

The Signpost



Darley Abbey

**Magazine of the
Derby Mercury RC**



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Editorial

It's almost AGM time again and so much of this issue of the magazine is taken up with the minutes from last year's meeting.

Do try to come along to the meeting. It's your chance to make your views known and, hopefully, to get involved in the running of the club. Judging from the comments posted on the web site forum there's no shortage of people with strong opinions out there but much of this input has been negative. So come to the AGM, get involved and make a positive contribution to the club.

Partly as a result of comments made on the forum, it is getting more and more difficult to find people willing to organise open events on behalf of the club. In fact nobody has stepped up to organise the open time trials for next year so, for the first time since the club started in 1939, there will be no Derby Mercury events in the CTT handbook for 2011 - very sad.

This is all the more frustrating since 2010 has been an excellent year for the club in terms of the numbers of members taking part in racing events including road races, time trials and on the track. Although full results are not yet available, Richard's road race round up shows how great the youngsters are doing and more people have ridden the evening time trials than for quite a few years.

Dave Ellis

Cover Photo: The original badge of the Derby Mercury RC.
(Thanks to Ted Upton for the loan of his badge)

Notices

Trophies - If you have a club trophy, now is the time to get the silver polish out and make sure that it is bright and shiny to give back to Scott Savage so that he can organise engraving etc. The AGM provides a convenient occasion on which to hand trophies back to Scott.

Resolution for the AGM

The increasing numbers of youngsters joining the club have highlighted shortcomings with the current definition of family membership. To change the wording in the constitution, a resolution is required to be voted on at the AGM. It is therefore proposed by the committee that the existing wording in Section 5, para F is replaced by:

"Family Membership shall be available to couples living at the same address or to children under the age of 16 joining with parent(s) or guardian(s)".

Membership Fees

Remember that fees are due on 1st Jan. Membership lapses on 31st March after which a re-joining fee of £1 is required.

There's no need to fill in another form - just come to the clubroom and hand over your money to Avice. If you joined after 1st Oct 2010 you are paid up for 2011.

DMRC Road Race - as "scene" from the mirror of the Lead car.

By Richard Hunt

Sunday the 26th of September saw the 4th edition of the DMRC RR, held over 6.5 laps (115 km) of the tough circuit around Hanbury, Tutbury and Draycott in the Clay with a sting in the tail, ie the climb of Hanbury Hill to the finish on the last lap.

A field of 60 riders lined up behind the lead cars at 10 am. One cuppa too many and the thought of being `trapped` in the lead car for 3 hours was to much for my co-pilot John Anglesea who fled quickly to the gents. He soon returned and the race was on.

The Mercury had a strong team entered featuring `young` Andy Eagers fresh from competing in the Worlds Veteran road race championships, Pete Johnson, Rob Wallace, James Robey, Ed Pickard, Nigel Martin and Rob Malik.

The race convoy trundled away from Hanbury village hall, 5 National Escort motorcycle riders adding to the noise of 60 riders clipping in. Less than a mile and the CB radio burst into life with the first drama. A punctured rider - a burst tyre, not someone impaled on a post or similar. What happens now? Are we waiting? CB radio again, its Elaina, we are to go slow and let the unfortunate victim get back on. As I watch through the mirror the De-Neutralise flag is pulled into the commissaire's car, the race is on. That must be the fastest wheel change ever.

An excitable peloton plunges down into Tutbury with a couple of attacks going straight away. The NEG riders are doing a fine job, stopping at all road junctions and blocking the road, effectively giving us a rolling road closure. How cool is that? On the long straight towards Hanbury at 35 mph, CB radio again - its Neutral service. The punctured rider has failed to

make it onto the back of the bunch.

The first serious break of the day emerged on the approach to the climb of Draycott Bank as Jeff Vernon (Birkenhead North End CC), Josh Cole (Sportscover Strategic) and David Lowe (Team Elite) pulled ahead. The trio worked well together to forge a lead of 40 seconds. However, by one third distance, the race was back together.

Draycott Bank again proved to be an attacking platform as `our Nigel` and Steve Gibson of Peak RT pulled clear to gain a gap of 30 secs. "This will stay away, they're both dead strong" was my comment to John. Half a lap later the duo are joined by 4 more riders. Sam Boast and Neil Beasley featuring now. "This has got the ideal number of riders, it's definitely the winning move" I said to John. The 'Commissaire 2' car pulls into the gap between break and peloton. A sure sign the gap is growing. However, by the next climb of Draycott Bank the race is back together.

On the 5th lap a break of 11 riders formed what would be the winning break. After Neil Beesley (Beeston CC) and David Wier (cyclingbargains.com) went clear the numbers swelled to 11 as various riders chipped away from the bunch. It was on the twisting descent through the woods towards Tutbury that the dice fell in the favour of the riders prepared to make a race of it.

We slowed down on spotting the 2 approaching horses and trundled carefully past, John grabbing the CB and warning the convoy. There was going to be a kafuffle, you could see it in the body language and eyes of the leading horse! I watched intently through the mirror as the breakaway riders got past safely but then the CB cracked into life - "The horses are going nuts, one has reared up and the riders are going past in single file.

One rider has had to walk past!" It's always skinny horses that cause trouble. The big thick set ones never seem to give a problem. Maybe they are like racing cyclists - always `over hungry` and irritable?

So that was the race over for the Peloton. The break edged out to 40 seconds, the Com 2 car dropped into the gap and we settled in to watch the last lap unfold. Time for a Mars bar and a coke. But not for John, he's on a diet, but after watching me eat mine he was soon ripping off the wrapper and ramming one in his mouth.

The break was working well, all was going smoothly. But not for the local Vicar. The race had held her up and she had stopped to vent her anger to the marshals. We were soon at the Hanbury hill turn off.

The early pace on the cruel ascent looked slow as nobody was prepared to commit to an all out effort and go it alone. Instead the group seemed to leave it all until the last 200m before the fireworks started. Steve Guymer led out the sprint and held off Nathan Wilson by half a wheel.

An excellent race, well organised and marshalled. The feedback from the riders was very positive. The officials were also suitably impressed.

Result

1. Steven Guymer Raleigh RT
9. Pete Johnson Derby Mercury
20. Edward Pickard Derby Mercury
26. Robert Wallace Derby Mercury

Results Round-Up

It's been an excellent year for the club on the road and the track.

