

## **CTC Oxfordshire Secretary's Report 2010-11**

### **Cycling and CTC in 2011**

2011 has been something of a golden year for UK cycling. Cycling is steadily growing in popularity for leisure and as a sustainable means of transport; and cycling has a higher profile as a sport in the UK than ever before thanks to the exploits of Mark Cavendish, Team Sky and our track cycling team. These factors, combined with the warmest and driest Spring on record and a long warm Autumn, have meant that cycling groups everywhere are prospering and so too is CTC, with record membership, and CTC groups in Oxfordshire.

2011 started with the news that CTC's membership had (re-)voted decisively (75.4% of votes cast) to convert the club to a charity and merge the club with the Charitable Trust. This decision was followed by the necessary 75% majority supporting the necessary changes to the Memoranda and Articles of Association at the CTC AGM in May. So CTC is now preparing for charitable status, and we await further news of developments.

### **CTC Oxfordshire in 2010-11**

CTC Oxfordshire remains the parent member group for three subsidiary member groups (SMGs) (Oxford City, Midweek and Wantage) and one informal group (Witney). Oxford City group is itself a parent for the informal women's cycling group, Isis Cyclists. While the subsidiary groups organise regular programmes of rides for their local members, one of the main objectives of CTC Oxfordshire has traditionally been to organise larger scale, one-off events, to bring members of the different groups together. I am pleased to report that all of our groups have confirmed that they wish to maintain their current relationships. Members of each group will report on their activities separately.

### **CTC Oxfordshire Events**

CTC Oxfordshire has run a number of cycling and social events over the year with mixed success in terms of attendance although all have been enjoyable and often highlights for those taking part.

#### **Cycling Events**

Our first cycling event of the year was a weekend to Stratford in April organised by James Dawton. The weather was superb and the route and scenery excellent. So it was disappointing that only 5 of us rode for the whole two-days (although a further 4 joined us on Saturday morning).

Following the success of the century ride in May 2010, prior to the Tri-vets Century rides, it was decided to run another Century (100-mile) ride this year but starting from a different location. Run in a low-key way as a led ride, the route took us South and West in an anti-clockwise loop from Benson. Due to the windy conditions there were a few no-shows and it proved to be a gruelling day. Some 8 riders took part with five completing the whole 102-mile circuit.

We have recently enjoyed a successful weekend away based at Lymington in the New Forest. Some 22 riders took part over the weekend, when we offered a choice of rides at different levels on both Saturday and Sunday. Encouragingly, over half of those taking part had not participated in a CTC weekend away before. The range of options and the

closeness of the venue evidently contributed to the good turn-out. A successful model for future years perhaps? My thanks to Richard Morris for leading rides on both Saturday and Sunday.

### **Joint Rides**

After the mixed success of our Joint Rides in 2009, only one was scheduled during 2010. This was held on the third Sunday in September, hosted by Wantage. The ride attracted 16 riders in total with a good mix from both Wantage and City Groups.

### **Social Events**

A Darts evening in November and an Aunt Sally evening in August had relatively low turnouts. On both occasions there was rather more eating, drinking and talking than actual games playing. 26 members took part in the Pot Luck Supper that Lorna and I hosted in Grove in July. The day was memorable for the heavy rain during the morning and the late afternoon transformation that saw the sun come out, the grass dry off, so that amazingly, we were able to spend a thoroughly convivial evening in the garden. Thanks to all who contributed to the excellent buffet.

### **Other events**

There have also been a number of notable events organised by our subsidiary groups this year. To highlight two:

- Record numbers (over 80 riders) attended the 2010 Mince Pie Ride organised by Wantage when the frozen roads up to White Horse Hill were interesting (to say the least). £453 was raised for Whizz-kidz, which has been part-matched by a further £350 from the Vodafone Foundation. A big thank you to Neil Warner for organizing the catering.
- The Big Pink Pedal organised by ISIS Cyclists in July on behalf of Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals' Breast Screening Appeal attracted around 70 riders who rode in excess of 1650 miles and raised over £8,000! Congratulations to Amanda Wrigley and Ellen Lee for organising it.

