



Ruthin Cycling Club – Clwb Seiclo Rhuthun

AGM 22/1/2024 7:00pm - Minutes

Held at the Ruthin Rugby Club for the first time.

Apologies: Ian Moore, Tony Lloyd

Attendees: 29 members: David Jones (DJ), Julian Harrington (JH), Glyn Evans (GE), John Miller (JM), Andy Barber, Sally Cunliffe (SC), Martin Lewis, Rob Evans, Lowri Evans (LE), Doug Dailey, Nic Scott, Nigel Clark, Merian Denning (MD), Ant Simmons, Tom Attwell, Nigel Williams, Tom Daulby, Peter Thompson, Chris Johnson, Margaret Docking, Vicky Hintridge, Gary Owen (GO), Andy Best, Simon Price, Lesley Lee, Charles Williams, Phil Doyle, Phil Bennett-Lloyd (PB-L), Clare Bennett-Lloyd (CB-L), Phil Evans

A slide presentation was used throughout the AGM, which will be emailed to members if possible and published on our website.

The minutes from the 2023 AGM were formally accepted.

Chairperson's Report

DJ summarised the year's activities:

The new rides meeting place at St. Peter's Square has proved successful, demonstrating the support for the club to townsfolk.

Regular Rides and new members

There has been excellent attendance for the Wednesday and Sunday "A" & Intermediate rides, and the new Sunday Social ride, suggested by CB-L, remains popular.

However the Sunday "B" group has been less well supported of late, leading to problems fitting new riders into an appropriate group. It has been difficult for the Membership Secretary (AB) to know who will be joining the 10:00 social group. Several new riders who have joined the Intermediate rides have struggled with the pace and/or distance, and some have been inappropriately dressed or equipped.

Suggestions included:

- Ask Sunday Social riders to sign up on RWGPS.
- AB to direct new riders of uncertain ability to the Sunday Social (or Wednesday if they can make it). And to check they will be dressed appropriately and on a suitable bike for their first rides. Then liaise with CB-L... (**Action: AB, CB-L**)
- CB-L volunteered to assess new riders on the Sunday Social and if not riding herself, find out who is and ask them to look after/assess the new/trial rider if possible. (**Action: CB-L**)
- PB-L observed that "Buddy days" where new riders are accompanied and assessed, say once a month in the warmer months, have been successful elsewhere. Committee to discuss.

- Several members (MD, JM...) thought the Sunday “B” rides were sometimes taking too long so we should offer some shorter routes with the option for “B’s” to do the Intermediate route at their own speed if they prefer. (**Action: Devolved Ride administrators**)
- LE (?) noted that some clubs were offering 5 mile ladies rides to get them started.

The Tuesday coffee morning, 10:30 at Llanbenwch, instigated by the club’s founder, Charles Williams, continues to be well supported.

Other events in the Year

The Reliability Ride (VC Melyd) in April was challenging but very well supported by members.

Rob Boyns helped organise a charity ride for Doddie Aid (for the Motor Neurone Disease charity) which was supported by many club members. The Club also donated £100.

GO was thanked for organising a highly successful charity ride, the Eryri 360, in aid of the Welsh Air Ambulance service, raising over £12,000 altogether. 12 riders completed the gruelling route. The club donated £200. GO also thanked those who helped make it happen including the bag-carrying spouses, GE (routing), JM (risk assessment), Lowri (for raising some £3,500!) and Phil Doyle for his epic achievement and the write-up he received in the press. It was followed up by a well supported one-day revisit to Caernarfon for more photos with the helicopter and crew.

IM organised the first Llandyrnog Road Race in July which was very successful, and supported some local charities. A number of club members volunteered to help on the day. SC reported that both the Road Race and TT events need to find new routes as they are not permitted to go through 20mph zones. This currently leaves only the Rhuallt Hill Climb route available at present. Ideas for new routes were requested... (**Action: Members**)

SC reported that Time Trials, run by the new Vale of Clwyd TT Club, were well supported by club members. However, future events are uncertain due to the 20mph limit.

GE organised an outing to support the Tour Of Britain Wrexham stage, managing to give (the faster) riders 4 opportunities to view the racing! We had a great day out, thank you Glyn.

In August a few of us took part in the annual “Wild Wales Challenge”, based at Bala.

Club members have been seen out and about including Phil Doyle driving for the Tour of Britain, UCI World Championships in Glasgow and other events. Graham Sparey-Taylor flew the Ruthin colours on the Pan-Celtic race, Dave Passe has been running competitively in Ruthin colours.

The Christmas Dinner, organised by Tony at the Rugby Club, was well supported.

The Tinsel Ride prize for best decorated bike was awarded to Conan who towed a large musical festive parcel all the way to Rhyl and back with strong headwinds! (**Action: GE**)

Ride Administration

GE has been organising the Sunday rides every week since the Club’s inception with some support (particularly from JH). It was agreed that he needs a break from this onerous role.

It was proposed that GE remains the owner of the master rides spreadsheet indicating preferred routes for each Sunday in the year. There are plenty of established routes plotted on RWGPS already, which can be tweaked if required. Volunteers, 4 to 6 of, were requested to take turns doing the weekly work of choosing the routes, checking the weather forecast, posting them on RWGPS,

emailing members through RWGPS and checking with the Cafe as necessary. A number of members put their names forward including Sally Cunliffe (winter only), Merian Denning, Nigel Clark, Nigel Williams, Phil Doyle, Simon Price, Rob Everson, Tom Attwell. Training in the process will be provided and a schedule agreed (**Action GE, JH**).

