



THE

PEDALLER

Yeovil Cycling Club

April 2001

Foot and Mouth

For the first time since it began in 1963 the Pittards, and Ham Hill, road races have had to be cancelled, because of the foot and mouth epidemic.

Even before the BCF issued their guidelines there was concern that it would not be safe to hold the event on a course that passes a large number of farms. The BCF guidelines, that were in force when the Committee met in March were quite specific, that unless express permission was given by MAFF the event must be cancelled. Although the officials at MAFF could not foresee the race being a particular threat they were unlikely to give the express permission needed so the Committee felt it best to cancel, giving time for riders to find an alternative – even if they had to resort to a time trial!

Other road races

Whilst we all share the desire to see the disease eradicated and some form of normal life return to the countryside the current measures do seem a little heavy handed and in some cases counter productive. There is now the absurd



situation that riders are travelling from all over the country to the few remaining events that are running. Riders are even driving from Cornwall up to Hillingdon each week to get a ride, posing a far greater risk than containing and controlling events at local level. The John Andrews Memorial Road Race will hopefully run as the BCF have recently reviewed their guidelines, changing the emphasis to letting races run unless specifically instructed not to by MAFF. The Oldsters Road Race has been postponed, it is hoped a slot can be found later in the year.

Time Trials

The RTTC guidance has led to a lot

of time trials being cancelled too, but they do seem keen for events not to be cancelled if there is an opportunity. Luckily the U30/10 course is on a trunk road with the HQ on tarmac. The provision of a disinfectant mat and directions for the riders to *Keep off the grass*, meant the Spring 10 could proceed. (See report opposite).

Club runs

The Sunday runs have also been affected, although they are still happening each week. They have stayed off the country lanes and rural routes. This greatly reduces the options of where to go, as well as forcing them onto the main roads to compete with the Sunday morning traffic.

Merryfield and Evening 10s

The Evening time trials will go ahead as normal, starting on the 12th April at 7.00pm, and will adhere to the RTTC guidelines, which in practical terms will mean pushing your bike over a disinfectant mat before going out onto the course.

We have not had any indication from the Ministry of Defence that Ilton will not be open as normal, so as far as we know Merryfield is also set to resume on 17th April. For fees and passes see page 4.

WTTA

The Western Time Trials Association is promoting a Hard Riders Series, the next event is the Dursley RC 24 on 16th April followed by Trowbridge Hilly 24, 22nd April; Cheltenham Hilly 22, 7th May; Westbury 26, 13th May; Weston Wheelers 26, 24th June; WTTA 100, 15th July, Gloucester 30, 5th August; and the Bristol South HC 21st October. There is a Trophy for the series winner and prizes for first 7 seniors, first 3 vets in age groups, first 3 teams, first LAdy, and First Junior/Juvenile.

RTTC District Championship

To find the best team at 10, 25 and 50 miles. First claim members of West DC are eligible, the counting events are Somer Valley 10, 19th May; Severn RC 25 on 19th June and Dursley RC 50 on 3rd July.

If you intend riding any of the events why not try and get a team together.

Club Clothing

If you think you may want some new clothing this year please let me know.

Item	£
Skinsuits	48.00
Bib shorts	35.50
Skin Shorts	30.00
Thermal T/top	42.00
Training top	35.00
Road vest short sleeve	31.00
Road vest long sleeve	30.50
Arm Warmers one size fits all	9.00

D Notley, see back page for details

Spring 10

Well it seems you just cannot win, all week the weather forecasters had been predicting rain so I hired a portable hospitality unit with space for the catering inside and a nice big awning to keep everyone dry, so did it rain, no! Where was the normal Yeovil tea tent?, one of the riders even said "what a shame it is dry with such an upmarket HQ".

It may not have rained but it did manage to blow, and a strong south westerly at that, making it a hard ride out but a very fast return leg. But this did not deter the large field. Moving the event to a Saturday afternoon has increased it's popularity, from the fields of 40 or 50 we now have 90 riders entering each year.

The scratch man was Rob Lyne from CS Bristol, and true to form he produced the fastest time of the day 21.52, nearly two minutes done on his PB. Second was Graeme Lackford, 22.23, just returned from the *Tour of Malta*. The other top placings were:

3 Robert Adams, 22.25

4 Andy Winterbottom, 22.43

5 David Kiddell, 22.47

6 Matthew Law, 22.52.

The Junior prize went to Dean Ward, 26.55. Fastest woman was Mary-Jane Hutchinson, 28.35.

