

## **Aylesbury Cycling UK – Minutes of AGM 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **Attendance:**

Pat Berger, Penny Dablin, Trevor Garrett, Anne Gibson, Roger Lewis-Smith, Peter Nettle, Richard Paver, Colin Payne, Yvonne Redmond, Peter Robinson, Jeremy Scothern, Joanne Tomlin, Michael Tomlin, Nick Vere-White, Andy Winter

### **Apologies:**

Jan Janecki, Jacqueline King, Alan Gibson, Lynne Fairhurst, Tony Peacock, Tina Butcher, Sue Evans

### **Committee Attendance:**

Jeremy Scothern – Chairman & EP/NC co-ordinator  
Penny Dablin – Secretary  
Peter Nettle – Treasurer  
Roger Lewis-Smith – Moderate Rides co-ordinator  
Trevor Garrett – Rides Secretary  
Yvonne Redmond – Safeguarding Officer

### **Matters arising for AGM 2024**

No matters were raised and no objections given.

Comments were raised about CyclingUK's email problems and the confusion between Aylesbury Cycling UK and Aylesbury Cycling Club.

### **Chairman's Welcome and Report – Jeremy Scothern**

Jeremy had provided a written report for anyone interested. This is the text of that report:

*As we often say, 'Time flies when you're having fun'! Well it's been a great year for the club with lots of rides into the depths of Bucks and with a good number of enthusiastic cyclists turning up.*

*The Newcomer and Easy pace rides continue to thrive despite the weather and the Step Up rides having been relaunched with Jan as co-ordinator, are beginning to re-establish themselves nicely. The Moderates as ever continue to impress with their long rides into counties far and wide with some very fit riders and impressive metrics (if you're into Strava), so as a club we continue to provide an excellent range of rides.*

*There have been several changes to the committee this year with new members joining us as others have moved on. Thanks to Penny our excellent secretary, Roger our Rides Secretary who has worked hard to maintain our spreadsheet system. He has now handed over to Trevor who you will be pleased to hear has already data cleansed us! Pete has taken over treasuring, and Yvonne has taken over as Safeguarding officer, which now includes overseeing the Kings Head social nights.*

*Roger remains on the committee as Moderate co-ordinator and has been joined by Jan from the Step Ups. We are now meeting 4 times a year which has proved invaluable in the running and development of our club.*

*The Kings Head social night continues successfully with most meetings drawing attendances of 5 to 12 people or more and we are very pleased to now be a regular feature on the Kings Head website as one of their in house groups. (Look us up on their site!)*

*At our September social we celebrated Peter Robinson's 48 years of contribution to Aylesbury cycling, including the founding of our club, an event that more than filled our space by the bar and was a great evening.*

*The club now has a very well produced and regular newsletter thanks to Penny and we are due to put out spring publicity soon to attract some new riders.*

*Cycle clubs are often very sporty and can be daunting and perhaps too fast for new riders, so our emphasis on leisure cycling offers an important and unique opportunity for them, whilst still having faster ride if people want to progress.*

*As a club we rely totally on volunteers to keep our rides going, from our club's organisation and planning to the all important leading of our rides. Thanks to everyone who has supported or helped out in any way this year, it's your club and we couldn't do it without you.*

### **Secretary's Report – Penny Dablin**

*We've held 4 committee meetings which has resulted in the Committee taking various actions behind the scenes.*

- *A slight reworking of SU and NC rides to encourage more Easy Pace riders to try the SU rides.*
- *Ending of Easy Plus rides to encourage riders to try SU rides*
- *Created a 4 part questionnaire for would-be Facebook members. If they don't answer the questions sensibly they don't get accepted.*
- *Yvonne has completed the Cycling UK Safeguarding course so she's now up to speed with what the role entails*
- *Jan Janecki has taken over as SU co-ordinator*
- *Trevor Garrett has taken over looking after the Rides spreadsheet*
- *Newsletter resurrected and a couple have been sent out*

*Most of the rides have happened as scheduled apart from 4 weekends when rides were cancelled due to adverse weather.*

*There seems to be a steady core of riders who turn out most weekends with occasional visitors. But those visitors seldom seem to come back for further rides. What are we not doing to keep them, or what are we doing to frighten them off? We also need to attract more younger riders as everyone is getting older and, in some cases, more infirm.*

*It was also felt that the image on our Facebook page suggests we are a bunch of retirees – anyone got the skills to produce a graphic that would get across the Leisure rides aspect without us looking geriatric?*

*I'd love to receive any news stories to go out in future newsletters.*

*Following the report suggestions from the floor were to take more pictures until we get one that looks better to replace the Facebook header image.*

Jeremy suggested he send out a questionnaire to one-time riders whose email addresses he has to find out why they've not returned.

