

CTC Cambridge
A Member Group of Cycling UK

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 12th November 2017 at Hauxton Village Hall

Present:

- George Rich – Honorary President
- Andy Carlyle – Chair
- John Seton – Interim Secretary
- Rupert Goodings – Runs Secretary
- Mike Culnane – Treasurer
- John Jackson – Interim Registration and Publicity Secretary
- Nigel Deakin – Web Officer
- Chris Emerson – General Committee Member
- Julia Hochbach – General Committee Member
- Tom Howes – General Committee Member
- Plus 28 members of CTC Cambridge

Apologies were received from:

- Belinda Borneo
- Susan Goodrich
- Cheryl Granville
- Mia Mattheson
- Sharon Jackson
- Peter Wilson
- Jim Brown - Regional Cycling UK Councillor

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked the Interim Secretary for making the arrangements for the AGM.

1. Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the CTC Cambridge 2016 AGM held on October 16th 2016 were approved, with no comments or matters arising.

2. Officers Reports

2.1 Secretary's report

John Seton summarised the appended Secretary's report. As John had previously acted as Membership Secretary for 11 months of the year, he gave a combined report covering both roles. The main points were:

Membership numbers are slightly up over the year, from 1057 to 1124. Roughly 10% of our members had been on at least one of our organised rides since January.

John reminded the meeting that the AGM audience was composed of our regular riders, who make up less than 10% of the total membership of CTC Cambridge, and that the people in the room at the AGM only represented around 4% of the total membership.

John thanked Nigel Deakin for the work that goes on behind the scenes to give the club a great web presence that is well-designed, up to date and informative. John also mentioned the work that Nigel has been doing to further improve the website.

John reviewed club events over the last year and the meeting expressed appreciation for the organisers / hosts of the successful Christmas Lunch, home teas and the summer barbeque.

John summarised the increased club activity in terms of participation in Audax long distance cycling events. A number of riders had ridden a 200km Audax event for the first time during the year, and three regular club riders has successfully completed the flagship 1400km London-Edinburgh-London event. John also noted the volunteering support that club members had provided at controls on the London-Edinburgh-London event.

John proposed thanks on behalf of the club to John Ross, Chris Emerson and Sharon Jackson who had served the club as Committee Members, serving as Secretary, and Welfare Officer.

John thanked the team who had prepared the AGM tea.

2.2 Treasurer's report

Mike Culnane presented the appended Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2017. Mike thanked the Honorary Auditor Alex Brown for volunteering his services to enable him to make the necessary annual return to Cycling UK Head Office.

In summary, the accounts continue to maintain a healthy balance of around £6500, with income and expenditure almost exactly balanced at £406 and £405 respectively. Mike noted the important contribution that members' legacies had made to securing the clubs fortunate position over the years, and in particular the fact that we would have made a loss of around £200 this year, except for the generous legacy received from Mr Maurice Teulon's estate.

Mike reminded the meeting that in the previous year we had made a one-off donation to the Michael Mason appeal to fund a private prosecution, and reported that this appeal had been heard in 2017, and had not been successful. Mike invited members to read the article on the Cycling UK website to see more about the appeal and outcome.

Mike highlighted that the club is in the fortunate position to have funds for items such as the service charge for the Christmas Lunch, the Len Nice award, and the AGM tea, but noted that it has been difficult to get ideas and agreement on any more substantive use of the club's funds to benefit members in an appropriate manner.

Mike then asked for comments and questions on his report.

David Secher questioned the modest interest rate that the cash balance generates, and pointed out that that a higher rate might be available on e.g. a 90 day notice account. Mike clarified that savings interest rates are generally low at present, and that we need an instant access account which is free of charge to operate, so he feels that the present account best meets the club's needs.

A number of ways in which the club could make use of its balance of funds were then discussed:

- Sarah Carlyle suggested that funds could usefully be used to fund Ride Leader training. Rupert clarified that this training is no longer centrally funded by Cycling UK, and that the replacement Cycling UK courses were seen as being relatively expensive, and suggested that a suitable low- or no-cost course might instead be developed locally. Rupert later went on to say that he was still open to the idea of considering appropriate paid-for Ride Leader courses if there was a genuine demand from members.
- Nigel Deakin suggested that club funds might be used for CTC-Cambridge branded reflective mudflaps, which are useful for promoting the club, as well as for protecting fellow riders in groups on winter roads.
- Peter Woodward reminded the meeting that the last new issue of CTC Cambridge club cycling kit had been over 3 years ago, so many more recent regular riders will not have had a chance to purchase this. Peter suggested that club kit is a good way to promote the club, and that subsidising a new issue of club kit should be considered as an appropriate use of our cash reserves.

The committee welcomed these constructive suggestions. No firm decision was taken on what to do, but all members are encouraged to consider the matter and make further suggestions to the committee.

2.3 Runs

Rupert Goodings summarised the main points in the appended Runs Report. Overall it has been a good year, and he feels there is no need to radically change the current ride types and formats. Some minor changes will continue to be tried out, such as the recent move to alternating shorter and longer Sunday afternoon rides.

