

Finsbury Park Cycling Club, Officers Reports for 2018 season

Chairman's Report.

As I have said in the past, my thanks once again to all officers and members of the committee for running our club through 2018. This gratitude also extends to all club members who organised all of our clubs events throughout the year, from the dinner, reliability trial, time trails, road races, training camps in Spain and social events.

Through their efforts, volunteering their own free time, the club made 2018 again another successful year. Also I would like to extend my thanks, to all members, who marshalled and assisted at all of our promotions and associated cycling events. Club cycling in the UK relies on the very essence of its own members to give up their own free time to promote the sport of cycle racing and cycling in general.

A special mention and a very large "thank you" to our Club President Norman Gardner and Kevin Hayes. Both of them were at every single race that I asked the club to support, and put some members, who did not reply at all to assist in any of our club duties, to shame.

On a sadder note, we said good bye to the Norlond TT Combine in 2018. The club had close ties with this association. We were involved with its creation, and a number of club members over the years were involved with the running of it too. So it was a sad day September 16th on the F10 for their last race. The club was out in numbers to marshal and assist, for a very low turnout of just fourteen riders on the start sheet. A sad ending.

No Spoco time trail in 2018, but plans are in the making by Neal Marrin again to get this off the ground again.

Alex Cohen on his second road race in 2018, after his first in 2017: This is the clubs most difficult event to promote and run. Our thanks to Alex who did a fine job again, and is back for more in 2019.

Club runs, and the introduction rides are as strong as ever, and is our first point of contact for new members. We have had a few issues with other impatient road users through 2018, which is a sad reflection of how intolerant people can be of each other on our highways. But Peter Andrew Simon and Jeremy have again done another fine job, which is now a year round fixture for the club.

Our open 25 was again on the A10 for 2018, but we had a disappointing small number of entrants. 2019 Open 25 will be switched back to the F1. Once again, our thanks to long time organizer Ian Bibby:

Open 50 events stayed on the F1 for 2018, but as with the case for our 25, we had modest numbers entering. Again our thanks to long term organizer Vince Freeley

Another long term time trail organiser is Chris Lodge, who has been running the ECCA 50 mile TT on a Saturday afternoon as long as I can remember. Again our thanks to Chris.

The contrast of numbers on the E2 course compared to the Sunday morning on the F1 could not be more different, and there is a shift among riders to race on very fast courses, or take on the challenge of a sporting style course. As per Vince's statement at our last committee meeting before the AGM, there are some areas of time trailing that may struggle altogether, and the club must adapt and change with the times.

And so with that in May 2019 the club will be promoting an Audax event in the capable hands of Joff Verby, and another avenue of cycling for the club to be involved in.

As Marshalling Secretary we had a healthy attendance from the membership in 2018 covering the six events the club promoted. As I have stressed before, this is the only commitment that we asked of club members, and with the ever increasing of traffic levels, it is essential that there is a high visible presence out of the road.

There were still of number of "no" replies for request for help in some quarters of the club, which I find disappointing. In 2019, we have three open time trails and one road race to cover. Details to be sent out soon.

Our Club President deserves a special mention for 2018. As earlier quoted, was at every race helping out from serving tea and cake, to standing on some windswept corner on the F1. He attended the majority of committee meetings and has been actively involved with the running of the club. He during the summer organised and got off the ground the club summer tea run with great success, with members old and new gathering at The Country Bumpkin in Tewin. A good time was had by all, and up again for 2019.

1st November 1988 I became a member of the FPCC. I know thirty years compared to some members may seem just a short time, in our clubs splendid history, but I have enjoyed every minute of it. I wish everyone a successful season for 2019, to be safe, and maybe, see you out on the road.

Kevin Megan
Club Chairman

FPCC Captain and Membership Report 2018

I'll start this report with some words about my predecessor. Chris Lodge has been our club captain since 1997 and the longest serving captain in the 130 year history of our club. One of the nicest and most helpful people you're likely to meet. I'm sure I can speak for all members in giving Chris a massive vote of thanks for his Captaincy over the past 20 years. It's a real honour to take over from Chris and if I can put fraction of the work into the club that Chris has done over the years then I should be doing OK.

