

FPCC Officers Reports for 2014 Season AGM

Chairman

As I have said in the past, my thanks once again to all officers and members of the committee for running our club through 2014. Through their efforts, volunteering their own free time, the club made 2014 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 cyclists to give up their own free time to promote the sport of cycle racing.

The club in 2014 diversified evermore so, into all categories of cycling sports, therefore ensuring that any potential new member would have the help and information that they would need on the chosen discipline they decide to pursue.

With the London velodrome now open to clubs, track training and races are already being promoted in weather friendly conditions and has been a huge boost for cyclist in London. Cyclocross is also increasingly popular, along with the mainstream of time trialling and road racing as activities within the club.

It is new members that are the lifeblood of any organisation and year-round club runs have helped to attract more people to the Finsbury Park Cycling Club. As I have said in the past we are very fortunate in that the people that join are also willing to help run and promote cycle sport and cycling in general.

Our own club racing promotions in 2014, the four-time trials, including the counties 50 and the road race were all very well run and cemented the clubs reputation in North London. On behalf of the Finsbury Park, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who organised all of our club events through 2014.

2015 will be another busy year for the club with active new members taking part in all categories of racing and we will be promoting our same events as we did in 2014.

I will be, as Marshalling Secretary expecting that everyone will freely volunteer and help as they did in 2014. I look forward to hearing from you?

I wish everyone a successful season for 2015, to be safe, and maybe, see you out on the road.

Kevin Megan Club Chairman

Hon. General Secretary

Committee meetings: 11 meetings were held between March 2014 and January 2015.

All meetings were held at Hazelwood Tennis Club, Ridge Avenue, London N21 2AJ on the second Monday of each month.

Name	Attended	Apologies	Name	Attended	Apologies
K.Megan	7	4	J.Greenwood	8	3
C.Lodge	7	4	S.Neatham	11	-
P.Bullen	10	1	A.Turnock	5	6
V.Freeley	10	1	N.Marrin	7	4
D.Kendall	4	8	I.Bibby	8	1
P.Douglas	7	-	C.Baker	5	2
G.Turnock	8	3			

Cheryl Smith attended three meetings in connection with her running the annual dinner.

Andy Turnock became a new father during the season and was otherwise engaged on occasions.

Dave Kendall moved abroad because of his work but continued with his TT duties via email etc.

Membership: Club membership at 31st October 2014 is recorded as follows:-

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
President	1	1
Vice Presidents	11	10
Honorary Members	23	24
Members	77	77
Second claim	6	6
Junior	1	1
	<u>119</u>	<u>119</u>

- 11 new members were elected during the year as a result of initiatives by Simon Neatham.

- 11 members were written off or left for other reasons.

Club Property

Road race equipment	V.Freeley	Club clothing	C.Lodge
Club medal stock	V.Freeley	TT race equipment & stop watch	V.Freeley
UHF radios x 4	V.Freeley		

4 x CB radios were written off as superseded by UHF waveband.

Vince Freeley Hon. General Secretary

Captain

Building on all the good work done in 2013, the season just gone has seen a continuation of year round Sunday club runs. The format is usually two runs. This not only accommodates the number of riders turning up but also allows us to designate a fast run and a more social run. We are attracting riders who want to see what the club is about without diving straight into racing and there's a whole section of very capable riders now that have little interest in competition but just like to ride bikes. We are lucky in that these riders understand the proud history of the club and pull their weight when it comes to marshalling and helping out. We can extend thanks for the success of club runs, and to the way they introduce new members, to the likes of Vice Captain Jeremy Greenwood and Membership Sec Simon Neatham.

Away from club runs and the regular racing programme, we organised a few things in 2014 as a club. The Tour of Flanders saw quite a few of us taking to the cobbles in April. The new route is bedded in now but the FPCC contingent is still learning. For the 2015 trip we probably won't get on a Belgian coach on race day without asking where it's going and how we get back from wherever that is. April 2015 is nearly here and our plans are underway.

In June we had a very good weekend in the Bay of Somme. The randonee is officially named – Samer Le Crotoy Samer but to us it's known as The Strawberry Ride. It comes at the end of the picking season during the Annual Festival and the fruit is everywhere (especially in the cakes). The organisers love FPCC and sent a special invite. We could hardly refuse that, so four of us rented a house, better and cheaper than a hotel, and flew the colours. There's another randonee in the area the following morning so it's a real chance for lots of pleasant miles. The 2015 invite will be on its way soon no doubt.

Other events where we gather as a club will probably be covered elsewhere but notable successes are the YHA weekend that Gray organises and the Club Track nights, where we are getting upwards of 20 members together, making it a social event as much as a training event.

