



## CTC North Hampshire

May - August  
2009



on road  
off road  
leisure rides



Something for everyone

Contacts

[www.nhampshirectc.org.uk](http://www.nhampshirectc.org.uk)

Frank Pote: [frank.pote@btinternet.com](mailto:frank.pote@btinternet.com)

Andy Watson: [andrew.w.watson@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.w.watson@btinternet.com)

Andrew Heaton: [Andrew.Heaton@uk.thalesgroup.com](mailto:Andrew.Heaton@uk.thalesgroup.com)

---

---

## Welcome

---

---

This Spring has been a real contrast with last year – we've had sunshine and dry roads – the Winter really is a distant memory. Each ride on my bike sees the countryside greening; four miles up the valley where I live bluebells are just coming out and the unmistakable scent of wild garlic tells you that Spring is really here.

Riding on the bike is now a joy and we have planned a really good selection of rides so you can make the most of the good weather. All the groups have rides from their home locations and "away" events, including the Isle of Wight and Afan in Wales. Look out for Saturday rides starting in Odiham, East Meon and Wherwell and for visits to local village fetes.

Colin Waters is planning to re-vitalise rides from Fleet, he says "I cycle at an average overall of about 11.5 mph but we will go at the pace of the slowest, often me!! I hope someone will join me. If you think you might come then let me know". See our website for more information or contact Colin on 01252 677909 or 07703 305745.

And finally don't forget our end of Summer social events – the annual BBQ will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August at the Newton Valence village hall, starting at 12:30pm – all are very welcome. The weekend after, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September, we will again be holding an informal New Forest Weekend – B&B or camping or just turn up for a day. We will be riding each day and there is the option of riding one of the New Forest audaxes from Lymington. Please let Frank Pote know if you are interested (01420 83974). Andy

---

---

## South Downs National Park

---

---

Some good news for our local area: Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced on 31<sup>st</sup> March that a new National Park will be created for the South Downs. A

National Park Authority will be established. Unlike any other National Park, it would include an area of chalk downland.

The extent of the proposed National park stretches for 90 miles, from St Catherine's Hill near Winchester in Hampshire in the west to Beachy Head, near Eastbourne in East Sussex. The southern boundary



of the proposed park lies a few miles inland along most of its length, excluding the coastal towns and cities of Southampton, Portsmouth, Chichester, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Worthing and Brighton, but it would include the towns of Petersfield, Liss, Midhurst, Arundel and Lewes. Two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, East Hampshire and the Sussex Downs, would be included.

The on-road and off-road cycling in the South Downs is some of the best in the country. The 160 kilometre long South Downs Way follows the old routes and droveways along the chalk escarpment and ridges of the South Downs – a wonderful opportunity “to get away from it all” without having to travel too far in this busy part of England. The undulating route provides a wonderful trip for long distance cyclists as well as walkers. It also provides interesting day trips and short breaks.

The South Downs Way (SDW) can be ridden over three or four days, staying at B&Bs or Youth Hostels or completed in just eight hours. You can ride the SDW for charity. Have a look at the British Heart Foundation web site [bhf.org.uk](http://bhf.org.uk): they are holding events at the end of June and the end of July. If you want a real challenge try the Lemming Trail. You get a full weekend of top

class riding with an overnight stop that has camping and hostel accommodation right on the trail. See [www.trailbreak.co.uk/lemming/index.php](http://www.trailbreak.co.uk/lemming/index.php) for details.

Bob, our webmaster, rode the 100 miles of the South Downs Way in 12 hours and 50 minutes and summed it up: “A challenge against one’s self. My challenge was to ride it all, and the same heat that parched my mouth and put stinging sweat into my eyes also dried the trails and took away the slippery moisture that had defeated me in the past. 2004 ...that’s the year I ‘cleaned’ the South Downs Way – rode every bit.”

---

---

## **Phil Hampton Memorial Event**

---

---

This year’s Phil Hampton memorial event raised £317.00 for the Cyclists’ Defence Fund. Phil’s brother joined us at the start to send us on our way. The weather was dry, warm and sunny and the number of riders doubled from less than 30 with two weeks to go to more than 60 on the day.

Some riders enjoyed a leisurely day out, debating which gourmet pub in East Meon should be the lunch stop whilst others dashed round in less than four hours. At the finish the Four Marks village hall had the feel of an impromptu picnic with riders and helpers drinking tea and eating cakes outside in the sunshine. Our thanks go to the organiser, Ron Liptrot, and all the helpers for a making the event so successful and raising money for the Cyclists’ Defence Fund (CDF).

The CDF was set up by CTC, and is now an independent organisation and a Registered Charity. The CDF are looking for Trustees with expertise in one or more of the following areas: strategic planning and campaigning, road traffic law, publishing, fundraising or marketing and PR. To apply or to find out more, please email: [info@cyclistsdefencefund.org.uk](mailto:info@cyclistsdefencefund.org.uk).

