

Welcome to the Bath CC May Newsletter!

Upcoming Events

Charity Ride organised by Bath CC and VC Walcot - Sunday, July 30th

Bath CC and VC Walcot are organizing a summer charity ride event to raise funds for 2 local cycling charities: Warmley Wheelers (based at Warmley Station) and All Cycles (based at Odd Down) who provide bicycles for disabled children.

The event will replace our normal Sunday rides and there will be 4 planned routes of 25 km, 50 km, 80 km and 120 km. Drinks, tea and cake will be provided in Burnett for a donation.

Friends and family are invited to come to Burnett for tea and cake, either joining the riders there or signing up to ride too! Members are encouraged to ride with their children or novice bike friends. The 25 km ride will be an excellent beginner ride, along the bike lane to Saltford and then on a safe lane to Burnett. Other non-regular cyclists may want to take up the challenge of the 50 km route.

The event plans to offer an array of cakes, so a big call out to all bakers in the club! Let me (Tracy Chapman), Julia Adamson, or Hilary Oliver know if you can bake a cake.

More details to follow. Hope you, family & friends will join the ride and raise funds for the cycling charities.

All Club Ride to Lyme Regis- Bath to the Beach, June 17th

We already have 26 members signed up for the ride. So please if you are interested, head to the Bath CC rides app for information, sign up and how to make payment (link to RiderHQ). The cost will be £38 per person to cover the coach and professional bike transport back to Bath.

Bath CC member feature of the month

Mat Turner



Going off-road literally for this month's BCC member feature and want to highlight Mat Turner, who is currently our Bath CC Off-road Captain. He also competes in Bike Motor Cross, a.k.a. BMX (no "Motor" involved other than the rider's strength, technical skills and tactical ability).

As Off-Road Captain for Bath CC, Mat organises many of the mountain and

gravel bike rides for the club and is active in getting more MTB riders out and leaders trained. In BMX racing, he represents Bath CC (currently our only member) in regional racing. Last year he placed 2nd in the overall regional series and 3rd in the South West championships.

Outside of BCC, he is putting a lot of energy into helping organize the Bath BMX club. Since many of us are unfamiliar with this type of cycling, we present Mat and BMX in this newsletter.

So what is BMX? British Cycling describes it as "one of the most exciting forms of cycle sport both to watch and take part in..." Competition is sprint races with a maximum of eight riders competing on a track packed with jumps, banked corners and obstacles. At the start of the race, riders launch themselves from a gate atop a 3-8 meter high start hill onto a 400 meter distance track with riders racing at high speeds for a fight to the finish.

As a sport, BMX originated in 1982, but was catapulted when it became an Olympic event in 2008 for the Beijing games and then truly took off in the UK as a cycling category, after London 2012.

Mat got involved with BMX only a few years ago. The sport attracts all ages and Mat wanted to do a fun cycling sport with his son Wilf, so they both joined the Bath BMX club up at the Odd Down circuit. Wilf is now 8 years old and also competing at the same race events as Dad (in a different age category)!

The Bath BMX course at Odd Down Circuit was first built in the 1980s and updated in 2007 as interest in the sport increased in the run up to the Beijing Olympics. Incredibly, Mat and the Bath BMX Club committee have just secured £100,000 in new funding from the Bath Council for track improvements(the goal to maintain its status as a regional level facility racing track) and put up collapsible night lights to be able to operate year round.

The Club currently has 70 members who are aged 6-58 years, and is run by a

passionate committee and excellent coach. Bath BMX has already produced a World Champion (17-18 age) Betsy Bax in 2021 and several members currently are making it through to National competition and on to World competition.

Asked what else Mat and the Bath BMX committee have planned for the club, he mentioned they will be acquiring additional bikes and gear. Their goal is to offer BMX training to new riders and attract disadvantaged youth who would enjoy being part of the club, benefitting from bike handling, confidence skills and race training.

Bath BMX Club is definitely on a roll and has just been named South West British Cycling Club of the year in 2023 by Bikmo Bike Insurance with British Cycling.

We wish Mat and the Bath BMX club a lot of success. Go, Mat!!!

Note- any Bath CC member and/or their children who want to try out BMX riding, Bath BMX Club runs regular Open sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays. Just DM Mat on WhatsApp for more information and come on up.

