



**Patron: Lizzie Deignan**

**Annual General Report**  
**25<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Welcome to our 2019 Otley Cycle Club Annual General meeting. In the year that the World Championships came to Yorkshire, the club celebrated it's 92<sup>nd</sup> year and still maintains just short of 500 members. The success of our Club was nationally recognised by becoming the first ever Cycling Weekly Club of The Year. The award highlighted what is important – giving lots of people the opportunity to ride their bikes.

This year we were sad to hear about the deaths of club stalwarts, Peter Phillips, Laurie Howcroft and Rex Morgan. All three of them are fondly remembered for being passionate about getting out on their bikes and encouraging others to do the same. They all encapsulated and helped to create the collective love of cycling in the club.

The Tour de Yorkshire gave us a chance to cheer on our Patron Lizzie Deignan, returning to racing after Orla's birth – it was a thrill for us to cheer her on. The arrival of 'The Worlds' saw members line the streets and hills of the county, all week and even gave interviews on the TV and Radio. Lizzie was a highlight again, many cheering her on in the carnival atmosphere of 'Otley Corner' on Norwood and at Lofthouse. See our Captain's report for some highlights of the week.

The club runs on volunteers and lots of members have given up their time. The unsung heroes are often those in the background, dealing with the day to day running of the club, whilst the staffing of our amazing events is visible well beyond the club and continues to build our reputation for organising high quality and friendly experiences for all the riders who come to them. Lots of work has been done on our club rooms, see Peter Clark's review for details, which have involved a small army of members. The committee would like to say a big thank you to anyone who has given support and encourages everyone to get involved in the coming year.

**Club President Overview**

'The wheels keep turning, but the times, they are a-changin'

Once again I am so fiercely proud of Otley Cycle Club.

We've continued to deliver all the things that made us Cycling Weekly's inaugural Club of the Year in 2018 (can we still milk that?!) as well as adding new initiatives to our repertoire.

This year saw the first training and social ride session at the Brownlee Centre in the summer, a new informal training ride section emerge, and (we think) the first time we have ever had a rider compete at the "Tour of the Reservoir" level. There were more riders venturing off road on their mountain bikes in challenges and races, we launched the new Wednesday Social Night after the ride, some cyclists tried roller skiing and duathlon (not at the same time), and we created the Otley Zwift meet up.

And we breathed new life into some activities with almost 30 riders setting off on the George Herbert Stancer Memorial Ride (many for the first time), and the resurrection of the very successful Otley CC Chevin Cycles Road Race in May.

And we've done it all in style.

From youth coaching, social riding, TTing (made even more challenging this year by those darned traffic lights!), and road racing we are still showing the others how it's done - maintaining our friendly and professional style. And maybe it's just me but I get the impression our female racers featured more this year than before - they're certainly giving the male racers a run for their money! I'm especially proud of our support of women's development, from sending two female members to represent the club at the Club of the Year awards, to having a Committee session on the 'vision for women's cycling at Otley CC' and in ensuring we have equal prize money for men and women at our TTs.

I'll let you read the section summaries for all the details of the fabulous highlights and achievements we've seen this year.

And it's all down to you, our members, who are out there cycling or putting in the volunteer hours to make things happen - in particular thanks to those who've stepped in at the last minute to make sure things didn't fall between the cracks, like the Club's Hill Climb TT (Claire J), and the Club's role in Corsa Rosa (Dave B).

And to all of the many more unsung heroes - a huge thanks. I witness other clubs, some larger than us, struggling to get volunteers for their activities so please be assured we don't take your support for granted.

But, all good things must come to an end, and we have seen and are about to see significant change.

At Committee level we've got two elected officers stepping down and a change to the coaching coordinator role. I'd like to thank all 3 members Rob, Iain and Ben, (well 4 actually as Claire Peacock has played such an important role in coaching too) for their dedication to the club and for taking the club from strength to strength. In particular the coaching which is one area where the club has really made a name for itself.

