



Newsletter- July 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen

I write this on the eve of the first stage of the 2023 Tour de France. Mark Cavendish is competing in his final Tour and hoping to take the outright record for stage wins, which he currently shares with the great Eddy Merckx. I did once bump into the 'Cannibal' in a restaurant on Alpe d'Huez, although that is a story for another day. 'Cav' apparently has six chances to take the one win he needs. Will he do it and perhaps just as importantly, will I see it given the knack I have of falling asleep during the race coverage, only waking after the winner has crossed the line!

Ken Atkins

It was very sad to hear that Life Member Ken Atkins has sadly passed away, aged 93.

I visited Ken last year at his home in Sompting at the request of a neighbour of his and he spoke fondly of his time with WECC. He also proudly showed me his two handmade John Spooner bikes that he had retained even though he could no longer ride.

Tony Palmer informs me that Ken became a member of the WECC in the 1960's after moving to Lancing from the Crawley area, where he had been a member of Crawley cycling club. He rode in many local and club time trials. He was a quiet man who enjoyed his cycling through the Sussex lanes. He was also a very keen gardener.

His funeral will take place at HD Tribe Funeral Chapel, Eastern Ave, Shoreham, BN43 6PE at 2.30pm on Monday 10 July 2023.

Time Trials

Sadly several of this year's Don Lock Evening Time Trials have had to be cancelled due to a lack of entries. Ian Cheesman, who coordinates the series, has now implemented a system whereby anyone interested in riding needs to contact him by 8pm on the Tuesday before the next event so that he can decide whether it is viable to run the event that week. If you are interested in riding any of the four remaining events please contact Ian on cheesy12@talktalk.net to let him know.

Club night

A reminder that this coming Tuesday (4th July) there will again be a club night at the West Worthing Tennis Club that everyone is invited to. The Committee will be holding their bi-monthly meeting the same evening so there will definitely be plenty of members in attendance.

Achievements by club members

Congratulations to 2nd claim member Paul Townsley who fantastically won his age group in the National Road race Championship on the 28th May.



Congratulations also to Dom Maxwell for successfully completing the 600km Trafalgar Way Audax in less than 26 hours. That's a very well deserved beer he's holding!



Tour of the Hills

Starting from Shere Village Hall near Guildford this event includes 13 lovely hills (2,300m of ascent in total) packed into just 115km of Surrey Hills riding. It is fully supported by friendly volunteers from the West Surrey Cycling Club who will serve you food and drink before, during and after the ride - all for just £11.





TOUR OF THE HILLS

**Starts from Shere Village Hall
GU5 9HE - 9:30am**

Sunday 6th August 2023

Audax Cycling Event

115km / 2300m climbing

Entry £11 (£16 on the day) plus £3 temporary insurance for non AUK/CUK members

Includes excellent drinks and snacks served before, during and after the ride



scan code to book
Advance entry essential

https://www.audax.uk/event-details/10410-tour_of_the_hills

Tour de France Unchained

Returning to Le Tour and if you aren't already aware there is currently available on Netflix an eight part series following the 2022 Tour that is apparently a good watch. It was released about

three weeks ago to coincide with the start of this year's race although I have failed to watch any of it to date! I blame the good weather and the opening of the coarse fishing season!

Bike Storage

Having got fed up with leaning my various bicycles against walls and cabinets in my garage I recently purchased three bike storage stands for a mere £10 each, which I thought was a good deal. They were advertised on Facebook Marketplace and I collected them from a car garage near Billingshurst train station. If you are interested they formed part of a job lot and others are still available as I write. <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/886159329185661>

Tractors

And finally a word of warning. Three of us were out riding the lanes around Partridge Green and Mannings Heath today when, on several occasions, we had to take evasive action to avoid becoming mascots on the front of, what were quite frankly, recklessly driven tractors. It wasn't so much their speed, although they clearly weren't hanging around, rather their width on the narrow roads that was the danger, particularly given that there was gravel and pot holes everywhere which limited quite where you could go to avoid a collision.



Until next time,

Ian Thomas, secretary@worthingexcelsior.co.uk