



NEWSLETTER

AGM

Well – with the Covid-19 pandemic still hanging around, it will come as no surprise that there will NOT be an AGM at the appointed time and place this year. The Club Rules state that there will be an AGM on the third Tuesday of February each year but, as we can't all meet up, and we don't have access to premises, I'm afraid the AGM will have to wait until we can. The Committee did consider whether it was possible to have an AGM via Zoom or other such technical means but it is clear that there are some members who do not have access to computers; there are some who are not confident in accessing different websites and also, please have some consideration for the Chairman who would have to control about 50 different people on a very small screen.

There will be an AGM - but not just yet.

The Minutes for the AGM of 2020 will shortly be circulated along with the General Secretary's report and the unaudited accounts from the Treasurer. These accounts show a healthy balance and we must thank Ken Newton for keeping us on the financial 'straight and narrow'.

Time Trials

The latest statement from CTT is..... 'Although the government's figures show that the rate of new infections is slowing down, there is no indication as yet to say when it will be possible to resume competitive sport. CTT continues to keep this under review and as soon as there are any developments, a further release will be issued to provide an update'. So – no racing yet!

Women

That's got your attention – hasn't it!!! Cycling UK (formerly CTC) has just appointed Janet Atherton as the Chair of the Trustees of Cycling UK and last year they appointed Sarah Mitchell as Chief Executive. This marks the first time in the organisations' 143 year history that women have held the top two posts.

British Cycling ran a campaign to get a million women riding bikes by 2020. Since the start of their campaign over 8000,000 more women have been encouraged to take up cycling. Curiously, the majority of cyclists are still men - not like Denmark where male cyclists account for 47% and female 53%.

Anyway – there's lots of women's racing on the UCI calendar with the 'Strade Bianche' on 6th March and the inaugural women's 'Paris-Roubaix' on 11th April and the 'Amstel Gold' on 18th April. Those of you who were excited watching Lizzie Diegnan win 'La Course' in 2020 will want to watch as much racing in 2021 as they can. And it's interesting to note that Trek-Segofredo will be paying their lady riders the same as the men.

Add to that the Women's Festival of Cycling from 17th July to 1st August it all goes towards encouraging more women to get out on their bikes.

But why are so many women put off from riding a bike? Why are so many women put off from joining a Club?

Perhaps they've read 'Lady Cycling and what to wear and how to ride' published in 1897 which includes interesting advice like ".....women are not, as a rule, fitted for club life. They are not so broad-minded as men — they have an infinity of social rings, one within the other, and when in authority are apt to be arbitrary and tyrannical." But it does add..... "Riding in company is a certain safeguard against annoyance from tramps.....".

And they should never consider racing as..... "Women ought not to race, if they have the slightest regard for their own health; and if they do, it is suicidal policy, which is bound to end in disaster..... Cycling now is so firmly rooted amongst the sane members of the community, as an easy and cheap form of locomotion, that the racing woman will only hurt herself by her action."

But, if they do ride out, they should be aware that...."There are so few facilities for getting anything to drink in a country ride that it is generally best to carry a flask of claret and water"

So, if you know of a lady who wants to ride a bike, tell her to ignore all the negative comments and just get out there and ride. The only relevant advice you can give is that she should join a Club – preferably Worthing Excelsior.

Valentines Day

Do you want to really impress your beloved on Valentine's Day? For a mere £225 via website 'Cameo' you can get Lance Armstrong to tell your nearest and dearest how much they mean to you. So you think that's expensive? Lachlan Morton - (who?) - EF Education–Nippon's endurance racing star charges a whopping £750. Phillip Gilbert is a bargain at £2.24. Just stick to a bunch of red roses.

Thinking about a new bike?

The 2021 Cycle Show and London eBike Festival will be held at Alexandra Palace between 25th – 27th June. 2021. You can book your tickets on-line.

Ride London Festival

The Ride London Festival of Cycling, scheduled for the end of May 2021, will not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision has been taken by London authorities after engagement with partners involved in the planning of the event. Organisers of the event were looking at many different scenarios ... possibly a 'virtual' event.

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