**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019/21**

**1.** **INTRODUCTION**: WK Secretary - Martin Gill

This report is on the activities of West Kent CTC (‘WK’) (formerly the West Kent District Association of the Cyclists’ Touring Club) during its 96th year, being the year ending on 31st March 2021 The first part of the report sets out the facts and figures, concerning finance, membership, attendance on rides and frequency of riding, which give an overview of the health of WK. . Part two is about the informal groups/sections, and part three is about the work of the various Committees including the activities and events organised. Finally, there are some personal comments and conclusions.

**PART 1**

**2.** **FINANCE** Treasurer - Andy Meaton

 Our finances remain in a healthy state.

**PART 2**

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

Keeping a record of the membership, and in particular the active membership who come on our rides and events, is a vital resource to the club. The information derives from returns from Group Secretaries every two months and is processed by the registrar who compiles a register of all members of Cycling UK living in WK’s area who attend, and points are allocated in accordance with the BAR Rules to determine the award of trophies and certificates at the end of the year. This data is checked by the BAR committee who meet every two months. The committee currently only has two members, and a further volunteer to join the committee would be very welcome.

Since March some of our groups and many of our riders have chosen to avoid group activities and this is evident in the data listed below. After the first lockdown some of the larger groups have been active with restricted numbers or split rides, and some riders have been doing their own solo rides which do not get included in the returns. Due to the Covid pandemic restrictions the medal series and the award of trophies has been suspended.

In order to adjust to Cycling UK organisational changes the statistics (for membership and attendance on rides) will in future be for the calendar year instead of a year ending on 30th September. This means that for the 2019/21 report the statistics represent a 15 month period from 1st October 2019 to 31st December 2020. Note that the special circumstances of Covid pandemic restrictions mean that there is no direct comparison with the results of previous years even though they appear to be similar.

**Membership Totals** [including new, moved in, moved out and non-renewals]**:**

**West Kent: members on 31/12/20: Not available [*2403 members on 31/03/21*]**

**4. ATTENDANCE ON RIDES** Registrar - Rob Seall

**WEST KENT CTC RESULTS:** These include Gravesend returns for their Wednesday rides only, not their weekend and evening rides. The following table lists the recorded total numbers out (daily averages in brackets).

Year Winter Winter Summer Summer Weekday Total

 Saturday Sunday Saturday Sunday

2009-10 328 707 331 717 1280 3363

2010-11 307 730 317 680 1183 3217

2011-12 367 685 279 649 1387 3367

2012-13 273 604 294 697 1325 3193

2013-14 188 720 294 593 1478 3273

2014-15 130 699 277 728 1233 3067

2015-16 246 609 260 749 1435 3299

2016-17 248 696 316 770 1504 3474

2017-18 226 687 203 666 1279 3061

2018-19 214 587 277 662 1169 2909

(8.2) (22.6) (10.7) (25.5) (11.5) (14.0)