In the BC National Rankings (points scored in national events for riders in elite, 1st, 2nd 3rd and youth cats and also totals for clubs) the club finished 177th with 102 points - a massive improvement on last years position of 203rd. National points scorers this year were:

Rosie Blount 32 (youth cat u16).

Harry Crew 28 (u14)

Hannah Blount 23 (u14)

Andy Eagers 10 (u100)

Nick Scott 4

Matthew Luscombe 4 (u8)

James Luscombe 1 (u10)

BC also produces regional rankings (points gained in regional events for 2nd, 3rd and 4th category riders) and regional club /team rankings ,determined by total points scored in regional events, with a maximum of 3 scoring riders per club.

(Points are only scored if the event is held in the region in which the club is registered).

Regionally DMRC ranks 3rd with 99 points (we were 8th in 2009). Our points scorers were:

Ed Pickard 33, Robert Malik 32

Robert Wallace 14, John Anglesea 7

Pete Johnson 7, Andy Eagers 6

For wins the young riders have shown the way. Harry with an exceptional 20 wins. Rosie Blount winning 9 races in circuit and track events. She also showed well in the inter regional youth track championships with 3rd 2000m team pursuit, 3rd team sprint and 2nd 500m time trial.

Hannah Blount 9 wins.

In time trialling information from open events and the club BAR competitions is not yet available but results from the evening time trial series are presented on the following pages and show a very healthy situation with 66 riders competing during the season.

Results of the Evening Time Trial Series for the 2010 Season

Points from best 10 rides of 18 (final two events cancelled)

Scratch Event: Seniors

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Rides	Pos.	Name	Pts.	Rides
1	Tom Butcher	394	15	15	Martin Witney	229	9
2	Jon O'Brien	389	14	16	Matt Crouch	195	5
3	Jim Crew	371.5	15	17	Rob Slater	163	5
4	Lee Blades	364.5	14	18	Andrew Coates	158	7
5	Dave Banks	345	11	19	Simon Broomhead	141.5	6
6	Pascal Arnoux	334	11	20	Stewart Riley	130	5
7	John Anglesea	306.5	9	21	Martin Wimpenny	104	3
8	Joe White	275.5	11	22	Clive Lockwood	78	2
9	Dan Smith	273	10	23	Pete Turner	71	2
10	Neville Whitton	263	14	24	Andy Pope	44	2
11	Mark Gray	250	8	25	Duncan Putman	40	1
12	Dave Barber	248.5	9	26	Edd Pickard	36	1
13	Pete Johnson	235	6	27	Steve Kilgannon	30	1
14	Richard Parkin	233	12	28	Kevin Cunniffe	22	1

Ladies

1	Sarah Todd	157	7
2	Debbie Hamp	66	4

Schoolboys

1	Harry Crew	330	13
2	Olivier Arnoux	232.5	13

Schoolgirls

1	Rosie Blount	85	4
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Other Riders (not meeting the 'helping out' requirement)

Name	Pts.	Rides	Name	Pts.	Rides
Andy Hughes	342	12	John Manning	76	2
Mike O'Keefe	303.5	15	Hannah Blount (SG)	65	4
Philip Cripps	289	14	Jonathan Wardle	65	3
Rob Malik	266	7	Alan Sheldon	58	2
Desmond Duddy	225	6	Dave Bridges	49	2
Keith Jackson	162	6	Alex Chappell	43	2
Roland Sutton	131.5	5	Andreas Constantinides	43	2
Harvey Schofield	129	5	Andy Eagers	39	1
Kevin Skipworth	123	4	Ben Rouse	34	1
Nigel Martin	116	3	Steve Halford	31	1
Andy Hill	112	4	K. Astley	24	1
Chris Bradley	103	4	Andy Thomas	23	1
Hilary Johnson (L)	102	4	Mark Davies	21	1
Harvey Cooke	96.5	4	Lewis Harvey (SB)	20	1
R. Wallace	93	3	Mark Ward	17	1
Phil Ryan	92	3	Simon Oldacre	16	1
Chris Blount	77.5	4			

Handicap Competition

Pos.	Name	Pts.	Rides	Pos.	Name	Pts.	Rides
1	Neville Whitton	374	14	18	Pete Johnson	189	6
2	Olivier Arnoux (SB)	372.5	13	19	Stewart Riley	186	5
3	Tom Butcher	342.5	15	20	Andrew Coates	183.5	7
4	Harry Crew (SB)	334	13	21	Rob Slater	164	5
5	Joe White	328.5	11	22	Matt Crouch	150.5	5
6	Jim Crew	322	15	23	Rosie Blount (SG)	142.5	4
7	Jon O'Brien	311	14	24	Simon Broomhead	140.5	6
8	Pascal Arnoux	308.5	11	25	Martin Wimpenny	110	3
9	Martin Witney	304.5	9	26	Debbie Hamp (L)	70	4
10	John Anglesea	296	9	27	Pete Turner	61.5	2
11	Dave Banks	268.5	11	28	Andy Pope	57	2
12	Dave Barber	245	9	29	Clive Lockwood	46	2
13	Lee Blades	237	14	30	Edd Pickard	38	1
14	Sarah Todd (L)	236	7	31	Steve Kilgannon	36.5	1
15	Richard Parkin	230	12	31	Duncan Putman	27.5	1
16	Mark Gray	214	8	32	Kevin Cunniffe	23	1
17	Dan Smith	197.5	10				

Non-qualifying riders

Name	Pts.	Rides	Name	Pts.	Rides
Mike O'Keefe	352	15	Chris Bradley	74.5	4
Philip Cripps	325.5	14	John Manning	74.5	2
Andy Hughes	277.5	12	Andreas Constantinides	66.5	2
Rob Malik	233	7	Alex Chappell	64.5	2
Desmond Duddy	193.5	6	Phil Ryan	58	3
Hannah Blount (SG)	168	4	Dave Bridges	56.5	2
Roland Sutton	155.5	5	Alan Sheldon	44	2
Keith Jackson	152.5	6	Andy Thomas	37	1
Andy Hill	138.5	4	Steve Halford	36.5	1
Hilary Johnson	134.5	4	Mark Davies	36.5	1
Kevin Skipworth	125	4	Ben Rouse	35.5	1
Chris Blount	109	4	K. Astley	35.5	1
Nigel Martin	108	3	Andy Eagers	31	1
Harvey Schofield	105	5	Mark Ward	30.5	1
R. Wallace	104	3	Lewis Harvey (SB)	29.5	1
Jonathan Wardle	102	3	Simon Oldacre	20.5	1
Harvey Cooke	77	4			

3 Peaks Cyclo-Cross Report

By Sarah Todd

The morning of the 26th September dawned with the prospect of a good day for the 2010 Yorkshire Three Peaks Cyclocross: clear blue skies, not too cold and no sign of rain. It was a shame I'd only got to sleep less than 6 hours before due to a birthday party taking place in our B&B till the early hours, not quite the preparation I'd had in mind!

