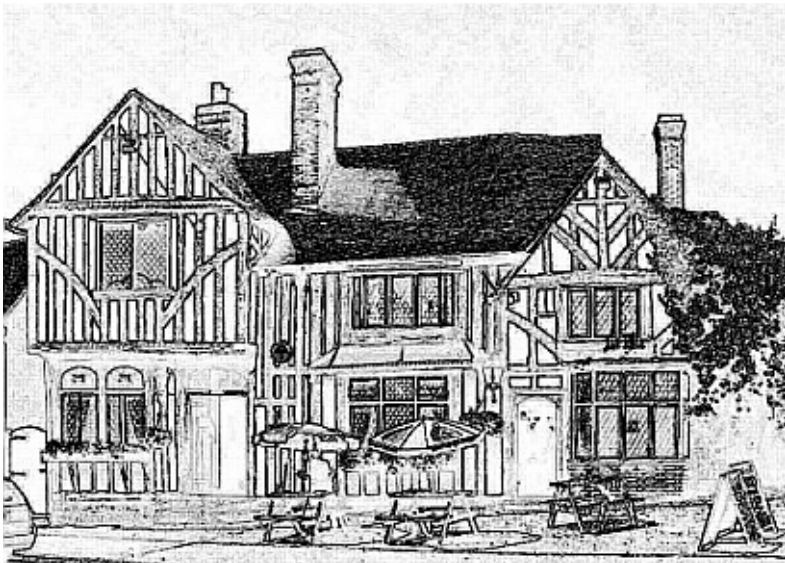


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**September / October 2011**



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**Spotlight** – Magazine of the CTC Essex DA, a local member group of  
CTC, the national cyclists' organisation

President: Brian Taylor

Volume 5/2011

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**Price per annum: £5.00 inc. p&p**

The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for reasons of space, clarity or libel.

## Officers of the CTC Essex DA - we are serving you ...

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Chelmsford	Adrian Leeds	☎ 01245 260272	Secretary
	Peter Moore		Delegate
Colchester	Alan Palmer	☎ 01206 792929	Secretary
Havering	Dave Rowlands	☎ 02084 913209	Secretary
	John Copas		Delegate
	Alex Kornfeld		Delegate
South East Group	John Steer	☎ 01702 309958	Secretary
	Lynda Collins		Delegate
	Martin Pipe		Delegate

### Other Committee members

EDARF	John Davis	jldavis_123@talktalk.net
	Peter Hubbard	(South East member group)

### Certificate of Merit Committee

John Davis, John Greet, Charles Comport	Contact through DA committee
---	------------------------------

### Essex DA Trustees

Martin Cockersole, Adrian Leeds, Peter Moore

Closing date for the November / December 2011 edition is on **16 October 2011**

## ***Editor's foreword***

So, I've been out for a couple of rides this year. Mildenhall was a bit wet and windy, but this didn't deter the majority, who booked in at the school to attend.

I still have no ride reports from Buster and hinted to him, that I would have to nick one of his diaries to create a column of his adventures throughout Europe.

Ride reports and other contributions are coming in steadily; however, "real" Advertisers' Reviews" as laid out in the guidance in the last issue (July / August, p26), are still outstanding.

So are also the pictures for the "Dave Doo Photographic Competition", of which I expected to receive a few at least.

An article in favour of MRCs on page 26 brought me to consider proposing one of these "adventures" for our next Calendar events' list for 2011/12.

After the CTC has now reasonably established itself as one organisation, some changes still need to be iron out (or in). Differing factions are asking for changes in leadership on all levels (see p. 25), so please attend your local Member Group's AGM and also the Essex DA AGM – details are on page 17 and in your MGs' runs-lists.

Jain and Ed suggested to do the "Mille Alba 2012" next year, so I need to get myself into gear for some training ... I got myself a turbo-trainer to face wind and weather at home (!) for now.

See you soon on the road as well – hopefully.

Have fun cycling.

Your editor,  
***Stefan Eichenseher***



## ***The President's piece***

How do we encourage new cyclists into the member groups? - A question asked many times... Do we advertise? Do we have slower, shorter runs? Do we have an off-road or a time trial facility, or a sportive group? I am not sure, but we do need some new, younger people to join our groups.

As we get older and set in our ways change is not easy, but it can be interesting and a challenge. Some sacrifice will have to be made by older members and we all know, it is easier said than done. Maybe having a DA Novice Group on a Saturday with a central start point made up of people from any section to lead might work.

My time is a bit limited, because I have not yet reached retirement, but I would be prepared to help out whenever possible. If anyone is of a similar view, please contact me and perhaps we could get something started within this great sport, which we enjoy.

Take care on the road!

*Brian Taylor*

---



## ***For sale***

→ ***Exustar Stelvio 705 Cycling shoes***, size 43 [8 1/2]. These are well made black leather touring style shoes with moulded rubber soles which have the facility to take cleats if wanted. I've worn them 3 or 4 times but they just don't suit my feet! **£40** [they cost £70].  
Contact Chris Mills 01245 360115.

