



Nomads News

www.hitchin-nomads.net

The news letter of the Hitchin Nomads Cycling Club

Editorial

Hello, Clive chatting

I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year for 2007

My aim is to coordinate the Nomads News with the monthly calendar so that in the third week of the month all the news that is generated over the past four weeks is published. Hopefully I would like to publish the Nomads News on a fortnightly basis through the summer months.

I think every editor through the 25 years that I have belonged to the club has asked the membership for articles to put in the Nomads News and I am no different, so please feel free to send any articles that you think may interest the membership.

My thanks go to Scott for his good work and sparkling wit as the retiring editor, which I will find hard to match. But also the standards set by the likes of Richard Bland, Paul Stanbridge and Simon Doyle.

I plan to have a deadline for copy of the 22nd of the month.

My hope is that I will not bore for Britain!

Clive

Subscriptions

Your subs for 2007

are due this month.

£15 per member £20 for families

Please send your remittance to the treasurer Nigel Tooke

Subscriptions

**Please send your remittance to: -
Nigel Tooke**

**Payments can also be made direct to the
HSBC bank account
Sort code 40 -28-14 A/C no 20615021**

**If you are paying by this method the payee
should e-mail the treasurer to confirm that
they've made payment this way.**

Annual general meeting

The chairman Julian Siedlecki made a point of congratulating the club on the fine effort of making our 75th year such a success. He named three members for their contribution to the events, Frank Turner for arranging the family ride, Richard Bland as the event secretary for the national 100-mile time trial and Nick Senechal for organising the road race in September. It was the view of the meeting that the club would have another family ride and also organise another road race.

Our thanks go to Scott Edwards for his stewardship of the general secretary's position from which he resigned at this meeting.

There was a very positive feel to the meeting, we welcome as our new general secretary Richard Bland, and Jamie Tomlin who has offered his services as our auditor also David Ledgerton who is combining the positions of time trial secretary and records officer.

Frank Turner has stated that he feels that he will make 2007 his final year as social and touring secretary with the view that someone else could take on the role with fresh ideas.

From a personal point of view I feel that Frank is always open to new ideas and it shows within the club.

Clive

2007 Committee

President Paul Stanbridge

Vice Presidents Irene Stacey

Barbara Stanbridge, Dave Renny

John Houghton, Geoff Perry,

Richard Bland

Chairman Julian Siedlecki

General Secretary Richard Bland

Treasurer Nigel Tooke

Club Captain Steve Robinson

Time Trial Secretary David Ledgerton

Road Race Secretary Nick Senechal

Social & Touring Secretary Frank Turner

Records Officer David Ledgerton

Auditor Jamie Tomlin

Editor Clive Collins

Awards organiser Frank Turner

Pre-Christmas Lunch

This was a nice gentle ride via Vanstone Park garden centre in bright sunny weather to rendezvous at the Three Horse Shoes in Willian where the ebb and flow of wine and conversation around the table made for a convivial atmosphere. The afternoon finished with everyone wishing each other a very happy Christmas.

Our thanks go to Frank Turner for organising this get together.

Boxing Day 10

Once again this year we have what is becoming the biggest social cycling event in the area with the meeting of the old sprockets and chains with the glitterati of modern bikes

in the Boxing Day 10, with the chance to meet up with old friends and to make new ones.

The weather was cool and cloudy but dry with a light breeze.

David Ledgerton while starting the riders had a request from a local resident to ride the event, I understand that he signed on as Farmer Giles.



Farm work must keep you fit as he returned from the ride with a time of 45 and a bit minutes but on investigation it was revealed that the rider was in fact our road race secretary Nick Senechal.

For the first time for many years we had someone run the course but in running kit as opposed to the last time it was run when the runner dressed up as Father Christmas.

Paul Kelley ran the course in 1 hour 15 minutes, which is a very good time; a lot of cyclists would take a week to run that distance.

The Alan Porter trophy, which each year is awarded to someone by nomination, was this year awarded to Brian Thomson, as he was the Nomad who started the tradition of the Boxing Day 10 in 1968.

Our thanks to the timekeepers who were Richard Bland and David Ledgerton who set the field for 50 odd riders in no time flat.

Our thanks also to the catering team who were Ann Bland, Jessica Reddy, Sue Kelley, Stacey Kelley and Julie Hemming, who laid on a feast fit for royalty which was enjoyed by all and not forgetting the club members who made a contribution to the feast.

Our thanks go to Frank Turner for organising the event.

All the results for Hitchin Nomads riders who rode the event will be in the next issue of Nomads news.

Captains Corner

2007 Season

Well it's that time of the year to start checking your training diaries and getting the miles in ready to defend the Interclub trophy and generally putting down markers for a successful season. But beware the handicapper has his eye on you.

