

The Worthing Wheel



Spring 2002

**Magazine of the Worthing Excelsior
Cycling Club**

Spring 2002

Worthing Excelsior

Clubroom: Broadwater Parish Rooms

Meetings every Tuesday evening 7:30 to 10:00

Opinions expressed are those of the contributors,
and not necessarily of the club or its committee.

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Social	Don Lock: 7 Welland Road, Worthing Tel:- 01903 531877

Calendar of Events

All club runs depart from Washington village green at 0900hrs (0910hrs. latest) unless stated otherwise.

You should register your attendance with the runs leader or with Tony Palmer (01273 558597) to enable you to be included in the Annual Club Runs points competition.

Date	Eleveneses Venue
14 April	Truffles, Henfield High Street
21 April	Washbrook Farm, Hurstpierpoint
28 April	Rushfields Garden Centre, Poinings. After the Club 25 Mile Championship.
5 May	Dolly's Pantry, Ditchling.
12 May	Friston Forest Activities Centre, Exceat Bridge. This run departs from Ringmer War Memorial at 0900 hrs.
19 May	Barn Green Garden Centre, Dial Post. After the Ray Douglass Memorial Open 25.
26 May	Stopham Bridge Garden Centre.
2 June	Forge Tearooms, Pyecombe.
9 June	Adversane Antiques Shop, after the SCA and Club 50 Mile Championships.
16 June	Cinders Tearooms, Isfield Station.
23 June	Houghton Bridge, Amberley

Don't forget our web site at WorthingExcelsior.co.uk
Articles for this magazine can be sent to me by e-mail, at
ed@Worthing-Excelsior.fsnet.co.uk as well as by paper.

How many vicars to the mile?

In these days of electronic wizardry, when you can ride round with a thingy on your bars telling you how many calories you've used since your last Mars-bar, it's hard to imagine the trials and tribulations of course-measuring in pre-microprocessor days.

Recently I was trawling through my précis of club minute books 1901-1939 for some information for Tony Palmer, when I discovered that in March 1936 the club had decided to buy a "rev-counter" and re-measure all the club courses. Intrigued, I read on, and found that in April a club member donated one anonymously, although it is unclear whether his gift was a gizmo to count the revolutions of a bicycle wheel, or, as is more probable, a genuine "waywiser", the highly-accurate tool used by a highway surveyor¹, along with his chain², for road measurements.

As time permitted, two committee men undertook the daunting task, and over the next few weeks and months reported back, with one or two horrifying results. The "percentage error" column is mine – I needed the abacus practice..

Course	Error	Percentage error
25 mile.	340 yards too long.	+ 0.773%
30 mile.	1 mile 400 yards too long	+ 4.091% (!)
10 mile.	40 yards too long.	+ 0.227%
Ladies' 5 mile.	270 yards too long.	+ 2.5%
15 mile.	486 yards too long.	+ 1.023%
50 mile	1 mile 4 yards too long	+ 2.005%

Things have improved out of all recognition since: when Don Lock had the sad task of sorting out the effects of the late, great, Ray Douglass, he found a treasure-trove of course-measuring data – notebook after notebook filled with point-to-point distances. No wonder Ray was able to create a new course at the drop of a hat when people decided to dig holes in the old one.

John Grant.

¹ The earliest waywisers were joiner's masterpieces of mahogany with brass gearing. Today's, only slightly more accurate, are soul-less confections of steel, plastic and LCDs.

² The surveyor's "chain" was 22 yards long. What a coincidence - that's exactly the length of a cricket pitch!

EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the club was held on the 26th of March to discuss and vote upon the proposals from the General Committee that:-

- a) The club accepts a sponsorship proposal.
- b) The club changes the design of the club clothing.
- c) That if the design chosen does not conform to the exact club colours, that they be amended to encompass the design.

This was in response to a suggestion at the AGM that the club clothing was, after 14 years, rather old fashioned and in need of an update. Following the offer by a club member of sponsorship to help pay for it, the AGM passed the matter to the General Committee to develop a proposition for the club's attention.

After over 4 hour's debate by the General Committee, and further work by a subcommittee a draft agreement was produced to the mutual benefit of the club and the sponsors, using a BCF document on sponsorship agreements as a basis. This protects the image and identity of the club and provides £2,700 towards the cost of club clothing for the benefit of all club members. This proposal was voted upon and accepted by 27 votes for to 6 votes against with about a dozen abstentions.

The proposal to change the club strip was also approved by a large majority and a favoured design selected. This is still subject to the approval of the BCF and it is expected that it will be around 3 months before the new design of clothing is available.

The intention is that the sponsorship money is to be used to subsidise the clothing, to bring the cost to club members down to around the price for general cycling clothing. Subject to the state of the club's finances, it is hoped to be able to maintain a similar level of subsidy should the sponsorship money be used up.