### **Promotional Activities**

Peter Hallowell and I manned CTC stands at two large and contrasting local cycling events: Abingdon Freewheeling's community cycling day in April and the Uptonogood mountain-biking event on 18 June. Although we did give out large numbers of ride lists, the principal benefit was making contact with the organisers. Wantage organised a successful "Dr Bike" session in August (a joint event with Sustainable Wantage) when some 20 bikes were checked and many dozens of passers-by were chatted to about bikes, cycling and club rides

### **People**

We were all delighted to hear in May that Kevin Hickman, a stalwart of the Witney group, was named CTC Volunteer of the year for 2010 for his work on behalf of the Inclusive Cycling Forum and helping to create and foster a community for disabled cyclists. Kevin has been getting around the country, talking to fellow disabled cyclists, politicians and those who are working to make cycling available to all. It is inspirational stuff. Our congratulations to Kevin on his award; it is richly deserved.

On a personal note, I was surprised and delighted in April to be the recipient of a CTC Order of Merit for services to the club and CTC Wantage. My thanks to the Wantage committee for proposing me.

More sadly, members in Wantage have been mourning the death in April of Henk Altmann, a regular rider with the club for over 10 years and an engaging cycling companion.

Better news is that Vera Friend is back on her bike after her accident last year.

### **Changes in CTC Policy towards local groups**

As members may now be aware, a number of significant changes have been pushed through CTC Council concerning the membership structures of CTC member groups in time for implementation at this year's AGMs. Refreshingly, these changes, which are based on a working group review of current policies, appear to reflect the reality on the ground – that CTC members may be active in multiple member groups and that membership is not restricted by arbitrarily fixed boundaries. From now on a member will be free to participate in any CTC member group and to attend any AGM. The principle of default membership of a local group based on residence has been abolished. It is now up to local groups to define their area of operation. In future CTC will be providing local groups with details of members in their area of operation for their publicity purposes. Areas of operation of CTC groups may now overlap.

There has also been a corresponding change in the way that CTC will provide funds to local groups. This will no longer be based on a subscription allocation per resident member, but a flat rate of £200 per group in 2011-12. For larger groups, such as CTC Oxfordshire, that have received a larger contribution in the past, there is a promise of no reduction in allocation for 5 years, should we wish to claim it. There is also a discretionary fund through which member groups can apply for additional funds for specific initiatives. This means that each of our subsidiary member groups will be entitled to claim £200 from CTC in the coming year.

These changes in policy provide us with new opportunities. In particular, we have the opportunity to enlarge our area of operation to include those neighbouring areas which have not traditionally been counted as part of CTC Oxfordshire, but from which we have drawn riders. In particular, this includes the western part of the Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire. Such a change will enable us to make contact with all CTC members in these areas who may not be aware that their nearest active CTC group is in Oxfordshire. It also provides us with membership information that we could use should we wish to develop activities in new areas that currently do not have active CTC groups, in particular Hungerford, Newbury and Wallingford. This is the reason behind the Motion under item 13 later on the agenda.

### **CTC Oxfordshire moving forward**

One of my concerns, after serving for two years as Oxfordshire Secretary, is the relative imbalance between the levels of organisation of our subsidiary groups and the relatively high level at which the Oxfordshire committee operates as primarily an event organising committee. On one hand, Wantage is a large and resource-rich group which is well-organised through its committee and with a high quality dynamic website. In contrast,

Midweek and City groups, though full member groups in their own right, are run along fairly informal lines and look to Oxfordshire to provide some of their supporting services (website, membership data); Witney operates as an informal group. As a result, there appears to me to be something of a gap between the needs of some of our groups and what Oxfordshire is providing. So, it seems timely to review the activities and focus of CTC Oxfordshire to see how we can make best use of our resources to develop the cycling we offer and promote participation across our groups. This is a process that we propose to start at this AGM and continue through 2012.

This does not mean that we will not be looking to organise events in 2012. As in 2011 we will be looking to organise 4 or 5 events (both social and cycling) with the ambition to organise one “blue riband” event (although no decision has yet been made as to what this should be). Events potentially on the programme include: a Century Ride in the Spring; a round-the-County boundary 200 mile ride, a repeat of the successful Oxfordshire Cycleway Tour (but this time anti-clockwise) and a Pot-luck supper. If you have a great idea for a new or blue riband event, or would like to rerun an “old favourite” please let one of the new committee know.

