

Chester and North Wales CTC

CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru

Annual Report

November 2009

Introduction

The final paragraph in my 2008 report predicted that 2009 would be an extremely busy year – and so it has proved to be. Included in this report are sections about Local Rules, 2009 events and group activities, the Awards Committee report, a provisional programme of events for 2010 and communications with members.

Club members have celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the founding of our 'DA' on 27th August 1939 in style. Your Committee, organisers and volunteers have thrown themselves with enthusiasm into our planned activities, and with a lot of work, and a lot of cycling of course, have achieved everything we planned for this year.

Activities

The CH&NW CTC Committee have met six times this year.

Our main objective was to revise our Local Rules and Awards Committee Terms of Reference to complement the new CTC Policy Document. A small group of Committee members comprising myself (Glennys Hammond), Mike Cross, Janet Gregory and Lowri Evans considered in great detail how the rules would benefit the functioning of the club at the local level. We also tried to ensure that the new Local Rules would continue to be an effective tool over a number of years and be adaptable to changing circumstances. One of these key changes has been the altered structure of local groups. After voting to implement the new CTC Policy Document at the 2008 Annual General Meeting, we are known as a Parent Member Group (PMG), CTC Two Mills is a Subsidiary Member Group (SMG) with a measure of independence, and we have seven Informal Groups (IGs) which can function without the formal bureaucracy previously expected of them. Members can now choose membership of a Member Group regardless of where they live. The new Local Rules include, for example, sections on voting rights, bank accounts, formation and function of the Committee, and awards. The main Committee was given several opportunities during 2009 to examine the draft Local Rules and put forward suggestions and amendments. The new Local Rules document takes these suggestions into consideration and in its current format has been accepted by the full 2009 Committee.

In accordance with the new Policy Guidelines, all Member Groups (formerly DAs) must appoint a Welfare Officer, Registration Officer and a Promotions/Publicity Officer. The Secretary (Glennys Hammond) is the 2009 Registration Officer for Chester and North Wales CTC.

Committee members have been equally active in campaigning, publicity and development, and have represented and promoted the club on numerous occasions, both formal and informal. Committee members are also volunteers and have assisted at many of the Club's events and activities.

Sustrans Connect2 and CDT

We were justifiably excited at the beginning of the year as two important projects continued to unfold. The Sustrans Connect2 project is bringing opportunities to increase cycling and improve cycling facilities. Completion and official opening of the long-awaited extension to the Greenway from Upton to Mickle Trafford on October 25th this year will provide a different and very welcome access to the Cheshire countryside. We look forward to seeing other visible changes in the future. Chester's achievement as a Cycling Demonstration Town (CDT), one of eleven so far across England, is benefiting, for example, cycle-training for school children, employer schemes, and improvement of local facilities. The reorganisation of Cheshire into two unitary councils, Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) and Cheshire East, may have contributed to the slower development of CDT activities but changes are gradually happening.

CTC National AGM and Dinner

To coincide with our 70th Anniversary year the Annual CTC AGM and Dinner, chaired by our North West Councillor, David Robinson, was held at the Queen Hotel in Chester on 23rd April. Both events were well-attended by our members. It was fitting that the Chester and North Wales team of six were presented with their awards at the Dinner for winning the CTC Competition for 2008. We congratulate both the team and individual winners. During the day Sue Booth and her helpers promoted our Club and CTC at the Cyclefest event organised by CWaC in the Town Hall Square. Of course, the weekend wouldn't be complete without enjoyable cycling and the open Sunday rides, organised and led by our members for cyclists of varying abilities, were a great success.

Tour Series

On Tuesday 23rd June, the ninth race in a Tour Series of ten town centre races took place in Chester. The televised Chester event included an afternoon of music, cycle-related demonstrations and a community parade of bicycles demonstrating cycle history that helped to build a cycle-themed carnival atmosphere in the centre of Chester.

