

Otley Cycle Club Limited  
Wellcroft House  
23 Crow Lane  
Otley LS21 1JH



**Patron: Lizzie Deignan, 2012 Olympic Medallist**

20<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### **Annual General Report**

Welcome to our 2017 Otley Cycle Club Annual General meeting. It has been another busy year for the Club, now in its 90<sup>th</sup> year, and with over 500 members. As we look back on 2017 the elected Officers and the Committee would like to thank all Club members for making this another action-packed year of cycling events, training, coaching, competing and socialising (on and off the bikes). We are especially grateful to all of our volunteer members, who ensure the continued energetic activities of the Club.

Whilst we celebrate the achievements of the Club this year we also, with great sadness, record the loss of Nicole Mann who died this year. Nicole was a strong rider and a committed Club and committee member who did so much for cycling, and women's cycling in particular. Nicole died at a young age when she still had so many plans for adventure with her partner and friends. Many OCC riders attended Nicole's funeral and celebration of her life on October 21<sup>st</sup> and went with her on bikes to the service, and on to her resting place. We have dedicated a new award to the memory of Nicole - 'The Nicole Mann Grand Tour award' and several people are already chasing this accolade.

We hope that the reports and reflections below from different sections of the Club give members an overview of the range of activities that go on and how they are supported by the good will and hard work of all the official and spontaneous volunteers. As the Club goes from strength to strength with different sections and activities growing we hope to continue to inspire, challenge and support each other, attract new cyclists, and make a major contribution to accessible, sociable, and competitive cycling in Yorkshire and beyond.

### **Club Captain overview**

Another very good year for Otley Cycle Club is coming to a close. Members continue to have sporting success and others have personal achievements to be very proud of as they tackle long distance rides and monster climbs. To name just a few of these: - On Saturday 2nd September, Claire Jessop ventured south to ride in the Team Velovelocity 25-mile TT on the E2/25 course near Newmarket. Claire's time of 59:56 not only set a new Women's Club 25 record, taking 2 minutes 16 seconds off the 25 record set by Helen Goldthorpe on the 13th May, but it was the first under the hour ride by an Otley CC woman. Harry and Eleanor Hunt set out to break the Club 15-mile Mixed Tandem record of 37:33 set last year. They succeeded by taking just under a minute off that time, recording 36:35. Congratulations to them both!

At the Thursday evening 25, two laps round The Triangle, many Otley riders had the privilege of competing with a double Olympic Champion and World Champion, Alistair Brownlee. Alistair broke the 25 course record and equalled the 12.5 record on his second lap of 25.40 set by Jonny Clay, but that record does not stand as it was a flying lap of course.

One Saturday morning the Mini flyers had a wonderful surprise when a World Champion an Olympic medallist and winner of The Tour of Flanders (to name just a few of the many successes) turned up to ride with them. This was a wonderful gesture by our Club Patron and member Lizzie Deignan.

Finally, at the end September 41 OCC members took off to cycle in Mallorca. A great deal of fun and enjoyment was had by all, both on and off the bike including several iconic rides over the mountain ridges and peaks of this beautiful island.

**Brian Keighley, Club Captain**

## Membership

We currently have approximately 515 members of which 338 are male and 177 female. Of the 338 males, 210 are over 18, 31 are over 65 and 97 are under 18. Of the 177 females, 106 are over 18, 14 are over 65 and 57 are under 18. As can be seen from these figures, we have had another good year in terms of our membership.

## Club runs

Based on our figures up to October 2017, the A Section has had an overall total of 12 Members riding out over the year and a similar number is reported for the Intermediates. The B Section has had an overall total of approximately 50 riders over the year and the Social Section between 25 and 40 members joining the half day rides on Sundays on a fortnightly basis. Based on our figures up to October 2017 the Top 10 Points Leaders across the A, Inters and B sections are as shown below:-

Paul	Agar	A	78	1
Ken	Hodgson	B	63	2
Phil	Mason	A	51	3
Alison	Baxter	Int	46	4
Gareth	Frith	B	45	5
Karen	Peterken	B	44	6
Tony	Selby	Int	41	7
Chris	Baxter	Int	36	8
Steve	Haigh	A	33	9
Chris	Donohue	A	31	10

