

NEW FORCE

ISSUE 138 WINTER 2015-16 AND BEYOND!



Your Committee

Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every third month at the New Forest Inn at Emery Down. All club members are welcome to attend and raise any points or questions.

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Clive French

Steve Keith
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Stu Rogers
Karen Clark
Nick Clark

As a club we want to encourage people to share our passion for mountain biking.

We welcome new members to participate and contribute to the club.

We organise regular rides, fortnightly on Sundays and weekly on weekday evenings.

We organise multi day trips to other areas to experience some of the best riding this country has to offer.

Full conditions of membership and how to join are published on the club website under the 'The Club' tab.

Membership Fees

Individual	1 year £15.00	2 years £27.50	5 years £65.00
Family	1 year £22.50	2 years £40.00	5 years £65.00

Riding With Us

Anyone who is competent on a bike is welcome to ride with us although we would politely request that you become a member if you ride with us more than twice.

Cycle helmets are compulsory on all club rides.

Please dress appropriately for the likely weather conditions.

You are advised to bring a drink, particularly on warm days

Ensure you are equipped to deal with punctures, preferably by carrying a spare inner tube or two. Mud and patches aren't a great combination.

Check that your bike is in good working order before the start of a ride eg no cracks in the frame, splits in the tyres, worn out brakes etc.

Finally, please carry emergency contact details — just in case something a little unplanned happens.

Our Organised Sunday Rides

Planned Sunday ride venues are published on the club website and in the newsletter. They generally follow the pattern of two in the New Forest area and one outside, anywhere within an hour's drive from Southampton. A short description of the likely route will be included along with the designated pub or cafe for post ride socialising.

Rides will aim to leave at 10am unless otherwise stated. Most are planned to finish by 1pm but a few will be designated 'all day rides' with a stop for refreshments part way round.

The ride locations are set at committee meetings and if you know anywhere good to ride in the local area that you think we have neglected please tell us.

To aid finding the start location we recommend using www.streetmap.co.uk along with the grid reference supplied.

The Sunday rides usually attract enough riders to split into two or three groups dependent on ability and enthusiasm.

The Evening Ride Groups

The evening rides are generally smaller, typically 4 to 10 persons and at some point long, long ago we adopted the 'curry scale' to grade the various groups:

Vindaloo.

A fast paced, strenuous Thursday night ride with no avoiding the more challenging terrain and obstacles, usually with a fairly lengthy pub stop and a late return.

Madras.

This name has been recently revived by a group basing themselves to the north of the New Forest and typically riding on occasional Wednesday evenings for 2 to 3 hours at an enthusiastic pace. Details can be found on the bulletin board.

Jalfrezi.

This group rides on Thursdays from various locations in the southern and mid Hampshire area usually with a brief mid-ride stop for cake consumption and a social in the pub afterwards. Pub stops mid-ride have been banned from this group by decree. Ride lengths are from 2 to 4 hours dependent on weather, ground conditions and how lost they get. Start locations are usually published on the bulletin board on the Monday before.

The Club Newsletter

The club newsletter is published quarterly, usually a few weeks after each committee meeting. All contributions written or photographic are very welcome, indeed essential for it to keep going. If any ride has stood out for you in terms of enjoyment, triumph over adversity or something unexpected that has happened, please write a little about it and send it to the editor. If you participate in any other sports or hobbies please tell us all about them via the newsletter. In short, anything that might be a topic of conversation in the pub or café is worth putting into print and telling the rest of the club. The club is as much about socialising with like-minded people as it is about riding bikes so the newsletter content is most certainly not restricted to just biking stories.

Tikka Masala

A shorter, tamer version of the Jalfrezi. See the bulletin board for the start location each week.

Korma.

Usually Tuesday nights. A shorter steadier ride with more emphasis on enjoying the scenery and company than breaking records or shredding the gnarr. Start locations will be posted on the bulletin board.



NEWFORCE



Sun 17

Mon 18

Tues 19

Weds 20

Thurs 21

Fri 22

Sat 23

Sun 24

Mon 25

Tues 26

Weds 27

Thurs 28

Fri 29

Sat 30

Sun 31

www.newforce.org.uk

January 2016

January riding is:

For working off that Christmas pudding. Are your trousers feeling a bit tighter this side of Christmas?

Sunday 10 January 2016 Farley Mount, Westwood (ref SU 420 292)

Designated pub: The Dolphin, Hursley

Sometimes we meet at Crab Wood picnic area and sometimes we meet at the Monument car park. This venue is halfway between Crab Wood and the Monument at the junction with the road coming from Hursley and Standon on the A3090.

