

General Secretary:

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Dear Members,

Well, here we are, just two months old and already 49 members strong, and not one rider poached from another club. The line up reads 1st claim: Senior 4, Junior 2, Juvenile 16: 2nd claim: Senior 3, Juvenile 3: Supporters 21. Not bad going by any standards and we've only scratched the surface so far. This is surely proof of the need for a club based in the Seacroft area, and more especially one catering for the young cyclists, as we have had enquiries from parents as far afield as Garforth, Bramley and Beeston.

So, apart from 49 members, what else has been achieved? We've affiliated to the R.T.T.C., B.C.F. and Y.L.C.A. but there are still more associations to join as soon as we can afford it. We have been very lucky in obtaining a club room at the Seacroft Grange Community Centre, starting after Easter. The usual club night will be Thursday, but as we are holding races on Thursdays throughout summer we shall try to find an alternative day between May and August. Seacroft Grange is a lovely Community Centre, clean and well cared for. PLEASE RESPECT IT. Remember, your behaviour not only reflects on you but on the Seacroft Wheelers and cyclists as a whole. Therefore make sure you give cycling a good name. The Committee would welcome suggestions for club room activities (no immoral ones, please!) so pass on your ideas and we'll see what can be done.

For those of you who were not at the meeting on the 12th March, let me bring you up to date, first of all by introducing you to the Executive Committee. President, John Baxter; General Secretary/Treasurer and Acting Social Secretary, Barbara Goldsbro; Racing Secretary, John Gamson; Committee members, Jonathan Smith, Jeffrey Lawton, Mark Maniott and Gary Jones. As you can see we still need a Social Secretary, any volunteers? The Captain's job is not now an ex-officio position, and the captain will be elected on a four-weekly basis to give experience to as many riders as possible. The other alteration to rules concerns club colours which are now orange and blue, the B.C.F. not being happy with our choice of plain gold jerseys with blue edging as these could be confused with the Race Leader's jersey in a stage race.

Cloth badges have been ordered and should be available in about two weeks. They should look very effective with the windmill motif in the centre, and I hope you will be proud to wear one. The badges are suitable for both track suits and racing jerseys, and a note here for whoever does the laundry, the badges will wash but must not be ironed.

The racing programme starts on the 1st May with a 10 mile time trial on the A.64/A.1 course (Bramham) and the series of 10's runs every Thursday until 28th August. Please try to support these events, and don't forget there are plenty of open events on local courses, we're lucky to have the famous 'Boro' on our doorstep, but if you think a 25 is too far or the Boro too busy, how about the Juniors, Vets and Ladies entering the East Bradford '10' en masse? A handicap win or a rider in the first six in an open event would ensure our name in 'Cycling', and that's good publicity.

Club runs, which are averaging 18 riders

about their trials

and tribulations. A couple of spectacular crashes so far, but very little damage done, and the youngsters are learning fast! You could say the runs ~~have~~ had their ups and downs too; Emley Moor and Ilkley Moor on two consecutive Sundays was a bit of bad planning! While we are on the subject of club runs, please let me have your suggestions so that a list can be compiled and submitted to the Evening Post for publication on Fridays alongside the other clubs in the area.

The first of our fund raising activities is a jumble sale. Once again we have been very lucky in obtaining Seacroft Grange for the sale, and the date has been fixed for 19th April (Saturday afternoon). So it's allhands on deck now, and let's have a really big effort and some money in the kitty at the end of it. It will have to be a combined effort with every member doing his or her bit in collecting from relatives, neighbours and nearby streets. We'll need your support on the day too, helping to set out the stalls and selling goods. Two strong-arm men will be required to collect the 2p admission charge from the (we hope!) queue. Remember, it's for your benefit, we must have money to buy medals and trophies, to affiliate to the necessary bodies, to buy stationery, etc., and we in our turn will be expected to make donations occasionally.

A word now to our supporters. Some of you have no experience of cycling, and have joined just to give us a donation. This we gratefully accept, and I don't know how we would have got the club 'off the ground' without your help. You are of course entitled to a vote at the meetings and to come along to the club room, which we hope you will do. Maybe we will see you at our races, and we would like you to support any social events we may organise. One day when we have sufficient funds we hope to be able to put something on especially for you, but in the meantime we thank you for your help and hope we can rely on it in future. And for those supporters with experience of cycling, don't forget you can always change to 1st claim membership and dig out that rusty bike, oil the chain and your knee joints and join us on the runs. You'll be most welcome.

For all our members, don't forget, this is YOUR club. Let's have your suggestions for runs, activities and any improvements. If you want tours or hostelling weekends we shall try to organise something on these lines. Let's know your racing plans so that we can affiliate to the necessary bodies, Track League, Cyclo Cross Association, etc. If you have any complaints or grievances, let the committee know and we will do our best to sort things out. If you think the club is just fine and to your liking the best way you can let us know is by getting your friends to join. We do need more juniors and seniors, but sorry, no more under 13's until further notice, our 'strong men' can only push one at a time, and the Captain's job is not an easy one!

Barbara Goldsbro,  
General Secretary

Note:

Cloth badges now available, price 37p. each