

# CTC OXFORDSHIRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 9th November 2013

## Appendices

### Appendix 1a: Committee Reports

#### Secretary's report

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My task is to introduce the work of our committee, but I would like to begin by acknowledging the work of our member groups. It gives me great pleasure to do so because the AGM is an opportunity to look back and reflect on the hundreds of hours of safe cycling that have been enjoyed by hundreds of cyclists in our area. You will have a chance in a moment to hear what the other member groups have been up to this year. The rides each week may only be 40-50 miles, but it's nice to look back – as we did at the recent Oxford City AGM – to see we had visited 47 different venues and had ridden 3300 km (sounds better in km). I would like to know that statistic for the Wantage group, because, given the number of rides they organise, that would be truly impressive.

So my thanks to our local member groups for the work they do, week in week out. You are the life blood of cycling in Oxfordshire. The countless hours of organising, riding and recording. Advising, encouraging, supporting. Supporting your own members of course, but also supporting other cycling groups: Oxford City joins Wantage for the annual Mince Pie ride. The Oxford based ladies group, Isis, joins City the last Sunday each month for a ride to coffee. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, riders from Wantage and City joined in the fun (including some off-road fun) on the occasion of the fourth Abingdon Spring Festival, where CTC Oxfordshire ran a stand promoting our national club. Our thanks go to Eve Thornton, Steve Boreham, Robin Tucker and Steve Swanton for generously giving of their time. This Festival was a true coming together of local cyclists: beginners, seasoned tourists, off-roaders and even racers, with Didcot Phoenix and Zappis making valuable contributions.

But there have been major events this year, which don't fall naturally within the remit of any single cycling group. This is where CTC Oxfordshire has been able to play a crucial role. Last year, our Committee met 5 times with a clear brief to promote cycling in the area. On our agenda each time was an item entitled Future Events.

First (taking things chronologically) was the early May bank holiday weekend away. Following a suggestion – I think it was from Neil Warner – that Odcombe in South Somerset was a suitable venue, being far enough away from Yeovil, a town described on the council's website as "a vibrant market town" but by others (and I quote) as "a God-forsaken hole". Be that as it may, we kept away from Yeovil and enjoyed the fabulous riding terrain in the nearby countryside. I was pleased to discover in the village of Odcombe an upmarket pub with a campsite in its back garden. I was rather put in mind of Wantage's catchphrase: Something for everyone. Camp or B & B. Well, it wasn't quite something for everyone, because Peter Hallowell's ride on the Saturday included a lot of climbing, 5341 feet in total. (I switch here to imperial measurement to impress). A bit more than we were used to on our leisurely Sunday rides.

The ride was attended by 9 members of CTC Oxford City and 2 from further afield, Caversham and Newbury, who had received our promotional email (more of that in the publicity report).

Next was the All-comers Century Ride 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2 groups of about 11 each, some new to CTC rides, the groups led by James Dawton and Steve Swanton, with Kerry Charlton providing cakes at tea time. Steve Swanton conceived this as both an all-comers century ride and an opportunity for riders and sweepers for the forthcoming Tri-vets to ride the route and prepare themselves for the distance. Steve's group had more than its fair share of punctures, some missed turnings and a sweeper going missing. But this is what makes a ride memorable. Robin's group didn't have it all easy either. When your chain comes off, bad things can happen, as I know from personal experience. In this case,

perhaps it was fortunate that it happened just a couple of miles from the start: a rear mech snapped off its hangar and got caught in the spokes. Later in the ride, had it not been for James shimming someone's quick release with a thin spanner, there would have been a second retirement. But apart from an inappropriate route choice from a GPS device, the rest of the ride went to plan, the highlight for both groups being tea and cakes courtesy of Kerry, with riders enjoying the sunshine sitting on the patio or lazing on the lawn.

Next was the Tri-vets itself 9<sup>th</sup> June. Every 3 years, CTC national encourages MGs across the country to organise these Triennial Veterans' Century rides, a tradition going back to 1928 when a 50-year old probably was indeed a "veteran". By 2013, the year in which a grand tour was won by a 42 year old, it seems improbable that the decline from tour winner to veteran can be squeezed into the space of just 8 years. However...

