

Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
April 2010

ECC Wins Cycle Workshop Cash



We've won a grant to start a community cycle workshop. Our Community Cycling Fund for London grant will cover some extra tools, training and rent to start a mixture of formal lessons and drop-in self-help/semi guided sessions. Final plans are almost complete and it seems likely the sessions will take place in Greenford at weekends, with a low key launch soon, building up to a grander launch during Bike Week.

We're very keen to have some help. You don't need to be an expert, just know a little about bikes and be keen to help peo-

ple with cycling issues - it will not just be mechanical problems! If you can help drop me a line at jellied30@hotmail.com.

We're also talking to the police regarding a supply of unclaimed stolen bikes. Hopefully with our Bike Hub we'll have the space and time to work on them with the idea to sell them on, or simply rent them out. The quality will be very random and, if nothing else, people can practice on them without fear of damaging their own bikes.

David Eales

Local Election Debate

On 6th May, the Local Elections take place across London. To help you decide who to vote for, we're delighted to welcome the transport spokespeople (no pun intended) from four political parties to our next meeting. They will each give a five minute talk about what their party would do to improve cycling if they won the local election. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

The spokespeople are: Sarah Edwards, Green Party; Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, Labour; Councillor Gary Malcolm, Liberal; and Councillor David Millican, Conservative.

The meeting takes place at 7.30 pm, on Wednesday 7th April at Cafe Grove, 65 The Grove, Ealing W5 5LL. All members welcome

Camel Trail



Some people will go to any lengths to fix a squeaky chain. David Lomas, Ealing's LCC borough coordinator was recently spotted in Abu Dhabi... looking for a drop of oil.

STOP PRESS

Ealing Skyride

Ealing has won the bid to host this year's London local SkyRide on 18th July. Details of the route are yet to be announced, but this is a major coup for Ealing. Last year's event in Hounslow attracted 11,000 cyclists who enjoyed traffic-free cycling in glorious sunshine. The nationwide coverage it received helped promote Hounslow, and the large



number of cyclists brought extra trade to the cafés, shops and pubs in the area. Perhaps Ealing is an even more suitable location. In its heyday, the Queen of the Suburbs was famous for its calm and tranquillity. Traffic-free streets will give Ealingites the chance to return to the world John Betjeman described in *Return, return to Ealing* "Where smoothly glides the bicycle, And softly flows the Brent."

"Biking Borough" — £70,975,000 shortfall?

The £25,000 awarded to Ealing as part of the Mayor's "Biking Borough" scheme is being spent on two consultancy firms. The first, MVA, will review current cycling trends in the borough, and identify gaps in cycling provision. The second, Transport Initiatives, is working on a broader / softer approach such as finding ways to persuade borderline cyclists to

take to the road.

With this £25,000 award, Mayor Boris Johnson declared Ealing a "Biking Borough". Peter Mynors, ECC's council liaison officer, put the £25,000 sum in context: "When I undertook the comparative study of Northern Europe in the early 1990s for the Local Authority Cycle Planning Group, the Germans advised that they

reckoned it took £155 per head of population at 1994 prices to make a city cycle friendly, and they were spending at that rate in selected cities. This equates to £233 per head at today's prices. If this figure were applied to Ealing (population 305,000) a sum of £71m would be needed. This is slightly less than the cost of adding an extra lane to 2½ miles of the M25 between the M40 and the A1(M), currently underway. £25k is 0.035% of this £71m sum. It is just a question of priorities."

The less Shed the better

For convenience, many people now keep their bikes in their front gardens, but thieves are an ever-present danger. David Eales checks out the latest bike sheds.

I've been keeping my bikes in my wooden shed for ever, but with the addition of a recumbent trike something had to give. It was time for a new shed. I looked long and hard at Trimetal's model, but whilst looking at other offerings I came across the Asgard range. The firm makes a selection of metal storage units, from small ones to store valuables in the home, right up to large metal sheds. In between are two units specifically designed for bikes; one to store 3 and one to 4. I plumped for the smaller one, if nothing else to stop me buying any more bikes.

The units differ from Trimetal in that they are front opening rather than top, they also have a number of features that appealed to me; optional accessories such as shelving, hooks and an additional wooden floor.

The order process was painless and true to their word they phoned seven days before the estimated delivery date and confirmed the precise date and time which they duly kept to.

The unassembled unit is quite daunting, nine sheets of metal and a large selection of screws, although upon closer inspection there are in fact only two types of screws, just lots of them! The instructions are clear and concise and the only tool you need is a screwdriver, given the number of screws an electric one is of great benefit. The instructions stress the base must be level and ideally on concrete or slabs, but the base is sheet metal so it could sit on earth.

I managed to construct it on my own, although the roof section is the largest single piece and does take some strength to move it into place. The whole process took

me just over an hour-and-a-half and the instructions really were clear. Each part has a sticker on it saying what it is. The doors were a little fiddly but still far easier to hang than wooden ones would be.

First impressions are good, the unit really does fit 3 bikes as the photographs show and the shelving unit

makes a big difference to store the usual stuff. The whole unit feels rock solid and very secure and the lock should be enough to deter most people, the next model up allows you to add your own padlock. The whole thing can be secured further using ground bolts and there are optional ground anchors too. Some people might be tempted to chain the bikes together to further frustrate a thief.

The unit is not cheap compared to wooden models, but it comes with a 10-year warranty and it does look the part. It's not attractive as it is a big metal box at the end of the day, but I hope it will still be in the same condition in a few years time as it is now.

I prefer this to the Trimetal model; the shelving and hooks are a nice touch and not being top opening means you can store things on top of it. The advantage of the Trimetal is that you can access any bike as the unit is top-opening and you therefore don't need lots of space at the front, making it ideal for a narrow passage.

More information at:
<http://www.asgardsss.co.uk>.
For a comparison here is the Trimetal range <http://www.trimetals.co.uk/>



Rides...

New rides are added all the time, and details may change, so do check our web site for the latest information:

www.ealingcycling.org

Sunday 4th April 2010 Hampton Court

A ride along the Thames to Hampton Court and then back via Bushey Park. About 24 miles but maybe longer or shorter depending on the weather and condition of the paths.

Leader: Paul

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 2nd May 2010 Black Country Park

A long awaited return to Black Country Park - 2009 saw a much praised route there and back that is still talked about!

Leader: Murray

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 6th June 2010 Eltham Palace

Ben returns to this hidden gem in south east London due to popular demand. Full details nearer the time

Leader: Ben

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

19th to 27th June 2010 Bike Week

We will be running a series of rides during ride, including family rides. Please check our web site nearer the time for more details.

Meetings & Contacts

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Cafe Grove, 65 The Grove, Ealing W5 5LL. Our next meetings will be on Wednesday 7th April and Wednesday 5th May 2010, at 7.30 pm.

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