

CTC West Surrey Group

Annual Report 2010

Introduction

CTC West Surrey Group is the local representative body of the CTC and has 1136 members (1127 in 2009) for which it is their 'main' group. Historically CTC members were allocated to the Group based on the post codes (GU 1-10, 12, 15-16, 18-27; KT 7, 8, 10-16, 24; RG 45) that fell within its boundary. Since April 2009 CTC members have, however, been able to choose which group(s) they are a member of and to specify which of these is to be their 'main' group, i.e. the one at whose AGM they will be entitled to vote. Although some of our regular riders from outside our traditional area have taken advantage of this ability, there are still several – including three of our ride leaders! – who do not appear on our official membership list.

In addition to several special events, e.g. Reliability Rides and Audax events, the Group organises morning and all-day on-road rides on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the year. Rides start from various locations, providing the opportunity for riders of all abilities, ranging from those seeking light exercise to the fit and experienced cyclist, to explore the country lanes of Surrey and bordering counties.

A recent innovation has been the addition of a tow path ride on the first Thursday of the month from Brewery Road Car Park in Woking to the Cricketers in Pirbright for lunch.

Organisation

In addition to an elected committee to manage its affairs the Group has a President and five Vice Presidents, these being honorary posts to which members are elected in recognition of their long support and services to the Group. These posts are currently held by Chris Jeggo (President) and Tim Bar, Harold Coleman, Phil Hamilton, Clive Richardson and Rico Signore (Vice Presidents).

The committee consists of four ex-officio posts (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Rides Secretary) plus other committee members. For the past year its members have been:

Chris Jeggo	Chairman
Dane Maslen	Secretary and Registration Officer
Arthur Twiggs	Treasurer
John Murdoch	Rides Secretary and Welfare Officer
Mark Waters	Promotions Officer
John Morris	
Roger Philo	

The Group's success is dependent on the many members that organise and lead the various Wednesday and Sunday rides (see below). In addition the following volunteers provide important services to the Group:

Keith Chesterton	Guildford Cycle Forum Representative
Peter Clint	Auditor
Don Gray	Tour of the Hills Organiser
Phil Hamilton	Magazine Distributor & Reliability Ride Organiser
Chris Jeggo	Archivist
David Jupe	Website Manager
Geoff Smith	Magazine Editor
Mark Waters	Bicycle Icycle, Reliability Ride & Stonehenge/Danebury Organiser

This year sees many of these volunteers stepping down after lengthy service. The Group is indebted to all of them for their efforts over the years. It is all too easy for members to take such efforts for granted.

Having retired earlier this year, Chris Jeggo intends moving to Shropshire in the not too distant future, so is giving up his multitudinous roles of Chairman, Archivist and Ride Leader of the All-day Sunday Intermediates. Chris first joined the committee 36 years ago. Since then he has served on it for a total of 14 years: seven as a committee member, three as Secretary (a year each on three occasions) and four as Chairman (spread over three stints). He took over as Archivist in 2005 and in recent years has built up the All-day Sunday Intermediates to cater for those riders that wanted a more leisurely all-day ride than was available elsewhere.

Mark Waters has organised the Bicycle Icycle ride and the Stonehenge/Danebury audaxes for many years. This year he added the 75-/100-mile Reliability Rides to his load, but next year he will run only the Bicycle Icycle and he is also stepping down from the committee, having served on it for the last two years. His 'retirement' will not, however, be as quiet as first intended, given that he has recently taken over from David Jupe as webmaster, David having served the Group in that role since 2003.

Also stepping down from event organising is Phil Hamilton, who has run the 50-mile Reliability Ride for 10 years. Phil will, however, continue to distribute the club magazine and I suspect we shall continue to see him tirelessly marshalling for the organisers of various other events.

After eleven years as editor of *The West Surrey Cyclist*, Geoff Smith has decided to take a well-earned rest, though he intends to set a good example to other members and will be writing a regular column for the magazine. We hope that Claire Hooper, the new editor, will receive plenty of unsolicited articles from other members and won't have to resort to arm twisting.

