

FARNHAM ROAD CLUB

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

FROM THE EDITOR: It seems only yesterday that I was putting the December edition together and congratulating everyone for the efforts of last season. Hopefully these successes and the mild winter have encouraged you all to greater and faster efforts this year. Richard Williams has already had his early season training in Lanzarote and is gunning to topple Ian White and Gawie Neinaber from the top slot within the club. There is more competition than ever this year with Rob Pennell rejoining the club from the Liphook Cycles Team. I hear that he has already upped the pace of the Sunday morning training group. Also riding in the club colours this year is Stuart Willis and Andy Weller is back on the road. We also welcome new members Joe Boyman, Andrew Munton and Andy Smith.

Most of you will know that President Jim Brown had his hip replaced in the early part of January and is now recovering at home and is hoping to be back behind the watch shortly. John Knight's wife Rosemary was knocked off her bicycle on the A30 by a car and fortunately escaped with cuts to her face and some nasty bruises. She is now back on her feet and itching for the chance to get back on her bike.

I hope to see you all at the Saturday morning 10's each Saturday during March with a 0900 am start and afterwards at the Bull. *Colin*

ISLE OF WIGHT 2008

Those of you who have caught up with Jim and purchased a handbook will know that the Vectis RCC are staging their Isle of Wight series of events over the first May Bank Holiday weekend.

The first warm up event is a 12 mile time trial on Saturday 3rd May starting at 5pm followed by a 23 miler on the Sunday morning and all wrapped up with a 46 mile event on the Monday for those who are brave (or stupid) enough to attempt it. The entries have an early closure 22nd April so make a note in your diary.

On the same weekend there is a Randonee which is a considerable challenge but well worth attempting as it takes you through some really beautiful countryside.

The events all start in Freshwater and last year we found some really lovely bungalows that have only just been built called Island View in Colwell Bay (a beautiful beach within 50 meters). Your committee have used its buying power and negotiating skills to secure a superb deal this year of £60 per bungalow per night with an overall cost of the three nights from 3rd to 5th May of only £180. Given that we paid £225 last year, this is a real bargain. In fact you might want to stay on for a few more nights and, if so, I can arrange this for you.

If you are prepared to share then that obviously brings the cost down further. Please let me know if you are prepared to do so. I will then be in contact to make sure that you have no objection to who I am suggesting you share with. I have provisionally booked three bungalows but they have plenty available so more reservations will not cause any problems.

I am thinking that this year it would be easier if you booked your own ferry crossings. I am not able to get any discounts on these and with three possible crossings to choose from and different sailing times it all gets a bit complex if I try and do this centrally. I have had nightmares about leaving Richard Williams on the mainland sat on his case which would never do although it might mean that we beat him this year. Having said that, if you would prefer me to book the crossing for you, I can do so when I book mine.

Please contact me at 51 Liphook Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9DA telephone 01420 475709 within the next two weeks to avoid disappointment. Oh, and get yourself fit for those hills!

Paul Charman

HANDBOOKS

Jim Parker is the man to contact for your handbook, I believe that he still has some CTT ones and the local area club event handbook is also available at £4 each.

TOUR OF THE COTSWOLDS



“Hello Colin, John Knight here are you thinking of riding the Tour of the Cotswolds?” I had heard of this Audax event while riding with Liz and Roger Palethorpe and the Wayfarers Wednesday group from the Farnham Maltings. “Oh! Yes John I’d love to do that.” Oh dear what had I let myself in for. Although I have been riding regularly with the Alton Saturday CTC group and the Wednesday Wayfarers, I had not tried a 100Km event since the Isle of Wight in 2006. It can’t be too bad after all John is over 70, I should be able to keep up. Wednesday 18th July 2007 dawned quite bright and the bikes were loaded onto John’s camper van and we were off. Unfortunately yours truly mistook the M40 for the A40 and we were just pulling into the Hailey Rugby Club car park as the event started. By the time that we unloaded, signed on and made a start we were already nearly a half hour behind. You guessed it, we missed a turn and were on our way to Charlbury instead of Stonefield a quick look at the map and hanging on to John’s wheel we were soon back on track, literally as the minor road through Ditchley Park was soon muddy and wet as we were caught in a downpour. Five minutes later the rain jackets were off and the sun was shining as it did for the rest of the day. We then made contact with the back of the main group and Roger and some of the ladies from the Wednesday group. They were talking an awful lot so John and I pressed on towards a welcome tea and cake in Chipping Norton.

The beautiful scenery continued over the rolling hills, not very long but they did keep coming, very good road surfaces and virtually traffic free. The well kept villages and courtesy of people as we rode past made the ride all the more enjoyable. On through Stow in the Wold and the Slaughters; Lower Slaughter belies the name as it is “chocolate box” picturesque with a stream and ducks running along side the road. The next stop was The Cotswolds Country Park where we caught up with a few more from the main group. John and I had a sandwich lunch and more tea. (What would cyclists do without Tea?). At the Park, Trek Cycles were having a dealer forum and they were testing carbon fibred road bikes and there was an off road course. On the road again with only 58 of the 106kms covered. The villages of Kineton, Barton, Ayleworth, Notgrove and Turkdean flowed passed before we turned into Northleach; there is an interesting looking museum/shop here that specialises in clocks and musical boxes. Only time for a short breather here and up a vicious little climb out of the town; I was hanging on a bit here but on the slope up to Great Barrington John unshipped his chain and I was able to recover as we dawdled on the village bench in the afternoon sun. Just what two old men should be doing! We then followed the river Windrush through Burford and Swingbrook to Minster Lovell and Crawley. Hailey and the Rugby

Club soon came up and we were finished well within the time limit and were able to partake of the free tea, cakes and pies provided by Derek Boutle and his organising team from the Oxford DA Midweek Section. A great event, beautiful countryside and good company. Thank you John. *Colin*

SLIPSTREAM WHEELS

Rob Pennell is our own wheel builder; he operates as Slipstream Wheels from his home in Ash Vale. Rob is able to offer a competitive service on any type of wheel. Please contact him for all your needs on 01252 676449 or mobile 07983515558.

TIMEKEEPERS

I have decided that this will be my final season as a regular timekeeper as the Old Age Pension is nigh. To ensure that events can continue next year we need some to come forward for training. Anyone will be welcome cyclist or not. The watches are all the property of the club and will be available to any volunteer. Contact Jim Brown or myself. *Colin*

HONORARY MEMBERS

From time to time the club appoints Honorary members. This is given to any member who has, in the opinion of the committee given long service or made an outstanding performance. President (Jim Brown) would like to hear of any nominations so that they can be discussed and put forward to the next AGM.

Newsletter Copy

This is a plea for copy to be included in the next edition. All contributions are very welcome and I will always edit them for publication. The next edition will be in production during the last week of May. Don't be shy!