2018 has been a good year for FPCC. Club runs are well attended throughout the year now and it is normal for three groups to leave Potters Bar each Sunday. Our Introductory rides continue to be a success and have been the starting point to joining the club for many of our new members.

On the competitive side we have had a great year with some amazing TT times on the fast courses as well as great attendances and placings on the Spoco events with FPCC winning the South East team prize yet again.

Our road race was once again a great success and massive thanks go to Alex Cohen for doing what is one of the hardest jobs we have, organising this event.

The amount of members we have road racing remains at a similar level to previous years with members regularly representing us at Hillingdon and Hog Hill as well as in LVRC events.

On the non competitive side we now have many members representing FPCC on Audax rides with about half a dozen members riding their first 200km events in 2018. We also had members ride 2 different 1000km events in 2018.

During club year 2018 (to end October), we were joined by Jonathan Griffin, Garry Thompson, Garry England, Alexander Craig-Thompson, Peter Banks, Matthew Chant, Gary Chambers and Alice Rigby. We are fortunate to welcome five new members since the end of October 2018; Luke Norbury, Robert Lobatto, Hugh Crawshaw, Peter Morgan and Sean Poulter. As a result, our current (January 2019) membership stands at 141 with 21 of those being Honorary Members.

We remain a very active club putting on Time Trials and Races which much larger clubs struggle to do. 2019 will see a 200km Audax added to our calendar which I'm sure will be a great success.

I'll end this report by saying a massive thanks to all our Officers and members who keep this great club ticking over in its friendly but efficient way. Here's to a great 2019, may it be a tailwind all the way.

Simon Neatham
Club Captain

Hon. General Secretary.

Committee meetings: Committee year begins following the AGM.

10 meetings were held between March 2018 and January 2019.

All meetings were held at Southgate Hockey Club, Trent Park, London.

Name	Present	Apols		Name	Present	Apols
K.Megan	8	2		J.Greenwood	4	5
C.Lodge	8	2		S.Neatham	10	
P.Bullen	8	2		V.Freeley	10	
D.Kendall	**	10		I.Bibby	7	2
P.Douglas	3	0		D.Andrew	8	2
S.Teoh	8	2		J.Verby	2	8
A.Gudeniak	3	7				

** Dave Kendall managed his TT Secretary duties via email and social media from his temporary home abroad.
Norman Gardner, President, attended 4 committee meetings.
Alex Cohen attended 2 meetings as road race organiser.

Membership: Club membership at 31st October 2018 is recorded as follows:-

	2018	2017
President	1	1
Vice Presidents	7	7
Honorary Members	21	21
Members	100	106
Second claim	6	4
Junior	1	1
Total	136	140

- 8 new members were elected during the year as a result of initiatives by Simon Neatham, membership secretary.
- 12 members left the club, mostly due to moving out of London for family and work reasons.

Club Property

Road race equipment	V.Freeley	Club clothing	S.Neatham
Club medal stock		V.Freeley	TT race equipment
UHF radios x 4	V.Freeley		V.Freeley

Vince Freeley
Hon. General Secretary

Track report

It was busy and non-stop right through the year for anyone involved in the track in 2018, which were only me and Vince in the end!

The Full Gas Track League at the Olympic velodrome ran from the Autumn until March and took care of the winter months. With racing once or twice a week and coaching sessions on top, you could keep pretty fit without ever stepping outdoors. This year (2018/19) Full Gas have put on even more events including a Sprinters League and Special Events. They are always oversubscribed and it's a very healthy scene. I might have bagged a point or two but the B group was hard, fast and young so no more than that. This year I have demoted myself to the C group with more success.

