

# **Chester and North Wales CTC**

## **CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru**

### **Annual Report**

### **October 2010**

#### **Introduction**

CH&NW CTC has been a Parent Member Group (PMG) since the introduction of the new CTC Policy Document in 2008. CTC Two Mills is our only Subsidiary Member Group (SMG). We have seven Informal Groups (IGs) which are functioning without the bureaucracy previously expected of them. In addition, a new women's Group, the Wirral Bicycle Belles (an Informal Group of CTC Two Mills), was established in 2009. The Bicycle Belles and the Fabulous Ladies Cycling Club are providing much-needed opportunities and encouragement for women to enjoy cycling. My Report includes information about Committee activities, our Subsidiary Member Group, Informal Groups, organised events, communication with members, awards, and reports of campaigning activities in Chester and North Wales.

#### **Committee Activities**

Since our AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009, the CH&NW CTC Committee has met six times. The Committee, organisers and volunteers have achieved everything planned for 2010.

The CTC Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Dinner took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May at Loughborough and was attended by CH&NW CTC President Mike Cross and his wife Pam. At the evening Dinner, awards were presented to Sue Booth who was voted 'North West Volunteer of the Year', and the winning CH&NW 'CTC Competition' team consisting of Lowri Evans, Andy Polakowski, Ifor Jones, David Statham, and Graham and Vicky Payne. This is the fourth year out of five that CH&NW CTC has won the team event. Congratulations to Sue and the winning team.

Our main objective in 2008-9 was to revise CH&NW CTC Local Rules. The Local Rules document was accepted by the CH&NW AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009. The document was sent to National Office in November 2009 and approved in 2010 after a long wait.

At the CTC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Loughborough, Mike Cross (proposer) and Glennys Hammond (seconder), submitted a Motion to increase the annual Subscription Allocation entitlement paid to Member Groups. The Motion was submitted to National Office by Mike and Glennys as individual members and not in their capacities as officials of Chester and North Wales CTC. The Motion was included in the CTC AGM Agenda published in the April/May edition of 'Cycle' magazine. It was passed at the CTC AGM. Some weeks later, a Funding Consultation Survey Form was distributed to Member Group Secretaries by National Office to elicit their opinions of funding for Member Groups. On behalf of the CH&NW Committee, a detailed document was sent to National Office setting out our views. CTC Two Mills sent a separate response. The results of the survey have not yet been released but in the interim, the Subscription Allocation has been set at 1% of the adult subscription which is an improvement on the 0.5% (18p) previously allocated to Member Groups.

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

#### **Communications with Members**

Members are kept informed of club activities through the CH&NW CTC Website, News Letters and The Link, and are provided with information at club and non-CTC cycling events.

**CH&NW CTC Website** The Webmaster is John Hammond and Website Editor is Glennys Hammond. The aim is to provide information to members including, for example, news items, events and group rides, and local area information. Website statistics during September 2010 (1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Sept) show that there were 1,046 visits and 2,942 page views. The most frequently visited pages were the Events 2010 page (342), followed by the News page (510) and the Two Mills page (240). The Photo Gallery attracted 156 page views. Some changes to the design and content of the website are anticipated in 2010-11. Reports and photos of most of our events can be accessed through links on the Events 2010 and the Photo Gallery pages.

**News Letters** Six News Letters have been circulated by email since November 2009. There are approximately 1000 members of whom 55% have provided email addresses. Additional information is available by email to

Committee Members and also at CTC and non-CTC cycling events. Cost in time and postage prohibits contact by post. Members must send or amend email addresses to the Secretary if they wish to receive electronic communications.

**The Link** Four editions of the Club magazine 'The Link' have been published. Veronica Nicholas resigned during the Summer for personal reasons. The Committee is very grateful to David Ackerley for stepping in at short notice and agreeing to act as temporary editor of the Autumn and Winter 2010 editions of the magazine. Contributors have continued to provide David with a varied and interesting selection of articles and photographs. For the magazine to continue in 2011 we need a new editor to take over from David. The Committee expresses thanks to Veronica for her excellent work over almost three years of magazine editing, and to John and Eunice Mawson for arranging the distribution and financial aspects of the magazine.

