



### 3. Officials' Reports 2018

#### **Chairman – [REDACTED]**

We have had another successful year. The new club secretary, [REDACTED] is excellent and fitted straight into the role vacated by [REDACTED].

1. Closed the year with excellent finances
2. Membership is holding steady or growing slightly
3. The new kit is being purchased, and more importantly worn, this gives the club a much greater visual impact
4. [REDACTED] point system is going from, strength to strength, thank you Luca for your efforts.
5. [REDACTED] is running the women's rides extremely successfully, I think 10 went out on the last one
6. Some great rides were achieved, especially [REDACTED] placing in a very demanding world cup.

Interestingly enough I feel that the event organisers are finding it less hard to recruit support, thanks to all for this and let's hope that it continues in the future.

If we are a more pro-active club than we have been in the past, then we may be able to host more prestigious events such as national championships.

#### **General Secretary – [REDACTED]**

My first year as club secretary has flown by but in that time, I've been given an opportunity to get to know you, the members, better. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly as your new club secretary. I've enjoyed meeting and riding with new people, receiving valuable advice and hearing about and joining in with the amazing rides you and your wheels go on. I'm still learning to do the job and hope that I'm approachable enough for everyone to feel that they can have a discussion on club matters or voice their opinion when they feel it necessary.

It's always great to see, hear and celebrate the success of club riders, which might not always be about podiums, positions and points. Please keep sharing your stories and do not be afraid of doing this through email and social media. We've had some epic performances and achievements this year and we as a club love learning about them.

Club events continue to go from strength to strength. These include well run Tuesday evening club time trials over a variety of different courses and I must thank [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for this as well as all the TT evening helpers. We have a variety of well attended club runs throughout the year, on Sundays and sometimes Saturdays and of course now often two club runs on Thursdays. These cannot happen unless we have leaders and so thank you to all those who volunteer to do this and especially to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their input. The sea of blue jerseys on a Sunday morning at the Old Town Hall is a marvellous sight and it now includes many more women thanks to the efforts of [REDACTED]. The Anthony Maynard Reliability Trial continues to be a very popular event in our calendar thanks to organiser [REDACTED] and is well attended by RCC and other club riders. The Mini Gran Fondo event organised by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was a great success once again this year and has enabled our points classification to become even more interesting by generating a profit which will be used to buy prizes for riders who attend the club meal and awards evening. [REDACTED] also regularly offers some exciting cycling "away days." We've even had two fun packed and free-to-members Palmer park track sessions, kindly organised by [REDACTED] and a handful of coaching sessions put on by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

And, of course, there are our open events, 1 crit race, 3 time trials, 1 hill climb and the Bill Higson Cyclo-cross event. I've been involved in organising the cyclo-cross this year and it's raised my awareness of the amount of work and effort involved in their organisation and running. The rewards for our club from these events are great however. The organisers, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] do a fabulous job for us all in our club's name. I must also thank the many members who've given up one or multiple weekend days to help us put on our weekend open events. It really is a team effort and we cannot do it without you. We've received very many compliments on the organisation and running as well as the quality of and number of marshals. We continue to strive to get members to volunteer. The events enrich our club, raise our profile and give us another thing to be proud of; they complete us as a cycling club. RCC has expressed an interest in tendering for promotion of the national hill climb event in 2020 as we believe this is an exciting, if somewhat challenging prospect for our club should we be successful. If you've never volunteered to assist at a club event, you really should try it as it is a great experience.

**Treasurer – [REDACTED]**

Please see accounts attached in the Appendix

*(removed)*

This was my third year as RCC Treasurer.

The club started the year with funds of £12131.80 and finished with £12238.20, a surplus in the year of £106.40. There are a couple of points to bear in mind when looking at the accounts:

1. The committee agreed to continue to fund clothing orders with a discount, so this made the surplus lower than it would otherwise have been.
2. These accounts contain £204 of entry fees for the Road Race that will be fully included in the 2018/2019 accounts. Taking this out, there was a deficit of £97.60 on activities that truly occurred in 2017/2018.

The club has two types of income and expenditure.

1. Membership subs, clothing purchase and sales, and the other normal costs of running the club. Including the clothing order and sales, this part of the account made a loss of £1135.63. Ignoring the clothing, there was a net gain of £1720.01. I therefore see no need to raise the subscription level for 2018/2019.
2. Event promotions. Club time trials made slightly more money than last year, as did Open TTs. The Bill Higson CX event made less money than last year, as expenses increased quite a bit, but we had held the entry fees the same. The CX entry fees for 2018 have been increased to reduce risk to the overall club finances.

