

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of SVCC held on 18th April 2026 at 3.30pm
at Pavilion in the Park, Victory Park, Cainscross, Stroud, GL5 4JE**

Attending: Malcolm Carruthers, Tom Daltry, Clare Smith, Dave Hassall, Steve Brawley, Liz Cowan, Ian Cooper, John Thatcher, Sam Horne, Brian Hewlett, Alan Craven, Kay Craven, Dave Limbrick, Daniel Rens, Pete Sharpe, Mario McNamara, Matthew Utting, Sue Bateman, Gwyn Morris, Paul Rothwell, Melvyn Stephens, Steve O'Connor, Daphne Edwards, Anne Rogers, Mike Weaver (25)

+ Sarah Mitchell, Chief Exec., Cycling UK

Agenda item	Discussion and questions	Impact/Actions
1. Welcome address by chair – Malcolm Carruthers	<p>Malcolm welcomed Sarah Mitchell; and reported on discussions with Sarah and colleagues during the year, starting with our concerns about feeling (as a member group) alienated from Cycling UK and then getting positive feedback from C UK followed by real progress through initiatives which have been taken. He thanked current members of the committee for what they do; and expressing the hope that everyone would support the election of Steve B as chairman.</p> <p>He referred to his belief that we should engage and encourage young cyclists and to a possible project involving a drop-in bike clinic for youngsters who are having problems with their bikes.</p> <p>Malcolm also referred to SVCC members who had sadly passed away during this last year: Val Sharpe & Dave Munday.</p>	
2. Apologies for absence	Apologies received from: Peter Chaffer, Derek Mitchell, Nick Carter, Vicki Carter, Richard Maggs, Chris Padmore, Lyn Niblett, Will Newell, Phil Hayward.	
3. Minutes of AGM on Saturday 26th April 2025 and Matters Arising	<p>Tom referred to the minutes circulated to everyone with his email of 6th April 2026. These were approved.</p> <p>Matters arising: to be dealt with in the course of the meeting.</p>	
4. Secretary and Registration Officer's Report – Tom Daltry	<p>Tom reported on rides statistics for 25/26, covering the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24/25 figures are in ()</p>	

Day	Easy ↓30 miles	Medium 30 – 60 miles	Hard ↑60 miles	Total no. of rides
Tuesday		51 (50)		51
Thursday	27	13	45 (49)	85
Sunday	13 (10)*	30 (34)	7	50

*The Sunday easy rides include the monthly easy / taster rides which John Thatcher has done a great job in offering and where we look to promote the rides more widely than just via our own email list, to seek to attract new members.

- Audaxes: 7
- Other on road: 8 (5) (e.g. Mendips weekend, Cocklefield camping trip, Treasure Hunt ride)
- Off road: 4 (11)

A total of 205 riding events organised by club members.

Numbers of riders on each ride varied between 1 and 20. The total number of people participating in our rides was 75 (2024/25: 78). 36 of these riders did 12 or more rides and 27 did at least 24 rides. So this suggests that there is a relatively small pool of regular riders – it might be good to look to increase the numbers who ride with us a couple of times a month. The male / female split is male weighted - but 16 women rode with us during the year and 9 of these rode at least 12 times; and there have been 10 rides where women represented at least 50% of all riders and 3 rides where there was a majority of women on the ride, including 2 hard rides, with one of these having 7 women and 6 men. So we have some strong female riders amongst us, although it will be good to try to increase the overall numbers. The total number of different ride leaders was 18. This includes 3 women – it would definitely be good to try to increase the number of rides led by women, not least because it may well be that this will also help to encourage more women to come out on our rides.

Tom also endorsed Malcolm’s comments in thanking Sarah for her response to the approach we had made to Cycling UK.

5. Rides Secretary’s Report – Ian Cooper

Ian reported that we had been able to offer almost all the normal Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday rides – just one Sunday when there was no ride. It would be good to have more ride leaders, particularly for Tuesdays.

Committee to consider steps to encourage more ride leaders and more female leaders.