There are some terrific tracks in this area. Parnholt Wood has a great downhill run which leads to Kings Somborne. From here it is possible to take the Test Way up to Stockbridge and circle out round Crawley almost reaching Wherwell not far from Andover before heading back via Sparsholt and West Wood. For anyone looking for a shorter trip, you could do worse than ride around the many trails in West Wood itself perhaps linking up with some sections of the Clarendon Way.

At this time of year there will some mud to contend with unless it's frosty so some of the tracks might be a bit slippery. There will be some deep ruts to negotiate but don't let that put you off, count it as a valuable lesson in staying upright.

Sunday 24 January 2016 Abbotts Well (ref SU 177 129)

Designated pub: the Foresters Arms is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile along the road from the car park..

Abbots Well is nicely situated on the western end of the Hampton Ridge path leading to Fritham and the north edge of Stoney Cross. At Fritham it is possible to double back through Sloden Inclosure and via Splash Bridge pick up on Linwood and Ibsley Common before circling northwards to return .

The other start option is to head north through Blissford and Godshill to take in some of the stickier tracks on offer in the Godshill Inclosure near Woodgreen and onwards to Hale, then perhaps a return through Hamptworth to Bramshaw Telegraph. From here it would be a route through Eyeworth Pond, Fritham and Hampton Ridge to get back to Abbotts Well.

New Year's Day
Bank Holiday

Fri 1

Sat 2

Sun 3

Mon 4

Tues 5

Weds 6

Thurs 7

Fri 8

Sat 9

Sun 10

Mon 11

Tues 12

Weds 13

Thurs 14

Fri 15

Sat 16

NEWFORCE



February 2016

1 Mon	Weds 17
2 Tues	Thurs 18
3 Weds	Fri 19
4 Thurs	Sat 20
5 Fri	Sun 21

February riding is:

Moonlit night rides. The moon is at it's highest in the sky at this time of year so watch the weather forecast for a clear night close to the full moon and head for somewhere remote and open to ride with your lights switched off. A frost on the ground will make it seem even more 'other-worldly'.

6 Sat	Full Moon	Mon 22
7 Sun	Club Ride	Tues 23
8 Mon	New Moon	Weds 24
9 Tues		Thurs 25
10 Weds	Pass'Portes du Soleil registration opens	Fri 26

Sunday 07 February 2016 Hatchet Pond near Beaulieu (ref SU 359 017)

Designated pub: Turfcutters Arms

This is Hatchet Pond itself, not the model aircraft car park. This location can take us around the perimeter track of the old airfield, perhaps taking in Diltons Farm without getting up to our axles in mud and other unspeakable mixtures of slurry. There is a loop via Beaulieu around the fringes of Langley, Blackfield, Hollbury and Hardley before turning southwards and heading back towards Hatchet Moor or if neither of those routes takes your fancy, there's always Hawkhill, Ladycross, Woodfiddle and Denny Lodge on the north side of the B3055 road (the road between Beaulieu and Brockenhurst).

Newcomers might enjoy this ride location, there are no major hills to contend with (well I don't think so, but that's just my view) and the tracks are mostly well surfaced and at this time of year will hold up well.

11 Thurs	Sat 27
12 Fri	Sun 28
13 Sat	Mon 29
14 Sun	Valentine's Day
15 Mon	
16 Tues	

Sunday 21 February 2016 Ringwood Forest from Three Legged Cross (ref SU 096 051)

Designated pub: Three Legged Cross Inn

This is a new starting point in lieu of the cramped parking at Bakers Hanging on the road to Verwood from Ringwood. You will find the start location by taking the road to Three Legged Cross and the Woolsbridge Industrial Estate in close by the entrance to the Moors Valley Country Park. We will use the Woolsbridge Industrial Estate general car parking and the turning off the Ringwood Road appears to be at SU 096 051. There has been no information made available to the committee of the precise parking plot but it should be fairly obvious to those arriving by cruising the estate, just which cars are unloading bikes. Although the intention is to visit the Three Legged Cross Inn after the ride, please do not use the pub car park and abandon your car for 3 hours, it will be frowned upon by the pub management.

The intention is to ride the usual mix of tracks in the Ringwood Forest environs.



NEWFORCE



1 Tues St David's Day

St Patrick's Day Thurs **17**

Fri **18**

3 Thurs

March riding is:

Fitting in the first few after work daylight miles of the year.

March 2016

4 Fri

5 Sat

6 Sun Mother's Day Club Ride

7 Mon

8 Tues Committee Meeting New Forest Inn

9 Weds New Moon

10 Thurs

11 Fri

12 Sat

13 Sun

14 Mon

15 Tues

16 Weds

Sunday **20** March 2016 Battle On The Beach Pembrey, Wales

www.battleonthebeach.co.uk

This is an off road racing event with the course taking in 4km of the beach at Pembrey Sands, a location that has in years gone by been the site of many motorised speed record attempts and more recently was where Guy Martin pedalled a specially prepared bicycle behind a truck to over 112mph. Camping is included in the entry price and there will be a licensed bar.

