



British Cycling Federation

South East Division

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25th July 2008 - CHAIRMANS REPORT

Since the last AGM it has been a full and eventful ten months.

We raised a number of Motions at National Council on 17th November. Unfortunately, we fell several short of our full compliment of National Delegates. From memory we were entitled to 13 (which may have had something to do with it) however one of the changes at Council was to reduce the entitlement to one Delegate/Councillor for every 250 members rather than one for every 200. That means that this year we will be entitled to eleven Delegates/Councillors; even though we have once again increased our membership numbers and now easily have the largest number of Licence Holders of any Region. If you have been to National Council I would like your support again and if you have never been we would welcome you. We have a good Dinner and a luxurious hotel at the expense of BC and they will also give you breakfast and lunch and pay your travelling expenses and in return you get to see the way that BC ruling body decides matters of major policy and to meet lots of old cycling friends from all parts of the United Kingdom.

This has been another year full of meetings. Some of these meetings take place in the early evening, which only means nipping off early but an increasing number with the Olympic Development Authority the London Development Agency and now with Kent County Council take all or the greater part of the working day.

I have attended four meetings with the Olympic Delivery Authority and four of the London Alliance. I went to three Hogg Hill Users Group meetings but only attended two as I failed to find the meeting on one occasion even though it took place at that venue.

To date I have attended every meeting of the Pedal Club and both Geoff and Vic have attended with me on two occasions when the speakers were Ian Drake (Deputy Chief Executive of British Cycling) and then Richard Arnold (the Chief Executive of the ODA).

In March there was an emergency meeting at my office, at the request of Tony Mack (who had the original idea for the Gravesend Linear Park and has worked it up through various stages over several years) who thought that Dave Cockram's involvement had prejudiced the entire concept. At that meeting were Geoff, Peter Baird and Derek Percival as well as Bill Ollis of CTT District and Chair of Kent LVRC. We spent nearly three hours trying to establish what Tony Mack was trying to achieve and how he thought that Dave had adversely affected those aims. My thanks go to Geoff Derek and Peter for agreeing to attend at such short notice.

On 29th March both Carole and I attended the Road Race Organisers Course at Outwood Surrey. I think the course was excellent and would commend it to anyone who has or is thinking of promoting a road race. It was not a stuffy lecture but full of interaction between the delegates and the speakers with Glyn and Kristin adding valuable supplemental comments based on their practical experience.



British Cycling Federation

South East Division

-2-

April started with a South East Board meeting here on 3rd and ended with a meeting of the Hogg Hill Users Group at Hainault on the 30th and the next day a meeting with Kent County Council at Gravesend with Tony Mack Peter Baird Dave Cockram and Roy Page when KCC announced that this was their preferred project for the Olympic Legacy and that the Council had put up £250,000 to work up the project. I have no doubt that this was the result of Dave Cockram's input at their previous meeting although Tony Mack appears sceptical.

On the 8th May I was invited to the oldest bicycle club in the world, the Pickwick Club. It is quite an experience with Fanfares from Uniformed trumpeters from the Household Cavalry and Chelsea Pensioners presenting the Punch. This was accompanied by much hearty singing and amusing speeches, the best from Martin Peters on his experiences with West Ham and England's World Cup winning team.

In May, a meeting with the ODA at Canary Wharf on 12th was cancelled due to a change in the plans which seemed ominous.

Now to July and I had two meetings on the same day the first with KCC on the Gravesend Activity Park. This was to give the consultant Architects (Jacobs) the opportunity to ask everyone who attended what they wanted from the Park. I then just managed to get up to Canary Wharf to attend the latter part of the meeting on the Eastway Legacy after the Olympics. Everyone who attended that meeting was pleased with the alterations proposed - which, if our fears on the lack of parking provision prove unfounded, is going to become the premier venue for all cycling disciplines in one area. It will cater for track, mountain bike (although details of this are to be confirmed) BMX. Road Racing, Time trials and probably cycle speedway. It seemed to all who attended that Richard Arnold and his team at the ODA had listened carefully to our views and had endeavoured to meet all our requirements that they were able to implement. As Richard pointed out the key advantage of this facility was that it already had management and maintenance funding from Lea Valley Park Regional Authority in place which would ensure the future for the Legacy Park in contrast to many other sports facilities.

You may not have heard that the Lease of Herne Hill has been extended for one year and the new Toilet block has been installed. We cannot progress much further until the Dulwich Estate agree to a longer Lease but there now seems to be real movement. We are hoping to resurface the track to the same standard as previously and to provide modern facilities worthy of a major sporting venue.

I learnt, with considerable frustration, that we had been misled (it seems deliberately) by Medway Council with regard to the proposal for an indoor Velodrome at the Black Lion, Gillingham. The Council had already contracted to host the World Modern Pentathlon Championships in 2010 and the site which we had been told was available for the Velodrome had been earmarked as an athletics track. I have just been appointed Secretary to the Gillingham Town Centre Forum and I have the support of a number of local Councillors and do not intend to let it rest there.



British Cycling Federation

South East Division

-3-

In case anyone hasn't heard Carole and I were also able to find time to get hitched in June and we thank all of you who sent your best wishes.

I have enjoyed this year. I think that we have built relationships and credibility for our Region over all the years that we have existed and that is now starting to yield real benefits. I would be happy to stand again as your Chair but if you feel that new blood is needed I will offer my assistance to anyone who takes over from me. Whoever it is will enjoy the support of the best group of Regional Officials in British Cycling. Nine years ago we may have seemed an unlikely team but now we have real strength in depth and a confidence and trust which I think is the envy of many other Regions.

I have skipped over our two disciplinary hearings and I feel that we may not have heard the last of one of them. In the view of the entire Board two is two too many. I would hope that lessons have been learned and passed on and that 2009 will see no further hearings.

Two things stand out when I look back at this year.

- 1.) John Barclay and Ian Whitehead's terrific results with the South East Junior Road Race Team.
- 2.) How Preston and Kim Anderson overcame personal difficulties to put on a full Season of events for the South East Road Race League. I would like to extend them the thanks of the Region as without their efforts the road race programme would not feature events in Kent

Lastly I return to my favourite theme. We are still behind Scotland, although only slightly, for membership numbers and I would urge you all to speak to your club Secretaries and remind them that they can offer free bronze membership to any new member of their club or former members of BC whose membership has lapsed for more than two years.

Thank you all for giving me this year in this chair and thank all of you for your help and support.

John Hawkrige

22-07-2008