



Newsletter

Gravesend CC est. 1923

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www.gravesendcc.org.uk

Welcome to the May Issue. We have been busy this month getting ready for the summer. Most of us will be involved in some pretty large sportives over the next 3 months, and some of us have been involved in some already. Don't forget I have set up an email account for all your results. Just fire them to:
GCCresults@gmail.com

So what's been happening in GCC world since our eventful trip to Belgium.

Kate Savage completed the Puncheur Sportive, a grueling 64 mile ride with over 4,000ft of climbing on the South Downs in 4 hours 33 seconds achieving Gold Standard timing. Knowing that this event is based at Ditchling and includes all the big climbs in the area this is a very good achievement in what is a highly regarded Sportive.

Steve Bushell, Jason Radmore and John Milner completed the Velo Birmingham 100 in 5 hours 4 minutes.

Myself, Rob Kay, Jack Wade and Mark Gardiner finished the Eleanour Lions 46 in 2 hours 40 minutes.

Kate Savage completed the Etape Caledonia 2019 in Scotland in 4 hours 26 minutes gaining a PB in the event of over 9 minutes.

Not to forget that Mark Watkins, Steve Harrington, Steve Bushell, Jason Radmore, John Milner and me went on an exploration ride in the Surrey Hills for just over 85k last Saturday!

So all in all so far we've been quite busy – and with the ten mile TT going strong the results keep coming.

So as promised a couple of months back our own Jack Wade has been moonlighting with Team Sky. Lets leave this to Jack to explain what is quite possibly the best experience I can possibly imagine:



Christian Knees 2nd Bike. How does it ride you ask? – comfortable and of course, fast.

If you were wondering, the other bikes available included those of; Kiryienka, Basso, Rowe, Golas, Moscon, Swift and Castroviejo. But these were all small on me.

We spend the next week filming in; Milton Keynes, Watford, London and Snowdonia. Minibuses collect us and take us to set. We are not told any information about what we will be doing each day, we work out the storyline as filming goes on.

We as Team Sky stand ins were working with up to 150 extras on some filming days. I spent most of my time between takes, explaining that I wasn't actually in the Tour de France winning team, as much as it began to feel like I was!

In all, despite not as much riding as we'd hoped, still an amazing experience. I don't think you could make it up if you tried. I was heartbroken when I had to load the Pinarello back onto the van for the last time!

The finished piece has been airing on Sky, so you may have already seen it. See if there are any long legs you recognise from the club runs in this:

[Sky Video Link](#)

“Don't you know, you're the Team Sky stand in!?” – A smirk grew on my face as I finally realised what I was doing on this film set. The assistant director went further – “The Pinarello mechanic will be here in a moment to sort you out with a bike”.

A week prior, I attended an audition for a “Sky Cycling Ad” for which ‘racing cyclists’ were required. Little did I know then that I would now be riding Christian Knees’ bike having won the part in the ad.

I'm then dressed lid to toe in brand new Team Sky kit, I'm counting how much it all costs in my head, but that's not important because “I'm due on set in 5 minutes” and I need to grab a bike.

So you've finished the day and what do you get to keep at the end of your experience?

Jack

"I got to keep the socks and that's about it."

I have to say that I reckon this is going to take some beating as far as experiences go, but with the gauntlet well and truly thrown down who wants to pick it up next?



Rolling road block enlisted, we film overtaking a camera vehicle – Snowdonia



Climbing a valley with camera drone over shoulder, From left: Dan (holds category 1 racing license), Sion (monster triathlete) and Jack Wade (GCC's very own) – Snowdonia

Results

Neil Harrigan has been flying the flag for Gravesend CC – some of his results from earlier in the year include;

10th Feb Kingston 14mile sporting TT (very cold/wet&windy)

3rd Road Bike (10th Overall) 33:47

17th Feb Redhill Sporting 18 mile Sporting TT

2nd Road Bike (10th Overall) 44:10

Not forgetting the GCC 10 mile TT on the Grain course we have seen several members setting good times in our event, which is running smoothly each week and weather permitting attracting more participants as the year goes on. I think that there are regularly at least 12 riders every week, obviously this number will rise when Bob Wilson returns to compete, such is the draw of our rapid fixed wheel rider.

Don't forget please to use the email address to send me your race results. I do apologise if they haven't been updated every month but I will ensure you are included in the newsletter if you have a race result. You can either email

breadcrumbs@live.co.uk

or

GCCresults@gmail.com

The latter is an email address linked to my newsletter template so any results emailed here should be included in the following months newsletter. Ideally I like to publish towards the final quarter of the month.

Events

Upcoming events that you may be interested in.

Goodwood Race circuit is hosting the Dallaglio Track Fest event on 9th June – details from:

www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk

Also they are running the French Revolution ride on the 7th July - we did this in 2016 and it was quite a laugh. There are spaces still available apparently.

Also on Sunday 9th June is the Dragon Devil ride (300km) for the clinically insane amongst us and me. Really looking forward to this.

Time Trials

KCA (A) 2nd June Course Q50/11
start 6am £10 Hamstreet

KCA (B) (Incl. VTTA Kent Group Champs) Course Q/100 6am start
£10 Kingsnorth

16th June is VTTA Kent group Championships (all Age groups) 25 starting from 6:30am £14 Challock

(similar course to Ramsay Cup I think)

Followed by

VTTA Kent group championships all Ages 10 on the 30th June. Hawthorn Corner (Thanet)

If you requires any additional information on any of these events then please contact me directly and I can point you in the right direction, email me at:
breadcrumbs@live.co.uk



Dirt of Leisure, tails of pleasure

Have you seen that we seem to be riding an off-road ride these days, so with a bit of off road experience under my belt I have been riding down the dirty paths around Seal Chart and around here on a Full Suspension Kona Operator or my Giant Rapid 2 Hybrid. Hopefully I will be joining the 2 main protagonists Messers Bushell and Radmore at some point in the future. I know that Dave French is quite handy on an MTB and I reckon we could tap into a very large riding group without much effort. There are not many MTB specific clubs round here but we could easily attract new members.

However, I can happily say that a Hybrid is not the best choice when it's muddy as the brakes clog up and without suspension it does kinda hurt when you get a drop off wrong and slide off the platforms into the stem.

Some of us ride Cyclocross in the winter but surely we can maybe ride MTB as well as Cyclocross all year round?

So ride safe out there everybody and hopefully I will be able to report on more GCC successes next month.