## Ken Hodgson, Membership Secretary

## Club Patron

This year as a Club we have continued our support of Lizzie and her races. Many members watched the women's TdY either along the route or at finish in Harrogate and got to see Lizzie win! Lizzie has also again been very generous and supported the Mini Flyers by passing on more kit. The best part of the year (and best kept secret ever) was when Lizzie turned up to ride with the Minis taking the time to talk to each of them. As always we thank Carol and John for their help, and of course Lizzie for inspiring us all to ride

## Ben Peacock, Club Patron Link

## Coaching

Coaching this year has been very successful. All three blocks of sessions have been fully booked with children wanting to enjoy cycling. We have recruited two new coaches and both have settled in very well and enjoyed this year. We have watched riders improve each week and have progressed many young riders into higher groups. Some have even moved onto Club runs and racing. It is worth remembering that we have regional and national champions who started their cycling career with us. We could not achieve this work without the coaches and helpers who give up their time each week to volunteer and coach the future of our Club - thank you!

## Ben Peacock, Coaching Coordinator

## Junior and Youth Race teams

These teams, despite some injuries, have made fantastic progress during the year and would like to thank their sponsors, Otley CC, Chevin Cycles, VeloChampion and Tom Murray Sports, for their support. Also a big thank you to the team managers, Ian Cullen, Tim Howcroft and Martin Pollard plus parents who have ensured that riders have been able to attend events. Next year the team is hoping to extend range to include an under 23 section which supports the original goal of having a route for aspiring riders to progress within the Club.

## Junior Team

All six members of the Junior team have been racing all around the country this season, some managing exams at the same time, with great results. This includes **Toby Kitchen** who has achieved two top 10 results and **Luke O'Connell** with four top 10 results and **Harry Hunt** who achieved his goal and more with five top 10 results and two Personal Bests at 10 and 25 mile Time Trials. **Tom Cullen** has had mixed season, doing the National Series, with 3 bad crashes in a row but turned this around most notably at The Tour of Isle of Man where he secured the green jersey on day one. Towards the end of the season he got back into the Criterium and managed 8 top 10 places securing his 2nd cat licence for next year. **Robbie Pollard**, also on National Series duty, finished mid pack in most races but with some noticeable performances in the Scottish hill stages and 9th in the Yorkshire Champs. Near the season end he turned to the Criterium where he managed 6 top 10 results with 3 fantastic podiums at the end leaving him 49th in the Yorkshire rankings and securing his cat 2 status. **James Coates**, who started the season as 3rd category rider and quickly moved to 2nd cat with many top 10 places, was asked to ride for Yorkshire in the Tour of Wales where he was a domestique for Tom Pidcock, 7th in the Yorkshire Champs, many top 10 places with a fantastic 14th in the National Champs leaving him 44th in the Yorkshire rankings. The Junior team achieved 5th place in the Ilkley 2 day races.

## The Youth Team

The Youth A team have had a very busy season competing mainly in circuit and town centre races. The team of **James Wordsworth, Megan Cullen, Will Brown, Ruari Waterworth, Saha Kitchen, Sam Howcroft, James Veitch, and Dylan Lyons** have all had a number of top 10 placings with a total of 7 wins at local league events. In addition to this Megan has had wins at both Barnsley and Colne town centre races and was also selected to represent Yorkshire at the youth tour of Scotland where she competed with some of the best girls in Great Britain. Another stand out performance was by Rauri finishing 6th in the Otley town centre race.

Unfortunately we have had our fair share of injuries with Rauri, Sam and Dylan all being put out of action due to race incidents and closing their seasons early. Hopefully these talented riders will be back even stronger next season. In total the youth team have scored 155 points which is quite an achievement. The Otley blue train are now a force to be reckoned with in the racing scene and I know the support that the Club and sponsors have given these young athletes has helped them to be better riders and that they have contributed to raising the profile of the Club. Looking forward to next season we have some proven strong riders who we hope will be applying to join the youth race team including Jack Coates, Dexter Leeming, Eleanor Hunt and George Radcliffe.

## Gareth Frith, Business, Planning and Development

## Mini Flyers

The Mini-flyers have ridden every Saturday throughout the year. The group has progressed significantly with the winter miles producing a strong older group who are now known as the 'Midis'. Logistically this has meant two groups out on the road with routes planned so that we arrive at the designated cafe at the same time and everyone still enjoys the mid ride break together. We have had lots of new recruits and 4 riders have now successfully moved up to the Flyers. The highlight of the year was a very special parent and child joining us - Lizzie Deignan and her mum - an experience none of us will forget!

