

CTA Ride Co-ordinator's Report 2025

Caveat: the numbers cited below may not be 100% accurate, but they're close enough.

During 2025, a total of 123 day rides were operated - excluding rides that were cancelled due to either being too hot or too wet from a meteorological perspective. This is up from 119 rides in 2024 and from 107 rides in 2023. So that's good, but masks the fact that the increase was entirely due to the growing Fri off-road rides while the budding Thurs seasonal ride schedule seemed to fade away.

During 2025, a total of 35 members volunteered to lead rides - of which 26 members led two or more rides. The comparable numbers for 2024 were 40 and 31 and for 2023 the numbers were 33 and 23. So that's a bit disappointing. Unless you were one of the ones who got to eat the extra food at the ride leaders' lunch.

During 2025 there were two members who led more than ten rides each - Liz and Scott. This compares to two members (Liz & Scott) in 2024 and one member (Liz) in 2023. Many thanks to both of them for being so enthusiastic. Particular thanks to Scott, who managed to lead 26 rides without losing a single entire rider.

During 2025 there were no 'leaderless' rides - i.e. a ride that no member had volunteered to lead prior to the actual ride. This compares to a small number of such rides in early 2024. So that's good.

The initiative established in 2023 to operate Thursday lunchtime rides in winter and Thursday dinner rides in summer appears to have suffered from a lack of enthusiasm during 2025 following a burst of popularity in 2024. There were a small number of ad-hoc lunchtime and evening rides, but no regular programme.

In 2025, a few more new initiatives were rolled out:

1. The tradition of standing over people to pressure them into leading a ride was quietly dropped in favour of standing back and waiting for actual volunteers. This has made no difference to the number or quality of the rides but has reduced considerably the stress of being the ride coordinator. The philosophy behind this initiative is that if members don't actively volunteer to lead rides, then what is the point of having a club?
2. The ride coordinator left the country completely for about half the year. Again, this made no difference to the number or quality of the rides but further reduced the stress of being the ride coordinator.
3. The success of the first two initiatives was probably enhanced by the use of a ride sub-coordinator (Arthur) who actually volunteered to take all the stress onto his own broad shoulders and must have done quite a bit of the donkey work during the prolonged absences of the official ride coordinator.
4. Last year's initiative of writing utter nonsense to offset the generally boring dry tone of the website notification posts has been extended and enhanced. This has been met with both positive and negative feedback, but surprisingly this year more positive than negative. Even more strangely, some ride leaders have started to complain if the write-up doesn't contain sufficient nonsense, or if the nonsense isn't sufficiently outrageous.
5. Last year's initiative of running mountain bike rides on Fridays has been astonishingly successful and is in danger of taking over the club. Mostly this is down to the efforts of one person (Scott) who keeps putting himself forward to lead rides.