

RED LIGHT SPELLS DANGER!

By *IAN ALEXANDER*

Cycling into town on Shardlow Road, the pedestrian crossing outside Alvaston shopping centre was at red, and as I eased off on approach, a disabled lady in an electric buggy started to cross the road. I was then overtaken by another cyclist, who without a care in the world, sailed straight through the red light, and weaved around said lady, continuing towards Derby without a care in the world. This act of disregard made me so angry, I began to turn into the Incredible Hulk, bursting out my t-shirt, all ready to catch him up and push him off. Well that's what it felt like. I pedalled hard as soon as the lights turned green, but within two minutes I decided this was not a good idea, as;

It would have taken a lot of effort.

Two wrongs don't make a right.

He was bigger than me.

Later on the same day, I was proceeding into the Morledge (not the most cycle friendly street in Derby), a cyclist overtook me, far too close for comfort and then proceeded to ride through all the traffic lights some at green, some definitely not! Unfortunately these aren't isolated incidents, I quite often witness other cyclists riding through red lights when they shouldn't.

Traffic lights do seem to be sprouting at every street corner, due to increasing traffic levels and sometimes our increasing health and safety culture. They can be incredibly frustrating, particularly when you are waiting at a red light, and nothing is entering the junction from other directions. Discounting those motorists who don't bother with details such as licenses, MOT's or insurance, many

others text or use mobiles when driving, so cyclists are certainly not the only ones flouting motoring law. Neither can the blame for jumping red lights be confined to any particular group, I have heard accounts of local racing club "chain gangs" also nipping through when the lights say stop. I've recently taken to pushing my bike over junctions on foot, when I know the phasing will continue to delay me for a time. Sometimes they provide a nice excuse for a rest, and the vast majority of cyclists wait patiently for green. Whatever the reason for being in a hurry, and the frustration of excess traffic lights impeding your progress, can there ever be an excuse for jumping a red light and breaking the law?

OPTIONS FOR MAPPING YOUR BIKE RIDE

By *IAN DENT*

There has been a massive growth in the use of smartphones and bike mounted GPS devices over the last few years and there are now excellent sets of tools to help you plan and to monitor your bike rides. Many of you will be making use of these tools but there may be some among us still to get started and I'd like to mention a few options.

Sustrans have spent a lot of effort into creating online mapping of the UK National Cycle Network and this can be accessed from the Sustrans website (follow links to mapping). One benefit of this site is the detail that can be seen from zooming in as Sustrans have reached an agreement with, I think, The Ordnance Survey to use their mapping. It is possible to plot routes but I find other sites more user friendly.

The Cyclestreets project - see the link from the DCG homepage - allows you to plan a route by specifying the start and finish points using the map or postcodes. The application then gives a choice of routes ranging from the quickest to the quietest (which may be slower but will have less traffic). This is based on mapping done by the general public and contributed to OpenStreetMap. The mapmakers are always looking for extra assistance in mapping the local area so check the Internet if you are interested in assisting.

Google Maps offers bike route planning and can be set to show off-road cycle routes - select the "bicycling" display option. Google promise that they will offer a method or reporting problems in the UK maps at some future time.

My personal favourite for planning routes and downloading them to my Garmin GPS prior to a ride is bikeroutetoaster.com - free to use and offering a choice between Google and OpenStreet maps. This shows the bike routes and has an "automatically follow the route" option. There are many other similar systems but most seem to offer a free version and then a premium version where a feature you find you need is only in the premium version. Ones to consider include bikehike, cycle-route.com, gmaps-pedometer, MapMyRide, maps-the-hug (which uses OS mapping), RidewithGPS, Bikely, and many others.

No chance to use "fear of getting lost" as an excuse for not getting out on your bike!

GET BRITAIN CYCLING

Together with the Times, Sustrans, the AA and British Cycling, CTC is urging members to sign up to a joint petition on the Number 10 website, calling for the Government to implement the recommendations.

In particular, the report calls for £10 per person, per year, to support a radical transformation of streets and roads, as well as training, promotion and marketing to shift the culture on our roads.

I gave evidence to the inquiry in March, arguing that Government needed to do far, far more to improve conditions for cyclists. This is the opportunity to start making the changes necessary.

Please do take a couple of minutes to sign up on the Number 10 site.

Yours,

Jon Snow (*President of CTC*)

For more information on the campaign:

<http://www.ctc.org.uk/news/get-britain-cycling-report-recommends->

For e-petition:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49196>

LOCAL RIDES

By *JENNY SCHOFIELD*

There are now enough local cycling clubs in Derby that the cyclist can find a ride that suits cycling ability and locality. Road cycling, time trials, mountain biking and social cycling on and off-road are available to all.

A good way to access details to all these rides are by registering with Skyrides. This is a website acting as central point to which any club can register their ride. So for the cyclist looking for a group to ride with can log onto Skyrides, their locality and date they wish to go out and book a place.

For details of clubs and rides have a look at these websites and should you know of more clubs and cycling groups please post details on our DCG website so that we can add them to our cycling clubs and group list.

- <http://www.goskyride.com/>
 - for big group rides, social cycling and even tips on cycling for the first time to work. Everything to suit all abilities
- <http://www.cyclederby.co.uk/>
 - for cycle training (all abilities and ages), Graded leisure cycling routes in Derby; easy, intermediate and challenging levels, details of competitions. All welcome.

