

CTC West Surrey Group

Annual Report 2014

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 Chair (Louise Gagnon), Rides Secretary (John Murdoch), Secretary (Nick Davison) and Treasurer (Arthur Twiggs), plus two additional members, Mark Waters (Website Organiser) and Claire Hooper. Dane Maslen continued as Editor of the magazine and received minutes of committee meetings. Unfortunately, Louise stepped down from her Chair position during the year and Mark Waters agreed to take over. Louise remained on the committee. A new website organiser or webmaster, John Child, was appointed with the development of the new website and he was co-opted to the committee.

Members elected to honorary posts at the last AGM in recognition of their long support and services to the Group were Roger Philo (President); Liz Palethorpe, Chris Jeggo and Derek Tanner (Vice Presidents).

Events and 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 who 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 some rides were cancelled due to prolonged spells of heavy rain in the winter.

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. Additional ride leaders are required for the category two rides on Wednesdays.

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 innovation this year was the **Evening Rides** organised on alternate Tuesday evenings during summer months from either Guildford or Godalming. Louise developed the concept and trained new ride leaders.

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 **Bicycle Icicle** [Sunday 6th April] attracted seven entries with two from outside the club; the forecast was poor and it rained gently on the morning of the ride, leading up to the start. A thick mist surrounded Leith Hill and the higher parts of the Surrey Hills which no doubt accounted for the poor turnout. The roads were in a dreadful condition but all completed the course and, as has become customary, we rode round together, completing the course in a tad under five hours, a good hour later than in previous years; this despite not stopping at the shop in Peaslake or dropping down to Shere.

The **Stonehenge 200, Danebury 150 and Elstead 100 Audaxes** (Sunday 18th May) saw generally fine weather again but with a reduced entry. Paypal entries are now predominant. Total entries were 74 (93 last year) but only 64 riders (73). Coordination with the Camberley CC has ensured that the Surrey League races did not clash. Peter Hackman provided catering at the start and finish. A clash with the Watercross Festival at Alresford meant some changes to the routes in the town. A more significant clash occurred with the Little Lumpy Sportive in Haslemere, which had an entry of nearly 800 riders.

Goal Farm Golf Club again kindly allowed us to start and finish our annual **100 mile and 75 mile rides** there. The events, on 20th July, had little support. Three riders started the 100 mile route and two the 75. All finished."

Owing to a road closure on Newark Lane there was no Pyrford start for this year's **50 and 35 mile rides**. The Farncombe start was moved to use the same Godalming start as the Guildford & Godalming group Sunday rides. The events, on 27th April, attracted 5 starters for the 50, all of whom finished, and 5 starters for the 35, of whom four finished. The weather was dry(ish) for most of the ride, but an unfortunate retrace and diversion caused by a road closed owing to tree pruning meant that some riders were caught in a shower close to the finish.

Entries for the 2014 **Tour of the Hills** were much the same as last year (142 total, 12 on-the-day and only 6 postal), with the Pay Pal electronic entry system proving ever more popular. As usual, there were a few no-shows and some found the ride sufficiently testing to 'pack'. 93 riders finished. The Event made a profit in excess of £800.

One of the many factors that make the TotH so popular is that the 'double loop' nature of the route. This returns entrants to Shere Village Hall at the midway point and gives those finding the event very tough a chance to rest, dine well and continue, or to decide that they have had enough and retire.

The event received universal praise from the riders, especially for the Marshals and Catering.

Louise and her team built on the success of last year and provided superb, nutritionally 'relevant' food in quantities sufficient to satisfy even the hungriest rider. Careful research ensured that the food was targeted to maximise the entrants energy at the start and mid-way points, and to aid recovery at the finish. It really is a tough ride, and catering of this quality contributes significantly to the riders success, and to their enjoyment of the Event.

The nature of the TotH route requires many marshals, without whom the Event could not run. John Murdoch and his team ensured that the passage of riders through controls was accurately monitored to satisfy Audax UK conditions but also gave encouragement to all, especially those riders who were finding the Event perhaps rather tougher than they had anticipated! This friendliness and encouragement from the Marshalling Team was very well appreciated by all.

Finally, the Event was rated by a number of riders as 'the best Audax event they had ever ridden.

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 Princess Royal Pub at Runfold on 1st March with Josie Dew as the guest speaker. It proved to be very successful (55 attended) and it is planned to repeat this next year on February 28th at The Mill, Elstead. Thanks go to John Murdoch for organising the dinner and dealing with the considerable problem of rescheduling due to flooding of the Mill at Elstead.

A short tour based at Much Wenlock was organised by Derek and Ann Tanner over the May Bank Holiday. They also organised a tour in Wales in the previous week.

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

A week's tour of Provence was organised by Chris Jeggo in September.

A day ride in the New Forest was organised by John Sadler in June with Derek Tanner leading the return ride to Farnham

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.

Pat Daffarn and Hilary Stephenson provided advocacy by sitting on the local Guildford Committee which monitors the safety of infrastructure for cyclists.

Ride Leader Training

A ride leaders' workshop was organised on 8th March at the Bird in Hand pub at Mayford Green by Brian Ross with assistance from John Sadler and Liz Palethorpe. Twenty two members attended including existing and aspiring ride leaders. It was judged to be a great success and will be repeated in Spring 2015.

Coupled with this workshop, aspiring ride leaders were tested on a check ride supervised by an experienced ride leader before being nominated for registration with the CTC. Louise distributed ride leader packs containing a foil survival blanket, sticking plasters for minor injuries and the six point procedure from the club guidelines, to follow in case of an accident. Five new ride leaders were registered this year.

Clarification was sought from the CTC over the insurance status of ride leaders in case of a claim from a rider following the debate at the last AGM. The outcome was that all ride leaders have to ensure that their riders are members before the ride starts; if any non-members are present, they have to sign a guest rider form. A list of riders has to be kept by the ride leaders. In October, CTC

informed us that they had changed their insurers with the result that a guest rider may only participate in three rides [previously 5] before they must become a member. In addition, a maximum of ten guest riders are permitted on a ride.

Club Items

Shirts: The new design of club shirt has been on sale this year.

Magazine, 'The West Surrey Cyclist', is produced quarterly and continues to reflect the wider activities of the club. Dane Maslen now posts this to the new club website. The subscription cost was increased at the October committee meeting to £6 [from £4] to offset the increasing subsidy from the club funds. See a separate Magazine Editor's Report. Phil Hamilton distributed the magazine by post.

Website [westsurreyctc.co.uk] A new website went live in April this year following considerable work by two working groups: design and user. John Child, who developed the new website, has become our new website manager and attends committee meetings. The new website has justly received universal praise, and with the up-to-date and relevant information provided on it, has increasingly become the main reference point for members. The rides list is included in a new format and there is a blog and latest news reports, which can be used by ride leaders to post any late changes to their rides.

Business Cards: Mark Waters and John Child designed and organised the production of business cards for promoting the club. This was prompted by seeing cards from other clubs displayed in cafes and being handed out from other CTC member groups.

Annual Award of Trophies

The following awards should be noted, with the trophies to be presented at the Club Dinner in February:

<i>Bill Inder Trophy</i>	Best Sunday attendance:	Clive Richardson
<i>George Alesbury Tankard</i>	Best Wednesday attendance:	John Findlay
<i>Bert Bartholomew Trophy</i>	Oldest rider to complete the 100-mile Reliability Ride within the time limit:	Bob McLeod
<i>Keith Parfitt Memorial Pot</i>	For organising and helping at events:	Roger Philo
<i>The Wooden Crank</i>	Most amusing blunder during the year - TBD	

Nick Davison
Secretary