→ ***Condor Audax 531 Bicycle***,

- 23½ inch seat tube, 22½ inch top tube;
- 24-speed index changer, Compag Group Set,
- Made to measure for me in 1998, by Condor
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When using SatNav, ignore the instructions close to your destination: In the village turn down by the war memorial on the duck pond green and we're facing you!!

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## CTC Essex DA AGM

The **Essex CTC Annual General Meeting** will be held  
at the **Chelmer CC Clubhouse**  
in Meteor Way, Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford,  
(OS167, TL698067)  
on the **13<sup>th</sup> November**  
commencing at **10.30am**.

Nominations for office are accepted on the day. Propositions must be received by Brian Taylor by **10<sup>th</sup> November**. The Prize-giving will take place after the meeting with some food to stop you getting hungry, so please support Essex Cyclist's Touring Club.

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## **Member Groups' Reports**

### **Chelmsford Member Group**

**29<sup>th</sup> May 2011** – *[late addition, as forgotten in the previous issue, Ed.]*  
With a forecast of light rain showers and a strong south-westerly wind, seven members assembled at the Civic Centre more in hope than expectation for our ride to Elmdon in the Essex 'Highlands'. But soon the sun was out and we were heading for elevenses at Poppy's in Thaxted. With the wind behind us we made good time, via Leez Priory, Felsted, Stebbing and Lindsell arriving five minutes before the teasop was open. There we were joined by Dave, Beryl and Peter T. The next stage to Elmdon was a lot tougher with the undulating country to Saffron Walden and then turning into the unremitting wind and the climb towards Elmdon. We had an enjoyable lunch at the Elmdon Dial, with Adrian and Peter having to down one more pint of 'Oscar' than they intended due to a misunderstanding between them on the ordering! More headwind as we headed South through Arkesden to Rickling and Henham, before turning east to Dunmow, for tea at the Duck-pond cafe. We returned to Chelmsford at 5pm with 72 miles on the clock at the end of an enjoyable day. **Martin Cockersole**

**24<sup>th</sup> July 2011** - Fernaux Pelham - My wife and I offered to lead the run today on our tandem, which had a replacement pair of wheels off Lou and Doreen Raybold's tandem, which had gone into retirement. The sprockets needed a bit of attention from the bike police and a few other adjustments were made, so it needed a good run. And as I was in training for the PBP, off we went to Stansted Mountfitchet, where we met John and Margaret in the café. Tea and cake was consumed and we were ready for stage two, which was Fernaux Pelham. A few miles before approaching the pub many cyclists were coming from the opposite direction ... we had got onto the route of the London to Cambridge Charity ride. At our lunch stop hundreds of cyclists were also having their refreshments, but we managed to get served and fed. It was a hot day so everybody was in the garden soaking up the atmosphere. After chatting to some of them, we went off to the Antique Centre at Sawbridgeworth for more tea and cake. Then we meandered back to Chelmsford in the late afternoon sun. Near to Willingale I called out: "Snake in the road!" and managed to avoid it, but it then slithered towards the side of the road and got run over by three bicycles. It was a

three foot long adder. I was told that it had been a good year for snakes, but not that one. **Brian Taylor**

## **Havering Member Group**

Due to an unfortunate problem with dearest technology, the runs reports for the Havering Member Group had not been delivered.

As soon as available, these will be added into the next issue of the magazine.

*[Well, the good old option of writing a report by hand and sending it by post, as firmly upheld by some members of the Chelmsford MG, would certainly provide relief against technical issues, like a computer break down ... Ed.]*

## **South East Essex Member Group**

**19<sup>th</sup> June - George Welch Memorial Ride** - John S, Manchurian and Mike rode out from Shoeburyness to "The Rose Inn" and the "Anne Boleyn" (too early for a pint), where we picked up Julie P and headed out via Rochford, Hullbridge, Battlesbridge and Rettendon to South Hanningfield Village Hall. Here we found Ian C and Charlotte V waiting to book us in for the GWMR and we decided to go on the 30mile route owing to the strength of the wind on the ride out. We set out to cycle to "Blackmore Tearooms" and were joined by Dave H (Ross H having ridden out with Dave, decided to go home and ride his scooter instead), Lynda & Jon C and Sue W.

Lynda C had a close encounter with a squirrel and swears that it went between her wheels. Manchurian on reaching Blackmore Green was looking for the clue as to when the Women's Institute donated a seat, but initially failed to spot the carved '2000' in the back (must get his eyes tested).

