

Secretary's report to the CTC Cambridge AGM April 2024

This is the second AGM held at the new regular time of the year to line up with Cycling UK's new financial year end.

1. Day-to-day club activities

The report mainly covers things that will not be covered in more detail in the Treasurer, Runs and Campaigning reports from Yasmin and Rupert. These are just the highlights – further details are available in the appended Officers' Reports.

The club has had another good year, offering a full programme of around 200 led rides over the year to March 31st 2024. A big thank you to Rupert, and to all the Ride Leaders who made this possible.

Eva reports that our membership numbers remain roughly stable at 1238 members. Our rides are encouraging a number of new / guest riders to join the club. Cycling UK's website and membership systems have been upgraded over the year, and this has led to a few teething problems with keeping track of membership records. These are being resolved, and we would like to thank John J for his help in raising these issues with Cycling UK HQ, which has helped in getting them fixed.

Our new Web Content Officer, Angela, has reworked a lot of the material on the most frequently accessed parts of our own website. This has simplified and streamlined the content, which had been written by lots of different people over the years and is starting to give our website more of a consistent "house style".

Safeguarding remains an important topic for Cycling UK, and our Safeguarding Officer Peter has been active in tracking the evolving safeguarding guidance produced by Cycling UK, and interpreting this to make the process of reporting safeguarding incidents and accidents simple to understand and follow for our ride leaders.

Our Web Technical Officer, Nigel, has continued to improve the website. Two key enhancements have been the addition of functionality to give an idea of "route hilliness" for different routes in the library, as well as adding details of "route issues" that might make a ride tricky or inaccessible for some, such as the footbridge over the A11.

2. Club Birthday Tea and Christmas Meal

Two notable events over the year were a day of rides and a club tea held at Haslingfield Village Hall, and a Christmas Lunch at The Chequers in Fowlmere. Over 50 people attended the Haslingfield event in September, with many members joining different led rides of between 14 and 100 miles to get there. A highlight was the presentation of

Cycling UK “Gold” Lifetime Achievement Awards to Mike S and Greta for their many decades of service both to the club, and to CTC at a national level. The event was enjoyable and successful, bringing past and current riders from across the club together. We plan to make this an annual event and have booked the same hall again for 15th September 2024. A big thank you to Sue and her team, including Angela T, David T and Hilary, for producing and serving teas, cakes and sandwiches at the event.

In December, around 35 people attended the club Christmas lunch at The Chequers in Fowlmere. This proved to be an excellent choice, and I'd like to thank Sarah for finding the venue and organising all the bookings. The highlight of the event was the announcement of the result of the 2023 Len Nice Award, decided by popular vote. Two nominees stood out, receiving the same high levels of support, and as the award had not been awarded for 3 years due to the pandemic, it was decided to make a double award to Susan and Ian. Susan was nominated for her work supporting Ukrainian refugees, by providing them with refurbished bikes that had been donated by members, as well as offering informal led rides to show safe routes to work / school. Ian was nominated for keeping the Saturday rides going throughout the pandemic (supported by other ride leaders) and ensuring that there was always a weekly ride suitable for new riders.

3. Working with Camcycle

We have continued to work closely with Camcycle. We are very pleased that Nigel has become a Camcycle Trustee, which will help strengthen the relationship. We have continued to campaign alongside Camcycle, and where appropriate have made joint / aligned submissions on issues such as GCP's plans for Sidgwick Avenue, where a significant re-think was provoked. We also worked with Camcycle and Cambridgeshire Police on cycle theft, through bike security marking events. Volunteers from both cycling groups helped at these events, including CTC Cambridge members Alan, David G, David S, Jacs, John S, Ken, Mark, Rachel and Yasmin.

Camcycle's Festival of Cycling will return this September. We plan to offer some led rides as part of the Festival programme, as we have done in previous years.

4. Non-club rides and tours

There have been some notable cycling achievements beyond our led rides. Yasmin completed a 5th successive year of Audax Randonneur Round the Year (RRTY) rides (which involves completing a ride of at least 200km in each and every month of the year), having already broken the club record for multiple/ successive RRTYs some years ago. Yasmin and Chris also both gained the coveted Audax “Super Randonneur” award by completing Audax events of at least 200, 300, 400 and 600km within a single year. Our team of regular Audax riders has recently been augmented with the arrival of new member Dace.

Club members completed two separate tours to Rome, with Andy and Sarah closely following the Via Francigena pilgrimage route after starting from Hook of Holland, and John J, Alex, Glyn and Bill following a broadly similar route from Canterbury to Rome. The latter ride was written up in no less than 17 ride reports. Nigel has continued his series of “end to end” rides across parts of Europe, adding 4 more crossings to his tally. Andy and Sarah rode from Vienna to Hook of Holland, and Phil B participated in multiple tours, in New Zealand, from the source to the sea along the River Rhine, and from the Channel to the Med across France. This is, of course, just a sample of the epic rides our members have done over the year!

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