



Yeovil Cycling Club

April 1999

The Pedaller

Use it or lose it!

Merryfield airfield is a very valuable source, it provides an ideal opportunity to road race in a safe, traffic free, environment. But unless more people make use of this unique facility there is a danger we could lose it.

The cost of using the circuit has risen dramatically this year and with a slow decline in the number of riders using the course it could simply become too expensive, and once we stop using it the opportunity to start again may be gone for good.

If you haven't been out to Ilton before then why not come and have a go? As an incentive your first week will be free, and if you still don't want to commit to a whole season a new weekly fee of £2.50 has been introduced. For the regular riders the annual subscription has risen to £10.00 per rider with a 50 pence per session fee payable on the night.

The first session will be on Tuesday 20th April 1999. Racing will start at 7.00pm.

A new format will also operate this year. The fastest riders will be sent off first, with a second group following 30 seconds later. The higher category

riders will have to lap the main field to win.

There will also be another race for Mountain Bikes if sufficient riders are interested.

In order to race you will need a pass, these are being issued by Nick Armstrong on payment of the subs, you can contact Nick on 01935 851262, or by sending a cheque, payable to TVCRA, to Nick Armstrong, The Pines, Keep Street, West Camel, Yeovil, BA22 7QP.

If you are riding for the first time

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The annual membership fee is now due, at the miserly sum of £10.00, (£5 for juniors and students), it has to be great value.

Mike Loader will be pleased to take your money, (note **new address** on back page), or any of the Committee members on the Club run will gladly relieve you of the cash.

Don't forget if you haven't paid by 15th April it will cost an extra £2.00.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

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then simply turn up on the night. Merryfield Airfield is located at the Northern end of Ilton, near Ilminster. Follow the signs to the industrial estate, but pass the estate on your right, and

continue out of the village, heading north. The entrance to Merryfield is on your left.

You can drive out, there is plenty of parking space, or ride (a group meets in Yeovil at about 6.00 pm) but don't forget your lights as it will be dark when you return.

Testing Times

The evening time trials start on Thursday 15th April. Anyone is welcome to ride, but you must be a member of an RTTC affiliated club, (day membership is included in the entry price for non club members). Entry fees remain unchanged again this year – what a bargain so much suffering for so little – at 25p for YCC riders, £1 for non members.

Kevin Mahon and Derek Todd have 'volunteered' to do the timekeeping again this year (sincere thanks to them both). As there is usually someone that will do the pushing off there is no formal rota this year, but if there is no one else to do the job a *volunteer* will be sought on the day. During June, July and August traffic counters will be required too. Both are simple jobs and it should be feasible to do either task and ride.

Headquarters is the Podimore lorry park, for both the 10s and 25s. The June 4-up will be followed by a buffet and prizegiving at the Podimore Arms.

Please be there at least 15 minutes before the start to sign on.

	<i>Dist.</i>	<i>Start</i>
April		
15th ...10		19.00
22nd ...10		19.00
29th ...10 (2 up)		19.00
May		
6th10		19.00
13th ...25		19.00
20th ...10		19.30
27th ...10		19.30
June		
3rd25		19.30
10th ...10		19.30
17th ...25 (TVCRA 4 up) ...		19.30
24th ...10		19.30
July		
1st25		19.30
8th10		19.30
15th ...10 H'cap		19.00
22nd ...25		19.00
29th ...10		19.00
August		
5th10		19.00
12th ...10		19.00
19th ...10		18.45
26th ...10		18.45
September		
2nd10		18.45
9th10		18.45

Take notice

This years Annual General Meeting was held at Yeovil Sports Centre on 8th February, where the following topics were discussed:

Apologies were received from Olive Tabor and Stuart Wroot.

The minutes of the 1998 AGM were read and agreed to be a true and accurate record with just one minor amendment.

Matters Arising, the proposed trip to Valkenburg for the World Championships did not take place.

The Treasurer reported on the Accounts which were published in the January issue of *The Pedaller*. The main points of note were: the change from deficit to credit in the years income/expenditure was due to the sale of Club Clothing, the purchase cost of which had occurred in the previous year. The Road Races still continue to make a small profit, although one did make a loss, so income from these had declined during the year.

