

CTC North Hampshire: Annual Report 2007

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1. Officer's Reports

1.1 Chairman's Report (Andy Watson)

CTC North Hampshire and its members continue to be active in promoting all aspects of cycling. I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work and dedication over the year.

This year Caroline (Alton Sunday Rides Coordinator) and Jackie (Publicity) are stepping down after making very significant contributions over the last few years.

I would like to propose that a formal vote of thanks be recorded in recognition of their work.

Turning to our activities we have held well supported, regular (weekly or monthly) road rides starting in Alton, Petersfield, Farnborough and Fleet. Our off-road rides are held regularly starting at a variety of locations. I would like to thank all our ride coordinators and the volunteers who lead the rides.

We continue to hold DA Touring Competition events and our Audax events are attracting increasing numbers of entrants. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all the event organisers and their volunteer helpers for their hard work and time that they have put in to make these activities so successful.

We held two social events this year, a lunch in January and a BBQ in August. Both were very well attended and highly enjoyable. I would like to thank Janice for organising the lunch, and the BBQ team for their efforts feeding over 50 people and clearing up afterwards!

Cycling campaigning continues under CTC North Hampshire with our representatives making important contributions throughout Hampshire. I thank them for the work they do to raise the profile of cycling and to improve our facilities and safety.

Looking at the organisation of CTC North Hampshire and the support of the membership the last year has seen significant difficulties in obtaining volunteers to carry out important activities. We do not now have a Publicity Office,

an Alton Sunday rides Coordinator or a Basingstoke rides coordinator. These positions need to be filled and volunteers are required from the membership.

Finally, I have fulfilled the role of Chairman for a number of years and, as stated at last year's AGM, I feel that it is now time to stand down and thus I will not be offering myself for re-election. I will be available to provide information and support to my successor to ensure a smooth transition.

1.2 **Publicity Officer's Report (vacant)**

Position vacant, no report.

1.3 **Secretary's Report (Andrew Heaton)**

This has been my first year as secretary, the start of the year involved getting up to speed, and reading through the comprehensive information pack Alastair had compiled. I now feel established and know what to do most of the time though the large AGM pack and documentation was a bit of a surprise. My main secretarial activities over the year have been:

- Organising and contributing to the committee meetings and producing and distributing the minutes
- Replying to new riders contacts and advising them on what we have on offer and then following up
- Interfacing with HQ – seeking clarification on new policies, filtering and redistributing information, answering directly or by proxy requests for help
- Registration of ride leaders
- Work with Hampshire County Council on countryside access (see off-road section below)

1.4 **Treasurer's Report (Mark Beauchamp)**

The year ended with the accounts in a very healthy state. Our Audax rides continue to be very popular and provide a large proportion of our income. This year we have supported a major new event; the annual lunch and have made donations to cycle campaign groups. We have covered our running costs.

The value of the stock of badges has been written off. There are over twenty badges left to sell and when sold, the money will appear in the accounts as badge money.

There is plenty of money for new events and cycle campaigning. Please let a committee member know of any project you would like to promote in North Hampshire.

I thank the organisers and the campaigners for the work they have done and thank Jeff Cribbs for auditing the accounts.

This is a replacement report for the one that was lost by the Royal Mail prior to the AGM.

Cyclists' Touring Club North Hampshire District Association Accounts
Income & Expenditure Account for the year 1st October 2006 to 30th September 2007