Any type of bike is allowed so expect to see Fatbikes Cyclo-crossers and regular Mountain Bikes all racing together. Will any of the Newforce fatbikers be going this year?

Sat **19**

Spring Equinox Club ride Sun **20**

Mon **21**

Tues **22**

Full Moon Weds **23**

Thurs **24**

Easter Monday Mon **28**

Tues **29**

Weds **30**

Thurs **31**

www.newforce.org.uk

Sunday **06** March 2016 Happy Cheese (ref SU 335 103)

Designated pub: Happy Cheese

This ride starts from the car park adjacent to the pub and there is ample free parking available so there shouldn't be any problems for those of you arriving by car. Some of you living locally will no doubt cycle to the start point. From here we can go through Woodlands, on along to Lyndhurst, Boltons Bench, Denny Lodge area and back by a circular route taking us through Deerleap or of course go the other way round taking in "the Wire" and other popular Thursday points of interest. After all that exertion we will probably want to have a refreshing drink in The Happy Cheese.

Sunday **20** March 2016 High Corner Inn (ref SU 197 107)

Designated pub: High Corner Inn

This is the first time we have tried to start at this location. We have tried to get refreshments here at the end of a ride and found the summertime queues to be endless, so much so that most of us gave up and went home. However at this time of year it should be less intense. There is no car park as such, so I guess we will just have to park trackside near the pub. The routes today will most likely be in the Broomy, Hasley, Stoden and Milkham Inclosures neck of the woods with a bit of Linwood, Rockford Common, Frogham and Hampton Ridge thrown in.

1 Fri April Fools Day

2 Sat Club Ride

April 2016

April riding is:

Starting evening rides in daylight now the clocks have changed.

4 Mon Club Ride

5 Tues Club Ride

6 Weds Club Ride

7 Thurs Club Ride

8 Fri Club Ride

9 Sat Club Ride

10 Sun Club Ride

11 Mon Club Ride

12 Tues Club Ride

13 Weds Club Ride

14 Thurs Club Ride

15 Fri Club Ride

16 Sat Club Ride

17 Sun Club Ride

18 Mon Club Ride

19 Tues Club Ride

20 Weds Club Ride

21 Thurs Club Ride

22 Fri Club Ride

23 Sat Club Ride

24 Sun Club Ride

25 Mon Club Ride

26 Tues Club Ride

27 Weds Club Ride

28 Thurs Club Ride

29 Fri Club Ride

30 Sat Club Ride

Sunday 03 April 2016 QE Park on the A3 north of Horndean
(ref SU 719 184)

This is a ride with an option to do a regular ½ day or an extended ride without making it a full-blown whole day expedition

Designated pub: The QE Park café for coffee and cake

There are several interesting tracks beyond the obvious choice of the official designated blue, red and wall-of-death offerings in the Park itself. Moving outside of the park boundaries will lead us onto large chunks of the South Downs Way. In one direction there is direct access to Butser Hill and the East Meon/Privett neck of the woods, whilst in the other, the SDW takes you out towards Harting Downs and Beacon Hill.

The start point is the visitor centre car park, so don't forget to bring some money for the parking meter.

This ride is not recommended for newcomers unless they are confident on steep ascents and descents and the full day option will bring its own challenges in terms of distance. For our regular attendees, the tracks are reasonably good although there are some chalk ascents and descents that will get slippery if they get wet at this time of year.

Sunday 17 April 2016 Fritham (ref SU 230 140)

Designated pub: The Royal Oak

From here you can ride along the RUPP leading northwards from Eyeworth Pond and from there, onto the track that leads towards Hale before turning back towards Fordingbridge and picking up on Hampton Ridge to get back to Fritham. Other options from this starting point are eastwards through Kings Garn Gutter and circle down through Minstead and Bolderwood for a ride with some ups and downs. Alternatively, Hampton Ridge itself can take you through to Hasley Inclosure and thence to the Red Shoot Inn and Milkham Inclosure before riding back through Slusters and back across Stoney Cross to Minstead.

www.newforce.org.uk

Club Ride
Southern Enduro Rd 1

Sun 17

Mon 18

Tues 19

Weds 20

Thurs 21

Fri 22

Sat 23

Sun 24

Mon 25

Tues 26

Weds 27

Thurs 28

Fri 29

Sat 30



NEWFORCE



1 Sun	Club Ride
2 Mon	Bank Holiday
3 Tues	
4 Weds	
5 Thurs	
6 Fri	New Moon
7 Sat	
8 Sun	
9 Mon	
10 Tues	
11 Weds	
12 Thurs	
13 Fri	
14 Sat	
15 Sun	Club Ride
16 Mon	

May 2016

May riding is:

Feeling the first taste of summer and revisiting the trails you wouldn't ride in the winter because they were far too boggy.

