

Hafren CC

Report on 2016 from the Chair as presented to the AGM 15th May 2017

Thank you all for attending the AGM, it is a dry, but necessary part of club life.

I am pleased to report that 2016 was another successful year for the club.

As the Treasurer has reported, the club's financial affairs are in a good state, allowing us to meet our obligations and invest in the promotion of races and rider development.

The club would be nothing without its membership and I am pleased to be able to say that membership continued to increase during 2016, with adult membership passing the 100 mark for the first time. Total membership for the year was 145, compared to 126 in 2015. It has now passed the 150. The increase in membership numbers is not an aim in itself, but evidence that the club is continuing to meet the needs of local cyclists. Without a buoyant membership the club has no future, if it fails to meet the needs of local cyclists it has no point. The growth in numbers shows we are doing much of what we are required to promote and encourage cycle sport in the local community.

The Junior section continues to attract new members as well as keeping most of them from previous years. The investment made in coaching and funded by community chest grant from Sport Wales continues to pay dividends, but in the end it is the hard work and the commitment of the coaches that make this a success, working towards the next generation of cyclists.

There is more to be done. The club is actively involved with the land transfer scheme to Newtown Council that may be an opportunity to provide some specialized cycle infrastructure in Newtown, such as a

circuit, preservation of the CX course and possibly some Off Road infrastructure. We are also starting to promote training sessions in Newtown and working more closely with local schools.

In the promotion of Women's cycling the club is also making progress with Women accounting for 25% of the club's adult members. As with the juniors, we have the volunteers to thank for providing a programme that is starting to provide adequately for Women cyclists, from a gateway from Breeze, to basic bike maintenance, track days and training sessions, the club is establishing a portfolio of activities, designed by women, for women. As with the Juniors, Sport Wales has provided funding to train coaches to help promote this. It should be said that the grant funds the cost of the training, time and expenses are met by the volunteers who commit to this and they are to be thanked by the club for all their endeavours. It is still a long way to go to 50%, but we are in this for the long haul.

Highlights of last year include our own TT series and an active participation in Shropshire Cycle Clubs Association TT series, where club members scooped titles and podium finishes. We host rounds of these competitions, in particular our Open TT event (hopefully you have seen the display) which this year we are promoting as a 25 mile TT. Please get involved. First, ride it. Take the chance to step outside of the club competition and measure yourself against the wider local talent. If you don't or can't ride, then please marshall. The 25 course requires more marshalling than the 10 and we need to promote a safe event. Please put your names forward to my brother Chris, who is organizing the event for the third year, the thanks of the club for doing so.

The Cyclo Cross event was a great success this year, helped in part by an earlier date in the calendar, which we are hoping to make its permanent fixture. As ever, this event didn't simply happen, but involved handwork and commitment from the organizer, Paul Bufton

and all the volunteers that helped him, many thanks for providing a great days racing.

Sunday Club rides continue to be well attended, the new A & B group formula is working well and seems to meet everyone's needs. In addition the Wednesday Dole ride has become a regular fixture of club life.

Additional fixtures for this year include a round of SCCA's Reliability Ride series with 36 and 60 mile rides on 9th April. For those who haven't ridden them before, they are like sportives used to be. No profit for the corporates, just a £3 contribution to club funds. You need to find the route on the day and there is no broom wagon. We are hoping that both rides will be supported as the Sunday Club run for that day. If you don't want to ride you might like to help at the start. These rides don't require a lot of manpower, but some is essential.

The club also gained public recognition this year, as runners up in a number of categories at the Welsh Cycling Awards. With over 165 clubs all with committed volunteers the competition was tough and this was real recognition for the hardworking volunteers.

The Montgomeryshire Sports Awards saw the club take the Club of the Year award with volunteers and competitors all gaining podium placings in their categories.

In addition to the front line volunteers who promote and organize events and activities and take on coaching responsibilities, the club enjoys a core of committed volunteers who serve on the committee. It is a testament to these individuals that they have all agreed to continue to serve for another year. This does not close the shop, there are always opportunities to get involved in the management of the club and we have sought nominations for this meeting. However, stability is helpful, and after a number of years of wholesale change

to the committee it feels like an opportunity for real progress to have more stability than change.

It is a personal privilege for me to act as Chair of the club and I am extremely grateful to the Membership to be allowed to continue in this role. I am also grateful for all the hard work, effort and commitment of all the club's volunteers. I would like to extend the thanks of the clubs to you all, and add to that my personal thanks for all you have done in 2016 and before (and all that is coming in 2017!) As I said earlier, the club would be nothing without its members, but without its hardworking and diligent volunteers it would not function, let alone continue to develop and promote opportunities for all members to get the one thing they want, to be a better cyclist.