

Young riders and Finsbury Park Cycling Club.

Based in North London, largely within the North Circular Road, we do much of our riding in areas of high traffic densities; even getting to South Herts/West Essex takes at least 50 minutes, through traffic, for a fit cyclist. Because of this we are reluctant to take on the responsibility of caring for young riders as collisions with motor traffic can happen. We feel we cannot provide sufficient 'duty of care' on the road, in what is sometimes a hostile traffic environment.

We can make exceptions for children/grandchildren of existing members when the adult family member will take on welfare responsibility for his/her junior family member and accompany them on group rides. Unfortunately, we do not have access to any 'off road' or safe cycling circuits.

Therefore, I recommend the following clubs, depending on where you live. They are all 'Go Ride' accredited; see British Cycling website:

<http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/go-ride/article/goridest-What-is-Go-Ride>

This is the best route into cycling for a young person.

Welwyn Wheelers are based at Gosling Stadium, Welwyn Garden City, north of London, and have regular access to the velodrome there. They have a very strong youth policy with fully accredited coaches and have developed some outstanding talents, including the Trott sisters. Laura is multiple World and Olympic champion; Emma was, until recently, a professional road racer based in Belgium. During the summer, Welwyn Wheelers organise a track league for young riders.

<http://welwynwheelers.org.uk/club-welfare>

Lee Valley Youth are based at the Redbridge Cycle Centre, east London, with regular access to the cycle racing circuit and events for all ages. The club is Go-Ride accredited and all coaches are British Cycling qualified. It is anticipated that the indoor velodrome at Olympic Park will be a regular training venue now it is open to the local cycling community.

<https://lvyc.co.uk/about-us/child-protection/>

Herne Hill Youth CC operates at Herne Hill velodrome, South London. They have a varied programme of events, winter and summer. This is where Sir Bradley Wiggins started his cycling life. Coaches are BC qualified; the club is Go-Ride accredited.

<https://www.hhycc.com/safeguarding>

Hillingdon Slipstreamers CC have regular access to the closed cycle circuit at Hillingdon, West London. They run regular training and competitive events for youngsters of all ages. Coaches are BC qualified; the club is Go-Ride accredited.

<http://www.slipstreamers.co.uk/club-info/welfare-safeguarding/>

All four clubs do an excellent job of introducing youngsters to cycling in safe and inspirational environments.

Regards,

Vince Freeley,

Gen. Secretary, Finsbury Park CC.