

Happy Xmas from Mudflap

Not much to report this month there being no racing to cover. Space, therefore to wish a happy Xmas to all our members!

The AGM

This took place on 19th November at St Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club. The main discussion on the night was the new fees structure proposed by John Clark. This was agreed with minor revisions (see separate item).

Most of the club's officers had been persuaded to continue in post and were unopposed. Three members agreed to join the committee: Brian Evans (who will take on the role of membership secretary), Jane Pike and Jason Thorpe.

We agreed to drop the role of club coach since we did not have one and were unclear what one should do if we did have one.

2010 CTT Handbooks

These contain details of next year's events, regulations and much other information for the time trialist.

To order a copy, price £7, please contact the Club Treasurer John Clark (treasurer@herts-wheelers.org or see website for telephone number).

Orders should be in by 31st December please and handbooks should be delivered during January.

Please make cheques payable to "Hertfordshire Wheelers".

Subscriptions

The Club agreed a revised fees structure at the AGM. This simplifies the previous structure whilst retaining concessions for young and old. A new introduction is family membership which it is hoped will encourage members to introduce their children and partners to club cycling. (Note that the committee had earlier agreed that riders under 18 would be welcome on club runs but only if accompanied by a responsible adult.)

The new fees are:

Senior membership (over 18) including 2nd claim	£20.00
Family membership (Two partners plus all their children who are under 18)	£30.00
Age concession (18 to 21 or over 60)	£12.50
Full-time student membership (22 to 59)	£12.50

John pointed out that it is always open to any member entitled to the £12.50 rate to pay the full Senior rate of £20.00 as a donation to the Club!

Membership fees are due on 1st January 2010. Please send to John Clark (see the website for address).

New member

Welcome to Simon Edwards of Watford who has already joined us on a couple of club runs (and who should have been welcomed last month!)

Pedal for Xmas

Copenhagen, the host city for the climate-change summit, has done its best to provide a carbon-neutral Xmas tree. The tree in, City Hall Square, is equipped with 15 bicycles which, when pedalled, light up the 700 LED bulbs.

I am thinking of rigging up my Schmidt generator to work our tree so as to give us all some exercise after Xmas lunch. The main problem is how to make the front wheel go round. Rollers maybe?



*Keeping the lights on in Copenhagen
(Photo Denmark tourism bureau)*

Clubroom Xmas Closure

Please note that St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club will be closed in December on Thursday 24th (Christmas Eve) and Thursday 31st (New Years Eve).

Festive Rides

November surely threw so much bad weather at our club runs that the Xmas season is certain to be positively balmy. No excuse then for avoiding the Wheelers' festive rides. There are four rides this year to help you keep in trim. See the schedule below.

Club Runs

Sunday 15th Nov

Graham K, Peter W, Chris S, Angela and Tim D, Jane P, Alex P, John F, Sarah W

After previous Sunday's mix of falls, punctures and mechanical failures a quiet, peaceful and trouble-free ride was called for - and that is what we got. Nine riders met at Much Hadham and took a meandering route to Clavering Lakes (a new venue to most of us). The weather, which had been poor all week, relented and bright sunshine was enjoyed. Angela, hardier than the rest, even enjoyed an al fresco lunch. A shorter ride back completed a 42 mile journey. PW/GK

Sunday 22nd Nov

Jason T, Peter W, Valdis B, Cathy P, Tim D, Chris S, Alex P, Steve M, Graham K, Barry P, John F

The ride left Puckeridge in the sunshine but encountered wet roads through Great Munden and Wood End to Ardeley, where we had our first puncture of the day (Peter) and where Valdis managed to fall off in mysterious circumstances cutting his knee in the process. All patched up, the group continued through Cromer to Halls Green for puncture number two (Steve). The onward route was via Weston, Clothall, down Bird Hill (for a change), Baldock, Bygrave (where the rain started to set in), Ashwell (now raining heavily) to Hinxworth village. The last mile to Farrowby Farm was a trying experience straight into horizontal rain and a very strong wind. The farm shop provided welcome shelter and as usual some good food was served up. Barry also took the opportunity to mend puncture number three.

