

CLWB SEICLO VELO TEIFI CYCLING CLUB

Annual General Meeting Sunday, 1st February 2009 Castell Malgwyn Hotel, Llechryd

Present

Carl Davies (Chairman)	Evan Macrae
Michelle Lewis (Secretary)	Dylan Evans
Tom Well (Treasurer)	Sheila Williams
Andrew Lindsay	Barry Lewis,
Jason Bean	Howard Williams
Tom Kurowski	Ioan Morris
Charles Warner	Carl Pugh
Neal Jones	Colin Portsmouth
Ian Hipkins	

Apologies

Claire Allen, Janice Williams, Hywel Evans, Cynan Davies, Huw Forster, Tim Portsmouth and Barry Richards.

Chairman's Welcome

Carl welcomed all to the meeting, especially new member Carl Pugh. In a brief re-cap of 2008, the Club success's were highlighted including secured Grants contributing to a healthy bank account; the inaugural Sportive was a success and it was anticipated that it would be even better this year; the MTB challenge on the Preseli's was a great event also to be repeated again this year; the Newport Velodrome remains a favoured destination. The Christmas Dinner was well attended and considered a good night out with all having noisy festive fun with the club quiz. All in all, 2008 clearly showed the wide interests within the club and it was believed that 2009 would really up the stakes in terms of activities and club-sponsored/supported events.

Carl went on to stress that the club belonged to all members and everyone had an equal say in the types of events the club get involved in. To this end, Carl hoped that in 2009 more ideas from Members would be forthcoming.

Finally, Carl reminded the meeting that the heart of the club was its members and encouraged members to get family, friends, etc to join us; the more members we have the more the club will evolve, grow and deliver things to get involved in.

Secretary's Report

Michelle commented on Club Membership, noting that last year we had a total of 67 members on record. Six brand new members had joined so far this year with total membership including families standing at 63 members, although only 44 including family had paid up to date.

Michelle reported that the club now had an official Membership Card that would be issued in due course to all paid up members. These cards have been made in club colours, kindly donated by Dragon Grafix (Neal Jones). Michelle extended the Club's thanks to Neal. Michelle reminded the meeting that these will enable members to claim their 10% discount at New Image Bicycles, Cardigan and County Cycles, Crosshands – so don't forget to keep it with you when shopping!

Treasurer's report

Tom produced the Club's accounts for period January 2008 – December 31st, 2008; copies are available for any member who wished to view them. In summary, the balance of the club is very good with Membership fee's totalling £470, Sportive profit totalling £373 and Grant money to train MTB leaders etc received totalling £987. Donations received also contributed to a year-end balance at a healthy £1.324.48.

In-year expenditure was summarised, and Tom was able to explain all line items i.e. where the money had been spent.

Election of Club Officials

As is *de rigueur* at the AGM, the election of Club officials was formally undertaken. No nominations had been received prior to the AGM. Andrew Lindsay put forward a nomination for Carl to remain Chairman; this was seconded by Sheila and others present. Carl accepted the post and duly nominated Michelle to remain as secretary; this was seconded by Tom and others. Michelle accepted the post.

Tom was nominated to continue as the Club's Treasurer and this was supported unanimously by the group. Tom accepted the post.

On behalf of Club Members, Ioan thanked the three nominees for remaining in office for another term.

Membership fees

It was decided to keep the Membership Fees at the same rate for this year, but they may go up next year. These are summarised as:

Individual membership: £10

Family membership: £15

Student membership: £5

Further information on membership is given on the application forms, available from the website.

Other Business

- Grant Money

It is intended to pursue more grant money this year again, which will, typically, be available from April this year. Last year's money was put to good use training three of our members in a mountain bike leaders course and, in this regard, they did us proud being awarded MIAS level 2 – details on the web site. Some of the money will be for first aid training and it was agreed that we would try to find a course for basic training so we could get as many members on to the course and to keep it local.

One thought forwarded for any new grant money was to put any awarded amount towards road and track coaching qualifications. For example, a level 1 road & track qualification would enable us to take our own sessions on the track at Newport. If this was pursued it was likely that members who volunteer to undertake this training would have to go to Manchester to train. There was enthusiasm for this and it was agreed that we should look into the details.