### **Thank yous**

Finally, I must express my thanks to all those who have helped with the running of CTC Oxfordshire and the organisation and running of events throughout the last year. It has been a pleasure for me to act as secretary and I have thoroughly enjoyed my cycling in 2011.

Steve Swanton  
Secretary, CTC Oxfordshire  
29 October 2011

## **CTC Oxfordshire, Treasurer’s Report 2010—11**

The consolidated accounts for the parent member group, CTC Oxfordshire (the DA), and the subsidiary member groups, (CTC Oxford City, CTC Oxfordshire Mid-Week and CTC Wantage, the sections) have been sent to the auditor before the AGM and will, I hope, have been audited before this meeting. My thanks therefore go to the section treasurers for again submitting accurate accounts in good time. As you will all be able to see from the accounts, very little has happened during this year. The only outstanding bill that I am aware of is the cost of hiring the hall for this AGM, £20 I think. During the year there was no money spent or received by the City section, Wantage made a small profit due to the donations from their members exceeding the expenditure on their website and other routine expenses and Mid-Week made a small profit on its Audax event which exceeded its routine expenses. The only expenditure by the DA was on routine expenses such as stationery, stamps etc and on the DA website. These costs were more than covered by the grant received from National Office. Needless to say, interest received was minimal.



## **Registrar's Report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Membership lists have been received fairly regularly and appear to be correct. New members have been sent a 'welcome letter', a list of local cycling contacts and the web address for information on rides. Membership in CTC Oxfordshire has been fairly static. There were 1,217 members at the end of September 2010. This year the membership stands at 1315, an increase of 98. There were 251 new members throughout the year, therefore 153 non-renewals. The new changes in the membership structure will allow members to be active and vote in multiple member groups. Therefore it is not necessary to specify a default group.

Helen Beane, Registrar

## **Welfare Officer's Annual Report for AGM 29th October 2011**

Very little to report for the past year with no new issues surfacing. A solution was reached in the matter concerning Wantage training sessions. I have heard nothing since so I must assume all is well. The only other thing is Vera Friend's accident. Although she is now back on the bike the legal procedures are grinding on slowly. At least now the car driver's insurers, (Tesco), are accepting responsibility rather than trying to shift the blame onto the victim. The proceedings are in the hands CTC solicitor, Paul Kitson, and I am sure a satisfactory conclusion will eventually be reached."

Phil Wray

## **Website/publicity Report 200-11**

The company which hosts our website – Mythic Beasts – also manages our email. We are in the process of investigating the possibility of creating a new email group, which could include all 1323 CTC members in Oxfordshire.

The current website is regularly updated to include the usual ride details and to publicise events such as the Pink Pedal and the New Forest Weekend. Changes to the City page have helped to increase members on our mailing list from 70 last year to the current 88. Regular emails to these members (with the option to unsubscribe) seems to be generating further interest and are now adding members at a rate of 1-2 per week.

The front page of the County site is also regularly updated, most recently to advertise this meeting and just a few days ago to invite members to participate in an Oxford University research project. The site is now attracting about 100 hits each week, demonstrating (I think) the point that people are attracted to a website more for the relevance and timeliness of its information than for its technical prowess.

For some time, the ISIS and Wantage groups have both had their own websites which can be accessed independently or through links on the Oxfordshire umbrella site. A few weeks ago, a new Witney site was added. These 3 sites use Wordpress and we are planning to do the same for the Oxfordshire site. We have bought a new domain name (ctcoxfordshire.org.uk) and have installed the necessary SQL database and the latest version of Wordpress. We plan to have some of the basic web pages running by Christmas, though the date for the final switchover is still to be decided.

Richard Morris

## **Secretary's Report to the Oxford City CTC Member Group AGM, 2nd October 2011 at 140 Poplar Grove, Kennington.**

The section has maintained a regular program through out the last year with a healthy level of support. We have also had some new faces start with us during the year, welcome to you all.

