

# NEWS DE LAUNE



THE HILL CLIMB

**EVANS**  
CYCLES.COM

**NOVEMBER 2008**

## Manchester prepares for World Cup

The Manchester track World Cup event from October 31 - November 2 at Manchester Velodrome will feature British Olympic riders such as Geraint Thomas, Chris Newton and Ross Edgar and Beijing teammates including Jamie Staff, Jason Kenny and Victoria Pendleton. Up against the British team will be top riders such as Dutchman Teun Mulder, Argentinian Walter Perez and Ukraine's Lesya Kalitovsyka.

Tickets for the event sold out in record time, however you can watch it live on BBC Interactive 7pm-10.40pm on October 31 and 7pm-10.20pm November 1. Highlights from Friday and Saturday's action with live coverage of Sunday's races will be shown on November 2, 2pm-5pm. See [www.trackworldcup.co.uk](http://www.trackworldcup.co.uk) for more information.



## NEWNHAM

SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 10.30

THEN LUNCH AT THE GEORGE

LET DOT KNOW IF YOU WANT TO BOOK LUNCH



001689 851241

CLUB NIGHT  
SECOND MONDAY  
OF EACH MONTH

Camber Tennis Club  
Dulwich Common SE21 7EX

1889 DE LAUNE 2008  
CYCLING CLUB

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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Well, the clocks went back – an extra hour in bed, but it signifies that summer is over. Welcome (?) winter, and yes, it came early today (the 28<sup>th</sup> Oct) because it was very cold and we had the first showers of sleet and hail.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> October we had our Club Hill Climb in glorious weather (it was pouring with rain all day). There was a small field of three riders – but keenly contested – and the worthy winner was our Chairman, John Archdeacon (full results elsewhere in the mag). We even roped in David Haggart, who was riding a Sportif (the Ride of the Falling Leaves), to do the Hill Climb and abandon the Sportif, because of the atrocious weather and as he was already warmed up, he felt he had nothing to lose! Many thanks to Val and Tony Peachey for doing the timekeeping, Val at the top (of course) and Tony at the bottom. Your President was pushing off (many people ask why I don't do this more often!).

After the Hill Climb, the competitors and spectators came back to our home for lunch. We did intend to have the lunch in the garden, but fortunately we had enough room indoors for everyone who came. Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the lunch as much as we did. Our two new dogs welcomed the



company (and eyed the food up), but behaved pretty well, apart from the puppy having an unfortunate accident in the lounge - but he is only a little lad! Thanks to everyone who came, and particularly to Jean Rowe, who was a great help when Gina was panicking when the oven went on strike. It was nice to see Adam Glasser, who came second in the Hill Climb, and joined us for lunch.

After our Hill Climb there was the Cycle Show at Earls Court, where I met many friends from the old days, and, of course, I ran into Kav, Roy Manser, Dick Bradly, and Reggie Smith. Some of the stands were excellent, and the bikes were out of this world. If only I could afford to indulge myself in a spending spree, but the resident Chancellor of the Exchequer (Gina), is refusing to release the purse strings.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> October we had 2 fantastic Hill Climbs. At 10.30 was the Catford, which is one of the best we have had. Very exciting and very close. After, it was all systems go to get back to Tatsfield for a beer and sandwich (although I went home to get changed as I had cycled out to the Catford Climb, and had got very sweaty (yuk). In the afternoon at 2.00 we had the Bec Hill Climb. The winner of the morning's event only won £300, but the winner of the afternoon event got £1,000. Gina reckons I should ride this Hill Climb (but only if I'm going to win) each year to top up my bike fund.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> I ventured out with the Hawley Group for a training session. Alan Rowe has been talking to me about this for quite some time, and I thought I would ride out and meet them at Otford. We skirted Kemsing and went into Seal, then onto Stone Street, Plaxtol and East Peckham. I thought I was doing well, until the faster boys, who start a little later, caught us, and it was eyeballs out and I went off the back at Yalding. I came home via Tunbridge Wells, Edenbridge, Marsh Green and Thaxted, then up Pains Hill and thence to the Grasshopper in Moorhouse and onto home. A total of 4 hours and 20 minutes, and I certainly got some training in!! Weather permitting, I'm going to see if I can stay with

Cont.page 27

## “KAY’S REPORT”

You could say the club Hill Climb was a wash out! It came down in buckets, but you will still get some who are keen to give it a go. Who are these men? One was Jon Archdeacon and the other one was one of our long-standing members Adam Glasser. The last one was Dave (I will ride anything) Haggart, bless him.

I think Dave was going past the start in the Falling Leaves event and thought two to three minutes up a hill is better than another two hours in this event, so he rode.

I shouted to other the riders who came past the start “do you want to ride a hill climb at half price?” I got a few rude replies back!

