

Secretary's report to CTC Cambridge AGM November 2018

1. Local CTC Cambridge matters

1.1 Membership

Over the year, our membership has grown from 1124 to 1227. This continues the positive trend of year on year membership growth that has taken place across previous years.

As I noted last year, the number of active riders in the club who regularly take part in our organised rides is around 60, meaning that 95% of the Cycling UK members in Cambridgeshire are not seen on our rides.

1.2 Club Rides

Ride registration has been streamlined by the incoming Membership Secretary, and ride leaders now use a simpler single-sided registration form, which is working well.

Our Runs Secretary will be reporting separately on the club's regular programme of rides, so I will not cover that here, 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. The headline is that CTC Cambridge offered 225 different led rides, involving 2186 individual riders over the last 12 months – that's just over 4 rides a week across the year, with roughly 10 people per ride.

Adrian continues to organise a wide range of car-assisted and holiday rides away from Cambridge. This year Adrian has organised car-assisted rides and holidays to many destinations between Norfolk and Cornwall.

1.3 Webmaster

Our new website was launched at the end of 2017. This further improved what was already a fantastic website. The main improvements, apart from a slick and professional-looking design were improvements in the way information is presented on different devices with different screen sizes, so that the website can be used just as well from a mobile or tablet as from a laptop.

1.4 Welfare - First Aid training

Our Welfare Officer proposed that the club investigates voluntary First Aid training for Ride Leaders. The aim would be to make it more likely that there would be a trained First Aider on any of our rides, even though this is not a Cycling UK requirement. The Welfare Officer carried out a survey and found that there was interest from 10 Ride Leaders, and has been investigating a range of different courses. The club plans to subsidise the courses and we hope to finalise arrangements over the next couple of months, making sure that the course we select meets Cycling UK's requirements for certification.

1.5 Publicity

Our Membership Secretary has continued to increase and improve our social media presence, with a lot more activity on Facebook. We have had nearly 100 "likes" for the Club's Facebook page, and members who use Facebook are encouraged to increase the profile of the page with more "likes".

1.6 Club kit

The Membership Secretary responded to requests for new CTC Cambridge club kit by selecting a supplier and creating a design for a club gilet. The club is subsidising the first batch of gilets, which are expected to arrive by the end of November.

2. Club events

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

- **(Not the) Christmas Lunch**

Our planned Christmas Lunch last December had to be cancelled on the day of the event due to unexpectedly bad weather. I'd like to thank members for their understanding, flexibility and support over this sudden change of plan. In the end, we had our Christmas Lunch in February, and this was a great event attended by 37 people, complete with home-made cycling-themed festive crackers. We were delighted that former Secretary John Ross was able to attend, and also turned out to be the worthy winner of the coveted Len Nice Trophy award, with the result announced during the lunch. Members felt that the new date worked well, and appreciated being able to ride home in daylight, so we have decided to hold the next annual lunch in February 2019.

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

- **Summer Barbeque**

For a second year, Andy and Sarah hosted a wonderful barbecue for the club in August. 40 members and guests attended, and enjoyed excellent food and great company. I'd like to thank Andy and Sarah for all the hard work they put into hosting this event, on behalf of everyone who attended.

- **Evening with Outspoken**

John J organised an enjoyable evening with Outspoken, the local cycling company. Over the evening, we learned about the different services and activities that Outspoken offers, as well as taking part in static bike races and eating pizza. Their activities include local deliveries by a fleet of cargo bikes, Bikeability training, Safe Urban Driver training, cycle maintenance, and cycle maintenance training. They also now have a shop mainly focused on the sale and hire of utility and cargo bikes.

The event was well attended and drew in several Cycling UK members who are not regular riders. As a result of the evening, several of our members have since used Outspoken for bike servicing, and have attended cycle maintenance training courses.

- **Cambridge Festival of Cycling**

In September, the Cambridge Cycling Campaign (CamCycle) organised a first Cambridge Festival of Cycling. This is planned to become an annual event. The Festival offered a varied programme of rides, talks, films, and social events.

As part of the Festival, CTC Cambridge and CamCycle worked together to offer a Highways and Byways circular ride around Cambridge. This ride, planned and led by Ian W and Rupert, was open to non-members and was enjoyed by those who took part.

This year's Festival was planned at short notice, but the ambition is to make it an annual event. Having worked successfully with CamCycle to offer a joint ride this year, we would hope to strengthen our support for future Festivals.

