



HAWK TALK

NEWSLETTER OF HETHERSETT HAWKS / SWINTON & CO CSC
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WELCOME FAMOUS FOUR

As a major surprise this winter we have had four top riders ask to join us from Norwich following changes at the city club that have seen new management and a move of main operations to Harford Park. The Committee reviewed all applicants and agreed to accept their applications so strengthening the first-team squad where last season we did not have regular availability from several riders. Two of the riders started their careers with the Hawks. Dan Chambers left just last season while Leigh Cossey left in 2005 but did race on a Secondary Licence for us in 2006. It is always good to have the Hethersett riders come back. Lee Grange, who worked tirelessly on the Eaton Park track to make it a true British Final circuit, felt he needed a new outlook with brother Ian no longer at the helm. His experience will be an invaluable asset. Joshua Herring (formerly Colby) is moving over more for family reasons but brings a lot of skill that has seen him win County junior titles and perform well on the national junior stage. All four have international experience too. A big welcome to all four.

BIG CHANGES IN THE REGION

When our four signings were announced, only after Gary Colby and I had met privately to obtain signatures on forms, there were some surprised faces at the South-East Regional Annual Meeting held at Gt. Blakenham on January 8th. But that was just one of many surprises to emerge on the day and another one was announced two days later. First East London announced that, due to difficulties with the local council and the logistical problems during the Olympics, they will not be able to stage the Euro Finals. BC have now moved the finals themselves to Ipswich and it may mean some of the qualifiers moving to other tracks. Does not affect our GB v Poland match earlier in that week. Then Craig Norton announced that he was starting up North Park again

and planning to race at Eaton Park and come in Division 2. Will be some discussion on the track but they have been let in. Then it was announced that Ivan Pike was helping to re-start Somersham as a club and they would come in Division 2 with some secondary licence riders from Ipswich to help them. Colchester announced that their track was now too dangerous and they would not be operating until it was put right and they could recruit riders. They were persuaded to keep affiliation and insurance going and the team name may be used by one of the Kesgrave teams in the U14 and U10 Leagues. So all quite positive but Division 1 could not have enough dates to have 16 matches so would have only 8. I went away to produce fixtures in two days only to hear on the Tuesday that Norwich had decided to pull out of Division 1 and only race in Division 2 so I then had to re-write the fixtures with a BC Friday deadline approaching! Lots of good discussion at that meeting, the East Anglian meeting that followed and the Norfolk meeting for which North Park had already left. There was no news from Spixworth so they have not been included but there is an undertaking to put racing there and support them when they are ready. So where does that leave US in 2012 –

Division 1

Now just four teams – Blakenham, Ipswich, East London and us but we race each other four times so 12 matches and all on Sundays

Division 2

The four teams in Division 1 all have B teams and there are four “A” teams – Kesgrave, Somersham, Norwich and North Park – so 8 teams and that’s 14 matches all on Sundays apart from those against Norwich and North Park which are Wednesday nights. As things stand at the moment we will have 6 restricted riders – Phil, Dave M, Lee, Leigh, Dan and Joshua.
SE Youth U16 League

We could not enter that this year as we did not have enough riders in that age group to make a commitment.

SE U14 & SE U10 Leagues

We have entered both these four-a-side Leagues on the assumption that we can encourage many of our new club members to take part. These Leagues have expanded to SE U14 – 7 teams and SE U10 – 5 teams. There will now be seven rounds – one on each track. The one major change is that these will now be on Saturdays and not Sundays.

SE Grand Prix Series

This popular series will go up to 9 rounds this season with the top 7 counting. The age groups remain the same – U8 U10 U13 U16 Senior Vets – the only change is that the entry fee has been increased to £1.50 per rider per round so help offset referee fees

SE KO Cup and Women's Championship

These will continue and will be staged at Hethersett this year. Again the Women's entry fee will be increased to £1.50

East Anglian Championships

As last year with the four finals but this year we have re-introduced the U13 Suffolk v Norfolk match as well as the usual U16 match. These will all be at Ipswich but will have a tight 90-minute per match programme.

Norfolk Grand Prix Seies

This popular Wednesday night event will continue as last year with the same age groups – U10 U13 U16 Senior Women – there will be nine rounds – three on each track – with the top 7 to count.

Norfolk Individuals

Changes here as two new Championships have been added. A Vets category will be held within the Senior event and a Women's Championship will be held on same evening as the U10s. We stage all four listed here with the other three U13 U16 U19 shared between the Norwich parks. Another change is that you have to be a member of a Norfolk Club to compete so riders living in Norfolk who only race outside – as did current champion Phil Howells – will not be able to compete.

So lots of changes – it was a mad six hours of meetings -and a very busy and exciting year in prospect with lots of racing opportunities for anyone who wants it.

AWAY WE GO AGAIN!!!

Yet again the draw for the first round of the British Team Championship has sent us on the road – this time to Birmingham who

in 2012 will be in the second-tier Premier League. After recent trips to Leicester, Sheffield, Stoke and Bury we were hoping for that elusive home draw but it was not to be. However, looking at the draw, which has an encouraging 17 Clubs in it, it could have been worse – we could have ended up at Exeter or Edinburgh!!

