

**TEAM
CAMBRIDGE
CYCLING
CLUB**



The Spokesman

February 2015

New Year Time Trial (maybe not this time...)

Well, the 25th edition (possibly) of the Team Cambridge New Year's Time Trial experienced an unusually seasonal cold snap this year, which rendered thoughts of actual racing impractical due to the freezing fog on the course.

I say unusual, as in recent years we have basked in balmy weather and the company of goodly numbers of riders, companions and passers-by.

Nonetheless, due process was observed and a handful of hardy souls with nothing better to do ventured out to mark the start of Team Cambridge's 26th year in business.

Paul (Magneto) Millard was on hand to officiate the proceedings, him being the Racing Secretary and all, and

Colette, being from the East Riding of Yorkshire, wasn't going to let a mere ten degrees of frost put her off.

Meanwhile Alex had already satisfied his New Year's resolution by turning up on time, and would probably have been favourite to win on the day.

Not that I'm suggesting any of the others present weren't race fit of course; it just happens that he's a mere twenty years younger than everyone else...

Talking of race fitness of course, we must mention The Quiet Man™ and Steve. Steve is attired in cycling gear and therefore gives the



Personal Best means just being there!

appearance of being ready to ride. The keen-eyed reader will note the absence of a bicycle, but it is possible that he had one tucked away somewhere.

Trevor on the other hand could be a golfer, rock musician or possibly even a cyclist; who would be able to tell?

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Rule 5

I'm sure you hipsters all know about rule 5 by now, and are compliant with as many of the other Rules of Cycling as you think appropriate/ can be bothered with.

Just to labour the point, the essence of Rule 5 is that it is never too cold, windy or wet to go out for a bike ride.

That said, sometimes it can be

completely ridiculous; but never pointless as it gave me an experience memorable enough to fill a few column inches of this journal...

I mused on this as I set off downhill from home, carefully navigating the frozen stream of water leaking across the road and filling the potholes: as my front wheel skated from side to side I could easily justify my



lack of pace on the grounds of safety.

As the miles went by, the layer

(Continued on page 3)



**On the
opposite page
you will see the
race calendar
for this season
- bag your
place in the
marshalling
roster quickly,
before
someone else
picks that
warm, sunny
evening first!**

You can't beat a Saturday club run!

At this time of year (this time of life also), the prospect of time-trialling on dry roads in bright sunshine can seem a remote prospect.

But, there is a lot of enjoyment to be had from beating the urge to stay indoors and if the motivation to go out solo isn't quite strong enough, then the club run is the perfect cure. After all, that's why most people (including me) join a cycling club in the first place.

So, after dropping #1 Son off to work I joined the throng (of 9) at the Scout HQ in Perne Road and we set off in the not quite Spring not quite Sunshine towards Addenbrookes and out of town via the genome cycle path. This latter is now so busy it's about time they thought about cloning it (boom-boom!).

As a change from the usual route up to Elmdon, we took to Coploe Road out

of Ickleton, which is a single-track route little used by motorised traffic... except for sugar-beet lorries.

There was a slick of mud right across the road which gave us all a Belgian sun-tan within the first couple of miles, but once through this the climb was rewarded by open countryside and no traffic.

Just for fun, we turned left at the crossroads and climbed again.

Meaty Beety, Big and Bouncy!

Over the summit we waited. And waited.

Actually, Paul's climbing legs had not gone home, he'd been fixing a puncture and once this was dealt with we sailed downhill into Little Chesterford to get the benefit of another longish climb.

Once I'd reassured myself that I actually knew where we were, we held a quick

straw poll, and democracy duly decided that it was time for a cake stop.

A top coat of beety mud was applied on the way downhill, before we arrived at Ickleton barns for coffee and cake, but no full English today, as Adam was at work. We paid and departed before the proprietor complained about the smell, only for Mr Smug to

receive his come-uppance in the form of a puncture on the run in to Duxford.

Obviously my previous good fortune had meant that my roadside skills were woefully out of practice, but once my companions eventually returned some ten minutes later I was still able to give them another ten minutes' demonstration of

Ickleton Barns: Cake Stop!



ineptitude before getting back on the road.

Thankfully no further incidents interrupted our progress back to HQ and despite the thick layer of mud adhering to bikes and bodies we concluded that it was a good ride out and worth an afternoon's graft in the bike shed to restore mechanical harmony in time for the next one.

