



Gravesend CC est. 1923

Newsletter

Club Presidents : Dorothy & Ian Stone

Secretary : Mike Coulter

www.gravesendcc.org.uk

Hi there all and welcome to Socially distanced riding. You know where you spend most of the ride dropped off the back trying to catch up. Or you disappear up the road and forget where the rest of your group is and then get to a junction and turn the wrong way! Yes this has happened actually happened to me, and I can safely report that after taking a 7 mile detour I did eventually meet up with my fellow riders at the designated stop – even though I had completed the additional mileage.

However, all this is behind us now as next weekend on the 5th July we can meet up for an actual club ride. British Cycling did say in May that all riding activities could resume on the 4th July, including club runs and some training activities as well. So we can expect to see a return of the Cyclopark Race training – albeit with a massively reduced field. We can

even meet up at the war memorial with a distance of 1 metre between us and ride together if we want to. I know that unfortunately Mr Steve Bushell will not be there as he celebrates his birthday next weekend, hopefully with a much needed haircut and beard trim (I thought I was speaking to Jesus in Tesco's this morning).

Either way we should have a decent turnout hopefully if the weather is ok. If I don't make it can someone who does take a photo please and post on our what'sapp page so that I can then use it for next months newsletter. I may join the ride although I may be considerably more than the 1 metre distance apart – more like dropped at the first smell of a climb and then dropped off the back. No change there then.

So – what have we been up to. Roger has earned us a couple of new members. I have seen a few of us out and about on various rides. If strava is anything to go by then some of us have done some decent runs, Jason & Kate especially.

On the injury front Rob is recovering from his broken foot, I am slowly getting back to something resembling fitness. Knees take a long time to heal, so many false starts but hopefully I think I'm finally at the end of the recovery and can get back to riding more often.

Hopefully the rest of you are injury free. Although I imagine that some of you have some serious hair issues that need addressing (Mr Bushell), I am thinking that possibly Mr Milner might need that too – although I don't imagine Mr Jacobs will (no offence Tony).

The official line from British Cycling reads as follows:

The third category of activity is other club and group activity, such as coaching, instructing and leading, club rides, HSBC UK Breeze rides and similar. It is likely that these

activities can be re-introduced at shorter notice, with a greater degree of flexibility, with appropriate guidance and measures to manage risk ensuring compliance with Government guidelines and emerging industry best practise. As such the current suspension will cease on 4th July.

I have not received any communication to counter this, so it looks like we are back to riding again in club kit from the start of July.

I don't know if we will be going on any trips this year, it seems unlikely based on the current situation. In fact we may not get any form of cycling based trip until next year. The same goes for all Sportives – at the moment there are none being promoted. That's not to say that there will not be any, its just the current climate does not lend itself to a mass participation event.

UK Cycling events are promoting 6 events in the latter half of the year from September through to October, including the Box Hill Original on 4th October. This covers a large part of the Olympic road race from 2012, and also includes most of the Prudential route through Surrey. Its not a closed road event but is a 100 mile route, but with reduced entrants. It's likely to sell out quickly but could be postponed if there are issues later in the year.

I am hopeful that we may get some racing again in August on our 10 mile Time Trial route, and who knows maybe even a hill climb event at the start of September. I would like to see us do some or at least offer some MTB club rides on Sunday as well as Road based

events as this would diversify our membership and allow us to expand into other disciplines. I would be keen on an MTB/Gravel route following the pilgrims way possibly and I have been informed on a few cross country routes in Kent not suited to a road bike that I will try in the coming weeks and see if we can have a couple of runs later this year.

In the meantime a quick safety note – I think it would be best that we all fit a rear light on our road bikes even in the summer. You have to ride with one in any Time trial – and I think prudence would dictate that it may be common sense to fit one on the road bike too.



Looking forward to Eurosport in August for the Tour and quite a few Classics. I watched a programme about Team Sky dominating the Tour with Wiggins, Froome and Thomas, The telly is going to be fun.

Sorry there are no pictures this month, I will of course have some for next month.

So the view from the back is looking better than it did in February, hopefully we will all be going back on our bikes in greater numbers and getting back to doing what we like. I am still looking to bolster my garage, my MTB will arrive in August and then I will be looking for a new road bike for 2021. The choice is endless – although I don't automatically think it will be Carbon, although Carbon is the material of choice of most manufacturers there are some really good steel frames out there along with Titanium offerings too. Still it's a long way off at the moment.