

# West Surrey Cycling Club

## Annual Report 2022

### 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 April 2022 was 1286 (1196 in October 2020).

### 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), Alison Warren (Publicity), Neil McIntyre (New Rider Coordinator) and Angela Byrne. Our President is Keith Chesterton. Roy Wigmore will be standing down at the AGM

The committee met on four occasions [June, September and November in 2021, and March in 2022]. Last year's AGM was held on 8<sup>th</sup> May using the Zoom on-line conference facility.

### Events

The centenary of the club was celebrated by an afternoon tea in Mann's café in Cranleigh on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The Tour of the Hills Audax was held on 8<sup>th</sup> August. The Elstead Audaxes were not held due to Covid restrictions.

As for 2020, COVID restrictions impacted on club rides early in the year with restrictions on the size of ride group.

### Rides Secretary's Report

For me I feel the past year has been one of the busiest what with Covid, new ride groups, an increase in our numbers and the general adoption of *Spond* which has transformed and improved the way rides are advertised and organised.

In May last year Guildford based G2 ride groups were successfully re organised. Unfortunately, the Midweek Wayfarers G2 and the Woking Sunday Riders G2, primarily due to lack of numbers, had to temporarily disband. However, I am pleased to report that The Woking Sunday Riders are now hoping to reform in the near future.

Other Sunday and Wednesday groups in our Farnham and Guildford areas successfully continue at G1, G2 and G4 levels and Midweek groups at G3 and G4 level are so well supported they often have to divide into two. Last but not least, I am also pleased to report The Evergreens (G1) are meeting once again.

During the summer months The G3 Weekend Away Day Riders become active and a programme has been planned. In parallel a new more regular G3 weekend ride (initially on Saturdays) is also being trialled to see if there is sufficient interest, particularly with new riders who are normally unable to cycle weekdays. There has been an enthusiastic response from both ride leaders and riders so far.

As always, I wish to thank all Group Leaders who organise their groups ensuring there are regular rides for all. Alongside are also our magnificent Ride Leaders who support them by volunteering to lead and organise countless rides throughout southwest Surrey and beyond. We could not function without their support and I am forever grateful for their enthusiastic help and versatility.

Many of you will know that after the last AGM the committee appointed a new member, Neil McIntyre, to be our “New Rider Secretary”. Through his efforts we now have several new riders who have joined our club and also new weekend groups might be formed. I believe Neil’s appointment has been a boost to our club and I am pleased, but not surprised, how welcoming our club members have been to new riders.

One final point, I am always receptive to new ride initiatives, however before implementing it would be appreciated if I am kept advised.

Three new Ride Leaders were registered with CUK: Emma Tompkins, Jerry Sender and Colin Edwards.

A brief list of other events over the year:

- Club Centenary Celebration Tea Party on 5th September organised by Alison Warren.
- Good club support for Phil Hampton Memorial Ride on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- Future Event: Workshop “Riding as a group” for all Ride leaders and others who are interested.

During the past year Harold Coleman, Derek Tanner and Paul Gillingham sadly passed away. All will be missed.

## **New Riders Report**

The role of new rider coordinator was created in May 2021 to act as a focal point for people wishing to contact and potentially join the club. In the 11 months since then, there have been conversations with 94 people, of whom 26 have joined the club, spanning all four ride groups. A proportion of the remainder may also be expected to join in the coming months.

The club has attracted interest and members from far afield, from Addlestone to Haslemere and Fleet to Fetcham, perhaps a wider area than the club’s historic core. The largest concentration of interest has come from the Guildford-Godalming-Farnham area. While most enquiries have identified the club through online searches, personal recommendation has been a significant contributor, as well as opportunistic conversations at coffee stops. Unsurprisingly, more riders made enquiries during the summer months, but there has been a significant surge of interest in the first few months of the New Year. The proportion of women seeking to join the club has been greater than that of the current membership. Qualitative feedback indicates that the social aspects of the club and the use of Spond to manage rides appeal to many new joiners.

## **Website and Publicity**

The website continues to be central to all the club’s activities and communications and has been invaluable during the pandemic. Accounts of recent rides with photos are regularly posted together with notice of events and changes to rides. 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. A link has been added to the website to go directly to the benefits section on the Cycling UK website.

The club has further embraced its use of Spond to publicise and organise rides. At present there are 136 members signed up to use Spond.

WhatsApp continues to be widely used by the club for general communication

The club also has a Facebook page. At present this isn't widely used but a link has been added to the club website to go the Facebook page or the page can be accessed directly.

On Strava there is a West Surrey Cycling Club club. This can be accessed directly from Strava.

The re-designed club kit has proved very popular with members and a further order was placed in December 2021. As well as being highly visible, the eye-catching design provides great publicity for the club and is often commented on by members of the public.

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