

West Surrey Cycling Club

Annual Report 2025

Definition

West Surrey CC is the local member group of Cycling UK covering the postcode areas GU1-10, 12, 15-16 and 18-27, KT7-8, 10-16 and 24, and RG45. Total CUK members in these areas exceeds 1200.

Organisation

The committee consisted of the four ex-officio posts of Chair (Nick Flew), Rides Secretary (John Carolin), Secretary (Nick Davison) and Treasurer (Keith Stainer), plus four additional members, John Child (Website Organiser), Alison Warren (Publicity), Neil McIntyre (New Rider Coordinator) and Helen Stewart. Our President is Elizabeth Palethorpe.

The committee met on four occasions (22nd July and 11th October 2024, 7th January and 10th April 2025).

Events

The Tour of the Hills Audax was held on 8th August, the 42nd occasion on which the club has staged this event and organised by Derek and Jill Ridyard. A strong entry was achieved. This event relies on a large number of volunteers to assist with catering and marshalling. The date for 2025 is 10th August.

The Elstead Audaxes were held on 16th June organised by Neil McIntyre. Rider numbers were back up to expected level bearing in mind a gap of two years. The date for 2025 is 8th June.

Rides Secretary's Report

Our club remains very active, we can see from the records of club events on Spond that in the calendar year 2024:

- The club staged 435 rides.
- Active riders numbered 152 (including guests).
- With a total of just over 3,110 individual rides recorded.

This impressive tally is thanks to the ongoing commitment of the club's Group Leaders who organise their group rides programme, and thanks to our Ride Leaders who volunteer to lead our rides across Surrey and adjacent counties, come rain or shine. Our club simply could not function without all their continuing enthusiastic and hard-working support.

The club has six weekend ride groups and seven weekday groups (mostly on Wednesdays) that cater for a wide range of levels of cycling. Most of the groups are well attended throughout the year, even during the chillier winter months. A couple of the groups have continued to struggle for numbers, but we continuously review how all the groups are getting on and we welcome input from all members on possible improvements.

We are proposing to inaugurate a new ride group. Initially these rides will take place on alternate Saturday mornings. They will be half-day rides with a coffee stop. Start points will be north of Guildford (e.g. Normandy, Pirbright, Send, Ripley ...). The rides will have a relaxed and sociable G2/G3 pace which the leader will always adjust to suit the actual group of riders on the day. These rides will replace both the current G3SM and G2WS groups. Our aim is to make these rides an effective gateway into the club for new members. To that end, a committee member will join each ride to help welcome guests and potential new members, to help them find the right ride groups, and to encourage them to join and ride regularly with our club. Recognising that many of our rides at present have only a sole woman rider taking part or none, we also aim to ensure that these rides will be ones where women riders can always expect to have female company. If these rides prove popular, we will consider running similar rides on alternate Wednesdays, which could be half day or full day.

Several club members have asked whether it is OK to put one-off or “pop-up” rides on Spond, for example an occasional gravel ride or an evening ride to enjoy great summer weather. The simple answer is “yes please do”, but also please note that all club rides must be led by a CUK registered ride leader (insurance requirement) and organised in accordance with club ride guidelines. Only Ride Leaders should post rides on Spond, and one-off rides should not conflict with any existing ride groups.

During the past year we have registered three new Ride Leaders with Cycling UK, namely Keith Gooders, Hans Sparkes and Paul Hiriart. We are very fortunate that each year several members step forward in this way to maintain the vitality of our club.

First Aid Training

Further one day courses were offered to members in Autum 2024 but there was insufficient interest to make the running of a course viable, a minimum of 6 members are needed. 3 members remain on the waiting list for the next course and members will be canvassed again this coming Autumn for training to be offered then. One member completed the online training course during the year and 16 members took up the offer of a club funded pocket first aid kit.

Awards

The Annual Dinner was held on 14th March 2025 at Hoebridge Golf Club. This was a new venue to the club and the general view was that a much better level of service was provided and a much more enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.

- The Golden Crank and the Keith Parfitt Memorial Pot were awarded to Derek and Gill Ridyard for their magnificent efforts for running the Tour of the Hills Audax over many years.
- The George Aylesbury Trophy for highest midweek turnout was awarded to John Carlin.
- The Benstead Cup for the highest turnout by a rider over 75 years age was awarded to Colin Edwards
- The Bart Bartholomew trophy for the first rider aged over 75 years in the Danebury 150k Audax [The Reliability Century Ride] was awarded to Peter Hackman.
- The Edwards Ladies Trophy was awarded to Angela Byrne
- The Bill Inder Trophy was awarded to Clive Richardson for his exceptional and unwavering support of the club's Sunday rides.
- The Wooden Crank award was awarded to Paul Taylor

New Riders Report

During 2024, 46 riders contacted the club in order to find out whether there was a good match. This was sustained through the year, showing a less seasonal cycle than previously. Nearly all the interested riders came out on trial rides and a total of 19 eventually became members of Cycling UK and hence the club. With over 40% of interested parties joining the club, this continues the level of success of recent years.

Our G2 and G3 groups remain the main entry points for the club, although once started some migrate to other groups within the club. More new members came from the Farnham area than elsewhere but riders from Godalming, Woking and Farnborough were also well represented. The club attracts members through advertising but word of mouth continues to be the most effective means of attracting riders.

Club Communications

The website continues to be central to all the club's activities and communications and members are encouraged to submit items to be published. Members who are signed up continue to receive additional communication by email as well as email notifications of new Blog or Latest news postings.

Club members are members of Cycling UK and enjoy access to many benefits. The club website provides a direct link to the benefits section on the Cycling UK website.

The club continues to use Spond to publicise and organise rides. At present there are 192 members signed up to use Spond, including 31 guests or prospective members.

The RideWithGPS club membership has been in place for almost two years and now hosts a fairly comprehensive and ever-growing rides database to which which Ride Leaders can contribute, and borrow from when planning routes. Guidance notes for users have been posted on

the website. Please ask if you are unsure how to access and use this facility, as the whole club stands to benefit from using this resource.

WhatsApp continues to be widely used by the club for general communication. The club Facebook page and Instagram accounts are moderated by WSCC. Both accounts have regular posts and can be accessed via logos on the home page of the club website as well as directly through Facebook and Instagram, and we are looking to make increased use of social media over the coming year. The social media accounts play an important role in promoting the Elstead Audaxes as well as the Tour of the Hills. Going forward we hope social media will continue to promote the club and to attract new riders who are vital for our future. There is a West Surrey Cycling Club club on Strava, which can be accessed directly from Strava.

There are now only three pieces of kit left in club stock. The supplier will run an online Club Shop for new kit, which we would be keen to utilise. However there is still a Minimum Order Quantity of 5 for each type of kit (long sleeve, short sleeve and gilet). At the moment the level of interest in new kit is well short of the MOQs, so if anyone is interested please message Nick Flew.
