



Cycling UK
North Hampshire

Annual Report 2018

Richard Care

29th October 2018

Version 1.1

Table of Contents

1 Officer's Reports	3
1.1 Chairman (Frank Pote).....	3
1.2 Secretary (Richard Care).....	3
1.3 Treasurer (Mark Beauchamp).....	4
1.4 Publicity Officer (Web: Bob Bending).....	4
1.5 Membership Secretary (Andy Watson).....	5
1.6 Welfare (Kaye Hicks).....	5
2 Ride Co-ordinators' Reports	5
2.1 Alton: (Janice Montgomerie).....	5
2.2 Petersfield & Fleet.....	5
3 Basingstoke Right to Ride Representative Report (Heather Rainbow)	6
3.1 A subjective view from the chairman.....	6
3.2 Networking and communication.....	6
3.3 New developments.....	7
3.4 Our achievements:.....	8
3.5 Our immediate fears.....	8
3.6 Main opportunities.....	8
3.7 Conclusion.....	9
4 CTC North Hampshire Accounts	10
5 Cycling UK – North Hampshire website statistics	11

1 Officer's Reports

1.1 Chairman (Frank Pote)

Once again with the leaves providing a rich carpet on the ground to cycle through, the time has arrived for the AGM and an opportunity to reflect on what Cycling UK North Hampshire has achieved over the last year. I am therefore pleased to report that we continue to actively promote a strong cycling presence in our local area in a number of ways. This is through weekly rides, campaigning and social events.

As usual, none of this would happen without the dedication from the committee members, who I must thank for their hard work and support. Once again (and I know I repeat myself every year), it is only with their continued input that enables us to continue as a Member Group. So I would like to propose that a formal vote of thanks be recorded in recognition of their hard and sometimes thankless efforts.

We still continue to run regular weekly and now monthly road rides across The North Hampshire area with most being well supported, notwithstanding the weather. I would like to thank our ride coordinator for organising them and also the ride-leaders who volunteer to lead them.

A special thanks to Dan for once again organising the Phil Hampton memorial ride and also the helpers for their hard work. This year's was a particular success, with both a record number of entries at over 100 and for raising £1059 for the Cyclists' Defence Fund, another record.

Socially we held a quiz evening last November and the annual BBQ in mid-August. Both of these events provided an opportunity for our members to spend time off their bikes and catch up on all things cycling or not. I would like to thank Janice for organising the quiz night which everyone enjoyed immensely. While the numbers were again down at the BBQ this year (25 this year) it was largely successful, with fine if not hot weather and no rain. The efforts of both Richard for the cooking and Dina for preparing most of the food meant that there was an excellent choice and my thanks also to Dave, Rupert and others for helping out on the day. In addition late June saw a group of us basing ourselves at Malmesbury in the Cotswolds for a long weekend of varied cycling, that offered a change of scenery with both quiet roads and new challenges (hills) for those who went.

On a sadder note with a year since Malcolm's untimely passing, a mention must be made of the two events organised in his memory. The first was a ride held on probably one of the hottest Saturdays of the year and involved a series of local hills followed by a very welcome break for rehydration at the new Gilbert White house cafe. Malcolm's son Graham joined us for this and Maureen very kindly took care of the bill, so a big thank you! On the last Sunday in September we were also invited to join Malcolm's family in a ride from Medstead followed by refreshments afterwards at the cricket club.

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

1.2 Secretary (Richard Care)

My secretarial activities over the year have been:

- Annual submissions associated with the AGM
- Contributing to the committee meetings

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- Interfacing with HQ – seeking clarification on new policies, filtering and redistributing information. The main topic this year has been the advent of GDPR. This has proved as tricky for Cycling UK to handle as it has for other organisations. Early steps have been taken and I'd like to thank the members for coping with the bureaucracy and to Andy Watson for highlighting the effects of Cycling UK's GDPR implementation on membership information.
 - Registration of new ride leaders

I would like to thank all the members who have contributed to the successful running of Cycling UK North Hampshire events and rides.