The biggest financial outlays this year were the clothing orders. I'd like to thank ██████████ again for his very efficient administration of this process.

Given the club's healthy financial reserves, my view is that we should continue to support the subsidised clothing purchases for 2018/2019.

Please also note that the club still holds the "Bill Blake Aspirant Fund", now at a value of £611, which was a kind donation from a long-standing member, to support young riders with equipment purchases, or help towards racing. If you would like to nominate a recipient, please contact the committee.

The Co-Op bank branch in Reading has closed, which makes dealing with cheques even more inconvenient, so please use electronic transfers in club business wherever possible. It also reduces the workload of the committee if people pay their subs online through British Cycling,

rather than via individual payments as a few have still chosen to do.

I'd like to thank [REDACTED] for reviewing the accounts. He's signed a copy of the summary page to indicate that he's reviewed them and not found any problems, but also wishes to point out that since we weren't paying for his services as an auditor, he can't professionally give an opinion on them.

### ***Points Classification Secretary – [REDACTED]***

The points classification is in its second year running. It is well received by members and it provided interesting statistics about events and membership. Especially it provided a good contribution in promoting RCC events and finding volunteers for marshalling our events ranging from the Tuesdays' TT season, the Open TTs, etc., and the flagship BH CX event.

Last but not least, the Points Classification contributed in increasing the RCC jersey visibility on our local roads and beyond. Lots of proud members have been seen sporting the RCC colours in a multitude of events in the UK and abroad.

For this year I am pleased to announce that the committee agreed to allocate some funds for the purchase of several prizes to be given out at the annual club dinner. The allocated amount of £232.96 corresponds to the profit made by the three Mini Gran Fondo events carried out so far. In this way these profits become a reward for the membership. The jackpot will be made of several items; at the annual dinner attending members will be invited to pick a prize according to their results in the overall points classification. Please note that this is on top of the usual award for the several points sub-classification. I reiterate that members must attend the club dinner to collect their prize.

### ***Road Race Secretary – [REDACTED]***

2018 has been a busier year for road and criterium racing in RCC. Numbers of members participating in events has increased which is a reversal of recent trends, which is really encouraging, and it is hoped this will continue into 2019.

There has been a couple of highlights again this year.

Six RCC members have scored British Cycling points from a mix of criteriums, road races, and track events. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] have scored a total of 50 Regional points to date. There were a couple of highlights, women's secretary [REDACTED] scoring 12 national points, and [REDACTED] winning an Abingdon Race Team summer series 4<sup>th</sup> cat race at Dalton Barracks.

Events entered by these riders include Hillingdon, and Dalton Barracks criterium races, and Thruxton circuit races. Natalie also raced in the amateur Grand Fondo world championships in Varese, Italy.

It is nice to see a few members contesting the club Road Racer of the year competition for the highest scoring BC points in road, track or criterium races, with [REDACTED] narrowly leading [REDACTED] to date. However, the club Road Race Championship wasn't contested this year.

Another highlight for the year was the RCC Hillingdon Crits. RCC hired the Hillingdon circuit and hosted an open three race event catering for 4<sup>th</sup> category male and female riders, and category 1/2/3's. The event was run on a sunny Saturday afternoon, and was a great success with good feedback from the riders, especially the 4<sup>th</sup> cat females, some of whom travelled up to four hours to participate. The event made a profit of over £500.

It would be nice to see a few more members step up to road racing next year and see the return of the RCC Hillingdon crits for a second year.

### **Track Secretary – [REDACTED]**

Reading Track League has seen a successful summer, with an increase in RCC member participation and some great racing. The previous few years at Palmer Park have been plagued with track closures, race cancellations and low attendances. With only three meetings remaining this year, Monday nights have seen almost uninterrupted competitive racing, good numbers of riders (particularly in the B league) and great fun, helped along by largely warm and dry conditions. Only the very first meeting back in April has been cancelled this year, due to the weather.

A few changes to the track league format were introduced this year, including four special event Omnium meetings spread across the summer with BC points up for grabs. Perhaps encouraged by this, the B league has regularly seen 20-30 riders turn up. Although better than last year, the A league hasn't had quite such a good turnout. This has resulted in a few of us B league riders being pushed up into the A's at some meetings to even the numbers up. Painful at times, but good experience.

