

Minutes from C&NW CTC Jitsi meeting Thursday 15th January 2026

1. Apologies

Ian Slater, John Mather (attended part of the meeting)

2. Attendees

Paul Mills, Paul Kerr, Laurie Mason, Steve Larwood, Graham Hines, Allan Samuel, Sue Booth, Dave Matthews, John Mather (part of the meeting) Lowri Evans

3. Minutes of previous meeting (circulated prior to the meeting)

Minutes were agreed nem con. Agreed to deal with matters arising under agenda items.

4. Secretary's update

4.a Silver emergency blankets

Most of the silver blankets from the original order of 160 in 2019 had been issued to groups & ride leaders in the intervening years. After looking at prices and order was placed for 51 individually wrapped emergency blankets (there was a considerable discount which for orders of over 50). Groups have been contacted. Watson's Wanders have had some more blankets and blankets have been distributed to Wrexham Reivers ride leaders and regular backmarkers. Agreed if any groups needed silver blankets contact the secretary.

4.b Audax badges

The design was sent to suppliers and it was decided to order 250 woven badges (as these are suitable for more detailed designs). The badges have now arrived and will be given to Audax organisers for their events later in the year. Agreed that some can be distributed at the AGM.

4.c. Club kit

Following the meeting prices for kit were calculated and an order form drawn up and checked. The information about the order was placed on the C&NW CTC section of the Cycling UK website, sent to groups via email and posted on Facebook. 18 items had been ordered. The supplier contacted and the invoice paid on the 15th prior to the meeting. Production time anticipated to be 8 weeks so should arrive in time to distribute at the AGM.

5. Treasurer's Report (accounts circulated prior to the meeting)

There is unlikely to be much income or expenditure in the last 2 months prior to the year-end (Entry Central will be set up to hold the entry fees for the Vets 100 until the start of the next financial year so that most of the income & expenditure of the event will be in the same financial year). The predicted £500 surplus takes into account the cost of the £180 subsidy at £10 per item for club kit and the 2 charity donations of £250 each agreed at the AGM. Event organisers were thanked for the income from their successful events & the treasurer was thanked for the report.

6. Events 2026 (draft events list circulated prior to meeting)

a. New Years Day Meet January 1st 2026 – organiser Dave Matthews

A new booking system meant that the Carden Arms had mislaid the booking, however Dave Matthews was able to negotiate a fixed menu of mushroom soup so the event was still able to go ahead. 17 members attended the event with 12 riding over; a few rode as individuals & groups rode from Chester & Gwersyllt (15 stayed for the meal). In the event soup with bread & chips, and fruit cake to follow meant all were well fed, even though the pub was very busy & the New Year's Eve event had only ended in the early hours of the morning! The weather was windy and there were some significant showers, but all agreed it was a great start to the year with excellent company. Many thanks to the Carden Arms & Dave Matthews (who has already booked the venue for 2027)

b. **CTC Cymru AGM** – people were reminded about the online AGM 7pm Wednesday 11th February 7pm.

c. **C&NW CTC AGM** – Sunday 19th April Pulford.

The hall has been booked and paid for. Arrangements to be as last year – volunteers will be needed for the day. Documents, nominations & arrangements to be discussed at next committee meeting

d. **Fab Ladies weekend** Friday & Saturday night on weekend of 25th April at Newport near Telford. Sue Booth organising.

e. **Tour of the Berwyns & Panorama Audaxes 9th May – Brandon Edgeley**

Back to having 2 events on the day this year.

f. **Bob Clift Memorial Rides 31st May** – Due to café closure/relocation Rob Wardle is looking at possible alternatives and route amendments for the 80-mile event. It is possible that Goostrey Home & Leisure may be asked to provide the refreshment stop. There are plans to go to Davenham to check the condition of the route in the spring.

Currently organisers are looking at budgeting £14 pp for meals, (up from £12.50 last year). A budgeting spreadsheet will be prepared to calculate break even costs for varying numbers of entries.

g. **Glan Gwna Audax events – 6th & 7th June Graham Hines**

there will be 4 events in total – 200 & 120K events on the Saturday and 100 & new 62K event on the Sunday.

