

Minutes of the Manchester & District CTC Committee

Date: Thursday 18th September 2008 7.30pm

Venue: The Welcome Inn, Bury Old Road, Prestwich

Present: Peter Barnes, Laurie Green, Glyn Jones, Trevor McCarthy, Phil Rigby, Graham Trunks, Mike Wigley

1) Apologies for absence received from: Harry Burton, David Butler, Mark Gumbs, Mike Roberts, Ian Ross, Karen Sutton

2) Matters Arising from the previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting dated 12th June 2008 had been distributed prior to the meeting and accepted as a true record.

3) Reports from Officials

a) Secretary

Correspondence received with regards to South Manchester CTC and the TIF bid and will be dealt with later in the meeting

b) Treasurer

Karen Sutton was unable to attend the meeting but her report was read out by Mike (see Appendix).

Balance in current account: £364.37. Balance at National Office: £1871.92

Karen will be standing down at the AGM so we need someone to stand as Treasurer if Manchester & District CTC is to continue, as this is a mandatory position for a CTC member group

c) Magazine Editor

The magazine will be printed next week. We have 2 new advertisers, Withington Cycles and Polka Dot cycles

£1240.22 in bank with £38.29 cash in hand. No outstanding bills

d) Magazine Distributor

Subscribers	280	(includes 5 new subscribers)
Complimentary copies	2	
2 nd letters to be sent out (Autumn edition)	6	
Renewed from 2 nd letter (Summer edition)	4	(with 6 non renewals)
Due to renew from Summer edition	53	

e) Publicity Officer &

f) Membership Registration Officer

69 welcome letters have been sent to new members since our June meeting (1 returned address unknown)

Alex Geen has left National Office and not yet replaced so information is not quite

new members in	May:	20	(and non-renewals: 16)
	June	54	22
	July	40	41
	Aug	26	30

IE we have 31 new CTC members in the Manchester & District area. Apparently some of our membership are "BW" members but no-one knew what this is (bike to work?)

g) Rights and Campaigns report

Nothing to report (although the TIF bid will be discussed later)

h) Peak Audax Events Secretary

We had another successful series of rides over the summer with between 40-55 riders for the Marple Wednesday events

i) Welfare Officer

Guide lines now available online. We need a volunteer to stand for this post at our next AGM

4) Reports from Groups

a) Oldham: recently visited the Semaine Federale in Saumur (next year to be held at St Omer - only 40km from Calais so easy to get to)

b) South Manchester:

Harry Burton was unable to attend the meeting but his report was read out by Mike (see Appendix). This lead into the next item ...

5) South Manchester CTC proposal to become independent CTC Group

*NB in these minutes please read **South Manchester CTC for SM** and **Manchester & District CTC for M&D** for reasons of brevity.*

As our largest group (in terms of area, CTC membership and active CTC riders), it is **SM's** intention to become an Independent CTC Membership Group covering South Manchester, Stockport, High Peak, Macclesfield and North Cheshire. They have canvassed their active membership (80) and received 62 positive responses with 1 against. Discussions between the two groups have lead to the following suggestion of postcodes division:-

SM: CW (4 & 9), M (12-14, 19-23, 90), SK (1-12 , 17, 22, 23), WA 16

M&D: BL, M (1-11, 15-18, 24-35), OL (1-16), SK (13-16, 18-21), WA (1-3, 13-15), WN (1-7)

This is a move repeated in other areas (eg Huddersfield leaving West Yorkshire, Sheffield leaving SYNDDA) as active groups decide to deal directly with National Office.

Peter Barnes mentioned that although he lived in the proposed **SM** area he hadn't been contacted, but that's because he's not a regular **SM** rider, and he has the option to consider himself a member of **SM** or **M&D**.

SM will claim the grant for "their" postcode areas and will themselves contact new members to welcome them - so Graham need not contact them. The membership lists from National Office will need to be split accordingly.

Northern Wheel will continue as the CTC's magazine for the full Manchester area and it is hoped that **SM** and Macclesfield groups will still wish to contribute articles, and cyclists in the **SM** area will still find the magazine of interest.

Macclesfield CTC members will have the option of considering themselves as members of **SM, M&D** or indeed, just the CTC - although there are at present very few places where this preference can actually be registered, such as in the CTC Tourist Competition (formerly DATC) and for Audax championship points.

