



Newsletter- March 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen

It's great to see snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses starting to appear as well as the mornings getting lighter earlier and the evenings getting darker later; just a shame then that next week the 'Beast from the East' is allegedly making an unwelcome return, with the chance that we'll see some snow, although I for one won't be rushing to the bookmakers to place a bet that the Met Office is right on that score. Fortunately last weekend was relatively fine for the nine members who made the annual trip to Eastbourne where we were once again treated to excellent hospitality at the Langham Hotel. I can highly recommend that you cross off the last weekend in February 2024 on your calendar so that you are able to join us next year.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on the 21st February with 20 members in attendance and apologies received from a further 6. I'll circulate the Minutes from the meeting next week but the key points were;

- Welcome to Phil Freaan who volunteered to sit on the Committee as a general member.
- All future club nights will take place on the first Tuesday of each month at the West Worthing Tennis Club in Titnore Lane. Sadly this does mean we'll be severing our ties with the Parish Rooms after a great many years.
- A new Constitution was voted in and is now available to be read on our website under 'The Club' tab.

Monthly Club night

The March Club night is this Tuesday, the 7th. Feel free to turn up any time after 7pm. There is a Committee meeting being held the same evening (that starts at 7.30) so there'll definitely be someone to talk to once that has finished. The rules of the Tennis Club dictate that anyone who visits the premises other than the very occasional visitor must be at least a social member there. WECC pays your monthly fee for this and all you need to do is make a visit there whilst

the reception is open to have your photograph taken. 20+ WECC members have signed up so far; if you would like to too, please contact Ken Newton treasurer@worthingexcelsior.co.uk in the first instance. Membership entitles you to visit the bar whenever you like and you can also purchase drinks at a reduced cost by crediting the membership card with whatever amount of money you choose.

Volunteers sought

The Time Trial season is fast approaching and both Chris Putnam, who runs the Ashurst Circuit and Handicap 10 events and Ian Cheesman, who runs the Don Lock Evening 10 Series, are in need of your assistance. The Ashurst Circuit event is on Sunday 12th March, with the Handicap 10 the following week. Please contact Chris, chris.putnam@btinternet.com if you can help at either of these and Ian, clubevents@worthingexcelsior.co.uk if you are able to help on a Thursday evening from the 11th May.

Reliability Trial

Tony Palmer is again running our popular Reliability Trial which is currently listed for the 19th March with a choice of 37 or 48 mile routes. **Please note it is likely the date will change due to a clash with the Handicap 10 but an email will be circulated to confirm in due course).** Both routes start from and finish at Washington and depending on how long (or indeed, how quick) you think it will take you to complete; you can start from 8.30 for the longer route or 9.00 for the shorter one. To successfully complete the Trial you need to finish within your chosen time but with the caveat that you can't finish more than 10 minutes before that!

Davina's Big Sussex Bike Ride

I know many cyclists don't agree with paying to ride on public roads, which I can understand entirely, but when it's in aid of a worthwhile Charity (in this instance Medical Research for Children) it must certainly be worth considering? This event, promoted by the celebrity Davina McCall, offers distances of between 27 and 100 miles starting from Uckfield Rugby Club and is taking place on the 25th June. Full details can be found at <https://action.org.uk/events/cycling/davina-ride>

Early season Spring Classics

Do I need to mention that the early season Spring Classic races have started? I spent Saturday afternoon watching the excellent Strade Bianche race in Italy, which was won by a Briton, Tom Pidcock, for the first time. What an exciting rider he is, breaking away 50 km from the finish and even though the chasing pack got to within seconds of him at one point, he rode away again to win by a comfortable margin. The women's race had its own drama with Demi Vollering out-

sprinting her Team SD Worx colleague Lotte Kopecky, despite some suggestion that she should have let her teammate win? Oh to be a fly on the wall of their team bus afterwards!

On Sunday Paris-Nice, the Race to the Sun, starts and then they just keep coming. Most will be available to watch on Eurosport or the GCN TV Channel, which if you don't have, I can thoroughly recommend getting.

Club archives

I am in contact with the West Sussex Records Office and an organisation called Blazing Saddles (which is nothing to do with the race team) about a lottery funded project '*that helps volunteers to look for clues about the role bicycles had in Sussex women's politics and fashion from 1890s to 1920s.*' In a nutshell they asking if there is any material held in the club archives that could contribute to this project? Now being relatively new to the Club I don't actually know what archives we actually have other than what is on the website, any material held by John Grant or two lovely photo albums that I have borrowed from Tony Palmer. So the question is, does anyone else have any material they would be willing to share with West Sussex Records Office/Blazing Saddles or maybe you know someone else who may be able to assist?

And that is it until April. Please let me know if there is anything you would like included in the newsletter,

Ian Thomas, secretary@worthingexcelsior.co.uk