The start area was a buzzing mass of excitement, with nearly 600 riders jostling for a position, dependent upon their expected finish time, plus many supporters. A few last minute stretches and we were off. A few miles neutralised from Helwith Bridge, through Horton-in-Ribblesdale brought us to the start of Simon Fell, the precursor to Ingleborough. As I'd been forewarned the left hand turn over the cattle bridge was carnage as hundreds of riders ahead of me crunched their gears and came to a grinding halt. On my Dad's advice I was able to keep right and head up through the field and passed a good few riders. It's not long until the terrain becomes unrideable however, and the real slog begins. At first it's a case of walk a bit, then I found I could jump back on the bike intermittently as the gradient

went up and down, not because it was necessarily faster, but it gave my calves a rest and enabled me to use muscles that I was more used to (being a cyclist and not a fell runner!). At first it didn't seem too bad, but then the steep part up Simon Fell begins and it was all I could do to keep one foot moving in front of the other. It's so steep that I found I had to hold the bike horizontally across my back rather than along my side, or my front wheel dug in to the ground. A few times people fell and were kept upright by the people behind.

Reaching the top of Simon's Fell (Hell) was wonderful, it felt like the first hard bit was under my belt. A little further on is 'Rawnsley's Leap', a big style to cross, not easy with a bike. It was great to see that although everyone was racing there was a real feeling of camaraderie; one rider hopped over the style, the next rider passed him a bike, hopped over and then took the next bike, forming a chain. The sense of helping each other was great. Up on the top the glorious day turned out to be not quite so perfect, because although the rain had stayed away and the sun shone on the wonderful views, the wind had really got up and made it very hard going.



Team Todd

*Rob Slater
Philip Todd
Sarah Todd
David Todd
Hilary Todd*

Once up the steps towards the top of Ingleborough it's great to see the time keepers, where we 'dib' in to record our time, good to have the first climb completed. I'd been looking forward to the descent and it was good to get back on the bike and have a bit of a break. The first part was to my liking, quite rocky, and having done a fair bit of practicing on this I was flying past people, a great boost to the moral. Unfortunately not long into the descent I found myself somersaulting through the air, hitting the back of my head hard as I came down. As I lay there, slightly dazed it was nice to hear many people coming past, slowing down to check I was ok – many thanks to all. I got up, dusted myself off and was amazed to find I didn't hurt too much. After picking my bike and bits up off the ground I'd to waste more time getting the wheels to go round, and ended up with a badly buckled front wheel. Determined to make up the time again I shot off down the hill and enjoyed every minute of it, absolutely brilliant fun. A very grassy fast descent, having to be careful to look out for bogs, ditches and hidden holes. Again it was great for the morale, flying past people who'd overtaken me on the climb and not getting passed myself (though it wasn't long before they then caught me again on the road!).

At the bottom it was fab to have my boyfriend and mum waiting for me, in the bright orange running vests Action for M.E sent me; they worked a treat, making it easy to spot our support team in amongst the hundreds of other helpers, and hopefully raising awareness of the charity at the same time. After dibbing in at the bottom there's a long road section from Cold Cotes via Ingleton to the start of Whernside, where I was able to join forces with a reasonable sized group of other riders to share the work into a nasty headwind. A few of the guys I'd passed on the descent caught me up, some very

surprised asking if I was the girl who'd somersaulted at the top of Ingleborough, I'm told it was a very spectacular crash! They were shocked I wasn't badly injured, so think I got off pretty lightly with just a few cuts and bruises. Typically, whilst there are numerous photos of me looking like death warmed up getting up the climbs, there are none of me doing this 'spectacular' mid air flip, which would have been good to see.

My brother was waiting for me at the bottom of Whernside, again bedecked in glorious orange, with drinks, food and a good cheer. It was fantastic riding along with numerous spectators all cheering us on, the atmosphere was great. The first couple of miles up towards Whernside are rideable, until a little after the drinks stand. Then the climbing, with bike on my shoulder again, begins. And it feels like it never ends. At some points there are steps, which do make it a bit better than Ingleborough, where it's just grass with no real grip to be had, but the steps are all roughly hewn out of rocks, which made it hard going for my little legs. (Well, that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it!) At this point cramp began to set in and it never really left. It was all I could do to keep one foot moving in front of the other, trying desperately hard not to stop because I doubt I'd have got going again. Every now and then I'd see my dad maybe 150-200 metres ahead of me, which gave me confidence I was probably doing ok, since I expected him to be around half an hour quicker than me.

Once at the top of the steep section it's possible to ride some parts of it, along a track a little more than a metre wide. However, the direct head wind made for a difficult ride and it was slow going up to the top. I momentarily glanced at the views, and if I hadn't been in a world of my own pain I think they'd have been very enjoyable. At the top of Whernside I held my hand out to be 'dibbed' and set off for

the descent I'd been most dreading. I'd heard horrible things about the slippery stone slabs and intermittent drainage ditches running across the track, and was worried about the likelihood of going head over the handlebars. What I'd not anticipated was the painful cramping making it almost impossible to ride at times, because I couldn't use my legs to dampen the rocks (no suspension on a cyclo-x bike!), but at the same time I couldn't get off the bike either because my legs would just seize up. Once the cramp died down though I began to enjoy the descent, due to the dry weather meaning the slabs weren't too slippery. The drainage ditches weren't too bad either, I found I could get over them without too much trouble and being able to see dad riding a little further down gave me the confidence that much of it was rideable. Again I was able to overtake numerous people, and it was nice to hear guys complimenting my descending skills, just a shame my climbing skills weren't as good! I was surprised how far it was to the road and the next 'dib' point once the main descent was over, but it was a really enjoyable stretch, fast flowing, easy descending which could really be enjoyed.

