

THE SP KESMAN TEAM CAMBRIDGE



www.team-cambridge.co.uk

June 2003 No.2

A good time was had at the last social event at our house. It was great fun to watch people attempting for Tour de France game on the Playstation. It was a very amusing evening.

A number of Club members have been out thrashing up and down various stretches of road in the search for that elusive fast ride as can be seen in the various race reports. Claire and Jeff have been doing a lot of off road riding and also competed in a mountain bike race, although I don't have any details to publish.

It is rumoured that the vets 25 record has been reduced. Firstly by Alan and then, in a repeat of last year, Steve starting not many minutes later reduced it still further. No other details were available at the time of going to press.

The Club 10's on Wednesday evenings have been attracting a good crowd although so far only the hilly courses have been used. Ian Millard made his debut as a tester as did Adam Willmets (both aged 12). Ian has ridden several events and is currently leading the handicap series.

Club Summer Social - *Barbeque*

This years Summer social is on **Sunday 27th July**
at
Doug and Pauline's house (13 Colesfield, Longstanton)
from 3pm.
The cost is £6.
Please let Pauline know if you would like to go. (01954 780470)

Club Clothing

Pauline cannot send an order in for club clothing until she has several items to be ordered. So if you require any club clothing please contact Pauline ASAP on 01954 780470.

Team Cambridge Open 19th July

Tony will be promoting the Club's annual 10 mile time trial on July 19th. However this year it will be held on the E2 course (A11 near Six Mile Bottom) as it was felt that the Landbeach course has too much traffic. Tony needs volunteers to act as marshals and any offers to provide cakes etc for the refreshments would also be very welcome.

For Sale

Specialised Stump Jumper 18" Mountain Bike
Steel frame, Rock Judy S: forks XT & LX kit
Immaculate condition – never raced or jumped
£280 ono
contact Jeff – Cambridge 214328

Resume of my 2002 season by Alan Kidd

It was a season with a bit of everything which ended very well in October. A low point was a bad 50 in August when Steve and Chris + Charlie did their records. The moral of this was probably 'don't ride a 10 the previous day' although that doesn't totally explain it.....

I reckon I'm best at 10's and although I was doing many 22's and 23's I still felt something was missing so finally I went up to Yorkshire on the A1 based O10/2 and managed to lower the vets record to 21-40. I will be disappointed if I can't improve on that this season, especially with eight events on the E2/10. Then again Steve might go even quicker!

So far as 25's were concerned I was surprised to briefly hold the vets record with a 56-36 on the B25/38. I held it for about 20 minutes until Steve came in. He had been grimacing before the start, always a sign that a good ride is in the offing and he beat me by two seconds so the blasted record went back to him!

Both 10's and 25's have proved very even between us and the competition spurs us on and increases the publicans' profits at regular intervals.

In club events I was pleased to retain the Evening 10 series after a close run thing with Steve but at Sawston I ruined my handicap chances with a 22-15. A fast ride can be a mixed blessing!

Over the longer distances I did manage a decent 50 of 2-04-30 in May and tried my first 100 in June when I was slightly disappointed with a 4-40 ride. The organiser sent me off with the fast riders and by 25 miles I saw my last rider. Cycling 75 miles on your own in a race is very dispiriting so although I finished fairly fresh I was mentally fried. This year I've volunteered to marshal the event and watch Steve suffer!

Since we are in 2003 this is what has happened so far.

After the Chesterfield Spire event in December, which Steve and I travelled up to, the season began with the Ely Hardriders in February, followed by the North Road Hardriders. North Road is a superb event around the Hertfordshire lanes and thoroughly recommended if you are starting early. In both I did OK finishing just above midfield. Since then two or three 10's have produced reasonably rides, Steve beating me in two by a few seconds. I did the Haverhill Hilly 20 and felt for the first time I was hitting form when a bout of gastric flu pole axed me in early April. Hopefully that's out of the way now and the club season beckons.

On a new note, Steve and I tried a vet's race around the Saffron Walden area in March. It was a good learning experience, the main point being how negative 90% of the riders were. Over the 40 miles Steve and I each attacked out of the bunch on about six occasions and were about the only ones to have a go – apart from a couple of the top riders who had already escaped. Never mind it was fun and the next time the plan will be to attack together late on if stuck in the bunch and then stay away.

Aims for this season include faster 10's and 25's. I get out of training rides when possible (I hate training in case you didn't know and contrive to consume plenty of quality ale. We await with interest a seasons report from our French rider Msr. M. Gerard.....

Thanks Alan, Good luck and fast rides for this season.