Chester and North Wales CTC 70th Anniversary Events 2009

Apart from the very successful events that are part of our usual programme, the Committee devised a comprehensive programme of events for 2009 to celebrate our 70 years of history. The programme included Challenge Rides of varying lengths organised by David Ackerley, starting at a new location in Cheshire at Bickerton Village Hall, and a coastal ride from Holyhead to Chester led by Sue Booth from 15th to 18th June. During 2009, event publicity, certificates and memorabilia carried our 70th Anniversary logo. Between 23rd August and 6th September, to celebrate founding day, individual riding groups were encouraged to commemorate our '70th birthday' with a (C)offee, (T)ea and (C)akes event. To be more inclusive to our Welsh members, in May 2009 we held a 70th Anniversary Rally in the Vale of Clwyd that included a variety of rides, and incorporated the Treasure Hunt and Map-reading Competitions. The President's ride in 2009 was also held in the Vale of Clwyd at St Asaph. President Mike Cross has represented the Club at several of these events wearing the impressive President's Chain of Office.

Development and promotion

Our Development Officer Sue Booth, has promoted cycling and riding groups in four categories: the organisation and promotion of riding groups, a calendar of organised events, posters and literature, and the promotion of group identity. The 5 Miles to Fabulous event was damp but quite well-attended. Ladies Rides established in 2008 will continue. There was minimal interest shown for the planned family rides despite some publicity at the Development Town launch. Sue, with Sonia Oldershaw, rode Route 5 from Holyhead to Chester in June. Several members accompanied them at various points along the route including Roy Spilsbury, a group of Colwyn Bay cyclists, Dave Hill from Mold and President Mike Cross, who also met Sue when she arrived in Chester. The ride may be repeated at a selected weekend next year. The Club display board with photos and leaflets to promote CTC was erected at the Liverpool to Chester Bike Ride, the Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides on 14th June and at the Ch&NW CTC AGM 2008, the Town Hall Cycling development Town Launch on 25th April, 70th Anniversary Rides at Bickerton on 19th July, the Wirral Show in July and the Cycle Promotions sale, Northgate Arena in September. Leaflets and a poster were designed and printed for Chester Wednesday evening rides, and for the Ladies rides. A booklet of all riding groups is being developed. The Bike Factory has offered support with printing costs for leaflets.

Roads and Routes

Our Right to Ride (R2R) representative on the Committee, Peter Williams, has had a very active year on your behalf and credits much of the success to previous campaigner groups. Improvements to the A5117, renamed the A494 at the new bridge crossing, resurfacing of Lodge Lane, and an audit of the improvements, have been completed and published. Plans to improve the Deva cycle link from the Greenway Cycle Path to the A5480 and the Shropshire Union Canal in Chester are awaiting approval. The cycle ramp and bridge from the Racecourse to Curzon Park beside the present Railway Bridge is in the planning stage. CWaC Council has appointed an outside Consultant to look at ways of improving Cycling in Chester City Centre to the outer ring road. After a slow start, Bikeability, organised by the CWaC Road Safety Team is now in progress in Chester Junior Schools. Peter Williams is a trained Bikeability instructor, and is involved in the co-ordination of pothole information, NMU's (non motorised user routes), LTPs (Local Transport Plans) CCC (Chester Cycling Campaign) and Bikeability (training junior school children to cycle safely on our streets, level one/two). He has responded to Ellesmere Port Preferred Options Plans that outline the future development of Ellesmere Port town centre to the Manchester Ship Canal. The Burton Marshes link to Deeside is still at a negotiating stage with Sustrans, the MOD, CWaC, British Rail, RSPB and Flintshire County Council. He has attended various seminars and workshops in Warrington and Manchester, attended Cycle Forums and Chester Cycling Campaign meetings. THINK BIKE signs on the A540 and the improvement of the A540 for cyclists remain a top priority. We must also thank David Robinson for his involvement with the CDT Steering Group, Chester Cycling Campaign and for keeping us up to date with their activities. Several members attended the opening of the improvement to the cycle route at Penmaenmawr at Pen-y-Clip. We have to thank Roy Spilsbury of CTC Cymru for his tireless and persistent lobbying for this and other improvements in the Conwy Area. Mike Cross and several other members attended the official opening of the Pen-y-Clip bridges. The bridges have undoubtedly improved safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Membership

At a cost of approximately £38, 109 new members have been welcomed this year. Membership lists have been infrequent and often contained misleading and incorrect information. This could be due to the upheaval in the CTC membership department caused by the introduction of the New Policy Document. Work for the department has been heavier and more complex than expected. Inefficiency may be one cause but another may be incorrect information from members. When the system settles down updates may be more regular and contain fewer inaccuracies. Membership is now 1030 including 45 people who have registered CTC Two Mills as their 'main' Member Group.

