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**Stevenage & North Herts CTC**  
**Part of Cycling UK**

**News Release 6 February 2017**

## **GET TRAINING FOR THE START OF SUMMERTIME SPECIALS** **Blazing Saddles Latest \* Enjoy A Saturday Starter**

The clocks change on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March and you can celebrate by cycling the Stevenage Start of Summertime Specials.

These will be the twenty fourth SSoSS rides since they were launched by Stevenage CTC and this time you have a choice of four – 60 kilometres to Reed, Barkway and Buntingford; 115 kilometres to Thaxted and back; the new SSoSS century of 160 kilometres (or 100 miles); and the 210 kilometres all the way to Lavenham in Suffolk and back.

These are not races but they are challenges with upper and lower time limits. You can find more information and an entry system by visiting [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk)

Now you need to spend the next few weeks on your bike getting some practice and Stevenage CTC, part of Cycling UK, have loads of opportunities for you to enjoy cycling in company.

Their Saturday Starters are a fantastic introduction. Until the end of February the half day rides leave Costello's Café in Fairlands Valley Park (SG2 0BL) at 10.30a.m. then from 4<sup>th</sup> March they switch to 2p.m. The next few are to Codicote with Tina on 11<sup>th</sup> February (Costello's 1030); Tewin with Jackie on 18<sup>th</sup> February (Costello's 1030); Ardeley with Paul on 25<sup>th</sup> February (Costello's 1030); then to Walkern with Penny at 2p.m. on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. These are rides at a sociable pace with a leader and sweeper linked by radio, and a refreshment stop in a tea room or café.

Then there are the evening rides EVERY Wednesday evening at 7.15p.m. from the green near Springfield House Community Centre in Old Stevenage (SG1 3EJ). You'll be back about 10p.m. Please bring good working lights.

See the website for the huge variety of Sunday rides including a trip to Sawbridgeworth with Penny on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February. There are also opportunities to enjoy away events and participate in Cycling UK competitions.

### Blazing Saddles Update

Two months into the year long competition and the 2016-2017 Blazing Saddles contest is starting to shape up.

Last year's women's winner PENNY SCHENKEL is tied with previous winner ALAN BAXTER in top spot. They are both on 31 points. Group Secretary JIM BROWN is unchanged from last month in third with 22 not far ahead of 2016 Champion DAVE HALL in fourth on 19. New member NICOLA MORRIS is second woman with 17. She is fifth overall.

SOPHIA MORRIS leads the juniors on ten and JILL BORCHERDS is third woman with 16.

### Top Twenty

Position	Name	Points	Rides	Comments
1=	PENNY SCHENKEL (F)	31	25	2016 first woman
1=	ALAN BAXTER	31	25	Previous winner
3	JIM BROWN	22	17	Previous winner
4	DAVE HALL	19	16	Previous winner
5	NICOLA MORRIS (F)	17	17	New entry
6=	JILL BORCHERDS (F)	16	11	2015 first woman
6=	PAUL BOIELLE	16	15	
6=	JON COOPER	16	12	
9=	JOHN BLOWES	15	11	
9=	JIM BORCHERDS	15	10	
11=	ROBERT FINNEY	14	13	
11=	PETER WOOLMER	14	10	
13	JACKIE COOPER (F)	13	13	Previous women's champion
14	JASON MORRIS	11	12	New entry
15	SOPHIA MORRIS (FJ)	10	10	New entry. Leading junior.
16=	STEVEN SYKES	9	13	New entry
16=	PAUL HILL	9	10	
16=	BOB CORBETT	9	10	Previous winner

19	LYNN BONNICI (F)	8	9	Previous women's champion
20	CHRIS REED	8	8	

Cycling in a group is fun and good for you. Why not have a go this year? There are local CTC rides EVERY Wednesday evening and the Saturday Starters EVERY Saturday all year round.

With Stevenage CTC people ride with each other not against each other. Newcomers will be welcome but under 16s should bring a responsible adult please. There are accredited ride leaders and sweepers usually with a radio link so no-one gets left behind.

On all evening rides please ensure you have working, effective lights. This Saturday you can enjoy a morning Starter ride to Vanstone Park and back. Meet at Costello's Café in Fairlands Valley Park (SG2 0BL) in time for a 10.30a.m. start. Sunday's ride is longer. Meet in the Old Town on the green by Springfield House Community Centre (SG1 3EJ) at 9.30a.m. for a ride to Whitwell and Tewin.

You'll find the full programme on [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk) but it includes:

- Evening rides from Old Stevenage at least EVERY Wednesday at 7.15p.m. Meet near Springfield House Community Centre and the war memorial (SG1 3EJ). Expect to cycle a total of about 20 miles with a brief break in a country pub. Back about 10p.m. so please bring lights.
- Starter half day rides from Fairlands Valley Park EVERY Saturday. Meet at Costello's Café (SG2 0BL). Sociable pace with a refreshment break in a café or tea rooms. The Starters are morning rides leaving at 10.30a.m. during the winter, up to the end of February. From March they will switch back to afternoons.
- A huge variety of Sunday rides from short half day trips to quite demanding "A" and challenge rides including the Stevenage Start of Summertime Specials on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March.
- Most rides are on lanes and quieter country roads but there are some off road activities. And there's the opportunity to enjoy Cycling UK's national events. The group sends "teams" to away events on a regular basis. The club rides are free but CTC would like you to join them after you've enjoyed a few.

Remember CTC ride with each other not against each other. Stevenage CTC group rides experienced ride makers, a leader and sweeper with a radio link, on the front and back – no-one gets left behind. You can get more details by contacting Penny (07787 816434); Jim (0793 968 7509); Jill (07816 625901) or Tina (01438 235881) or by emailing [jim@stevenagectc.org.uk](mailto:jim@stevenagectc.org.uk)

Cycling with your local CTC group is a great way to get fit and enjoy the local countryside in good company. Cycling is fun, it's good for the environment, sociable and it's also good for you. Stevenage CTC is the local group of Cycling UK – the National Cycling Charity.

### Coming Events

- Sunday 26 March. Stevenage Start of Summertime Specials.

**ENDS**

**More from JIM BROWN 0793 968 7509 or Tina Walker 01438 235881. For national information contact the national Cycling UK press office on 01483 238 315, 07786 320 713 or email [publicity@cyclenguk.org](mailto:publicity@cyclenguk.org)**

**The CTC, now known nationally as Cycling UK, is the national cycling charity. It is run by cyclists for cyclists. The national website is at [www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.uk)**

**CTC/Cycling UK works to promote cycling by raising public and political awareness of its health, social and environmental benefits, and by working with all communities to help realise those benefits.**

**CTC/Cycling UK has been protecting and promoting the rights of cyclists since 1878. It now has more members than at any time in its history. CTC is a not-for-profit organisation funded through memberships and donations. We focus on the social side of cycling as well as being a powerful and independent voice on behalf of ALL cyclists. CTC offers a range of benefits, including insurance and legal advice, for every type of cyclist. By joining CTC YOU are supporting UK cycling and giving us a louder voice on issues that are important to all users of cycles.**

### **Notes to editors:**

Cycling UK, the national cycling charity, inspires and helps people to cycle and keep cycling, whatever kind of cycling they do or would like to do. Over a century's experience tells us that cycling is more than useful transport; it makes you feel good, gives you a sense of freedom and creates a better environment for everyone.

**Local Website [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk)**

To join CTC / Cycling UK visit <http://www.cyclinguk.org> or 'phone 0844 736 8451

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