



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2021 and a Happy New Year to everyone!!!

Covid 19

Oh dear! Here we go again. Another lockdown. So - can you ride your bike? Of course you can BUT there are restrictions. I suppose that if you're using your bike to travel to work then that's OK if you can't work from home but, as regards using it for exercise, then you can only go out once a day and you must stay local. And 'exercise' means 'exercise' and not going out for a picnic or to meet up with your mates for a chat. So, if you do go for a ride on your bike you must go alone or with someone you live with or those within your support bubble

I haven't had an update from CTT yet but, as there were to be no CTT events sanctioned for Tier 4 anyway I guess that means no time trials at all until further notice. Sorry about that, but it's not my fault so don't blame me. **STOP PRESS.....** CTT has just announced that ALL CTT events are suspended and that the situation will be reviewed at the end of January.

With regards to the use of the Club Room, you will remember that the Broadwater Community Association stated that we would not have the use of their premises until they were able to review the situation in January. Well, I've had no update from them yet and the situation, nationally, has got worse so I'm guessing that, as the national situation is not due to be reviewed until 22nd February, which is after the due date for the AGM, the AGM is likely to be put on hold. Like the CTT, there are no proposed changes to the Club Rules as yet, so any delay is not likely to impact on the running of the Club.

AGM

If you've read the last paragraph properly you'll know that the AGM is likely to be on hold. There are, as yet, no proposals to change any of the Club Rules or to introduce anything that is likely to affect the running of the Club. However, at the AGM it is the members who determine what the membership fees are to be and also the charges for entry into Club time trials. **Those of you who read the September edition of the Newsletter will be aware that the Committee decided that those who paid their membership for 2020 won't have to pay for the forthcoming year.** With regard to entry fees for time trials, you will also know that CTT increased the levy that we have to pay for each rider who enters. Whilst the entry fee is normally decided at the AGM, the Committee has had to make a decision in his matter, just in case the time trial season is able to start before any AGM. Entry fees for the forthcoming season will be £4 for Full Senior and Veteran Club members (this is the new CTT levy anyway); £2 for Junior Club members; £5 for members of other CTT affiliated clubs. Remember that if you enter an event and decide not to ride then you will still have to pay your entry fee. You cannot just carry it over to another event. If your name is on the start sheet then the Club has to pay the levy whether you decide to ride or not.

Club events

Whilst no one can compete on the road at the moment, remember that the Club time trial programme is scheduled to start on 28th February 2021 with the Ashurst Circuit, closely followed on 7th March with the Club Hardriders and a week later for the Handicap 10. For a full list of events, check out the Club website.

Off-Road riding – Public Rights of Way

Cycling isn't all about going as fast as you can on the road. Cycling can also be about enjoying yourself whether it be on the roads or over the hills and far away. However, if you do go off-road, do stick to bridleways if you can.

But, first, a little bit of history..... The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 placed a legal requirement on local authorities to create a definitive map of Public Rights of Way in their area. I think that it's true to say that some authorities were less enthusiastic about this task than others and a number of authorities, over the years, have had their boundaries changed. More recently The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 set a date of 1st January, 2026 by which any definitive map should be completed as no historical Rights of Way would be added after that date and the public right to use them would be lost.

Believe it or believe it not, it is only since 1968 that cyclists have been permitted to cycle on bridleways. But, come January 2026, if those Rights of Way are not recorded, thousands of kilometres of bridleways will be lost to cyclists.

Sometimes Rights of Way were incorrectly recorded. Have you ever gone along a bridleway and suddenly found that it has become a footpath at the Parish boundary. If you can show that a footpath has been consistently used as a bridleway then the Council can upgrade its plotting on the Rights of Way map. Sometimes, just for fun, Councils will have two lengths of bridleway joined by a footpath on which you should not ride your bike, so now is the time to take action.

I have checked out some of the 'supposed' Rights of Way in my local area and found that they do not appear on the West Sussex Public Rights of Way map so I have sent them a polite message drawing their attention to it. Don't bother with your local council. They're not interested – at least mine wasn't and referred me to West Sussex County Council.

Remember, if your favourite off-road ride disappears after 1st January, 2026 then you only have yourself to blame.

Legal advice

Cycling UK (formerly CTC) has announced that, through its Cyclists Defence Fund, it is seeking legal advice about whether Council's decisions to remove schemes designed to promote walking and cycling are 'reasonable'. This follows news of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's removal of a well-used cycle lane on Kensington High Street citing the lanes caused congestion

Cycling UK is also alarmed by West Sussex County Council's plan to remove a popular cycle lane introduced during an earlier lockdown along Upper Shoreham Road in Shoreham. Apparently this cycle lane recently featured in a short film promoted by the Department of Transport showing the benefits cycle lanes can bring to the local communities. Cycling UK has written to the council requesting that this plan be put on hold and a clarification of the process which led to this decision.

We can wait with interest the response to this matter, especially as West Sussex had its grant for such schemes cut under the 'Active Travel Fund'.

Time Trials

Cycling Time Trials is pleased to announce a new National Championship event for 2021. It is, as you would suspect, a time trial, but this is for riders on road bikes!!! No fancy TT bikes; no tri-bars, clip-on bars or Spinaci bars; no disc wheels; both wheels must have a minimum of 12 spokes each; no aero helmets or visors and riders must not ride with their forearms resting on the handlebars at any time. Now that is a bit different! The event will be held on 6th June, 2021 and will be over 32.5 miles on the NC16N course. Start your training now.

CTT Handbook

I know that many of you are avid readers of the annual CTT Handbook and will have been disappointed that Santa didn't put one in your Christmas stocking. The reason is not because Santa has become a Scrooge over night. It's simply because that there has been no change to the Rules and Regulations, and there is uncertainty over which events will, or will not, take place.

Christmas presents

If you didn't get a CTT Handbook for Christmas now you'll know why. However, I got a book for Christmas and, if you're a Foodie, if you like France and if you like Freewheeling then you'll enjoy 'One more croissant for the road' by Felicity Cloake. She's a food writer who likes riding bikes and likes riding in France. I managed to spoil everyone's Christmas by reading it from cover to cover almost in one go.

Sportives

At elevenes the other week (ah!!! Halcyon days) some members expressed an interest in riding some Sportives. To my knowledge there are not too many in this area in the early season but the Burgess Hill Springtime Classic takes place on 28th March 2021 with distances of 56km; 85km and 116km, and on 18th April there is The Springtime Classic somewhere near Herstmonceaux with distances of 66km and 102km. On 25th April 2021 there is Le Puncheur over 62 miles which includes a trip up Ditchling Beacon. All details are available on the internet.

Remember - there is a Club trophy for the individual who accumulates the most miles on an Audax or Sportive.

New member

Woo Hoo!!! We have a new member. A great big warm Excelsior welcome to Adam Elliott. See you down the road – when we get a chance.

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.

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