Amazingly there were some improvements on the day with top honours going to Russ Gray of Mendip CC who knocked 1.17 of his previous best. The Veterans on Standard prizes were closely contested with Michael Lawrence, +6.04, emerging as victor over John Williams, +4.25, and James Earnshaw, +4.23. The Team Prize went to Somerset RC, 70.04: Jon Wynn, 23.06. Dave Bentley, 23.26. Rick Johnston, 23.32.

Yeovil riders were Michael Loader, who had the dubious honour of going off first, 23.47; John Clemit, 24.02; John Fazakerley, 24.51 and David Walters, 25.09.

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped make it such a successful event: to Dave Boon for stepping in at short notice and Steve Oxbrow for timekeeping, to Stuart for pushing off all 90 riders, Martin, Mike, Terry, Rob and Chris for marshalling, to Derek for assisting the timekeeper and to Jane and Rachel for stocking and running the tea stall.

Charity Rides

Each month the Club is sent a wide selection of literature on various sponsored rides, they are usually mentioned in the Committee notes briefly. If anyone wants some more details then these will be posted on the Notice Board at the Sports Centre.

Mislaidd last months newsletter?
Don't despair here they are again.

DATE.	DIST (MILES/COURSE)	START
12-APR	10 (U30/10)	19:00
19-APR	10 (U30/10)	19:00
26-APR	10 (U30/10)	19:00
3-MAY	10 (U30/10)	19:00
10-MAY	10 (U30/10)	19:00
17-MAY	10 (U30/10)	19:00
24-MAY	25 (U30/25)	19:00
31-MAY	10 (U30/10)	19:30
7-JUN	25 (U30/25)	19:30
14-JUN	10 (U30/10)	19:30
21-JUN	21 (4UP TTT)	19:15
28-JUN	50 (U30/25 twice)	18:30
	25 (U30/25)	19:00
5-JUL	10 (U30/10)	19:30
12-JUL	25 (U30/25)	19:30
19-JUL	10 (U30/10) Club H'cap	19:30
26-JUL	25 (U30/25)	19:00
2-AUG	10 (U30/10)	19:00
9-AUG	10 (U30/10)	19:00
16-AUG	10 (U30/10)	19:00
23-AUG	10 (U30/10)	19:00
30-AUG	10 (U30/10)	18:45
21-OCT	HILL CLIMB	10:30

Merryfield Training Rides

With all the cancellations this year one of the few places left where you can guarantee some competitive riding is the Ilton Airfield Circuit. The race training sessions, run under the TVCRA banner, will resume on April 17th. If you want to use these facilities then you need to contact Chris Absolom, who is our Club co-ordinator (whilst Nick Armstrong is unavailable). A pass for the season costs £10.00 with a 50p per session fee payable on the day.

Send a cheque made payable to TVCRA or cash to Chris Absolom, 54 Heather Way, Brympton, YEOVIL BA22 8DZ.

The rides will start at 7 o'clock, completing about eight laps of the perimeter circuit, light permitting.

Pottingers Law

If you are a keen fan of *Home Truths* on Radio 4 you may have heard the explanation of *Pottingers Law*, that "given a long stretch of open road, two cars and a bike, all three will always coincide at the most inconvenient point.

Well perhaps we should add a cyclists supplement to this "that no matter how narrow the road, or dangerous the manoeuvre, neither car will ever slow down".

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

The AGM is covered on the following page.

March

Correspondence: BCF guidelines for race organisers. Details of the Taunton Rotary Club sponsored ride. Promotional literature on the Volunteers in Sport program. Request for help at the Improve events in Somerset.

Questionnaire on the potential use of a velodrome in Pontypool. Notice of the BCF SW regional meeting, KM to attend.

Treasurer, no major items of expenditure this month, £160 income from subs.

Membership currently at 22, reminder to be put in Newsletter.

Records. None.

TT Secretary (absent apol.). DN had guidelines from RTTC on holding event. Forthcoming Spring 10 to proceed provided guidelines enforced. DN to notify John Galway of precautions/changes to be taken to comply.

RR Secretary. To write to the various officials notifying cancellation, and Cycling Weekly. DN notified committee of Nick Armstrong's intention to postpone Oldsters. The cup for the winner of the Pittards road race had already been ordered.

Runs Secretary. Regretted he was unable to attend the runs at present. In light of the foot and mouth problem the runs were keeping to the main roads for the time being.