Our club secretary, Nigel turned up and guess what excuse he used not to ride? “I have left my front wheel at home”. The full results should be in this edition. I wrote them down on a bit of paper but it got so wet I could not read it!

A big thanks to Val and Tony Peachey, for the time-keeping, and our event organizer, Alan Rowe. I think the highlight of the day was going back to Roy and Gina’s, which was open house to all members for lunch and a few drinks. The apple pie was delicious. Thank you Gina.

Did you know that we have 22 De Laune members riding the Kent CA reliability on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> November? Yes, 22. I did not know we had that many active members in the club. I must admit I had to dig three up. One of the riders is Roy Chittleborough. He will not start if it is raining as he has a new bike!

By the time you read this article it will be all over but I will let you know how we get on and if he got his bike dirty!

Further to the article in last months DLN, with regards to club funds and, as it was put, "Loads of Money and we still have it to disperse", I would like to make a few points clear to the people who say "the club has plenty of money" or "put your head in the trough". Well it has and it has not. What sort of answer is that you might say?

The club decided that the money from the sale of the club room (Club Memorial Fund) should go in to trust to comply with CASCs rules (Community Amateur Sports Clubs) thus allowing the club to take interest from the fund each year tax-free. BASICALLY, WHAT THE CLUB IS WORTH, ON A YEAR TO YEAR BASIS, IS THE INTEREST WE GET FROM THE TRUST EACH YEAR.

As this magazine is distributed on the Web, I will not quote figures but they can be found in the club accounts.

How do we spend it? The rules of CASC say that the money from the trust should be for the benefit of club members and cycling in general. Let us look at the cycling in general bit:-

The club organize and support six open events; two open time trials with Val and Jon; one open track meeting with Jeremy; one cyclo-cross with Bill; one Vet's road race with Roy and full support from the club to the South East Road League for their event. THE CLUB GIVE GENEROUS PRIZE MONEY TO ALL EVENTS.

Now for the benefit of club members bit! At this moment our club members buy club clothing at half price. If you buy say £50 worth of clothing each year (and you should as it starts to smell after a bit!) you save yourself £25.

The club pays for all the club events you ride and that can be a saving over the year.

The club have and do pay for entry fees for members to encourage them to ride as a group in Reliability Trials etc

The club paid for the ferry to France this year for members with bikes for the club run.

The annual club dinner or what we call the Belgium Night is for the benefit of all members. You will appreciate that the amount of £5 which you pay for your ticket will not cover a four-course meal with wine. So again the club subsidize the cost.

The club pay for twelve DLN's with postage for you to read. I will not go into other expenses such as affiliations, club room rent etc the above is not bad value for the sub's you pay.

Now for the "Loads of Money and we have it to disperse" bit: If I remember correctly it was at one of the Herne Hill committee meetings that the committee agreed to make money available to the four cycling Disciplines Managers. This money would be paid to riders at the discretion of the Manager for SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

One occasion I can remember, we paid for a manager and two youths to ride the National Track championships at Manchester. We also paid for a team of riders to ride in a 24-hour event up north. All worthy occasions which proved to be expensive and which blew the budgets. It should not be a case of "I want my share". If you have a good case then put it to your Discipline Manager.

p.s. Did you know that we have a rider who travels up to the Manchester Track to ride the Worlds and European Vets Track Championships (and comes back with golds) and sleeps in a tent and has never made a claim? That is what I call a good clubman.

Remember what J F Kennedy once said? "Ask not what my country do for me, ask what can I do for my country"

KAV

## RACING RESULTS

VTTA (Kent Group) 15 - 28 September

1	Phil Bull	V C Elan	00:33:46	V	+8.13
2	David Wheeler	Thornton R C	00:35:58	S	
20	Alan Priddy	De Laune CC	00:39:47	V	+7.06

BBAR 2008

Last updated 3/10/08 11:30

Pos	Name	Club	50	100	12Hr	MPH
1	Nik Bowdler	Farnborough & Camberley CC	1:39:02	3:37:52	289.84	27.329
2	Ian Cammish	Planet X	1:40:26	3:37:42	283.68	27.024
3	Carl Ruebotham	Team Swift Allsports	1:41:40	3:43:39	283.59	26.656
111	Alan Priddy	De Laune CC	2:02:09	4:31:34	217.54	21.594

CLUB HILL CLIMB - 5 October

ADAM GLASSER



1st	Jon	2:37:98
2nd	Adam	3:19:09
3rd	David	3:37:08

JON ARCHDEACON



DAVID HAGGART



Cont. over



On a very wet Sunday morning at White Lane a small band of four were waiting in a car ready for the the annual hill climb. In the car were the timekeepers Val & Tony Peachey with Sara & Jon Archdeacon, I turned up with My Wife Jean, Then I decided to go to Roy Savery's and leave her there out of the rain as she had a very bad cold, and I brought Roy back to the H/C. By this time Adam Glasser (previous 4 time winner) was there, and we lured Dave Haggart who stopped off from the Dulwich Paragon reliability ride to ride our H/C. Nigel Scales then turned up to ride but had left his front wheel on his drive at home so had to give it a miss. Kav & Brian Tich also turned out. A very special thanks go to our two timekeepers Val & Tony for turning up on a miserable morning for us all the way from Maidstone.