### **Membership**

Total membership at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 was 1017. This is the figure used by the CH&NW CTC Treasurer to claim the annual Subscription Allocation from CTC National Office. Membership lists still contain anomalies, making it difficult to identify (genuine) new members with certainty. For example, a long established member changing his/her membership category is regarded as having left the Club, but then becomes classified as a new member in his/her new membership category. With this proviso, approximately 85 individuals and/or families have received letters welcoming them to the Club. The letters give contact details of CH&NW CTC Informal Groups and the offer of a complimentary copy of The Link. About nine members have taken up this offer. The Committee thanks David Ackerley for his work as the Membership Secretary.

### **Welfare**

There were no incidents in 2009-10 that fell under the remit of the Welfare Officer as defined in the "Policy Handbook for CTC Member Groups" and "Chester and North Wales CTC Local Rules and Policies."

Activities undertaken at the request of the committee were:

**Benefits for members** A table was presented to the Committee that showed the benefits accrued to both Affiliate Members and Full Members, and relative values of benefits when compared with their different subscriptions. Subscriptions are currently £37 for Full members and £12 for Affiliate Members.

**Insurance Issues** A number of anomalies were identified within CTC Insurance guidelines and procedures relating to the 'five rides per new rider' rule, beginners groups, and implications for non-compliance with guidelines which might result in revocation of insurance cover. These items were passed to our CTC Councillor, Welna Bowden, for investigation and response.

**New Leader Pack** A "New Leader Information Pack" is being developed to provide useful information to new volunteers about CTC publications. The pack will include, for example, good leadership practices, insurance guidelines, risk assessment, law and liability and organiser's liability information. The pack will be made available on the website with links to relevant documents.

### **Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee met seven times in 2009-10. The Committee recommended that the President's Trophy for 2009-10 is awarded to Peter Williams. At the CH&NW CTC AGM 2009 seven 'Certificates of Meritorious Conduct' were presented to Barry Davis, Peter Barnes, David Hill, John and Barbara Smith (Jointly), Harry Watson, Doreen Lindsey and Ifor Jones.

**The President's Trophy** (donated by Mrs Iris Mills in memory of Graham Mills) was presented to Peter Williams at the CH&NW CTC combined annual Lunch and President's ride held at Tilston Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Peter Williams received the trophy for his extensive work as our CH&NW Rights Officer and as one of CTC's two Right 2 Ride Representatives responsible for the Chester and Ellesmere Port Area.

**New cycling trophies** Bryan and Erla Wade donated two new cycling trophies to be known as the 'Ladies' Tourist Trophy' and the 'Gentlemen's Tourist Trophy'. The trophies will be awarded to the Chester and North Wales CTC male and female cyclists who gain the highest number of points in the CTC Competition (formally known as the DATC Competition). They will be presented to the 2010 winners by the CH&NW President, Mike Cross, at the 2011 'New Year's Day Meets' either at McLean's Pub Pentre, or the Carden Arms Tilston, whichever the winners choose to attend. The Committee thanks Bryan and Erla for their generosity in donating the trophies.

### **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 Award. According to our Local Rules (approved by National Office) nominations must be in writing and include relevant supporting evidence. Nominations should be sent to the Chester and North Wales CTC Awards Committee.

### **Development and promotion - no report received**

### **Subsidiary Member Group (SMG) CTC Two Mills**

Janet Gregory is the Two Mills Secretary. She has attended most of Chester and North Wales CTC Committee Meetings during 2009-10 assisted by Andy Blomfield, the Two Mills Treasurer. She has continued to attend Wirral group meetings of Merseyside Cycling campaign, and the Cycle Forum organised by Wirral Borough Council. CTC Two Mills group has 47 registered members.

The group met each Sunday throughout the year with a variety of rides and activities. Bob Witton submitted regular reports of activities to The Link, and the CH&NW website.

