

# CTC Wessex Member Group

*Including*

*CTC Bournemouth Member Group  
CTC West Dorset Member Group  
CTC Salisbury Member Group  
CTC Blackmore Vale Informal Group*

## Annual Report 2009

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## **CTC Wessex President's Report 2008/9**

I have had virtually no involvement in cycling matters for the bulk of this year consequently it is unsurprising that I have nothing to report.

However this is the appropriate time to pay tribute to all of those members who have made a constructive contribution to the various member groups, parent and subsidiary, thus bringing real benefit to other active members and in some cases to cyclists and potential cyclists beyond the CTC membership.

Norman Payne

## **CTC Wessex Secretary's Report 2008/9**

Despite the changes of names from Sections and District Association to CTC Member Groups, the various CTC cycling clubs throughout Wessex have continued to provide rides catering for most abilities and aptitudes for the 1347 members.

During the year we met up for 3 CTC Wessex committee meetings, with an average of 9 attending. These meetings provide the opportunity to report on current cycling developments throughout Wessex, and a chance to "network". However, most decisions are made at the subsidiary member group level, as they should be. The committee therefore decided to have the option of holding "email meetings" in the future if no pressing business needed discussing.

The 16 "Open Events" throughout Wessex maintained their high standards, thanks to the time and efforts given freely by members. For instance, the Dorset Coast and Coastlet Audax events which I organise involved 30 helpers throughout Wessex. Most find helping on the day an enjoyable and rewarding experience, and I would encourage anyone to offer their services.

Both our "Right to Ride" representatives have decided to stand down. I'd like to thank Peter DuLieu and Ken Reed for their considerable efforts in raising the profile of cyclists rights against often dispiriting walls of beaurocracy and ignorance. I hope that their work is continued within Wessex.

All these events, local rides, lists of cafes which welcome cyclists, and much, much more are found on the CTC Wessex website., without which we may just as well be a disparate band of cycling groups who just happen to live in Wessex.

And as for next year, we hope to organise some "Grand Meets" accessible to most groups within Wessex. I hope that these groups will encourage their members to attend by including them in their runs lists. And the next year we celebrate Wessex's Centenary. Could be an excuse to spend some of our hard earned funds. Any ideas?

Peter Loakes

# CTC Wessex Member Group

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

11am, at D'Urberville Centre, Wool, November 7th 2009

Attending Peter Loakes, Margaret & Richard Nicholl, Alan Clarke, Malcolm Howell, Norman Payne, Mike & Terry Walsh, Julian James, Anne Neale, Ken Reed, David Durose, Jean Trill, Keith Matthews, Julian Foster, Sam Bradshaw, Margaret Phillpotts Brian Wakely, Bob Chittenden (19 members)

1. Apologies Mike Durham, Jimmy Walker, Gill Anlezark, Johnny & Janet Read
2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM were circulated. There were no amendments.
3. Matters arising: Malcolm explained that a photograph of the Ron Cook rose bowl had been given to the widower of Marguerite Stratham rather than the bowl itself being presented.
4. Annual Reports for 2008 (see attached sheets for full reports)
  - Chairman Norman's report stated he had virtually no involvement in cycling. However he wished to thank those members who had made a constructive contribution over the year.
  - In his Secretary's report, Peter mentioned the high standards of the 16 "open" events organised throughout Wessex, and the continued support of volunteers being important.
  - As Dorset's Right to Ride Rep, Ken announced that he would stand down, after several years of service. Ken cited the time consuming nature of the post, not feeling that much had been achieved, and the perceived antagonism of officials, amongst his reasons. However, he would see the Weymouth Connect2 project through. His report then outlined his involvement in numerous projects, and the frustratingly slow progress made. He also mentioned the money being squandered on short-term schemes for the Olympics that would leave no legacy behind, and the fact that funds for the rest of Dorset were being diverted.
  - Alan pointed out the many different aspects of cycling that were described in the four subsidiary member group reports.
  - Ken mentioned that the Thursday Folder rides were accessible to members throughout Wessex and beyond, and that the internet would increasingly influence cyclists' choices of rides.
  - Councillor Julian gave a verbal report. He said that the 2011 national CTC AGM had been provisionally booked – to be confirmed by HQ. The meeting stressed that Kevin Mayne better confirm that soon, or the booking would be lost. The continuing unreliability of accurate membership enrolment & renewal was mentioned. The meeting unanimously supported the following motion, proposed by Terry, seconded by Alan:  
**Motion: In view of the long running troubles experienced with the subcontracting of the CTC Membership department, the meeting is of the opinion that it should be brought back under the control of CTC HQ.** Peter to inform HQ of our motion.
5. Statement of Accounts for year ending 30 September 2009 were circulated by the Treasurer, with the proviso that they had not been audited due to the Bournemouth accounts not being audited. This would be redressed soon. Total funds held throughout Wessex had risen by £316.75 to £13265.74, and were deemed "ample".
  - It was suggested that once the CTC achieved charitable status at the next AGM, that it would be illegal to donate to other charities. Julian was asked to clarify the situation, and to report back.
6. Presentation of Awards
  - Don Dickinson Award: Penny & David Buckley, for the second year running. Their high standard of illustrated article was hard to better. Mike to see to engraving & presenting the trophy.
  - Ron Cook Rose bowl: presented to Margaret Phillpotts for her attempt to ride the London-Edinburgh-London, and her achievements in long distance cycling. Peter to get the plinth engraved.

