

NEWSLETTER

Hours of leisure
Miles of pleasure

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BACK RIDING..... **cautiously**

Coming of Age

Gravesend Cycling Club
1923 - 1946



Hours of Leisure
Miles of Pleasure

The above history of GCC from 1923 (its formation) to 1946, the Grand Reunion Dinner & Dance, when the Club was fully back together.

66 pages, 37 black and white and colour pictures, tables, charts and a wealth of pre-War cycling information about the Club.

£4 for Club members, £5 if it is to be posted.

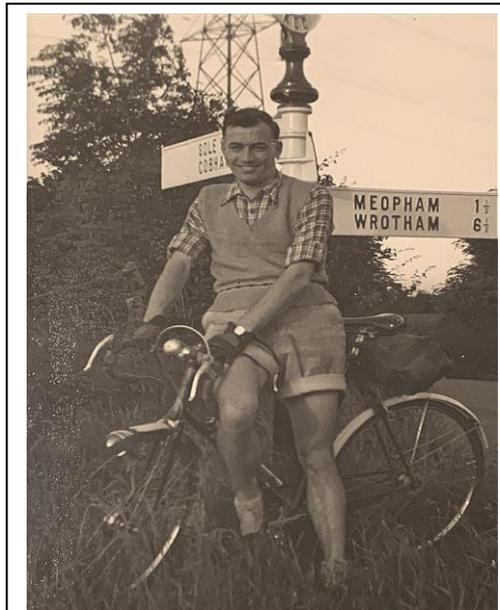
Your Club; your history.

Book reviews later in the Newsletter.

At Last.....

Racing and Club Runs to start in April. Club Runs in groups of no more than 6 though.

But for how long??



Richard Faint, an early 1950s stalwart of the Club has sadly passed away. Article later in the Newsletter.

Full 2021 Racing Programme later in the Newsletter. Ensure you are fully aware of the Covid precautionary measures in place for the 10 and please follow them!

This & that.....

* **A warm welcome to new members David Malka and Robin Mills and to returning member Martin Nutton.** We hope that you enjoy your time with the Club and that you enjoy whatever form of riding you undertake.

* For the time-triallists amongst you there will not be a national or local CTT handbook this year. All information about time trials is only available online.

* One good aspect of news from the CTT is that they have postponed their proposed £1 increase for 2021. This means that Club Evening 10s will stay at £5 per event per rider.

LEJOGS..... that is Lands End to John of Groats, a distance of 603 miles in a straight line, but nearer 900 I would imagine cycling. **Dave French** is in training for this ride in June, (Covid permitting) which he is doing for the Alzheimers' Society. I'm sure we will all donate nearer the date, it is a worthy cause.

Subs.....now due. £15, except for 1st year, life or 2nd claim members. You can pay electronically, cash or cheque. If you are going to ride the Evening 10s then payment can be made then. Contact: Treasurer David Barnes at david@barnes-woodfield.co.uk.

CLUB KIT..... there is now a Club kit window open with Champion Systems, our supplier. It will be open for 3 weeks or until there is an order of 10 items. From the close of the order it 'normally' takes about 6 weeks, but in these times.....?? So you could be ordering for the winter as well!!!!

If you want to know the ins and outs of ordering, accessing the GCC a/c with Champion, or about any of the kit items themselves then please contact Steve Harrington steve_harrington@live.co.uk or Luke Harrington luke_harrington@live.com. (Between the Steve & Luke and Harrington it is an underscore _ .

The link to our account with Champion is
<https://eucustom.champ-sys.com/teamstore/?Gccspring>

For Sale

1. Ian has two child road bikes for sale – see pictures below. They are Giant TCR in very good condition, hardly used. Perfect for you to get the kids out riding with you. Great for kids aged 8-12. Contact **IAN NAVIN** for further information - call/message 07479365161. £200 each.



