

UK Cycling : Cheltenham Member group
Annual General Meeting 2023
Chairman's Report

Back to a new 'normal' post Covid World, Ukraine, Cost of living, political turmoil and a new monarch! Let's cycle more and save the planet.

On the international cycling scene Tadej Pogacar now recovering from a broken wrist, remains the No 1 ranked UCI rider, but won none of the major tours. His main achievement being the second consecutive win of Lombardia. Dane Jonas Vingegaard won the (Tour De France), the Giro was won by Australian Jai Hindley and the Vuelta by Remco Evenepoel (Belgium), who also became the Road Cycling World Champion (which was held in Australia).

From a British viewpoint on the International scene Simon Yates is still cycling well and I personally thought Tom Pidcock was on the cusp of winning the Tour Of Britain as he closed in on the overall leader Gonzalo Serrano, by clinching bonus seconds finishing in the top three on both the 4th and 5th stages. He was of course thwarted through the cancellation of the event following the sad death of our very longstanding Queen (thank you and may you rest in peace). Larry and I were also thwarted in our bid at Club promotion when our Radio Gloucestershire interview undertaken on the Tuesday was pulled ahead of its intended Gloucestershire stage airing on Friday 9th September. The Women's Tour of Britain was won by the Italian Elisa Bortol, the present pinnacle of her long career in road racing and time trialing.

Another rising British cycling star to watch is 18 year old Zoe Backstedt. She is a multiple Junior World Champion, winning medals in Road Racing, Time Trial and Cyclo-Cross. January 2023 saw Zoe win her first Elite title at the British National Cyclocross Championships with an incredible performance on a technical course (with lots of mud!) so hopefully the start of wins to come. A few weeks later, Zoe won silver at the World Cyclocross Championships in the U23 category.

Senior British cyclists generally continue to have better success on the track with Golds at the Worlds hosted in France, in The Men's Team Pursuit, Ethan Hayter in the Omnium and Neah Evans in the Women's Points Race. Other British medals were won by the Women's Team Pursuit, Ethan Hayter, Ethan Vernon, Josie knight and Jessica Roberts. Britain also won 3 Rainbow jerseys at the UCI Track Para Worlds held in Canada. I am looking forward to the Worlds in Glasgow this August.

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. Present projects are the proposed J10 of the M5 and continuation of the £17m, 26 mile link up of Tewkesbury and Stroud. The green tarmac is gradually extending along the Cheltenham to Gloucester B4063.

At the last AGM there were some changes. Leo stood down as Secretary after 8 years and agreed to become Runs Secretary taking over the mantle that Caburn had also held for 8 years. James Nunnerley became our Secretary. I also advised that after 19 years as your Chairman that I would be standing down at the April 2023 AGM.

Club rides remain well attended, certainly compared to other Cycling UK sections, and they are free. A note of who has ridden is still required for attendance, head office data and insurance records. The runs have been varied, and include the Cyclists Carol Service in Ebley and the Castle Coombe Church Service. Section ride numbers remain healthy, especially when compared to other Cycling UK member groups.

The Sue Ryder reached out again for our club's support on their Ride for Ryder and like a few others in the club I was happy to help. There has been further talk of club tours and hopefully one will come to fruition.

Occasionally out of necessity last minute adjustments to rides happen. Technology assists the notification of these. Please ensure these are routed through official 'chat' so that riders planning to arrive directly are also aware.

I again attended the 2022 National Family Cycling Week in the New Forest. In July 2023 it moves after 10 years, to a new site, 'Hurst View', near Lymington. This will allow for a change of scenery, some new routes and destinations. 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 are available at <http://newforestrallycc.org.uk/> or speak to me.

Audax also continues. Every 4 years the Paris Brest Paris is arranged and takes place later this year. Brian Rainbow, myself and daughter Holly helped Steve Poulton marshall the Andoversford control for the 2022 New Cheltenham Flyer. Steve is already receiving entries for the 2023 event which will be held in May. Steve, in his own right, continues to extend his amazing Audax Randonneur Round the Year (Monthly 200k) record streak which is approaching 40 years. I am sure he will provide further detail in his report or explain his achievements if you ask him.

There were a few suggestions that came out of last year's survey To Continue to offer rides on different days and at different paces. There was a thought that some shorter Summer rides should be offered to encourage new members. Ingrid ran a couple with a small amount of success and the feeling is that these should be repeated over the Summer of 2023.

The club to continue to offer social events. The BBQ at Geoff and Katrina's (thank you, the Christmas skittles match held at the Cricket Club against the Cheltenham & County and also a curry evening at the Motor Club which were all well attended. Sadly there were insufficient takers for the Anniversary Lunch and this didn't proceed in October

There are some individuals that I would like to thank

The committee that has worked hard again this year.

- James Nunnerley our Secretary, and IT Officer
- Richard James, Treasurer, Social Secretary and also club clothing co-ordinator. The Section continues to provide a tempting discount.
- Leo White (Runs secretary).
- Lester Evans, Steve Cook, Steve Poulton, Larry Blacker, Ingrid Harris and also Graham Ricketts for the first part of the year
- Jo Kinane our Welfare Officer
- Alistair Hardy for auditing the accounts

The club requires new blood and I wish it well as I stand aside.

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

Rupert Harris