- George Keith Award: Margaret Phillpotts, for cycling in 35 counties, not including unitary authorities.
  - Arthur Moss Trophy: not awarded. Terry to retrieve the trophy from last year's holder, Yefron Nye.
7. Election of Officers
- President: Malcolm Howell. Proposed by Peter, seconded by Anne. Malcolm thanked Norman, for his perseverance in adversity with the member group changes over his time as president.
  - Vice Presidents: Jimmy Walker, Bob Courtney, Alan Clarke and Margaret Nicholl.
  - Secretary: Peter Loakes
  - Treasurer: Richard Nicholl
  - Auditors: David Durose & John Frost
  - DA Registrar: Keith Matthews
  - Welfare Officer: Keith Matthews
  - Promotions: Keith Matthews, in his capacity of Wessex Webmaster.
  - The 4 subsidiary member groups would inform the secretary of who were to represent them at Wessex committee meetings.
8. **Motion: to adopt the new CTC Wessex constitution** as outlined in the handout. It had basically been rewritten to include the changes in nomenclature agreed at the last AGM. There was some confusion as to whether it was needed in addition to the Policy Handbook for CTC Groups, and also whether we needed to un-adopt the acting constitution, but it was decided that the Wessex constitution would augment the Policy Handbook at a local level. The following amendments were suggested:
- Members in the DT10 area to transfer to Blackmore Vale. Other outlying postcode areas to be agreed between West Dorset & BV.
  - The quorum of 7 committee members was questioned. It was agreed that it should remain. This would also apply to the AGM.
  - Section 6: nominations to be sent to the secretary also by other means than by post.
  - The motion was carried with one abstention (Alan)
9. Main Calendar of Events for 2010 was outlined and adopted by the meeting. (see attached sheet)
- We had been asked whether we could offer to organise a Triennial Veterans "100 in 12" ride next summer. It was pointed out that this was quite a commitment. Peter to investigate.
  - The difficulty of obtaining marshals was raised, and the possibility of hiring paid marshals was mentioned with respect to the Dorset Dirt and Gridiron events.
10. CTC Wessex Grand Meets
- Alan suggested Breamore on 26<sup>th</sup> September and Pitt House some time in July/August. These were probably both beyond the reach of the West Dorset riders. Groups were urged to support these meets, and Peter was asked to publicise details.
11. **Motion: that the claim for the annual grant from CTC HQ be submitted in full.**  
Proposed by Julian, seconded by Mike. Motion carried. Peter to submit.
12. A.O.B
- The CTC National AGM was provisionally booked at the National Sailing Academy on Portland, for 14/15 May 2011, with AGM, followed by dinner on Saturday, and rides organised on Sunday. It was suggested that the twinning event should avoid that weekend.

