

Road Captain's Report

At the end of my first year in the job I am fairly happy with how things have gone, having taken over the role from the very capable hands of Don Muir.

The Saturday road rides continue to go from strength to strength with huge turnouts (unless the weather is particularly bad) and lots of new members. Particular thanks go to Fred Gittings for sorting out some new and interesting 40 mile routes and to Rob Haynes for keeping the website calendar up to date.

Thanks should also go to the regular ride leaders particularly Stu Trigg and Steve Smith who commit to leading rides nearly every week and to my fellow committee members for their valuable support and regular input to these rides.

There is still some discussion to be had as to whether we need 3 different routes every week as the 30 and 50 mile rides have had limited popularity this year.

We also need to consider how to encourage more group leaders to volunteer themselves on a Saturday. It really just needs a Garmin (or a good knowledge of the planned route) and some common sense / experience, plus the cooperation of other experienced cyclists within the same group. Having some experienced riders leading a group is particularly important in the event of an unforeseen event such as a rider crash, motoring incident or some other altercation. Unfortunately, there have been some crashes this year but, thankfully, they were all handled impeccably by the groups in which these happened.

The increasing numbers do present challenges that we need to continue to monitor e.g. having enough volunteers to lead groups, keeping the groups to a manageable size, dealing with the motoring public, ensuring new joiners are properly looked after, allowing for a good range of average speeds to keep everyone happy etc.

The Tuesday evening ride has now expanded to include a social ride as well as a hillier option, whilst Sunday rides continue to be popular with the social road rides generally led by Doug Gale and the sportive rides led by Nigel Woodcock between April and October. The winter training rides continue as ever on a Sunday between November and March.

Meanwhile, the club Strava page goes from strength to strength with a good majority of club members now uploading their rides to the website and recording some impressive statistics in terms of distances ridden every week.

The Strava segment leaderboards show how much strength in depth there is within the club with members dominating the upper echelons of many of the more popular local segments. That isn't to say that speed is everything as the safety and social side of cycling should always remain of paramount importance.

I am happy to continue in the role for another year provided that my fellow members are happy for me to do so.

Thanks, Simon W