



# THE WHEELER



WOLVERHAMPTON WHEELERS CYCLING CLUB Est 1891

NO 26 SPRING 2015 EDITOR DAVE BROOKES 07948 838098 david.brookes@alumni.manchester.ac.uk

Welcome to the 26th edition of the current series of the *Wheeler*. The *Wheeler* is published twice each year but in addition the club also has a comprehensive website and a very active Facebook page should you need further information.

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## The HELP Appeal Robin Kyte President

This year's chosen charity for the Wheelers is the County Air Ambulance HELP Appeal which is raising funds for emergency helicopter landing pads. The traditional Wheelers Reliability rides; **The Eccleshall 100**, **The 50 in 4** and **The Wrekin Wrun** have already taken place in February and March this year raised are over £650.00.

The rides were supported by riders from not just the Wheelers but other local clubs including, The Stourbridge C.C., Wolverhampton Racing Club, Wrekinsport CC, Halesowen A&CC, Newport CC and many more. The youngest riders were 12 years of age and the older ones... well lets just say that they left their bus passes at home for the day.

Conditions were 'variable', inevitably cold given the time of year but the '50 in 4' was particularly 'challenging' as riders had to cope with a snow blizzard on Wenlock Edge making the tricky descent from Wilderhope Youth Hostel along a steep and narrow lane even more 'Interesting'.

But all the riders arrived back safely, just with a little more 'character' than when they set out! And a feeling of satisfaction having supported such a worthy cause...

Two more events are planned later in the year to raise more funds for the HELP Appeal. Starting on August 15th our Audax Secretary Rob Gill will be entering the Paris, Brest Paris Randonneur. This is an event of extreme physical and mental endurance where riders must complete the 1200 km course within 90 hours. The club will be supporting Rob in every way possible and details of how to sponsor him will be made available nearer the event.

As if Rob wasn't doing enough in September he will be organising the final HELP Appeal event: the club **100 in 8**. The ride takes place on Sunday 6th September and starts and finishes in Pattingham. The route covers some of the best country lanes of Shropshire and South Staffordshire and is not too hilly. Riders must complete the 100 miles within eight hours which is well within the capabilities of a regular club rider. Recommended stops for refreshment will be given on the day and non-members and members of other clubs are most welcome to ride.

## Road Race Secretary Austin Jones

As the 2015 road race season gains momentum we decided to organise the **Two Counties RR** in March this year.

With pleasant spring weather prevailing the race was run over its usual 3 laps of the 'rabbit run circuit' with eventual winner Tom Swingler showing a strong last lap and soloed in, a good minute and half ahead of the main peloton. A massive thanks to everyone who came out to assist in the promotion of this event!!

Our second road race event of the 2015 season will be **The Severn Valley RR** on Sunday 12th July and with this race open to Elite, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Category riders, a strong field is expected. Anyone who would like to assist with this event please contact Austin on 01922 410834.

We will also be supporting the SSSCCRRL, 'The League' which runs every Thursday evening from early May to the end of July. Our event falls mid May and Robin Kyte is our event coordinator. Again, anyone wishing to help out contact either myself or Robin.





**National Youth Omnium Series** comes to Wolverhampton

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May Regional Omnium

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July National Omnium Final

The Wheelers are once again hosting a round of the Youth Omnium Track series. In addition we have been asked to host the National Final for the series. This is quite an honour for the club and it means we will be able to see up and coming champions racing for National honours on our home track.

For those of you who are not sure what a track omnium is all about here is a typical format for a days racing. There is usually a series of five individual events with points accumulating so there is an outright winner for the whole days racing.

The event usually starts with an individual time trial over 500m for the under twelve riders or 1km for the under sixteens. Efforts have to be judged carefully. Start too fast and you will not last the distance; too steady and riders will not have 'emptied the tank'.

This is then followed by an elimination race. For old school types that's a 'Devil take the hindmost' where the last rider across the line each lap is eliminated. Always a tough event as there never seems to be enough time to recover from the sprints to avoid an early exit.

Next there is the scratch race. This is the most straight forward of the events and involves the bunch covering a set number of laps with the win going to the first over the line.

The Points race is a variation on the scratch race where points are awarded for sprints at set laps during the race and also by gaining a lap. This is a race where the riders have to judge their efforts to make sure they can gain and then defend their points.

And then there is the Keirin, track racing Japanese style. Out comes the derny and riders in groups of five or six tuck in to its slipstream which then leads them round the track slowly building up the pace. The derny then pulls off leaving the riders to sprint it out for the line.

The omnium provides competition in different age categories all on the same day including boys and girls:

Under 16, under 14, under 12, under 10 and under 8s. There is also a separate omnium on the same day for Junior riders, though this is not part of the National Series.

And that is a track omnium, a series of thrilling races building to the crowning of an outright champion in each category.

Talk to your coaches if you would like to ride and they will advise you if you are ready for track competition this year. Remember you can always start preparation for next year if you are not ready yet.

I shall also be looking for volunteer helpers so watch out! Seriously though an event like this does require a lot of support to run so if you can spare some time to help please let me know

Thanks, good luck and a safe ride to all the competitors.

Organiser *Dave Cunningham* 07866004508

#### **Time Trials** *Ian Horton*

Unfortunately the planned opening time trials at the track had to be cancelled because of problems with availability, however it is hoped that they will go ahead later in the season. The first event will now be on Tuesday 12th May and is the 'Sporting TT' an undulating 10 mile course including a steady climb out of Bobbington. Events then take place every Tuesday throughout the season. Further detail can be found on the website and for additional advice contact Ian on 01902 781255.

#### **The Track League** *Kevin Smith and John Ireson*

The League starts on Wednesday 13th May with a new structure which will reward riders in more category's. In addition to the main league for overall winner there will also be leagues for endurance, sprinters, veterans and ladies. The two main groups will each be divided into two sub groups:

- A1 Elite
- A2 Scratch
- B1 Race
- B2 Youth only

Entry is open now and has already attracted large numbers including more than ten ladies and for the first time *Brotherton Cycles* will be supporting the league with trophies. If you wish to enter details can be found on the club website and for further advice speak to Kevin, John or any of the other coaches.

**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*.

Contributions from members for articles in future issues of this newsletter are always welcome. Please contact the *editor* with any ideas or suggestions that you may have.

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