

Acorn Newsletter

January 2008



Sherwood Cycling Club

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

On the racing scene 2007 has been a bit mixed for the Club with some of our better time triallists retiring or not competing as much. Dave Woodward had a good year (no doubt helped by coaching advice from Richard Clarke) finishing 34th (out of 154) in the National VTTA 3-distance BAR and 96th in the 2-distance CTT BAR. Sherwood also retained the Lighthouse 25 Team Trophy led by Nigel White. Other notable achievements were rather few and far between.

Thankfully, our younger riders were showing great promise in other disciplines. Matt and Paul Fostun rode well in Road Races with numerous good placings. Joe Peake put in some noteworthy performances in cross-country MTB races and at Cyclo-Cross. Scott Hookway, Patrick Hughes and Adrian Staiano are also doing well in Cyclo-Cross.

Darren Hodgkinson won silver (for his age group) in the European Duathlon and followed up with 7th in the World Champs.

Steve Adams moved on to ride for the Merlin Racing Team this year (remaining very much part of Sherwood as a second claim member) and had a road season hampered by illness. He still performed well, especially in Cyclo-Cross while passing on valuable knowledge to our other young riders (and teaching older riders a few lessons!).

Remember to let me know of any performances worthy of a mention. It is very difficult for me to keep track of everything if you don't tell me!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Note that Club subs are now due for renewal. Please complete and return your forms to Rob Godfrey ASAP.

CLUB RUNS

Saturday Club Runs leave Lowdham at 9.45 a.m. Sunday runs meet Shearing Hill/Burton Rd junction at 9.30 a.m. leaving 9.40 a.m. These Sunday runs are about 50 miles. If you wish a longer faster ride there is an alternative run meeting at Wilford Bridge at 9.00 a.m. Keep an eye on the Forum for confirmation as occasionally they may go to Derbyshire and meet elsewhere. Wednesday runs meet at Lowdham 9.15 a.m. prompt.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club Annual General Meeting was again poorly attended with only 15 other members turning up. From a Club with a membership of more than 120 this is a really poor show!

Frank Beale was re-elected as President and the Vice Presidents remain as Ron Bates, Sybil Bates, Trev Savage, Ed Ward, Eunice Watson and Walt Wilson. The latter two were confirmed as Honorary Vice-Presidents.

The Committee remains chaired by Craig Watson with Dave Gartside agreeing to continue as Secretary in the absence of any other volunteer. Treasurer (Martin Edjvet), Club Captain and Acorn editor (Ed Ward), Racing Secretary (Wayne Bradley), Club Rep (Dave Woodward) and Press Secretary (Trev Adams) all remain the same. Rob Godfrey has taken over from Karen Lifford as Membership Secretary – thanks to Karen for all her efforts over the past two years.

Members without portfolio (i.e. on the Committee to help with decisions but without specific jobs) are Frank Beale, Roy Elliott, Harvey Maddock and Pat Gutteridge. Paul Wilson was voted in as Social Secretary (in his absence as he couldn't get to the AGM!).

We do not have a Younger Members' Representative or a Ladies' Representative. Their function would be to represent the views of those sectors on the committee. If any candidates/volunteers come to light they can be co-opted later.

Timekeepers, handicappers and auditors remain the same but any additional volunteers are always welcome.

Club Membership Fees remain unaltered but we have had to increase the Club Racing Fees. This increase is solely due to the CTT (the governing body) who have doubled the levy payable for each ride from 50p to £1. They have done this to restore their income caused by a decline in rides in Open Time Trials.

Club Entry fees are now £2 for Seniors, Juniors and Private Trials. Season tickets for Seniors are rise from £20 to £25. Fees for Juveniles are kept at 50p (£5 Season Ticket) as a concession.

Trev's proposal regarding the Junior BAR was passed. This means that to qualify only one 10-mile and one 25-mile time are now needed.

We also had a discussion about Go-Ride. We have been struggling to keep this going through a lack of a suitable venue and a shortage of helpers able to commit their selves on a regular basis. The matter was put on hold for the time being.

CLUB NIGHTS

Meeting at the Arnold & District Victory Club, Church Drive East, Arnold from 7.30 p.m. Click this link <http://tinyurl.com/ykzvku> for a map.

The club nights for 2008 are on Mondays 28 January, 25 February, 31 March, 28 April, 19 May, 30 June, 28 July, 18 August, 27 October, 29 September, 27 October, 24 November and the AGM on 8 December. All these dates are subject to confirmation.

We are grateful to Harvey Maddock for the provision of facilities for the Club Nights. It would be nice to see more members attending on a regular basis – there is a bar with reasonably priced drinks!

