

## **WINCHESTER CTC**

### **Annual Report - 2017/2018**

#### **Summary of activities**

##### **Regular Rides:**

- Saturday easy-paced rides 1 in morning & 1 afternoon per month
- Saturday 1 easy-paced day ride per month and any 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday
- Saturday 1 medium-paced ride per month
- Weekly Sunday rides with full-day and half-day options and medium-paced and faster-paced groups and in addition one Medium + per month
- Friday easy-paced: 1 morning ride per month and 1 day ride per month with informal rides on remaining Fridays
- Tuesday 1 easy-paced day ride per month, 1 medium-paced day ride per month with informal rides on the remaining Tuesdays
- Weekly Wednesday evening rides from April to September with medium-paced and faster groups. At the beginning and end of the season, we start at 6.30 pm (for reasons of daylight) and the remaining months at 7pm.

Easy-paced rides	9 – 11 mph
Medium-paced rides	11 – 14 mph
Medium + rides	13 – 15 mph
Faster-paced rides	15 – 17 mph

##### **Open events**

- Watership Down 105 km in January from Kings Worthy
- Early Season 50 mile event in February from Fisher's Pond
- Spring 75 km and 140 km in April from Winchester
- Hungerford 140 km, 170 km and 175 km Audax rides, Awbridge\*
- Late Season 50 miles from Alresford

\* Organised by Alan Davies under the auspices of Winchester CTC for insurance purposes but we are not involved in the organisation.

The Watership Down was once again oversubscribed despite increasing the entry limit to 150 riders.

The Early & Late Season 50s were well supported and numbers on the Spring 75 and 140 km also increased.

All open events made a profit, which represents the main sources of income for Winchester CTC.

Such events require volunteers and we are grateful to the riders who give up their time to help with route checking, etc. and on the day. It is often the same volunteers who help each year and I would welcome additional volunteers.

##### **Other Events**

- Christmas ride and social at the Gurkha Gallery for an excellent curry evening. Thanks to John Spiers and Caroline Maynard for organising it.
- Three Counties tour (Lake District/Yorkshire Dales/Forest of Bowland) in June. A very successful 3 day tour ably organised by Brian Whalley and Peter Heap.
- Stand at Winchester Cycle Fest run in conjunction with the Criterium races in Winchester City Centre. Thanks to Richard Coleman and his team.

In addition, several Winchester CTC members organised informal trips abroad. They are part of our official programme but are supported primarily by local riders.

##### **Volunteer Leaders**

We now have 91 registered leaders and thanks are due to them for their work. As is clear from the reports from individual coordinators, it is important not to overload existing leaders. We are looking at ways to encourage new leaders.

Similarly, we could institute informal splits on rides when numbers are high or the speed range differs if we had more leaders.

One training workshop for leaders was organised during the year. The proposed Saturday morning session in March was cancelled because of insufficient bookings.

In addition to the existing guidance for leaders, we have produced a check-list that is a useful aide-mémoire when preparing for a ride and on the day.

We have a Leaders Google Group, whose primary function is to allow leaders to arrange ride swaps. Thanks to Bryce Mansfield for managing this list.

### **Reports from Ride Coordinators:**

**Tuesday rides:** Report by Martyn Wilson and Julie Byers

The rides continue to be well supported with the large group of regular riders often being joined both by existing CTC members new to the area and those keen to join.

The ride format which alternates easy and medium paced rides works well as does alternate official and unofficial rides. The latter almost always have ride leaders attending and we are looking to make the rides official every week by using a pre-planned timetable of routes which can be used without the need for the day's leader to plan a ride from scratch. We hope to trial this in the new year.

As always, we would like to thank the ride leader members who willingly lead rides on a regular basis. Without them there would be no rides for members to enjoy!

**Wednesday evening/Sunday medium /fast rides:** Stephen Harrison reports:

The Sunday and Wednesday evening rides each have medium and faster paced groups. To help bridge the gap between the pace of these groups, we have also established monthly medium plus rides. It is hoped to run these more frequently in the coming year.

For the May – July programme there are over 50 leader slots to fill. This is a considerable challenge. I am very proud that we have been able to fill these and that no rides have been cancelled over the last year because of a lack of leader. However, we cannot have too many leaders given the number of rides and, with total support of up to 40 or more on Wednesday's and up to 30 or more on Sunday's, there is always a need for additional leader support on the day.

### **Friday rides:**

The Friday rides – both the monthly morning and monthly day rides – have been well supported. There are informal rides on the remaining Fridays. Thanks are due to Vicky Smith for her sterling work on our behalf. Vicky is also instrumental in encouraging riders on her Breeze rides to try the CTC rides.

