

CTC Coventry

Annual Report April 2023 -March 2024

Introduction

This year the committee has been exploring new ways to work in order to involve more club members and it has been a year with more focus on rides and tours. The layout of this report will reflect this new way of doing things and touch on the key actions of the year using, in the main, the structure of these activity groups in our delivery.

ON the Bike Activity

Bob Tinley, Nigel Hickman, Marina Friend and Mike Thomas have been our "On the Bike" team this year: overseeing the Rides and Tours programmes.

The bread and butter of our club, the **weekly rides programme**, is captured in this table from George Riches, which takes us up to the end of February 2024

Ride Type Attendance between 2023-03-01 to 2024-02-28

Ride Type	Number Of Rides	Number Of Different Riders	Female	Rider Appearances	Female
Tour	9	42	54%	73	47%
Introductory	8	36	52%	53	60%
Short	30	59	49%	201	42%
Intermediate	38	68	42%	313	32%
Long	29	60	45%	164	26%
Off Road	2	4	50%	5	60%
Stamina Building	1	5	60%	5	60%
Tuesday	40	45	33%	304	32%
Women's	25	25	100%	101	100%
All types of ride	182	148	45%	1219	41%

Key points of a comparison with last year's figures include:-

- No of rides overall -182, reduced, mainly due to weather conditions
- Slight increase in the number of riders 146
- There was a slight increase in attendance on longer rides and more than usual new riders going straight into intermediate and long rides.
- There have been fewer Stamina building and off road rides this year

Our top 4 Ride Leaders, providing 77 Of our 182 rides were Marina Friend, Sak Wathanasin, Bob Tinley and Martin Lee.

Our 5 top riders this year in terms of attendance were Mike Thomas, Roy Bhakta, George Riches, Dave Nicklin, Yvonne Wilkinson.

Looking at the Rides by type attendance the Intermediate Distance Rides were the most popular There was a good balance of gender on most rides

New Riders Contact

Following from observations of the apparently high loss of new riders we have developed a New Rider Contact. Marina Friend has been tracking new riders throughout the year and offering ongoing support and encouragement. The key points were:-

- 27 new riders this year
- 6 have become our regular riders
- 4 are promising prospects
- 2 are not returning as we are not fast enough for them
- 6 have just disappeared and not making contact
- 9 are 'pending' prospects – not liking winter, having babies, travelling etc

Tours programme in 2023

Our 10 tours: Mallorca, Cotswolds, Cantii Way, Mid Wales, Milton Keynes, Wellesbourne Camping, Corris Wales, Syfydrin Black Trail, The Way of the Roses: a real variety of surfaces, capabilities, 78 places were taken up. A good number of riders attended more than 1 tour.

The programme was delivered by 9 Tour leaders Mike Thomas, Marina Friend, Nigel Hickman, Bob Tinley and 4 new tour leaders Pete Farrell, Martin Lee, Carol Lee, Steve Davoile

100km Challenge Ride

Bob Tinley and Dave Hearn organised the 100km Ride in June this year with their usual efficiency. 55 riders completed the event and everyone enjoyed the ride and the food and drink stops. Definitely the club event of the year.

Off the Bike Activity

The **Meriden Service** was once again very ably organised by Dave Hearn in May, with a great attendance. This is the National Memorial service to cyclists lost in wartime activity. The **visit to Derby Velo** was technically last year but Dave and Mike Thomas did a great job organising the trips there and back . Thank you Mike and Dave. Dave also organised an **evening Meal out in Earlsdon** in the Autumn as well the **highly successful Christmas Dinner** at a new venue, Kings Hill Nursery. The **Winter Clubroom** included some really interesting slide shows and a few disappointing turn outs. It was noted that Dave has worked alone on many of these activities and we would like to see more members getting involved in "Off the Bike" next year.

Communications Activity

Group Membership: Alan Jelley, Mags Aston, Mike Aston, Nick Holloway, Roy Bhakta, Shona Hudson, Sak Wathanasin.

This has probably been the most successful group by reflecting our aim to include club members who are not part of the Committee. We want to do more of this in the year ahead. The full report of their activity is attached. Highlights include: installing a Community WhatsApp, reviewing the format of the weekly Bulletin, ongoing refreshment of the Website.

Promotion and Publicity

Vicky Palethorpe has held this post, printing and distributing leaflets with help from the committee and Martin Lee, fielding press and radio requests re night time cycling safety and Earlsdon speed reductions. She and Dave Hearn held a stall at the Charterhouse on Coventry's Big Bike Ride and regular posting on Facebook. Instagram is still a medium to explore. **Meeting with Earlsdon Wheelers** looking at shared challenges and successes, Getting people to lead rides. We Propose their ride leaders join us in any forums for Ride Leaders in the coming year. **Breakfast Club and Kidical Mass** we connect with the Breakfast club which meets once a month. They are mainly younger riders with families and are interested in the Kidical mass Movement. We are looking forward to being involved in our first Kidical Mass ride in Coventry on 4th May.

Tech Activity Group

George Riches is now being assisted by Sak Wathanasin in dealing with the IT management of website, bulletin and club email systems.

Advocacy Summary George Riches is Cycling UK's Cycle Advocacy Network representative for Coventry, and has frequently corresponded with Coventry Council, concerning numerous matters including; tram tracks in city centre, missing parts of the Binley and Coundon cycleways, barriers on the link between Stoke Aldermoor and Ernesford Grange, Lynchgate road improvements, Foleshill Road improvements. Overall, it's heartening to see so much real progress being made on improving Coventry's cycling infrastructure. It's a pity the same cannot be said for the Warwickshire towns, except (partially) for Warwick/Leamington.

Club Officers Reports

We have held quarterly meetings of the officers group to give ourselves time to reflect on the progress of the club this year (The activity groups have been reporting to the substantive committee meetings)

Registration Report by George Riches see attached. Membership which this year, has remained fairly stable includes 646 Cycling UK Members living in Coventry, Rugby and Mid Warwickshire. Very little change overall in Cycling UK membership in Coventry and our outlying areas. The Cycling UK Database which has undergone some changes is currently proving not so reliable/up-to-date.

Welfare and Safeguarding Shona Hudson and Roy Bhakta have worked closely together to support committee and Ride Leaders where required.

The secretary has 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 continued. Working with Kidical Mass this year will hopefully give us some insight on how to increase the participation of younger members.

Member news

The club was deeply saddened by the death of its president Gordon Mead in September 2023. Many of us attended his funeral and we are full of thanks for the bequests he has made to the Air Ambulance and Cycling UK. His bequests have been managed by Dave and Margaret Hearn with support from Mike Thomas and Bob Tinley. We also remembered cyclists from Coventry Mick Ives and Eileen Sheriden who were inspirations both locally and nationally.

Conclusion We trust this report will satisfy the members present as an accurate report of the year's activity for the Club.

Bob Tinley and Vicky Palethorpe April 2024