

## North Wales Tragedy

At the time of writing, its one month since the tragic incident in North Wales that claimed the lives of four members: Maurice Broadbent, Thomas Harland, Wayne Wilkes and Dave Horrocks of Rhyl CC while they were out on a Sunday club run. I heard about what had happened by phone at around lunchtime that day. I remember feeling completely lost for words ... stunned. I had to travel abroad the next day, so I saw the story develop over the internet during the next few days. To read the emerging story of what had happened was horrifying; I guess all who heard about it thought that something like this could have happened to us. Initially, it was surprising to see the impact in the media, but then moving to see the expressions of sympathy arriving from all over Britain - and the world. It was also heartening to see how quickly and effectively British Cycling were able to respond, and how they provided support immediately to the victim's families and the club. I'd like to thank the staff and volunteers of British Cycling, on behalf cyclists in Wales, for the efforts they put in during this difficult time.

I was able to attend Maurice's funeral, which turned out to be a real celebration of a man who was widely-known, well-respected and perhaps most of all, held in real affection as a result of his life in cycling. At the funeral, the Pastor said that the best memorial to Maurice would be for all involved in cycling to continue to promote, develop and be active in the sport he so loved.

A month has gone by and traces of the story have faded from the national media for the time being; perhaps there will be a brief renewal of interest when the report of the investigation is published. It has been said by some that perhaps this disaster and its attendant publicity will lead to a change in attitude of car drivers to cyclists. I'd like to think that may happen, but it shouldn't take a tragic occurrence like this to get people to show care and consideration for fellow road users.

A few discussions have taken place about whether some sort of commemoration of the riders who died is the right thing to do - and if so what form this may take. It will depend up on the wishes of the families and of the club. But I know that whatever results, members of Welsh Cycling will always remember Thomas, Maurice, Wayne and Dave and that our thoughts will be with the families and the club over the coming months and years as they remember their loved ones and club-mates, and look to recover from their loss.

Christopher Landon  
Chairman, Welsh Cycling

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## Commonwealth Games Countdown is on.....

**The Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games starts on Wednesday March 15th.**

The nine Welsh riders chosen to represent Wales have been training and competing hard to ensure that they are in top form come their events at the Games.

The past few weeks has seen Julian Winn, Yanto Barker, Dale Appleby, Rob Partridge and Matt Brammeier all competing at the Tour of Siam in Thailand. The tour proved a testing competition with temperatures well into the thirties and some tough racing.

Julian Winn led by example, winning a stage and being highly placed on both the general classification and point's competition for most of the Tour. The other riders also rode into some good form with Matt Brammeier third on a tough stage, and both Rob Partridge and Yanto Barker being highly visible in breakaway rides.

Julain, Matt and Rob have now moved to Malaysia for the Tour of Langkawi where fellow Welsh rider Geraint Thomas has joined them in the race.

Elsewhere Ross Sander warmed up for the games with an impressive evening of rides at the Revolution meeting in Manchester where he mixed it with some of the top track riders from across the World.

Meanwhile Steven Roach has been warming up for the MTB race with close monitoring from the Great Britain academy programme, of which he is now a member.

Nicole Cooke has been training at home in the UK ahead of flying down under in mid February for some warm weather preparation and racing.

The team will come together in late February at a holding camp in Sydney before transferring to the Melbourne base in mid March.

Further details on the team, schedules and results for all their events will be available on the Welsh Cycling web site during the Games.

## New Wales Commonwealth Games Kit

Welsh Cycling is delighted to announce that the Welsh team will be wearing the new Welsh Cycling kit for the first time at the Commonwealth Games.

The kit, designed by the riders themselves, and manufactured by Dream Sportswear, a Welsh company, will be unveiled for the first time at the Games, and will shortly be available for all Welsh Cycling members to purchase.

Chief Executive Peter Sommers stated, "I am pleased to announce that the Commonwealth Games replica kit will be available for all Welsh Cycling members to buy at preferential rates. My thanks go to Welsh company Dream Sportswear, who are producing and selling the kit on behalf of Welsh Cycling".

Members should keep a close eye on the Welsh Cycling web site for the kit to be unveiled shortly.