2. Vintage CARLTON road bike. Worksop built, c.1967/68. Frame size = 21" c/top. Original and unmolested. Stripped, o/hauled and re-built [lockdown project]. Ready to ride. Venture into [the more modern end] of the arcane world of old bikes. Yours for £80. For more detail and pictures just ask, or arrange to view. Contact **ROGER STEVENS** steverog8@live.co.uk 01474-745884



3. **ANTHONY WESTWOOD** says he will be selling his 2019 Giant Trinity (purchased September 2019 and has done around 300 miles) in about a month's time as I am building up a new DI2 TT bike. I haven't fixed a price yet and may decide to sell just the frame. If anyone is interested they can contact me directly at anthony.westwood1@btopenworld.com or 07935 222688



Coming of Age review by Mark Vowells, which he posted in the Kent Vet News, the magazine for VTTA, of which Mark is the Chair. Mark is a member of *San Fairy Ann*.

Coming of Age, the history of the Gravesend CC in the years 1923-46, is a fascinating record of the early phase of the club's life. Based on extensive research by Mike and also Roger Stevens, it describes in detail the early social events, club riding and racing activities, the impact world War II, as well as the town of Gravesend itself. There are also more than 30 photographs.

Coming of Age review

by Nigel Land, Editor Boneshaker magazine of the Veteran-Cycle club

Roger, a member of Veteran-Cycle Club, sent them a copy to Nigel Land to review. During the research process Roger had made use of and obtained information from V-CC. Here is Nigel's review.

With comprehensive records kept by the Club from 1923 to 1956, there was plenty of delving to be done. More material was supplied by our David Hinds, whose family records contained information relating to their early involvement with GCC.

The first chapter records the early history of cycling in the area – for example, North Kent Bicycle Club started in 1877 and also describes Gravesend in the 1920s and 30s, nicely setting the historical scene – especially good for those of us unfamiliar with North Kent. The formation and progress of GCC through to 1946 is covered in the final three chapters in detail and I was struck by how large a part of members' lives the Club became. The racing, the Club runs and the social side must have been enough to fill up every hour not taken up by work and sleep! From my personal experience, apart from a couple or so annual social gatherings, town club life now revolves around racing and a weekend ride, or perhaps I am being unfair. It was also good to discover that women were actively encouraged to join from the early days and to participate in the management of the Club. This was down to one of the original 12 members being an active and enthusiastic woman. The early emphasis was on the social side, hence the motto 'Hours of Leisure Miles of Pleasure'. There were regular Club runs and growth in membership came quite quickly – also the development of competitive riding. Indeed, racing is covered in detail as GCC enjoyed success on track and road – there are six appendices recording results etc.

It was interesting to read about road safety in the 30s and the need for lights at night as such aspects are just as relevant today – also the tendency for slower riders to get left behind on Club runs, leading to the formation of a 'Loiterers' section with the motto 'not so far, not so fast and not so serious', something I can identify with at my age!

The book contains a lot of illustrations with colour used throughout – remarkable, given the price, though I understand it is based on actual production cost only. I do hope there will be sufficient energy within the Club to complete the history up to more recent times.

Richard Faint (1928-2021)

(photos courtesy of Wendy Faint)

Sadly another of our post-War stalwarts has just passed away.

Richard was first recorded in the racing records in 1949, aged 21, when he rode two end of season events. We have the race records for the 1949-54 period, except for 1951, and these show that Richard rode between 8-10 Club events each season. In 1953 & 54 he won the Hill Climbs (Lockyers Hill, Great Buckland – picture bottom right), in 1954 by 11 seconds, while in 1952 he came 2nd. In 1952 he won a KCA 3rd handicap medal in a 25. In 1953 he won the first Mass Start race at Brands Hatch, 2nd in the Commemoration 21 and 2nd handicap in the Club 30. In 1952 came 2nd in the 1 mile track scratch race and 2nd in the Consolation 25. His PBs were – for a 25, 1.7.31



Ramsay Cup 1952 – 1.09.37. Headcorn

in 1952, for a 30, 1.21.18 in 1953 and for a 50, 2.19.48 in 1953. We do not have the Club records for 1951 or after 1954, but in 1956 he came 1st in the Rough Stuff 15 in 1.20.14.

Not only was Richard a regular time-triallist but he also went out regularly on Club Runs and was a good social rider. He played his part in the administration of the Club as well, as in 1951 & 52 he was the Racing Secretary, on the

Racing Committee and then when he stopped racing he helped time keep and in the running and organisation of events.