The racing season has seen a very busy schedule for riders, from U8 through to U12. The Club has been represented in over 30 different competitions at time of writing and this will increase as the winter CX season starts. The Minis had significant success in roller racing, road, grasstrack, CX and mountain biking. The British Schools Cycling Association competitions have produced 2 National champions and 4 Regional Champions, whilst the British Cycling competitions have produced one Regional Champion and a large number of podium finishes, many on the top step. The girls have done particularly well this year, the Lizzie effect really kicking in!

The Minis have also been keen to explore other areas of the Club and enjoyed Mountain Goat rides and the MTB outing, as well as the social series. This has led to adults joining us on a Saturday to learn about group riding and how to communicate with each other on the road. With new younger riders joining the next generation of Minis are assured and the future of this section is looking good thanks to willing parents who get on their bikes and get involved.

**Rob Wilks, Mini Flyers Section Captain**

### **Flyers**

This year the Flyers section has been a huge success. Most weeks there have been 20+ keen Flyers ready at the Buttercross on a Saturday morning in all weathers. The group is usually split into 2 groups according to speed and usually involves a stop at Cavendish Pavilion after 40 + miles and 30+ miles respectively.

The Hostel Trips to Osmotherley YHA and Malham YHA have proved to be popular with many Flyers. In addition, the Manchester Velodrome Trips have been enjoyed by both the older and newer Flyers, with some riding for the first time. It has been great seeing some new faces of the Mini Flyers who have progressed on to us while some of our older riders have moved on to the Chevin Rides. Many of the Flyers have taken part in cycle racing with notable successes at town centres, grass track at Roundhay and particularly in the local White Rose Youth League. The Flyers run with a minimum of 2 adult helpers. Alison Baxter does a great job of co-ordinating the leaders' rota and as new parents join the group they often join the rota.

**Eleanor Hunt, Flyer Captain**

### **Women's Development**

2017 has been a fantastic year for women's development at Otley Cycle Club. Many of our ladies participated in a large number of Sportives and did Otley proud inc. Yorkshire Lassies, Ride London, Etape Caledonia, Selby 100 Swans, Ladies of the Lakes, Belles of Belvoir and the Cragg Vale Charity Challenge. The Selby Sportive saw Amy Cuthbertson do her first '100 mile ride' which is fantastic given that she only took up cycling last year. But by far the most impressive story was that of Ann Howe, Christine Thwaite and Julia Day who took on the challenging Etape de Tour, one of the stages of the Tour de France.

Claire Hargreaves trained to become the latest Otley Breeze Champion (the British Cycling Initiative for women) and joined Jill, Ann and Liz in supporting the new women-only sessions at the new Brownlee Centre.

One of our most experienced Social Section Ride Guides, Christine Bell, identified a demand for hilly weekday and weekend rides and set up the Mountain Goats. And Hazel and Sandra have been instrumental in arranging and leading informal 'Anti-Social / Inbetween' rides on alternate weeks to the official Social Rides.

As well as entering a wide range of Open TTs (various distances) during the year, Claire Jessop, Helen Goldthorpe & Liz Hills participated in the National 3-Up Team Time Trial (TTT) on the hottest day of the year. didn't come first, but they didn't come last, and they all came in together. Claire, Liz and Helen also participated and podiumed YCF (Yorkshire Cycling Federation) 'flat' and Spoco (Sporting Courses (i.e. lumpy!) leagues.

The enthusiasm and success seen amongst the adult women is also reflected in the younger (under 14) female youth including the Club winning 2 national championships and at least 7 Yorkshire championships over three different disciplines (see the Mini-flyers report). The town Criterium results (Skipton and Ilkley) were huge results for Meg and Eleanor - a really big achievement on the racing calendar. However, it must be noted that we lack continuity for the juniors and this is reflected in the fact we could not get a girls racing team together. This might be an area for the Club to focus on to develop more great future female cyclists.

