



Newsletter

Hours of leisure
Miles of pleasure

2010 - done & dusted

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Gordon Haymes presenting the GCC Hill Climb winner Neil Harrigan with the trophy. Neil clocked 3.20, beating last year's winner Andy Gibson, 3.33, into second. Andy though won the CC Bexley 2010 Hill Climb. Well done to Neil and Andy.



Derek Wright 'the twiddler', Jason Tibbs 'the lad' and Mike Coulter 'le patron' with the team 'bus' in St Omer for 100km randonneur. An excellent day in all respects. See story later in N/letter. (left) 'The twiddler' all twiddled out on his return, before going to get the refreshments at the finish.



RACING RESULTS**3/8/10 GCC Q10/9**

J Tibbs	26.07
K Ward	28.25
C Bramley	29.45
K Savage (1 st 10TT)	32.52

10/8/10 GCC Q10/9

N Harrigan	24.25
P Benson	27.47
K Ward	28.55
C Bramley	30.42

11/8/10 CC Bexley Q10/26

M Coulter	23.49
A Gibson	24.12
*C Bramley	27.43PB

14/8/10 VTTA(EA) E2/10

M Coulter	22.34(PBLTS)
A Gibson	23.37

15/8/10 KCA 50 (Cl Champ) Q50/1

M Coulter	2.17.46
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18/8/10 CC Bexley Q10/26

*A Gibson <i>Ist</i>	1.30
M Coulter	2.02

24/8/10 GCC Q10/9

N Harrigan	25.05
P Benson	27.16
J Tibbs	28.09

* very windy indeed!

4/9/10 GCC Hill Climb QHC/1

N Harrigan	3.20
A Gibson	3.33
J Tibbs	4.10
(G Terry 2 nd cl)	4.57)

4/9/19 Velocity CC Q10/22

M Coulter (4 th OAS)	23.31
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12/9/10 VTTA (Cl Champ) Q25/12

M Coulter	1.02.28
(G Terry 2 nd cl)	1.03.14)

19/9/10 Hounslow & Dist H25/8

A Gibson	1.03.59
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25/9/10 GCC Q10/24

N Harrigan	24.56
M Coulter	25.29
J Tibbs	26.24
K Ward (fxd)	28.51
(G Terry 2 nd cl)	25.37)

26/9/10 Epsom CC G25/53

A Gibson	1.04.29
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Sportifs**12/9/10 Southern Cyclo Sportif 130km**

Keith Ward
Paul Benson
Alan Teale
Dean Milton

19/9/10 CycleFit Fondo 150km

Jason Tibbs	6hr 5mins
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Duathlon**11/9/10 Richmond Park**

Kate Savage 20k bike	44mins
(1 st mixed pair)	

This & That.....

~ **Well done** to **Kate** riding her first time trial and on a not too friendly course or friendly conditions. Hopefully this will not be her last.

~ **Well done and thanks** to **Len Brown** for renovating the Ramsay Shield for the Club.

~ **Thank you** to **Jackie Lewis and Ken Dyke** for donations to the Club and Newsletter.

~ **Well done** to **Chris Bramley** for getting his PB at 10 miles after persevering for the whole season. Chris turned our regularly and consistently to ride round the GCC 'undulating and exposed' Evening 10 course.

~ **Commiserations** to second claim member **Graham Terry** who got knocked off his bike while riding to the start of the CC Bexley 10, suffering personal and bike damage. Then to cap it all when riding out to help marshall a GCC Evening 10 he suffered a puncture, then got stung by a bee and in trying to get rid of said bee knocked off his sunglasses which were then promptly and unceremoniously flattened by a car! Material for a comedy sketch?? Although with Kent Cycles (he gets all the luck!) Graham is regular at our 10s, riding and helping out, and we link up with him at other events too.

~ While up on the E2 I was warming down and got talking to an elderly gent who was riding up and down warming up. It transpired he was 84, lovely triangular tubed bike hand built up North, but it did give me some concern about riding on those busy dual carriageways at that age. In discussion he said that his local paper had dragged out a pre-war photo of a couple on a racing tandem for some reason, one of the riders being him!

~ Although to date we have not been able to use the Fenn Bell roundabout in the new Evening 10 course we will for next season. With other road alterations in the area in progress and pending we might be able to get some alternative courses there as well.

Well done to Andy, Jacinta and boys, Derek Wright, Chris Bramley, Paul Clark and his wife, Mike Coulter who raised over £60 for the Ellenor Hospice at the Brands Hatch Charity Ride.

Hard luck to the Sportif riders who went off course at the first directional sign!!

Aldi socks – great - they even took the trouble to mark on L and R for the feet!!
Gloves seem good but the pump is cr.....p!