Bob also organised the Himalayan evening on 5<sup>th</sup> February attended by 75 people who were entertained by two speakers, Peter Williams and Paul Rogers. Barbara Smith organised an evening meal for members and friends at the Ship Hotel in Parkgate on 13<sup>th</sup> February and the annual lunch at the Cheshire Cat Christleton on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. Brian Joyce was awarded the 'Half Wheel Trophy'. Group members organised the Spring 50 Tourist Trial on 28<sup>th</sup> March on behalf of Chester and North Wales CTC. As part of this year's Team Green Britain Bike Week, Two Mills held a Treasure Hunt attended by 43 entrants on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Wrexham Reivers took first, second and third place. Members travelled to the Semaine Federale held in Verdun on the 2-9<sup>th</sup> August. Bob Witton produced a DVD after the week-long cycling extravaganza to raise funds for the group. Members Keith and Debbie (with helpers) provided a buffet picnic lunch at Tile Farm, Guilden Sutton on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Bicycle Belles is a new activity for Two Mills, a led cycle ride for women once a month on Saturdays. CTC National Office awarded Two Mills special funding to assist in running the programme. Travelwise Merseyside gave support in kind. Over the year, 16 Belles have attended a one-day course for women in basic bike maintenance delivered by Cycling Solutions. Several women have recently joined CTC under a special offer to Bike Week participants. For a £12 subscription, 'Go Bicycle' members benefit from insurance and legal advice but not the bi-monthly 'Cycle' magazine. The Bicycle Belles' blog is maintained by Janet Gregory.

Tuesday Evening Cyclists are now affiliated to CTC. The group continues to enjoy a thriving summer membership.

### **National Councillor for the North West Region**

North West Councillor David Robinson has attended several CH&NW 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. David has also worked hard as one of our CTC Right to Ride Officers for Chester. Welna Bowden was elected as our 2<sup>nd</sup> North West Councillor and has shared attendance at Committee Meetings with David Robinson since January 2010.

In the Autumn edition of The Link, David noted that one of the big CTC successes was the extension of Bikeability (the national cycle training schemes) into most of Chester's Primary Schools. Peter Williams (CH&NW Rights Officer) and CTC member Mike Morley are qualified Bikeability instructors taking part in the scheme. Committee member Lowri Evans and John Redman are qualified instructors in North Wales. Thanks to all of them for their enthusiasm and commitment.

David questioned whether Chester West and Chester Council (CWaC) has achieved a 'cycling' culture despite the Connect2 and Cycling Development Town (CDT) cycling projects, and the interest created by London's bike hire scheme, and television's Britain by Bike. He hopes that with stronger links with local communities current interest in cycling will grow. The Committee thanks David and Welna for their work as North West Councillors.

### **Campaigning**

Peter Williams is a CTC 'Right 2 Ride' Representative for Chester and Ellesmere Port, and the CH&NW Committee Rights Officer. Improvements to the Millennium Greenway in Chester and the Deva Link are complete. Bikeability Training in Chester's Junior Schools has continued and CTC's BikeClub was launched in Chester on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Cycle Lockers and Bicycle Parking Facilities are being installed in town and railway stations throughout the region. A new cycle map for Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) is available. Gleave Davies Consultants have completed a report on cycling proposals for Chester for CWaC. NCN Route 563 is newly signed.

The proposed new river Dee Bridge from Sandy Lane to the Meadows is at a consulting stage but the proposed Curzon Park link over the Railway Bridge to the racecourse has been cancelled and will be replaced by a cheaper scheme to improve cycle access to the city centre. Government cuts may curtail some schemes, but, hopefully, the Dee Bridge Connect Two scheme will progress.

Future campaigning includes, for example, continued efforts to improve safety on the A540 and negotiations to obtain access to the Burton Marshes (NCN Route 89).