It was by luck and very fortuitous that I eventually got to meet Richard and his wife Betty. In the Gravesend Reporter of late 2016 one of his daughters, Wendy, had put in a Golden Anniversary picture of them both along with an accompanying script. In researching the Club history I had come across the name of Dickie Faint (see picture p49 of Coming of Age) so I kept the article in order to make contact in order to get further information. I put the article on my desk... always intending to make contact ...and there it stayed for 3 years! In 2019 I wrote; we made contact and although not in the best of health, Richard was very keen to share his knowledge and talk about the Club.



The one day I got a phone call from him saying he had a Club document that I might find useful. What an understatement!!! What a stroke of pure luck given I was in the final stages of the Coming of Age history. A priceless historical document for GCC. It was the full and complete record that the Club had kept of **ALL** the Club races recording **ALL** the Club riders from the very first race in 1923 until 1955. A pure treasure trove! Only 1 year had not been entered, 1951. The



record was in pristine condition. Each result page individually typed with the old style manual typewriter, where you can feel the impression of the type on the reverse side. Like Braille. It had been sitting in Richard's home (forgotten?) since 1955 – 66 years. How or why I never discovered.

However in the early 1950s there was a

continual change in officials and by the mid 50s the start and result sheets were being produced on A4 sized paper which would not have fitted into the Quarto sized Racing Log, (A4 is 2”/5cm larger) so the Log may have been sidelined then forgotten about. Until perhaps I jogged Richard's memory in 2019/20. The end result for us though is that Richard has passed this invaluable piece of Club history back to us. A big debt of gratitude for this Richard and an explanatory note will be place in the Log to this effect.



Unfortunately neither Betty nor Richard were in good health when I first met them. However despite this and the Covid problems they were always very welcoming and friendly. The, just before Xmas 2020 Betty had a fall, broke her leg and had to go into hospital Caught Covid and sadly passed away. Since their marriage in 1956 they had been inseparable so

Betty's death was a terrible blow for Richard so shortly after, in late February 2021, he finally rode off to find her. In informing me of these sad tidings Wendy, one of their daughters, had used GCC headed writing paper from 1951-2, which presumably Richard had 'stored away', and which listed him as being the Racing Secretary. A nice touch. She also lessened the impact by positing the image of them 'now being joyously re-united and having a spin around Heaven on their tandem!'

Thank you to Wendy for the photographs and help with information.

The Club has made a donation to the Ellenor Hospice in memory of Richard.

2021 Evening 10s Guidance

- * Working rear light – **COMPULSORY....no light, no ride.**
- * **Until further notice events** are held under CTT Covid-precaution guidelines
- * **GCC riders please note.** In April & August the maximum number of riders per event is restricted. However 10 places will be reserved for GCC riders. This option will close 20 minutes before the start of the race to allow any waiting non-GCC rider to take up any vacant GCC reserved place, sign on and get ready.

Social Distancing. Please observe the social distancing guidance in force at that time at all times. No large group gatherings – at the start we are in obvious public view.

Payment. £5 per ride. No money will be handle by GCC member overseeing signing on. Change, if needed, to be obtained by rider signing on. Bringing exact money will help.

Signing on. Riders to provide your own pen. Anyone signing on must be gloved or to have used the sanitiser before signing on.

Numbers. Riders to take their own number when signing on. At the finish to place number in designated container.

Pushing off. There will be **NO** pusher-off. Riders will self start.

Results. Will be published on the website. Do not wait around for the timekeeper to return or expect the timekeeper to then make results available.

GCC members/riders please note.

We currently do not have a Racing Secretary – I am filling in on a temporary basis. I will oversee the administration of the 10s and the Racing Programme (and share the time-keeping with David Abbotts), but only while there are Covid precautionary measures required. This lessens the number of people exposed to all the ‘touchable’ items and possible transmission of the virus. However once restrictions are lifted, and travel at least within the UK is permitted, I will need to share out the administration and time-keeping roles amongst members/riders as I will not necessarily be available.