The meeting closed at 12.37pm

Peter Loakes  
Secretary, CTC Wessex

## **CTC Bournemouth Member Group Report of 2009**

The section has had another successful year. All the groups are well attended every Saturday, Sunday and Thursday. Some Bournemouth riders also meet the Wednesday Wanderers from Dorchester. The new Saturday Morning 60 Miles has several regular riders and looks set to grow in popularity. Unfortunately Shawn Shaw has decided not to continue with the NusunS but there is demand for a longer ride on a Sunday and Dave Langley has made a start. Keith Matthews PHSG group is now well established. The only group still out of action is the Easy Riders. I'm sure someone will soon come forward to lead it. Alan Dodson will not be able to lead the Sunday Potterers in future, he has done that job for the last 19 years, a fact recognised by members at the AGM. Someone else's turn now.

Pete DuLieu resigned as Right to Ride Rep. He has done that job for many, many years and is not in the best of health. He was ideally suited for the job. He had worked in local government for years both for Bournemouth Council and Dorset County Council. He knew many of the people personally, both councillors and council officers. He was able to ring them up and have a chat, tell them what cyclists needed and tell them about Government advice and regulations. He has a great deal of knowledge on the matter. Paul Turner has agreed to take over the job.

All Sixteen Events were run successfully, Peter Loakes ran the Dorset Coast and Coastlet, Shawn Shaw his 50 in 4 and 100 in 8, John Ward's New Forest Audax rides, 4 in April and 4 in September were great. West Dorset ran the Dorset Downs. The Dorset Dirt was a great success. Brian Callow's 200k Bournemouth Square attracted a good number of riders and the Gridiron broke all records this year, 825 entries, one broken pelvis, and one broken elbow. I look forward to next year.

*Terry Walsh*

## **CTC Salisbury Report for 2009**

I have just (30<sup>th</sup> October 2009) received the following e-mail:

*Dear Alan,*

*I have now returned home to Redcar after my stay in Salisbury.*

*The ride you led me on last Sunday was particularly enjoyable, having a local to point out things of local interest and show me the quiet roads makes all the difference. Thanks for your company and also for the tea and cake. We enjoyed our trip to Salisbury so much that I'm sure we will re visit next year. If so, I will definitely turn up for another Sunday ride and hopefully a Wednesday night one too.*

*Thank you once again.*

*Regards Andy Wills (Teesside DA)*

(Note use of DA!)

This e-mail illustrates the power of the internet and our website <http://www.SalisburyCTC.org>. Andy is not the only visitor from afar who has joined our rides this year having found out about them from the Salisbury CTC webpage. We even have one rider who visits Salisbury about four times a year from Derby and joins us on a Sunday ride on each occasion. We monitor hits on the website which average around 20 a day, from all over the world. Overall 4% stay on the site for over an hour! There is much to see and read on the Salisbury site.

Probably by a process of "natural selection", almost all of our riders now use the internet to see if the coming ride on Wednesday or Sunday is to their liking. Riders around Salisbury are so active with holidays, family, work (often taking them overseas) that the term regular Sunday rider now means only 10 times a year. Thus it can take some time before the various members meet each other out on a ride together. We hope to have some Wessex grand meets next year to give some opportunities for Wessex cyclists to meet each other.

The Wednesday evening rides to local and not so local inns and pubs still manage to include one or two new ones each year despite the dwindling number of such establishments. Maybe better lighting, less punctures and less mechanical problems and global warming has led to more longer evening rides.

Have a good Christmas and make a New Year's resolution to join some Wessex grand meets next year.

*Alan Clarke.*

## **Blackmore Vale CTC Group**

### **Secretary's Report**

### **Year ending 30 September 2009**

The Blackmore Vale Group has had a very successful year:

- ✓ we've registered as an 'Informal CTC Group'
- ✓ we've formed a committee
- ✓ we've introduced weekly 'Coffee Pots'
- ✓ we've introduced 'Try Cycling' sessions for beginners in Marnhull

#### **Weekend Rides:**

We had 26 rides during the year with average attendance up at 9.7 (equal split between Sat and Sun). The largest turnout was 13 on 3 rides - Shepton Mallet (fish & chips), Longleat Cellar Café and Shearwater Bargate Café. Members with the highest attendance records for weekend rides were Robin and Richard G (19) and Jill & Roger (17).

#### **Coffee Pots:**

These Tuesday meets at our 4 selected cafes in Wincanton, Gillingham, Stourhead and Milborne Port were started in January 2009 and have proved popular with retired members; there were a record 11 at Milborne Port on 22 September. Bernard White takes the prize for cycling the furthest to a Coffee Pot (from Glastonbury).