**2019-20 294 809 140 414 981 2638**

 **(7.1) (20.7) (5.4) (15.8) (7.5) (10.1)**

#### **EVENT RESULTS:** Numbers indicate West Kent CTC + Other Riders.

**25mile Rough Stuff** **(Oct.2019):** 16 + 13 [*15 + 17*]

**Hill Climb (Nov.2019):** 25[*21\* + 2*] *\*1 No. electric assist*

**AGM (Nov.2019):** 25 [*26*]

**Winter Weekend (February):** 24 [*31*]

**Anniversary Ride (March):** 27 [*18*]

**Grimpeur 100 / 50km (March)**: 7 + 58 / 5 + 11 [*2 +52* / *9 + 6*]

**Group ride 26th April:** cancelled [*19*]

**Hop Garden 200 / 160 / 100km (May):** cancelled [*1+17 / 3+4 / 18+18*]

**Hadlow Hundreds 100 miles (May):** cancelled [*Tri-Vets 100 miles* *17*+*16*]

**100 miles event support rides:** cancelled [*0+0*]

**Group ride 16th August:** cancelled [*19*]

**Hadlow Hundreds 100km (September):** cancelled [*7 + 0*]

**Hadlow Hundreds support rides:** cancelled [*3* + *0*]

**25 mile Rough Stuff (Oct.2020):** cancelled [16 + 13]

**Hill Climb (Nov.2020):** cancelled [25]

**GROUP RESULTS** (**excluding events**): [2018-19 in brackets]

**Bexleyheath** 81 [*102*] runs, 442 [*391*] attendances, average 5.5 [*5.8*]

**Easy Riders** 11 [*23*] runs, 31 [*69*] attendances, average 2.8 [*3.0*]

**Gravesend Wednesday** 20 [*49*] runs, 224 [*502*] attendances, average 11.2 [*10.2*]

**Hardriders** 50 [*52*] runs, 263 [*270*] attendances, average 5.3 [*5.2*]

**Intermediates** 47 [*40*] runs, 168 [*163*] attendances, average 3.6 [*4.1*]

**Medway** 41 [*53*] runs, 108 [*158*] attendances, average 2.6 [*2.9*]

**Medway Towns** 35 [*39*] runs, 143 [*121*] attendances, average 4.1 [*3.1*]

**Moderates** 12 [*19*] runs, 72 [*133*] attendances, average 6.0 [*7.0*]

**Orpington** 53 [*54*] runs, 289 [*292*] attendances, average 5.4 [*5.6*]

**Saturday** 8 [*21*] runs, 52 [*124*] attendances, average 6.5 [*6.0*]

**Sevenoaks** 54 [*51*] runs, 379 [*313*] attendances, average 7.0 [*6.1*]

**Sunday All Day** 48 [*43*] runs, 113 [*119*] attendances, average 2.3 [*2.8*]

**Sunday Shorts** 16 [*17*] runs, 74 [*80*] attendances, average 4.5 [*4.7*]

**Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells** 84 [*60*] runs, 359 [*195*] attendances, average 4.3 [*3.5*]

**Weekday** 9 [*12*] runs, 69 [*77*] attendances, average 7.6 [*6.4*]

**5. FREQUENCY OF RIDING** Registrar - Rob Seall

In order that the results are not significantly skewed the following results are for the period up to 30th September 2020 to maintain comparison with previous years.

Total numbers in 2018-19 [West Kent /SE London areas]

#### Year CTC members in Riding at Riding 5 or Riding 17 or

 West Kent /SEL least once more times more times

2010-11 1627 + 646 237 124 65

2011-12 2174 270 139 63

2012-13 2405 188 112 70

2013-14 2467 186 120 67

2014-15 2385 174 124 71

2015-16 2350 191 125 74

2016-17 2306 185 137 76

2017-18 2749 166 127 64

2018-19 2478 166 108 62

**2019-20 ???? 224 111 46**

**GROUP RESULTS:**

Riding at least once / Riding 5 or more times / Riding 17 or more times with one section. A member riding 17 or more times is classified as a regular rider.

[*Numbers in brackets refer to the year 1/10/18 to 30/9/19*]

**Bexleyheath:** 16 / 8 / 5 [*15 / 9 / 7*]

Brian Juchau 58 [*85*] Mike Friday 54 [*89*] Mark Nelson 43 [*67*]

Daniel Plumb 35 [*53*] Justin Quelch 23 [*34*]

**Easy Riders:** 8 / 4 / 0 [*13* / 5/ *2*]

**Gravesend Wednesday**: 22 / 16 / 2 [*39 / 24 / 13*]

Enrico Cecconi 18 [*35*] John Dent 18 [*44*]

**Hardriders:** 17 / 6 / 6 [*18 / 11 / 5*]

Simon Hattersley 36 [*46*] Martin Gill 35 [*45*] Bill Bailey 31 [*38*]

Roy Turner 39 [*34*] Roland Rippingale 23 [*18*] Johnny Banks 17 [-]

**Intermediates**: 9 / 8 / 5 [*12 / 7 / 4*] Frank Harvey 36 [*38*]

Tricia Hewlett 33 [*31*] Robert Bunce 21 [*17*] Susan Cole 19 [-]

**Medway:** 6 / 4 / 2 [*10 / 5 / 3*] John Ennis 30 [*46*] Bob Macdowall 29 [*43*]

**Medway Towns:** 7/4/2 [*13/6/2*] Geoff Hunt 25 [*38*] Jeff Drummond 22 [-]

**Moderates:** 10 / 5 / 0 [*10 / 10 / 4*]

**Orpington:** 8 / 8 / 8 [*8 / 8 / 8*]

Steven Brown 34 [*45*] Richard Bush 32 [*48*] Peter Woods 32 [*39*]