President's Trophy

Mrs Iris Mills, mother of Graham Mills, very kindly donated a new trophy in memory of her son Graham, our previous highly-regarded President and friend to many of our members. The trophy was presented for the first time to Lowri Evans, a well-deserved winner, at the President's ride on 27th September.

Other Activities

Our members have supported many other cycling activities apart from our planned programme including, for example, the Birthday Rides at Oundle, the Welsh Cycling Festival, the Wild Wales Challenge, York Cycle Show, the French Semaine Federale, CTC holidays, the Eureka Challenge Rides and cycling holidays at home and abroad.

Member Communications

The website continues to provide information about our group programmes, events, activities and pieces of news. Event reports and photos can be accessed from the Events page and the Photo Gallery. Six News Sheets have been circulated in 2009 to remind members of forthcoming events, and are available on our website. Approximately 300 members have provided email addresses. The AGM Agenda, Minutes, the Secretary's Annual Report, and the new Draft Local Rules, are available on the Documents page of our website. Our website address is www.ctcchesterandnwales.org.uk.

The Link, Ch&NW CTC/CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru quarterly magazine, edited by Veronica Nicholas, has almost 200 subscribers. Contributors have continued to provide a varied and interesting selection of articles and photographs. Following a competition for a logo to celebrate our 70th Anniversary year at the end of last year, the winning submission was used for the front cover of the magazine. The Link Editor is considering the use of advertising in the magazine as a way of increasing club revenue. Eunice and John Mawson arrange the distribution and financial aspects of the magazine and Tim Schofield arranges printing.

Awards Committee

Certificates of Meritorious Conduct

To mark the vital work of volunteers, seven Certificates of Meritorious Conduct are to be awarded to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Chester & North Wales CTC.

The Graham Mills Memorial Trophy

Mrs. Iris Mills generously provided a trophy in memory of her son, Graham Mills, the former President of Chester & North Wales CTC. The following conditions and criteria were adopted:

1. Any member of the Chester & North Wales CTC may submit Candidates names, and the reasons for the nomination, in writing to the Awards Committee.
2. The trophy is to be awarded annually and presented at lunchtime on the President's Ride. The first presentation was on the 2009 President's Ride.
3. Chester & North Wales CTC will meet the cost of engraving the recipients' names.
4. The trophy is to be awarded to paid-up members of the CTC, and who are or have been, active members of the Chester & North Wales CTC. No member shall receive the trophy more often than one year in five.
5. The trophy will be presented by the President of the Chester & North Wales CTC, who will be advised by the Chester & North Wales CTC's Awards Committee.
6. The Chester & North Wales CTC's Awards Committee will nominate the recipient based on various criteria, including some or all of the following:
 - a) Participation in Chester & North Wales CTC's events.
 - b) Attendance at the Chester & North Wales CTC's AGM.
 - c) Committee work.
 - d) Volunteer work in the Chester & North Wales CTC's and local group events.
 - e) Rides with 'home groups'.
 - f) Rides with other local groups in the Chester & North Wales CTC.
 - g) Care and consideration for other members.
 - h) The Awards Committee members' personal knowledge of any candidate.
 - i) Soundings of senior members of Chester & North Wales CTC that may be taken by the Awards Committee.

The above criteria may be subject to amendment from time to time as experience dictates.

