

Chester & North Wales CTC
CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru
Annual Report October 2014

Introduction

During 2014 Chester & N Wales CTC has celebrated its 75th birthday; this is reflected in year's events and publications and a new logo designed by Glennys Hammond. This report includes updates from the informal groups, events run by C&NW CTC, the Link magazine, The Chain publication, the website, Right to Ride, the work of the Committee and the plans for next year.

Sadly during the year several members passed away; a few are remembered here. Dorothy Clift who was presented with the President's Trophy in 2013 died in the spring; she had been a touring cyclist and heavily involved with the club for many years. Up to 2013 she had run the Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways events with Hazel McDougal. George Adam died in March; he used to ride with the Wednesday Section and had been a familiar face manning controls, particularly on Audax events, although he was unable to get out on the bike in his last years. He left his cycling equipment to C&NW CTC and his family kindly arranged for the collection from the funeral to go to the Club. David Robinson, who had been a Councillor for the North West and also Chair of CTC Council, died this summer after a short illness. He had been an active cycling campaigner and gave great support & encouragement to club members. In September Rhodri Hughes-Jones, of the CTC Eryri Thursday Cycling Group, died as a result of hitting a chain between two bollards. He was a rides leader for the group as well as a regular rider.

We offer condolences to friends and family as these riders and other members who passed away during the year will be sadly missed.

Congratulations are due to Ifor Jones who was awarded the President's Trophy. He has been a great supported of C&NW CTC and CTC Cymru events for many years in spite of the distances he has to travel.

Informal Group Reports

Ynys Môn (Anglesey)

The group still rides on the 1st and 3rd Sunday in the month, starting from the car park near the post office in Llanfairpwll, and usually consists of 5 riders. Most of the rides take place on Anglesey, when the weather is exceptional, we have crossed the Britannia Bridge and cycled to Caernarfon and on to the Lôn Efi on cycle path or have cycled along the Foryd

The following is a list of the events with the number of riders, the club has supported:

Spring 50 Reliability ride (5), Eureka Audax 68K (2), Treasure Hunt and Map Reading competition (2), 75th Anniversary of Chester and North Wales CTC (4) members did a ride and attended the celebratory dinner, Cheshire Cycleway 50 (5), Vets 100 (3). Welsh Rally at Llanymddyfri (3) members with riders taking part in the 2 off road rides, the hill climb and free wheel, map reading and treasure hunt. Birthday Rides at Askam Bryant (4). Tour of Britain Cycle Race (3) members went to watch the riders ascending the Great Orme in Llandudno. President's Ride (3); Hill Climb and Free Wheel (1)

Thus as can be seen from the above list although we consist of only five riders we have been consistent in our support for organised cycle based activity. Congratulations to Ifor Jones for being presented with the President's Trophy for his support for C&NW CTC events.

Chester CTC

Early 2014 was tinged with sadness, as we said good bye to Dorothy Clift and Mike Morley, both strong influences over many years.

We have had two rides each month this year, an increase from previous years; rides have been well attended. There have been a few car assisted rides; from Caernarfon, Attingham Park and

Pistyll Rhaeadr. We now meet at the Town Hall, with additional options of meeting at Christleton Pond or the Little Roodee. By meeting at the Town Hall I hope we can increase our visibility and it also links in with our summer evening rides.

Wednesday evening rides were also well attended, averaging about 25 riders, and we now split into three groups – a slower paced short one for beginners, regular usual pace, and a faster further and often hillier one, usually led by Dave ‘Shorts’ McWilliam or Kath Williams.

Ladies rides also have three ride options, although we have been a bit short of leaders for a couple of months. With an incredible turnout of 35 riders in January, numbers have averaged mid twenties. For our ladies weekend in May/June we took over the whole of Dufton hostel, and invited riders not only from the Wirral Belles but also Manchester ‘Team Glow’, Chelford Chicks and Sue Booth’s friend from Yorkshire.

