



Newsletter- August 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen

I started last month's newsletter writing about Mark Cavendish's attempt to become the outright record holder for the most stage wins in the Tour de France. Sadly the attempt ended when he was forced to abandon following a crash on Stage 8 but although he had already announced his retirement from pro-racing before the race started, rumours are rife that there may be another comeback in 2024? Time will tell but what I do know is that on the 2nd August Netflix are releasing a documentary about our favourite Manxman called, Mark Cavendish: Never Enough. Catch it if you can.

Time Trials

Sadly the Committee agreed to cancel the last five events of our Evening 10 series due to the lack of competitors. This also means the Hill Climb series will not be run in August. It is hoped to run the Evening 10 Series in 2024 although how many events there will be and whether we collaborate with other local clubs has yet to be decided. Interest in Time Trialing continues to decline nationally and where its future lies one can only guess. I think most will agree that there are a multitude of reasons for this decline but ultimately with less riders competing it may just come down to the fact that less events are needed?

Club night

August is nearly upon us so this Tuesday, being the 1st; our monthly club night will be held at the West Worthing Tennis Club from 19.00 onwards. Please feel free to come along. Arriving by bicycle or talking about cycling isn't obligatory.

Tourist Trial

Our Annual Tourist Trial will be held on Sunday 20th August and will start from the Wiston Village Meeting Place, Water Lane, BN44 3DW at 09.00. The event will run over 51kms of which

about 3km will be 'off piste' but passable on road tyres. For those who haven't ridden this event before it's a form of 'Scavenger Hunt' where you'll need to navigate by reading a map whilst identifying clues along the way. Once back at the finish (assuming you make it!) there'll be some cycling and local knowledge questions to answer. You can enter individually or as part of a team of two or three with a trophy on offer for each category. It's good fun and there's tea and coffee at the start, a café stop halfway round and more tea, coffee and cakes at the finish. If you are unsure about entering I can assure you the cake at the end will make it all worthwhile!

Annual Isle of Wight Trip

The Club's annual tour of the Isle of Wight will take place on Sunday 3rd September with the added bonus that this year the club will pay the ferry crossing for all members who take part. The intention is to get the 08.15 ferry from Portsmouth Harbour to Ryde and return on either the 14.45 or 15.45 crossing. Expect to see an email confirming details nearer the time but basically you need to make your own way to Portsmouth Harbour by 07.45 so that tickets can be purchased in time to board at 08.00. The route around the Island is about 60 miles and there'll be a lunch stop factored in about half way round. Depending on who rides we'll split into at least two groups so that everyone is catered for.

New alternative starting place for Club runs?

On Sunday 10th September it's intended to start the weekly club ride from the West Worthing Tennis Club as an alternative to our usual meeting places of Washington and Arundel. The ride will be to the Wildflour Café at the bottom of the Devils Dyke, which will probably entail riding some different roads from normal to get there and I certainly know of one route that I wager most people won't know about!

Club Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony

This is to be held on Friday 10th November, once again at the excellent Fox PH in Patching. The Club will again make a generous subsidy to keep the cost of attending down and hopefully this will encourage many of you to attend? Further details including a menu will be circulated in due course.

Upcoming cycle racing events

As I write Demi Vollering has just won the Tour de France Femmes having decisively taken the previous day's Queens Stage over the Col du Tourmalet.

Next up are the UCI World Championships being held in (and around) Glasgow between the 3rd and 13th August. These will incorporate a whole range of events including BMX, Mountain

Biking, Road, Track and Trials with our very own Paul Townsley competing in both the Road Race and Time Trials for his age category. I am sure you'll join me in wishing Paul the best of luck in those events. It appears that highlights of at least some of the events will be shown on BBC 2 and 3, whilst those subscribing should be able to watch live coverage on GCN+, Eurosport and Discovery+.

It's certainly a busy time to be a pro-cyclist as between 26th August and 17th September the final Grand Tour of 2023, the Vuelta a Espana is being held. Apparently the final week will be particularly demanding with two tough summit finishes including the fearsome Angliru on Stage 17.

And if that isn't enough the Tour of Britain is being held between 3rd and 10th September. Sadly the closest it comes to the South of England is Harlow on the 8th but there is to be live coverage on ITV 4 and highlights each evening on the same channel.

London to Paris?

Not to be mistaken for any ride WECC may yet organize again at some future time but 2024 will see the last ever London to Paris ride run by the Hot Chillee Company, www.hotchillee.com/events/london-paris-road. The USP of this event (although it does come at a cost) is that they have rolling road closures (in France) and what are termed as 'traffic calming measures' in the UK. It is of course 'fully supported' so you don't need to carry your own luggage and there's mechanical, medical and Sports therapist support too. If that doesn't float your boat, they are also running a 'Gravel' option later in the year, which hopefully will avoid the Undercliff cycle path near Saltdean!

Club stats

I wonder how many of you are aware of the size of our Club? By my calculations, which if not 100% accurate won't be far off, the Club comprises of

92 members of which,

53 are full members

22 are Life members (which you are eligible to be if you have 21 years continuous membership or 25 years interrupted membership)

10 are 2nd Claim members (meaning they belong to another Club as a primary member)

5 are Social members

1 is a Juvenile member (there is a 2nd who is a 2nd claim member so is recorded as such)

1 is an Honorary member.

And a final fact although to be honest it is unlikely to come up in any pub quiz you may take part in, is that this year 45 different members have ridden a Club run!

And on that note, I'll sign off!

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