Recommendations for Awards

In October 2008, the names of two members of Chester and North Wales CTC were submitted to National Office by the Awards Committee, to be awarded Certificates of Merit. The name of one other member was submitted for a higher award. The nominations for Certificates of Merit were rejected. CTC National Office eventually published some guidelines for the award of Certificates of Merit in late August 2009. The Awards Committee will be giving the matter further consideration after considering the guidelines. The nomination for a higher award was accepted, and National Office agreed to take the necessary steps.

Nominations

Members are reminded that any paid up member of Ch&NW CTC is entitled to put forward another member's name for a Certificate of Merit or Volunteer of the Year. The nominations must be in writing, and must be accompanied by relevant supporting evidence. Send nominations to awards@ctchesterandnwales.org.uk

Planned events during 2009

1st January, 2009 - New Years Day Meets, Carden Arms and McLean's Pub

Arthur Miller organized the New Years Day meet at McCleans Pub for 21 members. It was cold and icy, so there were only three members on bicycles. Given the conditions, it was a wise precaution. Despite being cold, grey, and a little icy on the lanes, there was an exceptional turnout for the annual New Year's Day meet at the Carden Arms led by Dave Hill. All southern Informal Groups were well-represented with friends old and new enjoying food and drinks. The caterers made them very welcome. The ride back, assisted by an icy tail wind got most home before dark. Thanks to all participants for making it the best attended meeting in recent years.

21st March 2009 - Aqueduct Audax 170km and The Clwyd Gate Audax 138km

Riders of the 'Clwydian' 205km and 'The Clwyd Gate' 138km Audax Rides on 21 March 2009 were very lucky with the weather. It was cold and dry, and varied between misty and sunny. There were approximately 50 entries for each event (the maximum allowed) and 40 starters/finishers for each ride. Climbing on the 'Clwydian' has been reassessed at 3500m (originally assessed at 1500m!) so the ride now carries 3.5 AAA points. The 'Clwyd Gate' is to be reassessed in future, but is unlikely to increase much from the current 2.25 AAA points. The rides, which were organised by David Matthews, were a great success.

5th April, 2009 - Early Spring Tourist Trial Sunday

With 150 riders already registered, the organiser, Janet Gregory, decided that numbers were becoming too large and closed entries one week before the event. Inevitably, more cyclists turned up on the day wanting to ride. Volunteers had to work hard to check everyone through the controls in good time. The caterer 'stretched' the buffet lunch provided at Overton. The fine spring weather helped everyone to complete the 50-mile course; some in a very fast time; others took it more leisurely. Judging by the comments, this event is a popular day out for cyclists of all levels.

1-5th May 2009 - Bodfari Rally Weekend -

An estimated 60 Chester and North Wales members from both sides of the Clwyds attended all or part of our 'own' celebration of our 70th Anniversary. In particular, thanks are due to Lowri Evans for her organisation of the Treasure Hunt and Map Reading Competitions on Saturday 2 May; to Bob Witton and Pam Cross for planning and organising rides, and to Arthur Miller who chose the camp site for the campers and caravanners and organised the first-rate, fully-booked Dinner at the Kinmel Arms on Sunday 3rd May.

2nd May 2009 - Treasure Hunt and Map reading Competitions

The competitions starting from Bodfari were planned to coincide with the 70th Anniversary camping weekend. Competitors began to arrive at the Downing Arms before 9.00am. A few riders came from London, South Buckinghamshire and Hampshire. At 9.30am all 35 entrants started safely. The route from Bodfari visited Tremeirchion, Rhuallt, and Cwm to Dyserth returning via Trefnant. Riders enjoyed spectacular views over the Vale of Clwyd as a reward for their efforts. Results were very close in both the team and individual treasure hunt. Mike Batchelor (who was the 2008 overall winner of the tourist competition) was in equal 1st place with Mark Beauchamp; Alun Jones was ½ a mark behind in 3rd place. John and Sue Ingold were 4th and 6th respectively, John Mawson was 5th, and Chester and North Wales riders Diana Clarke, Mike Gilbert and Ifor Jones filled 7th to 9th positions. In the team event, winners were Tim Erasmus and Ros Thomas competing for the first time. Dave Hill and Glennys Hammond came a close second, and Janet Gregory and Annabel Dickson, and Bob and Gillian Witton tied in third place. The Map Reading Competition began at one o'clock. Mike Batchelor won the event, with Dave Hill a close second. Mike Gilbert came third; John Ingold from South Bucks was 4th, Mark Beauchamp 5th,

and Diana Clarke from Anglesey gained 6th place just ahead of Sue Ingold. Ifor Jones was 8th. Thanks to everyone who took part and helped with the event.

