



NEWSLETTER

Thankyou.....

A great big thankyou to Ken and Lydia for hosting elevenses on 8th July. What a fantastic spread! If you missed it then more fool you. As a result Ken was able to pass on £175 to St Barnabas House which does invaluable work and providing palliative care to adults with advanced, progressive life-limiting illnesses. And well done to all those who attended and made positive donations to the cause.

Date for your diary

18th August, 2018. No – I'm not going to ask for volunteers for Marshalling! On that day there will be a Cycle Jumble at The Steyning Centre so if you want new bits for an old bike or old bits for a new bike then this is the place to go. Some of the proceeds will be going to the Sussex Cyclist's Association to which this Club is affiliated so, indirectly, you'll not only be doing yourself a favour, but the Club as well.

Don Lock Memorial Evening 10 Series

What a fascinating Series this has been. Mike O'Gorman has produced some interesting statistics that show all sorts of things but, to the competition winners, only the relevant points matter. This season there was a tie at the top of the leaderboard so, in accordance with the Rules, the Competition is decided by the lowest aggregate times from the best six places. This year the tie was between Nik Allen and Gavin Ash, and the total aggregate time shows that, over the six best places Nik was 1 minutes 25 seconds faster than Gavin. Well done Nik! Gavin – your turn will come.

After a particularly bad turn out one evening I was asked 'Where are all the Club riders? Tonight there were only 11 Club riders but 18 Private entries'. Yes, that might have been true on this particular occasion, and whilst there were 37 Club riders throughout last season and only 24 Club riders this season, if you turn the clock back to 2015 you'll find that there were only 25 Club riders and, going back to 2011, there were only 13 Club riders throughout the year. But it would be good to see more Club members racing so that, perhaps, we could outnumber the Private entries.

Another interesting statistic is that some riders get faster the older they get. Allan Orman was faster this year than he has been for the last 8 years; Simon Steeles was a whole minute and a bit faster than last year; Martin Booker achieved a personal best this season and even the Club President was 2 seconds faster than last year.

London Buses

Why are Club records like London Buses? Because you wait ages for one and then loads come along at the same time. More Club records have fallen during the last few weeks. That makes **seven** new records so far this year and some of them more than once. Well done to all you new record holders, but there's some very old records that need challenging – although you might have to ride tandem or learn to ride a tricycle. I'm sure John Mansell could give you some instruction.

Fancy a 50?

Kingston Phoenix is promoting a 50 mile time trial on 9th September, 2018, in memory of Frank Cubis. All proceeds will be going to London Air Ambulance. Book your place via www.cyclingtimetrials.org.uk

CTT Levy

It may come as a bit of a shock but prices are going up. The levy that CTT currently charges for events is increasing. From 2nd January, 2019 the levy that CTT will charge will be £4 for Open events; £3 for Club events; £15 for RTTC Championship events and £10 for the Classic series. It would seem that the basic reasons are that income is falling

and costs are rising. It's as simple as that. Whatever they charge, it's still cheaper than a Sportive – or a round of golf, or a ticket to a football match.

But now the good news!!! For 2019, all CLUB entry fees will remain the same as 2018.

ESCA Reliability Trial 2018

It is within living memory that Worthing Excelsior won this event on a number of occasions, but we haven't been anywhere near winning it in recent years. It just needs a lot of Club riders to complete the course in the specified times. That's all. Simples!!! This year the ESCA reliability trial will be promoted by Brighton Mitre and the provisional date is 18th November, 2018. I know that some of you have ridden and enjoyed this event so you'll have to inspire other Club members to join you.

SCA Lunch

It is understood that the date for the SCA Lunch and prize presentation will be held on 25th November, 2018. This lunch is excellent value for money so I'll be going. Who's going to join me and the Lady Sandra?

Question

Who is the only woman to ride a Classic or Grand Tour? Answer below.