Thanks to Ian Bibby for dragging me around the Duo Normand this year and Vince for being my able team mate at The Alkmaar Friendship Track Meeting.

All the above will probably happen again in 2015 so don't be shy, join in. And if you have ideas for any other club events let us know.

Chris Lodge Club Captain

Time Trial Secretary

Those members aiming to target 'races of truth' were given an added bonus with Dave Kendall announcing he wouldn't be racing in 2014 soon followed by a move to the Far East. Some trophies had new names on them though most were carved up between Matt Molloy and Gray Turnock. Both posted improvements across the board and made for a compelling end of season, as with other sporting commitments in triathlon and road racing respectively meant both left it late in the year to qualify for all the silverware.

Matt got the ball rolling for his attack on the BAR with what turned out to be the season's fastest 25, posting 51:55 in the API event in mid-June. That was followed up a week later on the same E2 course with a 3:49:14 100, only a little shy of the club record. The event must have finally seen a decent day, as Gray pushed him all the way smashing his PB with 3:52:06. The duo were pleased to have Phil Murrell along who also took lumps off his PB with 4:01:06, and the combined total time of 11:42:25 took a massive 21 minutes off the previous team club record set in 2010.

Early July saw Gray getting back into the mix with another PB-bashing ride on the E2 to record 51:57, before the advantage swung back to Matt as he rode that favourite course over the 50 version for 1:46:48.

The fireworks were put on hold until the end of September; with both travelling to the Midlands for the super fast J5/12 course for another crack at 50 miles. Another ride another big improvement for Gray with 1:47:06, but Matt stole the bragging rights and a new club record with 1:44:43 - an improvement of almost a minute.

With the dust settled, the calculator proved Matt to have finally become the BAR champion with an average speed of 27.905 mph, the fastest winning average ever. Gray was a little further back with 27.579 mph which would have won him the trophy in all but three seasons. Along the way Matt also won the Vets TT Shield with a combined time of 5:56:04; a record for that trophy.

Gray gained some revenge by winning the Club Championship with an average of 26.079 mph over the six rides in counting 10, 25 and 50 mile races. He won the Gordon Stewart Bowl for best handicap improvement, not much competition for that one, with an impressive 0.737 mph improvement.

A slight surprise was that Gray also posted the fastest 10 of the season with 20:02 given Tom Boulton's statement that no longer would he ride anything longer than an hour to concentrate on the shorter stuff. I worked out his average racing distance for the 23 races he completed was only 17 miles, though despite many fast rides he couldn't quite crack the 20 minute barrier. But he once again won the Club Tens scratch competition with 27.947 mph. In the main Odam competition, Gray's brother Andy rode a superb season long series to win the handicap with 48 points.

The contingent of racing women seemed to prefer other versions of the sport, and again the Women's Championship went un-rewarded. But Ruth Miller got out for one of the Victoria CC sporting tens to win the Edrupt Trophy for fastest 10 with a 30:48.

Notable mention that seven FPCC riders completed the SPOCO SE series, with Gray and Phil making it into the top 12. And Phil deserves some sort of prize as the most frequent racer – 31 races that the TT Secretary knew about and doubtless a handful more local or club events below the radar.

So down to the season-ending hill climb. Gray showed some good form with a warm-up in the ECCA championship placing third before putting to bed any dissenting talk with a huge 23 second winning margin up Essendon in 3:07. Jeremy Greenwood just did enough to stop a family one-two beating Andy to second place.

Dave Kendall **TT Secretary**

Road Race Secretary

The season kicked off on 9 March with Gray in the Jock Wadley, and Tom and Szilard in the Ike Saul, with Tom the only man to dispute a finish – some feat given the number of crashes on an oily course, getting a little boxed in but still coming home respectably.

Anthony Jarret began his campaign - at Hillingdon on 22 March in the Beyond Spring Crits - in style. An heroic effort got him over to the break, which, showing his soon-to-be-customary devil may care attitude, he then attacked, unfortunately getting caught in the last half a lap.

After a break of a few weeks Tom Baskaya was back in action with Szilard, and this time Mark Morris, in the Fleche Welwyn. Tom it was again making it to the finish after an active race, just missing out once more on the points. A week later though on 20 April in the CC London race at Panshanger, Tom finally got his just rewards with an excellent 10th place.

The same day saw Gray contest the PCH E123 road race near Saffron Walden. It was a tough race, with Gray leaving it too late to get away from a rapidly diminishing field. Still, 80 odd miles in the third group on the road was an excellent early season work-out even if no points resulted.

Into May and the crit season was well and truly underway. Szilard got his first points with 10th place at the MK bowl, and then made 9th at Hillingdon later that week, while on the same day Tom was off the front with a lap to go at Hillingdon (can you see the pattern repeating?) before getting caught in the final few hundred meters.