Race Reports from Tony

DIW 25 22 March 2003 E2/25B

A really nice day for the time of year greeted the rather disappointing field for this sporting 25. It was quite warm and sunny but a brisk east wind made the leg of the circuit from Dunsley corner to Six Mile Bottom, on both laps, a real grovel. The course has been re-measured so that it starts in the lay by opposite the pub at Six Mile Bottom and finishes at the top of the hill just before the A11 bridge. It made the circuit much better than the last time I rode it when the start was at Stetchworth, which meant riding along the course to the start and then all the way back from the finish.

Michael Stanley was the first club rider but did not start for some reason. I was next off and managed to get round in 1-09-59. Sue was 2 minutes behind me and recorded 1-13-59. We were both quite pleased with the times for our first event of the year and agreed that 25 hilly miles is a long way in March.

The event was won by Bobby De'ath in 59-29 with Nick Jackson second in 59-48. Other local riders were Liz Milne 1-04-55, Patrick Campbell 1-10-35 and Pete Baumber 1-11-54.

Lea Valley CC 25 E1/25 5 April 2003

Another crash marred this event following the move by CTT from hazardous dual carriageway courses to more sporting courses. The last event I rode in 2002 on this course had a crash at exactly the same spot as this event. Visibility is about half a mile so there really is no excuse. I definitely prefer the F1. Anyway that is enough of my moans, now for the report. A strong north wind suggested that times were not going to be very fast although this is probably the right direction for this course as the road is mostly down hill on the way to the turn and mostly up hill back so a tail wind would help. This wind was a bit too strong though! Chris Willmets opted to ride the medium gear event as part of a series she has entered and finished in 1-21-22. It was probably about the right gear on the way to the turn. (but definitely not big enough on the way back and I must admit to giving up after I saw Adam Fisher lying in the road with a group of people in attendance and cars stopped in all directions - Chris)

Charles was first off for the club in the main event and returned in 1-16-32 having been slowed by the traffic build up resulting from the crash and then rather losing interest like the rest of us. Michael Stanley was next off and managed to record 1-28-23. Sue was one minute behind him and finished according to her computer in 1-14-30. Her finish coincided with news of the crash reaching the time keepers and they were rather distracted so her time was not on the board by the time we left and it was rumoured that the time keepers were going to have to do some research work on their notes to determine her

time and that of a few others. I was one minute later again and returned to the time keeper in 1-10-47

The event was won by Stephen Hunt in 56.43. Other local riders were Chris Adams (making a come back) 1.28.55 and Nick Jackson who recorded 59-54 and assured me that he did turn at the same roundabout as the rest of us.

The event organisation left something to be desired especially at the HQ. Apart from the problems with the times (for which there was justification) the teas were self service. There was a kettle and one made one's own which led to a bit of chaos.

Haverhill Wheelers Hilly 20 BS/5 6 April 2003

After a week of really nice weather for the time of year we arrived at the start to find damp roads and occasional drizzle with a brisk north east wind making it feel even colder than the actual 9°C. Steve Laurie was first off in the solo event and finished with 53-33. Alan Kidd was next off for the club and beat Steve with his 51-49. They both beat me as I finished in 57-00.

Most of the riders I spoke to had taken it fairly cautiously on the corners as the drizzle was producing damp roads, which are more slippery than wet ones. There were several quite sharp corners which I took very carefully. I even saw Bobby De'ath freewheeling round some of the last few bends on the tail wind assisted descent to the finish on the main road. This was shortly after he had caught me for 8 minutes. He won with 47-46. The head wind up the long drag up out of Clare made for some low gear work too.

Other local riders were Heather Williams 57-05, Nick Jackson 49-21 and Martin Pyne 48-16.

VTTA (East Anglia) 10 B10/34 12 April 2003

A much warmer afternoon than the previous few days greeted the four club riders down on the start sheet for this event. The sun was shining but there was a little bit of a south east wind blowing which meant that you got it against you on the way out but were sheltered by the hedge on the south side of the road on the way back. Still it was much nicer than the snow showers on Thursday!

Charles Willmets was first off for the club and returned to the timekeeper in 26-23. The ladies were all off together in the middle of the field, which meant that Sue had Chris one minute behind her. She held Chris off successfully and recorded 26-32 with Chris at 27-41. I was the last club rider and finished in 25-19.

The event was won by S. Hunt in 20-37. Other local riders were Pete Baumber, 25-15 and Derek Bailey who did not start. The weather certainly made for a much more enjoyable event and the teas and cakes at Kentford village hall were very nice too.

Southgate CC 10 F1B/10 13 April 2003

This was the first time I have got up to ride a 10 on a Sunday morning since my teens and that was a long time ago. I used to go out to Hampton Court to ride a series of club events that were put on by Alf Whiteway on behalf of the Clarence Wheelers. He was later to mentor Tony Doyle in the same way but it was more successful in that case.

I was not really in the mood for this event. It was only 5°C and I had been to the Model Railway Club night out until midnight so I felt a little tired, although I had been driving so at least I did not have a hangover as well. Trevor Avis was the only other club rider and he was also feeling a bit tired so we did not represent the club to our true ability?