Sixty five "veterans" signed up for CTC Oxfordshire's implementation of this historic event, including 3 true veterans of 80 years or older. Most, as you would expect, were local, but many came from further afield: from Devon, Somerset, Shropshire, Surrey and the Midlands. A huge amount of organisation goes into an event like this and thanks are due to Eve Thornton, Eileen Johnson, Ellen Lee and Helen Beane, each of whom had specific responsibilities. Coffee, lunch and tea stops were hosted by local women's institutes at Weston-on-the-Green, North Leigh and Steventon. Riders were divided into 6 groups, each with a local rider leading and sweeping, starting at 10 min intervals from Islip. I am told (although this may be idle rumour) that there was some rivalry as to which group would set off last, as being last to tea entails a moral obligation to finish off all the cakes. Our thanks to our CTC Councillor, Graham Smith for presenting certificates at the end and to all the volunteers who helped to make the day run so smoothly.

Next was the Oxfordshire Boundary Ride 29<sup>th</sup> June. This was a 200-miler in 24 hours starting at 4pm from Grove, reviving a tradition from the early 70s of riding around the old County boundary. The route more or less followed the Oxfordshire Cycleway in clockwise fashion with planned stops every 25-35 miles. You can see a file of the route on our website. It was (very) roughly: Grove to Banbury via Burford, across to Brackley, then down to Thame via Islip and Otmoor. Finally, back to Grove via Henley, Goring and Wallingford. Special thanks for this marathon to Adrian West, who did much of the route planning, to Robin Tucker who test rode the northern half that was ridden in the dark and to Des Higgs, who provided a very welcome tea stop in Burford. There were 7 starters, of whom only 2 had ridden the distance before. One dropped out after 120 miles but then realised after cycling 30 miles home that he had increased his personal best by about 90 miles! It was an exhilarating experience, seeing the sun rise at 4.50am and a great team effort.

Next (but not quite finally) was the Pot Luck Supper 6<sup>th</sup> July, CTC Oxfordshire's annual summer social gathering for members and their families hosted by Lorna and Steve Swanton. It was a wonderful sunny evening and many of the 37 guests lingered in the garden until late. Thanks to Mavis and James for helping to provide a good selection of raffle prizes and to the members who raised £41.31 in aid of Whizz-Kidz.

I have thanked individuals along the way, but there are many many others who have contributed to our cycling enjoyment in 2013, leading us on new routes, campaigning for our safety and turning up on cold rainy mornings. To all of them too I say a big a thank you.

And finally (some may say I have left the best till last), quite recently, but after many months of dedicated effort, CTC Oxfordshire achieved a rare success. I would now like to hand over to Robin Tucker, a major player in that initiative, to explain more. (See Wallingford report).

Richard Morris

## Accounts and Treasurer's Report

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### Accounts of CTC Oxfordshire

Period 1/10/2012 to 30/9/2013

	<u>2011/12</u>		<u>2012/13</u>	
<b>Income</b>				
NO Grant	£ 464.37		£ 489.37	
Sales	£ 41.00		£ 82.00	
Interest	£ 2.71		£ 3.39	
Tri-Vets			£ 1,391.00	
		£ 508.08		£ 1,965.76
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Postage & Stationery	£ 104.81		£ 160.85	
Web site	£ 69.04		£ 89.20	
AGM	£ 20.00		£ 25.00	
Tri-Vets			£ 1,639.59	
		£ 193.85		£ 1,914.64
Surplus/(Deficit)		£ 314.23		£ 51.12
<b>Assets at:</b>	<b><u>30/9/2012</u></b>		<b><u>30/09/2013</u></b>	
CTC Oxfordshire:				
Cash	£ 11.82		£ 74.82	
Current Account	£ 40.06		£ 260.06	
Deposit Account	£ 3,457.12		£ 3,225.24	
Total		£ 3,509.00		£ 3,560.12
<b>Member groups:</b>				
Wantage	£ 1,045.66		£ 1,219.76	
Oxford City	£ 303.78		£ 423.94	
Midweek	£ 711.16		£ 799.38	
Total		£ 2,060.60		£ 2,443.08
Fixed Assets	£ 268.26		£ 228.29	
Stock	£ 366.35		£ 284.35	
Total		£ 634.61		£ 512.64
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>£ 6,204.21</b>		<b>£ 6,515.84</b>

## Treasurer's Report

The consolidated accounts for CTC Oxfordshire, Oxford City CTC, CTC Oxfordshire Mid-Week and CTC Wantage 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 group 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 of which I am aware is the cost of this AGM. This year each group again received a separate grant from CTC National Office (NO) and as a result all the groups have shown a surplus over the year. With the same grants expected next year the groups have a significant amount of spare cash to spend either individually or collectively on promoting cycling and the CTC Groups. The meeting might like to offer suggestions about such promotion.

