

The Big Ring

The newsletter of Cleveland Wheelers CC- issue no.6

Cleveland Wheelers has a world champion! While Harry Tanfield has been making steady progress on the road and having a bit of a breakthrough year it won't have escaped most of you that younger brother Charlie has been making waves on the track, culminating in a well deserved chance in the GB track pursuit team and world championship gold! Both Harry and Charlie have shown that they can ride superbly on track, in road races and TT's and look to have a great future ahead of them. For those of us who have seen them ride since they were young I suspect it still seems a bit surreal?

With this in mind it's particularly pleasing that the club is supporting a junior race team that includes Tanfield number 3 Toby, along with Ross Turner and Aaron Preston and already they are getting results, even the temporary imprisonment of their manager Marcus for rail ticket infringements doesn't seem to have affected their focus! Joking aside though it's a great step forward for the club and hopefully we'll continue to develop young riders who can strive to emulate Harry and Charlie.

Later in the newsletter I've written a short piece on the individual pursuit to give people a bit of a sense of the event's importance in the UK, but there's plenty of other stuff to read too, including Dave's piece on his ride to Lindisfarne, with hilarious consequences! Thanks for all your contributions.

Enjoy!

Chat from the Chair.



As I write this note the weather is still not helping us out in our new cycling year with ice and strong winds almost daily. There are many opportunities to get involved or participate in the club. The first Open time trial is rapidly approaching, the prize presentation social evening has just passed in fact the club calendar is full of things to do. Without your support these things become unviable so try an open time trial or one of the many other events throughout the year or just sign up to marshal, your support is important to the running of your club.

Mike Cole.

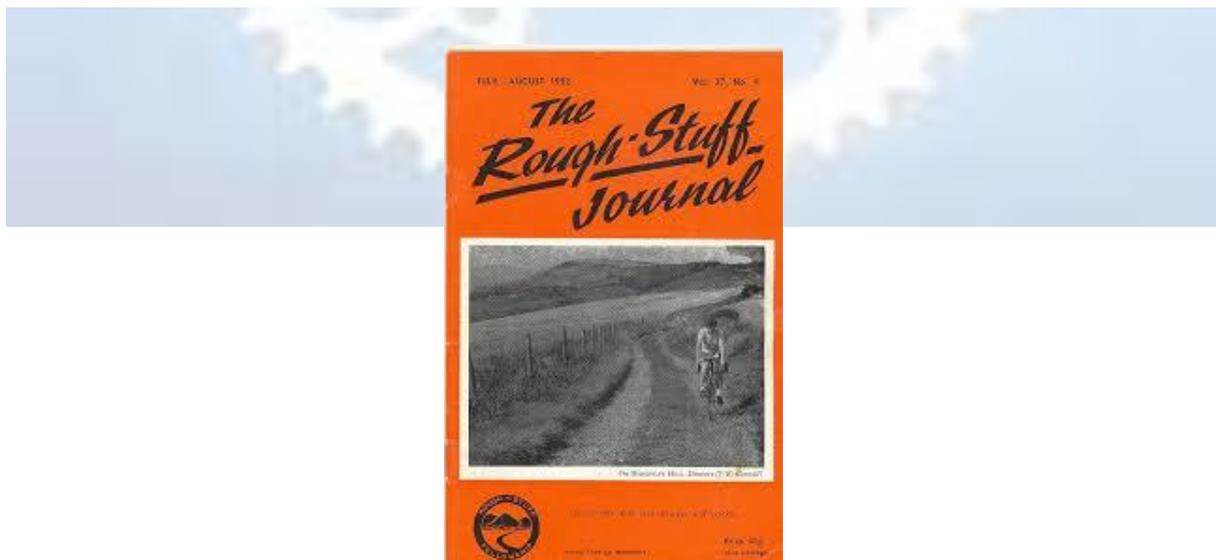
Rough Stuff!

When I was much younger we used to do a rough stuff twice a year. For the first one we rode to Felixkirk for a very quick lunch and then struggled through Boltby to the top of Boltby Bank. We would then start through a forest and past the drop to Kepwick and carried on across Black Hambledon to what we now call Square Corner. Then we would make our way past an old pub which had a sign saying 'Free Beer tomorrow' via the track to Sheepswash before going down Scarth Nick, then we turned up to Scugdale and somehow carried the Bikes over to the track down to High Crosslets farm. At the farm we were able to ride through the farmyard although I think the present owners have stopped such an event happening.

Then it was down to the Chopgate/ Carlton Road where we turned right and then went up pup hill to a gate on our left which led us to what in those days we called Solomans Porch and we finally crossed what is now the Cleveland Way then we went down the drop to Kirkby. It was a very hard ride with big drop on your right hand side and we finished in Kirkby.

The second rough stuff started at the bend at the top of Castleton Bank and went down a track into Commondaie. From the Village we went up the hill to White Cross Junction and went straight across the road to meet up with the road to Danby. From there we would go through Ainthorpe and past the Fox and Hounds if I remember it correctly. Then we rode to the turn off for Rosedale which was signposted but it is now a tarred road whereas in those days it was just a track.

