

Farnham Road Club Newsletter

The season is now well and truly under way. Following a successful and enjoyable start with the Saturday "Bacon Buttey" rides we are now into the summer evening events. These have been well attended by club members and visitors with fields frequently exceeding thirty riders.

The first open 10 of the season attracted a full field of 120 riders for the first time in several years. Inevitably there were some none starters which allowed the reserves to take up places. The event went without any major problems. There were a number of 20 minute rides and our own Richard Williams blitzed the course to claim the third best veteran on standard prize. Club LaSanta has clearly been a success! On the day all competitors were photographed by GB Photographic and copies can be obtained by calling John Gamble on Tel: 01428 715483, some samples together with the results can be seen on the new website www.farnhamroadclub.co.uk ;John Cooke can be proud with his efforts as event secretary.

We now move on to the next open event the Ron Wickerson memorial picture, on Tuesday 29th May. When I first joined the club in 1972 Ron was the stalwart who ran most of the events and was the time keeper. Ron unfortunately died suddenly some years ago. Colin Mitchell



Manchester Velodrome World Cup Cycling by Nigel Bicknell

I had never seen track cycling live before so 7.00am on Saturday 24th February saw Marion and I driving north for a weekend in Manchester. A trip to the Anderton Boat Lift was very

interesting, and then a passing stop at Dave Hinde's bike shop in Northwich. Such a small shop for a big Cycling Weekly advert, but clearly very knowledgeable. We found our Holiday

Inn and went into Salford to the Lowry Gallery which was equally interesting. The regeneration and new centre has lifted my impression of Salford.

Sat .Nav. took us straight to the National Cycling Centre for a Sunday morning 11.00am start. The Velodrome has an instant buzz and atmosphere; it was loud, colourful and exciting, a bit like stock car racing or ice hockey. We had good seats opposite the finish line but with a view of the complete track. It was easy to wander about and watch the racing from the top of the rails and the banking – where you are close enough to touch the cyclists as they go by!

The racing came quick and fast with each race straight after the previous with very good commentary on the riders, the action and the event aims features and techniques. Without these explanations a newcomer would struggle to understand what was going on. Sunday was not the main race day but we still saw Madison, Kieron, sprinting and other races. It was nice to see Hoy and Pemberton racing for the Brits!

I was still surprised that Cycling Weekly gave the event so little coverage. I was expecting the whole weekends racing and timetable to be laid out, but no such luck.

On the drive home I kept thinking that we need more of these facilities. A local Velodrome would give a big boost to winter cycling and training and give youngsters somewhere safe and supervised to start the sport given the traffic pressure on road racing and time trialling. Petersfield area would be a

good location being well supported by the major trunk routes to London and the Midlands but not on top of the proposed London Olympic track - anyone spare an odd £10 or £20 million?

National 10 Championship 2009

The Club has been asked if it would like to tender for the National 10 mile Championship in the 2009 season. Chairman Paul Charman and Secretary Jim Parker would like to hear your comments. Is there anyone out there who would like to volunteer as Event Secretary?

Time Keepers

We are still on the lookout for additional help at the evening club races with full training provided. Anyone interested in having a go please contact Jim Brown.

Newsletter Copy

If anyone would like to try their hand at writing a short piece for the Newsletter on any cycling related topics, please let me know. I am short of items for this issue.

Duo Normand

Don't forget that this event takes place in September and the Club are hoping to be able to send a party to ride in the various events. Please contact Jim Parker 01252 722861

Holidays

Fancy a holiday or training on the Cote d'Azur? Jim Parker and his wife have a studio flat for rent in Menton. Pictures can be viewed www.ownersdirect.co.uk go to the Cote d'Azur section and then reference FR2257. The area is between

Monaco and Italy. This is tough cycling country being close to Lance Armstrong's old Tour de France training test, the Col de la Madone which is some eight (uphill) kilometres from Menton. There is parking for one car and is close to Nice airport. Please contact Jim Parker 01252 722861 for more information.

Did you know that a certain tandemist was seen in the Bull on a Monday lunchtime with several glasses of beer and then failed to attend for the 20!

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