



Newsletter – December 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen

Winter is upon us and it certainly felt like that on the club ride last Sunday. Although the temperature was supposedly in double figures, the wind and rain made it feel a lot colder and I certainly felt worn out from the effort expended by the time I got home. Definitely 'type 2' fun or as the well known angler Fred J Taylor apparently once said, 'I'll be glad when I have had enough of this'.

With Christmas just a few weeks away if you are still being asked what your loved ones can get you, may I suggest a decent light set? I see a lot of very ineffective lights, particularly rears, on bikes and whilst a decent one won't 100% prevent an inattentive car driver from failing to see you, as one of the most vulnerable of road users, we should do all we can to protect ourselves. Exposure is a local company who make excellent lights and you could do a lot worse than to pay them a visit <https://www.exposurelights.com>

On the subject of riding at this time of year a friend of mine has recently joined a Surrey based cycling club who rigidly enforce the 'full length mudguard' rule. Interestingly they also insist that every rider has their own GPS navigation device with the day's route loaded. Food for thought?

Club Dinner and Presentation evening

The annual Dinner and Presentation evening was held a couple of weeks ago and I think I can speak for all those who attended in saying it was another excellent evening thanks to the organisational skills of Ian Cheesman. Thanks must also go to Karl Robertson who took on the onerous tasks of collecting up all the trophies and getting them inscribed in time for them to be handed out again.

Eastbourne weekend

The annual club ride to Eastbourne (and back) is scheduled for the weekend of the 22/23rd February. A number of rooms have been reserved at the Langham Hotel and to secure one of them you need to contact the hotel direct and pay a 50% deposit. The rooms are slightly more expensive this year at £85 (unless you were quick off the mark and got the cheaper promotional rate) but that does include an excellent three course dinner and a full English or Continental breakfast. There is also secure indoor parking for the bikes and your luggage will be conveyed to and from the hotel for you at no extra cost. The Langham can be contacted on 01323 731451 and once booked please let Dave Wilbor know via davewilbor@outlook.com

Chris Hoy

You will no doubt have heard the sad news that Olympian Chris Hoy has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. He has now published a new book called 'All that Matters', which deals with his illness and which is receiving rave reviews. It can currently be purchased half price for a mere £11 from Amazon, <https://www.amazon.co.uk/All-That-Matters-Inspirational-Uplifting/dp/1399741845> What was I saying about Christmas present ideas?

Hell of Ashdown Forest

If you don't fancy the club ride to Eastbourne maybe the Hell of Ashdown Forest Sportive will interest you? Taking place on Sunday 23rd February it covers just over 100km but includes at least 9 recognised climbs making it an extremely tough event. Unfortunately it looks like all the initial places have been sold within days of being released but you can put your name on a waiting list <https://flammerougeevents.eventrac.co.uk/e/hell-of-the-ashdown-hota-sportive-2025-12299> and I also suspect you'll find some places being offered by charities in return for raising funds for the causes they represent.

Club kit

The second Club kit order has now been delivered and distributed and I'll have to say it's great seeing so many people wearing theirs on our Sunday morning rides. Castelli, the suppliers, like the majority of cycle clothing manufacturers do insist on a minimum order size so it's unlikely there'll be sufficient demand for us to be able to place another order any time soon. We do however have the following items available for sale and if you would like to purchase any of these please contact Phil Frean direct phil.frean@gmail.com

1 pair of bibshorts (size large) £88.80

1 long sleeved jersey (size medium) £78.00.

1 wind vest/gilet (size medium) £63.60.

Alternatively if you previously purchased some kit which for one reason or other you haven't been able to use, feel free to let me know and I can circulate the details for you. Don't forget you can also purchase individual items direct from NopinZ who are renowned for their racing kit but do also supply clothing for less intensive riding. The details regarding ordering from NopinZ can be found on our website.

Facebook Marketplace

It never ceases to surprise me what pops up for sale on Facebook Marketplace, the latest being a pair of Worthing Excelsior jerseys offered by a lady in Worthing.



Made by Campitellio (?) and said to be circa 1980's, she has one large and one medium size for sale at £20 each although as the posting has been active for some 14 weeks she'll probably consider an offer? <https://www.facebook.com/share/13tDyuj8Ju/>

Membership renewals

Just a reminder that your membership isn't due for renewal until 1st March following the changes made to the Constitution at the 2023 AGM. We are considering purchasing a commercially available Membership database to make the whole process easier for everyone concerned but as they say, 'watch this space'. Speaking of AGM's we have penciled in the last week of February for our next one but which day it will be is subject to the availability of wherever we are able to hold it.

That just lives me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year,

Ian