Colin Atkins 30 [*42*] Steve Cherry 30 [*38*] Malcolm Pullan 30 [*44*]

Simon Hattersley 27 [*26*] Andrew Mackay 22 [*39*]

**Saturday:** 11 / 3 / 0 [*16 / 9 / 3*]

**Sevenoaks:** 24 / 16 / 5 [*26 / 14 / 7*]

Peter Hawker 40 [*47*] Kami Luscombe 31 [*31*] Diana Outram 26 [*43*]

Rosemary Wakefield 25[*19*] Carol Lin 23 [*33*]

**Sunday All Day:** 6 / 3 / 3 [*5 / 4 / 3*]

Colin Atkins 36 [*41*] Linda Gray 32 [*32*]Paul Fitzsimmons 17 [*38*]

**Sunday Shorts:**  11 / 6 / 0 [*8 / 7 / 1*]

**Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells:** 13 / 9 / 8 [*15 / 10 / 6*]

Rob Seall 65 [*59*] Andy Wythes 48 [*41*] Ros Seall 47 [*34*]

Peter Moore 32 [*23*] Lyndon Collins 27 [-] Johnny Banks 25 [*18*]

Rob Baughan 24 [-] Roland Rippingale 24 [*19*]

**Weekday:** 15 / 6 / 0 [*14 / 6 / 0*]

**INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:**

**Other regular riders not listed above**: [i.e. those who have ridden 17 or more times on group rides [not events] between 01/10/19 and 30/9/20]

Paul McAteer 31 [*31*] Peter Ashlee 19 [*32*] Linda Kemp 18 [*4*]

**Regular riders with more than one section (as listed above):** 4 [*6*]

Colin Atkins Johnny Banks Simon Hattersley

Roland Rippingale

**6 [*13*] members rode more than 52 times** i.e. more than once a week on average:

Rob Seall 74 [*85*] Colin Atkins 66 [*83*] Simon Hattersley 63 [*76*] Brian Juchau 60 [*85*] Mike Friday 54 [*93*] Ros Seall 53 [*54*]

**6.** **THE INFORMAL** **GROUPS**

WK has no subsidiary Member Groups. All the riding groups are Informal Member Groups.

**a.** **BEXLEYHEATH** Secretary - Mike Friday

The group has been meeting for ad hoc rides with refreshments carried. Numbers have been 6 – 8 riders, splitting into 2 groups when necessary to avoid exceeding 6. They were glad to be able to get a week away in Normandy in late July.

**b.** **EASYRIDERS** Secretary – Margaret Tate

The group continued its programme of rides on 2 Wednesdays per month until lockdown. Since then the group has not held any rides on account of problems with health and fitness of members.

**c. GRAVESEND** Secretary – Steve Dyer

There was the usual programme of rides until lockdown. There were 3 well attended events: a Wednesday lunch, a Saturday night pub soirée, and a festive Friday day ride.

The January reliability ride from Shorne Country Park attracted 77 riders and raised over £500 for the Air Ambulance. Group members organised the Winter Weekend in Derbyshire.

During lockdown there were no official club rides, but members arranged rides in permitted groups via What App. There were small groups riding most days of the week. Strava was a great way of seeing what everyone was up to. There were Zoom social meetings to keep members in touch.

**d. HARDRIDERS** Secretary - Martin Gill

The Group had its usual programme of Sunday rides until lockdown. In 2019 there was a pre-Christmas tour to East Kent. After a period of solo riding, as covid restrictions allowed, riding started in pairs and then as a group, but the rides were arranged weekly ad hoc and details were not published in the runs list. With some exceptions the cafe stops involved sitting outside and lunches were picnics usually held at a viewpoint or a churchyard. There were further periods of group riding and riding in pairs as restrictions allowed.

**e.** **INTERMEDIATES** Secretary – Frank Harvey

The dominant feature of the last year was having to contend with requirements of the lockdown. Nevertheless the small band of members has continued to enjoy regular Sunday outings to their favourite watering holes in the Kent countryside.

