

National Cycle-Rail Awards

News Release - 7 November 2008

World record-breaking cyclist Mark Beaumont presents National Cycle-Rail Awards 2008

Local authorities, train operators & individuals honoured as record number cycle to railway stations

The Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), has today honoured train operating companies, local authorities and individuals at the National Cycle-Rail Awards 2008, as the number of people travelling by bike to railway stations every year continues to rise – there were 24 million journeys in 2007/08.

World record breaking cyclist, Mark Beaumont, who rode his bicycle 18,297 miles through 20 countries in just 194 days opened the Awards ceremony, held at the Novotel Hotel near London's Euston Station.

The Awards recognise the progress made by the rail industry and associated organisations towards encouraging integrated cycle and train travel. Latest figures show the numbers of people cycling to railway stations has risen in the past five years by 25 per cent, from 19.5 million in 2002/03 to nearly 25 million in 2007/08.

Winners at this year's Awards were:

Train Operator of the Year	First Capital Connect (FCC)
Best Local Government Contribution	Surrey County Council
Station of the Year	St Albans (FCC)
Customer Service Excellent	Eurostar
Most innovative approach	Hitrans
People Award	Dave Holladay

Michael Roberts, ATOC's Chief Executive, said: "The number of people cycling to railway stations has continued to rise year on year, with record numbers now opting for 'saddle and train'. These Awards were established to encourage more people to combine cycle and rail and to reward the best practice in making life easier for cyclists to access the rail network. We congratulate all the winners and finalists who have helped to make this possible."

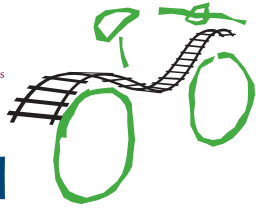
Winners include First Capital Connect, crowned Train Operator of the Year for its redevelopment programme, which has resulted in 675 new cycle spaces and improved cycle facilities at 28 stations. The judges commended FCC for its pragmatic approach that 'focused on the basic needs of everyday bike-rail users.'

Surrey County Council picked up the Best Local Government Contribution award for successfully equipping every First Great Western station on the North Downs Line in Surrey with sheltered cycle storage.

Eurostar received top marks for Customer Service following the implementation of a new cycle reservation system, which has increased the number of bikes carried on its services by 300% in just 12 months.

The prestigious Station of the Year accolade was awarded to St Albans in Hertfordshire, operated by First Capital Connect. The judges were impressed with the station's ongoing commitment to improving cycle facilities and its reduction in cycle crimes while a massive redevelopment programme was taking place.

With more than 60% of the population living within a 15 minute cycle ride of a railway station, the Awards, which have been running since 2004, also celebrate innovation and individuals whose contribution makes a real difference to cyclists wishing to use the rail network.



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The winners of the ATOC National Cycle-Rail Awards 2008 are:

***Pindar* Customer Service Excellence**

Winner: Eurostar

Highly commended: National Express East Anglia

***Cycling England* Best Local Government Contribution**

Winner: Surrey County Council

Highly commended: Milton Keynes Borough Council

Most Innovative Approach to Cycle-Rail Integration

Winner: Hitrans

Highly commended: First Great Western & OYBike

Person of the Year

Winner: Dave Holladay

Highly commended: Simon Lloyd

CTC Station of the Year

Winner: St Albans Station

Highly commended: Bedford Station

Train Operator of the Year

Winner: First Capital Connect

Highly commended: National Express East Anglia

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