**Southwark Cycle Buddies, Nov 21-22**

Report by Bruce Lynn

**Background.** The Buddies programme started in Southwark in July 2020 during the first pandemic lockdown. It has been looked after by James Sibley since just after start up. He has recently stopped looking after it due to other commitments. This report is being written by Bruce Lynn who was much involved in setting up the Southwark Buddies programme.

**Nov 21-22.** In the last Calendar year (Nov 2021-2022) we have received 16 responses from inexperienced cyclists looking for an experienced buddy and 8 responses from experienced cyclists offering to buddy someone. Last year the figures were 16 new cyclists, 21 experienced and in the period from July to Nov 2020 there were responses from 30 new cyclists and 62 experienced ones.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nov 21-22 | Nov 20-21 | Jul 20-Nov20 | Sum |
| New | 16 | 16 | 30 | 62 |
| Exp | 8 | 21 | 62 | 91 |
| Sum | 24 | 37 | 92 |  |
| %new | 67% | 43% | 33% |  |

This year, judging by first names, we had mostly (83%) females within the inexperienced group. In contrast for the experienced cyclists numbers were more equal, 38% female. Riders are spread all over the borough. The majority ask to subscribe to our newsletter.

**Future.** Although the numbers are small. The work involved in running the programme is small. The registration is carried out by LCC. We just have to use standard e-mails to contact suitable pairs of buddies. Hopefully we can find a member prepared to continue the Buddy programme.