We met four cyclists from the Easterly Cycling Club in the tea rooms and enjoyed our refreshments before making our way back to West Hanningfield, where we stopped for lunch in the "Three Compasses". Once back in the village hall we were being plied with mini doughnuts, biscuits and drink by Charlotte and discovered that only one other person had ridden. It was a most enjoyable day and it was a pity that so many other CTC riders failed to take part after the organisers spent so much time and effort arranging everything. It is very doubtful that this event will be run in the future. **Manchurian**

**26<sup>th</sup> June** - Twelve went on the car-assisted ride to Hythe and Dungeness. The journey down proved uneventful apart from the dense fog on the motorway and at the start of our ride, after we had had some breakfast at the "Railway Café". The route runs initially next to the old military canal and on the hillside you can see the remains of concrete spheres, which were built to detect the approach of enemy aircraft before the war and the invention of Radar. The remainder of the route meanders through quiet country lanes via Newchurch, Ivychurch, Brookland and Lydd. We arrived at Dungeness with the power station looming out of the sea mist and the booming foghorn creating a rather spooky atmosphere to our pub lunch stop.

Afterwards, we proceeded past the old railway carriages that had been turned into very desirable residences on the barren expanse of gravel and sand between Dungeness and New Romney. By this time, the sun was shining and it turned into a very hot afternoon. We arrived for afternoon tea just after 4.30pm and some of us were soon tucking into a Kentish cream tea (2 scones with jam and cream and a slice of cake with a pot of tea) – yummy. Thanks to John S for organising another successful H2D ride. **Manchurian**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July** - Charlotte and I arrived at the "Beehive" about 10.30 so that we could get our orders in before the group arrived. A new rider that had emailed me the day before was sitting in the café waiting to meet us. Because he is local to the area, it was a good way of introducing him to the group. The group duly arrived and nearly filled the café as usual. After 11ses three or four returned towards Wickford while the majority headed out to Woking. Three of the group decided that they wouldn't ride on the bridle path, which meant that they had to ride a bit further around by road. We all met up just as my group came out from the farmyard and set off through Barling at the main road, where Dave B for some reason turned left and headed for lunch (It was only 12.00 o'clock and we still had more miles to ride.). The rest of us followed through Barling to Shoplands, then on through Little Woking before heading towards Shoburyness, but turning for Woking - and passing some of the group that had turned off for the pub at Little Woking (they had taken a pit stop), which meant that we arrived just before 13.00. After lunch, what remained of the group set off for Southchurch, for some home, while five stopped at the park for a cupper and cake. **J Steer**

**10<sup>th</sup> July** - Six SEGs had another good day's riding in France retracing the route (back to front this time) that they had used a month earlier only this time taking in the bit that my French friend said was impossible.

Apparently he had ridden it two years ago ok; he just kept complaining that it was an English map and no good. - The map was a French Michelin map and it was ok. We ate again at the "Le Auberge Flamande" and going by three of the group Barbar Rum (the English say Rum Barbar) is going to become the desert of choice there. We arrived at Calais docks with plenty of time to spare and got into a conversation with a couple from Switzerland, who were on their way to the UK for a cycling holiday - I gave them my card and number just in case they needed help. At Dover I told them to follow us and the red line (oops) ... they were last seen cycling towards Folkestone inside the docks. **J Steer**

**17<sup>th</sup> July** - I had to go to Wickford this morning to deliver 2 new riders to the group and meet riders that I knew wouldn't be on the event, as they like me, only got the details late in the day for planning. In total there were 13 riders out on the normal Sunday ride. The day started off bright but windy, but by 12.30/12.45 things started to go downhill rather rapidly with heavy rain and squalls. Showers would have been better but we weren't that lucky. There was a change of venue for lunch because of the weather (The original venue had not been informed about our intentions to visit them.) We headed for "The Three Compasses" to meet up with Stefan, as he was running the 100k/100mi events and lunch before heading for home in more heavy rain. I arrived home with 63.5 miles on the clock in some of the worst weather this year apart from the snow and ice in January.

On the way home Julie, Peter L and I missed witnessing a funny event, as we were riding through Doggetts Farm. In the pouring rain we came across Martin who was coming towards us shouting and swearing in incomprehensible language, only to discover that he had ridden straight into the barrier that crosses the road (He put a very large dent in it and bent it nearly in two). You can't miss this barrier, as it has red/orange bright reflective strips on it. When we got to the other end of the Farm we all stopped and warned Martin about the other barrier at the end of the track. **J Steer**

**24<sup>th</sup> July** - Ten riders left Wickford and proceeded up Brock Hill turning right to go through South Hanningfield and down the hill to Rettendon. As Manchurian was speeding along, he was unfortunately stung on the forehead by a wasp, which entered his helmet. But being of stoic Northern stock, he took it in his stride and would like to thank his fellow cyclists for their concern. At Maldon we meet Lynda & Jon C in the café at "Morrison's" and were soon tucking into breakfast, buns, toast and drinks.

*Continued on page 15*

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Eight went onto lunch and were led by John S initially on an upward incline to Great Totham, against Lynda C's wishes for a flat route. But we were soon enjoying a downward spin, which levelled out into very pleasant countryside around Tolleshunt Major and Tolleshunt D'arcy our destination.