Tues 17
Weds 18

Thurs 19

Fri 20

Sunday 01 May 2016 Garnier Road Park and Ride, Winchester
(ref SU 487 281)

Designated post-ride pub: The Queen Inn, Kingsgate Rond.

We usually ride from here in a winter period so it will be a pleasant change for those of us coming from outside the Winchester area to sample the delights of the area in better conditions than sub-zero temperatures. There are a number of options from this starting point but it is possible to ride southwards along the Itchen Navigation where it passes St Catherine's Hill before turning eastwards up Plague Pits Valley, then onwards along the Dongas tracks for Hazeley Down, Morestead, and Cheesefoot Head and the South Downs Way, Millbury's Inn and the general area near Cheriton. Or, if our local guides choose to take us in the other direction, it will be Compton Down, the fringes of Flowerdown, West Wood Farley and other points of note.

Whichever route we end up taking, the Queen Inn offers a warm welcome on our return.

Thurs 26

Fri 27

Sat 28

Sun 29

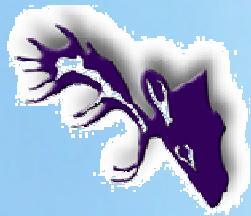
Mon 30

—8th Anniversary of the Vindy IoW Overnighter

www.newforce.org.uk
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Saturday the 4th June anyone?

NEWFORCE



June 2016

1 Weds

Fri 17

2 Thurs

Sat 18

3 Fri

Sat 19

4 Sat

Sun 20

5 Sun

Tues 21

6 Mon

New Moon

7 Tues

Weds 22

8 Weds

Thurs 23

9 Thurs

Fri 24

10 Fri

Sat 25

11 Sat

Sun 26

12 Sun

Mon 27

13 Mon

Tues 28

14 Tues

Wed 29

15 Weds

Thurs 30

16 Thurs

www.newforce.org.uk

June riding is:

Epic rides on the longest evenings to watch the sunset from somewhere high.

At the time of writing the **2016 BIG Club Weekend Away** is looking like a June Trip to Long Mynd – Shropshire.

Long Mynd is approx 3.5hrs away and we are looking at hostel style accommodation with a nearby pub for any who wants more civilized accommodation.

The Long Mynd is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a series of hills with steep gullies locally known as Batches. There are many excellent trails to explore including Minton Batch which is regularly featured in MBR and What Mountain Bike magazine. There are trails to suit everyone and every ability.

More information will be posted on the website forum.

Pass'Portes du Soleil

2016 will see the 12th running of this lift assisted grand Randonnee in the Alps. The majority of the ascending is done in the comfort of the ski lifts but there are several short, sharp climbs that will make full use of your lowest gears. The downhill trails are no harder to ride than most UK red routes but they do go on much much longer.

Food and entertainment stops and a bike show are all included in the entry price and there's usually a sizeable British contingent entered for this event.

At Alpine altitudes the weather conditions can vary greatly, even in mid summer. In 2015 riders were blessed with unbroken sunshine and temperatures of 30 degrees at resort level. In 2013 the Saturday saw heavy rain all day, turning to sleet at the tops of the higher lifts.

See www.passportesdusoleil.com for more info.

