

### The Team Cambridge Newsletter – December 2010

*“When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race – except for this plonker.” - H.G. Wells*

## Bah, Humbug!

*The roads are frozen, the cycle paths encrusted with ice and snow and kneecap skin, it's permanently dark and my mountain bike lies in bits in the garage, caked with mud...  
- Merry Christmas everyone!*

## Xmas Quiz Shocker!

Stop Press – Following a late-night sitting of the Team Cambridge Scrutineering Panel, reigning Queen of the Christmas Quiz Sue Clarke has passed her crown to Simon “Brainbox” Bowden. In a nail-biting finish, the result was:-



*Si practices his victory salute...*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Simon Bowden – 26 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Clarke – 25 and a bit points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tony Clarke – 20 points

Honourable mentions also go to new member Phil, with 19 points. (Your editor improved massively on his previous record, with 5 points.)

Thanks as ever to Colette, for compiling the mental equivalent of a hilly 25, and to all those who ate more mince pies than their total score...

## Remember Those Lazy Hazy Days of Summer?



..this lot should be behind bars...

Legs like pistons...?



Yes dear, of course I've worked out the handicap...

## A Christmas Carol,

abridged by (Champagne) C. Dickens

T was about a week before Christmas, and not a soul was about. Mind you, I did see a nutter on the Fourwentways roundabout this morning, in the rush-hour traffic at minus5 centigrade – wearing shorts!

Young Tiny Tim was standing in the bike shed, wondering whether to scrape the icicles off the turbo-trainer or just go back into the house and put a few more votes in for Mark Cavendish as Sports Personality of the Year...Hearing a rustle of artificial fabric, Tiny Tim turned around, narrowly avoiding the bundle of patched inner-tubes hanging from the rafters, to see a ghostly figure in the semi-darkness, moaning and rattling a rusty nine-speed chain.

*“I am the Spirit of Time Trials Past, Present and Future, and I have this warning for you from beyond the Arrington roundabout:- Minds, like bodies, will fall into a pimpled, ill-conditioned state from mere excess of comfort. Get back on that turbo boy, or the coming season will bring only sluggishness.”*



With those words, the apparition disappeared. Tiny Tim was at a loss for words. He was still recovering from the shock of seeing Mr Cratchit sporting his Dickensian and frankly rather disturbing moustache, which had been giving him nightmares ever since.

“Who are you?” stammered Tiny Tim, “and why were you holding that cut-throat razor?”

There was no answer. Only the clanking of the chain and the lingering whiff of shaving soap lingered in the freezing air. Suddenly, Mrs Cratchit appeared at the door, panting for breath.

“Pon my soul, Tiny Tim, you gave me quite a turn! Have you seen my Kev?”

“No ma’am, I haven’t.” replied Tiny Tim, bewildered at the completely illogical plot development.

“He’s only been scalped of his most manly of features, the prime of his physiognomy, the facial fur that tickles my nostrils in the heat of his passion”, she wept inconsolably.

“Ah, so that’s what it was, I thought he’d just eaten a squirrel” pondered Tim. “Never mind, I think I know who can help. Just rub this old LED lamp and say these words out loud:-

“O Ebenezer Bushrod, mtb secretary of Christmases past, pusher of the incredible 108” single speed, appear before us before the next committee meeting...”

“Don’t worry Ange” replied a voice from the darkness with a faint but unmistakable Hampshire burr, “I’ve had it stuffed.”

And then, out from beneath the pile of part-worn mtb tyres in the corner of the garage scuttled a tiny creature, small and brown. A bit like a hamster but...more hairy! It looked up at Tiny Tim and Mrs Cratchit, then reached under its bristly coat for an energy bar and started to nibble it, before leaping onto the roller of the turbo trainer and

galloping for all its was worth, faster and faster until the whine of the turbo rose to a banshee wail.

“Meet Little Mo’, your new mascot!” laughed the voice. “Just like a hamster, only more hairy and twice as powerful! Just mind he doesn’t get his teeth into the energy gels though, or there’ll be no stopping him...”

Tiny Tim jumped up and down with delight. “Can we keep him, Mrs Cratchit?”

“Bless me, I don’t know what Mr Cratchit would say, my child. I’ve not understood a word he’s been saying since his moustache got shaved off in the night by a mysterious spirit. I think his top lip’s been paralysed by the cold.” She replied. “Let’s go in and ask Grandad.”

Grandad Doug peered over his copy of Cycling Weekly at Tiny Tim, who described his new pet. “Och, the poor wee timorous beastie!” He exclaimed, “Dinna ye ken, he’ll eat us oot of hoose and hame! Still, ye’ll no’ be wanting for a mascot next year for Dusk 2 Dawn, the noo!”

