

**Cranleigh Cycling Club  
Chairman's Report  
10th February 2017**

Good evening members and welcome to all of you.

This has been my first year as Chairman, and first of all I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to head up what must surely be the best club ever! So many friendships have been made and cemented during the past year since the last AGM.

The Sunday rides continue to see a good turnout, even sometimes when the weather has been unkind. Other rides during the course of the week, the Wednesday morning ladies ride, the Friday Social Ride and the Saturday Cake Ride, not all of which are properly classified as club rides, nevertheless have become fixtures and are attended largely by club members.

Our social events have been a great success this year. I can't imagine any club anywhere having a better Christmas party than ours, and although I was unable to attend myself, I had many reports of a highly enjoyable summer BBQ as well.

Here are some membership fun facts:

- 180 members, (around 165 last year at this time).
- 43 female (a very strong female contingent we are too!)
- Representatives of 47 villages and towns across Surrey and West Sussex, and a couple from London
- 1 fine fellow from the 1930s
- 7 from the 1940s
- 37 from the 50s
- 70 from the swinging 60s
- 48 from the 70s
- 12 from the 80s
- 3 from the nineties
- 2 not old enough to ride a bike! Not sure what happened there!
- 144 individual memberships
- 36 in a relationship with another member. Think the relationships came first. No Club weddings on the cards yet although two big congratulations for babies born - a little Tweehuysen and a little Smythe!
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So, thanks to all of you, and also some other thanks are due.

To the other members of the committee: Firstly Tricia, our secretary. I am humbled by her efficiency and determination to get business matters done and dusted in a timely fashion. Not only has she organised our meetings, agendas

and minutes, but also pretty much led them! I have had a far easier time this year than expected thanks to Tricia's endeavours.

Secondly to Paul, our treasurer. Another new committee member this year, Paul has been religious in his accounting and budgeting for the many club activities. To Stuart Cleevely, our membership secretary. Thank you for answering all of the membership enquiries and encouraging new members to join us. Stu, as you know, is standing down this year. This decision is due to lack of time to join in with the riding, and the conviction that people on the committee should be people participating in the club. We are sad to see you go and look forward to seeing you periodically on future rides.

Then to Simon Jackson, our Cranes/Crew Co-ordinator. Sadly the Cranes have been put on the back burner for now due to lack of volunteer coaches and helpers. This was despite Simon's unremitting efforts to talk to British Cycling officials, procuring help and advice from them, and canvassing parents and club members. There is no shortage of demand for a youth cycling group, but in the end, the verdict was reached that it could not be run in any shape or form with only two coaches. The good news is that Simon would like to take over as Membership Secretary, and we hope that the members will all agree that he is a great choice for the role.

John Child, our website man, has done a fantastic job of bringing the club website up to scratch, and oversees it's smooth running. We hope you will agree that the website is attractive, useful and informative; many thanks to John for making it so.

Alec Mackenzie and Jeremy Palmer, thanks to you also for attending our meetings and giving us the benefit of your wisdom.

Lastly thanks to those who have helped out this year with marshalling, planning, starting the rides on a Sunday morning in an orderly fashion and brought cakes along to the various events. My personal thanks to Penny and Fleur for the organisation of this year's superb Christmas party - I'm sure all who attended will echo that sentiment!

So what have we done this past year apart from partying?

- We have organised and held a club "Come and Try It Time Trial" which was very successful. This was won by Henry Eaton in the men's race and Milly King in the women's. Massive kudos to both but also to anyone who finished behind - I happen to know that Henry Eaton competes at Ironman level on a regular basis, sometimes two or three times a year, and travels extensively to do so. Milly also has great racing credentials as she has been picked out to compete in triathlon for Team GB. As a club we are in great company!

- We have fielded large numbers of club members at the Prudential Ride 100, Velothon Wales, and Tour of Cambridgeshire, where considering not many of us are really seasoned road racers, all of our men and women who entered in the racing category were highly placed overall, with myself and Jenny Gue on the podium in our age categories. Jenny and Robin Gue, and Andrew Kell went on to compete in the World UCI Championships in Perth, where Jenny managed to pull an 11th place in her age category - just wow! A further group rode outside of the racing categories and I know that completing their challenge was every bit as satisfying to them.
- We organised and rode the Big Cat Charity Ride to raise money for the Cranleigh Lions. We received a total of £559 in donations after accounting for expenditure, which we topped up to £1000 before presenting to the Lions. A further cheque made out to the Lions for £100 was also received, making a total of £1100. The Lions donate money to local charities and causes (Cranleigh Cycling Club were beneficiaries one year).
- A sizeable group completed the Etape du Tour - and I recently heard that Fleur Kinally not only flew round as fast if not faster than many men, but placed 4th in her age category!
- Jenny and Robin also took part in the Tour de Force - an event where you ride as many stages of the Tour de France as you want, and I believe they did 5 stages.
- I took the Grand Veteran Women's National XC Championships.
- As a club we took part in racing at Dunsfold and Goodwood, and I believe we have a member travelling to Hillingdon regularly to race there.

We have also formed some ties with Horsham Cycling and Dorking, firstly by joining up with Horsham to send some of our members on the Dunwich Dynamo - a night-time sportive, and secondly by taking part in an inter-club time trial, which was a huge success despite the inclement weather. Many saw personal bests at this event, and I believe that our very own Jenny Gue was the winner of the women's title.

We also recognise that not everyone wants to race; a huge number of our members are just happy to ride their bikes for fun, fitness and the social aspect of being part of a club. It has been remarked often how much all of the riders in all the groups have improved, from the very social all the way to the fastest riders. This must be largely due to the enjoyment that everyone has found this year in being part of such a friendly club which has provided plenty of motivation and

challenges. The crowd which gathers at the Richard Onslow after the Sunday ride is a testament to how much everyone enjoys each other's company. I would also like to pop some more thank you's here to Alec Mackenzie here for all the encouragement given to the social group and to Simon for the coaching he gave us at the Dunsfold track day.

How can we top this massive list of events and successes (and I'm sure I have missed some)?

We have already had a mad dash down the Downs link in the dark to have a tour of the Firebird Brewery. We are also looking forward to our Herne Hill experience, thanks to Rob Hawkins of Just-Pedal for taking on the organisation of this. We are already planning this year's club Time Trial in April - thanks to Andrew and Robin. The committee are already thinking about having the BBQ in May, to avoid the holiday season. More members are going to do the Etape and the Tour de Force, and I'm sure there will be many more events. A sizeable group of us continue torture ourselves in Sean Murphy's spinning classes on a Tuesday evening during the winter months.

I would like to wish the best of luck to all club members who intend to compete this year, but in particular, Milly, our budding GB triathlete, and Gerry, who has his eye on a UCI Worlds Grand Fondo title in Albi, France. Both have their work cut out to train for these goals and I'm sure as a club we will give them all the motivation and encouragement we can.

My commitment to the club as your Chairman remains the same now as it did at the beginning of the year - to ensure that our members are having a great time riding their bikes together, no matter at what level. On behalf of myself and the committee, I wish you all a successful and enjoyable 2017, both on and off the bike!

**Jackie Roberts**  
Chairman