Afterwards we returned to Chez Savery for a very nice and welcome Lunch and good company for the rest of the afternoon. because of the rain we couldn't go in the garden.

**Alan G. Rowe**

Time Trial Manager

### VTTA Kent Group 50 - 14 September

1	Carole Gandy	Kent Cycle RC	L/Vet 64	02:53:50	02:11:19
2	Shay Giles	VC Deal	Vet 63	02:42:37	2:03:57
3	Phil Bull	VC Elan	Vet 52	02:29:51	01:57:17
4	Alan Priddy	De Laune CC	Vet 66	02:46:15	02:19:10

### Redmon CC 2up 15.4 - 19 September

1	R Prebble & B Instone	GS Strada/Scientific-Coaching.com	00:33:11	V41
2	P Innes & W Sybrandy	Hounslow & Dist/Sigma/Specialized	00:36:10	V44
14	P Jenn & D Harrison	De Laune/Evans Cycles RT	00:39:56	V64
34M	Baker & R Jefferies	De Laune/Bournemouth Jubilee Whs	00:44:04	V58

### Road Race: Surrey League 21 September ——— 3 / 4 Handicap

1	Gyles Wingate	In Gear Cycling Development Squad
2	Torkel Dohmers	London Dynamo/Cyclefit
15	Christian Rudolf	De Laune CC

### Epsom CC Open 25, - 28 September

1st	Steve Dennis	East Grinstead CC	00:51:55
2nd	Paul Jones	Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers	00:53:25
72nd	Simon Lowe	De Laune CC	01:10:34

## VTTA Kent Group '15' - 28 September

1	Phil Bull	V C Elan	V	33.46	+8.13
2	David Wheeler	Thornton R C	S	35.58	
20	Alan Priddy	De Laune CC	V	39.47	+7.06

### Kingston Wheelers Hill Climb - Leith Hill - 4 October

1	Bill Bell	Gemini BC		3.44.5	
2	Ishmael Burdeau	agiskoviner.com		3.59.8	
12	Jon Archdeacon	De Laune CC		4.25.8	
29	Sarah Archdeacon	De Laune CC		6.23.5	

### Catford Hill Climb - York's Hill - 12 October

Just a reminder that our own **Matt Goodes** has won this event four times in 1997 - 98 - 01 - 02.

1	Jody Crawforth	Arctic Premier R.T.	1.54.0
2	Daniel Lloyd	AN-POST Sean Kelly Team	1.54.8
17	Tony Miller	De Laune C.C.	2.12.3
49	Jon Archdeacon	De Laune C.C.	2.37.5

### Bec Hill Climb - White Lane, Titsey - 12 October

1	Daniel Lloyd	AN-POST Sean Kelly Team	1:46:46
2	Jody Crawforth	Arctic Premier R.T.	1:47:17
27	Tony Miller	De Laune CC	2:09:96
46	Jon Archdeacon	De Laune CC	2:28:44

## Redmon CC 2up 15.4 - 19 September

1	R Prebble & B Instone	GS Strada/Scientific-Coaching.com	00:33:11	V41
2	P Innes & W Sybrandy	Hounslow & Dist/Sigma/Specialized	00:36:10	V44
14	P Jenn & D Harrison	De Laune/Evans Cycles RT	00:39:56	V64
34M	Baker & R Jefferies	De Laune/Bournemouth Jubilee Whs	00:44:04	V58

## British Cycling Level 2 Certificate in Coaching & Cycling

Kent Sports Development Unit have organised a Level 2 Certificate in Coaching & Cycling to be run in Kent .

The course takes place on Saturday 6 December, Sunday 7 December and Saturday 28 February at The Swattenden Centre, Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3PR. Each day will run from 9.00am-6.00pm.

This course will also be very important to all those involved in or interested in a disable cycling project in Kent , as, without this qualification access and provision may be affected.

Further information and booking forms can be found on the British Cycling website [http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/web/site/BC/coa/Level\\_2\\_Award.asp](http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/web/site/BC/coa/Level_2_Award.asp)

To Avoid disappointment please submit your application prior to Friday 7 November as after this the course will be advertised nationally.

