



The Team Cambridge Newsletter – August 2010

(incorporating Mud Munchers Monthly, the Tarmac Terriers Tribune and a load of other stuff)

Vive le Tour!

Chavs forced to admit that football is crap!

Once again, the world's most spectacular sporting event demonstrated to a soccer-saturated public that standing on a foggy mountain top for 48 hours in only a Man-kini is a fitting and worthwhile tribute to the supreme occasion. (By the way, did anyone actually know Simon's whereabouts at the time?).



Bizarrely, Mark Renshaw's head-butts incident was the most memorable piece of football-style action that any of us is likely to remember from this year, and he isn't even English!

Try this at home, kids!

This year's Tour of Britain gives us a great opportunity to experience the drama and atmosphere of top-level racing at first hand, with two starts within range of home:-

Stage 6 - Thursday 16th September

King's Lynn 10:15 start

via Sandringham, Burnham, Wells, Norwich, to Great Yarmouth 15:19 finish (approx)

Stage 7 - Friday 17th September

Bury St Edmunds 10:15 start (Angel Hill)

Via Haverhill, Long Melford, Lavenham, Sudbury, Halstead, Braintree, Maldon, to Colchester 14:05 finish (approx)

So, get your sick note ready and make sure to be there! Anyone planning to organise a TC ride-out, please get in touch via Bikemates. Man-kinis are optional...

Tarmac Terriers' Tribune – Race Results

(by our very own master of macadam, Tony Clarke)

Shaftesbury C.C. Open 50

E2/50C

3rd July

"A warm but quite windy afternoon made this normally fast course rather slower than usual, especially on the return from Red Lodge. Despite this handicap, Sue managed to get a VTTA East Anglia age record for a sixty year old lady. Well done Sue! (and a black mark to Tony for declaring that statistic which no gentleman would declare...)

Andy Bason 1:43:13
Ken Platts 1:49:59
Ian Cammish DNF

Tony Clarke 2:13:02
Sue Clarke 2:18:18

East London Velo 10

E2/10

10th July

“The afternoon was very warm but unfortunately there was a brisk South wind blowing, so fast times were not to be expected. It was quite slow to the turn, although not as bad as I expected as the trees to the left gave some shelter. The return was mostly very fast, but it never quite allowed one to make up the time lost on the way out.”

Colin Whitechurch	Ely & DCC	24:19	Celia Whitechurch	Ely & DCC	30:18
Len Finch	CC Sudbury	27:58	Alan Kidd	Team Cambridge	23:52
Merv Player	Herts Wheelers	25:04	Nick Jackson	The Other Lot	21:36
Tony Clarke	Team Cambridge	25:48	Dean Fuller	Fritch Chrono	22:53
Ron Back	West Suffolk Wh.	25:24	Ian Cammish	Planet X	20:49
Sue Clarke	Team Cambridge	27:17	Richard O'Rourke	Fritch Chrono	20:39*
Gwen Cook	Essex Roads	23:53			

Victoria/ Ciclos Uno/ P.C.A./ Pro-Lite C.C.

E1/10A

17th July

“After Friday's very strong winds, it was a nice surprise to find that it had partially dropped for the Saturday morning event. It had also swung round to the NW which meant a crosswind in both directions, which on this course means an alternating head and tail wind (I think I understand...). Victoria events are always sociable with their club being a good HQ for the pre- and post race chat. Sue was first lady and fastest lady vet (but she couldn't save the hamster!).”

Celia & Colin Whitechurch (Tandem)	25:32	Mary Horsnell	Chelmer CC	39:51	
Nick Jackson	The Dark Side	23:10	Richard Glover	And Again...	25:02
Tony Clarke	Team Cambridge	28:23	Antony Stapleton	Chelmer CC	22:19*
Peter Baumber	Unmentionables	28:53	Peter Horsnell	Chelmer CC	29:29
Sue Clarke	Team Cambridge	29:24	Ron Back	West Suffolk Wh.	26:49
Colin Davies	Them Again	26:35			

Verulam CC Open 25

F1/25

25th July

“Quite a nice morning with a crosswind making it quite slow in both directions. Neither Sue nor I seemed able to try very hard for some unknown reason, and neither of us were pleased with our rides (nor was Lance). Alan had left by the time we finished, so I do not know how he felt about his time (most wouldn't grumble-Ed)”

Trevor Avis	Team Cambridge	DNS	Peter Horsnell	Chelmer CC	1:10:20
Ray Legg	West Suffolk Wh.	1:22:55	Tony Clarke	Team Cambridge	1:07:17
Eric Angell	Redbridge CC	1:05:45	Sue Clarke	Team Cambridge	1:10:09
Alan Kidd	Team Cambridge	1:00:03	Ian Cammish	Planet X	53:17
Merv Player	Herts Wheelers	1:04:28	(winner unknown)		52:08

Newmarket Cycling & Tri Club Open 21

BS36

1st August

“This event makes a nice change to my usual diet of steaming up and down fast courses and was just what I needed after the previous afternoon's open 10 organisational efforts. It was on a hilly course using open roads between Newmarket and Stradishall. The field was quite small but I know many of the other competitors and marshals, so I had a good chat before and after the event. I did not do a very good time but I was tired both physically and mentally, so I was quite satisfied with my performance.”