Trevor recorded 26-24 to my 25-35 while the event was won by Steve Hunt in 21-29.

The course was the new F1B which starts in the new road beside the A1 opposite Tempsford and proceeds south to join the A1 and continues to Warden Lane roundabout and then returns to finish in Blunham Lane. It appears to me to be set up to use Tempsford village hall as HQ but this event used Roxton village hall which at least has more toilets.

It was still quite early when we set off for our day out so we went circuitously to the garden centre at Milton Ernest for coffee and then on to a very nice pub at Clifton Reynes for lunch,

again rather circuitously as we passed through Yardley Hastings and Olney on the way. The afternoon was yet more loops before having a drink beside the river at Great Barford and then the last few miles back to the car. The pub is definitely worth visiting but not that many miles from Roxton hence all the loops. There are also quite a few busy main roads if one goes much further west. The ride was 75 miles making a grand total of 93 for the day. I am going to put my feet up now and then a nice meal.

Letchworth Velo Club 28 F14/28 17 May 2003

I was the only Team Cambridge entrant for this sporting course based on Guilden Morden. Indeed the event was nearly cancelled due to there being only 18 entries. Luckily, the organisers decided to continue with running it because they felt they owed it to those who had entered.

I had never ridden the course before and it was certainly sporting, especially with the strong south west wind that was blowing. At least the rain that fell all day Friday and at intervals on the Saturday morning held off in the afternoon. The course started in Guilden Morden and went through Wendy to the Arrington roundabout before turning along the main road through Wrestlingworth to Eyeworth. It then turned even more into the wind down to Ashwell before turning back to Guilden Morden and a second circuit of the section to Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth and Ashwell. The leg from Eyeworth to Ashwell was straight into the wind and on a single track road in places. I was on 42x17 and still not pedalling very well. At least it did not seem so bad when I met a tanker and had to stop. The downwind section from Ashwell was made slower because of new chippings. This all makes it sound grim but I quite enjoyed it. It was just rather hard and slow as a result.

I finished in 1-24-47. The winner was David Johnson in 1-09-42.

Maldon and District CC 50 E21/50 1 June 2003

After many interruptions to my open race programme (due to Bank Holiday tours, friends staying etc) I finally got started at this SPOCO event. It was a long drive down to the start which was at Steeple, the other side of Danbury, but I was not off until 08.16 so we did not get up until 05.00 therefore it was not too bad.

Michael Stanley was off in second position on the start sheet but did not start for an unknown reason. I was the only other Club rider and was quite enjoying my ride and going quite well when my front tub went down very rapidly at about 9 1/2 miles. There had been a thunderstorm before the event so the roads were wet in places and dry in others. I got the puncture on a dry stretch but by the time I had changed it I had lost so much time that I gave up. I also decided that I did not fancy riding another two circuits of the course with an unstuck front tub. It is a nice peaceful course on the Bradwell peninsula consisting of almost 3 laps of a circuit but there are numerous right angle bends. It is certainly not the type of course where you can steam along without thinking about the road surfaces and the bends and certainly not with a front tub that might roll off at any moment.

It is definitely a nice course and worth entering again despite the long trip.

I did not stay until the end to find out who won.

After the event Sue and I moved the car to Hatfield Peverel as the peninsula was getting quite busy and we had both ridden nearly all the roads. We did some loops so that we could sample the excellent Riddleys beer and Huffers at the pub at Little Green. The pub was as good as ever and we also managed to stay dry all day.

Team Cambridge Spring Open F14/25 April 27th

Alan Kidd was the organiser of this first event on a new course. Alan's organisation was excellent; it was just a shame that he had no control over the weather or more specifically the wind. It was extremely strong from the southwest which made the ride out to the turn very hard while on the return leg some of us didn't have gears big enough to make use of the wind. The course started west of Barton and ran westwards to turn at Dunton. Anyone who has

ridden the Barton 10 will know how hard Orwell Hill can be in a strong wind and the flat section beyond the Arrington roundabout was also quite tough as there is there are no hedges. Charlie and I were very glad to be riding the tandem rather than a solo.

The overall fastest was Steve Hunt, 58-19, while Chris Adams took the top handicap prize. Alan and Steve took second place in the two-up, with 1-03-49, having been beaten by the Fenland pair of D.Langlands and P. Todd (1-00-16). Besides those who had volunteered to help (Trevor, Clare, Ian, Betsy, Patrick, Sue, Pauline and Doug) the Club also had a good number of riders - Trevor Kimber clocked 1-16-05 , Jeff Bushrod, 1-18-08 and Micheal Stanley 1-35-41 (for the lanterne rouge prize).

The beer afterwards made a welcome change from lots of tea, though tea and the exceptionally good cakes which our club provides were also available.

Thank you to Alan and all his helpers.

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