

## Leisure Ride Report for 2023

During this past year there has been excellent support by members of both the Saturday and Sunday rides. Sufficient on most occasions, to make up groups who are able to ride at their preferred pace. Generally, the feedback we have received has been positive, and the route selection has been to everyone's liking.

Your Committee has agreed that whilst Saturday rides will start at set locations around town, the Sunday rides will start and finish at the CSSC. This is primarily to make it easier for Members on Saturday when there is often significant traffic at the CSSC when other affiliations are attending for their own sporting options.

Sunday, at 9:30 is less congested, therefore easier to get in and out and there is the option to make use of the CSSC facilities after a hard ride.

Of course, there is no reason why the Saturday riders could not make use of the CSSC facilities.

This last year's ride program has been varied and well supported, so we hope we have catered for the expectations of all the members.

### Audax Series & Fletcher's Flapjack

Our Club Audax Series was as popular as ever with all the rides well attended. We had an increase in the number of distance achievement medals earned this year, which will be presented at the club's annual awards evening in the New Year. Fletcher's Flapjack Open Audax in March went smoothly, thanks to the generous help of our many volunteers running the village hall catering.

If you care to see who will receive Audax medals at the Awards Dinner, take a look at the Time Trillers Report, on the CDW website. <https://www.chippenhamwheelers.org/2023-time-trial-report/>. Paul has kindly included the Audax results within his report.

For the first time we used the Flapjack event to raise funds for our club charity, Doorway, with over £300 collected. We have already planned the dates for the 2024 Audax series and will look to introduce new route variations where possible.

### Night in the Castle Weekend

The Night in the Castle weekend ride to St. Briavels in June was enjoyed by 30 members. We planned short and long routes to and from the Castle to make it as inclusive as possible, a format which seemed to work well. Feedback on the weekend was really positive, so arranging similar weekend trips is something we look to repeat next year, if there are a couple of people willing to help organise it? A big thank you to Sheni and Lucy for organising that event.

### Doorway Supermarket Sweep

The Club designed and tested the routes for Doorway's fundraising event in September, which raised over £500. Thanks to our members who came out and supported the event, despite the wet weather. Doorway are looking to run the event again in June next year and grow the interest within the town, encouraging more people to come out and ride their bikes and raise funds.

It would be remiss, not to add a word of caution in this report. There were two incidences during rides this past season, that resulted in injury. Both were no more than broken collarbones but had the potential to be more serious. We encourage all riders, me included, to be careful when descending steep hills and riding in groups.

### Off-road Rides

We are encouraged to see there is an appetite for the club to arrange more off-road rides, something we've occasionally done in the past. Hence, we wish to encourage one or two willing members to take on organising off-road rides next year. Anyone who does take it on will receive full support from your Committee. The recent off-road survey posted in the Autumn newsletter has attracted some replies; we're keeping the survey open a little longer to see what further interest there may be.

When we plan the seasons rides, and this is not a solitary occupation, but a joint effort by the Sub-committee made up of Midge, Sheni, and I supported by Dylan and others, we use the library of routes that have been used before, but this does not mean they are exclusive. If you have a favourite route, a particular café that would be a good place to stop or even a place you would like to see included in a route, please feel free to put the suggestion forward. I'm sure we can build a route around any suggestion.

Your Committee's disposition is to be inclusive, therefore we encourage Members to get involved.

I now pose the question, "what would the membership like their leisure rides to include during the coming year?"

Nothing is off the table where there is the appetite.

Our Christmas/New Year season rides are all in the Club Calendar and we look forward to seeing many Members enjoying the occasion.

In conclusion, thanks to everyone who supported the preparation and execution of the leisure ride program and to you the membership who made it a success with your participation.

Thank you.