

CTC Coventry

Secretary's Report April 2022 -March 2023

Introduction

This year has been a year with more focus on rides and tours. 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.

Following on from the Big Bike Revival in the winter of 22 we carried on with introductory rides in the north of the city. In April and May, aiming to reach out in the north of the City. Riders recruited were low in numbers but not in commitment, being some of our strongest attenders in rides throughout the year. Our BBR funding stretched out to provide First Aid Training for 10 of our lead riders in May.

Our tours programme started promptly on April 1st, Nigel provided his first tour for the club, three days in Staffordshire and Leicestershire, before Mike did his usual master class in tour leading, taking 15 people to Mallorca. In May Alan led the first of his two off road tours with a weekend trip to the Peak district. 17 attended this tour and his New Forest out in September attracted 15 riders. His commitment off road has proved a winner this year.

The Meriden Service was once again very ably organised by Dave in May, with a great attendance. Once again Cycling UK showed their appreciation of the club's commitment to this event, which is the National Memorial service to cyclists lost in wartime activity.

Bob and Dave ran the Trivets in June this year with their usual efficiency. More than 2 thirds of the riders came from out of county. Again, another contribution to the nationwide calendar of Cycling UK

The Commonwealth Games came to Birmingham in July & August and the Road Racing was held in lanes around Warwick. We happened to go to Hatton Locks on the day of the finals and encountered sight-seeing cyclists from clubs all over the Midlands. Hatton Locks had never had it so good.

In July and August two more tours, **The Isle of Wight and the Women's tour** added variety and adventure to the programme. And in September Martin led his first Tour for the club, taking on the Coast to Coast with 8 others. It was demanding in organisation and completion, so well done to all those involved.

Attendance report for the period 2022-03-10 to 2023-03-09

Ride Type	Number Of Rides	Number Of Different Riders	Female	Rider Appearances	Female
Introductory	12	35	34%	58	48%
Short	40	81	45%	273	41%
Intermediate	44	67	47%	303	34%
Long	22	31	41%	92	23%
Off Road	11	31	48%	68	42%
Stamina Building	19	29	48%	99	39%
Tuesday	41	43	41%	330	34%
Women's	26	27	100%	112	100%
All types of ride	215	139	43%	1335	42%

The bread and butter of our club, the **weekly rides programme** is captured in this table which takes us up to the 2nd weekend of March 2023.

Overall figures remain the same as last year in terms of total numbers of rides and riders. A drop in the number of long rides and women only rides has contributed to the lower number of rider appearances. I think more rides have been cancelled this year due to poor weather.

We have maintained the Monthly Introductory Rides, as a means for new riders to test the waters of the club before committing to longer rides.

The off-road rides continue attract a high proportion of our regular riders.

The Stamina building or hilly rides continue to be of interest in the winter months.

This is the first year that we have collected **Tours data**.

8 tours included 54 individual riders, and 94 places taken up. A good number attended more than 1 tour and 2 riders went on five tours.

The programme was delivered by 30 ride and tour leaders this year.

Social Events

Paul Whateley arranged two evening meals, which were well attended.

Dave Hearn organised a successful Christmas Dinner and the Winter Clubroom incorporated 2 Ride Leaders meetings and two well organised workshops; Bike Maintenance and Routes and Garmins, as well as a good range of slideshows. This Included a well-attended evening delivered by Gina Harris, who completed Lejog at the age of 82.

Dave has also this week organised a successful day's riding to Derby Velodrome. Mike Thomas arranged rides there for riders with an overnight stay.

We held 2 **Promotion Events** this year. we held stall at the National Bike week event staged by Cycle Coventry and also helped the War Memorial park at their Centenary Big Community week-end in July.

During the year our ride leaders made collections on each ride and we will be able to make a donation of over **£1200** to our **local Air Ambulance** charity.

Rugby CTC report from Andy Lees

The Rugby group is currently a small core group with occasional visitors who ride with us. Andy Lees coordinates the ride lists and sends out details the week before as well as updates the Cycling UK web page.

The club still uses the same start locations which have been used for the last few years: Barby, Birdingbury, Newbold, Sawbridge and Yelvertoft. Rides are averaging 45 miles in the winter and 55 to 60 in the summer.

Member news

I think we were all shocked to hear of the accident at Ratby Ford in May, when George and Mike had bad falls. We were equally impressed when they recovered so quickly, showing their commitment and determination. There has been much activity in liaison with Cycling UK and Leicestershire County Council about this problem phenomena which is still poorly signed.

This winter brought sad news of the death of our Tuesday Rides friend Phil Stock. We also heard of the passing of Simon Clark who had moved to Devon in recent years. Simon was a veteran of the Long Sunday rides with a notoriety for punctures. The number of patches on his inner tubes was a sight to behold. Dave also brought news of the death of Roy Baron, a long-standing member of the Club in the 60s and 70s, who Gordon knew extremely well. Some good news came when received a report of the wedding of John Callinan and June Rowley in October. They met on one of our rides a couple of years ago.

Club Management

George is our Registration Officer and keeps an eye on the Cycling UK membership, which this year, has remained fairly stable. 646 Cycling UK Members live in Coventry, Rugby and Mid Warwickshire.

George has been devising draft guidelines of **Compliance with the Data Protection Act** and these will go to our next committee meeting for discussion and finalising.

Welfare and Safeguarding Shona Hudson and, earlier in the year, Paul Whateley have provided supportive roles with members experiencing accidents this year and Shona has clarified our Safeguarding Policy which is on the website.

Our website Alan reports a steady usage of our site and webpages over the last three months, but there is no doubt there is less activity than last year. Our riders have obviously been out more touring. He is keen to explore more about the role of our website, Bulletins and WhatsApp groups to communicate more effectively in the next year.

As secretary I have been minding our work with regard to **Inclusion and Diversity**. All our rides and activities have a very good gender balance. Our initiative in introducing a Signer /Interpreter at our AGMs and our Ride Leader workshops has been held up as a good example of Inclusive work by Cycling UK. Our attempts to increase the participation of younger members is a work in progress. Ian O'Donnell brought a high-quality presentation on cycling with his young son Ewan, to the Winter Club room. The question still hangs - should we, and how do we, encourage more young families to cycle.

We have held quarterly meetings of main committee over the year

- Overview of money.
- Look at rides attendance.
- How we promote ourselves and manage the calendar.
- Communications.
- Subgroups to manage big events or rides or topics.

The **Ride Leaders group** is led by Alan and Nigel. They overview the routes and tours in the planner and remind our leaders, when there are no rides planned. We also have a WhatsApp group for the ride leaders and hold two meetings during the winter season.

Our **Womens group** still flourishes and is managed by Marina Friend who runs weekly pop-up rides, the women WhatsApp group and the Women's Tour. Unsurprisingly Marina was voted one of Cycling UK's 100 Women in Cycling Awards.

Finally, the **Bulletins team**: Sak has joined Bob in this weekly communication. A great example of job sharing we are hoping to extend over the coming year.

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 March 31st, 2023.