

CTC North Hampshire: Annual Report 2009

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1. Officer's Reports

1.1 Chairman's Report (Frank Pote)

It doesn't seem like two years since being first elected as chairman, however CTC North Hampshire and its members continue to be active in participating and promoting all aspects of cycling.

This year has gone by even quicker than the first did. So again, I would like to thank all the committee members for their support, hard work and dedication over the year and continuing to put me straight on a few occasions over the fine detail of CTC protocol etc.

I would like to propose that a formal vote of thanks be recorded in recognition of their work because it is due to the continued efforts of this small group that enables us all to benefit.

Turning to our activities we have held well supported, regular (weekly or monthly) road rides starting in Alton, Petersfield, Farnborough and Fleet (which through Colin has seen the re-launch of Sunday morning rides)

Our off-road rides are held regularly starting at a variety of locations. I would like to thank all our ride co-ordinators and the volunteers who lead the rides. A special thank you must go to the efforts of Bob Bending for all his work on the CTC North Hampshire Web Site and the captions to the many photos taken over the year. In addition, Bob provided sterling work in the design of the new kit along with Janice, who kindly devoted a lot of time and effort into creating and organising this, which we are all now so proud to wear!

We continue to hold DA Touring Competition events and our Audax events are attracting increasing numbers of entrants.

The committee and I would like to thank all the event organisers and their volunteer helpers for their hard work and giving up the huge amount of time that make these activities so successful.

On the social scene, we had a skittles evening last November at the Golden Pot, the annual lunch in January, the Big Meet ride during National Bike Week and the annual BBQ in August. Additionally a weekend trip to the New Forest was organised again in early September, although not as well attended as previous, had the benefit of much better weather. Both the lunch and BBQ were very well attended and enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Janice for organising the lunch, and all the BBQ team (including Stephen and Wendy, Andy, Ray and Diane, Mike and Lesley and Dave for their efforts in allowing over 50 people to be well fed and then clearing up!

Cycling campaigning continues under CTC North Hampshire with our representatives making important contributions throughout Hampshire including attending with Alton CC at the Alton Buckle 'Family Festival' event. I wish to thank them for the work they do to raise the profile of cycling and to improve our facilities and safety.

Whilst we continue to be a large and to its great credit a generally active membership we still have vacancies for some more structured help to carry out important activities. We still require a nominated Publicity Officer, and a Basingstoke rides co-ordinator. These positions need to be filled (especially the Publicity Officer) and volunteers are required from the membership.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last year as your Chairman and offer myself for re-election again and I hope that you will continue to support me in the future.

1.2 Publicity Officer's Report (Web: Bob Bending, Alton Press: Jacky Billington)

Communication with the local press started off OK, but was hampered by the fact that the Herald has halved its reporting staff and, although the rides went into the What's On column for a few weeks after I submitted them, they soon dropped out and became forgotten. So it was all a bit spasmodic. A couple of pieces I submitted about individual events, eg family rides got put on the Clubs page, which is really for reporting club stuff which has happened. This in spite of their being labelled 'News in Brief' and written to an appropriate length for the column down the side of pages 2 and 3. I think we fared better with the Phil Hampton pre-publicity, and we got a nice photo spread afterwards.

Since the new rides list came out I'm afraid I haven't got round to typing it out for the press, but, seeing as how we had 20 riders out on Saturday October 17 - four of whom I hadn't seen before - perhaps we don't really want to advertise for any more participants. Those who have joined recently seem to have had their info from the website which is far more important (thanks, Bob!)

Also, the local press has become so dire of late I don't know many people who buy the papers any more. I fear it's a declining section of the media.

1.3 Secretary's Report (Andrew Heaton)

My main secretarial activities over the year have been:

- Annual submissions associated with the AGM.
- 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. It has been much quieter from HQ this year.
- Registration of ride leaders

The website provides the vast majority of our new contacts. Please keep Bob up to date with any news items and check regularly. Often the site is updated more than once a week.

I'd like to add my thanks to Frank's to all those who contribute to the running of CTC North Hampshire and the events we run. I'd like to particularly thank Janice for the very large contribution she's made the club this year not only organising social events but the large logistical exercise that produced new cycling outfits for the club. The organising of the samples, fittings and the compilation tracking and delivery of many permutations of shirt type and sizes has needed much time and attention to detail. Thank you.