The main expenditure by CTC Oxfordshire was on a) The CTC Tri-Vets 100 in 12 Hours and b) The promotion of cycling and The CTC in Wallingford. Owing to an error in budgeting by the organisers there was a small loss (about £250) on the Tri-Vets. However, as the praise from our visitors showed it was actually money well spent. Similarly, the fact that there is now an informal CTC Member Group in Wallingford indicates that this was also money well spent.

During the year the main expenditure by the other groups was on routine expenses such as stationery, stamps etc and on websites. As stated above, these costs were more than covered by the grant received from NO. Needless to say, interest received was minimal.

As the CTC has changed its structure with regard to member groups it seems to me that it is now inappropriate to include financial information from what were subsidiary member groups with CTC Oxfordshire's accounts and with the meeting's approval I propose to drop this practice in future years. For the convenience of all concerned we can continue to submit one set of consolidated accounts to CTCHQ each year irrespective of the accounts submitted to this AGM.

Peter Hallowell

## Registrar's report

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The base figure for this past year is the running total for Sep 2012 – this gives the following simple counts of per-month differences (i.e. joiners and leavers) as shown below:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Joined</b>	<b>Left</b>	<b>Running Total</b>	
Sep-12	31	35	1778	To 2012 AGM
Oct-12	16	94	1700	
Nov-12	60	1	1759	
Dec-12	22	38	1743	
Jan-13	25	25	1743	
Feb-13	No data	No data	No data	
Mar-13	100(*)	35	1808	
Apr-13	29	29	1808	
May-13	26	25	1809	
Jun-13	50	31	1828	
Jul-13	37	27	1838	
Aug-13	34	36	1836	
Sep-13	35	30	1841	To 2013 AGM

(\*) This jump is because HQ added in Affiliate Memberships

Whilst this looks good on paper, in that figures to end of 2013 year appear to show an upswing over time returning the overall total to approximate value as when I came into post, this is mainly the result of the addition of records by HQ to fold in previously uncounted groups. In the light of these perhaps national membership figures as stated by HQ should be viewed with some caution – it is to be hoped that in reality there are really the stated numbers of members, arising from the ever growing popularity of cycling.

Pat Hurt

## **Welfare Officer's report**

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There were no welfare issues last year.

Phil Wray

## **Publicity Officer's report**

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A new website for CTC Oxfordshire went live in May. As well as summarising the 7 local member groups on the Home page, it has also served as a source of reference for events organised centrally. Under Forthcoming Rides & Events, you will find essential details of today's AGM, such as the agenda and draft minutes of last year's AGM. We are also pleased to promote events organised by other groups, so you will also find details of Wantage's forthcoming Mince Pie ride 8<sup>th</sup> December. Under past events, there are reports and usually photos on:

- New Forest weekend October 2011
- Bourton-on-the-Water June 2012
- Munsley Acre weekend September 2012
- Wantage's Mince Pie ride 2012
- May Bank Holiday in South Somerset 2013
- The All-comers Century Ride May 2013
- The Tri-vets June 2013
- The Boundary Ride June 2013
- The Pot Luck Supper July 2013
- (and most recently) one of Wallingford's rides

Of course websites are only effective sources of information and promotion if they are visited, and it is our use of email which has been most useful in keeping our members informed. Our emails have been deliberately kept short by using links to refer readers to the website should they wish to find further information. We are using MailChimp as our mailing service. A professional service has 3 major advantages:

- The system forces the user to comply with legal requirements and best practice for bulk email
- Recipients who unsubscribe are automatically removed from the list, as are old/incorrect addresses supplied by CTC Head Office to our registrars each month
- We can monitor the responses.

For example, the May Bank holiday weekend was our first major mailing (or "campaign" to use the jargon) and the response to the 931 emails sent was:

- 20 or so bounced (a hard bounce means the address doesn't exist; sometimes this is due to incorrect data entry by Head Office, sometimes the address is simply obsolete)
- At least 466 different members opened the email 815 times (I say "at least" because no technology can record with certainty that a recipient did not open an email. It could have been more).

- 42 different members clicked on the link for further information about the weekend a total of 72 times.

And much more, but I won't labour the point: it is clear that this kind of feedback can help us improve our relationship with members.