Mum was at the bottom waiting with rice pudding in an icecream cone (don't knock it til you've tried it, instant easily digestible energy and far more pleasant than another energy gel!). I tried not to think about the fact that the winners would by now have finished and be having a nice cuppa, whilst I still had one more climb to get up! Another road section loomed, and I ended up doing most of this by myself, with few others around to ride with (those near me were riding too fast and I needed to eat and spin my legs out to try to get rid of the cramp). By this point I was noticing the effects of my crash, with a dull headache and a far sorer right leg.

The turn onto Pen-Y-Ghent is like an awesome rush, with a wall of spectators

lining the path, it's brilliant and just what I needed as people on their way to the finish came hurtling down (we go up and down the same way on PYG, which can be an interesting experience!). After a hundred metres or so my brother and numerous other supporters were making a real din, with claxons blaring, and much cheering as I rode past, it was really good, I could never have done it without all the supporters. Riding along I was feeling stiff but it was good to hear someone on my wheel panting away and clearly struggling more, I could also see a small bunch ahead of me who I was starting to gain ground on. I found that my cycling climbing was relatively good; whilst on the bike I was able to gain on people and ride many sections that others couldn't but it wasn't long before we turned right after Hol Pot and the gradient seemed to double, sending me straight into walking mode. At this point I slowly seemed to go backwards, with people gradually passing me, as my whole body cramped up. My arms were hurting with the rockiness of the descents, and my right arm in particular where I'd fallen on it. My legs simply were not responding and seemed to have gone on strike. At this point I looked ahead and it seemed to be miles further to the top, I had no idea how I'd make it. Many people were telling me I was around 6th woman which was really helpful, I was able to tell myself there must have been many people behind me going slower and so even if I had to slow right down, if they could do it, so could I.

The steepest section seemed like the world was in a go slow, a kind lady walking down the hill (I've no idea if she was a spectator or just a normal walker) seemed to see my suffering and held out an opened geobar for me, an absolute saint! Somehow I made it to the top of the steep section and although it still looked like a long way to go, we now changed direction and had the wind behind us and the path became far less steep. It felt like I was now getting

somewhere and I could tell myself this was the last bit of real pain, then it was all downhill, and I might even be able to get a top 10 placing! Dragging my bike up on my shoulders I tried to look at the paths riders were taking on the way down to help me plan my route. One rider came down the rock path towards me and fell in a heap, but thankfully wasn't too badly injured. I noted many riders taking a higher path over the grass above me, and decided to take that on my descent.

Finally having made the top was a wonderful feeling – all three conquered and just a great descent to do now, yay! I was completely confused to turn around and see my Dad coming up the hill, I'd thought he was ahead of me, but later found out his shoes had fallen apart and he'd had to stop for another pair, costing him around ten minutes. Dad's a great descender and I anticipated him catching me, then us being able to finish together, which would have been absolutely brilliant. However not long after starting the descent my brakes seemed to completely fail on me. As the descent got even steeper it became harder and harder to brake, I simply didn't have the strength in my hands and had to use my feet to bring me to a stop so I could prevent the build up of too much speed (just not safe, I needed more control due to riders coming up, irrigation ditches, rocks and tight corners). I was getting very frustrated as dad caught me up, I'd to shout out to him to carry on without me, I couldn't risk building up the speed to keep up. I set off again only to find my speed building up to terrifying levels (for me!) with a sharp right hander imminent. I knew I'd never make it, and continued straight on, turning back up the hill to slow me down enough and eventually half stopping/half falling off and then being overcome by cramp. Thankfully I was nearly down the steepest part of the climb by this point and was then able to really let it go, having great fun racking up the speed on the bottom part of the climb where it was less technical and

safe to go faster. I really enjoyed this part of it, and it was great to get to the bottom to be told it was only 3 miles along the road to the finish. I wasn't sure how much time I had left to beat my 5 hour target so I buried myself all the way to the finish, ignoring how stiff and painful my legs were. Coming around the final corner into the pub car park was a wonderful feeling, knowing that I'd made it.

I was very impressed with the organisation, as soon as I'd finished I was given a printed certificate with my time (4 hours 54 minutes, 18 seconds, hurrah!) and splits at all the different timing points. A little talking around confirmed I was actually 8th woman overall; people must have missed some of the earlier women when they told me I was 6th. I was very happy with both my time and position, and on a real high afterwards. I'd like to give a huge thank you to the organisers and helpers, without them the race wouldn't go ahead and they did a marvellous job, as they do every year.

A few years ago I never thought I'd race again, so to come and complete this race, and do so only 35 minutes behind the women's winner is something I'm very proud of. I will be donating my prize money (£100) towards the sponsorship for Action for M.E and hope that the fundraising I've done will help raise awareness for this horrible illness, and the money can go towards finding a cure and making lives better for the many people who are more unfortunate than I am and still suffer from it. Thanks very much to everyone who has sponsored me, at the time of writing (29th September) I've raised £640. If you'd like to sponsor me but haven't had chance yet, you can still do so at my justgiving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Toddy-does-the-3peaks>

Thank you!!

DERBY MERCURY RC - MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2009

Date: 24 November 2009. **Venue:** Clubroom, Darley Abbey

The meeting began at 7:40 pm. The names of those present, 39 in all, are recorded in the attendance book.

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from: Richard Hunt, Dave Luscombe, Enid Barker and Ron Smith.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the 2008 AGM had been published in the club magazine and additional copies were distributed as needed and time was allowed for everyone to read them. The minutes were accepted as read.

3 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4 Annual Reports:

Chairman:

Dave noted that he would not pre-empt the reports to follow but noted that the club had promoted two National Trophy Cyclo-X events, one at the end of last season and one at the beginning of this season. Both had been very successful and complements had been received from the national organisers on the running of the events.

Vice Chairman:

Jim Crew reported that his main focus in 2008/2009 had been on getting Go-Ride up and running. Go-Ride is British Cycling's scheme to get kids on bikes. It's not just about hitting as many children as possible - it's to put together a regular, structured program, hopefully with a goal at the end. Events have to be off-road.