1.4 Treasurer's Report (Mark Beauchamp)

The year ended with the accounts in a very healthy state.

All of our outdoor events were well supported and made a profit. The Phil Hampton ride raised £317 for the Cyclists' Defence Fund. The Audax rides continue to be popular and provide a large portion of our income.

The social events were well attended. The lunch was cost neutral and we subsidised the skittles evening and the barbeque by small amounts.

The new clothing has proved to be very popular with most of the items of the first order sold. The prices will remain the same in the next order. I thank Bob Bending for the time he spent on the very attractive design and Janice Montgomery for all of her hard work especially for providing an accurate account.

We have money available for cycle campaign work.

Please consider using our website link if you wish to buy items from Wiggle.

I thank all of the organisers for sending me detailed accounts and a special thanks to Jeff Gibbs who as always provided plenty of help and advice with this year's accounts.

1.5 Membership Secretary's Report (Andy Watson)

This year membership information has been provided regularly. I am able to report that CTC HQ has improved the quality, consistency and timeliness of the membership data provided to the group. The data is used to support the group's communication with our members. The October 2009 membership list, which excludes all lapsed members (temporarily or otherwise), records 852 fully paid up members. This compares with 800 in October 2008.

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. We now rely very heavily on email addresses to keep in touch with our members reaching about 55% of members by this means. I would ask all members to keep their email address information up to date using the CTC web site member's area where you can register you current email address. We have been using the membership updates incrementally to send out a printed copy of the CTC North Hampshire magazine and a welcome letter to new members.

1.6 Welfare (Andrew Heaton)

This is a formal welfare role required by HQ. I'm happy to say there have been no issues this year that have required any formal welfare response.

2. Ride Co-ordinators' Reports

2.1 Alton – Saturday (Janice Montgomerie)

Saturday rides from Alton have been well-supported during the past year, with numbers up to twenty during the summer. Over the year a good number of newcomers have joined us, several of whom have now become regulars, and I hope that they will continue to enjoy our rides.

Saturday riders have supported CTC North Hampshire events during the year, including the Phil Hampton Memorial ride in March, the annual barbecue in August, and the freewheeling and pace-judging competition in September.

As last year, we ran three 'C' rides to several local fetes during July. These were advertised on the Cycle Hampshire 09 website and in their booklet, although they were not mentioned in the local press. Again they attracted no new cyclists, so it appears there is no demand for this kind of ride.

Thank you to all our ride leaders and I'm confident our section will continue to thrive in 2010.

2.2 Alton – Sunday (Andy Watson)

The Sunday section has been regularly supported with up to 15 riders taking part, split between the faster and mid-paced rides. We have been successful in attracting a number of new regular riders and we now number some 20+ riders. The rides have continued the established format of faster and mid-paced meeting up at the coffee and pub stops. Winter rides were well supported and the group kicked off the year's events with the CTC South Hampshire Watership Down 100km audax in early January. Once again the group has ridden out of area and has undertaken some longer rides as a group, up to 100miles. Many Sunday riders have supported Audax and Sportive, including the Dorset Coast 200km, the Etape du Tour (Mont Ventoux), Test Valley rides and the closing event of the season - the New Forest Grid Iron. There continues to be a very strong relationship with Alton CC with riders coming to CTC North Hampshire from Alton CC and vice versa.

Our rides rely on the efforts of all of the ride leaders: it is very encouraging to see that some of our newer riders are now successfully taking on the ride leader responsibilities. I would like to formally thank all our leaders for their support and the effort that they have put in.

I intend to maintain the same general format over the coming year by offering a range of mid-paced and faster rides, including both local and out-of-area rides. The Sunday group will continue to promote itself to riders who wish to gain experience and fitness ready for Audax and Sportive rides.

2.3 Off road (Andrew Heaton)

This year we've seem to have ridden outside Hampshire more often than inside and have visited the Chilterns, the Big Sky Landscapes of Wiltshire, the well drained Surrey Heaths, The Isle of Wight and Afan in South Wales.

The range of rides this year has concentrated at the higher end of the endurance and skill range and such rides are better attended and over the year we've maintained a steady core of riders who are reasonably well matched in pace. That said Alice did run a family off-road ride from Oakley and attracted over twenty riders although the vast majority were from the village.

