

Club Chair Report

2024, the club is 141 years old and another steady year. A full calendar of events ranging from social to racing were again the order of the day.

All committee meetings are virtually, using Skype as our platform through the year. The AGM gathered at Southgate Hockey Club in 2024.

My thanks again to all club officers and committee members for their hard work and dedication.

Club runs and introduction rides continued as normal throughout the year, and only really interrupted by adverse weather conditions, which is the norm now days.

David Andrew. As you will know David fell off his bike early 2024, resulting in profoundly serious injuries, a broken neck! He has made a steady recovery, but he has also had to have a kidney replacement January 2025 with the doner being his own son. We know Andrew has had a 2024 to forget, and we all wish him a better 2025.

The club's reliability trial ride of which David was organiser, replaced by Terry Cakebread and Gary Chamber. The ride was 17th March in the aid of "Cancer Research" it again was a wet day! Ours thanks to Terry, Caroline, and Gary for stepping in.

I would like to thank all race organisers: Vince Freeley, Ian Bibby, Andrew Yeo and Neal Marrin, and the club members of the FPCC who came out and gave their free time to marshal and help at our events in 2024. Without you we cannot race!

Special thanks to Neal Marrin for his time and effort in running the sporting twenty-five TT. He is stepping down for 2025, and Richard Pimlott is taking over. We wish Richard the best as new organiser.

President's tea party 8th September: Club members old and new gathered at the Country Bumpkin for sandwich tea and cakes. Again, our thanks to Norman Gardner for organising.

Club dinner, as the 2024 AGM is after the dinner for 2025, then thanks again to Terry for a great night on the Saturday 3rd February. Please all club members, please try to attend the clubs' biggest event on the calendar.

As I have already spoken of at the dinner, Peter Bullen club treasurer will be stepping down after fourteen years. Our thanks for all his time and effort. It is one of the more difficult positions undertake, and he has done an excellent job of over this period.

Club president John Winstanley was again continually active through 2024 in attending committee meetings and being present at majority of all races this year helping and assisting, for which we are grateful.

John is standing down at this AGM after three years in the role, and I only found out at the dinner that this has been only his second occasion that he has held the presidency.

The committee has decided to create more vice presidents for 2025 too. These will be for club members who have spent their own time in the running and organisation, and the VP position awarded to them as a mark of the club's gratitude. Names listed in the agenda attached to this report.

The club YHA trip ventured out from Oxford to the Wye Valley and finished in Swindon in October. There was again a fine write up of accounts by Andrew Yeo. With six club members taking part.

The now annual trip to Spain in March, is getting more popular each year, with large contingent of club members enjoying the spring Spanish sunshine. Thanks to Simon Neatham for organising again.

Please all, do try to attend the club AGM. I know we all lead busy lives, but the names I have already mentioned in this report are what makes a club what it is, and for you to enjoy.

Again, the slow response to the call of marshalling and helping at club races for 2024 was extremely poor.

I and Vince contacted members multiple times who did not respond to either of us.

My thanks to all those who did step forward and volunteer their services to our sport. Your help and support are greatly appreciated.

Please can I remind you all, that the only commitment the club asks of you is to help at least once or twice a year?

Remember, all the club's activities are done by willing members giving up their own free time, so it is not too much of a burden to help!

Finally, I wish everyone to be safe out on the road and have a great season in 2025.

Club Chair and marshalling Secretary Kevin Megan

Hon. General Secretary Report.

Committee meetings:

11 meetings were held January 2024 through December 2024.

Meetings were 'virtual' via Skype.

George Speight and Peter Morgan were invited on to the committee as additional 'members of five'. Attendances

Name	Present	Apols	Name	Present	Apols
K.Megan	9	2	R.Pimlott	9	2
C.Lodge	9	2	S.Neatham	11	-
P.Bullen	10	1	V.Freeley	9	2
I.Trzcinski	3	4	I.Bibby	9	2
A.Yeo	9	2	D.Andrew	5	6
D.Karamitsios	2	3	N.Marrin	5	2
T.Cakebread	6	5	C.Smith	5	6
G.Speight	10	1	P.Morgan	7	4

John Winstanley, President, attended 10 committee meetings.

Membership: Club membership at 31st December 2024 is recorded as follows: -

	2024	2023	2022
President	1	1	1
Vice Presidents	5	5	5
Honorary Members	21	21	21
Members	86	92	101
Second claim	9	10	9
Junior	2	-	2
Total	124	129	139

- 7 'new' members, including two juniors, were added during the calendar year 2024 as a result of initiatives by Simon Neatham, membership secretary.
- We 'lost' 12 members (mostly inactive) due to house moves etc.

Club Property

Road race equipment	V.Freeley	Club clothing	S.Neatham
Club medals	V.Freeley	TT race equipment	V.Freeley
UHF radios x 4	V.Freeley	Archives	c/o C.Smith

Vince Freeley, Hon. General Secretary

Club Captain

Our Club runs remain the backbone of FPCC and through 2024 have been well attended and largely without incident.