Chester CTC has participated in the Member group events, although still in small numbers. Events and rides are all on the main rides list, and are also emailed out each month. We have a Facebook group, which has 124 members and is helpful for sharing upcoming events and rides, and also photos. Sue Booth also started a blog in January, which documents the full year – contributions of photos and write ups have been received from group members which is lovely. We have also held a few official and unofficial events, such as the Retro Weekend, and a Saturday afternoon curry ride, ending in Helsby for a curry. We held a night ride in June, which was reported to be a fine night; it stopped raining by Tilston so that is a good sign!

In 2015 we will continue with the format we have – Ladies Rides, Two Sundays a month, Summer evening and monthly winter socials; blog and Facebook, to embed and build on past years hard work by our dedicated leaders. Sue Booth would also like to pull Chester specific history and names for a page on the blog, as we approach what Sue believes is our own 80th anniversary of Chester CTC in 2016.

CTC Eryri Thursday Cycling Group

This year the old Eryri CTC informal group (riding on Sundays) was discontinued, but Doreen Lindsay’s Thursday Group has become a CTC group with the new (and longer title). The group has had a successful and varied rides programme. Sadly they lost one of their members & rides leaders this autumn in a cycling accident- Rhodri Hughes-Jones – he will be greatly missed.

Mold Informals

Due to illness and injury our activities have been somewhat curtailed this year. However we have continued to meet and ride. Difficulties with organising routes were overcome by riders stepping up and taking it in turns to lead on a rota basis. This has been a great success and proves what great friends you make in cycling.

We hope that the New Year will see riders return fit and healthy and we continue to enjoy the beautiful countryside we are blessed to ride in.

Watson’s Wanderers

There have been a number of significant changes this year.

A small group of older riders (75y+) have split off and now plough their own furrow on a Tuesday. (But not Harry---see below). A further small group of riders (late 50y/early 60y) has also split off to plough a high speed/hilly furrow. We await their return as Old Father Time takes his inevitable toll. A core group numbering variously between 1 (you can never stop Harry!) and 15 riders still departs from the Plough at Christleton every Tuesday to visit the cafes and pubs of Cheshire and North Wales.

Congratulations to Harry Watson who will achieve the impressive total of 700,000 cycling miles on his 86th birthday this November. We look forward to Harry leading us onwards towards his 800,000 mile target in 2015.

Wednesday Riders

Numbers of riders on a Wednesday has maintained a high level all year. Whilst some stopped riding the organised ride, they have nevertheless continued attending, riding to the nearer venues. At the same time new riders have taken their place well. This year we have had between 4 and 29 riders out on any given day. With larger number of riders we have had to organise

staged groups. The rides distances have been between 23 and 90 miles. My statistician tells me that the Group (riders X mileage) have this year ridden the equivalent of round the world at the Equator, whilst experiencing 22 tyre events (punctures)! Thanks for the figures John Ferguson. Notable this year has been the start of a Wednesday Riders weekly blog of rides written by Chris Byrne, with pictures by John Ferguson, and on the C&NWCTC Website. Well worth a read. Members of the group have taken part in local Audax rides, as well as Tourist Trials, and several have been on cycle tours to Europe, including Germany, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Hungary, France, and Spain to name a few, whilst several helped to organise and run the Bob Clift rides. Congratulations to Roy Bunnell on regaining his Downhill title and thanks to all who led and organised rides and club activities. A successful year.

Wrexham Reivers

The number of riders has continued to increase and more ladies are now riding with the group; the age range on rides can vary between 13 and 80 years. To accommodate the various speeds and distances preferred by the riders there are often several groups heading off on Saturday mornings. As usual members have ridden in many of the Chester & N Wales CTC events, attended the CTC Welsh Festival in Llandoverly and completed Audax events (ranging from 50km up to 400km) in all kinds of weather. There have also been two trips to Spain, for holidays or training camps depending on the style of cycling. Congratulations to Peter Dilworth for retaining his title in the Tourist Competition in 2013, and to Andy Polakowski & Dave Statham who also scored high points and were members of the winning team. Thanks are due once again to all of the members of the group who have contributed to a successful year with many memorable rides.