## **Ride Co-ordinators Reports**

### **Moderate – Roger Lewis-Smith**

Roger reported that the moderate rides have gone well with an average attendance of between 5 and 6 per week with the exception of the very worst of the winter weather. There still remains a lack of volunteers to come up with rides or offers to lead. And the group needs new members or it will cease to exist in a few more years as everyone gets older.

### **Step Up – Jan Janecki**

In Jan's absence Penny read out his report. The text is as follows:

*This report covers the period from October 2024, when I took over co-ordination. Prior to October the SU group was fading from lack of timely ride promotion. When I joined CUK in 2022 I witnessed SU rides with 10+ people.*

*Overall, it has been a difficult winter to re-start SU with temperatures too close to freezing for several rides to take place. I personally have been unable to ride for the same reason, as I have to ride to Aylesbury, leaving at 08.30 when it has often been around 1-2 C. Despite this, a few rides were attended surprisingly well although others have been in small single figures. With the weather warming up I anticipate, and will aim for, greater interest.*

*SU rides are synchronised with EP/NC, with SU taking the place of the former EP+ on NC weeks. The less demanding SU rides occur on NC weeks, so as to attract EP riders. We aim to adhere firmly to the rides criteria so that the rides do not creep beyond what people expect. SU rides are not noticeably faster than EP, only sometimes slightly longer and with less phobia of hills. As with EP, no one is left behind – we do wait.*

*Jeremy now sends an email each week promoting all the rides on the following Sunday, for all groups, which is a great help at spreading the word, especially for SU on NC weeks, so that EP riders know that they have a choice of NC or SU.*

*It has been a challenge getting people to volunteer to lead because the pool of potential riders had shrunk to small and some SU riders live a long way from Aylesbury so they do not wish to commit far in advance, or they may join or leave in mid-ride. A clear leader may help attract potential riders. In practice we have got by regardless. Someone volunteers on the day. With warmer weather and a greater turnout, I shall aim to promote having a volunteer leader when possible.*

### **Recommendation**

*In view of my absence throughout April, it would be helpful if someone could promote rides by creating the Facebook event. Jeremy's weekly email will promote rides too. There is a SU Whatsapp group but it is used only for on-the-day or last minute notices, not as a primary communication medium.*

*In May I will have more time to devote to planning the rides list.*

Yvonne has offered to post the Step Up rides as events on Facebook until Jan returns.

## **EP/NC – Jeremy Scothern**

*This is the third year since the relaunch of our Newcomer and Easy Pace rides both of which continue to be very successful. Even in poor weather we've had anything from 10 to 15 cyclists, with a good proportion of female riders who are nationally under represented in cycling.*

*Newcomer and Easy Pace rides have continued to be an important entry point for people new to cycling and great for anyone preferring a more relaxed pace, whilst the role of Step up and Moderate continue to be important options for riders who want to progress.*

*Having ride leaders has been vital to our success and we now have about 15 ride leaders who each add their own particular style, skill and humour to the task. Without leaders there would be no rides. A big thank you to you all*

*Over time a great sense of community and friendship has developed within the groups adding to our ride experience. A sign of this has been with bad weather cancellations when we've met for breakfast at Wetherspoon's instead and with surprising turn outs of around 14 people. (also great fun).*

*As time goes by some of us look for a bit of assistance and we now have a number of electric riders which has enabled people to continue cycling who might not otherwise be able to join us. This has worked well, although there are times when the rides have gone a bit too fast as the electrics whizz up the hills.*

*Now that Jan has relaunched the Step Up rides, we have dropped the Easy Plus option. This is now replaced by a slightly easier Step Up ride option which meets alongside the Newcomers rides. Hopefully this will help people who want a bit more of a challenge and encourage faster riders to try the Step Up's.*