**Liz Hills, Women's Development Coordinaton**

## **Social Series**

We have seen big changes in the Social Series this year including Steve Moncur taking over as captain from Liz Hills and new ride coordinators joining the team. We note a massive thanks to all of the team involved in keeping us on the road. We have seen a further increase in numbers with the number of people riding out on our half-day rides often requiring us to run up to 6 or 7 different rides on Sundays. We've also seen a number of spin-off groups this year with the Mountain Goats going from strength to strength and frequent informal rides out on the Sundays where we have no Social Series Rides. This year we have also started doing a few rides away from Otley. As these are proving to be extremely popular we are looking to grow this further next year. In summary we can report a great year for the Social Series; an increase in numbers, more Social members riding with other groups (B's, Goats etc) and a more populated ride library for us all to use. It has been a real pleasure to be the Social Series Captain this year and I look forward to helping the Section (and the Club) continue to grow next year.

**Steve Moncur, Social Series Captain**

## **B Section**

Despite our sad loss of Nichole Mann as dedicated ride leader and all round enthusiast for the B Section, we have had a year of strong and interesting rides. Thanks must go to the team of organisers and ride leaders; Andy Boylan, Andy Chalke, Karen Peterken, Ken Hodgson, Paul Knights, Gareth Frith and Brian Keighley.

Generally we try to alternate our riding between westerly Dales rides and easterly Vale of York rides gradually increasing our planned distances as the weather became warmer and the days longer. The dales rides are more hilly and we have ridden to Hubberhome beyond Buckden, Airton, across to Colne and Pendle and up to Masham. Our furthest forays eastwards were to Easingwold, Coxwold and York. Our staple routes were Wetherby, Boroughbridge, Tancred, Burnsall, Grassington and Hebden. Thanks to everybody who turned up and rode with us. It goes without saying that the thought of a cafe stop provided us with incentive to reach our destination. Going forward in to 2018 we would love to welcome new riders and also support anyone who wants to volunteer to lead a B Section ride and suggest some new routes.

**Gareth Frith, B Section**

## **Intermediates**

A full and varied runs list has resulted in enjoyable rides to Hawes and Aysgarth taking in a number of challenging climbs in the Dales, testing rides to Haworth and the surrounding areas and pacy rides taking in York and Selby. Comments from newer riders to the group have been extremely positive particularly concerning the variety, pace and group riding discipline which has contributed to them undertaking their own particular cycling challenges. Unfortunately fewer than anticipated riders are able to commit to fuller day rides or regular attendance which will likely result in a review of the Intermediates section for next year.

**Chris Baxter and Tony Selby, Intermediates**

## **A section**

The A Section goes from strength to strength this year with some members joining the Club just to ride with us. We have completed an exciting list of runs along quiet country lanes and through glorious Yorkshire scenery to destinations including Hawes to the north, Hebden Bridge to the south, Helmsley to the east and Waddington to the west. And what is more, we love hills, especially the downhills! We have fond memories of the weekend hostel trip to Arnside, and routes in Mallorca will appear on the Strava segments of a few. The real attraction of the Section is the camaraderie and sense of friendship. We ride and support each other as a close knit team. No-one is ever left behind nursing a mechanical. The best stop for a tea and scone was The Watergate Tea Rooms in Hebden Bridge. The Three Horseshoes in Boroughbridge served a Michelin Star quality Sunday breakfast, while the Penny Garth Café in Hawes offered a lunch that eliminated all pangs of hunger. The Dalesman Café in Gargrave also warrants a mention for its cosy atmosphere. So, the overall assessment is outstanding. The target for next year is to include more women and to lower the average age of the Section so that we get a better balance, reflecting the composition of the club membership as a whole. If you are up for it, secure a place in the middle of the peloton and freewheel with us. With that in mind, we can start our preparations for the Tour de Yorkshire 2018.

**Paul Agar, A Section Captain**

## **Mountain Goat Rides**

In October 2016 the mountain goat rides of OCC were born. This is not a new section but provides another ride option for Club members. I am not a captain but I do the admin for the group and act as contact point and all our rides are hosted by a range of Club members who offer to share rides of their choice. We have just two rules for our rides: No moaning about the hills and the first person to the top of the hill must wait and take photos of the views.

Our routes are all shared on "Ride with GPS" with the title OCC MG so there is a growing library of rides for anyone who likes hills! We have a Facebook group where we share photos, plans for routes and dates for the next rides and we also communicate with email for Club members who do not have Facebook. We have created our own "goat rating" system to indicate how challenging a ride is and a "goat circuit" that members can use to get themselves to the right fitness level so they feel comfortable on the rides.