Tiny Tim smiled, as Mr Cratchit entered the room, and was told all about the mysterious events. Then Bob proposed “A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears! God bless us!” Which all his family re-echoed “God bless us, every one!” and Tiny Tim, last of all.

~~~ The End ~~~

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## Bike Watch

by Paul “Magneto” Millard.

It’s been a few months since the last report, this is down to not being able to find many cyclists around, let alone some with new bikes, which made me begin to wonder where the roadies go for the winter...

I came to the conclusion that they must be either, hibernating or migrated. So to find the answer to this puzzle I started to search around hedges and undergrowth at the edge of roads, without much success, it has to be said. So I started to search further afield and started to root around some wooded areas. I eventually ended up in Thetford Forest where I was amazed to come across large numbers of cyclists on some funny looking ‘rugged’ looking bicycles (*apparently they call them ‘Mountain Bicycles’ not sure why, there are no mountains round these parts!*) giving it ‘what for’ on the sandy tracks that had been carved through the trees.

This is where I came across this rather new looking Scott ‘hard tail’ as they call it. Speaking to its owner (Kevin ‘Movember’ Parker) I discover this is his latest acquisition to replace a ‘Full Susser’ which is an abbreviation for a full suspension bike apparently! It seems Kevin’s old ‘Full Susser’ has taken a bit of a beating over the

years and recently has had to replace amongst other things the suspension unit, which suffered ‘suction’ this sounds a bit painful!



It seems Kevin has been getting serious about his training and by all accounts and is somewhat fitter than last year which started to show itself when he fancied his chances in this years Dusk to Dawn (D2D)12 hour race as part of a two man squad! This was one of the reasons for wanting a new bike along with his desire to retain the MT ‘Bushrod’ trophy from a sprightly challenger Simon ‘the Rocket’ Bowden.

When the opportunity to purchase a new bike through his company’s ‘cycle to work’ scheme (I can’t see this one being ridden to work!) came, he leapt at the chance and as he said ‘I can’t get a better bike for the money’ and the draw in getting a lighter steed was just too strong to ignore.

So the deed was done and he duly took delivery of his very 'Mark Cavendish' looking Scott Scale 70 😊.

He was very pleased as it was nice 'n' light and the fact it was well kitted out with hydraulic disk brakes (*he was right - 'lots of bike for the money'*) and trimmed out in the fashionable white, handle bars, stem etc. which seem to be all the rage this season.

After some warm up rides it was duly put into serious action in the D2D race and Kevin seemed to be very pleased with its performance, even if the conditions were not very nice. 😞

After the D2D, entries for the up and coming Winter Series were being taken and with the euphoria of the D2D still in the air, talk of entering the 4 hour solo race was being seriously talked

about. Kevin got sucked along with the others and duly entered the 'mega marathon'. Whilst his stamina held up on the day (*full respect; I could not have managed it*), the hard tail took its toll on him and in the later stages he soon wished he could climb back onto the old faithful 'Full Susser' to give his bum and back a bit of an easier ride (see Round 1 report). After the race he was heard to say "never again", but I am sure the way he is going his fitness will soon be up to it.

So the conclusion I have come to is that roadies do migrate to muddier climbs as has been seen in Thetford but some are not taken by the challenge and go into hibernation waiting for the sun to re-appear (they might have a long wait!), so... If you go down to the woods today...

from



## Letters to the Editor

*Greetings,*

*I've been poking around in my archives and found a stack of issues from the Dark Ages, i.e. ones missing from the web site. So there 's a nice little job for somebody - scanning them.*

(Any volunteers? – Ed.)

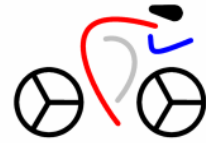
*I remember that at one time we had some very enjoyable pub evenings.*

*How about reviving the tradition? (ditto)*

*Yours,*

*Steve*





## Membership prices held again for 2011

Now the Christmas Party has been and gone and the end of year quiz is just a memory, you might be just starting to consider what the new season will bring, as it is just around the corner. So whilst you are all wrapped up hiding inside from the snow and ice thinking whether you still have enough zip to give it a go on for another year, these are the signs of the first green shoots of recovery, and it is good to know that you are ready for another season.

