

# The Camden Cyclist

August/September 2007 Camden Cycling Campaign Newsletter

Camden  
Cycling  
Campaign

Editor: Helen Vecht

Website at: [www.camdencyclists.org.uk](http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk)

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Photo Gallery: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/camdencyclists/>

Cycle Route maps: <http://maps.camdencyclists.org.uk>

## Dates for your Diary

### Monthly Meetings

These are held at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place, London NW1 8TN

We hold a business/committee meeting an hour before the main meeting, at 6.30pm, to which all interested members are welcome.

**Monday August 13 2007 7.30pm**

**Monday September 10 2007 7.30pm**

### Community Fairs

Camden Cyclists will have stalls at:

Swiss Cottage Festival 28 July

Marchmont Street Festival 8 September

### Hovis London Freewheel

Sunday September 23 will see many Central London streets closed to motor vehicles, to enable London cyclists to enjoy a tour of the sights of this wonderful city. Rides to this event are from several hubs, which include Gladstone Park and Finsbury Park. **Registration is essential** and free goodies are on offer. More details on:

[www.londonfreewheel.com](http://www.londonfreewheel.com). (Sorry, this website is rather childish; don't let this deter you. I was wary about giving my birth date and other details over an open, unsecured connection)

We will lead a ride to join this event. Send an email to [infoATcamdencyclists.org.uk](mailto:infoATcamdencyclists.org.uk) for details near the time.

### Swiss Cottage

Swiss Cottage is a horrible, dangerous place to cycle and grim if on foot. The A41 (Finchley Road) meets the B509 (Adelaide/Belsize Roads) and all traffic is directed through a gyratory system designed to maximise motor throughput. Cyclists must cross multiple lanes of fast-moving, heavy traffic to travel north.

Despite Camden Council opposing gyratories, TfL's plans for 'improvements' to the junction have made only scant provision to improve the lot of cyclists



Lionel Shapiro

At the least, we would like to see Avenue Road revert to two-way working for cyclists.

We held a protest ride round it on 4 July to highlight the problems.

Details of this campaign are here: <http://tinyurl.com/2c9w3w>

### Bike Week

We held our customary Dr Bike and Cyclists' Breakfast, James Brander led a ride around the parks of South London and Paul Braithwaite's new Camden Peripherique ride, was very popular and hopefully will be repeated.



Paul Braithwaite

In pouring rain, police, councillors and Camden Cyclists turned up to a ride which visited all of Camden's electoral wards.

We would like to breathe new life into Bike Week next year so we'd like to appoint a Bike Week Co-ordinator soon to maximise everyone's enjoyment and participation of the events. Ideally, we would like some sort of event on almost every day of Bike Week Contact us if you'd like to help.



## Hampstead Heath Family Ride



Sunday 1 July saw Camden Cyclists of all ages enjoy riding round the Heath on those few paths where cycling is permitted.

Our campaign to improve and increase cycle paths on the Heath is awaiting reports and surveys. More on: <http://tinyurl.com/2hq4y8> & <http://tinyurl.com/2nhpov>

## Tour de France via Regent's Park

About 100 cyclists from Barnet, Brent and Camden converged at Swiss Cottage to join a ride to watch the Prologue of the Tour de France. LCC had been granted grandstand viewing in Hyde Park and many thousands of spectators attended.

This was our first opportunity to ride down the Broad Walk at Regent's Park, which has just been opened for cyclists (maximum speed 5mph)

Cycling is permitted for a three-month trial period only and it's essential we don't antagonise other park users who might not wish to see this continue.



## Cycle Route Maps Reprinted

TfL's popular maps, their Cycle Route Guides, were being reissued as we went to press (16 July 2007). 13 new sheets replace the 19 old sheets. They can be ordered from: <https://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/roadusers/cycling/cycleroutes/default.asp> We will eventually obtain the new maps to distribute at our public events.

## Doctor Bike

Dr Bike's final appearances of the season will be on Saturday 28 July and Saturday 22 September, outside West Hampstead Library, from midday to 5pm.

## Maintenance Workshops

After the long summer break, our popular instructive cycle maintenance workshops return in September. Contact Stefano or Jean to book a place on this course of three workshops.

## Writing of 'Le Tour'...

Even on a blindingly cloudless day in July, it is never really hot at the Col du Galibier. The pass is more than 2500 metres or 8205 feet above sea level. After driving up to the pass – second gear all the way, except when occasionally changing down to first – I make my way breathlessly on foot to my vantage point, and an astonishing sight. This is one of the greatest natural amphitheatres on earth. Perched a little precariously on a mixture of tussock and rock, I look several miles down the road which ascends through a long series of hairpins, and train my field glasses at the furthest point, where they're coming round the mountain when they come.

After a long wait, a distant speck of colour appears, then grows a little larger before taking shape as a man on a bike, agonizingly making his way uphill, accompanied by a crescendo of cheering from the crowds lining the road and followed by a steady, strung-out line of riders racing and pacing each other – not the big bunch which speeds through villages from Brittany to Provence, but in its way more impressive – before the first riders crest the summit and one by one descend the other side at scary speed. In more senses than one, that was for me the high point of the 2002 tour de France: an unforgettable, even exultant moment. That day on the Galibier, even more than in the Pyrenees or on Mont Ventoux, I was seized of the sheer awesome magnitude and grandeur of this most extraordinary of all sporting contests...

**Geoffrey Wheatcroft, LE TOUR: A HISTORY OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE, 1903-2003**

(Simon & Schuster, 2003)

Thanking Anne Boston for cultural enrichment