## VETS BAR 2008

So far I have only had qualifying times from Alan Priddy and Simon Lowe so would all of you out there who have ridden two '10's & two '25's (and over 40) please contact me so I can hopefully have a full result for December DLN.

### ALAN PRIDDY

10 MILES	22mins 39secs	(Age Record)
	22mins 47secs	(Age Record)

25 MILES	59mins 37secs	(Age Record)
	59mins 40secs	(Age Record)

### Average Speed

25.7814 MPH

### VETS STANDARDS (Age 66 )

10 MILES	31mins 15secs
25 MILES	1hour 20mins 05secs

### Average Speed

18.9652 MPH

This gives Alan a plus of 6.8162 MPH (this again is a record)

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### SIMON LOWE

10 MILES	27mins 01secs
	27mins 35secs

25 MILES	1hour 09mins 40secs
	1hour 10mins 34secs

### Average Speed

21.6871 MPH

### VETS STANDARDS (AGE 42)

10 MILES	25mins 54secs
25 MILES	1hour 07mins 00secs

### Average Speed

22.3881 MPH

This gives Simon a minus of .7010MPH (early days Simon)

## **VETS RECORDS SO FAR CLAIMED AS FOLLOWS:--**

Alan Priddy (Age 66) leads the field with 9 records.

At 10 miles, his 22mins 47secs took out Alan Rowe's age 65 record of 22mins.57 sec. then his 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 mile, 22mins 39secs removed his 1<sup>st</sup> record.

At 25 miles he established a record of 59mins 40secs then reduced it to 59mins37secs

At 50 miles he established a record of 2 hours 12mins 42secs. He then reduced it to 2hours 02mins 09secs thus removing his age 65 record of 2hours 07mins 06secs.

At 100 miles he established a record of 4hours 45mins 24secs then reduced it to 4 hours 31mins 34secs.

At 12hours he established a record of 217.535miles

Roy Savery, recovered from his illness earlier this year, has established 3 records for a 72 year old, a record in itself as our president is the eldest person to have ever raced in our club, unless anyone knows differently. Well done Roy!

He did 10 miles 26mins 37sec then he reduced it to 26mins11secs.

At 25 miles he did 1hour 06mins 31secs.

Alan Rowe having a quite season this year still managed to get one record

At 10 miles (age 69) 23mins 30secs.

I HAVE YET TO HAVE ANY TIMES FROM PETER JENN AND BRIAN DACEY WHO MAY WELL BE ABLE TO ADD TO THIS LIST OF RECORDS. LET'S HEAR FROM YOU GUYS!

## KENT VETS RECORDS 2008 - Three go to the De Laune.

Alan Priddy has taken two of them, the 50 mile record from Mike Dongworth, reducing Mike's 2hours 3mins 45secs to 2hours 02mins 09secs (as shown above) & at 100 miles reducing Dave Wright's 4hours 39mins 34secs to 4hours 31mins 34secs. (as shown above)

Alan Rowe has taken the 10 mile from Alan Brown (Brian Dacey's cousin) reducing it by 9seconds from 23mins 39secs to 23mins 30secs.

Well done both of you!

### KENT CYCLE ASSOCIATION BAR

Alan Priddy is lying currently 6<sup>th</sup> overall in their BAR competition over 25,50,100miles, all events had to be ridden in Kent & 1<sup>st</sup> in the Vets Section.

### NATIONAL BBAR COMPETITION

Alan Priddy is 111<sup>th</sup> overall in the 50,100 & 12hour distance table.

### CLUB BAR

Only one claimant so far,( yes you've guessed it, Alan), you need qualifying times for 25,50 & 100 miles, let me know if you have.

### ALAN PRIDDY

25 MILES 59mins 37secs

50 MILES 2hours 02mins 09secs

100 MILES 4hours 31mins 34secs

23.9382MPH

## BIKES and BOMBER

Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of possibly the most famous air raid of the Second World War – the Dambusters. As a commemoration, there was a flypast of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight over Derwent Reservoir in the Peak District, which was where the squadron trained for the mission.

I'd booked the day off work and rode over from my house in the early morning. Dropping down the Snake Pass road I forked off left, climbing up and over the moor then descending the rubbly rutted track through Lockerbrook, which brought me out at the edge of Derwent Reservoir. Up till this point I hadn't seen a soul – it was after all fairly early on a weekday



morning but as I cycled down the edge of the reservoir towards the Victorian dam at its South end, people were gathered in ever greater numbers, clustering along the shore-

line and by the small towers at each end of the Gothic structure. I'd fitted the long lens to my camera and was far too close to be able to use it so I rode round the foot of the dam, past the visitor centre and on up to the other side, looking for a better vantage point. The grass at the foot of the dam was also crowded with people and camera crews from various news stations and there was a helicopter doing filming runs up and down the reservoir. I rode on round the edge of the reservoir and gradually the crowds thinned out as I got further away from the dam. I found a footpath leading steeply off into the hills so part rode, part pushed my bike up it until I came out on the summit ridge. From here the dam was hidden by

