



Newsletter – December 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we approach the year's end, on behalf of the Committee I'd like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. That said I am sure you'll also join me in sparing a thought for those who have maybe lost a loved one or whose circumstances means that the festive season isn't something they will be looking forward to.

Date for your diary, part 1

I am pleased to be able to give you early notice that the 2026 AGM will be held on Tuesday 24th February at the John Seldon Public House in Worthing. Further details will follow in due course.

Date for you diary, Part 2

I've previously mentioned in the newsletter that Cadence Cycling Club will be opening a new café in Partridge Green (either where Stan's Shack was or else very nearby) and I am pleased to be able to now inform you that the 'grand opening' will take place on Saturday 10th January. I certainly intend paying them a visit that day and I suspect we'll look to organize a Sunday Club Ride there shortly afterwards.

Date for your Dairy, Part 3

Subject to plan's being finalized, the Committee has agreed that the Annual Eastbourne trip will take place on the weekend of 21st/22nd February. An email will be circulated once the details have been confirmed and I recommend booking at the earliest opportunity as rooms at our preferred hotel do tend to sell out quickly.

2026 Sportives

To encourage members to participate in group events together, three Sportives have now been identified, which it is hoped as many members as possible will sign up for.

All three events are organised by [UK Cycling Events \(UKCE\)](#), an established provider of sportives in the south. The three events we are promoting are:

[The Wiltshire Classic](#) - Saturday 14th March - a chance to explore a different area early in the season

[The New Forest Classic](#) - Saturday 11th April - always a joy, on quiet woodland roads mixing with the wildlife

[Surrey Hills Classic](#) - Saturday 9th May - a chance to test yourself on more familiar territory

Each event has a long, middle and short route, so you should find something suitable for you. Hopefully we'll be able to organise lift-shares for those who need it nearer each event too.

As a club, we have been given a discount code for 20% off these events - **WECC20**. You apply this code at the checkout stage, but please don't share this outside of the club.

These events do sell out - the popular New Forest ride is already 85% full, so don't delay....

Cycling UK

I'm sure you don't need me to remind you that Cycling UK are at the forefront of protecting cyclists rights, promoting road safety and encouraging the growth of cycling. We as a club are affiliate members but to benefit as an individual you really need to take out membership yourself. Currently you can get 25% off membership which equates to just £3.44 per month or to put it another way less than the price of a cup of coffee at most establishments! Go to <https://www.cyclinguk.org/join-cycling-uk-today> and scroll down the page where you'll see the offer.

World Masters Cyclocross Chamionships

I am most indebted to Karen McGrath for the following report and photos. It's great to read of John and Karen's successes and I'd be really pleased to include any similar reports that you'd like to send me.

As I'm sure you're all aware John and I were in Varese, Italy last weekend for the World Masters Cyclocross, where John won the silver medal.

With the training and work he's put in this year, and as British national champion it was perhaps no surprise for him to be at the front end of the race. But there are no certainties and with the Worlds; you never quite know what to expect, with new, younger riders coming into

your age group and the randomised gridding. Both factors played their part in Varese. John was relieved to find he was gridded 12th, giving him a second row start. Last year's champion Ron Veeke was on the front row and newcomer to the O'60s, and European champion Simon Hale was also second row. This put three of the big hitters at the front and set up a thrilling race. Simon and John shot off the start like champagne corks and within a very short time had established a gap from the chasing pack. On the second lap they were joined by Ron Veeke and from there to the finish the three shared the lead, and there was little chance for others to catch up, given the speed of the race at the front.

The 2.8 km course took them over muddy rutted sections, sand, two bridges, knee high planks, and some long bumpy straights, but nothing separated them for the six laps of the race. No-one could predict who would take the victory, all three looked strong throughout. In the end it was Ron who just edged ahead to take the win from John (on the same finish time), and Simon just 2 seconds behind in 3rd. It was arguably the race of the weekend and a superb demonstration that competition at the highest level is not defined by age.

Women Masters

I also entered, not least because it seemed a very fitting way for me to celebrate progress since having my right hip replaced 12 months ago. My objective was to get round the course, enjoy the event, and try not to be last. All three goals achieved!

The course was great for me, no slippery off camber or tough climbs to contend with and just the mud and bridges to get through and over. However, being a flat course didn't make it was easy and there was no respite or opportunity to recover.

The strength, speed and skills of the women around me were very impressive. I'll be going up an age group next year and it's a real inspiration to me to train consistently on improving my aerobic capacity and cx skills for the next 12 months and see what I can do in 2026. No expectations though – the winner and second in my race also move up next year!

We understand that Varese will be hosting the championships again in 2026, and can't wait. The organisers did a superb job hosting a weekend of top class competition for the 600+ competitors from around the world, with races in five year age bands for men and women from 35 to 80+ (yes really – three 80+ year olds competed).



And finally a quick reminder that following changes made a couple of years ago, your membership doesn't expire until 1st March 2026 and you'll be sent an email when renewals can be made.

Best wishes

Ian

