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## November 2008 ISSUE

Welcome to the November edition of the Half Link. We have the minutes of the AGM, a report on a new rider timing system for the Harp Hilly Hundred and an article on Svein Tuft from our Canadian based membership.

Notices:-

### **MICK HALL**

Most of you will know that Mick is suffering with bowel cancer. The secondary source is the cause of the build-up of excess fluid requiring regular draining. The primary source has not yet been located. He is awaiting an appointment at Mount Vernon for a second opinion as to the way forward. He very much welcomes being contacted. We wish you all the best Mick.

### **HARP HILLY HUNDRED - 25th JANUARY 2009**

Just a reminder that the Harp Hilly Hundred is on Sunday 25th January next year and all help will be appreciated by Malcolm Putman who is organising the event again this year.

### **HARP HILLY HUNDRED WEB PAGE**

The Harp Hilly Hundred web page has now been updated with background information and details of our charity donation as well as a profile of the 100km route and route details of both distances.

### **2009 CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Club subscriptions for 2009 are due and still only £5, if you haven't yet paid. please send the subs to Graham Holdstock

### **CTC ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Club members can become CTC Associate Members, £12 for the year, please contact Bryan Hutt.

### **HARP MEMBERS LIST**

Bryan has been putting together a record of all the current and past members of the club, you can find the latest list on the website.

If you know of any names that are missing please let Bryan or Richard know.

## HARP ROAD CLUB

### AGM

Tuesday 16th. September 2008

"The Stag", Mentmore

### MINUTES

Present: Mick Clark (Chairman), Pete Cookson, Dave Balfour Yates, Alison Putman, Malcolm Putman, Brian Tadman\*, Phil Corley, Richard Hutt, Terry Gambles, Bryan Hutt.

\* Non-members.

Apologies: Mick Hall, Dave le Fevre, Jim Williams, Mick Konopacki, Bob Sturnham, John Warren, Andrew Hutt.

#### 1. Minutes of 2007 AGM

(distributed in November 2007 Half Link)  
Approved.

#### 2. Review of past year

\* Harp Hilly Hundred (report in February 2008 Half Link)

Again the Club's thanks go to Malcolm and Alison Putman for organising the event which attracted 145 entries.

\* Harp's 70th. Birthday Get-Together (report in June 2008 Half Link)

Thanks were due to Mick (C) for all his effort in getting this celebration off the ground and making it a success.

\* Racing - None to report although Terry had trained in anticipation.

\* Membership - 13 (12 paid-up plus 1 life-member (Phil - Harp RC President))

#### 3. Financial report

Not available but bank balance at this date stands at £688. (Audited Accounts will be (e)mailed to members.)



#### 4. Affiliations for 2009

4.1 With no promotion of, or participation in, time trials re-affiliation (£30) to the CTT was questioned. It was agreed not to re-affiliate although regretting the breaking club's long association with time-trialling. A member wishing to time trial would need to become a second-claim member of an CTT affiliated club as would a member wishing officiate in an CCT event.

4.2 Re-affiliation (£50) to the CTC was agreed particularly for the 3rd. party cover it provides for the HHH. Club members can be CTC Associate Members for £12 but need to join (or re-join) via the club's Secretary.

#### 5. Promotions (and Organisers) 2009)

Harp Hilly Hundred - Malcolm (P). Although prepared to serve as Organiser he (and Alison) wished to be relieved of the refreshments. Thus another pair will be required to take this on.

#### 6. Appointment of Officers and Committee for 2009

Chairman - Mick Clark      Secretary - Bryan Hutt  
Treasurer - Graham Holdstock      Editor - Richard Hutt  
Committee - Left vacant as no need was felt.

#### 7. Appointment of Auditor

Mr.G.M.Wolfe with thanks for his work for the Club.

#### 8. Harp Charity Donation for 2009

Phil proposed Willen Hospice (Milton Keynes). Malcolm (P) proposed RSPCA Blackberry Farm, Quainton.

After a vote it was agreed that the RSPCA should be the choice for 2009 with the Hospice for 2010.

## 9. Harp Hilly Hundred

### 9.1 Direction Signs

i) Mick (C) to approach PCA regarding signs such as arrows and also the possibility of borrowing the Verulam's signs.

ii) The possibility of using a non-permanent paint for spraying directions signs on the road was discussed. Malcolm (P) to look into source of paint.

iii) Bryan to simplify the printed route description where possible and use the place name on direction signs at L and R turns.

### 9.2 Entry Procedures

The following additional changes to those made for 2008 were agreed:

i) - Additional table downstairs for 'A', 'C' and 'D' entrants to complete registration forms.

'B' entrants to complete registration forms upstairs.

ii) - Tick box to be added to registration form to indicate if the entrant wishes to receive a certificate for a successful ride.

### 9.3 Start/Finish Procedures

The possibility of using a 'clock in/out' device for riders to get their actual times of starting and then finishing stamped on their HHH cards was discussed. Malcolm (P) to seek source of such a device and cost (including the cards which need to be damp/rainproof).