1.3 Treasurer (Mark Beauchamp)

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

Our allocation from Cycling UK was £200 as it was last year.

The Phil Hampton ride raised £1095 for the Cyclists' Defence Fund which is another record amount for this event (£752 last year) and I thank Dan and Janice Montgomerie for organising it.

Our social events were enjoyed by all.

There was a surplus from the quiz evening which was donated along with other donations to St. Michael's Hospice on behalf of the family of Malcolm Seal. The barbecue was subsidised by a smaller amount than last year due to advance bookings.

I thank Dan and Janice Montgomerie and Frank and Dina Pote for all their hard work with the events this year.

We have money available for cycle campaigning work.

I thank all the organisers for sending me detailed accounts and I thank Robin Poulter for auditing the accounts.

1.4 Publicity Officer (Web: Bob Bending)

Over the past year I have had little to do on the running of the website. Janice now does the majority of posts and really only calls on me to add the odd link, create a photo gallery or complete a table. If necessary, I can do this from my smartphone, as was the case in August when we were away cycling in Sweden, which is one of the advantages of using a Content Management System (CMS), in this case, Wordpress.

The technical gurus at Wordpress regularly update the software that drives the site automatically, so there is very little maintenance necessary.

Website stats up until 18th October are included in the Appendix.

I suggested last year that we could change the appearance of the site without changing the functionality a great deal. Wordpress supplies a variety of free themes for this purpose. I hastily created a few examples which are available to view. In the meantime I have made minor changes to the site, adding a background colour and refreshing the header images.

As the Wordpress template we are currently using is now several years old, it is not 'mobile friendly', though when I checked on my smartphone the website is still accessible – it's just a miniature version of the desktop view rather than a bespoke layout for mobiles (or tablets).

Therefore, I would suggest we update to a more recent template which is mobile/tablet friendly – even if the workable templates are limited.

On the subject of updating; it's probably a while since the information carried on the website was last checked that it is up-to-date. To that end, I ask that the committee members review the content and pass on any comments/corrections to me at bob.bending@btinternet.com

I am happy to remain 'at post' unless someone else wishes to take over the technical side of the website, in which case I would be happy to relinquish the reins and organise a handover.

1.5 Membership Secretary (Andy Watson)

This year membership information has only been provided up to February 2018. Cycling UK has not implemented the General Data Protection Regulations to support member groups and has not been able to provide the usual monthly updates. The one-off October AGM list of names and membership numbers (no email or contact details/postcodes) shows 1072 members in our extended postcode list.

This compares with 1062 in October 2017. We still, in principle, receive membership information for all of Fleet Cycling and part of Winchester CTC postcode areas which we can use if appropriate, e.g. to publicise events of wider interest. I cannot provide a breakdown by postcode, eg Alton vs Petersfield due to lack of information.

The membership data has not been used to inform our members about our activities due to the loss of contact details. We are still awaiting full lists pending compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (legally in force from 25th May 2018).

1.6 Welfare (Kaye Hicks)

Thankfully no one required my services this year, sadly though both myself and Chris Wright have had to use the Cycling UK legal services after road traffic accidents. Very similar incidents but thankfully both of us are on the mend.

2 Ride Co-ordinators' Reports

2.1 Alton: (Janice Montgomerie)

The Alton section has continued to be well-supported during the past year, with most rides attracting around a dozen cyclists. We have maintained our regular programme of Thursday morning and Saturday afternoon rides, both covering about 30 miles at a moderate pace, with a faster and a slower option on the first Saturday of the month. In addition, our Friday morning easy-paced rides cover about 15 miles with a coffee stop, and these are supported by a regular group of cyclists, many of whom also ride with the Alton U3A social cycling group.

Riders with the Alton section have taken part in a number of activities this year, including the Phil Hampton Memorial Ride, the weekend away in Malmesbury, the club barbecue, the pace-judging and freewheeling competition, and the two separate memorial rides for Malcolm Seal.

