

## **Wheel Easy Annual Report 2020/21**

It need hardly be said that this last year since the AGM in November 2020 has been very strange for all of us and unique in the history of the Club. All our cycling activities have been dominated by the pandemic along with the rules and regulations imposed as part of the lockdown arrangements.

Despite this, our ever resourceful members have continued to use WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media to stay in touch and organise small informal riding groups and, having seen the end of lockdown for the time being, the Club is starting to re-emerge with the opening of all Club rides and a return to group riding.

The Board has worked very hard this year to overcome the challenges that the pandemic and lockdown have brought. It will continue to not only bring the Club back to where it was before the pandemic, but to progress and take it forward so it continues to develop and improve.

During lockdown, the Board continued to meet via Zoom and to deal with the affairs and regular business of the Club and has now been able to have its first post-lockdown face-to-face meeting.

Looking at areas of specific responsibility, the Website has continued to evolve and improve under the expert guidance of Vince Grealy and should now be regarded as the primary source of Club information. The Club owes a huge debt of gratitude to Vince for the substantial amount of time and effort he puts into running and maintaining the Website and in dealing with IT matters generally. It is all down to him that the Website both works smoothly and looks good and positive.

Despite lockdown, we have managed to continue recruiting new members and at the moment membership remains more or less at pre-pandemic levels, although the true picture will not emerge until renewal time in April next year. As at 1st September the total membership stood at 276 of which:-

102 are female - 37%

174 are male - 63%

234 Members have 3<sup>rd</sup> Party liability Insurance - 85%

93 Members wants to volunteer with Sustrans – 34%

and there have been 34 new members so far from April 2020 to September 2021.

Monica Webber continues in her efficient way to deal with membership matters. She maintains all membership records as well as processing new members' applications and queries. Thanks are due to her for all the time and effort she puts into this.

On financial matters, David Rang has retired as Treasurer having seen the Club safely through the financial aspects of transitioning to a limited company, and thanks to him for both this and his service as a Director.

The annual Accounts show a healthy picture, even after this year's "holiday" for subscriptions and the Directors will continue to take a prudent outlook in the future. Once again Zoe Cooper has kindly acted as Independent Examiner and thanks are offered to her for this valuable service.

This year has seen Yvonne Davies take on fully the role of Secretary. She has done this seamlessly and to the high standards set by her predecessor Jill Fellerman. Grateful thanks are due to her.

It is with very great sadness that this year marks the death of Jill after a brave and stoic fight with the reoccurrence of her illness. She was a real stalwart and part of the DNA of the Club, having been Secretary and a regular rider and contributor to the Club and its activities, almost from the very beginning. Her contribution over the years has been very significant and she will be sorely missed.

On company matters and thanks to the efforts of John Hackett all the administrative requirements surrounding the running of a limited company continue to be dealt with in a timely and efficient manner, together with the Club's insurance, which covers all ride leaders, through Cycling UK.

This year's AGM sees the retirement of Mike Inglis and Richard Leake from their positions as

Directors. My grateful thanks to them for the contributions they have made in this capacity and to the Club generally.

All the remaining Directors have kindly agreed to continue. Of those not already mentioned, many thanks to Helen Bevis, Gia Margolis and Mike and Fiona Walsh for their respective contributions during this last difficult year and for their willingness to continue giving of their time and expertise to the Club.

Along with all the other Club activities, the Away Days fell victim to the pandemic, but have now restarted thanks to the efforts of Kevin Douglas. Thanks also to his efforts there is now a valuable and useful Archive on the Website of all the Away Days including full information on routes, starting points, timings and coffee/lunch stops. This was a big undertaking involving Kevin producing a manuscript copy which Vince then translated into a digital version for the Website. Many thanks to both of them for undertaking this.

In an effort to revitalise the Short Rides the Board has tried to get more members to lead these and Mike Walsh has kindly piloted two Away Days aimed specifically at those wanting to do a short ride. It is hoped by this means to encourage those who want to do these rides to have the confidence to return to riding regularly with the Club.

Regrettably this year, the pandemic has meant that it has not been possible to hold any of the usual social events but, with the end of lockdown, a very successful BBQ was organised by Mike and Fiona at Harrogate Rugby Club on Rudding Lane. Many thanks to them for this.

As we have emerged from lockdown the Calendar of rides has been restarted. Thanks to Chris Rogers for his work on this and the Ride Leaders Rota; and to Liz Pugh for the excellent marshalling and organisation of the Wanderers; to the backroom boys, Alun Davies, Peter Jackson, Tim Ling and Dave Siswick for their work posting the Ride Reports; and last but not least to Maris Williams and Tim Ling who continue to keep everyone informed with the monthly Newsletter.

The Club is fortunate in that there are always members who will step forward and help when required with matters such as leading rides, supporting activities, offering alternatives to or variations on official rides, or just generally helping out. Without them the Club would not be the welcoming and friendly organisation it is, so thanks to all who have done this and please keep up the good work.

Although life may not fully return to pre-pandemic norms, hopefully we can look forward now to a future with some optimism. May I encourage all those members who have not yet returned to riding with the Club, to do so now and to support and reinvigorate the Club under the leadership of Vince and Helen as joint-chairs, and to whom I offer my support and best wishes.

Finally, on a personal note, I offer my very grateful thanks to all the Directors for their support during what has been a very difficult year and, in particular, to Vince and Helen as joint vice-chairs and Yvonne as secretary, without whose help and guidance my job would have been very much more difficult.