



NEWSLETTER

What would you do?

Imagine that you are riding along a country lane with a group of mates, miles away from anywhere when you see a young lady standing at the side of the road. She has a damaged bike and is clearly distressed with blood running down her arm. What would you do? Would you stop and help? Or would you just carry on riding as though she didn't exist? One of our lady members was in just such a position recently and later had to go to hospital to have gravel washed out of her wounds and five stitches in her arm. The group of bike riders (I won't call them cyclists because they don't deserve such recognition) didn't even acknowledge her presence with a cheery wave or a 'Good morning'. There were no offers to help. I do hope that the members of our Club would offer help and assistance to anyone in difficulty at the roadside.

Would you?

Handy hint for time trialists

Recently, at an event within this District, it is reported that a rider failed to make a turn as the marshalls there had not seen him pass. This was further compounded by one of his team mates commenting that this rider had not been seen on the return leg, which seemed to confirm that the rider had not completed that part of the course. However, that rider was later able to submit to the organiser a computer print of the route he had taken which indicated that he had made the turn. This left the event promoter in a bit of a quandary. Who was to be believed – the marshalls and his team mate, or his computer?

If you are ever in a race where there is a turn and a marshall, make sure that you shout out your race number to avoid any confusion.

Timekeepers

At the last Evening 10, the event co-ordinator was scratching around for timekeepers. There was a risk that the event may have had to be cancelled or the field limited to the number of entrants. Fortunately, a timekeeper from another club stepped in to fill the breach.

It would appear, therefore, that there are insufficient qualified timekeepers in the Club, or that those who are timekeepers don't feel qualified to perform this role. With this in mind, and closer to the start of the next racing season, Tony Palmer and Mick Irons will be giving training/refresher training to existing Club timekeepers or those of you who want to get involved in supporting the Club

Racing 'down under'

In the last Newsletter I published a report from Tom Green about his racing endeavours in the 'Grafton – Inverell' which is reckoned to be hardest race in Australia. Tom rode the 60th edition of this event but, lo' and behold, one of our other Club members has also ridden this event, but the 10th edition.

Ted Wixen remembers this event only too well! At the time he rode it, it was a run under a handicap system with the slowest riders off first. The faster riders started up to 90 minutes later. Ted commented that, if the handicapper had done a good job, everyone would have crossed the finishing line together.

Apparently the route was not an easy one with more hills than you could shake a stick at, and the main climb was twice the length of anything Ted had ridden before. The little group that Ted was in was gradually whittled down before Wire Gully until there were just two left to chase down those who had started before him on handicap. Unfortunately the other guy was a local and Ted came second in the final sprint.

The thing is – did Tom go to Australia just to ride the event and did Ted come to the UK to make sure he never rode it again?

Did you know that.....

..... because you are a member of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club you are entitled to apply for affiliate membership to Cycling UK (formerly CTC) for the bargain price of £28 – that's just over 50p a week by my calculations. What do you get for that? Well, affiliated membership includes £10m third-party insurance, legal advice helpline and discounts such as £50 off Yellow Jersey bike insurance, 10% of Pedal Cover home and cycle insurance, 20% discount of OS Maps and so much more. All you need to do is add the affiliation code of **8001555** to your on-line application.

Highway Code

There is a new Highway Code being published that now creates a 'hierarchy of road users' so that those who can cause the greater harm have the greater responsibility to reduce the danger they may pose to others. The most vulnerable are considered to be pedestrians followed by cyclists, horses, motor cyclists, cars/taxis, vans etc and up to HGV's . This all comes as part of a package of £338m to boost cycling and walking.

'Active Travel England'

A new Government department dubbed Active Travel England is to be created to oversee the spend of £2 billion for active travel over the next 5 years. As part of Tranche 1 of the funding, local authorities who did not show ambition had money stripped from their allocations (are we talking West Sussex here?). This new organisation will be enforcing new design standards, which advises that those responsible for the designs should have 'the appropriate level of experience or training'. There's 188 pages in the Department of Transport advice published under reference 'LTN 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design' and it's available on the website if you want to have a read. There's a lot of detail about the design of cycle routes/lanes. My only hope is that, with all this commitment to separating cars from pedestrians/cyclists, there isn't a move to force cyclists off the road and on to shared pedestrian/cycle paths.

New Member

We have a new member!!! Apparently a 'friend' persuaded him to ride a hill-climb so he had to join a club - so he chose the best! A great big warm welcome to Steven Troughton.

Isle of Wight bike ride

At the time of writing there are 20 people going on the IoW bike ride on 15th August. Want to join in? Contact Rob Downham for details. It's not too late. This event counts for the maximum points in the Club Runs competition.

Brighton Naked Bike Ride

If you're interested, this event will also be taking place on 15th August starting from Preston Park at 2pm. I should emphasise that this is NOT a Club sponsored event so no Club Run Points will be awarded if you take part!

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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