Caught on camera

A new nationwide platform that allows footage of dangerous driving to be uploaded directly to Police Forces across the UK has been launched. The National Dash Cam Safety Portal set up by dash cam manufacturer Nextbase provides a single point for cyclists and drivers to report serious road incidents captured on dash, helmet or bike cameras. Previously, incidents had to be reported to individual Police Forces. To submit a video, visit nextbase.com/dashcamportal

Louis Garneau

You may not have heard of Louis Garneau but he is a former Canadian National Road and Track rider who now makes cycle helmets. He must have had a premonition because, on a recent ride with his club, there was a touching of wheels and he crashed and ended up in hospital. He reckons that the helmet saved his life. Honestly! The things people do to promote their own products, but it re-enforces the message that you don't have to be knocked off your bike by a car to reap the benefits of a helmet.

Morgan – Pashley

In the last newsletter I commented on an Aston Martin/Storch alliance and that Mercedes had now got into bed with Argon to produce specialist bikes at some astronomical costs. Well, not to be outdone, the Morgan car company has got together with the established British cycle manufacturer, Pashley, to produce two new bikes. One will come with Sturmey Archer 3 speed gears and wooden laminated mudguards and the other with Shimano 8 speed hub gears and hub dynamo. They'll probably be at 10% of the price of the Aston and the Mercedes. Interested???

Stolen Bikes

Revealed at 'Eurobike 2018'- some manufacturers are having GPS tracking integrated into their bikes and the suppliers reckon that if they can't get your stolen bike back to you in two weeks they will send a like for like replacement. Interesting.....!!!

Jesse Norman

Jesse Who? Jesse Norman MP is the Under Secretary of State for Roads and Transport etc etc. Sometimes he's known as the 'Minister for Cycling'. Well, our Jesse has announced that he will be funding a pilot scheme to improve driving instructors' cycle safety awareness. Whilst this is all very nice, I am left wondering whether this was really necessary. Isn't this something that driving instructors should be aware of anyway? He has also promised additional resources (whatever they are) to Police Forces to enable them to deal with 'close passes'. What is encouraging is that Jesse does ride a bike while in London and 'enjoys' riding his bike around Hyde Park Corner. That's better than his predecessor, Chris Grayling, who just knocked cyclists off their bikes whilst opening his ministerial car door.

Big Tim's Day Out

Another date for your diary. Sunday 2nd September, 2018.

'Big Tim' was Tim Peters, late of the 34th Nomads, one of the country's top juniors, and, by 1978 had taken nearly half a minute off the 25-mile competition record with his 53.15. Two years later he was taking scalps in the senior ranks and he won the 1980 North Road Hardriders time trial, beating the reigning British Best All-Rounder. In 1985 he was selected to ride the team time trial for Great Britain in the World Championships in Italy.

To celebrate his life and achievements, Velopace has organised a Sportive which starts and ends at at Ardingly Showground. The various routes have been sorted by none other than Sean Yates. There is food and beer for those who finish and there will be performances by local band **The Straw Dogs** and rock band **Stone Cold Sober** to entertain you from 13:00 hrs at the after-party at the Ardingly Showground. Check out the website www.bigtimofday.com There will be no 'Entry on the Day' so register on line.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Cycling UK - formerly the CTC and, before that, The Bicycle Touring Club – which celebrated 140 years on 5th August. About 50-80 cyclists gathered in Harrogate in 1878 and, in October this year, they will be holding a Big Bike Celebration in Harrogate where it all began. So, if you're in the area, pop along and see them. I'm sure there'll be cake.

Answer

Alfonsina Strada took part in the 1924 edition of the Giro d'Italia having entered as 'Alfonsi Strada'. She did well in the first part of the race but a crash left her with broken handlebars. Legend has it that a farmer snapped the end off a broom and he jammed it into place and she finished the stage, but was outside the time limit. However, she was allowed to continue and finished a total of only 7 hours after the last rider. As only a third of the 90 entrants finished the distance it was a pretty good effort.

You know you're a Cyclist if.....

You view crashes as an opportunity to buy upgrades.

.....and we have a new member

A very warm welcome to new member Will Frost. Can we have a WARM welcome for FROST? Seems like a contradiction. Sorry Will.....

The opinions expressed above are not necessarily those of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club, but could be the ramblings of a senile old duffer.