Dave W received the ultimate accolade regarding his recumbent, when some kids said he was "cool". Our route back took in Maldon park and Munden, where we lost Mike C, as he sped off up the main road, while we all turned off. J S went and looked for him only to find him coming back

having discovered his mistake. On the way home Lynda suggested a 3ses venue at the "BHN Garden Centre", where we enjoyed a snack before heading off in our different directions home. **Manchurian**

**31<sup>st</sup> July** - Charlotte and I set off from Shoeburyness knowing that we would be the only ones coming in from this direction this morning. But knowing that we would be meeting 3 new riders at Wickford, we sped along at a good pace. It wasn't long before the first of the new riders appeared on their tandem followed shortly after by a solo rider, while there were 5 others waiting. We soon had a healthy number of 13 riders setting off in two groups. On our arrival at the 11ses stop Ken W informed me that he had stopped and had a chat with Bert Cottle and that he was going to join us for 11ses. Bert eventually joined us. After 11ses, we set off via Little Burstled to Stondon Massey, losing Martin P within the first mile - he arrived ok at lunch. Dave of the Havering MG was at "The Bricklayer's Arms" when we arrived - the only one of the Havering section to brave the day's ride. After lunch we set off for home dropping of members along the way until it was only Charlotte and myself heading back to Shoeburyness. Charlotte had a puncture, as we turned into Hyde Lane, which I had to sort out. (She needs extra training and needs to carry a pump to save me getting dirty rather than her).

**7<sup>th</sup> August** - 10 SEGs rode the new route of the 40 mile event of the 40/40 organised by Brian Penny again for the Colchester section. Paul H and Ian C had fed onto their GPS's the route as given by Brian from his first route sheet and they both gave out a hiccup at the same place.

The route weaved its way through North Essex, then into lower Suffolk following some very nice country lanes. I enjoyed some fast paced down hills with penalties to pay in going uphill afterwards. All in all a very nice

route that I'm sure we could make into a car-assisted away-ride for the SEGs. Well done Brian.

### **7<sup>th</sup> August – 40/40**

John S took Manchurian & Julie P by car to Marks Tey railway station where we met up with Ian C, Charlotte V, Mick S, Karen & Paul H. After unloading our bikes, we had a short ride to "The Alma" pub at Copford Green, where we duly signed in with Brian P and decided to do the 40mile route. Altogether there were 35 entries including David & Beverley on their tandem and other members from the Colchester Member Group. Brian P led the 40km riders and Paul H using his GPS device led 10 of us out on the 40mile route to Hadleigh for elevenses via Assington, where we passed a tearoom (note for future car-assisted rides). As we got to Hadleigh at noon, we decided to have lunch, as we didn't think we would make it back to "The Alma" before 2pm when they stopped serving meals.

We left about 1pm and headed back towards Copford Green. The route had included some hills, but went through some very pleasant countryside that didn't have much traffic either. Back at the pub we engaged in conversation with some members of the Colchester MG before heading back to the cars and our journey home. Thanks to Brian P for organising the 40/40, even though it was more like 45/43.

### **Manchurian**

**14<sup>th</sup> August** - 17 set off from Wickford this morning and at the top of Brock Hill we had to wait for one of our new riders. His problem turned out to be that owing to the fact that he had fitted a pump bracket to his seat down tube, which was fouling him getting his Granny ring. Once sorted, we carried on to 11ses. On arrival at the "Secret Garden" we noticed that the garden was filling up with people, but we had a room for us reserved inside. After 11ses 3 returned home, while 14 carried on to Andrewsfield for lunch. The Airdrome seemed very busy with planes coming and going, while we were there. The route back went without any hitches until Lynda tried to lead us through Great Baddow, where she and John got separated from the group due to missing a couple of turns. Some time later Jon and Lynda caught us up at Rettendon Common. I had 91.5 miles on the clock when I arrived home. **J Steer**



## Forthcoming Events



Organisers: please advise me of what you wish to be included

Date	Event	Organiser
11 Sept	<b>Essex CTC Rough-Stuff Reliability Ride</b> (start from Mill Green, see page 34 for details, OS map 167, Grid Ref: TL638012)	Brian Taylor
13 Oct	<b>[MG] Chelmsford AGM, 8 pm</b> , Chelmer Club Hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067	Adrian Leeds
16 Oct	<b>[MG] Havering Group AGM, 11.00 am</b> The Visitors' Centre, Belhus Woods Country Park, Romford Road, Aveley, RM15 4XJ,	David Rowlands
21 Oct	<b>[MG] South East Group AGM, 8 pm</b> St Laurence Church Hall, Eastwood, SS2 6RH	John Steer
13 Nov	<b>[DA] CTC Essex DA AGM, 10:30 am</b> at the Chelmer Club hut, Meteor Way, OS167, TL698067 (refreshments are provided)	Brian Taylor

If not stated, please see the Impressum (p. 4) for organisers' contacts.

