

NORTH LANCS ROAD CLUB - AGM 2020 - 2019/2020 Season

Chairmans' Remarks:

The year of the 70th anniversary of the club has been dominated by the Covid 19 virus. Because of this, it has not been possible to hold our a public AGM this year, so we took the decision to publish the club secretaries reports through the website.

2019/20 has been the year of the 'lockdown' and everyone has had to adjust to the situation and changing circumstances as best they could. For some, this meant continuing to train in the hope that the CTT would sanction the resumption of racing, but for most of us, the empty roads and sunny weather in May was a welcome consequence. There was a sense of relief when the lockdown restrictions were eased sufficiently to enabled us to ride in limited company again, although not sufficient enough to sanction resumption of club rides. All 'official' club runs have been suspended and this situation looks to continue for the foreseeable future.

Each of the committee members have agreed to continue for another year with the exception of Aidan Holgate, who moved to join 'Green Jersey'. Aidan agreed to keep an 'eye' on the club clothing situation, but we would welcome someone joining the committee to look after this area.

Membership Secretary's Report:

As with most organisations, the season has been a very difficult one for the club. The Covid19 pandemic has curtailed most of our events and activities, and no doubt due to this lack of activity there has also been a substantial fall in our membership. The total membership for 2019/2020 is 95. This includes 2 honorary members and 6 new, although for 2 of these we have no contact details as they have still to complete a membership form.

The committee made the decision to waive the membership fee for the new season for members that had paid for 19/20, which means that the only people due to pay fees are new members and those who haven't paid subs for 19/20 but wish to remain in the club. A general email has been sent out explaining this along with separate emails and phone calls, which have brought limited response. Some expressed a wish to remain as members, but in most cases this was not backed up by any payment. It is important to point out that anyone entering a CTT event with being a member of the club will be in violation of CTT rules and regulations.

In our data protection policy we have agreed in compliance with GDPR, to delete the personal details of anyone who has not been a member for 1 year and this has now been done, although in a happier time they can of course re-join as a new member.

This year we have almost replaced giving out membership cards in favour of e-receipts, which specify the season, the member's name and the expiry date. This seems to have worked very well and has saved us postal charges. It is worth mentioning that those whose membership has rolled over onto the new season will have an expiry date of 30 Sept 2020 on their receipt but of course the same would apply to cards. Their actual membership will not expire until Sept 2021.

Another modernisation is the on-line form which gives us permission to send emailed newsletters etc. to members. Rather than a welcome letter to new members, where they can receive it, I send a welcome email and include a link to the on-line form. Everyone I have spoken to seems happy with this system and it eliminates human error in copying addresses.

We could do with someone taking on the role of answering genuine queries that come via the website Contact Form within a reasonable time. As with all websites, we do receive a lot of spam contact which needs to be sifted through.

Lastly, the club's lack of ability to attract and look after young members is still a real concern which hopefully in the new season we will be able to address.

Treasurer's Report:

The audited accounts are attached.

Time-Trial Secretary Report:

2020 has been a strange year for everyone with the Covid crisis severely disrupting the racing season. We managed to run the Spoco time trial before the national lockdown was put in place in early March, it was run on the L309 course based on the A59 Clitheroe to Skipton road. The event was won by Alexander Royle and Christina Wiejak respectively.

The open 10 organized by Terry Parker and due to be held on Easter Saturday was cancelled due to the Covid lockdown, it was also decided to cancel the open hill climb on the Nick o' Pendle due to the restrictions we would need to follow to make it Covid safe.

Harry Haseley managed to organize a reduced evening 10 series of 6 events on the Edisford course, we had a fantastic response with an average entry of 46 riders for each event. Due to the success of the series, it was decided to have an extra event on the Edisford course rather than a hill climb on Close Brow.

Due to Covid-19 it was decided that no Club Championships would be awarded this season.

Despite the reduced program of events Sue Cheetham won the Gold medal for 1st female in the VTTA national 50 mile championship with an excellent time of 2h 14m 23s. Dave Hargreaves has set a new national VTTA age record of 1h 52m 24s the fastest ever ridden by a 73 year old.

Communications Secretary Report.

An 'interesting' year, for much of it without much to communicate about! Our newsletters are still going out quarterly. It was great to have our Time Trials restart in summer and we had a lot of support across social media for them, and an excellent turnout on the evenings.

Of course, it's 70 years since NLRC began and we had many plans for celebration. Huge thanks to Roger and his volunteers for organising our super 70th birthday BBQ in West Bradford and accompanying rides of 7 miles, 70km and 70 miles, all within the coronavirus guidelines of small group riding and social distancing. It was a glorious sunny day and just in time as the day after, stricter guidance was imposed on households mixing which would have meant the event would not have gone ahead. Phew! This was the only social event of the year, our annual Awards Evening has had to be cancelled and will not go ahead in November as planned.

Everybody seems to have found a channel through which to stay in touch and organise small group rides. The Facebook NLRC group continues to post and there's a WhatsApp group too. We will be keeping in touch with all our wonderful members moving forward and just hope that everyone is happy and healthy. Let's hope we get back to 'old normal' soon!

Forum Secretary:

The forum continues to be a place where some, albeit few, club members visit to post news and read about the adventures of others. It provides a useful way for members to contact other forum users if they cannot otherwise get in touch with them. The forum is also used by a few non-members.

I altered the order of the individual forums earlier in the year and put those topics which were used more frequently nearer to the top of the home page. These included 'announcements and news', 'general discussion', and 'time trial results and news'. Usage is relatively low. The number of views and posts have remained pretty constant with the same members tending to post regularly.

The more popular topics are 'Is there anybody out there?' populated mostly by Roger H and Rod G. Several other members contribute.

'Time trial results and news' is useful for those wanting to see results but it has been short of information this year for obvious reasons. The weekly/weekend club rides topics have been silent too, again for obvious reasons.

Other methods for members to communicate and arrange to meet are available and used. The forum doesn't compete with them. Club information and news is distributed via newsletters and the website. Even though the forum doesn't compete with the other forms of contact / communication it is still a low maintenance and cheap asset which has its uses.