We've started an off-road ladies informal riding group who arrange rides within their group. For details on how to contact them see the off-road page of the North Hampshire website.

We generally have a ride a month for most of the year with a few more scattered over the summer. Most of our riders have busy lives and ride outside the group as well as within. Increasing the frequency of our rides usually produces fewer riders.

I've been co-ordinating the off-road rides for four years now and I'd be happy if someone else would like to take over the role and stamp their mark on off-road riding. The role involves compiling a programme of rides three times a year with inputs from our set of ride leaders and responding to new rider contacts.

My thanks go to the ride leaders whose local knowledge provides us with a very varied programme.

2.4 Fleet (Colin Waters)

Report awaited.

2.5 Farnborough (Charlie Halliday)

We have continued with our programme of short, easily paced rides held monthly on a Sunday. This year we have added variety by increasing the number of starts away from North Camp station. These are always at a railway station to allow access to all.

We provided ride leaders and marshals for the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership's 'Dusty Bike ride' in June. This was a short ride along the Basingstoke Canal towpath and the Blackwater valley path for people who hadn't ridden for some time. It attracted over 20 riders.

Mike Blyton recently volunteered to register as a ride leader, which brings us to three leaders.

In September we celebrated 10 years of rides (although the first few years were not under the CTC banner).

2.6 Petersfield (Stephen Olivant)

It is encouraging to report that the number of keen cyclists (on-road and off-road) in this area has risen noticeably in the last few years. We are now just one of several active Petersfield-based groups; some of which meet for weekly rides. Numbers in our group have remained static and we may try some more publicity next year. However we think there is little point in trying to compete against a successful weekly ride schedule of another group; better to join them! Apart from enjoying our varied monthly selection of Petersfield-based rides and a memorably tough blast around the Isle of Wight, quite a few of us have been on road bike and mountain bike holidays in Britain and Europe. By chance we seem to have become a centre of excellence on budget airline baggage and weight restrictions.

3. Right to Ride Representative Reports

3.1 East Hampshire: Petersfield (Stephen Olivant) & Alton (vacant)

Action during the year has been shared among Virginia Mason, Ray & Diana Wood, and myself, and I must thank them for helping me represent cycling in the EHDC area. The three notable initiatives to report are as follows:

- Virginia, Ray and Diana have been pressing the Highways Authority for the missing sections and links to create a safe cycle route near the A3 from Petersfield to the Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- Diana pressed for a safer crossing of the A325 for cyclists and walkers from Alice Holt Forest to Birdworld and the Garden Centre at a District Council Planning Committee site visit.
- I have been representing mountain biking interests on a working party creating a Management Plan and a lottery funding bid for a local nature reserve in the disused chalk pits at Buriton (near Petersfield). Sarah Walker (national CTC representative) came with me to a recent working party meeting, at which we finally agreed that the Management Plan should seek to ban cycling and motorcycling in the chalk pits because there is clear evidence that it is destroying fragile flora.

3.2 Basingstoke and Deane (Heather Rainbow)

- Plans and major issues unchanged from last year
- Controversial housing estate on main ringway completed. New Cycle facilities across the access road have made it worse for cyclists.
- Access to the station cannot be funded now Eli Lilly site planning approval rejected
- A cycle map with all roads shown and categorised according to cycle friendliness is progressing
- Oakley to Basingstoke cycleway (offroad) – support continues
- Commented on selected planning applications
- £400,000 project to provide missing links on Basingstoke cycle network shelved (lack of manpower)
- Major works on existing roundabout completed. No provision for cyclists or buses as county councillors not in favour

3.3 Hart and Rushmoor RtR

Rushmoor district now established good networking with local cyclists.

Participated in the new Rushmoor Cycle Forum

Continue to work on Fleet Town Access Plan, but funding from Hart District Council suddenly withdrawn (end of September 2009)

Pyestock mega development area application now approved by the Secretary of State, on appeal, despite unanimous local dissent and inadequate infrastructure.

Persuade local HCC college to provide employees with tax free bikes under cycle hire scheme.

3.4 Winchester

Our list of locations in Winchester City needing improvements for cycling has been accepted as part of the Winchester Town Access Plan – but overall progress of that plan has been slow.

The High Street paving and street furniture is being renewed, which we hope will result in improved cycle parking in the City Centre.

