

Newforce 161

Summer 2022



Dear All

Welcome to Newforce 161. The above photo was taken during the club trip to the Elan Valley in mid Wales and by all accounts it appears to have been one of the best trips ever, with Sue's choice of accommodation being particularly highly praised. I've passed through the Elan Valley a handful of times, always whilst travelling to or from somewhere else and only ever had the time to go for a short bike ride there. Each time it's struck me as being a very beautiful part of the British Isles and I'm certainly now wishing I had been available to go on that trip. There are many more photos from the weekend now on Flickr [link here](#).

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I would be riding in the UK Fatbike Championship which was tacked onto the Torque In Your Sleep event at Minley Manor in north east Hampshire. The venue is a regular with the Gorrick race organisers and I recognised sections of the course from the days when I used to race more regularly. It was typical Gorrick with lots of fun singletrack but enough open trails that slower and faster riders didn't have to worry about getting in each other's way. In the six hours of the Fatbike event I completed seven laps which was enough for me to win the over fifties category. So yes, the club now has a national champion amongst it's members. Am I the first? Allan Knight also rode in the Fatbike Champs and Pete Dobson and Bruce Pringle competed in the 12 hour pairs category.

Keith Whitten

Editor.

Upcoming rides:

Aug 7th Godshill. 10am start, W3W glassware.present.somebody

Aug 21st Wilton. 10am start, W3W soulful.caked.surpasses

Sept 4th Fordingbridge. 10am start, W3W blackbird.applies.carbonate

Sept 18th Devil's Punchbowl. 10am start, W3W dummy.dialect.grinning

Oct 2nd Ashurst. 10am start, W3W removals.digitally.cats

Oct 16th Abbotstone Down. 10am start, W3W parkway.months.cricket

Oct 30th Wootton Bridge. 10am start, W3W follow.much.represent

Nov 13th Danebury Hill. 10am start, W3W influencing.beakers.pepper

Full details can be found on the club website at <https://www.newforce.org.uk/rides-list/>

Notes from the NewForce Committee Meeting Held (in person) at 8:00pm on Tuesday 12th July 2022

1. Minutes from the previous meeting were adopted as true and fair. RS; MW

2. Attendees and Apologies

Roger Shepherd (RS), Clive French (CF), Keith Whitten (KW) and Martin Wheat (MW) attended.

Susan Marsden, Eleanor Rutter, Nick and Karen Clarke, Jack Lawrie, Steve Keith, and Stuart Rogers apologised for being unavailable to attend.

3. Rides and Riding

3.1. Extend current ride list

- See addendum: committee members please offer improvement thoughts.
- RS to add A303 crossing warning for leaders of the Wilton ride

3.2. Non-members riding with us

- Our insurance covers us for only a few non-members at each ride we organise, and while we want non-members to see rides advertised, we have to discourage a larger group all wanting to join us at once
- MW to scan website and Facebook for an appropriate place to place such a caveat
- RS to check for how many non-members we are insured.

3.3. Ride leaders - availability and spectrum.

- There remains a small core on whom most of the responsibility falls, but several others have led and more names are in the hat, all of whom need encouragement to volunteer. All to persist with that encouragement.

3.4. Trips away

- The trip to Elan Valley was a great success, and the accommodation was excellent. Very many thanks to Sue for organising it.
- Few people have so far expressed interest in an autumn trip to Lulworth at the weekend of 30th September. CF to check YHA availability, alternative dates, and re-advertise.

4. Treasurer's report

4.1. The report was circulated prior to the meeting, and was approved.

5. Membership report

5.1. Since the last meeting, 13 members have allowed their membership to lapse, and we have 5 new members, leaving the total at 105.

5.2. The "covid bulge" of increased membership appears to be unwinding. A year on from when subscription renewals resumed, many more members than usual are not responding to renewal alerts. Most of these are of members who joined in 2019 and 2020.

6. Communications

6.1. Forum and Facebook

- It may be that people who use Facebook are less inclined to keep in touch with events advertised on the Forum. Where we wish to reach as many as possible (possible Lulworth trip, for example) we should advertise on both.

6.2. Distribution of the Newsletter

- The Newsletter is a member benefit, and should be distributed only to members
- JL to send the link to MW (as well as KW) who will e-mail it to members

6.3. Website photographs

- CF to pursue follow-up on March meeting minutes for a way of adding/changing the content.

7. Any other business

7.1. Club officers

- There remains a vacancy for the position of Secretary. After the distribution of the end-of-year newsletter, there will be a vacancy for a Newsletter Editor.
- Committee members to seek candidates.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday October 11th 2022

MW: 13th July 2022

Addendum: Proposed rides list.

Rides already agreed:

July 24 th	Out	Farley Mount
August 7 th	In	Godshill
21 st	Day	Wilton

Newly proposed rides:

September 4 th	Out	Braemore
18 th	In	Ashurst
October 2 nd		Day Devils Punchbowl
16 th	Out	Abbotstone Down
30 th	In	Wooton Bridge
November 13 th	Out	Danebury Hill

The future of this newsletter.

There is currently some debate within the committee as to whether this newsletter should be retired (the annual calendar will be staying). For the newer members among you the newsletter began life as a paper copy, professionally printed and mailed out to all members. The content was partly club handbook, partly reports on club activities and anything else the editor thought might interest club members.

A couple of years back, due to the rising costs of printing and postage the decision was taken to ditch the hard copy and continue with electronic only. Since then the club has expanded its social media presence and contributions of material from members have markedly dropped off to the point where recent issues have been little more than publication of the minutes of committee meetings.

As editor I have received very little feedback as to how my efforts have been received and after seven years in the position have decided to step aside at the end of the year. If any of you now reading this feel the newsletter is still a valuable part of the club and have fresh ideas on how to take it forward then now is the time to make yourself known.