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Issue 1: January 2013

Well, you haven't seen one of these for a while! Welcome to the New Year 2013 CC Bexley Newsletter. At the AGM the other week I was the lucky man to have volunteered and been elected to the post of Magazine Editor. I will see if I can make this publication informative, relevant and entertaining.

Having been entrusted with a list of members I can see that we have 77 members, mainly resident around the North Kent area, although we have a few north of the Thames, as far up as Leeds, and one, across the Channel in France. I have always marvelled at the duplication of first names in our club, particularly among those that frequent the club house on a Wednesday evening, so a quick count also revealed 5 Johns, 5 Peters, 4 Pauls and three each of Michael, Fred, Richard and Ian.

CLUB ROOM

Talking about the club house, we all still meet in the winter, the room is nice and warm even when the air outside is bracing. The lobby as you enter the club smells a bit funny, but I think that is down to the Cricket Club's mowers, whose fuel would probably fail an English Cricket Board dope test. Some of us bring out the rollers for a bit of indoor sprint practice. There are two sets linked to a large clock, so you can directly race the person on the other set. Mick Morris and Ken Gardner kindly loan their track bikes to the club for the roller season, so all you really need to bring is your kit, shoes, and maybe pedals and a

spanner if you don't use the large triangular cleats.

TEA ROOM

On a Sunday morning members meet in the Pond Café at around 10:00, situated right beside the village pond in Otford, most ride there, but other modes of transport are not frowned upon.

On a Wednesday morning there is also a gathering at the Jungle Café on the old A20 close to the West Malling Golf Club, again, bikes are optional.

SUNDAY CLUB RUNS

On most Sundays there is an organised club run, we meet in Farningham village by the bridge over the river Darent, ready for a 09:30 departure. The rides are generally led by Mick Morris and Gary Dunn; Gary is now a fully qualified BC coach, so you are guaranteed some quality guidance on training, technique and other riding skills whilst rolling along on these sociable rides. The average speed is generally around 14mph, up to 50 miles in the summer and around 30 in the cooler months. Many of the recent rides have finished at my house for tea and biscuits. Summer runs tend to take in a café along the way. A peloton of riders resplendent in CCB kit is a beautiful sight to behold, and a joy to be a part of.

One ride in September the club rode out to Aylesford Priory. Just before reaching the Medway Bridge Mick had a problem with a chain link springing open. Mick is pictured below receiving encouragement from myself and Andy Elford.



A quick roadside repair and we were on our way again. But that wasn't to be our only mechanical of the day, as we arrived at the Priory Andy picked up a 2 inch nail in his back tyre.



This time Mick and I offered moral support whilst Andy got his hands dirty.

NEW YEARS DAY CLUB RUN

This is the CC Bexley's biggest club run of the year. On 1st January we all met in Kemsing for a ride led by Roy Canning. There were solos, trikes, a tandem and even a tandem trike. The ride passed through Seal, Plaxtol, and Trottscliffe before returning to Kemsing along the Pilgrims Way.

Riding on New Year's Day is such a joy, made even better this year by the dry mild weather conditions, milky sunshine and empty roads. Everyone you pass is happy, offering a cheery "Good morning", and I swear that even cars approaching the group from behind are more patient and happy to wait for a safe place to pass.

At the end of the 25 mile ride we all piled in to the Bell Public House, where more members, who had chosen not to ride, joined us for dinner and a beer or two.

RELIABILITY TRIALS

This is the time of year for Reliability Trials. **West Kent RC** ran their event from the Horton Kirby Cricket Club on a mild but very foggy Sunday morning. The organisers reported an entry of nearly 200 riders. The following weekend, 13th January was our clubs event,

again starting from the club room at HRCC. Unfortunately the weather forecasters had been warning of snow and ice, the resulting entry was down to 60 enthusiastic riders. In the end the event was dry and bright, and not nearly as cold as had been forecast.

FORTH COMING EVENTS

CLUB ROLLER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Venue: Horton Kirby Cricket Club
Date: 23rd January 2013
Time: 20:00
500 metre knock-out races.
Defending champion: Mick Morris

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Venue: The Woodlands Suite, Swanley, Kent
Date: Saturday 16th February 2013
Time: 6pm for 7pm
Dress to impress.
Tickets to the dinner can be ordered from Debbie Boxall

EVENING 10 TIME TRIAL SERIES 2013

...and before you know it, it's spring again!
First Round: Wednesday 17th April 2013
Meet in the club room after the race for a drink and a debriefing - and perhaps some further coaching.

Pictured below are Tom Wakefield and his stoker, John Hastings, on New Year's Day riding along Pilgrims Way.

