

CTC West Surrey Group

Annual Report 2013

Definition

CTC West Surrey Group is the local representative body of the CTC covering the postcode areas GU1-10, 12, 15-16 and 18-27, KT7-8, 10-16 and 24, and RG45. Total CTC members in these areas in September 2013 were 1194 with 55 of these joining in the last three months. In addition to several special events, e.g. Reliability Rides and Audaxes, the Group organises morning and full-day on-road rides on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the year plus a monthly tow-path ride. Rides start from various locations and provide 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.

Organisation

The committee consisted of the four ex-officio posts of Chairman (Roger Philo), Rides Secretary (John Murdoch), Secretary (Nick Davison) and Treasurer (Arthur Twiggs), plus two additional members, Mark Waters (Website Organiser) and Claire Hooper. Dane Maslen took over as Editor at the end of last year.

Members elected to honorary posts at the last AGM in recognition of their long support and services to the Group were Chris Jeggo (President); Bill Thompson, Harold Coleman, Liz Palethorpe, Clive Richardson, and Mark Waters (Vice Presidents).

Events and competitions were organised by Nick Davison with assistance from Bob McLeod and Peter Hackman (Stonehenge 200, Danebury 150 and Elstead 100 audaxes), Don Gray with assistance from John Murdoch and Louise Gagnon (Tour of the Hills audax and Tour of the Greensand Hills), Roger Philo (50-, 75- and 100-mile Reliability Rides), and Mark Waters (Bicycle Icycle). Thanks go to them and to the volunteers that assisted them.

Midweek and Sunday rides

In addition to groups starting primarily from Woking, Guildford, Godalming and Farnham, other groups have operated from variable start points to give the widest scope for rides. Several of the groups have also included a selection of train- and car-assisted rides in their programme. All groups had rides scheduled throughout the year and no rides were cancelled due to adverse weather.

Wednesdays has seen a weekly programme of full-day rides from locations around Woking by the **Woking Midweek Wayfarers** and monthly full-day rides from Farnham by the **Farnham Wayfarers**. Both groups have continued to be well attended, the former usually splitting into three groups of differing speeds en route to the coffee stop and thereafter to lunch. With new ride leaders there has been a resurgence in the intermediates such that it has often been split into two groups on busy roads. A separate

group has gone to meet the **Paragon Lunch Group** for those members who like to socialise but do not want a long ride.

Another opportunity for our less active members has been the **Evergreens** ride on the first Thursday of each month along the tow-path from Brewery Road Car Park in Woking to the Cricketers in Pirbright for lunch.

An extensive programme of rides has been on offer on Sundays: weekly full-day rides from Elstead, Farnham, Godalming or Guildford by the **Sunday Riders**; weekly morning rides from Woking by the **Woking Sunday Intermediates**; fortnightly full-day or morning rides from Godalming or Guildford by the **Guildford and Godalming Wayfarers**; monthly morning and monthly full-day rides from Farnham by **the Farnham Wayfarers**; and full-day rides once or twice a month from a variety of locations by the **All-day Sunday Intermediates**. These have provided members with opportunities for rides ranging from 15-20 miles at about 8mph (morning rides by Farnham Wayfarers) to 60-90 miles at about 14mph (Sunday Riders).

The Farnham group have annual extended rides in the New Forest and Test Valley and the Wednesday first group visited the Chilterns. The Isle of Wight is a popular train-assisted ride for Woking and Farnham groups.

A new document 'Group Riding Guidelines' was drawn up by Louise Gagnon in consultation with ride leaders and posted on the club website in September.

Events

Thanks to the dedication of the various organisers and the willingness of numerous members to act as helpers and marshals the Group staged its regular programme of events.

The weekend of the **Bicycle Icicle** (Sunday 7th April) brought perhaps the best weather of the year so far - not that it was that good, and certainly not warm, but it was relatively still, bright and dry. Ten club riders took part together with a visitor from West London and all completed the course. The first rider home completed the course in 4 hours and 7 minutes. Several said how much they enjoyed the route. The ride turned in a modest profit.