Rupert thanked all the Ride Leaders who enable our rides to go ahead, and noted that we are lucky to have a large pool of volunteer Leaders. He also mentioned that new Ride Leaders are always welcome, and encouraged other members to consider leading rides if they had not done this before.

Rupert then thanked the organisers for different kinds of rides: Ian Wright (Saturdays), Alex Brown (Sundays) Ray Miller (Sunday afternoons), Clive Peace (Seniors), Nigel Deakin (Wednesdays), Edward Elmer (Thursdays) and Adrian Lee (car-assisted rides), as well as the Runs Committee: Alex Brown, Ian Wright, Sarah Carlyle, Susan Goodrich and Ray Miller. Rupert noted that the Runs Committee is an informal group co-opted by the Runs Secretary and that if anyone is interested in getting involved please talk to him after the AGM.

Rupert highlighted a welcome positive change over the year in the way riders are no longer upsetting the owners of places we stop, by eating their own food on commercial premises.

Rupert then raised a concern that, in spite of new guidance on group riding skills, ride discipline was still sometimes an issue, particularly on our popular rides that attract greater numbers. Rides with over 6-8 people need to self-organise into separate groups with gaps for overtaking cars to drop into, rather than ride as a long "straggle" that is hard to pass. Rupert clarified that this is an area where all our riders need to help – it is not something that leaders can enforce on their own from the front of a ride, but ideally needs to become second nature to all our ride participants.

There was then a more general discussion about our rides. George Rich noted that there are a number of club awards and trophies that are no longer given out, and asked if different kinds of ride attendance awards could be re-introduced. John Seton welcomed this as a good idea, but clarified that we do not currently keep the fine-grained records that Mike Stapleton used to keep for Sunday ride attendance, as leaders are only required to record riders who are out on any part of a ride. John Jackson noted that very detailed ride attendance record keeping could be seen as a significant extra load on Ride Leaders. There was agreement to look into what kinds of attendance awards could be supported by the records we are collecting.

3. Election of Committee members

The chair then went on to conduct the election of officers and committee members for the coming year.

The interim Secretary had previously reported that the post of Welfare Officer and a general committee post were being vacated, and had asked for nominations across all committee posts.

Following each position being proposed and seconded, and there having been no new nominations, the following appointments were approved by the meeting:

- Chair – Andy Carlyle (re-elected)
- Treasurer – Mike Culnane (re-elected)
- Secretary – John Seton (elected)
- Runs Secretary – Rupert Goodings (re-elected)
- Registration / Publicity Officer – John Jackson (elected)
- Web Officer – Nigel Deakin (re-elected)
- Welfare Officer – Peter Wilson (elected)
- General committee member – Julia Hochbach (re-elected)
- General committee member – Tom Howes (re-elected)

A third vacant general committee member post attracted no candidates, and members were invited to consider the opportunity and signal any interest after the meeting.

4. Election of Honorary Auditor

Alex Brown was unanimously re-elected as Honorary Auditor.

5. Campaigning

Rupert Goodings then presented the appended campaigning report. Rupert highlighted the key role our can club can play in complementing specific campaigns like the A10 Cycle Campaign, and the intensive work that Cambridge Cycling Campaign already does within Cambridge City.

Rupert highlighted the current “Greenways” campaign of radial routes into Cambridge City, and the big opportunity that exists for our members to add value to this through their detailed knowledge of cycling facilities in particular areas. Rupert went on to stress that this initiative is time-bound, and that the biggest opportunity to make a difference will come through our members getting involved now, rather than later in the process. Rupert invited people to contact him to find out more.

Rupert then mentioned the Cycling UK-backed “Close Pass” initiative that is being enthusiastically adopted by many police forces across the UK to educate vehicle drivers about safe passing distances when overtaking cyclists. He noted that Cambridgeshire Constabulary stands out from other forces, as it has decided not to implement the scheme.

Rupert invited members to provide feedback on where and how the club should be getting involved in cycle campaigning, and provide intelligence on any specific local issues where campaigning action may be required.

6. Len Nice award

Chris Emerson summarised the four nominations received for the Len Nice award, and invited members to vote during the tea at the end of the meeting. The four nominees are:

- Edward Elmer
- Adrian Lee
- John Ross
- Ian Wright

The results of the Len Nice award will be announced at the CTC Cambridge Christmas Lunch on Sunday 10th December 2017 at Bourn Golf and Fitness Club.

7. Other business

John Jackson highlighted his plans to make more use of Facebook to promote and publicise CTC Cambridge, and invited all members who use Facebook to “like” and “follow” the CTC Cambridge Facebook page, so that the network would naturally grow, and link to more of our members.

Nigel Deakin gave a brief update on his plans to revamp the CTC Cambridge website, and offered a demo. to interested parties during the AGM tea.

Peter Woodward thanked the Committee for its work over the year, and noted how friendly, successful and well run he feels the club has been over the past year.

The Chair then thanked members who had attended the AGM and closed the formal business of the meeting.