the folds of the hillside but I knew roughly where I needed to be to get a view and set off riding along the wide grassy track, doubling back to a point above the dam. There was quite a crowd gathered here but I found a spot in the heather without a problem and was able to get a great view looking down onto the dam and along the reservoir. There was a buzzing sense of anticipation, the helicopter had taken up station at about 500ft off to the other side of the dam and after a while, above the clatter of



the helicopter rotors there was the murmur of propellers. We picked up the silhouette of the Lancaster from 2 miles out as it dived in on its approach run. A minute later it appeared from behind the fold in the hills, sliding down the length of

the reservoir like a cruising shark before thundering low over the dam, the roar of its Merlin engines echoing and bouncing off the fells. The Lancaster turned away, following the valley and disappeared from sight before returning a few moments later for another low pass. Three times it rocketed over the dam, bomb doors open, before it headed off in a wide circle. Five minutes later it was back, this time accompanied by two Tornado GR4 bombers from the current 617 Squadron. The aging Lancaster now looked slow and ponderous next to the sleek jets, one turning in from each side, perfectly timing their run so they overhauled the lumbering bomber as it crossed the dam. The jets pulled up hard, one left, one right, wings swept back, the howling scream of the engines deafening, drowning out even the Merlins of the Lancaster.

Shortly afterwards the Lancaster was joined by two planes of its own era as the Spitfire and Hurricane appeared. Flying higher than the Lancaster and as a perfect pair, they too made several passes before the show was finished off by the 4<sup>th</sup> plane of the Battle Flight, the Dakota transport. Down by the dam there was a memorial service taking place. Les Munro, the last surviving pilot of the raid was there as was the actor Richard



Todd who played the part of Guy Gibson in the film of the mission.

Once the commemoration had finished I rode clear of the

crowds quite quickly, heading off over Whinstone Lee Tor right down by the southern end of the reservoir where it joins up with Ladybower Reservoir then dropping down the rutted technical descent off the front of the hill and threading my way back home through the quiet hills.

A great day out from both a biking and a plane-spotting perspective but also a fitting tribute to the memory of those involved in this historic mission.

**JAMES LYON**





Well, that was nice.

Turned up at Palace, a big crowd of Paragon riders (this is what happens when there's a regular clubrun - you have club members...) Christian Rudolf was there but didn't know about this ride and elected to leave with the first wave of Paragon guys. Jayne, Steve Valentine and a friend of Jayne's called Pierre were there, we joined in with the second wave of Paragon riders then, as the bunch was a bit unwieldy in size, the 4 of us split off at Layhams and did a loop down to Titsey Hill, back over to Woldingham, round Chartwell and into Westerham for cream teas on the village green. Big thanks to Steve who picked up the tab on that one (his insistence). Bumped into the Paragon guys again who were on their way to the Bec HC at Titsey, we again split off and headed down Pilgrims Way and back over Sundridge Hill. There followed an "interesting" bit of route finding - me not sure of the geography after so many years away, Jayne not sure either but we eventually found our way back in towards Orpington. Steve split off towards West Wickham, we headed back (via a few unintentional scenic detours!) to Palace. 62 miles in glorious weather.

James Lyon

## MEMBERS ADDRESS BOOK

After promising for a very long time to produce a new address book at the request of several members, you should have received a copy with last months DLN. Please let me know ([mark.ballamy@virgin.net](mailto:mark.ballamy@virgin.net)) of any amendments so that I can issue updates from time to time.

An open letter to De Laune CC in response to  
Don White's correspondence, Sept 08 DLN.

As Don states it is obvious that without some serious changes and restructuring there will be no DL in a few years time and I find that very sad. I've been a member of DL since early 1994 (14 years!) and in the early days I remember turning up weekly at Choumert Road and having a whole crowd of people of all ages to talk to. Contrast that with one evening in 2001 when I cycled the 26 miles into London from Slough (where I was living at the time), turned up at the clubroom and sat there alone for over an hour until it became obvious that no-one was going to show up. Very sad.

I remember the regular clubruns from Crystal Palace, (both road and MTB) usually led by Bill Wright which would bring out loads of members but in spite of the best efforts of (over the years) me, Cliff Steele and James King, very little has happened since bar a brief resurgence followed by collapse. It is obvious that something must be done but what?

