

RUNS SECRETARY REPORT 2023/24

I think we've had a good year. We've operated a good range of regular rides and we've had a good number of riders on most of our rides.

I'd like to start with a big thankyou to all of our leaders - our led rides are our core club activity. We have a relatively large pool of leaders and they are all doing a great job. There is still a need for more volunteer leaders - some rides do struggle to get a leader and I encourage everyone to take a turn at leading.

There have been a few more bad weather cancellations than usual this winter. But I think these were for sensible and reasonable reasons: the weather was too poor or too dangerous for cycling.

I've added the usual summary data of our 2023/24 rides and leaders at the end of this report.

Let me start with a reminder of some of the changes since lockdown as we've recovered our rides:

- Leaders are now responsible for booking the stops for their ride. This has been welcome change for me and I think it is working well. Thank you to all the leaders for supporting this change.
- Saturday rides now operate as a weekly ride and I am delighted that we have recruited several new leaders to share the work of leading these rides. These are our most popular rides.
- We've introduced a monthly social meeting at a local café. I plan to continue with this event and I'd welcome any suggestions for a new stop to try.
- Thursday rides now mostly operate as separate rides, with separate stops. This was done to avoid overloading the coffee stop. I think this rationale is still valid so this will continue.
- The Thurs city ride are doing more 1-stop rides, which means longer legs and getting back to Cambridge earlier. I am planning to add some 2-stop city rides over the summer.
- Sunday rides are also mostly 1-stop rides. Again I am planning more 2-stop rides over the summer. We may also bring back some all-day 3-stop rides if there are interested leaders, but it could be a challenge to find a suitable tea stop for these rides (see next point).
- Sunday afternoon rides have not resumed. This was not a planned change and simply reflects a lack of leaders. But there is also a challenge to find suitable stops as most cafes now close early on Sundays so that these rides would either have to start earlier or switch to a morning ride.

I'd now like to highlight a few areas where I will be looking for changes in the way we operate:

- I am concerned that people are sometimes getting dropped on some of our rides. This should not be happening: all rides should go at a pace where everyone can keep up. I think this is an "everybody" issue: both leaders and all riders need to pay attention to the group dynamic and look out for any slower riders. I'll be encouraging leaders to consider appointing a back-marker on more rides to help with this issue.
- I'd like to see all leaders give a short pre-ride briefing at the start of their ride. I realise many already do this and I think it is good practice. I know that many riders have a Garmin route to follow, but it is a good idea to make sure everyone knows what to expect.
- I am considering making changes to the rider registration form, ideally to have an on-line version (as well as the paper version). I'll be looking for your help and ideas to take this forward.

- We still need more leaders, especially for our Sunday rides. I'd welcome your ideas on any changes that would help to support and reward our current leaders and how we can encourage more people to take a turn at leading.

Looking ahead, I'd like to discuss what you want from our rides. What rides would you like to lead and what rides do you want to try. I am looking for ideas to try and broaden our range of rides and other changes to encourage more people to lead and join our rides.

As an example, here are some thoughts about Sunday rides.

Current issues:

- Seem to struggle to get leaders for these rides
- Rider numbers lower than the Thursday rides on average

Possible changes:

- Consider having a separate city start and a village start some (or all) weeks.
- Have an easier "loiterers" ride as well as a moderate ride most weeks. Should this be a morning ride or an afternoon ride?

All of our rides can be similarly reviewed: what is working well and what we'd like to improve.

SUMMARY DATA:

Rides between Saturday 1st Apr 2023 and Sunday 31st Mar 2024

Ride type totals

Total rides (including dated announcements in runlist)= 186 (of which 17 were cancelled).

Ride type	No of rides
Saturday social booked ride	52
Midweek ride - city	51
Midweek ride - southern	51
Sunday light day ride	42
Midweek coffee meeting	11
Midweek social ride	7
Sunday full day ride	6
Special club tea ride	5
Sunday afternoon ride	5
Evening ride	4
<i>No ride type specified</i>	2
Sunday morning ride	2
Club Tea	1
Saturday short social ride	1
Sunday Loiterers	1

Leader totals

Number of rides led by each leader.

Leader	No of rides
John Seton	15
Liz G	14
Yasmin	13
Andy Carlyle	13
Susan Goodrich	12
Phil Beck	12
Simon Gough	10
Rachel	9
Ken Kelso	9
John Jackson	9
David Secher	8
Alan Ackroyd	8
Ian Wright	8
Greg Tucker	8
Rupert Goodings	8
Eva Alldritt	7
Sharon Jackson	7
Sheila George	6
Edward Elmer	6
Leader Needed (<i>what does this mean?</i>)	5
Simon FitzMaurice	5
Angela Wright	4
Ian Bamborough	4
Phil Norris	4
Peter Wilson	4
Neil Spenley	4
Peter Hutchison	3
Fiona Cornish	3
Julian Hickling	3
Sarah Carlyle	3
Alex Brown	1
Simon Gallaway	1
Mike Darsley	1