#### **Try Cycling:**

These monthly rides in Marnhull are designed for new, nervous or rusty cyclists and take place on the first thurs (am) and sat (pm) each month. 9 cyclists have registered and one has already started to ride with us to Coffee Pots

#### **Social Events:**

24 members and their partners enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Dolphin Hotel in Wincanton and 12 members used the excuse of Bernard's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to gather at the same location for a roast lunch in July.

#### **The Committee:**

5 members were elected at the 2008 AGM; the Committee has met 4 times during the year to develop new ideas. A summary of each meeting was circulated to members to keep them informed of ideas discussed and decisions made.

Richard Gow  
Secretary

## **CTC West Dorset Member Group Secretary's Report to 2009 AGM**

### **Local events**

The conversion from Section to Member Group has met with little difficulty. The DA discussed the matter at its own AGM and voted its change. During the year, CTC Wessex prepared a new draft Constitution and CTC West Dorset proffered a few minor suggestions to it. It will be voted at the next AGM in two weeks time.

At the previous suggestion of Peter Loakes, as Secretary of CTC Wessex, your committee agreed to organise the marshalling of the Dorset Coast and Coastlet Randonneur events. Peter would continue to organise the registration process. Though a very successful event, it proved to be difficult to obtain the requisite number of marshals for the various controls. If members wish to keep the event alive, I will ask at the end of this meeting for a list of volunteer marshals.

We also provided marshals for the later Dorset Downs Audax event, again with a little difficulty. Peter tells me he is happy to continue running this event on a shoestring basis (ie. reducing the number of controls.)

### **Health & Safety**

The only accident that took place during the year was to your Chair who, on a Sunday ride, offered his leg to a nearby marauding dog. The leg, but not the dog, is stated to be recovering. Other than a serious incident which happened at a member's home, there were no other accidents recorded of members participating in club rides.

### **Dorset Cyclists Network**

I attended meetings of the above as your representative. Matters discussed included: the extension of the Rodwell Trail, provision of new cycling route, and cycling along the Weymouth promenade.

### **BBC**

Lastly, your Secretary received a phone call in August from a researcher for Country File, just 90 minutes before he was departing for a 5 day holiday in Ireland. We were requested to provide details of a cycling route from Cerne Abbas to Sturminster Newton. The programme wished to interview up to 3 cyclists with knowledge of the old cattle market at the latter and the cameras would record aspects of the ride. Exercising my considerable skills of delegation, I managed to pass the matter to Badger, who dutifully complied. John Hartley, Sharon Green and himself are the stars of the event and the programme is to be broadcast in January. We will be informed of the date.

Mike Durham

## CTC West Dorset

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 25 October 2009 at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Culliford Road, Dorchester.**

<b>Present:</b>	Geoff Dodge (Treasurer)	Malcolm Howell (Chair)	Mike Letten	Sue Baker
	Mike Durham (Secretary)	Mike Richardson	Anne Neale	Bob Bryant
	John Hartley	Anne Robinson	Lis Croucher	Graham Schofield
	Gail Gardener	Lewis Potter	David Durose	Peter Tindley
	Alan Murkin	Bob Warner	Ern Carter	Brian Wakley

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Apologies:** were received from Johnny and Janet Read, Valerie Green, Ken Reed, Hilary Lancashire, Basil Croucher and Penny and David Fennell,

**2. Minutes of last meeting.** When the Minutes had been read by the members in attendance, the Chair asked if they could be accepted as a true record. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chair, on a proposal by Mike Letten, seconded by Alan Murkin and agreed by the meeting.

**3. Matters arising.** There were none.

**4. Secretary's Report.** The Secretary read out his (appended) report.

**5. Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer gave a brief (appended) statement and copies of the (appended) Statement of Accounts were made available to the meeting.

**6. Social Secretary's report.** Lis Croucher gave the meeting a report (appended). She requested that those members who wish to attend the Christmas Lunch ensure that they gave her a £5 deposit by Friday at the latest.

**7. Runs organisers reports.** The various reports are appended. Anne Neale reported that the Dorset Dirt event attracted 216 riders and raised £1300. The large entry caused problems at the controls and if assistance for the next event is not forthcoming from members, it may have to be bought in.