Well done to **Paul Benson** who is riding a charity ride from Bexleyheath to Brussels. This is an annual event for the Bexleyheath Police Charity Cycle Team (website: www.bpcct.co.uk). No wonder he needs to get some training and riding in with a good club.

The **new club 10 course** got its first bleeding today on a very windy day. At least it is a straightforward out and back avoiding the problems of the course route to newcomers.

Could be good. Already it has been 'booked' for the De Laune Open 10 on April 2 and by GCC for August 20. Ian says that although the hall looks dowdy from the outside the inside facilities and décor are good. Hopefully then this could see a resurgence of events and riders out at Grain.

This I like. Quiz question – who said it? (Clue – well known local rider, high profile, Tour Yellow Jersey wearer, now Directeur Sportif) Roger Stevens not allowed to participate.

“When I've been doing time trials, you focus all week on doing some poxy time trial, and you get on the start line and you think, 'Christ, what am I doing here? Here I am again; I must be mad'. As soon as you start, it's OK, and you get into it. All that training you've been doing, it's to do this.”

And I would add especially if the start time is 6.30 am, it's cold, windy or raining – I'm not sure it is OK. Not being able to find something better to do is the worrying part!!!!

If I've put this in before, apologies, I just seem to have remembered doing it yet can't find it in previous Newsletters. Maybe I did do it but then took it out to put something more important in.

GCC's Mr Sportif, Jason Tibbs, rode the CycleFit Fondo 150km based on and around the Romney Marsh area starting from Folkestone race course. He enjoyed it saying it was the best signed sportif he had done but that all the 4000ft of climbing came in the last 50 kms!

A real pity about about Fignon.

Congratulations to Kate Savage who competed in the Richmond Park duathlon and rode the 20k bike section in 44 mins. Her pair came 1st in the mixed section.

Club Runs

26/9/10 7 riders – eat your tyres Keith Ward and on the day you couldn't make it!!!

The 7, including Kate, went via Ifield, Istead Rise, Southfleet, Bean, Darenth, Horton Kirby, Eynsford, Otford, Pilgrims' (or 's?) Way, Wrotham where there was a parting of the ways. 4 came straight up and down the Wrotham Road for destinations of Hartley, Sole St and Strood while 2 went along via Trottiscliffe, Ryarsh, Birling and up Birling Hill. I clocked 35 miles. A good ride – especially if this is the basis of a group for regular Club runs. Who said club runs were dead?

Club runs have been going on through the racing season – just with few riders. Now Keith will be getting back in the saddle and getting us organized. Won't you Keith?

STOP PRESS

Roger Stevens
of
Gravesend Cycling Club
& the
Veterans Cycle Club

*Will be giving a talk about
his vintage bikes, assorted
vintage cycling items and
about vintage cycles in general*

*Among others he will be bringing
a*

*1903 Rudge Whitworth Roadster
& a*

*1953 Claude Butler
(previously GCC owned)*

*Harden Hall
Hall Road, Northfleet*

*Monday 11 October 2010
8.15*

All welcome - cyclists and non-cyclists Refreshments

*If you have vintage or veteran
related cycling items talk to
Roger about bringing them along
- 01474 745884*

For sale.



Racing/TT cycle.

Omega frame (Columbus 'Brain' tubing) 51cm.
Campagnolo headset. Campagnolo Chorus chainset
52/42, Shimano SPD racing pedals. Campagnolo
Athena brakes with Shimano Sora brake/gear levers.
Campagnolo Athena front and rear mechs. Campagnolo
Athena hubs, DRC rims, Swiss DT spokes. 31.8mm stem
and handlebars, Profile Air-Stryker aero bars. £500ono
Also, Campagnolo Vento 16 spoke HPV wheels (deep
section rims) with Continental Gran Prix Supersonic tyres. £150 ono

Contact Jim Mason 07732 792712 afternoons

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www.medwaycyclerepairs.co.uk

This is Richard Masters who rides our 10s and gives us all a workover. Time to get our own back – inundate him with work so he doesn't have time to train!! Richard supports GCC by coming out to ride with us so let's give him some work in return. 2 or 3 people have already made contact with him and I will be doing so soon.

Cyclopark update....

At the latest meeting of 'Club Cyclopark', the umbrella 'club' to oversee the initial development and implementation of the 'club' based at Cyclopark it seems the bulk of the funding is secured, although there is still a shortfall from the original plans requirements. Currently there are sufficient funds to deliver all the core facilities – tracks, roads, access, lighting, but the intended totality of the pavilion may have to be scaled back and even initially there may have to be temporary buildings in a slightly different location while the remaining funds are finalized and obtained for the pavilion. The tenders will go out in early September to be returned by end of October. The core facilities could be available for use a year from now. We are currently planning what activities to provide in the 6 months up to the opening and the 6 months after.

