

Fleet Cycling



Annual Report Apr 2024 to Mar 2025

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Compiled (from individual reports) and edited by Andrew Perkins, Secretary
13th June 2025

Officers' Reports

Chair, John Crossley

As we come to another AGM it is a good time to reflect on the last year. It has been yet another good year for our club. We continue to have a very active membership, with well attended rides throughout the week. The inclusive nature of our rides and wide variety of options shows how we are delivering against Cycling UK's objectives for our local area. This is a real positive and something we can all be proud of.

You may be aware that I have not done much riding for the last 12 months, but it has been great to see the ongoing development of the club from afar.

It has also been good to see the continuation of an active series of social events throughout the year. These are great events to further build camaraderie away from the bike.

As we have discussed in previous years volunteers to be ride leaders are crucial to the success of the club. I would like to say a big thank you from me to all those who volunteer as ride leader for all their efforts. It is positive to see new ride leaders coming forward and we would welcome any new ride leaders.

Related to this, safety on our rides is paramount and we are continually looking at ways to improve this. This is an ongoing discussion at committee meetings, which includes a focus on how we further develop an environment which encourages more ride leaders. As part of this the committee strongly encourages the use of helmets for cyclists on our rides. We believe this is important for the safety of the individual cyclist, but also gives more confidence to the ride leader.

As you will know we have replaced Stolen Goat with Bioracer as our new club kit provider. The quality is proving good. We took the decision to use the same design to allow for continuity. It is great to see many of members in our club kit out on our rides.

I would like to put on record my thanks to all the committee for their efforts over the last year. They are integral to the success of Fleet Cycling. In particular, to Andrew and Lisa who have been long-standing servants of the club in the role of secretary and publicity/social officer respectively. Both have indicated a desire to step down from their roles, so we welcome any volunteer to pick up the secretary and publicity/social officer roles.

Finally, it is great to see our club in such a strong position. Our membership is active and strong, with new riders joining the club. This puts us in a great position to continue the success into the next year and beyond.

Treasurer, Bryan East: report for year ending 31st March 2025

We increased our reserves by £321 in the year. Income consisted of donations of £350 from our support of the Fleet Half Marathon and marshalling at the Fleet Triathlon and an allocation of £250 from CUK. Our expenditure was £219 on the summer BBQ paid for by the above donations, and £60 on website and bank costs paid for by CUK. Our bank balance increased by £378 to £2,212 as the website costs were largely paid for last year.

It's clear that we could increase our expenditure on running the club as the CUK allocation more than covers the current running costs and we do have some scope for one off type expenditure if it could benefit the club.

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.

Like Lisa, I have been doing my role for a number of years now and feel that it is time for fresh ideas and energy. Please contact me if you would like to take over the role (with my support for a handover period, if you wish) or to role-share.

Ride Secretary, Sally Swift

We have a very busy club with rides on 4 days a week. Wednesday and Tuesday are the most popular days, followed by Sundays and then Thursdays (see table at end of this report for more details). A minor change has been that the Thursday ride is not always a pub stop. Many pubs are now more of a restaurant and don't offer the types of lunch that might appeal to cyclists, so the Thursday stop is usually a single stop at either a cafe or pub, rather than previous two stops (cafe AND pub).

New for 2024/25 - Sunday Early Bird Rides

These start at 8:30, are in addition to the regular 9:30 Sunday ride, and aim to have a slightly faster average speed of 14mph. These rides are dependent on having a volunteer to lead and are not guaranteed to run every week.

According to records there were 15 Early Bird rides over the period with a total of 70 riders. Numbers ranged from 2 (on a very wet Sunday), to a high of 7 riders.

This compares with the normal 9:30 Sunday rides which had a total of 343 riders.

If members are happy with the slightly ad-hoc nature of the 'Early Bird' Rides, I am happy to continue listing these. It would be helpful if we could have one or two new ride leaders from the 'Early Bird' regulars, as this would mean that potentially we could provide these on a more regular basis. Please get in touch with me if you fall into this group and would be willing to become a leader.

Away Day Rides

We have had several 'away day' rides. Our traditional Away Day rides are the Isle of Wight and the New Forest which are always popular. Last year we also had a trip to the Maharaja's Well organised by Clive, an expedition along the Shipwright's Way led by Bryan East and Robert Humphrey and a wonderful Tour of Wiltshire organised by Richard Somerset. Clive also organised an off-road ride and there was an outing to the Herne Hill Velodrome organised by Ed.

If anyone would like to organise an Away Day or has an idea for one, please let me know.

Basingstoke Big Wheel

12 club members took part in this charity event this year. It was a well run event for a good cause, with different route options from 10 to 80 miles.

Tri Vets

CUK organise a three-yearly veterans event. The idea is for local groups to put on a ride of either 100 miles or 100k. The date for this year's proposed event is Sunday 27th July, but this will depend on the amount of interest in doing these distances.