Member Group Report from Two Mills CTC

CTC Two Mills rides committee met twice during the year (in November and May) to draft the weekly Sunday rides programme. We welcomed newcomers to the daunting role of ride leader. Thanks too to the regulars! Our women's group, the Bicycle Belles, have cycled every month and numbers are growing. We celebrate our 5th anniversary in February 2015. The Early Season Tourist Trial is the main riding event that this group organises. This year, we used a new HQ venue, tweaked the route including offer of a 25 mile course, and, thanks to help from Merseyside CTC, introduced electronic system of registration and payment. It all worked very well.

Two Mills members have joined-in: Cheshire Cycleway Rides; Chester and North Wales 75th Anniversary Rides; CTC Birthday Rides held at Askham Bryan college near York; Wild Wales Challenge ride; Bert Bailey Vets 100; Merseyside CTC Tourist Trial; local audax rides from Eureka café at Two Mills Old Mill in Gateshead and Corwen Presidents ride from Walk Mill to Tilston; Hill Climb and Freewheel competition – we can even boast a winner in that last event! Volunteers have helped to promote cycling and CTC at a variety of local events: Wirral Bikeathon, Liverpool Chester bike ride, West Kirby Eco Fest, Egremont Festival and Neston Bike Fair to name but a few!

Events 2014

New Year's Day Meets

Thanks are due once again to Arthur Miller who organised the lunch at Mcleans Pub in Pentre and Harry Watson who arranged the lunch at the Carden Arms in Tilston. In spite of the cold, wet & windy weather there was a very good turn outs at the Tilston venue where Mike Cross presented the Tourist Trophies to Peter Dilworth and Lowri Evans who had gained the most points in the Tourist Competition.

1st Aid Evening at The Bike Factory

On Wednesday 26th March Steve Evans SRPara, MCPar gave his 'First Aid for Cyclists' presentation at the Bike Factory. Everyone was welcomed and The Bike Factory not only supplied the venue, but also provided refreshments. The evening passed rapidly with an interesting and entertaining presentation which covered the most common types of injuries

suffered by cyclists. The evening ended with Dave Parry of The Bike Factory giving a talk about 'bike-fit'. Thanks are due to Steve Evans for the presentation and to The Bike Factory for their hospitality & support.

Spring 50 Tourist Trial 13th April 2014

181 riders took part this year with 25 taking the new 50k option. The new venue, Farndon Sports & Social Club and the new figure of 8 route worked well with the first riders looking for lunch shortly after the last riders set off. Thanks to Janet Gregory and her team for another well organised event.

Two Mills have decided that they will be running the event as their own event next year (not jointly with C&NW CTC). The event will be held on 29th March 2015.

Eureka Audax Events April 26th 2014

This was the second year of running these rides. The weather forecast at the start of the week was very poor but gradually improved day by day.

Eureka Excursion 215 K 30 riders started this event of which 6 were registered as C&NW CTC. 28 riders finished the full distance; 2 riders opted for the 100k ride at Bunbury. All finished well within the time limit. The route had been modified, travelling to High Legh rather than Wilmslow and the Manchester conurbation at the Northern end, and a distance closer to the advertised 200km. This ride will be run to the strict BRM (Brevet de Randonneur Mondiaux) rules in 2015 with a maximum time limit of 13h 20min so the route event can be used as 200k qualification for the 1200km Paris -Roubaix audax in August.

Two Mills Tour 113k Of the 53 entries 51 riders started this event of which 17 were registered as C&NW CTC, 53 finished (this includes 2 riders who opted over from the 215k ride). There was a joint problem for Tour and the 215k riders at Tilly's, Bunbury as the 215k riders merged with the 113k riders. To avoid this problem the Tour is no more and has become the 135km "Tea in Prospect" for next year. The new ride visits the Prospect Tea Rooms above the Panorama and then returns via Ruabon to Bunbury.

Two Mills Twirl 68k 12 riders entered of which 8 were registered as C&NW CTC. All 12 finished in good time.

Thanks are due to David Matthews the organiser, John Ferguson for his assistance with the car parking and Andy Whitgreave for handing out the brevet cards. Especial thanks to the Anne and Holly Peek and all at the Eureka Cafe for cheerfully feeding the riders throughout a long day.