<p>6. Safeguarding Officer's Report – Steve Brawley</p>	<p>Just one accident in the year – Lin H in deep gravel; and she was able to resume the ride. Also the Steve hypothermia incident – and Steve referred to his write up on our website about this; and he is writing for Audax UK on the subject.</p> <p><i>[Post meeting note: After the meeting it was confirmed that Sam Horne had been involved in an accident when another (non-SVCC) cyclist rode into her and she came off her bike. She was subsequently able to continue the ride..]</i></p> <p>Steve reported that during the year we had circulated guidance on how to report accidents to C UK (including the time of the accident); and also guidance on verbal and hand warning signals.</p>	
<p>7. Social Events Report + Promotional Activities Report – Tom Daltry</p>	<p>Tom reported as follows:</p> <p>Social Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual Christmas events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joint lunch with Stonehouse Wheelers; ○ the carol service & lunch (which was particularly well attended both by SVCC members and also members of other cycling clubs); and ○ Christmas Tree event • Some social cycling events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treasure Hunt in Painswick area, organised by Paul Rothwell and Clare Smith. ○ The Mendips camping weekend (Tom provided info. about this and thanked Paul Rothwell for coming up with this idea and doing much of the organising). ○ Paul also led a cycling weekend which included an overnight camping stop near Cowley, with heavily laden bikes going up some fairly extreme hills. ○ A John Thatcher Tuesday ride visited a local care home (following a request from the home, to mark World Bicycle Day). We have been asked back this year. World Bike Day falls on a Wednesday but we are looking to see whether we might do a visit on the Tuesday. ○ Ride & Stride event organised by Tom – visiting 10 churches, including Tewkesbury Abbey and raising funds for Gloucester Historic Churches, followed by a barbecue at Tom's house. <p>There were a couple of other ideas touted during the year for quiz evenings and a skittles outing (as joint events with the Wheelers) but there was insufficient uptake to take these forward.</p> <p>Tom encouraged anyone who has ideas for social activities which they would like to suggest to speak to a committee member (perhaps having sounded out some other members to see if there might be enthusiasm).</p>	<p>John will follow up.</p>

	<p>Promotional Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Stroud publicity event this year was at the Stroud Show. The extreme heat seems likely to have reduced the numbers of people coming to the Show. The venue was thought to be good, although this year we are exploring whether we might be able to do something at the Long Table / Bike Drop location, which we think could work very well. • Publicity via articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John initiated an item which reported on the care home visit which was included in Letters page of Cycle Magazine. ○ Tom had an article in the Travellers’ Tales section of Cycle Magazine reporting on our Mendips trip. ○ Tom was interviewed by a journalist who works on the sports section of the freebie magazine “the Local Answer” and we got some good coverage in that (the online version and the hard copy version). 	<p>On to do list.</p>
<p>8. Treasurer’s Report – Dave Hassall</p>	<p>Dave referred to the accounts published on the website on 9.4.26 and a copy was available for inspection at the meeting. Main point to note was that the income / expenditure position was virtually break even (tiny surplus) in 25/26. We had activated our deposit account in order to earn some interest (minimal amounts). Dave referred to the fact that in the past we had built up funds to enable a stock of club kit to be purchased. We were not proposing to continue this – problems of having stock which does not sell etc..</p>	
<p>9. Following on from Treasurer’s report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Anne Rogers as honorary club auditor. • Approval and adoption of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. 	<p>Honorary Auditor:</p> <p>Tom explained that the honorary auditor has to be someone who is not on the committee and their role is essentially to check the figures prepared by the Treasurer, as recorded in the accounts. Anne has an accounting background. Tom expressed our thanks to her for agreeing to undertake this role. Tom said that he would be asking members to vote to confirm Anne’s election as honorary auditor for 2025/26 and also to elect her in this role for 2026/27. Tom asked for proposers and seconders who were not committee members:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Proposed by: Steve O’Connor Seconded by: Gwyn Morris</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Vote: unanimously in favour.</p> <p>Approval and adoption of the Accounts: unanimous vote in favour.</p>	

<p>10. Club Kit – Tom Daltry</p>	<p>Tom encouraged purchases of kit from the existing stock at our bargain prices. He also referred to the fact that we were planning to tee up arrangements under which members can buy new kit from Kalas with a discount. Ian mentioned that this was likely to be possible if there is an order of at least 5 items in total. We would report further after our next committee meeting. Gwyn referred to the fact that Kalas are currently offering 15% discounts.</p> <p>Use of club kit by our members was strongly encouraged – it was good on safety grounds (bright and visible) and also to increase awareness of our club.</p>	<p>Discuss next steps at June Committee meeting.</p>
<p>11. Nomination and Election of Committee for 2026/2027:</p>	<p>(a) The following are stepping down:</p> <p>Malcolm Carruthers (as Chair and as Committee Member) - Tom said that we would return to this subject at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Clare Smith (as Committee Member) - Tom mentioned that we had thanked Clare for her work as secretary last year and reiterated our thanks in this regard and also his personal thanks for her assistance in handing over secretary duties over the past 12 months.</p> <p>(b) Steve Brawley is standing to become Chair (and to remain as Safeguarding Officer):</p> <p>Proposed by: Tom Daltry Secoded by: Liz Cowan</p> <p>Vote: unanimously in favour.</p> <p>Noted that Steve did not wish to serve as chairman for more than 3 years.</p> <p>(c) Sam Horne is standing to become a Committee Member</p> <p>Proposed by: Clare Smith Secoded by: Paul Rothwell</p> <p>Vote: unanimously in favour.</p> <p>(d) The following are standing for re-election: Tom Daltry – Secretary and Registration Officer Dave Hassall – Treasurer Ian Cooper – Rides Secretary John Thatcher – Committee Member Liz Cowan – Committee Member</p>	