TVCRA. Nick Armstrong absent as he was attending a TVCRA meeting on the same night.

Newsletter Editor. Next issue April, in time to report on Spring 10. Membership cards for the Yeovil Sports Club to be sent out with The Pedaller.

AOB. A Yeovil CC website was discussed and a preliminary design presented. It was agreed to proceed with the idea provided the costs were kept to a minimum.

April

Correspondance. RTTC District Championship details. Request for promoter to 2002 National 50, no suitable course due to ban on A303. Improve organisers pack sent for KM. WTTA information sheet. Two sponsored rides promoted by Regain, Egypt and Snowdonia. Chippenham requested use of video camera at Castle Coombe, approved subject to £25 donation towards costs. Update on BCF guidelines to promoters changing emphasis to go ahead unless instructed otherwise, or contrary local opinion.

Treasurer. Paid for Pittards replica trophy for 2001, £11.36. Expenses relating to cancelled races £23.32.

TT Sec. Not Present. DN reported on Open 10, profit of £35.07. Purchase of two new stopwatches at £50 each approved. KM reported he would continue to do timekeeping but may need transport to event as he no longer has a car.

RR Secretary. Preparations for John Andrews proceeding, final decision to be taken next month. Risk assessment of course to be undertaken. Photocopy of Risk Assessment documents circulated. Oldster postponed, possibly run in August.

Runs Secretary, Membership no report.

TVCRA. Licence renewed. Association made a loss of £250 last year, £230 of which was the 4-up buffet. Insurance and administration fees increased for 2001 but windfall from Building Society conversion means subs remain unchanged, £15 Club affiliation, £10 individual membership plus 50p per ride. SW Division looking at using Merryfield in 2002.

Records, Newsletter no report and no other business .

The Committee meeting is held on the second Monday of each Month at the Yeovil Sports Club. The next meetings will be the 14th May, 11th June and 9th July, all at 8pm.

Annual General Meeting of the Yeovil Cycling Club held at Yeovil Sports Club on Monday 12th February 2001

1 Apologies for absence

Ivy Walker, Nick Armstrong and Olive Tabor

2 The Minutes of the AGM held at Yeovil Sports Club on 21st February 2000 were read.

3 There were no matters arising Officers reports

4 Treasurer's report Presented the Accounts for the year 2000/2001. The excess of income over expenditure for the year was £801.81 giving a balance of £4063.61. Notable items for the year were the increase in income from the race promotions rising from £334.00 to £606.58. Any expenditure on items like gas and catering are included in the road race accounts. Changing the account to a new deposit account saw an increase in interest from just a few pounds last year to nearly £74 this year. The amount of clothing sold was greater than the expenditure on restocking this year. The income of £40 this year for Handbook sales was not a true profit as they were paid for in the last financial year.

5 Road Race Secretary's report. The four road races were both successful and popular last year. Despite holding the entry fees to £8, whilst giving a reasonable prize list, the events still managed to return a net profit. It was reiterated that the club only intends to break even when promoting events, and it was felt that the profits would be used to fund the increasing cost of promoting events. No information on any new Regulations is available so it is difficult to judge what impact they might have both on the resources and finance

required to run a road race. With the first event of the year so close it is difficult to see how any new rules could be implemented at such short notice.

The new South West Division Officers have been very supportive, and seem well organised (noted as part of the General secretary's report, riders must enter the South West Division Area Championships – the 2001 BCF handbook is not accurate as far as regionalisation is concerned).

6 Record Secretary's report. Two records were broken in 2000, Mike Loader took the little raced 30 time to 1:08:15, whilst Paul Haggerty reduced the Club 10 record to 20.34. It was explained that a rider must be entered on the start sheet as a Yeovil CC rider in Open events, or riding as such in one of our evening TTs to qualify for a record. Interest had been expressed in some of the point to point records but no attempts had been made.

7 Runs Secretary's report. The Sunday morning rides still provide a healthy part of the clubs activities, with regular attendance and a steady supply of new recruits. The secretary expressed his regrets that he has been unable to attend the recent runs due to ill health but hoped to return soon. Despite some poor weather a run took place nearly every weekend.

8 Press Secretary's report. Lack of news worthy rides continues to make it difficult to get good coverage but the reports usually appear even if somewhat belatedly. Despite the drop in column inches the local press continues to give us good support.