The shorter of the 2 events each day will be an Audax 50:50@50 event. This is an initiative to celebrate 50 years of Audax UK with some events aiming to have females as 50% of the participants. There was some discussion of how this will work. There was also discussion about members going over for the weekend as some did last year.

h. **Bert Bailey Memorial Vets 100 – 5th July Ian Slater**

Preparations are well underway with Ian Salter already contacting previous ride leader to get group leaders for this year. Some ride leaders at the meeting had already agreed to lead groups, other would not know until nearer the date.

i. **Welsh Festival 23rd July to 28th July**

Venue has been booked and deposit paid. CTC Cymru need to hold the AGM & elect officers.

Corwen Audax starting from Ruthin Rugby Club 26th July -Graham Hines

The events will be run from the Festival as last year.

j. **Momma Audax events –Saturday 5th September - John Gallager**

Details aren't yet on the Audax website. The café that was 'Old Ma's' has now reopened under new ownership as Manor Farm Café, however it may be that the events will start from Tattenhall as they have for the last couple of years.

k. **Autumn Corwen Audax events – Graham Hines – Saturday 19th September**

Barmouth Boulevard 200K & 120k Brenig Bach & Bala Mini Bash 60k – the 60K event will be a 50:50@50 event

l. **Hill Climb & Freewheel – from Llanbenwch -Saturday 3rd October TBC Lowri Evans**

m. **President's Ride & Lunch -Tilston - Sunday 18th October - President**

Tilston details TBC Hall booked by Dave Matthews & paid for

2. Link

No progress to report – editor still having IT issues

3. Publicity update

a. Website

Sue Booth has posted the Chester rides for the year on the C&NW CTC website. Hope that the webmaster will post 2026 events soon.

Secretary will be registering & setting up the Club events on the C&NW CTC section of the Cycling UK website.

b. Facebook

Paul Mills thanked for posting information on Facebook group

c. WhatsApp & other groups

Sue Booth has set up a WhatsApp community for Chester. This is a collection of subgroups that people can join e.g. Fab Ladies, Ladies Weekend. This is to try to streamline communication for the rides and events.

Wednesday Riders did start having a Google Group but it never really took off. Colin Bell has tried to get the Wednesday rides going again, but since Covid & the loss of the Eureka there have been few takers (apart from a small closed group).

d. Audax Advert

To publicise the new C&NW CTC Audax badge for riders and this season's events Dave Matthews volunteered to liaise with the C&NW CTC Audax organisers to place an advert in the next edition of Arrivee.

Several of the rides will be 50:50@50 and this may also generate some more publicity and entries.

4. Registration Officer's Report

Trial of the new system for checking membership lists online - Both the registration officer & secretary contacted Cycling UK to take part in the trial; both used the new tool and sent in reports. There were a few problems reported but the system should allow the club to check if riders are current member as long as 2 out of the 3 can be entered in to the checking tool – Surname, Postcode and Cycling UK number.

It transpired that the old portal is no longer being updated, therefore reports such as lapsed members, number of members, lists of ride leaders, officers and volunteers won't be accessible online until there is more development of the new system.

Action Registration officer to check if the new system is still in trial phase or now active.

5. Safeguarding

Safeguarding Officer has no issues to report.

Brief discussion; currently only one or two junior riders – they are always accompanied by their parents. Reminder re-parental consent form.

There was awareness that there could be safeguarding issues with adult riders e.g. some of the older riders/riders with medical issues.

6. CAN updates (*circulated -see additional notes from week beginning 12/1/2026 at end of minutes*)

CANs Wales (John Mather)

a. The new draft Active Travel Guidance (published by Transport for Wales) is about 600 pages long. John Mather is preparing a 6 Page submission on behalf of the Institution of Civil Engineers Cymru. Points raised will include:

- Concerns that guidance could be misused with cyclist being excluded from narrow shared use paths.
- Issues relating to floating island and other types of bus stop where cyclists may come into conflict with visually impaired pedestrians boarding or alighting from buses.
- Issues at side road crossings

Cycling UK will be preparing a response.

There was some discussion regarding segregated paths (for which there is a demand but often not the space or the funding).

b. New Active travel route Cynwyd to Corwen (Lowri Evans) – a section of the route has been opened and is a well surfaced flat ride by the river, however the route starts with steps at Cynwyd and (for cyclists) finishes abruptly when the tarmac runs out and there is a fence and stile across the path leading to a grassy area. It is understood that the route will be completed when funding for ‘the next phase’ can be found.

c. NCR5 – new posts in wrong place. John Mather has written to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans) as Conwy Council post have been erected in response to complaints from dog walkers who say that groups of up to 20 cyclists have been passing them too fast.