When we reached the road into Rosedale we turned right to bring us past Ralphs Cross before dropping down into Westerdale by another track which is now tarred we dropped through the village, through past Hob Hole and climbed the bank to the signpost, then behind the signpost and finally past the old ruins of the abbey before climbing the bank. Once on the top we somehow turned left onto a track which I can no longer find on the Map and that brought us out beside a garage which the last time I was there still existed and that was the finish so it was a very hard ride with not many doing it successfully.



David Maycroft

The Individual Pursuit

When I was a teenager cycling on TV was a rare thing. Essentially it wasn't much more than very brief Tour de France highlights on World of Sport, introduced by the rather strange Dickie Davies, and occasionally track cycling. To be honest watching the sprinters never really interested me, they were generally pumped up East Germans, but the 4000m individual pursuit did. I wasn't the only one, for many it was seen as the blue riband tuck event, helped probably by the U.K.'s rich history in the event: Tony Doyle, Colin Sturgess, Chris Boardman, Graham Obree, Bradley Wiggins all winning world or Olympic titles and providing memorable moments. Now Charlie Tanfield is on the cusp of joining them!

I suspect Charlie might be a little disappointed in his 4th at the worlds, especially as his time at the last world cup would have won him the title. But he shouldn't be, I couldn't believe it as I saw the qualifying times come up on the on line timing screens, probably the best ever top 4 I would think? Also he had done two really fast back to back team pursuits helping the GB team to get gold and he is young, plenty of time to get even quicker! To put things into even more perspective only Chris Boardman out of all those names I mentioned earlier has posted a quicker time, and then only by a second, indeed Bobridge's world record is only 2 seconds away.

More than anything for me though it was great to see a resurgence in the individual event again, as it is for the Kilo as I think they have both suffered a little bit after being dropped from the Olympic programme. But the Olympics isn't everything and those two events now are really competitive again, stronger than ever in fact.

Up next for Charlie, and Harry I believe, is the Commonwealth Games next month. Bring it on!

Paul Christon



Charlie Riding for Team KGF

Upcoming Events

A full list of events is on the club calendar, so keep checking.

<https://clevelandwheelers.com/root/club/club-calendar/>

Notable dates for your diary are:

- 11th March – Hilly 21 time trial, 9am start – too late to enter but as time trials go a good one to watch!
- 18th March – Northallerton 50 mile Challenge Ride, 9 - 10am start, Marton Shops. Please note this is now a rolling start and not a mass start.
- 24th March – Single Gear Ride, 9.30am, Great Ayton
- 15th April – 18 mile TT, 9am start, Seamer circuit
- 3rd May – Evening Series TT's start
- 6th May – Ride to Park Rash to watch TDY, details tbc
- 20th May – 25 mile Blakey Ridge TT, 9am start
- 27th May – Mountain Challenge Rides, 3 distances all super tough!

The Final Kirton



Now then, Dave here again! Now I'm not a religious man but one weekend for a brief moment I did think that God moved in mysterious ways, but unfortunately for me i couldn't walk on water! It all started with an idea, some might say a harebrained idea, that I had all by myself, without help from anybody. Before you cast judgement you have to remember that not that long ago there were no such things as sportives, you had to make you own long rides up in those days. Anyway I decided to ride up to Lindisfarne, some people call it Holy Island, then a bit further up the coast to Berwick and get the train back, taking advantage of the free rail travel I get from my job as a rail man. What could possibly go wrong?

Before you mock me this was also in the days before Garmins and what not. So I opted for tearing the page out of a road atlas. On a grey June morning at 7am with the map, two sausage rolls, a Greggs custard slice and loads of enthusiasm in my back pockets I headed north. A couple of hours in I was somewhere in Durham with a steady drizzle helping the map merge with the sausage rolls to make it a bit unreadable. At one point what I thought

was Hexham on the map turned out to be a bit of flaky pastry. So I took the decision to trust to an inbuilt sense of direction and navigation that I somehow hoped I had.

Eventually after a couple of cafe stops and asking several people for directions I ended up near Alnwick and then about 90 minutes later I was facing the causeway leading to the island, the road thankfully clear of water. As luck would have it there was also no traffic, and as it was only 6.30 I had plenty of time to complete my plan by riding over to the castle, before turning back to the mainland, then onto Berwick, if I got my skates on I might even have time for a slap up feed in the train station cafe before the train was due. Happy days!



Unfortunately my joy was short lived, I made it to the castle and took in the view but on my return I was shocked to find that the tide was coming in not going out and the road was half covered in water! I tried to make a dash for it but after 400 yards with my feet soaked through I reluctantly headed back to the island. I presented myself at a few B&B's but all were full. Finally a stern woman took pity on me and, after lecturing me about reading the tide time tables, let me sleep in her garage and for £5 did me a breakfast the next day, 4 slices of toast, 2 eggs, a bowl of porridge, plenty of bacon, fried bread and beans.

So all in all it was probably worth it.

Cheerio!

Dave

Future issues

The next issue will go out around June. If you'd like to include anything in the next issue please email it to Paul Christon pwchriston@googlemail.com. The only rules are that it has to be quite brief (300 words max) and relevant to the club in some way.