## Editors Comment

With events in North Wales at the forefront of our minds, it was nice to see the solidarity shared not only amongst Welsh cyclists, but also those from the rest of the UK cycling fraternity and the international cycling community. It was also nice to see the rides taking place across the country in memory of the Rhyl CC riders on the following Sunday.

It was on one of these rides that I witnessed the darker side of humanity when riding on the Ystwyth CC clubrun. Despite the huge media coverage and the sympathies shown by the majority of the population, our clubrun (all donning black armbands) was subjected to verbal abuse by a passing motorist relating to the Rhyl tragedy. Many feelings ran through my mind at the time of the incident which I managed to keep to myself, mainly due to my disbelief that somebody could be so insensitive.

Luckily these kinds of people are in a very small minority, but my point is for us all to remember that there are drivers out there who simply detest cyclists and will show little regard for us out on the roads. So be careful, ride sensibly and think ahead.

The coverage of the Rhyl CC tragedy has put cyclists and groups of cyclists into the minds of more drivers at this moment in time. This must be turned into a positive by lobbying the government into increasing the coverage cyclists receive in road safety campaigns. We see adverts on TV for horses and motorcyclist awareness, but when did you last see an advert focusing on the cyclist?

I'm sure British Cycling will be doing all they can on this issue, but if the members can also lobby MP's and the relevant government departments then this will only help matters and help us achieve our goal.

Take care

Shelley Childs

## Commonwealth Development Programme – New for Juniors!

With the Talent Team now entering its fourth year, the stream of talented riders coming through into junior programmes has been increased. To ensure that Welsh Cycling is continuing to look after talented Welsh based juniors, an exciting new junior initiative – The Commonwealth Development Programme (CDP) has been formulated to help develop young Welsh talent.

Under the guidance of National Coach, Julian Winn, selected riders will be coached and monitored with the aim of progressing them to their cycling goals.

Further details on the programme are available on the Welsh Cycling web site, so junior members get clicking that mouse!!

## Membership Increases

Official figures released from British Cycling at the end of 2005 indicate that Welsh Cycling has once again increased its membership with one thousand and forty seven members officially registered.

Welsh Cycling Chairman, Mr Chris Landon stated, "I am delighted that Welsh Cycling has again increased its membership. I have no doubt that with the excellent work being done by our two development officers, Ian Jenkins and Iwan Marshall, and our Go-ride clubs across Wales that 2006 will see another increase on this figure".

## New staff member for Welsh Cycling

Welsh Cycling is pleased to announce the arrival of Debbie Wharton as Performance Development Manager. The role of Performance Development Manager will ensure throughput from the Welsh and British Cycling development programmes to the Performance programmes.

Debbie will be working closely with the Welsh and British Cycling Development and Performance Staff, developing a co-ordinated structure to grow the sport at youth level, to get more children cycling at school and club level. By increasing the levels of participation at youth level, we will be able to identify and nurture emerging talent from within the sport, rather than having to search elsewhere. Some riders should then be able to progress through to the Talent Team, with a solid base of skills and experience behind them.

For this to happen we need a network of strong youth orientated clubs, to support and nurture these riders in their formative cycling years, and support will be offered to these clubs to ensure a clear development pathway exists for the riders, and help further develop the club, the members and the coaches.

This in turn will increase participation, identify talented riders, provide an environment in which talented riders can flourish, develop abilities of track coaches, and assist in the development of local, regional and national competitions.

As the first step in increasing youth participation and raising awareness of activities at the velodrome, we will be promoting a track session during the February Half Term Holidays for new young riders. 'Attack the Track' will give youngsters new to the sport the opportunity to ride on the only indoor track in Wales, and take their chance to record a time for 1 lap at the end of the session. in Newport.

Over the coming months the development plan will be finalised, and communicated to clubs and coaches, who are interested in becoming part of the initiative.

If you'd like any further information, or would like to register your interest, please contact Debbie Wharton on 01633 670541 / 07876 561243.



