

The Crooked Wheel

The occasional newsletter of The Fenland Clarion Cycling Club

2008 : Issue 2 : March 2008

Welcome.

Welcome to this second edition of the new look *Crooked Wheel* and thanks to all of you that have commented on our first attempt. The response has been really positive and most people seem happy with what we've achieved. The format seems to be very popular so we'll stick with it for now.

Next month sees the annual National Clarion Easter Meet on our doorstep in Stamford. Our own club is staging the event and we'd really love to see a good turn out of Fenland jerseys.

Special thanks to Simon Jacklin for sending in a great little feature on Crit. racing.

There's a lot to talk about this month so lets crack on.

Happy reading *James & Paul*

You can contact us at:

Email James Warrener at
Fenlandclarioncc@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone
James on 07801 724134 or
Paul on 07785 332708

Post
Paul Frost
13 Prestland, Market Deeping
Peterborough, PE6 8DT

Racing Sec. Steve Clarke
steve@fenlandclarion.co.uk or
01733 252595

Easter Meet Update

By Steve Hope

**Friday March 21st to
Monday March 24th.**

This year's Easter Meet will soon be upon us and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

There is plenty going on over the weekend, from leisure time in the Eighteenth Century Lady Anne's Hotel and around Stamford, to attending the National Clarion Conference on Saturday morning for those that want, or riding the Time Trial at Essendine and Sportive ride on Sunday. We will even have our own brand of Clarion Bitter for the weekend.

All entry forms, menus and a programme of events can be downloaded from the excellent National Clarion website www.clarioncc.org. (Copies are included for those that receive *The Crooked Wheel* by post.)

Don't forget also to enter the CycloSportive event.



More details on page 2

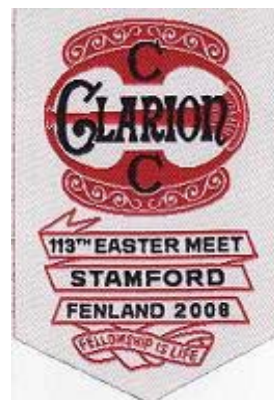
There is a National Clarion Trophy for the Section who cycle the most miles to the meet. Why not cycle to Stamford on Friday, do the Time Trial on Saturday, the Sportive on Sunday and cycle home on the Monday? Don't forget the Brian Braithwaite Photographic Competition, so bring your photographs to display over the weekend.

Programme of Events

Friday 21st March

5pm onwards

Meet at Headquarters – The Lady Anne's Hotel, Stamford for drinks and gathering, registration and collect your Meet ribbon.



6.30-7.30pm

Civic Reception with the Mayor and Mayoress of Stamford at the Mayor's parlour, Stamford Town Hall (limited to the first 50 people who sign-on and collect invitations). This will be followed by an optional Ghost Walk at an extra cost of £4.50.

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Saturday 22nd March

10am-12pm+

Annual conference at the Lady Anne's Hotel in the Warrior Conference Room.

2pm

11.5 mile Time-Trial on the CS/13 at Essendine. **Open Event, entries to John Royle as per the CTT Handbook.** HQ is at Essendine Village Hall.

7pm-12am

Evening entertainment: "Out of the Blue". A live band to dance the night away, plus exceptional meat buffet dinner all included in the Meet Levy.

Sunday 23rd March

8 - 10am

Town walk around historic Stamford (1¼ hours) or **Cyclo-sportive**.

7pm-11.30pm

Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation attended by the Mayor & Mayoress of Stamford – Councillor Jon Poznanski. All annual racing and non-racing awards to be presented. Other awards to include: Mileage award for the section riding the most miles to Stamford, attendance award and a photographic competition so bring along your pictures.

Monday 24th March

9am

Visit the town or Burghley House & Park, before departing home.

More About The Cyclo-Sportive.



Enter on-line at:

www.clarioncc.org

The Sportive takes the form of either a leisure or reliability ride from Red Lion Square in Stamford Town Centre. Park in the Meadows Car Park and ride to the sign on at the Lady Anne's Hotel. Choose your distance – 50km (10am), 100km (9am) or 160km (8am)!

Entry for the Sportive is £15 for members and non-members alike. **This is not included in the price of the Easter Meet ticket.**

However, Clarion members who sign on for the sportive will receive a £7.50 discount against the price of the full weekend ticket (normally £36).

You have to enter in advance and pay the fee. (Sorry – NO entries on the day.) !!! There is an excellent on-line booking system accessible from the National Clarion web page. You can even pre-order your commemorative event T-shirt at the same time.