We look forward to welcoming the members who pick up these roles - you will have the full support of the club behind you.

For me it's reinforced the importance of encouraging as much engagement as possible from club members with the 'back room workings' of the club so that when the time comes we have people willing to step in to keep the ball rolling. To that end we have been and will be encouraging more 'working groups' to get some ideas of the ground. The Club is only as successful as the ideas and energy that comes from within and we want everyone to participate should they want to. It's not all about Committee, we're just there to keep things on track and approve spend!

Watch this space for how you can get involved, in particular as we continue to work on the 2020 - 2025 vision for the club.

Until then, happy peddlin'!

**Liz Hills, Club President**

### **Membership**

As at early October 2019, we have 485 members & our membership level seems to float around 500, depending on how prompt our members renew.

This figure of 485 includes 17 Life Members (basically members who helped finance the Club House "back in the day" & 4 Honourary Members (for more recent services to the Club). The 485 membership is made up of 302 Seniors, 116 Juniors & 67 Senior Citizens. The 302 Seniors are made up of 206 Males & 96 Females, the 116 Juniors are made up of 70 Males & 46 Females, whilst the 67 Senior Citizens are made up of 51 Males & 16 Females.

I think that the above figures show a good "Strength in Depth" level of membership, and justifies the wide range of ages & abilities that we, as a club, strive to cater for.

**Ken Hodgson, Membership Secretary**

### **Club Runs**

Looking at the attendances of our 3 "traditional" Riding Sections, as shown by the Club Run Points system, up to press, (early October 2019) we have had an overall total of 48 riders out for the full day Sunday rides.

The "A" Section has had a total of 11, the "Inters" have had 5, whilst the "B"s have had 32 (not all at the same time !!!). The "Social" Sections have had very good turn outs for their half day rides, although I do not know the numbers! The "B"s have a very broad range of riding abilities & I think that some of these members could easily move up to the "Inters" for example. Food for thought?!

**Ken Hodgson**

### **A Section**

A core of 5 riders made up the A Section this year, with the numbers during the summer of 8 or 9. Winter was not too harsh this year, only one ride had to be shortened by snow. Summer was not as good as last year, but we still did 85 - 90 miles most Sundays. The beginning of August was our annual hostel trip with 4 riders partaking in a 2 night trip, stopping in Ingleton & Hawes, totaling 200 miles, & luckily staying dry for the whole 3 days. Autumn has so far been disappointing, with Sundays never completely free from rain, resulting in a few soakings & rider numbers down & few riders doing the full days ride. So here's hoping for a mild, safe & mechanical free winter

**Paul Agar, A Section Captain**

### **Intermediate Section.**

Rain, rain and more rain. This weather 'feature' seems to have been a prevalent state for the majority of the year so far.

The intermediate section is small, numbers riding on Sundays range from 2 to a heady 5. (Although the first outing with 5 was short lived after an 'off', due to bad road surface caused by the previous weeks flooding. (The 'off' resulted in a trip to A&E by ambulance.) The core members of the section are early retirees, so when the weather is forecast to be bad on a Sunday we usually re-arrange to ride in the week – so yes we are getting soft. When the section does ride, it is usually at a steady pace with tight group riding to enable social chit chat.

A new café find this year has been the garden centre as Askham Richard. The slices of cake are massive – but be aware it closes early at 14:30.

We would love for other members to join us on Sundays but as the distances are longer than the 'B' section and Social Series Strenuous the pace may seem slightly slower but you'll probably appreciate that after 60-80 miles.

**Alison Baxter**

### **Social Series**

The Social Series remains one of the highlights of the Clubs Ride Selection with new members joining our more regular riders. We have successfully delivered over 75 Social Series throughout the year with up to 50 people riding on our busiest day. Its always great to see people joining our rides that are getting into Cycling for the first time along with returning cyclists who have had 30 years off their bike !! Plea from the club - its becoming increasingly difficult to continue to host the Social Series Rides due to a lack of Ride Leaders - please make it your New Year Resolution to lead a couple of rides. Dave Bennett is taking over from me for the new season, I look forward to helping him getting all the riders out next year.