Club participation has also continued to increase, with [REDACTED] and myself being joined this year in the B league by [REDACTED], who has recently started racing, and [REDACTED] making his return to the track. Junior club member [REDACTED] has also been racing for his team in the A league, and we've been joined by a number of familiar sometime-RCC faces including [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]. A few other club members have either completed

Palmer Park track accreditation or have shown an interest so hope to see another good RCC showing at the track next year.

We have also run club track sessions at Palmer Park, with club members able to have a go on their road bikes. For the March session we had 13 members turn up and 8 for the second one held recently. If there is sufficient interest, we could run similar sessions next year or perhaps consider a fixed wheel track bike session. I can either enquire about doing this at Palmer Park or look at going to Newport (or another?) indoor velodrome.

I am always keen to encourage anyone interested in track racing to give it a go and am happy to continue as track secretary. With the velodrome on our doorstep, it's the perfect way to give bike racing a try, excellent training for other forms of racing or events you might be doing, and - most importantly - it's great fun!

### **Social Media Secretary – [REDACTED]**

Reading CC presence on social media includes Facebook, Strava and Twitter, also for completeness the BC Club Page is included in this report (although not strictly SM).

Plans for the coming year are to ensure that our social media is better integrated, particularly with the new website and that encourage members to make use of new relevant features which are continually added to Facebook and Strava.

To ensure that we maintain a fresh image that reflects all aspects and activities of the club, new pictures with members in the new kit would be welcome, particularly any of members in competitive events, these could be rotated on the SM pages.

#### **Facebook:**

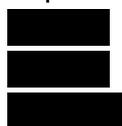
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingcyclingclub/>

Total group members: **944** at end of August 2018, an increase of **30%** over the last year.

The RCC Facebook page has become increasingly the main vehicle for the club to openly interact between members, as well as prospective members and the wider cycling community, including members of neighbouring cycling clubs and organizations. Members are increasingly using it to share information on clubs runs and other club events, including use of the event feature. Admins ensure that key messages are pinned to the top of the timeline.

In FB terminology, it is an 'open group', that means it is visible to everyone, although only members of the group can post or comment on the page. Membership policy managed by the admin's and currently is anyone open to anyone who sends a request, seems genuine and is clearly a real person (many on FB are not). It's a policy that continues to work; the club has attracted many new paid up members through this route, with the number of external users who have had to be blocked being minimal, currently 11 (less than 1.5%).

Top contributors:



Posts (12 months): ~716

Active group members: 823

Admins: [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted]

**Strava:**

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/readingcyclingclub>

Total group members: **423** at end of August 2018, an increase of **31%** over the last year.

During the RCC Strava Group was changed from a 'group' to a 'team', a subtle difference that impacts on what appears on the personal profiles of Strava members. The main summary page has been updated with pictures highlighting the new jersey, as well as more up to date information on club activities. There have been a few external posts / questions made to this page, but this really remains just a leaderboard of weekly activities.

Admins: [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted]

**Twitter:**

@ReadingCC

This is currently an underutilised SM tool, although it will become more of an asset once it is linked to the new website. Other clubs that successfully use Twitter, tend to use it for providing quick live updates to the main website home page e.g. TT results, club run updates, etc. as well as re-tweeting other relevant tweets from other sources.

Admins: [redacted], [redacted]

## British Cycling Club Page:

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/club/profile/3529/reading-cc>

This page provides information on the club for those searching via the BC club finder. The page has been updated to include information on club runs, TT's and links to our main site.

Admin: Club Secretary [REDACTED]); those also with admin rights include [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

## ***Sportive Secretary – [REDACTED]***

This year a veritable profusion of 'All Blue' Reading CC jerseys at local and premier events in the UK and Europe and USA.

On the local scene charity rides and local town cycling weekends are becoming more established, and they are attracting riders to medium distance sportives, giving the opportunity for non-club riders to recognise and meet those in surrounding clubs.

In the main the busiest sportive weekends have been in May, June and July.

Special mention should go to [REDACTED] who achieved a placing in the UCI's qualifying event at the Tour of Cambridge and then went on to represent GB at the UCI Championships in Varese, where, despite being unwell from the start managed to recover and achieve 36<sup>th</sup> place in her age category.

In New Jersey USA, [REDACTED] also won the 70-74 age group in the 100-mile Gran Fondo New York, but admittedly there were not many contestants; just 15 out of the 4,000 plus riders! There was a large South American contingent at this event; [REDACTED] and compatriots have inspired a nation!

