



# NEWSLETTER

## Dates for your diary

Now that you have a new calendar hanging on the wall, it's time to fill in a few of the blank spaces. There's the usual Sunday rides every Sunday so there's absolutely no excuse for missing these. However, there are some special dates you must add to your calendar because they are important to you and the Club.

On 13<sup>th</sup> February the Club is promoting a Reliability Trial. The start will be at Washington and will finish at Washington.

The Club AGM is scheduled to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> February and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to have your say in the management of the Club so make sure that you're there. Don't forget to renew your membership or you won't be able to vote.

The Sussex Cyclists Association annual awards will take place at Dial Post on 20<sup>th</sup> February from 11.00am but, instead of a sit-down lunch as in previous years, it will be more of an informal coffee morning so you'll have a chance to meet up and chat with everyone.

The Eastbourne trip takes place over the weekend of 26/27<sup>th</sup> February so, if you're interested, give The Langham Hotel a ring on 01323 731451 and then let Clive Lett know that you've booked at [clivelett@aol.com](mailto:clivelett@aol.com). The route covers 40 or 64 miles on the Saturday and 45 or 64 miles on the Sunday.

The first Club-promoted race of the season is the Ashurst Circuit and that takes place on 6<sup>th</sup> March. You'll all be fit by then, won't you? Plenty of fast times are expected! Don't forget your front and rear lights and your helmet.

And if you're really planning ahead, don't forget that the final stage of the Tour of Britain takes place on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 on the Isle of Wight. I'll be there – will you?

**.....and if you like the Isle of Wight .....**

and cycling/good food/riding with the 'gods', there is a special treat in store for you. Have a look at [leblanq.com](http://leblanq.com) as they have arranged a trip to the Island for 13-15<sup>th</sup> May when you can ride with Sir Bradley Wiggins and 'the Lion of Flanders', Johan Museeuw, and the catering is done by one of the UK's leading chefs, Angela Hartnett.

## The Reliability Trial

If you have bothered to read 'dates for your diary' [above]..... you'll know that the Reliability Trial will be taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. There will be two distances to choose from – 48.9 miles and 37 miles. Certificates will be awarded at the Club AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> February so this is your opportunity to claim fame and glory.

If you fancy the longer distance, the start times are:-

8.30 am for a 4 hour ride at 12.24 mph

8.35 am for a 3 hours and 30 minute ride at 13.98 mph

8.40 am for a 3 hours and 15 minute ride at 15.07 mph

8.45 am for a 3hour ride at 16.3 mph

Route:- Start at Washington....Thakeham..Adversane..Wisborough Green.. Bedham.. Fittleworth  
...Petworth.. Lurgashall..Bexley Hill.. Easebourne..Selham..Watersfield.. Storrington..Washington Finish.

If you fancy the shorter distance, the start times are:-

9.00 am for a 3 hour ride at 12.5 mph

9.05 am for a 2 hours and 40 minutes ride at 14 mph

9.10 am for a 2 hours and 30 minute ride at 15 mph

9.15 am for a 2 hours and 20 minute ride at 16 mph

Route:- Start at Washington....Thakeham..Adversane..Wisborough Green..Bedham..Fittleworth  
...Petworth...Coultershaw Bridge..Watersfield..Storrington..Washington.. Finish.

Don't even think about taking any shortcuts because there will be checkpoints en route!!!

Maps and route details will be provided at the start so you're not going to get lost – or are you?

No entry fee will be required. Just sign on and choose your distance and time for your ride. But remember, to qualify, you are not permitted to finish earlier than 10 minutes before your due time to qualify.

### **Have you booked a cycling holiday?**

The 'Cycling UK' board has opted to wind down its subsidiary 'CTC Cycling Holidays and Tours' business after 20 years trading and hundreds of cycling excursions around the Globe. With the travel business having taken the brunt of the Coronavirus pandemic with many countries excluding UK citizens and the continuing uncertainty of the situation, the decision has been made to cease trading. So, if you've booked a cycling holiday with any company, whether it is through the CTC or any other organisation, make sure that your funds are secure.

### **Stolen bikes**

It may come as a surprise to learn that Cambridge – NOT Worthing – is the UK capital for cycle thefts. However, one miscreant was put before the Cambridge Courts and, as part of his punishment, he is not allowed to be in possession of any pedal cycle or part of a pedal cycle without having notified the Police within 24 hours that he has lawful possession of that pedal cycle or part thereof. He'll have to start pinching other things instead I suppose!

### **The new Highway Code**

The new Highway Code comes into effect at the end of the month and you really should be aware of some of the changes. What the new Code is trying to achieve is to protect the more vulnerable road users. So, for example, someone driving will have more responsibility to watch out for people walking, cycling or riding a horse and cyclists will have more responsibility to be aware of pedestrians. The new Code will have the biggest impact on drivers at junctions to make sure that they don't clobber pedestrians, cyclists or horse riders when making a turn. Under the same changes to the Code, road users - and that includes you -

should give way to pedestrians at a junction crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which they are turning.

Another key amendment to the Highway Code will be that drivers must leave a minimum distance of at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists.

A loophole has also been bunged up with regard to drivers using their mobile phones when driving. Apparently it was OK to drive along taking photos, checking playlists or playing games on a mobile phone, but not anymore.

### **Under Secretary of State in the Department of Transport**

You may not be aware that, just before Christmas there was a minor re-shuffle in Government. Wendy Morton MP is now in charge of some of the 'active travel policy' in England – and that is likely to affect you.

She does not appear to have any noteworthy history with regard to 'active travel' although she did once vote not to have the Government develop and implement a plan to eliminate the vast majority of transport emissions by 2030. Is she a 'friend' of cycling? We'll have to wait and see.

### **New Member**

A warm Worthing Excelsior welcome to Samuel MAHE, who has just joined the Club. He says he wants to have a go at time trials. He looks pretty fit so some of you may need to up your game.

### **Friston Forest, East Sussex**

Recently found in Friston Forest near Eastbourne – but there is a serious side to this. Please give walkers and horse riders a cheery 'hello!' when approaching. They'll thank you for it.



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](mailto:adrian.wecc@gmail.com)