



BEDFORDSHIRE NEWS

No 147 November 2012

FROM THE EDITOR

PAT OWEN

By the time you read this newsletter, your Christmas preparations may be well under way, so I shall take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, all the best for 2013 and much enjoyable cycling.

Cycling's all uphill and downhill, isn't it, literally and metaphorically? Olympic and Tour de France success was followed swiftly by Lance Armstrong's disgrace and accidents involving Bradley Wiggins, the Team GB cycling coach and, within the last couple of weeks, Mark Cavendish. Let's hope that these high profile cyclists will press even more for safer cycling for us all.

Locally, we have had our own ups and downs, many of which were reported at the AGM, details of which are set out below. (The meeting was not well attended – we would love to welcome more of you to future AGMs, so do let us know what might encourage you to attend). Since the AGM, John Harris, our hardworking Registration Officer was admitted to hospital. We wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Finally, be inspired by French cyclist, Robert Marchand, aged 100, who took part in a competitive race in Aigle, Switzerland and cycled 24.25 k in The Hour challenge. Commenting on his current cycling routine, Robert said,

'For the last 5 years I have decided not to go for rides of more than 100k. There's no point in going overboard. I want to keep cycling for some time yet.' Get on your bikes!!

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AGM NOVEMBER 2012

The 86th AGM was held on the 4th November and once again our President welcomed us to her home for the meeting. Unfortunately, numbers were a little down on last year, with only 10 members attending.

Election of Officials:

With the exception of the Promotions Officer (Chantal Lewis), all the currently serving officials had agreed to stand again. As there were no forthcoming volunteers for the post of Promotions Officer, Chantal (who was unable to attend the meeting) had previously agreed to continue for another year. So, the committee line up is as follows:

President/Easyriders/Album Custodian	Veronica Brown
Chairperson (Committee)	Neville Hobday
Secretary	Carole Murphy
Treasurer	Chris Waters
Promotions Officer	Chantal Lewis
Registration Officer	John Harris
Welfare Officer	Richard Marshall
Newsletter Editor	Pat Owen
Auditor	Barry frost

Summaries of reports:

- **Secretary** – a CTC memo on the recent registration of CTC by the Charity Commission on 7th June 2012 had been received. How this might affect Member Groups will be discussed by the committee at its next meeting.

CTC Beds continued to offer a regular programme of rides: Easyriders, Classic, Gentle Rough Stuff, Evening and Starter (see below).

Our success in obtaining additional funding from HQ for the development of the website was noted.

CTC Beds suffered the sad loss of 2 keen cyclists last winter, Lesley Norman in a tragic accident and Dave Lukes from a brain tumour. Richard Marshall represented CTC Beds at the memorial service for Lesley and a packed crematorium last February demonstrated the affection and respect that people felt for Dave.

We played our part in the Olympic Summer – Trevor Hughes assisting as an official in the Road Race, Chantal and husband Paul hosting an evening for the Senegalese Paralympic Team and Pat Owen achieving Lejog, despite atrocious weather. And, of course, Bedfordshire's Victoria Pendleton won gold!

Updating the website and planning our charity quiz night dominated committee meetings this year. The quiz night took place on 24th October (just outside the remit of the report) and raised over £500 to be split between CTC Beds and NSPCC.

- **Easyriders** – Veronica reported on 44 Sunday and 24 Saturday rides. These included 2 car assisted rides. 16 attended the Christmas Lunch and 14 the Summer Supper. Two members completed the Churches Ride and raised £200. In addition, Veronica

attended 6 meetings of the Cycle Strategy Group. Top attendance points for the year were: Phil Lund on 147, Ian Osborn on 132, Veronica Brown on 121 and Jean Weeden on 85.

- **Classic Rides** – Richard Marshall reminded us that these rides take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month and are a morning only ride of 30-35 miles with a shortish coffee stop. The rides have been interesting and varied and enjoyed by a small but enthusiastic group of regulars (between 3 and 6). 6 rides have been put forward for the next runs' list and it is hoped that a few more riders will join the regulars on these slightly faster paced rides.
- **Gentle Rough Stuff** – a report had been received from Stuart Mason, who organises this section. Up to 4 riders have taken part in rides, which are run on an ad hoc basis, including the occasional mid week run. Some interesting routes have been found. It's a bit quiet now because of the weather but participants are looking forward to the spring.
- **Evening/Starter Rides** – Support has been limited this year and these rides are now suspended until the spring.

Other Matters

- Veronica Brown was thanked for organising social gatherings during the year.
- There was some discussion on increasing attendance at future AGMs by choosing an alternative day/time or adding it to another event. These ideas will be considered at committee.

CHARITY QUIZ

We held a most successful quiz night at the White Horse in Newnham Avenue, Bedford on the 24th October. As reported at the AGM, we raised over £500, which we shared with the local branch of the NSPCC. We sold 110 tickets and participants included not only cyclists and NSPCC supporters,

but members of the local Scots' Society, a team of retired careers advisers, as well as many other well wishers and those who just enjoy a good night out! We were pleased to welcome 8 CTC members from Luton and Dunstable.

FOR SALE

Large rear panniers, used once only. Cost £70. Would accept £50 ono. For details contact Ian on 01234 355725.

POSTSCRIPT

- Future Lejog riders may want to make a note of Mrs Liz Evans, who runs a B&B at 23 Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset. For the promise of a postcard from John O'Groats, she washes and dries kit, as well as providing excellent food.
- There is a new cafe in Ampthill Park. Promotions Officer, Chantal and your editor visited briefly – there is limited seating inside, so may be of more interest in the summer. Hot and cold drinks, cakes, biscuits and sandwiches are available, but as far as we could see, no hot meals.
- **Advance warning:** There will be a **Cycle Jumble Sale** on Saturday, 25th May 2013 from 9 – 12.30 pm at Markyate Village Hall, Cavendish Road, Markyate, Herts A13 8PS. For details contact Jack on 01582 476136.
- We would love to welcome new (especially younger!!) members on to our committee – you don't need to take on a particular

responsibility, or even attend every meeting. If you want more details just contact one of us (see page 1) and have a chat.