**8. Motions for debate.** The Chair read out the first motion:

- 8.1.** "three choices for future issues of the quarterly newsletter;  
that it be sent to **all** 235 members of CTC West Dorset  
that it be issued free **to those who ask for it**  
that a **charge of £10** by cheque be levied to cover 3 years subscriptions.  
Only one proposal may be voted."

Proposed by John Hartley; seconded by Malcolm Howell.

The proposer stated that it was proving difficult to keep track of members who had paid for the newsletter and was embarrassing having to question members on the subject. He had requested that the committee consider the 3<sup>rd</sup> option but, on his absence from the meeting, found that the aspect had broadened to include the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> options. His preference remained for the 3<sup>rd</sup> option.

The Secretary suggested that the 3<sup>rd</sup> option be considered first, as the other 2 would then fall and the meeting agreed. The Chair then asked the meeting to vote on that option and 13 votes were cast in favour none against.

**8.2.** The Chair then read out the second motion:

"that in view of the recent local committee decision to grant a maximum of £100 from section funds to attendees of CTC cycling events. I wish to put this matter to the AGM to have that decision formally ratified."

Proposed by V.J. Read; seconded by Mrs J Read.

Alan Murkin stated that, rather than vote moneys for group activities, he felt it would be better to vote it to local charities. Anne Robinson stated she believed a charity could not vote funds to another charity and produced a printout from the CTC website. There was some discussion on the subject of whether the regional CTC limited company was in fact a charity.

The meeting then returned to the motion. The Secretary read out the 7 rules that were established at the committee meeting held on 11 May, as ratified at the full committee meeting on 11 September, before any grant could be approved.

There was further discussion on the use of the money and David Durose asked if the officers would prefer to have the vote of moneys for purchase of essential equipment rather than spend it as the motion proposed?

Lis Croucher proposed the addition of the words "unless club funds reduce to £1000" to the end of the motion and the Secretary seconded the amendment.

The meeting agreed and the motion, as amended, was then put to the vote, with 15 members for and 4 against.

### **9. Election of officers**

The Chair stood down and the secretary asked if there were any nominations for it. There being none, and the present Chair being prepared to stand again, he was re-elected on a proposal by Anne Neale, seconded by Brian Wakley, with the unanimous vote of the meeting. It was accepted that the post of Welfare Officer would continue to be undertaken by the Chair.

He resumed the Chair and asked if there were any nominations for secretary. There were none. The present secretary said that, if the meeting would accept his limited activity, (i.e. the fact that he did not attend DA meeting etc.) he would be prepared to continue to act as contact in Member Group matters. He was proposed by Sue Baker and seconded by Gail Gardner, and who both also voted him Registration Officer and Publicity Officer.

Geoff Dodge agreed to stand as treasurer and, in the absence of any other proposals, was proposed by Mike Durham and seconded by Brian Wakley

The following were re-elected on a block vote as proposed by John Hartley, seconded by David Durose and agreed by the meeting:

Geoff Dodge	Wednesday Wanderers
Ken Reed	Thursday Folders
Joy Cunningham	Saturdays
Angela Price	Alternative Sundays
Sue Baker & Hilary Lancashire	Joint Sunday organisers

The following were elected to the listed committee functions:

		<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Anne Robinson	Auditor	Anne Neall	Gail Gardener
Geoff Dodge	Webmaster	Mike Durham	Anne Neale
John Hartley	Editor	Mike Durham	Brian Wakley
Lis Croucher	Social Secretary	Sue Baker	Gail Gardener

The Chair pointed out to the meeting that the Right-to-Ride Officer was not standing again, as he had resigned the post. Although it was a CTC HQ appointment, the holder was usually co-opted onto both the CTC West Dorset and CTC Wessex member groups. However, at the request of Ken Reed, he was appointed Dorset Dirt Organiser with the approval of the meeting

### **10. Christmas Lunch and Tea arrangements**

Lis Croucher advised the meeting that the Christmas Lunch would be held at the Cygnets Restaurant on Wednesday 16 December. Brian Wakley asked if a different venue, such as Wool or Moreton, could be considered for next year?

The Chair stated that the Winter Tea would be held at Frampton Village Hall on Saturday 16 January at a subsidised cost of £5.