Ride Leaders

A huge thank you to all our ride leaders. You are the most important part of the club and without you we couldn't operate! You do a fantastic job of planning routes and leading us all in search of coffee and cake. This year we have welcomed two new leaders (Andy Martin & Alan Freeman), but we are always looking for more to spread the load. Please get in touch with me! Our top ride leader this year was Trevor (37 rides), closely followed by Lisa (32 rides).

'Intro to Fleet Cycling' Rides

We ran four of these shorter rides on the first Sunday of the months of June, July, August & September 2024. We had several new riders join us, but I don't think that any of these became regular members. I think it would be worth a discussion as to whether it is worth continuing these.

Coffee Stops

As you know, one of the main objectives of cycling is to burn off enough calories to justify the coffee and cake. We have had to remove a few destinations due to them being too small, too expensive, too slow to serve etc. My favourite new destination this year was the Englefield Green Tea Room, which was lovely. If you have any ideas for new destinations, or requests for somewhere we haven't been for a while, please get in touch with me.

Summary of Rides 1st April 2024-31st March 2025

Statistics taken from our rides schedule on Google Sheets, courtesy of Andrew Perkins:

Day	Rides	Riders x Miles	Average no. of riders	% Ladies
Sunday	62	13366	7	35%
Tuesday	51	30394	14	23%
Wednesday	44	22185	17	24%
Thursday	44	13886	7	23%
Friday (off-road)	1		5	
Saturday (Velodrome, arranged by Ed)	1		3	0%
Grand Total	203	79831	11	26%

Cancelled: 21 rides (due to bad weather)

Wednesday Rides, Malcolm Huson

The weekly Wednesday rides continue to be a popular choice within the club. We are supported by a core of regular riders that makes them a great place to get involved with group riding before moving on to some of the longer rides on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

During the year 51 rides were organised (Christmas day fell on a Wednesday) although 6 (last year 5) were cancelled due to poor weather conditions. The average involvement per ride was 17 riders (last year 18) and we covered 22,569 miles making the average ride distance 29.5 miles. All rides include a social coffee (and cake) stop mid ride.

We were fortunate in having four regular ride leaders in the group which enabled us to ride in the smaller groups, typically of 6 or 7, we prefer. There have been occasions when commitments stretch us and we are grateful for the support given by leaders from other club rides when needed.

The destinations are selected quarterly in advance and we aim to ensure that the regular riders have an opportunity to influence the choice of cafes. Our 31 listed destinations are generally in the range of 25 to 30 miles although we have a couple that extend the ride to 35 miles. The

destinations are posted on the club's website each quarter and route details are generally posted on Facebook, the website and WhatsApp at least 24 hours in advance.

The success of Wednesday rides has continued into the new year and we look forward to further success in 2025/26.

Publicity & Social, Lisa Chapman

Our numbers remain strong, especially for Tuesday and Wednesday rides, where we often see well in excess of 20 cyclists show up, with Sundays being very popular for our lady riders. Fleet Cycling continues to follow a seasonally flexible approach to rides, with shorter rides in the winter months and longer rides, especially on Thursdays, in the summer months. We have also instituted a vote on venue (pub or cafe) for Thursday rides, which has increased the popularity of Thursdays. Some pubs are firm favourites, such as The Plough in Little London especially in winter, and Flower Pots in Cheriton during the summer, and we will continue to use them on the occasional Thursday. 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 cycling audience as possible. We also put on a good selection of away rides that prove popular, such as the Tour de Wiltshire, Isle of Wight, New Forest and more.

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

Off the bike, the late summer/early autumn bbq was well attended. This coming year we will be doing it as a proper summer bbq on Saturday August 16th, the weekend after La Semaine Fédérale.

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.

Social Events

Our summer social was hosted by Sally Ann and well attended by 40+ Fleet Cyclists and plus-ones.

A bike-fit evening was hosted by Mountain Trax (sadly now out of business) - an informative and lively session by Colin, an experienced bike fitter.

Future Publicity/Social Plans

- Continuing to promote and write up our rides on Facebook and encouraging others to do the same
- Maintenance evening at a cycle shop or member's house.
- Summer and winter socials
- Ads in the free magazines
- Remember, we are all Fleet Cycling Ambassadors, please tell your friends and family about us, all welcome!

I have been doing this for a number of years now, and would welcome someone volunteering to take over this role (or job share). Please contact me for further information.

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

Registration Officer, Andrew Perkins

We have 403 subscribers to the Fleet Cycling newsletter (versus 393 a year ago). Anyone can subscribe by completing the online form on the homepage of [FleetCycling.org.uk](https://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	MAY 2025	April 2024	April 2023
New in last 12 months	24	12	21
New to area in last 12 months	0	0	0
Existing members	215	222	227
Lapsed or moved away in last 12 months	(19)	(26)	unknown
Total current members	239	234	248

Safeguarding (Welfare) Officer, Robert Humphrey

No incidents to report.

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!

2025 Annual General Meeting, Monday 16th June

The 2025 AGM will be held on **Monday 16th June** in Studio 1, Hart Leisure Centre, Fleet GU51 5EE. We will be putting furniture out at 8:00 PM for an 8:15 start. The Agenda will be on the website under [About Us > Administration](#)