Exact details of prices are still to be determined, and will be dependant on the size of the order that we place – the more the order, the lower the price of each item.

Notes from the Social Secretary.

The Ray Douglass Tea

The sixth anniversary tea at Washington was, unfortunately, again on a wet and very windy day and some were clearly deterred from going out. Notwithstanding there was still a gathering of about 90 remembering Ray and enjoying a good old cycling social.

The food was excellent, and in abundance, and we must record our thanks to those who provided the food and in other ways helped to make the event, again, so successful:- Sue Dray, Jean Smallman, Angela Toppin, Sheila Lucas, Mel Robertson, Andrea McClelland, Susan Uncles, Evelyn Guerrero, Maureen Lock and Paul Toppin. From outside the club, Vanessa Attwood, Sue Balcombe and Ken Aylott also contributed.

Next year we are promised a beautiful day – at least that's what the organiser said. Sunday, 26th January 2003. Put it in your diaries, and get the sun tan cream ready!

Jonathan and Brenda Ford-Dunn

For some time John and Brenda have been trying to move to the West Country and take on the venture of a caravan park. Well, it eventually happened quite quickly and in early January they moved. Jonathan had been a club member for 6 years and asked to be remembered to all the friends that he and Brenda made in the Club during that period. He told Don Lock that, apart from his initial outing on a Saturday morning, one of Don's morning "dawdles" when he upped his personal best from 30 to 84 miles (!) he enjoyed his period of membership very much.

Their new address is Chiverton Park, Blackwater, Truro
 Cornwall, TR4 8HS

Tel: 01872 560945 E-mail: j.ford-dunn@talk21.com

They really do hope that you will keep in touch and especially try to get down to see them; you will be most welcome.

Don

Long Furlong Circuit (17 miles) 24-2-2002

Pos	Name	1 st Lap	Time	H'cap	H'cap time
1	Karl Robertson	22:55	46:19	Scratch	46:19
2	Tony Reeves	23:03	46:25	1:00	45:45
3	Chris White	23:49	48:14	3:00	45:14
4	Dave Abbott	23:51	48:22	7:00	41:22
5	Pete Thorpe-Hincks	24:09	49:06	1:30	47:36
6	Mike Brampton	25:32	51:07	2:40	48:27
7	Diana Trafford	27:23	55:12	10:30	44:42
8	Susan Uncles	27:35	55:49	6:30	49:19
9	Pete Eldridge	27:42	55:58	11:00	44:58
10	Paul Major	29:12	56:41	6:00	50:41
11	Pete Weston	31:41	1:04:08	14:00	50:08
12	Mike Poland	36:04	1:13:09	12:30	1:00:39

Private Entries

Name	1 st Lap	Time
Paul Byford	22:57	46:01
Paul Carruthers	22:27	DNF

Awards

1st Karl Robertson

1st H'cap Dave Abbott

2nd H'cap Diana Trafford

3rd H'cap Pete Eldridge

Officials

Event Secretary	Mel Robertson
Time Keeper	Mike Irons
Pusher Off	Ron Bardouveau
Handicapper	Don Lock
Catering	Mel Robertson

Club 10 Mile 3-3-2002
Washington-Findon-Ashington

Pos	Name	Time	H'cap	H'cap time
1	Karl Roberton	23:52	Scratch	23:52
2	Steve Trott	23:53	0:30	23:23
3	Tony Reeves	24:15	0:30	23:45
4	David Uncles	24:55	1:15	23:40
5	Mike Brampton	25:35	1:40	23:55
6	Susan Uncles	25:44	4:00	21:44
7	David Abbott	25:52	2:00	23:52
8	Pete Weston	31:30	7:45	23:45
9	Mike Poland	36:25	10:00	26:25

Private Entries

Name	Time
M. Kingsbury	22:30
P. Carruthers	23:50
P. Byford	23:55
G. Ostler	24:42
C. Parsons	24:47
P. Major	28:28
A. Gomm	29:10

Awards

1 st	Karl Roberton
1 st H'cap	Susan Uncles
2 nd H'cap	Steve Trott

The early season 10 mile time trial was run on the usual (G10/98) course. The deteriorating quality of the road surface, coupled with the installation of crash barriers immediately north of Washington Roundabout meant that more than normal caution was needed, although the conditions (dry, 9°C, gentle south westerly wind) made life easier than it often is at this time of year.

Karl secured victory by a single second, with second third and fourth almost within a minute and, coincidentally, riding near identical machines. Top spot on the handicap went to Susan Uncles.

Road Racing Updates

Sunday 31st March - Goodwood Road Races

The start of the Road race season for many saw Worthing Excelsior represented in both 4th and 3rd Cat races at Goodwood this Easter weekend. Dave Bacon entered the 4th Cat race looking for the points he needs for his 3rd Cat licence, whilst the 3rd Cat race saw a team of four, with Peter Thorp Hincks, Chris Dransfield, Chris White and Mike Brampton, wearing the Excelsior colours.

