

St.Ives CC Road Race Report 2017

One again the club successfully promoted 3 road races in each the racing bodies the club is affiliated too. The Eastern Road Race League, the NCRA and the LVRC.

The clubs first promotion of the year was a Regional B event held as part of the ERRL The race was well received by the riders and the event ran smoothly, despite a last minute change of course to the shorter Monks Wood Triangle due to resurfacing works held on the finish straight of the planned Upton course.

The second event of the year was the clubs NCRA promotion, held on a Tuesday evening in July on the Monks Wood Triangle Course. This time a Regional A event and an almost full field of riders entered - a large increase in numbers on the previous year. Unfortunately this event had to be cancelled on the night due to the bad weather conditions. Persistent rain throughout the day and low, heavy cloud meant the light was well below a level deemed safe enough to race on the open road. This was a decision that was not taken lightly but was made with the riders and marshals safety in mind. Despite initial frustrations from the riders this was a decision that they respected. As a result all riders were refunded their entry fee as another suitable date could not be found to reschedule the event. Unfortunately the club made a small loss on this event as a result.

The third and final road race of the year was the traditional season closing race of the LVRC Percy Stallard Series in September. Organised by Andy Wylde and Alan Moules the event lived up to its usual high standards despite a failure in the timing chip system being used.

On the road, riders representing the club were a little lower than in previous years but there has still been success to celebrate.

Over 15 riders have raced in club colours over the 2017 season on either Road, Circuit or Track events with some of these giving racing a go for the first time.

The club finished 15th in the Eastern Road Race League with 45 points, scored from 6 different riders. There was also an early season win for Lee Desborough in the NCRA Handicap races as well as well deserved win for Sean Purser, which capped off his return from a nasty crash earlier in the year.

Rider numbers were not as high in the NCRA Rockingham as in previous years but were still present in most of the midweek races throughout summer.

Jason Kierman continued to fly the flag for the club on track, building form well chalking up no less than 5 wins in the early season before an unfortunate crash cut his season short before the National Track Championships. We wish his recovery well.

Moving to 2017 St.Ives will remain part of the ERRL. Our promotion next year however, will be a National B race to be held on Sunday 29th April. This may be held on a new course, due to overuse of the current Upton and Monks Wood courses.

There is a change to the NCRA calendar with the advent of the Central League. As a result the club have an option to promote an early season Handicap race or continue with the mid-week summer race and hope that the bad weather that halted this years race was a one off.