Brighton Mitre Cycling Club

Annual Report 2020

Chairs 'welcome' address & review of the past year

At this point, I would usually be welcoming you to a room above a pub somewhere, trying to get an overhead projector to work and wondering how many of you would actually turn up! If hearing our annual reports and voting for committee members for the year ahead wasn't enough to draw your attendance, the fact that it was in a pub, we hoped, would.

Unfortunately this year we don't have the pub (god how I miss the pub!) nor do we have the chance to get together socially for the time being and to be honest you don't even have to read the annual reports. But in case you are interested in what we have managed to do over the last year please read on.

As I write this we are about to resume Saturday and Sunday rides, all be it remaining at the reduced maximum of 6 riders and using LoveAdmin to book into rides so we can manage group numbers. This does create quite a lot of work for the admins and I would like to thank Andrew Bernard for his role as ride captain over this period. Setting up the rides, monitoring sign ups and generally cajoling us all to keep in line and compliant to the ever changing rules and restrictions.

Also at time of writing, we are hopeful to be able to run Hove Park Crit races this summer, subject to being able to comply with Brighton and Hove City Council COVID operating policies, just as soon as they can share those with us. For those of you who have not raced or watched the summer crit series we hold in Hove Park it is an evening criterium, short course racing around the northern loop of Hove Park. Super exciting, festival feel with fast corners and a leg sapping little climb with each lap just short of a km. The cats racing for 30, 40 or 45 mins plus a set number of laps with sprint prizes (Primes) announced as racing is underway. The best way to watch the race is as a volunteer trackside whilst helping us to keep the riders and the public safe. We have provisionally booked in with British Cycling to hold the races on 25th June, 9th July and 23rd July with Youth, Women's and Men's 3/4 and Men's 2/3s as previous years. We are expecting B&HCC confirmation mid-April when we will post the entries on the British Cycling website for entry but we will need around 30 volunteers at each race for this event to go ahead so please put those dates in your diary now as I hope to be coming out to ask for volunteers soon.

For the majority of us most of the last year has either been confined to the turbo trainer or meeting up in 2s, or for a very short time, in 6s, careful to not 'accidentally' bump into another group of 6 at a café stop along the route. There has been some racing, mainly Time Trials as they lend themselves to being COVID compliant much easier than road racing with mass starts. Mallorca training camp was postponed from March to September and then finally cancelled altogether, when it became clear that we had been naively optimistic that it would all be behind us by then. We saw a huge surge in interest in joining virtual rides and now have over 60 members invited to the weekly Zwift social rides and a regular cohort of racers competing in the Thursday evening Team Time Trail series.

As many local leagues and British Cycling have been expanding their E-Sports offering we have decided to create a new committee role. We will be asking for nominations for the role of 'E-Sports DS' to help support members accessing virtual platforms, coordinate club individual and team racing and to promote this particular aspect of the sport as it is clearly growing and evolving.

As we all think ahead and maybe plan to venture back out onto the roads and meet up with our friends again please take care, we are all a bit out of practice with group riding and calling out road obstacles after so long. Check over your bike especially if it has been stuck on the trainer doing hard efforts, check drive chains for wear and top up your tubeless sealant if bikes have been set stationary for a while.

I look forward to seeing you all back out on the roads again. We have plenty to look ahead and plan for in the coming year and I would be very glad to hear about your ideas for club activities in 2021

Elaine

<u>Election of Club Officials</u>

As we are unable to meet up to hold our usual AGM this year and I have received 'feedback' to suggest that you probably don't relish the idea of a 2 hour zoom call AGM replacement you will be pleased to hear that the year, what it was, will be summarised for you to read at your leisure.

We do need to elect our club officials and there will be opportunity for anyone who wishes to stand for election in a committee position to be proposed and seconded and included in the voting.

The committee position for election are;

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Women's Development Officer
- Time Trail & Hill Climb Officer
- Road Race Officer
- Track & Media Officer (Can be split roles, just currently occupied by one person)
- Cyclo-Cross Development Officer
- Kit & Quartermaster Officer
- Social Secretary
- Communications Officer
- Road Captain
- E-Sports Directuer Sportif

If you would like to stand for any of the elected official roles please send your nomination, plus a named seconder, to chair@brightonmitre.co.uk by Friday 16th April

After which time all of the nominations will be posted and voting submitted online.

