

BFCC Annual Chairman's Report 2010

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the clubs AGM.

Since its formation, the club (BFCC) has come a long way and grown beyond the founding members initial dreams with well over 200 members. Since its inception, the club has seen year on year growth, development and diversity and this past year has been no different. As with many clubs, the committee is formed from a small number of highly committed members coming together in a common aim, namely to develop Bedgebury as one of the leading cycling venues in the Southeast for all to enjoy and to actively encourage cycling as a recreational sport. Your membership and contribution has helped BFCC become one of the most rapidly growing and respected cycling clubs throughout England for which I thank you.

Many of you by now have experienced a greatly improved service from the various Committee members over the last 12 months and as the club continues to evolve and expand, these roles become ever more complex, demanding and intricate but the BFCC aims to continue to be as friendly, welcoming, efficient and professional as its members have come to expect.

It is always very easy to become so involved in the day-to-day minutiae of life that it is sometimes very easy to forget what we have achieved over the past 12 months. Looking back though, there have been so many achievements, here are a few:

- Coaching & Courses.
We have seen the development and training of more coaches, allowing us to put on more courses, where we have seen numbers grow. A testament to the quality and professionalism of both the courses run by the club and as well as of those running them.
- Website and forum has seen continued development.
- Membership and finance has seen continued growth.
- Opening of the new black section, coupled with the development and maintenance of other areas of single track.
- Successful working party day in conjunction KCC that saw the development of section 1.
- Another successful insomnia event and the first Rat Race event.
- Involvement in Bike Radar
- The development of the signage for the trails that will shortly be put in place.
- Rebranding and development of new club merchandise.
- Continued development of ladies riding.
- The development of new friendships that have seen participants go off and compete in races, events and out rides.

My thanks also to Geoff Hodgson who took on the race series, following the departure of Ray Blackwell and also to Valerie Osborne who stepped into Christine Mansfield's shoes as treasurer.

Looking forward to the coming year, I look forward to another full year of riding and continued involvement in the club as it consolidates its successes and achievements of both this and previous years.

It is important that we continue the momentum and progress that we have achieved so far and there are exciting plans to continue the development of the trails, as well the development of trail leadership awards and mountain bike specific coaches, not to mention more high profile events – A demo day in February, insomnia and Rat Race to name but some. I would also like to see the further development of the social aspects of the club with a program social events to encourage the whole family of members to be able to participate in the club and to help further underpin and cement the friendships that have been made.

There is a significant amount of work that goes into the organising of races, events, courses and social rides. I would like to thank all of those who have helped throughout the year to make all of these a success and inparticular the committee member, without whose support and commitment, the club wouldn't be as successful as it is. However, the best tonic for all the effort made, is to see people participate in these events and to receive positive feed back from members. Very often, it is the same few enthusiasts who are seen arranging each event and if there is not a greater will on the part of the members to help out with the organisation of both the planning and execution of events, we will see a “burn out” of these organisers and we will lose valuable members. So, please, I ask you all, to look to put your “bit” in this year and help spread the load. I have been fortunate to have had a hard working committee to work with during the past year and I hope that the new committee will be able to sustain the momentum for the coming year and continue to grow the Club for the benefits of the whole riding community.

Regards,

David Cole
Chairman