

Fleet Cycling

Annual Report

Apr 2023 to Mar 2024



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Compiled (from individual reports) and edited by Andrew Perkins, Secretary
7th May 2024

Officers' Reports

Chair, John Crossley

For another year, I am pleased to report that we have a vibrant and active club. Our rides continue to be well attended, with new riders joining us throughout the year. It is really positive to see the strong position of our club. It is something that we should all be proud of.

As always we have continued to have a range of rides to suit all abilities and, of course, a range of cafes to suit all tastes! Our regular rides have been supplemented with a number of away day rides. These have been well attended and are always well received. A big thank you to all the organisers of the away day rides.

As well as riding we have had a number of social events during the year, including the summer and Christmas events. It is great that we have a social side to our club, which helps to bring everyone together.

Safety on our rides remains our top priority. During the year we held a well-attended first aid course. Having more members with first aid knowledge will improve the situation should any accidents happen whilst on one of our rides. In a similar vein, it is important that we observe the highest standards of cycling whilst on the roads to keep everyone safe and respect other road users.

We now have many more rider leaders. This is an essential role which is integral to the success of the club and the safety of our rides. I would encourage as many members as possible to lead rides.

As you will know our kit supplier, Stolen Goat, is no longer providing our kit. We are investigating a new supplier and we are very hopefully that new arrangements will be in place very soon. We will confirm this as soon as possible.

Your committee has worked very hard over the last year and I send my thanks to all the committee members for their efforts. In particular, I would like to give a big thank you to Ed, who is stepping down as Ride Secretary. Sally has volunteered to step into this role and I'm sure she will continue the great work that Ed has put in.

We also have George Willoughby joining the committee as the Liaison Officer. This role was to interact with the various local authority groups and meetings to ensure that we can represent the views of cyclists in NE Hampshire. I welcome him to the Committee and wish him luck in the role.

Our club is in a strong position. Our membership is active and strong, with new riders joining the club. This is great to see and is testament to the welcoming, inclusive environment that we have created. Here's to another year of great cycling (hopefully with a little less rain!).

Ride Secretary, Ed Humphrey

This has been another very successful year, with our annual awayday to the Isle of Wight being the highlight again, especially as the ice cream van was still on the sea front at Cowes when we arrived.

It's also been a change of pace for me as I've been training my successor to take on the tasks of planning ride calendars and training new ride leaders, those being the most important parts of the job. I'm sure having worked with Sally over the past 6 months that we're in safe hands and will carry on from strength to strength.

Enormous thanks are due to those people who have stepped up to lead rides this year. We've had a record number of new leaders who have put themselves forward for training. Almost without exception those people have gone on to lead a number of rides.

Here's a breakdown of the numbers by the days when we ride

Day	Rides	Riders	Rider-Miles	Ladies
Sun	43	334	11095	39%
Thu	40	262	12700	28%
Tue	44	647	28489	26%
Wed	47	823	23641	24%
Grand Total	174	2072	76381	28%

Estimated pool of riders: 70

Our totals appear to be very stable, I don't have stats for last year but the total rider miles are very similar to those from 2022 although we have lost many more rides to bad weather in the last year, around 15% of scheduled outings. This supports the general feeling that our rides are better attended now than in previous years. In fact total rider days are about 10% higher than in 2022.

Wednesday Rides, Malcolm Huson

The club runs a regular Wednesday event that has its own group of regular riders and during 2023/24 we organised 52 rides although sadly 5 were cancelled due to poor weather conditions. The average involvement per ride was 18 riders and we covered 1,386 miles making the average ride distance just short of 29 miles. This was considered by many to be more than sufficient justification for the coffee and cakes consumed (not measured).

We are fortunate in having several ride leaders in the group who regularly step forward and enable us to ride in smaller groups of 6 or 7 riders. The coffee and cake destinations are selected quarterly and we aim to ensure that the regular riders have an opportunity to influence the stops. Our 26 listed destinations are generally in the range of 25 to 30 miles although we have a couple that extend the ride to 35 miles.

Wednesday rides serve as a great opportunity for new cyclists wishing to get a feel for the club before they extend themselves to the longer rides on Tuesday and Thursday. We include tandem riders including one on loan from the charity Charlotte's Tandem enabling one of our blind friends to join us regularly. We also see several Tuesday and Thursday riders join us as they rebuild their stamina after a break from the longer rides.

If you are thinking of joining a Fleet Cycling ride then Wednesday rides are a great place to start.

Publicity & Social, Lisa Chapman

Our numbers remain strong, especially for Tuesday and Wednesday rides where we see well in excess of 20 cyclists show up. We feel that a seasonally flexible approach to rides is appreciated, with shorter rides in the winter months and longer rides, especially on Thursdays, in the summer months. Flexibility as well in catering to various rider speeds/strengths, with Tuesdays seeing two groups, one longer and faster, one slightly shorter and more moderately paced so that we can engage with as large a cycling audience as possible.

Publicity channels are via Facebook, Word of Mouth (tell your friends, people seeing us in front of the Hart Leisure Centre, etc), as well as occasionally the free magazines *Round and About* and *Vantage* and local bike shops.

