

## **HCRC AGM - SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**7TH JANUARY, 2010**

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their continued support, their input, but most of all for their time. Also to the members who have represented the club at meetings of affiliated organisations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Joules Reed for his hard work in organising and distributing our new kit. Also thanks to John Gabriel for working with British Cycling in getting the Go-Ride scheme up and running. And not forgetting those members who have taken on the task to become coaches and other positions.

Each year, unfortunately, we lose a number of members, and over the past three years this figure has been around 30 for each year. I'm pleased to inform the meeting that this year we have a record of 150 members; this includes our two honorary sponsors. We've attracted an amazing 34 new members, no less than 19 since September. More importantly we have had an increase, albeit small, of female and young members.

It has been another successful year for members competing in open events, especially time-trialling. Many pbs have been achieved on our course and in open events, and the club has been well represented in National events. James Worley and Harry Whitford have both done well in circuit and road racing.

This year's GMC Weekend was successfully promoted by Paul Sidwell. The weather was much kinder this year not only for the riders but also for the excellent turnout of marshals. To put the cream on the cake Kelvin Southan was the weekend's overall winner with Joe Murray runner-up, and along with Mick Wills they won the team prize. A cheque for £560, which included a donation of £60 from Suzie and Rob Jefford, was presented to David Wryko on behalf of the Hope Foundation.

Last year we celebrated the success of our National VTTA 25 champion when he defended his title. This year he's excelled himself, not only has he won the title for the third time, he's also added the National VTTA 10 championship to his list of titles. Joe Murray has been a fine ambassador for the club.

As always we have to thank the faithful few who turn up each week for our Tuesday 10s to be run successfully. Thanks go to Trevor and Roger for the time-keeping, special thanks to Kay, for signing-on and recording, and to Linda and Norman for the supply of teas and cakes. Also thanks to those who assisted when required, namely Eleanor Mather, Morgan Reynolds, Paul Sidwell, and John Gabriel. Thanks also to Tim Ellershaw for looking after the stats on the website and for his duties as press secretary.

The weather was a little kinder this year, there not being so many wet evenings, though riders had to put up with strong winds for most of the season. One evening had to be cancelled because of rain, but despite this we've had a record number of 1,084 rides over

the 23 weeks, which averages out at 47 rides per night. This will take some beating next year.

As usual the five star was again keenly contested with the first three inside 22 minutes, taking the honours was Kelvin Southan, closely followed by Joules Reed and Joe Murray. It's worth pointing out that the next three were under 23 minutes, this included Harry Whitford.

The penultimate event proved the necessity of having rear lights on bikes throughout the year, if not to have both sets.

Last year our championship 25 was cancelled because of unfinished roadworks, this year is was because of standing water on the roads, it having rained heavily through the night, and was still raining when riders gathered to race. Fortunately the event was re-organised but attracted a mere 25 riders, two of which rode a tandem and two were guests. Riding a 25 for the first time 12-year-old Harry Stirk had a creditable time of 1.24.09. In second place by just one second was Joe Murray, the winner in 56.46 was Kelvin Southan. Many thanks to those members who turned up to help out and made the event run smoothly. It's a great shame that this event doesn't attract the same number of riders as of a Tuesday evening.

For a second year we had a stall at the Hinckley Carnival and when Roger and I arrived at the field to set up the stall we had to contend with a very strong and cold wind which resulted in having to fix extra guy ropes to the gazebo in order to stop it blowing away. Kelvin was good enough to come along and demonstrate riding a turbo which, naturally, attracted more attention than our stall, he kept this up for about a couple of hours. Paul Sidwell held the fort while Roger and I left to get something to eat. Barry Hodgkinson and Norman Stacey popped along to see how we were doing. Colin and Harry Whitford helped out throughout the afternoon. For our efforts we received a cheque for £180 from the Carnival organisation.

Having been asked if the club did anything through the winter a programme was organised to see how the events might be supported. The first, a quiz night, attracted a mere 13 people, this included the two who'd set the questions. A flop, I think you'll agree. The second, about winter training, given by John Gabriel, only 16 turned up this time, which included John and his wife who had to chauffer him because he was on crutches. Once again the numbers were very disappointing. It is hoped that the other events that have been organised will be better supported.

The presentation evening is the social highlight of the club's year but, I'm sorry to say, it didn't reflect on the numbers attending. So far I haven't heard of any complaints so those that came along must have enjoyed themselves. The Meeting Centre is by far the nicest venue we've had and every effort is made to keep the ticket price as low as possible, so it leaves me baffled why more members don't attend. I feel for the prize winners who do not get the applause from their contemporaries in recognising their success as is deserved. Congratulations to all the prize winners, thanks to Trevor for presenting them, and thanks also to Paul Chilton for taking their photos.

The number turning up to ride the Boxing Day 10 was a little disappointing considering that this must have been the best day for a week or more. There was a little wind and it wasn't too cold, not cold enough to make the helpers shiver, I can vouch for that. Out of the 23 riders 9 were guests, which included one riding for the first time. The overall winner was Mike Wheeler of Lutterworth Cycles in 24.38; Kelvin was the club's fastest in 25.57. Thanks go to Kay and Trevor, for giving up their morning, and to Barry Hodgkinson and Dick Lovell for marshalling