



'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: Feb/Mar 2001

News for cyclists from the Camden Cycling Campaign (LCC), London.

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Newsletter editor: Paul Gannon

CCC awards British Standard Excuse (BSE 6006) to the shadow Strategic Rail Authority

Camden Cycling Campaign is delighted to be able to announce the award of the prestigious 'British Standard Excuse', BSE 6006 charter quality excuse, to the shadow Strategic Rail Authority (sSRA). The award is for responses to letters from CCC members about improving integration of cycling and trains.

It took one CCC member three months before he had a reply to his letter asking about the strategy proposed by the sSRA for improving integration between cycle and rail travel. A second member, writing to inquire about cycle carriage on trains only had to wait for two months - and received an identical computer-generated reply!

The award winning letter includes some stunning gems of meaninglessness which give nothing away next to nothing.

After explaining why present rolling stock prevents train companies meeting their licence requirements to "provide facilities for the carriage of bicycles on trains", the letter looks at the future:

"We want to encourage both rail and cycle use and have begun discussions with operators about the provisions ... when they order new rolling stock. However we cannot impose requirements beyond the terms of existing franchises... here the franchising director has had the opportunity to negotiate new franchise commitments he has looked for improvements in facilities for cyclists. When negotiating replacement franchises we will have the opportunity to specify passenger benefits which fully reflect the Government's integrated transport policy. There is no doubt that the railway has a role to play in the development of a fully integrated transport system."

So what's it going to do? "We have decided to set up a joint industry/user working group to look at the use of flexible space on trains... The remit of this group will be to identify user needs and constraints under which train operating companies must work and then to produce a simple code of practice that explains how [they] can deliver good internal layouts that satisfy the majority of user needs, whilst delivering optimal seats and flows consistent with good management of Passengers in Excess of Capacity requirements."

Translated this means 'we haven't got a strategy, but we've got a good excuse!' Easily a BSE6006.

Hampstead Heath - support from local group for a more sensible policy

The opposition to cycling on Hampstead Heath expressed by a few influential lobby groups does not represent the view of all local groups. The South End Green association recently decided to support consideration of "improving path connections" accompanied by proper enforcement of bylaws banning cycling elsewhere. This is similar to CCC's recent proposals to the City.

The opposition of a few vocal and influential lobbies should not be used to prevent the development of a sensible cycling policy for the Heath. Studies in Richmond Park and elsewhere shows that fears of conflict are exaggerated.

City of London - new cycling group

CCC has helped to re-start a City Cycling Campaign to cover the area run by the Corporation of London.

MAKE THE CITY BETTER FOR CYCLISTS!

- Have your say on how to improve cycling conditions in the City, hear what you could do to get involved, and find out how you can make a difference.
- Whether you live, work or ride through the City your views count.
- Come along to the launch of a new London Cycling Campaign local group.

CITY CYCLING CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

- 9th February 2001, 1pm - 2pm
- Youth Hostel Association, Carter Lane EC4, (near to St Paul's Cathedral)
- Tea/coffee will be provided

For information contact: Paula Smith, 020 7928 7220; Email - office@lcc.org.uk

Member's letter on Hampstead Heath

Dear CCC,

As a persistent Heath cyclist for 27 years now I am all in favour of increased routes across the Heath and would suggest the following crucial addition to your proposals: a direct route between Highgate and

Hampstead villages starting, Heathwise, between the Boating pond and Stock pond, carrying on up the hill to the Limes avenue, and straight down this broad avenue past the drinking fountain and up to East Heath Road and Well Walk.

The Limes is extremely broad and could easily accommodate cyclists without problems.

Also I would like to see a huge anomaly corrected. The police now ignore school-kids cycling to school if they are under 16 (so I have been told and believe from experience). However, parents accompanying these same children to school - as they must if the child is under 14-15 - will get stopped and warned or booked. So for example my 13 year old son rides straight past police wagons without a word being said, while I get cautioned.

This is silly and pointless. I would propose that you support the idea of children 'and accompanying parents' (or parents who can prove they are on the way to pick up a child, eg with a letter from the school) being allowed to cycle anywhere on the Heath on term-time weekdays between 7:30 and 9:30 and 3:15 and 5:30.

This would be an important contribution to road safety, to reducing traffic on the roads around the Heath (which in turn creates noise pollution on the Heath) and to the health of children and parents who otherwise may not get enough exercise.

Best wishes, Paul Harrison

What do you think about cycling on Hampstead Heath?

Cyclist Killed

CCC regrets to report that, according to the Camden Chronicle, a 35 year old cyclist was critically injured after a collision with a 'tipper truck' in Tavistock Square on 21st Nov; he died 8 days later. The lorry driver failed to stop after the incident.

CCC Members Evenings

2nd Monday every month from 7.30pm. The next two are: 12th Feb & 12th March

Join in the discussions about how London can turn itself into a 'world class cycling city' at CCC members meetings. Be part of the future! Find out what has been going on, and what's coming up for cyclists in and around Camden, and have your say and share a pint or two.

Meet at the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Road, NW1 Secure indoor cycle parking.

Map of where the Centre is (next to Camden Market): <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/CCCdiary.html#CastlehavenCCMap>

For more info: call Jane 020-7794-9708 or contact Paul at paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com.

For a complete list of our events organised so far for 2001 see here: <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/CCCdiary.html>



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