

NOTICE TO COMPETITORS, MARSHALS & RACE OFFICIALS



INTRODUCTION

Cycle racing on public roads is permitted under the Road Traffic Act (Cycle Racing on Highways Regulations 1960 (amended 1980 & 1995)) provided that certain conditions are fulfilled, one of which is that notice is given to the Police who, as a result, are able to monitor events to ensure that safety is maintained for both the participants and other road users. Surrey Police meet regularly with Officers of the South East Region of British Cycling to ensure the best possible standards are maintained. Despite this, however, there are occasions when the riding and general behaviour of competitors gives rise to complaints, mainly addressed to the Police but also to the organisers. The purpose of this notice is to let you know of the main areas of concern and intention, in co-operation with race officials, to address these problems.

1. General Behaviour.

Whilst many sections of the community accept and endorse the activity of cycle racing, the appearance of large numbers of cyclists and their supporters and vehicles can cause inconvenience and disruption to their way of life. Please remember that you are visitors to their locality and respect their wish to go about their normal way of life with the minimum of inconvenience.

The areas of concern relate to anti-social behaviour which is unacceptable in any circumstance but which is evident at some races. These include unnecessary noise and shouting, the use of bad language, using the verges as toilets, leaving litter and, in some cases, unwarranted aggression towards people who draw attention to these matters. This antagonistic attitude by a minority of participants does little to enhance the reputation of the sport as a whole and for the Surrey area in particular.

The Police have no wish to become involved in matters where ill-mannered conduct is concerned. Where there is evidence to show that offences have been committed, however, action will be taken against individuals, which could result in a court appearance and possible disqualification from entering future events.

2. Use of Road.

The Highway Code, backed by law, determines how all road users should conduct themselves on the road. Whilst the regulations permit cycle racing, it does not excuse individuals from conforming to the Highway Code nor obeying the requirements of Road Traffic legislation.

Every consideration must be given to other road users, especially other cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders whose animals can be startled by the quiet approach of cyclists from whichever direction. Noise alone does not always scare a horse.

Extreme care must be exercised on bends with overtaking being restricted to straight lengths of road. Any attempt to gain advantage in a competitive event is not justified or sensible if the rider or other road users are placed in danger.

3. Race Discipline.

Arising from the meetings we have had it has been agreed that any individual not acting according to the spirit of the sport, either by anti-social behaviour or poor riding standards, is not welcome at these events.

Both the Police and British Cycling Officials will be monitoring events during the forthcoming seasons and any riders not conforming to the above must expect sanctions. Incidents will be investigated and identities of offenders established with a view to either disqualification from the particular race or future events. If the evidence reveals that a criminal offence may have been committed, a prosecution will be considered. The Police will be using modern technology including video recording equipment and un-marked cars to ensure that highest standards are maintained.

4. Conclusions.

A lot has been achieved with the joint co-operation of the Police, British Cycling Officials and members of local communities. It is the responsibility of those participating to ensure that both you and your sport are made welcome, rather than seen as a disruption to the peace and tranquillity to the lives of villagers whose environment provides the ideal setting for these events.