Ian H agreed to look into finding any other grants that will be available for us as a club to try for.

Sheila W suggested that we might have an open day for all types of biking and Tom W put forward that we could contact some local schools to see where we could help in encouraging the children to take up more cycling, maybe take them on a MTB route day – all of which may attract some form of grant funding.

- Spinning classes

Spinning classes are now up and spinning (!) in Crymych Leisure Centre on Friday evenings. The 10-week course was snapped up with several members on a waiting list. The group was reminded that anyone wishing to give it a go please put your names down before the end of March as we will endeavour to get another 10 week session booked.

It was agreed to contact Crymych to enquire whether they have any intention in getting any more spin bikes.

- The Preseli Angel Cycloportive (formally known as Preseli Teifi), May 3rd 2009

Last year's Sportive went very well with over 80 entries and it was hoped that this year would see an improvement given we were further advanced in the organisation than this time last year. For example, so far this year we have got the press sorted, with a piece in the Cycling Weekly and up on Cyclo Sportive web page, all details are up on the web pages and many clubs contacted about the event.

The route has been changed (still two 'loops'), as has the distance of the two loops. Feedback from last year was that loop 1 was too short with loop 2 being a tad too long. Loop 1 has been extended to 45 miles, with loop 2 reduced to 35 miles. Any one wishing to take part or for more details please look to our web page; all you need to know is there including entry forms.

- Velodrome

Last year we only managed to get one (albeit very successful) trip to the Velodrome, this year we are hoping to get a few more in. Dates will be sorted soon, maybe evening or late afternoons depending on availability and the aim will be to get more than 10 to join in, therefore keeping the cost down to around £20 each inc bike hire. The intent is to book 3 or 4 sessions in advance.

- MTB

We did manage to do a bit last year and our plan is to do more this year (there's a theme here...) We will want to get dates pencilled in maybe if we have more than 4 or 5 coming along to a MTB ride afar we could rent a trailer, van etc and the club would subsidise the petrol cost. It was noted that Steve Stockholm has a CTC trailer stored

at his place that could be made available. Additionally, Charles offered the use of his Box trailer to support trips.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Club would aim for a MTB ride at least once a month either on one of our regular [Sunday] ride days or in between. Also there will be the MTB bike challenge with our Newport chums.

Sheila handed over a sheet inviting us to a MTB challenge in Coed y Brennin a 50K 3-loop course on 8th March – details with Carl if interested.

- Sunday Road Rides

Overall the turn out for these ride has been very good throughout 2008, keeping into double figures even in the wet! It was agreed that we should keep going as we are for the winter, but Carl proposed that during the summer months we start off earlier maybe meet 8:45am for 9 o'clock start? This would be trialled once the clocks had gone forward and the weather has generally improved.

Another suggestion was that rides could commence from a bit further afield Carmarthen, Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, St David's, etc in order to have different route to choose from during the summer months.

- Evening rides

This year the evening rides will meet 6:30pm every Tuesday and Thursday these ride's will focus more on fitness training (e.g. ready for France) with the ride's being more vigorous rather than social (as with Sunday rides) still keeping the stop off at the Cardiff/Freemason's for refreshment though (it's all about priorities...). Again, once the evenings are lighter this would be started up.

- Summer BBQ

Through Cyclosporitive arrangements, a very nice couple near Boncath have offered the use of their facilities to hold a summer BBQ. Discussion was held and it was agreed that we could perhaps turn this in to a family outing: a short bike ride round the Time Trial circuit then on to the BBQ, for example. It was generally agreed that some form of summer social gathering would be good thing to do.

- Club Kit

The winner of the club kit design was young **Tom Kurowski** – well done to Tom. The Club was now considering a suitable prize for his efforts.

Tom K came up with a lovely design in red and black and, on request; Tom also did the same design in several other colours similar to the original club colours for comparison and review.

