

# CTC West Surrey Group

## Annual Report 2016

### 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 October 2016 were 1146 with 33 of these joining in the last three months.

### Organisation

The committee consisted of the four ex-officio posts of Chair (Mark Waters), Rides Secretary (John Murdoch), Secretary (Nick Davison) and Treasurer (Arthur Twiggs), plus three additional members, John Child (Website Organiser) Laurie Mutch and Roger Philo. Dane Maslen resigned as editor of the club magazine and has not been replaced with the final edition produced in Q2. Committee meetings were held in November 2015, April, July and October 2016. The work of the committee centred around the developments in Cycling UK and their lack of transparency in organisation such that several motions were submitted by committee members for their AGM. The possibility of becoming an affiliated group was raised and investigations carried out by the committee into the financing and insurance issues. The chairman has posted a discussion document on the website outlining the pros and cons of changing to affiliated status for open debate at the AGM.

Members elected to honorary posts at the last AGM in recognition of their long support and services to the Group were Chris Juden (President); and Rico Signore (Vice President).

### 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.

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 or four groups (Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4) of differing speeds en route to the coffee stop and thereafter to lunch. The Grade 3 group have continued to benefit from a number of different ride leaders, bringing variety and new ideas to the riding programme. We would certainly benefit from new volunteers to lead the Grade 1 and 2 rides, particularly on the retirement (as leader, not as a rider) of Rico Signore. Rico has been a true stalwart of the Midweek Wayfarers for many years, and our grateful thanks go to him for all that he has done for the Club. 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 and this has been very popular.

An extensive programme of rides has been on offer on Sundays: weekly full-day rides from Elstead, Farnham, Godalming or Guildford by the **Sunday All Day Riders**; weekly morning rides from Woking by the **Woking Sunday Riders**; 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 (Grade 4 Sunday All-Day Riders). The Farnham group have annual extended rides in the New Forest and Test Valley and the Midweek Woking Grades 3 and 4 visited the Chilterns. The Isle of Wight is a popular train-assisted ride for Woking and Farnham groups.

**Evening Rides** were not run this year due to a lack of interest.

## 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 Icycle**, our first event of the year, was run on 14 February with two members from outside our area taking part, as well as a further six of our own members. It was decidedly cold, which probably kept numbers low, but that said, everyone as usual commented on the quality of the route. One of the visitors failed to finish owing to mechanical difficulties, and a further two members decided only to attend the start because a croissant breakfast was offered (and much enjoyed). The organiser is hoping to arrange an additional ride to our calendar for the autumn which might well be an extended version of the Bicycle Icycle route.

**The three Elstead Audax events** organised by Nick and Marion Davison, Peter and Christine Hackman, Bob McLeod and Elizabeth Weatherburn were run mainly in sunny conditions on June 5<sup>th</sup> from Elstead Village Hall. There was a record entry on the day of 85 riders which is double that for 2015; the good weather forecast may have persuaded more to enter on the day but the increasing popularity of the Stonehenge 200k was apparent. Sending a publicity email to last year's entry as well as that for the TOH may have also helped to swell the numbers.

The 50 and 35 mile rides took place on 8th May 2016. There were 11 starters and 10 finishers of the 50 mile ride and 10 starters and 7 finishers of the 35 mile ride. As usual, the finish was at the Kings Head, Holmbury St Mary. Their normal menu was unavailable because the kitchen was being refurbished. The substitute barbecue provided lunches of very generous proportions, so much so that some finishers went elsewhere for lunch.

The 100 and 75 mile rides took place on 24th July 2016. There were 7 starters for the 100 and 2 for the 75. There were 7 finishers for the 100, although they included one who had started intending to ride the 75. Thanks again to Roger Philo for the event organization and to Rokers for allowing us to start and finish there.

Entries for the **Tour of the Hills** were a little down on last year (113total). 83 riders finished. The Event made a profit in excess of £750. One of the many factors that make the TotH so popular is the doubleO 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. Mark and his Team maintained the very high standard of catering set by Louise and provided excellent, nutritionally relevant food. The nature of the TotH route requires many marshals, without whom the event could not run. John Murdoch and his team did a fine job which was much appreciated. The event is one of the best events on the Audax calendar.