## Easy Rider Meets



Date	Pub	Destination
11 September	"The Star"	Ingatestone
9th October	"The Viper"	Mill Green
13th November	"The Old Kings Head"	Stock

**Easy Rider Lunch Meets** - for details contact Pete Moore 01245 263165

## Chelmsford Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** Adrian Leeds

4 Oaklands Crescent, Chelmsford CM2 9PR, ☎ 01245 260272

**Runs Secretary:** Dave Russell

7 Willows Crescent, Hatfield Peverel, ☎ 01245 381055

**Rides Start:** Sundays: Civic Theatre, Fairfield Road 9am for 9.15am

All day rides start **9.15am**

For Tuesday evening destinations

call Peter Moore ☎ 01245 263165 or Dave Russell ☎ 01245 381055

Date	Destination	11ses	Leader
11 Sep	<b>[DA] Rough Stuff</b> , contact Brian Taylor: 01277 657867		
<b>Alt.</b>	Bottle Hall	Blue Egg, Bardfield	A Leeds
18 Sep	Manuden	Stansted Mountfitchet	M Cockersole
25 Sep	Henny Swan	Dutch Nursery	D Russell
02 Oct	North Fambridge	Heybridge Basin	J&B Taylor
09 Oct	Dedham Craft Centre	Aldham Mill Race	A Leeds
<b>13 Oct</b>	<b>[MG] Chelmsford Section AGM</b>	<b>Chelmer Club Hut 8 pm sharp</b>	<b>A Leeds</b>
16 Oct	Braughing (Brown Bear)	Stansted Mt. Fitchet	D Russell
23 Oct	Debden (The Plough)	Thaxted	A Leeds
30 Oct	Tollesbury	Barn Plants, Copford	M Cockersole
06 Nov	Hadham Ford	Sawbridgeworth (The Shed)	A Leeds
13 Nov	Abridge	Hastingwood	D Russell

## Haverling Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** David Rowlands

43 Limbourne Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 1HU

☎ 020 8491 3209 or [david\\_rowlands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:david_rowlands@hotmail.co.uk)

**Runs Start:** Roomes (Home & Fashion) Store, Station Road, Upminster

All rides meet 08:45 for 09:00 start unless otherwise stated

Date	Destination
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[DA] Rough Stuff</b> , contact Brian Taylor
<b>or</b>	Waltham Abbey
Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mill Green
Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Matching Tye
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	West Hanningfield
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Moreton
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>[MG] Haverling Group AGM, 11.00 am</b> David The Visitors' Centre, Belhus Woods      Rowlands Country Park, Romford Road, Aveley, RM15 4XJ,
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Margaretting Tye
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	High Beach.

**The leader will be decided on the morning.**

\* = Destination to be decided on the day



Roomes (Home & Fashion) Store, Station Road, Upminster

## South East Essex Member Group – Runs List



**Secretary:** John Steer

☎ 01702 309958 – e-mail [jonsue@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jonsue@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Runs start:** from the Market Café in Woodlands Road, Wickford SS12 0AL,  
Sundays at 9.15am for 9.30am, unless otherwise stated.

Club Nights are the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month  
8.00pm @ St Laurence & All Saints Church Hall,  
Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood, SS2 6RH

Date	Eleveneses	Destination for Lunch
<b>September 2011</b>		
18 <sup>th</sup>	Great Baddow (Bringey Pine)	Nounsley ("Sportsman")
25 <sup>th</sup>	Margaretting (Saddlery Cafe)	Pleshey (Leather Bottle)
<b>October 2011</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Billericay (Lake Meadows Café)	Brewers Arm's (Bicknacre)
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tearooms (Blackmore),	Members choose their own lunch stop
<b>OR</b>	<b>[MG] Viking Trail</b> on the Isle Thanet, Organiser – John Steer	
16 <sup>th</sup>	Bunsay Downs (Golf Club)	Ferryboat Inn (North Fambridge)
21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>[MG] South East Group AGM, 8 pm</b> St Laurence Church Hall, Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood, SS2 6RH	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Roundbush (Café Mundon)	Sportsman (Nounsley)
30 <sup>th</sup>	Brentwood (king George Playingfields)	The Duck (Newney Green)
<b>November 2011</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Beehive Café (Rochford)	Red Lion (Wakering)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Morrison's (Maldon)	Queen's Head (Tolleshunt D'arcy)

**Note:** The leader will be decided on the morning. If no official runs leader is available, then people can choose their own lunch destination after eleveneses.

Also, a member's website with other cycling information about the group with GPX and TrackLogs (TCX) files provided: [www.velocipede.org.uk](http://www.velocipede.org.uk).

## Colchester Member Group – Runs List

Secretary: Alan Palmer

☎ 01206 792929, mob 07939 395067 or

[alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop](mailto:alanpalmer@phonecoop.coop)



### Cycle Champions

Bikes, helmets, etc. can be provided free of charge. All rides start from the container by skate ramps at Colchester Leisure World *except where indicated*.