Information from Head Office proved particularly helpful in identifying parts of our area where there were plenty of members but no local group for them to ride with. We did this simply by counting the number of members within each post code area. This was how we discovered that there were almost 200 members in the Wallingford area. We contacted them in April and the rest, as they say, is history (see Wallingford report).

Richard Morris

## **Right to Ride and Planning Officer's report**

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It was looking like another quiet year on the RTR front, but then the county council and developers found some money, so things got busy! RTR work is often done in partnership with Cyclox, who have more people to do things, and a wide range of professional expertise.

I started 2013 spending a chilly snowy morning riding up and down (in more ways than one) in Kennington, being interviewed by the local BBC news about the state of Oxfordshire's roads.

### **Meetings**

Oxford City Council announced £300k over 4 years for quick fix cycle route improvements. A well attended workshop was held last November to identify areas of poor or no cycle provision. The range of attendees was quite broad, number of post-its used enormous.

Graham Smith and I had a meeting with Mark Kemp (new Deputy Director of Environment and Economy) about a proposed revamp of a section of St Aldates in Oxford. We pointed out that improvements during maintenance rarely happened, as maintenance schemes rarely got consulted on, and such schemes often simply replaced like with like. Mark Kemp saw our point, and has since on a couple of occasions instructed officers to send out maintenance plans for consultation (with mixed results).

I and a few others have been working on a local Cycletopia for Oxford and surrounding area (approx 6 miles from the ring road). This will be a fully referenced document to make the case for cycling with the county council in mind.

### **Planning submissions**

#### *The redevelopment plans for Oxpens (near the ice rink)*

These were published in the summer, and were responded to. On the whole, didn't look too bad.

#### *The outline redevelopment plans for the Westgate centre in Oxford*

These too were also published, and were responded to. There is an issue over enough cycle parking provision (planning rules say 1500 places - Oxford rail station has about 600 as a comparison), the developers may try to have some of the cycle parking numbers placed elsewhere in the city centre. One issue is maintaining a permanent cycle network around the development. Meetings with Cyclox resulted in a 6 pm - 10 am east - west access across the centre (otherwise it's very long north - south). There are some other issues with sharp corners and buses.

## Consultations

### *The St Aldates revamp (section by the courts/police station)*

Gained by having the cycle ASLs extended to meet spec (were too short), but no progress on delivery/police parking in the unused section of the wide road, so the police will continue to park illegally outside the police station.

### *Frideswide Square*

After some consultation last year, it's all on hold until Network Rail publishes its plans to rebuild the rail station on the same site. Early word is for a wider 3 lane bridge for Botley Rd, no specifics yet.

### *Thornhill Park & Ride - Headington*

This is a segregated off road cycle track - using DfT sustainable cities grant.

A 3m wide track has been built, though the Niensens car exit crossing was a bit disappointing, being designed from behind the windscreen rather than handlebars. Still, progress. This was in conjunction with the Oxford "Boris bikes" scheme, also funded by DfT for 2 years. No guaranteed funding after that.

### *Plain Roundabout in Oxford*

Another DfT (mostly) grant funded scheme, approx. £1M (just under), with plans to make it more cycle-friendly. Meetings with stakeholders (CTC/Cyclox/bus companies/Sainsburys (have a store there)/the Universities etc) presented 3 options. Cyclox held a public meeting that the county council attended/presented at, for more input. Draft mk 1 plan to be presented at a meeting next week. This scheme is on a very tight time scale (must be finished by March 2015 to get the DfT grant).

### *Wootton Rd roundabout in Abingdon*

Another DfT grant funded scheme, to help improve the safety of cyclists on this roundabout, but they rather missed the plot. We found out about a week before the plan was going up for approval (consultation was some months ago – "we put it on the website"). I put in a (late) formal objection, and Graham Smith went and spoke at the approval meeting, the scheme was approved subject to an onsite meeting with officers and Graham. Some tweaks have been made, but the main thrust of the plan still misses the plot. Graham spoke with some senior officers after the meeting (he had a "very big office") about poor quality cycle facility design, and lack of improvements in maintenance schemes. I have supplied Graham with a list of 25 locations with covering notes for a meeting he had this week. Still ongoing.

On a more successful note. After repeated mentions in emails over the last 5 or 6 years, a protruding manhole cover frame on the pavement in my road was subjected to an onsite inspection last February after an email to the head of environment and economy. After 6 years, they finally decided it was a safety hazard, and plans would be made to attend to it. That was February. The man hole is still protruding...