A select gathering turned up at Pete and Eileen's for a food and film evening in February. The film was a 1940's (or 50's?) film about post war accommodation shortages and club cycling in the north of England. Some older members seems to get excited every time Diana Doors was on riding in her summer shorts! Joan Twine did recall afterwards how in those days ladies cycling shorts were "short shorts". We even had a surprise visit from Graham from Australia for the evening.

**The Sunday rides** have had a healthy level of support. Thanks to Richard for compiling the rides list. Winter saw some rides cancelled due to excessive snow for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running

**Short rides.** Isis rides on Saturdays continue to be a great success. A few Isis riders have become regular faces on some of the City section rides. The Isis sponsored ride for cancer exceeded its target raising some £7000 or so.

**Bank holiday rides and further afield.** Camping at bank holiday weekends has taken a back seat this year, may be we'll get it together next year.

Hopefully we can get camping back on the agenda in the next year. This years joint YH weekend to Stratford on Avon with Wantage enjoyed excellent weather and scenery in April. It included a nice meal out, and plenty of time for digestion the following morning waiting for the campers to arrive at the start!

John and Jackie went to the Samaine Federal in France, but unfortunately got pollened off by hay fever.

**New faces.** We have had quite a few new faces out this year, and have a better idea of web interest in the City Group with the new subscribe/unsubscribe links on the web site.

**Right to Ride activities.** I still get consulted by OCC on schemes, with varying degrees of success. Not that many schemes have been coming forward for consultation (no money?). There is some activity on this front, but not lots at the moment.

**Allocation of membership** Under recent national CTC rules, members had to allocate their membership to their preferred subsidiary member group if they wish to vote at that membership group's agm. This rules which never really took off (only 4 members allocated them selves to Oxford City). Recently these rules have been rescinded. CTC members are free to ride with any membership group (as before) and attend any membership group agm. There is no need to register to a particular group to ride or vote at an agm

**The future** Hopefully we can get camping back on the agenda in the next year!

Finally a big thank you for all those who volunteer to lead rides, Richard for his work on the rides list, Helen for watching the paint dry with the group's bank account and Ellen and Amanda for their running of the Isis womens group.

James Dawton

Oxford City Group Secretary.

## **ISIS CYCLISTS (CTC)**

### **Report for the 2011 CTC Oxfordshire AGM**

**October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011**

This, Isis Cyclists' third year, has been another highly successful one. We have continued to run short, 5-10 mile, rides on the first Saturday of each month and long rides on the third. We have also continued to join CTC Oxford City on occasional Sunday rides and organised several social rides to which male friends and partners were invited. Part way through the year feedback from riders told us that our flagship short and slow rides had sped up and got longer! We believe these rides had become a victim of their own success, in that many of the riders taking part had become stronger and more confident. However, this had alienated some of our less able riders. On our 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday in June, we made a renewed pledge that our 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month ride will continue to be truly slow and short and will be suitable for everyone regardless of ability or experience. At the same time we launched a 15 mile "medium" ride on the second weekend of the month and decided to lengthen our long rides to 20-25 miles to respond to the many riders who wanted slightly more challenging rides. So, hopefully now we really do have rides for everyone. This summer also saw us starting a regular program of 6 summer evening rides which were well received and included a trip to see the Mikron Theatre perform at The Boat PH in Thrupp. As usual, we contributed to the rides organised in National Bike Week. The only disappointment of the year was that our allotment ride which should have culminated in a BBQ had to be cancelled due to very heavy rain. It had been a year in the planning, so hopefully in 2012 we will be blessed with good weather when we try again.

This year we ran 12 short rides, 11 long rides (one was cancelled due to heavy snow!) and one medium ride. The average attendance on short rides was 10 and on long rides was 12. There were also 6 summer evening rides, two social rides and 4 joint rides with CTC Oxford city. We have calculated that 110 women have ridden with Isis this year on our regular program of rides (not including the Big Pink Pedal). This is virtually the same as last year. About 50 of the riders rode with us for the first time, so about the same number stopped riding with us. This relatively high turnover may simply reflect the high turnover of people in Oxford (students and other academics for example) or may reflect that women are gaining experience riding with us and then moving on to ride on their own or with family or friends. Perhaps it's just a consequence of making riding with the group so informal. We will do our best to find out!