The Road Race Secretary reported we had successfully run three Road Races in 1998, it should have been four but the *LVRC Oldsters* had been cancelled due to a date clash with other events. The entries for the events continue to decline, with the trend for more riders to *enter on the line*. The increased entry fee for EOL helps to discourage this activity but a spell of bad weather

on the day could see races running with a small field and consequently making a greater loss. The BCF Western Division has no information relating to the early implementation of Road Safety Regulations, there does not appear to be any formal record of these new Rules and until such time as we are requested to take specific measures Road Races will continue to be run in compliance with the 1999 regulations, with the emphasis on rider safety.

The Records Secretary noted that despite proposed interest there had been no attempts on any of the place-to-place records this year. The declaration that the P613 course was illegal meant that the Club 10 record held by Douglas Northcott was questionable. The Committee had ruled that the record could stand, but Douglas expressed the wish that it be withdrawn.

The Runs Secretary reported that the Sunday morning events continue to be supported by a hard core of riders, and that several new riders had started to attend. There are either one or two runs depending on the number and ability of riders on the day.

The Press Secretary reported that the coverage in the local papers, namely the *Western Gazette*, was excellent. Delays and over editing being fairly rare.

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting the final total for 1998 was 1 life, 2 honorary, 2 juvenile, no junior, 3 second cat and 34 first cat

members, (42 in total), a drop of 4 on the previous year. Sixteen members did not renew the subscription whilst 12 new riders joined. Halting the decline in membership is essential, and the meeting discussed possible options to remedy the situation, notably:

1 To make more information on the Clubs activities available through local outlets, David Notley agreed to look at the current leaflet and update it for distribution.

2 Advertising in the programme for the South Somerset Sports and Leisure Festival was agreed at a cost of £30.

3 More was to be done to encourage riders to stay with the club, even if they are not active cyclists their contribution is still important.

Sponsorship is not being pursued at present. Pittards have agreed to support the Road race for 1999, and if the cost of Safety Equipment and implementing new regulations for 2000 becomes a problem then a new sponsor for the other races will be sought.

The Editor of the Newsletter reported that four issues had been produced and distributed during the year. Some copies were also given to local shops and other interested parties.

The General Secretary reported he had continued to deal with all the Club Correspondence and Minuting of the Club meetings.

The Time Trials Secretary reported on another very successful year, despite the loss of most of the 25s because of road works. An event had

been held each week. The income for the season was £225,00. The format for 1999 would remain the same with the TVCRA 4-up being part of the Yeovil Schedule. He also expressed his thanks, and that of all the riders, to Derek Todd and Kevin Mahon for undertaking the timekeeping duties for the whole season.

Motions.

The increase in membership fees to £10 – £5 for Juniors, juveniles, and students – with a £2 joining fee was approved. The increase was felt necessary to cover the additional cost of the Yeovil Sports Club membership – currently £6 per member. It is hoped to make much more use of the facilities during the coming year.

The Committee was re-elected en bloc, as no alternative candidates. (The post of Development Officer remains unfilled, if the Club is to expand its membership then filling this position would be highly desirable)

The motion by Nick Armstrong that *The Club should increase its membership* was passed. The relevant discussion having taken place during the Memberships Secretaries report.

AOB. Dave Walters expressed an interest in promoting an Open 50 for 2000, based on two circuits of the 25 course.

Mike Northcott and Dave Walters are trying to take part in the BCF Coaching course, they reported that they were still awaiting information from the BCF.

Red Ride

Unless you have avoided the cycling press for the last few months you will know that the Prutour if racing its' way around the UK in May, the 23rd to 29th to be precise. As part of the event the Red Ride is for anyone who wants to ride the stage from Medway in Kent to Portsmouth.

The Red Ride takes place on Sunday 16th May, it is not a race, but an opportunity to cover the 111 miles with some of the great professional cyclists of the past. The cost is a £10.00 registration fee, and there is no compulsory sponsorship, although anyone who wishes to can raise money for the *NCH Action for Children* charity. Entry forms are available now and groups of ten or more get one rider free. The cost includes a Pasta Party on the Saturday evening and a Red Cycling Jersey.

