



## **Chairs Report 2020**

It's been another very busy and successful year for the club. For the first time in its history membership peaked at over 400. Financially, we are the strongest we've ever been and the number of club rides and events also increased over successive years. It's a very positive picture and this is one of the reasons that the club is considered a 'flagship' for cycle clubs in the county.

For the committee the increasing membership brings with it new challenges and opportunities. Most members won't be too interested in the essential, but dull, administrative functions we have to manage to keep the club running. At times it's a thankless task and people don't get to see the hours of unpaid work that go on in the background. Nevertheless, it is for the most part rewarding and hopefully the majority if you think things are going in right the direction.

There are going to be some changes to the committee this year, which is always a good thing. New blood, new ideas. Amongst those leaving is our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Denis Bass. Den has been on the committee since the club formed back in 2009. His increased workload in his CSH role and commitments elsewhere are no longer tenable and with regret he is leaving us this year. I'm sure you would want to join me in thanking him for all his hard work over the past 11 years.

Den's final Treasurer's report is attached for your consideration. The keen eyed ones amongst you will have noted that the club spent £7400.88 on events and rides last year. These events included The Normandy Trip, London to Paris, Three-day SDW and the ever increasing and popular Ladies rides. You'll see that income from these events totalled £8077.14 which means we've managed to host some amazing events without having to rely on club's funds. I'd like to offer my thanks to all of those involved in organising and managing these activities.

The Dr Bike and the Ride the Downs Projects were equally successful in raising the profile of the club, recruiting new members and generating income. The former, for the club's charity, the latter for the membership. Alas, the South Downs National Park authority didn't get funding to run the Ride the Downs Project for a third year but the experience of being involved in the project will be really useful moving forward. The project has hopefully generated enough income to enable us to produce the next batch of club cycle shirts without sponsorship, something I know many of you were keen to see.

Speaking of charities, we've done ourselves proud supporting 'Cycling Without Age'. That project is now firmly embedded in the local community helping elderly and less able people to get out in the fresh air.

Following nominations and voting for this year's charity I'm pleased to announce that the club will be supporting .... Thank you for all those that took the time to express your views and vote.

The Committee have done their best to increase engagement with the membership following criticism that we weren't approachable and open. It's difficult to know where to go with this because we publicise every committee meeting and encourage people to attend as observers. The majority

of the new 2020 committee members were observers before they decided to make the decision to join us. We'd love to see more of you come along to see what goes on behind the scenes. Clive Aberdour's excellent quarterly newsletter has also been used as a vehicle to keep you updated. Finally, after a considerable amount of work, we created a 'Your feedback' page on the website. Disappointingly, this isn't being used as much as we'd hoped (or been led to believe it would). As always the CHS website remains the foremost method of communicating with the members. Please remember to subscribe to blogs if you want email notifications for things that might interest you. All of these things take time to manage and 'refresh' and we would love to see more membership participation to keep things varied.

In concluding my report it would be totally remiss of me not to acknowledge the outstanding commitment and dedication of the club's Ride Leaders. They, like the committee, are volunteers and they are out there, in all weathers, supporting and encouraging you to get fit, have fun and enjoy our environment. I hope you grab the opportunity to do exactly that.

All the best for the forthcoming season.

Guy Reynolds.

**Chair Cycle Seahaven.**