### **R2R Representative for CTC in North Wales**

North Wales has four Right to Ride Representatives. Maurice Clarke and Roy Spilsbury cover Denbighshire / Conwy. Richard Keatinge covers Anglesey (Ynys Môn) and Neal Hockley covers Gwynedd. Neal is also the CTC

Right 2 Ride representative for Wales (Cymru). There is no representative for either Flintshire or Wrexham. The outstanding Rights issue (already lasting five years) is the denial by Conwy Borough Council (CBC) for safe access by cyclists along Llandudno's north shore. In 2006, CTC Cymru lodged a formal complaint to the local authority asserting that it was acting outside its own anti-discrimination and social inclusion guidelines, and has invited the authority to consider seeking an independent appraisal of its actions since 2005/6. CTC await a response. Roy Spilsbury is in regular correspondence with the local press regarding cycling on the promenade. Refusal by the local authority to allow cycle access will inevitably involve a referral to the local government ombudsman.

## **2010 Events**

### **1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 - New Years Day Meets**

**McLean's Pub** Arthur Miller arranged the traditional January 1<sup>st</sup> lunch at McLean's Pub, Pentre. At 9.00am the temperature was 0°C combined with a sudden snowstorm. All but two of the twenty-five guests arrived by car, but Arthur and Jean Miller walked to the pub.

**Carden Arms** Nine stalwarts met at an ice-covered Christleton Pond at 10.30am to ride to the Carden Arms, Tilston. The group rode traffic-free icy roads arriving at the Carden Arms at noon. Riders from Mold Informals and Wrexham Reivers groups had already arrived. A few members arrived by car to greet old friends. The Committee thanks Dave Hill and Arthur Miller for arranging the events.

### **28<sup>th</sup> March 2010 - Early Spring Tourist Trial**

The Early Spring Tourist Trial was based at the Scout Headquarters at Higher Kinnerton and took place on the first day of British Summertime. Riders chose to ride 50 miles in 4 or 5 hours. The event, which was expertly organised and managed by Janet Gregory and her team of helpers, ran like clockwork, with refreshments at the start and finish and a superb lunch provided at Overton Village Hall. When riders returned to Higher Kinnerton they received a commemorative certificate. A new organiser is needed for the event. The Committee thanks Janet and her supporting teams for planning and organising the event over several years.

### **1<sup>st</sup> May 2010 - Treasure Hunt and Map reading Competitions**

The event headquarters was Y Pantri, a cafe on Denbigh High Street. The Treasure Hunt route was a rough figure of 8 which went out towards Trefnant before returning to Denbigh via Henllan. The second loop went out past the old hospital to Prion then through the lanes before climbing back to the cafe.

Most of the ten riders who took part in the Treasure Hunt were from Chester and North Wales. Mike Batchelor (West London) won, Alan Mort was second, and there was a three way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place between Darryl Porrino, Ifor Jones and Peter Scoular (Hereford and Worcester). Glynn Jones and Anne Jones rode together and won the team prize. Six riders took part in the Map Reading Competition. Mike Batchelor won (the current Tourist Competition winner), Alan Mort and Darryl Porrino were equal second, followed by Peter Scoular, Ifor Jones and Diane Clarke.

Mike and Pam Cross came to Y Pantri, complete with camera and chain of office, and presented the prizes. The Committee thanks Lowri Evans and her helpers for organising the event.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 – Ride Route Five**

On a cold dry but sunny day, a group of Two Mills members rode along NCR5 along the coast from Gronant to the Penmaenmawr, passing Mike and Pam Cross at Pensarn who were cycling in the opposite direction. The group visited Rhos on Sea, Conway Marina, Rhos Point and Penmaenmawr for lunch, returning via Kinmel Bay and into strong winds back to Gronant, a total distance of 63 miles. Interesting views and sights along the route made for a late finish. Thanks to Jim Williams for organising the Two Mills ride.