I know that the time trial secretary David Ledgerton would like to see a good club representation for the season long millennium trophy series. The first three events are the North Road Hardriders, Icknield RC 27km and Welwyn hilly. David suggests that this is a series we could win a team prize in if we can get a few committed riders together. So how about it? Drop myself or David a line for more information!

Keep your eyes on the website for a list of time trial courses with descriptions to help you decide what to enter during the season.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and the best of luck for 2007, let's make it a year of PB's for us all

Steve

I think I may lay myself open to abuse by riding the Welwyn hilly, but its only fair because I have abused our riders at the top of Offley hill for years.

Clive

This tale is from 1933

Holiday memoirs from one of our founder members and Vice President Irene Stacey

I read about the achievements of today's riders and I am impressed.

However, what about our very early days?

My first solo bike was a Saxon-Purple, a fixed gear, one brake, and cost me 17 guineas (£17.85 today). I was on peace work at the time and earning £2.50 a week, a couple of years later I had health problems and my

wages dropped to 15/- shillings a week (75pence today).

My first cycling holiday was one week unpaid. The arrangement was that after I finished work on Friday, my brother and I got to grips with loading the camping gear on our bikes ready for an early start next morning. The girls in our group had already sent a bell tent, that they had borrowed from the Scouts, on by train to the campsite at Newport on the Isle of Wight; the cost of carriage was 3/6d (17.5 pence today).

Saturday 6am we all meet at the Tank Butts Close, (this was a real army tank from the 1st world war which was recycled as scrap in 2nd world war) there were twenty of us setting forth for Portsmouth to catch the ferry. With much clanking from enamel mugs and the odd primus stove we were off, no cars or lorries in sight, no motorways, but many leafy lanes. After several sandwich stops and with 110 miles in our legs we finally arrived in Portsmouth at about 8pm, we had a mighty struggle getting our overloaded bikes up the narrow gangplank.

We disembarked at Ryde, then we were off to a farmers field at Wooton Creek where we managed to pitch our camp by 10pm. It turned out to be one of my very best holidays, we had lovely sunshine and were surrounded by good friends.

In middle age I was tempted to the Isle of Wight again, but the cycling was more genteel this time. We took three days youth hostelling to get there, then we had three days at each youth hostel on the island and then two days to return home. I did this trip with my son and daughter on her tandem and I was on my solo bike. My son Greg was stoker on the tandem and he did a first class job when it came to finding places to stop for comfort and food. We decided that the route on the way home would be via Hayling Island. When we got to the ferry we found that it was a rowing boat and when the ferry man saw our tandem he was horrified at the fact that he would have to man-handle our tandem onto his boat, but nevertheless he managed to get us all on board and got us over to Haying Island without mishap.

Irene

Leisure Cycling Forum

I had an idea back in October to give advice to cyclists who were not club members. The theory is to make use of the clubroom that is available to the club on the third Wednesday of the month; currently nobody uses the room because a lot of the communication is via the computer in the form of emails or notes on the forum.

I put the proposal to the club committee in November to which they approved. I put the advertisements in the local bike shops on the 11th December, at this point in time I have had no response to the adverts. Nick Senechal will be writing a piece for the local paper in the New Year.

Tales from another place

On a Tuesday I ride down to Hertford to ride with a group from Hertford. Most of the group are older than me and some only come out in their cars because they cannot manage to ride very far.

So, the last Tuesday in November our secretary Kathy addressed us before the start of the ride, while we were sat having a cup of tea, saying that she had some sad news that George had died but that he had had a good innings because he was 94 when he died. After a moment or two one of the old boys said with a bit of triumph in his voice, "that made him senior member," then he thought for a moment then he said, "no I am not because so and so (can't remember the name he said) is 90 but I am still second in line!"

I am sitting there wondering when does the competitive edge die, here is this old boy with one foot in the grave competing to be the oldest in the club

Clive

Dates for your diary

The club run for the 31st December 06 is a repeat of the club run from 31st December 1931 when the club rode to The Jolly Waggoner at Ardley. The run will start from Hitchin Town Square at 09.30 to end up at the pub around mid-day.

Club Runs for January

7th Reed
14th Toddington Garden Centre
21st Welwyn Sports Centre
28th Wimpole Hall

February

**4th Prize giving lunch at the Sun Hotel
Hitchin**

Media Jottings

Drunk cyclist lied about mugging

Berlin

A German cyclist lied to police about being mugged because he was afraid to tell his wife the truth that he had ridden into a lamppost while drunk.

"He said he beat off two of them, and that the rest fled through bushes," said a police spokesman. Suspicions were aroused when a wire fence was found behind the bushes.