The Group suffers from a deteriorating age profile. Advancing years result in health issues and a gradual diminishing level of fitness.The unpalatable result is that younger riders are not attracted to riding with a bunch of old codgers.

**f.** **MEDWAYS** Secretary - Bob Macdowall

With the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, the group went “solo” from the day before lockdown until the end of May. Rides were resumed thereafter, as Covid restrictions allowed, with social distancing strictly observed.

The cancellation of all events and club get togethers post Grimpeur were keenly felt as these are a staple part of the group’s cycling diary.

The planned tour to the Yorkshire Wolds has been postponed until later this year.

**g. MEDWAY TOWNS** Secretary - Geoff Hunt

The group were out most Sundays until government lockdown in March. They did unofficial rides starting in late May and resumed official rides in August with regular riders being informed of rides. On the plus side the group’s Facebook page is proving very successful with over 100 members and some talk about cycling in Medway on it.

**h.** **MODERATE**  Secretary – Bob Tomlinson

There was an average of 6.2 riders until Covid stopped regular rides and an average of 9 since that time. There was a selection of start places to enable the ride to go further afield. There was a joint ride with the Tunbridge Wells group.

Two new ladies and one young man joined the group on one of the informal rides and it is hoped they will come out again.

Peter’s Scott’s last ride with the group was in June. He will be sadly missed.

**i.** **ORPINGTON**  Secretary - Peter Woods

There were no official rides during the strict lockdowns and members relied on Zoom meetings to keep in touch.

There were various social events, although they were seriously curtailed due to the Covid restrictions. In December 2019 there was a bangers and mash evening at the Crown, and there were visits to members houses twice in February and in June and September.

**j.** **SATURDAY** Secretary – Ros Seall

The group provides easy paced and generally low mileage day rides usually on the first and third Saturdays of each month from a variety of wide-ranging starting points, often with a particular place of interest to visit. The group is mostly made up from members who also ride with other groups looking for something different beyond their regular riding. After the lockdown in March all group rides were cancelled due to the high vulnerability of our riders. A ride was held in October 2020 and due to declining numbers the group has decided to do rides only on the first Saturday of the month starting in April 2021

**k.** **SEVENOAKS** Secretary – Diana Outram

During lockdown, most members carried out solo cycling. From mid May, the group started cycling as a group again, initially for 2-3 hours but resumed whole day rides since July. Members from other West Kent groups joined occasionally and therefore the number of cyclists have increased in summer weeks, especially the ride on 12th September, the CTC "Biggest Bike Ride" when, coincidentally, the Sevenoaks Section fielded an unprecedented 14 riders. The group has been following the government guideline for social distancing and limitation of numbers per ‘sub-group’ (the whole group is split into a couple of groups riding to the same destination). The groups carried on group- riding during the winter months, restrictions and weather permitting.

**l. SUNDAY ALL DAY** Secretary - Colin Atkins

Rides over the winter and early spring continued as usual, with two to four riders out most Sundays. With the lock-down in mid March and on into April members were riding individually and from May two were riding together. Destinations were not as ambitious as in previous years, with a slightly more leisurely pace. One member continued with solo rides or sometimes with the East Surrey CTC. Over the Autumn and Winter rides continued as far as rules and weather permitted, and the group have gained one new rider.

**m. SUNDAY SHORTS** Secretary – Nicola Tobin

The group had their usual bi-weekly rides up until lockdown in March, after which members were riding individually or in their households.

Starting in June small groups were venturing out further afield on car assisted rides. These normally included a Sustrans route. This was often on weekdays as members were furloughed.

**n**. **TONBRIDGE + TUNBRIDGE WELLS** Secretary - Rob Seall

The group is an ‘all-comers’ group providing an all year-round Sunday morning ride with frequent extensions to longer or full day rides, sometimes joining up with other groups. A few members ride with a group from Southborough Wheelers on Wednesdays to elevenses and on to lunch at a series of pubs visited in rotation by the San Fairy Ann CC. Members are encouraged support all WK events.