Map Reading & Treasure Hunt (CTC Cymru)

These events returned to North Wales this year. Riders met in good weather at the Espresso Cafe in Gwersyllt where they were issued with the route instructions and questions for the Treasure Hunt. Eight set off on the individual event; Andy Polakowski won the event by a very close margin from Steve Larwood who was second, with Ifor Jones and Darryl Porrino tying in third place. Four teams competed in the team event; congratulations go to John Ferguson & Brian Lowe winning at their first attempt.

Seven took part in the map reading competition – busily searching for distances marked on signposts. Once again Andy Polakowski came in the winner beating Steve Larwood and Darryl Porrino into second place by 4 points. Congratulations to all of the winners and thanks to all who took part to make the events worthwhile.

75th Anniversary Rides 8th June 2014

David Ackerley organised the event with three bike rides, refreshments at the start & tea at the end. Needless to say the arrangements went like clockwork. 76 riders and guests booked in for the tea with 19 completing the 75 mile ride, 32 the 50 mile route and 3 the 25 mile event.

Riders enjoyed pleasant summer weather and after cuppa at the end of the event at Bickerton Scout Hut everyone moved on to Bickerton Village Hall for the excellent celebratory tea.

Guest of honour was David Cox (chair of CTC Council) and all three of our councillors were also able to attend. David Cox presented riders with commemorative certificates and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Catherine Green & Michael Wright representing the Millennium Greenway Project. There were speeches from David Cox and Mike Cross. Thanks to David Ackerley and his band of volunteers for the event.

Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans 100. 13th July 2014

The rain cleared just before the first group of riders set off from Duddon village hall. 72 riders took part in the event. Once again there were great food stops; morning coffee, lunch, tea and a soft drinks stop on the final leg. Mike Cross presented the certificates to the riders who completed the event. Harry Watson took the Gil Tirrel Trophy for the oldest rider (aged 85). He announced that this would be the last time he would ride the event (he has completed it 43 times). Our thanks go to David & his team for yet another successful event. David Ackerley announced that he would not be running it next year; a new organiser is needed.

Corwen Audax rides July 19th 2014

There was an appalling weather forecast for the whole day of these rides: drenching rain in abundance. Entrants on the 200k mostly turned up as did those on the 60k, but field for the 100k Brenig Bach was decimated with only 15 of 40 starting.

Barmouth Boulevard 204km; 3650m ascent. 13 from 19 entries set off bravely into the rain. 11 finishers as one rider packed and another suffered a broken derailleur. Peter Dilworth flew the flag for C&NW CTC. All said they enjoyed a great ride with several glowing reports online.

Brenig Bach 107km; 1920m ascent. In the face of the early morning deluge only 15 riders took the start including our 4 from C&NW CTC. There was a crash involving 3 riders on a downhill section near Bala, fortunately without injury, but causing them to pack. 2 other riders packed at Pentrefoelas. Congratulations to the 10 riders who successfully completed this hilly ride.

Bala Parade 60km; 700m ascent. A low entry of 10 for this ride, 6 riders started, all from C&NW CTC and all finished. The rain stopped by 11:30, we had dried out by lunch time at Llanuwchllyn and all enjoyed a short day out in glorious, if damp, Welsh scenery.

Bob Clift 2014 Memorial Cheshire Cycleway Rides on 29th June 2014

The day was a great success with 197 entries between the 3 distances. There were 12 in the 25 mile event, 115 in the very popular 50 mile event, and 70 in the 100 mile event (up from 50 riders the previous year). All were registered as CTC Tourist competition events 6, 23, and 36 CTC riders in the respective events (regular riders with the successful CTC Chester & North Wales Tourist Competition Team figured prominently in the 100 event). The courses were very similar to those used in previous years with only minor changes. Congratulations to Luke Johnson from Chester, who at 17 was awarded The Jim Skelding Trophy for the youngest rider to complete the 100mile course.

20% of riders were issued with a questionnaire post event and were asked to assess a number of aspects of the event, such as route, refreshments, etc, on a basis of 5 for excellent 4 for good decreasing to 0 for poor. The average assessment for each aspect assessed was 4.9 and overall percentage of maximum score was 98% an excellent rating. This was a very successful entry into the area of CTC Tourist Competition event organising by Brian & Alan Oldfield; thanks to them & all of the volunteers for a great set of events.