The **Stonehenge 200, Danebury 150 and Elstead 100 Audaxes** (Sunday 19th May) saw generally fine weather again and a very much increased entry. Paypal entries are now predominant. Total entries were 93 (74 last year) but only 73 riders (54). The finishers for each route were Stonehenge 32 (23), Danebury 13 (15) and Elstead 28(16); all those who started finished. Coordination with the Camberley CC has ensured that the Surrey League races did not clash. Catering at the start and finish was provided by Peter and Christine Hackman. The last group of riders, who were Japanese, arrived at 2204hrs. Thanks also to Phil and Dane manning the control at Whitchurch. A clash with the Watercress Festival at Alresford will mean finding some alternative routes in the town. Next year the events will be held on Sunday 18th May.

Goal Farm Golf Club kindly allowed us to start the **Century Ride** from the Club as well as finishing there, as we have done for a number of years. The 100m (14 July) had 7 starters, all finished. There was 1 starter for the 75m, who finished.

The 50m **Reliability Ride** had 18 starters from Farncombe and 3 from Pyrford. All finished. There was one rider who completed the 35 mile route from Pyrford.

For this year's **Tour of the Hills Audax** entries were well up on previous years: 151 entries were received with only 19 by post, 14 on-the-day and the rest entering electronically via PayPal. There were the customary no-shows, and a few didn't finish the ride, so we ended up with 110 tired, but happy finishers. The first riders finished in less than 4h30, and the last in around 7h30. Praise for the Event, the marshals and the catering was universal amongst the finishers with many more emails confirming this sentiment. The **Tour of the Greensand Hills**, held on the same day, again proved popular with West Surrey riders.

Surrey County Council took the rare step of asking the local BBC radio station to broadcast a live debate on the authority's cycling strategy consultation on 23rd October. The public were able to quiz a panel that included health experts, representatives from Sustrans, the CTC, Surrey Police and Surrey County Council. Five club riders attended and submitted questions.

Other Activities

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 and many other clubs, opened especially for cyclists to celebrate the New Year. A collection for a local hospice charity was made.

The club dinner was held at the Mill, Elstead in February which proved to be very successful and it is planned to repeat this next year with a guest speaker. Thanks go to John Murdoch for organising the dinner.

A short tour in Wales was organised by Derek Tanner in May.

An eight day tour in the Haute Savoie region of France was organised by John Murdoch in June.

A short tour of the Normandy Battlefields was organised by Louise Gagnon in July.

A small group (6) attended the Cycle Festival in Ruthin in Wales in July.

Marlies van den Hurk organised two cycling weekends in the South in March and October on behalf of the Farnham Wayfarers and is planning the next one for March 2014 in Gloucestershire. These weekends include organised walks for non-cycling partners.

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.

Club Items

Shirts: The new design of club shirt has been on sale this year and to date 20 have been sold at cost.

Magazine, 'The West Surrey Cyclist', is produced quarterly and continues to reflect the wider activities of the club. Dane Maslen took over as Editor last year and now produces an email version as well as the traditional paper version with increased content. The subscription cost remains at £4. See a separate Magazine Editor's Report.

Website [ctcwestsurrey.org.uk] has been managed by Mark Waters and greatly improved with many ride photos and a lively blog. The CTC has now produced a Group area on its own website and we plan to publish only our rides list there.

Annual Award of Trophies

The following awards are to be made at the AGM:

Bill Inder Trophy

Best Sunday attendance:

Clive Richardson

George Alesbury Tankard

Best Wednesday attendance:

John Findlay

Junior Attendance Cup

Best overall attendance by a junior (under 18 on 30/09/13)

(Not awarded)

Bert Bartholomew Trophy

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

Bob McLeod

Keith Parfitt Memorial Pot

For organising and helping at events:

Roger Philo

The Wooden Crank

Most amusing blunder during the year:

TBD

Nick Davison

Secretary