Since the first lockdown in March the group held Zoom meetings and did solo rides until 1st May when they held their first ‘Rendezvous Ride’ which quickly developed into two of these a week, on Thursdays and Sundays, meeting up for elevenses at various outdoor locations. By June we had resumed group rides of up to six riders. Following the tier 4 lockdown in December 2020 group riding was suspended. Thursday and Sunday group [up to 6 riders] morning rides were restarted on 1st April.

**o. WEEKDAY** Secretary – Eric Watts

The monthly Thursday rides continued until lockdown in March. As soon as permitted and when places of refreshment reopened, the group continued their rides in the correct group size. Starting places have varied across the Weald and are usually close to a railway station, the rides have included café stops morning and afternoon and a pub lunch. Some of the older riders now come out on ebikes. The rides tend to be 50+ miles in winter and 60+ miles in the warmer months.

**PART 3**

**7.** **THE COMMITTEES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**a.** **WK COMMITTEE** Chairman - Peter Scott

The Committee met in October and December 2019 to receive reports from the Officers, Committees, to make decisions and to exchange information. Since then the Committee has met from time to time via Zoom.

The attendance at WK Committee meetings during the year since last year’s AGM was as follows:

[Figures in brackets refer to the number of meetings that could have been attended]

Heather Ashlee 0 [*4*]Martin Gill 5 [*5*] Linda Gray 0 [*5*] Andy Meaton 0 [*5*] Bob Macdowall 5 (*5*) Peter Scott 1 [*2*] Rob Seall 5 [*5*]

**b**. **INFORMAL GROUPS’ FORUM**

The Forum met in October 2019 to discuss matters of interest to the Groups and to receive reports from the Informal Groups. Since lockdown the Forum has met occasionally via Zoom.

**c.** **OUTDOOR EVENTS** Outdoor EventsOfficer – Rob Seall

The numbers of West Kent CTC riders taking part in [competitive] events continues to decline. The cancellation of all events since March due to the epidemic would appear to be the death knell for the Medal Series.

**Events since 30th September 2019 were:**

The 25 miles Rough Stuff on 20th October [2019], organised by Bob Macdowall, which attracted 29 riders, 13 of which were from other clubs.

The Hill Climb on 3rd November [2019] was organised by Peter Ashlee, and Paul McQuillen was again the quickest West Kent CTC rider, with Graham Lingham 1st Veteran, Catherine Coffin 1st Lady, Gabriel Chown 1st Junior, and the Team prize was won by the Gravesend Group.

The only medal event of the 2020 season before the lockdown was the Grimpeur 100km/Hilly 50km on 8th March. As all the other medal events were cancelled the Medal Series was also cancelled for this year.

The season also included the Winter Weekend in February and an Anniversary Ride on the first Sunday in March. Two ‘Get Together’ rides, in April and August were cancelled.

The 25 miles Rough Stuff on 4th October 2020 was cancelled, as was the Hill Climb on 1st November, with the AGM postponed to 2021 as a result of the change to Cycling UK’s year end. There have been no further events in the period ending 31st March 2021.

**d. SOCIAL** Secretary – Linda Gray

The Luncheon was held on 25 January 2020 and was well attended and a successful event.

**e. CLUBROOM** Steward - Heather Ashlee

Until lockdown Clubroom attendance varied, as ever, between 6 and 9 but since then there have been no Clubroom sessions.

**f**. **PUBLICITY**

We still do not have a Publicity Officer. The main sources of publicity have been the Web Site, the Facebook page and publicity leaflets. Also, welcome letters were sent to new members of CTC. Business card sized publicity material has been distributed to Informal Group Secretaries and we hope that members will distribute these and the publicity leaflets when the opportunity arises. There is currently a good supply of leaflets and further supplies of the cards can be obtained as required.

**g.** **WEBSITE** Manager – Alan Stirling

The lack of group activity has been reflected in little activity on the site. Rides lists have been published, issues of Winged Words have been posted in the archive and occasional news items have been posted.

**h. WINGED WORDS** Editor – Bob MacDowall

WW Team: Colin Atkins (Distribution) Richard Bush (Treasurer/Adverts) Bob MacDowall (Editing) Rob Watt (Editing) Chrissa Woodhouse (Technical Support)

Despite the devastating effects of Covid, they have managed to produce a full set of issues only twice having to drop below our normal 36 pages. They rely heavily on contributions from West Kenters near and far and are grateful to our regular reporters and feature writers for the material submitted. Of course they could always do with more copy and / or associated photos so please don’t forget them especially if you have information as to what’s happening in your group.