**Steve Moncur, Social Series Captain**

### **Mountain Goat Rides**

This is our 3rd year of rides focused on all things hilly for all club members and we have built on our success. We started this year with a plan, with some key dates for rides pencilled in. We built on this plan to create flexible and vibrant programme of rides on Thursdays and Saturdays. We have repeated some of our favourite rides from previous years with rides to the Druids Temple, Stump Cross Cavens, the Clapham Sportive and Holmfirth, ticking off some top 100 climbs on the way. We had new rides to Cross O Greet, Malham, Thornton in Craven and new variation of our routes to Hebden Bridge. We have ridden to watch the Tour de Yorkshire and the World Championships from hilly vantage points, our Otley blue cheered on by the crowds. We have ridden from Lancaster to Otley- using the Bike Bus and our first overnight adventure with a 2 night stay at Swaledale Yurts. We average 8-10 riders on each ride with our biggest turnouts at 18 riders. Our rides have a diversity of new/old members and all ages including the energy of some of our under 16 riders: Oscar, Poppy, Isabel and Jack. We have had 16 different club members hosting our rides this year, with slightly more women designing and hosting hilly rides for all. Its been fun and we look forward to those 2020 hills. Our group admin team is Andy Smith, Pam Clulow and myself.

**Christine Bell**

### **Mini-Flyers**

The section has faced challenges this year, with a large number of riders moving up to the flyers. This has left a very difficult situation with riders of a very wide range and often not many out at all. Off the road and in competition the section has seen numerous National and Regional champions, a by-product of enjoying time on their bikes! It is hoped that a new batch of young riders and willing adults will be able to form a new group, who can have as much fun as the last five years has brought us. I have now stepped down as Captain of the cooperative!

**Rob Wilks, Mini-flyers Captain**

### **Flyers**

A few changes for the Flyers this year, lots of riders moving up from the Minis to make their Flyers debut also bringing with them a new selection of ride leaders! Other riders have also joined in as new members to the club. New routes have been explored and a good time has been had. Some weeks we have to split into two groups due to numbers but always meet up for the all important cafe stop! We have a hostel trip planned for October with many new Flyers joining in for the first time.

**Ben Peacock**

## **Coaching**

Another successful year for coaching, plenty of new faces and a new coach. Lots of children learning about and enjoying cycling, all inspired by our local cycling heroes and older children who now help out with the coaching sessions. The Tour de Yorkshire and World Championships coming through Otley have had a positive effect with plenty of children wanting to take part in cycling events.

**Ben Peacock, Coaching Coordinator**

## **Patron – Lizzie Deignan**

After becoming a mum to Orla just over a year ago, Lizzie made a return to racing this year and did well winning her second Women's Tour title and giving the World Championships a gutsy effort. Lizzie also took some time out after the Tour de Yorkshire to have a Q & A session with our younger riders. The Minis and Flyers (and parents) all came with good questions, learnt some top tips and gained inspiration for their future cycling! Lizzie continues to provide exclusive blog updates for the club.

**Ben Peacock, Patron Link**

## **Press Report**

It has been a busy year for press interactions starting immediately after our Cycling Weekly Club of the Year Award. Radio Leeds have asked for live interviews on several occasions on varying topics such as the CW award, the Tour de Yorkshire, as well as a cyclist versus motorist "discussion". Thanks to John Barnett and Harry Hunt who joined me on a trip into the Radio Leeds studio and gave really good live interviews about the Tour de Yorkshire. Cycling Weekly have contacted us on many occasions for comment, information and general assistance with articles. Thank you to those who responded to any requests for help. Thanks also to Brian Keighley, John Barnett, John Churchman and George Baxter for doing other radio interviews for both Stray FM and Dutch Radio 1.