14th June 2009 - Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides

The three rides of 100, 50 and 25 miles were planned to coincide with Bike Week which spanned 13th to 21st June. In spite of late changes to the starting venue and 100-mile lunch stop, it was a very successful event. The number of 100-mile entries was down on previous years, at 20, but 50-mile entries were up, at 98. This high number caused some consternation at the Jessie Hughes Institute in Eaton where 50-milers have their lunch but the Women's Institute coped well. For the first time the organisers planned a 25-mile ride which had 25 entries, some of them children. The Waverton Institute was a very satisfactory alternative to Christleton Sports Centre as the starting and finishing point and the good weather was a bonus. Organisers Dorothy Clift and Hazel McDougall thank all riders who took part, and the volunteers who helped to make it a very successful day.

5th July 2009 - Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100

On Sunday 5th July, 83 of the 95 people entrants departed from Kinnerton Scout Head- Quarters in lovely weather. President Mike Cross, dressed in his official finery, sent riders off in eight groups at ten-minute intervals commencing at 8am. This year, the route included a trip round Rednal Airfield, a former WW2 Spitfire training aerodrome. Despite changeable weather, all groups arrived back claiming to have enjoyed the day. The food provided by Olive Evans and Mark Watson was of the usual high standard. The success of the event depends largely on the efforts of many volunteers who oversee car parking, serve refreshments and sign riders in and out. These small jobs make the event go smoothly, ensuring that riders have an excellent day. David Ackerley, the organiser, received many thanks, phone calls and emails showed riders' appreciation and acknowledgement of the efforts of volunteers and group leaders.

19th July 2009 - 70th Anniversary Challenge Rides Bickerton

A total of 108 people entered and 96 riders started the circular rides from Bickerton Village Hall. Bright weather early in the day deteriorated rapidly with some very heavy showers. Twenty-six riders rode the hard 75-mile trip. Two people rode over 80 miles due to route finding errors. Forty-six people set off on the Delamere Forest ride. Some riders commented on the unexpected 'sting in the tail' of the Peckforton Hills. Twenty-four riders, including seven children, went to Marbury in the worst weather of the day, but stuck it out well. Various route permutations enabled them to select their own route within the overall framework of the main ride. Ninety-four people sat down to tea and an excellent 70th Anniversary Birthday cake made by Margaret Pendlebury. Three guests attended: former President Ann Taylor, accompanied by Colin Taylor, a former organiser of the Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans' 100, and Jim Skelding, a former President, Secretary, and founder member of the 'DA' who made a speech as "the connection with the long ago". Ann drew the winning tickets for the prizes which were kindly donated by the Bike Factory. These were: a bike of £500 retail value won by Brian Pendlebury, a Garmin 205 Edge GPS unit won by Mike Cross, and a pair of cycling shoes won by Harvey Blair. Members enjoyed this successful event. Thank you to David Ackerley for organising and planning the event, and to Jean and Arthur Miller, and Pam and Mike Cross for their assistance over the weekend.

23rd August to 6th September - 70th Anniversary Coffee, Tea and Cakes rides

Four groups celebrated our 70th Anniversary with a Coffee, Tea and Cakes Ride between 23rd August - 6th September 2009. A large group of CTC Two Mills members enjoyed a ride around Wirral with two stops at Hadlow Road Station for coffee in the morning and tea and cakes in the afternoon, a buffet lunch at Royden Park and a celebratory cake-cutting. Graham James and Margaret Blakeborough rode period bicycles and wore authentic dress. The Chester Group began at Christleton Pond, lunched in Cilcain and ended in style with tea at the Grosvenor Hotel in Chester. A group of fourteen Wrexham Reivers combined their usual ride from Wrexham with a visit to the Cycle Show at Northgate Arena, devoured their home-made cakes in a Chester park, and had a late lunch at the Ice-Cream farm. Finally, a group of Wednesday Riders stalwarts braved the bad weather for a tea party under canvas at Birch Heath Farm.