### *Green Rd roundabout, Headington*

A truly dreadful plan was put forward for Oxford bound cycle provision near the roundabout exit. Formal objections from me and Cyclox replaced the join the road where the bus pulls in and 2 lanes of traffic merge into one lane with a segregated/shared cycle footway after money was rustled up to buy some spare adjacent land from the city council. All in a week or so, so given the right circumstances, the county can improve on things.

Robin Tucker responded to a consultation on the Milton interchange improvements at Didcot on the A34. The new underpass (Didcot - Oxford bound traffic) under the A34 means it will now take 5 toucan crossings for a cyclist to go round the roundabout on the cycle track.

Finally, after Nicola Blackwood expressed her thoughts on Oxford students riding irresponsibly, having got on their bikes for the 1st time in years, 2 good results. The CTC (national office) offered a day of free cycle training, and Cyclox asked for a meeting with her. Three committee members met her for 1/2 an hour for a productive meeting, and she asked could she contact Cyclox if she needs to know anything about cycling issues.

Still things in the pipeline to keep me busy for a while yet.

James Dawton

## Appendix 1b: Member Group Reports

### Wallingford

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I joined the Oxfordshire Committee last year as 'member without portfolio', but I'd already had a few conversations that the Oxfordshire CTC should have a role in promoting cycling and the CTC in parts of the county where it wasn't so well established.

At committee meetings over the winter we looked at maps of the county, and list of all the cycling clubs. We found a greater spread of more racy clubs like Didcot Phoenix and Zappis than more accessible leisure and general clubs like the CTC ones. We talked to a few people in various areas and picked Wallingford as a town with a large enough population, but no leisure cycling club.

The Committee worked up a rough plan based on a series of rides over summer and autumn to test the appetite and I took on the informal role of CTC Ambassador to Wallingford. I talked to people in the area. I designed a leaflet and got 400 copies printed – paid for from CTC Oxon funds – and placed them in the bike shop, Town Info Centre and Library. Richard sent several emails to CTC members in Wallingford and neighbouring postcodes to promote the rides. John Talbot set up a page on the CTC Wantage website as an interim web site.

John also led the first ride in May – I was away. We were all a bit nervous about what would happen. But 15 people showed up at the Market Place for an afternoon ride of 21 miles with tea in Blewbury. All 5 planned rides were a great success, with good numbers and wonderful weather. After the last planned ride it was clear there was a strong appetite to continue. We added a ride in October and called a meeting at the Coach & Horses to see if there were people willing to organise rides and group going forward.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 12 people joined the meeting and discussed alternative ways to organise a club. The clear preference was to form a CTC Informal Member Group as part of CTC Oxfordshire and the necessary 3 signatures were easily found. By chance, we had an Oxon Committee meeting the next evening so were able to approve the group right away. 3 people volunteered to organise things. Dan Hart, who works at Rides on Air in Wallingford, agreed to be group representative. Nick Antram agreed to set up the rides programme and web site, and Patrick Hardiman agreed to help organise messages and ride information. Also, Alison Smart from Sustainable Wallingford said she'd be happy to design a leaflet.

That brings us to the point where the new group is set up. Now Dan Hart will take up the story and talk about what has happened since and plans for the future.

Robin Tucker

When we set up the group in September, we agreed a programme of 3 rides a month to carry on through the winter. We will keep the popular gentle afternoon ride on the first Sunday of each month. We will add a slightly longer, slightly faster ride on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday afternoon of each month. And, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month we will run an off-road night ride. All the rides start at Wallingford Market Place.

The rides so have continued to be very successful. Even in November, we had 12 riders on the Sunday – half male and half female. And the first off-road ride had 6 riders (and almost as many punctures!)

Nick has set up a website ([ctcwallingford.org.uk](http://ctcwallingford.org.uk)), Alison has designed a leaflet which will be printed soon, and the organising group have arranged to meet again in December.



Dan Hart

## Oxford City

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The city group has maintained a regular programme throughout the last year. We have also had some new faces start with us during the year, welcome to you all.

We managed a Christmas social, with a meal at the Nepalese restaurant in Howard Street organised by Helen.

New Year's Day saw our traditional ride to the Penny Black in Bicester for lunch, dry weather but the lower road in Islip was flooded.