Momma Audax Events 10th August 10 2014

The weather forecast for the "Momma" rides was truly horrendous yet again this year, as the remnants of Hurricane Bertha swept in from the Atlantic. This resulted in a considerable number of DNS riders (did not start).

Pistyll Packing Momma 200K 3.5AAA. 10 finishers

Momma's Mountain Views 137k, 2 AAA 11 finishers

Momma's Leafy Lanes 57k 5 finishers

The riders on the 200k and 130k headed out into a big headwind and heavy rain to Chirk. After Chirk, where the climbing started, the conditions began to improve. Once riders turned for home at Llanarmon-yn-Ial, following the hilly centre sections of the rides, they were rewarded with dry weather and a tremendous tailwind. Unfortunately an electrical fault shut the pub in Llanfynydd (the last control) but riders were all very understanding, and in best cycling tradition found enough food elsewhere to fuel the rest of the ride. Many thanks to David Matthews the organiser & Glennys Hammond who endured three hours in the pouring rain supervising car parking.

Presidents Ride and Lunch

These rides (a shorter one and a longer alternative) took place in glorious late summer weather on 28th September 2014. This year it was again the turn of Cheshire to be the location of the event. As in 2012, the rides were based on Walk Mill, near Waverton. A total of 45 (the largest number in recent years) gathered for a buffet lunch at the War Memorial Hall, Tilston. The catering (by Mrs Harvey of Ridleywood near Tarporley) was excellent and drew much praise. After the lunch, the President, Mike Cross, presented the President's Trophy to this year's winner, Ifor Jones of Llanfair P.G. He spoke of the loyal way in which Ifor has supported our events over many years. (The Trophy was donated by Mrs Iris Mills in memory of her son, our former president, Graham Mills.)

Llysfasi Hill Climb & Freewheel Competitions 4th October

There was a good turnout in spite of a poor weather forecast. 18 riders took the challenge of the hill climb with Steve Larwood retaining the title in 7 minutes 28 seconds (the same time as the previous year. Mike Frith was second (7.53), with Sarah Hamill 3rd and 1st Lady (7.54). David Statham was the 1st super vet. The sun broke through as the riders moved on to Graigfechan for a fiercely contested freewheeling competition. There were 24 riders taking part (23 were CTC members). Roy Bunnell was delighted with his victory, closely followed by Peter Dilworth & in third place was Dave Statham. The ladies appeared reluctant to pass the pub door; but Sarah Hamill went far enough to be awarded first lady. Congratulations to Jake Walker (the youngest rider at 13) for being first junior. Refreshments after the event & the prize presentations were at the Three Pigeons Inn, Graigfechan.

Thanks to Coleg Llysfasi for providing parking & the to all of the volunteers Jean & Arthur Miller, Peter & Irene Dilworth, Mike Roberts and Chris Jones for helping to run the events.

Corwen Audax Events 18th October 2014

There was a bumper entry of 135 across the three events; 116 riders set out with 105 finishing but most importantly all riders were accounted for. There were a few abandonments but only one casualty: a broken collar bone.

There are three events The Clwydian 200K, The Clwyd Gate 130K & The Bala Mini-bash 60K. The middle and long distance events both arrive at the coast near Abergele and then follow the same route over the tops to Corwen. The short event goes out to Bala and back approaching Bala via the southern side of Llyn Tegid. The weather was unseasonably warm with some rain but the main problem was the wind which affected all events and resulted in riders finishing a lot later than in previous years. This year there were more riders on the longer events although the short ride still attracts a lot of first timers who were all very enthusiastic and complimentary with regard to the route and the organisation. Thanks to Vicky & her team for these events; she will be running these events next year on 17th October 2015.

Club Communications

Website

The website is managed by John Hammond (technical) and Glennys Hammond (content). Over the previous year the website has been regularly updated with item requests from members, news items, and reports and photos of 2014 events. The following observations provide a

general overview of website visitors for the period 1st October 2013 - 30th September 2014 compared with the same period up to 30th September 2013. New visitors and general visitors to the website were almost identical during each period but there is a clear trend towards the use of mobile devices (tablets and phones). Most people still access the site on desktop computers using Windows OS but the number of people using mobile devices has considerably increased. Usage of Windows is down by 18%, iOS is up 29% indicating a higher usage of iPads and iPhones. A small number of people use Android OS (up 83.9%) but Mackintosh OS is down 20%. Clearly interest in the website is being maintained over time. Further statistics can be provided if required.