	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
<u>Bank Interest</u>				
(i) current account	£0.00			
(ii) deposit account	£16.95			
Sub-total			<u>£16.95</u>	
<u>Grant from HQ</u>	£85.80		<u>£85.80</u>	
<u>Events and sale of stock</u>				
Annual dinner		£9.90		
Audax rides	£264.37			
Off-road event	£4.00			
Bank holiday BBQ		£169.86		
Pace judging & freewheeling event	£7.50			
Sale of P.Brooks shirts	£50.00			
Sub-totals	<u>£325.87</u>	<u>£179.76</u>		
Overall profit/loss			<u>£146.11</u>	
<u>Running costs</u>				
Treasurer's expenses		£3.00		
Petersfield group expenses		£15.28		
Prize awarded at AGM		£16.99		
Total running cost		<u>£35.27</u>		<u>£35.27</u>
<u>Subscriptions</u>				
Hampshire Cycling		<u>£30.00</u>		<u>£30.00</u>
<u>Any items not included above</u>				
Stock of badges written off		<u>£82.70</u>		<u>£82.70</u>
<u>Totals</u>			<u>£248.86</u>	<u>£147.97</u>
Surplus for the year				<u>£100.89</u>
			<u>£248.86</u>	<u>£248.86</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>				
Petty cash			£2.37	
Current account			£477.40	
Deposit account			£1355.17	
Total assets at 30 Sep 2007			<u>£1834.94</u>	
Total assets at 30 Sep 2006				£1734.05
Add surplus for this year				£100.89
Totals			<u>£1834.94</u>	<u>£1834.94</u>
Treasurer's name & signature	Mark Beauchamp, 15 October 2007			
Auditor's name & Signature	Jeff Cribbs, 15 October 2007			

1.5 Membership Secretary's Report (Sarah Gould)

This year membership information has been provided regularly and used to support the DA communication with our members. The October 2007 membership list, which excludes all lapsed (temporarily or otherwise) records 714 fully paid up members. This compares with 644 in October 2005.

The membership data is used to support our regular email distribution of the DA magazine. email addresses are now being provided in the latest membership data and these have proved very useful in maintaining contact with our members. I would ask all members to keep their email address information up to date using the CTC web site member's area. We have been using the membership updates to incrementally send out a printed copy of the DA magazine to new members.

2. Ride Co-ordinators' Reports

2.1 Alton – Saturday (Janice Montgomerie)

Every Saturday organised rides have been led from Alton and occasionally other start points, usually attracting around a dozen riders. Many Saturday regulars participated in the Phil Hampton ride in March, Ray and Di's trip to France in June, and attended the North Hants CTC barbecue in August.

I have received a few enquiries from cyclists wishing to join us, but unfortunately this has not resulted in any long-term new members so far.

Paul Brooks, one of our regular riders, sadly passed away last December, and has been much missed this year.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to lead a ride in the past year, and we look forward to a continuing varied programme in 2008.

2.2 Alton – Sunday (Caroline Brodie)

Due to another commitment, I will be unable to attend the AGM, please extend my apologies to the members.

This year has once again seen riders from the Sunday section taking part in the Veterans Racing League and attending locally promoted Audax and Sportive events.

With the racing programme coming to a premature end for most, both groups have ridden together throughout the majority of the summer program.

The core group have throughout the year been joined by occasional riders from other DA's looking for a change of scenery and pace. But overall this year has been disappointing as far as attracting new riders.

The current program format has been running now for 6 -7 years and if it is the aim of the DA to attract new members perhaps the current format needs to be reviewed. Perhaps one consideration would be the formation of a faster paced Saturday group as many potential 'Sunday' riders seem to find that riding on a Sunday clashes with family commitments.

I have, for sometime now been dictating the direction and program of the Sunday rides and I for this reason I will be standing down as the rides co-ordinator.

2.3 Basingstoke (vacant)

The ride co-ordinator role for Basingstoke remains vacant.