12th September 2009 - Chester and North Wales CTC Lunch, Red Lion Inn, Dodleston

This informal lunchtime gathering was attended by approximately forty-five members of various ages including a number of riders from Wales. In future years the Annual Lunch may be combined with the President's Ride and held in a different location.

27th September 2009 - The President's Ride

Over 60 riders from a wide area, both east and west of the Clwydian Hills, supported this ride which, for the first time, was held in North Wales. Based on St Asaph, the ride took in the lower slopes of the Denbighshire moorlands, the Clwyds, and the Vale of Clwyd. Forty-five riders completed the course while others went directly to the lunch venue at the village hall in Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd. Mrs Iris Mills, mother of our late President Graham Mills, and Graham's widow, Brenda were our honoured guests at Llanfair DC. Mrs Iris Mills presented the new

President's Trophy she had kindly donated in memory of her son. The first recipient of the Trophy was Lowri Evans who was unanimously chosen by the Awards Committee for her work for Chester and North Wales CTC and for cycling in general. The President thanked Lowri for organising the lunch and refreshments, and other members who helped to make it an enjoyable occasion.

3rd October 2009 - Llysfasi Hill Climb and Freewheel Competitions

The competition was well supported with 19 people taking part in the Hill Climb. In first place was Lee Jackson riding for Nottingham CTC with a very fast time of 6min 26sec; second was Steve Heany (7min 17sec) a member of Chester and North Wales from Llanrwst. Andy Polakawski and Steve Larwood tied in 3rd place at 8 min 53 sec. Andy was also the fastest Vet. In 5th place was Graham Darlington, the fastest Super Vet at 8min 54 sec. Janet Gregory won the ladies event and was placed 6th overall (9 min 1 sec) and Vicki Payne was the first Lady Vet. After the hill climb everyone went to Graigfechan. Chris Jones gave competitors a steady start for the Freewheel. David Statham (Chester and North Wales' expert freewheeler) showed the rest of the field how it should be done, with Alan Mort 2nd and Lee Jackson 3rd. The four ladies in the event finished within a few yards of each other (and remarkably close to the pub door). Sue Booth was 1st Lady and Janet Gregory came second. For the first time there was a tandem entry with Peter and Irene Dilworth putting in a stylish performance. After the events everyone gathered for lunch at the Three Pigeons pub; results were calculated and checked and prizes presented by Mike Cross. Thanks to Lowri Evans, the organiser, volunteers who help so willingly every year, Chris who started everyone safely, time keepers, marshals and supporters, and to the riders who took part.

Subsidiary Member Group (SMG)

CTC Two Mills

Members present at last year's Chester and North Wales AGM agreed to accept Two Mills Group as a Subsidiary Member Group (SMG) with Chester and North Wales CTC as its Parent member Group (PMG). Formalities are now complete. CTC Two Mills members have helped to promote cycling at several events during the year:

1. At AGMs of both Merseyside and Chester Cycle Campaign
2. Chester Cycle Festival 25-26th April
3. Sustrans Fresh Air Miles event 13th June
4. Wirral Show 11-12th July
5. Chester Cycle Promotions sale 5th September

They have toured away to:

- a) Clwyd Valley 2-4th May
- b) York Show 20-21st June
- c) Saint Omer for the French Semaine Federale 2-9th August
- d) Llanfechain near Oswestry 29-31st August

The group has been a strong supporter of 70th Anniversary events. They lead rides every Sunday throughout the year usually from the Eureka Cyclists café, and on Tuesday evenings from early May through to September, meeting at Hadlow Road old station in Willaston. Several new riders have joined the Group this year.

