

# New Year MBE for CTC's Les Warner

LES WARNER, CTC national secretary, has been rewarded for years of hard work by an MBE in the New Year Honours List. It is yet another award for a very hard-working man who has the welfare of cycling at heart. Last September he was awarded the Bidlake Memorial Plaque, which is one of the highest tributes in cycling.

His is a life few could keep pace with, for he gives service in honorary ways in many fields, and not only to headline-making meetings with the likes of British Rail over the free bikes by rail scheme.

He joined the CTC staff in 1953 and in six years became secretary, taking office in 1959. The job gets busier, but he absorbs the work and pushes on, although during last year he was unwell and forced to rest.

He has also been secretary of the Cycling Council of Great Britain since its formation in 1967. He was also secretary to the CCGB's forerunner, the Standing Joint Committee on Cycling, since 1959.

When the George Herbert Stancer Memorial Committee was formed in 1964, Les became secretary.

He has also served on the RoSPA Cycling Section since 1959, becoming chairman in 1975. He has been on RoSPA's National Road Safety Committee since 1959, too.

The list goes on. He is president of the Cycle Touring Commission of the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme, a member of the Joint Bicycle Public Relations committee of the Bicycle Association of Great Britain, and of the outdoor pursuits division of the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

Recently he was appointed chairman of a special cycling subgroup of a working party set up by the Greater London and SE Council for Sport and Recreation studying informal recreation.

Local to his home and office

near Godalming, he serves on the Waverley East Road Safety Advisory Committee, representing the CTC.

He began cycling in 1944 when he was 16 and a member of the South Western RC. Although he did some time trialling, he was attracted more to the leisure side of the pastime. He edited the club's newsletter for some years.

Now, 35 years on, he is vice-president of his first club. But he is also a member of the Rough Stuff Fellowship, the Tandem Club, and is a former president of the Pedal Club.

In the early years of the BCTC and the York Rally, Les was much involved in the organizing of these events.

One of the important links which cycling enjoys with the government also saw Les playing a leading role. That was in the formation of the Friends of Cycling group of MPs in 1968.

For 10 years from 1954 to '64, Les led CTC-organized tours to parts of Europe, and became well-known as a lecturer on Continental touring.

His family are all keen cyclists, the marriage getting off on a honeymoon awheel with his wife, Sheila. The three children continue their father and mother's interest. Timothy (15), Sally (13), and Wendy (9).

For services to cycling, Les was awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal in 1977.



NEWLY honoured, CTC secretary Les Warner