



## Newsletter – June 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen

Rather frighteningly we are nearly half way through the year already and in less than two weeks the days will start becoming shorter again but I'll dispense with these negatives thoughts forthwith and get this newsletter under way.

### **Time Trials**

We all know that the popularity of Time Trialing has decreased over recent years so it was pleasing to see that the six riders who took part in last week's Evening 10 on a windy night with rain threatened were all WECC members. Tonight, or maybe it will be yesterday by the time I get this sent out and you read it, 16 members, riding in teams of 4, are competing in a 20 mile 4 Up Event around Goodwood Race Circuit. Great to see and I am sure you'll join me in wishing them all a great race.

### **Upcoming Club Rides**

Whilst the Sunday rides continue to be well supported there are a couple of upcoming events that you might want to make note of.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> August it's the annual day trip to the Isle of Wight. There'll no doubt be several different groups depending on your preferred speed and maybe even a 'gravel' option. More details will be given closer the date but basically you make your own way to Portsmouth and we cross as foot passengers on the first ferry of the day.

Then on the 28<sup>th</sup> September we'll be running the annual Tourist Trial. For newer members this involves navigating your way round a route whilst finding the answers to clues that you'll be given. Its good fun and a shame more members don't participate. You can enter as an individual or in a team of up to 4 and I can assure you one thing, there'll be lots of delicious cakes courtesy of Mrs Newton to gorge on.

## **Giro d'italia**

Wasn't it great that English rider Simon Yates won this year's Giro? I wonder though with the demise of the coverage on mainstream TV how much it went under the radar of both cyclists and the general public. Certainly not an ideal way to promote the sport or the achievements of home grown talent?

## **Cycling Weekly**

I don't know if any of you still read Cycling Weekly? I get a digital version through the West Sussex library service but if I am honest the only thing I really read is columnist Dr Hutch, which is always witty and amusing. Well Dr Hutch aka Michael Hutchinson is launching a new book exploring the world of extreme endurance cyclists called 'Further' and to promote this he is appearing at Komedia in Brighton next Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> June. Tickets are a mere £15 and are available via

[www.komediabrighton.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873655445/events/128595775](http://www.komediabrighton.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873655445/events/128595775)

## **In the news**

Campagnolo have now released a new 2 x 13 speed Super Record electronic groupset complete with their iconic thumb shifter, which was presumably missing from the last incarnation? Bike Radar described the new version as 'competitively priced', which brought a smile to my face as it retails at £3,900. I'm not against spending money if you are lucky enough to have it in abundance but I am pretty certain you won't see any bikes sporting this kit somewhere local on a wet windy day.

Possibly of more relevance is Shimano's latest offering the QAuto, which apparently provides battery-free automatic shifting on non-electric bikes. Yes you read that right, its automatic shifting designed to 'make cycling more enjoyable and accessible for riders of every skill level' or at least that's what the advertising blurb says. From a technological point of view though it sounds incredibly advanced as apparently it 'learns' how you ride and adapts to your riding style 'leaving you to focus solely on the road ahead'! Thankfully the system is only currently available for urban, trekking and gravel bikes but no doubt it will appear on road bikes soon...unless it turns out to be an unmitigated disaster one assumes?

Meanwhile I am off for a quick spin on my single speed Specialized Langster!

Speaking of expensive failures ex Pro David Millar's clothing brand CHPT3 (and no I don't know how to pronounce that) are the latest cycling brand to go kaput having entered into 'voluntary liquidation'. However there is a happy ending, at least for the time being, as Factor bikes have

rescued CHPT3 and given David a job as Brand Director. It reminds me of the Police service where the popular saying was that you were promoted to the level of your incompetence!

### **Exposure lights**

I've previously waxed lyrical about Exposure lights, which are locally made. To prove my point they have featured several times recently in the media; firstly they were celebrated in The Guardian as a brand who go above and beyond for their customers with examples quoted of customers getting replacement products free of charge or batteries being replaced instead of you having to buy a whole new unit. Secondly they have been used by both the male and female winners of the 2025 Unbound XL endurance race and by Canadian born Sarah Ruggins who has set a new World Record for riding from John O'Groates to Lands End – and back, covering 2,700km in a little over five and a half days! The proof is in the pudding as the saying goes.

### **The Brain Tumour Charity**

Many of you will be aware that long standing member and former President Rob Downham was sadly diagnosed with a Grade 4 brain tumour in 2023. Despite initially being given a poor prognosis Rob has undergone extensive treatment and is now back riding short distances, which is great to see. The Brain Tumour charity is at the forefront of research helping to give people like a Rob a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance and Rob's daughter Sophie is fund raising for them by completing the London Landmarks Half Marathon in April next year. The club has made a donation already; if you would like to help too you can do so via [https://www.justgiving.com/page/sophie-downham-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=WA&utm\\_campaign=015](https://www.justgiving.com/page/sophie-downham-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA&utm_campaign=015)

### **And finally**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August Amberley Museum are celebrating 200 years of cycling history with an event for all cycling enthusiasts. There will be vintage and retro bicycle displays, historic bicycle ride demonstrations and exhibits that cover the history of cycling including educational displays. Entry includes access to the whole museum and free bus and train rides within the site. Sounds like a great day, perhaps don't mention your latest carbon fibre bike or its electronic gears though!

Ian