

## **Background information from West Surrey CTC Committee with regard to a possible move from being a Cycling UK 'Member Group' to a Cycling UK 'Affiliated Group'**

At the forthcoming AGM, the Committee seeks the views of members as to whether or not to turn West Surrey CTC, currently a member group, into an affiliated club.

### **Background**

Few members can fail to have noticed that there have been major functional and operational changes to the CTC (now Cycling UK) over recent years - far more than simply a name change.

Certain members of West Surrey CTC strongly object to many of these actions, such as:-

- Removal of a unique club asset and member benefit, in the form of the 'Help Desk', which included the Touring and Technical Departments. It is known that such actions were partly driven by the need for Cycling UK to spend less on members, and more on charitable purposes, in order to be able to benefit from Gift Aid. This was not mentioned when the Club pushed through the conversion to a charity, even though it was no doubt known at the time. In essence, a greater amount of each members' subscription could be described as a charity donation, rather than a payment for club benefits, which currently consist of third party insurance, a magazine (which is pretty much self-funding), a weekly email and legal 'advice'.
- Clear evidence of poor governance, with strategic decisions being driven by paid staff (the management) and not by Council, who are supposed to decide on governance matters.
- Disregard of members' views; one recent example is that members voted at the last AGM for Councillors to have been Cycling UK members for at least a year; (this was opposed by Cycling UK Council). Notwithstanding this, five of the ten candidates now being put forward are not currently members of Cycling UK. It is also known that at least one current member who put their name forward has had their candidature rejected before members have had an opportunity to vote.

Overall, whilst acknowledging that much good work is being done by Cycling UK to encourage cycling and create a better environment for cycling, it is the overwhelming view of your committee that Council have effectively ignored the fact that CTC/CUK is (or at least was), a member organisation.

It is known that many groups feel similarly disenfranchised by the changing nature of CTC. As a result a number have changed from being member groups to becoming clubs affiliated only to Cycling UK as a result; and more are in the process of so doing.

### **How does a change to affiliated club status affect us?**

Your committee has spent much time considering the benefits and risks of this change. Key issues that have been considered are:-

## 1. Insurance

- a) a change in club status might lead to uncertainty by some members as regards third party and ride leader insurance issues. Whilst ride leader insurance is a principal benefit of affiliated club status, third party cover would be up to individual members.
- b) Members could become 'affiliated members of CUK' for £24p.a., remain as members of CUK as they are now, or seek cheaper insurance elsewhere. There are several options available.

## 2. Finances

- a) Cycling UK rules state that when a member club ceases to exist, all funds have to be returned to Cycling UK centrally. A change to affiliated club status would result in the club losing the money that members have earned for us through the running of events. We would prefer to keep this money and have it available for the benefit of members or use it to encourage more members into the club. It is possible that we could transfer some of our reserves over to the new club, but we would need to ensure that this transfer was legitimate.
- b) Furthermore, if the club converted to affiliated status it would lead to the loss of our £200 annual grant available to all member groups.
- c) If we became an affiliated club we would need to pay £75 p.a. for affiliated club status, which covers our ride leader insurance. Further costs associated with managing the membership of a new club include a £60 p.a. cost for a suitable membership database and subscription payment system. These costs would be covered by a suggested annual membership subscription to join the affiliated club of c.£5. As a member group of course we pay nothing, but that is because we are all required to be members of Cycling UK. If we became an affiliated club, this would not be obligatory.

Members are encouraged to view the documents on the Cycling UK website which explain the benefits of 'member club' status insurance, as against 'affiliated club' status insurance. There are minor differences. These are the links:

<http://www.cyclinguk.org/insurance/third-party-insurance>

<http://www.cyclinguk.org/membership/affiliate-membership-for-cycling-clubs-and-groups-of-all-types-and-sizes>

Please be aware that your Committee, whilst having opinions as individuals as regards the changes within CTC/CUK, recognise that their prime responsibility is towards the interests of its members. Therefore we do need to know how you want us to proceed. We look forward to a good debate on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

We actively encourage you to start the debate on the WSCTC website forum prior to the AGM in two weeks time.

*The Committee*  
*West Surrey CTC*

*16 October 2016*