

# WHEELER'S DIGEST

Events | Guidance | Club Updates

## Welcome...

Welcome to the January edition of the Wheeler's Digest.

Without your stories and news this would be a very brief newsletter so please send me anything cycling related, preferably with some photos as well, to [webmaster@wellesbourne-wheelers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@wellesbourne-wheelers.org.uk)

Next issue at the end of February 2024

Steve Kirk - Editor

## Diary Dates

11 February - [Stratford CC Reliability Ride](#)

24 March - Mad March Hare sportive

27 April - ~~Netherlands Club Trip~~  
**CANCELLED**

28 April - [Ride the Reservoir](#)

3-6 May - WOWW IoW Club Trip

12 May - ~~Majorca Club Trip~~  
**CANCELLED**

18 May - Bards Ride

26 May - Ride London

22 June - CFC Coast to Coast

7 July - [Broughton Castle sportive](#)

## 2024 Subscription Renewals

The AGM decided to keep the membership subs at £10 for 2024. Subs are due on 1 March, and the only accepted means of payment is via the "Join Us" button on the website homepage <http://wellesbourne-wheelers.org.uk>

This takes you to a British Cycling page for completing the membership process - click on "Buy Club Membership". A fee of £1 is added by BC, but their process and club admin tools save the Secretary and Treasurer a great deal of time.

Steve Kirk - Treasurer

## On The Front

In my first update since taking over as Chair, I thought I would take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself and about some of the ideas I have for taking the club forward. Perhaps I could start though by saying a big thank you to the outgoing committee for taking the club to the healthy position it finds itself in. I hope I can continue with that good work.

I have been a member of the club for just over two years, having moved to the area from Surrey to be near my daughter in Wellesbourne, while my wife who has dementia has gone into a nursing home in Kineton. I returned to cycling nearly 20 years ago in my early 50s, not having ridden since I was a teenager.



for you as we start to develop our ideas.

The first thing I would like to see is for us to function as one club rather than as a number of disparate groups. I ride with the Sunday Club and Hastings groups and I know the people I ride with very well, but only a few other people. At SWRC, at least until the onset of Covid restrictions, all groups used to meet at the same place for several rides to start at the same time. This was a great melting pot for members to get to know each other and for informal coaching and encouragement to take place. Riders could decide which group to ride with on the day and could try out something more challenging in a relaxed atmosphere. One of the ideas I have is for groups to meet for the start of their rides at the same time and place.

I would like the Wellesbourne Wheelers to become a club where riders can fulfil their full potential as cyclists. The common starting time could be a simple way of contributing to this. My own experience at SWRC was that I started riding with the slowest group and felt quite comfortable with that. After a short while however, I was being gently encouraged to try something a little more demanding. I was also encouraged to take part in some local sportive events. After a year or so I found that I was leading one of the more challenging groups and I was taking part in regular sportives including some of the famous events in the Alps, Dolomites and the Pyrenees.

Another way of helping riders to develop their full potential could be for us to introduce some additional annual awards, based on more objective measures. For example, prizes for those with the highest mileage or the most ascent. We could have a prize for the fastest time over the club time trial circuit and potentially have a hill climb competition over a selected Strava segment.

Finally, I would like us to develop a spending plan whereby we can use your subscriptions to contribute to things which will benefit our members. Some ideas based on my previous experience could include first aid course for cyclists, bike maintenance sessions and contributions to the cost of taking part in cycling events outside our area. Again, I should emphasise that these are just suggestions based on what I have seen working in the past. The committee really want to hear your ideas on what we should do to develop the club and so perhaps you could start to feed these to us through your Group Organisers.

I look forward to meeting and riding with as many of you as I can over the year to come.

Peter Dewis - Chair

Shortly after starting to ride again, I joined the South Western Road Club (SWRC) and my cycling really took off from that point. SWRC was formed in the 1930s as a break away from the southwest London branch of the CTC. It is therefore a well-established club with over 200 members. I was a committee member there for several years where I served as sportive secretary, club runs secretary and as the organiser of their annual sportive event – the May Flyer. Most of the ideas I have for taking our club forward come from the experience I gained in the SWRC. Some of these may work well in the Wellesbourne Wheelers, while others will be less relevant. The Committee really need your input to tell us what will work



## Broughton Castle Sportive

In around five months time Wellesbourne Wheelers will have the opportunity to make it five wins from five attempts in the Broughton Castle 50 mile team event. We first won in 2019 and have been victorious in all four events since then (not held in 2020 due to Covid).

