can we buy it second hand off you - please?). We wondered if a rickshaw-type bike was the answer!

OK, so for a year we've had fun waiting at bus stops on polluted main roads. But now the U2 service that always has a pushchair space is only operating during university term times (and it's the only service that takes us direct to the train station).

We had resigned ourselves to the thought that by the time we found a solution the children would be able to ride their own bikes, then.....

...Bike Week 2003 came along, and with it the Company of Cyclists roadshow. If you missed the Company of Cyclists roadshow, you really did miss out. It was absolutely excellent. We tried all sorts of bikes, including tandems for adults and children, trailers, a bike with a child seat facing you at the front for a baby and one at the rear too, a rickshaw, recumbents....They also have excellent leaflets. No 8 of 17 is called Family Cycling, and has all the contacts for buying (or go on line to www.getcycling.info or www.companyofcyclists.com).

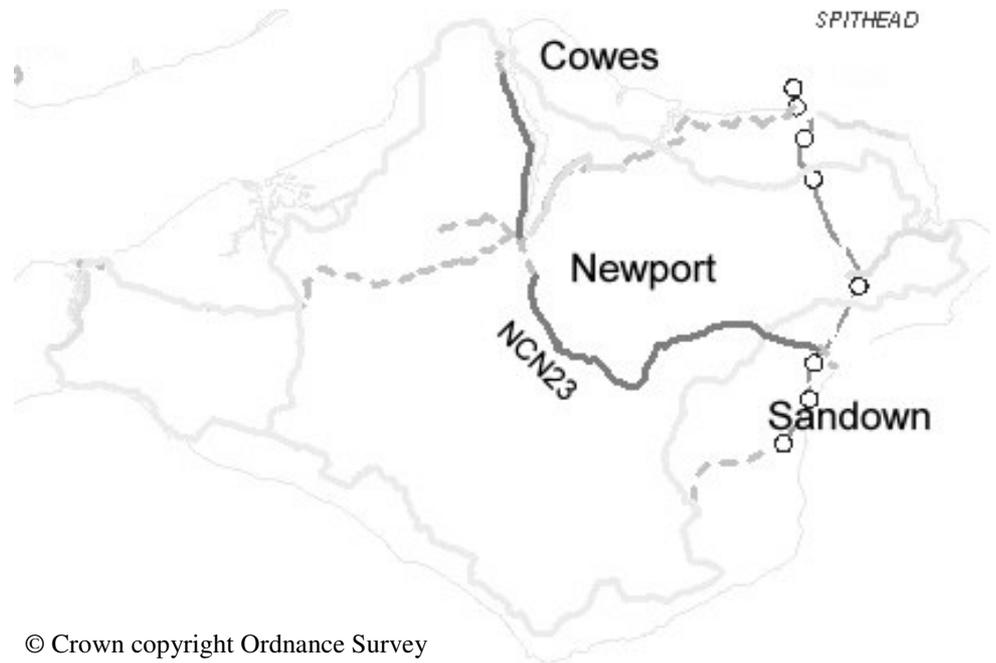
Anyway, our dilemma is sorted out - having tried one, we've ordered a trailer from Portswood Cycles, which can of course carry shopping/ luggage if the children are in their bike seats. We should've bought one a year ago! Find out how we get on in our next article!

Launch of NCN route 23 on the Island

Eric Read

On the longest day of 2003, another section of National Cycle Network (NCN) was opened. The sun shone down on the Isle of Wight and this section of route 23 was opened to a massive crowd - some estimated more than 280 people cycling through start gate and many others joined in throughout the day!

The route, from Sandown to Cowes (and the other way!) is part of a longer planned route which goes up through Hampshire into



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Berkshire. In Southampton, small portions are in place at the football stadium and through Riverside Park. As sections of the NCN are laid down, more opening celebrations such as this will take place. This event was most certainly well organised, well marshalled. The event was a great success!

The only drawback was the surface and I had numerous complaints about the resin bonded stone finish on parts of the route where a surplus of stones caused drag. I was fine on my hybrid tyres, but others did not fare so well. Narrow tyred and Brompton riders had a hard time, some visitors down from London on racing bikes were really miffed at the surface and went back on road as the tyres got stuck in the lose depth of stones. Hopefully this problem with the surface will be short-lived and that bedding in with take place over the next few months. Then we can be sure that many cyclists will enjoy with excellent route through the beautiful Isle of Wight.

Winchester Bike Week 14-22 June 2003

Press release from Winchester Council

What a fantastic day for cyclists in Winchester on Saturday - gorgeous weather and there was lots to see and do.