---

---

## One Hundred Years Ago...

---

---



Have a look at this photo and see how far cycling clothing has changed in one hundred years. Labelled “Southwark CC 1909”, it shows a group of young men (no ladies!) wearing the fashionable cycling attire of the day: plus-fours, brogues and jackets over jumpers or shirts, waistcoats and bow-ties. Many are sporting a watch on a chain, while some display handkerchiefs in their breast pockets, but all are wearing the same cap with what was probably the club badge pinned to the front. What would they have made of our cycle clothing today?

It is amazing to think that when this photo was taken there were virtually no cars on the roads, just horse-drawn traffic. Cycling as a leisure activity was rapidly increasing in popularity amongst the working classes as the cost of bicycles became more affordable. There were cycling clubs in many towns, with members taking part in both racing and touring.

Sadly, the Southwark CC no longer exists today and I have no information about them. However, the man on the bicycle on the far right is my grandfather, William McClarty, aged 23. Janice

---

---

## A Golden Bicycle

---

---



If anyone has any money left after the credit crunch they might like to have a look at the “Gold Bike Crystal Edition” which has a price tag of €80,000. For your money you get one of a limited edition of ten hand-made, 24 carat gold-plated bicycles. Each bicycle is studded with 600 Swarovski crystals and the handlebar grips and saddle are hand sewn.

Of course the latest fashion for fixed wheel riding is the only option: there are no gears included in this price. You do however get a ten year warranty and a personal “white glove” delivery to anywhere in the world. If you really are interested I’m sure that the Danish company Aurumania will be ready and waiting to take your order at [www.aurumania.com](http://www.aurumania.com).

---

---

## 200km – You Must Be Mad!

---

---

You’re riding to Axminster: but that’s in Devon – you must be mad. That was comment from Sarah when I let slip that I was going

to ride the Dorset Coast 200km event. This event is organised each year by CTC Wessex in early April and starts from Wareham in Dorset.

An early start, 7:00am registration, persuaded us to make a weekend of the event. We travelled down on the Saturday, did a little sightseeing around Wareham and settled down in a local hotel for an evening meal and a good night's sleep ready for the next day.



The view from the hotel bedroom on Sunday morning revealed the early morning mist clearing from the banks of the river Frome: it looked as if the weather forecast of dry weather and warm sunshine was going to be correct. A real contrast with the previous year when the event started off in a blizzard and there was snow lying in the hills around Corfe Castle.

Three North Hampshire riders set off at 7:45am for the "Ferry Dash": a flat but fast ride round Poole to the Sandbanks chain ferry which took us to Studland and the real start of the ride. First stop Weymouth with 45 miles done, a sea-front café for tea and flapjack and only another 80 miles to go. From here onwards the scenery was spectacular, seascapes, heathlands and hills but we had to work hard for each new view. There was no chance to settle into a comfortable rhythm; the hills were sharp with no recovery time on the descents.

Thirty miles later we arrived at Axminster as promised for lunch after the frustration of puncture just a mile before. At lunch the topic of conversation was "what are the hills like for the rest of the ride?" The answer was, of course, not easy with two long hard climbs ahead with the reward of more views and steady down-hills through pretty villages and farmland.

One final stop in Dorchester and a short ride back to Wareham completed the ride by 5 o'clock. So, were we mad to ride 200km – definitely not. The scenery and the company made a great day out but you do need a certain doggedness to cover the distance and to climb the equivalent of the Tourmalet and the Alpe d'Huez and a bit more!

Andy



---

## CTC Tourist Competition

---

As it is still early in the year this is a good time to remind you of the CTC Tourist Competition which is open to all CTC members. Events are held across the country during the year and all entrants gain points, the winner being announced at the end of the season. You don't have to count your own points, it's done for you. There is a rather complicated system of scoring but you can gain more points by riding a variety of events, riding outside your home area, and achieving a placing in competitive events.



Further information and a list of last year's winners are on the CTC website [www.ctc-competitions.org.uk/datc/index.htm](http://www.ctc-competitions.org.uk/datc/index.htm).

A number of riders from CTC North Hampshire participated in 2008, and congratulations must go to our treasurer Mark Beauchamp who achieved a tied fourth place with 122 points. Mark was presented with the John and Helen McGivern trophy at our last AGM in recognition of once again being our best-placed rider in the competition. Other North Hampshire riders in the top 400 are:

Tie 31 <sup>st</sup>	Richard Penny	89 pts
Tie 102 <sup>nd</sup>	John Spooner	61 pts
Tie 196 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Watson	48 pts
Tie 267 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen Oxley	41 pts
Tie 283 <sup>rd</sup>	Dan Montgomerie	40 pts

The full list of this year's qualifying events is printed in Cycle magazine and is also on the CTC website. The recent Phil Hampton Memorial ride was our first event in which points could be gained towards this competition. Other qualifying events in the local area include:

