



NEWSLETTER

Good News.....Bad News

Let's have the bad news first and then it gives you something to look forward to.

The bad news is that there will be no Tourist Trial this year and there will not be a 'Worthing Winter Warmer' in February 2021. I'm afraid that it's that old enemy Corona Virus that's beaten us this time. With regard to the 'Winter Warmer', Audax UK, who are the sponsoring body, has set out a whole bunch of requirements that need to be fulfilled to enable the event to go ahead. I have printed of the directive and it runs to 10 pages and, on top of that, there is a preliminary risk assessment that has to be completed and a risk assessment just before the event. Traditionally, it is quite a social event with everyone rushing down the road together at the start and then hanging around chatting right at the end. One of the requirements is that there shall be no more than 6 in any group so that puts the kibosh on the social side. Not only that, but the Dial Post Village Hall will only allow a maximum of 30 people in at any one time and the Club will be responsible for sanitising the premises immediately afterwards. In addition, nobody knows how this virus will impact on all of us as the year progresses so the Government might introduce additional lockdown procedures. So, I'm sorry, but 2020 has not been a good year for anyone.

Club Dinner

Don't forget that the Club Dinner is being held on 6th November at The Fox at Patching just off the A27. Those of you who attended last year will know that there is a first class menu and there's plenty of it. Not only that, but the Club will be subsidising the meal so that you'll be getting three courses - yes THREE courses - for only TWENTY quid!!! The unfortunate thing is that there won't be many awards given out so you won't have to listen to too much Cheesy!!! Entries for this event close on 7th October so get your money to Cheesy ASAP. We are assured that all the safety regs. will be in place and Social Distancing will be exercised and, as the pub will have had plenty of practice at that already, we'll all be safe and satisfied.

SCA Hill Climb

For the past five or six years Chris Putnam has been promoting the SCA Hill Climb and a fine job he's done of it too. This year will be his last time so the SCA is looking for a new promoter. If you feel that you're the right person for the job then let Robin Johnson of the SCA know.

On the subject of the SCA Hill Climb Worthing Excelsior has won the team event for goodness knows how many years - until last year - when we didn't submit enough entries. Let's get the Club name on the trophy once again by getting your name on the start sheet. The closing date is 22nd September so get in touch with Chris NOW!!!

Sunday Club Rides

Don't forget that the Sunday Club Runs have started again. There were about a dozen or so of us out there last Sunday. There's a new list of venues coming out soon so, if you know of a suitable cafe, let Tony Palmer know. He knows most things but he tells me that he doesn't know all the cafes in Sussex - all the pubs, yes - but not all the cafes. There is a rumour that there's going to be a pub on the next runs list that will be coming out shortly once it's been approved by the Runs Committee.

Keeping things simple

Car maintenance used to be something you could easily do yourself. It was easy to change a set of plugs or adjust the points, but then it got technical and, nowadays, you only open the bonnet to make sure there's an engine there, and then you close it again. Everything is getting so technical and sophisticated. The same is happening with cycling. Cycling, or at least bike maintenance, used to be such a simple pastime. If something was wrong with your bike it was an easy job to fix. Everything was fairly standard. OK - you couldn't swap your Sturmey Archer for a Simplex or Campagnolo, but with a simple spanner and a screwdriver (and maybe a hammer), you could fix most things. Nowadays so much is bike specific so, if you were to unfortunately break your derailleur hanger, there are over 400 hangers that might fit. It's not unheard of for a single manufacturer to utilise a different hanger for each of its models. At least there is some standardisation with tryes/tubes, but why do some tyres go on easily and others leave you seething and sweating just to get them on the rim. I hope that I never have a problem with my bottom bracket because, at the last count, there were 12,682 different types available within the cycle industry! So, if the cycle industry doesn't make things more simple then make sure that you know a good bike mechanic.

More good news

The Committee has made a decision contrary to the Club Rules, and we're all going to benefit - well those who pay a membership fee are. The Club Rules state that the annual membership fee shall be determined at the AGM. However, as the Club has not (for obvious reasons) been able to function effectively as a Club for most of 2020, the Committee has decided that anyone who has paid a membership fee for 2020 will automatically have that fee carried over for 2021. Now isn't that the best news you've heard today!

You know when you're a REAL cyclist when.....

The only time you go 'on the drops' is when you're racing

You know you're an OLD cyclist when.....

You remember Reynolds 531 double-buttet tubing and when a 'Dossard' was called a 'Race Number' and when a 'Musette' was referred to as a 'Bonk Bag'.

Stay safe!!!

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

adrian.wecc@gmail.com