My "target market" for potential riders is likely to be those who ride with our two fastest groups (Hastings and Sunday Club - whether they be not so quicks, quick, quicker or quickest!). We ideally need a team of six and, in the first instance, it would be much appreciated if you could e-mail me ([garygristwood54@outlook.com](mailto:garygristwood54@outlook.com)) to express your interest in potentially being part of our line up.

If we can get six riders then our entry will be at the discounted rate of £150 (£25 each) for the team instead of £180 (£30 each).

Gary Gristwood - Hastings GO

## Wellesbourne School Bike Bus

Are you, or do you know a rider who has children at Wellesbourne CofE Primary School? The school are interested in helping to start a 'bike bus' for children to ride to school together and are working with the new cycling mayor for Warwick District, Simon Storey, to do so. Simon has been running a bike bus there for three years now and it has been a great success. Bike buses are parent led ventures and are springing up all over the country and indeed the world.

The new initiative at Wellesbourne will be filmed for a short film about Active Travel in the Stratford District. The school are looking for participants now and the project is due to start in the second half of February.

Please email Sally Porter [porter.s@welearn365.com](mailto:porter.s@welearn365.com) at the school to register interest.

Michael Clifford - Grand Union Productions  
[michael.grandunion@gmail.com](mailto:michael.grandunion@gmail.com)  
 07711 007989

## Club AGM and Awards



Thank you to all members who attended the AGM and Awards evening at Wellesbourne Bowls Club last month and, in particular, the outgoing committee (Philip Harris, Olwen Kelly, Richard Bacon, Alison Speechly and Steve Kirk) for organising a very professional and mercifully short AGM, followed by a relaxed awards presentation by each Group Organiser (GO). If you didn't come along, please do make the effort next year, as it's important to the effective running of the club as well as a chance to catch up with other members, when not wearing Lycra for a change.

The full AGM minutes are available from the secretary on request but, most importantly, the new committee is:

**Chair** - Peter Dewis

**Secretary** - Ashley Sherren

**Treasurer** - Steve Kirk

Ordinary Member - Vacant

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The new committee would welcome volunteers to join as Ordinary Members, in particular from the groups not currently represented on the committee (Mountford, Dene, Sunday Casual, WOWW, Tuesday Morning). Please contact any of the committee for further details.

Without further ado, here are the deserving winners of the 2023 annual awards:



Wheeler of the Year - Steve Kirk



Mountford Rider of the Year - Iain Jones



Dene Rider of the Year - David Thomas

"He took part in more rides than anyone else; he also led the most rides and is very helpful to all RLs, new and old"

Dave Seal - Dene GO



Hastings Rider of the Year - Mike Veal

"Along with Mike Massey, he's our "in ride" go to mechanic and, as well as being one of our strongest riders, is pretty much an expert with regard to all aspects of road cycling. Basically, he's just a good guy to have around!"

Gary Gristwood - Hastings GO



## Club Kit

I am starting to plan for a new kit order. Although it is still only early February, given the lead time, plus getting samples if required, now is the time to start the process. The first order of this year will be for the short-sleeved summer jersey and possibly the compact (summer) gilet.

Endura supply a range of this jersey. Bottom of the range is the relaxed fit "Road" version, followed by the snugger and more technical "FS260", with the top of the range "Pro SL Race" which is designed for what the name suggests.

The "Compact" gilet is light-weight, showerproof and stuffs into its own sack for ease of carrying, so is the ideal complement to any existing kit.

For full details of the products listed, visit the [Endura website](#)

I am willing to get samples to try for size and fit etc, but only by request. Therefore, please let me know if you'd like to "try before you buy" and, depending on demand, I will order samples. Deadline for Samples Requests is **Monday 12th February**

Further details about pricing and ordering to follow in due course.

Note: This applies only to the official club colours of yellow/black/red in the original design that can be seen on our own website. Items are available for ladies as well as men.

Please [email me](#) with any enquiries, suggestions or comments about kit.

*Ashley Sherren - Kit Secretary*

Sunday Casual Rider of the Year - **Larry Coltman**



Sunday Club Rider of the Year - **Peter Dewis**

Tuesday Rider of the Year - **Gary Gristwood**



Women on Wheels Rider of the Year - **Olwen Kelly**

Special thanks to Chas Hilditch, our official club photographer for the evening.

*Steve Kirk - Treasurer*