

Minutes of the VC Long Eaton half yearly meeting
13th September 2007 - 7.30pm

1. Assessment and progress of the new club

Maurice Buxton presented a summary of the year.

Comments from the floor - All in agreement with Maurice's assessment of the year and the difficulty in getting helpers.

2. Organisers for 2008 Presidents Events

- **Presidents Road Race** - Russell Gavagan (RR organiser 2007) stated that he ideally like some one else to run the race in 2008, but if no one else volunteers he would run the race rather than see the club fail to promote a RR during 2008. Although the 2007 event went well, there was a problem which marshals with 3 people from other clubs having to help out to ensure the event could be run safely.

If Russell does run the RR then he would be looking to move the event from the West Leake course due to various issues with the local residents etc. An alternative course would be Griffydam or Melbourne, both of which are under investigation with regards to obtaining a HQ and car parking.

The 2nd suggestion that the race be changed to a Women's National team series event, this would have the advantages of sponsorship from the series and an increased supply of helpers and officials as there is a number of people within the women's team series who would help out. This could only occur if the race was held on the Melbourne course as the Griffydam course is already used for a women's race. A vote was carried out on this suggestion and there was some support with no one voting against the idea, but there was some apprehension.

Russell Gavagan to continue to investigate the HQ and parking options for both Griffydam and Melbourne. If anyone has a contact for a HQ in Melbourne, then please let Russell know.

- **Ern Butler Open 25** - Maurice Buxton updated on this years event which Maurice had to step in to organise after the club was let down by the original organiser.

The Chairman (Nigel Brown) proposed a big thank you to Maurice for taking on the organisation of the 25, which would have otherwise been cancelled and the other tasks he has helped out with during the year. This was whole heartedly supported by the club.

There have been two offers to organise the 2008 event, Neil Addison & Martin Smith. It was agreed that Neil should organise the event and an email of thanks to go to Martin Smith. The date for the event needs to be submitted to the CTT by Tuesday 17th September. Neil and Maurice to discuss and agree. It was agreed provisionally that a date in July or August would be most suitable.

- **Cyclo X** - Rory Screamon is running the Cyclo x for 2007 and will run it again for 2008. The organiser mentioned a possible change of course, away from Trent Meadows to somewhere with toilets. It is also getting more difficult to plan a course around Trent Meadows due to an increase in the number of paths which we are not allowed to race on. Anybody to who is able to help with the 2007 event being held on the 24th November should contact Rory.
- **Long Eaton Triathlon** - A popular event during 2007 and some good links with the Council have been established. As a club we helped the Council organiser with advice on how to organise a cycling event. The event was very well received locally and is a good way of getting complete novices into competition. It also gets VCLE recognition within the community. The clash with the Tour De France created some difficulties in obtaining helpers.

The Council are very keen to run again in 2008 and Nigel Brown is happy to assist the Council with running for the event. With regards to 2008 Maurice warned that setting course out for the cycling took along time this year but the technique could be improved.

The risk of diluting our supply of helpers by promoting too many events was discussed. The Chairman's view is that it is worth being involved due to the benefits stated above.

Vote - Unanimous in favour of helping run the 2008 triathlon.

3. Club matters

The Time Trial league was a success in 2007 with between 20-40 riders each week.

Maurice Buxton conducted an opinion poll on the courses used during the year to see if there was a preference. The general feeling seemed to be that twice around circuit or a mix of the two courses would be the best option.

A discussion was conducted on the two courses and the options open to the club. Concern was expressed with regards to starting on the brow of the hill on the Kingston course, which could be dangerous. The circuit course also starts at the top of a hill, it was discussed if we could change the start and finish of this course. John Moore agreed that finish is dangerous and problems with people crowding round time keeper's car.

Discussion occurred around preventing the gathering around the time keepers car and if times could be collected from the lay-by at the end. The times are also on internet the next day for those people who are unable to wait on the night.

Conclusion - Vote in favour (14 votes to 6) of using both courses in 2008 with a change in the collecting of the times process.

4. Membership cards

The current club membership cards are printed on a colour printer and then individually laminated. This is time consuming and costly, it also means that all cards have to be produced by the club secretary and posted out.

The Club Secretary (Russell Gavagan) proposed that we should buy pre-printed membership cards from a local printer. The cost for 500 cards of a credit card size, with a protective coating would be approx £60. An area for the members name and the year would be left blank, so that the details could be written in using a marker pen. This would allow key members of the committee to keep a supply of cards and to write them out as people paid their membership fees. There was general agreement with the idea and a unanimous vote confirmed that we should follow this route.