CLUB SHIRTS

Many of you will have been contacted by Caroline in November / December to take provisional orders and sizes for personal shirts when we purchase a new set this season. Since then we have sourced a different design of shirt that better suits our needs and it also has youth size shirts as well as adults. So we are now doing the provisional order again and you will need to contact Caroline before the end of January if you want one and the actual size as below (these are different to the previous ones hence the need to place your order again).

Youth sizes

small chest 24"

medium 27"

large 31"

xl 35"

Adult sizes

Small chest 32-33"

medium 34-35"

large 36-38"

xl 40-42"

2xl 44-46"

3xl 48-52"

4xl 54-56"

Caroline can be contacted on 01603 811241 or 07740 878845 or CarClIns4@aol.com

As before we expect the shirts to cost about £20 youth £30 adult including club name, sponsor and personal name. Getting your own shirt is just a matter of choice – we will have club shirts of all sizes for members to use.

PHIL SCOOPS AWARDS

The Hawks celebrated a memorable season when over 50 members, families and friends attended the Club's Presentation Party at Hethersett Social Club. All were reminded of the Club's achievements in 2011 - securing grants from South Norfolk Council and Hethersett Parish Council to purchase 12 new club bikes and erect a new safety fence at the Memorial Playing Field track. The fence and other improvements, all completed by Club members, saw the track awarded

National status allowing the Club to successfully stage British Finals in August.

Various recruitment exercises at school fairs and Sport in the Park had helped to swell the attendances at Tuesday Club Nights - 75 attended during the year and over half of them for the first time. It is hoped this success can be built on to encourage more members to support team and individual competitions.

On the racing side the Club celebrated three East Anglian Champions, one Norfolk Champion and three local Grand Prix champions. Two girls were part of the winning Eastern Region team in the British Women & Girls League with Tiffany Collins taking third place in the British U17 Girls Grand Prix series.

Club awards for the season were dominated by Phil Adams who won Top Scorer, First Team Rider of the Year and the coveted Sportsman of the Year award, voted for by members and supporters on the night. Other presentations were made to Tyler Matthews (Best Newcomer), Oliver Buxton (Most Improved Junior), Scott Grimes (Second Team Rider of the Year) and special awards as Club Members of the Year to Tim Grimes and Caroline Collins. The Rider of the Year awards were kindly sponsored by Chris Collins.

The presentations concluded with Peter Steward, Chairman of Hethersett & The Meltons Sports Association, congratulating the Club on its contribution to village sporting life that had seen Hethersett become Norfolk Sports Village of the Year and Winner of Winners. All Club members present were photographed with the awards in recognition.

A big thank you for Michaela Grimes who coordinated tickets and worked with Caroline on the night to make things go smoothly. Thanks to the Social Club for waiving the hall fee and with members making generous donations of food and raffle prizes, we also made £190 on the night. Lots of photos on the Club website.

INDOOR LESSONS

The Hawks' riders who attended the British Indoor Championships at Eccles near Manchester were given stark reminders of how different this section of the sport is and how hard and competitive it is. In a busy two-day programme it was a great event. Six riders took part but they all found the going tough. Best result came from Tiffany Collins who finished 9th in the Women's Championship with 10 points

despite suffering two exclusions. Just one point behind was Carly Grimes. Scott Grimes rode well in the semi-final of the U16s but the Final was much tougher. He was unlucky to get excluded when he tangled with the eventual winner and scored just five points. His father Tim came 12th in the Vets Over-40s event. The major Open event saw all of Britain's top riders present and Dave Martin (11 pts) and Ben Collin (10) failed to make it through the Semi-Finals. Ben also was eliminated in qualifying heats of the U19s.

CHEERS FOR ALL THE DRINKS!

The fantastic efforts of Caroline and all her helpers at every match and Club Night session has seen gallons of drinks and pounds of chocolate consumed. When all was added up (including sales at the British Finals weekend) there was a staggering £1133 profit. Amazing!!!

AGM – YOUR CHANCE!!

The Club's Annual General Meeting is where you all have a chance to get full reports on 2011 and find out more about and have an input in influencing what we do in 2012. All places on the Club Committee come up for election and as ever we need people to come and help us move the club forward. The meeting is being held on Sunday February 5th in the upstairs room of the Methodist Church on Gt.Melton Road starting at 2 p.m.

CALLING ALL REFEREES

The SE Region is planning to hold a Referee Training Course on Sunday February 26th at Gt.Blakenham Village Hall. More details be out later but if you are interested in finding out how to referee then book the date. The Club will pay travel expenses to anyone attending. If you are U18 you can still attend but officially you cannot referee a match in sole charge until you are 18 for insurance reasons. The course is likely to have video action to help people's understanding.

DINNER FOR TWO

Carly Grimes and Tiffany Collins have been invited to the British Cycling Awards Dinner at the NEC Hilton near Birmingham on Saturday 4th February. They will receive awards as part of the victorious Eastern Region Women's League team in front of all the cream of cycling across all six disciplines. Tim and Caroline will also be attending this special occasion.