In the next paragraph however, I must disagree with Don. I've no idea where he got his accident statistics, the nearest that I could find (for 2006) show 87 cyclist deaths countrywide with 349 "serious" injuries – a far cry from the death a day he paints on London's roads alone. London has seen an incredible resurgence in cycling over the last 5 years, up from 1% of journeys within the capital to about 20%. Couple this with the massive amount of interest in cycling in general, track cycling in particular, that the Beijing Olympics has generated and it would seem to me that a London-based cycle club (only 2 miles from HH velodrome!) should be in a perfect position to capitalise on this – maybe not in it's current guise as a racing club but in some way shape or form. S.London is so close to Kent anyway – 7 miles of riding from Dulwich (on mostly quiet roads) and you're out beyond Croydon or Bromley. There are plenty of London-based clubs which are thriving (Brixton Cycles, London Dynamo, London Phoenix, Addiscombe CC (well, it's almost London), Dulwich Paragon, VCL etc), there's no reason why De Laune can't be one of them.

What prospective members want from a club is a regular informal meeting point combined with an opportunity to ride with other folk and go to and from races/events etc with them.

Inviting a potential new member to a once-per-month gathering which is also the committee meeting and asking them to just sit there quietly while a dozen “old blokes” (not intended to be offensive, just an observation!) argue about cashflow, direction and purpose of the club is hardly the most sparkling introduction to the world of cycling be it racing, training or social. This is borne out by my own observations – at a recent MTB event I was racing as a Pair with a London Phoenix girl (no-one from De Laune could be bothered joining me for that one it would seem). There was a big group of Phoenix members at this event, including several who weren’t racing but had come along for the fun of a social weekend away and the chance to support their teammates. I was made welcome, there was plenty of food and drink for all and they included me in their conversation. This is the reason Cliff Steele defected to Brixton Cycles: there was a regular gang of people who welcomed Cliff into “their” circle, gave him good service and discounts at the shop and who will be there to support him at races and events (and vice versa). A far cry from a once-per-month argument at a committee meeting that, by its very nature, excludes newcomers.

I did more riding and racing in London than I’ve ever managed elsewhere, in fact I could race most days of the week had I chosen to, another reason why I find Don’s comments about traffic hard to understand. I don’t necessarily think that a sudden move out of London is the required answer (especially given De Laune’s strong roots and connections in the area) – it may well be ONE answer but I think it would require serious consideration and that would probably involve months of argument within the committee with people threatening resignation if their views (even when in the minority) were not carried through. Such petty wrangling will only hasten the downfall of the club.

The club urgently needs to recruit new members perhaps by leafleting local bike shops or the HH meetings, perhaps by merging with another club or perhaps by some form of sponsorship of HHYCC, the idea being that it can then recruit members from that club once they reach 16. Perhaps their parents might be interested in joining too, or possibly the club could be looking to attract the new wave of London cycling commuters who might want to get more into cycling as a sport rather than just as a money-saving mode of transport? This should give much needed extra people within the 30-50 age range to take

the younger members to races or out on club rides and possibly to rebuild the ranks of Sport/Expert/Master (or Cat 2/3/4 for road) riders within De Laune. Perhaps club rides (MTB and road) could be kick started by the use of a coach/trainer or similar 'responsible person' (paid for out of club funds) who could be "employed" to lead regular rides. Once these are up and running and people see the DL name on club jerseys they can often be self-perpetuating **provided** that the club maintains a regular social evening as well (NOT a committee meeting!) to back this up. Once there are a few kids (and hopefully a parent or two) the word will be spread around school or to friends by word of mouth and any extra small incentives such as race expenses, a free or cheap club top, perhaps a reward system for regular racers or club run attendees (in whatever shape it may take – vouchers for Evans Cycles perhaps?) can also come in useful in recruiting new members and retaining them.

I hope this letter has given the committee members a few ideas to talk about and I hope that it is taken in the manner of constructive criticism in which it is intended.

James Lyon



**Well, what a breath of fresh air the article from James – one of our current racing lads putting forward some constructive ideas for the future of the club.**

Like many other club members I/we felt much sadness at the demise of Choumert Road clubroom, it started off so well, active clubnights, social gatherings, committee meetings etc – everything was there, but in the end it could not be maintained. Let us not forget though that club life was different 20-30 years ago, why ? because we had members willing to take on organisation of the activities. People like Ken Hill who would undertake any job no one else wanted, Fred Peachey would serve on any committee to keep the club's name to the fore, Jack Young would lead runs and tours, take loads of photographs and then produce a wonderful film show of his and the club lads exploits, and Charlie Carlton who would ferry loads of lads and lasses around

to and from events. That unfortunately is in the past, we cannot bring it back but what we can do is try to meet the needs/wants of the current membership. One of those needs does appear to be a meeting place for communication and social activities.