Informal Groups (IGs)

Anglesey

Provided the weather was good and there were no Parent Group organised rides, the group held rides on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. Rides have mainly been on Anglesey either to the Gegin at 4-Mile bridge or Rhosneigr. A new café at Malltraeth provided a welcome lunch during two rides to Rhosneigr. The group has crossed the Menai Bridge twice this year, to Rhyd Ddu where there is an excellent Dutch cafe, returning via Drws y Coed. Group members have participated in all Parent Group rides and the Birthday rides at Oundle. One member attended a CTC camping tour organised by Pat and Mike Strauss. Another member attended the CTC Dinner at Chester and received a medal for being a member of the winning Chester and North Wales CTC Competition team, and rode an organised Sunday ride from Chester the following day.

Chester Touring and Mountain Bike Club – no report received

Eryri Cycling Group

Eryri Cycling Group held rides twice a month throughout most of the year. Twenty-one members and friends attended the popular 'Doreen's Birthday Ride' in November, and shared rides with the North Wales Tandem Club and the Anglesey Group. Seven members rode the 50-mile tourist trial in April and went to the Cheltenham CTC Cotswold Rally held in Apperley, Gloucester. In May there was a good attendance at Bridges Youth Hostel for their annual Geoff Russell Memorial weekend. Members and friends organised a 'soup kitchen' and checkpoint for the Brian Chapman 600km Audax ride. Members rode the annual Vets 100-mile event in July, while others rode the

sponsored ride on Anglesey in aid of local charities. Group members have attended the Welsh Festival of Cycling held in Rhayader. Riders from other Members Groups who were on holiday in the area occasionally rode with the Group. Eryri rides are mainly easy going and newcomers and visitors are made welcome.

Mold Informals

Mold Informals group provided an extensive programme of challenging, hilly rides with frequent off road stretches. Attendances were consistently between 4 and 8 riders showing a healthy increase of 'regulars' over the 12 months. Riders continue to travel by bike at home and overseas, visiting Wales, Morocco, France, Vietnam and Laos. The group has supported the Welsh Festival of Cycling and the challenging Wild Wales Challenge, and some Audax rides. Having enjoyed the Shropshire Highland Challenge, the Group intends to make it a regular fixture and combine it with some camping. Members also rode the 70th Anniversary Challenge rides from Bickerton and attended the CH&NW camping weekend. The transition to become an Informal Group has allowed members to ride freely wherever they wish rather than feeling constrained by PMG events.

Wednesday Riders

The Wednesday Riders Informal Group has attracted new members throughout the year. The Group is able to offer suitable rides for members of all abilities. Winter 'Make Your Own Way' rides again proved very popular attracting as many as 40 riders for lunch. The Christmas Dinner at Trafford Hall was a great success. In icy conditions on the way home one member was seriously injured and is still recovering, and the Group's annual memorial ride to the Ring O'Bells in Christleton, in memory of the Wednesday Group founder, the late Charles Allan, attracted much support. The Group organised two car-assisted rides: one to Wrenbury in July and another from Chirk to Ellesmere in September. Many members attended the CTC AGM, Dinner and prize-giving, on April 23rd, and the organised cycle rides the following day. There was an equally good turn out for the 70th Anniversary Rally based on Bodfari the following weekend. Celebrations of the founding of the Chester and North Wales DA in 1939 ended at a 'local' level at the end of August with a 'Coffee Tea and Cakes' gathering at Birch Heath Farm in Christleton. In spite of bad weather on the day, about two dozen members took part. Members also took part in the Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides, the Anniversary Rides, based at Bickerton, and the Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans' 100-mile event. Sadly the deaths of two former members occurred during the year. Barbara Muir who rode with the Wednesday group in the 1990s before moving to the Whitchurch area reportedly took her own life during the summer. Harry Williams of Neston, who was in his 80s, died of cancer later in the summer. Condolences are offered to their families.

