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Leisure and touring cyclists invited to join new body

Cycling Ireland has set up a new Touring and Leisure Commission to represent the interest of touring and leisure members of the organisation – and the next meeting of the commission takes place on Saturday next, January 14, in the Tullamore court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, at 3o’c.

Among the items discussed at the inaugural meeting of the Commission were a grading system for leisure events, creation of way-marked cycling routes around the country, family cycling days, the need for strong ties with other agencies, a national poster campaign, political lobbying, sponsorship, the creation of a cycling starter kit, and a major headline event each year.

“There is a great interest in the sport of cycling among people of all ages now, and this commission is for people who like to go out for regular spins but who are not into the competitive side of the sport,” said commission chairperson Joe Conway.

“We have a number of goals for the next few years. One of our main tasks will be to advertise and promote cycling as a lifelong leisure pursuit. We hope to bring about some improvements which will enhance the enjoyment for those who are already cycling regularly and taking part in many of the leisure/touring events around the country.”

The Mission Statement of the commission is *“To promote and develop touring and leisure cycling as a healthy, enjoyable and friendly lifetime leisure activity for everyone.”*

Clubs and provincial federations are invited to send along representatives to next Saturday’s meeting. Members of Cycling Ireland are also invited to attend this meeting.

The commission will also assist Cycling Ireland in outlining the benefits of joining the organisation each year. “We have had a big response from cyclists around the country who are keen to promote the sport, and we will all be working together to make things happen,” he said.

Anyone wishing to get involved in the commission should contact chairperson Joe Conway on (087) 2501102, or by emailing him on Joe.Conway@systemsunion.ie.

The officers of the Touring and Leisure Commission are:

Chairperson – Joe Conway; Recording Secretary – Maggie Greaney; IT Co-ordinator - Paul Kavanagh; Photography Co-ordinator – Joe Conway; Liaison Officer with CTC and Dublin Cycling Campaign – Damien O’Tuama; Committee – Anthony Reilly, Gerry Naughton, Barry Gallagher, Rose Leith.

For further details: Joe Conway on (087) 2501102, or by emailing him on Joe.Conway@systemsunion.ie.

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