



## Newsletter – June 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen

You will be forgiven for not realizing it, but summer is officially here....apparently!

### Time Trials

We have run five events in the Don Lock Evening Series to date and I am pleased to say that the numbers competing are slightly up on last year. That said the number of WECC riders remains pretty low, which is obviously disappointing as the events are run primarily for our members. Obviously not everyone wants to compete in a Time Trial and that is fully accepted but if you are keen to have a go it would be advisable to start very soon as it is no means certain we'll continue to run these events if they aren't supported by the membership.

Please note this week's Evening 10 event is on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June** and is being organized by Brighton Excelsior on the G10/97 course. Signing on is in the Medical Centre Car Park in Tanyards Lane, Steyning with the first rider being pushed off at 7pm.

### Bike Maintenance night

The following is from Ian Cheesman;

*Dear All,*

*Weinberg, Cheesman and Hughes (No not a solicitors firm!!) will be hosting a bike maintenance evening on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 1930 hrs at Worthing Tennis Club. We'll be covering a range of subjects such as replacing inner tubes, drive train health and setting up gears, brake set up and much more. Many have asked for this type of event so I hope that it's well attended.*

*What do we need from you? Simple, just come along, grab a drink and we will do the rest. We will have a few bikes and tools on three separate stands for you to learn how to keep your machines in tip top condition. There will be an event created on Facebook and Ali will create a poll in WhatsApp so please indicate on either or both if you're coming.*

*Many thanks and see you there*

*Cheesy*

### **Club nights**

At the 2023 AGM the membership voted to reduce Club nights to once a month and to hold them going forward at the West Worthing Tennis Club. These changes were introduced in an attempt to increase the number of members attending but sadly they have remained very low. The future of these nights was discussed at the Committee Meeting last Tuesday and all agreed that now was the time to end the monthly get together. The Committee will continue to hold their meetings on the first Tuesday of every other month at the Tennis Club and we will also hold ad hoc events, such as the Maintenance night and the AGM on those premises.

### **Club Kit**

The new club kit has proved to be a resounding success as can be evidenced by the numbers wearing it on the Sunday club rides. It's approaching six months since the first order was placed so we have decided to start the process of organising the next one. The original 50% discount was undoubtedly a large reason why so many members placed an order but I am sure you'll appreciate that was only ever intended as a one off and it isn't sustainable to keep offering that level of discount. That said the Committee have agreed that for the next order new members or an existing member who didn't purchase any items previously will be entitled to the same 50% discount. This will apply for up to one of each item offered, which will be as before; bib shorts, bib tights, long sleeved jersey, short sleeved jersey, gilet and a winter jacket. Members who don't qualify for the discount are of course more than welcome to purchase any number of items they wish but they will be at the advertised cost.

Further information about the next ordering process will be circulated shortly.

### **Club casual clothing**

Thanks to member Steve Lewis you can now look as cool off your bike as you do on it with WECC branded clothing supplied by his company. Have a look at [www.flamingorock.co.uk/collections/worthing-excelsior-cycling-club](http://www.flamingorock.co.uk/collections/worthing-excelsior-cycling-club)

### **ICE?**

Hopefully not at this time of year but in any case I am talking about 'in case of emergency' ID that we really should, but probably don't, carry when out cycling. As a club we are going to start asking members if they want to supply emergency contact details when they join or renew but please have a look at [www.icetags.co.uk](http://www.icetags.co.uk) and <https://iceid.co.uk> as examples of companies who

supply products that will ensure the Emergency services know how to treat you and who to contact if the worst happens and you require urgent assistance.

### **Netflix – Tour de France Unchained - Season 2**

If you subscribe to Netflix then from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June you'll be able to watch the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of Tour de France Unchained, which covers the 2023 race. It will be a nice taster for this year's event which starts at the end of the month and if the last series is anything to go by, a very enjoyable watch.

### **Bike Week 2024**

This takes place between 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June. What is it you may well ask given I have seen very little publicity about it? Well Cycling UK has this to say;

*Bike Week is the UK's biggest awareness-raising moment of the year for cycling and a chance to celebrate. It's a time to remind ourselves of all the positives that riding a bike can bring, both to our own health and wellbeing, as well as the wider impacts on our communities and the planet.*

*This year, Cycling UK wants to celebrate cycling as a force for good. We want to celebrate all those who cycle and encourage and enable more cycling, as we know that when more people cycle, we all become happier, healthier, greener and more connected.*

So there you have it!

### **Cyclocross Reigate 2024**

A little earlier in the year than most CX events but on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August there is a Cyclocross event being held in Priory Park at Reigate with races for everyone from U/12's upwards. If you are interested, full details including how to enter can be found at [www.cyclocrossreigate.com](http://www.cyclocrossreigate.com)

### **In other news**

A few snippets from cycling based news sites that may interest you.

Sir Bradley Wiggins, who I would definitely describe as a 'marmite' character (i.e. you either love or hate him) has apparently been declared bankrupt with debts in the region of a million pounds. The former golden boy of British Cycling appears to have been involved in a series of failed businesses after retiring as a professional along with being divorced by his wife. It's suggested his medals and trophies could be seized and sold off to pay back his creditors.

Last week on the cycle path near Box Hill a cyclist suffered serious injuries after being deliberately knocked off his bike by four yobs riding two up on a pair of dirt bikes. The victim had footage of the offenders from his rear facing camera and whilst the Surrey Police originally

wouldn't post the footage because the little darlings were believed to be juveniles, they subsequently relented, which led to the arrest of two offenders. I expect they'll get a right ticking off!

Meanwhile at the Women's Tour of Britain one team had all of their fourteen bikes stolen from their mechanics van whilst it was parked up overnight. Amazingly, in a heartwarming gesture, they were able to continue in the race when other teams donated spare bikes for them to use.

In another example of what is undoubtedly a downturn of the UK cycling industry, sportive and cycling event organizer Sportive HQ have entered administration leaving many entrants out of pocket including those who had paid £1795 each to do LEJOG at the end of June.

This follows on from the demise of historic bike manufacturer Mercian who recently entered liquidation without warning, again leaving customers both disappointed and out of pocket.

### **And finally**

I am sure you'll all join me in wishing Richard Hine a swift recovery after being knocked of his bike on the way home from today's club ride. Richard recently successfully completed his own LEJOG whilst raising a significant sum of money for charity. The latest news I have is that he has got away with ligament damage and he'll be out of hospital soon.

Keep safe,

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