I think that we can say that we have had our fair share of good publicity in local, national and international press over the past year.

**Jill Birch, Press & Communication Officer**

## **OCC Race Team**

The club's race team supports young riders to race. Age range 12-22. We are one of the top racing clubs in Yorkshire and currently ranked 37th (65th in 2018) nationally (out of over a 1000 clubs). Much of the teams exploits can be followed on Twitter @OtleyJunRT and via #BlueTrainonFire. 2019 has been Otley Cycle Club's best ever road racing season, every week our riders posted excellent results across all age groups and all categories. Otley riders recorded a very impressive 48 road racing victories. We have boys and girls youth sections at under 14 & under 16 age groups. Junior male and female (16 – 18 year olds) riders and an Under 23 team.

### **Youth Team U14**

Matt Ellmore has really progressed this year, often winning and rarely out of the top 5 showing consistent results. James Luxton has started racing and had some good results. Emily Middlebrook and Poppy Peacock have progressed from grass track on to road circuits and have both performed well each winning 2 separate races.

### **Youth Team U16**

Over the year we have had 3 riders compete at national level, George Radcliffe, Dexter Leeming Sykes and Eleanor Hunt, In addition George and Eleanor were each selected for to ride for Yorkshire at the Youth Tour of Scotland and the National Schools Games. Dexter has rarely been out of the top 5 and has won an impressive 8 races. Tom Wallace started racing during the year and gained several top 10 places.

### **Junior Team U18**

Megan Cullen and Lucy Ellmore both achieved excellent results over the year and each gained 2nd category race licences, they both rode at national level, with Megan gaining a 7th place at Witham Hall GP against the best Junior female riders in the country. Sam Howcroft and Henry Hollyman made good progress as 1st year juniors, each gaining their 3rd category licences

#### **U23 Team**

Our U23 team competed locally, national and internationally. Taking part in various 2 & 3 day stage races across the country, while Joe Howcroft has competed in two international tours, including the Tour of Tobago. In addition Joe competed in 2 premier Calendar races against the best professional riders in the country. Tom Cullen was backed by and supported by the Dave Rayner Fund to race in Belgium for 3 months. Here, against international competition, he achieved several top ten placings and finished the year as a 1st category rider. In addition for his university he won the National Student Criterium Championships. Julian Roche after recovering from injury won the Scottish Eastern Promise Road Race. Robbie Pollard won several criteriums on the Colne circuit and the overall series. Harry Hunt showed really good progression nearly gaining his 2nd category licence with some strong performances. He was a particularly good team rider.

**Ian Cullen, Race Team Manager**

#### **Racing – Non TT**

There have been some positive results for Otley Cycle Club throughout the year with the Racing Team continuing to go from strength to strength. There have been some great results for Otley in The West Riding Track League and furthermore some steady performances in both the Winter and Summer Series of Cyclo-Cross. Within Road and Circuit racing we have had 110 podiums including 41 wins from 15 different riders and strong performances with racers picking up points if not a podium position, well done to all involved. There have also been successes throughout the West Riding Track League during the summer months with top finishes from racers in all ages. Cyclo-cross continue to come in with strong finishes by riders in Otley colours, with some races still to go.

**Dave Bennett, Racing Secretary – Non TT**

#### **Racing – TT**

The club has successfully organised four open TTs, including a 10mile run by Christine Bell, a 25mile by Martin Tallontire, a new 50mile course by Helen Goldthorpe, and thanks to Claire Jessop and John Barnett picking it up a Hill Climb (the latter even trying to recreate the feel of the UCI World Champs for the racers on Norwood Edge!). Throughout the season over 200 riders have successfully completed events organised by the club.

Forty Nine riders from the club, from the flyers up to vets also competed in open TTs, with distances ranging from 5min long hill climbs, all the way up to 100mile and 12hr events, and with podium places throughout the year showing strong performances.