Watsons Wanderers – no report received

Wrexham Reivers

The group has ridden on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month this year. Saturdays have proved successful with more consistent numbers and less confusion regarding times and start venues. On the 2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays, and every Tuesday, the Cafe Hoppers (mostly made up of Wrexham Reivers) ride from the same venue. Thanks are due to leaders who have organised a variety of rides, both on and off-road, local and car-assisted. Someone has always stepped forward to lead the ride at short notice when nominated leaders have been unable to attend. In August many of the members were filmed by BBC Wales for a short news item about the Cafe Hoppers and the CTC Tourist Competition. Members of the group have supported the PMG by riding and competing in planned events. In addition, members have led groups in the Vet's 100 and helped to organise and run this year's competitions. The 2010 rides list is being prepared as we look forward to next year.

CTC Tourist Competition 2009

Current results of 240 out of 316 events have appeared on the CTC Competition Website. After 12 events David Statham is currently in 6th place with 115 points; Lowri Evans is 1st lady in 7th position overall and Andy Polakowsky is in 8th place with 111 points; Ifor Jones is in 9th place with 105 points. In the team event, Chester and North Wales CTC are 1st after 67 events with 607 points followed by West Yorkshire with 543 points after 65 events. Many event results are still to come so positions are likely to change.

CTC Cymru

Lowri Evans is our CTC representative on the Committee. During 2009 CTC Cymru held the successful Welsh Cycling Festival in Rhayader with a range of rides to suit all abilities. Planning is under way for next year's event to be held on 23rd to 27th July at Rhosgoch (near Hay on Wye) at the Golf Club. Gwenda Owen, the Cycling Officer for Wales is developing cycle training in Wales and bursaries are available for instructor-training courses. Several Chester and North Wales members have benefited from the funding and are now qualified instructors. The CTC Cymru AGM will be held on 9th January 2010 at the Hotel Metropole in Llandrindod Wells at 11am. Members from the region are welcome.

National Councillor

Our National Councillor David Robinson has attended most of our Committee meetings, and kept us informed of developments through his membership of the Cycling Development Town Steering Group, Chester Cycling Campaign and as Chair of CTC National Council.

Programme of 2010 Events

Date	Event	Organiser
1 st January	New Year's Day - McLean's Pub	Arthur Miller
1 st January	New Year's Day - Carden Arms	Dave Hill
28 th March	Spring Tourist Trial 50m	Janet Gregory (?)
2 nd – 3 rd May	Ride Route 5	TBD
8 th – 9 th May	May Camping Weekend	TBD
TBD	Treasure Hunt and Map Reading Competitions CTC Cymru	Lowri Evans
20 th June	Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides, 100,50,25 miles	Dorothy Clift Hazel McDougall
4 th July	Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100	David Ackerley
25 th July	Help4Heroes - The Bickerton Challenge Rides	David Ackerley
TBD (Sept)_	Ch&NW CTC Annual Lunch	Mike Cross
TBD (Sept)	President's Ride (<i>these two events may be combined in 2010</i>)	CH&NW President
2 nd October	Llysfasi Hill Climb and Freewheel Competitions	Lowri Evans
9 th October	'The Clwydian' Audax 205k	David Matthews
9 th October	The 'Clwyd Gate Audax'138k	David Matthews
7 th November	CH&NW AGM Kinnerton	CH&NW Secretary

The Coming Year 2010

What a year it's been with so much to report! The coming year I'm sure will be a little less hectic with fewer events and a more normal programme, but will still include interesting and challenging rides for all our members. We hope that cycling in Chester and North Wales goes from strength to strength through the Sustrans and Cycling Development Town Projects and through the work of all those who have campaigned for better cycling facilities in our area.

I would like to thank in particular, members of our Local Rules Group, Mike Cross, Janet Gregory, and Lowri Evans for their time and effort, and the contribution to Local Rules made by Bryan Wade, our previous Secretary. Thank you to Committee members who have attended sometimes long and complex Committee meetings in this our Anniversary Year to resolve many challenges that have arisen. Thank you to our President Mike Cross (and his wife Pam) who has tirelessly represented us at many events complete with the impressive President's Chain of Office. As usual I am sure that the 2010 elected Committee will continue to work hard on behalf of the membership and members will continue to offer their much appreciated support in 2010. A final thank you goes to everyone who has supported me personally during my year as Secretary.

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