I would like to thank all those who have led rides this year, and I look forward to the Alton group continuing to prosper in 2019.

2.2 Petersfield & Fleet

There are groups affiliated with Cycling UK in the above areas. Although the North Hampshire group nominally covers these districts they are more actively led by <https://www.facebook.com/petersfieldcyclists/> and <https://www.fleetcycling.org.uk/>

3 Basingstoke Right to Ride Representative Report (Heather Rainbow)

3.1 A subjective view from the chairman

As usual it has been a very busy year, but it is difficult to see what we have achieved. We cannot build cycle routes and networks, but we can inform the public and influence decision makers. At Cycle Basingstoke I have misspent countless hours on replying to consultations and planning applications, replies which are not read by our councillors unless they are cc'd and which are ignored by officers as the suggestions are inconvenient and cost money in the short term.

Cycle Basingstoke can no longer afford to spend so much time on this demoralising and unproductive work. At the CB AGM we need to explore other ways of influencing the council whilst activating and empowering our supporters.

Cycling UK is a constitutional consultee on cycling at national and local level. Heather is the local Cycling UK representative for Basingstoke and Deane. She has made herself more representative of cycling interests by initiating Cycle Basingstoke, a community campaign group affiliated to Cycling UK. Membership of Cycling UK is optional for CB supporters. CB support and feedback is essential to Heather in her role as Cycling UK rep.

The Borough prefers to quote CB, a local group, rather than Cycling UK, whilst in replies to planning applications CB is listed in the category of neighbour comments, frequently omitting CB and just giving the name of Heather Rainbow, worse still most of the comment is removed or abbreviated. To avoid this Heather posted a full paper copy for the Island site application, it appeared briefly as a scanned document from Heather, not CB, but has since been removed. We have already complained we only get notices of changes to footpaths when there are changes to a rural dwelling, but do not get notices of important changes to the road network for major housing, industrial or retail sites. The council said this was too difficult to do. In the meantime we miss many important planning applications such as the ones near the hospital and Razor's farm. Heather will be getting advice from Cycling UK on how to resolve this.

3.2 Networking and communication

We need to engage more with the general public, businesses and sports clubs.

- a. Both North Hants Road Club and Hatch Warren cycling clubs are now affiliated to CB. At a cycle social organised by Hatch Warren we had huge applause when we said we were campaigning for a cycle superhighway down the A30.
- b. We had a reduced footfall at the Green Week stall, probably because of inclement weather as it was much later in the year. The usual feedback was about the lack of cycle routes, signage and maps.
- c. We successfully applied for a stand at the Festival of Transport where we generated a lot of interest. Many thanks to Pankhurst Cycles and North Hants RC for providing bikes for display.
- d. We attended another "Horizon 2050" event, this time for business and distributed a prototype cycling manifesto for business to the attendees. The manifesto committed business to lobbying the highways and planning authority for cycle friendly infrastructure so that their employees could cycle to work.
- e. In October 2018 Sony International in Basingstoke staged a Healthy Living week. We had a stand during the lunch hour and we are hopeful that the chief executive might be interested in the manifesto. A manager from Stuttgart was very keen to take away our blueprints for Space for Cycling to help campaigners in Germany!
- f. We are also teaming up with Kevin Laing who is chairman of Basingstoke Sports Council. Many children cannot participate in sporting activities as they have no transport and they cannot cycle to them as there are no safe, convenient cycle

routes. At our public events the complaint is always about lack of cycle friendly infrastructure and no cycle maps. People tell us they would like to cycle but cannot because of fear of motor traffic and that sharing with pedestrians on pavements is unsatisfactory.