The ever-present Triangle Series, run by Sheldon Howcroft has also been well attended despite attempts of temporary traffic lights to thwart it! Around 30 club riders have managed to score points in the series, with the competition only being decided on the last 30mile event. A number of guests have also enjoyed the Triangle event, including the high profile youngsters Sam Watson and Tom Pidcock.

Here's to successful TTing in 2020.

**Liam Mealey, Racing Secretary TT**

## **Otley Women's Development report for 2019 AGM**

It has again been a fantastic year for the Otley ladies. This started straight after last year's AGM when Liz and Jill represented the club at the Award's night for Club of the Year. This sent a really good message about Otley's commitment to women's cycling.

Otley presently has 158 female members which represents a third of the total club membership and can be broken down in to: 90 Seniors, 11 OAP's and 53 Juniors. This is above the national average of 25%. Most of these are spread across the Junior sections, Social rides and the Mountain Goats.

The club continues to welcome new female members through the social rides due to their inclusivity and their mantra of "never leaving anyone behind".

In a year when Fiona Kolbinger won the Transcontinental Race by cycling nearly 4000 kilometres in just 10 days, 2 hours and 48 minutes, we have our own people pushing boundaries. Vanessa Bridge became the second OCC lady to conquer Letras in Colombia, the world's longest climb of 52 miles. Julia Day, for her 50th birthday, rode up Passo Dello Stelio in 50 degree heat, not just once but twice. Kathryn Moncur rode Fleet Moss with her work for charity in atrocious weather. Amy Cuthbertson then took riding for charity to the Pyrenees by cycling 779 km in 40 degree heat from Girona to San Sebastian, the length of the Pyrenees. This meant a massive 17,400 metres of ascent.

Our OCC ladies continue to push their personal boundaries each week whether it is to go further, do their first sportive, do their longest sportive, climb their highest hill or go their fastest ever. They also continue to wear the Otley blue on tours world wide.

I would like to thank Liz Hills for all the work she does for the club and also thank Christine Bell for the planning and organisation of the Mountain Goats which continues to go from strength to strength. Also a big thank you to Claire Jessop for taking on the Hilly TT at short notice which was again a great success with good representation by Otley.

Otley has always had a great tradition in promoting female cycling and has a great history of being the first to promote events open to women. In 1930 the club ran the first 12 hour event in the country open to women. In 1935 it promoted the first open 25 TT for women in Northern England.

In the Otley tradition it has been a great racing year for Junior and Senior riders. So that I do not miss anyone out, as there have been numerous successes and personal bests this year, please go on to the OCC and have a read of the "Women's Racing Highlights 2019". It makes for a great read! What a talented lot we have.

To conclude this year let's reflect on the successes of our patron Lizzie Deignan. Lizzie returned to racing success two months after returning to competitive racing and won the 2019 Ovo Energy Women's Tour. She recently raced on home territory in the World Championships. It was great to see her lead the riders as they passed through Otley. She is certainly an inspiration. Let this image be an inspiration to us all no matter what our cycling dreams are. This year has personally taught me that you can do anything that you put your mind to and it is as much the journey as the end result that is important. That teamwork is key and so let's all work together to promote Cycling in whatever way we enjoy it - social rides, sportives, cycle-cross, mountain biking, time trialling and racing, touring, commuting, endurance riding.

If you are interested in being part of a group to promote women's cycling then please let me know.

**Karen Spence, Women's Development**

## **The Clubhouse**

Otley Cycle Club is extremely fortunate to enjoy the privilege of possessing its own clubhouse. It is one of very few cycle clubs to have such an asset; most clubs have to rely on pubs, cafes and bus shelters to hold their meetings. Apart from a large meeting space, the clubhouse has a dedicated turbo training room, a store room that is filled with essential cycling equipment and has both male and female shower rooms. Most of you will know that on the first floor, we host the Ron Kitching Library that contains a fascinating collection of cycling related books, posters, catalogues and other interesting archive material. A ground floor room is occupied by the Otley Museum who, as our tenants, pay us a very reasonable rent. The rental income we receive from the Museum covers a substantial proportion of the costs that we incur operating and maintaining the clubhouse.