	<p>For speed Tom proposed that we deal with the above re-elections as a block, but said that if anyone wanted to have individual votes for each member of the committee then we would instead do this. Everyone was happy to proceed with the block arrangement.</p> <p>In relation to the re-election of all the above:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Proposed by: Anne Rogers Seconded by: Mario McNamara</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Vote: unanimously in favour.</p>	
<p>12. Sarah Mitchell (Chief Executive, Cycling UK)</p>	<p>Sarah thanked Malcolm and Tom for approaching CUK and giving feedback. She said she also welcomed the chance to meet the wider group and get more feedback.</p> <p>She said there were just under 100 Cycling UK member groups and 900 affiliated and community groups. 10% of the C UK membership cycled with groups.</p> <p>She said that there is a view that cycling in groups is beneficial – it keeps people cycling and cycling further than they might otherwise do; although she is not aware of any hard evidence for this.</p> <p>Part of the C UK strategy is to connect with groups better and to connect non-group CUK members with groups; and also to connect groups together to share experiences and best practices etc..</p> <p>CUK is looking at tools and resources for groups – they are in a listening phase in this regard.</p> <p>In terms of current developments, they have just refreshed the group resources and newsletters, including a specific newsletter for member groups.</p> <p>A couple of future events mentioned were: the Big Bike Brunch as part of Bike Week – 9th to 15th June; and Glow Rides to coincide with clocks going back and with a particular focus on women safety – a short fun ride lighting up the night.</p> <p>Liz C asked whether C UK might do something like the British Cycling Breeze rides (which had attracted Liz to cycling). Sarah said CUK would love to do this but British Cycling had secured huge funding to be able to do this and this was not available to CUK. They are looking to do a Big Bike Revival Programme targeted at non-cyclists / lapsed cyclists, with a female orientation.</p> <p>Gwyn referred to SVCC involvement in lobbying our local MP and subsequent participation in a cycling forum which had been established. Sarah welcomed this – lobbying at a local level was often more effective than when done by a large organisation at national level. She also referred to a Cycle Advocacy Network which supports this type of activity – you can sign up for free. <i>[After the meeting Gwyn reported that he had looked at this, but you had to provide quite a lot of information in order to sign up to the Network.]</i></p>	<p>Consider participation in these – particularly the Glow Ride.</p>
<p>13. Top Riders and Ride Leaders of the Year</p>	<p>Tom mentioned that our award winners are this year receiving vouchers to spend at the Bike Drop which is a community interest company (any profits go to the community and not to any private individuals) and their mission is “to see more people on bikes and this is the guiding principle behind everything <i>[they] do.</i>”</p>	

Tom said that this year we would like to recognise and encourage the participation of women in our club:

1. **Leading female rider:** top 3 in this category are

- In 3rd position, with 44 rides: Liz Cowan
- In 2nd position, with 51 rides: Clare Smith
- In 1st position and winner of the leader female rider for 2025/26, with an impressive total of 61 rides is: **Sam Horne** (certificate and £20 Bike Drop voucher).

2. **Leading female ride leader:** A clear winner, leading a total of 24 rides during the year (despite the fact that she has other duties which mean that she is usually not available to participate in mid-week rides), our winner is **Clare Smith** (certificate and £20 Bike Drop voucher).

3. Now we come to our **overall (men and women) leading rider and ride leader this year:**

Top 5 riders:

- 5th, on 73 rides, Dave Hassall
- 4th, on 74 rides, Phil Hayward
- 3rd, on 77 rides Nick Carter
- 2nd, on 91 rides, Ian Cooper

Top 5 rider leaders:

- 5th, having led 18 rides, Phil Hayward
- 4th, having led 24 rides, Clare Smith
- 3rd, having led 26 rides, Ian Cooper
- 2nd, having led 27 rides, Mike Weaver

But in **first position in both categories:** with a total of 99 rides during the year and 33 rides led: **Paul Rothwell** (certificate and £40 Bike Drop voucher).

