

CTC Coventry

Secretary's report April 2021 -March 2022

This year must have been one of the busiest on record for the club. As well as staging our Centenary Year Celebrations we have tried out a range of activities in an effort to build a more varied programme within the club and promote ourselves in the public domain.

This report will touch on the key events, pick out some themes from our reports and finally describe how our club has operated in this year. .

Back at the end of March We emerged out of lockdown and resumed our rides There were some losses, the Winter Clubroom was unable to re-open , causing us to lose contact with our veterans. But more sadly, we mourned a dear friend Paul Whitehead, who died following surgery and successive infections.

He would have really enjoyed all the things we have been up to in this last year, and no doubt would have provided us with some memorable videos for our archives.

So in Our centenary year: quite a few events were rescheduled due to easing out Lock down

Our 100 mile ride in June had to be deferred to 2022 , and so we made **National Big Bike Week** at the beginning of June into a fun time to do 100 miles. Some riders did their own 100 miles day trips, others made it over a number of rides. We used videos and and radio interviews to encourage people to get out on their bikes. In the end riders old and some new, did a collective 6,600 miles that week. Bike week also provided an incentive to do some development rides in Stoke Aldermore, and we attracted some new riders drawn by the 10 mile rides.

Centenary Tour York to Edinburgh in June all 10 of us made it on this fabulous trip exploring the North east of England Mike Thomas really knows how to put on tours.

The BBQ - delayed from May to July due to COVID restrictions, and arranged by our Mike Thomas. We were still in restrictive measures and the day gave us scorching heat. Never the less more that 60 of us travelled or cycled to Fillongley, including some long standing members who have moved to other parts of the country. 10 gazebos spaced around the Village Hall and some fabulous catering made the day one to remember.

Womens Festival of Cycling in July gave us another opportunity to show off the club with radio publicity. We had short rides for women well as a challenge ride from Coventry to Birmingham Cathedrals and return, and a picnic with 3 different length rides to include everyone.

In July and August **Two More Tours** added more adventure to the programme. Alan's Long Week-end South Downs tour and the Womens Tour through the North Cotswolds, again giving opportunities to a number of riders experience touring for the first time.

In September the momentum continued. Dave successfully staged the **100th Meriden Memorial Service**, a good crowd of cyclists travelling from around the country attended . with Cycling `UK's Sarah Mitchell also present

The following week the club held possibly its first **100km Challenge**. As we had all summer to work towards this, we had an impressive turn out of our club women, and men, for a glorious ride out to Northamptonshire, organised by Bob Tinley and Dave Hearn.

Finally our **Centenary Dinner in October**, again organised by Mike Thomas, gave a classy end to our centenary activities, with Sara Mitchell the CEO of Cycling UK giving an inspiring after dinner speech.

During our centenary year we made collections at each ride and with the help of events that made some profits, we were able to make a donation of **£2500 to the Air Ambulance** charity

Despite another COVID winter Dave still organised a successful Christmas Dinner and the Winter Clubroom incorporated 2 Ride Leaders meetings and a Bike Maintenance workshop, as well as a good range of slideshows.

Along side these big events the club has been running its rides programme, which I will elaborate on shortly. First of all I want talk about some areas of work our committee does. The detail of their reports is on the website, but here is a snapshot.

Our Website

I am sure you will agree, we have a fabulous website held by Alan, its attractive easy to use and relevant. More information photos, cycling routes, useful post-its and tickers. The increase in visitors and visits has increased significantly this Centenary year.

Due to the profile of our website a good number of our new members find us in this way. As a secretary aiming to promote the club, links to the webpage saves me so much timesaver when I need to show off our club and all it does.. it is also a fantastic filing cabinet, holding all the minutes of our meetings for example, which makes us so much more transparent as an organisation.

George works on our behalf in **Cycling Advocacy**, connecting with local and regional groups to contribute on policies that affect us as cyclists well as alerting us when we need to do our bit in campaigning too. His reports are another feature on the website as a point of reference, and he often supports Bob with alerts on traffic issues for us as cyclists.

George is also the registration officer and keeps an eye on the Cycling UK Membership in our locality. He reports this year that the overall number of members has not changed that much around 650 members in total. However there have been changes within the types of membership, due in part to a restructuring of the membership. 66 new members, no significant change in geographical distribution or age range, from what we can tell.

Our **Rides report from George** tell a different story, lots of change....

It is the wide range of Rides that have developed over the year, reflecting the interests of our newer ride leaders.

In the summer we Drive and ride, Train and Ride, Off road rides once a month 5&10 mile development rides

The variety of rides continued into winter months and then we had the hilly rides , or stamina building rides, “high intensity” ‘low intensity”

“Long ride , back by lunchtime” Rides.

See OHP of table see page 1 Rides report

Its difficult to compare this table with last years due to lockdowns, but both Alan and George have done comparisons of 3 month periods

Roughly speaking

- number of rides lead up from 35 to 48 (increase of 37%)
- number of different riders up from 53 to 88 (increase of 47%)
- total appearance numbers up from 279 to 330 (increase of 18%)
- Female percentage up from 27% to 44% (increase of 63%)

We are also delighted to report a healthy rise in new Ride Leaders towards the end this year that has made this happen

We thought that when we got to the quite time of the year by the time the dinner in October was over:-

Members Survey

Intended to capture the spirit of the season, what did our members enjoy what could we do differently? There was a lot of positive feedback.

- wish for social events,
- communication in the club: how this can be simplified and improved:
- Variety of rides appreciated, more short rides and tours for working members and evening rides requested
- Advertise more widely to attract more younger members

Big Bike Revival

We applied for, and successfully received, a Grant from Cycling UK to support additional work in areas that need development and bring in new riders and club members. So we focused on Foleshill and the north of the city, under-represented in our membership. We used the money:

- to purchase Incentive gifts like lights and tyre repair kits, for new riders
- to support publicity and refreshments for 5 led rides January to March starting in Foleshill. and International Women Day. All very successful events
- first aid kits and first aid training for ride leaders

The BBR also encouraged us to use social media more. So there has been extensive time spent on Face book, and we have set up an Instagram page.

As a result of all this work we are now working with Go Foleshill to reach a younger audience and support their attempts to put cycling into the culture of their communities. Our Facebook activity has increased by 500% and our Instagram account is enabling us to connect with a wider range of local and national groups.

How did this all happen

quarterly meetings of main committee

- Overview of money
- Look at rides attendance
- How we promote our selves, manage the calendar
- Communications,
- Sub groups to manage big events or rides or topics.

The **Ride Leaders group** is led by Alan and now with help from Nigel to overview the routes planner and shout out on our leaders, when there are no rides planned. We also have a WhatsApp group for the ride leaders.

Our **Womens group** managed by Marina Field puts on monthly Women Only rides and pop-up midweek groups, Womens Whatapp, the occasional women's zoom and a women leaders group taking responsibility for Womens Tour.

So I hope I have covered everything you would like to know about the past year and accept this as a report of our club to send to Cycling UK

Vicky Palethorpe April 2022