On 2nd February we had our winter bring and share supper here in Kennington with games being added for extra fun.

We have used some new coffee and lunch venues in the last year, all of which were well worth visiting and worth using again in the future. We must remember to use the Black Horse in Checkendon on mother's day next year.

We seem to have experienced more "weather" this year, 1 ride cancelled by ice risk, 1 by snow forecast, a couple by heavy rain forecast (on 1 of these the laundry dried quite well in the garden!), and a few rides being diverted by flood or some "extra special puddles" were experienced.

As in previous years, our rides were registered for National Bike Week. The 2 Sunday rides affected attracted 1 new face on each ride.

**The Sunday rides** have had a healthy level of support, but with slightly lower numbers at lunch.

**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 rides. The new format for joint Isis/Oxford City group rides has settled in with a bit of tweaking. These rides have seen up to 20 or so riders on the section to coffee. We now aim to go to coffee as 1 group, to encourage mingling between the 2 groups.

**Joint events.** A few members made the trek to a chilly White Horse Hill car park for Wantage's mince pie ride in December. Richard was able to cancel his hurriedly planned round trip by taxi journey after my pliers made short shrift of his bike lock, which was separated from its key by about 15 miles, a discovery made too late in the locking process.

Over half a dozen members joined in with CTC Oxfordshire's May BH weekend based just outside Yeovil. Lovely weather and scenery, mutterings about Pete Hallowell was able to find so many hills on his southerly ride. Still, it's the hill that made the scenery (which you had plenty of time to observe at slow speed up the many hills.....)

Some members went to the CTC Oxfordshire pot luck supper at Steve and Lorna's in Grove, enjoying a lovely summer's evening.

**Rides issues.** We still need more rides leaders to help spread the leading more evenly between members. Marion and Natasha were given route finding training by Richard and Jo to help them lead rides. Natasha did extra study, realising if she leaves the front door at the advertised meeting time, she will just about(ish) be on time to lead her own ride.

Having approved new rides guidelines at last year's AGM, the "lost rider" problem seems to have been solved.

**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 website.

**Right to Ride activities.** It looked like another quiet year with few schemes coming forward from the county council due to lack of funds. However, they did apply for some DfT money for schemes. The

county have held some stakeholder meetings for rebuilding the Plain roundabout to make it more cycle friendly. They also applied for money to alter the Wootton Rd roundabout in Abingdon, but forgot to consult properly (“we put it on the website”), which was unfortunate as the reason for the alterations was rather missed on the plans they put forward. Graham Smith had an onsite meeting to see how the design could be improved, at rather a late stage in the process (after the meeting that approved the scheme).

Frideswide Square plans are all on hold pending plans for rebuilding the railway station.

There has also been consultation on the Westgate Shopping Centre extension, and the Oxpens redevelopment. All 3 areas being planned independently of each other, despite the fact they all adjoin each other.

**CTC membership to a local group.** This seems to have settled down, with members now free to participate in events and AGMs of any one or more CTC member groups.

Finally a big thank you for all those who volunteer to lead rides, Richard for his work on the rides list, Jo on website things, Helen for being treasurer and Ellen, Helen and co for running the Isis women's group.

James Dawton

## Isis

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### Introduction

Isis Cyclists has continued to flourish in this, its fifth year. It has continued a programme of four regular rides per month:

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday = short and steady ride (<10 miles)

2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend = medium ride (~15 miles)

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday = long ride (20-30 miles)

Final Sunday = Joint ride to coffee with Oxford City riders (20-30 miles)

In addition we have recently begun occasional faster “training” rides which have been well supported.

We have also organised occasional special events such as a weekend away at the end of August in Streatley, several evening rides during the summer and have continued to support Bike Week by organising several rides. This year we have also started what we hope will be a long-lasting relationship with the riders of Wantage CTC. In June a number of Isis riders and their partners joined a Wantage CTC Saturday afternoon family ride from Grove and this visit will soon be reciprocated. We also supported the Oxford International Women’s Festival in March 2013 by organising a short cycle ride on the theme of the suffragettes in Oxford. We are also pleased to have got together with the Broken Spoke Bike Co-op to promote each other’s events and hopefully also do some joint indoor training events and bicycle rides.

It is really gratifying to see many of our riders challenging themselves and taking part in longer rides. In particular, Natasha Williams set up an Isis team to take part in this year’s London to Oxford charity ride. Nine Isis riders completed the 60 mile ride on a roastingly hot Sunday in July. Many of them had never attempted anything like this before.

