

West Surrey Cycling Club

Annual Report 2021

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 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, Alison Warren (Publicity) and Angela Byrne. Our President is Keith Chesterton. The new role for club Publicity was created prior to the 2019 AGM.

Laurie Mutch will be standing down from the committee leaving a vacancy on the committee.

Due to the COVID Pandemic and Government restrictions imposed on the public in 2019/20, the AGM due in October 2020 was delayed until May 2021. The committee met on seven occasions [December 2019, February, May, July, September and December 2020 and April 2021]. All meetings were held on-line using ZOOM.

Events

All events were cancelled due to the COVID restrictions.

The centenary of the club is due in 2021, but plans for events have been cancelled due to the COVID restrictions.

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 58 attendees. Club awards were presented and a framed photo to Alan Mayger, the winner of the Photo Competition. Sincere thanks go to Angela Byrne for organising the event.

The club sponsored a first aid course on 15 February 2020 which was run by CUK at their office.

The secretary was contacted in December 2019 by the Chairman of Charlotteville CC looking to improve cooperation between the clubs, but no progress has been made.

Rides Secretary's Report

My goodness our world has changed over the past 17 months and our cycling club has frequently had to change with it. We all hope we are now over the worst and are able to plan our future with confidence.

Our last AGM was held on 2nd November 2019 and our club happily progressed until the first lockdown on 22nd March 2020. My last Ride Schedule was issued for April to June 2020 but was never used.

Notwithstanding this quite a lot was achieved before this first lockdown.

- Eleven of our members completed a Cycling UK first aid course bringing the number of qualified first aiders up to 34 in total meaning that most of our rides have a first aider with them.
- Russ Mantle completed his millionth mile on 7th November 2019 at Mytchett Canal Centre and the occasion was celebrated and enjoyed nationally.
- Our Ride Leader numbers were increased by eleven which greatly helped during the “rule of six period”
- A new WSCC kit was designed and has been well received.

I now need to thank our Group Leaders, 8 in total who, when possible, have kept their riders active as much as possible when lockdowns were lifted.

I also wish once again to thank all the Ride Leaders who have supported Group Leaders by volunteering to lead countless rides all over our area and having to adapt to find suitable rides with refreshment stops.

A few other positives developed during the above period which has made our lives a little easier.

- Coffee Stop Meetup Venues. A “live” document which can be updated by all, providing helpful details of refreshment stops. (Thanks to Martin Vinson for instigating this).
- A Ride Leader Roster which identifies future availability dates of Ride Leaders to enable the Group Leader to manage future rides and Leaders.
- The use of the *Spond* App which enables rides to be posted on a mobile phone providing future ride details with a simple sign-up facility. Record keeping and other features are also taken care of. Further details are available on the club website.
- Throughout this period my role has varied somewhat and I have had to try to invent new ways of arranging and organising rides to comply with Govt restrictions. Lessons learnt have been shared with fellow Group and Ride Leaders.

Finally, we have recently set up a program for the club to receive new riders who have very limited cycling experience. We now have a list of 15 experienced Ride Leaders offering to help support a “taster ride” in their area. I am hoping someone will take on the role of organising this new enterprise.

PS. One very sad piece of news is that Evelyn Gaff who ran the Tower Café passed away last July. She had battled against cancer for some time and the lockdown just made life more difficult. The club sent condolences to the family at the time.

Website and Publicity

The website remains central to all the club’s activities and communications and has been invaluable during the pandemic. John Child, our webmaster, assisted by Laurie Mutch continue to do an excellent job.

The constantly changing situation vis-à-vis the pandemic has meant the club has embraced other digital technology in order to organise rides conforming to government guidelines. Worth mentioning here is the use of Spond. Spond is an app that allows you to organise an event. The use of this app has been instrumental in organising many club rides and conforming to the ‘rule of six’.

WhatsApp is also a firm favourite and is widely used by the club for general communication and has

been useful in organising virtual ride meetups (eg. Zwift) for members.

The re-designed club kit arrived in March 2020 and was distributed to members. It has been extremely well received by both club members and members of the public! The eye-catching design has resulted in many positive comments which is great to hear. The website has been updated with members riding in the new clothing.

Accounts of recent rides with photos are regularly posted together with notice of events and changes to rides. There are over 60 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))