- g. For the last year Heather has been chairman of both SWAG (South West Action Group which campaigns for sustainable infrastructure to support housing in the right locations) and also of Cycle Basingstoke. SWAG used facebook to mount a successful social media campaign which attracted lots of people to a public meeting as well as getting people to sign a petition against a motorway service station. At the SWAG public most members of the public had no idea what was happening in their area or who to contact about their concerns. People's top priority was transport and it was obvious that the roads and car parks would be unable to cope with increased number of households. Number one concern of all people was transport and the proposed answers were inadequate. Like CB SWAG has concentrated on informing the public and influencing decision makers, but to be effective we need to move to engaging and enabling the public using social media, petitions and crowd emailing.
- h. Cycle Basingstoke was involved initially with research for the new cycle map, but when it became apparent that our criteria for an effective map was not being used, we withdrew our help. We will wait to see what sort of map is produced and then consider fund raising in order to produce our own map.

3.3 New developments

Main issues remain the same as last year

A30 news

Hampshire County Council promised a cycle superhighway along the A30 at the Public Inquiry into the Local Plan. We were informed in September 2018 that if there is money left over from the Brighton Hill roundabout scheme, some of it will be used for a cycle route. We get the impression that it will be shared use footpaths and pavements, not bi-lateral but unilateral switching alternately from one side of the road to the other – slow and tortuous, not an attractive alternative to the car. There seems to be every intention to repeat the mistakes already made this year at the Island site and Long Acre housing. No cycle route will be provided for the Island Site, despite there being space on the site for one. We alerted county and borough councillors to the issues, and because we objected at the committee stage it was debated for several hours. However the application was passed on the assumption that the Cycle Strategy would solve the problem, even though there are no plans and no funding for a cycle route in the Strategy.

Manydown news

We asked for multiple access points into/out of Manydown as well as various cycle routes to key destinations such as the surrounding countryside, the town centre, stations, hospital, schools and places of work. The new outline planning application says there will be four fast large roundabouts providing 2 car access points but no cycle provision. A third access point for cars will have traffic lights and a zig zag route across the junction for pedestrians which cyclists are expected to use. There will be no new cycle routes, cyclists will be expected to use existing footpaths and pavements, with frequent switching from one side of the B3400 to the other. It is expected that 80% of commuter traffic will be in cars and that it will be possible to double the existing 1% of cycle traffic. How this is possible when car traffic has been prioritised is a mystery.

Brighton Hill roundabout

This is the bright point in the year with some changes which will actually benefit cycling. However the new cycle route along the A30 is unilateral and necessitates frequent crossings of the main road when it switches sides. There is no cycle route provided along the Western Way and Harrow Way arms, both arterial routes to schools, shops and employment.

Harrow Way and St Michaels Retail Park on Winchester road

A short section of pavement <https://www.openstreetmap.org/way/23824892#map=16/51.2518/-1.1061> has been rebuilt on Harrow Way to provide shared use for cyclists and pedestrians. There is no cycle connection to the new retail park, and no connection to the NCN23, Harriet Costello or Viables industrial park. The new St Michael Retail Park is now open, with cycle parking near the Winchester road entrance, and cycle racks outside Aldi. The retail park is a handy cut through to avoid Brighton Hill roundabout for cyclists wanting to go from Harrow Way to Western Way! However the Winchester road exit requires cyclists to climb a kerb next to the cycle racks and turn left up the narrow steep road leading to Brighton Hill Retail Park and the McDonalds Drive Through! New cycle pavements on Winchester road are totally disconnected and fail to go as far as either Hill View or Winchester road roundabout. Totally unusable unless you continue illegally on the pavement which is no different in standard to the cycle pavement!!

3.4 Our achievements:

- Improved networking with other groups – business, sports clubs, SWAG, Kempshott community plan, Natural Basingstoke
- Expanded communication with the general public – we exhibited at the Transport Festival.
- We have updated and changed our website to a wix site so that it is easier for more people to contribute to the site as well as having items on facebook. Many thanks to Simon for his enthusiasm and hard work and advice from Stephen.
- Agreement from local councillors to lobby HCC for better cycle infrastructure. Date of meeting not yet fixed

3.5 Our immediate fears

Local government is not transparent and our voice is being stifled by the bureaucratic process.

Reserved matters

Planning applications are often granted with Cycle Infrastructure as a “reserved matter”. This detail is discussed behind closed doors. We have no influence on what is actually decided.