The Bricklayer's Arms,

**Alan Palmer's Monday** - Weekly at **10am** from Colchester Leisure World. 30-40 miles out to the countryside with lunch stop.

**Monday** - Weekly at **12.15pm**: Short ride for those 50+ with a coffee stop

**Tuesday** - 1st and 3rd of the month at **7pm**: Evening ride to a village pub, typically around 15 miles

2nd of the month at **12pm**: Short taster Riverside ride

The Garrison ride - every **Tuesday** at **10am** - starts from the Musket Club - Homefield, Fallowfield Rd. A gentle paced family ride in association with the Garrison NHS Health Trainer Service. Bikes, child seats, and trailers are available for free hire.

**Wednesday** - Weekly at **11am**: Back to Health ride in association with LEAP (Life Enhancing Activity Programme). Local ride to one of several cafes around town; neither far nor fast, this is the best-attended ride.

2nd and 4th of the month at **9.30am**: Cycling Sisters (women only) ride around the countryside, something like 20 miles; faster and further than the others. They start from Highwood's Tesco

**Thursday** - 4th Thursday of the month at **12pm**: Short Lunchtime ride

**NEWTS (North Essex Wednesday Tipplers) - Thursday** - Weekly at **7.15pm** from Colchester Tenpin. Distance somewhere between 15 and 20 miles, to get to a village pub for **9pm**. This is by Pete Finch who runs it under the Suffolk DA umbrella. (The name has stuck despite the change of day...)

**Saturday** - 1st and 3rd of the month at **11am**: A gentle Family ride usually to a nearby village pub.

## **Colchester 40/40 event - 7 August**

*By the Brian Penny*

Always look at the weather forecast before an event. Bad weather means fewer participants. The forecast for the weekend 7/8 August seemed dismal particularly for the Sunday of the 40/40 so I wasn't optimistic that many would turn up at the start at The Alma PH, Copford Green.



Fortunately the forecast turned out to be pessimistic and there were at the start. There was as many as 35 out on a bright if breezy day to ride a new route heading north towards Boxford, then north east for elevenses at Hadleigh then back down south for a return journey through Raydon. My big fear was that the new route was prepared in haste and might have been inaccurate. In the end all went well except for a wasp sting suffered by Colchester's Jeff Cracknell on his lip that swelled up so badly that he had to return home. There were also a couple of out-of-times. However most seemed happy with the route and enjoyed the refreshment at the splendid Crabtree Café in Hadleigh.

Back at the finish the Alma PH was a busy place with much discussion about the event and how we could encourage some traditional cycle touring as part of Colchester's already full campaigning agenda – the potential's there alright.

### Finishers by section:

Chelmsford: 3, Colchester 17, South East Group 10, Independent 1.



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## **AGMs (Reshuffles) -**

### ***New Committee Members Required***

*by John Steer*

**Question:** Are DA committees finished? Bearing in mind that CTC HQ can contact secretaries and members direct by emails these days and expect a direct answer to their questions (as per the last questionnaire sent out by HQ). All this bypassed the DAs and went straight to secretaries and members, not to DA committees for them to ponder on before sending out to secretaries and members.

The time of the next member groups' (MG) AGMs is coming up very soon and new blood is required on these committees. You cannot expect the same committee members to keep taking on their same positions every year and expect the club to move forward, as the same members keep coming up with the same ideas year in year out.

This is both the same on DA committees and local MG committees; the groups need to move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with 21<sup>st</sup> century ideas. We can't keep saying this is the way we have always done it, because those times have gone. Even HQ is trying to change the way that it operates. If we all lived in some sleepy little hamlet we might get away with it.

Remember the club was started in 1878 when things were different. We now have other things to consider, such as more dangers on the roads means that we have to use quieter roads and the distances we used to cycle are not the same as times gone by, cafés are closed on Sundays, pubs only cater for Sunday roast, etc.

Are members still interested in events the same as they were years ago when there were quieter roads? No! TV showing racing/sport (Cars, Cycling, Athletics, Football) - I don't believe that we should stop events, but I think that we need new ideas, as the same members ride the same events year in year out with very little in the way of new riders attending these events.

I believe that committee members should change every 3-5 years giving other members within the groups the chance to be on the committee, thereby bringing in new ideas for running the MGs and the DA committees. This then gives the exiting committee members a chance to

re-energise ready to come back on a committee in a few years time with new ideas based on the changes that have taken place.

The CTC changes the councillors' committees every 3 years (reshuffle) bringing in new views and ideas. The same should happen on DA and MGs' committees.

The money that the DA collects from events should be used to promote the DA and MGs across the Country. At the same time all CTC members should be promoting the club (CTC). The money on offer from HQ to the MGs should be taken up and used to pay for MGs' club huts, club strips etc, etc. Then all MGs could have a club hut and help with running expenses of the MGs. That way there would be no need to rely on events or collect subs to pay for these things, if events were run at a loss.

