



HAWK TALK

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NORWICH CLINCH TITLE

The Hawks' chances of taking the South East Division 1 title for the first time went off in the wind with a waved red card when referee Stan Allison took dislike to an approach by Nick Myhill after the Hawks top man was harshly excluded for crossing the outside line when he literally had nowhere to go after first-bend bunching. Up until then the scores were level after a lively but fair ten heats, that is if you ignore Harley Hamill's rashly strong challenge on Richard Hunt! The 7-2 that resulted from Nick's exclusion gave Norwich the advantage and, apart from a 6-4 in heat 17, the Hawks failed to claw it back. Overall the Hawks were a bit too inconsistent and allowed themselves to be overpowered by stringer opposition too easily.

Hethersett 80 Norwich 91

B.Collins 15 D.Martin 12+1 Dan Chambers 12+1 P.Adams 10+1 D.Adams 9 N.Myhill 8 S.Wilcox 7+1 H.Hamill 7.

The return match at Eaton Park had no significance for the Hawks but Norwich needed to win to secure the title. With Myhill suspended it was always a tough call and the match went off without incident and Norwich easing to the title.

Norwich 103 Hethersett 77

P.Adams 17 Dan Chambers 11+2 B.Collins 12 D.Adams 9+2 S.Wilcox 8 D.Martin 7 Dave Chambers 5 S.Grimes 4 T.Grimes 4

U16s LIMP OVER LINE

After many years of dominating the South-East Youth League, this season has been difficult and it was very much a case of limping over the finishing line with the few keen riders available. The two matches against Norwich were personal triumphs for Dan Chambers as he rode 12 races unbeaten and included another rousing duo nominated heat 7-3 with Harley Hamill. Harley was unbeaten apart from one exclusion in the home match but was unavailable for the away match. The home match was held up for a long while after an injury to Norwich's Rowan Ewbank, but fortunately a hospital visit revealed no harm done.

Hethersett U16 65 Norwich U16 76

D.Chambers 23+1 H.Hamill 20 C.Grimes 10+1 K.Adams 7 T.Collins 5

Norwich U16 91 Hethersett U16 63

D.Chambers 24 S.Grimes 13 T.Collins 10 C.Grimes 9 K.Adams 7

NO CUP JOY

The East Anglian Cup Finals staged at Ipswich were well contested despite Blakenhama failing to raise an U16 team. The juniors were at full strength but came a narrow third behind Norwich with the home side well clear. The Senior side had lots of names missing but the makeshift side did really well but failed to provide a race winner.

**Junior – Ipswich 56 Norwich 44
Hethersett 42**

D.Chambers 14 H.Hamill 11 S.Grimes
9 C.Grimes 8

**Senior – Norwich 52 Gt.Blakenham
40 Ipswich 37 Hethersett 27**

Dan Chambers 8 D.Adams 6 H.Hamill
6 Dave Chambers 4 T.Grimes 3

4 SUCCESSES IN ESSEX

The depth of the girl participation was the only overall success of the South East Riders Finals held at Colchester. And it was good for the Hawks too as Carly Grimes showed her true potential taking second spot in the U16 Girls Championship. The Division 1 final was typified by the fact that none of the 16 riders who qualified actually took part and the field was short altogether. This did not phase Dan Chambers and Phil Adams who took second and third places overall. Dan was also successful in the Division 2/Youth League final and this was also poorly supported – he finished third in this one.

GOOD END TO GP

The final round of the South-East Grand Prix series was held at Hethersett and 46 riders took part despite many of the Kesgrave club being at another function. Only seven Hethersett riders took part but some silverware came our way. In the U13s Katie Adams finished fourth in the C Final. Next up in the U16s Dan Chambers got the second place he needed to become Grand Prix champion overall. Carly Grimes won the B Final. The Adams brothers were the only U19 riders present but they always put on a show – this time honours even as David won the race but Phil was crowned champion with David runner-up. Dave Chambers and Tim Grimes took part in the Vets and again second place was enough to be crowned champion – a big

achievement in his second season. Tim came third on the day but the 63 points I netted in four rounds was enough for me to get third overall. So a successful series for the region and the club.

WINDY END TO SEASON

The traditional end of season fare of Club events brought down the curtain at the Memorial Field but it was blowing hard and a wet track so the riders were blowing hard too – especially those having 10 rides. Firstly wind back a month to the U13s and U10s Club Championship that have not been reported here. The U13s saw just four riders and much rivalry between Oliver Forder-Wilcox and Katie Adams. They battled hard and had two victories each resulting in a race-off. Katie drew the inside grid and that proved vital as she held off the challenge to become the first girl to win a Club Championship – a very popular win for some-one who has tried really hard all season. Olivia Nicholas took third place with 8 with William Forder-Wilcox fourth with 4. . In the U10s a couple of potential competitors failed to appear so it was just the three who competed and rode with smiles as ever – and why not they all got trophies! No surprise that Oliver Forder-Wilcox retained his title with a maximum 24 with Olivia Nicholas second with 18 and William Forder-Wilcox picking up third with 12. So to the final day which kicked off with the Vets Championship. After dabbling for three club nights in his comeback Roger Carter joined the three regulars and looked fast from the starts but ran out of pace in the trying conditions. Tim Grimes slipped up in his first ride and, as all his rivals fought it out, Dave Chambers coolly notched four good wins to take the title. He ended up seven points clear of Tim on 9 and me on 7 with Roger only

