

UK Cycling : Cheltenham Member group

Annual General Meeting 12/05/2022

Chairman's Report

A better, less strange year with the sense we are finally finding our way back to normality although still the impact of Covid has been and continues to be massive upon our social freedom, wellbeing and economy.

Bike prices have remained high, both new and second hand as well as accessories, all hit by supply chains and struggling distribution networks.

On the World scene there have been significant effort to arrange and sometimes rearrange the premier events.

The charismatic Frenchman Julian Alaphiliipe took a second consecutive World Race title in Belgium.

Tadej Pogacar (Slovenia) with team UAE Emirates wins the Tour De France, Egan Bernal (Columbian) with British Team Ineos grenadiers (the phoenix of Sky) win the Giro d'Italia, Simon Yates third and Primoz Roglic (Slovenian) wins the Spanish Vuelta for a third consecutive time, riding for the Dutch team Jumbo-Visma.

There has been some British rider success with Ethan Hayter crowned men's omnium world champion for the first time and Katie Archibald crowned for the second time as women's omnium world champion at the 2021 UCI Track Cycling World Championships in Roubaix,

Beth Shriever backs up her 2020 Olympic Gold with the 2021 UCI BMX World title at Arnhem, in the Netherlands.

More locally if you wish to either understand or be involved in cycling campaigning, then John Mallows, who co-ordinates the Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Cycling Forum can be contacted via [john.mallows@virgin.net](mailto:john.mallows@virgin.net). Present issues are the proposed J10 of the M5 and the Cheltenham – Gloucester B4063 Cycle Route which is part of the longer term ambition to create a 26 mile link up of Tewkesbury and Stroud.

Last year I caught up with the Men's tour of Britain just outside of Aberdeen. This year the Women's Tour Stage 3 (8<sup>th</sup> June) is Tewkesbury Town Centre to Gloucester Docks (taking in the Forest of Dean) and the Men's tour Stage 6 (9<sup>th</sup> September) is also Tewkesbury to Gloucester.

Caburn has again co-ordinated a varied runs list, which has included a successful meet up with the Bristol Section which is likely to be repeated. The calendar also includes the Cyclists

Carol Service in Ebley and Castle Coombe Church Service. Section ride numbers remain healthy, especially when compared to other Cycling UK member groups.

Technology assists the notification of last minute ride destination changes. Please ensure these are routed through official 'chat' so that riders planning to arrive directly are also aware.

Hopefully some club tours can again be considered.

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

The National Family Cycling Week in the New Forest was held. The 2021 event was sensibly restricted by our venue hosts, the Avon Tyrell Activity Centre, near Bransgore. 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 20 of the last 21 and am now the Treasurer of the New Forest Family Member Group!

Audax is back, and Brian Rainbow, myself and daughter Holly helped Steve Poulton marshall the Andoversford control for the recent (19th March) New Cheltenham Flyer. One hundred entrants had the option of either 100, 150 or 200km routes though our fantastic local countryside.

The committee is thinking to maintain an anniversary lunch in October as this marks the month in which the section was founded. The event was booked to use the facilities of the National Star Centre at Ullenwood. The event has been postponed twice now but fingers crossed for October this year. A decision has been taken to review the activity of the club and seek membership opinion on subjects such as club structure, runs, social events, trophies etc.

Other social events have also been planned and then cancelled. The last being the Curry evening in January at the Cheltenham Motor Club. However the BBQ last summer hosted this year by Geoff & Kat was its usual success. Geoff also laid on a skittles event too.

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 White our Secretary,

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- 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.
- James Nunnerley for time spent improving the web site which has resulted in several new riders riding with us, for supervising Whatsapp and also for the production of the Newsletter. And the other committee members: Steve Poulton (Audax Officer), Steve Cook, Larry Blacker, Graham Ricketts and Lester Evans. Sadly in the past year Alan Williams has passed away, one of his legacies being the BMX pump track at Burrows Field which opened in 2017.

The summary of the survey is that most people are quite content with the present offering. However there was comment that we should look to make ourselves more appealing to new members and also consider family rides. As in previous years I am keen to state that volunteers are required for the committee to provide fresh blood and energy. The commitment depends upon you, it meets either via Zoom or at the Cheltenham Motor Club 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. I repeat what I say every year in that I am happy to stand aside as Chairman and willing to work in another capacity if wanted or required. Indeed I feel if again re-elected for an 18th year that this will be my last as your Chairman.

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

Rupert Harris

Classification: Limited

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