CANs England

Still seeking a representative for the Chester/ Cheshire area to engage with Councils on behalf of Cycling UK (see circulated report). This was discussed. Allan Samuel will put out a note again to the Watsons Wanderers to try to get a volunteer.

7. Club Archives

Archivist was thanked and it was agreed that the documents for the previous year should be sent to the archives in Chester

8. AOB

a. Incidents

Incident reports discussed. Sue Booth has recently reported an incident. Raised awareness again that reports are now sent online to Cycling UK (although it was agreed that the old paper forms can act as good place to make notes etc at the time).

b. Resources for Bob Clift Rides

Items held by Sue Booth from when she was organising the Bob Clift rides were discussed. Agreed to hand over the timing fobs & paper cups to current organisers.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th March 7pm Jitsi

January 2026 meeting – additional notes from week beginning 12/1/2026

1. Archives

Graham Hill (archivist) had been in touch (12/1/2026) he will be sending the documents to the Archives in Chester soon. The documents are now sent electronically, and he will be sending the same information as usual (minutes, annual reports etc).

2. CANs Wales – report from John Mather (12/1/2026)

I've been studying the new draft Active Travel Guidance (published by Transport for Wales) and hope to use my response to express general support before the closing date (13th February). I do have some concern about the inclusion of decision trees (which might be (mis) used to argue that cyclists should be excluded from 'narrow' shared use paths). It's all very well to say that SUP should be wider but, given the space and financial constraints, these are likely to be few and far between and there is often conflict between walkers and cyclists. The UK Government's Road Safety Strategy has been published recently. It looks pretty good to me and recognises the need for better (safer) infrastructure and the need to make best use of new and emerging technology and robust enforcement of speed limits etc. It will be interesting to see the promised Scottish and Welsh Road Safety Strategies when they are published.

The UK government's Road Safety Strategy has set some challenging targets:

A 65% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on roads in Great Britain by 2035, using a 2022-2024 baseline: and

1. A 70% reduction in the number of children (under 16) killed or seriously injured on roads in Great Britain by 2035, again using a 2022-2024 baseline.

The Welsh Government's consultation document "Road Safety in Wales – A New Road Safety Strategy" (Nov 2023–Jan 2024) set out the foundations of the upcoming strategy. It is explicitly built around:

1. Vision Zero — eliminating deaths and serious injuries on Welsh roads;
2. A proactive Safe System approach (safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe behaviours, post-crash response); and
3. Strong emphasis on safe speed limits, including the 20mph policy, and infrastructure changes to protect vulnerable users

3. Incident report Chester CTC

An incident has been reported to Cycling UK when a rider came off on ice on a club ride. Although the rider went to hospital the next day for X-rays no bones were broken. The rider is now recovering and hopes to be out on the bike again soon.

4. CANs England (email from John Violet)

Picking up on the CAN representative issue I attended Chester Cycling Campaign last Wednesday and their liaison person is standing down. It is an important role of CUK in my view to be taking ideas and issues to the Local Authority, who will view the absence of such a voice as the cycling community simply not being interested.

I am not of the view that Chester Cycling Campaign is a substitute for CUK as their issues are very insular around Chester, whereas CUK are interested in a larger picture going beyond Chester to the environs. CUK has a more strategic vision which needs to be expressed to the Local Authority.

I have met with opposition Councillors recently with a request for organisations like CUK being able to have an open dialogue with the Council. It will be an absolute shame if we have the opportunity to discuss cycling issues but nobody to represent us!

(Secretary has tried to email local CANS rep for Chester following link on Cycling UK website 13/1/2026 – an automatic reply has been received, awaiting full response)

5. Club kit

An order has been placed for 18 items of club kit: short-sleeved shirts, long-sleeved shirts, rain gilets and winter jackets. As there is a £10 subsidy per item the cost to the club will be £180 (plus a possible delivery charge).

6. Audax 50th Anniversary

There will be a celebration in York in March of the 50th anniversary.

There will also be a series of rides & awards to celebrate. In addition, there will be some 50:50 events where the aim will be to have 50% of the field as female riders.