**Answer:** Please send replies to these views to the editor and ideas, which would then be printed in the next issue of Spotlight, hopefully in time for the MG AGMs and the DA AGM.

*Written by (Ed.) Rebel looking for changes within CTC taking it forward from 2011 and beyond.*

## **Map Reading - a dying art (?)**

*by (an Essex Exiler) Connie Measor*

I'm always pleased when Spotlight arrives and this time was particularly interested in Charles Comport's article about the demise of Map Reading Comps. As a past competitor in the EDA MRCs way back in the dark ages of 1951, I can't help feeling that in these days of SatNavs and Google many people can't even read an OS map, let alone understand it.

Possibly it is too time consuming and unless, like me, you love maps, present day technology is easier and certainly quicker.

***Continued on page 29***

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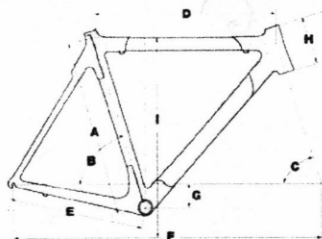
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I do feel it's a pity. My young 11-year old neighbour needed help with elementary reading and writing, which I was pleased to help with. One day she brought in a brand new OS map provided by her Geography teacher. When we looked at it together, I realised she didn't know how M, A, B and tracks were represented, nor the difference between a river and a railway line. So if no-one (A) has a map and (B) is never shown how to use it at school, what chance do MRCs stand?

## ***One wheel on my wagon***

*by Julie Fairbairn*

It was the hottest day of the year and Lee and I headed out for a bike ride hoping to stay in the shade as much as possible. Taking plenty of drinking water we ventured out to Hadleigh Country Park. Very picturesque place, but not much in the way of shade, in fact there were more pot holes than anything else. Lee was riding his 16 year old bike which was very much in need of a service, but we did not realise just how much until he went down a large pot hole and managed to break one of his pedals. At this point we also noticed that his back wheel was looking a bit buckled so out came the tool kit. Sadly the pedal had gone to the point of no return but Lee did have a spoke spanner for the back wheel.

Lee made an attempt to try to adjust the spokes to straighten the wheel when he realised that three of the spokes were not even connected at the hub. We decided to head for the nearest pub for lunch and work out our next plan of action (who needs an excuse), so Lee got on his bike and tried to coast along any downhill bits with his legs dangling down. It did look funny especially when he put too much pressure on the one remaining pedal and broke that one as well. At this point he fell off, and yes I did laugh but Lee was fine as he landed on grass.

By this time we had worked up a thirst and as we approached the pub there was a man on the phone, speaking very loudly. This turned into complete rage and he was shouting and cursing the poor person on the other end of the phone. Lee and I tried not to look in his direction and at the same time tried not to laugh. The man began stamping his feet on the ground and this conversation went on for some time, but between us we decided that all he was trying to do was change his anger management appointment.

After our adventurous day Lee has now treated himself to a new bike in the summer sales but says he will be keeping his old bike for spares. Is this wise?

## **The Windmill Audax 2011**

*by Brian Taylor*

As per usual, it is always a bit of an effort to get enough people to help with the event, but the troops rallied round and all was well. We were blessed with sunshine again at the Chelmer Club House, which we shared with their 25 mile Time Trial and it was a bit busy for a short time. Then the 210km riders went off heading to Belchamp St Paul, where Peter Moore was marshal; then onto Newmarket for refreshment in the Clock Tower Café. The route is very scenic and a bit lumpy especially around Saffron Walden and the Chishills. So when they reached the Victoria Club Hut at Henham, refreshments went down well. Annie Gregson and her friend Louise were in charge of catering with Gordon signing the cards. Looking at the cyclists and their machines, it seemed more like a sportive than an Audax event, but may be that is now what people want. Then it was back to Chelmsford for more team, cakes, etc. from Janette to finish off the day, with Clive taking care of the cards.

The 110km was a more leisurely ride with a 10am start. In fact it was so popular that I almost ran out of cards and route sheets with the online entries. These riders set off to Finchingfield, where Beryl and Dave were in control stamping and signing cards. The route went them on to Castle Camps, Henham Victoria CC club house, then back to Chelmsford.

We had a good entry this year, partly due to the weather and all the people who helped out with the running of the event. £300 was given to the DA funds and we now need to plan a program of events for next year.

If you have any suggestions, please contact any committee member, otherwise events will stay the same.

## **The 100-100 Event**

*by Stefan Eichenseher*

Well, considering the short notice for route sheets, advertising and the weather, I was quite happy for the turn-out. This time's series of dis-organisation by the organiser should have taught me some grave lessons

with regards to event preparation - and if it's only for putting the correct start time into the Spotlight, apart from the change of venue...

Anyway, so I arrived at 7.30am at "The Three Compasses" in West Hanningfield wondering whether the heavens would open before the start and thus deter the few riders possibly considering entering the event. 9 cyclists braved the forecast, of which 7 started 100 km into the West direction and 2 went onto the 100 mile journey towards the East at 8.30, shortly before the first drizzle indicated more to come.