### **11. Right to Ride Co-ordinators report.**

Anne Neale circulated copies of Ken's (appended) report to the meeting. The Chair acknowledged his significant contribution to cycling matters.

### **12. Any other business**

The Chair advised the meeting that the AGM of CTC Wessex would be held at the Durberville Centre at Wool at 11 am on Saturday 7 November. The 2011 CTC national AGM would be held 14 May at the Sailing Academy Portland. The year 2011 would also be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Wessex DA. Members would be invited to assist in the preparation and leading of organised runs.

The Secretary requested that the Runs Book be circulated again so that members could indicate if they were prepared to act as marshals at next years events. It was agreed the Secretary would circulate event details when they became available. 10 members volunteered.

The Acting Secretary asked if this venue was appropriate for the next AGM and the meeting agreed.

**He said that the next AGM will be held on the appropriate Sunday determined by the new constitution accepted by CTC Wessex AGM and would therefore be at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Culliford Road, Dorchester at 10.30am.**

The meeting closed at 12.00 hours.

## CTC West Dorset Rides 2008-9

### Sunday Alternatives

The organiser met at Top O' Town every other Sunday (bar one), and on three occasions was the only rider at the start. She also turned up on the weekend of the snow and was the only rider - even the chairman was on foot.

Numbers varied significantly and on two occasions the numbers reached eleven.

Most often, there were just two or three riders. On one occasion, the ride was abandoned at the coffee stop at Morton (because it was full of cyclists from Bournemouth!)

At times the response from the Weymouth end was excellent brilliant, certainly on the last couple of rides.

The coffee stops were deliberately varied to encourage more riders. They need support from other members if they are to survive and hopefully thrive - the more riders on a ride, the greater presence they have on the road and the more notice other road users take of them.

### Saturday Saunterers Report

Most of the rides, especially the ones from Weymouth still give the Saunterers a bit of a work-out. However, nobody is in a hurry and nobody gets left behind.

The male riders have recently swelled the ranks. This only adds to the conversation. Luckily they don't talk too much about bottom brackets, gearing systems and bicycle engineering, which usually bewilders the female riders!

There was a bitterly cold ride to Portland at the beginning of the year, very bravely cycled by three Saunterers, who probably underestimated the biting wind. The last Portland one in September was fine, with a dozen riders sitting out on the Bill in the sunshine.

Cattistock and Abbotsbury proved favourite venues and a lovely picnic was held at Little Bredy. The Chairman's Winter Tea at Frampton Village Hall was also well attended and due credit must be given to the organising ladies.

A small group of ladies also enjoyed a pleasant few days in the New Forest in September with assorted rides, which included the Isle of Wight. The fine weather blessed most of the rides, with only the odd one or two being called off.

There proved to be a lot of places to ride within the maximum 25 miles round trip and it is always fun to try new routes.

### Sunday Runs Report

(Between, but not including, AGMs. nor Dorset Dirt, (13 Sep 2009, 216 entrants.) nor New Year Tea (Saturday, 17 Jan, 2009 28 people attended), nor Great Dorset Bike Ride, (07 Jun 2009), about 200).

4 Runs were cancelled at the start due to weather.

There were 45 actual cycled runs, with a total attendance was 422. The average attendance was  $422/45 = 9.4$

The maxima were: 17 at Corfe Castle, 03 May 2009, 16 at Cattistock, 11 Jan, 2009, 16 at Stoborough, 22 Feb 2009 16 at Drax Arms, Bere Regis, 22 Mar 2009, 15 at Lulworth, 25 Jan 2009.

Amongst the women, the highest attendances were: Val Carter 24, Sharon Green 26.

Among the men: Mike Durham 29, Lewis Potter 30 and Malcolm Howell 31.

### Folders Report

The attendance on folders rides goes from strength to strength, such that they had by far the biggest regular attendance of any of the club rides, with 31 individuals having taken part. The average number was 11, with a maximum of 15 and a minimum of 6. This is despite the fact that they had more than their fair share of bad weather in the year. Particular gratitude was expressed to Graham and Geoff who led the rides in the depths of last winter. It could not be imagined how they would have coped if all 31 had turned up on the same ride.

The rides had set into a popular pattern. Most riders liked the short train journeys in the winter and the longer rides in the summer. Trips ranged over Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and the New Forest. The furthest trip was to Bristol using the Bristol Bath cycle path. Most riders enjoyed the

spring and autumn rides to the New Forest and there were a number of good routes spreading out from Brockenhurst.

