



Newsletter - March 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen

Spring is in the air, at least according to the Meteorological calendar, although it certainly didn't feel like it when I left home at ten past eight this morning to cycle to the start of the 'club run' with the Garmin registering 0° degrees. Does the coming of spring mean we can remove our mudguards? Based on the flooded roads encountered today I think probably not? One of my other interests is fishing and by all accounts the wet winter, leading to flooded rivers (and in some cases lakes and ponds too), has forced a number of tackle shops out of business. I've certainly done more indoor training this year than in previous ones so I suspect cycling shops and suppliers could well be facing the same issues?

Annual General Meeting

The club's AGM was held last week and it was good to see Rob Downham and Mike O'Gorman amongst those present. Both Rob and Mike (along with Chris Putnam) have stood down from the roles they have held within the club after many years of sterling service for which we owe our thanks. I'll get the Minutes from the meeting circulated over the next few days but in the meantime please welcome Emma Kuusela who has volunteered to join the Committee.

Membership renewals

I am sure you are all now aware that you have until 31st March to renew your membership after which you are automatically removed as a member and will no longer receive my newsletters! Renewals can be made through the website; the good news is that it will only cost you the same as last year as it was agreed at the AGM that there would be no increases.

Club night(s)

This coming Tuesday (5th) it is club night at the West Worthing Tennis Club with all welcome. It was asked at the AGM how a WECC member can become a social member at the Tennis club,

which gives you a card to gain entry to the premises and cheaper drinks at the bar! The short answer is in the first instance please contact Ken Newton via treasurer@worthingexcelsior.co.uk but there is no charge to you personally.

Another topic discussed at the AGM relating to club nights was the possibility of delivering a bike maintenance session, which has been previously muted but not progressed. On the recent club trip to Eastbourne at least one member suffered a serious mechanical issue but the knowledge of those present meant he was able to get going again so clearly there are things we can all learn. Anyway, I believe we have volunteers willing to deliver such a session so watch this space for further details.

Another potential topic could be first aid? I know of at least one other club who have arranged such a session and in the motorcycling world, which is similar to ours in that both have two wheels and are prone to the riders falling or being knocked off, there is a recognized course delivered by the emergency services called Biker Down. I'll make enquires with British Cycling and Cycling UK to see if there is something similar available for those who forgo engines but if anyone has any information please get in touch.

Time Trials

To reiterate what I wrote last month, next Sunday sees the first Time Trial event that we are organising this year, namely the 'Ashurst Circuit', being a 'sporting course' of about 16 miles. The following Sunday is the Club Handicap 10 on the usual A24 course. The good news is I understand we already have double the entries from last year so if you are interested please contact Ian Cheesman clubevents@worthingexcelsior.co.uk to book your place.

Reliability Trial

The club's annual Reliability Trial is scheduled for the 24th March with routes of approximately 35 and 48 miles planned. Please note, despite the website currently saying otherwise, there is no other official club run that day so if you want the points you'll need to complete the Trial! In all honesty it's not dissimilar to a club ride except you get the option to choose what distance you want to ride and the time you do it in. You may need to navigate yourself around though and I know that doesn't come easy to some! Both rides start and finish at Washington with those doing the longer route starting at 8.30 and those doing the shorter one starting at 9.

The late John Grant

John was a long standing member of WECC as well as being the club's unofficial historian. John sadly passed away last year but in a very generous gesture he has left £1200 in his Estate to the club.

East Sussex Cycling Association

The ESCA Reliability Trial is being run on Sunday 28th April from a HQ at Ardingly near Haywards Heath. The course is 50 miles long and the event has a unique selling point in that a trophy is awarded to the club who members accrue the greatest number of points. You can enter via this link www.riderhq.com/events/p/7ztahc90/enter2 at a cost of a mere £8.

Greater Haywards Heath Bike Ride

Another local Sportive type event, this time on 19th May with all monies raised, apart from £1.00 per entrant towards the Event Insurance, going to charities. Crawley Wheelers Cycling Club help organize and marshal this event, which has routes of 73, 48, 20 and 12 miles.
<https://www.haywardsheathlive.org.uk/hh-bike-ride>

And finally

If you weren't already aware the once mighty, Chain Reaction / Wiggle on-line shop is in the last days of being wound up. The name and goodwill has been bought by Mike Ashley of Sports Direct but virtually all the existing employees have been laid off and the remaining stock is being sold off. I bought some items last week and although there doesn't appear to be much left it may well be worth your while checking their websites in case you can pick up a bargain.

Until next time,

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