Now you have made your mind up, it is the time to make sure that your Club Membership does not lapse particularly if you are one of those MTBers' as they are in the middle of their winter championship and it would not be good to lose out by a little lapse of membership. So get busy, fill in the form (see attached) and get it sent to Trevor 'the quiet man' Kimber who will keep you on the straight and narrow. Prices have been held again and are £15 first claim (£7.50 for U18) and just £8 for second claim members.

Also if you need a 2011 CTT handbook, Paul Millard is taking orders until 17<sup>th</sup> January (details also on the membership form), after which you can get a copy direct from CTT, for a modest £7.

## Mo' Mud!

It has been suggested in certain quarters that facial hair can have a beneficial effect on one's prowess on a bike. In the interests of scientific rigour, we decided to put this to the test. In the interests of chauvinism, we decided that this experiment was not applicable to ladies...

With grateful thanks to Dave Franciosy of [mtbracephotos.co.uk](http://mtbracephotos.co.uk), with whose kind permission these pictures are reproduced.



← Exhibit A  
Clean shaven, and possibly the scariest race face all day. Don't mess with this one!



Exhibit B →  
Our new Mud Munchers' Mascot, while still attached to its owners face. If Burt Reynolds rode a bike, he wouldn't be as smooth as this...

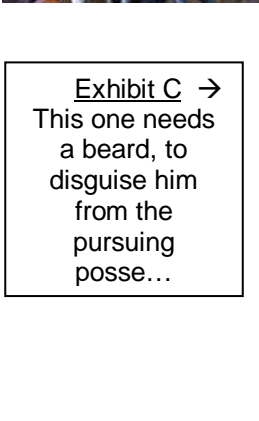


Exhibit C →  
This one needs a beard, to disguise him from the pursuing posse...



Exhibit D →  
..and this is how it's done. Neatly trimmed beard, legs of steel and an amazing turn of speed through the trees...



## Competition Time

(Q) Where's Jeffrey?

(A)... Dunno

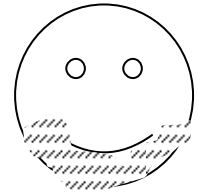
### Special Christmas Brainteaser

Just match the facial hair to the owner!

1) The "Cannonball Run" Classic

2) The "Ginger Globetrotter"

3) The "Speedy Si" Stubble



And if you haven't twigged by now, this final word from Kev..

"Well today is the final day of Movember. Thank you all for your support, comments and donations. I have raised £150 which goes towards the UK total of 7 million for Prostate cancer."

Congratulations Kev, and thanks for 2/3 of this issue's content!

### **In the next issue of The Spokesman...**

Hopefully, we can look forward to Trevor Kimber's account of his **Time Trial with the Stars**. Well, I've asked him, anyway.

Well, that's about it for this year. I hope 2010 has been kind to you, and 2011 is one to look forward to. To finish off, one last pic of this summer, to get you in the mood for a new season's riding and racing. Happy Christmas!



*(Champagne) Charlie*

"Has he moved yet? I think the stopwatch is about to run out of batteries..."



## Team Cambridge Membership Application Form 2011

By signing this form, you agree to abide to the Rules and Regulations set out by Team Cambridge and are willing for your contact details to be released to other Team Cambridge club members in relation to cycling matters

| Forename | Surname | Date of birth* | Membership<br>1st/2nd/Asc. | Email Address** | Signature |
|----------|---------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
|          |         |                |                            |                 |           |
|          |         |                |                            |                 |           |
|          |         |                |                            |                 |           |
|          |         |                |                            |                 |           |
|          |         |                |                            |                 |           |

\* A parental consent form must be filled out for under 18's before they are able to race in Time Trials – see website.

\*\* By signing this membership form you agree to have your email address entered into the club mailing list system. Should you wish for this not to be the case, please advise the Membership Secretary.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Joining Team Cambridge will not provide insurance cover for your general riding. It is strongly recommended that you join British Cycling or the Cyclists Touring Club which provides third party insurance cover.

### **2011 Subscription Rates**

| Type              | Cost   | Quantity | Total cost |
|-------------------|--------|----------|------------|
| 1st Claim (1)     | £15.00 |          |            |
| U18 1st Claim (1) | £7.50  |          |            |
| 2nd Claim (1)     | £8.00  |          |            |
| U18 2nd Claim (1) | £5.00  |          |            |
| Associate         | £1.00  |          |            |
| CTT Handbook (2)  | £7.00  |          |            |

(1) There is a levy for individual Club time trial events, chargeable to both first claim and second claim members. This is equal to the levy set by the CTT.

(2) Orders for Handbooks will be taken until 17th January 2010. After this date they can be ordered direct from CTT.

Total (Payable to Team Cambridge)

£

Please send the completed form to:

Trevor Kimber, 36 Worcester Close, Hardwick, CB23 7XG

Email: [membership@team-cambridge.co.uk](mailto:membership@team-cambridge.co.uk) Phone: (01954) 212937