



NEWSLETTER

Happy Christmas to everyone! May you be of good cheer and look forward to a Covid-free New Year

The President of the United States of America

Now, you will all know that our Club has no political interests or influences at all, and long may it be so. However, did you know that the President-elect of the United States, Jo Biden, rides a bike? Donald Trump does not. Donald Trump is quoted as saying 'I'll never be riding a bicycle. I'm not going to get hurt riding a bicycle.' So, if you had an opportunity to vote, which candidate would you have supported?

CTT London South

I have received a message from the Secretary of CTT London South District (that's Cheesy to you and me) wherein he wishes to express his thanks to all the organisers and officials who managed to keep time trials going through the difficult months of 2020 and he hopes that 2021 will bring a return to some form of normality. There are a couple of vacancies within the organisation that need to be filled to ensure that racing can continue into the 2022 season. If these vacancies are not filled then there will be no more time trials in the South-East. The vacancies are for an Open Events Secretary and a Club Events Secretary and their role is to collate, update events details and arrange for events to be agreed by CTT. If you think that you are able to help then contact Cheesy ASAP.

Advertising

You will appreciate that this Newsletter doesn't carry advertisements unless it's a Club member wanting to buy or sell, but I had an offer the other day that seemed too good to miss. This bloke offered to buy me a cup of coffee if I could let members know about a training ride with the legend that is Sean Yates. If you're interested then have a look at his website at www.ride-tribe.com. I know!!! There's no such thing as a free cup of coffee.

.....and on the subject of advertising

An e-mail has just dropped through my letter box advertising a book entitled 'No ordinary Joe.' It is, apparently, an homage to the amateur racing cyclists and features in its pages chapters on a number of different, local riders, cyclists who have graced the sport of cycling over several decades, encompassing many National, European and World Champions and record breakers. Many of these 'legends' are indeed members of the Surrey and Sussex VTTA. Some of those 'legends' include Steve Dennis; Robin Johnson; Mark Jones; Mike Morley; Bob Mowat and Sue and Paul Swetman to name just a few. If you want Santa to bring you a copy then send a 'note up the chimney' to Brian Jones at bsj219@outlook.com

.....and on the subject of e-mails

We all know that there are a lot of dodgy e-mails floating about. I have received my fair share of young Russian ladies wanting to look after my wellbeing and Nigerian Princes who want me to look after their money for them although, to be honest, most e-mails are about funeral plans nowadays. Within the Club, nearly all e-mails circulated to the membership will be sent by Mick Irons as he is the only member of the Club who has everyone's e-mail address. Generally, any e-mail within the Club will have 'WECC' included in the subject title. There have been a number of 'strange' e-mails circulating amongst the Committee seemingly sent from a member of the Club asking 'if we can spare a few moments.....' Beware!!!

Sunday Club Rides

You will all know by now that the Sunday Rides are back on the calendar. The cafe stops may not be your most favourite but those on the list will at least be open and welcoming. Tony has rung around many of the regular stops but some are not responding and some are non-committal about their future plans. Time will surely tell. Anyway, the end of 'Lockdown 2' means that we can go out on our bikes again but in groups of no more than 6 and no indoor cafe stops. The situation does remain fluid and further restrictions may - or may not - come into force after 16th December when matters are further debated in Parliament.

Bike sales

Annual bike sales will run at more than double new car registrations by 2030, according to new forecasts by a trio of European cycling organisations.

The trend analysis of 30 European countries illustrates that, based on the current trajectory; 10 million more bikes are expected to be sold per year in Europe by 2030, representing a 47% rise on the 2019 tally. Once reached, the 30 million bikes sold annually will run at more than double the number of passenger cars registered per year in the EU. So – will that mean special 'car lanes' for motorists and cyclists being able to ride wherever they want to on the road? And will Worthing Excelsior get loads more members?

West Sussex County Council

The Department for Transport has now released the second tranche of the 'Active Travel Fund', which is aimed at both pedestrians and cyclists. Notably there has been a 20% dilution on an earlier promised total of £225 million, with just £175 million now divided between combined and local authorities nationwide. West Sussex funding indicates a loss of 79.9% over the initial allocation with a final allocation at phase 2 being £2,351,250. That's an awful lot of money. I hope they spend it wisely.

Did you know?

Did you know that London has the highest number of cyclists who wear helmets in Europe? 60.9% of London cyclists were observed wearing helmets whereas the next highest usage is in Vienna which has 26.7% . In the Netherlands it's almost Zero. Researchers also noted that, along with London's high helmet use there seemed to be a correlation with levels of hi-vis clothing which suggests that London's cyclists have a higher perception of danger on the roads around them. Perhaps other countries within Europe have a safer cycle infrastructure that segregates cyclists from motor vehicles. Perhaps that's what we need here in the UK.

Bob Jackson Cycles

After 85 years in the frame building business, Bob Jackson cycles announced that it would cease trading on 18th December. BUT..... here's the good news - they have now secured additional investment and

support to ensure that the brand continues well into the future. Their website claims to be 'probably the best custom frame builder in the UK' so why go anywhere else?

New Members

Yes.....we have new members!!! A warm WECC welcome to Aaron Butler and a warm welcome home to Janette Langford, who was a member some while ago and has come back to us to enjoy the fun.

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

You shout warnings of potholes when you're in the car with your family

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

When you remember cycling spats, woollen cycling jerseys and skirt guards.

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