For a hardcopy entry pack send a SAE to Steve Clarke, 23 Woodland Lea, Helpston, Peterborough. PE67EF. (A hard copy of the entry pack is enclosed for our postal readers).

For more details contact
Steve Clarke:

steve@fenlandclarion.co.uk

or

01733 252595

The Route

50km

Stamford, Gt Casterton, Tickencote, Empingham, Normanton, Edith Weston, Manton, Glaston, Bisbrooke, Seaton, Harringworth, Laxton, Blatherwyck, Kingscliffe, Collyweston, Stamford.

100km

Stamford, Gt Casterton, Tickencote, Empingham, Normanton, Edith Weston, Manton, Glaston, Bisbrooke, Seaton, Harringworth, Laxton, Bulwick, Southwick, Cotterstock, Tansor, Luton, Washingley, Folkesworth, FEED STATION, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Farcet Fen, Pondersbridge, Whittlesey, FEED STATION, Thorney, Newborough, Peakirk, Deeping Gate, Northborough, Maxey, Bainton, Barnack, Pilsgate, Stamford.

160km

Stamford, Gt Casterton, Tickencote, Empingham, Normanton, Edith Weston, Manton, Glaston, Bisbrooke, Seaton, Harringworth, Laxton, Bulwick, Southwick, Cotterstock, Tansor, Luton, Washingley, Folkesworth, FEED STATION, Norman Cross, Yaxley, Holme, Holme Fen, Ramsey St Mary's, Ramsey, Ramsey Hollow, Tick Fen, Chatteris, Horseway, Wimblington Fen, March, West Fen, Whittlesey, FEED STATION, Thorney, Newborough, Peakirk, Deeping Gate, Northborough, Maxey, Bainton, Barnack, Pilsgate, Stamford.

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Prices

Pricing has been arranged to allow as much flexibility as possible so that people can "pick & mix" what they do.

Many will simply want to socialise during the day and enjoy the excellent food and entertainment at the Lady Anne's in the evenings. For this, all you need is the basic ticket:

Saturday ticket	£20.00
Sunday ticket	£20.00
Weekend ticket	£36.00*
<i>*reduced to £28.50 if you ride the sportive</i>	
U16s w/end	£25.00
Friday Ghost Walk	£4.50

The weekend ticket includes all evening entertainment for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the buffet on Saturday, the annual dinner on Sunday, PLUS half-priced Sportive or the Town Walk on Sunday, and your Ribbon.

Day tickets can be purchased for those just wanting to attend one evening's events.

For those wanting a more "sporting" weekend, there is the time trial and Sportive Ride. As we've already said, you must enter for these events in advance. For reference, the pricing is as follows:

Sportive Ride	£15.00
Saturday Time Trial	£6.50

The time trial must be booked as per the CTT handbook.

The Sportive Ride must be booked as per previous details.

Payment

Payment for Easter Meet tickets should be made to Richard Newcombe. You can either pay the full amount in advance or a £20 deposit per person with the balance payable on arrival.

Don't forget your discount if you are buying the weekend ticket and are riding in the Sportive.

Contact Richard on
01733 706498 or email:
Richard@hallane.com

Dinner Menus

Menu choices must be received at the latest by Friday 21st March either by hand on the day or in advance by post.

Please return completed menus (see attached if you're a "postie" or from the web-site) and your appropriate payment to Richard Newcombe:

**Richard Newcombe
67 Hall Lane
Werrington
Peterborough
PE4 6RA.**

Please make cheques payable to "National Clarion".

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AGM - 28th January 2008.

By Paul Frost

After 12 years in the role, Ken "Spider" Clarke has taken the decision to stand down as General Secretary. Ken has been involved with the club committee for many, many years and has been a fantastic ambassador for the club.



Ken & Judy Clarke

We are sure you will join everyone who was present at the AGM in thanking Ken for the tireless work he has carried out over the years.



No doubt he will still be keeping a watchful eye on the Heath for those of you that have not paid their subs!

Paul Frost was voted into the position of General Secretary after working with Ken for the last year.

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Paul Asplin was proposed for a place on the Committee and this was carried. With Paul's mountain biking credentials well known, this could open the way for a more active MTB section. All other Officers and Committee members were re-elected to their positions:

President

Charlie Richmond

Chairman

Richard Newcombe

General Secretary

Paul Frost

Treasurer

Marion Royle

Racing Secretary

Steve Clarke

Asst. Racing Sec.