Tom then said that we had decided to make a special “**outstanding contribution**” award to **Paul Rothwell**, in recognition of:

- he is always one of the first to help out other riders with punctures or other mechanical issues – not just during the course of a ride but also offering to help with repairs when someone has an issue which cannot be sorted out on the road.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he also initiates and organises a wide range of activities for club members, such as the Mendips cycling weekend, the Cowley camping weekend, canoe trips on the river Wye, regular pickle ball, and most recently, Nordic skiing (even if this last one did lead to a rather greater deployment of his first aid skills than was anticipated!). • he goes the extra mile in promoting club camaraderie, including by means of his not infrequent contributions on the group WhatsApp and with the now traditional handing out of fruit pastilles towards the end of rides he is leading! • on a recent ride, Paul saw something in the road and stopped to pick it up. It was a purse, with a large amount of cash, two credit cards and a driving license. He spent most of the lunch stop phoning the bank to stop the cards to report the loss of the cards. He then stopped in Ross on the way back to find the police station – which was closed. So he ascertained the name and address of the owner from the driving licence and looked up where this address was, taking a significant detour from the route back to return the purse to the owner - she was very relieved and offered Paul a reward, which he declined. She explained that her 5 year old had thrown a paddy, Mum was stressed out and without a thought left her purse on top of the car and then drove off. After all this Paul rode home by himself and arrived back rather later than planned. Going the extra mile! <p>Paul was then given a certificate and some local beers.</p>	
14. AOB	<p>Malcolm asked if anyone had anything that they wanted to raise. Clare read out a letter Daphne had found which had a Buckingham Palace letterhead, responding to a letter Daphne (as then club secretary) had written to the then Prince of Wales.</p> <p>Malcolm then expressed our thanks to Sarah Mitchell for attending and speaking and made a gift of flowers.</p> <p>Tom then raised one last important matter, which was to thank Malcolm for his many years of service as Chairman. <i>[Full text of this speech is attached to these minutes]</i>. Tokens of our thanks were presented to Malcolm (a trophy and bespoke mug, both with messages of thanks).</p> <p>Malcolm then briefly replied to say how he had enjoyed serving on the committee and as chairman; he referred to the club archive which had come his way and to the first rides book for the Stroud section of The Bristol DA, The Cyclists Touring Club. The first entry was a run to Newnham on 4th April 1943, when the first committee was elected; this document becoming his guidance on how to continue the legacy of the first committee. He said he had been privileged to work with great committees and he leaves knowing that the club is in good hands to continue into the future with the support of C UK. He thanked each and every member, past and present, for their support and friendship.</p>	

Text of Tom's Words of Thanks to Malcolm

I have one final, very important item.

This is to express our thanks to Malcolm for his exceptionally long stint as Chairman of our club.

My understanding is that Malcolm has been involved with the club for at least 20 years, and for many of these years as a very active participant, including as a ride leader.

The records indicate that he became a committee member in 2008 and a couple of years or so later, he tells me that he received a tap on the shoulder ... and before he knew what had happened he found that he had become chairman. Well, whoever gave him that tap was a wise man and Malcolm has done sterling service.

I have only known Malcolm for two years, since I became a committee member, but I asked others who have been on the committee for longer to let me have their comments to help me prepare these few words and I have to say that those comments very much chime with what I have observed over this past couple of years.

Under Malcolm's leadership the club has remained genuinely welcoming to cyclists of all standards and interests and has kept a lot of initiatives on the go over the years: such as investment in distinctive club kit, trips abroad, camping trips and support for people new to cycling.

He has led committee meetings with the interests of all members at the heart of things and with a genuine desire to promote cycling more generally, including by supporting other cycling groups, such as Stroud Access Bike Project, to name one of many.

He is good at listening to people and values different opinions. He is pragmatic and has a lot of common sense to share about the Club and what we are here for.

I mentioned that he received a tap on the shoulder on his way to becoming chairman. Well it appears that he learnt from this experience – a number of people have commented on his skills in getting people to join the committee and to lead rides. For example, Clare has mentioned that he managed to talk her into becoming Secretary, almost before she knew what she was doing which, I should add, also shows that Malcolm had extremely good judgement.

It must have been frustrating to Malcolm that circumstances have been such that he has not been able to participate in too many rides in more recent years. It is all the more to his credit that he has nevertheless continued to work hard on behalf of the club and retained his cheery and very positive attitude; and if there is one thing which was invariably mentioned in the comments I received about Malcolm it was that everything he does is always accompanied with not a little scouse humour.

It has been a pleasure, Malcolm, working with you over the past couple of years and I know other longer serving committee members than me share this sentiment. We are all very grateful to you for everything you have done over the years.

In recognition of your contribution we have a couple of little tokens of our thanks which may perhaps find a home in the Cavern.

Perhaps I can again ask Sarah to do the honours in presenting you with a small trophy expressing our thanks and also something which might also remind you of our appreciation each time you have a cup of tea.