The damp weather, with a fine drizzle being driven across the airfield circuit by a force 5 south westerly, soaked them all to the skin within a couple of laps and made for quite tough races.

Dave was on track first and rode a textbook race as had been planned the Thursday before, sitting in all the way watching for breakaways and being ready to cover them should they have occurred. He was looking strong and certain of a place until on the final lap a rear wheel puncture forced him out! Next time Dave.

Not wishing to be outdone, Mike then punctured his front on the first lap of the 3rd Cat race, however able to stop at the pits, Dave Bacon was fortunately on hand to lend Mike his wheel, and Mike rejoined the race albeit one lap down.

The four guys then worked together ensuring there was always at least one person to mark any breaks, until just after two thirds distance when a small break escaped. Chris Dransfield and Peter working together jumped off the front of the bunch into the headwind and joined the breakaway, whilst Chris White sat on the front, slowing any attempted chase down. The break stayed away, thanks to some sterling work from Chris Dransfield who took more than his fair share of work at the front, which was to take its toll in the end. With Chris fading in the last half a lap it was left to Peter to contest the sprint, which he did admirably finishing 5th, Chris Dransfield coming in a creditable 10th.

In summary it was quite a successful weekend for the fledgling road race team, with some good lessons learned and two people in the top 10! More to come soon!!

Pulborough 16 Mile TT 17th March 2002

Pos	Name	Time	H'cap	H'cap time
1	Tony Reeves	44:06	2:00	42:06
2	Karl Roberton	44:14	Scratch	44:14
3	David Abbott	48:37	3:30	45:07
4	Mike Brampton	49:04	4:00	45:04
5	Diana Trafford	55:28	6:00	49:28
6	Pete Eldridge	56:04	6:30	49:34
7	Pete Weston	1:02:47	8:00	54:47

Private Entries

Name	Time
Glyn Ostler	42:47
David Uncles	51:30

DNS

Alan Scarratt
Andrew Gomm
Steve Trott

Awards

1st Tony Reeves
 1st H'cap Tony Reeves
 2nd H'cap

Officials

Event Secretary	Mel Roberton
Time Keeper	Mike Irons
Pusher Off	Ron Bardouveau
Marshals	Mike & Luke Poland
Handicapper	Don Lock
Catering	Mel Roberton

Club 10 Mile 3-3-2002
Washington-Findon-Ashington

Pos	Name	Time	H'cap	H'cap time
1	Karl Robertson	42:07	Scratch	42:07
2	Steve Trott	42:39	Scratch	42:39
3	Tony Reeves	43:24	0:30	42:56
4	Colin Miller	46:50	5:00	41:50
5	David Abbott	46:52	4:00	42:52
6	Diana Trafford	50:50	8:00	42:50
7	Pete Eldridge	51:27	10:00	41:57
8	Pete Weston	54:52	13:00	41:52
9	Mike Poland	1:04:48	15:00	49:48

Private Entries

Name	Time
Glyn Ostler	41:55
Richard Bonner	43:23
Eric Bonner	44:08
Fred Shepherd	47:08
Dave Bacon	47:27

Awards

1 st	Karl Robertson
1 st H'cap	Colin Miller
2 nd H'cap	Pete Weston

Officials

Event Secretary	Mel Robertson
Time Keeper	Tony Palmer
Pusher Off	Ron Bardouveau
Handicapper	Tony Palmer
Catering	Mel Robertson/Alan Weston

Short guide to Road Racing by Vern McClelland

In my position as road race secretary and Surrey League Representative I thought I should write a few words about the road racing scene in the local area. We now have several members in the club who are interested in this form of racing and who are members of British Cycling (formerly the BCF), with a good few having ridden at Goodwood during the 2001 season. Most of the road racing around Surrey and Sussex is organised under the banner of the Surrey League of which the club has been a member since 1983. The Surrey League was originally started with the intention of providing racing for the lower categories of riders but now caters for all categories up to elite, but with the majority of the races still being aimed at the lower categories. As a member of the Surrey League the Worthing Excelsior is expected to promote two races each year and this year we will be organising one event on Saturday 15th June on the Kirdford circuit which is open to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Junior and Women riders and a second event at Goodwood on Tuesday evening 23rd July.

The racing at Goodwood on the motor racing circuit provides a good introduction to bunched racing with Tuesday evening races often having fields of over a hundred riders. The format of the Tuesday events is usually to start the season with a scratch race where everyone starts together, then have two weeks of Handicaps where riders start in groups depending on their categories (the elite riders usually start at almost a lap down on the first group). In addition at the start of the evening there is a racing for the under 16's, again this is handicapped, this time by riders age. Tuesday evening events at Goodwood are all entry on the line so you just need to turn up pay the entry fee and race.