### 9.4 Entry Fee

Agreed this should be raised to £10 with at least 50% being donated to the club's chosen charity. Notices to be posted at the HQ to this effect together with a list of past charities we've supported. Entrants to be offered a free drink and food.

### 9.5 HHH Publicity

When HHH details are settled Richard to place them on the club's web site. To include date, time for registering, categories, route maps and descriptions (100km and 50km) and contact (Organiser). Additionally, route profile (Richard to provide) and a note that at least 50% of the entry fees (£10) will go to charity (listing the 2009 charity and those of previous years).

## 10. Any other business

With no further business the meeting closed at 3.18pm.



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### POST AGM

Subsequent to the AGM it was realised that the Club is currently affiliated to the West London Combine of which Jim Williams is the Treasurer (and wishes to continue). The requirement on the Harp is to provide 3 or 4 marshals for one WLC TT during the season (which we've done).

However, the Harp needs to be affiliated to the CTT (ex-RTTC) and two separate donations has been received for these affiliations.

Mr. Wolfe has kindly agreed to continue as Auditor.

## Harp Hilly Hundred Rider Timing

Following on from the suggestion at the AGM that we should consider using a clocking on & off system to record riders times an alternative method was looked for that would allow integration with the existing computerised certificate printing.

We have come up the Harp Hilly Hundred Rider Card or 'HHH card', which is a credit card sized bit of cardboard printed with a barcode containing a riders number. We are hoping it will help reduce the rush at the registration tables and intend to trial it at next years Harp Hilly Hundred.

A typical 'HHH card' would look like this:



Here's how it should work:

### At the start

As before riders pay their money downstairs and are given a registration form according to the time they are intending to do the ride in. Attached to the registration form will be the 'HHH card' with the riders unique number. At registration the rider hands over the filled in form and after the form's been checked is handed back the 'HHH card'.

When a rider is ready to start the ride they go to the 'Start Station' which will be located downstairs by the entrance to the Hemel club room and scan their 'HHH card' through the barcode reader. Their start time will be logged and the time they need to finish by displayed on the computer screen



### At the finish

The barcode reader will have been moved upstairs. When a rider finishes they will again scan their 'HHH card', this time, the time they finished will be logged and the computer screen will show if they have finished in the correct time frame. As usual if they have finished in time and want a certificate it will be printed for them to take.

A cheap source of blank plastic cards has been found and an initial quantity purchased to provide 'HHH cards' for at least 3 events..

Ideally every rider will return their 'HHH cards' when they finish the event but of course there will be a number of riders who don't return to the HQ and some who will lose their card during the ride. This means we will need to replace missing 'HHH cards' after each running of the Harp Hilly Hundred but hopefully this can be kept to a minimum.

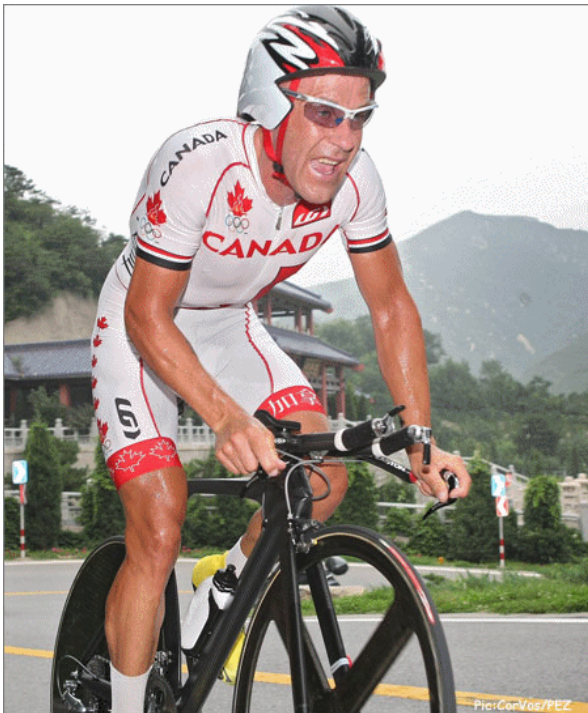
Any comments or suggestions could be sent to Richard or Bryan.

## Svein Tuft – Worlds Silver Medallist

### A Very Down To Earth Cyclist.

(a report by Andrew Hutt)

Some of you will have noted that Canada won a silver medal in the Men's Time Trial at this year's Worlds. For Canada, it was major achievement in a sport that commands very little attention and equally little funding. I am sure, however, that if you did note that result, it was probably the first time you had heard of Svein (pronounced swain) Tuft, and wondered who he is?



Well, Svein, has quite an interesting and unique background in terms of his being a cyclist. Like me, he lives in the Vancouver area of British Columbia. Unlike me, Svein is our local cycling celebrity.

Also, unlike me, Svein wasn't born in to a cycling family. In 1996, at the age of 18, in the name of adventure, Svein decided to go for a bike ride to Bella Coola, over 1,000 kilometres north of Vancouver.

