

West Surrey CTC

Annual Report 2019

Definition

West Surrey Member Group 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 members in these areas in October 2019 were 1196.

Organisation

The committee consisted of the four ex-officio posts of Chair (Derek Ridyard), Rides Secretary (Phil Gasson), Secretary (Nick Davison) and Treasurer (Roy Wigmore), plus three additional members, John Child (Website Organiser) Laurie Mutch, Mark Waters and Angela Byrne. Our President is Keith Chesterton. The committee met on four occasions [December 2018, March, June, September 2019]. The meeting minutes are available on the website.

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 three Elstead Audax events [Nearly Stonehenge 200k, Danebury 150k and Overton 100k], organised by Nick Davison, were run in fine weather on Sunday 21st July from Elstead Village Hall. There was a reduced number of starters of 65; seven club riders took part.

The Tour of the Hills 115k Audax organized by Mark Waters with Derek Ridyard took place on Sunday 18th August in generally fine conditions after a short period of rain at the start. 151 riders started, which is similar to last year. The 51km Tour of the Greensand was run concurrently and six club members took part.

The most significant club event this year will be Russ Mantle reaching his 1 million miles target. CUK are arranging an interview [possibly with a local radio station] and an article in their Cycle Magazine and it is planned to hold a club ride to coincide with reaching his target. CUK are also writing an article for their magazine on the Cape Wrath Fellowship and one of our riders, Alec McKenzie, was one of the early participants in 1951.

Other Activities

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

The Club's Annual Dinner was held at The Princess Royal at Runfold in March, and again proved very popular, with over 60 attendees. Club awards were presented. Sincere thanks go to John Murdoch for organising the event.

Two unofficial tours were organised by members this year in Majorca [13 Midweek Group 4 riders] and the Peak District where 17 cyclists joined the traditional May Day tour and enjoyed several traffic-free routes and stunning scenery.

A very successful workshop was held on Saturday 1st June, attended by some 20 ride leaders. Three syndicates considered the future of the club, ideas for events that bring together all our groups, and how we can contribute to sharing the road. A detailed report was produced covering topics that will be taken up at the AGM, including a proposal to change our name, fresh ways to promote the club and enhancing our already highly regarded website.

The club sponsored 2 first aid courses, held on 8 December and 30 March, and 21 of our members qualified (their names are on the website). It is hoped to run further course if 10 members come forward. This was followed up with a review and purchase by the club of suitable small first aid kits, after taking professional advice. The target is to have at least one kit carried on every ride by each group and 8 first aid kits have now been issued. If you would like one of these please speak to a committee member.

Unfortunately, despite considerate and disciplined riding by all our members, we had two serious accidents this year, which were reviewed by the committee. Safety briefings by ride leaders are recommended at the start of all our rides, particularly focusing on hazards and sharing the road. Penny Knight and Glenn Blake have issued Ride Safety Awareness notes, which can be referred to by Ride Leaders at their pre ride briefing.

The wearing of helmets is strongly recommended by the committee, and their value has been borne out during the year.

The committee regularly reviews its compliance with GDPR and all personal information is retained in encrypted databases with restricted access, in line with the club's published policy, which follows guidance from CUK.

Ride leaders are required to have a record of all attendees at the start of each ride for insurance purposes as well as obligatory end of year report to Cycling UK. During the last 12 months, attendance at rides has continued to grow. The club publishes, organises and leads some 350 rides annually and the total distance of these exceeded 120,000 miles. There were 99 separate riders who went out at least once in the year on Wednesday Midweek rides, and total attendance was 1278.

Rides Secretary's Report

The Rides Secretary's most important role is the compilation of the Schedule of Rides and Events every quartile which I could not do without great support from eight Group Leaders, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank them all. My other role is to keep Ride Leaders informed about issues that may be important going forward.

All ride leaders are required for insurance reasons to have a register of attendees at the start of the ride, as well as ICE (In Case of Emergency) phone numbers. We have now largely completed this exercise, and encrypted attendance sheets and telephone numbers are stored on Dropbox. Ride Leaders can access this information, which makes it easy to comply with CUK and insurance requirements. We wish to express our thanks for the input from all our Groups.

We have formed a new ride group for level 3 riders called Weekend Awayday Riders. These are monthly day rides circa 100km long in areas just beyond our normal boundaries. These rides are aimed at G3 riders as all our other weekend rides are either for G2's or G4's. Having said this all are welcome. These rides are typically during summer, and next year the first ride will be The Phil Hampton Memorial Ride in late March. Having got this ride group "off the ground" I would like a volunteer please to take on organising these rides for next year.

The implementation of walkie-talkies has been trialled in Midweek Group 3 and although not perfect I believe them to be an asset in larger groups enabling the backmarker to keep in touch with the Ride Leader.

I am pleased to report that five of our G3 riders completed *The El Supremo 200km* ride and three G3 riders completed the *Ride London 100*, Chris Williamson being a Ride Captain.

I am also very pleased to report that over the past year we have increased the number of our Ride Leaders by nine, which has helped to share this load in all groups.

Finally, I wish to pay homage to all our Ride Leaders who cleverly organise countless rides in all weathers and often against challenging issues ensuring we enjoy ourselves and safely return home. As I have said before they are the “lifeblood” of our club.

Club Items

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))

A photo competition with the theme of club rides was held again yielding a large range of entries, and the winning photo will be revealed at the AGM.

Club clothing stocks are very low with only some female jerseys available. It is anticipated that this will be reordered following the decision on the proposed club’s name change.

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 March:

<i>Bill Inder Trophy</i>	Best Sunday attendance:	<i>Clive Richardson</i>
<i>George Alesbury Tankard</i>	Best Wednesday attendance:	<i>Phil Gasson</i>
<i>Keith Parfitt Memorial Pot</i>	For organising and helping at events:	<i>TBA</i>
<i>The Wooden Crank</i>	Most amusing blunder during the year	<i>TBA</i>
<i>The Golden Crank</i>	Recognition for Outstanding Contribution	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Audax Points Award</i>	Highest points earned over the year	<i>TBA</i>