## North Wales Go-Ride.....

October saw the official launch of the Go Ride programme in Wales at Bodnant Junior School, Prestatyn. Around ninety schoolchildren took part in Go Ride activities throughout the day coached by Maurice Broadbent and Jon Harland from Rhyl CC and Ian Jenkins and Iwan Marshall from Welsh Cycling. There to officially launch the programme was Alun Pugh AM, Minister for Sports, Culture and the Welsh Language along with Pete Sommers (Welsh Cycling Chief Executive), Neil Pringle from the Sports Council for Wales and John Brewer from GlaxoSmithKline, sponsors of the programme. Our thanks go to Mr Martin Blythin, Headmaster of Bodnant Juniors and Mr Tristan Hughes for helping us in arranging the day.

Following on from the launch, the first schools to adopt Go Ride sent teachers on the ACAT (Activity Coach Award for Teachers) course held at Plas Ffrancon, Bethesda on December 6th 2005. Teachers from Bodnant Junior, Prestatyn, Christchurch School Rhyl, Ysgol Dolbadarn Llanberis, Ysgol Penisarwaun and Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen completed the course which will enable them to deliver the Go Ride programme to their pupils. The schools will be issued with all the kit needed for them to deliver Go Ride as well as a visit from coaches attached to the local Go Ride community club to assist with the first session. We look forward to working with many more schools across North Wales in 2006 – for details of the next ACAT course or further information on the Go Ride programme, please contact Iwan Marshall, North Wales Development officer on 07789 776607 or iwan.marshall@btconnect.com..

The three clubs Go-ride clubs in North Wales are all now ready to start running their new Go-ride sessions in the brighter spring weather and start developing the children skills

## Congratulations!!

Our congratulations and best wishes go to the following Welsh Cyclists who have all gained the following recognition for their efforts:

**Steven Roach** – Has joined the British Cycling MTB academy

**Ross Sander** – Has joined the British Cycling Academy

**Katie Curtis** – Has joined the British Cycling Olympic Development programme

**Rebecca James** – Has joined the National Youth sprint squad

**Luc Jones** - Has joined the National Youth sprint squad

**Dale Appleby** – Has joined the Re-Cycling.co.uk team for 2006

**Rob Partridge** – Has joined the Re-Cycling.co.uk team for 2006

**Yanto Barker** – Has joined the DFL team for 2006

**Matt Brammeier** – Has joined the DFL team for 2006

**Tom Smith** – Has joined the Plowman Craven team for 2006



Welsh Cycling also sends its congratulations to Lucy Richards for winning the Raleigh Future stars series at the Revolution track meetings, and to Katie Curtis and Alex Greenfield for their second and third positions respectively. Also, to Rhys Lloyd for winning second position overall in the boys event.

Well done everyone!!

## South Wales Go-Ride (ing!)

Schools in the region have been enthusiastically commencing their Go-Ride activities; with some so keen to embrace the programme that cycling is occupying their PE lessons!

The school sessions commence with an afternoon of coached activities, delivered by Welsh Cycling coaches from the local Go-Ride clubs. The idea of these sessions is to enthuse the pupils into our fantastic sport in a safe and encouraging environment, plus it gives the opportunity for the teacher to observe good practice and gain some expert experience in running the sessions. The teachers who have embarked on the scheme are attending a free course to become accredited as a British Cycling Activity Coach, thus giving them the necessary skills to present fun Go-Ride cycling activities at their respective schools.

The initial coached session also involves the local press to ensure the schools are given due publicity for their efforts, and to hopefully inspire neighbouring schools to take up the Go-Ride challenge!

Primary schools in the region will also be making the most of a complimentary 'taster session' at Wales National Velodrome in Newport, where pupils can be introduced to 'riding the boards' of an international standard track and the art of riding a fixed wheel bike. They are also given a tour of the facility, learning about the various track events and the Welsh athletes who will be attending the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The South Wales community cycling clubs are continuing with their Go-Ride sessions and will shortly be absorbing the pupils enthused to take up cycling through the schools programme. Newport Velo and Maindy Flyers are both promoting regular coached activities at the National Velodrome and Maindy Track respectively, while Bynea CC will shortly commence evening sessions at Carmarthen Track.

With local schools having embraced Go-Ride this year, Welsh Cycling have sought the funding to continue our schools programme through 2006. Anyone with connections to a local school who may be interested in Go-Ride should contact the South Wales Development Officer via our office. We hope that with your help we can introduce the fantastic sport of cycling to even more schoolchildren and who knows, even find that Champion of the future!