I know I have only attended 2 committee meetings so far in my new role, but I must be honest the venue does leave much to be desired. It is not ideal running a meeting in the public/social area of another organisation's meeting place. Although the hosts tend to leave us to our devices, they come and go as if we were invisible. I agree with James that such a set up does not lend itself to a club night of our own. It would be far better to have a venue with an exclusive use for our purpose.

One suggestion might be to approach the Camber Lawn Tennis club to ask if we could use their facility twice a month, one of these meetings to be used specifically as a real club night. It may turn out that the tennis club use their facility every night of the week, in which case we would be no better off.

Alternatively, is there a local church hall, meeting hall, a room in a sports complex, or even a pub hall that could be hired where we could have exclusive use 2/3/4/ times a month. I am not totally familiar with what is available in the Dulwich/Forest Hill area, perhaps a member with an in depth knowledge of the local area could offer some suggestions. There is an enormous church on the junction where we currently hold our committee meetings, do they have a room – they might even be pleased of some additional income. Lets face it we survived for decades in church/school halls before Choumert Road. If a venue could be identified it could be tried for 6 months, and see what the attendance is like. The success of this venture would depend much on the current membership making it work.

One of the biggest differences now within the club membership is that families are not perpetuated within the club. Going back to just the 70/80's we had lads racing and bringing their offspring and siblings along, encouraging and guiding them to take the sport up either socially or competitively. We had wagon loads of the Rudd family, the Lees, the Doubles, the Valentines, Ken &

Dot Fuller encouraged Suzanne, we encouraged Claire, the only ones of recent years is Dave King with James and Steve Carter Smith with Charlotte. Our own membership have not perpetuated this tradition, in fact I suspect they have dissuaded them because of the 'perceived' danger. Lets be honest cycling has always been 'dangerous' who hasn't been cut up by a car, have a car door open on them etc and lived to tell the tale. You just have to learn to ride defensively and have better anticipation than other road users.

On this issue I am with James to some extent – not as far as merging with other clubs – but looking for a meeting ground so that we can offer prospective new members a welcome. Until a hall of some description is identified perhaps we could start by promoting some evening club events say on the Knockholt courses. The Sydenham and Southborough already use some courses mid week in that area, I am sure with the right approach some interclub events could be organised in 2009. This would serve as a meeting point for those riders interested and an opportunity to talk/plan forthcoming activities. The club would need to provide some marshals/timekeepers etc to ease the burden on the other clubs but that might be a small price to pay.

There is much talk of getting social/club run type rides going in the club such as those being organised by John Kavanagh. Certainly the Addiscombe and San Fairy Ann have been successful in this sphere and have increased their membership in this manner. Again you are back to volunteers to run these activities. I know from personal experience that the 'Fairies' have a pool of 12 members turning out every weekend to plan and run various club runs to suit all levels of riding expertise. It hasn't happened overnight – it has taken years. The mere fact that runs are organised has indeed encouraged people to become members. But like any club or organisation, of the 350+ members, there remains about 30-35 'workers' keeping the whole show on the road. It works, but there are an awful lot of people prepared to just take without too much giving. The De Laune, has such a low membership level, many of which are, to put it politely, of the older generation, it will take a lot of giving by many people for our situation to improve. We cannot rely just on 'Kav' we need more to make a difference.

Val

I think we need to go back to 1889,  
When the De Laune Cycling Club came into being.

It was an off-shoot of the De Laune Institute founded by its benefactor Mr Chapman Faunce De Laune. The institute was to provide a place where young lads could meet and enjoy some activities together, thus keeping them out of mischief.

The same applies today, (obviously girls now included) especially in London. Why don't we target several of the Youth Clubs for discussion with their Committee/Leaders?, who knows, especially with cycling enjoying a high profile after the Olympics, there could be a lot of future cyclists who are just kicking their heels at these clubs looking for further outlets that their club cannot provide. Plus, we could find several enthusiastic leaders amongst helpers/volunteers of such clubs who with a little guidance could become members of the De Laune and assist in building on a fresh base, bringing their own expertise which gave rise to their own youth clubs.

We have the money, and we are registered as a "Charity" – so lets put the money to good use.

ANOTHER THOUGHT - We do not have 2<sup>nd</sup> Claim Membership! This I cannot get my head round. It should be encouraged, as these members could be a great asset.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> claim club has about 10% 2<sup>nd</sup> claim membership, all who do a fair share of work on keeping the club going. They can even race in their 2<sup>nd</sup> claim club colours in association events where their 1<sup>st</sup> claim club is not affiliated

We, the De Laune, have had, in the past, "members" who did a great deal of work for us, who had split alliances. Tom Bray was our timekeeper for many years, whilst a "Medway Wheeler". Tony & Val (ok, they are Life Members), also doing work for two clubs, and Alan Rowe was involved with the West Kent as 2<sup>nd</sup> claim member and I am sure there are others.