Svein didn't have a bicycle at the time, so first he went to his local charity shop, "Value Village", and bought one. Next, he had an 80-pound dog, named Bear, to take care of. So, using spare parts and BMX wheels, he built a trailer for his dog.

That first trip, Svein cycled a gruelling ten hours a day up through the mountain roads, on a route he had only seen on the contourless terrain of a road map, and he

learnt what it is like camping rough in mountainous areas, without a tent. (I've ridden some of those roads myself, driven many more of them, and even slept rough in a bivy bag with just the bears for company, and I can only imagine what will power that ride must have taken.)

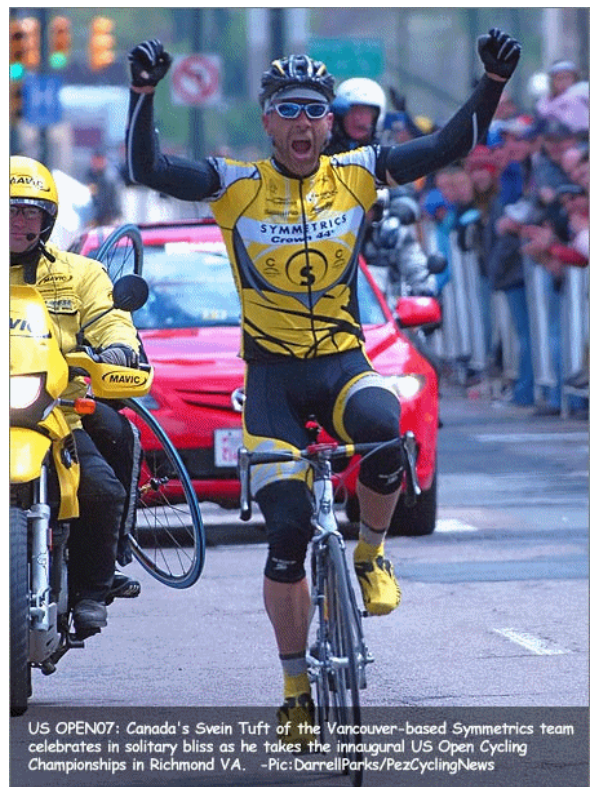


Svein made it to his destination and back again, in one piece, and decided that what he'd learnt about bicycle touring and maintenance should be put to use on a bigger trip.

For the next five years, Svein made his way, cycling from Vancouver, up to Alaska and down as far as Mexico. He took jobs when he needed money and cycled on when he felt the urge to travel.

At the rather late age of twenty-three, Svein decided to try his hand at road racing, and being incredibly strong from his years of touring the west coast of North America, within a season he had climbed the cycling ladder from Cat 5 racer to Elite Cat 1.

In the past few years Svein's been riding for the local Symmetrics professional team, based here in Vancouver. At most of the local, and not so local, North American races you could see Svein riding at the front, usually winning, or helping a team mate to win. Symmetrics have been the dominant team in this part of the world for the past couple of years..



US OPEN07: Canada's Svein Tuft of the Vancouver-based Symmetrics team celebrates in solitary bliss as he takes the inaugural US Open Cycling Championships in Richmond VA. -Pic:DarrellParks/PezCyclingNews

Svein's a bit of an all-rounder, and last winter could be found riding the local track, here in Vancouver, where I got to ride with him. Well, to say that I was riding with Svein Tuft may be a slight exaggeration. I was riding on the same track, at the same time, and even managed to suck his back wheel for, perhaps, half a lap before the gap opened and Svein disappeared in front of me. Of course, being a 250m track, it wasn't long before he came flying by again!

Svein Tuft is very vocal on his stance against the use of drugs in sport. He gives the impression of riding as clean as Mr. Boardman. In fact, he dropped out of the racing scene altogether for a year, about three years back, as his own personal protest at the widespread use of drugs in cycling. And he has, reputedly, turned his back on offers from European teams who have dubious reputations in this area. Svein ended his protest, and returned to the professional ranks, when the Symmetrics team formed, and it was created on the understanding that it would be a "clean", all Canadian, team.



Pic: RClarke/PEZ

And, if I sound as if I am promoting Svein Tuft, well, I like the man and there's a reason for this. Back in 2004, on a camping trip in the Canadian Rockies, me and my wife, Nina, passed a rider, kited out on a touring bike, loaded up with front and rear panniers. Over the next two days, while we were warm and cosy travelling through the mountains in our car, we'd pass the rider somewhere on the road, on his bike, pedaling on his own over those same cold, snowy, mountain roads. In the town of Jasper, we came across this rider one late afternoon, looking quite worn out, sitting at a table, outside a café, sipping a coffee and eating a large piece of cake, his bike resting against the fence. Of course, it was Svein, enjoying a spot of touring, a very down to earth cyclist.



Pic: GDescantes/descantes.com

[Svein Tuft has now been recruited as a member of the Garmin-Chipotle squad for 2009 and is reported to likely be a key player in the big Tour line-up. Look out for him.]