

**Otley Cycle Club Limited**  
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**Patron Lizzie Deignan: 2012 Olympic Medallist 2015 UCI Road Race Champion**

Annual General Report  
26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Welcome to our 2018 Otley Cycle Club Annual General meeting. It has been another busy year for the Club, now in its 91<sup>st</sup> year, and with over 500 members. The success of our Club is nationally recognised and as we hold this Annual General Meeting we excitedly anticipate the results of the *Cycling Weekly* Club of the year competition. We have been shortlisted as one of the top four entries. The results are to be announced in December.

As we mark the end of another year we also reflect sadly on the loss of one of our Club life members Bob Kibble, and also Jeff English who was a past committee member, a brilliant volunteer and an outstanding Cycle coach.

As the club goes from strength to strength we continue to invest in different sections of the Club and especially our coaching and our Junior and Youth Race teams. This year we have also made significant efforts to renovate our Clubhouse. This is an important resource, open to all members, that continues to make a positive financial contribution the club. We are pleased to hold our AGM here this year and plan to utilise it more during 2019.

As we look back on 2018 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 and competing. The highlights of this year's activities reported 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.

**Club President Overview**

2018 has once again been a fantastic year for Otley Cycle Club in ALL areas of cycling. The reports from each section demonstrate the successes throughout the club and I extend my congratulations to everyone who's achieved individual victories (on the race track or otherwise), and my thanks to everyone who's made it all possible. It is our volunteers who make our club run so well - they are the lifeblood of the club and we simply couldn't operate without them. I'd like to thank (in alphabetical order) the Coaches, the Coaching session organisers, the Committee Members, the Marshalls, the Race Bakers, the Race Organisers, the Ride Leaders and back-markers and the Ride Section Leaders (ALL sections) and anyone else I may have inadvertently missed!

I have been proud to call myself El Presidente this year, but it's all down to the amazing achievements and contributions from you, the club's members. Looking ahead to 2019, it's going to be an exciting time as we formalise the Club's new 2020-2025 vision and business plan. With the enthusiasm I feel and hear of every time I ride with members we will see existing sections develop and new sections emerge, and I am looking forward to seeing how the club evolves.

**Liz Hills, Club President**

## Club Captain

The club has continued to flourish with membership increasing to make us the largest club in Otley, sporting or otherwise. We continue to offer a wide range of rides and have seen new sections emerge like the mountain bike rides for those who prefer off road to tarmac, and the 'Traditional Training Ride' for those who like to go hard and fast!

We continue to flourish in TTs and road races, but as well as our racers, whose successes are well documented, we'd like to congratulate members whose achievements aren't always officially captured – those who take on cycling challenges and in doing so inspire the rest of us to get out on our bikes including, from our men, Andrew's ride from Barrow to Jarrow in memory of his partner Nicole who was sadly taken from us in 2017; Ed's successful Land's End to John O'Groats ride, having 'limited experience' (his words) of attempting such a feat; Steve Morris' Rhine trip – ridden in one of the hottest summers you can imagine, and teaching us once again how to be self-sufficient on a bike (the only man who can fit a picnic bench on his bike); and all riders who proudly work their Otley blue shirts in Sportives up and down the land. Our women have achieved great things too but I'll leave the women's cycling coordinator to tell that story....

**Brian Keighley, Club Captain**

## Our Membership

We currently have approximately 503 members of which 336 are male and 167 female. Of the 336 males, 210 are over 18, 42 are over 65 and 84 are under 18. Of the 167 females, 94 are over 18, 15 are over 65 and 58 are under 18. As can be seen from these figures, we have had yet another good year in terms of our membership.

## Club Runs

Based on our figures up to September 20th 2018, the A Section has so far had an overall total of 12 Members riding out over the year, the Intermediates has had 5 & the B Section has had 37.