At the Bike Fair exhibitors were kept busy all day and many of them ran out of stock well before the event was due to end. Feedback from exhibitors was very positive. Chris Gregory, Recreational Cycling Officer for Hampshire County Council says: "We regard the Bike Fair & Cycle Cavalcade as a very high profile event, helping to achieve the key aim of getting more people cycling so it was very encouraging to see such a large turnout". John Edwards of the CTC says: "We had a good time on our stand and there was strong interest in CTC membership".

The Cycle Cavalcade sponsored by NTL Broadcast set off on a scenic tour of Winchester from the Broadway and this attracted even more participants than in previous years. The Mayor of Winchester Cllr Mrs Jean Hammerton waved off the Cavalcade whilst the BBC's Freddie Rostand rode the route on a 'Powabyke' electric bike loaned by Portswood Cycles. It was lovely to see so many youngsters taking part and the free puncture repair kits and water bottles supplied by NTL Broadcast were well received by cyclists. Simon Eden, the City's new Chief Executive cycled in the Cavalcade with his family and some of the city's councillors also took part.



The mountain bike aerial displays at the Buttercross drew large crowds and VC Venta's 'Cycle Slalom', a confidence building skills course attracted nearly 40 youngsters under 13 years. Jonathan Dibben from Totton particularly impressed organisers - he completed the course in the fastest time (20.44 seconds) in all the age groups without picking up any penalty points. A 20 mile afternoon cycle ride organised by the CTC which took cyclists on a route through Littleton, Sparsholt and Hursley attracted a record 27 cyclists, far exceeding expectations.

WinFM received over 500 entries in the competition for the two Claude Butler bikes supplied by Peter Hansford Ltd. Elaine Wallis from Winchester won the ladies Valetta ATB and Mike O'Connor also from Winchester won the gents

Trail Ridge ATB. The winners in the 'Fastest Legs' competition organised by Cycle World Wessex were Alistair Twist of Winchester (78.8kph) and on a different bike Polly Barratt from Southampton (32.4kph).

Cllr John Beveridge, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Access, who attended the event says: "I was impressed with the enthusiasm and interest from the public at this year's event and the number and variety of exhibitors that it attracted."

The events during Winchester Bike Week are supported by Winchester City Council, the CTC, VC Venta and NTL Broadcast.

Our website

Izzy Sargent

A few changes have taken place on the Southampton Cycling Campaign website recently. Firstly, it has been restructured so that hopefully it is a little less overwhelming. The newsletter is now available as a PDF file to download from the website, should you want extra copies. Also, the agenda for each meeting will be posted as soon as possible, using a link from the 'contacts' page. Finally, to try to prevent spam (from which we thankfully haven't yet suffered), the format of the email addresses has been disguised. To change the email addresses given on the website to that they can be used, simply replace the letters "SoCyCa" with an @. Feel free to get in touch with your comments or suggestions for the site website@southamptoncycling.org.uk.

Our membership fee

Izzy Sargent

At the July Campaign meeting we discussed the membership fee. Compared to other cycling Campaigns it is quite high and we wanted to ensure that this is not unreasonable. The fee was increased a couple of years ago to rescue the campaign from a rapidly depleting funds. The majority of our outgoings are for rent for the meeting room, much of the rest going towards the printing costs of publicity.

Fortunately, this year we have a grant to pay for the newsletter but that will not be available to us next year. We shall be looking at ways to reduce or to help with the cost of meeting room rent. We need to ensure that we have enough money in the bank to tide us over when we are not receiving grant aid and to allow us to take advantage of one-off opportunities such as the cycling conference held in Southampton last year.

Having noted that the number of members has remained stable at around 50 for a considerable time before and after the increase in fee, it was decided in July to keep the fee as it is. In return we hope to be able to provide more to members such as speakers and events. That said, money in the bank does not mean time on our hands. As always we need people to get involved with the Campaign by helping us organise events. This needn't take up much of your time but it could make a real difference to members and the public in general. Go on, get involved! Finally, we agreed at the meeting to review this issue at the AGM (around May 2004) and ensure that members are getting value for money.

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

September 2003

Mon 8th Southampton Cycling Campaign Meeting (see back page)

Mon 22nd 7th Winchester Alternative Transport Day/ European Car Free Day

10:30 - 15:00 on High Street and The Square, Winchester

This event brings together a wide range of environmentally friendly transport, bus and train companies, environmental groups, cycle retailers, environmental groups as well as local authorities. Visitors will be able to enjoy an attractive, car-free environment with cafes, pubs, shops and theatre on the streets of Winchester. Sponsored by Mott MacDonald. Contact: Chris Hawthorne 01962 877833 / onthemove@forum-pr.co.uk See also www.winchester.gov.uk/ onthemove, www.22september.org and www.itwmc.gov.uk

October 2003

Mon 13th Southampton Cycling Campaign Meeting (see back page)

November 2003

Mon 10th Southampton Cycling Campaign Meeting (see back page)

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 November/ December issue is 24th October 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 September and 13th October!

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.