

Cranleigh Cycling Club

Chairman's Report

22nd February 2019

Good evening members and welcome to you all.

This is my final report as chairman of the club, and I would firstly like to say how much I have enjoyed this role. It has been a privilege to be on the committee since the club was founded, and the last three years as chairman have been challenging and fun.

The club has gained a few new members, reaching 197 by the date of writing this report. Of those, a little over 24% are women. Some of us are from Cranleigh, but the club draws from many of the surrounding towns and villages.

Whilst the club has a number of racers, the main interest of the majority is in meeting up on a Sunday morning for a sociable ride, whether that be at high speed or a gentle ride along the lanes with a stop for coffee. This year has seen some of the members achieving great success in competition, and I will share as many of those here as I can. Those successes which are more difficult to find, of course, are those personal victories which every cyclist is able to achieve, whether that be a first 20 mile ride completed, or a personal best on a strava segment. We shouldn't ignore these in giving our congratulations to those whose achievements are more visible:

Gerry Kinally for numerous victories, but in particular the fastest man in his age category at Prudential Ride 100, winner in the over 70's at Tour of Cambridgeshire, fastest Brit in his age category at the World Gran Fondo Championships in Varese, and first in his age category at the LVRC National Championships.

Milly King McCann for winning twice in the Goodwood road racing series and getting her 3rd Cat licence, 3rd in age category at the Tour of Cambridgeshire, a number of podiums in various triathlons too numerous to list, and qualifier to ride at the Euro Championships in both the Sprint and Olympic distances. Milly was also first Brit over the line in her age category at Varese.

Julian Paphitis who battled the elements off road and won the World Solo 24 hour MTB championships in his age category.

Fleur Kinally who once again excelled and came 2nd in her age category in the 2018 Etape du Tour.

The club also saw members competing in the Mallorca 312, and several others who took part at Varese.

Club cycling activities during 2018 included what has been dubbed “the Hot Tub tour” (a weekend away in Dartmoor, staying in holiday chalets made available by Duncan Wesley), the Horsham Reliability Ride, the Isle of Wight Randonee, a gravel bike ride to Shoreham and back along the Downslink, our own Time Trial in April and an inter club time trial in September. We held a charity ride at which was raised £620 – the club made donations of £500 each to KSS Air Ambulance and the Cranleigh Lions, topping up the difference from club funds.

A massive feature of our club calendar are the annual BBQ and Christmas Party and this year’s events were once again truly magnificent. Thanks are due to Robin and Jenny Gue for letting us use their house and garden for the BBQ, and to the organisers and helpers for both of these events.

2018 saw a few changes being planned for the club and these changes will make a big difference to us all.

Firstly, the topic of “group led” versus “ride leader led” rides was raised again, and Robin Gue has successfully planned and implemented the new regime, where all the club rides will eventually have a ride leader to guide them. This started in a small way with the introduction of a C3 paced led ride for members who wanted to ride a greater distance than the social group, but were not confident to join in with the next group up. This met with great success, with plenty of members from faster groups volunteering to lead it, and this has now been carried through to the rest of the club. This is intended to improve confidence, safety and road etiquette on the rides.

Towards the end of the year, the committee members invited Simon Hathaway to give them a marketing presentation with the idea of finding ways to better promote the club. This entailed identifying its beliefs and objectives. The marketing plan which emerged will be the foundation on which the committee will base the club activities from now on, the aim being to make Cranleigh CC a centre of excellence for all things cycling in the Surrey Hills, gain the respect of the local community and increase the membership, attracting in other age groups so that the club can grow and thrive in future. This might include more training sessions at Dunsfold, for example, to help the members become confident in riding as a group, Pilates and spinning classes, which have been ongoing through 2018, and of course, some wonderful social events.

As I write, the new committee members are yet to be voted upon, however I wish the club and the incoming committee a year of new victories and successes. Many thanks again to all the members for the opportunity to head up this superb club, it has been my great privilege. Thanks also to my co-committee members, some of whom are also retiring from their roles and all of whom have worked hard for the club: Paul Tweehuysen (treasurer), Tricia Cranwell (Secretary) Simon Jackson (membership secretary), John Child (IT and Website matters) Penny Kell (Social Events Secretary), Jeremy Palmer, Alec McKenzie, Jeremy Fuller, Allan Gooch and Juliet Karn-Smith.

To finish, some words of wisdom for you all, taken from a cycling legend:

“To me, it doesn’t matter whether it’s raining or the sun is shining or whatever: as long as I’m riding a bike I know I’m the luckiest guy in the world” – *Mark Cavendish*