Despite the expense and challenging logistics to complete registration, accommodation, and transportation for self and bike to places within these shores or beyond, our riders have established a regular presence at the major international events which attract tens of thousands of competitors.

Probably the largest event is RideLondon, and this year as well as entries through charities and the ballot, we fielded two mixed teams of 4 riders for the Club Challenge; fifteen riders in all. The weather conditions were not good with rain and wind taking its toll. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] had a fall and was hospitalised, he is recovering well now.

Our second most popular event was Velothon Wales!

All in all, another successful year for Reading CC.

Appended below is a list of all our riders with their sportives  
*(edited to remove names)*

Rocket Sportive, Gatwick Road Sportive, Hell Of The Ashdown, Tour of Flanders, Paris Roubaix, Guide Dogs Tour of Berkshire Sportive, Dirty One Thirty Ridgeway Rouleur, Tour de Yorkshire, London Revolution, The Fred Whitton Challenge, Hampshire Hilly Hundred Lapierre, Tour of the Black Country, Nove Colli, Shoosmiths Sportive, Tour of Cambridgeshire Gran Fondo, Dragon Ride, Magnificat, Vätternrundan 300 km, Chase the Sun, Northern Cyclone, Maratona Dles Dolomites, Broughton Castle Monster 100, La Marmotte, Velo Salopia Cycle Sportive, Velothon Wales, Chiltern 100, Amazingstoke BigWheel Sportive, Mendips Sportive, White Road Classic Sportive, Ride London, Marlow Kite Ride 100 miles

### **Women's Representative – [REDACTED]**

It's been another good year for the women in RCC. Our female membership has grown by over 25% and our total membership is now approximately 13% female. Still a long way to go but certainly improving. This year has seen the introduction of the slower paced women- only rides and evening women's rides. Women taking part on club rides is now quite the norm, which is great to see.

2018 kicked off with a women's bike maintenance course which proved very useful and informative for several of our ladies. The skills learned have been put to the test on a couple of club rides.

Highlights for women's cycling was having so many of our ladies taking part in Ride London, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] take part in a 2up TT. I believe that's a club first? We've had several women take part in crits also this year.

I hope women's membership and women only club rides continue throughout 2019. The last women's ride I led we had as many women outside the town hall at 9am as men, so the future looks good.

## **Club Runs Secretary – [REDACTED]**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as club run secretary and continue to be amazed by everyone's ability and determination out on the road, after ending the year in style with over 30 riders taking over Velolife this year has been another great year for the much loved club run, Thursday club runs continue to be popular and have seen short/long and evening options, some days we even had 3 Thursday ride, Sunday rides continue to thrive, The nonstop rides have seen a great take up and we have seen some more Saturday rides which will hopefully become a more regular thing, along with the fantastic women's rides that [REDACTED] has worked wonders with and with over 20 women joining club runs this year hopefully soon we will have a women's ride every week!

New members continue to come along and soon realise their love for cycling and I have to say with our fantastic kit and friendly faces we really do create a sea of blue when out on the road – Certainly noticed by other clubs when out and about and in the café stops! I have continued to take out the Thursday evening rides although they do seem to prove more popular over the Autumn/Winter – nothing like descending Pishill on a dark winters evening with the Garmin showing -6 in the company of your club mates and certainly makes you feel more comfortable riding in the dark – I think we even had a club record with [REDACTED] completing the 10am Thursday ride as well as the evening ride earlier in the year!

So far we have seen a rise in the number of club runs year on year with over 130 weekend club runs as well as 75 Thursday rides – 200 club runs in 9 months is a massive testament to those of you that volunteer to lead rides – a massive thanks to [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have lead over 70 rides between them – although I would like to recognise all the 40 members that have taken the time to plan and lead a club run – it is really appreciated by the whole of the club!

The pace and distance continues to go up and up with the fast rides peaking at 80-130+ miles and 21mph, Brisk rides regularly hitting 80-100 miles and 18mph and on occasions the Steady ride has ended up at over 17mph!

Thanks to everyone who has supported the club runs this year, and my main point to make would be if you cannot find a ride to suit you then please volunteer to lead a ride, I'm sure another member will be thinking exactly the same! And of course, a massive thanks to [REDACTED] for the points system – what a great way of creating competition and tracking our club events!

**Club Coach – [REDACTED]**

I am stepping down as club coach as I feel I just do not have the available time to dedicate to riders. I am still around if anyone needs support. It would be fantastic if anyone wishes to take up this role, I am sure the club would find the funds to support coaching courses.

