Minutes of the "On the Bike" Group 19ᵗʰ May 2023

Present: Marina Friend, Nigel Hickman, Mike Thomas and Bob Tinley

Why are ride leaders not filling the Planning Chart with future rides?
1. Do they need regular reminders to look at the chart and then fill gaps as necessary?
2. Are they deterred from leading because of a "requirement" to prepare .gpx files for their rides? This is not necessary and should be explicitly stated.
3. Is the apparent need to do ride leader training making leaders feel an undue burden of responsibility?
4. A link to the leaders training programme should be published for the benefit of those leaders and potential leaders who want to understand their responsibilities more fully. https://cyclinguk.talentlms.com/dashboard
5. Are leaders deterred by not knowing where to go? We can remind leaders of the link to routes on our website: https://coventryctc.org.uk/sample-routes and https://coventryctc.org.uk/routes-library
6. Do leaders need help with suitable destinations (a euphemism for café stops)? https://cafes.cyclingmaps.net/
7. Do leaders have difficulties in planning routes (e.g. the false necessity to provide .gpx files)? There is help on our website, Cycling UK's website, generally on the web and, of course, they can ask other leaders.

How can we manage spontaneous rides?
8. There appears to be a demand for some faster rides which some leaders may feel has been resisted by some members of the Club and therefore they are organising their own rides.
9. A Club ethos should be promoted to groups to feel they are riding on behalf of CTC Coventry.
10. Encourage leaders to insert extra rows in the Planning Chart for their rides if there isn't a suitable row to match their ride.
11. Cycling UK HQ asks for statistics on our rides and our performance is degraded if some rides are not reported. Rides should be in the Planning Chart before they happen and not added retrospectively. There may be other riders who would like to take part in these rides but are denied the opportunity because they are not generally advertised.

Next year's tours programme
12. Remind potential tour leaders that they can insert their tours into the Planning Chart so that everyone knows what is happening.
13. Talk to anyone in the On-the-bike group to check that the timing of their proposals doesn't conflict with other tours or Club events (e.g. Meriden, 100km, Tri-Vets).

Proposal for family rides
14. Marina has tried without success to contact Anne Marie who made the enthusiastic proposal at the AGM.
15. OTB members do not have the resources, or contacts to progress this proposal. Marina will try again to talk to Anne Marie, but ultimately it will be necessary for AM to implement family rides. We will, of course, help as far as possible.

Other volunteers
16. Bob re-stated his intention to stand back from organising the 100km and Tri-Vet events after the current 2023 100km Challenge Ride. At the AGM Marina had expressed an interest in taking over these events – Bob will provide any necessary help.
17. There were no other volunteers from the AGM for OTB jobs.

Improving the appearance of the bulletin
18. Not an issue for the OTB group, but Mike suggested that Peter Seamen might be able to improve the artistic presentation of the bulletin.

Planning Chart – management and location

19. Nigel will continue to manage the Planning Chart – ensuring that there are enough skeleton rows for future rides and that data older than about a month is hidden from immediate view to make current data is more accessible.
20. Nigel will also make a "private" copy at intervals to aid recovery should the chart get corrupted.
21. The chart exists on a Google Drive belonging to Bob's Google account. This is not good practice as it should reside in "Club space".
22. Advice from Sak suggested that using a Google Drive and a Google Chart was the most effective way of implementing the Planning Chart – it is simple for leaders to use, and the protocols required to allow multiple users to simultaneous access to the chart were an integral part of the Google system.
23. It was agreed that we (Bob?) would create a Google account to belong to the Club and copy the current chart to the new location. It will be necessary for all leaders to be issued with a new link to the editable chart and for Alan to create a new "public" link to the read-only version. Otherwise, the use of the chart will be unchanged.

Critique

Nothing new here, I'm afraid. The bottom line is that there is clearly a demand for rides but we need our leaders to volunteer:

a) 30% of leaders are not leading rides.
b) There was a poor response to my "summer message" – 50% didn't answer despite an explicit request to answer.
c) Mike organised a most enjoyable leaders BBQ – 50% attendance who were not the cohort to which it was aimed, who were also the group who were keenest on more social activities.
d) Today's society may be too risk averse to lead – some of the committee members are obsessed by rules, which is off-putting and un-necessary.
e) Somehow, the message needs to be understood that "It's your Club and you need to step up to lead rides if you want it to continue".
f) What's happened to the communication WhatsApp group that were going to be instrumental in inspiring a sense of "belonging" to the Club?