The mainly dry return leg was back through Hinxworth village to Ashwell where Graham had puncture number four and decided to go home via a more direct route, joined by Steve. The rest

continued through Slip End, Sandon, Green End, Buntingford (just before which Valdis had puncture number five), Aspenden on to Westmill where Cathy managed to get her shoe lace caught around her pedal spindle and had to be gallantly rescued by Peter. The remaining journey through Nasty, Great Munden back to Puckeridge fortunately proved uneventful. 47 miles. JF

Sunday 29th Nov

Peter W, Graham K, Alex P, Jane P, John F

Due to the inability of the Club President to fulfil his contractual duties a second rate conscript (Peter's words) was brought in at short notice to lead (or follow) the masses. As the weather was at its most inclement Peter was surprised to find four other riders at the start. However appearances can be deceptive and all enjoyed a good 18-mile ride to Wandon End, via Potters Heath and Whitwell. The 25-mile return route was through Aston to Bennington where Alex turned for home. At this point the weather began to deteriorate and the heavens finally opened to make swimwear seem more appropriate than cycle-wear. John turned for home in Dane End

with the remainder splashing on to Hertford via the Sacombe Road.

PW

Sunday 6th Dec

Cathy P, Graham K, Peter W, John F, Danny M, Alex P, Brian E (sort of)

The day dawned with steady rain and the wind in a hurry. Many potential club riders presumably woke up, looked out of the window and went back to sleep. Those who persisted were rewarded by being thoroughly drenched on the way to the start. These included Brian sporting, it must be admitted, inadequate rain-gear. Heroically he completed 200 yards of the club run before deciding he would prefer to swim with his children rather than with his fellow cyclists. In fact the weather soon brightened and good spells of sunshine and a following wind made for an enjoyable outward leg. There was still plenty of water around and the five riders forded many previously unknown rivers and lakes on the way to Saffron Walden. Here Graham immediately set off for home whilst Alex arrived (he had missed the start). A tiring return journey was made more difficult by a very strong headwind. Graham made the mistake of taking a route round

Club Run Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Dist.</i>	<i>Pace</i>	<i>Lead</i>
December						
13 th	09.30	Ware	Xmas Lunch Appetiser lanes ride	20m	Easy	BC
20 th	10.00	Ware	The Chequers PH, Anstey	40m	Easy	JP
26 th	10.00	Ware	Lanes - Tea Stop or Pub	30m	Med.	BP
27 th	09.30	Hodd.	Emily's Café	40m	Var.	PW
January						
1 st	10.30	Ware	Lanes - Tea Stop or Pub	30m	Med.	BP
3 rd	09.30	Ware	Cafe Moreno, Royston	45m	Var.	PW

Leaders: Bruno Cartwright (BC), Andy Crawley (AC), Tim & Angela Dobson (TD, AD), John Farnham (JF), Paul Fennell (PF), Barry Page (BP), John Pearson (JP), Alex Powell (AP), Peter Walton (PW), Sarah Wren (SW).

Start Locations:

Hoddesdon: Clock Tower

Ware: Broadmeads car park near level crossing

Note that details are occasionally subject to change. See the website for the most up-to-date information.

the back of Much Hadham that required him to ride 300 yards though six inches of water. At least it was flowing the way he was going which was more than could be said of the wind. PW/GK

Club Run Points

Points up to end November:

Peter W	10
John F, Graham K	8
Jason T, Jane P, Alex P, Chris S	6
Sarah W, Tim D	4
Bob B, Danny M, Angela D, Valdis B,	
Steve M, Cathy P	2
Steve Whipp	1

Name the Village

John P rose to the challenge and was the sole member to correctly identify Colney Heath last month. He thus takes the lead in the 2010 competition.

This month's photo shows a pub conveniently provided with a lock-up situated so that 18th century binge-drinkers could be summarily despatched without sullyng the walls of the local police station. Where is it? (I have been mean and obscured the pub name.)



Club Contacts

President: John Pearson

Treasurer: John Clark

treasurer@herts-wheelers.org.uk

General Secretary: Steve Watson

secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk

website: www.herts-wheelers.org.uk

Racing Secretary: Pat Player

racing@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Brian Evans

membership@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Clubruns Organiser: John Farnham

clubruns@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Mudflap Editor: Graham Knight

mudflap@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Tel. 01992 626619

Clubroom:

Every Thursday, normally from 9pm,
St Margaretsbury Sports & Social
Club, Stanstead Abbots, Herts.

Email: secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk