

The Club Captains Race Year 2018.

A new focus in the training with Quality over Quantity and new TT bike (Argon E118) with the aim to go under the hour for 25, get into the 22's for 10 and snag a few PB's along the way.

Start the year off with the Southborough and District Wheelers NYD 10, course PB for me and 1st Team Prize for Nick, Bron and Steve possibly the last time the event will be raced on the Q10/10.

Bad weather and road works in March meant the postponement of the "3 up" till May and the first VTTA 10, reduced to a 6.6. So, for me the season properly started on the 7th April with the wet and blustery West Kent RC 10 on the Q10/22. Getting the season off with a course PB of 23.46 (10 sec's) was as good a start as any.

The following week was KCA 25TT on the 25/8, a change from the usual HQ to the Glider Club proved a bit testing for some and start times were missed. I finished with a 1:01:28 any chance of a PB dashed with misty visor issues. Goochy announced his retirement from racing after his performance.

22nd April Back on the Q10/22 improving course time by a further 20 secs, April finished with the VTTA National Championships 30TT with a time of 1.14.22. PB (1.15.54). Happy to report Goochy is back out of retirement.

May, brings the start of our Club Friday 10, I raced 6 in the series posting times from 23.30 to 24.06.

6th May, Wigmore 25 on the Q25/12, with a PB 1.00.20, 20 seconds short of my sub hour goal.

May 23rd, Ashford Club 10, not a particularly quick night for that course. I posted a 22.24, so big gains on a previous best 23.10.

May 27th KCA TTT (3 up), with Barry and Mark Wright, Barry mustered us well and we came home with 58.23.

June brought a DNF in the KCA 50, (puncture) a disappointing 100 with a time of 4.34, a combination of not being able to hold position and cramp put me down on last year. A week later back on the Q25/8 I put the disappointments behind me and pushed on with my sub hour goal posting a time of 59.52.

Early July and a short break from racing, a trip to the Maratona with the usual suspects. A successful trip and no coming together with tarmac or face planting cars. Back on the racing, VTTA 50 and a time of 2.04.21 PB, although should have been better. The following Wednesday I smashed the Ashford 10 with a 22.10 and Rye Wheelers took victory in the inter club against Ashford.

Having decided not to race the 24HR this year I was still up for a challenge, That came in the form of a 600KM Audax (385miles). Having mentioned it to Barry back in May over a few beers, he was up for it as well.

Audax , put simply is to cover set distances to the clock and for a 600km you get 40 hours. When you consider the start point was in Battle and the sleep stop was in Oxford, having to go around "that London" it all becomes a bit daunting. Anyway, after a luggage reshuffle and the ditching of Barry's rice cakes we set off from Battle at 0600. A very lumpy route took us to Gravesend to meet the passenger ferry across to Tilbury, onto Coggeshall, St Albans then Oxford 340Kms. A few hours kip, on the road at first light onto Winchester, Titchfield,

The Club Captains Race Year 2018.

Storrington and then back to Battle by 1900hrs Sunday night. Take away the unmentionable pain in the unmentionable areas it was an awesome ride with Barry, completed in 37 hours.

August 12th ESCA 100, same issues as the KCA 100, uncomfortable position and cramp meant posting a time of 4.36.

August 26th Catford 25TT, managed to improve the sub hour to 59.29, so back on the up!

September 8th Eastbourne Rovers 10, 23.53.

October 7th Lewis Wanderers Grand Prix De Gent's with Rebecca Wilson, not our quickest but enjoyable just the same. 14th Oct, VTTA 15, finish the season on a PB With a 35.15.

And to finish the year 9th December, with The Farnborough and Camberley Christmas 10. 24.38, the perfect smokescreen to go on the beer with ex Army buddies.

In summary, very pleased with my gains in the 10's and reaching my Sub hour goal for the 25. Although I PB'd in the 50, I feel there are more gains to come and I would hope to see an improvement in the 100.

Here's to the 2019 season, already entered the KCA 12HR and National Champs 24HR.

Dave Greenwood

Club Captain