Off-the-bike socials are also proving very popular, with both our summer and winter socials at capacity. Someone said to me at the winter social that the health of a club can be seen in the popularity of the social events; we are indeed a healthy club by that metric! With all that said, my focus will be to see if we can increase numbers on Thursdays, and make numbers become more consistent on Sundays.

Intro to Fleet Cycling

I am promoting 'Intro to Fleet Cycling' rides on the first Sunday of the month for the spring/summer months. This is a shorter (~30 miles) and more relaxed ride than usual. This has

proved popular, with new cyclists showing up for each event. This last Sunday, May 5th, saw 16 cyclists (a new Sunday record!) with 6 new people, a few returning from previous Intro rides, and a few people who have previously been out with us but not for quite a long time.

Regular Newsletters

I write the newsletters and aim for them to come out regularly - at least once a quarter, or more often if warranted. Back copies and sign-up for the mail shots can be found on the Fleet Cycling home page.

Community/Sport Support

These events are of particular importance to us; as a member group of CUK we are not allowed to charge a membership fee to raise money so we rely on these events for the little extras that make a club an enjoyable place to spend time at!

I coordinated, with Everyone Active and the Fleet Half Marathon Event Directors, our participation in both the FHM lead out and the Hart Tri marshalling:

This year we earned:

£100 from the Fleet Half Marathon for providing lead-out cyclists for the event.

£250 from the Hart Tri for providing marshalls for the cycling portion of the event

All money will be used to support club events, either social off the bike or enrichments such as first aid training.

Social Activities

I organised (jointly organised with Sally in the case of the Summer Social) the following social activities off the bike

Summer Social

The money from our marshalling work for the Hart Triathlon went towards food for our summer social, held at Sally Ann's house, September 2023. Almost 40 members and plus-ones enjoyed a lovely summer evening.

Winter Social

45 members with their plus ones enjoyed a buffet meal in the Heron on the Lake's private room.

It is also especially gratifying to see other members take initiative and put events on, with thanks to Mark and Sarah B for hosting several very well received maintenance evenings.

Future Publicity Plans

- Engage with EA to see if they are amenable to promoting our Intro to Fleet Cycling rides
- Engage with Ride Rushmoor to see if we can somehow integrate our Intro and possibly Wednesday rides with their 'Sofa to Saddle' initiatives. First contact made.
- New leaflets with Intro to Fleet Cycling if budget allows
- Continuing to promote our rides and writing up rides on Facebook and encouraging others to do the same
- Ads in the free magazines
- Remember, we are all Fleet Cycling Ambassadors, please tell your friends and family about us, all welcome!

Here's looking forward to another year of friendship, laughter and buckets of miles on the bike!

Secretary, Andrew Perkins

Secretarial activity this year has been much as for previous years:

- Annual submissions to Cycling UK
- Liaising with the national Cycling UK Member Group coordinator
- Replying to enquiries by email / phone
- Organising and minuting the AGM and committee meetings
- Compiling this annual report
- Ensuring any serious incidents during group rides are reported.

I would like to thank Lisa for writing the Fleet Cycling Newsletters, and my fellow committee members for all their help during the year.

Registration Officer, Andrew Perkins

We have 393 subscribers to the Fleet Cycling newsletter (versus 374 a year ago). Anyone can subscribe by completing the online form on the homepage of FleetCycling.org.uk. An unsubscribe link is included in every newsletter.

All members of Cycling UK who live in our allocated postcode catchment area are automatically members of Fleet Cycling. Our membership has been roughly steady over the last few years, after a jump from 199 in 2018 to 240 in 2019.

Category	April 2024	April 2023
New in last 12 months	12	21
New to area in last 12 months	0	0
Existing members	222	227
Total current members	234	248

Safeguarding (Welfare) Officer, Sally Swift

It has been a quiet year regarding safeguarding, with no incidents to report. I will be stepping down from this role and Robert Humphrey has agreed to take over. With his background in scouting, I feel that he will be perfect for this job.

Webmasters, Robert Humphrey and Andrew Perkins

Our website, at fleetcycling.org.uk, is a valuable resource as a central point of information for our members. We also welcome comments and suggestions. To contact us, use the "Contact Us" link at the foot of every page on the website, or just talk to us when out on a ride!

Treasurer, Bryan East: report for year ending 31st March 2024

We had a decrease in reserves of £543 and a reduction in our cash balance of £629 for the year. These were the result of our decision to run and fund a first aid training course for ride leaders in early 2024 at a total cost of £834. This effectively used the surplus we generated in 2022-23 from another tranche of sponsorship from Everyone Active. We also sold a few more items from our holding of Le Col club kit. Although the kit was sold at a discount it was fully provided for so we realised a gain of £155. We again received £200 as our CUK subscription allocation which covered our costs for website hosting and provided a contribution towards hiring the venue for our first aid training. We again received £250 in respect of marshalling duties at the Fleet triathlon, which paid for a summer social event.

Our sales of the old kit have meant we are now only holding a very few gilets, which are too small for most riders, which we will try and dispose of as best we can in the coming year. These are fully written down.

2024 Annual General Meeting

The 2024 AGM will be held in Studio 3, Hart Leisure Centre, Fleet GU51 5EE. We will be putting furniture out at 7:45 PM for an 8:00-8:15 start. The Agenda will be on the website under [About Us > Administration](#)