



The official Team Cambridge Newsletter – Sept 2008

(Incorporating Mud Munchers Monthly)

(Incorporating Tarmac Terriers Tribune)

Parker's kick off the 2008/9 MTB season.

Wins for Danielle & Katy



Katy 1st Juvenile Girl



Yellie 1st U12 Girl

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Tarmac Terriers Tribune

Hitchin Nomads CC 25m TT F1/25 Aug 3rd

In an event which was won by M.Harrison (Concorde CC) with a time of 56.40 Tony & Sue Clarke reported to the time keeper on a showery morning, feeling tired from the previous afternoons efforts at promoting Team Cambridge's open 10m TT. (the race was abandoned see The Spokesman Aug 2008) Tony only managed to produce a time of 1.05.30, while Sue recorded 1.09.44.

Finsbury Park CC 25m TT F1/25 10th Aug

On a morning with a strong south westerly wind, wet roads after overnight rain made this event a slow ordeal for some of the riders. The event was also a counting event for the 2008 Woman's B.B.A.R championship competition. Sue Clarke recorded a time of 1.13.02; Tony Clarke did the 25 miles in 1.08.50. The third member of the team Alan Kidd was unfortunate to puncture and therefore was a DNF. The winner of the event was not recorded.

Shaftsbury CC 25m TT E2/25 16th Aug

Four club members on the start sheet on this (for once) dry morning, although there was however a strong southerly wind blowing which made riding interesting at times. Trevor Kimber was first rider off for the club and finished with a time of 1.04.53, he was followed by Tony Clarke in 1.02.21. Sue Clarke was next away riding to a time of 1.06.49, last but by no means least came Trevor Avis who did the 25 miles in 59.58 the winner of the event was not recorded

Victoria CC 10m TT E91/10 23rd Aug

A dry but chilly morning greeted the riders on a changed course to that advertised in the racing handbook. Traffic lights which appeared in Great Chesterford necessitated this change of venue. Nine tandems and twenty eight riders competing as a two-up preceded the main event. Tony Clarke off at No 52 did a 27.20 while Sue Clarke finished in 28.32. The winner of the event was not recorded.

Redbridge CC 25m TT E2/25 24th Aug

Light rain at the start of the event, with a chilly south westerly wind, gave Tony Clarke a definite lack of motivation. He also reports that it poured down with rain after the race was finished. Alan Kidd off at No 40 recorded a time of 59.52, while Tony Clarke finished with a time of 1.05.19. Meanwhile Sue Clarke off at just after 7.03am was back at the finishing line just after 8.10am with a time of 1.07.27. Alan Kidd continued breaking the hour for 25 miles with a time of 59.52. The event was won by Richard O'Rourke (Fritch Crono-www.fritchbikes.co.uk) in 51.14. Notable absentee was Michael Hutchinson who was DNS. The two Camel Valley CC riders that ride most of TC's club events (Lee & Dean Fuller) recorded times of 1.02.35 and 1.0016 respectively.

All 'Tarmac Terrier Tribune' reports by Tony Clarke

East Anglian VTTA 25m TT E2/25 30th Aug

Once again it was a bright and warm morning, with just a hint of a brisk wind; such a good day in fact that Tony and Sue Clarke recorded their fastest 25 times for the current season. Meanwhile Trevor Avis went on to record a PB with a great time of 58.27, which was only 24 seconds slower than Alan Kidd who did a 58.03! Second claim Nick Jackson (CCC) back in the saddle again after a fairly serious accident last month completed the course in 54.40! Tony's time was 1.01.09 followed home by Sue in 1.05.09. The event was won by Paul Smith (PCA – Ciclos Uno) with a time of 51.15. Local man Ian Cammish (Planet X) was only a few seconds behind in 51.21

“There's something nasty in the woodshed” – Volume 1

When does a blog turn into a travelog? Perhaps if I manage to get the grammar correct, and it gets published in the Spokesman? This missive is divided into two parts, much like Charles Dickens used to serialise his novels, but without the plot, characterisation or political and social comment – but I have got some photos!

This trip, somewhat surprisingly, was plotted months beforehand, but it didn't stop me from changing the itinerary only three days before, as I realised that cycling from the Isle of Wight to Cambridge via Berkhamsted in one day was a little ambitious.