Facebook & work of the Publicity Officer

John Ferguson has taken up the post of Publicity Officer and has set up a new Facebook page for C&NW CTC. This has been gaining in popularity. John has also arranged for more marketing material from NO; leaflets, business card (stamped with C&NW CTC contact details) are now available.

Link & The Chain

David Ackerley produced a bumper Christmas edition of the Link. This was his final issue as editor. Thanks are due for the work he has done over the years. Martin Brooks has taken over as Link editor but due to his touring commitments it was agreed that he would produce one edition for the Spring/Summer. Martin has put his stamp on the Link with a new format – and subscription forms are now available for 4 copies for during the next financial year.

To celebrate the C&NW CTC 75th Anniversary Arthur Miller & David Ackerley produced 'The Chain - The story of Chester & North Wales CTC Caer a Gogledd Cymru' from the minutes and magazines produced between 1935 and 2014. The publication has been very well received. Thanks to them both for their research & hard work. In addition Arthur Miller sorted through the C&NW CTC archive material and arranged for it to be professionally stored in Chester Archive.

Right to Ride (Peter Williams)

I am now entering my seventh year of being a CTC Right to Ride representative. My first success was the resurfacing of Lodge Lane from Woodbank Lane up to the new bridge over the new A494. I had been invited to be part of an audit of the non-motorised routes of the extension of the M 56 the A 494 into North Wales. This section of Lodge Lane was full of Pot Holes, it was not part of the new works, but I persuaded the site engineer to repair it, which he did. As far as Lodge Lane was concerned I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Looking at last year's report I used two words to describe it Joy and Frustration this year it is more frustration than joy. I get involved with Chester Ellesmere Port & Neston and Wirral while our friend Roy Spilsbury works very hard in North Wales and I am very grateful for the support and advice Roy gives me.

A540 Safer for Cyclist Campaign

This has come to a grinding halt as far as Cheshire West and Chester Council is concerned. We had two meetings at the end of last year with all interested stake holders in which David Robinson attended and supported me. With the lack of progress with CWaC officers this year I wrote to Steve Robinson, Chief Executive Officer of CWaC, through my Local MP, Andrew Miller. In the reply from Steve Robinson he said that they take very seriously the safety of cyclists on the A540 and are actively trying to find funding to make cycling safer. I replied to this letter on the 10-th August disagreeing with this and giving examples of where funding has been available and they have chosen to spend it elsewhere. I was promised a reply in 20 working days, but so far I have received no reply.

Local Sustainable transport Fund (LSTF)

Cheshire West and Chester Council have continued to spend some of this money this year on various schemes to improve cycling and walking but many of them do not link up to routes for cyclists to commute on e.g. Lime Street Ellesmere Port work does not connect with the work on the underpass in North Road, Ellesmere Port putting cyclists at risk. The work on Cuckoo Lane

in Little Neston had to be stopped after 200 local protesters complained about the lack of consultation and poor standard of work. Some locals called it vandalism. Some of the LSTF money has gone in promoting cycling and walking by way of leaflets and the Chester Cycling Campaign has had all their eight local family cycle rides reprinted. The Chester Connect 2 cycle map and the East Flintshire Sustrans map have also been funded by LSTF. CWaC have also promoted a few Cycle Fairs in Ellesmere Port, Neston and Chester and have recently funded a company to research the impact of cycling in Neston, (Neston Cycle Town).

Events and Forums

With the help of Janet Gregory and many other volunteers from Sustrans and Chester and North Wales CTC, we have had stalls promoting Sustrans and the CTC throughout the year. This included two days trying to get the Sustrans Share with Care message across to users on Burton Marsh and in Chester on the Greenways.

I continue to attend Chester Cycling Campaign's monthly meeting and Wirral's Cycle Forums 4 times a year and the occasional CTC campaign meeting and local Sustrans meetings.