completing two races for 6. Dave's deserved victory meant he was out of the Maiden Plate and the numbers were poor for this with only three regulars and Charlie Johnson bravely returning to a bike and getting a reward by taking the handicap prize. Competition was tight with the other three – Danny Woods showed what potential he has if he really puts his mind to it and he won his first two races. But the girls were not to be outdone and first Carly Grimes then Tiffany Collins beat him. However, 14 points were enough for him to take the Maiden Plate title. A race-off was needed for the minor placings, both Tiffany and Carly scoring 11. Tiffany was struggling for stamina and Carly not feeling well after a first race tumble so it was sheer determination that took Carly to victory. So then it was the climax Best Pairs with just 14 riders available, including Leon Wild making his first appearance in a Hawks shirt after his transfer from Sheffield, so no-one was disappointed. The draw had its usual tension with Ben Collins and Katie Adams paired up for the second year in a row as were last year's champions Dan Chambers and Harley Hamill. But all eyes were on the wily experienced pair of Dave Martin and Simon Wilcox, especially as they are always having lively banter. They got off to the best possible start with a 7-3 win over Leon and Tim Grimes but Chambers/Hamill did likewise in heat 7. The two main contenders clashed in heat 10 and the wily foxes looked set with a 7-3 but the young pretenders had different ideas and both Dan and Harley passed a surprised Dave to share the spoils. Picking up key points were the unbeaten Nick Myhill and Dave Chambers. So as it got to the vital stages Chambers/Hamill completed their programme with a 7-3 over Ben and Katie to finish on 35.

Next up Martin/Wilcox could beat that with a 7-3 but Phil Adams was too fast and split them so 35 points was equalled. Myhill/Chambers could join them with a 7-3 but Nick's crank-arm broke on the gate and just two points resulted in them tying for third place with the beneficiaries Leon/Tim. More drama in that race-off as Leon's wheel pulled over so Nick and Dave got a 7-2 and third overall. The first race-off for the title brought a surprise as Dan sped away to win the experienced pair settling for another try from the inside grids. This tactic worked as Dave sped away and a tiring Simon used all his wiles to keep a ever-trying Harley at bay. So a victory for experience but what a great pair Dan and Harley are together. A very enjoyable match and a credit to the spirit in the Club. Final scores –

D.Martin/S.Wilcox	35
Dan Chambers/H.Hamill	35
N.Myhill/Dave Chambers	30
L.Wild/T.Grimes	30
D.Adams/M.Perkins	27
P.Adams/D.Woods	27
B.Collins/K.Adams	24.

CLUB NIGHT MAKE 30

Tuesday Club Nights continued until October 21st and the last five took the total to 30 for the season. Attendances varied as they have all season (the average attendance was 16). There were 15 on 22nd Sep, 9 on 29th Sep, 9 on 6th Oct (including a return by Roger Carter), 16 on 13th Oct and 8 on the final session. Rider of the Night was won by Scott Grimes on 22nd Sep – 11 points the same as myself and Dan Chambers though Leon Wild scored 14 but was not then a member - and Dan Chambers with 12 points on the 29th. It was not staged at the last three sessions. Whoever has the trophy can they please return it by the Party so it can be presented.

AND THERE WAS MORE

Just when you thought the outdoor season was over the next weekend Tim Grimes got in his car and popped down to east London to compete in the London Old Masters which doubled as the final round in the Euro Vets series. A good field ensured an enjoyable day and Tim finished 13th in the Over-40s event scoring 8 points.

SO NOW FOR INDOOR

Ever since the end of the outdoor season ended a large number of riders from Hethersett and Norwich have been training on Friday evenings in the unlikely surroundings of Hethersett Old Hall School sports hall, which has been perfect preparation for the British Indoor Championships in Manchester over the weekend 28/29 November. The Hawks are entering both Senior and Junior (U19) team events as well as many of the individuals.

PARTY TIME

Invites and tickets should be out soon for the Club's Annual Presentation Party at the Social Club on Friday 4th December. We look forward to a great evening as always with lots of trophies to give away as well. Any further info can be obtained from Margaret Cossey on 810892.

YOUR WELFARE

Following attendance on a recent course, Michaela Grimes is now the Club's Welfare Officer. Much of the training centred on Child Protection issues so if any members or parents have any issues the please talk to Michaela in confidence on 810664.

THANKS

As you will be aware I was away for a month – I was actually only three miles from Prescott Valley US cycle-speedway location at one point – so I would like to say special thanks to all those who kept things going during a busy period while I was away. Special thanks for John who picked up mail and messages and organised the SE GP, Caroline who kept teams and competitors organised, and Carly, Michaela and everyone else who kept club night going. I had a lot to catch up on hence the delay in this Hawktalk but it was been so much easier thanks to your help.

AGM DATE

The Club has provisionally arranged its Annual General Meeting for Sunday January 24th at 2 p.m. so book your 2010 diaries and further info will come out later.

REFEREES COURSE

The Club desperately needs more referees so why not find out more by attending a regional course run by the BCF at Gt.Blakenham on Sunday 6th December. Get in touch with me if you are interested.

WATT BIKE LEAGUE

As a competitive way to do pre-season training there is going to be Watt Bike League in January. Watt Bikes are similar to top of the range exercise bikes but can be linked up so riders can work in competition with one another. All cycle clubs in and around Norwich are likely to take part so if you are interested I can provide you with more details.