However, inside this well-padded being there still resides the spirit of the global adventurer, hence my choice of a tourer as my regular bike rather than the usual fast road bike, the hallmark of most male mid-life crises. It was time that I used the front pannier racks that had been unbolted and stuffed in a cupboard since the day that I bought my bike. I ought to be able to carry a tent, sleeping bag, tools and enough clothes for a couple of days without any trouble – in the end I had so much space to spare I had to resist the temptation to put more stuff in to fill the panniers. Packing a handful of courgettes turned out to be unnecessary, but more of that later...

The plan was as fiendishly complex as one of Ewan McGregor's jaunts: while Caroline and the kids went to the Isle of Wight for a few days, to stay at someone else's holiday home, I would go to see my Dad in Hampshire (hence the dubious reference to Cold Comfort Farm; those with GCSE English look away now), and then ride down to catch the ferry and spend the weekend in sunny Wight with the family. I was crestfallen when Caroline informed me that she hadn't expected me to come along too, but no sympathy came my way. Henceforth, the date was marked on the family calendar as “Ditch the Geek Week”. The return leg was to include a scenic tour of the New Forest and the Test Valley, then home by train from Petersfield – but I'm saving this for volume 2 in order to pad it out a bit.

Cometh the day, cometh the hour. Cometh the rain and the 25 mph headwind. Engineering works meant riding to Royston to catch a train (did I actually say I would cycle *all* the way?) and because riding down the A505 is worse than watching X-factor I decided to go to Ickleton and up and down a bit to Elmdon, Heydon Barley etc. The bike actually handled pretty well fully loaded, like it was designed for the job actually, but my calculations of arrival times soon went out of the window as my average speed gradually fell from 15mph to 12mph. Still managed 35 into Royston though, but locking the front brakes wasn't funny...

By draping my wet gear all over the carriage, I had plenty of space to myself before disembarking and squidding my way across London to Waterloo, thence to Petersfield. After a quick unplanned tour of the town, caused by avoiding getting the map out in the rain, I headed up towards Dad's place via Stoner Hill, past the aptly named village of Steep – you get the idea. The scene was like the Brazilian

rain forest, only this was British. It makes you proud, our rain forests are as wet as anyone's on the right day.



Dad's place, which I had not visited before, was as described in his postal address. The Old Lambing Yard was exactly that, only that the sheep had been replaced by Tallack senior, two pet ducks and a whole load of plants including of course courgettes. So we inevitably had ratatouille for supper before heading to the pub to get out of the rain. Rather than sleep in the tent that I had carted all the way from home, I took refuge in Dad's caravan (intrepid, moi?) until being woken at six by the very punctual ducks, quacking beneath the floor.

Fuelled by the traditional Tallack breakfast of rhubarb and porridge oats (cleans right round the bend) it was time for some proper touring. No map, no route, just needing to get to Portsmouth in time for the ferry. Inevitably, this meant going up all the hills in order to see which way to go next. This worked, on the basis that by going uphill and into the wind it was likely to be the right way, which it invariably turned out to be. Now I know why my bike was built with granny gears, which I'd seldom had need to use, and never in Cambridgeshire.

I met a few other bikers out on their Sunday jaunts, and they were happy to chat for a long as they wanted to plod along at my speed. I was tempted to ask a wiry mountain-biker type if he'd seen the Dalai Lama on his travels, but thought better of it. You never know with natives, they can turn funny. Finally, I crested the windswept ridge over Portsmouth and down the other side, for a quick look at Portchester Castle and a load of suburbs before catching the ferry, right on time.



And that's your lot for now. Tune in for the second episode, any time Doug needs to fill out a bit of space in the Spokesman

