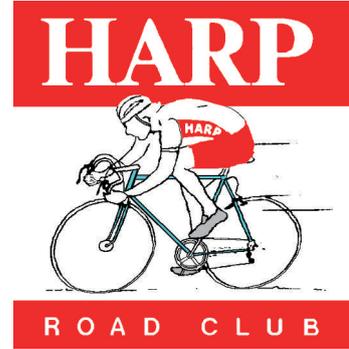




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HARP SPRING CLUB RUN 13th. MAY 2008

As you all must know by now, it's the club's 70th birthday this year. No fireworks, giant cake or dancing girls, just a ride on May 13th from 'The Crooked Billett' on the A41 nr. Kingswood which has been booked although they are having a refurb. and I will check again mid-April to make sure everything is OK. If you can't make the ride, then try and make lunch and let any 'old' members know. Bryan kindly passed on to me a list of ex-members and I've contacted a few with the date etc. Ride will be 10.00 am for 10.30 am and lunch @ 1.00 pm. So far 10 people have contacted me and confirmed so I'm looking forward to hearing from a lot more of you asap. Hopefully we can make it a day to remember and also take a little time to reflect on those members who have gone before us.

Mike Clark - Chairman

BOB (PADDY) McKEE

Paddy died just before last Christmas after suffering for many years with worsening Alzheimers.

He was very active with the Harp from the early '50s to the '70s. In the early days of the HHH, upto 1963, the organiser was Paddy. But his main efforts were in timekeeping both for our own events and also for many other promotions, mostly time-trials. Over the years he held several different Harp committee positions (Racing Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) and was also on the committees of the Norlond TT Combine and RTTC London North District. Although he lost touch with the club over the last fifteen years or so he always wanted to know how we were doing when contacted.

HARP HILLY HUNDRED 2008 REPORT

145 entries on a surprisingly good day with a reasonable temperature for the end of January, a bit of sun, some wind but no rain.

Again the Verulam CC took claim to the Shield with 16 qualifiers. There were a total of 67 qualifiers, 39 non-qualifiers and 39 DNFs.

Entries were spread between the different time standards:

A (fastest) - 16, B (medium) - 112, C (slowest) - 12 and D (50km) - 5.

There were many riders new to the HHH and the roads used. Quite a few went off course and one or two useful suggestions were received as to how we could make the directions easier to follow.

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF LESSONS LEARNT from last year's changes, comments from riders and a course inspection by Mick Clark (just after Christmas) further changes were made this year:

1. To avoid mid-day traffic, return route Northchurch to Berkhamsted replaced by parallel route via Darr's Lane and Shootersway. Distance unchanged.
2. Section via White Hill and Whelpley dropped because of bad potholes down White Hill. Riders continued to Ashley Green where left into Two Dells Lane and thence back to Bovington.
3. Route map marked with potholes (Bulstrode Lane) and cattle grids (Ivinghoe Beacon).
4. To reduce the milling around upstairs at the HQ, entry fees were taken downstairs in return for registration forms. Noticeable lessening of the usual chaos.
5. Both the 100km and 50km routes were re-



measured on large scale maps and were found to be several km/miles over-distance. (The routes' hilly contours will add to these excesses.)

Additional time allowances were incorporated into the time standards to compensate, 10 and 15 minutes respectively.

6. The route maps were, for the first time, backed by route descriptions.

Another change was to print the route maps/descriptions and inscribe the riders' cards with water (i.e., rain and sweat) tolerant ink.

All the changes proved useful, some to us, some to the riders.

THE HARP'S EFFORT was provided by Alison and Malcolm (Event Organiser), Mick C, Mick K, Jim, Wally, Richard and Bryan. Again, Malcolm's mother very kindly helped with the refreshments and we thank her very much for this. Bob Sturnham intended to help but at the last minute had to turn-up for unplanned work.

FINANCIALLY the event income totalled £798 (145 entries @ £5 plus £5 donation plus £68 made from refreshments).

Expenditure was around £150 (£30 donation for the HQ + £75 CTC affiliation + printing of certificates etc plus new mini shields and engraving). The latter costs have yet to be finalised.

Having raised the entry fee from £3 to £5 with the intention of increasing our charity donation we informed entrants that at least 50% of the event income would be given to charity.

It is therefore proposed that £400 be donated to MacMillan Nurses (our chosen charity for 2008). This would leave around £250 for club funds to help support future donations where entries are down.

If no adverse comments to this proposal are received (by Bryan, Secretary) by the middle of March then the £400 donation will be considered AGREED and will be made.

SUGGESTIONS/PROPOSALS ARISING FROM THIS YEAR'S EXPERIENCE:

- a. The printed list of riders' target finish times is not particularly 'user friendly' in the rush of riders clamouring for their annotated start cards. To be replaced with manual 'flip-over' cards or laptop display (an auto-change display is now

ready for 2009).

- b. A LARGE notice downstairs and another outside to display event information.
- c. Have an additional table downstairs for riders to fill in their registration forms rather than upstairs.
- d. The route description (introduced this year) should include the names signposted at turn junctions.
- e. The 50km route is close to 7½ miles too long. On outward route by-pass Chesham by going directly to Ashley Green (reduction of about 2 ½ miles).
- f. Limit the entries to 200 maximum (the standard limit set by the CTC liability cover). There seems to have been a general increase in similar events so far this year and there is a limit to the number we can 'comfortably' handle with the available effort we have.

A limit can simply be imposed by the number of Registration Forms available on the day.

(The experience of other events is that on-line entry can result in entries of well beyond 200. Thus, any suggestion that we might consider on-line entry should be treated with caution.)

AND LASTLY

The Club became affiliated to the CTC for the liability cover offered for the HHH. As a result any Harp member can affiliate also for £12 per annum - has to be done via the Harp Secretary [Bryan].

2008 MEMBERSHIP

For those who have not yet paid, your £5 subscription is due now for next year, please send it to Graham Holdstock.