Communication with CWaC officers is very poor and they do not reply to emails even on safety issues. In the next few weeks I will officially complain to CWaC, after I have obtained some advice from our national CTC office.

Cycling & Pedestrian Figures

The automatic cycle monitoring counts in Wirral recently published have shown a 34% increase in figures since 2010. This proves the investment in cycle provision is working with good results in Wirral. Flintshire have also published cycling/pedestrian figures from their counters in East Flintshire. The Burton Marsh counter on route 568 has recorded 12,000 cycle/pedestrian users this July. No figures have been published by CWaC.

Hill Lane Peckforton Hills

Our application to change the definitive map at Hill Lane from a public footpath to a restrictive byway has yet to be heard by Cheshire East. We are now at no 5 on their list, so our application may be looked at next year. If we are successful we should safe guard this route for cyclists for ever as well as horse riders.

Get Britain Cycling

This month October 2014 the government has finally published the draft Cycling Delivery Plan, but they did not commit to funding it. We had hoped to get a minimum of £10 per head of UK population increasing to £20 by 2020. Funding continues to be a problem and with local authorities now setting their next year's budget, I fear for some cycle projects in the future. In a letter from my local MP Andrew Miller; he tells me that Labour wants to move cycling from the margins to the mainstream and increase the numbers of commuter cyclists as well as enabling beginners to increase their confidence. Currently only 2 per cent of journeys are made by bike in the UK.

CTC Councillors

Welna Bowden and Janet Gregory have continued to work hard for the club in their roles as National Councillors and they have been joined in this by Gwenda Owen who is the CTC Councillor for Wales.

C&NW CTC Committee

The committee has met five times since last year's AGM. Committee members have been busy organising events, publicising the group, working with other organisations and campaigning.

Local Rules The C&NW CTC Local Rules agreed at the last AGM were sent to National Office for approval. Unfortunately they decided that the rules were not acceptable in the format that was used (the same one that had been used the previously) and some of the rules were disputed.

There has been correspondence with National Office and the rules will be resubmitted in a summary format with corrections and amendments agreed by the Committee to meet NO requirements. It is hoped that they will then be accepted.

Excess Funds Advisory Sub Committee. This group was set up to look at the use of club funds. They have produced report outlining the priorities for use of funds and suggested thresholds. The full report is available as a hard copy with other AGM documents. Thanks go to Brian Lowe, Glennys Hammond and Colin Bell for their work.

Report of the Awards Committee

The committee met four times during the past Club year, and the principal items dealt with were as follows;

- 1). Cafe of the year 2013; Tilly's Coffee Shop of Bunbury secured the most votes and the Certificate was presented in February to the proprietor by Mike Cross accompanied in the presence of a number of club members.
- 2). Following a request from the Club's general committee, a Photographic competition was arranged. The title was "The Spirit of Cycling 2014". Support for this competition, which closed on 1st October 2014, has been limited. The winners will be announced at the end of this AGM.
- 3). To mark the Club's 75th Anniversary special Local Awards of Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the Friends of the Millennium Greenway and to the Country Kitchen Cafe at the Ice Cream Farm; these were accepted with much appreciation. Peter Foster North West Infrastructure Manager of Sustrans was also listed for a similar award but due to a lack of a suitable opportunity, he has yet to receive it.

Summary of Report from CTC C&NW Registration Officer for 2014 (Brian Lowe)

At the end of this business year there was a total of 1652 cyclists who are members* of CTC and who reside within the operating area of CTC C&NW. The main task as registration Officer is to send a welcome letter on a monthly basis to all new members of CTC who reside within this operating area. This letter introduces the group and gives details of all our informal groups and their contacts. This year I have sent out 189 e mails and 29 letters.

There has been a general increase in numbers by 78 with encouraging increases in family membership, seniors and affiliates. I have not checked individual records to ascertain if the increase in senior membership is linked in any way to the reduction in adult membership. I think it is worthwhile explaining that the membership figure of 1652 is by no means an indication of the strength of C&NW CTC membership in this area but it relates only to overall CTC membership in the area. Parts of C&NW CTC operating area may also be part of the operating area of other member groups, such as CTC Two Mills and CTC Merseyside. Without the collection of local statistics from our informal groups it is extremely difficult to obtain figures showing the true strength of the group. Out of the 1652 CTC members I would guess that there are of the order of 150, who are regular or occasional riders or non-riding supporters of this member group.