**Saturday rides:** Steve Cherry reports:

Saturday rides continued to be well supported in the past year. The shorter easy-paced afternoon rides have been the most popular with up to 25 riders in the summer. The easy-paced all-day rides are also popular with typically 15 riders, while the medium-paced all-day rides typically had 10 riders. There has been a steady trickle of new riders many of whom go on to join Cycling UK. Finding leaders to cover all the weekly rides has been an issue but during the year many riders have progressed to become leaders and this is helping. In the last quarter, we shifted the balance by increasing the number of easy-paced all-day rides and reducing the number of medium-paced rides/. In addition, one of the half-day rides in a month is a morning ride instead of an afternoon

one. The impact of this will not really be known until the next quarter with the shorter daylight hours as we go into winter.

### **Off-road rides**

We are still receiving a steady trickle of enquiries for off-road rides but lack the critical mass for a dedicated group and so we refer interested riders to local off-road groups.

### **Links with other CTC groups**

We maintain informal links with neighbouring CTC groups, particularly with Southampton CTC and North Hampshire CTC.

### **Committee Meetings**

Your committee met 5 times during the year and benefited enormously from the new post of Minutes Secretary – thanks to Carrie Carty. Below a few highlights:

- We discussed the process for appointing Cycling UK trustees. Although not satisfactorily resolved, it is helpful that Andy Key is both a Winchester CTC committee member and a Trustee. Communication with Cycling UK has improved but it remains a concern.
- It proved an arduous task to change our bank account from Lloyds to TSB. Thanks are due to Rosie Gamble (the outgoing treasurer) and Robin Williams (the new treasurer) for their stoicism.
- The decision by Cycling UK to discontinue sending Membership Lists in November 2017 to the Registration Officer because of GDPR concerns was discussed on several occasions. We are particularly concerned by our inability to send out welcome letters to new local members. The new portal to be set up by Cycling UK as a replacement is currently being trialled but nearly one year on we are still without a mechanism for sending out welcome letters.

The minutes of our Committee Meetings are now on the website at

<http://www.winchesterctc.org.uk/34-club-documents/25-rules-meeting-reports>

### **Publicity**

- *What's-on column:* Ian Douglas has continued to publicise the activities of Winchester in the Hampshire Chronicle
- *Website:* Jeremy Mortimer continues to maintain the website. It is an attractive site and receives on average 100 views per day, which is impressive.
- *Generic leaflet:* To complement our quarterly Rides Programme we have produced a generic leaflet promoting our activities. This will have a longer shelf life and will be distributed to various outlets in Winchester.
- *Visiting cards:* These have been re-printed and can be handed out to anyone you meet who might be interested in our rides. They are available from the Secretary.
- *Facebook and Twitter:* Usage has increased over the year.
- *Google Group:* Use of the Winchester CTC Google Group continues to increase and the group now has 135 members. Thanks to Bryce Mansfield for managing the list.

### **Club Clothing**

The new design is now available and the first order will be placed in October 2018. Thanks to Tessa Valentine for all her work with the design and ordering.

### **Newsletter**

The Newsletter is published each month. It has become an important means of communication and goes to more than 470 subscribers.

### **Events Programme**

We continue to produce the quarterly programme in both print form and as a downloadable pdf and Ical file

### **Winchester CTC Accounts**

The accounts are available as a separate document and are attached. They show a healthy surplus.

### **Campaigning**

#### **J9 M3/A34**

The issue went to Public Hearing in July. Although the Inspector thought that the whole route had "originally been set out for cycling when first constructed", she ruled that the sections alongside the M3 overbridge and from the end of the western subway to the Winnall roundabout (the section signed as NCN23) could not legally be considered as a bridleway because they form part of the highway. As a result, the western subway cannot be classified as a bridleway because it would be an isolated highway that cyclists could not legally reach. The upshot of this is that the route is a bridleway from the eastern subway to the start of the M3 overbridge and the rest is not. This is disappointing but we can at least cite the Inspector's comment on the original design were our use to be threatened.

The good news is that the new design of Junction 9 as proposed by Highways England does include a high-quality shared use path to link the two ends of Easton Lane. It is possible that our campaign over the years has persuaded HE to include a cycleway. Thank you to all who submitted claim forms and provided support.

### **Cycle Winchester**

Winchester CTC was one of the groups that promoted the successful workshop "Taking Cycling Seriously" in November 2017. As a result, a group has been set up to campaign for better cycling in Winchester. The first event was a Mass Ride in June, ably organised by Winchester CT member, Rob Jordan. We know there is demand for better cycling but how do we persuade Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council to cater for it.

### **Membership**

As Cycling UK discontinued sending membership lists to local groups in November 2017, we do not have the full membership data. We have approximately 750 members.

### **Printing**

ADH Printing continues to do our printing. Thanks as always to Alan Waters

### **Conclusion**

We continue to campaign for better facilities for cycling and offer a wide range of enjoyable rides and there is demand for more. At present, we cannot translate that demand into additional rides because it would overload our volunteers. The challenge next year will be to come up with ideas of how we can meet that demand in a sustainable way.

Sue Coles  
Secretary  
Winchester CTC  
08102018

