

## **Secretary's report to CTC Cambridge AGM November 2017**

### **1. Membership**

Total membership numbers in the Cambridgeshire Membership Group (MG) are stable / slightly increasing, with 1124 members in November 2017, compared to 1057 in November 2016. The membership numbers break down as follows:

- Adult members – 372
    - Additional adult members sharing same address as an adult member – 27
  - Main household memberships – 146
    - Additional members through household memberships – 282
  - Life members – 37
  - Senior members (over 65) – 175
  - Students – 16
  - Unwaged – 31
  - Right to Ride members - 4
  - Young person (Under 18) – 1
  - Honorary member - 1
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- Affiliated individual members (i.e. members of an affiliated cycling club) – 15
  - Affiliated group memberships (local cycling organisations, Police etc.) – 8

145 new members joined Cambridgeshire MG over the last 12 months. Of these, 135 were new to Cycling UK, and 10 were existing Cycling UK members who had moved into our area.

This means that 78 people have either moved from our area to another MG area, or have not renewed their Cycling UK membership, for whatever reason.

So far this year, 22 different Guest Riders have ridden with us, of which 4 have gone on to join Cycling UK.

### **2. Rider registration and ride organisation**

In January 2017 we started a more formal approach to recording who is out on club rides, and through this process, we know that 110 of our members have been on at least one ride with us since January 2017, and one rider has been on over 60 different club rides since then!

Rupert Goodings will be reporting on the club's programme of rides, so I will not cover that in this report, except to thank Rupert and his team on behalf of the whole club for the excellent work they do in providing club members with a varied programme of rides throughout the year.

### **3. Club events**

I'd now like to look back some of the special events that took place in the club over the last year.

In December 2016, the club held its Christmas Lunch at Bourn Golf Club, attended by around 40 of our regular riders. This was a great event and provided a chance for people who normally take part in different rides to meet up socially. A highlight was the announcement of the winner of the Len Nice Trophy, awarded for service to the club. This was won by Rupert Goodings.

The process of choosing this year's winner of the Len Nice award is now under way, organised by Chris Emerson, and there will be a chance to hear the nominations at the AGM, and then fill out voting slips over tea. The results will again be announced at the Christmas Lunch.

Forms for booking places at this year's Christmas Lunch will also be available at the AGM. I'd like to thank Sue Howell for all the work she does for the club in organising this successful and enjoyable annual event for us.

A highlight of the summer months is the home teas that are hosted by members. This year, club members enjoyed two great home teas hosted by Peter and Lesley Woodward in West Wratting, and by Sue Howell in Foxton. Everyone appreciates all the work that goes into hosting these popular events, and I'd like to thank the hosts of this year's home teas on behalf of all the people who attended. The Runs Committee are always keen to hear from others who may be able to host future home teas, so any offers of help will be warmly welcomed.

Another great event in the summer was a barbeque hosted at Andy and Sarah's house in Little Chesterford. This event was a sell-out, with 40 people enjoying great food and great weather. Thank you to Andy and Sarah for all the work that went into preparing for and hosting this event. The committee are keen to hear m views on future events, so it would be good to get your ideas for other events that members across the club could participate in.

### **4. Audax events**

A number of our riders also take part in cycling events organised by Audax UK – the “long distance cycling organisation”. We are lucky to have a club member who is also a local organiser – Nick Wilkinson – so we benefit from having local rides that can be ridden either on set dates, or at any time, right on our doorstep. The “standard” Audax distance is 200km, and we should congratulate CTC Cambridge regular riders who have ridden this distance for the first time over the last year or so, including David Tassell, Susan Goodrich, Edmund Rose,

Simon Gallaway, and Tom Nash. There is a competition for Cycling UK / CTC Member Groups, with points scored for rides of 200km or over, and CTC Cambridge jumped from 21<sup>st</sup> place to 13<sup>th</sup> in this national competition from 2016 to 2017, which is a measure of the increased intensity of Audax activity in the club. Tom deserves a special mention for first riding with the club as a Guest Rider in January 2017, and then soon after getting around the hilly 200km "Pork Pie" Audax course to Melton Mowbray and back in March, in challenging, wet and windy conditions.

Every 4 years, Audax UK organises its flagship event - a 1400km ride from London to Edinburgh and back (LEL) attracting around 1500 riders from right across the globe who have 116 hours to complete the ride. This year, three of our regular riders - Alex Brown, Nigel Deakin and Nick Wilkinson - successfully completed this challenging event within the time limit, in spite of unseasonable August wind and rain. Congratulations to Alex, Nigel and Nick on their inspiring achievement!

LEL depends on having volunteers at different points to staff "controls" where riders can eat and sleep, and a number of our regular riders - Eva Alldritt, Ian Driver and Andrew Stuart - acted as volunteers at local controls in St Ives and Great Easton.

## **5. Touring with CTC / Cycling UK**

A number of our members have taken part in CTC-organised tours this year. These include Sheila George and Dave Wooldridge who went on a tour in Bulgaria, Glyn Jones who toured in the Himalayas, and Edward Elmer and Dave Wooldridge who are presently touring in Cambodia and Vietnam.

## **6. A notable birthday**

A notable milestone this year was the celebration of Vic Skelton's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Vic has been a member of the club since 1952, and still rides regularly. I remember venturing out on the Sunday when Tropical Storm Angus had cancelled all of our planned rides, and meeting Vic who was out and about on his bike in Quy. More recently, I have also seen how much more adept Vic is than I am at cycling off-road, on two of Adrian Lee's car assisted rides in Thetford Forest and Clumber Park this year.

## **7. Thank you!**

I know the club would like to give a big thank you to John Ross for all the service he has provided to CTC Cambridge as Secretary over the last few years. I have recently taken on the role on an interim basis, and I am gradually realising just how much work John has done behind the scenes to make the club run so well! Most of us have mainly seen John out on rides, but we have all benefitted from the work he has done to give us such a well-managed and smooth running club. We thank John for all his work and wish him well with his move to Cheshire.

I'd also like to thank the two other committee members who are not seeking re-election this year. Chis Emerson was club Secretary before John, and has more recently served as a general member of the committee. Again, Chris did lots of work to keep things running for us, and to allow us to get on and enjoy our riding. Sharon Jackson has served as our Welfare Officer for a number of years, and this is another role that is very important to the safe and proper running of the club, but that understandably doesn't have a highly visible profile. So, on behalf of the whole club, I'd like to say a huge "thank you" to John, Chris and Sharon for all they have done for CTC Cambridge over the years.

After the formal AGM agenda has concluded, we will move onto the more important business of tea and cake. This is another activity that can get taken for granted, but depends on willing volunteers working behind the scenes to make everything happen. This year, I'd like to thank Andy and Sarah Carlyle, Mike and Helen Culnane, Julia Hochbach, Sue Howell, Mia Mattheson, Mike Pearce and David Secher for their help in baking, making sandwiches and getting everything ready on the day.

## **8. Looking ahead**

CTC Cambridge has had a great year, and can look forward with optimism to the next year with our new committee, and a continuing programme of enjoyable rides and events. I'd like to thank all our regular riders for contributing to the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of the club, and to say thank you again for all the extra volunteering effort that goes on behind the scenes to make everything happen.