(Copies of the full report with statistical analysis of the membership information are available on line, and some hard copies are available at the AGM)

CTC Cymru

The Welsh Festival in Llandovery was well attended with the participants enjoying glorious summer weather and stunning scenery. There was a good turnout from C&NW CTC with riders from Ynys Môr Eryri and the Wexham Rivers taking part and helping to organise the event. The event will be at the same venue for 2015.

Tourist Competition

The C&NW CTC team were confirmed as the winners of the 2103 Tourist Competition. The team members were Peter Dilworth, Andy Polakowski, David Statham and Lowri Evans. The team went to Glasgow collect the awards at the CTC National Dinner. Peter Dilworth retained his title as overall winner and also first veteran. Lowri Evans was 2nd overall (also 1st Lady & 1st Lady Veteran), and Andy Polakowski was 3rd. It was the first time that C&NW CTC had managed to get a clean sweep of the first three places. Congratulations to the C&NW CTC riders once again. At

the time of writing there have been very few updates to the 2014 results - there are several riders who expect to have a score in the 90's or higher.

Winged Wheel

Following the death of Mr Allan Martley of Runcorn, Mr Brian Martley contacted C&NW CTC with regard to donating a Repairer's Winged Wheel plaque that he found when sorting through his brother effects. Peter Williams has brought it to the AGM for members to see. Roy Spilsbury has been in contact with the company that renovated the Corwen Winged Wheel to find out potential costs of restoration. As yet no decisions have been made regarding renovation and a permanent home.

Looking forward

The following table shows the C&NW CTC & CTC Cymru events proposed for next year. Please contact the Secretary if you would be will to run the Vets 100 or be joint organiser of the Cheshire Cycleways events.

1 st January	New Year's Day Mclean's Pub	Arthur Miller
1 st January	New Year's Day Carden Arms Tilston	Dave Matthews
25 th April	Eureka Audax Events	Dave Matthews
2 nd May	CTC Cymru Map reading & Treasure Hunt	Lowri Evans
June	Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways	Alan Oldfield & other?
12 th July	Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans' 100	
18 th July	Audax events: Barmouth Boulevard, Brenig Bach & Bala Parade	Dave Matthews
23 rd -28 th July	Welsh Festival	CTC Cymru
9 th August	Momma Audax Rides	Dave Matthews
September	Presidents lunch & presentation	President of C&NW CTC
3 rd October	Hill Climb & Freewheel	Lowri Evans
17 th October	Corwen Audax Events (Clwydian, Clwyd Gate, Bala Mini Bash)	Vicky Payne
1 st November	CH&NW CTC AGM	Sec Chester & N. Wales

Please note 20 places have been reserved for C&NW CTC members for the Merseyside CTC Wild Wales Challenge event in August 2015.

Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed to this report.

More detailed event reports can be found on the C&NW CTC website. Hard copies of the full Membership Officer's Report and the Excess Funds Sub Committee are available at the AGM and will be placed on line with the other AGM documents.

Thanks are due to all of the clubs' volunteers including the members of the committee, event organisers, rides leaders, web editor, Link editor, and tea makers who have worked hard to ensure that there have been great events & interesting riders.

Thanks are also due to Brian Lowe who is stepping down from C&NW CTC posts. Amongst other things he organised the Bob Clift Memorial Cheshire Cycleways ride this year, has at various times been Registrations Officer, Welfare Officer, updated the C&NW CTC local rules and served on the C&NW CTC committee for many years as a group representative. Special thanks are due to the members of the Awards Committee who are stepping down from some or all of their committee roles;

- Mike Cross who has been Chairman & President of C&NW CTC since 2008
- Arthur Miller who has been Vice President, and was previously secretary and is currently the C&NW CTC Archivist.
- David Ackerley who has been the Link editor and extremely efficient event organiser.

All three of the above have served the club in many roles over the years; fortunately they are willing to continue running the Awards Committee. Their help and support for the Secretary is greatly appreciated.

DRAFT