9 Membership Secretary's report. The final tally of members was 49, three up on last year. Nearly 40 members retained their membership leaving just

seven people not rejoining, there were ten new riders joining this year.

10 Sponsorship Secretary’s report.

No change, we are not actively seeking sponsors for either the club or our promotions. Pittards have kindly agreed to continue there sponsorship of the early season road race.

11 Newsletter Editor’s report. The Pedaller has been published quarterly throughout the year with a selection of topical information. Any contributions from the membership would be more than welcome.

12 General Secretary’s report. The activities break down into three areas, taking the minutes, dealing with the correspondence and attending meetings on the Clubs behalf. The main change to effect the Club this year is the change in BCF regions. We are now officially in the South West Division. Local meetings will take place in Exeter, and so far the SW Div have been very helpful and are keen for us to continue to promote events. There is also a meeting scheduled for 5th March, at which Tim Huxley, Chris Revell (now SW area sports promoter) and the SW Div officials will be discussing cycling promotion in the Yeovil area, all welcome.

13 Time Trial Secretary’s report. With 480 individual rides in 2000, the evening 10s averaged 24 riders per event (excluding the TVCRA 4-up). The income was £278.54, although this was a slight shortfall on what should have been received if everyone had paid the right fee, it was not felt to be an important amount. Subs had not increased despite the 10p per ride club levy. The traffic counts were well within the 1200 limit, rising to a maximum of only 600 in the month of August. Thanks were expressed to Mike Northcott for

completing the traffic counts each week. S Wroot proposed, with D Notley as seconder, that the committee should use some of the proceeds from the TTs to purchase two new timekeepers watches.

14 Motions – none received

15 Election of Officials proceeded unopposed as no other nominations were forthcoming.

Position	Current
Officers	
President	G Mitchener
Hon Vice President	I Walker
Executive Committee	
Chairman	G Mitchener
Hon. Gen Secretary	K Mahon
Hon. Treasurer	D Todd
Hon. Time Trial Secretary	C Fendt
Hon. Road Race Secretary	K Mahon
Hon. Records Secretary	M Northcott
Hon. Membership Secretary	M Loader
Hon. Runs Secretary	D Todd
Hon. Press Secretary	G Mitchener
TVCRA Representative	N Armstrong
Sponsorship/PR	D Notley
Newsletter Editor	D Notley
Special Delegate	
Development Officer	Dave Walters
Non Committee Appointments	
Time Keepers	K Mahon

16 Any other business, at the Chairman's discretion. Two items.

Kevin Mahon had passed the Press Secretary’s details to the SW Division as they are trying to organise local press coverage to increase awareness of their activities.

Trophies belonging to Reg Smith have been offered to the Club, which can be used to replace some of the smaller existing cups or for new prizes if so desired. Number and condition yet to be ascertained.

Quick nurse, more tea and cakes.

Since the last issue went to press two of our members have been hospitalised, Derek Todd and Liz Armstrong (Nick's wife).

Derek has been diagnosed with diabetes. He was rushed into Yeovil Hospital after a test showed a spectacularly high blood sugar count, but thankfully he has now been discharged. It will be a while before he can return to lead the club runs, but he is already back on the turbo getting fit.

Liz suffered a serious illness and has been in Yeovil and then Bristol Hospital since Christmas. She has now moved to Salisbury but the good news is that she is expected to make a full recovery. She enjoyed her first weekend at home last week and is hoping to be back permanently in June. Nick and Liz would like to express their thanks for the flowers the Club sent.

We wish both Derek and Liz a full and speedy recovery.



*Come back soon Derek
we're lost without you.*

CLUB SECRETARY /ROAD RACES

Kevin Mahon 01935 472178
21 Park Gardens, Yeovil

MEMBERSHIP

Mike Loader 01935 410790
3, Poppy Close, Brympton, Yeovil, BA22 8US

RECORDS SECRETARY

Mike Northcott 01458 273576
8 Laburnum Drive, Somerton

TIME TRIALS (Evening events)

Chris Fendt 01935 474752
1 Poppy Close, Brympton, Yeovil BA22 8US

NEWSLETTER & CLOTHING

David Notley 01963 440291
Oakley, Church Road, Sparkford,
Yeovil BA22 7JN

Membership card for
YEOVIL SPORTS CLUB

Paid up?

If you haven't paid your membership yet it is due now. Unchanged from last year it is £12 for seniors and £5 for Juniors and Students. Cheques or cash to Mike Loader please, address above. If there is no membership card left then please contact Mike too.