*Finally, after 3 enjoyable years (plus a previous year's stint before Covid making 4) I would like to pass on my role of Co-ordinator for the Newcomer/Easy Pace rides to a new person. Hopefully this will bring fresh ideas and energy and maybe develop these rides further. This would also free me up as Chairperson to be more effective in my role.*

*Any volunteers please? There is no reason why a couple of people shouldn't hold this role, which could lead to a more creative process. I am happy to support somebody in taking over the role.*

*No volunteer was forthcoming from those present at the meeting and Jeremy offered to continue for the next couple of months while attempting to recruit a replacement or two to take over.*

## **Ride Secretary's Report – Trevor Garrett**

	<b>NC M</b>	<b>NC F</b>	<b>EP M</b>	<b>EP F</b>	<b>SU M</b>	<b>SU F</b>	<b>Mod M</b>	<b>Mod F</b>
<b>Total</b>	94	58	226	165	103	52	171	19
<b>Attended Rides</b>	17	17	34	34	35	35	37	37
<b>Avg/ride</b>	5.5	3.4	6.6	4.9	2.9	1.5	4.6	0.5

## **No ride data entered**

<b>NC</b>	<b>EP</b>	<b>SU</b>	<b>Mod</b>
6	10	17	15

Four weekends' rides were cancelled due to inclement weather – high winds and/or snow and ice. (Three NC, 1 EP, 4 SU and 4 moderate).

All rides cancelled for Tour de Vale date.

As can be seen, data collection is lacking as not all rides have been registered. Trevor will contact Ride Co-ordinators for figures if these have not been completed by Monday following Sunday rides. However, ride leaders should be completing these figures for each ride using a link on the Rides List – it's a 30 second task and saves everyone a lot of aggravation as the co-ordinators are not always on the rides so won't have the details.

There was also some discussion around Emergency Contacts and how to ensure information was available in the event of an accident/incident. CyclingUK have a scheme where you can get stickers for your helmet or bike which has a QR code to your emergency information. Peter R has some Site Safety strips that he purchased for the South Bucks Midweek group.

Committee to investigate further and possibly spend some of the accumulated funds solving this issue.

## **Treasurer's Report**

As Peter N had forgotten his glasses Penny read out the figures for the year.

Income: £250

Expenditure: £14.39

Profit over year: £235.61

Bank balance at end of year: £630.05

The accounts must be audited before being submitted to CyclingUK. This is a simple task but cannot be a committee member or relative. JS will put out an email to the membership to find a volunteer.

## **Election of Officers**

Roger Lewis-Smith has cancelled his CyclingUK membership out of frustration with the parent company's incompetence and 'couldn't care less' attitude. No-one volunteered to take over his role so he grudgingly agreed to renew his membership and continue his role.

All the current committee members were willing to stand for a further year and were re-elected with no dissensions.

Proposed – Penny Dablin, Seconded – Anne Gibson – vote unanimous

The following officers were thereby elected:

Chairman – Jeremy Scothern

Secretary – Penny Dablin

Treasurer – Peter Nettle

Rides Secretary – Trevor Garrett

Easy Pace/ New Comers Rides Coordinator – Jeremy Scothern

Step Up Rides Coordinator – Jan Janecki

Moderate Rides Coordinator – Roger Lewis-Smith

Safeguarding Officer – Yvonne Redmond

### **Any Other Business**

Suggestion to have one ride every couple of months or so where all rides meet at the same point. This should improve inter-group socialisation. Ride Co-ordinators to consider and confer on this.

Request to have Newcomer rides weekly through the summer. Possible leader problems. However, it's worth an experiment. JS to schedule.

CP suggested winter rides should perhaps start at 10am rather than 9:30am to allow the day to have warmed up a bit. General feeling was it wouldn't make much difference and would make folk later back for lunch.

The meeting closed at 21:15.

### **Actions for Committee from meeting:**

- Take more pictures particularly of folk on bikes to get one that looks better to replace the Facebook header image.
- JS – send out a questionnaire to one-time riders to find out why they've not returned.
- YR to post the Step Up rides as events on Facebook until Jan returns.
- Recruit replacement or co-co-ordinator for EP/NC
- Investigate emergency contact solutions and make recommendations
- JS – email membership to find someone to audit accounts
- Ride co-ordinators to agree when and where for all rides to same destination Sundays
- Weekly NC rides during summer months
- PD to repurchase the lapsed club domain name