

Minutes of the Manchester & District CTC Committee

Date: Thursday 12th March 2009 7.30pm

Venue: The Welcome Inn, Bury Old Road, Prestwich

Present: Peter Barnes, Terry Hodges, Glynn Jones, Trevor McCarthy, Phil Rigby, Ian Ross, Mike Wigley

1) Apologies for absence received from: Dave Butler, Graham Trunks

2) Matters Arising from the previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting dated 18th September 2008 had been distributed prior to the meeting - a reference to Summer's Northern Wheel was to be corrected to Autumn, otherwise they were accepted as a true record

3) Reports from Officials

a) Secretary Mike Wigley read out correspondence received from David Butler (CTC Council)

David Butler: the next CTC National Council meeting will be in the Mechanics Institute, 103 Princess Street, Manchester on Saturday 4th April (probably 10:30). If anyone is curious to know what goes on they are welcome to attend as observers. David Robinson has written something for the next Cycle which will have the details, so keep an eye open for it.

Correspondence from Adrian Lawson (CTC Local Groups Co-ordinator):

Adrian Lawson: I am writing to ask if you would like to submit an article of up to 300 words for the next edition of "Cycle" if the recent reorganisation of the CTC Member group structure has enabled you to broaden your activity.

We have heard many great things about new Member groups "breaking the mould", and existing groups diversifying their activities, we have also heard from many people who are considering making changes to the type of activity they do.

If this sounds like you and your member group jot down a few words and send it back to me over the next few days.

It doesn't have to be too detailed, and 300 words is not a lot to describe some of the activities we have been hearing about, but we would like to be able to print a flavour of what you are up to, so that it may inspire others to follow your wheeltracks.

Sadly this time round we only want 2 articles, but for the next edition we hope to run a larger feature, so all your responses will be appreciated, and may lead to bigger things!

I was invited to attend a Statutory Undertakers & Highway Reinstatements T&F Group at Oldham Council - they wanted to know how roadworks, both while taking place and their aftermath, affected us as cyclists, so I told them. In brief these were

- most potholes on the highway are the result of poorly reinstated surfaces laid by utility companies and their contractors - cost of monitoring means the council only sees a small number of these
- road-work signs placed obstructing cyclists' road space
- insufficient times on temporary traffic light phasing to allow cyclists through on steep roads (uphill) and unnecessary cyclists dismount signs in the opposite direction (These signs are mandatory, which I assume means stop and get off - not conducive to encouraging cycle use)

The main points I picked up from them is that we should report pot holes the council's potholes hotline, and any other matters to the cycling officer. For example, when long-term retaining wall repairs were taking place in Saddleworth, the "cyclists dismount" signs in the down hill direction were removed when reported.

I attended the Cycle 4 Life Open day at Hollingworth Lake also attended by Kevin Mayne, David Robinson, David Butler and Karen Carter, the Community Cycling Development Officer CTC Rochdale

I've renewed the website address for another 12 months for www.CyclingManchester.co.uk which was handed over by Karen Sutton (invoice for Terry for £9.74 and £13.79). I've no idea what we've paid for here but it seemed simplest in the short term to renew these and review for next year.

When we had difficulties with the ISP a few months ago I also registered the website name www.ManchesterCTC.co.uk and this costs just £5 a year. I suggest we adopt this name and phase out the CyclingManchester name (both work at present) - this will involve me contacting the numerous places our website is quoted, which will take me some months of detective work

b) Treasurer Terry Hodges - was welcomed as Treasurer. The paperwork changing the bank account mandates had been delayed (lost by Barclays within their system) but these should be completed soon. Bank balance was £265.12

Terry has been in touch with CTC head office and with Karen's help trying to resolve an apparent discrepancy in the accounts.

Ian Ross was concerned that setting up West Manchester as an informal group (which isn't allowed to have a separate bank account) might pose some accounting difficulties. Costs and expenditure will have to be split between Nova CC and Manchester & District CTC.

c) Magazine Editor/Publicity Officer/Membership Registration Officer

Graham was absent from the meeting but had sent a report:

Magazine - Nothing much more to add to my comments that were published in the last issue of the Northern Wheel. Sales are continuing to decline slightly which is something I had anticipated and will probably mean that we won't need to print so many copies in future. Five advertisers have already cancelled for the 2009 issues, namely Morreys of Holmes Chapel, Harvest Store Wimboldesley, Yellow Teapot (Common Barn Farm) Rainow, Devon Holiday Cottages, and Sue's Cafe Brereton. Seventeen advertisers have renewed and I'm still waiting to hear from the remaining 18. I hope to be able to produce the next edition in mid-April.