### **7<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – B&B and Camping Weekend, Lacock, Wiltshire**

The weekend was based on the National Trust village of Lacock in Wiltshire. A group of 14 members camped, took caravans or stayed in a B&B. Groups followed easier or harder routes and covered a varied number of interesting areas including the Avon River Valley, the Kent and Avon Canal, Caen Hill Locks, many quaint villages and views of the White Horse. Visits to Great Chalfield Manor and Lacock Abbey were included. The Group finished the weekend with an evening meal at the George Inn, Lacock. The Committee thanks Mike and Pam Cross and their helpers for organising the weekend.

### **28th-31st May – Ladies' Weekend, Shropshire**

Twelve lady cyclists met at Bridges Youth Hostel on 28<sup>th</sup> May for a cycling weekend for a weekend of exploration in Shropshire. The weather was damp and windy on the first day's ride to Long Mynd and Carding Mill Valley culminating in a café stop at Church Stretton. The group continued their ride to Acton Scott, a Victorian Working Farm (featured on television), and circumnavigated Long Mynd in the afternoon back to the Youth Hostel. On the second day the ride programme included a visit to Montgomery, an exploration of Montgomery Castle and the

discovery of an old CTC Winged Wheel in Chirbury. The group returned to Bridges arriving in time to visit the Bog Visitor Centre near Stiperstones. The weekend was very successful and may be repeated elsewhere in 2011. The Committee thanks Sue Booth for organising the weekend.

### **13<sup>th</sup> June 2010 - Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides**

The Waverton Institute proved to be a suitable and convenient venue for the Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides held on 13th June. There were 30 riders on the 100 mile ride and 70 riders on the 50 mile ride. Only 6 rode the 25 mile route. The day started warm and dry but finished with heavy rain in the afternoon. Scotwood Nursery by Bollington, which was used for lunch for the first time for the 100 mile ride, was extremely popular with riders. The Carriers Inn at Hatchmere and Women's Institute members (WI) at the Jessie Hughes Hall, Eaton, were also commended by riders. The Committee thanks Dorothy and Hazel and their helpers for organising the event.

### **4<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Tri-vets 100 mile ride**

The event was based at Higher Kinnerton near Chester. The weather was fine but conditions were difficult for the outward trip with a strong south-west headwind. Ninety-four riders completed the route including a physically disabled gentleman who managed 67 miles riding his recumbent which was a considerable achievement. Cyclists enjoyed the rides and the excellent food and tea stops. The event organiser, David Ackerley, commended the efficiency of group leaders and the invaluable support of helpers at 11ses, car parking, on the sagwagon, photos taken of the event, and the provision of refreshments at the Scout Headquarters. He received many messages of appreciation from riders, who also acknowledged the efforts of volunteers and group leaders. The Committee thanks David for planning and organising the event.

### **25<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – The Bickerton Challenge Rides and Le Tour of Tattenhall in aid of Help 4 Heroes**

The Bickerton Challenge Rides and Le Tour de Tattenhall in aid of Help4Heroes drew a combined entry of 38 riders. The weather was dry, not too windy and dull for most of the day. All but two riders completed the rides without incident. Finishers welcomed the excellent sit-down tea at the end of the ride. The prize for the club with the most riders to complete the 104-mile ride into Wales was won by North Shropshire Wheelers, who very generously donated it to the fund for Help4Heroes. There was no-one eligible for the 'non-riding collector' so the £50 prize was added to the general fund. Tony Wilkins raised the most money and kindly donated his prize to the general fund. The final amount raised through entries, sponsorship and donations was £3,140, not including an unknown amount of reclaimed tax in the form of Gift-Aid. The financial statement is on CH&NW CTC website. David thanked everyone who supported the event through taking part or raising funds. The Committee thanks David for the huge task he undertook in planning and organising our first charity event.