Summer rides have often had 4 different groups leaving Potters Bar with winter numbers being much reduced.

We've also seen our What's app group overtake our Facebook page as the go to place for information about club rides.

Our monthly introductory rides have seen many new faces but we will be reviewing these for the winter months as there is often only one group riding.

Thanks goes out to all Sunday riders with a special shout out to Andy Yeo and Pete Bullen for regularly leading groups.

Membership

We've welcomed 5 new adult members in 2024. Scott Munn, Sean Hockett, Scott Stevens, Luke Salih and Gerald Tighe.

We 'lost' 12 members. Seet Leng Teoh, Emily Clark, Patrick Monaghan, Garry Thompson, Alexander Cockburn, Alan Harvey, William Morgan, Domonic Barton, Frank Laine, Anthony Harrington, Robert Labatto and Mark Taylor.

We have added two Junior Members. Fred and Morven Turnock. Andy Turnock has stepped up to be our Club Welfare Officer which is a British Cycling requirement if we are to have junior members. A big thanks to Andy for taking the time to do this.

Our Current membership stands at 86 full members, 9 second claim, 21 Honorary, 1 President, 5 Vice Presidents and two juniors.

Simon Neatham, Club Captain.

Road Racing

The Club's participation in road racing is relatively thin these days but the tradition was admirably maintained by Jeremy Greenwood and Greg Smith who competed at a number of BMRC and Masters Crit events. The standout result was perhaps Gregs 4th place at the Full Gas Spring Masters 50+.

The Club continued its support of road racing by promoting a criterium event at Hog Hill. This involved both a men's and women's race with prizes once again co-sponsored by Nick Frelich at Giant Camden. Despite wide publicity, preregistrations were low, a situation probably not helped by clashes with other events allowed within the British Cycling race calendar. But good weather brought a number of entries on the line resulting in two viable and competitive races. Many club members turned up to watch the racing and help with proceedings and the day went smoothly and was enjoyed by all. As always, we are immensely grateful to the Club volunteers, without who such events could not happen.

Criteriums were a departure from our long tradition of promoting a race on the open road. This was not our first choice, but a response to the difficulty in obtaining a date from British Cycling for a road event. The sad reality is that staging road races is becoming increasingly difficult. They are heavily dependent on qualified BC Commissaires and Accredited Marshals, both of which are increasingly scarce resources, thereby limiting the available race days. Whilst a Criterium on a closed circuit is a significantly less onerous undertaking it none the less shares the challenge of attracting a viable field size. This was borne out this year with our event accruing a net loss of £340. Looking to 2025, the failure to secure a road race date means we are again planning a Criterium day, this time jointly with another London club Islington CC – perhaps this is the future.

Andrew Yeo, Road Racing Secretary.

Time Trials.

In 2024, the club was once again well represented, both in promoting events and in having members participate in Open Time Trials. Overall, we organized three open events and recorded just

over 38 rides by members in open competitions, although this was slightly fewer than last year's total.

The reduced number of rides in our club may be due to the unfortunate trend of fewer riders entering Time Trials, as reported by CTT. The reasons for this are not fully understood, but there does appear to be a slow increase in participation since the decline during Covid. Additionally, the number of events has decreased due to the loss of many courses across the country, caused by high traffic counts or changes to road layouts. This has made it particularly challenging for officials to establish courses on busy roads, especially in the Southeast. To help address this, CTT has launched a new, more interactive website and introduced a concept called 'Tribes,' which aims to create a level playing field for club members to enter various types of events, with outcomes based on a points system.

Most rides by our club members were part of the SPOCO SE (Sporting Courses South East) series, with Dominic Bray, Andrew Turnock, and Gregory Smith being the most active participants. Unfortunately, we were unable to replicate the overall successes of previous years in the series. However, Dominic Bray made us proud by securing 2nd place in the Handicap Event and 2nd in the Senior Vets category.

I have no doubt that the SPOCO series will once again be very popular with members next year.

Andy Turnock once again dominated many of the club's Time Trial awards for the 2024 season, securing victories in the fastest 10, 25, 50, and 100-mile categories, as well as the Touche Championship Cup for the Club BAR.

Unfortunately, several trophies were not awarded this year due to an insufficient number of qualifying events being ridden by members across the various distances. As a result, we have decided to revise the rules for these awards next year. The primary rules will remain unchanged, but if no rider qualifies, the committee will have the discretion to make a decision based on a rider's performances recorded throughout the season.

Other notable awards for the year went to Greg Smith for the fastest 30-mile time and Sarah Cakebread for the fastest women's 10-mile time. This marks Sarah's second consecutive year winning the award, during which she also managed to improve her personal best over the distance.

The club's 2024 Martyn Odam series was well attended throughout the season, although unfortunately one event had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The two-lap course along Swanland Road, between Welham Green and South Mimms Services, remained as popular and challenging as it was in 2023.