3.6 Main opportunities

Working with Basingstoke Transition Network and New Economics to learn how to gain more members and activate the public.

Air pollution is a major threat to health. More cycling could help solve this problem. Business is adversely affected by congestion, more cycling could solve this problem too.

3.7 Conclusion

Campaigning is extremely time consuming. We need more active members and to change our tactics.

4 CTC North Hampshire Accounts

CYCLISTS' TOURING CLUB NORTH HAMPSHIRE GROUP ACCOUNTS

	2017/2018		2016/2017		2015/2016	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
(i) deposit account interest	£1.40		£0.70		£0.80	
Events						
Quiz night	£456.00	£443.37	£390.00	£314.30		
Donation from quiz night to Malcolm Seal's family		£12.63				£14.63
Annual barbeque	£147.90	£176.85	£206.20	£233.50		£127.00
Pace-judging and freewheeling competition	£14.00	£9.50	£12.00	£12.00		
Donations received at the BBQ	£9.00		£9.00			
Running costs						
village hall hire		£33.00		£35.00		
leaflets		£9.00		£10.00		
Allocation from CTC HQ	£200.00		£200.00		£345.23	
Donation to Cycle Basingstoke campaign group						£100.00
Totals	£828.30	£684.35	£817.90	£604.80	£346.03	£241.63
Income over expenditure		£143.95		£213.10		£104.40
TOTAL ASSETS						
Petty cash	£1.77		£1.77		£1.77	
Current account	£1,279.70		£1,155.45		£2,051.75	
Deposit account	£2,121.95		£2,120.55		£1,119.85	
Less liabilities(unpresented cheques)			£18.30		£127.00	
Total assets at 30 Sept (end of year)	£3,403.42		£3,259.47		£3,046.37	
Total assets at 1 Oct (start of year)		£3,259.47		£3,046.37		£2,941.97
Add profit for year		£143.95		£213.10		£104.40
Totals	£3,403.42	£3,403.42	£3,259.47	£3,259.47	£3,046.37	£3,046.37

5 Cycling UK – North Hampshire website statistics

The automatic security facilities built into the site blocked 52,915 unauthorised attempts to access data. All-time views now stand at 47,352. Based on these numbers it would appear there are more illicit attempts to access the site than legitimate ones.

Usage:

Months and Years

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014								1,012	1,288	1,012	1,106	4,418	
2015	1,476	1,097	1,631	1,367	1,846	1,352	1,182	1,303	1,031	869	748	734	14,636
2016	1,079	783	1,147	1,215	907	744	863	848	880	913	829	768	10,976
2017	1,125	992	1,238	963	864	914	934	783	621	656	671	608	10,369
2018	726	677	1,182	608	701	679	723	617	645	395			6,953

Average per Day

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Overall
2014									46	42	34	36	39
2015	48	39	53	46	60	45	38	42	34	28	25	24	40
2016	35	27	37	41	29	25	28	27	29	29	28	25	30
2017	36	35	40	32	28	30	30	25	21	21	22	20	28
2018	23	24	38	20	23	23	23	20	22	23			24

Referrer Views

Search Engines	1,283
Facebook	160
cyclechat.net	113
altoncyclingclub.org	107
WordPress Android App	35
cyclebasingstoke.org.uk	26
westsurreyctc.co.uk	22
altonevents.co.uk	20
farnhamroadclub.co.uk	10
rushmoorcycleforum.btck.co.uk	9
winchesterctc.org.uk	6
fleetcycling.org.uk	3

Locations of visitors

United Kingdom	6987
United States	974
European Union	141
Canada	118
Germany	70
New Zealand	66
Hong Kong	58
Spain	14
Ireland	13
China	12
Italy	11
France	10
Netherlands	9
Philippines	6
Thailand	6
Finland	6
Czech Republic	5
Switzerland	5
Cyprus	5
India	4
Portugal	4
Japan	4
Russia	3
Barbados	3
other (≤2 each)	24