As always, none of this can be done without a good deal of commitment from a dedicated band of Isis rides leaders who run the club. My thanks go to them for their hard work, imagination and constant enthusiasm.

### Administration

The Isis leaders group has met three times this year in order to organise the programme and to attend to other business. During the course of the year we have lost Ann Bergin who has left Oxford having completed her degree. However we are pleased to have gained Liz Matthews who has recently started

leading rides for us. This year we have also been more involved with CTC Oxfordshire and Lucy Wright has been our regular rep on the committee. This has been very positive and has helped us and our members keep up with what is going on elsewhere.

Over the summer, Isis acquired an “official photographer”! Lilia Bonacorsi has taken up the new role setting up and maintaining a Picasa photo site for the group where photographs she and other members have taken on Isis rides can be viewed and downloaded. Links to this are available via the Isis website.

Regular monthly email newsletters and occasional other mailings have continued to be delivered through our Google Group to approximately 220 women, an increase of 50 over the year. Rides and other events have also been promoted via our website and facebook page and by the Broken Spoke Co-op.

### **Regular Rides (October 2012 – end of September 2013)**

This year, Isis Cyclists ran 44 regular rides. 116 women rode with the group at least once which is a slight increase on the previous two years (110). The average number of riders on each type of ride is as follows:

- Short rides: Average of 12 riders (total of 12 rides) – increase on last year
- Medium rides: Average of 11 riders (total of 11 rides) – slight increase on last year
- Long rides: Average of 12 riders (total of 11 rides) – slight increase on last year
- Joint Isis/Ox City rides: Average of 11, Isis only (total of 10 rides) – increase on last year

### **Next Year**

Next year we are planning to continue supporting our regular rides. We are also keen to extend our rides to longer distances and also slightly faster paced rides to allow our members to challenge themselves. We recently started occasional faster training rides which we hope will become a fixture and over next spring and summer we are planning a series of longer “long rides” which will culminate in a 50 mile challenge ride in the late summer. However, we also want to maintain our support for beginners and less confident riders which was, after all, our real reason for starting the group in the first place. In addition to our regular first Saturday of the month short and steady ride, we are hoping to start a series of regular short rides on midweek afternoons aimed at less confident riders, beginners and those returning from illness, pregnancy or injury. Lucy Tennyson and Jane Carlton Smith will be joining forces for these rides which will include a visit to somewhere of interest in and around the city in addition to the usual refreshment/social stop.

Ellen Lee

### **Mid-Week**

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Our new pattern of having planned rides every Wednesday appears to have been successful if judged purely by attendance numbers. The average number out each week has gone up to 7.8 and the number at each start up to 9. However, the group is faced with the perennial problem that has affected many cycling clubs for a century or more, namely that of trying to cater for a wide range of riding ability and desires when there are not enough attendees to guarantee support for two different rides. This problem was thoroughly discussed at our AGM and various ideas were suggested. As a result of this we will change our program in the New Year to ensure that it includes more shorter/easier/leisure rides (choose your own name) with the possibility always of having an impromptu of an alternative nature if attendance demands it.

The Christmas lunch, held at The Fox, Denchworth, was very successful with a good attendance and will be repeated next month. The Midweek Audax went well but with a slightly reduced number of entries and for the first time made a small loss owing to unexpected catering expenses at the last minute. These were the only two events that were not just 'club rides'.

We have continued to support The Oxfordshire Cyclist, mainly through the publication of our Rides List, and the Midweek Memo. It seems a shame that the other groups do not do the same.

Peter Hallowell

## **CTC Wantage**

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This has been another good and encouraging year for CTC Wantage. Pretty much the same headlines apply as a year ago. At the risk of sounding smug, we have more active members, partaking in more rides, catering for a wider spread of abilities than at any time in our 20 year history. 205 individual riders have attended at least one ride since Oct 2012, 37 of whom had never ridden with us before. This is due to many factors but our advertising; both print and online, has continued to prove effective.

Thanks are due to all our ride leaders, without whom our rides would not be possible as well as the many and varied riders from across the region and cycling's rich tapestry who take part.

Off road and Away-day rides have been a feature of this year's programme. Mid week day and night rides from Robin Tucker and his band of mud pluggers. Trips to the IOW, a French peak bagging trip have featured as well as the Oxfordshire rides such as the 200 miler. A first full summer of Tuesday evening 4 star rides for those who won't commit to a racing licence will carry on next season.