**Bill Higson Memorial Cyclo-Cross Organiser – [REDACTED]**

The Bill Higson event, as RCC's premier event is being successfully organised by a committee. This is proving to be a successful partnership and we will probably run like this in 2020 year. However, as always, we need more support, especially on the day itself. It would be great if someone came forward to help on next year's committee, partly to ensure successful management but also to learn the ropes in case an existing committee member steps down.

## 4. Election of Officials

The following incumbent officials offered themselves for re-election and were accepted unanimously: **Chair** [REDACTED]

**Club Secretary** [REDACTED]

**Treasurer** [REDACTED]

**Women's Representative** [REDACTED]

**Membership** [REDACTED]

**Time Trials** [REDACTED]

**Club runs secretary** [REDACTED]

**Points Classification Secretary** [REDACTED]

**Cyclocross** [REDACTED]

**Track** [REDACTED]

**Road** [REDACTED]

**Welfare** [REDACTED]

**Social Media** [REDACTED]

**Audax** [REDACTED]

**Accounts Auditor** [REDACTED]

The following people were elected unopposed and unanimously:

**Sportive Secretary** [REDACTED]

**Social Secretary** [REDACTED]

**Master of Trophies** [REDACTED]

No one was willing to step forward for the role of Club Coach and there was a discussion which led to the decision that the Club might contribute to the cost of coaching qualifications for

suitable members willing to step in to this role.

The AGM was most grateful to [REDACTED] for all his work as Sportive Secretary.

The AGM was most grateful to [REDACTED] for his work as an unofficial Clothing Secretary and was very happy for him to continue his deeds on a similar basis until someone steps up for the role of Clothing Secretary.

## **Open Event Organisers**

The following members offered to organise these events in 2019

Open 10 TT: [REDACTED]

Open 25 TT: [REDACTED]

Open 50 TT: [REDACTED]

Open Hill Climb: [REDACTED]

Road/Crit Race: [REDACTED]

Bill Higson Cyclocross: [REDACTED] and team

## 5. Propositions

### ***A. The Club Constitution document needs to be in a more up to date format***

The Reading CC Club Constitution document should be in the format of the template provided by British Cycling. Nothing has been removed but some items and updates have been added.

Proposed: [REDACTED]

Seconded: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] commented that club discounts were widely available on production of a satisfactory club constitution document.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

***B. Club Affiliations*** That the club affiliates to the following bodies for 2019:

- British Cycling
- Cycling Time Trials
- London West District of Cycling Time trials
- Cycling UK (formerly CTC)
- Wessex Cyclocross League

Proposed: Committee

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was a discussion about whether The Club should affiliate to certain cycling campaign groups/organisations. ■ pointed out that both British Cycling and Cycling UK campaign.

It was proposed from the floor:

***Reading CC should support cycling campaign organisations***

Proposed: ■

Seconded: ■ For: 13 (including casting vote by ■)

Against: 12

**MOTION CARRIED**

***C. Club Promotions*** That the club promotes the following open events for 2019, subject to organisers being found:

- Open 50m TT (■)
- Open 25m TT Clive Pugh Memorial (■)
- Open 10m TT Colin Roberts Memorial (■)
- Open Hill Climb (■)
- Bill Higson CX (■ and team)

Proposed: Committee

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Reading CC will tender for the promotion of the National Hill climb 2020 event.***

■ explained that the Board of CTT has offered London West District Council the opportunity to promote the above Championship and as such LWDC are asking for local clubs with an interest in promoting the event to submit a tender for discussion on 19<sup>th</sup> November. There was a discussion about what a successful tender should contain. ■ is willing to lead this and will ask for assistance from the membership.

Proposed: Committee

For: 24

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. Nomination of Delegates**

The club seeks members to represent its interests on the following national and regional cycling bodies. Nominations will be taken at the meeting.

- London West DC (CTT) [Normally TT Secretary + 1]
- British Cycling [Normally RR Secretary]
- Wessex League CX [Normally CX Secretary]

## 8. Any Other Business

■ commented that after Cycling UK expressed no interest in a merger with RCC that he now aims to consolidate the clubs by leading more club runs from the Town Hall on Sundays at 9am.

■ raised the point that many RCC riders race as individuals and that he would like to see more team racing. It was agreed that The Club should actively encourage members to advertise their racing intentions to provide an opportunity for others to attend and for RCC to be a contender in team competitions at events

The meeting was closed at 20:26