This year we have had rides going out almost every Saturday and Thursday morning, usually from the Buttercross. We also had adventures outside of Otley, including cycling from Morecambe back to Otley. Our rides are open to all Club members and there has been a rich cross section of people from all different parts of the Club joining rides including members who usually do time trials or who ride with the A/Intermediates/B Section, social half day riders, new members and some mini flyers and their dads.

Members agree that these hugely popular rides have filled a gap and that they improve fitness and are brilliant for venturing further afield. Thanks to all our members who have made this such a success by hosting rides, joining rides, suggesting routes, inspiring us with the Top 10 Climbs App, taking photos, teaching Fred to embrace the selfie, finding cafes to visit and being so encouraging to each other so that this has become a friendly, supportive and relaxed group.

**Christine Bell, Mountain Goats**

## **Club Awards Event**

The annual Otley Cycle Club Awards will be held on **Friday 19th January 2018** at the now familiar location of Otley Golf Club. The evening will include a two course meal and coffee as well as some new material from our President – let's hope Santa brings him a new joke book! The awards are a fantastic way of celebrating everything that is amazing about our Club. Awards range from the fast and furious time trial to endurance awards as well as recognising those who go the extra mile for the Club. It's also a lovely evening to get your glad rags on (instead of our beloved lycra!) and socialise with members young and not so young and be inspired by people's achievements. I will need all trophies back by the beginning of December to have the time to get them all engraved and polished and ready to make their way to their new winners. As with previous years tickets will be allocated to award winner's first and general tickets will go on sale January 1st 2018 once I have confirmed numbers.

**Rachel Crowther, Club Awards Coordinator**

## **Racing**

Otley Cycle Club has a thriving race scene, members racing all year round during 2017 in time trials, road races, circuit races, grasstrack, mountain biking, summer & winter cyclo cross and at all ages from 8 to 80.

Our junior racers continue to show lots of promise. We have a national champion in Emily Middlebrooke (MTB), Yorkshire regional grasstrack champions in Isobel Wilks and Daniel Middlebrooke and Jack Coates is the currently National Number One in the British Cycling Youth Category B Rankings with, at the time of writing, 367 points, 124 points clear of the second placed rider.

In time trialling a highlight not only for the Club but also for Yorkshire was our Open 10 held 15th April on the V212 course using the A168 near Boroughbridge. Organised by Christine Bell with assistance from Trevor Hatib and support from Liz Hills the event was over-subscribed, unusual for an event on that course and certainly for one in Yorkshire so early in the season. This was down to fantastic organisation and promotion of the event by Christine and her team.

Helen Goldthorpe, Liz Hills and Claire Jessop all scored points in the 2017 YCF Sporting Courses Competition and in the 2017 YCF Points Competition so will hopefully be presented with trophies at the 2018 YCF luncheon.

Off-road, our younger riders regularly continue to enjoy their Monday West Riding Track League (WRTL) grasstrack racing at Roundhay and we always have a good presence at Yorkshire Cyclo Cross Association (YCCA) events throughout the year plus in the annual gruelling 3 Peaks event which Ian Cullen has now ridden 25 times.

Most championships have now been decided although not without some problems due to events being cancelled due to roadworks and one due to a traffic accident on the course, fortunately without injury, the 100-mile Championships and the Hilly 14 the two championships not awarded due to these problems.

Sheldon Howcroft organised yet another fantastic Triangle Series although that was hit by cancellations too. Numbers were slightly down on previous years and first timers are welcome in 2018 to bolster those numbers. One highlight worth mentioning was the appearance of double Olympic Champion Alistair Brownlee at our Championship 25 on the Triangle on 15th June. Alistair recorded an amazing 52:07 for two laps of the course.

The Club organised four of its own open time trials during 2017 - the 10, 25, 50 and Hill Climb - and thanks go to organisers Christine Bell, Martin Tallontire, James Cullen and Stuart Newbould and of course to the helpers, not just on those events but Triangle ones too and other events they have helped in. Claire Jessop organised a combined 15 & 30 TT on behalf of the YCF on the A168 in August and Tim Howcroft and Ian Cullen organised a race each on the Brownlee closed circuit at Adel. Thank you to them and their helpers.