- 9 May Taste of the Test 104k, 161k, 202k, from Pamber Heath; contact Mark Beauchamp 01189 817790
- 17 May Elstead, Danebury & Stonehenge audaxes from Elstead; contact Mark Waters 01483 414307
- 6 June Three audaxes from Beech Hill Village Hall south of Reading; contact Chris Rutter, 17 Starling Close, Wokingham RG41 3YY
- 14 June Winton 100k & 200k from Kingsworthy; contact Sue Coles 01962 864479
- 8 August Rough Stuff 30k & 50k from Chawton Wood; contact Mark Beauchamp 01189 817790
- 6 Sept The Furley's 100k & 200k from Beech Hill Village Hall south of Reading; contact John Hollands, 6 Laniver Close, Reading RG6 5UD
- 12 Sept Pace-judging & freewheeling competition near Upton Grey; contact Dan Montgomerie 01420 80783
- 27 Sept Late Season 50 miles from Bishops Waltham; contact Sue Coles 01962 864479

To be in with a chance of winning you have to enter twelve events, but riding ten will earn you a certificate. The CTC tourist competition gives the more competitive amongst you something to aim for while clocking up the miles in the audaxes you are riding, but you can ring the changes with hill climbs, off-road events and map-reading competitions. Why not give it a go this year?

---



---

## A Roberts for £5!

---



---

I was admiring the livery of a Roberts tourer in the pub car park on a recent Thursday when its owner, one of our Thursday fellowship veterans by the name of Charles, told me he had picked it up from a 'household refuse amenity site' (dump) for a mere £5. He had tried to trace its history – Chas Roberts had lost his records, but thought it was probably a '60s model.



The obvious scenario is that its original owner had gone to that great traffic-free cycle path in the sky, and those who had cleared out his or her possessions had no idea of the value of a hand-built frame, but it sent me thinking about other possibilities for its hasty disposal, e.g.:

“You spend more time with your bike than with me ...”

“If I get one more damn puncture I'm giving up cycling ...”

“If so-and-so's (note my diplomacy) leading the ride again I might as well not bother ...”

Any other suggestions?

Jackie

---



---

## Ancient Stones and Tracks

---



---

Dry trails, a lightly cloud speckled sky and light winds made for almost perfect riding conditions for our March off-road ride. We met up on the fringes of Larkhill, just North of Stonehenge. Once saddled, we headed south on a byway, past the huge megaliths that form this famous landmark. Already, the site was ringed by a smattering of tourists and sight-seers.

On the wide dry tracks the pace was brisk and it didn't take long for us to warm up (and spread out). A quick regroup and we

crossed the A360 then headed towards Berwick St James. There was plenty of height variation in the ride but the long rolling hills and shallow sided valleys meant none of the climbs were real killers, but a few had us breathing hard!

Back on byways we headed North West towards Yarnbury Castle – actually an earthwork – and crossed the busy A303. By now most of the clouds had fled the skies and we enjoyed the early



spring sunshine. After an enjoyable descent we crossed a small stream. The water meadows either side made the going slow but a string of several horses out to enjoy the morning sun with their riders were enjoying the lush grass and soft going! The climb on the far side was not the easiest of the day and one or two had to get off and push the final few yards to the top.

The good news was that we were now lined up for our lunch stop – The Dove at Corton. Nothing is easy though and when the bridleway disappeared where the farmer had ploughed right up to the hedge, we were forced into the adjacent field to continue, hauling the bikes over the loose barbed wire in search of a rideable surface.

The lunch-stop was most welcome and we sat outside in the sun while we replenished our spent energy reserves: sausage baguettes being a particular favourite. Whenever the sun was shrouded from view the strengthening wind chilled us a little too much for comfort so a re-start was welcome as we knew we would warm up again quickly. And how right we were: the climb south out of Corton, up a little gully testing strength, stamina and skill in equal amounts.

Staying high for a while we enjoyed the views across the Wylve valley each crest rendered. Back across the A303 we now headed East. One stretch in particular, along the inside edge of a mature wood, a hidden but well surfaced path bought out the grins as we sped gently ever downward through the open woodland. Unfortunately a sharp little descent with loose flint had one of us in a big fall which resulted in a dazed victim, a broken helmet and burst water bottle in their back pack.



After this our mood was subdued for a little while, though most of us enjoyed the fast drop down to Great Wishford where we crossed the Wylve once more. The climb back up onto the Plain was long and one our 'casualty' could not ride, but it lined us up nicely for the last stretch that would take us back past the huge stones of Stonehenge and beyond to the finish of our day on the Plain. Bob

---

---

### **You Know You're a Cyclist If ...**

---

---

You know every shortcut and every back road within 50 miles of your house.

You know the location of all the major potholes between your home and work.

Like veterans carrying shrapnel under their skin, your souvenirs are pebbles and gravel housed around your elbows and knees.

Due to the plethora of bells, computers, gadgets and lights, there's no room left on your handlebars... for your hands.

You believe the rumour of a bike that was forged in a bell tower outside Rome using titanium blessed by the Pope and baptised with Lance's sweat.