

Social Coordinator's Report 2024

The social calendar was filled with three Social Nights held at The Rise with a theme of "Around the world on 2 wheels", covering different continents for each night. There were also three other events being organised at other locations for members to socialise over a meal.

Social Night 4 Apr : Cycle Touring - A Taste of Europe & Silent Auction

Doug (and a silent injured Rikus) presented their 2023 full pannier cycle tour from Amsterdam to France, where they were happily camping and sampling beer for 2 months. Connie and Noel presented their cycling trip from Stockholm to Brussels, where they were happily staying in hotels, taking trains with their bikes and also sampling beer. It was a contrasting talk of different forms of touring with bikes and yet equally enjoyable.

There was food pairing on the night where delicious European food was prepared by Robyn.

A silent auction was administered by Jeremy for some donations of bike parts and touring equipment.

Social Night 13 June : A Taste of Asia

As it is the CTA's 50th Anniversary, Dale, one of the co-founders of the CTA, was lured out of his retirement to provide entertainment on the night with superb photography and commentary on cycling in Bali (CTA overseas tour) and Vietnam (with his daughter). Ian and Deb, regulars on our weekly rides, showed us how to ride in style and be on supported tours in Taiwan and Thailand. Both talks highlighted the food, different cultures, "fun" with the weather and joy of cycling in 4 different countries in Asia.

Ken was the MC of the night and bought some Asian food from a caterer to match the theme of an Asian night.

Social Night 6 Nov : Africa & Touring the continents

The first talk of the night covered West Africa, where most sane people would not think of cycling in. Amazingly, we had the privilege to hear Jeremy speak as he lived to tell the tale of his and Silvia's trip there 20 years ago. Besides cycling and camping, they also got to experience medical centres (broken arm, malaria, food poisoning - what more could one expect on a cycling trip!), embassies, police and army roadblocks and ate "interesting" food.

The supper during the break did not have any African food as we could not replicate what Jeremy described. Instead, Robyn, Taka and Patrick prepared a mix of Asian and European food with croissants, sushi, fruit and sweets to set the mood for the next half of the night.

The second talk was more sedate, with Yew Li and Patrick comparing the ups and downs of riding in different countries (UK, France, Brussels, Japan, Malaysia) over the past 2 years. Topics such as cycling routes & road conditions, weather (it's terrible in the UK), scenery and public toilets were covered.

That nicely wound up the "Around the world on 2 wheels" talks for the year. Special thanks to Robyn for making delicious food for the social nights.

2023 Ride Leaders BBQ - 6 April Banks Reserve

Members who led rides during 2023 were invited to this event to thank them for their efforts. Nearly 40 attended for a lovely BBQ of burgers, steaks, mango chicken, salmon, salads, with delicious tarts and cakes to finish off a relaxing afternoon by the river. Thanks to Carl who was our BBQ chef of the day and Jeremy for buying the drinks.

Christmas Lunch - 8 Dec The Last Drop Elizabethan

A happy jolly time was had by all who attended the Christmas lunch. Under the gazebo, we ate, drank and shared stories and bad jokes.

2024 Ride Leaders BBQ - 12 Jan 2025 Lois' house

Ride leaders who led two or more rides in 2024 were invited to this event with Lois hosting at her house. Over 30 people attended and were treated to BBQ sausages, burgers, skewers, barramundi and salads. Dessert was tarts/cakes with cherries and grapes to finish.

Thanks to our BBQ chefs Ken and Achievement John for cooking the food so well and to Jeremy for getting the drinks.

Submitted by
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Social Coordinator 2024