John Royle

Clothing Secretary

Harry Berridge

Asst. Clothing Sec.

Ian Waddilove

Leisure & Touring

Sandra Green

Social Secretary

Sandra Green

Press Secretary

James Warrener

Joint Magazine Editors

James Warrener
& Paul Frost

Canteen Secretary

Lindsay Clarke

Non-Designated Committee

Paul Asplin
Martin Green
Andy Pitchford

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A New Affiliation!

By Paul Frost

We're very please to announce that our club is now affiliated to The Eastern Counties Cycling Association.



This is in addition to our existing affiliations to the N&DCA, NCRA, CTT and BC.

Affiliation means that Fenland Clarion riders will be eligible to take part in races run by the Association. Amongst them, the quick E2 course at Six Mile Bottom near Cambridge.

Riders must be aware that anyone riding in an ECCA event must also make themselves available to the ECCA for marshalling at a later date. The ECCA will provide us with a summary of all Fenland Clarion riders that have taken part in their events and we will be expected to ensure they are available for marshalling. Failure to do so would result in our eventual expulsion from the Association and, more importantly, a very poor reflection on our excellent club.

Please ensure that if you take part you are willing to fulfil your marshalling duties.

A list of ECCA events is at the back of this edition.

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Easter Meet History

By Paul Frost

The very first meeting of what was to become the Clarion Cycling Club happened in Birmingham on Monday February 26th 1894. The Clarion Cycling Club name was adopted at the club's second meeting less than 2 weeks later on Wednesday March 7th.

At the same meeting, the seven committee members arranged an Easter tour that left Birmingham by train bound for Wolverhampton then cycled to Bridgenorth, Bewdley, Worcester and Evesham. The tour was a great success allowing the riders to escape the slums of the city and enjoy a holiday in the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

By the end of the club's first season, four more Clarion CCs had been formed. In his end of season report, Tom Groome of the Birmingham CCC suggested an early Spring meeting where all Clarion Cyclists could meet and fraternise.

And so the first Easter Meet of Clarion CCs was arranged for Ashbourne over the Easter weekend of April 1895. By this time, many more CCCs had

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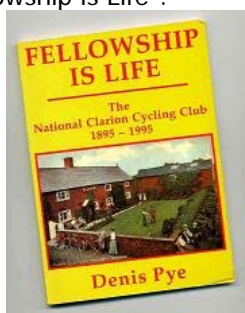
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been formed and a run to Dovedale saw 200 riders set off.

The Easter Meet returned to Ashbourne for the first time in 2005 on the 110th anniversary of this historic event.

The history of the Easter Meet is described in far greater detail in Denis Pye's excellent book "Fellowship is Life".



The book describes the rise of the Clarion Cycling Club from the socialist paper "The Clarion". The book is priced at £4.95 and copies can be ordered through the National Clarion website or why not buy one at next month's Easter Meet?

Around the 'net

By James Warrener

The club forum has successfully been tested and is available for business.

<http://fenlandclarioncc.netfreehost.com>

New Look Web Site

By Paul Frost

If you haven't looked at our website for a while then you should take another look. Phil Ackerman has done some great

work in freshening up the layout and there are some new sections added.

2008 Calendar

By James Warrener

The calendar of Club events has been added to the club website. For those of you receiving this organ by the miracle of the Post Office, a copy is attached.

Upcoming Events

By Steve Clarke

February 24th Place to Place @ Washingley (10am).

March 21st to 23rd – Easter Meet @ Stamford.

March 30th Hardriders @ Southwick.

Entry Fees for the Bluebell 10's will go up to £2.00 this year (and U16's will also be charged £1) to accommodate the increase in CTT levies.

The entry fees for Club Championship events will be £3 for the same reason.

For more information please contact racing secretary Steve Clarke on steve@fenlandclarion.co.uk

NCRA Handicap Series 2008

An ideal way to get started in road racing and/or superb training events. These handicapped massed start

events are run under British Cycling rules and you will require a Racing Licence or day licence (extra to entry fee) to compete.

Highly popular with club members and usually we get a good representation at these friendly events. Check out the British Cycling website or their quarterly race calendar for entry details. If you are unsure as how to enter, then please check with club racing secretary Steve Clarke and he'll help you along.