A sticking point has been finding a Child Welfare Officer - we now have a volunteer in Dave Luscombe. We already have a level 2 coach (Tom Butcher) so we can now sign up as a Go-Ride club. Also three potential trainee coaches - Rob Malik (coached previously with Derby City Council), Mark Gray (has done some Go-Ride training with BC and Cycle Derby) and Jim Crew (has also done training with Go-Ride and has worked with Tom Butcher in a school).

There have been several meetings with local and national Go-Ride coaches - Dean Hughes, Anthony Gill (BC Area Manager), Lauren Smith (Cycle Derby) and Richard Williams from Derby City Council who has a pot of money to get community clubs off the ground.

Training has been identified and booked for January and April 2010. Two places are funded by Cycle Derby (£295 per place to be clawed back from DCC). A further place is to be paid for initially by DMRC and clawed back from DCC. First aid courses for any coaches are also booked for January 2010.

What we deliver: Weekly training sessions in 2010 from April to September, for 7 to 16 year olds, probably Thursdays in Allestree Park, near to some supportive schools.

Aim: children to enter Heanor Clarion summer cyclo-X league. Also children to enter Notts & Derby cyclo-X league from September 2010. Go-Race events, organised by BC and DMRC from summer 2010. A monthly half day or full day event on a grander scale - we have done one of these already.

Future: Week long summer holiday club in 2010 run by BC coach with help from DMRC. Darley Moor childrens' races from March 2010 or 2011. Bring more children and parent helpers to the club. Potential link with schools in other areas of the city, eg Sinfin cyclo-X track. Schools club run by Cycle Derby with DMRC help. Track league at Forest Town, Mansfield. Bikes to lend to kids - explore grants - can use BC bikes for now at major events.

DB thanked Jim for all his hard work over the year.

Secretary

DE reported that the committee met on seven occasions with an average attendance of 12. The meetings were civilised and orderly under Dave Banks's excellent chairmanship. The business of the meetings will be covered by individual reports. DE thanked the meeting hosts for their hospitality and stated that he was standing down as secretary but was willing to continue to the end of this meeting.

Treasurer

We have had increased activity in most categories this year. The new style clothing has been the biggest and the increased membership has also contributed. We have an income over expenditure of £636.88.

Miscellaneous expenses included photocopying for AGM, stamps and a donation on the death of Derrick Johnson. Miscellaneous income included hiring out the projector 4 times at £10-00, hiring out the rollers at £25-00 and a number of small donations.

Copies of the statement of accounts were distributed for attendees to examine. There were no comments.

Auditors

John Horrocks reported as follows:

For me this years audit has been a stimulating experience as I welcome Nick Scott as my audit partner. After doing it alone last year and Mark Vallis having little time to devote to the task in the previous years it came as a culture shock to share the task and, even more, to do so with someone who was clearly from the start going to take the task very seriously indeed. Despite a few blips on the way (principally my failure to pick up Nick's emails because I was listening for phone calls (Nick: I am from an analogue age and prefer talk to emails) we have successfully audited this years accounts with a high degree of agreement.

Firstly, we congratulate Avice for thoroughly recording income and expenditure in good detail and for managing the club cashflow in conjunction with others. As usual all the

records have been meticulously kept with all but the smallest items well backed up with receipts. Once again Avice, thank you for your efforts. Race accounts continue to show the improvement I sought two years ago.

Our second duty as auditors is to look at the financial state of the club and recommend whether any actions to correct deficiencies or adverse trends are required. Ideally the club needs to achieve an equal balance of expenditure and income year on year as a minimum and retain a reasonable surplus each year to cover unforeseeable problems or provide capital for new projects or equipment. Historically the club is coming from a position where we felt we had more capital than was absolutely necessary and have been able to purchase items such as the digital projector and race equipment without difficulty and still retain sufficient working capital. We now face a position where the working capital available barely meets our needs. This is particularly evident in the case of clothing purchase. Costs have risen over the years, made worse by the devaluation of the pound against the euro, we have to order at least 10 of any item and pay for the order in full up front, creating a bill we can barely meet. Whilst alternatives exist we feel the fairest solution is to increase our working capital through the committee's proposed increase in subscriptions. Two further proposals from Nick which the committee may care to consider are:

1. Maintain a programme of profitable race events as these positively contribute to club funds e.g. run a 3/4/J race alongside an E/1/2/3 for the road race.
2. Consider evening events at the clubroom that warrant a small admission fee but would attract non-members e.g. course en-tete etc.

The value of clothing held has long been a matter of concern in case we are left with redundant stock. Nick has proposed that un-sold stock should be depreciated to zero value over a reasonable period of time to reflect actual value rather than cost. I confess my own view is different, believing that, unlike capital items, clothing is sold at about its cost price (zero depreciation) until the club colours change, when it depreciates abruptly. Mixed ages of similar items further complicate the issue. We leave the committee to consider the proposal.

Finally, thank you again Avice, for a job well done; thank you Nick for your work and not allowing me to become complacent.

DB also thanked Avice for keeping the club's finances in very good order and the auditors for doing a thorough job.

Time Trial Secretary

Evening Time Trial Series

There were 20 events, 14 on Long Lane and 6 on Windley. One of the Long Lane events was a 25. One was a 2-up. The 2-up attracted the biggest field of the year, 33 riders including solo riders. Rider numbers were up on last year again, the number of club members riding was up to 67 this year (49 in '08). This is an increase for the 7th season running from a low of only 18 in 2002. Averaged 20 riders per week. 7 ladies rode (3 U16) with 4 U16s in total. Mark Shardlow won the series with 400 points with Debbie Luscombe the ladies winner and Harry Crew the U16 winner. Andy Hughes was winner in the handicap competition with 374.5 points.

Club Championships

Ladies 10 (12.5) Champion was Debbie Luscombe. U16 10 (12.5) Champion was Harry Crew, fastest girl was Rosie Blount. Ladies 25 Champion was Hilary Johnson, 1:15:19. Mens 25 Champion was Andy Eagers in 58:43. Pete Johnson won a very close club hill climb in 4:12 with 4th place being just 3 seconds down. U16 winner was Harry Crew in 5:36. 15 riders in total. Despite using a disc wheel Lee Blades lost out in his attempt to regain the downhill contest. Clive Lockwood repeated last year's win.

