



Ruthin Cycling Club – Clwb Seiclo Rhuthun

AGM 23/1/2025 7:00pm - Minutes

Held at the Ruthin Rugby Club.

Apologies: Charles Williams, Ant Simmons, Ros Firth, Dave Passe, Gary Owen

Attendees – 25 members: David Jones (DJ), Julian Harrington (JH), Glyn Evans (GE), John Miller (JM), Sally Cunliffe (SC), Martin Lewis, Lowri Evans (LE), Nic Scott, Nigel Clark, Merian Denning (MD), Tom Daulby, Peter Thompson (Tommo), Chris Johnson, Margaret Docking, Vicky Hintridge, Andy Best, Simon Price, Phil Evans, Ian Moore, Tony Lloyd, Paul Taylor, Peter Agnew (PA), Colin Muir, Barbara Murray, Paul Drew

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 2024 AGM were formally accepted.

Chairperson's Report

DJ summarised the year's activities:

We ran several long rides, had members competing in Ruthin colours (including Dave Passe, Margaret, Vicky, Graham, Tom, Ian), many good TT & Hill Climb results, some epic rides (Gary!), coffee, punctures, watching the Women's Tour of Britain, the Tinsel Ride with Peter Agnew and John Miller awarded club socks for the best decorated bike and outfit respectively. Peter and John to contact Tony to arrange sock collection. The Christmas Dinner at the Rugby Club was well attended and special thanks to Tony for organising it and Tommo/Simon for their entertainment! And a video was shown of Tommo getting a soaking on a subsequent ride (karma?).

Ian organised a TLI Time Trial in the summer and the Reliability ride and Wild Wales Challenge were supported by members. Gary and Eirian Price took part in the epic Borderland 500.

There has been excellent attendance for the Wednesday and Sunday "A" & Intermediate rides. The new Sunday Social ride remains popular though members are not signing on to it via RWGPS so numbers are hard to gauge. However the Sunday "B" group has been less well supported of late – see Merian's proposal later.

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

This year marks the Club's 10th anniversary (we think the inaugural ride was on 15th July 2015); some early photos were shown including some of our founder, Charles, who is currently sailing in the Med. To mark the anniversary we proposed commissioning a one-off Short Sleeve Jersey in club colours and an anniversary motif of some kind, to be pre-ordered by members (ie not stocked). This idea was generally supported by the members present. We also proposed an Anniversary ride in the summer, to a destination manageable by all members with perhaps a barbecue afterwards. This was also well supported.

Looking forward, the need for more Ride Leaders was discussed. Previous paid-for courses were thought not to be good value so a workshop organised by the club was proposed and generally supported. LE noted that CyclingUK had an on-line Ride Leaders course which could possibly be offered FoC (**LE to confirm**). LE emphasised the importance of Back Markers on rides to ensure no-one is dropped. GE reminded us of the excellent Riding Skills session some members attended at Marsh Tracks a few years ago. Running that again was supported by members – **GE to investigate**.

DJ gave special thanks to Ant for his work on the Committee and to Andy for his work as Membership Secretary. Also to Sarah for hosting us.

Time Trials

The Vale of Clwyd Time Trials Club has now folded but Ruthin and VC Melyd are carrying on with organising the races with Ruthin taking the lead. Vicky explained what is happening over a number of local courses throughout the year using the Denbigh-Aberwheeler and Pwllglas-Bryn SM TT courses, and the Llanfwrog-Clocaenog and Rhualt Hill Climbs.

The schedule is on the Club's website (<https://www.ruthin.cc/newsevents/>) and will be published with our weekly RideWithGPS events.

Treasurer's Report

JH summarised the club's finances, showing a profit of some £1670 last year compared with a loss of £225 in 2023. The profit is explained by our not paying The Centre, not running a training course, no charitable donations, money from the VoCTTC and kit sales exceeding purchases.

Everything is stable, with ~£4000 cash as our buffer.

Membership subs to remain at £20.

Kit stock build is completed with healthy sales at ~£1500 in 2024. Club kit is sold at cost.

Outlook – overall we are stable financially.

Charity donations were discussed with a proposal by Tommo to donate £100 to Doddie Aid, agreed by a show of hands. **The Committee to arrange a suitable occasion/publicity**. Paul Taylor suggested we support a local charity, eg St Kentigern's Hospice. (Not Age Concern, thank you Lowri!)

Membership

AB reported that we had 91 members at the end of last year, and so far 65 have rejoined.

The new joining process is working well, with the assessment of trial riders in place.

Paul Drew observed that we do no active marketing and Tommo suggested we Invest in Visibility. PA suggested we design a poster for display in local cafes and sports centres which was generally supported with the proviso that we hold off until we have our house in order – see below for ideas on B and Introductory rides. **Committee to action**.

AB observed that we are not lacking in enquiries.

Club Kit

Tony Lloyd 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

Ant Simmons has stood down as a Committee Member and Andy Best has stepped down as Membership Secretary but remains on the Committee – the committee extended their thanks to them for all the work they have done over the years.