Full Gas also tried to promote Summer Events in 2018 with an Omnium series but the first one was poorly supported, and the experiment deemed a failure. That was a pity because I scored a shed load of BC points and, had I noticed in time, I might have gone for my 3rd Cat just for the hell of it.

Welwyn Track League soldiers on with steady numbers. It was moved to a mid-week slot for a while but with no noticeable difference in uptake will probably revert to Fridays. I was there nearly every week and scored a few times. Racing at Welwyn and the excellent coaching sessions on Mondays are real grass roots and have been the breeding ground for some big names. This is the place for anyone that fancies a go at the Track.

The other local league for me was the Herne Hill Vets League. A series of monthly summer events with a different format each time. I had high hopes here, having been high up overall in the previous year. But though I did OK, too many events were hit by weather and cancellation. If you are old enough these are great events and nobody would be out of their depth in the C group.

First of the non-local events was the LVRC Omnium at Newport in February. Although it's age grouped, it's a step up to National level and I was happy to survive 9th out of 11 finishers. Vince did not make the trip (dental issues), was this where he might have secured the Club Championship?

Then on to the BC National Masters in July. The same riders as the LVRC really, and pretty much the same sort of result, (no Vince again).

And the last event of the year was the LVRC Nationals at Derby where Vince finally showed up to remind the Very Old who was boss. His expected high placings (despite being a marked man) would have edged him the Stilts

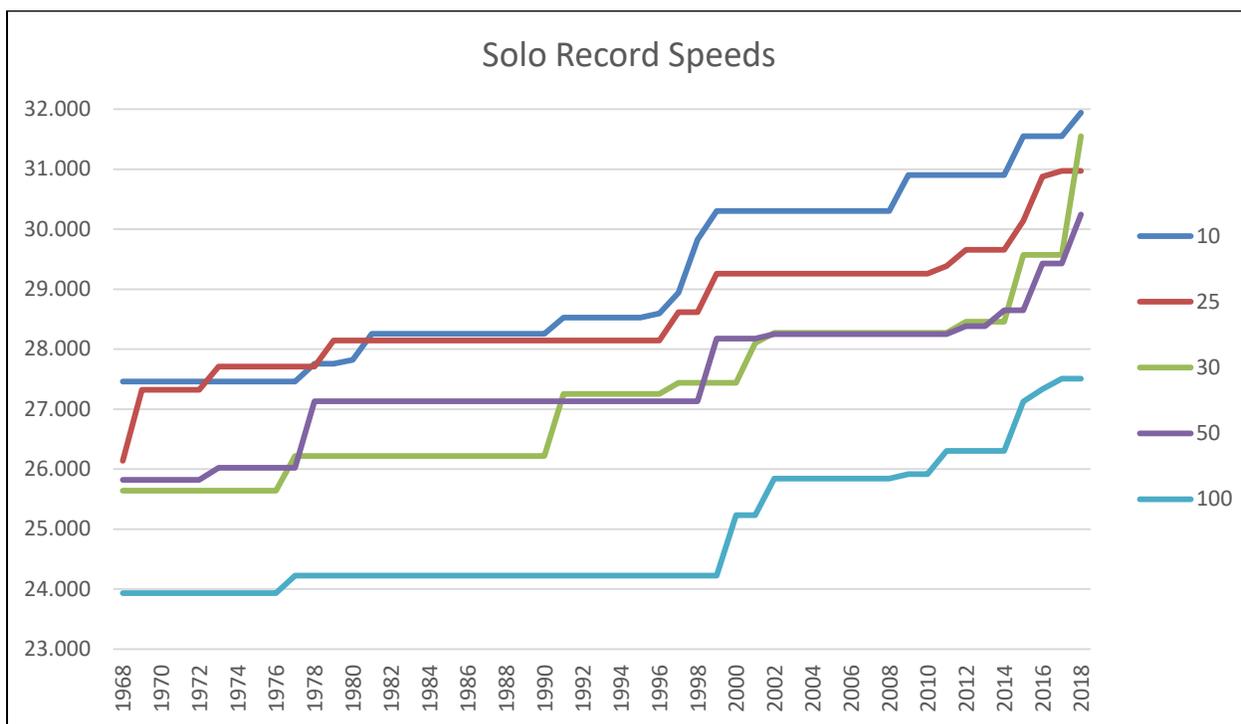
Trophy, beating my season long consistency, but he was betrayed by his Individual Pursuit preparations – which were an “Anquetil Diet” the night before, oversleeping, getting confused by the Autumn clock change, not reading the Event timetable and no Warm Up whatsoever. He still came second. I’d have been happy with that. He wasn’t.