Although in many instances 'willing volunteers' have already been found to replace the irreplaceable, there are some vacated roles for which volunteers are still urgently required. A new organiser for the Stonehenge/Danebury audaxes is of particularly high priority if they are

to be run next year. We also currently lack a new Archivist, someone who will ensure the preservation of important Group records.

Wednesday and Sunday rides

These start from various locations in an effort to accommodate cyclists living in different areas of West Surrey. In addition to groups that operate primarily from Woking, Guildford and Farnham, there are groups that operate from variable start points to give the widest scope for rides.

All-day Sunday Intermediates: Chris Jeggo has continued to provide all-day rides at a moderate pace (~11-13 mph) with rides starting from various locations. The programme included two train/car-assisted rides plus a "summer special" ride to the coast (Woking to Shoreham - a 90-mile round trip) which was well supported. A long weekend was spent at Montacute to ride the South Somerset Cycleway over two days and another weekend tour visited Salisbury. Group members enthusiastically participated in two weekend trips organised by Derek and Anne Tanner, to Dorset over May Day Bank Holiday and to the Welsh Festival of Cycling in July. Chris's retirement in February enabled him to lead two longer tours to France, Brittany in June and the Alps in August-September..

Farnham Wayfarers: Liz Palethorpe and her team of ride leaders have had another successful year with the Midweek, 2nd Sunday, 3rd Sunday (Easy Riders) and Summer 4th Sunday rides all being well attended. Even the picnic ride to Queen Elizabeth Country Park in drizzly miserable weather attracted 15 riders. The 'Easy Riders' group offers a morning ride at a very gentle pace (~15-20 miles at ~8 mph), while the other Sunday rides and the Midweek rides (on the first Wednesday of each month) offer all-day rides of ~40-45 miles at ~10-12 mph.

Guildford and Godalming Wayfarers: Peter Fennemore's group continues to be well attended with a regular turn out of about 9 riders. Rides are usually half-day, but variety has been added by the introduction of an occasional all-day ride and participation in the Group's programme of events (e.g. the Tour of the Greensand Hills).

An ongoing loss of coffee stops is starting to limit the scope of rides, but alternating starts between Guildford and Godalming does provide some scope for variety. The rides are a mix of on-road and some off-road tracks. Distances are typically 25-35 miles at an average speed of 10-12mph.

Sunday Riders: Clive Richardson continues his attempts to train the other riders to wave at horses in fields. In addition to some train/car-assisted rides on the Isle of Wight and to the New Forest, the group's brisk all-day rides (~60-90 miles at ~14-15 mph), starting from Elstead, Farnham, Godalming or Guildford, have covered much of Surrey and the neighbouring counties, including several visits to the coast, though some riders join the group just for the morning. Sadly the group is now losing one of its stalwart members as Geoff Smith (jnr) is moving to the Bournemouth area.

Woking Midweek Wayfarers: Starting from a variety of locations around Woking, these rides continue to attract a healthy attendance with extra riders often joining the group at the coffee stop. Occasionally a train/car-assisted ride starting from further afield is offered in addition to the local start.

Several weeks saw 30 riders in attendance, but the ice and snow in December and January saw three weeks of rides effectively cancelled, though two (fool)hardy souls on mountain bikes did struggle from Send to Newlands Corner on 23rd December. If those three weeks are excluded, the average weekly attendance increased slightly from 17 to 18, and total attendance from 888 to 894. This makes progress towards Rico's target of 1000 rather slow, so perhaps we need to encourage those riders who put in just a couple of appearances to emulate the regulars who managed 20-40.

The formula of designated coffee stops with lunchtime venues decided on the day continues to work well, allowing the riders to split into various groups based on ability, fitness etc. Luckily some extra leaders have emerged, though certain ability groups could do with more so that they can exist if their regular leader is on holiday. One particular weakness at present is that if there are very new and slow riders present, there isn't really a qualified nursemaid to look after them.

