

BREAK-IN: five stolen cycles were worth £3,000

Bike thieves raid children's club

MIKE PYLE

"HORRIBLE and calculated" thieves targeted a young people's cycling club, taking racing bikes worth more than £3,000 in a well-planned raid.

Children who turned up to Palmer Park Velo on Saturday morning were shocked to find that five of their high-performance road bicycles had been stolen from a secured store at the club in Wokingham Road, East Reading.

The bikes, which must have been taken between Monday, August 8, and Saturday, August 13, had only been bought recently to replace others stolen three years ago.

Staff at the club say the theft must have been planned by someone who knows Palmer Park Stadium and the club well.

Palmer Park Velo head coach Andy Pitt said: "We support kids from all walks of life. Having our own bikes means that club members can ride a top quality machine even if they can't afford their own bike."

The thieves broke into the storage area and then used bolt shears to cut through cables used to secure the bicycles. The theft was discovered by maintenance manager Chris Macleod as he opened up the club to youngsters on Saturday morning.

He said: "I saw what had happened as I opened up the shed to give the bikes to children who were waiting - I noticed the cables had been bolt-cropped and the bikes had gone."



VICTIMS: Young members of Palmer Park Velo. Left, cyclists go through their paces on the track
Pictures: KATIE LAMB (Ref 111372)

"There were 30 or 40 children there and by the end of the morning we had 50 or 60 members come down - they were all very sad and very disappointed."

"The parents of children at the club have been very supportive. They've been suggesting ideas for fundraisers and things like that - the club is all self-funded."

"I think the incident has been felt quite strongly because the club is a

very special club, it's an amazing place with a unique atmosphere.

"The people who did it had to know the layout and where the bikes were kept - they were the club's five best bikes."

"If this was an opportunist thing it would be easier to brush aside but this was more organised and calculated and horrible - we fear them coming back."

The stolen bikes are three silver and blue Specialized Dolce Sport racing bikes and two red and white Giant OCR racing bikes.

If you have any information which might help police catch the thieves or recover the bicycles, you can call police on 08458 505 505 or the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Fire lives

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Brid on d

A 24-YE charged drunk falling Oracle hours of

Steph Avenue, the brid at 1am concrete

Police, crews f Dee R Road at Gould bailed Reading Thursd

Everyone deserves a break in life!

This brand new break explores the ancient cathedral cities and rugged coastline of the north.

We'll stay at the fantastic 4 star rated Portland Hotel in Hull, close to the historic Old Town area.

Our first excursion is to the historic city of York, with its narrow lanes and iconic minster.

Our second excursion is to Lincoln, dominated by its Norman cathedral, while our final excursion

Man assaulted in bag snatc

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a 34-year-old man was assaulted by a group of men in West Reading after he refused to hand over his bag.

The incident happened

men. One of the men made the demand for his bag and when he refused to hand it over the men grabbed him before pushing him to the floor and assaulting him.

The trio made further

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