My point being that we need not lose members completely when they join another club. There is no reason for them to stay a social member, this implies sedation, However as 2<sup>nd</sup> claim members they can still be involved in the active side. Ok, they cant take awards, but this is secondary to still being allowed an active part in their 'old' club.

Malcolm Adams



We wanted input for Roy and Sarah to consider and it seems to be coming in now, so if anyone has views please don't sit on them, let's get them in for consideration and knock this on the head (or at least start to) sooner rather than later - as Val says, we need to sort out the problems and be clear of our direction to do so. If anyone is reluctant to expose their views to the wider audience send them to Sarah (via [jonarchdeacon@mac.com](mailto:jonarchdeacon@mac.com)) and Roy ([rhsavery@yahoo.com](mailto:rhsavery@yahoo.com)) or via me if you prefer.

Nigel Scales



I have read with interest Kav's response to my earlier thoughts on the future of the Club. Being so active with his ear close to the ground I must bow to much of what he says. The success of San Fairy Ann CC is incredible with anything up to six groups out at one time, but how in the first instance did they popularise club runs? Kav has for some time made great efforts with his park and ride scheme but considering our membership numbers is only moderately supported by the same old crowd..

So where are we going wrong? With the resources we have available why are we not able to attract new members that are so urgently required?

Our meeting place, which I will not describe as headquarters, is basically only a monthly meeting venue for the committee with the room being shared with tennis club members. Having seen our excellent web site what happens when a prospective member turns up to know more? A brief introduction, then he is obliged to sit through a meeting in which the topics probably mean nothing and as a result learns very little about the Club and is so bemused decides to look elsewhere. In the old days there was a named official to be contacted



and he would make the appropriate introductions with plenty of time to generally chat, which now is hardly possible whilst a meeting takes place. The alternative of the first contact being on a club run where there is probably apprehension as to pace is hardly ideal particularly if the prospective member is drawn towards the track or off road!

Like the San Fairy Ann we have only to look back as to when we owned our own clubroom. The numbers attending gradually dwindled and quite apart from the journey and traffic congestion I can only conclude darts, snooker, table tennis are no longer in favour with active cyclists and of course once our canteen facilities ceased there was no incentive whatsoever, even for the most ardent member.

I can only look back on my own experience, with pals joining the Kentish Wheelers and Balham CC, the first impression and the way introduced swayed me to join the De Laune. So the present type of meeting place is no longer popular so what is the alternative?

I still believe we should get away from south London. Kav mentions the Fairies start their rides 9 miles out of Maidstone which is a little different from starting at Crystal Palace and having at least 20 miles to go before reaching the country side.

We should now be looking for an out of town sports centre with ample parking facilities that incorporates a gym, for the use of the more active, and undoubtedly would also have a canteen (licence or otherwise) that could accommodate the likes of me. Initially maybe this could be used once a month and another place found for committee meetings which would be far more satisfactory.

There is the need for radical steps to be taken if we are to get new members. I hate to think of the average age of the membership compared with a few decades ago.

Don White



TONY & JON OUR RIDERS IN THE  
CATFORD & BEC HILL CLIMBS

*Photos by KAV*



them a bit longer tomorrow.

This weekend 2nd November, we have the KCA Reliability Trial, and Kav tells me that we have 19riders doing either the 50k, or we hard men doing the 100k. Hopefully, we shall have a fantastic day out. John Archdeacon has loaned me a saddle to try out, because after my “little op” 5 ago, the surgeon recommended a gel saddle, which is no longer comfortable, so I now am trying a narrower version.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Belgian Night on the 7<sup>th</sup> November, and at Newnham on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. We have a very special person attending this year the Newnham. One of our Members who was killed in the Second World War was Sergeant Bernard Palastanga. His sister will be joining us for the Service and lunch afterwards, and other members of her family will be attending. It will be a great Remembrance Day celebration.

Quote for the month:

“Part of being a champ is acting like a champ. You have to learn how to win and not run away when your lose. Everyone has bad stretches and real successes. Either way, you have to be careful not to lose your confidence or get too confident.”

Nancy Kerrigan  
Olympic Figure Skater

ROY

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## Diary Social/Club for 2008

Friday	7 Nov		Belgium Night	Blackheath Harriers
Sunday	16 Nov	10.30	Remembrance Service	Newnham

## Club & Inter-Club Events for 2008

Sunday	14 Dec	11.00	Christmas club run start from Roehampton Gate car park, Richmond Park, SW15
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On Sunday 9th November and weekly thereafter there will be a club run meeting at West Wickham Baths. All those who are interested see you there. Roy Savery

**SEE MESSAGE BOARD to keep UP TO DATE**

**<http://mikepeel.proboards67.com>**

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE 26th NOVEMBER**

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