In the period covered by this annual report, there have been two Best Article Competitions, results shown below:

**2018/19**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Result** | **Author** | **Title** | **See article in...** |
| **Winner** | **Bob MacDowall** | **The Invalids Tour** | **Oct/Nov19** |
| **Runner up** | **Colin Atkins** | **A Windy Winter Weekend** | **Apr/May19** |
| **Third** | **Andrew Bell** | **The West Kent Hilly 50** | **Jun/Jul19** |

**2019/20**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Result** | **Author** | **Title** | **See article in...** |
| **Winner** | **Bob MacDowall** | **Harry’s Story** | **Dec19/Jan20** |
| **Runner up** | **Colin Atkins** | **I’ll Be Back – Eventually** | **Aug/Sep20** |
| **Third** | **Andrew Barton** | **Winter Weekend 2020** | **Apr/May20** |

Thanks to Sidney Schuman who has undertaken further work on the on line Archive including the scanning of some early editions which have come to light. Go to our web site and select the Archives tab then scroll down to Winged Words Archive.

We have not managed to find any new advertisers which would provide additional income we could do with to defray the running costs of the magazine. The continued publication of the magazine in hard copy is a matter which will require further consideration. In addition we are looking for someone to manage our existing advertisers portfolio – if you can help, please contact Richard Bush whose details can be found in the magazine.

**j**. **BEST ALL ROUNDER COMPETITION** Registrar – Rob Seall

The BAR committee is now down to just two members, Rob Seall and the BAR Committee chairman Kim Woodward. It would be greatly appreciated if someone would volunteer to be involved, preferably someone with an interest in keeping the format of the competitions up to date and relevant.

The BAR rules, updated periodically, list points to be gained on group rides, events and other competitions.

Results are collected, checked and published every two months up to the end of November each year for the top performing members, and trophies and medals are awarded at the Annual Dinner.

**k.** **SALES**

We didn’t appoint a Sales Manager this year as there had been hardly any sales in the year and there is only a small amount of stock left. It is proposed to order further supplies of a new design of cycling tops and we will need a volunteer to take on the sales role.

**m**. **RIGHTS**

WK no longer has a Rights Officer though several members are ‘Right to Ride’ registered and carry out good work. Members have supported the Sevenoaks Bicycle Users Group (whose main focus has been a ‘twenty’s plenty campaign) and the Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum and the Dartford and Gravesend Cycling Forum.

Members have supported the Tonbridge Bicycle Users Group which aims to improve facilities and the environment for cyclists in the area.

**n**. **FRED CLEVERLY MEMORIAL TRUST**

Trustees - Peter Ashlee, Peter Scott/Nicola Tobin

The money is in a National Savings & Investment account and currently stands at £1,000.94. No payment has been made during the past 18 months.

There are usually 2 trustees, which for several years was Peter Ashlee and Peter Scott. After the death of Peter Scott, Nicky Tobin was appointed as a trustee.

We also need to consider how best to use this money in the future.

**p. WELFARE** Officer – Peter Ashlee

The Welfare Officer's role. as defined by Cycling UK, is to be responsible for issues relating to the welfare of individuals within the group. The welfare officer will be accessible to members to help them in addressing issues such as complaints against individuals, protection of vulnerable adults and children and discrimination.

I am pleased to be able to report that during the past 18 months, no issues have been brought to his attention.

**PART 4**

8. **PERSONAL**

We were saddened by the deaths during the period covered by this report of the following members:

Peter Scott who was current club president and was a former secretary of the Hardriders section and long term member of the WK committee in various roles and was the current Chairman;

Vic Ashlee who for much of his life rode with the Saturdays, served on the Outdoor Events Committee and for many years edited Winged Words;

Amy Sinclair, one of the founders and for many years secretary of the Weald Section and former DA Secretary;

Ron Jackson former member of the Junior Section and long term member of the Moderates.

**9.** **CONCLUSION**

Inevitably numbers out on rides have gone down as a result of the pandemic. However it is encouraging how many members have continued riding. The figures in Part 1 do not include the large number of members who have been riding solo or in pairs when required.