### **5<sup>th</sup> September 2010 - The President's Ride and Annual Lunch**

For the first time, the President's Ride, organised by CH&NW CTC President Mike Cross, was combined with the Annual Lunch. The ride was based on Walk Mill Bakery and Café, near Waverton. Fifty-two members took part and could choose either a longer or a shorter ride to Tilston Village Hall where they were provided with an excellent sit-down lunch. Guests included Founder Member of Chester & North Wales CTC and past President Jim Skelding, and past President Ann Taylor and her husband Colin. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the President's trophy to Peter Williams for his campaigning work during the year. Unfortunately Mrs Iris Mills (mother of Graham Mills our late President) who donated the trophy could not attend the Lunch. Mike Cross thanked all those who helped to make the event a success. The Committee thanks Mike (and Pam) for planning and organising the rides and the excellent meal at Tilston.

### **1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 - Llysfasi Hill Climb and Freewheel Competitions**

This year's event was well supported by 17 riders in the Hill Climb Competition and 25 riders in the Freewheel Competition. Lee Jackson from Nottingham CTC won the Hill Climb for the second year. Chris Thomas (CH&NW) was second and Graham Gadd was 3<sup>rd</sup> and was also 1<sup>st</sup> Veteran. Janet Gregory was placed 1<sup>st</sup> Lady on the Hill Climb and achieved 5<sup>th</sup> position overall. Graham Darlington won the 1<sup>st</sup> Supervet prize. There were no lady veterans attempting the Hill Climb. The Freewheel Competition was won by Roy Bunnell who just beat Dave Statham for the title. Sue Booth was 1<sup>st</sup> Lady for the second year running. Prizes were presented by Mike Cross after lunch in the Three Pigeons pub. The Committee thanks Lowri Evans and her helpers for organising the event.

### **9<sup>th</sup> October 2010 – 'The Clwydian' Audax 205km and 'The Clwyd Gate' Audax 138k**

Despite the drizzly weather a total of 46 riders entered the two events; 17 riders completed the 'Clwydian' with times ranging from 9.5 to 13.6 hours, and 29 successfully completed 'The Clwyd Gate' with times ranging from 7.5 to 9.5 hours. At least 10 riders from Chester and North Wales CTC took part in 'The Clwyd Gate' but none took part in the 'Clwydian'. The Committee thanks David Matthews for planning and organising the event.

## **Informal Groups (IGs)**

### **Anglesey - Ynys Môn CTC**

Anglesey Group met for rides on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Several members took part in club events during 2009-10 including the Reliability Ride, Cheshire Cycleway Rides, and the Tri-vets 100 when Diana Clarke was awarded a prize. Members attended the York Rally and members travelled to Cornwall for the Birthday Rides run by Falmouth Wheelers. Ifor Jones was a member of the winning Chester and North Wales CTC team in the 2009 CTC Competition. With other winning team members from Wrexham Reivers he attended the CTC National Dinner in Loughborough on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 to receive his award. The team attended The Meriden Cyclists' Memorial Service the following day. Other activities include CTC cycle-touring in France.

### **Chester Touring and Mountain Bike Club - no report received**

### **Eryri Cycling Group**

Eryri Cycling Group met for rides on alternate Sundays on most months last year. Rides have included visits to The Lleyn Peninsula, Llanfairfechan, Dolgellau, Barmouth and Anglesey. The group held social evenings on the first Thursday each month. On 'Doreen's Birthday Ride' last November the group welcomed Chester and North Wales CTC President Mike Cross and his wife to lunch where Mike presented Doreen with a special award for 'Services to her Fellow Cyclists in Chester and North Wales'. A member from Potomac Pedallers USA also came to the lunch. In March members attended the Daffodil rides weekend organised by Ross-on-Wye Cycling Club and completed the New Mills 50-mile Tourist Trial in April. In May, members and friends attended the Geoff Russell Memorial Weekend at Borth Youth Hostel. The group manned a soup kitchen at Menai Bridge for riders taking part in the Brian Chapman 600k Audax event. The Eryri programme for 2009-10 included the annual Anglesey 50 or 26 mile rides in aid of local charities. The Group has camped and braved the hills at Rhosgoch near Hay-on-Wye at the Welsh Festival of Cycling and camped at Bala for a joint cycling weekend with the North Wales Tandem Club. Eryri member Jerry Rogers completed 100,000 miles on his Mercian bike at the end of last year.

