



# THE WHEELER



WOLVERHAMPTON WHEELERS CYCLING CLUB Est 1891

SPRING 2014

NO 24 EDITOR RON ASPEY 01902 84 3394 assisted by DAVE BROOKES 01902 336393

## HELLO TO EVERYONE AND WELCOME TO THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT	ROBIN KYTE	01902 753913
CHAIRMAN	JOHN IRESON	01902 786320
VICE CHAIR	DAVE CUNNINGHAM	01952 750316
SECRETARY	PAUL WEDGE	01902 751769
TREASURER	SUE RUSTON	01902 764674
YOUTH/DEV	ALISON COOPER	01902 753682
MEMBERSHIP/BIKE EQUIPT	GORDON JONES	01902 609219
54 LYNDALE DRIVE, WEDNESFIELD, WV11 3JL		
CYCLO CROSS	ANDY JONES	01384 878107
TRACK LEAGUE	KEVIN SMITH	01902 411528
ROAD RACE	AUSTIN JONES	01922 410834
CIRCUIT RACES	JESS HOLOHAN	
JUNIOR REP	JESS ANSELL	01902 834762
TRACK SEC	CRAI G ANSELL	01902 834762
TIME TRIAL	IAN HORTON	01902 781255
TROPHY SEC	JOHN RUSTON	01902 764674
AUDAX SEC	ROB GILL	01902 745771
MOUNTAIN BIKE	CHRIS TAYLOR	
WELFARE OFFICERS.	GORDON JONES.	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:		
OLIVER KYTE . JAMES IRESON . RON ANSELL 07855 337950.		
DAVE BROOKES 01902 336393. ALAN HILLEARD 01902 345095		
JASON COLLEDGE 07990 526554		

PLEASE NOTE CLUB NIGHTS HAVE CHANGED TO FRIDAY EVENINGS STILL IN THE BAR AT ALDERSLEY 8.30 PM ONWARDS

## Adam Lewis Continental Bike Rider.....



Adam first took up competitive cycling when he was 14 years old and immediately shows signs of promise. He joined the Wheelers as his first club and soaked up the coaching like a sponge and put it all to good use. Over the next 6 years Adam went from strength to strength steadily improving and showing great tactical awareness both on the track and on the road. He has a canny knack of being able to read a race and so maximise his potential, something that some bike riders never seem to achieve with such grace. Under the expert guidance of Craig Ansell, Adam has been riding at National Level now for over 4 years and has already amassed a wealth of experience. He has ridden National track and road events and has had several successful forays abroad, having raced in Ireland, France and Belgium. These races have not just been one day events but also small tours.

Many in the know were impressed with Adam's ride in the demanding 6 stage 5 day Ras de Cymru - not an easy tour by any means....

Adam successfully defended his British Cycling Midland Junior Road Race title which was one of many victories that lead him to a 1st Category Licence - 216 points gained in 2013 against some very respectable opposition.

Adam's ambition burns deep and strong and has taken the bold decision to suspend his education at Wolverhampton University where he was studying Accounting and Finance to pursue a career as a Continental Bike Rider.

Now in the Senior ranks Adam has joined the Terra Safety Shoes Race team based in Ottenburg, Brabant, Belgium and is staying near Ghent and the centre of the cycling universe - well known to many Wheelers over the years.

Beware Adam, one Wheeler came back with a wife and a daughter!!!

Yes, over the years various Wheelers have venture to Belgium and France to further their careers, including Ian Potts, Bill Bolton, Jimmy Reynolds and Alastair Carr to mention but a few.

Adam's team has several subsidiary backers including, Look, DMT, Branson Work Wear, Lifecode and Bikes from Bottecchia..

The connoisseurs amongst you will know that The Italian Ottavio Bottecchia was twice a Tour de France Winner 1924 and 1925.

He held the yellow jersey from start to finish in 1924 and the 1925 Tour at 5,430 km was one of the longest ever and took Bottecchia 219 hours 10 minutes and 18 seconds to complete it! for comparisons sake a 'fully fuelled' Armstrong spent just 82 hours 5m 12 sec in the saddle in 2002.

Bottecchia's name lives on in the name of the frame now ridden by a lad from Wolverhampton now racing in Belgium and northern France. In fact Adam claimed a very creditable 15th in a Kermesse only last week. Note that this is not like any British 'Criterium' is was over 100km with a field over 120 strong and very fiercely fought out right from the gun. Chris Boardman was said to have been 'terrified' when he first encountered this style of racing.

