

Chair's report 2022-2023

The last year has been overshadowed by the death of Mick O'Rorke from injuries sustained in a road accident whilst on the Norfolk tour. He is much missed.

We have been unusually unlucky in that 5 other members (all ride leaders) have suffered serious on and off bike injuries and illness. Happily, all are now back in the saddle or getting there.

The first full year following pandemic imposed restrictions has seen the club profiting from the technological innovations adopted out of necessity during the pandemic. Committee meetings are held on Zoom with savings on time and budget. All the various sub groups have either a Signal or Whatsapp group bar the 1*s. These innovations make organising rides much easier along with the social benefits and to some extent have overtaken the forum, due to the immediacy of use. A monthly Zoom social on the first Tuesday of every month has proved to be enjoyable and attracts a group who don't necessarily ride together. Electric bikes are now beginning to find their way into our rides, which enable our members to delay the inevitable hanging up of the wheels or get a new lease of life. The Zwift group (mainly 3 and 4*riders) has attracted a small but keen membership, especially in bad weather! We welcome these developments, which have gathered pace out of the bad place that was the pandemic.

Three tours took place last year and a similar number are planned for this year. Jenny Hung is to be thanked for her efforts in this regard. The annual All Stars ride was a great success attracting some 50 riders, spread across all 4 groups

The 1* group held 44 rides last year, but the number of rides offered recently has dramatically declined. This has been caused by the loss of 3 ride leaders under regrettable circumstances, so a reduced programme is currently operating. The numbers attending typically are between 4 and 6, but the all stars ride mustered 12.

The 2* group are in a very healthy position. Two midweek rides are offered, each usually attracting about 6-10 riders. The Sunday rides are very popular and often oversubscribed. A total of 145 rides took place during the year.

The 3* group is in a good place too, though the numbers are less than those on 2* rides. These rides typically attract 8-10 riders, and in total 108 rides took place. The Saturday Regent's Park social laps have proved very popular.

The 4* group is much healthier than the figures indicate, a mere 30 rides officially taking place last year. The group lost its website presence for 4 months due to the indisposition of the ride coordinator. Happily normality has now been restored, and rides are take place most weekends and are usually attended by 5-7 riders.

Finally I would like to thank all my colleagues, especially Jon McColl who is standing down as Secretary on the Committee for their hard work, and enthusiasm in what has

been a very challenging year and am pleased that the vast majority are standing for a further year.