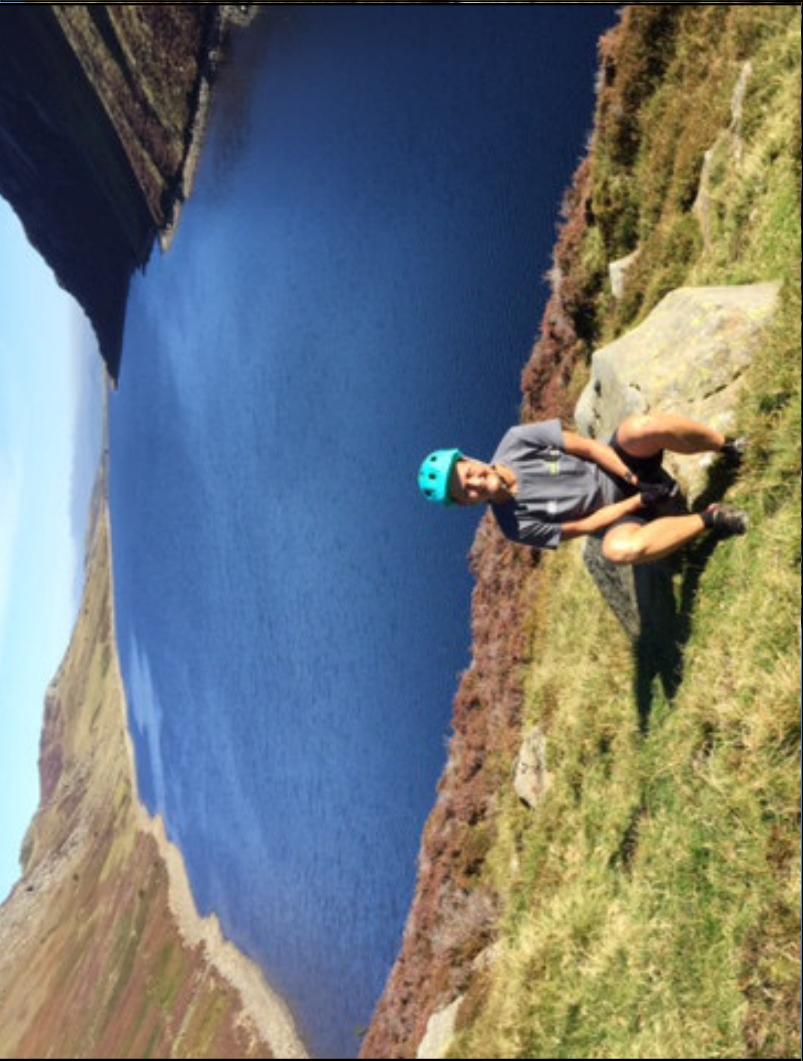
Southern Enduro Series Round 2, venue TBA

This series consists of four rounds at various locations in the south of England.

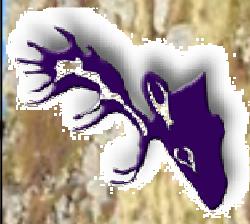
Each race will be run over one day and consist of four timed stages, predominately downhill. There will be a time limit for riding between stages. Practice in the morning and race in the afternoon.

Other rounds will be held on 17th April, 24th July and 18th September.

More details can be found at www.southernenduro.co.uk



NEWFORCE



July 2016

July riding is:
Dry dusty trails and warm evenings sat outside in beer gardens afterwards. We hope.

1 Fri	Sun 17
2 Sat	Mon 18
3 Sun	Tues 19
4 Mon	New Moon
5 Tues	
6 Weds	
7 Thurs	
8 Fri	
9 Sat	
10 Sun	
11 Mon	
12 Tues	
13 Weds	
14 Thurs	
15 Fri	
16 Sat	

Road Bike Rage & Rejection

A few years back I was enjoying my mountain bike and I thought to myself "What the hell - I'll get a road bike too." I thought I'd join my buddy Jack on some of those sportive rides he kept pestering me about. I rushed off to Ebay and got a very fast looking road bike at a bargain price. I confidently expected that I'd love it, and that Jack & I would be cresting Box Hill and collecting our medals imminently.

There was, however, a LARGE fly in the my ointment. I hated riding that bloody bike! It sent the shock of every minor road imperfection straight through my hands, arms & spine; it had huge chain rings and was a total b'stard to pedal uphill. My back was bent double and my neck had a permanent crick from trying to hold the drops', brake and see where I was going at the same time. I loathed it so much, I sold it about 3 weeks later - gleefully pocketing the cash and feeling relieved. Since then, I've spent years insulting Jack and his road bike fetish, and swearing I'd never buy another road bike.

Jump forward many years: some fellow Newforcers talked me into going for some road rides. "Oh come on Tim" they said "You'll enjoy it - and you won't have to clean mud off your bike afterwards!"

Much to my surprise, I found that I DID enjoy pedalling round the Forest on minor roads! I did some more road rides and enjoyed them too. The first time I had borrowed Derek's cyclocross bike and then adapted my rigid 29er with cyclocross wheels and some narrow smooth tyres (Thank you Keith). Despite these measures, I found I just couldn't keep up with my companions' road bikes and I was reluctantly persuaded by them that what I really needed was a road bike.

So I rushed off AGAIN and bought a road bike (this time - a comfortable compact sportive frame with easy chain rings and big rear sprockets which meant I could ride in comfort and actually pedal the thing uphill without straining every muscle and having a heart attack!) So here I am, delighted with my new purchase and all set for delightful road rides. Suddenly all my former road biking buddies disappear like the early morning mist! "Oh No", they chorus together, "Road Biking is ree-ally boring - we only want ride our mountain bikes now - that's much more exciting."

Perplexed - but not to be discouraged, I've bullied poor long-suffering Chris (my brother) into buying a road bike, so that I have someone to go out with. Our buddy Jack is cock-a-hoop that we've seen the light (as he puts it) but he's in Esher - too far for regular rides. I've also signed myself up for the Winchester CTC Watership Down ride in January. I'm informed it might be cold, wet, possibly icy with lots of hills and pot-holed, debris-strewn lanes. No Problem - I've been on John Hawkins' Tuesday night Komma rides!