Membership of the Surrey League is £15 for senior riders, £10 for Juniors and Ladies and £5 for juveniles (Under 16's). Membership forms can be obtained from myself or by downloading a form from the Surrey League website www.surreyleague.co.uk. As a member you will be able to enter the League events (Goodwood races on Tuesday do not require you to have League membership) and also mean you will get a share of the prize money at the end of the season. Prize money is dependant on the number of League points you have obtained during the season. Points are obtained for placings gained in the League races, and all finishers gain points so even if you finish a long way down the field you will be awarded at least one point, this helps to encourage riders to finish races. There is a penalty for not finishing a race or for not starting a race you have entered. The exception to the points scoring is the Tuesday evening Goodwood events where a different points system operates, here only the

riders who are placed successfully at the finish score points but additionally there are points on most laps for the first three riders across the line. The Goodwood events on Tuesday evenings begin on Tuesday 30th April and continue until Tuesday 13th August.

Entries to the Surrey League races should normally be done on one of the League entry forms through the club Surrey League Representative (myself), however in the past club members have entered directly which isn't a problem in practice but if we now have a lot of riders interested in riding the league events it makes sense for someone to co-ordinate the entries. The forms ask for the club entries to be made in order of preference in case of a full field, the idea behind this is that if there is a full field each club that has entered is entitled to one place in the race at first then a second place and so on until the race is full. In practice these days there doesn't tend to be a problem as the rule dates back to the early days of the league when races on the road were limited to 40 riders. As a member of the Surrey League you are also entitled to enter races organised by the South East Road Racing League (formally the Kent League).

In addition to these events the Sussex Cycle Racing League organise events at Hove Park on Friday evenings starting on April 26th and then every other Friday until August 23rd with a break in June while the Thursday evening 3 race Lewes Criterium series takes place over at Laughton. Details of all these events and others can be found in the British Cycling Calendar. If you need any further information feel free to contact me.

Vern McClelland.

With the racing season upon us again the forthcoming issues of the Wheel are likely to be dominated by race reports. Not your cup of tea? Well don't despair – put pen to paper or fingers to word processors and write up that article story or anecdote you've been meaning to do for the last couple of years. The club magazine should represent the views and cycling interests of all the club members – but it can only do this if the members provide the necessary material.

Press Release Dated 1/4/2
Essential Reading for Members Riding Events Within the EU

The EU has announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the EU, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations Her Majesty's Government concedes that some areas of English spelling require improvement and has accepted a 5 year plan to phase in "EuroEnglish".

In the first year "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up any konfusion and keyboards kan have one iess letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter, with estimated savings of €100 million to the sekretarial industry alone.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be ekspekted to reach the stage where more konplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkorage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate soeling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of the silent "e" in the language is disgrasful and kan be done away with.

In yar 4, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such ar replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v". The fifz yar wil se the unesesary "o" dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

After zis fifz yar, ve vil hav a reli sesnibl riten styl. Zer vil be no more trubls or difikultis and evriun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer.

Al ras entris must kompli wiz ze nu speling, however as yu se zis vil cause no konfusion and dos not kompromise ze integrity ov ur mozer tong. An aded bonus is zat ze speling of ze avrage English schol child vil hav bekom perfekt by 2007 alosing ze government to klaim to hav met anozer of its pledges.

Zank yu.

Forthcoming Events

Road Events – for the next few months

Date	Dist	Event	Course	Start
21 Apr	25 m	Clonmore Trophy	P901/25	07:00
28 Apr	28 m	25 M Champs & Clapshaw H'cap	G25/93	07:30
19 May	25 m	Open 25 mile	G25/53	06:30
9 Jun	50 m	50 Mile Champs (with SCA)	G50/10	06:00
20 Jun	25 m	Evening 25 mile	G25/93	19:00
7 Jul	30 m	30 Mile Champs	GS941	07:30
21 Jul	100 m	100 Mile Champs (with SCA)	Tba	Tba

Evening 10 Series

2nd May – 13th June 7 events
 27th June – 1st August 6 Events

Audax Events Promoted by the Club Under the Rules of Audax UK

Date	Dist	Event	Start Location	Organiser	Start Time
4 May	400K	South Coast 400	Steyning	D Hudson	18:00
25 May	600K	South Coast 600	Midhurst	D Hudson	03:00
27 Jul	1000K	South Coast 1000	Midhurst	D Hudson	10:00

Apologia

It has been brought to my attention by several club members that I fouled up the dates for Audax events in the previous issue of the Worthing Wheel. My fault entirely as I had somehow got last years dates into that issues. Sorry for any confusion or inconvenience that this might have caused. Hopefully I've got them right this time.

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