Once again, the club's committee decided to subsidize the rides to cover this year's CTT levy for club events. In total, we recorded 66 rides, though this was slightly down from last year's numbers.

A unique aspect of this year's competition was that the top award was shared between James Bass and Bill Lines, who both qualified for the series with 44 points each. Andy Turnock secured 3rd place overall with 38 points and once again claimed the scratch award with an average speed of 24.824 mph. He also managed to break evens on this very challenging course with a time of 23:53.

As always, a huge thank you goes to Vince Freeley for dedicating his time each week to setting up the course and handling the timekeeping.

The first open event of the season was the Sporting 25 which was successfully promoted by Neal Marrin on the F14/25. Again, this year the results were used as part of the SPOCO SE series and were also included as part of the London North Millenium series. Numbers were around those of the previous year's event and included the event specifically for riders on Road Bikes. The main event was won by Luke Clark, TMG Horizon Cycling Team in a time of 52:44.

The second event of the season was our Open 50 on the F2/50 course in Cambridgeshire at the beginning of July. As always, promoter Vince Freeley organized a well-run event, supported by many Finsbury Park CC members who assisted with marshalling and other essential duties to

ensure everything ran smoothly. This was reflected in the many compliments received from riders after the event.

Two tandems and seventy-one solo riders reported to the timekeeper from a total entry of 91 on this ever-popular course. Competitors were met with a light north-westerly breeze, which helped 39 finishers improve their 50-mile times. Among those making notable improvements were the winners: Henrik Persson of FTP (Fulfil the Potential) Race Team, with a time of 1:39:40, and Naomi de Pennington of DRAG2ZERO, who finished in 1:47:50.

Our final open TT of the year was the Open 25, scheduled to take place in August on the F2/25A course at Cambourne in Cambridgeshire. Everything was set for a great event, with a maximum entry of 150 riders and 12 reserves on the start sheet. However, on the morning of the race, organizer Ian Bibby was unfortunately forced to cancel the event.

With the assistance of Chris Dyason from Cambridge CC, we discovered on the morning that contractors were placing traffic cones on the dual carriageway at the Caxton Gibbet turn.

Under these circumstances, there was no option but to cancel, as the lane closures would have caused a build up of traffic at the turn, posing an unacceptable safety risk to the riders.

It was a great disappointment for everyone involved, but thankfully, all participants understood why the decision had to be made. Many even contacted us after the cancellation to express their support for the decision.

The final event, the Dunn Trophy for the hill climb, was won for the second year by Charlie Millbery in 3min 28sec. He was followed by George Speight in 3:49 and Alex Diamantopoulos in 4:03. We had 8 riders on the start sheet for this year's event. Thanks as always to Vince for organising and all the riders for entering.

All in all, it was a successful year, and one we will no doubt build on next season. The club continues to be highly respected nationally due to the open events it promotes, and this is entirely thanks to the dedication of our members who generously give their time for the benefit of the club.

Ian Bibby, TT Secretary.

Track

Not much participation on the track from the club during 2024, which left the way clear for me to take the Track trophy. I only rode a few events myself. But they were the big ones, so I'd like to think I would have taken the Trophy anyway. All the same, it would be great to have some competition (and company) from the Park. So, let's see if my humble attempts, which fill this Track Sec report for the year, inspire any of you.

Welwyn Track was finally resurfaced and back in action. I have to admit I only rode one or two Friday Track League nights this year so there's not much to report from there. I will be there in 2025 along with the Monday night training sessions. Both are a great, and inexpensive way for anyone to get into Track. You won't come last (as long as I'm there).

All the big events were scheduled close together in the Autumn. First up of my main events was the BMCR Nationals in Newport. A terrible start to the competition in the Points and, in retrospect, I should have pulled out of that race and had a word with myself instead of plugging away, lap after lap, in no man's land. But things got better and better over the weekend and I only missed a TT medal by a few hundredths... That one result straightened my head out, gave me some confidence (I'm not sure where or when it had gone) and the rest of the event, in fact the rest of the year, started to go better.

Just two weeks later it was the BC Masters Nationals. It is a little tougher with the added prestige of the event attracting more riders. But I held my own. My masterplan to avenge that TT 4th place involved a change of gearing. It didn't work. Sometimes you just have to pedal harder.

And then the big one. The UCI Worlds Masters held at Roubaix in France. Needless to say, this was tougher still. Not only familiar faces from the UK but also the best of the French along with riders from USA, Canada, Argentina, Italy, Poland, Japan etc. My age group was dominated

by an American ex Olympian. I was well happy to be riding in that sort of company and again, holding my own.

So, there we are. This is probably the only sport where you can submit yourself to kicking from a 12 year old on a windy Welwyn Monday and then again from an Olympian in a state of the art facility the following weekend. And occasionally, just occasionally, you get to dish it out yourself and it's all worth it.

If any of that inspires you, or at least doesn't put you off, come and join me in 2025.

Chris Lodge. Track Secretary