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AGM 2023 – Chairman's Review

I am glad to be able to report that we have had another very successful year with very good attendances on a wide selection of regular rides. I would like to thank Marina Friend for leading a regularly mid-week women's ride which includes several riders with hearing difficulties. Incidentally, Cycling UK HQ has been very supportive of the Club allowing us to bring a sign language interpreter to last year's AGM and to a Tuesday evening leader's meeting. We were enthralled to see her at work, especially when questions turned to the intricacy of the email system.

This year we have had a women's tour to Shropshire (Vicky Palethorpe), a Mallorca Tour (Mike Thomas), a Coast-to-Coast tour across the north of England (Martin Lee) and an off-road tour in The New Forest (Alan Jelley). Enthusiasm for off-road riding is on the increase with several rides during the year. Thank you also, Martin Lee, for introducing and leading training rides on Saturdays which have been very popular and have also filled a gap for people who were not available on Sundays.

You might be surprised by just how much the Club owes to volunteers beaver away behind the scenes: keeping the weekly rides programme going (Nigel Hickman); maintaining the Website as an interesting and accurate source of information (Alan Jelley); pushing the Big Bike Revival initiative (Vicky Palethorpe); the Welfare Team (Shona Hudson and Mike Thomas) who have provided extra help to several of our members this year; ensuring that the women's group continues to thrive and supporting new riders (Marina Friend and Vicky Palethorpe); organising the Winter Clubroom, which has included Leaders Meetings, Bike maintenance and GPS sessions (Dave Hearn); maintaining the IT systems on which the Club depends (George Riches); organising the Annual Meriden Memorial Service on behalf of HQ (Dave Hearn); producing the weekly bulletin (thanks to Sak Wathanasin for taking 50% of the workload from me); thanks to Dave Hearn for ensuring all the catering went smoothly on the Triennial Veterans 100-mile ride; looking after the Club accounts (Keith Jeacock); and we have an energetic and imaginative Secretary who has played a huge part in the growth and promotion of the successful club that we are now (Vicky Palethorpe).

The Club is embracing modern methods of communication: not only is the rides programme now managed with an on-line spreadsheet and the schedule is disseminated in a weekly email bulletin. We have a Facebook account where reports of members tours can be posted, or any cycling matters can be discussed, and several WhatsApp groups are in use. These groups are being used to share last minute information on tours and to publicise spur of the

moment rides. It's very heartening to see so much activity, but there is a danger that the identity of the Club is forgotten, and I would like to see the leaders of pop-up rides adding them to the Club's planning chart so that records are not lost. At the end of each year, we send the AGM reports to HQ which includes the attendances on rides – the extent of Club activity is diminished without the pop-up information.

By now you will have heard that we want to extend the way we use small teams to run Club activities. For example, The Centenary Programme was planned and organised by a team of about six people and Welfare, Runs, Special Events and The Bulletin are following this model. It reduces the onus on individuals and passes on skills by working together.

Now here's the crunch. I've talked about the dedication of the current volunteers, but they need help if the future of the Club is to be secure. By creating a project-based method of working the beginning and end of tasks will be defined and a volunteer in one project will not be in a position of endless commitment. I ask you to give a small amount of your time to allow CTC Coventry to prosper – we are amongst the most successful and active local groups in the national body that is Cycling UK.

Bob Tinley
(Chairman CTC Coventry)