With successes come challenges. A wider programme tests our ride leader's capacity and skills. Larger rides bring challenges sharing the road. These are, to coin a phrase, First World worries. We continue to address them diligently to ensure safety for everyone and good relations on the road with all users.

In the immediate future, Tuesday night rides are now up for the winter as are the Thursday night Turbo training evenings. Most prescient however is the Annual Mince Pie ride coming up on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The format is as in previous years 10am start at Wantage market Place. Please arrive in good time so ride leaders can do their admin before the start. If groups could drop a line to Secretary or Chairman to give us a heads up on numbers it always helps in mulled wine and mince pie production. All donations gratefully received. As usual afterwards we will be partaking of luncheon at a local hostelry if you would like to join us please drop a line to the Chairman ASAP so he can confirm numbers at whichever venue it proves to be. Sadly the Fox, Denchworth is fully booked on the day.

Neil Warner

## **Witney (as presented to Committee meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September)**

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Maximum number out this year has been just 4, perhaps because insufficient details are published. From January 2014, they will try giving a clear month's notice with details of the rides. Kevin would like someone to take over responsibility and leadership of the Witney group<sup>1</sup>. Robin would consider ways of engaging Witney riders.

Kevin Hickman

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<sup>1</sup> Jon Gammage has since agreed to do so.

## Appendix 2: Volunteers

### CTC Oxfordshire Volunteers for 2013/14

Name	Voluntary activity
Helen Beane	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
James Dawton	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Peter Hallowell	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Pat Hurt	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
John Holding	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Ellen Lee	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Richard Morris	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Mavis Rose	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Steve Swanton	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Robin Tucker	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Neill Warner	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Phil Wray	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Eileen Johnson	Event Organiser
Eve Thornton	Event Organiser
Rex Belcher	Ride Leader
Robert Bley	Ride Leader
John Bridgman	Ride Leader
Ros Hallowell	Ride Leader
Brian Hipwell	Ride Leader
Caroline Holmes	Ride Leader
Stephen Lee	Ride Leader
David Smith	Ride Leader
John Talbot	Ride Leader
Ian Taylor	Ride Leader
Ron Whitfield	Ride Leader
David Wynn	Ride Leader
Jane Pearson	Volunteer
Lorna Swanton	Volunteer (New)

### CTC Witney (informal group) Volunteers 2013/14

Kevin Hickman	Event Organiser and Ride Leader
Kevin Arnold	Ride Leader
Derek Boutle	Ride Leader
Richard Ford	Ride Leader
Jon Gammage	Ride Leader
Chris Hopton	Ride Leader
Steve Rogers	Ride Leader
Neil Tigwell	Ride Leader
Jerry Williams	Ride Leader

### CTC Wallingford (informal group) Volunteers 2013/14

Dan Hart	Group Representative and Ride Leader
Nick Antram	Webmaster and Ride Leader
Ron Cutler	Ride Leader (New)
Chris Leftley	Ride Leader (New)
Patrick Hardiman	Ride Leader
Alice Robson	Ride Leader (New)
Alison Smart	Ride Leader (New)

## **Appendix 3: Previous local rules withdrawn in Motion 2**

### **RULES OF CTC OXFORDSHIRE PARENT MEMBER GROUP**

[1] The CTC Oxfordshire committee and its members shall observe all the rules and regulations laid down by the CTC in addition to those made by the CTC Oxfordshire Parent Member Group (PMG).

[2] These PMG rules are a local clarification and a local operating procedure for implementing CTC rules as laid out in national office policy handbook.

[3] The quorum for a PMG AGM shall be ten members and for a subsidiary member group (SMG) AGM six members. PMG and SMG committees shall determine their own quorum for committee meetings.

[4] SMGs shall be ratified at the PMG AGM each year.

[5] Members are free to ride and adopt whichever membership group they choose. Members can only vote at membership group AGMs in line with regulations laid down by national office.

[6] Any motion to be put to a PMG AGM must be submitted, in writing or e mail, to the PMG Secretary not less than three (3) weeks before the PMG AGM. A motion must have a named proposer and seconder. It will be the duty of the PMG committee members to ensure that any motion to be put to a PMG AGM be publicised to members by the PMG website and/or other non-web based means in advance of the PMG AGM.

[7] These rules replace all previous rules.