

WINCHESTER CTC

Annual Report - 2016/2017

Regular Rides:

- Easy-paced on-road ½ day ride (15-25 miles) twice a month on Saturdays
- Easy-paced on-road day ride (35-45 miles) once a month on Saturdays
- Medium-paced rides (50-60 miles) once a month on Saturdays and any 5th Saturday
- Weekly Sunday rides with full-day and half-day options and medium-paced and faster-paced groups.
- Friday morning easy ½ day ride once a month and informal rides on other Fridays
- Tuesday 1 easy-paced ride per month, either ½ day or full day, 1 medium-paced day ride per month and informal rides on other Tuesdays
- Wednesday evening rides from April to September with medium-paced and faster groups at 7 pm

The family rides were not run this year; it was felt that the Winchester Bike Hub was better placed to organise such rides. We also discontinued the additional faster Wednesday evening ride at 6pm because of a lack of demand. However, we have increased the number of official Tuesday rides and the Friday group will do the same from November 2017.

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
- Pace Judging and Freewheeling event in May
- Hungerford 200 km and 140 km Audax rides in June from Awbridge**
- Invitation ride for Cycling UK's Women's Festival of Cycling
- 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 and although the weather was misty, it was mild and we had no ice to bother riders.

Most of the open events were well supported. Numbers on the Spring 75 and 140 km in April remain low although up on 2016. Similarly, numbers were low on the Pace Judging and Freewheeling event in April - thanks to Bryce Mansfield for organising the latter event - and both these events were enjoyed by those who participated. Profit and high participation are not the only criteria when deciding which events to run. Events are organised to provide riders with a range of challenge events that complement our led rides.

The Late Season 50 mile for 2017 was on 1st October and so technically comes within the 2017-2018 year. The organisation comes within the 2016-2017 year. Many thanks are due to Don Anderson for checking and revising the route and Clyde Ingram, Marian Speakman and Caesar Slattery for volunteering to man the start and finish. The amended route avoided some of the roads in East Hampshire with the potholes and surface gravel and happily there were no accidents this year.

We are always open to new ideas for additional open events, regular rides or other activities.

Other Events

- Christmas ride and social at the Winchester Racquet and Fitness Club, Bereweke Road, Winchester. This was ably organised by Sheelagh Evans and attracted a good attendance with the quiz on the contents of John Walker's saddlebag being particularly well received.

- Stand at the Winchester Cycle Fest – thanks again to all those who volunteered to help.

Leaders

We offered a further ride leader training session for both potential and current leaders. It was again organised by Andy Key and led by trainer Greg Woodford.

We also offered First Aid training for leaders. This was a 4-hour course delivered by Oakley Services Medical. It included incident management, CPR and basic casualty treatment. It was very ably organised by Julie Byers – thanks again to Julie.

The training has gone some way to encouraging riders to volunteer to lead but equally others have stood down for various reasons and so we are still keen to recruit more leaders to cover the increasing number of rides and also the need to split larger groups into two. In addition to the planned training workshop, we can offer informal mentoring support for potential leaders.

We purchased 60 multi-tools for current leaders as recognition of their contribution to the successful running of Winchester CTC, fulfilling the 2015 AGM motion.

We have set up a Leaders Google Group that allows leaders to send an email that reaches all leaders. Its prime use is for swaps but the Secretary also uses it occasionally to communicate information to all leaders.

Without our leaders, we could not offer our current programme. We owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Ride and Ride Reports

To make it easier for potential and existing riders to understand the nature of our various rides we have divided them into three pace categories, irrespective of the day on which they are run:

Easy-paced rides	9 – 11 mph ½ day or full day
Medium-paced rides	11 – 14 mph ½ or full day or evening
Faster-paced rides	15 – 17 mph ½ day or evening

Tuesday rides

Martyn Wilson reports:

"These continue to be well supported with over 50 riders taking part at one time or another. The fortnightly format of alternating Easy and Medium paced rides works well and provides a range of routes and speeds.

We have "unofficial" rides on the Tuesdays when there is no official ride. This too has worked well; encouraging riders to suggest routes and to consider becoming ride leaders.

I am grateful for the tremendous support the rides leaders, in particular, have offered. Without their hard work we could not enjoy the Hampshire countryside and good companionship as we do".

Wednesday evening/Sunday moderate/fast rides

We continued to run our ever popular Wednesday evening rides and offer both medium-paced and fast-paced rides. We discontinued the 6pm additional faster ride due to a lack of demand. However, we started the last few evening rides of the season at 6.30 pm rather than 7pm and this was a successful experiment. A 6.30 pm start enables more of the ride to be in the daylight. We shall do the same at the beginning of the 2018 Wednesday evening season. Some of the medium-paced

riders stop at a village pub before returning to Winchester, whereas the fast-paced riders tend to prefer a pub stop back in Winchester.