Camping Weekend 2009

How many club members would be interested in a weekend of eating, drinking oh yes and some cycling at Rendlesham forest next year? We are proposing to spend a long weekend possibly the first May Bank Holiday at Rendlesham forest camp site. The Parker Tribe have just had a long weekend at this site which was very enjoyable, Pauline & I have already approached the owner if there would be no objections to a block booking by some mad-cap cyclists. This is just to whet your appetite by planting the seed of an idea; many of you will recall the great time we had at a site near Ashford when Le Tour came to the UK in 2007. We have chosen this location as it is only about 1 ½ hours drive from Cambridge, and also it is a great area for cycling (MTB or road) straight out of the site into the woods. The proposed date is a long way in the future, and obviously may not suit everyone but this site has become very popular so an advanced booking is a necessity. Bookings can be made after 1st March 2009, for information on the location refer to www.forestcamping.co.uk. Unfortunately the site requires full payment in advance (I think this is a bit much to ask) Pauline and I will arrange all the bookings once we have received everyone's cheques. The weekend will be similar to the last camping exercise i.e. caravans, tents, club gazebo and plenty of BBQ's on the go. The cost will be approximately £14 per night for two persons for the pitch; there is an extra charge for children. For those of you interested I will bring this up again in future newsletters and your decision will have to be made by the end of February 2009.

Mud Munchers Monthly

It's that time of year again! Road bikes are being put away MTB's are coming down off the hooks in the garage and sheds. Chain links are being prised apart, rust is getting wire brushed off, and of course the most important piece of news is that Jeff MTB Bushrod is coming round after his long summer hibernation rubbing sleep from the mince pies, oiling the knee caps. Shortly he will appear down at the Monday night club house with yet another brand new super duper MTB – 'this will be the one this year lads! This will help me win Team Cambridge's Most Prestigious'

Quite a few club members have already started training for the forthcoming MTB season; The Parker Pride recently took in a session on the Black Route at Thetford forest, and also a weekend riding in and around Rendlesham forest. (just as hard as Thetford without too many climbs) The Millard Mob and the Bowden Bunch also have been to ride at Thetford, all it remains now is for MTB to come and show us the way!!

Havoc on the Hill MTB Event 21st September

Imagine a MTB event with blue skies, its warm and sunny and not a hint of mud on the course, yes that's what greeted the Team Cambridge riders at this early season event at Langdon Hills Country



Park near Basildon. The event which was well organised by Herongate Cycles and Essex Road Club, included an event for U12's which is a bit of a first for MTB events. Danielle Parker lined up along with eighteen other riders for a 20min race around the open (hilly) field at the start and finish area of the events. There was a steep climb away from the start, Yellie was in second place at the top of the climb and maintained that position for 5 laps. Unfortunately she was caught on the downhill straight, but just couldn't find the strength to overtake again. It was noted that the boy who won and Yellie were the only two riders that didn't get off on any of the climbs. The first three riders completed six laps Yellie was placed third and

Yellie in a sprint for the line

was also first U12 girl. All the riders were awarded a prize by the organisers. The main event of the afternoon consisted of two events the one hour Enduro for all age groups 12+ and a two hour Enduro race for 17+. Angela and Katy Parker both entered the one hour event and took their place along with about 45 other riders. This time the course climbed the steep hill ran along the top then turned into the woods after another very hard climb. There were some very steep climbs and obviously some steep narrow descents, both Katy and Angela managed to stay upright and finished their event in 17th & 18th position out of about 30 riders that finished. They both completed two laps in 59m 33sec each lap was 4+ miles. Katy received an award for being the first Juvenile Girl and was well pleased with the £10 voucher to be spent at Herongate Cycles.





Angela Parker



Katy Parker



Katy leading the way on a climb.



And the winner is

I make no apologies for the blatant plugging of the Parker Tribe, but events have been few and far between at this time of the year. I was surprised that no one else from the club entered this event, an ideal race to check out the fitness before the forthcoming Thetford forest series of races. The club have got a team entered in the Dusk till Dawn event on Oct 4/5th I'm hoping that one of the riders will write up the race report; I will be officiating at Alan's Open 10m TT on the 5th so will be unable to attend.

Forthcoming Events

Oct 4 th /5 th	Dawn till Dusk MTB event Thetford forest
Oct 5 th	Team Cambridge 10m Open TT (offers of help or entries to Alan Kidd)
Nov 2 nd	Hill Climb Barrington 10.30 am
Nov 9 th	Thetford Round 1 - FR 6 (opposite Mayday meadow)
Nov 17 th	Annual AGM
Dec 7 th	Thetford Round 2 - FR24 the Mundford Road out of Brandon
Jan 25 th 2009	Thetford Round 3 - possibly at Rendlesham
Feb 22 nd	Thetford Round 4 - Mayday meadow