

Are you up for the challenge?

IT'S been a fantastic year for cycling in the capital, and to keep momentum going, TfL has launched the third and final stage of its London Cycle Challenge.

Focusing on participation rather than miles covered, it runs until September 5 with everyone encouraged to achieve a personal cycling goal. To help them, they can use a mobile app to log rides automatically using GPS. The app, free to download and available on Apple iOS and Android, makes it easier to record rides, set targets and even encourage friends and family to give the challenge a go.



There are some great prizes up for grabs including a year's membership

to the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme, an item of signed Team GB cycling kit and access to the Tour of Britain finish area. The tour is the UK's biggest professional cycle race and the country's largest annual free spectator sporting event, which finishes in the capital on September 14.

People wishing to take part in the challenge who don't have a bike can use Barclays Cycle Hire. In just three easy steps, users can hire,

ride and return a bike at any available docking station. Using a bank card, anyone will be able to saddle up on a cycle hire bike for a 24-hour period for just £2. As long as the trips are kept under half an hour they can make as many rides as they wish for free.

- For more information, go to tfl.gov.uk/cycling
- Sign up for the challenge at tfl.gov.uk/cyclechallenge



Crackdown on bogus sites

TfL is asking Londoners for their views on proposed changes to how they pay the Congestion Charge.

Plans include refusing to accept Congestion Charge payments from unofficial 'copycat' websites or other unauthorised third parties, as they can mislead customers who could pay more than they need.

The suggested crackdown would be the latest step towards combating rogue sites which can charge unsuspecting customers up to £8 extra a day for non-existent 'additional services'.

Another proposal includes replacing the SMS text message payment channel with a smartphone app which would let customers manage payments and view their account.

- To give your views, visit tfl.gov.uk/ccyourviews before September 12

Introducing the Fender Routemaster

THE Fender Routemaster will begin its maiden voyage through the capital tomorrow to celebrate the 60th anniversary of two design icons – the Fender Stratocaster and the Routemaster bus.

To mark these anniversaries, Fender has designed 25 limited-edition Routemaster-inspired Stratocaster guitars, and TfL has wrapped a number 24 bus in a unique Fender Stratocaster design.

To launch this collaboration the specially-designed bus will be unveiled in Camden where it will play host to performances between 4.30pm and 6pm in Castlehaven Park. Archané Roots and Lower than Atlantis will play live sets on the bus, and three unsigned artists, chosen from a Strummerville competition, will battle it out for a chance to win one of the limited-edition guitars – one of only 25 in the world.

- For more information, go to the Transport for London Facebook page



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