2021 RACING PROGRAMME

(Incorporating the Evening 10, Road and Hill Climb championships)

April	6	GCC	10(max 20)	18.30	Q10/24
	13	GCC	10(max 20)	18.30	Q10/24
	18	KCA	25	07.00	Q25/8
	20	GCC	10(max 25)	18.30	Q10/24
	27	GCC	10(max 30)	18.45	Q10/24
May	2	Wigmore CC	25	06.30	Q25/8
	4	GCC	10	19.00	Q10/24
	11	GCC	10	19.00	Q10/24
	18	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	25	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	30	KCA	50	06.00	Q50/11
	June	1	GCC	10	19.15
	8	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	13	VTTA	25 (Eldridge Mem 25)	06.30	Q25/8
	15	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	22	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	29	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
July	6	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	11	VTTA	50	06.30	Q50/11
	13	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	18	KCA	25	07.00	Q25/10
	20	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	27	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
August	3	GCC	10(max 25)	19.00	Q10/24
	8	Medway Velo	50	06.30	Q50/11
	10	GCC	10(max 25)	19.00	Q10/24
	17	GCC	10(max 20)	18.45	Q10/24
	22	Catford	25	07.00	Q25/12
	24	GCC	10(max 20)	18.45	Q10/24
	31	GCC	10(max 20)	18.45	Q10/24
Septmbr	5	GCC	H/Climb (Exedown)	11.00	QHC/1
	12	VTTA	25	07.30	Q25/12

(Vets & Senior Championship qualifying events are in bold type)

2021 Awards – it could be you!!!!!!

Gravesend BAR (Best All Rounder)

This is the lowest aggregated time for a 10*, 25, and 50 mile rides in Kent based events. (* from a GCC Club 10)

Senior Men's Championship

The lowest aggregated time from 3 Gravesend Championship nominated events from 2 x 25m and 1 x 50

Veterans' Championship

The highest aggregated plus time from 3 Gravesend Championship nominated events –from 2 x 25m and 1 x 50.

Evening 10 Championships – Seniors, Veterans, Juniors & Juveniles

The lowest total time from 5 events. (Times adjusted pro rata if non 10m course)

Pym Hill Trophy

For outstanding contribution(s) to the Club during the season.

The Eldridge Memorial Trophy

The fastest Gravesend rider in the designated Eldridge 25 mile time trial

Bearsby Challenge Shield

This is a track award. The fastest flying lap of Cyclopark full circuit. Unlimited attempts, but officially timed.

Handicap Championship

Calculated from the difference between the two combined fastest times minus the two combined slowest times.

The Tom Taylor Trophy

The best improvement in a 10 mile time from the previous to the current season.

The Tom Medley Trophy

The time nearest to the hour in any event 25m time trial without breaking the hour.

Hill Climb Championship

The rider with the fastest time in the Gravesend Hill Climb event.

Attendance Trophy

For the Gravesend member who has accumulated the most points by attending the most Club activities. Attending any one activity gains 1 point. All activities carry equal points – riding, Club night, marshalling, time keeping etc

Fixed Wheel Trophy (Evening 10s)

Lowest total time from 3 Evening 10 events.

Half Wheel Trophy

Awarded by the Runs' Captain at his/her discretion for half wheeling or other generally provocative tendencies with the bunch!

The Sydney William Goldsmith Trophy

Awarded at the discretion of the Club for any special achievement.

The Hinds Road Race Award

Awarded by the Club to recognise achievement(s) by a Gravesend rider in road racing.

The Touring Award

Awarded by the Club to recognise achievement(s) by a Gravesend rider in cycle touring.

The Mountain Bike Award

Awarded by the Club to recognise achievement(s) by a Gravesend rider in mountain biking.

Ramsay Cup

A team award, awarded to the fastest team of 3 riders in the Ramsay Cup 25.

Wooden Spoon

Awarded, at the Club's discretion, for an event or action which has caused a 'stir'!

Ground Rules for Competitions

1. In riding in these competitions it is expected that, if a winner, you will receive your award at the annual Club Dinner and Presentation. (This is just showing respect to those that have competed but have not been successful)
2. It is ***your responsibility*** to send **any** event results, GCC, Open or otherwise to the Race Secretary. GCC will not trawl around to find your results. You need to provide (i) the promoting club (ii) course code (iii) date (iv) your time. If you are submitting road race, mountain bike or touring results or information then the corresponding information is required.

so don't say you haven't been told!