

THE
SP  **KESMAN**
TEAM CAMBRIDGE



March 2001

Changes have been rung so that the newsletter is now being produced from the Willmets household. I shall be very pleased to be inundated with material for the next letter in any format. Please don't be shy about sending in your results, training tips, general news, for sale or wanted, favourite cycling routes / places to be avoided or anything interesting to me.

Chris Willmets
8 Barrowcrofts, Histon, Cambs, CB4 9EU.
Tel : 01223 234235

Email : cwillmets@yahoo.co.uk

In this newsletter you will find a list of club events and also the club standards entry form which needs to be completed as soon as possible. The foot and mouth crisis has hit local events, especially those on sporting courses (I have had 4 entries returned as cancelled) so there are less results to print, however we have some from Tony Clarke and myself.

We thought it might be useful to find out where there were good pubs serving cask beer and good food near events, so the experts, and Tony and Sue, were consulted and they have kindly agreed to write some articles on this subject. (We didn't give them a definition of "near", their definition is probably 'within a 50 mile radius'!). Their first article appears in this newsletter.

I have included below some useful addresses and telephone numbers of club officials :

Secretary: Sue Clarke
4 Gunnell Close, Milton, Cambridge, CB4 6ZB 01223 440399

Racing Secretary: Paul Millard
4 Wilson Way, Milton, Cambridge, CB4 6BX 01223 511155

Membership Secretary: Charles Willmets
8 Barrowcrofts, Histon, Cambs, CB4 9EU. 01223 234235

Ely and District C.C. Hardriders 25 on February 11th

Once again Stevie Laurie organised this tough event which makes a season opener for many of us. This year it was on a new course owing to a set of permanent lights having been installed in Wilburton during the autumn. Steve moved the headquarters to Little Downham and used a roughly circular route encompassing the headquarters. The course went north on the A10 then west on the A1101 before turning on to the sporting part of the course on the "B" roads through Pymore and Coveney. This section of the course was extremely tough owing to an almost gale force south-westerly headwind. It was quite a relief to turn east on the A142 at Wentworth and the final couple of miles back on the A10. Although a mild day for the time of year most peoples' comments after the event concerned the wind, however, it didn't seem to affect the winner, Micheal Hutchinson, who sped round to record 57.04 ! Team Cambridge riders on the start sheet were Alan Kidd (1.15.10), Steve Laurie (1.16.58), Chris Willmets (1.28.25 for 2nd lady) and Michael Stanley who had ridden out to the event for some extra miles (1.38.54). Charles Willmets was down to start but was unfortunately still recovering from flu.

Well done Steve on finding a good replacement course.

Diss and District C.C. Medium Gear 25 on March

I last rode a 72" gear event a long time ago so it came hard not having my big gears on the wind assisted outward leg from Scole to Bungay on the A47. There are some hills in the first few miles but the far end of the course is fairly level although on the return leg into the wind it felt like an uphill ride all the way! Although it was a very chilly morning the rain clouds which were threateningly black did no more than drop a few spots on us. Zac Carr won the event pedalling at about 140 revs in a time of 55.29, which gave him a course record and beat Ray Hughes, last year's winner, into second place by just over a minute. Chris and Charlie Willmets both rode and recorded times of 1.16.07(1st lady) and 1.20.31 respectively.

Ely and District 25 – March 25th by Tony Clarke

After freezing whilst marshalling the ECCA 10 on the Saturday, I was very pleased to make enough effort to keep myself warm on yet another very cold morning. There was a great lack of enthusiasm at the headquarters, mainly caused by the strong NE wind whistling across the course. It was 5⁰C when we left home but it felt much colder in the wind. At least the roads were dry!

Alan Kidd and Steve Laurie were off first for the club in the 2up event and finished with a creditable 1-8-58. I was the first club rider in the solo event and managed to finish in 1-12-13 for my first outing on the new bike. It was only the second time I had ridden it and I definitely felt more confident towards the end of the event. Perhaps it will go even faster in the future. Unfortunately the guarantee

does not include speed. I was disappointed with the time until I saw the other times on the result board. Charles Willmets narrowly pipped Chris, who lost her chain at one point, with 1-22-18 to 1-22-40. Michael Stanley made the best decision by not turning up to ride and Andrew Horner made the second best decision by deciding it was too cold to ride.

The event was won by Richard Hancock, St. Neots CC in 57-58. I don't think anyone had told him it was very cold and windy. Ian Cammish only managed 1-1-32.

The following is an article that was sent in for inclusion in the newsletter last year but unfortunately was never printed. Although it is now out of date I felt I owed it to the author to put it in this issue. – Ed.

MY FIRST OPEN TIME TRIAL - by ADAM WILLMETS

This was an evening event at the end of July. It was the first week of the school summer holidays so I spent the day resting by playing computer games, while Mum got our the tandem, her bike and my kit ready.

We arrived with enough time to spare for a look at the course by car. The first 5 miles went along a 'B' road and seemed complicated on the instructions but with Dad navigating we had no problem. The return leg came back along the A47 then turned onto the B1173 to the finish in Walsoken.

Mum started over half an hour ahead of us so after we had watched her start we went for a nice gentle warm up, though Dad thought it was not gentle! There was only one other tandem pair, Daniel and John Everett, and although they came past us quite quickly just over half way to the turn we managed to keep them in sight for some time. There was a strong headwind and several little climbs on the first leg with one nasty climb where the 'B' road crosses over the A47. With a strong tail wind on the return leg along the A47 we were able to clock a time of 28.12 narrowly beating the club Junior/Senior record which my brother, Neil, set with Dad a couple of years ago.

I was quite happy with the time and am looking forward to riding a 25 with Dad, though he thinks we should stick to 10's.

Andrew Horner whizzed round in 20.54 to win the solo event and clock a course record. Mum was a bit disgruntled with her time of 27.49. To be fair she had been unwell since the beginning of July!

The Problems of a ride on Mothers Day

Tony Clarke

Sue and I set off after the Ely 25 to try to find a Mothers Day Free pub lunch. We have learnt over the years that the bar snacks are not available so we take sandwiches and then find a pub that will serve us beer. This year we did not leave the event until 11.40 so we thought we would go to a pub we have heard about, but never visited, in Welney. It is like a time warp and food is not available.

However we made very slow progress in a northerly direction due to tired legs and a strong cold NE wind and when we got to the bridge on the A1121 where the road turns left to go across Welney dykes the road was closed due to flooding. The next pub on our side of the flood was at Ten Mile Bank, another 6 miles into the wind. We got there to find it boarded up so we went on to Hilgay where the pub was open. It was 1.30 by this time so we ate our rolls and went inside. They did not have any cask beer, having sold out.

We got back on the bikes and steamed up to Denver where we found the Bell Inn, which served a very nice Woodforde's Wherry and was very welcoming even if it was 2.00pm by the time we arrived. After a couple of pints the day was so cold that we set off more or less straight back to the car but at least we now had a tail wind. The morning had been a bit of a grind but the afternoon made up for it a bit to give us a 51 mile ride.