How about Yeovil CC making a weekend of it? A minibus up to the site on Saturday and camp overnight. Riders must be over 16, and crash hats are compulsory. If you are interested, or have already entered, ring Dave Notley.

A selection of **Club Clothing** is held in stock, currently available are Road vests long and short sleeved, Training Tops, Thermal Jackets, Shorts and Skinsuits. Bib tights and more road vest are on order.

Holidays

We are sent a selection of cycling holiday brochures each month, covering every possible destination and budget, as well as details on a variety of Sponsored rides. Recent offerings include:

Mencaps' Bike India Ride; 350km from the Himalayas to the Ganges during November 1999.

Cycling friendly Hotels and B&B in **York.**

Mountain Bike Holidays in France and Greece. Prices start at £249 for one week in France during May, up to £529 for a fortnight in Greece in August.

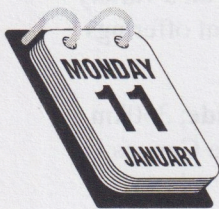
Eurocamp Sites in France, three nights in June from only £12.50 per person, including crossing.

CTC Holidays. These are far too numerous to list but full details are in the CTC Magazine. These are holidays organised by Cyclists for cyclists and cover every possible area of the UK as well as plenty of worldwide destinations. A copy of the magazine, together with the recent brochures, are available from the Club Secretary, (or Editor).

A weekend in North Wales. Is anyone interested in a few days riding the roads of North Wales? Barry can hire accommodation at a small charge, (and we are not talking fire damaged cottage!). See Barry on the Club runs, or 36 West St, Stoke.

Committee Notes

A brief resume of the last committee meetings. Topics covered elsewhere in this issue are mentioned only briefly.



Correspondence.

RTTC Handbooks have arrived. The BCF fees were paid. The West DC invited applications

for the National Hill Climb in 2000, various recommendations as to the type of hill and associated facilities were preconditions of holding the event and it was considered not suitable for the Club. Some BCF membership application forms were received and passed to Mike Loader should any new members require them. Commissaires have been appointed for the two early season road races; Roger Randle – Ham Hill, Walter Rixon – Pittards. The *Slipstream* Newsletter, and BCF Top Ten Rider Ranking also arrived.

The Treasurer reported no transactions for December, balances were £1246.31 (current acc.) and £2406.43 (interest acc.). Accounts for inclusion in the January Newsletter had been passed to the Editor.

Evening TTs, the Secretary had sent a list of the proposed events to the police, these were to be the same as 1998, with the TVCRA 4-up becoming part of the annual list.

Sunday Club runs continue with a regular attendance, the recent *fall off* was due to ice!

The RR Secretary reported preparations for the road races were in hand, the school and ambulance have been booked.

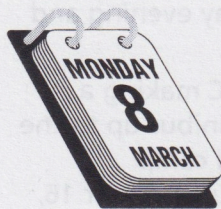
Membership, Records Sec and TVCRA. No report

Press Secretary reported the picture of the Club Buffet had appeared in the *Western Gazette*, albeit belatedly.

Newsletter Editor, reported the January issue was to be distributed immediately.

AOB. The AGM start time was set at 8.00pm. It was mentioned that Dave Pitman (Chard Wheelers), who had attended a number of the Club runs recently, had offered to help with any of our events.

AGM 1999 see report on page 3



Correspondence.

Details of a reliability ride on 21st March received, 84km across the Somerset

Levels. The BCF are to run a West Division Road Race Series, with points from nominated events throughout the season counting towards a riders total. Organisers who wish their events to be considered for the Series were invited to submit an application. All three YCC events are to be nominated. The CTC magazine arrived. A request for

support, both marshalling and riders at the RTTC Ladies Championship 50, on 4th July was received, it was noted that this was on the same day as our Open 25. Olive Tabor is the only rider that this clash affected and it was felt unlikely she would be riding a fifty. Various holiday brochures arrived, Eurocamp, MTB Holidays in France and Greece, Cycling in York. Mencap: Ride India sponsored ride brochure. Report from BCF for Commissaires drawing attention to some minor changes for 1999, including a new Report Form for races, specifically listing conduct both of riders and following vehicles. RTTC Information sheets received, these to be copied for relevant officials.