Membership - No list was received from HQ in December nor in January. On 13th February I received an up to date list that included all the members in the Manchester DA area. The previous list was up to 3rd November the details of which were contained in my report to the AGM.

During the period since the AGM and up to 13th Feb, 50 new members are shown as joining and five lapsed members have rejoined. I've not had time yet to work out how many members have lapsed during this period. I have attached two email messages I have received from Adrian Lawson the new volunteer support officer at HQ in relation to the proposals regarding the supplying of membership details to the former DAs.

Adrian Lawson: Hello. I am the new Volunteer Support officer for Local Groups, part of the Cycling Development team at CTC National Office.

I am pleased after some considerable time and effort to be able to send out the latest membership lists for your group. I hope you will find that these are complete and up to date, and also that they have been sent to the right person. At this stage don't worry if at this stage your group has no members, this is because we have yet to allocate members to the new structure.

I don't expect there to be many bugs in the system but it is a new one, and a major change in the way we manage the Member Group data, and partly because I am new too, there may be one or two. If you do find anything at all that you are unhappy about, or have any suggestions about how I could improve this service please let me know. Please note that these are password protected for Data Protection reasons. The password is your membership number.

In the next week you will receive a revised timetable and process for allocating members to the new group structure. Initially we will be asking the groups to allocate members en masse, once this is done we will allow individual members to choose the groups they wish to be associated with. I will provide full details of how we will do this when I write to you next week.

I will be sending the membership lists for your area and those adjacent so that you can select your geographical area and the members that you know who wish to be listed with your group. However these lists will need to be secure for data protection purposes, and will therefore be password protected. The password appears at the end of this email, and is in parentheses.

For technical reasons we are sending the lists out having checked them manually, and they will start to go out tomorrow morning. This process might take one or two days, so please be patient.

Since the AGM I have sent 31 welcoming letters and copies of the Northern Wheel to new members. I suggest that this year £200 be allocated to the Northern Wheel account from DA funds to cover the cost of sending letters and magazines to new members.

There is £1529.35 in the Northern Wheel bank account and £15.42 cash in hand. There are no outstanding bills and no more to be paid until the next issue is printed. Two more cheques arrived this morning from advertisers (£60 from Geoff Smith Cycles and £30 from La Charente French holidays).

Graham also suggests the following dates for our next meeting: 11th June, 10th September to coincide with Northern Wheel distribution

d) Magazine Distributor: Peter Barnes

Subscribers	273	(includes 5 new subscribers)
Complimentary copies	2	
2 nd letters to be sent out (Spring edition)	8	
Renewed from 2 nd letter (Winter edition)	9	(with 9 non renewals)
Deceased	1	
Non renewals from 1 st letter	1	
Due to renew from next edition (Spring)	76	

Subscription to remain at £9 for 4 issues.

e) Rights and Campaigns report: No report

f) Peak Audax Events Secretary: Mike Wigley reported that we've completed the Winter series of events with 120 on our November events, 60 for December, 85 in January and 75 in February (despite a clash with West Pennine's Northwest Passage) as riders prepare for the new season. We've got the 1400km London-Edinburgh-London in July which many local members will be attempting

g) Welfare Officer: No report

4) Reports from Groups

a) Bury: 50 entries on the Charlie Westlake ride, with half of the field finishing, raising more than £300 for Bury Hospice

b) West Manchester: getting 8-10 riders out on their Sunday runs

c) Bolton: getting 3 - 4 riders on Sundays and up to 12 on Wednesdays

5) Future Events

Beard Cup, 6th September 2009

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

Chirk 200 (29th March)

Cheshire Peak 100 (15th April)

Plains 300 (25th April)

May the Forth be with you 200

Plains 400 (23rd May)

Midlander 200 & 300 (27th June)

6) Any Other Business

7) Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 11th June at Welcome Inn.

Manchester & District CTC AGM; Mike to look into the possibility of holding this on Saturday 7th November 2009 at Welcome Inn