In addition, we would like to thank all organisers and helpers. Some devote a lot of time to organising racing series, for example Mandy Parker and her WRTL team at Roundhay and the YCCA team who promote 'cross events at many different venues. Thank you also to sponsors. A reminder that reports are published in the Racing News section of the website. Contributions and photographs are always welcome. A note too to members to reiterate that to be eligible to race in open, association events and Club events and to win Club championships they must be a fully paid up member of the Club. There will be no exceptions in 2018 and any Club awards won after a rider's membership has lapsed will be void and the award will be given to the next eligible club member.

Lastly, a plea for more involvement. Racing cannot take place without organisers and helpers and both are always required. New helpers are always needed. Members don't have to give up every weekend, just a couple of hours occasionally to help ensure events run safely and smoothly.

**John Barnett, Honorary Racing Secretary**

### **Social events**

As part of our social activities this year 5 club riders braved the freezing conditions in January and rode out on a 90km ride to Kettlewell to celebrate our 90th Club anniversary. A 'meet the author' event was held in May at The Fleece in Otley. Martin Gatenby provided a short reading of his new book 'Life of Mamils' and general chat about cycling with an audience of over 20 Club members. A second 'meet the author' event is planned for later this year with Simon Warren, author of the top 100 climbs series either at our clubhouse or Chevin cycles. There have also been a large number of other social rides organised throughout the year. Highlights include the Morecambe trip to complete stage 1 of the Way of the Roses attended by 16 riders and the day in North Yorks Moors riding 3 of the top 100 climbs attended by 10 riders. Finally, the Wednesday evening social rides have been popular this year helped by the draw of the post ride chips and beer at the Fleece. We regularly get 20 riders and offer two separate rides.

**Paul Knights, Social events coordinator**

## **Our Clubhouse**

Club members will be familiar with Wellcroft House, the headquarters of Otley Cycle Club. It's not a stately home (not just yet) but we have plans and from small beginnings who knows what we might achieve. Currently, the premises are used for a variety of purposes including committee and other Club related meetings, outside bookings and turbo training. We also host some exhibition space for the Otley Museum and the Ron Kitching Library. Ron, a good cyclist and a later a very successful cycle retailer, generously provided us with a fascinating collection of books, posters, catalogues and other archive material and made a substantial donation to the Club that helped to finance the modernisation and extension of Wellcroft House.

The premises could be made available for an even wider range of functions and a number of good suggestions have been made. These include: invited outside speakers, more extensive turbo training and coaching, film and quiz nights, sales and auctions of bikes and bits, repairs and maintenance workshops ... to name a few.

The clubhouse is clearly an asset; not all cycle clubs enjoy such facilities, but it also carries financial accountabilities and maintenance liabilities. The Committee has recently spent considerable sums on repairs and internal redecorations are also overdue. All of this draws on our Club funds. Therefore let's use this asset to our mutual advantage and secure even better value from the clubhouse. We will be sharing ideas for proposed activities and hope for your support and active participation.

**Peter Clark, Clubhouse Co-ordinator**

## **Club Volunteers**

As it has for the past 90 years the Club and all of the above activities continues to run purely by the efforts of its volunteers. These volunteer roles vary enormously from statutory committee roles through weekly coaching or ride leading to occasional marshalling or cake baking. We would like to thank everyone wholeheartedly who has contributed to the running of the Club over the past year. Several people have stepped forward to organise events that would otherwise not continue. An example of this is the Reliability Race successfully organised this year by Stephen Gallagher. A huge thank you to you all.

With around 500 members and a huge variety of activities provided by the Club it really is a case of 'many hands make light work' and so if you feel that you could contribute in any way please do not hesitate to contact me or your Section Captain. Marshalling for an afternoon or baking a cake for a TT is very rewarding knowing that your efforts have benefitted, and been appreciated by, dozens of people. So please don't be shy, the next time a call goes out your help will be invaluable.

**Jill Birch, Volunteer Coordinator**

This report is a huge team effort and very well reflects the breadth and diversity of the activities undertaken across the Club and the energy and commitment of all the members, coordinators, leaders and volunteers. Thank you to everyone for contributing to the report that offers an important record of who we are and what we do.

**Ruth Swanwick  
Club Secretary  
November 2017**