Luke Anderson, the BC SE region Go-Ride Coach will be working in schools in the Gravesend area in the summer term of 2011, just prior to what could possibly be gaining access to the tracks at Cyclopark. This would be a good opportunity for GCC to get involved.

It does appear from the planning and proposals that are being formulated now there is going to be a lot of demand for Cyclopark. Also if we want to become involved it would provide GCC with a golden opportunity and in terms of providing coaching we could do a little or as much as we like. The impression that I had initially, before these planning and development meetings, was that there would be a heavy demand on GCC and its members, but this does not appear to be the case. If we can get established as a Go-Ride club we need only provide one coaching session a week, determined by us, and then once the parents and additional new members becoming involved much of the logistics of the scheme would become less onerous and demanding. Anything in addition to this one session could be specifically tailored for GCC benefit.

Len's Walks

Len's Walks will start again on the first Sunday in October and the great man himself will be leading this walk. The walk dates are as follows as is proposed walk-leader schedule:

October 3	Len Brown	01634 716782
November 7	Colin & Mo Pearson	01634 221657
December 5	Graeme Moir	01634 712278
January 2	Mike Coulter	01474 814475
February 6	Mike Hickie	
March 6	Pete Lloyd	01622 671147

Len's October walk will start from map reference TQ 445598, which should be the car park of The Blacksmith's Arms in Cudham Lane, accessed from the Green Street Green roundabout just south of Orpington.

Walks start at 10am on the first Sunday of each month at a designated venue decided by the walk leader. The venue is circulated in the weeks leading up to the walk in question.

Walks may last about 2.5hrs and may be about 6 miles. Afterwards a convivial time is spent in a local hostelry! All welcome as emphasis is on *social*.

St Omer venture

Following on from my July email to see if there was interest in this trip it finally went with Derek Wright, Jason Tibbs and Mike Coulter. The team 'coach' was Jason's van, with bikes loaded up the day before so the early morning start, 5am, proved to be quite painless. In plenty of time to get a coffee at the Tunnel terminal before the 6.20 Shuttle whisked us into France at 7.55 (that hour time difference!) and then 40 minutes later we were assembling the bikes and changing in St Omer. Painless.

The photo is of us before we started. Derek is wearing the latest version of the pro-shorts from our current supplier, Endura, while Jason is wearing the first edition when this was what was available, while Mike is wearing the pre-Endura, Nicosport, variety. The new shorts seem much better with much improved padding and support in the seat area.

The start was at the St Omer CC HQ which has a outdoor velodrome within a community based sports area. Sign on, pay 4E, get a card but no route map and off you go. It wasn't that warm and it was a question of armwarmers and gilet for the majority of the ride. Derek 'twiddled' his 39x18-16ish for virtually the whole of the 100km and only found the hills a bit challenging. We stopped at the 'feed' for some dried out cake and some mini-Mars bars. Onward and looping back we somehow missed the designated route but were able to retrace our steps reversing the outward route back to the feed – which was still there dispensing the wallpaper-paste cake. By the time we were on the return route the wind has got up so it was a bit harder work.

Back at the HQ we had done 67 miles in 4.5 hours and were making the most of the free food and drink and by now the sun had come out. Every time riders finished and road onto and round the velodrome to finish the music increased in volume to welcome them back. There had been 636 road riders and 334 on the MTB routes. We then spend a couple of hours in St Omer having a coffee and beer before returning to the Tunnel to see if we could get an earlier train. Lo and behold, not only were we able to get one but it was immediate. Straight through and a slight wait before getting home a couple of hours early, which was welcome after the early start.

Thanks to Jason and Derek who enjoyed this year as they did last. Thanks to Jason for the 'use' of his 'team coach'. Cosy!

NB~Dairy Note 2011 July 17-24 there is a whole week of randonneur and cyclotourism rides based on St Omer. I shall be targeting some of these rides so hopefully we can get some more GCC riders to go as well. Unfortunately the information booklet I have doesn't give the distances or the rides.

You might try the www.ffct.org website, the website of the French CTC, or <http://scr-saintomer.herebo.com> which should be the St Omer cycling club.

Ken Dyke recalls.....



This is Ken racing in the mid 50s. I like this photo for the motorcycle side car and the lady with the pill box hat having a good old look. Superficially much seems the same as now – bloke on bike, but look closer – the bell, toe straps, hand knitted woollen jersey, pump, wire bottle cage, cycling shoes, pedals. A lot of this equipment I remember.

Ken was a member from 1953 to the early 1960s and has recently made contact again as a result of the Newsletter. Here are some of his recollections and memories.

