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UK Cycling : Cheltenham Member group
Annual General Meeting 15/10/2020
Chairman's Report

What a strange and very difficult year. The impact of Covid has been and continues to be massive upon both are social freedom, wellbeing and economy. Some individuals have never worked harder whilst others have been on furlough. Those who had additional spare time have spent more time with their household, in their house, enjoying the local countryside, doing what they enjoy if within government guidance.

Bike sales soared and with less traffic on the road it sounds like a recipe of success for a cycling club, but the club run was an impossibility for many months and is still now quite restricted. Each of us has to decide within the ongoing shifting legal position whether they wish to participate on what we as a member group of Cycling UK are permitted to provide.

Cycling UK can no longer advise groups that they can rely on the organised activity exemption. Accordingly, our advice in England is that group rides in England should be restricted to a maximum of six participants. However, multiple groups of six are permissible, as long as these groups do not come into contact with one another which includes social distancing at a café or pub. From the 14th September it is now a criminal offence rather than a case of non-compliance with guidance, as it was previously.

On the World scene there have been significant efforts to try to host the premier events.

British riders have lost their world edge. Well done to Elinor Barker who won the Women's Points race at the 1st March World Track Championships in Berlin.

The September UCI World Road Championship Elite men was won by Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe and the Elite Women by Anna van der Breggen who also won the World time trial. Julian Alaphilippe was also combative in the Tour De France. What an enthralling time trial that saw Primož Roglič still 200m from the finish line hand over the yellow jersey to Tadej Pogacar on the eve of the ride into Paris. Pogacar aged only 21 had never held the yellow jersey up to this moment.

Brits perhaps to look out for in the future include Tom Pidcock who retained the British National Cyclo-cross title, and the younger Ben Tulett who last year won the British Junior Cyclo-cross title who this year came second in the senior race. Pidcock carried on where he left off onto the world stage and was 2nd to Matthieu Van der Poel in the world Cyclocross championships, rode as the UK number one in the hilly world road championships only fading in the last lap. He then promptly won the World U23 MTB championships and the World E-MTB championships.

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If you wish to either understand or be involved in local cycling campaigning, then John Mallows, who co-ordinates the Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Cycling Forum can be contacted via john.mallows@virgin.net .

Club rides remain free but a note of who has ridden is still required for attendance, head office data, insurance records and this year for track and trace. Amos has kindly agreed to continue to maintain the Attendance Records. Thank you again Amos.

I believe the only national Cycling UK event to run this year was the National Family Cycling Week in the New Forest. Attendance numbers were sensibly restricted by our venue hosts, the Avon Tyrell Activity Centre, near Bransgore. Avon Tyrell is situated just outside of the New Forest and was not impacted like the Forestry Commission and Caravan and Camping Sites across the New Forest which were all closed. The aim of the rally continues to be a relaxed family orientated cycling event where families can spend time together in conversation with each other and their friends and maybe get away for a while from the electronic gadgets which seem to be taking over our lives. More details available at <http://newforestrallycc.org.uk/> or speak to me as I have now attended 19 of the last 20 and am now the Treasurer of the New Forest Family Member Group!

In addition I also last month enjoyed the Giro De Pembrokeshire which is a charitable sportive that on its longest route option incorporated the Preseli Mountains. Good weather and as often the case, the best views from the top of some long climbs.

Audax have had to abandon their calendar. The only rides available being permanents. It has been a sad year for our prolific audax member whose wife Shirley sadly lost her battle to cancer in April.

The following trophy winners relate to the 2018/2019 Season and the trophies were presented at the Anniversary lunch at the end of October in 2019. The Ron Carlton Men's attendance trophy went to Steve Topping (92), and keeping it in the family the Brenda Carlton Women's attendance trophy went to Janet Topping (83), the Junior Attendance Trophy went to George Hewitt, a very worthy 41.) The Graff family received the coveted Ron Smith Club member of the Year Award. The names of the attendance trophies winners for the 2019/2020 will be announced at the AGM. Well done all.

Last year's very successful Anniversary Lunch was again organised by Richard and again held at the Brickhampton Golf Club House, Churchdown. Great food yet again. This year Richard had set the event up at the Star Centre in Ullenwood but like so many other public gatherings it has been cancelled.

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Prior to lockdown, it now seems so distant, we had a fun Christmas skittles meet with the Cheltenham and County Cycling Club at the Cheltenham Cricket Club and also another very successful curry night at the Cheltenham Motor Club.

I would also like to thank the following individuals:

- Tony Graff - Trophy organiser
- Alistair Hardy for auditing the Accounts.

I wish to thank the committee that has worked hard again this year.

- Leo for stepping up and becoming our Secretary,
- Richard James, Treasurer, Social Secretary and also club clothing co-ordinator. The Section continues to provide a tempting discount.
- Caburn Chamberlain (Runs secretary) who has recently re-started the Runs programme and we hope that this can continue,
- James Nunnerley for time spent improving the web site which has resulted in several new riders riding with us, and also for the production of the Newsletter.

And the other committee members: Steve Poulton (Audax Officer), Steve Cook, Larry Blacker, Alan Williams, Graham Ricketts and Lester Evans.

Volunteers are required for the committee. I am keen to encourage fresh blood and energy. The commitment depends upon you, but the committee does meet (presently via conference call) about 8 times in the year. Not untypically of clubs and societies the same few people continue to put in the majority of the effort in running the Section.

As usual I apologise to, and thank, anyone I have overlooked.

Rupert Harris

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