Having been brought up on tight closed circuits ran off at high speed together with a good level of track craft Adam simply takes all this in his stride...

Note that this is not the first time he has been placed in Belgian races, claiming 4th in Munte & 8th in the GP Goodeeris 1-14-3 plus a 17th in the GP De Smesse last year.

Lets hope that Adam can take that Bottecchia to even greater heights as the season progresses. Remember that it was riding a Bottecchia frame that Greg Lemond stole the Tour de France by just 8 seconds from Lauren Fignon in 1989!

It is with our very best wishes that we see Adam venturing bravely into a new stage of his career.

Everyone at the Wheelers extends a heartfelt well done and the strength to go on to even greater achievements.

It will be great to see Adam down at the track during his trips back home, as a fine example of what can be achieved to all the budding youngsters - follow your dreams and who knows....

All the very best from us all, *Robin Kyte*- Club President.

## Track League

The Track League starts on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May and according to new organiser *Kevin Smith* promises to be bigger and better than ever before with entries coming from across the Midlands as well as the Wheelers.

Many of last year's competitors will be moving up for the new season including Holly Owens and George Mills taking the challenging transition from Freewheelers to Youth. New member Melisa Baker will also be racing in Youth. Meanwhile Ben Hardwick, Will Lewis and Matt Radford all move from Youth straight into Senior A which is bound to produce some very exciting racing. Another new rider, Tom Knipe, also goes straight to the A group. Overall winner Jack Escritt will want to retain his crown but he will face some stiff opposition in Senior A with athletes such as James Ireson and Jack Smith showing increasing levels of competitiveness.

Entries are now open and forms can be downloaded from our website or obtained from officials at the track on any training night.

Freewheelers can enter the League from age six upwards as long as they can ride the track safely but if you need further advice speak to the coaches on Friday evenings.



## Road Race Report

With the road race season under way Wheelers members have already been out there at the head of affairs in BC & LVRC events.

Our first road race promotion of the year was The Two Counties RR on April 6<sup>th</sup>. With rain forecast the race was actually run under overcast skies with only the odd shower on isolated parts of the circuit. A first lap scare of traffic lights appearing on the circuit was soon sorted out by experienced West Midland Commissaire Mike Jackson, who offered what we were led to believe as a "management

fee" for the two workmen to manage the traffic lights for the following two laps.

Back to the racing, early exchanges came to nothing with plenty of riders keen to get a break working. The "corrugated" and "grippy" nature of this well established circuit took its toll on many riders with the main group shrinking in size during the three laps.

On the last lap a group formed which remained together up the climb of Bromley Bank to contest the finish. Tom Leach, Gloucester City CC edged out 2013 winner Joe Atkins, Coventry RC by about a bike length. The podium was completed by Sam Deighton Halesowen A & CC.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help with the running of this race, it was a superb morning for the club with loads of positive feedback from riders, officials and supporters of the event.

The Wheelers are again supporting the Thursday evening handicap RR league (SSCCRRL) with our event on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The league runs from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> July inclusive.

Our second road race promotion comes on July 20<sup>th</sup> with the Severn Valley RR covering five laps of the Bridgnorth, Rabbit Run, Sutton Maddock circuit, 130km!!

Anyone wishing to come out and assist with the running of this event please contact me.

*Austin Jones*. Road Race Secretary.

The first Wheelers **Time Trial** of the new season takes place at Bobbington on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May. For details of how to enter and future events contact organiser *Ian Horton*.

**Club Runs** take place throughout the year and meet at Aldersley at 9.30 every Sunday. There are usually three groups: Fast, Middle and Classic. Full details including pace and distances can be found on the website or contact *Dave Brookes*. Also some car and bike events are planned for later in the season, see *Pete Hartill* or *Terry Jones* any Sunday morning for dates and destinations.

**Audax** secretary *Rob Gill* will once again be organising the club "100 in 8" which starts from Pattingham on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August. This is a popular event and is within the capabilities of most club riders who prepare properly. Contact Rob for details and also information about other Audax rides which take place throughout the year.

Finally if you are reading this newsletter and are not a member you would be more than welcome to join us! See membership secretary *Gordon Jones* for a range of membership options including the popular family membership.