Tim Wheeler

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NEWFORCE



August 2016

1 Mon	Weds 17
2 Tues	New Moon
3 Weds	Fri 18
4 Thurs	Sat 19
5 Fri	Full Moon Thurs 18
6 Sat	Skinny dipping at the end of a seaside ride on a balmy summer evening*
7 Sun	
8 Mon	
9 Tues	
10 Weds	
11 Thurs	
12 Fri	
13 Sat	
14 Sun	
15 Mon	
16 Tues	

August riding is:

Skinny dipping at the end of a seaside ride on a balmy summer evening*

The **Newforce Summer Barbecue** usually takes place in August although the exact date and location have not been decided at the time of writing so please check the message board on the club website for the final decision on when and where it's happening.

This year it has been decided that as the membership charge has increased the cost of the barbecue will be paid from club funds. So if you want to get the most from your membership, turn up and eat, drink and be merry.

The **BIG BIKE BASH** is a long weekend of bikes, beer and live music including a number of tribute acts held at the Avon Tyrell Youth Activity Centre in the west of the New Forest. It's a very family oriented event with loads of competitions and prizes for the kids. All profits go to UK Youth. A number of club members assist in the running of it.

The first weekend ride in September is traditionally the **Isle of Wight all day ride**. Last year's ride was blessed with sunshine, blue skies and warm but not too warm temperatures making it one that everyone who was there has very happy memories of.

The meet point is usually the Lymington ferry terminal with the riding taking in the more rural western half of the Island. On anything better than the worst of days the views from the bridleways that follow the 'spine' of the Island are absolutely stunning. There will also be some opportunities for beach riding. Will you be going?

*best done after dark for most of us.

Sat 20

Sun 21

Mon 22

Tues 23

Weds 24

Thurs 25

Fri 26

Sat 27

BIG BIKE BASH
Avon Tyrell

Mon 29

Bank Holiday

Tues 30

Weds 31

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NEW FORCE



1 Thurs New Moon

Sat 17

2 Fri

Sun 18

3 Sat

Mon 19

4 Sun

Tues 20

5 Mon

Weds 21

6 Tues

Autumn Equinox Thurs 22

7 Weds

Fri 23

8 Thurs

Sat 24

9 Fri

Sun 25

10 Sat

Mon 26

11 Sun

Tues 27

12 Mon

Weds 28

13 Tues

Thurs 29

14 Weds

Fri 30

15 Thurs

16 Fri

Full Moon

September 2016

September riding is:

Making the most of the last days of summer and chilling out, letting someone else go first. The spiders appear to be most active at this time of year and the webs they spin the most sticky and stringy so do you really want to be first down that narrow trail with all of them waiting for you?

Product review – Chris King Rear Hub

Chris King hubs and indeed all their other products are absolutely wallet batteringly expensive, so why do people buy them? There's several likely answers to that question. For some it will be for Chris King's reputation as the ultimate in reliability, for others it might be 'because I can and it looks pretty' or maybe 'because I'm worth it'. For me it was the reliability. Eight or nine years back a single season of Southern Hampshire winter riding had killed my last singlespeed hub so I figured I'd invest in something that should last.

I ordered mine in the 'pewter' colour, thinking that a dull silvery finish would look purposeful without being too showy. When it turned up it had a faint but definite pinkish tinge to it. Oh how the Vindys laughed. Built into a wheel and run through the autumn slop it was fine, with very quick positive engagement and a fast buzz when freewheeling that the makers call the 'angry bee'. I was a happy bunny. Then we had the first really frosty night of the winter. While we were in the pub everyone's freehubs froze up and stopped working, including mine. Once again the Vindys had something to laugh about. A little while after that I found out that Chris King recommend replacing the internal grease with oil for sub-zero use. So I did and the only other problem I had over that winter was that the bolts that thread into the axle to secure the wheel got grit in them and became very stiff. A couple of o-rings stopped that happening again.

Sometime in the second year of ownership I finished a ride and spotted what looked like a broken spoke. Closer inspection showed that the hub flange had broken at a spoke hole. Oh dear. Thankfully it was covered under warranty and when I got my replacement hub shell I asked for bright blue. Yay, no more pink! Winter riding since then has been pretty much trouble free. An annual service, cleaning out the internals and replacing the oil is a good idea and quite quick to do as undoing one collar allows the axle and freehub mechanism to be removed complete. I've found from experience that if you put too much oil in the hub and park the bike leaning to the left the oil will very slowly seep out and eventually get on the disc if the bike's left too long. In eight years I've worn out one ratchet ring at a cost of about £50 so maintenance costs have been lower than any other hub I can think of (Hopes used in the same conditions require new bearings, pawls and springs EVERY year). If you factor in the original cost though, I'll have to keep riding into my eighties to be able to say that buying that hub was cost effective but hey, it does look really pretty.

