

# CTC North Hampshire: Annual Report 2010

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## **1. Officer's Reports**

### **1.1 Chairman's Report (Frank Pote)**

It doesn't seem that 12 months has elapsed since I was sat writing the 2009 report and three years since being first elected as Chairman. A lot has happened in that time and with CTC North Hampshire members continuing to be actively participating in and promoting all aspects of cycling.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their support, hard work and dedication over the year and continuing to keep me straight on all things CTC. 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 to continue and for us all to benefit. I would also like to single out Andrew (who is now stepping down as Secretary) for his sterling work over the last four years and I am sure you will all want to thank him for the time and energy he has put into the task.

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 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.

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 the annual lunch in January and the annual BBQ in August. 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 for their efforts in allowing over 40 people to be well fed and then clearing up!

We continue to be a large and to its great credit a generally active membership but we do still have vacancies for some of the more structured assistance that enables us to function more effectively and maintain our profile. With Andrew stepping down as Secretary we will need someone to take this role. We also require a nominated Publicity Officer, and a Basingstoke rides co-ordinator. Ideally, these positions do need to be filled (especially the Secretary and Publicity Officer) and volunteers are required from the membership.

On a more sombre note we were all saddened by the sudden passing of Jackie Billington in the summer, a member who had actively contributed to the organisation over the years and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with her husband Ken and her family.

I have thoroughly enjoyed another 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)**

The vast majority of our publicity has been web-based this year and this is the method that attracts the majority of enquiries from prospective riders. At a committee meeting we debated whether local newspapers still provide a useful role and decided that we would concentrate all our media publicity on the web. Several local bike shops provide one of our flyers with each new bike sold. These introduce the CTC in general and CTC North Hampshire as their local section.

## **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.

After four years in post as secretary, I will be stepping down at the AGM.

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

Report awaited.

## **1.5 Membership Secretary's Report (Andy Watson)**

This year membership information has been provided reasonably regularly. I am able to report that the quality and consistency of the membership data provided to the group although the timeliness has left something to be desired. The data is used to support the group's communication with our members. The October 2010 membership list, which excludes all lapsed members (temporarily or otherwise) records 879 fully paid up members. This compares with 852 in October 2009.

Email addresses are being provided in the membership data and these have proved very useful in maintaining contact with our members. We rely very heavily on email addresses to keep in touch with our members reaching about 65% 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 your current email address.

## 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)

Our weekly rides from Alton and other meeting points have been well-supported during the past year, with rides in West Sussex, along the cycle routes in the Chichester area and the Test Valley Trail, as well as to our regular Saturday afternoon destinations and coffee stops. Saturday riders have also supported various 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.

This year we have trialled offering a split ride on the first Saturday of every month, with a faster as well as a more moderate-paced ride on these days. The success of these has varied from month to month, depending on where the ride is leaving from and who comes out on the day. They have worked out better when the ride starts from Alton Community Centre and less well if it starts from a different venue. I feel it's worthwhile continuing with these next year so long as the ride starts from the Community Centre on those particular Saturdays, and also while there are volunteers to lead them. My thanks go particularly to Frank who has led nearly all of the faster-paced rides.

The sudden death in July of Jacky Billington, who was one of our longest-standing members, was a shock to us all. Over the years she had led numerous rides and participated in many more, and she is still much missed on our Saturday afternoon rides.

I would like to thank all those who have led rides this year, and I'm sure our section will continue to thrive in 2011..

### 2.2 Alton – Sunday (Andy Watson)

The Sunday section continues to be regularly supported with up to 15 riders taking part, split between the faster and mid-paced rides. We continue to attract 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 suffered under the snow, with riders prudently not going out in difficult conditions. Once again the group has ridden out of area and has undertaken some longer rides as a group, up to 100miles. The summer ride from Midhurst proved popular again as did "Mike's Century Ride". Many Sunday riders have supported Audax and Sportive rides, The New Forest Grid Iron event was completed under sunny but rather windy conditions. 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 thank formally 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)

Off-road has maintained its numbers this year though inquiries from prospective new riders have not been converted into regular riders. We have a large geographic footprint as a group of riders and the rides generally require a car journey to the start for most. We've ridden in Hampshire, Surrey, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. As a whole, the rides are aimed at riders with experience. Typical rides are of about 33 miles with about 3000 feet of climbing and burn two to three thousand calories. Occasional rides at The Lookout in Bracknell are shorter but still intense work-outs. Whilst the rides may be daunting to new-riders the group are not interested in organising more gentle rides as these rides have been poorly supported or attended by leisure cyclists uninterested in progressing their cycling much beyond broad smooth tracks.

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.

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

## **2.4 Fleet (Colin Waters)**

There has been a full programme of weekly rides on Thursdays and Sundays. We do not keep an attendance record but the rides have been well attended with Thursday being slightly more popular. Thursday averages about 6 to 8 riders with Sunday attracting maybe 4 to 6. Both rides have had a maximum of 12 riders on occasion during the year. The group comprises essentially two separate sets except for 2 or 3 riders who regularly attend on both days (clearly, the workers (faster) and the retiree's!!). There has been a steady flow of new faces (circa 10) over the last year with several becoming regular riders.

