



Newsletter – February 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen

Will this rain ever stop? This winter my outside rides have been mainly restricted to Sundays, with probably three 'turbo' sessions during the week; one of which is a race or at least my interpretation of racing. Judging by what I see on Strava, others are adopting the same strategy too. Roll on spring and hopefully drier weather.

2026 National Cyclo-cross Championships

Congratulations to John McGrath for retaining his National Masters title (60+) category over the weekend of the 10/11th January. The sea front at South Shields in deepest North East England can't have been the pleasantest of places to race and I understand on the Saturday morning when John raced, the weather was cold and frosty. It must have been something like a scene out of the Michael Caine film, 'Get Carter'.

British Cycling decided to screen coverage of the races on their YouTube at a cost of £2.99. Whilst that seems quite reasonable to me, try buying a cup of coffee for that price, I understand it did attract a fair bit of criticism particularly as the coverage wasn't apparently great quality?

Tour de France 2027

It's been known for some time that the 2027 Tour de France would start in Edinburgh, but the organisers have now released more detail. The first three stages of the men's race will run from Edinburgh to Carlisle, Keswick to Liverpool, then Welshpool to Cardiff, before crossing to the national boundaries of France. Those grudgingly handing over their hard-earned to TNT will therefore enjoy the Lake District, the Peak District and the Brecon Beacons in high-definition.

The women's race will begin in Leeds and take in the Peak District over three stages, essentially Yorkshire to Manchester and back, and then a "showpiece stage" in London.

Leeds hosted the Grand Depart in 2014, a time when you will remember cycling was apparently "the new golf". The 2027 route looks much more exciting as a whole: in 2014 the first two Yorkshire-based stages offered great challenge and scenery, but the plod from Cambridge to London via Essex was rather ho-hum.

Apparently there are moves afoot to get the opening three stages on free-to-air TV but as an alternative one company are already offering the opportunity to express your interest in an organised tour following the event.

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Carlisle
Keswick
Liverpool
Welshpool
Cardiff

RIDE UK STAGES:

- Edinburgh → Carlisle
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FOLLOW LIVE TOUR DE FRANCE STAGES
EARLY JULY 2027

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JOIN THE ULTIMATE UK CYCLING TOUR

Ride London

Do you fancy participating in the Ride London event? Well think again as the latest news is that it has been placed 'on indefinite pause following operational and financial considerations of the event's future direction'. The organisers, London Marathon Events, say that whilst Ride London won't continue in its current format, its legacy lives on in the thousands of riders it inspired, (500,000 have apparently ridden in the 10 events) and the £85 million charitable contributions it raised. It does rather beg the question though that if it was so successful, why it isn't continuing. Answers on a postcard please.

Cycling magazines

I'm afraid I am not one to spend my hard earned cash on magazines, mainly because I find most of the content is repeated on a yearly basis, is about high end bikes and equipment that don't interest me or training plans for people who really don't need them as they are never going to go anywhere near a race. However! If you join the West Sussex library service for free, you'll also get access to the Libby magazine app, on which you'll

be able to read digital issues of Cycling Weekly, Cyclist, Cycling Plus and Mountain Biking UK. Now that I do like!

Timekeeping

Now that we aren't running any time trials all our accredited timekeepers are unfortunately redundant. But fear not, if you are missing the thrill (or should that be the fear) of being responsible for accurately recording the time a rider undoubtedly deserves for pushing themselves to the limit over 10 or more miles, then the London South District of the CTT are proactively looking to recruit assistant time-keepers. If you are interested please contact our very own Ian Cheesman at gensec@londonsouthdc.org.uk

British Cycling membership discount

As a member of a British Cycling affiliated club you are entitled to 40% off your first year's membership with the aforementioned British Cycling. There are various benefits to being a member, not least because you'll have insurance in the event of being involved in an accident. Just use the code NCMEM40 when applying.

Cycling UK

You are hopefully aware that WECC are also affiliated to Cycling UK, a body at the forefront of promoting and protecting cyclists. They are currently involved (with others) in campaigning for greater protection for females whilst cycling, running or walking; a cause I'm sure you'll all agree is sadly necessary and to be frank, overdue. This is a recent bulletin they sent out on the matter;

MPs from across parties came together in Westminster Hall to debate women's safety while walking, wheeling, cycling and running. Cycling UK played a key role, briefing MPs and shaping the discussion through our 'My ride, our right' campaign. Our evidence on safety, infrastructure and behaviour change was cited throughout, with strong cross-party backing for action. The debate showed growing political momentum, and we will continue pressing for changes that help more people feel confident travelling in public spaces.

And on that positive note I'll leave you with a quick reminder that the AGM is being held at the [John Selden Public House, Half Moon Lane, Worthing, BN13 2EN on Tuesday 24th February 2026, commencing promptly at 7.30pm.](#) Please do try and get along; it's a great opportunity to meet fellow members and to support the club.

Ian