**Chairman’s Report 2021**

**Introduction**

A year like no other, well except 2020. Despite everything that the pandemic threw at us we have managed to keep on riding our bikes, the club has continued to function and actually increased its membership.

The committee met on 6 occasions initially by Zoom but from September onwards face-to-face in our superbly refurbished clubhouse. Grateful thanks to Peter Scott, Aaron Green, Phil Green and Allan Taylor for all the time effort they put into this. We had hoped to extend the size of the clubhouse and had received promise of a grant towards this from Sport England. Unfortunately, the quotations for this work meant that, even allowing for the Sport England grant, the club would have had to pay around £15,000 from its own funds, and the committee felt it would have been incorrect for them to sanction this level of spending without the approval of members.

**Club Events in 2021**

**Time Trials**

Brilliantly organised by Alan Stark. Full details in his report.

Alan has resigned from his position as Time Trial secretary from 2022 onwards although he will still be around to provide and advice and guidance to the new secretary.

I am sure that time trailers from across the north west, and obviously SCC riders in particular, are immensely grateful to Alan for his unstinting commitment to organising the Thursday night ‘10s’ as well as the club’s open events.

Organising events that take place on busy public highways is a huge responsibility and requires meticulous organisation, as well as a lot of hard work behind the scenes sorting out the logistics of signage, timekeepers, distributing results etc.

So, a big thanks Alan for a job extremely well done.

**Other events**

*Downhill Competition* - 24th Oct – Bleasedale. Eddie O’Brien won again

*Club Hill Climb* – 31st Oct – Ashurst. Joe Wilson won for the first time.

*Organised club rides* – Our thanks to the ride leaders for organising these popular events on Saturdays (8:30 & 9:30) and Sundays (9:30) and for shepherding everyone along the byways and highways, up the lumps and down the bumps: Pete Leonard, Karl Turner, Neil Langridge, Brian Leech.

*Dolan Races* – unfortunately these had to be cancelled but Alan Taylor is busy planning for their return in 2022.

*Bickerstaffe Road Races -* unfortunately these had to be cancelled but Colin Baldwin has already started planning for the 2022 event on April 23rd.

*Bike Maintenance programme –* a new initiative organised by master mechanic Pete Leonard which is already proving popular with those of us who have six thumbs.

*Monthly forums*

The monthly forums (first Monday of the month) hosted by Colin Baldwin have recommenced. A good opportunity to have a brew and catch up on club news.

**Club Dinner and Awards Ceremony November 27th**

This was held at the Old Links Golf Club with over 50 members in attendance. As a result of feedback from members the committee has developed a policy of always awarding a male and female trophy for each category of prize winner (assuming there is a winner from each gender), and trophies were awarded on this basis.

Our thanks to Aaron Green for his terrific work in organising the dinner. The room was superbly laid out and the evening ran like clockwork.

Aaron will no longer be our social secretary after five years in the role however he is remaining on the committee and I’m sure this popular member will make an equally big contribution in the future.

**Remembering**

Sadly, we lost two incredibly popular members of the club this year, John (Tam) Barton and Brian Wharton. Very different personalities but they loved being out on a bike and they both enriched the company of those they were with. Keep turning the wheels.

**Finally**

It has been a pleasure to be your chairman for the last two years even though circumstances have meant that I regretfully saw so little of everyone. I would like to thank all the committee members for their support and invariably positive outlook despite the challenges thrown at us by lockdown. In particular I would like to put on record my thanks to two quiet titans of the club, our secretary Pete Leonard, and our treasurer Peter Scott. They have both work tirelessly and quietly, putting in many hours of unseen work to make sure that the club is in its current healthy state. I am greatly indebted to them both for their unwavering support and can-do attitudes.

Good luck to all riders for 2022. Let’s hope we can all ride our bikes, make great friendships…. and eat cake.

Geoff Caton