



## Newsletter- December 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony were held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November at The Fox pub in Patching and I think everyone had an enjoyable time so many thanks to everyone who attended and also to Ian Cheesman for his excellent organisation once again.

### **Club Night**

The 5<sup>th</sup> December is the first Tuesday of the month which means there is a club night at the West Worthing Tennis Club for those that are interested in meeting up. Talking bikes isn't compulsory!

### **Club kit (1)**

There has been great interest shown in the new Castelli club kit with over thirty members placing orders. If you haven't yet done so then there's still time as we aren't intending placing an order until 29<sup>th</sup> December. Phil Frean is the person to contact with your order or if you have any questions and he can be contacted on [phil.frean@gmail.com](mailto:phil.frean@gmail.com). Just a reminder we are subsidising the cost of this kit by 50% and you can purchase one of each of the items that are available, namely;

Bib shorts at £39.95

Bib tights at £40.50

Short sleeved top at £30.78

Long sleeved top £35.09

Winter jacket at £69.65

Gilet at £28.61

### **Club kit (2)**

Due to the minimum number of orders that Castelli require we weren't able to offer a skinsuit type garment from them for the racer's in the club. However we are just waiting for NopinZ to amend their website with clothing in our new design and you'll then be able to order one off items from them. I am hopeful that this will be done in the next few days and once it is I'll get an email circulated to advise how you can order and what discount we'll be offering (but which I believe will be 50%).

### **Club kit (3)**

I still have one Kalas short sleeved jersey in the 'old' colours. This is a size 3, which Kalas say is suitable for those with a chest measurement of between 92 & 96 cm although I think if you are in the upper end of that scale it might be too tight? Anyway you are more than welcome to try it on before buying and as it is the last one I reckon we can let this go at half price, which is just £28.20. First come, first served!

### **Looking for a seasonal gift?**

If you are looking for a present to give to someone at this festive time of year or maybe you have been asked to suggest something that your loved one could get you then you could consider membership to Cycling UK. They are currently offering 20% off both individual and household memberships, details of which can be found on their website [www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org)

### **Winter warmer**

In days past this was an event that Worthing Excelsior ran but sadly that hasn't been the case for a few years. However Brighton Excelsior is now going to resurrect the event with the first one being run on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. It will be a 100km ride, starting and finishing in Dial Post whilst taking in the delights of the Surrey Hills. Further details, including how to enter can be found at <https://www.audax.uk/event-details/10721-the-winter-warmer>

### **Eastbourne 2024**

The club's annual ride to Eastbourne (and back) is currently scheduled for the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. Further details to follow but you might want to make a note of the dates in your diary.

### **Puncheur Sportive 2024**

This is another popular local event, which I believe some of our members rode last year? The 2024 addition is being held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March and is again a 100km ride, starting and finishing in Ditchling Village. This event is very much a climbing fest and I understand this year they are introducing three new climbs including one with a maximum gradient of 20% into

Ardingly! They do apparently supply a bowl of pasta if you make it back to the finish, which is included in the entry fee. Let's hope they can stretch to some sauce too! Details including entry can be found at <https://puncheur.co.uk>

### **East Sussex Cycling Association Reliability Trial**

If the previous events have whet your appetite then you might also be interested in the East Sussex Cycling Association Reliability Trial being run on Sunday 28th April 2024. Full details aren't being released until 1<sup>st</sup> January but this is a 50 mile ride starting and finishing at Hapstead Hall in Ardingly. The USP of this event is that a shield is awarded to the club that has the most members who complete the course. Last year's winners were Brighton Mitre; I do wonder if we could challenge them in next year's event?

### **And now the good news**

You could be forgiven for thinking it's all doom and gloom in the cycling world at the current time; Wiggle have gone bust, Halfords have posted a profits warning apparently due to the failure of their cycling section, Sweetspot, who held the licence to run The Tour of Britain are apparently being sued by all and sundry whilst Dr Hutch in Cycling Weekly suggests newbie cyclists are abandoning their bikes in favour of Stand Up Paddle boarding for their kicks. So it's great to hear better news from Hamburg where former member John McGrath won his age group in the UCI World Masters Cyclo-Cross Championship last Friday. Many congratulations to you John but also to WECC member Karen McGrath who came 7<sup>th</sup> in her age group.



And on that note I'll sign off for this month and indeed this year by wishing you and your loved ones a very joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

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