Similarly on Sunday we continue to offer medium-paced and fast-paced rides, either ½ day or full day. We usually choose the same coffee stop for both groups. Some riders continue for a full day and this is ridden at the pace of the medium group

We have also offered breakfast rides monthly from May – August. They enable the ½ day riders to discover new territory.

Support throughout the year has been good and we have welcomed several new riders. New leaders are coming forward but we still need more. With larger groups, we often need to split the group into two, each with its own leader. It can be challenging to manage larger groups but the supply of an adequate number of leaders, including backmarkers eases the situation.

We have still not fully resolved the issue of pace as there is often a range of speeds within each group, e.g. some faster riders seek to push the pace above 17 mph and similarly in the medium group, some riders can ride faster than the 14 mph maximum. However, we have not yet reached the point where we can consider a further split either within these two groups or across the two groups.

The Wednesday and Sunday programme is put together by Stephen Harrison. In the summer, this means that he has to find 4 leaders each week, a not inconsiderable task. Many thanks are due to him.

Friday rides

Vicky Smith reports:

"The Friday rides continue to have new riders every month for the official rides and there is a regular group that cycle every week in between.

It is clear that there is interest in running a longer monthly easy-paced ride (about 40 miles), which will be included in the programme on the first Friday of the month. These will be co-ordinated by Caroline Maynard.

We have lost a couple of our regular leaders and hope that the longer rides may encourage other leaders to assist with the Friday Forty".

Saturday rides

Steve Cherry reports:

"Saturday rides in the past year have enjoyed much support. In particular the easy-paced afternoon rides have attracted up to 20 plus riders with good weather, and there has been a steady influx of new riders many of which have subsequently joined the club. Most new riders have expressed that they find the rides friendly and welcoming, though pace and length is sometimes an issue.

The all-day easy-pace and intermediate-pace (now called medium-paced) rides typically have 10 plus regular riders some of which have graduated from the shorter easy-paced rides. The afternoon rides are to some extent suffering from their own success as it has been necessary to split the ride into several groups ideally each with a leader especially when there are many new to group riding. Fortunately there have been several leaders on those rides. Even so managing large rides is still a challenge with regard to motorised traffic.

A new cafe stop has been found and used for easy-paced rides at Sandydown which is a convenient 10 miles from Winchester.

Again this year a ride to the North Hampshire barbecue was one of the medium-paced rides.

Finding leaders for rides has been an issue though it has eased somewhat through the year as new leaders have become available.

Off-road rides

We are still unable to offer off-road rides but refer interested riders to NewForce or one of the informal off-road groups that exist in Winchester.

Links with other CTC groups

We maintain informal links with neighbouring CTC groups. Several riders enjoyed the annual North Hampshire barbecue and riders have participated in rides and events organised by Southampton CTC rides. Some Southampton CTC riders attended the ride leader workshop that we organised.

Committee Meetings

Your committee met 4 times during the year.

In the early part of the year, the committee spent considerable time looking at the motion passed at the 2016 AGM:

"The AGM instructs the Committee to research options for the future of Winchester CTC as a result of changes within Cycling UK/CTC and present the results and recommendations to the membership within 6 months"

A sub-group examined four options:

- Remaining a member group of Cycling UK
- Independent club affiliated to Cycling UK
- Independent club affiliated to British Cycling
- Independent club affiliate to the national Clarion CC

As a result of the detailed analysis (available on request), the Committee voted unanimously to retain the status quo. Its recommendation to members was "we remain as a member group but keep the situation under review in the knowledge that there are available alternatives. This recommendation was published in the Newsletter in February 2017.

In January 2017 several members of the committee met with officers from Cycling UK (Director of Cycling, local groups' officer and 4 members of the cycling development team). We were joined by representatives from Southampton CTC, Fleet Cycling and North Hampshire CTC.

The meeting had been requested by local groups following the lack of liaison between Cycling UK Cycling Development Officers and local CTC member groups with regard to the community cycling clubs. The meeting was felt to be beneficial and national officers had a better understanding of local group activities. It is not yet clear whether this will translate into better communication.

Children on rides

The committee discussed the revised Cycling UK policy. Several members of the committee had reservations about that part of the policy that allowed unaccompanied children 13 upwards to attend rides with parental consent.

As a result, the committee added a condition to the policy on unaccompanied children and it now reads:

"Children aged 13 - 17 may participate unaccompanied on provision of a signed parental consent form *subject to the requirement that on their first two rides they must be accompanied by a responsible adult acting in loco parentis*".

