

# **FARNHAM ROAD CLUB**

## **NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2009**

**From the Editor:** After the AGM you may have been expecting a new editor, hard luck, I'm still here! What a great year for the club. Membership up, some good open events and attendance at club events high, this has helped to keep the club finances in good order. A good sign is the increase in families and young people joining the club and taking part in events. We have seen the whole Fricker family on club runs, Evan Clifford, Matt Davies taking part in club events and Matt Golden and his family have joined us formally from the New Forest CC. Welcome and good luck to you all. Mike and Deana's wedding was the event of recent months. Here is a picture of the happy couple with Andy



**Weller, the best man and the bridesmaids. All the very best to them, from all of us.**

**Colin**

## Tales from the 2009 Tour de France

### From Paul Barber

**Two of Farnham Road Club's finest, Paul Barber and Jim Parker, headed to Monaco to see this year's prologue time trial and the stage 2 climb to La Turbie.**

**Having both ridden the previous evening's "10" we were impressed to see Michael and Deana early at Gatwick haven also ridden the "10". Farnham Road Clubbers are made of strong stuff!**

**Ridding into Monte Carlo on the day before the prologue, we heard the unmistakable sound of disc wheels behind us and were immediately surrounded by the entire Lampre squad wearing their pink and blue uniforms, in front of us, alongside and behind and including Alessandro Ballan in his World Road Champion's shirt. It was quite unreal seeing a Farnham Road Club shirt in the middle of this bunch: sadly neither of us was carrying a camera. We all followed a busy street towards the centre, threading our way through the traffic, then with anguished voices and laughter the team did a u-turn in the middle of the road: they had got lost and taken us with them!**

**Shortly after, as the Farnham duo were climbing out of the town, a small group of Agritubel riders asked if they were actually on the course! Whether it was the world renowned FRC shirt or the grey hairs (all right, just because you have some. ed.) of wisdom that prompted their question we were unclear.**

**We rode out of town and round the rest of the 15 kilometre course: extremely hilly for a time trial course by UK standards.**

**Pausing at the hairpin turn at the eastern end of the course, we were reflecting that we had seen most of the teams out training either on the course or going down the coast road when a black estate car flew down the hill, executed an impressive handbrake turn around the hairpin and hammered back towards Monte Carlo. A few seconds later a familiar rider in black screeched into the bend on a fast practice run: Lance Armstrong would earn 10<sup>th</sup> place the next day.**

**Race day saw us watching on that long fast descent to the hairpin. Mark Cavendish won our prize for the longest freewheel. We had thought he must be training for the freewheel event in the Club Four Way Trophy competition but his leisurely 177<sup>th</sup> place out of 180, nearly 4 minutes**

**down, turned out to be in readiness for his magnificent wins of both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stages. Bradley Wiggins sped past like a steady express train, brilliantly positioned and pedalling powerfully: 3<sup>rd</sup> place and only beaten by Cancellara and Contador.**

**The following day we climbed part way up to La Turbie and in magnificent sunshine high above Monte Carlo we saw the tiny specks of the publicity cavalcade and then the peloton wind their way along the coast road out of the town far below before appearing up the hill towards the hairpin bend where we were standing and the climbing on up: by this time a solo breakaway with three riders in hot pursuit and a peloton a few metres back had livened up the race towards La Turbie.**

**The intrepid pair then rode up to La Turbie themselves and climbed the Col de la Madone, Lance Armstrong's training climb and over 800 metres high. Coming down the other side, an evil very steep and bumpy descent with masses of loose slippery gravel, remote, no habitation and little vegetation, there was a loud bang and the tall spindly one thought for a second that he had been shot by a bandit until his lack of steering made him realise his front tire had exploded.**

**Oh for the peace, the rain and the flat of the A31!**

**Paul Barber**

**If this sounds good, all the places mentioned are within easy reach of Jim Parker's apartment which is available for rental for your holiday. Contact Jim Parker.**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**The Annual meeting passed without major uproar. The club is on a sound footing with a good membership. Although the editor has stood down from regular timekeeping Mrs Davies and Mrs Rice have offered assistance. It was agreed that club members should be prepared to give up an occasional ride and volunteer to assist with putting out and collecting signs (now compulsory), signing on riders and taking the money. Jim Parker is forming a list and the events schedule is attached and on the website, so please pick a date or two and let Jim P know, 14 volunteers giving up two rides will cover the whole programme. The club has a large stock of clothing so if you need new items please contact the new clothing manager, Nigel Bicknell. Apart from Mike Rice, who has stood down, all club officers remain the same although Andy Smith has taken over the operation of the Club Website. I hope to still feed him with information.**

## **Club Runs**

**These have proved very popular and take account of all abilities. They will continue on each Sunday morning start from the Farnham Sports Centre at 0830am, contact Jim Parker for more information.**

## **Subscriptions**

**Following the AGM it is that time of the year again. The cost remains as before. So please send your cheques as soon as possible to Paul Barber at: The Old Cottage, Well, Hook, RG29 1 TL. If you prefer it is a nice ride out being along the road from Crondall towards Froyle. Prompt payment helps to tide us over the winter months when there is no other income.**