Despite the popularity of the forest, the favourite rides remained in Somerset, where the roads were quieter and the horizons wider. The summer visit to Glastonbury, both the festival site and the Tor, competed with the Coal ride from Frome as the favourite day out. The sight of the Tor almost all morning before scrambling up it for a picnic proved hard to beat. On the other hand to cycle on quiet country lanes from Frome to join the traffic free routes and canal tow paths to Bradford on Avon made a great ride which was hard to beat.

The most enjoyable aspect of the rides was the diversity and skills of the riders. These include genealogical, geophysical, technical and social skills. Riders from all four Wessex Member Groups attended, as well as several others from further afield. Many had had the opportunity to explore family history routes along the way. The sociable group was particularly delighted when it managed to make it a "three café stop" day. The technophobes were not often in demand, the bikes having proved surprisingly reliable.

During the next year, it is hoped to organise extra folders rides in addition to the regular monthly runs. The ladies group took their bikes to the New Forest during the summer. Based on this success, a trip to the Norfolk Broads is planned for next spring. It is hoped to have an extra ride, by coach, to Exeter at the end of October and to manage some longer trips away next year.

### **Dorset Dirt 2009**

The Dirt was again a great success this year. The weather was ideal and there were 216 entries. As only 85 of these entered in advance there were long queues at Top o'Town and a few people were not signed in by the 10am start.

Despite many requests only five members volunteered to help and this resulted in one marshal being inundated by riders at the first control point and even at the second control, at the Gaggles of Geese, shorter queues formed.

There were many compliments made. As usual, the first riders finished in the incredible average time of 10mph.

As usual with mountain biking there were a few tumbles and unfortunately there was one crash which resulted in a quite serious injury. Even though the ambulance service had good map references they took over an hour to arrive. Whilst everything possible was done, it did indicate how short handed the organisers were.

The Dirt made nearly £1300 for the club but also a great deal for the various charities which participants rode for. It was known that the riders who rode for Prostate Cancer raised at least £800 in sponsorship and there were other sponsored riders.

Suggestions for the future. The event needs about a dozen volunteers on the day and if it is not adequately subscribed then it will be necessary to employ people. A mobile caterer should be found for the event. Sponsored riders should be allowed free entry.

## **Valedictory Rights Report 2009 by Ken Reed**

I have decided not to stand as the rights representative at this year's AGMs of either CTC Wessex or CTC West Dorset. I hope someone else will take over, and s/he will have my full support. CTC West Dorset will almost certainly defer to DCN with regard to rights issues unless someone else does come forward. The CTC HQ Rights Organisation can and do make appointments without consultation with the member groups. If they do so it would be useful to recruit these people onto the committees. I will also be handing over the role of DCN Co-ordinator for Weymouth and Portland as soon as possible.

I will almost certainly continue, at least in the short term, on the Weymouth and Portland Connect2 Committee, probably as chair. I will do my best to see that the CTC role as leaders in getting this bridge is not forgotten.

I have two main reasons for reducing my involvement in rights work:

1. Campaigning at the level I have been is more time consuming than either Anne or I would like. I have also found it stressful, and I feel that despite all the work we have not achieved very much.
2. My contribution is becoming ineffective. Following recent structural changes the same officers who put through the relief road are now dealing with the Olympic cycle routes. I believe that they do not want to consult, particularly with me whom they wrongly deem to be antagonistic. You will remember that I led the CTC campaign which opposed the relief road. For me to continue in these circumstances would not in my view be constructive and could in the longer run damage our credibility.