Keith Whitten

When it's not covered in mud!

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NEWFORCE



October 2016

1	Sat	New Moon	Mon 17
2	Sun	Your newsletter editor's birthday. Don't forget to buy him a pint.	Tues 18
3	Mon		Weds 19
4	Tues		Thurs 20
5	Weds		Fri 21
6	Thurs		Sat 22
7	Fri		Sun 23
8	Sat		Mon 24
9	Sun		Tues 25
10	Mon		Weds 26
11	Tues		Thurs 27
12	Weds		Fri 28
13	Thurs		Sat 29
14	Fri		Sun 30
15	Sat	Halloween	Mon 31
16	Sun	Full Moon	www.newforce.org.uk

October riding is:

Remembering how to ride in mud. That is, if the summer's been kind enough to allow you to forget.

Surrey Hills 10th – 11th October 2015 By Clive French

Following on from the club weekend away to Rhayader, we thought it would be nice to put together another trip in autumn. Sue came up with a plan and some local knowledge in the form of a guide or two around the Surrey hills.

The local YHA is right close to the trails, so what could possibly go wrong? Eleven Newforce members (and a couple of special guests) eventually met up for a weekend away in Holmbury St Mary in the Surrey Hills. Who would have thought that a village so small would have so many car parks?

For the first day, we set out as a single group to be shown the delights of the area, led by our two able guides Brian and Pingu (!). First off was a gradual climb up to the top of Holmbury hill to admire the views, but the weather wouldn't co-operate. Oh well, maybe tomorrow.

On with the real stuff then: all the trails around here have "amusing" names, and we had our first taste of the fun with "Yoghurt Pots", taking us halfway back down the hill. More trails followed, linked by climbs on wide tracks. "Secret Squirrel", "Barry Knows Best" and "Debbie's Dilemma" giving good fun-to-climbing ratio. Then a very civilised tea-and-cake stop at Peaslake Stores, apparently a well known MTB stop. Real mugs and everything.

Mugs returned to the shop and litter tidied away, we were off for more. "Big Cheese", "Roller Coaster".

By about this time, at least two of us had mangled our derailleurs. One was fixed by a bit of carefully-applied "persuasion", and it managed to last the rest of the weekend. As for the other, we tried the traditional standing-around-and-staring-at-it technique, but even nine pairs of eyes staring and hoping it would get better didn't seem to work. Eventually, admitting defeat for now, Rob headed off gently for Peaslake bike shop with nearly one gear.

The rest of us carried on: "Curly Wurly", "The Gully", "Supernova". All fun fast tracks keeping us on our toes (and sometimes on other parts of our body). Back to Peaslake Stores for lunch and to see how Rob was getting on. He had persuaded the bike shop to hire him very nice carbon bike for the afternoon. He made good use of it, speeding up the hill to Peaslake church in some sort of demonstration of what an expensive bike can do for your performance.

-continued next month



NEW FORCE



November 2016

Thurs 17
Fri 18

November riding is:
The first of the really cold rides*. When the answer to ‘what kit shall I wear tonight? is; ‘**All of it**’**.

1 Tues

2 Weds

3 Thurs

4 Fri

5 Sat Guy Fawkes night

6 Sun

7 Mon

8 Tues

9 Weds

10 Thurs

11 Fri

12 Sat

13 Sun Remembrance Sunday

14 Mon Full Moon

15 Tues

16 Weds

Surrey Hills (continued from last month)

You can (as we did) ride for hours around here on fun singletrack without encountering a road, and as most trails were obviously either for climbing or for descending, there was no worry about oncoming traffic.

A rooky section called Secret Squirrel and a fun fast traverse through “Telegraph” brought us back to Holmbury. Ros had decided to make up her own route and was safely in the car park when we arrived.

The YHA was basic. It had beds and showers, but to some people’s alarm: no WiFi! Then, hang on, no power sockets! How were we all going to charge our Garmins / phones / 21st century comfort blankets?

A pleasant evening at the pub, only a few minutes walk away, and off to bed.

Next morning started with an over-large breakfast. I basically thought up my dream breakfast and multiplied by eleven. Plenty of bacon butties left over. (None went to waste!)

Sat 26 Today, we split up into two groups: a “medium” group and an “enthusiastic” group (you couldn’t say “fast”!), aiming to meet up at the cafe in the tower at the top of Leith Hill. We “enthusiastic” bunch were treated to a sequence of former-trails which apparently used to be good before all the trees were cut down leaving a carpet of small branches and undergrowth to carry our bikes through. Another “adjustment” to my derailleuer. Eventually, we arrived at the Leith Hill cafe just as the others were getting fed up of waiting for us.