The Thursday rides are mainly in Hampshire although the adventurous Sunday riders regularly visit Surrey and Berkshire! Two riders attended the Semaine Federale whilst two others attended the CTC Birthday Rides. Several riders also cycle regularly with other groups in North Hampshire and West Surrey.

There were four ride leaders, at the start of the year, and we have trained two new ride leaders although, unfortunately, two of the old hands have temporarily retired due to accidents/ill health – nevertheless, we hope to see them again in the future. I am particularly grateful to all of the ride leaders and to Jack Watts who organises the Thursday rides.

## **2.5 Farnborough (Charlie Halliday)**

We continued to run easy-paced monthly Sunday rides through the year targeted at social riders, beginners and those returning to cycling. The rides are up to 20 miles with a lunch break.

This year we had our first weekend away as a group. This was very successful, enabling us to enjoy some Herefordshire countryside. We plan a similar weekend in the coming year.

We have around nine regular riders of whom four are registered leaders, and I would like to thank the leaders for enabling the rides to happen and for planning new and interesting routes.

## **2.6 Petersfield (Stephen Olivant)**

The Petersfield Group had a good year of monthly rides, training weekends, alpine holidays, sportives and impromptu trips. Group organisation and publicity are channelled through Jim MacDonald and a rota of ride leaders. We didn't increase our overall numbers during the year and rely upon a core of about ten riders to keep our monthly trips alive. We have noticed many more local cyclists enjoying this area on road and off-road. Also, a couple of other cycling groups have started up in Petersfield, so there is an encouraging choice of riding now on offer in the town. I have told group members that its time to refresh our presence on the CTC North Hants Committee, so this will be my last annual report. My best wishes to the committee and its very valuable work.... keep pedalling.

# **3. Right to Ride Representative Reports**

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

I didn't have any significant events in my "Right to Ride" patch during the year, other than commenting upon a traffic-calming scheme for the centre of Grayshott. My thanks go to Virginia who handled the continuing saga of a safe cycling route from Petersfield to the QE Country Park. Unfortunately, I have found during the year that I don't have sufficient time to make a satisfactory job of being a Right to Ride representative, so I am resigning from the position with effect from this AGM.

## **3.2 Basingstoke and North Hampshire (Heather Rainbow)**

### **Activities**

- Objections to planning applications which adversely affect cyclists – North Oakley BDB/714464 (increased traffic), Bagshot Lane Herriard BDB 71787(request for an outdoor pursuits centre ==> increased traffic), refurbishment of the Malls in Basingstoke (lack of cycle parking), application for Tesco in Alton.
- Liaison with Oakley residents to obtain a cycle route from Oakley to Basingstoke

- Meetings – Countryside access, Basingstoke Bicycle Users Group, Fleet Rushmoor RtR group
- Consultations – Brookvale Loddon project, North Popley, Buckskin
- Letters –to cabinet member Melville Kendall about standard of cycle paths in Basingstoke
- Survey – signage and standards of cycle paths in the hospital area.

### 3.3 Hart and Rushmoor RtR

Report awaited.

## 4. Hampshire Cycling

Report Attendance at Hampshire Cycling has been poor over the last two years despite a steady increase in the number of members. In February we had a review meeting to consider other ways of campaigning but this was also poorly attended. As a result, it has been decided to cease the quarterly meetings but to continue with the electronic networking. John Edwards, secretary and treasurer suffered a stroke in December and is now confined to the house; he has resigned his treasurership. RtR reps are now making direct application to CTC HQ or their local CTC group. Sarah attended a Cycle Campaign Conference in Nottingham at the group's expense and relayed back her experiences. John provides a central hub of information per email and Heather has made several visits to him.

CTC HC reps were able to meet each other at a southern region RtR event at Redhill in the winter and again at the Spring Cycle Campaign Conference in Portsmouth. Heather also attended a CTC Right to Ride meeting (27 March in Birmingham) looking at how to better co-ordinate cycle campaigning on county and regional lines.

Two LTP (Local Transport Plan) 3 consultations took place this year, we gave a detailed dossier (based on CTC HQ advice) on how to create a cycle strategy/policy with limited means at the end of December 2009, none of these ideas were adopted although we received some favourable replies from county councillors. In the second consultation, a questionnaire, Heather and John prepared a brief CTC-HC reply and reps from the different areas sent in their replies. Sadly, there is no indication that Hampshire County Council has any cycle policy other than a few cycle lanes funded by developer contributions.

LTP 3 has a section that amalgamates HCC with Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities. With new members from Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities and along the coast, there was a robust reply to this format.

Good face to face liaison between reps of Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor allowed us to respond well to the plans for the North Hampshire region.