BAR Competitions

Competitors for the traditional BAR competitions are increasing. There were 5 qualifiers for the Open BAR. Clive Lockwood won with 27.41mph, Nick Scott was second in 25.15 mph with Jim Rigby, Pete Turner and Jim Hopper being the other riders. Apart from Clive these riders are all vets so there were 4 qualifiers for the Vets BAR. Subject to late challenges Nick Scott has won with +4.78mph, Jim Hopper coming a close second with +4.67mph. Liz Pilkington has won the women's BAR in 23.80mph. She remains unbeaten in this competition now since 1990. The DMRC BAR had 8 riders (7 in '08) completing open events in the four qualifying categories. In all 25 members rode open events (24 in '08). Mark Shardlow did a good job of chasing mid week events on sporting courses and is a clear winner with an average of 98.2%.

Inter-Club Events

The interclub 25 with South Pennine, Mercia & Heanor was run back on the Etwall course again. Much better contest than for several years now with only Heanor failing to field a team. The Mercury had 11 riders and South Pennine and Mercia 7 each. The Mercury won with a team time of 4:41:02 for the fastest 5 riders. South Pennine 4:43:14, Mercia 4:51:22 (faster than our winning time from last year). The individual win went to Charlie Taylor from the South Pennine in 51:32.

Club Open Events

Chris Bradley ran an open 10 on the Etwall course in May. Near full field with 119 riders. Richard Bradley (Shorter Rochford) won in 19:59 with Clive Lockwood fastest of 15 entries from club members. Chris will be running this event again in 2010 as a joint promotion with Zepnat. Nigel Granville ran the open 25, including the club 25 championship, in July on the Griffydham course getting just 32 entries this year, 11 of them from the club. ('08=27, '07=55, '06=31, '05=66, '04=53, '03 Etwall =120+reserves+6 tandems) Andy Eagers, as well as winning the club championship, won the event outright for the second year running. Nigel is stepping down after a decade running this event and Nick Scott is to take over for 2010 and switch the event onto the Etwall course.

Club Records

After 6 seasons with no one troubling the club record books Liz Pilkington has beaten her own ladies 50 record set in '02 by 16 seconds with a ride of 2:12:11 in the BDCA event on the Etwall course.

DB thanked Clive for all his hard work over the last year.

Road Race Secretary (not present)

Richard Hunt supplied a written report which was read out by DE as follows:

The club has 48 BC members, of which 22 are full licence holders (5 more than 08) 4 youth (+2 on 08) and 2 juniors (+2 on 08). 5 Under 12 s.

A good season on the road has seen the Mercury finish 8th in East Mids team rankings and 203rd in the National rankings. 1st in our region were www.cyclingbargains.com.

9 riders scored points at either national or regional level, including 3 youth and 1 under 12 (Jacob Gray). There were 4 race winners, Duncan Putman (2), Clive Lockwood and Rosie Blount. Duncan also gained his 1st Cat licence.

Other points scorers were Andy Eagers, Andrew Young, Harry Crew, Richard Whittaker, Thomas Bishop. Andy Eagers won a silver medal for 2nd over 45 national masters cat c+ road race champs. He also got 3rd in LVRC national champs. We scored 49 top ten placings.

In Mountain biking Nigel Martin had 5 top ten placings and is ranked 22nd nationally.

DB noted that there was a clear improvement in road racing which was very promising.

Membership Secretary

Membership at 31 October was 160 plus 31 life members. Numbers in each category are: Adult 105, Family 50 (in 19 groups), Second Claim 3, Junior 2

Analysis by age:

Under 20	18
20 and under 40	53
40 and under 60	62
60 and over	22
DOB not known	5

Derrick Johnson died on 17 February

Membership for previous years (January to December):

2002	98
2003	101
2004	93
2005	99
2006	107
2007	124
2008	126

DB thanked Avice and also all club members who had made newcomers feel welcome at the clubroom.

Social Secretary

Bette reminded people of the events coming up, as detailed in the magazine diary and, for the benefit of new members, explained the format of the Xmas party. Tickets are

now available for the annual prize presentation in January. The situation at the Rugby Club (possible insolvency / change of management) is being monitored but we have been assured that our function can go ahead as planned.

Junior Representative

This year the junior section has been involved in 5 youth events:

Markeaton Park Training Day, November 2008

Midlands CycloCross Markeaton Park helping Cycle Derby, Sunday 2nd December

Markeaton Park Training day, Sunday 15th Feb 2009

Allestree Park Training Day, 19th April 2009

Cycling weekend at Markeaton Park, 12th July 2009

All of the events were well run and well supported by the juniors. I would sincerely like to thank all of the people who have given up their free time and helped at these various events without whom they would not be possible. I would also like to thank Cycle Derby and British Cycling who have been very supportive and helpful in our events. This is a partnership that should be developed.

Jim Crew has given a full explanation of the Go-Ride efforts throughout the year so it will not be repeated here.

Unfortunately my family commitments have stopped me organising more events . I must therefore resign from this post and hand over the reins to someone else.

DB thanked Mark for putting in a lot of effort for the kids.

Magazine Editor

DE reported that there had been four issues of the magazine which, hopefully, people had found interesting. He thanked all the contributors for their efforts. Please keep contributions coming in - they don't all have to be full articles. Shorter contributions such as letters to the editor, anecdotes, routes, news items etc are just as welcome.

The quality of photographs reproduced in the magazine has been poor. This will be taken up with the printer (again) because it could be much better.

The lack of response to the proposal to issue the magazine as a pdf document to those who wanted it was noted. Comments from the meeting confirmed the need to retain the paper version, as was the intention. Harvey Schofield suggested posting the magazine, in pdf form, on the website. This will be tried.

Press Secretary

The website seems to be working well and used extensively for communicating events, results, training rides etc. There were a few technical issues moving the host server, however everything is now up and running and the website is now hosted on my own server so there should be no further problems.

Earlier in the season a number of race reports along with results got sent to the Derby Evening Telegraph. As only the results were published each time, the submission of

race reports, understandably, dried up. However the results of the evening time trials were published each week. We also had an article published in April advertising the clubs activities and inviting new members along.

