



**Witham Wheelers  
Cycling Club  
Sponsored by  
Echo Personnel**

[www.withamwheelers.co.uk](http://www.withamwheelers.co.uk)



**Affiliated to:  
British Cycling  
Cyclist Touring club  
Lincs RRA  
Cycling Time Trials**

**Newsletter – July 2007**

We have just had the busiest period of the year for the club, promoting 3 Open events in the space of a month and a word of thanks must go out to the promoters and marshals/helpers for giving up their time to ensure we have run safe and successful events. When you get comments back from riders, as we did at the Open road race, saying how they appreciated the excellent marshalling, then it does make it worthwhile.

Brief details of the events are given below, full results and report are available from the club website.

**Club Open 10**

This took place on the Long Bennington A1 course and was mercifully blessed with a fine weather window, much to Dave Herds relief. The event was oversubscribed, although no big names were entered due to National championships on the same weekend. Dave Strickson upheld the clubs honour with a rapid 21.50 for equal 13<sup>th</sup> place.

Well done to Dave for organizing the event and marshals etc for turning out on the night. Special mention to Gordons apprentice pusher-off who managed 60 riders without dropping one.!!

**Lincs League Handicap Road Race**

A good turn out of Club riders and helpers on the night. Anthony Conneally returning to racing after quite a few years away from the sport, nearly stayed away with the limit group, only to be caught on the last climb to the finish. Jim Coleman led the charge up the hill, only to find this was a bit early and was overhauled at the finish.

**Club Open Road Races.**

Watching the forecast the day before, this was going to be a bad day, but the weather gods smiled on the Wobblies and both races were run of in dry conditions.

The G.T.Ellingworth event for 3 / 4 categories had nearly a full field of 70 riders, several punctures, some crashes on Skillington corner, a few breakaways and a good 6<sup>th</sup> place in the sprint for Tom Mendham.

The G.A.Bennett event for 1 / 2 / 3 categories had a disappointing entry of 35 riders, possibly due to event clashes however it was quite a lively event with an 8 man break dominating, with Jim Coleman helping drive it along, to keep the marshals interested, to take a good 5<sup>th</sup> position.

**Don Brooks**

As most of you will probably know Don Brooks sadly passed away recently after suffering with cancer for some time. Don had been a lifelong cyclist and member of the club for many years. He was well known as a frame builder and supplied the frames that Rod Ellingworth took to the Olympics. Several club members attended the funeral at Grantham Crematorium and the committee is sending a bouquet of flowers to his wife on behalf of the club.

### **Chairman**

Most of you will have heard the news that unfortunately Dave Herd has resigned his position as Club Chairman. The committee would like to thank Dave for the hard work he has put into this position, having taken over at a time when I understand there were not too many volunteers for the job.

Until the next AGM Vice Chairman Gordon Cakebread will take over the position, on the rare occasions when he is not abroad on holiday.

### **BBQ 10 – 14<sup>th</sup> August**

In conjunction with the club 10 at the Cricket Club, a BBQ will be put on for all club members and family/helpers as a social event to mark the coming to an end of the 2007 club time trial season. It would be good to see as many members there as possible, you don't have to race. Dave Beckett has bravely volunteered to run the BBQ and the bar will be open for the sale of drinks.

### **Club Annual Dinner – 27<sup>th</sup> October**

I know it seems like a long way away but its time to make sure you have the date in you diary, For the uninitiated its held at the Kings Hotel with a 3 course dinner, followed by the prize presentation, speeches, raffle (prizes needed) etc. Its quite informal, tickets are generally very reasonable and recent guests speakers have included Bradley Wiggins (yes the real one), Gary Coltman (top British cycling coach) and of course Witham Wheelers very own Rod Ellingworth usually makes an appearance, so there is no excuse not to go.

### **2007 Membership**

We have hunted most people down now, just a few people still holding out but we expect to have them cornered in the near future.

For 2008 we will look at setting up a more efficient system of collecting annual subscriptions, expenses are rising and we do need to generate some income to keep the club ticking over. For 2007 membership is still very reasonable at £15 Individual, £25 Family, £8 Under 16, £10 Second Claim, Social £5.

### **New Members**

Only one recent new member that I am aware of, Bill Wilson, welcome Bill.

### **2007 Calendar Change**

No new changes.

### **Clothing**

The stock of jerseys ordered have now all been purchased, we will probably look at placing another bulk order early in 2008, unless there is a reasonable demand expressed for some club winter clothing.

However if anyone wants to place a personal order I can let them have all the details and contacts etc.

### **Website – Discussion Board**

A reminder that this is a public forum, for members and non-members alike to exchange information and views. As such it is expected that people will behave responsibly. If anybody has any concerns with any postings, please let me know, so that the appropriate action can be taken.

