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250 cyclists retrace last ride of accident victim

CYCLING enthusiast Sylvester Ang was a keen advocate of greater road safety for cyclists but became an accident victim himself.

The 37-year-old store designer died of severe injuries after he was hit by a bus, pinned under and dragged for about 7m while cycling along Lim Chu Kang Road on Dec 19, 2004.

Early yesterday morning, about 250 cyclists, including Member of Parliament Ong Kian Min, retraced Mr Ang's last ride to raise awareness of an issue that was high on Mr Ang's agenda - the need for motorists to recognise and respect cyclists as fellow road users.

Mr Ang's widow greeted riders who gathered yesterday to make the 60km ride from the junction of Upper Thomson Road and Yio Chu Kang Road. The cyclists observed a minute's silence in memory of the man described as an excellent husband, a sports enthusiast and a good friend. Then they set off in groups of 10.

Most wore red, Mr Ang's favourite colour, as they pedalled their way to Mandai, Choa Chu Kang, Bukit Timah and back to the starting point.

The annual Sly Ride, inaugurated last year, is organised by the Triathlon Family, a group that trains together for triathlons. Mr Ang was a member of the group.

Group member Melvin Yuan, a 29-year-old public relations consultant, said: 'Cyclists are very vulnerable and all road users have to realise this.'

Mr Ong, a keen cyclist, is also chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Transport. He said the event should remind participants of the importance of riding safely and the need to create mutual respect between cyclists and other road users.