Also on the same day, Gray, Hugh and Mark were racing at the ECCA festival crits at Hog Hill. Mark, benefitting from plenty of recent racing in his legs, put up a strong fight before finally saying goodbye to the back of the group, while Gray and Hugh took part in a vets race in which the field slowly and fairly predictably whittled down each time up the hill. Gray eventually finished second.

The same month continued with a spate of National B races with Gray, Anthony and Mike in action, the highlight of which was Gray's third place from a 60 mile long break in the Andrews Trophy. Seet, Amir and Alex were at the Ashwell CC race, all doing well if just outside the points. Unfortunately May also saw Szilard crash and break his collarbone at Hillingdon.

June, and Alex got a great six place at the Abberton reservoir race, Gray retained his first cat with a 5th place at the Tuesday Hillingdon series, and after only five weeks away Szilard was back racing at the same circuit – a bit disappointed with his form, he nevertheless shortly afterwards got a set of excellent crit results to secure his upgrade to 3rd cat. Also in June, after being a regular at the Twickenham vets series at

Hillingdon, Gray represented the Park at the National Masters Road championships on the undulating Wing circuit. It was a – relative – triumph of brute force over common sense with repeated, somewhat random attacks finally paying off with a 7th place, after the break, but ahead of the bunch.

So, onto September, by way of a good if all too rare outing by Alex, along with Seet, at the Duncan Murray road race, and the arrival on the scene of Richard Pizzey. No hanging about with this young man as he scored a win and his third cat in only his second race for the club at Hog Hill. An inspired, Mani Arthur came an excellent 5th in the same race. Gray's last road race saw a solid 14th in the Willesden Road Race (after 3 months away from a road race finish), and so, with Amir and John also having by now secured their third cat licences, the season drew towards its finish at the club's own promotion.

After dire weather forecasts, the day thankfully dawned bright and clear. A fine team from the club had assembled – both to assist with the running of the race and to take part in it! An early start saw the field roll out at 8.30am – Anthony, supremely nonchalant in his race preparation, finally managed to sign on at about 8.20! – and the hall went from being a bustling scene of preparation to one of still calm.

The racing was hard and fast with the tricky corners through Welwyn cruelly putting paid to Mani's dreams of a first road race finish. New member Greg hung in gamely for a lap and a half in his first race ever, but at the sharp end of matters, Szilard, Richard and Mike were snapping up hill primes and prizes in a display of excellent team riding, before Richard unfortunately took a tumble and Szilard pulled up with cramp. Onto the last lap and Mike and Anthony were still contesting the overall, and as the bunch charged up the finishing incline Anthony was in there, unfortunately just fading back out of the points. Back to the HQ and the riders and helpers were rewarded with superb tea and cakes...

So, all in all, a great year for the Park roadies. Surely 2015 will be even better?

**Gray Turnock,
Road Racing Secretary**

Track Secretary

National Championship medals for Finsbury Park CC members were common place in 2014. Tom Boulton took home a 2nd in the BC Masters 200m Sprint and a 1st in the LVRC 500m TT. Chris Lodge got 2nd in the BC Masters Points and Vince Freeley walked off with the Jersey and the Medal for 1st in the BC Masters Points and 3rd in the 2000m Pursuit. Added to this 2014 has to be one of the most active years in recent history for Finsbury Park members competing on the Track.

Our own Club Championship, the Stilts Trophy for Track Champion was deservedly won by Tom Boulton. Competing throughout the year he scored many points at National Level and at the Welwyn Track League to accumulate a tally of 23 Pts, a commanding lead over next placed Vince Freeley with 8 Pts, Ian Bibby with 3 Pts and Chris Lodge with 2 Pts. In addition to these riders Hugh Vivian also took part on a regularly basis at Welwyn and I'm glad to say we were even joined by Pete Douglas in the early season races. As many riders from other teams commented, they'd never seen so many Finsbury Park CC members in one race.

Following the opening of the Lee Valley Velodrome to the public, Finsbury Park CC couldn't have been quicker off the mark, no sooner had the doors opened before Chris and Vince were there to organise our own Track Training sessions which got off the ground in April. Not only have they been very well organised but they have been very well attended by both new and old members. As a result of the training in these sessions we now have Vince, Chris, Tom, Ian Bibby and Ian Prenelle all with their Accreditations Passed and many more members are already well on their way. It goes without saying that those who have passed their accreditation have already put it to good use with the same riders competing at the Lee Valley Velodrome winter series. We will wait to see what transpires next year but Ian Prenelle already appears to be crossing the line in fine style in these events. 2015 will be a year to look forward to.

**Ian Bibby
Track Sec.**