The following is my report:

1. Granby Route - It is being well used. Not all cyclists are critical of the Chafey's Roundabout layout but some local residents in Southill are still concerned about the measures to improve safety at the roundabout. DCC had a "commuter route" day in September. It was a worthwhile attempt to publicise this route. It was organised by Adam Bows, perhaps the only DCC officer with any detailed knowledge of cycling matters. It highlighted the lack of a joined up cycle network in Weymouth, though you would not think so by the propaganda in the Echo put out by DCC's misinformation department.
2. Sustrans and DCC reached agreement about the construction of the CTC proposed Newstead Road Bridge linked to the Connect2 project. DCC Councillors approved extra funding of £160,000. According to the Echo, Sustrans has entered into a memorandum of understanding with DCC. This should be for the construction of all of the Weymouth Connect2 cycle routes. DCC says that the bridge itself should be built in 2011. I am not happy about this delay and many others share this view. I will continue to try to bring it forward. We may however achieve more Connect2 routes from DCC if we leave things as they are.
3. CTC/DCN have been represented at the Weymouth and Portland Partnership Transport Forum. DCC staff and councillors attend and it has proved useful in getting information and action. It is of course a completely undemocratic forum duplicating the role of local government and it will waste a great deal of public resources.
4. At the last meeting I reported that DCC is trying to delay building the route across Portland Beach Road. I have met three times with DCC staff, WPBC staff, Richard Rider of Sustrans, WPBC Councillor Christine James, and Rachel Waldoock of Natural

England. I have made every effort to get a safe route in place prior to 2012, when it is likely that all funding will cease.

5. The Weymouth Transport Plan and the Local Strategic Plan have been out for consultation and the CTC/DCN have responded to both. Neither are cycle friendly and they reflect the current and very dated views of the local authorities.
6. Sustrans appointed Richard Rider as their manager for Dorset in February but unfortunately he recently left this job. He was paid by Sustrans but worked half his time as a cycling officer for the DCC. I was always dubious about whether such an arrangement would work in view of DCC's outdated approach to cycling and green transport in general. I have cycled most of the Weymouth routes with him. He brought a breath of fresh air to Dorset and can certainly drop me on the hills. To my knowledge he has been investigating a Sustrans route from Maiden Newton to Bridport on the old rail track. I know he also had a number of other projects on the go in Dorset. He was very helpful and approachable and as far as I could see dealt well with his job considering the poor facilities in Dorset for cyclists. It is not known whether he will be replaced.
7. The Rodwell Trail has been resurfaced and is now the smoothest "road" in Weymouth but has already been dug up by an electricity undertaking. At the beginning of July I led a ride along the Trail from the Sailing Academy to promote Connect2 for Sustrans. Fortunately none of my group were killed or injured on Portland Beach Road but I was very grateful when they all reached the safety of the Rodwell Trail at Ferry Bridge.
8. Cycling on the Weymouth Prom has raised its ugly head again. WPBC now plan to prosecute cyclists on the prom. Their spokesman, Councillor Ian James, a recent convert to the Conservative party, elected by the most deprived ward in WPBC area as a Liberal Democrat, has been putting out much misinformation. I have done my best to see that the Echo included at least some of the facts. These are that cycling is banned because WPBC will not change the byelaws which favour traders and money making over cyclists' safety. I have, however, had confirmation that there has been progress, albeit very slow, towards allowing cycling again on the Preston Beach sea wall. It could happen by Christmas but I am not sure which Christmas. If any CTC member is prosecuted for cycling on the prom I hope they will contact me. I would like if possible for this to be heard in court and defended.
9. DCC put out its flawed, wasteful and inaccurate Cycle Strategy for Weymouth and Portland for "public consultation" in September. I prepared a major response which I fully expect DCC to ignore. This can be accessed in full via the link on the CTC web sites. It shows the appalling way all those involved have dealt with cycling. Unless it is changed little useful will be done, there will be little or no legacy from the Olympics, and most of the money spent will be wasted.
10. Malcolm Howell has been dealing with matters related to Dorchester and some progress has been made. There still appears to be no real will among WDDC or DCC to make Dorchester into a cycle friendly town, much like the rest of the county.
11. After much negotiating, Sustrans and DCC have signed the Memorandum of Understanding with regard to the Bournemouth Connect2 project. Whether DCC will stick to it remains to be seen. Unbelievably the main objectors are a bunch of parish councillors. It would seem that somehow these objections will need to be overcome.
12. Other than the above nothing much is likely to be done in the DCC area of the county. Until 2012 all the money will be spent (misspent?) in Weymouth and Portland. After that LPT funds could be very limited and unless there is a change of attitude, expenditure on cycling will be given a very low priority. The only real hope is that with the inevitable increase in fuel prices there will be a reduction in motor traffic so we may get the road back. I am sure this will please the roadies among us who survive that long.

**End**

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