Road Racing Update (brought to you by David Stoye)

Bath CC road racers have been active with the weather improving.

Darren Gardner, Rob Pears, Peter Dyson, Pete Phillips, Charles Thibault, Simon Martin, George Magner and David Stoye raced in the April Abergavenny Handicap. It was a very fast race in which the 3th and 4th cats (all the Bath CC riders were in this group) started 4 minutes ahead of the E12s. The goal is to stay away to the finish, so working together is the aim of the game. The 3/4s averaging 47 km/hr were caught by the E12s with about 5 kms to go. Pete Dyson riding for Bath CC for the first time attacked with 1km to go but got

caught and swallowed up. Darren Gardner was the best placed finisher. George Magner was riding his first ever Road Race and managed to stay with the bunch to the end.



The Castle Combe racing series has now started on Thursdays. There are always 4 or 5 Bath CC riders in amongst the 3 races each evening (E12s, 3/4s and Women).

Kirsten Bamford raced for the first time in Round 1 and is now hooked. A 10th and 7th place in the first two rounds, followed by a 2nd place at Thruxton last Saturday and she now has her 3rd Cat license. Congratulations Kirsten.

Gary, Peter, David and Simon have been racing at the Echelon Road Race near Worcester – Peter and Gary went to Hillingdon for some Over 50s British

Cycling Masters racing.

Charles Thibault, Chris George and Darren Gardner raced in the Bristol South RR with the 3rd and 4th Cats heading up Stowey 8 times. Chris realized how tough racing up Stowey was, but still enjoyed the experience. Darren held on for the finish boxed in a bit on the final climb, but managed an excellent 17th place.

On Tuesday night the PDQ Race series starts at Odd Down with a Masters (Over 40s) and a 3rd/4th Cat Racing. This is a 4 race series with lots of prizes – report in the next newsletter.

Please contact David Stoye if you want any advice on getting involved in racing.

Some of the other good stuff and club happenings

Women's Weekend Away in Shropshire (April 28- 30th)



Bath CC women packed up their bikes & kit and drove to the beautiful rolling hills of Shropshire near Ludlow for 3 days of planned cycling. The Saturday ride headed west to the incredibly beautiful historic market town of Montgomery in Wales. The weekend was well organized by Julia Adamson and Hilary Oliver, with everyone assigned to making meals during the stay and G&Ts in the evenings.

Isle of Wight Randonnee (April 30th)



Bath CC Members headed to Portsmouth for an overnight stay, before taking the ferry through the Solent to join the IOW ride on Sunday morning, April 30th. The Randonne is a fun annual classic ride (free to enter) and very popular with 3000 riders. A 110 km route and a total of 1600 m of climbing.

The group had a very enjoyable ride (including 21 hills of the IOW) and would definitely recommend it!

New Bath CC Committee member- Odette Collett

Welcome and thanks to Odette Collett for taking on the Female Welfare Officer role alongside Welfare Officer Andy Stewart.

Youth Officer

BCC is still looking for a member to come on board as Youth Officer to help encourage under 18s to join the club. The role would suit someone with connections to the Sulis Scorpions or any other youth group (or a school, the Guides or Scouts) but that's not essential. Please contact Andy Stewart and/or Hilary Oliver if you're interested.

Updated Guidelines for Club Rides

We will get an update from our Club Captain, Jon Hunt in the June newsletter. In the meantime, Jon, Rich Jacques and other members have updated guidelines for club rides on the Bath CC website <https://www.bathcc.net/info-faqs/guidelines-for-club-rides/>.

Our May newsletter ends on a sober note this month

With the news of Bath CC members having been in road/path accidents.

Most of you have already heard about Luke Buxton, his condition is stable and he has now been transferred from Southmead to the RUH. David Oliver is

sending out club updates on his progress.

David Stoye is getting back into action, but a few Sundays ago, he and his Double espresso group ride hit some nasty potholes and crashed which resulted in David being taken to the RUH (via ambulance) and Sam Smith scraped up.

Finally Clare Parkins was out solo and was rear ended by a car. She suffered broken ribs and teeth. Hilary Oliver has gotten word from her and she appears to be doing better but remains off work.

On behalf of Bath Cycling Club, sending our best wishes to David, Clare, and Luke.

As always, ride safe

Tracy

Tracy Chapman (Bath CC Communications)



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