### **Coaching – Go-Ride**

Peter Pain is still running the coaching sessions for under 16's up at Barkston Heath, in conjunction with Sleaford Wheelers who are taking the U12's. If you have any children that might be interested, take them up there as sessions are organized as fun events to develop cycling skills with a handicap race at the end of the evening.

Also if anyone has any bikes/equipment that they no longer use and would be suitable for use by riders in the 10 to 16 age group, please let Peter know.

### **Barkston Heath**

Despite the continued terrible weather this year we have been getting a reasonable turnout for both the U16 coaching and the senior racing, with riders from Grantham, Sleaford, Boston, Bourne and Spalding taking part. Cost wise it is just about breaking even, considering the hire of the circuit and providing first aid. If you have been dithering about having a go then give it a try, several club members have had their first go at bunch racing up there and have really enjoyed it.

Currently Jim Coleman is leading the senior event series and Jade Ostler the U16 series.

PS do not forget your photo ID as it keeps the security guards on the gates a lot happier.

### **Triathlon**

4 members have been taking part in mainly local events this year. The East Midlands is quite well served with a good range of Triathlon events which means you can compete quite regularly without having to travel too far. Unofficial Club champion based on the Woodhall Spa Sprint Triathlon, the only event we all competed in, is Peter Pain.

By the way in the unlikely event you haven't heard, Peter has entered Ironman Austria next year and will be looking for people to do some long miles, so best to avoid him in the New Year.

### **Tour De France**

Having been down to London for the prologue it was quite an amazing experience to see so many people gathered to watch a cycling event in this country. I know quite a few club members went down to watch, if you have any good photos send them in and we can put a selection on the web site.

### **Clubruns**

**Sunday** – These are continuing to start at 9.00 from the Market place for the rest of the summer, attendances have generally been quite good with an average of around a dozen people most weeks setting out, although when and how many people get back is anyone's guess.

To try and expand the appeal of the Sunday clubrun, the clubs coach and newsletter editor are proposing to designate one Sunday in the month when they will lead a shorter slower run to hopefully appeal to the younger members and non-racing cyclists. This is scheduled to begin in September, details to be advised, volunteers to help would be greatly appreciated.

### **Cyclo-Cross**

A brief note about cyclo-cross. Looking back through rose-tinted glasses (24 years ago) I recall this as a fun way of keeping fit in the winter and with 2 local leagues i.e. Lincolnshire and the Notts & Derby there are plenty of reasonably local events to choose from, with racing for U12, U16 Seniors and Vets . Event details can be found on the British Cycling web-site. The season starts in September through to December and you don't need to spend a lot of money on equipment, it is possible to compete on a Mountain bike but these tend to be a bit heavy for a Cross course. So why not give it a go, it would be good to see some Wobblies in this years club event.

### **Viking Challenge – 7<sup>th</sup> October**

Mountain bike challenge ride based on the Viking way, starting at Redmile, entry forms are now out, I will post one on the website. Great fun if you do not mind getting muddy and there is a long and a short distance depending on how energetic you feel, worth riding for the food alone.

### **Your Club needs you**

Dates and organizer for your Diary, when marshalls / helpers are required for open events this year.

Last major event this year is

- Cyclo Cross - 21<sup>st</sup> October Tony Mendham

### **Club competitions**

The list of competitions and the criteria to win them has now been put together and will be finalized at the next committee meeting, prior to publication.

### **E-mail addresses**

If you receive this by post and have an e-mail address please let me know, as it does make distribution a lot easier, as well as keeping costs down.

Also if you have changed your street address in the last year or so, can you advise details so that we can ensure membership records are kept up to date.

### **Race Results – Website & Grantham Journal**

The website is only as upto date as the information that gets fed back to me, I cannot make it up, although sometimes it may seem like it.

Please send me brief details of events you have been competing in, as John Burgess is always looking for news to put in the Journal or you can send direct to [john.burgess@granthamjournal.co.uk](mailto:john.burgess@granthamjournal.co.uk) . Deadline is Tuesday evening for Fridays edition.

Ideally the information should include.

- Event Name, Location, Promoting Club, Distance
- Winner
- Club riders taking part and finishing positions
- Brief story or specific points of interest

### **Random Local Dates for the Diary**

These are just a few local events that come to mind, if you want more information with regards Cycle-Sportives then the BCF website now has a good listing section.

23<sup>rd</sup> September Southwell last Minute Sprint Triathlon

7<sup>th</sup> October Viking Challenge

7<sup>th</sup> October Brian Rourke Cat & Fiddle Challenge

27<sup>th</sup> October Club Dinner

### **Committee Meeting**

The next meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, if you want any issues discussed or have any ideas, let any committee member know and they will be put on the agenda.

Editor

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