



Chairman's Report for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 April 2021

In recent years our AGM has been held in November, but in 2021 the date is 6 May due to a Cycling UK requirement that we comply with a change to their financial year. Going forward, CLCTC AGMs will be in April or May.

Teamwork

There are many people to thank for the success of our club. Ride leaders, tour organisers, Club kit co-ordinator, auditor, and of course the Committee members (Secretary, Webmaster, Treasurer, Welfare, Tours Co-ordinator, and the co-ordinators for our 1, 2, 3 and 4-star rides. They have all done a superb job over a very difficult period. All Committee members are offering themselves for re-election except for: Lisa who has been our Secretary for some seven years; Derek who has been our Treasurer for over nine years; and Paul Foster who has been the 3-star Rides Coordinator for something like the last ten years. Many thanks to Lisa, Derek and Paul for their long and dedicated commitment to the running of the club. Paul Krebs is standing down as Tours Co-ordinator but is willing to continue as Welfare Officer. Jon McColl is standing at the AGM for election as our Secretary and Tom James, who not long ago spent five years as our Chair, has agreed to stand for election as Treasurer. David Kurtz is standing for election as the 3-star Rides Coordinator, and Jenny Hung is standing for election as Tours Coordinator. Linus Rees is standing for re-election as the 1-star Rides Coordinator, with responsibility for finding leaders for 1-star rides. Linus does not wish to be a member of the Committee and will not attend Committee meetings. Anyone who wishes to stand for election for a particular role can make this known at the AGM, or (preferably) contact the Secretary (lisa@clctc.uk) before the meeting.

Rides

I am hugely grateful to the Co-ordinators and leaders for providing day rides when permitted between repeated Covid lockdowns. Over the 18 months from 1 October 2019 to the end of the new Club year of 31 March 2021 there has been a total of 1388 riders on 230 Central London CTC rides, an average of six participants per ride. The top male in terms of the number of rides was Colin Hartridge-Price with 78 rides, and the top female was Angela Byrne with 29 rides.

As well as weekend rides we have day rides at a 2-star level virtually every Monday and Thursday. Everyone in this relatively small group takes a turn in finding a route and leading a ride. These mid-week rides have become a major part of our rides program due to the efforts of Nick Bloom in finding ride leaders. At the 2021 AGM, attendees will be asked to elect Nick to a new Committee role – Midweek Rides Coordinator.

Keep an eye on the website (www.centrallondonctc.org.uk) for information on rides and tours. Following the partial lifting of lockdown on 29 March we have been limiting our rides to the London area (no trains) and a total of six riders. For most weekends we have been able to offer two 2-star and two 3-star ride options thanks to the efforts of the Ride Co-ordinators – Christine Johnson (2-star) and Paul Foster (3-star) – and ride leaders. Thanks to Richard Philpott we have a booking system for rides, and this works very well. Whilst ride numbers remain limited, please keep late cancellations and no-shows to a minimum.

It would be great to have some new ride leaders. Please don't hold back. Every assistance will be given in selecting a route, and on the ride itself. There are loads of route maps on our website.

We would also like to encourage leaders for “easier” 1, 2, 3 and 4-star rides for those who would like to try a ride a little harder (or perhaps easier) than usual. There have been a number of such rides to date and we would like to keep this up.

If you have a smart phone, I would encourage you to go to the App Store and download the “what3words” app that you can use to inform emergency services of your location – very useful if you are at a location that is difficult to describe.

Tours

Lockdown restrictions meant that nearly all our tours in 2020 had to be cancelled after a huge amount of effort had been put into organising them. However, in a brief period when travel was allowed, Tom James managed to arrange a CLCTC tour in Northern Ireland at very short notice and this went ahead in September. Organising a tour is a huge responsibility and a lot of work.

It is hoped the cancelled tours can be resurrected once the lockdown situation is more certain. Tom James is planning a Dutch tour from 4 to 12 September and arrangements are already well-progressed.

If anyone has an idea for a tour, do get in touch after the AGM with Jenny Hung (jenny@clctc.uk).

Finances

As we will hear later, our accounts are independently audited (many thanks to Iain Bell for that) and our funds are remaining fairly stable year-on-year.

Website/Facebook/Forum/Twitter

For very many years Richard Philpott has done a fantastic job in maintaining and improving our website, including putting up details of rides and riders, and checking the train times. He also developed the booking system we are now using for rides. Richard’s dedication to the Club is truly amazing.

Thanks to Richard, we are on Facebook (@centrallondonctc), and our website has a Forum where you can find (and post) reports of past rides, ask questions, make comments (but be nice!) and discuss anything to do with the Club and cycling in general. Before posting comments, please read the Forum Rules. Just go to our website and click on “Forum”.

Thanks to Linus we have a Twitter account <https://twitter.com/cldnctc>

Zoom videoconference meetings

Many thanks to Jenny Hung for facilitating these weekly meetings on a Tuesday, and to Richard Philpott for regularly reminding us of the meeting arrangements. We talk about all sorts of things (not just cycling) and the chat is usually quite lively. Also, many thanks to Nick Bloom for facilitating a Zoom meeting of the mid-week riders every second Monday. These Monday and Tuesday meetings have very much enabled people to keep in touch during a difficult period.

Club Kit

Club clothing is available via our website, so do take a look if you want good quality cycle wear. Many thanks to Martin Hayman for dealing with the purchase and delivery of our Club clothing. Many thanks also to David Kurtz for assisting in the delivery of the club clothing.

Diversity

Linus Rees is taking the lead in setting up a working group to consider how we might encourage new riders from diverse groups that currently seem poorly represented on our rides. There will be more on this in due course.

Club Social

An annual Club Social, where all the rides on a Sunday converge on the same lunch venue, has not yet been abandoned. A possible date is 4 July, depending on the Covid situation nearer the time.

Finally

I look forward to another enjoyable year of day rides, tours and good company. Ride safe.

Colin Hartridge-Price
Chair, Central London CTC