



## Newsletter – January 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen

Happy New Year to one and all. If you overindulged during the Christmas period now is the time to start putting some miles in before the spring although it would be nice if the weather wasn't either wet and windy or cold and icy!

### **Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at the John Selden Pub, Half Moon Lane, Worthing, BN13 2EN. We'll kick off from 7.30 but teas and coffees (and maybe biscuits to accompany them) will be available from 7pm onwards.

A bit nearer the time I'll send out an Agenda and advise who from the Committee is prepared to stand for another year but in the meantime if there is anything that you want brought up or if you are interested in becoming involved in the running of the club please let me know.

### **Club garages**

It may surprise newer members, as indeed it did me when I joined nearly four years ago, but the club actually own outright two lock up garages and have done so since 1990 and 1997 respectively. The garages were initially purchased as investments with a view to generating capital towards building or acquiring premises that would have become our club house. That aspiration was never fulfilled and of course as now everything in the modern world revolves around the internet and social media, a club house isn't needed. One of the garages is in West Worthing and has been let to a firm of architects for many years to store archive material. We receive a small income from this rental although we don't charge 'the going rate' by any means. The 2<sup>nd</sup> garage is in Upper Beeding, which we use to store our Time Trial equipment, such as the signage that gets put up before every event.

So why am I telling you this? Well Worthing Excelsior, like the majority of small clubs, is what is known as an unincorporated association. The beauty of this is there is no real administration involved, such as having to make returns to Companies House but it does also mean we aren't a legal entity and as such can't do certain things including owning property! To get around this the garages are held on the club's behalf in the names of a number of Trustees and this is where my story starts to unfold. We have recently been asked to relinquish one of the Trustees from their position and this has proved somewhat time consuming and will incur a cost in excess of £500 for solicitors to complete all the necessary paperwork. Obviously this process has to be repeated every time a Trustee is removed or added which has raised the question should we now be looking to sell the garages and 'bank' the money given the original reason for purchasing them no longer applies?

The Committee has discussed this already and whilst it is their opinion that we should sell up, it was agreed that this was such an important decision that the membership should decide what is done and therefore at the AGM a vote will be taken about this matter. Votes will also be able to be made in writing (emails or letters) prior to the AGM for those who are unable to attend on the night but I'll detail the exact question you'll be asked to answer yes or no to in a separate communication in due course. There are obviously 'pros and cons' for and against keeping the garages that you'll need to consider before casting your vote and I suspect there may be some questions you'd like answered beforehand but here's a few things to be going on with;

Pros – Raise funds for the club (a ball park value of each garage may be £20k although there would be costs involved in selling). No more administration or liability around ownership. No future maintenance costs. No Buildings Insurance required (in 2023 we paid £381 for insurance)

Cons – Need an alternative place to store our TT equipment. Interest on money made from selling unlikely to match the growth in value if we retain the garages. Reduction in income, currently we receive £52 per month from the rental of the garage.

## **Mudguards**

If you ride in a group you'll know what it is like to be sprayed in the face with rainwater by the person in front who doesn't have a mudguard. Likewise most modern bikes only accept 'clip on' guards which rarely provide enough coverage regardless of how well they are fitted so the same applies. This year I have fitted longer flaps to my guards and can highly recommend products from a company called RAW. They can be found at [rawmudflap.uk](http://rawmudflap.uk) or search on eBay.

### Quick fix?

You'll all know how frustrating it is when you lose a cable end crimp and immediately the cable starts fraying. If there's not enough cable to cut back and install a new crimp you could try this tip from Cycling UK. Take a plastic cable tie and fasten it tightly around the cable behind where it has started to fray. Then rotate the cable tie clockwise around the cable whilst pulling it gently towards the cable end which will wind the loose strands back together and allow you to fit a new crimp.

### Rapha scam

If you are in the market to buy some new cycling gear please be aware that there is currently a fake website purporting to belong to Rapha, the premium cycle clothing company, that is offering massive discounts as part of a year-end clearance sale. As they say, if it's sounds too good to be true then it probably is!

### And finally

Congratulations to John McGrath who has won the British Cycling National Cyclo-cross series for his age group



Ian - [secretary@worthingexcelsior.co.uk](mailto:secretary@worthingexcelsior.co.uk)