Committee members

Several long-standing members are standing down at the AGM and deserve particular thanks.

John Spiers is standing down from the role of Chairman: John has been an excellent chairman for Winchester CTC and was also chairman of South Hampshire CTC when South Hampshire CTC split into two separate groups, i.e. Winchester CTC and Southampton CTC. As secretary, I shall miss his support but I am sure that he will continue riding with the groups and leading our rides. Thanks very much John.

Rosie Gamble, our treasurer, is another long-standing committee member who is standing down at this AGM. She has looked after our finances very efficiently and we similarly hope that she will continue to support our rides. Thanks very much Rosie.

Bryce Mansfield has held various positions, most recently as Welfare Officer. He is also standing down from the committee but will continue to manage the Google Groups and post on Facebook. We wish him many more years of cycling. Thanks you Bryce.

John Walker is moving to Devon and so is standing down as our clothing officer. Hampshire's loss is Devon's gain. Thanks very much John.

Publicity

Ian Douglas has continued to publicise the activities of Winchester CTC, particularly in the "What's On" column of the Hampshire Chronicle. The Cycle Fest in June also provided an opportunity to promote our activities. Thanks to everyone involved.

Website

The new website went live in October and has been universally praised. Thanks very much again to Jeremy Mortimer for his continued work on the website. The new website has an expanded Route Library but more routes are required – see website for details.

Facebook and Twitter

We have a presence on both Facebook and Twitter and there is the potential to increase the use of social media provided that we have the volunteers to post.

Club Clothing

We placed 1 order for clothing with the new design. The Winged Wheel works well alongside the Winchester City logo. We have several summer caps and winter under-helmet caps in stock.

Google Group

Use of the Winchester CTC Google Group continues to increase and the group now has more than 100 members.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is published each month. It has become an important means of communication and goes to more than 400 subscribers. We still need more photos and articles from members.

Events Programme

We continue to produce the quarterly programme in both print form and as a downloadable pdf. Although many members access the programme on the website, the printed version is useful for new members and as a publicity tool.

Winchester CTC Accounts

Rosie Gamble, our Treasurer will report separately on finances. The draft accounts are on the website and will be available at the AGM. Thanks are due to Rosie and also to Robin Williams, our Account Examiner.

Campaigning**J9 M3/A34**

This issue has still not been resolved. The Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate issued an interim order.

Part of the route has been confirmed as a bridleway but not the rest, including the section from the Tesco roundabout to the first subway (under the jurisdiction of Hampshire County Council [HCC] rather than Highways England and already signed as a cycleway). HCC has refused to regularise this anomaly although it previously said it would. It justifies its refusal on the grounds that such action might compromise the redevelopment of a junction that is regarded as crucial to the economic development of the whole area. Potentially this could mean that there is no intention to provide a satisfactory route for cyclists or even pedestrians as part of the redevelopment.

A modified order has been issued and Winchester CTC has objected to it. There will now be a further hearing. Our campaign will continue firstly through political and press channels and possibly some form of public action.

Winchester Cycle Working Group

Winchester City Council has discontinued support for the Winchester Cycle Working Group and so the group has not met this year. Winchester CTC is one of the organisers of a public meeting on Thursday 9 November 2017 at the United Church, Jewry Street starting at 7pm to discuss whether a dedicated campaign group should be set up in Winchester.

Membership

Marion Speakman, our Registration Officer has provided the membership report:

"The following table is an annual summary starting from when I took over. Membership is growing slightly but note that the over 65s group is growing the most and that there are very few under 18s. HQ has changed the categories with the latest list. "Five Year" has replaced the "Commuted" and "Senior Commuted" categories

	Dec 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Adult	242	231	231	233
Additional			20	19
Affiliated	33	28	29	34
Commuted	17	19	20	-----
Senior Commuted	14	14	11	-----
Five Year				28
CTC Affiliated	7	8	10	14
Disabled	3	3	2	1
Family	223	236	230	-----
Household				248
Life Members	14	14	15	15
Over 65	99	99	112	117
Student	10	12	6	3
Unwaged	22	21	22	19
Under 18	13	7	3	2
Trial		11	0	0
Misc	5	4	5	4
TOTAL	702	707	716	737
New Members		75	90	96

Printing

ADH Printing continues to print our events programme and other leaflets. Thanks are due to Alan Waters

Conclusion

Another busy and successful year for Winchester! Attendance has grown, particularly on the mid-week rides. The demand for more rides is there but we must be careful not to not organise more rides than we can actually manage.

Sue Coles
Secretary
Winchester CTC
13102017