Looking forward to 2024:

- Several club members are supporting the Doddie Aid 2024 fundraising events.
- We plan to post some optional long rides one Wednesday per month (the 1st probably).
- The UCI Gravel Qualifier comes to Ruthin July 6th this year.
- The Wild Wales Challenge is on again – August.
- More long rides on the last Sunday of the month.

The Chairman (DJ) gave special thanks to...

- Rob Boyns – Doddie Aid
- Gary Owen – Eryri 360 huge charity contribution and committee support
- Ian Moore – creating & delivering the road race
- Conan Mayman – Making us all laugh on the Tinsel Ride!

Treasurer's Report

JH summarised the club's finances, which are essentially flat with a small loss of £225. Details are published on our website.

Everything is stable, with ~£3000 cash as our buffer.

Membership subs to remain at £20, but we will review for next year. (**Action: Committee**)

Kit stock build is completed financially, healthy sales at ~£2000 in 2023 and club kit is sold at cost.

Outlook – overall we are stable financially, but we don't have pots of cash to spend.

We no longer pay The Centre (£300) for parking and use of the room.

Membership

AB reported that we had 95 members at the end of last year, and so far 70 have rejoined.

The new joining process is working well, except the assessment of trial riders (discussed above).

Club Kit

Tony Lloyd now holds the club kit.

The simplified kit ordering process is unchanged. Basically:

- 1) look on the website for pictures, descriptions and prices of what we stock
- 2) check the on-line stock list for size availability
- 3) email kit@ruthin.cc with what you want and Tony will get back to you to arrange to try it for size and make payment.

The website explains the process too.

Keep flying the flag by wearing our kit – this is the best marketing tool we have, and we are looking good in St. Peter’s Square!

Committee Election

Gary Owen has stood down as a Committee Member – the committee extended their thanks to him for all the work he has done, in particular organising the Eryri 360 rides and for translating our website into Cymraeg.

The following members were nominated for (re-)election to the committee:

Chairperson: (David B Jones)

Secretary: (John Miller)

Treasurer: (Julian Harrington)

Membership: (Andy Best)

Competition Secretary: (Ian Moore)

Ride Coordinator: (Glyn Evans) – but see the proposed new devolved Rides process (see above)

Social Secretary: (Tony Lloyd)

Communications Officer: (Vicky Hinstridge)

Welfare and Development Officer: (Vacant)

Ordinary x4: (Ant Simmons, Chris Johnson, Margaret Docking, Sally Cunliffe)

There being no competition for positions the meeting was asked for their approval. There being no dissent the motion to elect the above committee members was carried.

Competitions

The success of some of our members, including Sally Cunliffe, Margaret Docking and Vicky Hinstridge, in national events (the World Championships in Glasgow, National Hill Climb in the Lake District) was recognised.

Website & Club Kit shop

Our website www.ruthin.cc is now bi-lingual, thanks to GO. Any errors (including in translation), suggestions for improvement, photos, suggested content or links should be sent to secretary@ruthin.cc.

We have started translating the Welcome Pack too.

The online shop is permanently closed as it was too expensive in relation to our limited turnover, but our kit list and product information is kept up to date.

JM was asked to publish member’s achievements and to highlight them on our Facebook page.
(Action: Secretary)

Incidents & Complaints

The club has now set up a formal log to record both Incidents (actual or potential injury to riders or members of the public) and Complaints about the club (eg member’s road manners etc). Please forward details of any such incident to a member of the Committee or to secretary@ruthin.cc where the log is kept.

We wish to learn from these incidents. Over the last year we had two members in hospital due to accidents on poor road surfaces whilst descending. We will update the club's "Riding in a Group" guidelines and have, and will continue to advise members of particular risks that have been causing problems. **(Action: Secretary as agreed by Committee)**

Welsh Cycling Update

Chris Mann, the Young Rider Lead for North Wales, gave his apologies.

He sent us an update and JM outlined his priorities, including a Children and Young persons strategy, a Sustainability plan supporting (but not organising) grass-roots events, such as Go-Ride, and setting up a Welsh Cycling Newsletter. He would also support anyone wanting to organise a racing or other event.

He would welcome any support on any of these objectives.

AOB

Annual Dinner – to include some "alternative" Awards **(arranged by Peter Thompson, supported by Simon Price)**.

Free coffee and cakes on the Christmas rides will not be reintroduced (only a few members benefited, and the money is better given to charity, where appropriate).

A Club toolkit had been mooted but the idea was rejected as unmanageable.

Members were asked to keep their Emergency Contact details on their smart-phones up to date and accessible without having to unlock the phone (your "Medical ID" on an iPhone). And optionally inside your bike helmet. **(Action: Secretary to email members in due course)**

The Velodrome. A lively discussion was held. Charles Williams advised that planning consent had been applied for. It will be 333 metres long, with a 7 metre width and 28 degree banking at the ends. Charles read out some passages from the application which implied that our Club would be making (unspecified) use of the facility, amongst others. However, the Club has had no involvement whatsoever to date other than an update by Gavin Harris at last year's AGM. The Committee were asked to address this and to clarify the Club's position with the Town Council and other stakeholders. **(Action: Committee)**

The full Planning Application can be found here:

<https://planning.denbighshire>.

LE thanked the Committee on behalf of the members for the work they put in making the club run.

Lesley offered the prize she received at the Dave Fanning Memorial Ride for the most fitting bike to the club. **(Action: Committee)**

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9:10 pm.

John Miller, 23/1/2024