Based on our figures up to September 20th 2018, the Top 10 Points Leaders across the A, Inters and B sections are as shown below:-

Paul	Agar	A	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>
Maria	Filby	A	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>
Ken	Hodgson	B	<b>52</b>	<b>3</b>
Phil	Mason	A	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>
Gareth	Frith	B	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>
John	Mawby	A	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>
Karen	Peterken	B	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>
Alison	Baxter	Int	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>
Mark	Boyden	B	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>
Alan	North	B	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>
Tony	Harvey-James	B	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>

**Ken Hodgson, Membership Secretary**

## **Press Engagement**

The Club has continued to have a positive profile in the media. The Wharfedale Observer continues

to provide an outlet for good news stories from the Club. Simon Warren joined a Mountain Goat ride with a subsequent write-up in *Cycling Weekly*. As noted in previous reports, articles in the media do not always accurately convey the intended message which can be frustrating.

In August we were asked, at short notice, by Welcome to Yorkshire and Dependable Productions to provide 30 people to take part in filming to promote the 2019 World Road Race Championships in Yorkshire. The filming took place over 2 days around Yorkshire and was shown at this year's championships in Innsbruck. It will be used over the coming months to promote the event. Those taking part had to wear World Champion jerseys so unfortunately there were no Otley Tops on show but it was gratifying to know that Welcome to Yorkshire thought that OCC could deliver. The film should now be available on the Welcome to Yorkshire website.

Thank you very much to all those who have taken part in these events and represented the Club so well. As the club has continued to expand both in terms of membership and the range of activities that we offer, we are confident about our entry to the *Cycling Weekly* Club of the Year completion and to be down to the last four.

**Jill Birch Press Secretary**

## **Coaching 2018**

OCC's Coaching has continued its good form and again been at capacity for this year. We have seen new riders join, more riders progress through the groups, more now attending the Mini-Flyers Saturday morning club runs and some taking up the racing bug and putting their skills into practice. (and doing quite well!)

We have invested in the coaching equipment with the purchase of a trailer to allow us to get everything we need to where we need it easier. We have also invested in our coaches and now have two L2+ MTB Specific coaches (to go with our existing Road, TT & Track specific coaches) so we can offer a greater coaching experience. Next year we are looking to expand the coaching team with three new coaches.

A quiet year for Lizzie this year racing and club wise as some exciting things have been happening personally. We would like to congratulate her on the birth of her daughter, Orla, in September this year (Otley's newest Mini?). Other news...Lizzie has signed for a new team and is now a Trek ambassador until the new Team starts in January 2019.

**Ben Peacock, Coaching Coordinator and Club Patron Link**

## **Junior and Youth Race teams**

The club's race team supports young riders to race. Age range 14-22. We are currently 2nd ranked Regional race team (out of 100 plus Yorkshire clubs) and 65th nationally (out of over a 1000 clubs).

### **Youth Team U16**

Our youth riders have had a fantastic year amassing in the region of over 500 points. Lots of really strong performances with over 20 race victories. Eleanor Hunt won two races series in Lancashire, and came 3rd in Otley cycle races. Lucy Ellmore won the Thursday White Rose League Series and the NE Youth League series. Jack Coates, Dexter Leeming -Skyes, and George Radcliffe all gained over 50 British Cycling points. James Wordsworth despite focusing on his GCSE's won the Skipton town centre criterium.

### **Junior Team U18**

3 Otley riders gained selection to ride National series events. Joe Howcroft and Luke O'Connell for Junior men ( both of whom retained or gained a second category race licences) and Megan Cullen for Junior Women. In addition Joe rode for Yorkshire in the Ilkley 2 Day (Where Yorkshire Team won the team classification).