Committee Updates from 2020

Membership - Cath Amos

MEMBERSHIP FEBRUARY 2021					
Membership type	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Total**
2nd Claim	3	7	30%	70%	**10**
BMCC COM	3	8	27%	73%	**11**
Life Members	2	8	20%	80%	**10**
Standard Membership	54	215	20%	80%	**269**
New Trial Member	0	2	0%	100%	**2**
Grand Total	**62**	**240**	**21%**	**79%**	**302**

2020 presented many challenges for Brighton Mitre, particularly with respect to membership. Not only did lockdown mean that group rides were cancelled and/or severely curtailed over the last 12 months, but also that, inevitably, attracting new members and offering activities to existing ones proved problematic, if not near-impossible!

Despite these challenges, membership has stayed someone buoyant, with only a minor dip in overall membership over the whole 12 month period.

Currently, total membership stands at 302, down from 312 this time last year.

One major development with regard to membership took place at the beginning of October, with the implementation of a new membership platform/portal, LoveAdmin.
The platform went live on 5th October 2020 and it's proved to be a much more user-friendly and comprehensive system than the previous RiderHQ portal. Members can now update their own details directly – and the system has allowed the club to orchestrate a group ride booking system, which has proved invaluable during lockdown, and was a vast improvement on Google sheets!
From a management perspective, the new LoveAdmin system has vastly improved the administration of both the membership and financial aspects of the club, so all-in-all it's been a big success. Another major transformation with the implementation of LoveAdmin has been the change from rolling renewals for members to a fixed annual renewal date for all; this has resulted in the majority of members benefitting from an extended membership period, to bring everyone's renewals in line and to make it much easier to administrate the whole renewals process. This membership extension was also seen by the Committee as a goodwill gesture by the Club, given the difficulties of lockdown and lack of riding opportunities.
Finally, it was decided by the Committee that the existing 3 month trial membership, previously available to women as an added incentive to try out the club, should be extended to all, irrespective

of gender. Consequently, this has proved a very popular option with men as a well as women and has resulted in several trial members converting to full membership.

Women's Development - Lisa Tourret

Initially, a few of the women's socials were conveyed via Zoom but after 4 months, the appetite for Zoom interactions waned and we decided to put a hold on the social calendar until we could meet face-to-face again. Briefly, when restrictions were relaxed, we did have a few socially-distanced outdoor gatherings, but when Lockdown #2 occurred, the consensus was to wait until we could all meet up under normal circumstances again. Despite this, the women's membership has remained healthy and maintained the same proportion of the club membership overall, with a split of 21% female and 79% male; part of this proportion includes several new standard women members, who obviously have yet to benefit fully from all the activities that the club can usually support/provide.

Time Trials- Robin Johnson

After the season restarted in late July, it was possible to have all the championships take place before the end of the season in late October. The winners and successes by club members are listed on the club's website here
Current race calendar for 2021 can be found here

If you plan riding any club events in 2021, please check the club's website before each event to ensure that you familiarise yourself with the CTT COVID regulations as they may change and remember to bring your own pins and signing on pen as well as a rear light.

CX Racing - Dan Fagg

There's not a lot to report in the last year in the world of Cyclo Cross as with other forms of racing. The good news though is that plans are already afoot for the LCCA and Sussex League to be back in September. I sat in on their AGM recently and there's an awful lot of enthusiasm to get racing again. Plans will be formalised following the next round of British Cycling guidelines, but it's looking like there will be races back in Brighton (Covid testing sites allowing).

There may also be a summer series, British Cycling training sessions and we'll be organising off road rides over the summer too.

Group Rides -Andrew Bernard

The last year has been a challenging and, dare I say it, an unprecedented time for BMCC weekend group rides. A year ago, we were forced to cancel all group rides until further notice; a situation that remained unchanged until well into the Summer. We then had a few months of being able to ride in organised groups of six – a situation that we return to from April 3rd.