I was enjoying a bit of lunch in the pub, when the South East Group arrived back from their morning-shower to Blackmore. At 13:25, Martin was the first rider back completing 100km in just under 5 hours. It took another hour for further 4 returnees. At about 3 o'clock I received a phone call from the 2 ladies that they somehow ended up in Little Laver. They made their way back through Ongar, and finally pitched in "The Bricklayers Arms" in Stondon Massey due to the weather conditions. Lynda was also in contact with John and Ian, who by then had already completed 3/4 of their 100 miles, to pick them up from the pub.

At 4pm I got a phone call asking whether I could advise them on a delicate subject: I decided to pack my things from the finishing line and bail out the two ladies, for they did not have sufficient funds to pay for their indulgence.

Instead of getting back to the finishing line I trusted the word of the 100mile-riders, who completed their tour-d'eau at 17:25. Both John and Ian came then by car to pick up their partners from the pub. Other than wet, it was a fairly good day out - at least for the riders.

### Results:

CTC Essex DA: (100km) Martin Cockersole (4:55), John Rootkin, (5:55),  
Chelmsford MG: (100km) David Russell (5:55), Adrian Leeds (5:55)  
South East Essex MG: (100km) Michael Curtis (5:55), Lynda Collins  
(DNF), Charlotte Volke (DNF),  
(100mi) Ian Cable (8:55), John Collins (8:55)

## **Security Issue!**

➔ **Bicycles stolen:** Michael Stratford has had 4 bikes stolen from his garden shed. If anyone comes across any of the below listed items, please contact Michael on 01268 418 405

- Dawes Super Galaxy, 23" frame, British racing green, 2000 model, mint condition, touring racks back and front
- Raleigh Randonneur, 23", gun metal grey, no racks
- Dawes Discovery Hybrid, 19" frame, glass black, 501 model, hardly used
- Chris Boardman Hybrid Comp, black, not used

This incident happened at the beginning of August and highlights the need to securely lock (and hide – in the shed / garage) your bicycle(s). Apparently the thieves knocked down the back fence and used bolt cutters to remove the padlock and the cable locks on the bikes. I do not know of any more details, but, if your items are in any way on show, they are likely to become salvaging goods. So, please be aware and securely lock your bikes away - at best hidden from view.

## **David Doo Photographic Competition** **- deadline extended**

To give readers an opportunity to sort through their summer cycling snaps, the deadline for the David Doo Photographic Competition has been extended until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. We have also decided to broaden the scope of the competition. You can now submit photos of overseas tours, 'glamour shots' of your custom-built bicycles and anything in between! As long as they have some relevance to cycling, they'll be considered.

Please send entries to [m.pipe@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:m.pipe@blueyonder.co.uk) or print outs to the editor. Further details are available in previous Spotlights.



## **For Consideration**

- ➔ **Viking Roads magazines** from the 1960s to the 1980s need a good home - They are a bit like our Spotlight.
  - ➔ I also have lots of early CTC Cycle/Cycling magazines from the 1950s to the 1980s that need a good home, these all belonged to the late Jack Treleven who died at the beginning of December last year.
- John Steer**

## **Olympic Torch-bearer: John Steer**

John has been nominated (by Lynda Collins) to carry the Olympic Flame with Lloyds TSB in the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay. No doubt we will be seeing him representing us on TV next year.

With Internet access you can read his story at <http://www.lloydstsb london 2012.co.uk/en/carrytheflame/> - use the link to Nominees.

## **Thinking of...**

... well-known people who enriched the life of our cycling community:

*Charles Comport* would like to thank all those who sent cards and good wishes when he was in Broomfield Hospital during most of July with an attack of jaundice. He is now slowly recovering at home.

However, just before going to print news came in that he was taken into hospital the other day because the plastic stent they had replaced his metal one with was not working. They have now fitted a larger plastic one hopefully this will be successful. Charles is now home, but very weak; but will talk on the phone.

*Dave Healy*, a Chelmsford Member has passed away.

*Norman Masters*, a 40 plus member, who was a Prostate victim was buried on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September.

*[If anyone has more information or can provide a few words as an obituary for the latter two cyclists, I would be happy to include these in the next issue. Ed.]*

## **Useful Website Links**

CTC Essex DA	<a href="http://www.essexcycling.co.uk">www.essexcycling.co.uk</a>
Cyclists' Touring Club	<a href="http://www.ctc.co.uk">www.ctc.co.uk</a>
Chris' site: route planning resources	<a href="http://www.velocipede.org.uk">www.velocipede.org.uk</a>
Yet Another Cycling Forum	<a href="http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php">http://yacf.co.uk/forum/index.php</a>
Nutty cyclist's insane world	<a href="http://www.nuttycyclist.co.uk/">http://www.nuttycyclist.co.uk/</a>

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