### **Mold Informals**

The group enjoyed a great year cycling the lanes and hills of North Wales. A steady turnout and members' varied experience ensured that Mold Informals remained strong. The group participated in the club's wider activities and joined other riding groups and club rides. Members entered Audax rides and others toured the C2C and Reivers Way. Everyone was challenged at some time during the year (including The Bickerton Challenge Rides!). Cycle camping has come to the fore again this year. The group cycled and camped at the Shropshire Highland Challenge (a great weekend and a well organised event) and an impromptu weekend based at Corwen which was christened the 'Welsh Lakes Tour' as the two days of cycling included Lakes Vernwy, Bala and Brenig. Members thank Dave Hill for organising a varied and interesting rides programme.

### **Wednesday Riders**

Mike Cross is Chair of this popular and successful group. Despite the unusually severe winter a full rides programme was maintained. With large numbers and a considerable range in age and ability amongst members, two or more groups of varying ability met at lunch venues. The group organised four car-assisted rides. Riders met up at lunch stops and were joined by members who were able to ride longer distances.

The group continues to prosper and attract newcomers many of whom have become aware of the group through the website. The Christmas Dinner at Trafford Hall which was organised by Pam Cross was attended by approximately 50 members. The annual Charles Allan Memorial gathering at Higher Kinnerton in March, held in honour of the Wednesday Section Founder, was equally well attended. Mike Cross thanks everyone who has supported Wednesday Riders activities during the last year.

### **Watsons Wanderers – no report received**

### **Wrexham Reivers**

Wrexham Reivers met for rides at the Espresso Café in Gwersyllt on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month. Several car-assisted rides allowed the group to venture further afield. The group has attracted new riders at their well supported rides. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays and every Tuesday the Café Hoppers (who are mainly Wrexham Reivers members but is not a CTC group) met at the same venue for impromptu rides. In addition to riding local events, members have been to other areas: 'training' in Spain, holidaying in France, enjoying the Welsh Festival and the Birthday Rides, and living up to their name by launching cross border raids at regular intervals to collect Tourist Competition points. Thanks to all members who contributed towards running the group by leading rides, acting as back markers, helping to run competitions/events and being prepared to step in when arrangements needed to be changed at short notice!

## Other Activities

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

### CTC Cymru

**Welsh Festival of Cycling 2010** This very successful annual event held at Rhosgoch, near Gladstry, was attended by approximately 100 people, including several groups of cyclists from Chester and North Wales CTC. The Festival will be held on 22-25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at the same venue (Rhosgoch). The event may be held in North Wales in 2012.

**Bike4life** A new health initiative entitled 'Bike4life' in Wales is run by the Welsh Assembly and aims to promote the health benefits of cycling.

**Gwenda Owen (CTC Cycling Development Officer for Wales)** organised a well-attended and informative cycle- training conference in Llandrindod Wells. Several Chester and North Wales CTC members (who are cycling instructors) participated in the event.

**North Wales Regional Representatives** John Holiday and Neal Hocking are regional representatives on the CTC Cymru Committee. Lowri Evans continued to liaise between the Committee and Chester and North Wales CTC PMG. The next CTC Cymru AGM will be held early in 2011; date and venue to be confirmed.

### CTC Tourist Competition 2010

Results of the 2009 competition were confirmed. The CH&NW Committee congratulates the Chester and North Wales team consisting of Andy Polakowski, Dave Statham, Ifor Jones, Lowri Evans, Graham Payne and Vicky Payne, who won the team prize. They were presented with their awards at the CTC National Dinner at Loughborough on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Congratulations to the team.

At the time of writing (12<sup>th</sup> October 2010) Chester and North Wales is in the lead in the 2010 competition with 5 riders in the top 10 positions. Competition organisers are waiting for confirmation of the new Member Group structure from National Office which may lead to significant changes in the competition. The uncertainty regarding Member Group structure is causing a delay in posting results on the CTC Competition website, and may affect methods used to allocate home and away points. Results for 226 events are currently available on-line out of a possible 347.