After six years heading the event, Don Gray is standing down and, for it to continue, we need a Club and AUK member to take over the organisation. Without such a volunteer this much appreciated and long-running fixture will disappear and the Club will lose its major source of revenue. Shere Village Hall has been provisionally booked for Sunday 20 August 2017 but the event has not been entered in the 2017 AUK calendar.

## Other Activities

The traditional New Year's get-together was held at Squire's garden centre at Badshot Lea.

The Club Dinner was held at The Princess Royal at Runfold on 5<sup>th</sup> March, and again proved very popular, with 63 attendees. Club awards were presented, but the highlight was certainly the performance by Quintessential, a talented close harmony group including our own member, Heidi Vinson. This was followed by a demonstration that even non-singers can perform creditably after only a short period of skilled training.

It is intended that a further dinner will be held in 2017, with an announcement being made at the AGM or shortly afterwards on the website. Sincere thanks go to John Murdoch for organising the event.

A short tour based at a pub at Middlemarsh near Sherborne in Dorset over the early May Bank Holiday was organised by Hilary Stephenson for 9 group 2 riders.

An eight day tour in the central Alps region of France was organised by John Murdoch in June with nine riders taking part with a support car.

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

Mark Waters and Chris Juden ran touring events in Europe for CTC Holidays.

Club members again took on some impressive cycling challenges this year, with a number completing the legendary End to End (Land's End to John O'Groats).

Although no workshop was held this year, West Surrey CTC is maintaining a high standard of riding discipline. Riders are generally briefed at the start on any potential hazards, the Grade 3 leaders are publishing routes in advance (for the Garmin Gang), and considerable attention is placed on being considerate to other road users. This is facilitated for example by breaking up into separate groups of 5 riders with big gaps in between to assist overtaking vehicles. A large number of riders are wearing hi-vis gear as well as using front and rear flashing lights.

## Club Items

**Magazine**, - Dane Maslen had previously given notice that he would not be continuing as Editor of this magazine (he took over as a short term interim measure and continued for much longer than had been envisaged) and with no other volunteer stepping forward, the Quarter 2 issue of 2016, edited by Mark Waters, proved to be the last magazine to be published. It is certainly sad that the long and illustrious history of this magazine has come to an end, but is no doubt a sign of the times; at least we can be pleased that the website provides an excellent form of communication in a changing world. Our thanks go to Dane, and to all the other editors, for producing a consistently excellent magazine.

**Personal Identification Tags** – the club sponsored free procurement by members of these tags from the OneLifeID website – 64 orders have been made.

**Website**. The website is central to all the club's activities and communications and John Child, our webmaster, continues to do an excellent job. Accounts of recent rides with photos are regularly posted together with notice of events and changes to rides. There are 63 people currently signed up to receive email notifications of new Blog or Latest News postings. If you haven't done so and would like to receive a notification when these are posted please sign up on the Blog page. Additional communication is by e-mail to members of the various different groups, and if you wish to receive such e-mails, please ensure that you sign up via the website (Welcome page, "Sign up for announcements etc. Everyone is also invited to submit articles for the website - please email them with photos to John Child ([webmaster@westsurreyctc.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@westsurreyctc.co.uk)))

## **Annual Award of Trophies**

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

<b><i>Bill Inder Trophy</i></b>	Best Sunday attendance:	<i>Clive Richardson</i>
<b><i>George Alesbury Tankard</i></b>	Best Wednesday attendance:	<i>Neil Eason</i>
<b><i>Bert Bartholomew Trophy</i></b>	Oldest rider to complete the 100-mile Reliability Ride within the time limit:	
<b><i>Keith Parfitt Memorial Pot</i></b>	For organising and helping at events:	<i>Roger Philo</i>
<b><i>The Wooden Crank</i></b>	Most amusing blunder during the year	TBA
<b><i>The Golden Crank</i></b>	Recognition for Outstanding Contribution	TBA
<b><i>Audax Points Award</i></b>		<i>Don Gray</i>

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