Woking Sunday Intermediates: These morning-only rides from outside Boots in Woking, while not overwhelmingly successful, continue to attract a small but loyal group of regulars. Average attendance is about six with numbers having varied between none on the wettest Sundays and 15 on one Sunday in April.

Sadly the slow(er) contingent that also used to start from outside Boots has now virtually vanished due to injuries, old-age, health problems etc, so we have the same problem here as on Wednesdays if there are new and slow riders present.

Events

The success of the Group's events depends not only on the dedication of their organisers, but also on the willingness of members to act as helpers and marshals. This year some events were critically short of volunteers and could have proved difficult to stage had not some volunteers spent lengthy stints in kitchens or on checkpoints. It is of particular concern that catering at the Group's flagship event, the Tour of the Hills, would have proved nearly impossible had it not been for the help of several non-members.

Thanks go to Jeff Banks, Tim Bar, Dennis Clarke, Don Gray, Rosemary Gray, Phil Hamilton, Martin Hine, Chris Jeggo, Don Jones, Rebecca Lucas, Dane Maslen, Bob McLeod, Roger Philo, Dotty Raven, Rico Signore, Pat Swain, Anne Tanner, Derek Tanner, Bill Thompson and Mark Waters for organising and/or helping at events this year (and apologies to anyone whose name has inadvertently been omitted from this list).

The other requirement for the success of the Group's events is that there should be sufficient entrants to make the organisers feel that all their hard work was worthwhile. Many events this year saw reduced participation which was undoubtedly disappointing for the organisers.

07.03.10 The Bicycle Icicle: This 70km event attracted 10 riders, all from West Surrey. All riders completed the course, with times varying between 3h 55m and 5h 15m. The ride once again benefitted from lovely sunny weather but it was extremely cold, in keeping with the event's title.

25.04.10 50-mile Reliability Ride: A cool, damp start to the day, coupled with a forecast of rain, saw just 23 participants this year. All but a handful started from Pyrford and only two failed to complete the course within the prescribed 5 hours. Although this continues to be our third most popular event, the inexorable decline in numbers over the last few years is a concern. While some riders believe that the route is now too old and well known, others welcome the relaxation that comes from not having to study the route sheet carefully. Satisfying both camps would appear to be difficult, to say the least.

09.05.10 Stonehenge 200, Danebury 150 and Elstead 100: Although the weather was better than last year, it was disappointingly cool with some drizzle during the morning. Consequently the number of on-the-line entries remained relatively low but with a slight shift towards the longer rides, while the number of DNFs reduced considerably. A total of 67 riders started, of whom 61 finished.

18.07.10 75- and 100-mile Reliability Rides: The once popular 100-mile route was revived several years ago and other route lengths added in an attempt to increase interest in the event. Nonetheless participation had been very disappointing, so this event had originally been going to be dropped from the 2009/10 programme. Eventually, however, it was given another chance, but in a slightly different format. The two shorter distances were dropped and riders on the remaining two had the option of being led round the route, much as on a club ride. This apparently increased the attractiveness of the rides as a total of 17 riders started (16 finished) compared to just six last year when a further eight had tackled the 30- and 50-mile rides.

15.08.10 Tour of the Hills and Tour of the Greensand Hills: This was the second year the Tour followed the new approved Audax UK route. Many participants commented very favourably on the route. With 2300m of ascent in 115km the Tour is one of the toughest rides in the South. 125 entries were received, of which 18 were on the day. There were 16 non-starters and 93 riders completed the correct course (several others went badly astray so missed checkpoints).

The Tour of the Greensand Hills attracted 21 riders, all finished except one who had to retire with minor mechanical problems.

The nature of the Tour requires a minimum of 13 marshals and without these volunteers the event cannot take place. Very many thanks to these individuals for their assistance both as marshals and at the Hall before and after the event. Perhaps next year will see some new faces volunteering to assist in the marshalling of the event or assisting at the Hall.

