

CYCLING

28/11/08

Tour de France hero at awards night



Winners with their trophies at Witham Wheelers' awards night.



Mark Cavendish (left) with Rod Ellingworth at the awards night.

STAR guest of honour at Witham Wheelers' annual dinner and prizegiving was British Tour de France sprint hero Mark Cavendish.

Cavendish, who won four stages of the Tour in July, was trained by Great Britain Olympic endurance coach and honorary Witham Wheeler Rod Ellingworth who was also there.

Other top notch guests included British Road Race Champion and Olympic medalist Rob Hayles, and Cavendish's Team Columbia sporting director Brian Holm.

The event, held at Belton Park Golf Club, also marked the club's 50th anniversary and, with founding members Brian Mallett, Dave Borchard, Loz Willetts and Jeff Ellingworth present, it was a time for reflection on what the club had achieved over the years.

Rod gave a talk on his progression from a junior Wheeler to riding as a pro, and now coaching the British Cycling team.

Trophies and shields were presented by Mark Cavendish, with the main recipients being Jim Coleman and Mike Lewis

with seven and five respectively.

A dusting of snow prevented a star-studded club run the following morning, but Cavendish and Rod turned out to see the hardiest Wheelers off from the Market Square.

The club has more than 90 members and promotes road races, time trials and cyclo-cross and is looking to enlarge its Go-Ride scheme for children next season.

● The club's annual meeting is at Grantham Cricket Club on Tuesday, at 7.30pm. For further details visit www.withamwheelers.co.uk

Award winners: Senior BAR - Michael Lewis, Handicap BAR - Michael Lewis, Schoolboy BAR - Jacob Storey, Veteran BAR - Michael Lewis, 50-mile TT Champion - Michael Lewis, 30-mile Champion - Neil Sentance, 25-mile Champion - Jim Coleman, 25-mile Handicap - Anthony Conneely, Fastest 25 - Jim Coleman, Road Race Champion - Jim Coleman, 10-mile Champion - Jim Coleman, 10-mile Handicap League Champion - Peter Storey, Ladies' 10-mile Champion (league) - Karen Smith, Veteran 10-mile Champion (league) - Dave Herd, Circuit TT Award - Jim Coleman, Barkston Heath Cup - Jim Coleman, Juvenile 10-mile Champion - Toby Kiely, Fred Branston Three-distance Shield - Michael Lewis, Senior Hill Climb - Jim Coleman, Junior Hill Climb - Jacob Storey, Freewheeling Champion - William Harrison, Juvenile Cyclo-cross Champion - Elena Crawford, Junior Cyclo-cross Champion - Peter Barnes, Merit Trophy - Peter Barnes, Most Improved Rider - Peter Storey, Young Personality of the Year - Peter Cocker, Tourist Award - John and Christine Hill, Clubperson of the Year - Janet East.

Katie wins gold with GB team

FRIESTON cyclist Katie Colclough and her Great Britain Olympic Academy team pursuited continued their dominance of the UCI World Cup series with a gold medal in Melbourne, Australia.

The 18-year-old former Grantham College student was once again teamed up with Joanna Rowsell and Lizzie Armitstead, and together they beat Australia by just under a second in the 3,000m team pursuit final, recording a time of 3min 29.89sec. The trio won the opening round of the team pursuit in Manchester at the beginning of the month.

Katie also worked hard in the scratch race to help Armitstead to another gold medal in Melbourne. Katie also competed in the points race in which she finished 11th in the final. Rowsell picked up a third gold for GB in the individual pursuit.