A debate followed on the colour choice and whether Velo Teifi should move from its traditional gold and blue colour scheme. The Tom K designs were circulated for all present to tick their preference. By a clear majority, the yellow (gold?), blue and white design won and it was agreed that this colour was as near to the original kit colour, but suitably refreshed by the new design and the incorporation of white into the strip. These changes, it was felt, would keep the Club true to its original beginnings whilst retaining the “stand out in the crowd look”.

The only significant change will be the colour of the shorts all agreed that predominantly black was the preferred way forward.

Tom K agreed to “tune” the finale design Front, Back and Shorts etc in the chosen colour, ready for submission to a clothing manufacturer for design and pricing.

- **Kit Sponsorship**

Carl tabled the notion of approaching local businesses to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the club kit – a donation in return for a name-check on the shirts and mentions in every press article produced by the club. Carl asked for volunteers to approach at least 5 local businesses; in the first instance however Neal Jones, Ioan Morris Jason Bean and Tom Wells all agreed that they would be interested in sponsoring the kit.

AOB

- **Club Captain**

Carl commented that, in the main, the organisation of events falls to a few individuals and whilst it's worked well during 2008, the workload was likely to increase given the club's ambition to do more in 2009. To this end, Carl tabled the notion that the club should have a “club captain” to support all things the club was involved in or intended to be involved in. Carl went on to discuss that this approach would enable people to get a good flavour of the running of the club and this in itself would bode well for future club official nominations (or it would scare them off once and for all) – a sort of Club Official Apprenticeship, if you will.

In the first instance it was suggested that a Club Captains are nominated on a rota basis or, for example, 1 to 3 months duration. The Club Captain would support such things as Sunday Ride route choice, leading Sunday rides, Time Trails, MTB trips etc,

It was agreed that it would be a good idea, and Ioan was content to volunteer for March. Subsequent Club Captains would be agreed in advance and a form of handover undertaken.

Carl suggested that there could be some form of end-of year award for Captain of the Year and this could form part of the Christmas Dinner presentation/goings on.

- **Time Trials**

Sheila Williams asked if it would be possible to hold a TT at West Wales Airport, Aberporth during the summer. All agreed that it would be good idea and Carl agreed to look into it.

There was interest in re-invigorating the Boncath TT, as this did not happen last year. Carl commented that he would like to see some volunteers stepping forward to set up and run it. The meeting was pleased to see Howard Williams and Barry Lewis agree to take charge to arrange the TT at Boncath this summer.

- **Affiliation**

Andrew Lindsay suggest we re affiliate to Welsh Cycling, as some members will be taking part in some road races and criterium events in 2009. The added benefit is extra insurance for these events and access to advertising. Carl suggested that the Pembrey events were close enough to home to set up a VT team to attend.

- Cardigan 2010

It was decided that we would like to put a criterium race on for the Cardigan 2010 celebrations, but it would be a good idea if we could try to do one this year as a taster, maybe Aug /Sep during the evening mid week in order to get all the details right before hand. A body of support will be needed to help organise this and Carl, Tom, Ioan, Andrew L, Jason and Colin put their names forward to help where they are needed.

- MTB Skills Course

Further to the recent MTB leaders course completed, Carl suggested that maybe some of the ladies in the club might be interested in taking part in a half-day MTB “skills” course at the same venue (Afan Argoed, Port Talbot). It was thought that at least four members would be interested and Carl agreed that the Club could subsidise this event.

- Press

If anyone has anything cycling related they have been up to and want to shout it to the world, Carl is happy sort out the wording for the press, therefore please let Carl know – no matter how small. It was suggested that we should advertise some rides in the Tivy-side to get some fresh members in. This would be looked into.

An article would be written regarding the recent MIAS MTB Leaders awards undertaken.

- AGM Format

At the suggestion of Jason, it was agreed that next year’s AGM would take a more formal approach with dinner (or similar) being laid on by the Club.

It was agreed that using the Castell Malgwyn this year was a step in the right direction.

- VTCC General Advertising

Colin Portsmouth reminded the meeting that he had some magnetic signs in club colours suitable for placement on car doors or bonnets, made up by Dragon Grafix. Colin has kindly offered them for use in advertising the club when members are at an event; please let him know if you would like to borrow them at any time.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Michelle Lewis
Secretary
Velo Teifi Cycling Club