The Treasurer reported he had received £105.50 from sales of club clothing and £110.00 in membership fees.

Evening TTs No report

Sunday Club runs continue with a selection of regular members and some new riders.

The RR Secretary reported he had written to the police to see if they intending imposing any of the 2000 road regulations this year – as reported in *Cycling* – but no reply had been forthcoming. Other preparations for the races were well in hand. Lead cars and marshals to be arranged shortly. One ambulance would be in attendance at the event, with a mobile first aider covering the second race.

Membership Sec reported that 17

members were paid up so far.

Records Sec No report

TVCRA the increase in insurance costs would mean a substantial increase in subs for 1999 if the full cost is to be met by the riders. The full cost of the cover is now £696.00 plus £10.00 per session. A meeting of the Association was to be held shortly to make a final decision, if more riders can be encouraged to use the circuit then the cost burden can be spread much wider.

Newsletter Editor, reported the April issue was in hand, final copy date for inclusion of material was last week in March.

AOB. A copy of the advert to be inserted in the programme for the Sports festival was discussed and passed with some minor amendments. The Xmas Lunch was discussed, as the Masons Arms at Lower Odcombe was believed to have changed management. If this is correct the possibility of holding the Buffet at the *Sports Club*, using caterers is to be investigated. Some more club clothing is required to replenish the stock, approval for the purchase of some bibshorts and road vests was given. The Pittards trophy was with the engravers, and a small cup for the winner had been ordered. Kim Rixon was to be contacted to see if he was available to act as a motorcycle Marshal at any of the road races. The *Oldsters Road Race* is to be held on Sunday 2nd May.

CONDUCT UNBECOMING

The new Regulations on *Racing on the Highway* will come in to force next year, whilst they are designed to make it safer the implications are that it could simply kill off road racing at club level. Yet one more reason to ensure Merryfield is retained.

Prior to the introduction of these regulations the BCF is trying to set its' own house in order and one of the areas it is currently concentrating on is the convoy following road races. Strict guide lines have been issued to Commissaires that any unauthorised vehicle will lead to automatic disqualification, so don't be tempted to 'join in', it could lead to the rider you are trying to help losing his placing or even his licence.

CLUB CONTACTS

CLUB SECRETARY AND ROAD RACES

Kevin Mahon 01935 472178
21 Park Gardens, Yeovil

MEMBERSHIP

Mike Loader 01935 410790
3 Poppy Close, Yeovil, BA22 7US

RECORDS SECRETARY

Mike Northcott 01458 273576
8 Laburnum Drive, Somerton

TIME TRAILS (Evening events)

Chris Absolom 01935 477965
54 Heather Way, Brympton, Yeovil

NEWSLETTER & CLOTHING

David Notley 01963 440291
Oakley, Church Road, Sparkford.

FOR SALE

Child's Diamond Back Mountain Bike, 20" wheels, Shimano SIS 5 speed, good condition. £50.00. David Notley (see below left).

Cinelli Oyster Stem, 110mm, new. £15.00. Contact Richard Parish on 01935 471 959.

Andy Tearle, is selling all his bikes and equipment. He has three frames: Training 23", Lo-pro 23", track 22", some have components and wheels fitted. He also has a variety of spares including an 8 speed Ultegra groupset. 01935 422294

Help needed

If you aren't riding any of the forthcoming events then please find the time to help with at least one. Marshals are essential to the success of any race and it is always nice to have some volunteers. The first is the Ham Hill and Pittards races on Sunday morning, 11th April, from 10 until 12.30, contact Kevin Mahon. Followed by the Open 10 on Sunday 25th April, 8 until 10am, contact David Notley. then the last of the early season events the Oldsters, Sunday 2nd May, 10 until 12, contact Nick Armstrong