



BEDFORDSHIRE NEWS

No 152 November 2014

EDITORIAL

PAT OWEN

It seems our long summer is now well and truly over and it's time to get out the winter gear again but I think you will agree we have been particularly lucky this year to have had so many excellent cycling days well through October and into November.

Our AGM was held last month, the details of which make up most of this edition, together with an up to date list of the full committee – not much change from last year and a few vacant posts as you will see. If any reader wishes to join us on the committee they would be most welcome – they would find that although we all have our chores, we also manage to have fun!

Just to remind you, after this edition you will no longer receive a hard copy of the newsletter, *unless* you have specifically requested one. It will, of course, continue to appear on the website.

AGM 2014

The meeting which took place on the 15th October at the Friends Meeting House in Lansdowne Road, Bedford was attended by 14, including Jim Brown from CTC Council. We appreciated his attendance and contribution to the discussion on increasing local membership and active participation. He told us that national membership stood at 67,000, an encouraging figure when you realise that CTC is wholly dependent on membership subscription (unlike British Cycling, for example, which is supported by organisations such as Sky).

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The Committee is as follows:

President.....	Vacant
Chairperson (Committee).....	Neville Hobday
Secretary.....	Chantal Lewis Pat Owen (Agendas/minutes)
Treasurer.....	Chris Waters
Promotions Officer.....	Chantal Lewis
Registrations Officer.....	John Harris
Welfare Officer.....	Vacant
Newsletter Editor.....	Pat Owen
Easyriders.....	Vacant
Album Custodian.....	John Harris
Webmaster.....	Andy Raybould
Auditor.....	Barry Frost

The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports:

Chantal and Chris presented their reports to the meeting. Our financial assets stand at £2,020.15. Chantal's report is included in full as it is a good summary of the year's activities.

Report to the Annual General Meeting for the year ending 30th September 2014

The committee, though smaller than we would have wished, managed to organise regular rides throughout the year, arrange or attend a number of events and work with other cycling bodies, as well as helping individuals or groups needing support. The details follow:

Regular Rides have continued throughout the year - Easyriders fortnightly on a Saturday, with an earlier start time, aiming to have participants back by lunchtime. The rides averaged 6 to 10 people. Two

more people have joined including a new member recovering from an accident.

The monthly Sunday Classic ride averaged 4 to 5 participants.

The longest Day ride with CCNB attracted 13 people.

The car-assisted ride (to Barnwell Country Park, near Oundle) in early August was shortened because of heavy rain.

The Rough Stuff riding group continued to have informal rides, albeit less frequently.

The Committee would like to thank Richard Marshall particularly for taking a leading role in organising and coordinating the Rides programme. A big Thank you, Richard!

Events – on the 19th March members attended an event at the Embankment Hotel to launch the arrival in Bedford later in the year of the Women's. At the event itself members cheered the Arrival and helped man the stand which we shared with CCNB.

A number of members, partners and friends also turned out to cheer the Tour de France in July. A car-assisted ride was organised to Great Shelford in Cambs, from where we were able to enter into the spirit of the occasion and see the cyclists whizzing through.

We shared a stand with CCNB at the Ageing Well Exhibition: organised by the Borough it is aimed at people aged over 50.

Working with other groups – we have continued to work with CCNB and Sustrans, helping at events at Bedford Station, and a representative from the committee has attended the meetings of the Borough Cycle Strategy Group.

Support - the committee was pleased to be able to make a donation of £250 to Ridgeway School in Kempston for pupils with physical disabilities, to help fund cycling related activities. 3 members of the committee cycled to the school to hand over the cheque to Graham Allard, head of the school.

We have recently been supporting a brain injured cyclist to get back to the sport. This has involved liaising with his relatives, carrying out risk assessments and working with his former cycling colleagues who travelled from London to join him on a number of rides – he is now a regular Saturday rider.

Newsletter – this is now produced twice a year and members can access it via the website. At present we also produce, post or deliver by hand about 50 hard copies. Following the next edition, which should appear shortly after the AGM, hard copies will only be produced and delivered to members who have specifically asked for them. The editor would welcome contributions from members – at present she writes most of the content herself!

Website – its development continued and we kept it maintained and updated but the « sub-committee » is now down to one plus the webmaster. Another pair of hands or two would be more than welcome. The Rides calendar and the list of Cafes get the most hits and we do get a number of enquiries (phone and online) about rides or other issues. Our Rides are now registered on the national CTC website.

Membership – there are presently 528 members with 30 new members this year.

Last word – A group like ours depends on volunteers, and you can guess what's coming next... Volunteers are needed as Ride Leaders, Committee

members and to maintain the website and will always be welcomed with tea/coffee and lots of biscuits!

Chantal Lewis

Trevor Hughes

Following the close of the formal meeting, refreshments were served and Trevor Hughes gave an entertaining presentation on his role as a steward or commissaire at national and international cycling events. Since starting as a steward in 1979, Trevor has undertaken substantial training and participated in many cycling events – 20 national championships and cyclo-cross events, 11 Tours of Britain, the Ladies' Tour (Stage 2 of which finished in Bedford in May), 7 Isle of Mann races and, of course, the Olympics in 2012.

AND FINALLY.....

- Have any of you found the **Bike Bus** in Cranfield? If not, it's well worth a visit – good food and coffee, cycle accessories and a dryer for your wet gloves etc. I understand that its location has recently changed. It was at Byron Lodge in Cranfield Road but is now at Bourne End.
- Seems a little early but I will have to take this opportunity to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.



Happy Cycling!!