



# HAWK TALK

NEWSLETTER OF HETHERSETT HAWKS CSC  
ISSUE NO. 2016/1      DATE 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH      EDITOR: MEL PERKINS

## SEASON OPENS SUNDAY

The long-awaited Hawks' Golden Jubilee season finally gets under way this Sunday when local rivals Norwich Stars come to the Memorial Playing Field for South East League Division 1 and 2 matches starting at 2 p.m. The matches will have additional interest following transfers during the close season. Also our first team will be under new management with Dan Chambers taking the lead supported by Leigh Cossey and Josh Herring. Teams will be selected and notified to members later in the week.

## PRE-SEASON GONE WELL

Sunday morning training sessions started in January and were often in damp, cold conditions but a total of 22 riders have played at least some part in the sessions and the first Tuesday Club Night so numerically we look in good shape. Some of the newer members may have wondered who the strangers racing round were – well they were former members Nick Myhill, Nick Bray and Lee Hulcoop. Nick Myhill, a former British U16 Champion, is probably less of a stranger as he last raced a couple of years ago and has made 129 first-team appearances and 257 total appearances since 1998. Nick Bray, also a former British U16 Champion and an U19 Champion in Eaton's colours, last rode competitively in 2006 with 75 1<sup>st</sup> team appearances to his name. You have to go back 14 years for Lee Hulcoop's last appearance and he could well add to his 47 1<sup>st</sup> team appearances this season and looks set to make his comeback in the B team on Sunday.

## CLUB NIGHT OPENS EARLY

By popular demand we have started Club Nights on Tuesdays a few weeks earlier than usual and nine brave souls turned out in the cold on a heavy track that really tested the fitness (or lack of it). Harley Hamill, on his new bike, which he fell off in the relay race, and Owen Wells both recorded times only a couple of seconds below their best 2015 times but not surprisingly the others were well down. Owen had a good night wining the handicaps with 14

points and then the Elimination race holding off a strong challenge from Adam Reeve in the final lap.

## COMING UP

A key date for your diary is Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>. We are staging the first round of the combined British Youth & Junior League and South East Grand Prix starting at 12 noon. Racing for everyone starting with Under-8s then Under-10s, Under-12a, Under-14s, Under-17s, Girls, Seniors and Veterans. So come and have a go against riders from all over the South East Region.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

By now you will probably be aware that we are celebrating 50 years of the Hawks this year so some special events are planned. The main day will be Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> and it is hoped all Club Members will play a part as well as riders from the past in a special reunion match. There will also be a social evening at the Social Club that evening. A flier giving the proposed plan for the day will be with this Hawktalk. Another date to pop in your diaries is Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the day of the usual Run the Square fun run round the village. We will have a part to play as not only have I been asked to be the official starter but also the Hawks will be leading off on bikes ahead of the runners and hopefully with a banner pronouncing our anniversary. That normally starts at 11 a.m. and in the afternoon from 1 p.m. we are staging the Norfolk Championships – these for U10s U13s U16s U19s Seniors Ladies and Veterans.

## HAWKS OFF TO POLAND

Another way to celebrate the Golden Jubilee is to take our first-ever team abroad as we go to Poland at the end of April to compete in the European Club Championships in Ostrow. A squad of Dan Chambers, Leigh Cossey, Dan Butler, Josh Herring and Harley Hamill will be accompanied by Janet and myself on this adventure.

## **WINTER ROUND-UP**

For the riders the close season can be a long four of five months but there has been plenty going on. Hopefully this round up will bring you up to speed.

### **Hawks Presentation Evening**

Firstly we held our Presentation Party in December at the Social Club and 30 members and families heard about a reasonably successful season with the first team challenging for the South-East title right to the last match and the "B" team having a much more competitive season. Quite a few new recruits have been attracted, mainly from the Attleborough area, and the Club staged four National and Regional events at its track in 2015.

Four Norfolk champions were celebrated as well as winners of the Club's eight Championships. Leigh Cossey was awarded the prestigious honour of Sportsman of the Year voted for by those present on the night and he also received the Secretary's award for Club Member of the Year for his captaining of the first team and his support and encouragement to younger members at Club Nights.

Other awards went to Lee Grange (Top Scorer), Adam Reeve (Best Newcomer), Leo Mallett (Most Improved Junior), Dan Chambers (1st team Rider of the Year) and Owen Wells (B team Rider of the Year).

### **Hawks Annual General Meeting**

The Club's Annual Meeting was held in January. All Officers and Committee Members were re-elected and the Club reported a current balance in accounts of £785.53. One change agreed for 2016 is that match fees will increase to £1.50 (making it £3 a day including the BC Levy). Club Nights will stay at £1.

### **New Sponsor and Shirts**

The Club is going to have a new sponsor this season. In early April Nick Myhill (Myhill Decorators) will come on board with a three-year deal and we will have a proper launch then. It will mean new shirts for the Club and we are currently organising some Errea shirts (as supplied to Norwich City!) through a local supplier. Members will get more details as soon as we get some sample shirts to try on for sizes. I will try and e-mail a copy of the shirt design with this Hawktalk (for those who have e-mail copies). It will also have club/sponsor names on the front and options for rider names on the back.

### **Norfolk Meeting**

Officials of the Club went to a Norfolk meeting at Harford Centre in February and it was decided not to support the Lord Mayor's Procession this year as it clashes with the East

Anglian Championships. Midweek racing may be revived. A trial Grand Prix night will be held at Spixworth on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>. This may lead to more but will at least help Shaun Dyball try to get more riders interested at Spixworth. The sport should have a presence at the Norfolk Show again this year.

### **South East Meetings**

We also attended a South East Conference in November and the Annual General Meeting in January. Main changes for 2016 are that in Division 1 Hellingly from Sussex have been accepted as members (Division 2 also), racing will be 16-heats instead of 18-heats and there are no restricted rider rules except for loan riders. Division 2 will also be 16-heat instead of 13-heat and restricted riders can be used in an emergency but will concede 15 points. We thought about entering a team in the Youth League but could not guarantee enough committed riders so it will be just in Suffolk midweek. We may try and do something midweek in Norfolk along the same lines.

### **Transfer Window**

The transfer window proved more active than expected with three riders leaving and one coming in. We extend a warm welcome to Lee Smith, a former Sandwell, East Park and Birmingham rider now living in Peterborough. We saw him briefly at the end of last season. Leaving us were Richard Williamson, Suffolk based who rode a handful of matches in the last two years and has gone to Gt.Blakenham and, surprisingly last year's rider manager and top scorer Lee Grange who went back to Norwich "for family reasons". Also transferring to Norwich was Oliver Riley who was our top scorer in 2014 but did not race in 2015.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Everyone at the Club congratulates Leigh Cossey and his fiancée Amy on their engagement. Leigh popped the question while they were holidaying in Australia and the couple are planning to get married next year.