You will also be aware of the 2020 Vision for the Club. Part of this vision is to make more extensive use of the clubhouse facilities and your committee has been considering a wider range of events and activities that we might well undertake. Recall that we use the clubhouse as a base for the Reliability Ride, the George Herbert Stancer Ride, Autumn Tints Group, Junior Roller Racing Training, Section Planning Meetings and Committee Meetings. We have a responsibility to ensure that the internal and external fabric of the clubhouse is kept in good structural and decorative order. During the course of the year, we have spent money securing roof tiles, clearing out the gutters, re pointing external stonework required to eliminate damp penetration, painting and decorating, and refurbishing the kitchen. This latter project was deemed essential as the old kitchen had become a health and safety hazard. The project required stripping out the old kitchen from floor to ceiling, commissioning damp proofing work, replacing the boiler and its associated plumbing connections, installing new wiring and electrics, re-plastering the walls and ceiling, restoring the original flagstone floor and fitting new kitchen units. All this work was completed in accordance with the budget set by your committee.

We have now formally adopted a health and safety policy and have implemented all our obligations regarding fire regulations. We have a 'sinking fund' to ensure that future repairs, maintenance and re-decoration obligations can be fully met. We hope that your clubhouse is now more appealing and welcoming to members. It is our intention to maximise its use and to make it the focal point of the club's activities.

**Peter Clark, Club House Coordinator**

## **Club Awards**

We hosted the event at Otley Golf Club once again and it remains a popular choice of venue with good food and a bar. The event was very popular and 106 tickets were sold for the event. A wide range of members attended and we had a full page of press coverage thanks to Jill Birch (press release) and the photographs taken by Colin Charlesworth of . A wide range of people were involved in presenting the awards this year which gave a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to the evening. It was lovely to see our younger members getting involved and enjoying the evening – they are a real credit to the club.

The engraving was once again successfully undertaken by Shoecraft of Otley, providing an excellent service. This year the printing – certificate and programme (sponsored by three club members) was done by another local company – Small Print in Menston. There were additional pages in this year's programme which meant we could write more about the club in terms of what we offer, as well as including a write up by Jill Birch about the Cycling Weekly Club of the Year award.

The range of winners has been increased this year and it was good to see so many younger members winning awards.

It was also lovely to see many of our more senior members enjoying the evening and reminiscing about their racing buddy, Philip Whitehead who was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award, Philip sadly could not attend the evening.

This year we had generous donations for the raffle from Yorkshire Hampers, based in Otley and also from Chevin Cycles. We also raffled the magnum of Champagne from the

Cycling Weekly Club of the Year Award. Tony Wild, Penny Wild (TNP) and Andrew Richards did a fine job of selling raffle tickets and raised £162.70.

Natalie Grace represented Yorkshire Hampers. Chevin Cycles were unable to attend.

Jon Sangan from Santini also attended the evening and brought a wide selection of clothing for club members to try on for size. This proved really popular.

The 2020 Awards evening is being organised by Andrew Smith, in February, once again at Otley Golf Club.

**Rachel Crowther, Awards Dinner Coordinator**

### **Look To The Future!**

It has been said many times before that our club relies on it's members volunteering, we cannot function without the willingness to get involved. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer and it is a lot of fun meeting other members whilst standing at the side of the road, holding a paint brush, washing up, sitting at a committee meeting or serving cake! As the club has grown the running of it has become more complicated and the challenge will be sustaining everything that we have without compromising the principles that the club has been built on and a pride in wearing the Otley blue. Our club rooms are the envy of every club in the area, lets look at even more ways to use them. Our aim is to get more people on their bikes, long may that continue.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our 2019 AGM Report, a true celebration of the year.

**Rob Wilks**

**Club Secretary**

**November 2019**