- <http://www.derbymercury.org.uk/>
- Derby Mercury are a cycling membership club. Time trialling, road racing, mountain biking, adult to junior events. All welcome
- <http://www.mericiacyclingclub.co.uk/>
- based in Burton-on-Trent. Rides, races and all welcome
- <http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/recreation/article/rec20110525-recreation-Women-Breeze-Launches-0>
- Breeze cycle rides are dedicated to get more women cycling. Lead rides, social rides for women of all abilities.
- <https://twitter.com/PedalPalsDerby>
Pedal Pals - also on Facebook. Social rides, cafe stops, group rides for adults. Ride Wednesday and Sundays
- <https://www.facebook.com/moobsonSunday>
- Mickloever Out On Bikes Society social rides, cycling to your ability. Rides Sundays

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE

VIJAYA RAMISETTI - DCG

COMMITTEE MEMBER

- **How long have you been with DCG?**
Since 2011, I am a member of Derby Cycling Group.
- **What is your role?**
I am currently representing Derby Cycling Group as a Newsletter Editor.
- **Where are your favourite bike rides?**
I like to be with nature. My strong roots from the Indian village background motivates me to move around the green fields and hilly mountains.

I love to cycle in the peak district, provided my friend is out from the dark clouds and smiling at me. I have been at a few local rides. Scotland is my another favourite place. I am still waiting for the right time to explore Scotland on cycle. I hope, I will make it to Scotland this year.

- **Which are the bikes you own?**

I have a MTB mountain bike. May not be a good choice for long distance cycling but it really keeps me fit.

- **What do you do outside Derby Cycling Group?**

I am a Mechanical engineer. I work for an aerospace organisation based in Leicester. Partly, my interest towards cycling motivated me to choose mechanical engineering as my main stream. How funny, but it's a fact.

CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER TRANSPORT CAR DEPENDENCY SCORECARD

By *DCG COMMITTEE*

The Campaign for Better Transport has created a Car Dependency Scorecard that assesses various cities on various criteria including how cycling and walking can be used as alternatives for car use. Overall Derby is rated 11th (somewhere in the middle of the various cities). For cycling and walking, Derby does better at equal 7th. The full report can be found at http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/files/car-dependency-scorecard_2.pdf

The Campaign makes the following recommendations with regard to cycling and walking, which I am sure all DCG members would agree. Local authorities need to be able to put more funding into facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund is very useful, but only a minority of areas are benefiting so far.

Measures that should be invested in include:

- Better cycling infrastructure and more dedicated, safe cycle routes to attract commuters out of their cars.

- Comprehensive travel planning and promotion of walking and cycling, including dedicated travel advisors for schools and workplaces.

- Cycle training for everyone who wants it, as well as promotional programmes, local route maps and advice.

- Road safety is seen as a barrier for many considering walking or cycling for their journeys, and more needs to be done to reduce danger.

- Streets should be better designed and lower speed limits applied and enforced to fit the needs of residential and shopping areas.

- Another problem that needs more attention is the integration of cycling with public transport, with improved cycling parking at transport hubs and bikes able to be carried whenever possible on trains and buses.

POCKET PLACES FOR PEOPLE

By *DAVE CLASBY*

Sustrans are thrilled to announce that we have a new project starting in Derby funded by The People's Health Trust with money raised through The Health Lottery. The funding is for two years and we will have an officer working in the Normanton and Arboreteum areas of Derby. The job is to engage with the communities in that part of the city. To find out how they would like their communities to look and feel, what sort of community they want and in particular in relation to travel and the impact it has on communities. The project will aim to develop cheap and simple ideas that can be tried out to promote community cohesion and active travel. It is an idea first tried in New York where simple ideas involving nothing more than paint, plants and lumps of stone enabled communities to reclaim their streets. The project will also be aiming to provide advice and information to enable more people to travel more actively and sustainably.

A NOTE

Dear DCG members, Please visit the DCG website for up to date information on the Group's activities. Late in 2011, we moved to a new design of the website intended to make it a lot easier for all members to become involved in any ongoing discussions or to share their cycling related news.

Anyone wishing to post new topics/events/etc. to the website needs to be set up with a username which can be obtained by emailing the webmaster. Once this is obtained you can log in and create new items of news or comment on existing items. The committee is particularly keen to gain feedback from members on their views of ongoing issues and areas in which campaigning should be concentrated. To minimise problems with spamming on the website, you might find there is a small delay between you submitting a contribution and it becoming live on the site. You can add events (of interest to the cycling community in Derby) by selecting the "Add Event" link at the top of the screen. This inserts the event into the on-line calendar.

One impressive feature is the Cyclestreets project (see link on bottom right of website) which allows you to specify start and finish points in the Derby area and be presented with a choice of suitable cycling routes (fastest, quietest or a balance of the two).

The useful links (<http://derbycyclinggroup.org.uk/blog/useful-links/>) includes information on How To Report Local Problems, Local Organisations, Other Campaign Groups, Local cycling clubs, National Organisations, Cycling to Work, Cycle Shops, Locally Organised Social Rides.

Please feel free to send us any other relevant information which you feel will be useful to our cycling friends. If you are on Facebook you are encouraged to join the Derby Cycling Group Facebook Group. Please send any suggestions, comments or details of problems to webmaster@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk.

Thanks

DCG Committee