HOVERINGHAM LUNCH

Thanks to Ann Spencer for organising the lunch at Ferry Farm on 16 December. The meal was up to the normal high standards and everyone had a good time.

CYCLO CROSS (reports mainly from Trev Adams)

Midlands Championships, Markeaton Park 2 December

We had riders in most categories at the Midland Cross Champs at Markeaton Park in Derby.

Paul Fostun was 9th in his first ever cross race in the youth category. An excellent ride in very slippery conditions.

In the Under 12's we had Patrick Hughes and Scott Hookway. Patrick was 14th and Scott an excellent 16th, riding his brand new Islabikes Beinn, which is a proper cross bike with 24" wheels and Sora gears.

Joe Peake was 9th in the junior race against some top class opposition including a couple of riders who are likely to be selected for the World Champs.

Steve was 5th in the senior race, which was a little disappointing as I expected him to be in the top 3. He had a bad start but made his way up to 3rd. He seemed to be struggling a bit in the mud and slipped back to 6th at one point, before making a late comeback and almost catching the 4th place rider on the last lap. The race was won by Saturday morning run regular Jim Bryan.

NOTTS AND DERBY LEAGUE

Round 10 Bolsover 8 December

With icy cold rain turning to snow our two youngest riders performed well. Patrick Hughes was fourth in the under-12s and Scott Hookway 5th in the under-10s.

Round 11 Alvaston Park 15 December

In the Under 10's, Scott was 3rd, just losing out in a sprint for 2nd. He's also 3rd overall in the league.

In the Under 12's, Patrick was also 3rd and lead the race for the 1st two laps.

In the senior race we had Joe, Simon and Pete riding for Sherwood and Steve riding for Merlin against some top class opposition including Ian Field, winner of last week's Trophy race, and Liam Killeen, Commonwealth MTB Champion.

Steve had a good start and got in a break of 4, which took an early lead. Under pressure from Field, two riders got dropped from the break, but Steve managed to stay up there, with Killeen closing fast in 3rd. At the bell, Steve and Fieldy were together but Steve made a small mistake half way round the last lap and Field took the win, with Steve 2nd at 12 seconds and Killeen 3rd at 27 seconds.

Joe seemed to be going well but must have had some trouble near the end. He finished 76th, two places in front of Simon in 78th, with Pete in 82nd.

Every finisher in the senior race got a free Christmas Pudding.

These are the events in the immediate future.

Date	Venue	Club	Organiser	Phone
19 Jan	Watchwood	Sherwood CC	Trevor Adams	07749 216680
2 Feb	Allestree	Belper BC	Jonathan Marshall	07776 225717
9 Feb		Beauvale CC	Gareth Whittall	07973 791041

Note that Trev Adams is organising a cyclo-cross on Saturday 19 January and will need helpers before, during and after the event. If you would like to help out please contact Dave Gartside on 0115 9525881. Watchwood Plantation is off Gravelly Hollow (the road that is now blocked off between the Patchings Farm crossroads and Burntstump near Calverton).

There are cyclo-cross training sessions for Club members only at Arnold Hill School, Gedling Rd, Arnold on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Meet at the middle car park.

BOXING DAY TEN

The weather was quite kind again this year and 15 riders pinned a number on to ride the ten. Many others turned out just for a ride.

Phil Shaw showed he has maintained his fitness through the winter with a fine 26:25 to take the victory. Most rode on winter bikes with Nigel dazzling everyone with a powerful front lamp.

Matt rode with wings (the little angel!) while Steve (Billy the Kid) spent much time shooting the other riders. They crossed the line together in a sprint finish with feet out of the pedals.

After the event a number went off training and others down to the café at Gunthorpe.

Phillip Shaw	26:25
Darren Hodgkinson	26:54
Nigel White	26:58
Giles White	27:31
Paul Fostun	27:54
Andrew Thompson	28:12
Matt Fostun	28:12
Dave Woodward	28:34
Matt Hemsley	28:47
Pete Fostun	29:24
Craig Watson	29:39
David Taylor	31:18
Lesley Cliff	33:38
Stephen Adams	35:12
Trevor Adams	38:14

MEMBERSHIP PROFILES

I recently did a rough analysis of the cycling activities of our members purely from my personal knowledge – so it might not be spot on, but quite close.

As you would expect most people do actually cycle. We have some who used to cycle, but have retired and are still members. About 66% have been out on at least one Club Run this year and 37% have raced at some point during 2007 and at least 15% ride regularly without taking part in Club Runs or races.

However, many members only put in occasional appearances, perhaps reflecting on how many other commitments people have these days.

Members ride fewer races these days but sporting and leisure rides are more popular, as are triathlons and duathlons.

How about a New Year's Resolution to cycle more and support the Club more during 2008?