

SUSSEX CYCLE RACING LEAGUE

PROMOTOR'S REPORT

I must start by apologising for not being present at the AGM this year, and to offer my congratulations to all the prize winners.

I think I can safely say that 2008 was the best season for me at the track since I have been promoting at Preston Park with each week of racing well attended. I think it's the first season that I have been able to be present at all of the meetings. After last year when we lost something like six meetings due to the weather, this year we only lost two complete meetings and one was curtailed.

The season started off in April with three try the track sessions for newcomers and these were very well attended. It was also an opportunity for the youth riders to get a taster of riding on fixed wheel prior to the introduction of fixed racing for the A and B youth riders. The change to racing on fixed for the older youth age groups has proved to be a great success and the improvement in the racing has been very noticeable. It has been great to see the competitive racing across all the youth age groups. Next year the committee is proposing that the Youth C (Under 12) riders also ride on fixed.

It has been really encouraging to see lots of new riders racing this season and hopefully the trend will continue next season.

Once again Felix English dominated the senior A league despite the fact that he was only able to compete in ten meetings. Felix moves into the junior ranks next year so perhaps we'll see another youth taking over, or will Felix get his hat trick. The senior B league was also won by a youth rider, Charlie Heffernan. Charlie along with several other youth riders from Preston Park were able to take part in the second season of DHL sprint schools held at Newport. Next year should provide the opportunity for more Preston Park riders between the ages of 12 and 16 to take part in the third season of sprint schools.

This season has also seen several from the track attending a track commissaires training day and three of them - Dave Gerrey, Daniel Gerrey and Ben Miller have each been in charge of a meeting, which has allowed me to take more of a back seat. The smooth running of the league relies very much on the volunteers who turn up every week to set things up and officiate and I would like to thank everyone who has helped out during the season. I would also like to appeal for anyone who thinks that they would be able to help in any way to come forward, we can always do with more help. In addition I would also like to thank Ian Mitchell for donating a new trophy, the Back to Front trophy for the Youth A and B handicap races. The trophy is awarded to the rider that has gained the greatest distance during the season in winning the handicap races.

Next season will start in April with 3 try the track sessions and the first meeting will be on April 22nd running through till August 12th. I shall finish by saying hope to see everyone in April 2009 ready for the new season.

Vern McClelland
Promoter SCRL Track League