3. Audax events

As in previous years, a number of our riders have also taken part in rides organised by the long-distance cycling organisation, Audax UK.

The main "badge of honour" in Audax is the "Super Randonneur", which is awarded for completing rides of (at least) 200km, 300km, 400km and 600km within a year. This year Seb gained this award for the first time, and Nigel completed his third series.

Nigel ventured abroad to try some Audax rides in The Netherlands, completing 5 x 200km and 1 x 400km ride over there. His reports make these rides sound great, and he says he would welcome some company on some shorter rides in The Netherlands next year.

Next year the quadrennial 1200km Paris – Brest – Paris ride takes place, and several local riders including Nigel and Alex are planning to complete the qualifying rides needed to enter this special event.

The 200km Audax rides are a natural extension of our all-day rides, and a number of members have ridden a first Audax event of this length for the first time this year. There's plenty of Audax advice and experience available in the club, so if you are interested, please talk to one of the regular Audax riders, e.g. Alex or Nigel, to find out what's involved.

4. Other cycling achievements

In May, Glyn, Andy, Alex and John J, a.k.a. the Fenland Four, rode from Lands End to John O'Groats. Rather than taking an easy route, and eating snacks in garage forecourts, they tried to climb as many hills as possible on their way, went island-hopping in Scotland, and appeared to very dine well. Many of us enjoyed watching the ride unfold through the daily blog updates that Alex wrote. The team raised £2250 for the Arthur Rank Hospice, and have asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone who helped with sponsorship.

Later in the year Jerry also completed LEJOG with his brother and two friends, doing this at the hottest time of the year. The team raised over £4000 to be shared between Addenbrookes and Papworth Hospital.

Well done to all our LEJOG riders!

Earlier in the year, Andy and Sarah cycled round the coast of Taiwan. In May, Sarah, Eva and Susan completed a cycling tour from St Malo to Le Havre. Over the summer, Chris and Yasmin and their 3 children went on a 3 week tour through Belgium and Germany. More recently Edward went on a cycling trip to Japan. During the year, Peter W completed his series of rides that took him over 4000 miles around the coast of Britain.

5. National Cycling UK issues

The new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) legislation came into force in May this year. This caused Cycling UK to take a close look at how it handles information about members. The process of sending the Membership Secretary a full list of Cambridgeshire members each month was stopped. The main impact of

this was that we lost our regular feed of information about new members, and lost the ability to send welcome notes to them.

Cycling UK has developed new guidelines that explain how the GDPR legislation applies to Cycling UK Member Groups. Member information that used to be distributed to groups is now held centrally. New tools are being developed that will allow Member Groups to check membership details and contact members, and CTC Cambridge is helping by taking part in an early trial of these tools.

At the end of this, we should have new ways to contact different subsets of our membership. It was important to take account of GDPR, but it turns out that there is little impact on our day to day rides. Our Welfare Officer and Webmaster are working to ensure that there are no gaps or shortcomings in our approach, paying particular attention to safeguarding for riders under 18, and to our use of photos to illustrate current and past rides.

6. In memoriam

As Andy mentioned in more detail in his introduction, we were saddened to hear of the deaths of some long-standing CTC Cambridge Members during the year, including Jacob Hassan, Simon Denney and Peter Collingwood.

7. Thank you!

I'd like to thank Sue Howell for her work to organise the clubs annual lunch in February, and for her help in organising the AGM tea today. Sue has been ably assisted by Sarah, and we are very grateful to David S, Lalita, Mike CC, Mike P, and Peter W and others for their kind offers of cakes.

Our club runs on volunteer effort, and we sometimes forget how much work goes on behind the scenes to keep the club running. We rather take it for granted that we have a high quality website that gets regularly updated, and a varied programme of led rides throughout the year. When you add it all up, there's well over 1000 hours of volunteer effort needed to keep the club running each year. So a big thank you to everyone who puts their time in to make everything work.

8. Looking ahead

CTC Cambridge has had a successful year, and continues to offer a year-round programme of varied rides for members, along with social events. We should be proud of the 225 led rides we have offered for over 2100 riders.

Next year, I hope the club will make good use of the new member contact tools that Cycling UK is developing to find out what the club could offer for some of the 95% of members we don't meet on our rides. The idea would be to see if there are new rides, events and activities that would appeal to the broader membership. We may find that everyone is perfectly happy with things as they are, but at least we will know! The aim here would be to broaden what we offer to the wider membership, rather than looking at changing the successful and popular activities we already offer.