Tony Clarke	Team Cambridge	1:02:37	Peter Balls	West Suffolk Wh.	48:51
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Team Cambridge Open 10

E2/10

31st July

Anyone got any insights or anecdotes from this event? From a marshal's viewpoint, the traffic was pretty heavy but much less chaotic than last year, without the grain lorries going to and from the silos at the Wilbraham junction. The tandem trike was quite a sight, and according to Kev it was a spectacle to watch the pilot trying to haul the rig round the roundabout at the turn. As far as I know, it was a success and enjoyed by all, so thanks once again to Tony and Sue and everyone who mucked in.

Bike Watch

No bikes this month, but has anyone noticed a slightly uncanny resemblance between Uncle Bryn from Gavin and Stacey and our very own P.M. ?

So, to fill the gap in the bike shed, it's time for the first part of my serialised epic, originally due for publication a long, long time ago.



Diary of an Office Bike, Part 1 (Well Beyond the Edge of Reason)

Monday 18th January

32 lb (bike, not including rider!), cigarettes 0, miles on bike 2½, circuit training 0.

Am definitely committed to making old office bike "the Foldie" redundant and recruiting a more efficient machine for business travel. Having said that, despite a bent seat tube, two broken spokes, useless brakes and an absurd appearance, the Foldie refuses to admit defeat.

An inspired move to combine some exercise with avoiding further distress to my rotator cuff ligaments sees a plan hatched to run to Chesterton office and collect work documents while others perform the ritual Monday contortions. Having made it to Chesterton without being mugged or having a coronary, the presence of a quicker easier return journey made the option of even a slow heavy bike with no lights too tempting to resist.

Tuesday 19th January

20 lb (bike with rack, dynamo lights etc but no wheels), cigarettes 0, miles on bike 0, wheels 3½, gears 12.

New office bike kindly donated by Tony some time before Xmas, irreverently named "Shazza" due to lairy Mercian paintjob and, with shameful chauvinism, the look of having been about a bit. (Actually, China, South Africa and most of Europe.)

Saturday 30th January

23lb, wheels 1, eardrums 2, miles on bike 0 (again).

New tyres too posh for Shazza, so they went on the Ridgeback and part-worn ones handed down. At about 80psi the admittedly well-worn rear rim split, with a loud bang, leaving me with ringing ears and a split inner tube. No problem, for I have a spare wheel from the Ridgeback with a worn hub, so I resolve to build my first ever wheel.

Sunday 7th February

3½ tonnes gross, gears 5, tail-lift 1, pork crackling 3, miles on bike 0.1.

With much sadness, the Foldie finally went to the tip. Was salvaged by the yellow vests, despite my assertions that it was knackered and well past its best. Well, I suppose that was how our Team Cambridge hamster was described, and that was before he became famous!

Watch out for the next thrilling instalment, only in the Spokesman!

Mud Munchers' Monthly

TOUR OF THE CORNFIELDS TRAINING CAMP

Sunday 18th July marked the start of the campaign for the autumn season of off-roading, with the Tour of the Cornfields now a firm fixture in the calendar after three successful editions. The main snag with this event is the timing, being the weekend after yours truly returns from holiday, with all the loss of fitness that such things entail...

This was brought home only too forcefully to little brother Mark (Babycham?) Tallack, having spent an enviable couple of weeks in the land of all things supersized, learning to drive a motorhome and striving to appear as straight as possible in the middle of Gay Pride weekend in San Francisco (a great story in itself, but possibly not suitable for these pages).

Anyway, on the appointed morning three plucky candidates rocked up at Tallack Towers for a blast around my favourite off-road circuit, as described fully in a previous issue of the Spokesman. These were the ever cheerful Simon, the aforementioned junior Tallack and my mate from work Andy Chapman (one of the Ben Hayward OTH team, for his sins).

Now the thing is, Andy rides a lot. Fast. He was trying to be kind, and I did at least have the advantage of knowing the route and what was likely to happen, but it ended with shredded legs for most of us, and severe cramps in both legs for little bro. After an hour spent writhing on the lawn once we returned to Balsham, he finally managed to hobble back to the car and head for home.

However, we all agreed that this was a morning well spent, and ought to be repeated as often as possible. MTB supreme elect Kev tells me the next punishment session will be this Sunday (15th August) in Thetford Forest, so bring it on!

The Tour of the Cornfield itself is on 5th September, and starts from Bassingbourn Village College.

ANOTHER DUSK2DAWN PREVIEW...

Thanks to newly anointed Mud Munching Supremo Kev, expectations for this year's all-nighter have been running higher than England's hopes for the World Cup (remember that?). Let's hope he keeps his job longer than Fabio. In memory of the dear departed hamster, it seems the bestial theme has lived on in the team names:-

Team Cambridge Fluffy Bunnies (Male Pairs) – this does not usually lead to more Fluffy Bunnies, so I'm told.
Simon (Jean-Jacque) Bowden & Kevin (Bunny-Hop) Parker

Team Cambridge Muddy Hamsters (Team Male 3's) – which is not normally mentioned in polite circles.
Paul (Uncle Bryn) Millard, Andy (Hamster) Hammond & Steve (Emerald Isle) Keogh

Team Cambridge Dirty Rats (Team Male 3's) – i.e. frankly unspeakable.
(Champagne) Charlie Tallack, Jeremy (Germaine) Greer & Phil (Sgt. Bilko) Waters.

So that's it for the time being, until Simon finds the latest Singaporean LED bargain and Paul gets his soldering iron out in earnest. More to follow...

Competition Time

Where's Jeffrey?

Entries on an email please, to
news@team-cambridge.co.uk

First correct answer will win a slightly used bottom bracket.

That's all for now!

(Champagne) Charlie