2.4 Off road (Andrew Heaton)

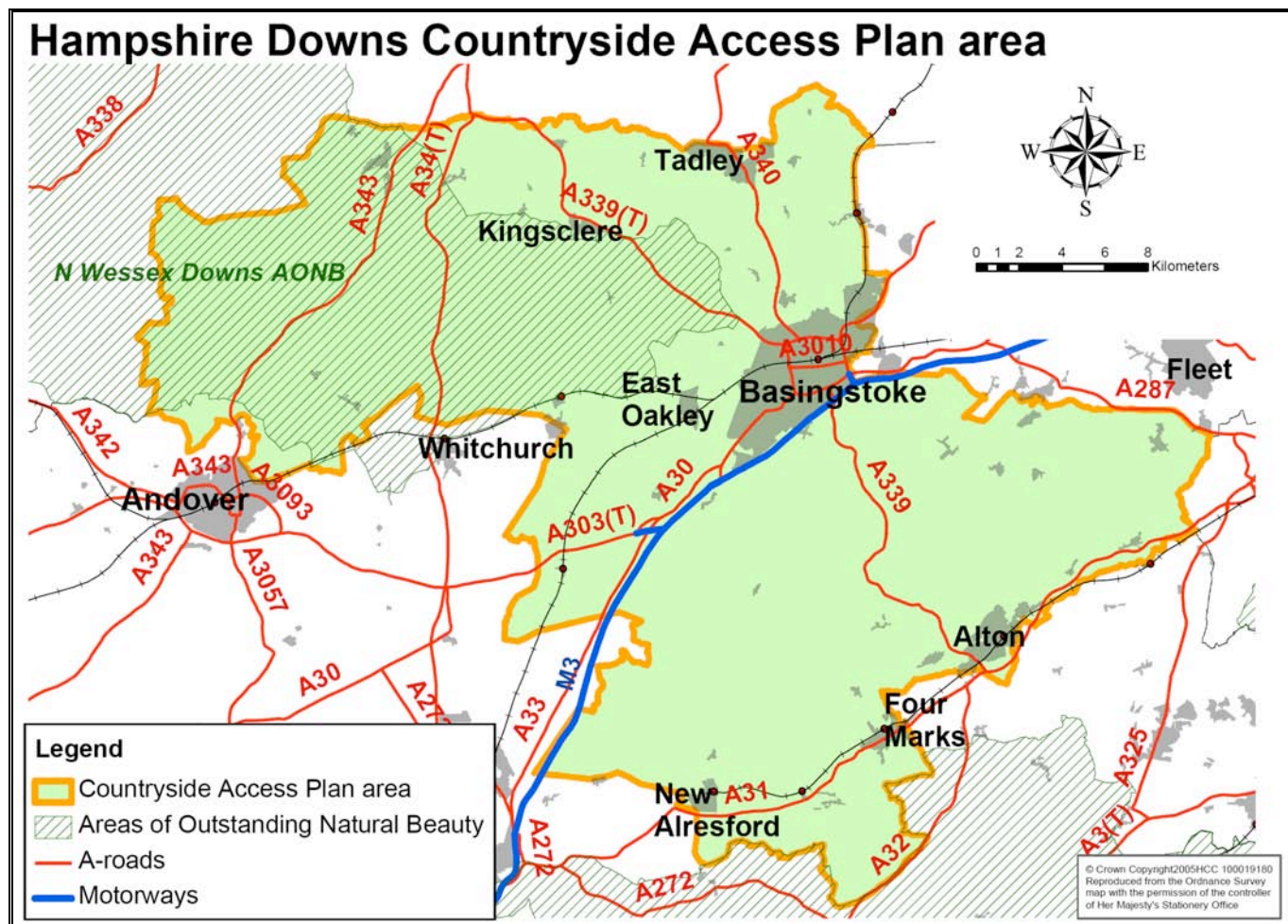
The number of off-road rides we have put on has once again grown with two rides a month over the summer and normally one ride a month during the other months. We have distributed our rides around the county and beyond to produce a varied selection of terrain and scenery and have been able to avoid repeats. Rides are now graded and since introducing the grading have had a much closer match between riders and the ride.

Rides have ranged from "Five miles to Fabulous" – a CTC nationally promoted series of rides aimed at encouraging women to get back on their bikes: we put on a gentle ride along the Basingstoke Canal from Odiham

at the gentle end of the spectrum up to a 42-mile off-road marathon from Cliddesden to Cheriton and back. The highlight of the year was a trek down the M4 to explore one of the Welsh mountain bike centres at Afan Argoed where six of us road the “Skyline Trail” in beautiful April sunshine.

Laurence’s extensive trail knowledge has introduced much more single-track into the rides and has extended the ride knowledge of the rest of the riders. Bob and Richard have also contributed many rides. Over the course of the year most riders have improved their fitness and riding skills and some who started as beginners are getting their teeth into more demanding challenges. Bob’s photography and web skills have helped promote the off-road riding and have captured the scenery, thrills and spills.