## **ANNUAL DINNER AND PRIZE PRESENTATION**

**This takes place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Crondall Golf Club with a start of 6.45pm sharp. This year we are celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the clubs formation. Club members are free and guests £32-00. Please book your tickets with Paul Charman the Chairman or Stella his wife, telephone01420475709.**

## **Copy for the Newsletter**

**I have now used up my stock of articles so now is the chance for all you budding scribes young and old. How about a young persons “How I came into cycling” or old timers “Monaco Triathlon” or “The Three Days of Lanzarotte”. I’ll help anyone who wants to have a go. E-mail me at: [mitch56@btinternet.com](mailto:mitch56@btinternet.com) . If anyone has recently changed their e-mail address or has just become connected please send it to me. Nudge the Fricker household and John Essex!**

**Website: [www.FarnhamRoadClub.co.uk](http://www.FarnhamRoadClub.co.uk)**

**Club Night Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.8.00pm at the Bull: First event Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 11.00am H10/8**

**FARNHAM ROAD CLUB : PROVISIONAL CLUB & OPEN EVENTS 2010**

DAY	DATE	COURSE	START	FINISH	RIDERS	COMMENTS
FRI	JAN 1	H10/8	1100	12.30	40	
SAT	MAR 6	H10/8	09.00	10.10	40	
SAT	MAR 13	H10/8	09.00	10.10	40	
SAT	MAR 20	H10/8	09.00	10.10	40	
SAT	MAR 27	H10/8	09.00	10.10	40	
TUES	MAR 30	H10/8	18.45	19.45	29	
TUES	APR 6	H10/8	18.45	19.55	40	
TUES	APR 13	H10/8	18.45	19.55	40	
TUES	APR 20	H10/8	18.45	20.00	40	B G TROPHY
TUES	APR 27	H10/8	18.45	20.00	40	
TUES	MAY 4	H25/8	18.45	20.30	20	
TUES	MAY 4	H10/8	18.45	20.30	20	
<b>SAT</b>	<b>MAY 8</b>	<b>H10/8</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>OPEN TANDEM</b>
		<b>H10/8</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>
		<b>H10/8</b>	<b>13.30</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>OPEN SOLO</b>
TUES	MAY 11	H20/8	18.45	20.40	50	
TUES	MAY 18	H10/8	18.45	20.40	50	
<b>SAT</b>	<b>MAY 22</b>	<b>H10/8</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>OPEN TANDEM</b>
		<b>H10/8</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>OPEN SOLO (W)</b>
		<b>H10/8</b>	<b>13.30</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>OPEN SOLO (M)</b>
<b>RON WICKERSON MEMORIAL</b>						
TUES	MAY 25	H10/8	18.45	20.00	50	2-UP PREFERRED
TUES	JUN 1	H25/8	18.45	20.45	50	
TUES	JUN 8	H10/8	18.45	20.05	50	B G TROPHY
TUES	JUN 15	H25/8	18.45	20.45	50	CLUB CHAMPS
<b>SUN</b>	<b>JUN 20</b>	<b>H25/8</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>09.30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>OPEN TANDEM</b>
		<b>H25/8</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>09.30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>OPEN SOLO (W)</b>
		<b>H25/8</b>	<b>08.30</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>OPEN SOLO</b>
TUES	JUN 22	H20/8	18.45	20.40	50	
TUES	JUN 29	H10/8	18.45	20.10	50	B G TROPHY CLUB CHAMPS
TUES	JUL 6	H25/8	18.45	20.45	50	
TUES	JUL 13	H20/8	18.45	20.40	50	2-UP ONLY CLUB CHAMPS
TUES	JUL 20	H10/8	18.45	19.55	40	
TUES	JUL 27	H10/8	18.45	19.55	40	
TUES	AUG 3	H10/8	18.45	19.55	40	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>AUG 8</b>	<b>H25/8</b>	<b>07.45</b>	<b>09.15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>OPEN TANDEM</b>
		<b>H25/8</b>	<b>07.45</b>	<b>11.45</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>OPEN 2-UP/4-UP</b>
TUES	AUG 10	H10/8	18.45	19.55	40	
TUES	AUG 17	H10/8	18.45	19.55	40	
TUES	AUG 24	H10/8	18.30	19.10	40	
TUES	AUG 31	H10/8	18.30	19.10	29	

**NOTES:-**

1. "OPEN" EVENTS IN BOLD.
2. "OPEN" EVENTS CAN ONLY BE RIDDEN BY MEMBERS OF CTT AFFILIATED CLUBS (SUCH AS FARNHAM ROAD CLUB) WHO HAVE SUBMITTED CTT ENTRY FORMS AND FEES BY THE DUE DATE (USUALLY APPROX 2 WKS IN ADVANCE OF EVENT) TO THE EVENT SECRETARY (SEE CTT HANDBOOK).
3. "CLUB" EVENTS ARE ENTERED AT THE START.
4. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS / CLUB TROPHIES / CLUB RECORDS CAN ONLY BE CLAIMED BY FIRST CLAIM MEMBERS OF THE CLUB WHOSE SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE UP TO DATE ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.