



Nomads News

www.hitchin-nomads.net The news letter of the Hitchin Nomads Cycling Club

The racing season has started, and we have some results. It's been a cold March, but let's hope the better weather will soon be here.
Scott.

NM&HCA Cycling Association.

This association, to which we affiliated, is looking for a Time Trial Secretary. The work is not arduous, requiring you to attend a meeting once every two months, for an hour to an hour and a half. It involves arranging a rota so that all member clubs take turns arranging a TT once every three years or so, and clubs marshalling an event every year. The 2006 rota is already done. Anyone interested let me know, and I'll give you more details.

Also a quick survey for NM&HCA

- Of the various courses available which ones do you prefer to ride?
- Do you prefer out and back or circuit courses.
- Do you prefer Sunday morning or Saturday afternoon (if permitted) events?
- Due to the increased signage required, even for club events, have you considered running your own club events within Association events?

Comments to me by the end of the week please (Sunday at the latest).
Scott.

World Cup or Revolution??

We've been up to the Manchester Velodrome twice in recent months. Firstly to the three days of the World Cup in December and then to Revolution 12 in February.

So which was best?? Well to be honest, both in their own way.

The World Cup saw three full days of superlative racing from all of the GB Team and other top internationals from around the world. The noise

when the pursuit team, the team sprinters and our own local Vicki Pendleton took to the track was deafening. And when they won – well... But the crowd were equally complementary to the victors when our guys were beaten fair and square. It was great to stand and hear not just our own but all of the Nation Anthems being played for the victors. I was, though, a little disappointed that they didn't raise the national flags. The team sprint – we had the GB team starting two yards from where we were sat. The raw power of these guys is awesome!! Vicki Pendleton also started her 500m TT just two yards from where we were sat – elegant, but still awesome power. Jill had never been to a track meet before and to be honest she only went for the lycra and even packed a good read to pass the time. Her first reaction when we entered the track was one of being gob-smacked. I think it was the steepness of the banking, how close we were to the riders and the atmosphere of anticipation that did it. She was totally taken aback by the rumble and rush of wind as the riders passed our front row seats. In fact, I got a bit fed up of all the chat about it after a few days!!!

The Revolution could have been a total disaster with all of the senior GB Team being in Australia for the Commonwealth Games. My first thoughts on seeing the programme was one of disbelief that I'd paid a full tenner to see a few pros, the youths, boys and girls ride. But the programme was full-on action from the international pros that they could muster interjected with superb action from the junior GB Team. The youth sprint team gave their German counterparts a fair old beating – 40mph in the sprint makes for good racing. The girls provided all of the spills of the evening with some quite nasty accidents – but give them all credit for getting up off the track and continuing with the racing. The "boys", well if those power houses are boys!! What talent in depth we have!! Great experience for the young-uns to be able to mix in the track centre with International pros - a great way to get them used to international track racing. The best events of the evening – the first and last events on the programme by far. First event was a Madison devil take the hind-most, took a little bit of head scratching to start with but we soon got to grips with what was going on. And then the final conventional Madison was as hectic

as I've ever seen. Not quite the same elegance, power and speed as the World Cup but an equally good evening. On this occasion Jill didn't even pack a good read – is she smitten, I should say so!!

Dave Wentworth.

Highway code - proposed changes

The CTC is running a campaign regarding the proposed changes to the Highway Code. It's being proposed that cyclists should use cycle ways where these are available. The concern is that insurance companies will use this proposed change to either get out of paying a claim altogether or paying at a much reduced rate if you are involved in an accident on the road if there is a cycle way near by. I live in Milton Keynes which has mile upon mile of cycle tracks - OK for riding to work on, but for us serious cyclists they are a dangerous nightmare. The CTC has had over 5000 hits on their "contact your MP" for this campaign already - they have even had a response from a parliamentary assistant who is getting bogged down with all the emails!! Personally, I want to protect our right to ride where we want to. If you have similar views can I ask you to visit the CTC website and complete their campaign letter on this subject?? It doesn't matter if you are a CTC member or not.

Thanks.

Dave Wentworth.

Interclub 10

An excellent place to start your season. More than half of it is downhill, it'll be sunny and warm by then (Sunday 9th April), probably. A good start to the Interclub competition could see us walking off with the trophy at the end of the year. Let Steve Robinson know that you want to ride steve.robinson@msd.co.uk and let him know now.

Race Reports

Road Racing.

James Cornell is the first Nomad this season, to my knowledge, to take part in a road race. This was a circuit race at Thruxton, Hampshire. Though not in the points, I believe he had a thoroughly good time, and will be partaking of more massed start races. Lets have some more Nomads taking part to help him out.

Time Trials.

North Road Hardriders.

Three Nomads took part in the Hardriders, on 26th Feb. The morning of the event saw some snow flurries and generally cold conditions, but a marked drop in the wind from the previous day. The winner of the event was Michael Hutchinson in 0:59:14, which earned him £350 for his efforts. As good a reason as any for some hard training.

Nomads times were-

Tony Anderson	1:13:55
Scott Edwards	1:18:26
David Ledgerton	1:18:49

Well done all.

25 Mile Medium Gear TT

Last Sunday saw a crowd of people at the start, some to cheer on the racers, and to join the club run, and some to battle the Northerly breeze on their 72 inch gear. Nine riders took part, and congratulations go to new Nomad, Kevin Holt, for taking the honours.

Full results-

Kevin Holt	1:10:30
Tony Anderson	1:11:35
Andy Saunders	1:13:11
James Cornell	1:15:22
Scott Edwards	1:20:19
Clive Collins	1:21:29
Jamie Tomlin	1:23:36

Andy Herbert	1:12:30
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Not on 72" gear	
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Mike Webb	DNF
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Well done to all who took part on what was not an easy morning. Special thanks to David Ledgerton for Time Keeping, and to Richard Bland for Pushing Off.

Start of Summertime.

Several Nomads are down to ride various distances of the Stevenage Start of Summertime rides. The Start is at Fairlands Valley, Stevenage. Remember the clocks go forward on Sunday morning.