Karen Sutton had wondered about the future of **M&D** in the absence of **SM**. (see Treasurer's report). Mike Wigley did suggest that he still sees a role for a parent group for those former sections where setting up Independent Membership Groups isn't really practical (Bolton, Peak Audax), and former sections happy to remain within **M&D** (Bury, Oldham & Tameside). No-one was present from West Manchester although they may decide to remain a subsidiary group (along with Bury and Oldham & Tameside), or an informal group (like Peak Audax, Bolton Rides)

The meeting agreed that the split was to be supported and that we wish South Manchester well in their future ventures and that we hope to continue to see their members at our events (Beard Cup, Audax events etc) where we will make them welcome.

6) Cycling implications of TIF bid (see attached GMCC document)

David Butler (CTC North West Councillor) was unable to attend the meeting but his report was read out by Mike (see Appendix).

We thought this an excellent way forward and congratulated David on a detailed response. It was thought that one area where councils fall down is in implementing impractical cycle schemes, such as bike lanes that are unsuitable for use at moderate speeds, or where a proliferation of "cyclists dismount" signs would seem to indicate additional hazards otherwise avoidable by using the road. We would like to see local councils have Cycling Officers who actually rode their bikes.

7) Future DA Events

Beard Cup, September 2009 (date to be confirmed)

There's also a full Calendar of events from Peak Audax, listed in Cycle magazine, Northern Wheel and the website

8) Any Other Business

Phil Rigby mentioned that Karen had informed him that she was having difficulties updating the website, because of problems with the ISP. They have refunded us the £15. Mike Wigley suggested that, as Secretary, he would be interested in taking on the role of website coordinator after Karen's departure to the south and would look into this.

Mike Carr is moving out of the area and we wondered if the former DA should thank him for his efforts, although Mike Wigley said that he was only aware of Mike's activities in helping with the Beard Cup. Mike would contact Ian Ross to discuss whether he felt something should be done.

9. Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 12th March at Welcome Inn.

The Manchester & District CTC AGM will be held on Saturday November 8th 13:30 in the Friends Meeting House.

The South Manchester CTC inaugural AGM will be held on 23rd October at Cheadle Village Hall

Appendix I: Treasurer's Report.

The balance in the current account is £364.37. The balance on deposit at CTC National Office is £1871.92.

I estimate that there are two bills outstanding, owing to the Secretary, for hire of the Committee room for this and the June meeting. We will also have rent to pay for the Friend's Meeting House in respect of the AGM in November. As far as I am currently aware there are no further payments to be made.

I would like to let the Committee know that I am not going to stand as Treasurer at the AGM in November. There are several reasons for this decision but the main issues are firstly that I cannot attend meetings, especially now that they are all held on weekday evenings on the opposite side of the city to where I live, but secondly that I no longer see the point in the existence of this Group; for the following reason:

Now that all the Sections are Member Groups meeting fully the rules and guidelines for CTC groups there is little point in having this extra tier of administration. All the rides and events run by and for our members are done by other groups, i.e. the former sections. It appears to me that the Manchester & District CTC Committee meetings and AGM are simply a meeting point for the officers and is totally without purpose. Those who wish to meet up socially for exchange of ideas etc. could do so without holding these meetings and running a committee. As northern Wheel is now run independently of the DA there is no reason why that should not continue.

There are other "DAs" who are realising that the new structure for groups has made their old Committees superfluous. Some have already closed and others are in the process of doing so. (For example west Yorkshire). I recommend that Manchester & District CTC consider whether it is worth continuing after the AGM this year.

There is a substantial sum of money held on deposit at National Office. If those funds remain there and this Group does not continue after the AGM then those funds will no longer be available to CTC Groups in our area, except on application to CTC in case of new groups starting up or groups needing funding for specific purposes. This is worth discussing now before the AGM.

I will be at the AGM in November, where I will present my final report. Between the 30th September and the AGM I will complete the accounts for 2007 to 2008. If I receive the accounts from Graham and the various Group Treasurers in good time I hope to also get the accounts audited in order that all is complete before I need to hand the role over to somebody else.

I am fully expecting to take up a role on the Committee of South Manchester CTC at their AGM in October so will remain on the CTC scene, both in a committee role and of course riding on a Sunday with them when I am able.

Karen Sutton.

Appendix II: Harry Burton's report, South Manchester CTC.

South Manchester CTC are running regular well attended Sunday rides. There has been a steady influx of new members as is normal for our group, particularly over the summer months.

This summer I have sent 80 letters to our members to get their views on the proposal for South Manchester CTC becoming an independent CTC Member Group, opting out of the control of Manchester & District CTC. This is something the officers would have liked to do some time ago but was not possible until the change in CTC rules for Groups last year.

I have received 63 responses to my letter. I had included a voting slip for members to return. There was one vote against the proposal and all others were in favour. This will be ratified at our AGM on 23rd October. All CTC members will be notified of this proposal by a notice in the next issue of "Cycle".

We have decided to take this course of action because we would like the autonomy of being an independent group. We find it difficult to send representatives to the meetings of Manchester and District CTC due to the location of the meetings. We would like to be able to write to new CTC members in our area to publicise our activities. To do this we need a membership database from National Office. As an independent group we will be able to achieve this. In order to help fund this and produce new publicity materials we also wish to claim the grant from CTC for this purpose.

We therefore propose that South Manchester CTC be allocated postcodes relevant to its Membership and participants. We have discussed this with Mike Wigley and the following postcodes seem to be appropriate:

CW4, CW9

(The above are included as the neighbouring DA, South Cheshire/North Staffs, which was on our Southern boundary has closed down and there would be no other CTC Group to allocate these postcodes to).

M12, (Longsight & Levenshulme)

M13 (Rusholme and parts of Moss Side)

M14 (Owen's Park and Fallowfield)

M19 (Levenshulme, Green End, Ladybarn and Fallowfield)

M20 (Didsbury, West Didsbury, Northenden and Withington)

M21 (Chorlton-cum-Hardy and Barlow Moor)

M22 & M23 (Wythenshawe, Peel Hall, Sharston, Moss Nook, Woodhouse Park, Poundswick and Benchill).

M90. (Airport)

SK1 to SK8 (Stockport Borough)

SK9 (Wilmslow)

SK10 (Bollington)

SK11 (Macclesfield)

SK12 (Poynton)

SK17 (Buxton).

SK22 (New Mills and High Peak)

SK23 (Chapel en le Frith)

WA16 (Knutsford).

I hope that you will give consideration to this proposal and let us know your response before our AGM.

Harry Burton
Secretary
South Manchester CTC.

Appendix III: David Butler's (CTC North West Councillor) report

**Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign
Response to Consultation on the Manchester Bid for the Transport Innovation Fund**

1) The Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign supports the TIF bid because if the project succeeds in reducing traffic levels it should make cycling safer and less stressful. We are concerned though that extensions to the Metrolink must not result in the loss of existing cycle routes, such as parts of the Trans-Pennine Trail, which currently use land that would be needed for the Metrolink expansion. We are also concerned that more buses on the roads and higher traffic speeds may have a negative effect on cycling, which must be mitigated through measures such as those suggested in 4 below.

2) We fully support the intention to invest part of the Fund in new cycling facilities for pupils living close to their schools.

3) We fully support congestion charging because it will encourage some people who usually drive to work to cycle more often instead. We are concerned though that appropriate resources are allocated to make sure the modal shift to cycling happens safely.

4) We propose that a significant proportion - at least 10% - of the annual revenue generated from congestion charging should be allocated to cycling. Greater Manchester has failed to increase cycling as planned in its first Local Transport Plan because funding has been piecemeal and spread too thinly [1]. So, for example, cycle tracks are built but no funds are available to maintain them. Publicity campaigns are mounted, but they stop after just a few months because the money runs out. And so on. A proportion of the congestion charge revenue stream should be allocated to a continuous programme of investment and support that will bring the level of cycling in Greater Manchester at least up to that of most other EU cities, and possibly even to that of cities like Amsterdam or Copenhagen where the cycling level is currently nearly ten times what it is here [2].

This proportion of congestion charge revenue stream could be spent on:

- long-term funding of publicity for cycling and cyclists' safety - e.g. permanent back-of-bus advertising campaigns
- a programme to continuously improve, maintain and operate secure cycle parking throughout the area
- consistent enforcement of regulations to ensure that secure cycle parking is included in all new building schemes
- improving integration with public transport including cycle carriage on Metrolink trams, and improved cycle carriage on local trains
- improving and maintaining off-road cycle trails to make them into proper commuter routes
- building and maintaining cycle tracks beside off-road stretches of tramline to create new cycling routes
- measures to allow cyclists and buses to share road space better - e.g. special training for bus drivers
- free cycle training.

This list is not meant to be exhaustive.

Ends

[1] Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan 2, section 3.

[2] A comparison of transport in Europe, CFIT, 02.04.07

The Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign is a voluntary group working to make cycling in Greater Manchester quicker, safer, easier and more enjoyable. The group wants more people to use bicycles for transport and leisure. We have been operating since 1981; pre 2001 under the former name, Sprocket.