

Cycle History 29



Michael Grützner dressed as an 1818 Dandy on his colourful Denis Johnson "Hobby Horse." Alongside is young David Grützner on his push bike, a modern version of the "Hobby Horse." This photo was taken during the 29th (2019) ICHC on Longacre in London by Colin Kirsch.



"The above print was published to inform the public about a new machine called a "Hobby" (or a Hobby Horse). [Note: This print is actually an advertisement for Denis Johnson's new machine.] The picture indicates that this machine and it's rider command the enthusiastic admiration of the public and that this machine enables it's rider to move as fast as, perhaps faster than, a galloping race horse. The caption written on the print is copied here for clarity:

Match against Time or Wood beats Blood and Bone

"This famous Hobby was bred in Germany after winning every thing there was shipped for Long Acre, patronized by the Dandies, and is now expected to out run all the First Blood on the turf.

Published April 17, 1819, by T. Tegg III, Cheapside.

Cycle History 29

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:

The Dandy Chargers ride again in the year 2018 at the 29th ICHC: This picture was taken 16 June 2018 in Long Acre, London, England, where Denis Johnson made Hobby Horses in 1818 - 1819. The riders shown here are (l - r) Roger Street, Michael Gruetzner, David Gruetzner (on small balance bike), Glynn Stockdale, Paul Adams, Unknown Rider, Trish Street (behind Unknown Rider), Metropolitan Police Escort, and David Jones. Roger Street, Captain of Britain's Dandy Chargers is wearing the uniform of a Captain in the 12th Royal Lancers that dates back to 1819. (photo by Keizo Kobayashi).

BACK COVER PHOTO:

The Participants of the 29th ICHC held in Guildhall, The City of London, England. (Photo by Colin Kirsch)



AN OLD COACHMAKER'S SHOP IN LONG ACRE.

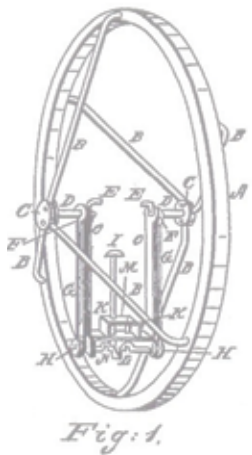
Illustration (circa 1818) that depicts the shop owned by Denis Johnson where he made Hobby Horses.



Plaque that commemorated the identification of Denis Johnson's shop in which he made Hobby Horses,

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Notes from the Conference Organizer

The City of London 29th International Cycle History Conference was an ambitious undertaking, with more than 30 papers presented over the three days. This Conference was special in that it was a *de facto* collaboration with the City of London.

The City gave us the use of its beautiful facilities in the magnificent historic Guildhall Library. The Conference complimented The City's policies for advocating cycling as a key mode of transport. Additionally, The City contributed by promoting some several events that ran parallel to the Conference: These included a Q&A session with some members of parliament and cycling industry leaders on the Future of Cycling, and a separate discussion on "The Public Attitudes to Cycling".



The Conference delegates at one of two Freedom of the City of London ceremonies. Honorees Isabelle Clement (Wheels for Wellbeing), Ashok Sinha (London Cycling Coalition), and Phil Saunders (Proposer)

Delegates were guests at two Freedom of the City of London ceremonies, two evening receptions, and a splendid banquet in the historic Livery Hall of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers.

I was pleased that the papers covered a wide range of cycling topics. It became apparent to me that there is reason to have



The Conference organizing committee. (l-r) The Conference Logo painting by Ioanna Tamas that was inspired by Carl Sagan who wrote "If constellations had been named in the 20th Century, I suppose that we would see bicycles"; Peter Card, Irene Sanderson, Phil Saunders, Jennifer Baksjhi, Tom Baker, Gary Sanderson, and (not in the photo) Jan Kralik, Colin Kirsch, and Mark Scherer.

sessions for papers on bicycles *per se* and separate sessions on other related cycling topics.

London was chosen as the site of the 29th ICHC in part because 2018 marks 200 years since Denis Johnson of Long Acre, London, registered his Hobby Horse patent in December 1818. In true style, Glynn Stockdale produced an exciting new find, a Denis Johnson hobby horse in unrestored, as found, condition, for exhibition at the conference. Glynn presented an interesting paper on this rare machine, cycling archeology at its best.

Thanks to all who made the conference possible. I would especially like to thank The Organizing Committee and our sponsors.

- Philip Saunders

Conference Sponsors:



Notes from the Editors

The 29th International Cycle History Conference was the ICHC's 29th consecutive annual conference. It was another huge success, with thirty presentations and two Round Table Discussions on topics related to the future of 'cycles'. The conference was held in the beautiful historic Old Library of Guild Hall in the center of the square mile of territory that is The City of London. The authors of these presentations came from nine countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, & USA), and the thoughtfully illustrated presentations covered a wide range of subjects that went in time from a presentation on a recently discovered original Denis Johnson Hobby Horse, to a detailed description of Iver Johnson and the bicycles that his company made in the 1880s, up to the first half of the 20th century, and on to the role of bicycles in the world of psychedelia in the 1960s and 1970s. Listening to the papers, meeting with the presenters, and participating in the special events, such as the End of the Conference Banquet, is an experience that all people interested in cycle history should experience at least once in a life-time.

The location in which the 29th ICHC was held is also special because it was only about one mile away from Long Acre within The City of London where Denis Johnson worked to develop, and then to manufacture, Pedestrian Hobby Horses beginning with his British Patent granted in December 1818. This important event was celebrated in several ways including a dress-up parade from Guild Hall to Denis Johnson's quarters in Long Acre (see the front cover for a representative picture of the Paraders). Hopefully, these notes will convince you that attending ICHC Conferences is informative, interesting, and entertaining.

Where do we go from here?

The activities of the ICHC are limited to holding the annual Conference and the publication of the proceedings of these conferences. Venues for all ICHC conferences are decided by the vote of those present at the Annual Business Meeting to select different venues from among the proposals at hand by prospective conference organizers. The cost of all Conferences are paid entirely by the Registration Fees charged for each Conference, and the cost of producing and publishing the proceedings is paid by a fee paid with the Registration fee and the "Pre-Paid Subscription Program for Printed Copies of the Proceedings" that is offered each year. Continuity of the ICHC demands some additional organization, and this will be a major item of business at the Annual Business Meeting at the 30th ICHC to be held in Znojmo, The Czech Republic, on June 18-22, 2019. We are very fortunate to have had Nigel Land, Editor of the V-CC's journal *The Boneshaker*, come forward to conduct a SWOT Survey of attitudes towards, and ideas about, the ICHC's future. The results of this survey will be posted on the ICHC website <http://www.ichc.biz>, and they will serve as the basis for our discussions at that time. Our objective will be to finish the 2019 ICHC with an accepted organization that will carry the ICHC into a successful future.

The ICHC Editorial/Publications Committee

- Gary W. Sanderson, *Chairman*, Verona, New Jersey, USA
- Thomas Baker, Tempe, Arizona, USA
- Jan Králik, Prague, The Czech Republic
- Phillip P. Sanderson, Oceanside, California, USA





*If constellations had been named in the 20th century,
I suppose we would see bicycles.*

- Carl Sagan