



HAWK TALK

NEWSLETTER OF HETHERSETT HAWKS CSC

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EDITOR: MEL PERKINS

EXCITING DERBY ACTION

The Hawks opened their Golden Jubilee season with a cracking local derby on a perfect track at the Memorial Playing Field. The visitors Norwich Stars had a strong line-up and the Hawks were without skipper Leigh Cossey due to working away but it was the home side who broke the early deadlock when Dan Chambers steered Harley Hamill home for a 7-3 win in heat 4 over former Hawks rider/manager Lee Grange. There were a lot of shared heats, including a notable pass by veteran Chris Cullum in heat 8 and Norwich got back on terms in the following heat as Craig Norton and Paddy Wenn took maximum points.

Heat 12 proved a pivotal race as the same Norwich pairing looked set to put Norwich in front but a battling performance from Josh Herring and Olly Buxton finally got the 5-5 shared heat after three restarts. Substitute Gary Colby came in to the penultimate race and the experience paid off as Norwich took the lead for the first time with a 6-4 win. So it all came down to the wire in the nominated riders' race and Dan Chambers, whose only defeat was in heat 1, flew away from the start followed by Lee Smith, who had made a good start in his debut for the Hawks. However, lack of match practice for Smith saw him fade and a coming together with Grange on the final lap could have gone either way but the Norwich rider made it to the line in second place to ensure the match was drawn.

Hethersetts could feel aggrieved about the last heat but in the end a fair result in a competitive and enthralling match and both sides can use that as a platform for the season. It was good to see Scott Grimes back racing in a couple of substitute rides.

HETHERSETT 80 NORWICH 80

(D.Chambers 21+2 L.Smith 17+2 J.Herring 13 H.Hamill 10+1 O.Buxton 8 D.Butler 7+1 S.Grimes 3+1 R.Carter 1)

Hethersetts were able to track a separate seven riders for the Division 2 match and gave a very encouraging show against a Norwich side with more experience who provided five unbeaten riders. There was some good teamwork by Nigel Longlands and Katie Adams as

youngsters Daniel Longlands and Alfie Nixon got among the points. Lee Hulcoop started his comeback after a 14-year absence and there was some good support from Carly Cameron and Olivia Nicholas both showing bursts of speed.

HETHERSETT B 64 NORWICH B 96

(D.Longlands 13 A.Nixon 13 K.Adams 12+3 O.Nicholas 9+1 C.Cameron 6+1 L.Hulcoop 6 N.Longlands 5+2)

There was certainly a good atmosphere at the track with a fair sized crowd and good team spirit (even a few for after-match drinks at the Queens Head) and plenty of support for the B team from the first-team.

The Hawks are next in League action at Kesgrave on 10th April.

CRAZY SECOND CLUB NIGHT

After a modest first session the second Club Night of the season proved a crazy night with 16 members present including a handful of first-team riders. A fast moving 90-minute session ensued with 12 riders contesting the handicaps (won by Daniel Longlands on 11 points – the same as Adam Reeve, Owen Wells and Leigh Cossey) and nine still standing for the Elimination Race won by Harley Hamill. Time trials saw Lee Hulcoop take 10 seconds off his first-week time (45.75) Roger Carter set a new personal best (44.16) and Lee Smith set the fastest time over the two sessions (41.67). Sixteen riders on the track for the relay race proved quite a spectacle!!

The third session saw a few regulars missing but we did welcome Nick Myhill, Carly Cameron and Giles Awbery for their first taste of the season as nine members took to the track. Nick set the fastest time of the season (40.78) – so much for being unfit!! There were personal bests for Harley Hamill (41.56) Owen Wells (42.83) Lee Hulcoop (44.078) and Carly Cameron (46.69). Katie Adams, Nigel Longlands and Daniel Longlands posted their best times this season. Carly won the Handicaps with 13 points, one ahead of Nigel and the Eliminator again came down to a tactical battle between Harley and Owen with Harley surprising his younger opponent by speeding away with two laps to go. Remember we continue right through the Easter Holidays.

DAN'S FITNESS TESTED

Dan Chambers prepared for the Norwich match with a trip to Wolverhampton the day before to contest East Park's 10th anniversary meeting. The vast track tested his fitness and it proved to be quite loose and tricky too. Dan scored 10 points in an event dominated by Australians – the winner Cody Chadwick is racing for Great Blakenham in our League so watch out for him.

OTHER LEAGUE RESULTS

These are the other South East League results at the weekend –

Division 1

Ipswich Whirlwinds 89 Kesgrave 71

Gt.Blakenham 80 Ipswich Eagles 78

East London 62 Hellingly 93

Division 2

Gt.Blakenham 59 Ipswich 94

East London 68 Hellingly 86

2016 CLUB NIGHT SO FAR

NAME	ATT	TIME	HCAP	ELIM	PB
Nick Myhill	1	40.78			
Harley Hamill	3	41.06		2	
Lee Smith	1	41.67			
Leigh Cossey	1	41.75			40.02
Oliver Buxton	1	41.75			40.56
Owen Wells	3	42.83	1	1	
Roger Carter	1	44.16			
Lee Hucoop	3	44.18			
Katie Adams	3	45.73			43.13
Nigel Longlands	2	46.12			44.72
Sam Crossley	2	46.52			46.41
Carly Cameron	1	46.69	1		
Daniel Longlands	3	47.58	1		47.09
Adam Reeve	2	47.81			46.28
Olivia Nicholas	2	49.41			48.16
Alfie Holmes	1	50.09			46.50
Alfie Nixon	1	51.53			48.31
Giles Awbery	1	52.61			50.22
		3 LAPS			
Leo Mallett	2	39.22			37.43

SATURDAY APRIL 9TH

There is no racing this weekend as it is Easter and no local racing on the weekend April 2nd/3rd as it is Elite League weekend.

So we turn our attention to Saturday April 9th when we are staging at Hethersett the first round of the British Youth & Junior League coupled with the South East Grand Prix.

That means there is racing for all our members who want it – age categories Under-8, Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, Under-17, Girls, Seniors and Veterans so we hope to see as many of you as can be there to pit your skills against the rest of the region. Racing gets under way at 12 noon.

This is quite a big match and a chance for us to make some money but it does take a lot of work to stage. Also a few of our regular Committee members are unavailable so we would be grateful for any help from older members and parents on the day – setting up from 10.30, helping with the track, refereeing, pulling gates, doing flags, clearing up at the end – anything will help even for an hour or two.

SHIRTS

Our shirt supplier should drop off to me some sample sizes shortly so we can start taking orders for new shirts. I will keep you posted.