Nigel Clark was proposed as Membership Secretary and Merian Denning as an Ordinary Committee Member, proposed by Chris Johnson and seconded by Julian Harrington.

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

Chairperson: (David B Jones)

Secretary: (John Miller)

Treasurer: (Julian Harrington)

Membership: (Nigel Clark)

Competition Secretary: (Ian Moore)

Time Trial Coordinator (Margaret Docking, Vicky Hinstridge)

Ride Coordinator: (Glyn Evans)

Social Secretary: (Tony Lloyd)

Communications Officer: (Vicky Hinstridge)

Welfare and Development Officer: (Vacant)

Ordinary x4: (Chris Johnson, Sally Cunliffe, Andy Best Merian Denning)

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.

Incidents & Complaints

We recorded just one serious Incident and no Complaints last year.

Please forward details of any serious incident, or complaint from a third party, to a member of the Committee or to secretary@ruthin.cc where the log is kept.

We wish to learn from these incidents.

Paul Taylor pointed out that in the event of a serious accident the Emergency Contacts facility on a smartphone may not be accessible due to damage to the phone. He, and others, suggested we ask all members to attach labels to their helmets containing their Emergency Contact name and phone

number. Some members already use wristbands for this. **The Committee to propose ways of doing this and email members** accordingly. It was felt that this should be mandatory.

Ride Administration

GE reported that the new devolved ride planning process was working very well, with excellent, easy to follow instructions provided by Julian. He thanked those involved so far including Sally Cunliffe, Merian Denning, Nigel Clark, Nigel Williams, Peter Agnew, Simon Price and Rob Evanson.

Colin Muir, Paul Taylor and Nic Scott offered to join the rota for this year (**action GE**).

There are plenty of established routes plotted on RWGPS already, which can be tweaked if required.

Rider Safety and Cancellation

GE stated that the Committee are looking at this and proposed these guidelines:

When you come out with the club, you do so at your own risk – i.e. if the weather is a concern, stay home.

However, we have a duty of care to our members related to weather warnings, so:

- Red/Amber –Rides will be cancelled
- Yellow –The planning team will risk assess and may alter routes/destinations etc to mitigate..

and:

- We recommend all members have some form of insurance
- We will look at planning a ride leader refresher event

Also, please keep your Emergency Contact/Medical Details up-to-date and accessible on your phone, bike or person.

Nic, and others, felt that this should be policy, not guidelines, otherwise too much responsibility lies with the Ride Planners.

Paul Drew stated that Ice/Snow without weather warnings needs to be considered.

Nigel suggested that the (summarised?) policy be added to all the RWGPS invites (**GE/JH to investigate feasibility**).

Chris suggested that some form of 3rd-party insurance should be mandatory, and Lowri observed that BC and CUK insurance offerings are different. **Committee to investigate.**

Lowri said that CUK do offer guidelines on ride cancellation (**Lowri to be asked to locate them**).

The Committee will need to look into this further and agree a policy.

Sunday B Rides

Merian proposed changes to the Sunday B rides.

Currently very few riders go on the ‘B’ group long ride, probably for reasons such as: it takes too much time, is too long, not fit enough, get too tired etc.

She proposed, starting March/April when the weather is warmer, that we plan gradually longer rides starting at approx 30 miles increasing every 2 weeks until (hopefully) we have parity with the other groups. We will always find a coffee stop en-route or at the end!

We need support from Ride Leaders and riders must sign up on RWGPS so we can gauge uptake.

The idea was supported by the B riders present, and more generally. **The Ride Planners to plot some shorter routes on RWGPS.**

Introductory Rides

John Miller proposed some easier, Introductory rides aimed at those new to cycling with a club or unsure about riding on our roads.

He said that when he joined in 2015, the club had a slow, supportive organised Sunday “Social Ride” from which many soon progressed to the B group, and further.

So, to encourage new members:

- Plan some shorter “Introductory” routes 10-15 miles initially
- Advertise on social media locally with a club email address
- Starting May (weather warmer!)
- As riders progress, increase the distance gradually aiming to be able to join the Social or “B” group

Andy pointed out that the “Ruthin Festival” ride was not well supported and Tom that a Ladies-only Saturday ride he ran had very little take-up.

The plan needs support from some Ride Leaders. Tommo, Nic, Martin, Sally, Peter Agnew and others agreed to support the plan. Nic suggested we start with two dates and Lowri that we run the rides in the evenings.

AOB

Peter Agnew asked about bike maintenance skills/courses. Whilst Jonathan Latham ran an excellent Maintenance Course a couple of years ago, it was recommended that he just ask other members.

Simon Price asked about starting at 10:00 instead of 9:00 on Sunday mornings in the winter. There was some support, and dissent as it would mean getting home too late. Margaret suggested omitting the coffee stop (on shorter, flatter rides) to get back earlier. Lowri suggested separate cafes for each group as the numbers were extending the cafe stop to ¾ hour or longer. GE said this was starting to happen with the A & Intermediate groups. **Something for the Ride Planners to try out.**

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9:00 pm.

John Miller,

Secretary, RCC 24/1/2025