### **U23 Team**

Having progressed from being Junior riders our 4 male U23 riders all had very good years. 3 of whom won different races. Tom Cullen and Robbie Pollard gained over 80 BC pts retaining their 2nd Category licences, while James Coates gained over 200 pts and a 1st category race licence

### **Ian Cullen, Junior and Youth Race Team Manager**

### **Mini-flyers**

A wonderful year for the Mini-flyers with lots of new riders joining us and enjoying the roads around Wharfedale. We have experienced new routes and cafes with some of our longest rides ever! The need to reboot the section and provide chance for a new crop of the younger riders has been very important, with good support from our parents. We have managed to have riders out nearly every week, even during the miserable weather of the winter. The spring and summer have been a pleasure, with all the miles paying off for those who enjoy the racing.

The start of the racing season saw amazing results in the CX leagues from our young riders, some competing for the first time in the mud. Roller racing saw minis crowned as National & Regional Champions, some age categories cleaned up by Otley Blue. Circuit racing has seen lots of success throughout the year with lots of different tracks attended and again riders trying it for the first time. Grass Track created more National & Regional Champions, lots of fun had at The York Rally. A big turnout for the WRTL Grass Track series at Roundhay has also seen more League Champions than last year.

As always the emphasis has been on fun and friendship and this has continued to be at the heart of everything we have done.

### **Rob Wilks, Mini Flyers Section Captain**

### **Women's Development**

2018 has been another fantastic year for women's cycling at Otley Cycle Club. The Club continues to attract new riders through the social series rides. Otley Cycle tops have been on show all over the world from Columbia's Alto de Letras (52 Miles climb to an altitude 3669m) to various European destinations.

Many members have achieved personal goals from their first sportive, first 100 Miles, their first time round the Triangle and their first time at racing or time trialling.

Particular achievements to note include Eleanor Hunt becoming the first OCC rider to gain a podium place in the Otley Town Centre Road Race, Rachel and Christine's grit and determination in their attempt to break their own 12hr tandem national record (sadly defeated by terrible weather), Vanessa's completion of Simon Warren's 100 Greatest Climbs (making her one of only 2 women who've achieved this goal) - inspired by Nicole who was well on her way to complete the list, and the Mount Ventoux climb completed by Julia Day, Ann Howe, Angela Prescott and Christine Thwaite, especially Julia and Christine who climbed (and descended!) it 3 times in one day to join the exclusive Club des Cingles de Ventoux (a claim which only 140 women in the UK can make).

A special mention here to Amy Cuthbertson who came equal first in this year's Alba Rosa league in her first season time trialling and also raced hard uphill to become Otley Hill Climb Champion and Yorkshire Hill Climb Champion,. Amy has also set up a Facebook group called - Ride Like A Girl/race series. She has set this up as she noticed there were not many female organised novice races in the North of England. She already has 501 group members and has put on a successful inaugural race at the Brownlee Centre that was very well attended. Well done also to Helen Coutie who was the steel bike champion in the Alba Rosa league.

Claire Jessop and Helen Goldthorpe have had another successful time trialing season along with Eleanor Hunt and Lucy Ellmore.

This year has shown that there are so many opportunities to grow your cycling within the club with like minded people who will support you and help you achieve your goals and ambitions. Now is the time to get those winter miles in so that you can achieve your cycling goals for 2019. What will your goal be? Please let me know your plans and ambitions.

**Karen Spence, Women's Cycling Coordinator.**

### **Social Series**

Another very successful year for the Social Series with significant numbers of new riders joining us. By the end of the year we'll have run over 80 rides this year typically with 8 or so riders on each of them. We've run more away days, some hillier rides and some rides going a little further afield than previous years. Going forward we'll continue to ensure that we offer all levels of rides ensuring that the section is as welcoming to new/returning riders as it is to more experienced riders. Any suggestions for new rides, new away days , new cafes etc are always welcome. In last years report we mentioned the new rides that were going out on the "in-between" Sundays when we have no Social Series rides, these rides continue to grow often with 20 people out riding – so everyone has a ride available to them every Sunday! Massive thanks to all volunteers who have led / back-marked rides for the club this year without you we'd have no rides!