The scheme is also set to be a great boost for the Go-Ride cycling clubs across Wales with new members looking to participate in their activities and become new members of their clubs. Welsh Cycling has already received notification of two more clubs in Wales wishing to become involved in this scheme in 2006 and benefit from the links with schools. Should your club be interested in joining, please contact your local development officer.

## New Coordinators for Welsh Cycling

Welsh Cycling now has a full complement of coordinators for all the disciplines for 2006 with a new Road race Co-ordinator and a new Cross Country MTB coordinator.

Our thanks for Andrew Powell and Sarah Whiddett for taking on these respective roles. Contact details can be found at the rear of this news letter.



## Road Race Calendar released

New Road Race co-ordinator, Andrew Powell has released the road race calendar for 2006, which is available for all members to view in full on the Welsh Cycling Web Site.

Should members wish to become involved in road racing activities at all during 2006 please contact Andrew on his contact details at the rear of this newsletter



## Road Commissaires Course

Welsh Cycling is pleased to announce that a road commissaires training workshop will be held on Sunday March 12th at the Wales National Velodrome in Newport.

The workshop will be run by Rob Jefferies from British Cycling, and both existing commissaires and any interested new commissaires are invited to attend this workshop which will introduce the new standardisation of the commissaries course across the UK.

The day's workshop will enable new commissaires to start the process of being trained to the level of assistant commissaire. The workshop will also introduce the new course to all existing commissaires, and act as an excellent refresher workshop. The course together with a buffet lunch, is free to all and will start with coffee at 9.30am.

To book a place on this course please e-mail Edith Clark, Administration Officer on info@welsh-cycling.co.uk or contact the office on 01633 670540. Places are limited and so early booking of your place is advisable

## MTB Commissaires Course

Anyone interested in becoming a National Mountain Bike Commissaire will have the opportunity to attend the next course being held in Birmingham on Sunday the 26th of February. A basic understanding of MTB competition is required and a little familiarisation of the MTB regulations is advised pre course, although the one-day course will cover the basics of what you need to know when starting out as a Commissaire. We are particularly interested in volunteers who are able to work in Wales, which will help meet the demands of the current calendar.

There are limited spaces on the course, so anyone interested in attending, should let Roger Wilbraham know by emailing mtb@britishcycling.org.uk or by calling 0161 274 2022. Places on the course will be filled on a first come first served basis!!

Welsh Cycling will be looking to run a course in Wales later this year and so if you are interested please contact the appropriate Coordinator

## BMX taking shape in Wales

Brynbach Park in Tredegar saw the first BMX series of races take place in January / February. With a track currently also being built in Conwy, and BMX being part of the London Olympics in 2012, this is the ideal opportunity to get involved in this exciting discipline. For more details please contact the BMX coordinator, Jason Jenkins for more details. (Contact details above).

## Need to contact someone in Welsh Cycling?

**President: Mr Bill Owen: wj.owen@virgin.net**

**Chairman; Mr Chris Landon: chris.landon@ntlworld.com**

**Chief Executive, Mr Peter Sommers: info@welsh-cycling.co.uk**

- **Track Co-ordinator:**  
Name: Neil Smith  
E-Mail: neilsmith@btinternet.com
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Name: Liz Slater  
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- **Downhill MTB / BMX Co-ordinator:**  
Name: Jason Carpenter  
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E-Mail: jason.carpenter@dsl.pipex.com
- **Cross Country MTB Co-ordinator:**  
Name: Sarah Whiddett  
Phone: 01600 860 967  
E-Mail: sarahwhiddett@onet.co.uk

Welsh Cycling is also pleased to announce that three further Directors have now been added to the Board that Welsh Cycling members elected at the recent Annual General Meeting. The new directors are:

Mr Talbot Thrush, Abertillery Wheelers  
Mr Jason Carpenter, Dragon Downhill  
Mr David England, Cwmcarn Paragon

The board will now meet every six weeks to oversee the operations of Welsh Cycling.

All other contact details for Welsh Cycling are available via the web site on www.welsh-cycling.co.uk or please contact the office on 01633 670540.

## We want more stories!

Have you got an article for the news letter that you would like to see published? If so please e-mail the editor, Shelley Childs on shelley@dscmarketing.co.uk.