- ~ he first got into cycling through a colleague he worked with, Sid Nathan.
- ~ the Isle of Wight trips which Jackie Lewis wrote about in previous Newsletters also feature in Ken's memories. On one trip while the (GCC) group were on the beach Den Butcher found a phial of (foul) smelling perfume which he proceeded to pour over the back of Ken's hand knitted jersey. He had to ride at the back of the group for the rest of the trip. Brian Rowe had a large saddlebag on the back of his trike and once unpacked at the guest house one of his 'friends' added some bricks to it. Brian only discovered this on packing for the return leg to Gravesend. The owners of the guest house lived in the attic accessed by a ladder which came down in the morning and went up last thing at night. The daughter lived in the garage. The rooms of the house were crammed with beds.
- ~ one of the trips was to Clacton. The GCC riders would take the 9pm ferry across the Thames, then cycle to Clacton and then sleep on the beach or under the pier. Another was a weekend trip to St Oysth where Bill Graham had organized chalets to stay in.
- ~ they had up to 120 at the annual Dinner-Prize Presentation.
- ~ Equipment was bought from Len Chambers in Rochester of Baugleys of North London.
- ~ a foul smelling ointment Curacho, used to be rubbed on before races.
- ~ riders used to do a race on the Sunday morning, having ridden to it, then do the Club Run afterwards.

- ~ training for Ken used to be riding a Northfleet, Springhead, Watling St, Dartford, Farningham, Wrotham, Gravesend and back to Northfleet circuit perhaps twice a week.
- ~ Thursday evening massed start racing at Brands anti-clockwise round the now called Indy circuit was another GCC activity. Ken also rode the GCC 10 on the Longfield Rd on Wednesday evenings
- ~ Ken won the Junior 25 medal in 1953/4, which he tied with Den Freeman, in 1.97.32.
- ~ he stopped racing really in 1960 when his publican father died and he had to take over the running of the pub.
- ~ Ken remembers the time when Ian Stone nearly got them arrested at Manston. For the war a village had been cleared to make way for the runway but the church remained. On riding past Ian said 'I haven't been in that church' whereupon the group proceeded to scramble over or through the hedge to get to it. Only for the military police to appear! "And what might you be doing....."
- ~ the time GCC went on a trip to Ely. Ken was stationed in Linclon and cycled down to meet them at the Ely youth hostel. It was a head wind all the way.
- ~ the time Brian Rowe was 'spoken to' by Her Majesty's Constabulary doing 60mph on a tandem trike.
- ~ at the cafes GCC used to stop at had signs stating 'Gravesend Cycling Club stop here. Lunch – 3 sh 6d (17p straight conversion)
- ~ the Club nights were held in a hall in Lord St. Upstairs were the female sea scouts, downstairs GCC. Ken reckons their paths never crossed!!! These Club nights were very well attended and a nice social comment was that a hat went round for contributions to help buy shorts for the junior riders.
- ~ he remembers the Club 'teddy boy' Decker Foster.
- ~ the Club social secretary, Peter Dawson, moved to Southend but he still used to ride with his wife on their tandem to Tilbury, cross, do the club run, then ride back to Southend. (Perhaps Peter was on the back and eased up on the peddling!!)

New 10 course Q10/24

The last 10 of the GCC season allowed us to 'tyre-in' the new course now that the Fenn Bell roundabout is finished. Start is down past the level crossing at Grain on the way to the Isle of Grain power station and the finish just by the turn in to the container terminal.

Here are the stalwarts, in all their finery, who turned out to finish the season.



Richard Masters
(Wigmore CC)



Neil Harrigan



Mike Coulter



Keith Ward
(on his 'beloved' fixed)



Jason Tibbs



Graham Terry (Kent Cycles
but 2nd claim GCC)



The ever necessary and obliging timekeeper and course organiser Ian Stone. Thanks



And Don who provides all our (these) photos and helps out with the marshalling. Thanks

GCC CLOTHING (as at August 20 2010)

Armwarmers		S/M	2	14
Overshoes		M	1	12.50
Sweatshirt/fleece	l/s	M	1	15
Polo-neck shirt	s/s	L	1	12
Jacket Roubaix		M	1	47.50
		L	1	47.50
Jerseys	l/s	l/z 3	1	35
	s/s	s/z 4	1	30
		M	1	37.50
		L	1	37.50
Bibshorts		2	2	20
		M	1	44
		L	1	44
Gilet		M	1	32.50
		L	1	32.50
Skisuit		4	1	40
	l/s	6	1	30
Shorts - (non bib)		3	1	15
		4	1	15

OLD STOCK/DESIGN

Shorts		5	4	10
		6	1	10
Skisuits	s/s	3	2	30
	l/s	6	1	20

Clothing Manager: Derek Wright 01474 834201