**Paul confessed
that this was
his first time
out on the bike
this year!**



Race Calendar 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Location</u>	
Wed 8 Apr	18:30	E2/07	Newton	Circuit Series 1 Lap
Sun 12 Apr	10:00	E33/10	Bottisham	Inter club
Wed 15 Apr	18:45	E33/10	Bottisham	
Wed 22 Apr	19:00	E33/10	Bottisham	
Wed 29 Apr	19:00	F2/10 CAX	Hardwick-Caxton Gibbet	
Wed 6 May	19:00	F2/10 CAX	Hardwick-Caxton Gibbet	
Wed 13 May	19:00	E33/13	Bottisham	Circuit Series
Wed 20 May	19:00	F14x/10	Barton	
Wed 27 May	19:00	F14x/10	Barton	
Wed 3 Jun	19:00	F2/10 CAX	Hardwick-Caxton Gibbet	
Wed 10 Jun	19:00	F2/10 CAX	Hardwick-Caxton Gibbet	Championship 10
Wed 17 Jun	19:00	F2z/18	Comberton	Circuit Series
Wed 24 Jun	19:00	F2/10 CAM	Hardwick-Cambourne-Madingley	Ron Edwards Memorial TT
Wed 1 Jul	19:00	F2A/25	Hardwick-Caxton-Madingley	Championship 25
Wed 8 Jul	19:00	E2/07	Newton	Circuit Series 2 Laps
Wed 15 Jul	19:00	F2/10 CAM	Hardwick-Cambourne-Madingley	
Sat 18 Jul	14:00	F2D/10	Hardwick-Caxton-Madingley	(Open 10 see Charlie Tallack)
Wed 22 Jul	19:00	E33/25 club	Bottisham	Handicap 25
Wed 29 Jul	19:00	F2/10 CAM	Hardwick-Cambourne-Madingley	
Wed 5 Aug	19:00	F2/10 CAM	Hardwick-Cambourne-Madingley	
Wed 12 Aug	18:45	E33/10	Bottisham	
Wed 19 Aug	18:30	E33/10	Bottisham	
Wed 26 Aug	18:30	FHC/4	Barrington	Hill Climb
Sun 6 Sep	10:00	E33/10	Bottisham	Inter club
Sun 3 Jan	10:00	E33/10	Bottisham	NYD event

Rule 5: Does Cambridge have its own Velominati?

(Continued from page 1)

of frost on the front of my gloves, arms and torso accumulated but thankfully didn't penetrate the many layers of clothing to an uncomfortable extent.

I think that racing would have been out of the question in any case; the poor visibility caused by the fog would have made it unreasonable to do that, but also the stately pace (about 15mph on the flat) enforced by the cold meant

that the timekeepers would have been carted off with hypothermia long before the riders had reached the finish.

My pride at being the only cyclist (fool) hardy enough to ride was tempered on reaching the suburbs of Cambridge however, as nothing stops the £79.99 supermarket mtb from being ridden.

Nothing, not ice, rain or wind, nor traffic signals, one way streets, rusty chains or flat tyres will stop the Cambridge

Cyclist from being out there, causing frustration and annoyance to car drivers and filling the letters page of the Evening News with complaints.

Perhaps there's an alternative version of Velominati, where you don't have to have your saddle dead level if it's wrapped in a carrier bag, and you always pedal the big ring because your gear cables snapped three years ago and your bike must have been dredged from the River Cam at least once...



Let the single speed revolution pass us by; we've got gears but can't figure out how to work them!

TEAM CAMBRIDGE CYCLING CLUB

President: Doug Parker
Chairman: Tony Clarke
Hon. Secretary: Sue Clarke
Treasurer: Pauline Parker
Racing Sec: Paul Millard
MTB Secretary: Kaptain Kev
Membership Sec:
The Quiet Man™
SpokesTwit:
Champagne Charlie



The friendly cycling
club,
where red and
yellow is
always the new
black!

[www.team-
cambridge.co.uk](http://www.team-cambridge.co.uk)

www.team-cambridge.co.uk

Cometh the Hour...



**Better known for his exploits at the cake-stop,
the "Full English contemplates the prospect of
holding down an Olympic Breakfast at the
Olympic Velodrome...**

**(Apologies for the less than
perfect picture quality (they
didn't have enough lights on for
my phone camera!)**

Loose Spokes

Don't forget, as you wind your clock forward, that the summer evening rides start on Monday 30th March. As it will now be British Summertime, on should dress for the conditions, i.e:- rainwear, lights, gloves etc etc.

Tony and Sue are kindly hosting a club social on Monday 13th April. Cheese and wine and informal chit-chat; mostly about cycling but probably interspersed with ribaldry regarding the Quiet Man™'s tendency to sneak off and play g*mf when he thinks nobody's watching...

The SpokesTwit hasn't much to report on the progress of the club committee, as his attendance at committee meetings remains dismally poor, for reasons beyond his

control (meaning Scouts beyond his control).

Preparations for this year's Open 10 Event are under way. The date for your diaries is **Saturday 18th July at 2.00pm**; please note this is a correction from the date published in the website.

The hall is booked and I have just emailed follow-ups to the requests for timekeepers. The police notification will go in shortly and then the task of rounding up marshals begins in earnest.

I'm grateful to everyone who helped out last year and made our 25th Anniversary event such a success—if you are able to do so this year please let me know as soon as possible.

On the subject of marshalling, Paul has now issued the events list (see page 3) and as always, marshals are a vital part of making these events run smoothly and safely. Do your bit - just let Paul know which events you are available to marshal for and book your spot for that one sunny evening as you watch everyone beat their p.b. from the comfort of the roadside.

*Happy Pedalling!
from your SpokesTwit
"Champagne" Charlie*