Whilst it's been disappointing not to be able to enjoy our regular morning meet ups in St. Ann's Well Park, we can take some crumb of comfort from the fact that we have kept on riding both as individuals and as a club. The booking system had (has) its glitches but worked well enough to enable us to ride in organised groups of six, often with similar numbers to those that we might have seen in the old normal. The two audax rides were a big success and are a format that we will definitely look to recreate this coming Summer. There have also been great strides in organised

virtual group rides with regular meet-ups on Zwift and latterly also on RGT DB. Thanks to all concerned for keeping everyone entertained (and fit?) organising those.

We all have our hopes as to what this Summer's cycling will hold for us but perhaps the only thing that is certain is that nothing is certain. We'll do our best to keep organising rides and, fingers crossed, some social events as and when the lockdown rules allow. As we get ready to ride again under the 'Rule of Six' restrictions, it is maybe appropriate to ponder cycling's own Rule #6:

"Free your mind and your legs will follow"

Thanks for your support over the last year and look forward to pedalling with everyone again soon.

Kit - Paul Hulse

The kit shop opened on 10th March and has now closed. Any orders placed will be delivered directly to your door and we also hold some stock for arm warmers, leg warmers and a few short fingered gloves.

Treasurer - Neil Morris

Statement of Accounts

As much of the fund generating activities the club usually runs didn't happen and the fact that when we moved over to LoveAdmin we decided to reconcile the memberships to run Jan-Dec which meant giving everyone a years grace so as to not disadvantage anyone.

We had a few outgoings. The cost of our admin platform, Love Admin and also the Mitre facemasks which you will have all received. So last year, for the first time, we spent more than we earned but we still have a healthy cash balance and are in good shape.

BALANCE SHEET:	**At 31.01.2021**	
	£	**£**
Stock - kit and medals	2,901	
Prepayments for Mallorca	1,872	
Other debtors	100	
Cash	16,051	
Total current assets		20,925
Deferred income - Mallorca 2020		(3,254)
NET ASSETS		17,671
RESERVES		
Members' equity		17,671

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

CASH FLOW STATEMENT:	**YE 31.01.2021**	
	£	**£**
Net deficit for the year		(1,059)
Movement in working capital:		
Increase in stock	(574)	
Increase in prepayments	(100)	
Increase in deferred income	354	
		(320)
Cash flow for the year		(1,379)
Opening cash		17,430
Closing cash		16,052

	£	**£**
Comprising:		
Savings account	14,691	
Current account	326	
Race account	1	
PayPal account	1,034	
		16,052

Social

As you know all of the trips and events planned, rescheduled and most eventually postponed all together as the future became less and less certain. Whilst we are tentatively discussing social activities that may be possible, it is a dilemma whether to put too much effort into organising things until we have a better degree of certainty around them actually being able to go ahead.

We are not short of ideas (and they don't all include the pub!) Tony is always pleased to hear your ideas for trips and Social activities as he is volunteers to help make them happen.

Some hotly tipped contenders might include;

TDF start in Brittany – If we are allowed into France come July, also a possible Alpine Queen stage trip to watch and ride. (Subject to travel restrictions)

Dieppe Randonee, 9pm ferry, overnight crossing, hunting down the early café, riding for a few hours, falling into a bar for Moules and Beer and then the afternoon ferry home again.. always a popular trip. Check out the photos and video on Facebook from our last trip which was also Tori's hen event!

Summer IOW Randonee – Usually a day trip, quick and easy to organise and also a popular trip, we usually do several with different groups during the year. Also the possibility of a 2 day off road IOW with camping overnight in Ventnor (for those not into wild-camping) postponed from 2020.

Members picnic at the final Hove Park Crit race. Subject to the race series going ahead

A visit to the world championships in Flanders

Annual Awards 'Dinner' - awards earned and denied, silly games and general high jinx. May happen at the Loud Shirt brewery – you heard it here first.

Looking ahead into 2022

Mallorca training camp – The hotel is still holding our deposits so if they don't go out of business in the meantime we will try our best to return to Mallorca. It may not be an early season training camp by then but I am sure it will still be as popular as ever.

A trip to the classics or a taste of cobbles, several options for organised or self organised Flandrianesque forays

A long weekend - Drive/train and stay plus 2-3 days group cycling somewhere new (Road or Gravel)

If there are any events or trips you are particularly keen to see happen or to help organise then please let Tony know.