**Steve Moncur, Social Series Captain**

### **B Section report 2018**

We have had a year of strong and interesting rides put together by our team of organisers and ride leaders; Andy Boylan, Andy Chalke, Karen Peterken, Ken Hodgson, Gareth Frith and Brian Keighley and Alan North. 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 Airton, Grassington and Kettlewell. 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 2019 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, on behalf of the B Section**

## **A section 2018**

The A Section rider numbers this year been fairly steady at between 6 and 8. Winter months at the start of the have been the harshest that I have known for a number of years with some of our normal routes having to be shortened or modified. Spring seemed very short as from the beginning of May for the Tour de Yorkshire and summer arrived early with warm sunny days through into August. Our longest rides were over 95 to destinations such as Hawes and Helmsley. At the beginning of August 3 of our number and 1 intermediate member went on a 3-day hostel trip to Dufton near Appleby, Cumbria. We were very fortunate with the weather this year staying completely dry, rare for a trip even in August. The whole trip covered around 240 miles returning via Tan Hill.

**Paul Agar, A Section Captain**

## **Mountain Goat Rides**

The mountain goats are now into their second full year of enjoying hilly rides. There are club members enjoying the rides every Thursday and Saturday throughout the year, although the long winter did challenge us to continue finding interesting routes which were not too deep in snow and ice! The rides are lead by a variety of club members and thanks to everyone who volunteers to select a route, greet everyone and guide us around some interesting back roads and hills to our destination café spot. A highlight of our year was the opportunity to ride with Simon Warren (of 100 Top Climbs fame) He had heard of our rides via Twitter and our challenge was to find a hill to take him on that he had not already ridden. We picked the climb to the Wind Farm at Oxenhope and this was an excellent choice of ride as he had never ventured up this way and was blown away by the views from the climb and by the railway café at Oxenhope. We welcome any club members who enjoy a social ride with a high level of elevation to come along and join us.

**Christine Bell, on behalf of the Mountain Goats**

## **Racing Secretary Report**

Before highlighting the racing Otley CC riders are competing in during 2018, a mention for our friend and clubmate Stephen Broadley who was seriously hurt during a time trial in June. Stephen is now going through rehabilitation and we all wish him well.

Otley riders have again competed in many disciplines including road and circuit racing, time trialling, grass track, cyclo cross and mountain biking, numbers in road and circuit racing in particular increasing over 2017, and in some those disciplines we have champions at national, regional and local levels, and of course at club level. Due to the Yorkshire Cyclo Cross Association running events in the winter months members can race virtually all year round now, especially in safer surroundings, yet another benefit of living in Yorkshire.

The number of road and circuit racing awards has increased to four, reflect the number of girls participating. Sadly, due mainly to event cancellations, some of our longer distance TT awards and the Senior Best All Rounder have not been won. Hopefully 2019 will see that change for the better.

As always, events organised by the club, including circuit races at the Brownlee Centre and open TTs, were expertly run and well supported, as was our Triangle TT Series and the local corsaRosa League, in which the club had much success. Organisers, marshals and helpers are always needed and as the number of events we're organising during 2019 may increase this is even more critical.

This is my last racing secretary report as I am stepping down after three years in the role. Thank you for your support. Please continue that support for our two future racing secretaries, Liam Mealey (time trials) and David Bennett (non-time trialling).

Keep racing and ride safe

**John Barnett, Honorary Racing Secretary**

### **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 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**

### **Get involved!**

Our Club and all of the above activities continue 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 baking. We would like to thank everyone wholeheartedly who has contributed to the running of the Club over the past year.

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 your Section Captain or respond to calls via our the social media.

Marshalling for an afternoon or supporting a TT is very rewarding knowing that your efforts have benefitted, and been appreciated by, dozens of people. We should mention here that Barry Atha and Steve Moncur have both been trained as BC Regional Commissaires.

By way of example, this report is a huge team effort that 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 this important record of who we are, and what we do.

**Ruth Swanwick**

**Club Secretary**

**November 2018**