Spring Series

Race 1 March 1 - Middleton - Rockingham Forest Wheelers (RFW)

Race 2 March 8 - Harrington - Welland Valley

Race 3 March 15 - Old - Kettering

Race 4 March 29 - Southwick - Peterborough CC

Race 5 April 5 - Great Gidding - Fenland Clarion

Entries are £50 for series in advance, £60 for series on line at first race, £15 for entry on line for single race. All races start at 2pm, last race is a 40 miler (Starts at 10am) the others are 30 miles.

Summer Series

Race 1 June 3 - Middleton - RFW

Race 2 June 12 - Harrington - Welland Valley

Race 3 June 17 - Sawtry - St Ives

Race 4 June 24 - Old - Kettering

Race 5 July 1 - Southwick - Peterborough

Race 6 July 8 - Southwick - Fenland * see note from Steve below

Entries are £60 for series in advance, £70 on line at first race, £15 for entry on line for single race. All races to start at

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7.15. All races are 30 miles in the Summer Series.

Also see NCRA website:

www.northantscyclerracingassociation.co.uk and
www.britishcycling.org.uk

A note from Steve Clarke, Racing Secretary.

"I could do with someone to organise/co-ordinate the NCRA Handicap on Tuesday 8 July at Southwick. Ideally a Time Trialist so that the Roadies can ride (and help at one of the Open TT's). If you can help let me know and I'll give you the low down."

Criterium Racing

By Simon Jacklin

Hi all. I am Simon Jacklin and am 15 years old. When I first started cycling I just rode time trials. But last year I ventured into the world of criterium racing.

Criteriums, or crits as they are more commonly known, are basically short lap road races. The course is normally on closed roads (no cars to watch for!) and the circuit length is anything from 800 metres to 2 miles. The corners are normally tight and the straights short so riders who are good at accelerating fast do well at these events. Good cornering is an invaluable skill in crits as you will know if you have ever ridden or watched one. Crits will also help your bike handling skills and increase

your aerobic capacity. Even if you don't want to be an out and out road racer, crits will compliment your time trialing too. Above all though they are great fun and really exciting!



James McCallum
(National Circuit Race Champion)

There are a few things to be aware of though. There are a few races on the day and you need to look at which category you fit into (under 16, junior, veteran etc.) You need a British Cycling licence and membership to race. Juniors have to ride restricted gears (this usually means just blocking a few gears off e.g big chainring which doesn't take long at all) and crits are great races for juniors especially. If you've never ridden in a group before or aren't very good at cornering then you may want to try or improve both of those first. You don't need to be a great standard just as long as you are safe!

So that's a brief introduction to criterium racing. It's not for everyone, but if you're interested why not give it a go. Races can be found on

www.britishcycling.org.uk under events calendar and all the rules and regulations on road races. If you are interested then a personal favourite is Ixworth May Day Crit.

Club Shop



Oooh, suits you sir!

Please talk to Ian Waddilove for any club kit requirements. Tel: 01780 754850 or 07771 674786.



UCI World Track Championships

The UCI Track Cycling World Championships take place at Manchester Velodrome from March 26th to 30th.

This will be Britain's biggest cycling event of the year with British riders defending the

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seven world titles that they won at last year's championships in Palma, Mallorca.



Queen Vic

Bradley Wiggins won two gold medals in the pursuit and team pursuit, Chris Hoy doubled up in the Keirin and 1km time-trial and Victoria Pendleton spectacularly got a hat-trick of gold medals in the women's sprint, Keirin and team sprint events.

If last month's feature on the Ghent 6 got you interested, why not make the trip and cheer on the Brits?

Leisure Rides

By Sandra Green

Leisure Cycling Old Soke Group 2008 Events

Sunday 16th March – 11:00
Meet at Werrington Centre Car Park, Staniland Way, Werrington. Ride approx. 20 miles with a pub lunch.

Sunday 8th June – 10:00 Meet at Market Place, Whittlesey. Ride approx 25 miles, pub lunch and Garden Party and Sandra & Martins, 222 Station Road, Whittlesey.

Sunday 14th September- 11:00
Meet at Orton Mere Car Park, Oundle Road, Peterborough. Ride approx 20 miles with a pub lunch.

11th October 1-4pm - Cycle Jumble - St Andrews Hall, Parkinsons Lane, Whittlesey.