The programme will be the same in 2019 with the addition of the UCI Worlds, returning to the UK after two years in the US.

Chris Lodge
Track Secretary

TT Secretary.

I’m awaiting the year when I don’t have to write about tumbling records, but I’m experienced enough by now not to hold my breath. The below graph shows the increasing speeds of the men’s solo club records over the last fifty years. Quite astonishing, especially the 30 which is now almost as fast as the 10!



Starting as ever with the premier event: the Touche Cup for the club’s BAR and one of the riders improving the club records Julian Elliott. A solid 49:48 combined with the first 30mph 50 ride – obviously a new record – at 1:39:11 and a none-too-shabby 3:44:42 (fastest of the season) over 100 miles gave him the win with a combined average of 29.023mph. Clear daylight over runner-up Gray Turnock who averaged 28.448mph.

Julian set the 50 record in May on the ever-fast E2/50C accompanied by Gray (1:41:14) and Phil Murrell (1:48:21) who together reduced the team record by 6 ½ minutes with 5:08:46.

After a stunning ride last year to set the second fastest MG 25 time ever, Gray proved it was no fluke by going 29 seconds faster this time with a new record of 53:41. Gray competes across the full range of distances and set the furthest 12 hour at 273.990 miles. Slightly less than his record and a disappointment to Gray so expect it to be smashed out of sight in 2019. It was certainly good enough to win him the ECCA BAR and he also came second in the ECCA Vets BAR calculated on age standard.

Someone less keen on doing the longer distances is Dan Northover. But when you’re on a good thing why spoil it? Dan lowered his own 10 record with 18:47, set the season’s best 25 with 48:27 and hammered the 30 record to an unbelievable 57:03.

Hmm, did I say that Gray rides all the distances? That's not quite true. After 18 years compiling Finzberry TT results and calculating the trophy winners, for the first time I had to add a new line in my spreadsheet to accommodate one extraordinary ride. Step up Matt Larkins who added his name to the dusty (and well done on finding it in your loft Vince) Frank Tillman Cup by deciding to enter his debut race in the National 24. Matt is quite used to riding long, long distances in Audax so perhaps the 410.080 miles he recorded shouldn't be much of a surprise. But very impressive all the same.

Julian set fast times consistently throughout the season which earned him the Johnson-Hussey Cup as Club Champion averaging 29.956mph over the six events at 10, 25 and 50 miles (two of each). He also set another record time for the Vets Trophy with 5:42:37 for two sets of 10, 25 and 50 mile races. He also won the Gordon Stewart Bowl for handicap with +0.046mph (so very nearly an outright improvement).

The Odam series of club 10 mile races was a nail-biter and finally saw both Ian Burns and Andy Neidhardt tying for the win on 37 points. Gregory Smith was a clear winner for the scratch award with 25.255mph average over five counting events.

Gregory also showed his versatility by scaling the heights of Mount Cum Cum faster than everyone else to win the hill climb in 3:14.

The SPOCO SE competition has become a happy hunting ground for Finsbury Park over the last few years and 2018 continued this trend. We won the team competition for the third year running courtesy of Phil, Gregory and Simon Neatham. Simon won the Senior Vet award and came second in the handicap.

The only sad remark is that no women riders competed in counting races so their trophies went unawarded.

David Kendall
TT Secretary