After that, it got much better. One long and exciting run down “Summer Lightning” and beyond. Four and a half miles of almost continual descent! A few gentler miles through Deerleap woods to the café in Gomsall. Lots of cake (again!) but an odd service ethic. A bit of road back to Peaslake then up to Holmbury Hill again, this time for expansive views of all the fun we had just been having. Time for another run around Yoghurt Pots, Secret Squirrel, Telegraph and back to the YHA to pack up and head for home.
A great weekend’s riding left us wishing the New Forest could be a bit more like that, but looking forward to the Swinley trip the following Sunday.

*Or will it be continually wet and windy like last year? **© Will Butcher

Sat 19

Sun 20

Mon 21

Tues 22

Weds 23

Thurs 24

Fri 25

Sat 26

Sun 27

Mon 28

New Moon Tues 29

St Andrew’s Day Weds 30

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NEWBORN



December 2016

December riding is:

Christmas parties. Dressing up in daft kit and eating and drinking too much.

1 Thurs	Sat 17
2 Fri	Sun 18

Mon 19

Global Fatbike Day
(probably)

Tues 20

Winter Solstice Weds 21

Thurs 22

Fri 23

Sat 24

Sun 25

Boxing Day Mon 26

Bank Holiday Tues 27

Weds 28

New Moon Thurs 29

Fri 30

New Year's Eve Sat 31

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Global Fatbike Day is unsurprisingly a gathering of fatbikes and their owners in various locations around the world, often facilitated by local bike shops hoping for a bit of positive publicity. Charlie the Bikemonger down in Swanage has for the last few years done an excellent job of organising a group Fattie ride in the Purbecks and for 2015 a top quality meal in the evening, hosted in a seafront café. Charlie has a number of demo/hire bikes available for those without their own fatties but a few interlopers with skinny wheels are unlikely to be turned away as they will be sure to provide comedy moments struggling on the soft sand that is always included in these rides.

Boxing Day Ride - Venue TBA

The Boxing Day ride is rarely one of the best attended in the Newforce calendar but in my experience is always one of the most chilled and pleasant meetings. It's never too hurried and as most attendees have little urgency for getting home there's often a lengthy social stop afterwards.

Have you enjoyed having your **Newforce club calendar** for 2016?
Is this calendar taking pride of place in your kitchen?

Or has your non-biking other half relegated it to hanging on a rusty nail in a damp shed?
Maybe you're finally reading this sometime in 2025 having finally decided to clear out that pile of junk you stuffed behind the sofa?

If it really is December 2016 when you're reading this then it's time to tell me how much you've liked it and ask me to do another, assuming I haven't been sacked as newsletter editor for spending too much club money on this one!
If you really do want another calendar for 2017 it'll be very helpful if you've got a photo or two to contribute.

Keith Whitten

Newsletter Editor (for now)

1 Sun New Year's Day

Tues 17

Weds 18

January 2017

3 Tues

Thurs 19

4 Weds

Fri 20

5 Thurs

Sat 21

6 Fri

Sun 22

7 Sat

Mon 23

8 Sun

Tues 24

9 Mon

Weds 25

10 Tues

Thurs 26

11 Weds

Fri 27

12 Thurs

Sat 28

13 Fri

Sun 29

14 Sat

Mon 30

15 Sun

Tues 31

Editorial

By Keith Whitten

Well I bet this wasn't what you were expecting, but do you like this format for the winter newsletter? I'm hoping you've read it front to back and not just started here. If you have then stop reading right now and have a look at the rest of it before you continue.

Obviously it can only be done this way once a year but I'm hoping that most if not all of you will like having the club rides list up on a wall for easy viewing. If you're really keen you could mark in all those after May as soon as they are published in regular issues of the club magazine. Maybe having pictures up on your wall of some of the best of the club rides will inspire you to join us a little more often than you might otherwise?

Some of the photos are a few years old but they've been selected because in my opinion they're the best I have available to illustrate the hoped for, or at least the likely riding conditions each month. It's been several years since we've had any significant snow down this end of the country and I'm sure the Fatbikers have been hoping and praying, maybe even sacrificing a few pints of cider to the snow gods for them to give us a thick covering of the white stuff this winter.

Creating this has been quite a bit of work for me, which I've thoroughly enjoyed, and it's a little more expensive for the club but I'm hoping you'll all feel it's worth it (particularly Nigel, our treasurer). If you have any views either way please let me know. If the response is positive then I'm sure I can do another one next year, but that will only properly work if enough of you get your cameras out and clicking on the 2016 rides.

I'll finish by being optimistic that the printers and postal service get this to you in time for my wishes to you all of a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year** to still be relevant.

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