A number of flyers were produced in the summer for handing out at various events. The TV coverage of our evening TT on BBC TV's East Midlands Today was very good and we received a number of enquires from it.

DB thanked Jon and said that comments have been received from other clubs and from new members saying how good our website is. However, we must keep it up to date.

Clothing Secretary

As expected clothing sales were lower than the previous year, however demand is still strong due to the number of new members joining the club, and wider range of items stocked. Feedback continues to be very good, with no complaints about quality or durability. Club members are wearing the kit for training and commuting as well as leisure riding and racing, which is good PR for the club.

Service from our supplier - My Team Giordana - has generally been very good. Prices have increased due the unfavourable Pound / Euro exchange rate, however prices are still no more than 2 to 3 years ago before we switched suppliers. In the spring this year we recieved a batch of shorts and skinsuits which had a minor printing error. As this wasn't noticed until some time later, rufund or replacement was not possible, however, we have agreed a 15% discount on the same number of pairs of shorts for our next order. We have already applied this discount to the mis-printed items, in order to help turn over the stock. This means there may appear to be a discrepancy in this years accounts regarding value of kit purchased, sold and stocked. The club will recoup this loss in 2010, as some kit will be purchased at a discount, but sold at the regular price.

As I reported at last years AGM, cash flow still remains a potential problem. The increased range of items stocked means that residual stock value has increased since last year. This leaves less funds within the club to purchase new stock or meet other financial commitments. Unfortunatley, we are not able to have a credit facility with our supplier (as they don't have this facility with the factory), however there may be the potential for them to stock small quantities in the U.K, which we can then call off and pay for as and when required. Although there are ways around the cash flow issue (deposits, payment in advance, smaller orders, etc), none are particularly satisfactory. It is important that the Clothing Secretary work closely together before orders are placed to ensure that the club does not commit itself beyond our means".

Trophies Secretary

Scott appealed to people to return trophies as soon as possible so as not to delay the process of getting them engraved.

Touring Secretary

I have used a broader definition of touring to include Audax in my report as otherwise I wouldn't have much to report!

DMRC is quite active in audax with 4 members achieving Super Randonneur status

this year (from a national total of 224) These are Mark Gray & Jim Crew, Jim Hopper and Pete Turner. DMRC are 5th in the national club rankings if you exclude such diverse 'clubs' as YACF and Audax Ecosse.

Several other members including our Treasurer/Membership Secretary Avice have taken part in local events based at Alfreton, Darley Abbey and the China Run organised by DMRC member John Mitchelmore who will continue to organise this event despite moving to Leeds.

Stewart Riley has achieved a Brevet 500 despite starting his 'campaign' quite late in the season and has grander plans for 2010. Simon Broomhead has concentrated on some of the hilly events around the Peak District and Dave Luscombe completed a couple of 200km rides but may not be planning any more long rides until he gets a new saddle (only joking!)

Pete appealed to people to have a go at Audax events. They fill a gap between the club runs and sportive events and are good training.

5 Election of Club Officials

Derek Wilkins, club president, took the chair for the election of a chairman. Dave was standing down as chairman and Derek thanked him for the excellent work that he had done over a period of eleven years, not only charring committee meetings but always being there when anything needed to be done and working tirelessly for the club. Derek proposed a vote of thanks and this was enthusiastically agreed by all present.

Jim Crew was proposed for the position of chairman by Dave Banks. This was seconded by Margaret Welch. Jim was elected unopposed and took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman. There being no volunteers or proposed candidates for this position it was agreed that the post would be left temporarily vacant.

The remaining posts were filled as summarised in the table below. In each case, the nominee was unopposed and was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Note that post of club coach is shared between two people, as has occasionally been the case in the past.

With the agreement of the meeting, Dave Luscombe and Sarah Todd were co-opted to the general committee.

POSITION	NOMINATION	PROPOSED	SECONDED
Chairman	Jim Crew	Dave Banks	Margaret Welch
Secretary	Dave Banks	Jim Crew	Avice Sleath
Treasurer	Avice Sleath	Margaret Welch	Jim Crew
Auditors	John Horrocks Nick Scott	Dave Ellis	Scott Savage
Time Trials Sec.	Clive Lockwood	Avice Sleath	Harvey Schofield
Road Race Sec.	Richard Hunt	Harvey Schofield	Scott Savage
Membership Sec.	Avice Sleath	Jim Crew	Sarah Todd
Social Sec.	Bette Wilkins	Avice Sleath	Richard Parkin
Junior Rep.	Harry Crew	John Welch	Dave Banks
Magazine Editor	Dave Ellis	Scott Savage	Sarah Todd
Touring Sec.	Pete Turner	Dave Ellis	Avice Sleath
Press Sec.	Jon O'Brien	Jim Crew	Matt Crouch
Clothing Sec.	Harvey Schofield	Margaret Welch	Avice Sleath
Trophies Sec.	Scott Savage	Avice Sleath	Paul Barber
Club Coaches	Rob Malik Mark Gray	Harvey Schofield	Sarah Todd

6 Delegates to CTT, BDCA and BC Meetings

It was agreed that Clive Lockwood and Rob Pilkington would continue as delegates to CTT and BDCA meetings.

It was agreed that Richard Hunt and Andy Eagers would continue as delegates to BC meetings.

7 Clubman of the Year

Voting slips were distributed to all attendees and the completed slips, in a sealed envelope, were handed to Scott Savage.

8 Resolutions

8.1 By the committee. Increase in club membership subscriptions.

In accordance with paragraph 6A of the constitution, agreement is sought to set the club membership subscriptions applicable from 1st January 2010 as follows:

18 years and over:	£10	(increase of £3)
16 years and under 18:	£4	(no change)
Under 16 years:	£3	(no change)
Family Membership:	£15	(increase of £3)
Second Claim Member:	£4	(no change)
Joining fee:	£1	(no change)

Dave Banks outlined the background to the proposal. Whilst the club was not losing money the finances were static. However, the value of clothing orders had gone up considerably in recent years presenting a potential cash flow problem. Other costs have also risen over the years (see below).

John Horrocks supported the increase, in line with the auditors' comments in the past.

Sarah Todd noted that the proposed rates were in line with those of other clubs.