CTC North Hampshire (Andrew: off-road; Heather on-road) have been working with Hampshire County Council to help in the drafting of their “Countryside Access Plan” and have contributed to the Hampshire Downs section of this:



The formal draft for public consultation should be out by the time of the AGM. For more details see

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-countryside/countryside-development/access-plans.htm>

2.5 Fleet (Colin Waters)

No report.

2.6 Farnborough (Charlie Halliday)

Our monthly rides attract between six and ten participants. Adrian has withdrawn from active participation in the section. Harold Fischer, a long-term participant, has lead a few rides with my support and is ready to become a registered leader.

We will have a small promotion for our rides and the CTC at the Rushmoor Green and Global Fun Day on 29 September.

2.7 Petersfield (Stephen Olivant)

The Petersfield group has grown last year and our faster-paced last Sunday in the month' rides are regularly supported by a core of about 8 to 10 riders despite a succession of wet rides. On one sunny Sunday, our numbers rose to 15, which posed me some 'management' difficulties despite the use of mobile phones to round up stragglers. On the other hand, our newly established slower-paced rides led by Christine Turner have not been successful at attracting riders, so we will try different publicity next Spring.

This year, our group member's activities further a field included a week's col climbing in the Pyrenees, a mountain bike version of Tour du Mont Blanc, the Etape UK, two Grand Fondo events, the Sustrans Pennine Cycleway and numerous local sportif and Audax events. We are contemplating for next year the 'Manche to Med' route across France, the Sustrans Lon Las traverse of Wales, a MtB Scottish Coast to Coast, and a long MtB route through the Pyrenees.

I am very glad to report that Owen's Cycles move from central Petersfield to Stoner Hill at Steep has been very successful. Owen's new premises have lots of customer car parking, greatly enhanced stock (lots of shiny carbon road bikes) and a much bigger workshop. So please don't forget to support your LBS!

3. Right to Ride Representative Reports

3.1 Basingstoke (Heather Rainbow)

Activities:

- Conducted local campaigns or replied to consultations on various issues including:
 - Churchill Way West – new development and phased controlled crossing of dual carriageway
 - Ellisfield planning application for storage and distribution centre
 - Tadley planning application with inadequate road design
 - Hampshire Downs countryside access plan
 - Interview with MP Maria Miller to promote cycle training and bike to work
 - Basingstoke town centre
 - A340 ring-road roundabout
 - Timberlake road crossings
 - Missing strategic cycle links
 - Cycle route Oakley to Basingstoke
 - Access to the station
- Contributed to many national campaigns, including climate change, petitions, letters, Transport survey of local stations for Better Transport (formerly Transport 2000),
- Liaised with Friends of the Earth on a local climate change campaign
- Promoted cycling with a stall at three Green Fairs and Basingstoke Cycle Festival
- Attended many meetings and did a lot of networking with both cyclists and others such as councillors, FoE. Lobbied portfolio holder for Transport and Environment
- Researched various cycling issues, mostly on the web
- Wrote articles for the magazine and the website. Letters and press release published in the Gazette.

Recent Improvements in Basingstoke

- New layout and cycle lanes for the junction between Worting Road and slip roads to and from the ring-road. This should make it a lot safer for cycling. Shame that the cycle lanes are only 1.5m and not the full 2m.
- Roundabout on A33 Reading road/ring road north of Basingstoke now has traffic lights at all arms and a cycle route round the centre of the roundabout. Safer for both cyclists and motorists.
- Cycle counts on the Sustrans route which goes past the Sixth Form College continue to increase.

3.2 Hampshire Cycling

3.2.1 Summary

Hampshire County Council: outline of changes and challenges at county level:

- Reduced finance
- Manpower reductions
- Reorganisation and Relocation of officers

3.2.2 Role of CTC-Hampshire Cycling (HC)

HC has maintained a strong networking mutual support base. It has increased its membership by two in the south and six in the north.

- Main Issues have been:
- Roundabouts
- New developments and MDAs
- Pedestrianisation
- Road narrowings
- Cycles on 40mph plus roads
- Countryside access plans
- Cycle training.