The catering was very well received by the participants. Thanks to Rosemary Gray, Dotty Raven and Pat Swain for running the catering and also a particular thanks to Anne Tanner

for her assistance after she had completed the Greensand tour. A new catering team will be required for 2011 as, except for Anne, none of the team are involved in cycling.

19.09.10 Pace Judging and Freewheeling competitions: Despite rather cool and cloudy conditions 10 riders entered after enjoying a coffee stop at Seale. In the Pace Judging competition Rico Signore and Peter Hackman tied for second place, thereby repeating last year's performance. David Streek improved his difference in circuit times from 63 seconds last time to just 3 seconds, thereby rising from last to first and neatly counterbalancing Tim Bar's achievement of dropping from first to last.

The Freewheeling competition was once again won by Chris Jeggo, though by a much reduced margin. Last year he was the only rider to make it over a hump and round the following corner, but this year he was joined by three other riders.

Annual award of trophies

The following awards are based on points given for the results of competitions and participation in events and Wednesday and Sunday rides.

Benstead Challenge Cup: Chris Jeggo

Best overall result.

Benstead Ladies Shield: Roberta Shore

Best overall result by a lady.

Junior Benstead Cup: not awarded

Best overall result by a junior (under 18 on 30/09/10).

Bernard Howell Trophy: Chris Jeggo

Best overall result by a veteran (55 or over on 01/10/09).

Bill Inder Trophy: Clive Richardson

Best Sunday attendance.

George Alesbury Tankard: Rico Signore

Best Wednesday attendance.

Junior Attendance Cup: not awarded

Best overall attendance by a junior (under 18 on 30/09/10).

Bert Bartholomew Trophy: Geoff Smith (snr)

Oldest rider to complete the 100-mile Reliability Ride within the time limit.

There are two further awards:

Keith Parfitt Memorial Pot: Mark Waters

Based on points given for organising events or helping at events

The Wooden Crank: TBD

Awarded for the most amusing blunder during the year.

Other Activities

Danish Cyclists' Federation visit to Woking: In May CTC hosted a visit by the board of the DCF to look at cycling development in the UK, during which they visited Woking to see the Cycle Towns concept. Phil Hamilton and Dane Maslen joined them for part of the day in response to a request for some local members to attend and provide input.

New Year's get-together in Seale: Many members rode to Seale Craft Centre on 1st January where the tea room, ever popular with our members, opened especially for cyclists to celebrate the New Year. Prior to the event we discovered that ever since they started opening especially for us on New Year's Day, about 10 years ago, the tea room has been donating the proceeds of the day to the Phyllis Tuckwell hospice in Farnham. We decided therefore to ask them to put out a collection box so that the cyclists could also contribute. The total donation came to over £300 of which about £100 came from the collection box.

Right to Ride: We currently do not have a Right to Ride representative. If anyone would be willing to take on this role, please contact the committee.

Tour Series Woking: This year Woking hosted the final race of the series. Several members volunteered to help marshal the event. The future of the event is currently unclear as business sponsorship will be required if Woking is to host it again.

Other Matters

Group membership: Since April CTC members have been able to choose which CTC groups they belong to. Anyone who considers themselves a 'member' of CTC West Surrey but who lives outside the historical geographical boundaries of the Group (cf Introduction) is encouraged to contact the CTC Membership Department on 0844 736 8451 to ensure that they are officially listed as a member of the Group. If you specify CTC West Surrey as your 'main' group, then you will be entitled to vote at future AGMs and the Group will be entitled to claim your subscription levy from HQ.

Group jerseys and shirts: The Group still has a number of shirts in stock. It is likely that any jerseys and shirts ordered in the future will be more expensive than these, so members of the right sizes (7, 8, 10, 11 and 13) should take advantage of the opportunity before it's gone. Contact Peter Clint (see details in the *The West Surrey Cyclist* to do so).

Dane Maslen, Secretary

26th October 2010