We now have more than 450 women on our mailing list which is run along with the website by Amanda Wrigley. Our latest plan is to simplify communication with these members by going over to using a Google Group. We are currently testing this and hope that it will go live very soon.

The highlight of the year was definitely The Big Pink Pedal, a charity ride organised by Isis Cyclists in July 2011. 70 women attempted to ride at least one mile for every woman diagnosed with breast cancer at the Oxford Cancer Centre in the three years since Isis Cyclists started, a total of 1305 miles. In a completely new departure for us, we also ran a

Big Pink Pedal craft evening which ensured that bikes as well as riders were suitably decked out in pink! In the event the 1305 mile target was exceeded. The cumulative total ridden on the day was more than 1600 miles. Riders chose either a 15 mile route within the city or a 30 mile route including a climb of Brill Hill. The total raised for the Radcliffe Hospital Trust Breast Screening Appeal was just over £8,000, well over our target of £5,000. I would particularly like to thank my co-organisers, Amanda Wrigley and Rachel Harrison for their hard work and enthusiasm. Amanda and I gave an early morning interview on the day of the event on Radio Oxford and an article about the event subsequently appeared in "The Torch" magazine. Our website (<http://isicyclistsctc.wordpress.com>) has pictures of the day.

Isis Cyclists wouldn't be able to do all this without a dedicated and enthusiastic band of volunteers and I'd like to thank all those who helped in any way whether it was leading and sweeping on rides, being on our organising committee, maintaining our records and working out our annual statistics, emailing our members and keeping the website up to date and informative. We look forward to the challenges next year brings.

Ellen Lee

## **CTC Oxfordshire Midweek Member Group Report Oct 2011**

Our program of weekly rides every Wednesday has continued throughout the year with only a few weeks in December and January being cancelled due to the ice and snow. The rides have again covered the whole of Oxfordshire and its immediate surroundings. The pattern of alternating weekly planned and impromptu rides starting after elevenses from a variety of cafes has continued to work well. The number of members riding with us reasonably frequently has increased during the year and is now about fifteen not counting some less frequent occasional. Events such as holidays, ill health, puppy training and even work have conspired to keep average numbers down to about six per ride. The end of this year has seen the very welcome return of both Vera, after her accident, and Bebe, after surgery, to our rides.

One notable event this year was the Christmas lunch, at the Red Lion, Northmoor; where we were, I think, the only customers (14) they had that day as others had cancelled due to the ice and snow! The Midweek Audax took place in July as usual, although with slightly fewer entries. Most of the rides are reported in the Midweek Memo in the Oxfordshire Cyclist

## **CTC Wantage Subsidiary Member Group Report Oct 2011**

Another busy year for Wantage with over 170 rides heading out featuring 160 separate riders. These have varied throughout the gamut of cycling from our 10 mile club for novices through the various levels on Tuesday evenings, the two levels of Saturday afternoon rides and the traditional Sunday all dayer. Off road, on road, sportives, Audax our riders have covered many disciplines.

Away from the standard calendar, there have been extracurricular trips to the Isle of Wight, Salisbury Plain, Avebury, the Brecon Beacons and the Cotswolds. Bike Blenheim happened twice this year thanks to a sensible date change to August by the organisers and at least the 2011 version wasn't rained off. The annual mince pie ride saw over 80 riders from across the region come out to enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and leave a large chunk of cash to be donated to Whizzkids along with the very kind fund matching of Vodafone. We look forward to seeing you all in the square or on White Horse Hill on 11 December. Don't forget your wallets.

Sadly we lost one of our long time members this year as Henk Altman passed away he will be missed and remembered by all who new him.

We have a full programme planned for the oncoming year and look forward to seeing you all on the road.

Neil Warner  
CTC Wantage  
Oct 2011

## **CTC Witney Report**

I'm actually away this weekend on a work related training thing. I've asked around but cannot get anyone to come in my place [as Witney co-ordinator]. I also asked if anyone else wanted to replace me or objected to me carrying on. No one has come forward or objected so I'm happy to continue with the role.

The group continues to run 3 rides a month and attracts the odd new member and would like to continue as a informal group as now.

Jon Gammage