3.2.3 Hampshire County Council

This year there has been little communication with HCC for a number of reasons:

3.2.3.1 Financial

The County is very short of "revenue" money due to the overspend on Adult Services. This has affected other departments such as Environment which covers transport

For "capital" projects the County used to get from central government (a) real money in grants and (b) authority to raise borrowed money, with reimbursement of interest charges on those borrowings. That reimbursement has been taken away. The County says therefore it can't afford to borrow money to spend up to the full amount allowed by the LTP "settlement" for 2007/08. However, it intends to continue with its 2007/8 capital programme "almost" as previously proposed. The funding gap is to be largely filled by accelerating the spending of "developer contributions". Capital projects have been revised.

A few schemes affecting cycling were signed off by the Executive Member in January 2007:

- Cycle track in the western suburbs of Andover
- HGV restrictions in the Northern part of the New Forest

- Toucan crossing in North Warnborough
- Traffic calming in Selborne (including removing the centre line).

In Basingstoke the cycle ways on the centre of the roundabout and alongside the busy A33 were completed. The cycle links project continues but is slowed down.

Work on cycle paths between Portsmouth and Havant is continuing.

3.2.3.2 Manpower reductions

People at the top of the tree have been axed, leading to a flatter structure. Lower down there have been resignations because of low staff morale, change in job description and change in location for working. Many have gone into consultancies.

3.2.3.3 Reorganisation and relocation

Buildings in Winchester needed to be emptied for major rebuilding so this was taken as an opportunity to reorganise and relocate. The county organisation has changed from four regions to just two, north and south with the offices situated away from Winchester. E.g. north is now at Basingstoke, but with only two officers and one team leader and six vacancies it is struggling to meet its commitments so there has been no time for dialogue on cycle issues.

3.2.4 **Campaigning by Hampshire Cycling**

Hampshire Cycling continues to be an important hub for exchange of information and mutual support. There were three meetings this year but also a busy exchange of emails.

Networking is important and we have as a result gained two members, one representing a New Forest cycle club and another lone campaigner from the village of Denmead, both with campaigning experience. We also recruited six new Right to Ride reps in the north of the county. They are enthusiastic, but with no experience or contacts they will need a lot of support from CTC HC. So far we have had one North meeting for Fleet reps.

We were able to mount a group presence at a round table discussion with officers and members at many levels of government for the Harts Farm Way/A27/M3 roundabout improvements. This raising of our profile was beneficial in other ways: our Fareham rep. was recently consulted and sent drawings on a development local to him. This is particularly important, as there is no cycle forum or any other official cycle liaison in this area.

Members of HC continue to campaign on the following issues throughout the county:

- Roundabouts - changed layout, Romsey, Andover (near new distribution centre for Tesco), Basingstoke (various), Havant
- New developments – in Basingstoke and Fleet developer money for cycle specific cycle paths is not well spent as paths are badly designed and do not connect to anywhere useful.
- Pedestrianisation – cyclists are presently prohibited in central pedestrianised areas in Basingstoke and Andover, severely restricting cycle movements.
- Road narrowings with islands and bollards continue to proliferate with inadequate space or provision for cyclists
- Cycles on 40mph plus roads - it is HCC official policy not to consider cyclists on such roads or provide for them.
- Countryside access plans: members have been working at local level on these. Sue Coles is a member of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum. The main thrust is encouraging travel to the countryside by non-motorised means, upgrading footpaths to bridleway or similar, crossings of busy roads.
- Cycle training: a national cycle trainer gave us an account of cycle training in Hampshire. In Basingstoke we involved the local MP. One pivotal officer in the road safety team is very successful at discouraging cycle training and transport, as a modal shift to cycling would increase his workload.

- Get cycling on track – new Fleet reps met their local MP at the station to petition for better bike rail facilities, especially cycle parking.

3.2.5 **Conclusion**

It is noteworthy that the County concentrates its attention on cycle paths while cycle campaigners are more concerned with the ever-increasing restriction on our roads. This report should be read in conjunction with local Right to Ride reports but local CTC groups may prefer to just distribute the summary at their AGM.

Heather Rainbow
CTC Right to Ride Representative
Chair CTC -Hampshire Cycling
October 2007

3.3 **East Hampshire (Stephen Olivant)**

No report.