### CTC North West Volunteer of the Year Award

Sue Booth, CH&NW CTC Development Officer, was voted 2009 'North West Volunteer of the Year' in recognition of her promotion and development of women's cycling in Chester. She received the award at the CTC AGM Annual Dinner which was held after the CTC AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Congratulations to Sue.

## Provisional 2011 Events Programme of

Date	Event	Organiser
1 <sup>st</sup> January	New Year's Day - McLean's Pub	Arthur Miller
1 <sup>st</sup> January	New Year's Day - Carden Arms	Dave Hill
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Tourist Trial 50miles	Janet Gregory
30 <sup>th</sup> April (Sat)	Treasure Hunt CTC Cymru	Lowri Evans
30 <sup>th</sup> April (Sat)	Map Reading Competitions CTC Cymru	Lowri Evans
6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> May	B&B and Camping Weekend	Pam Cross
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides, 100,50,25 miles	Dorothy Clift Hazel McDougall
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Ladies' Cycling Weekend (TBD)	Sue Booth
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans' 100 ride	David Ackerley
11 <sup>th</sup> September	CH&NW CTC Annual Lunch Incorporating the President's Ride	Mike Cross CH&NW President
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Audax Ride 206km	David Matthews
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Audax Ride 140km	David Matthews
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Audax Ride 50km	David Matthews
1 <sup>st</sup> October (Sat)	Llysfasi Hill Climb Competition	Lowri Evans
1 <sup>st</sup> October (Sat)	Freewheel Competition	Lowri Evans
22 <sup>nd</sup> October (Sat)	'The Clwydian' Audax 212km	David Matthews
22 <sup>nd</sup> October (Sat)	The 'Clwyd Gate Audax' 140km	David Matthews
22 <sup>nd</sup> October (Sat)	Bala Mini Bash 60km	David Matthews
6 <sup>th</sup> November	CH&NW AGM Higher Kinnerton	CH&NW Secretary

## **The Coming Year**

The coming year may be a little less hectic but will still include interesting and challenging rides to cover all abilities, some old favourites and some new events.

The Cycling Development Town project is coming to an end. Government funding for Cycling England may be curtailed. The Curzon Park Railway Bridge upgrade has been cancelled and replaced by a cheaper scheme of improvements. Cutbacks by Chester West and Chester Council will inevitably affect aspects of cycling but volunteer groups and individuals will continue to campaign for better cycling facilities in our area.

As you are aware, I am resigning as Secretary of Chester and North Wales CTC after three years in the post. The work has been challenging, encompassing, for example, the introduction of the new CTC Policy Document and submission of our revised Local Rules to CTC National Office. Most recently Mike Cross and I prepared a successful Motion for CTC to increase the Subscription Allocation entitlement, and submitted a document containing the Committee's views to National Office in response to the Member Groups Funding Consultation. Results of the Consultation haven't yet been released.

I will also be relinquishing the post of Volunteer Registration Officer. Registering volunteers is an important aspect of CTC insurance requirements.

I'm sure you will support the new Secretary and Registration Officer as you have all supported me. I have gained a thorough awareness of the structure and operation of a large group such as ours and will provide all the necessary assistance needed by the newly-elected Secretary. It's been a huge learning process and as a bonus, I have had the pleasure of meeting a lot of new and interesting friends. I'll continue to take part in events as a participant and as a volunteer and provide event photos for the website whenever possible.

I would like to thank, in particular, those Committee members who have attended sometimes long and complex meetings to resolve the many challenges that have arisen. I extend my thanks to our President, Mike Cross (and his wife Pam), who has tirelessly represented our club at many events. He has contributed a President's message to each edition of The Link, and has supported me personally in my club activities. I am sure that the 2011 Committee will continue to work hard on behalf of the membership and members will continue to offer their much appreciated support in 2011. A final thank you goes to everyone who has supported me personally during my term as Secretary.

Glennys Hammond  
14<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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