



Stevenage & North Herts CTC  
Part of Cycling UK

News Release 21 June 2020

## **85 IN BIKE WEEK CHALLENGE**

### **Stevenage Team Get To San Francisco and Beyond**

### **Nearly 50% Women**

The idea of the Bike Week Challenge organised by Cycling UK Stevenage was to maximize the number of days when people rode their bikes over the nine days of bike week and to form a huge virtual relay team of Cycling UK and friends to see how we could get. There was a minimum cycling distance of 5 kilometres in a day to get on the list.

Initially there was a “dry” feet target to cycle from Stevenage to John O’Groats, Lands End and back to Stevenage. Stevenage to John O’Groats was almost exactly 1,000 kilometres and in round numbers the whole triangle 3,000 kilometres.

This was not enough of a challenge as the group cycled more than 1,000K on several days. After going round twice organiser Jim Brown sought a linear target, obviously that would have to involve crossing water. He set an ambitious destination of San Francisco.

The response was massive with 85 people contributing between 5 and 558 kilometres. 48.2% of those taking part were women and girls.

The final distance covered was 9,152 kilometres (5,683 miles) which took them to San Francisco with 600 kilometres to spare or, if you like, three laps of the Great Britain triangle.

Two people cycled every day. They were Jill Borchers and Jim Brown who get a 100% record. Penny Schenkel was on her bike for eight of the nine days. If there had been a tiebreaker Jim cycled 271.18 kilometres and Jill 131.61 kilometres.

It wasn't a competition but for fun Cycling UK Stevenage calculated who rode the greatest distance. Three of the top six were women. The top six were Ian Watt, 558; Steve Hawes 425; Alison Hinds 413; Alan Wratten 403; Jackie Cooper 378 and Penny Schenkel 331.

On average each participant covered 108 kilometres over the nine days and with 262 rider rides the average ride was 35 kilometres

**On just distance the top six were:**

Position	Name	Kilometres	Rides
1st.	Ian Watt.	558.35	7 rides.
2nd.	Steve Hawes.	425.04	6 rides.
3rd.	Alison Hinds.	412.66	7 rides.
4th.	Alan Wratten.	402.56	7 rides.
5th.	Jackie Cooper	377.61	7 rides.
6th.	Penny Schenkel	330.64	8 rides.

The Cycling UK in Stevenage are really forward to when they can organise group rides again but in the meantime there's plenty to see on [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk)

Results from the Bike Week Treasure Hunt, all within Stevenage, should be available soon. There are lots of routes on the local Cycling UK website which you can follow whenever you like.

Have a look at their Facebook page Cycling UK Stevenage or visit [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk) or contact Jim on 0793 968 7509; Tina on 01438 235881 or Penny 07787 816434.

Tina Walker, Chair of the local group and one of its ride leaders has been cycling around some local easy rides and making videos.

You can find them on the local Cycling UK site at [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk) in the news section.

Many of the routes are taken from the [Stevenage Cycling Festival Cycle Routes Map](#) which the group helped to devise and is available from the Cycling UK website (look under Links/Maps) or go straight to

<http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk/files/maps/cycling-festival-map.pdf>

Naturally the quality of the videos is not brilliant since the camera is mounted on a bike but you do get realistic heavy breathing going up hill plus wind and road noise. There is a commentary which was recorded whilst cycling.

The videos are also available on the **YouTube** Channel **TinaCyclist**

There are currently videos for all of the routes from the festival map red, blue, orange, green and purple route.

There are also two routes not listed on the map - a quiet bridleway route to Knebworth and a couple of routes between Fairlands Valley Park and Hampson Park.

The virtual Teddy Bears Picnic – Bears on Bicycles - ride is also available.

Normally Cycling UK Stevenage offer about 200 led rides every year. They are looking forward to welcoming new riders when that's possible but say the Stevenage cycleways give great opportunities for people to get their bikes out in these difficult times.

## **Space4Cycling**

Cycling UK Stevenage supports the Space4Cycling campaign. Cycle-friendly streets are people-friendly streets. We want everyone to enjoy the health benefits, improved air quality and community feel that Space for Cycling can bring – whether you choose to cycle or not. The national Space for Cycling campaign works with local campaign groups to get councils to plan, invest in and build a high quality cycle network.

Many local authorities are provided new bike routes or widening existing cycle lanes as well as providing more space on pavements to respond to the increase in the number of people cycling and walking while facilitating social distancing.

Even in Stevenage there are there places where there is no provision at all or the routes are too narrow. For more on Space4Cycling see:

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/campaign/space-for-cycling>

To join Cycling UK please go to [www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org)

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Remember Cycling UK ride with each other not against each other. Stevenage Cycling UK group rides have 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); Nicola (0791 643 8610) or Tina (07775 538830 / 01438 235881), by visiting [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk) or by emailing [jim@stevenagectc.org.uk](mailto:jim@stevenagectc.org.uk)

Cycling with your local Cycling UK 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. Cycling UK Stevenage is the local group of Cycling UK – formerly known as CTC, the National Cycling Charity.

**ENDS**

**More from JIM BROWN 0793 968 7509; Penny (07787 816434); 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@cyclinguk.org](mailto:publicity@cyclinguk.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.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org)**

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

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