Avice Sleath then presented some facts and figures as follows:

Subscriptions were last increased in 1993. At that time, we were at the Clubroom in Breadsall Village Hall. The rent for the year ended 31 October 1994 was £375.00. We moved to the present Clubroom on 6 December 1994 at £9-00 per night. This has increased by £1-00 per night every two or three years and is now £13-00 per night with effect from February 2006. It is likely to increase by another £1-00 in the near future. Rent for the last financial year was £650-00.

The magazine cost £140.02 for year ended 31 October 1994. At that time, we had paid adverts in the magazine which brought in £68-00 to set against the cost. In the year ended 31 October 2009, the magazine cost £276-43.

In the year ended 31 October 1997, the BCF was in the process of re-organisation and offered us a 10 year membership for a lump sum of £245-00. This ended in 2007 and the amount for 2009 was £60-00.

I have no idea how much stamps were in 1993 but they have gone up again recently.

Dave Ellis then explained that voting would be by a show of hands. To be accepted, the resolution required the consent of two thirds of the members present, ie 26 votes for the resolution, there being 39 members present.

There being no further comments, a vote was held and the resolution was accepted unanimously.

8.2 **By the committee. Make up of the committee.**

- A) It is proposed that paragraph 7B of the constitution is amended to add the post of Cyclo-Cross secretary to the list of committee members.
- B) It is proposed that paragraph 7B of the constitution is amended to add the post of Mountain Biking secretary to the list of committee members.
- C) It is proposed that the title 'Press Secretary' in paragraph 7B is replaced by the title 'Media Secretary'.

Dave Banks explained that it was felt that it was time to re-assess the list of committee posts as contained in the constitution. Over time, club activities and their relative emphasis changed. Cyclo-X is now a major activity in terms of both organisation and participation. Whilst it was working OK, it was essential that the committee should be kept aware of what is going on and this can be best done by representation on the committee.

Mountain biking is a growing activity within the club and gets a lot of interest on the website. It is an activity that could bring in more new members and needs to be recognised on the committee.

The third part of the resolution simply recognises that the role of the 'press secretary' has changed considerably with modern technology and is now largely concerned with the management of the website. It is felt that the title 'Media Secretary' reflects this without restricting the role solely to the website.

The three parts of the resolution were voted on separately and each was carried unanimously.

8.3 **By the committee. Competitive events - eligibility for awards.**

It is proposed that paragraph 9B of the constitution is amended to read as follows:

"Only first claim members of the Derby Mercury RC shall be eligible to compete for awards in club competitions except that, for the evening time trial series only, second claim members shall also be eligible".

Clive Lockwood explained the reason for the proposal. We have second claim members who compete regularly in the evening time trials and contribute greatly to the club by organising events. It is felt that this commitment to the club should be rewarded by being allowed to compete for the awards in the evening time trial series. Note that this does not affect any other competition and therefore will not tempt 'pot hunters' to join just for this purpose. Clive noted that similar arrangements are in place at some other clubs.

Margaret Welch asked why the riders in question did not join first claim. Sarah Todd suggested that sponsorship, perhaps for a different discipline such as mountain biking might lead a rider to join a different organisation first claim.

A vote was held and the resolution was accepted with 33 votes in favour.

9 Election of Additional Club Officials

As a result of the adoption of the above resolutions, nominations were invited for the posts of Cyclo-X secretary and Mountain Biking Secretary. In each case there was a single nominee who was elected unopposed as follows:

Position	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded
Cyclo-X Sec.	Matt Crouch	Mark Pashley	Debbie Luscombe
Mountain Biking Sec.	Dave Banks	Jim Crew	Dave Ellis

10 Any Other Business

Dave Banks reminded people that our Notts and Derby Cyclo-X event was on Saturday and volunteers were wanted.

There were bottles of beer available from John Holmes for those who had helped with the recent National Trophy Cyclo-X event.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Diary

Events at the Club Room, St Matthew's Church Fellowship Room, Darley Abbey

Date 2010 / 11	What's Going On	Time
Tuesday 2 nd Nov	Natter night (Abbey Pub after)	8:00 pm
Tuesday 9 th Nov	Watt Bikes / Bangers and Mash	8:00 pm
Tuesday 16 th Nov	Cycle Maintenance, part 2	8:00 pm
Tuesday 23 rd Nov	AGM	7:30 pm
Tuesday 30 th Nov	Photographic Competition	8:00 pm
Tuesday 7 th Dec	Watt Bikes (Abbey Pub after)	8:00 pm
Tuesday 14 th Dec	Christmas Party	8:00 pm
Tuesday 21 st Dec	Natter Night / Drinks at the Holly Bush Pub	8:00 pm
Tuesday 28 th Dec	No club night	8:00 pm
Tuesday 4 th Jan	Membership night	8:00 pm
Tuesday 11 th Jan	Membership night	8:00 pm
Tuesday 18 th Jan	Bring and Buy Sale	8:00 pm
Tuesday 25 th Jan	Members photos - bring your pictures (~10) to show.	8:00 pm
Tuesday 1 st Feb	Natter night (Abbey Pub after)	8:00 pm

Other Club Events

Saturday 6 Nov.	Hill Climb and Freewheel, Pistern Hill (Note date change)
Saturday 20 Nov.	DMRC Cyclo-X, Sinfin Park
Friday 21 January	Prize Presentation and Buffet, Rugby Club, Haslams Lane.

Club Rides

Club Runs: 60+ miles at a medium pace. Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 am. Meet at the A38/A6 roundabout, Derby.
Contacts: Saturdays - Kevin Cunniffe (01332 366807)
Sundays - Dave Banks, Clive Lockwood (see page 2)

Autumn Tints: 50 miles or less, easy pace, with lunch stop. Sundays at 9:45 am, meet at either Allenton (Arden News nr Spider Bridge) or Alvaston (Mercian Cycles) or Mickleover Nag's Head). Contact Derek Wilkins 01332 661613.

Training Rides: Tues./Thurs. 6:45 pm, Little Chef, Little Eaton. Contact Tom Butcher.

Mountain Bike Runs: A couple of hours thrashing around the trails in the Ticknall / Ingleby area. Monday evenings, 6:30 pm. Meet at the John Thompson, Ingleby. Contact: Dave Banks.