For more details contact Sandra and Martin Green
sandramartin@green222.freese.rve.co.uk

Association Events

By Paul Frost

In addition to our own and National Clarion club series we have available to us several events run by the three organisations to which we are affiliated. The NCRA Road Race Series is featured on an earlier page of this issue. This leaves the N&DCA Series and the ECCA Series:

N&DCA

Date	Event	Start Time
29/03/2008	Round 1 (10m)	14:00:00
19/04/2008	Round 2 (20m)	14:00:00
10/05/2008	Round 3 (10m)	14:00:00
31/05/2008	Round 4 (21.4m)	14:00:00
14/06/2008	Round 5 (10m)	14:00:00
29/06/2008	Round 6 (22m)	08:00:00
19/07/2008	Round 7 (15m)	14:00:00
02/08/2008	Round 8 (31m)	14:00:00
16/08/2008	Round 9 (11m)	14:00:00
13/09/2008	Round 10 (25m)	10:00:00

ECCA

Date	Event	Course
01/03/2008	Shaftesbury Audax 160,100, 50km	Shaftesbury
01/03/2015	10 (Solos, 2-up and Tandems)	E91/10
01/03/2029	10 (Solos and Tandems)	E2/10
01/04/2027	Colchester Rovers C.C. 50	E7/50b
	Counting event for ECCA BAR Competitions	
01/05/2003	10 (Solos)	E1/10a
	Spoco S.E. event	
	E/1/2/3/W/J Road Race (Open Event) Course E-BG/1, National B Event	High Easter
01/05/2004	3/4/J/W Road Race	High Easter
	(ECCA Club riders only)	
	Course E-BG/1, Regional B Event	
01/05/2004	Map Reading	High Easter
01/05/2004	25 (Solos and Tandems)	E91/25
	200km & 115km Randonnée	High Easter
01/05/2005	25 miles 2-Up Team T.T.	E91/25
01/05/2005	7km Circuit	E92/5
	10 (Solos and Tandems)	E91/10
01/05/2018	Solo Championship 50	E2/50b
	Championship 10 (Solos and Tandems)	E2/10
01/06/2007	Championship 25 (Solos and Tandems)	E2/25
01/06/2022	25 (Solos) 3-up Team Time Trial	E18/13
	Solos 100 Championship	E2/100
01/07/2026	Shaftesbury C.C. 50	E2/50b
	Counting event for ECCA BAR Competitions	

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Date	Event	Start Time
01/07/2027	10 (Solos and Tandems)	E34/10
01/08/2006	10 (Solos and Tandems)	E91/10
01/08/2009	10 (Solos and Tandems) slowest	E2/10
01/09/2003	10 (Solos, Tandems and 2-up)	E91/10
01/09/2014	Eagle R.C. 50	E1/50
	Counting event for ECCA BAR Competitions	
01/09/2021	Association Track Championships	Welwyn
01/09/2021	25 (Solos and Tandems)	E9/25
01/09/2027	10 (Solos and Tandems)	E2/10
01/10/2011	Shaftesbury Audax Rides	Shaftesbury
	200km & 100km	Henham
01/10/2018	Hill Climb Championship (Solos)	EH/07

Pro Talk

By James Warrener

So the 2008 professional road season has started in earnest and there are a lot of changes to report at the highest level of our sport.

First up has been the emergence of the new Team Slipstream kit.



Thankfully as British national champion David Millar gets to turn out in white. It's a real incentive for him to keep the title this summer!



Racing wise the Tour down Under didn't really light many fires with flat stages most days and sprint finishes only enlivened by a head butting incident on day 4. Meanwhile over at the Tour of Qatar Tom Boonen has been winning for fun.

Next month sees the racing intensity crank up and we will have another look at the results and stories in next months *Crooked Wheel*.

New Members

By Paul Frost

We've now passed the 90 members mark with 24 from last year still to renew.

Welcome to the following new or returning members:

Richard Betts, Ian McNally, Harry Shattock, Malcolm Church, Annette Wyld, David Kerr, Ron Coleman, Andy Walker

And Finally.....

By Anonymous

Overheard at the AGM was the tale of one club member, we'll name him JW to protect his identity, who lost 3 weeks of cycling time in December after a training accident. Apparently, whilst training in his kitchen, he fell from his turbo trainer at speed damaging his shoulder on a bread bin. The injury caused a neck spasm and damage to nerves and self esteem! Get well soon J.....

Next Time.....

In the next edition we'll have:

- Easter Meet review
- Sportive Ride report
- Results from the early season Club events
- A feature on our club kit supplier Impsport
- News from the National Clarion
- A flashback to the club magazine of the 50s



- Any other ideas?
- We need input from you the members. Don't be shy. How about articles from some of you on:

- Safe riding in a group
- Training (if you dare)
- Great local rides
- How to justify to your wife that you've just blown a grand on some Zipp wheels!

See you soon!