NCN Route 23: its route into the city centre from M3 Junction 9 has been decided, (unfortunately not on our preferred route). However, our preferred route from the city centre towards the south is now being supported by other involved parties.

On part of the B2150 between Denmead and Waterlooville the County plans to upgrade the footway alongside the road for shared use. In this particular case we agree with the proposal in principle and we're pursuing some points of detail.

Now that DfT is taking a more positive attitude to contra-flow cycling on one-way streets, we will be renewing pressure for changes in Winchester city centre.

Bike Week: in June once again we were actively involved in running a large programme of events in Winchester.

3.5 East Hampshire

Bordon now has eco town building approval, but land will not be released by the army until 2014.

Cycle route along the A3 corridor between Petersfield and Queen Elizabeth Country Park: we're actively involved in renewed discussions with various other parties.

3.6 Test Valley

Developer contributions from MDAs together with Andover cycle strategy has led to the implementation of various cycle routes

3.7 New Forest

The New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) is considering the final input from the public consultations on their Management Plan and Recreation Management Strategy; both documents have significant implications for on-road and off-road cycling.

HC and CTC have contributed to all phases of the consultation and whilst the general tone of others attending the consultations has been very much in favour of promoting further cycling opportunities in the New Forest, there remain significant interests opposed to off road cycling in particular.

It remains to be seen whether the NFNPA will be prepared to take on these interests when the final versions of the documents are published.

3.8 Havant

Havant Borough has recently reissued it's cycle map. This is part of a policy that is reissuing maps for the complete Portsmouth/Havant/Gosport/Fareham area. Two down two to go. We've had input but it was several years ago.

The Park Lane bridleway is now open and receiving favourable reports. A new short stretch of the Hayling Billy trail has opened, this takes the trail down to the bridge. I don't think we were consulted and the current loose ggravel surface is poor.

Conversations on the A3 bus corridor are starting but it's too early to know to what purpose.

The Rusty Cutter roundabout scheme is now close to final. Less than ideal but hopefully better than when we started.

3.9 Fareham and Gosport

We appear to have been successful in getting cycle access to the BRT. This could prove a useful utility route between the two town centres. Completion 2012.

I'm concerned about disruption during construction, but have seen no information on the subject.

I don't think anything has happened in Fareham itself, this year.

Gosport continues to be interested although not a lot happens, there are very early signs of the Community Action team getting more involved, but currently premature.

3.10 Portsmouth

Portsmouth has a very active BUG and looks after itself. The sea front cycle route is being progressed but unfortunately probably not along the promenade. I understand that Bikeability training is being rolled out in a big way and should be available in all suitable schools

4. Hampshire Cycling (Heather Rainbow, Sue Coles, John Edwards, Jim Weeks)

This year has seen an increase in membership of our group with the Rushmoor/Hart group well established, email activity is vigorous but quarterly meetings now less well attended. It has therefore been decided to reduce these but maintain the quarterly reports. Hampshire County Council continues to react to stress by reorganising itself. There is a much flattened structure. John Buckett who heads transport has renewed links with cyclists but is about to retire. The County has not consulted us on LTP3. Peter Savidge, Hampshire cycling officer has retired and his assistant is now responsible all road safety issues, not just cycling. Local interpretation of national policy means that cyclists are seen as safer on the pavement where they must always give way to motorised traffic crossings their path even in new build. End of route signs proliferate, especially when the "route" joins the road.

There is no money for cycling from LTP2, building is slowing due to the recession and developers are challenging the methods used to calculate funding from developers, so there is even less money available. HCC has slipped in the ratings so LTP3 will probably earn even less income than previously. A maintenance programme to repair potholes has been very beneficial to cyclists.

Activities:

- Heather made a presentation at a HCC internal mini seminar on cycling. John Edwards and Jim Weeks have met with county 2x but no outcome.
- Sue Coles continues to promote cycling on the Countryside Access forum; Jim Weeks has now joined her looking after off-road cycling.
- Roger Upfold has again responded to the new consultation about road design at/near Stonehenge. There is still inadequate/no provision for cyclists and plans to close the A344 altogether. Local reps have continued to work hard at district level with support from CTC-HC.
- Cycle information stands at various venues.

Good news

Cycling in Winchester and Basingstoke is steadily increasing according trip monitors and cycle parking counts even though there have been no changes to infrastructure in Winchester.