It was also agreed that a list of member's names should be on the internet. The secretary will supply a list at regular intervals to Mark Daine. Data protection was raised in relation to the names being on the internet but as peoples names and pictures were on the web site anyway, it was felt that it was not a problem.

Ady Smith suggested introducing a 5 year membership similar to the CTC, with a discount for joining for a longer period of time. It was agreed in

principle that this would be a good idea but the decision should be taken at the AGM when membership fees for the following year are set.

5. New Officials/Help at events

Maurice Buxton highlighted a new number of posts that will need to be filled for 2008 e.g. Time Trial Sec, Trophy Sec, Youth sec. The Chairman clarified that there are two issues, one with official roles for the year and one with general help for events

The Chairman commented that some of the new names in post for 2007 appeared to be unreliable, however it was felt that we should keep with the tack of approaching people in advance of AGM to try and encourage new faces into club roles. It was suggested that we should try and make more of an effort to get people to AGM as a starting point for getting new faces into posts. One option is to take the decision that if there are no volunteers the posts are left empty rather than relying on the same people to fill the gap.

Help at events -. Covered the issue with regards general help at events, as a club we need to take a tough choice. Evening TT's are an example, where new riders join to ride the TT and take advantage of the helpers; these people need to be encouraged to volunteer.

A proposal is that a requirement of membership should be that members must help out in at least one event during year. The flip side of this is that this may cause a loss of members and discourage new people from becoming members.

It was suggested that one reason for the reluctance may be that people are unsure of what to do if they are helping at an event, so we should work on encouraging members to come along to events in the first instance.

Rory suggested that a list of all members and contact number is provided to all event organisers, so that they can contact people to request help.

Conclusion - It was agreed that making helping a condition of membership was not the approach we wanted to take. However Nigel agreed to mail shot every member prior to the AGM to request their help in 2008 events and provide a form for them to tick to say which events they will help with.

6. Date for AGM

It was agreed that the AGM should be in January as the financial year ends in December. The date was sent for 10th January 2008.

7. Dinner and Prize presentation

The price has increased by £1. A decision needs to be taken on the menu and it was agreed to leave this decision to Ady Smith. It was proposed that Ron Hallam should be contacted with regards to be the guest of honour. If anyone else has any suggestion for guest of honour, they should contact Ady Smith. A follow up meeting will be needed to discuss final details for the dinner.

8. Voting for awards - decided by votes from the floor.

- Most promising young rider - Joe Kirkham
- Best Newcomer - Luke Seamer
- Most Meritorious ride - John Beardlsy & Neil Addison for the Ilkeston to Lourdes ride in which they raised £3,000 for charity
Simon Davis for the Lands End to John a Grotes which raised £4,200 for charity.
- Clubman of the year - Maurice Buxton

9. Any other business

- Road Race Trophy - There are not many riders with BC points in the club this year; however there are a number of veteran riders that have been doing well in the Velo 99 racing league. It needs to be decided how we award the road race trophy and how we compare BC points to Velo 99 points. Suggestion that the Road Race trophy is judged on BC points and be called the Senior Road Race trophy and that there is a veterans RR trophy based on Velo 99 points. The Velo 99 points for the year to be passed to Maurice Buxton.
- Equipment - Russell Gavagan raised the issue of club equipment for use at events. There is a requirement to purchase Red flags, Marshals jackets, a First Aid kit and signs (arrows + notices). It was agreed to put aside £500 to buy the equipment. The club secretary will research and purchase the required equipment within the £500 limit.

Meeting closed 9:15pm

Actions

Action	Who
Investigate Melbourne & Griffydam RR race courses re HQ's & parking	Russell Gavagan
Investigate the option of changing the Cyclo X course	Rory Screatton
Design & organise pre printed membership cards	Russell Gavagan
Agree date for open 25	Neil Addison & Maurice Buxton
Decision on 5 year membership	AGM
Supply list of club members to Web Manager	Russell Gavagan
Contact Ron Hallam re guest of honour for dinner & prize presentation	Ady Smith
Velo 99 RR points to be assessed	Maurice Buxton
Investigate & purchase new race equipment	Russell Gavagan
Mail shot club members re helping in 2008 events.	Nigel Brown