



Chaingang News

February 2006

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IVCA link to Australia

Good friendship developed over the years

DONAL O'CONNELL

A lasting friendship has been struck between the IVCA and the Australian veteran -racing scene. In particular, IVCA founder member Donal O'Connell and Australian vet's rider Len Lycock. Len in his earlier years was a successful professional cyclist and through Donal has shown a great interest in the IVCA, exchanging news and stories. Len who lives in Melbourne, is an active cyclist, committee member of the Australian Veteran racing scene and a member of the IVCA too. It's easy to see the common interest and enthusiasm for cycling which is shared by both countries. Len has recently donated a beautiful trophy, which is to be the perpetual trophy for the Usher two -day event. Inspired by this, the IVCA board of directors has made Len a life member of the association. Starting with this newsletter, I'm looking forward to writing news and articles on the Australian cycling scene in future editions of Chaingang news.

Stop Press

Sorry again

It seems that the first few lines of 'Stop Press' nearly always begins with 'I must apologize...' however, I thought one advantage of being off work sick was that I should have plenty of time to work on the January newsletter. It's now clear that although the extra time was very useful, the flu and chest infection I had contracted didn't help my thought process. Apart from my unforgivable mistake of miss-spelling Alice Sherratt (now spelt correctly), the very first entry to the racing calendar did not mention which month it was due to take place. Well the DMS at Batterstown starts on the 26th of March. In view of my crimes, I have taken punishment by being beaten with several rolled up copies of January's chaingang newsletter.

Ecumenical Service

The ecumenical service held on the 29th of January was a great success. The Music and singing provided by members and friends were of the highest order. Even an uncultured soul such as myself was moved. It was a pity that more members didn't attend. Take it from me, make this occasion a must attend next year.

Guidelines for marshals

News and updates

TOSH LAVERY

As promised, I have printed below related sections of the guidelines to marshaling, taken from the safety statement compiled by Tosh Lavery. Reading the competitors notes and particularly Traffic law I would like to add that riders must keep to the left-hand side of the road, even when taking corners. This may sound elementary, but premier UK races have actually been 'stopped' by the Police for simply having riders crossing the central white line. It was considered that the race was 'too dangerous' for other road users.

4. STEWARDS:

Experienced cycle race stewards will be on duty during the race.

Two stewards will be on duty at each of the designated junctions and crossing points.

The primary task of stewards will be to minimise the risk of injury to the public, competitors and personnel, to assist traffic and spectators and to indicate the route of the race. Only the Garda have the power to require vehicles to stop.

Prior to the race all stewards will be briefed on their responsibilities. They will be advised on the emergency procedure in the event of an incident, which may include the stopping of the race. They will be familiar with the route and exit from the Course to be taken by ambulances/emergency services should the need arise.

Each steward will be an experienced cycle race marshal. Stewards will be clearly identifiable in High Visibility Vests. In addition each steward will be equipped with a red flag and whistle.

Stewards will be required to monitor the numbers and movement of spectators and general public in their area responsibility.

8. COMPETITORS:

Race stewards, equipped with red flags and whistles, will be positioned at each designated Junction on the course.

Riders are required to comply with traffic law and regulations, the Rules of the Road, and obey directions from Garda, Commissaries, and Marshals. Failure to comply renders a rider liable to disqualification and even further disciplinary action.

Riders who participate in any race do so entirely at their own risk and must rely on their own ability in dealing with all hazards and must ride in a manner, which is safe for themselves and all others. They must ensure that their equipment and their own health are up to the required standard for cycle racing.

Obituary

Sad loss of honorary IVCA President

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of IVCA Honorary President Phillip Byrne. Phillip died this week, reaching the wonderful age of 93. He was a very competitive and active cyclist for virtually all of his life. Henry Whelan recalls, "I can remember Phillip competing in Races and Time trials when I first started cycling as a young man". All his friends in the IVCA will sadly miss him.

Ar dheis Láimh Dé go raibh sé

IVCA History

The first steps to the formation of the IVCA

HENRY WHELAN

Recently, Henry Whelan passed on to me a very interesting letter dated around March 1966. In this letter we can read the very first steps taken towards the formation of the IVCA. I have written it word for word below and I hope you agree it makes interesting reading.

Veteran Cyclists Association

In response to numerous approaches and arising out of a discussion at a recent social function, where kindred spirits had foregathered, a determined effort is now being made to cater for the "over forties" in every aspect of the sport and pastime, which has been their common interest for so many years.

With this end in view, an inaugural run will take place next Sunday morning, 13th March, 1966. Starting from the Gough Corner in the Phoenix park, at 10.30 a.m. sharp.

An easy-going three-hour spin of approximately 25 miles will leave the participants back in time for lunch.

It is hoped that from this group a working committee will be elected to examine the possibilities of a development of the theme and to eventually launch a more permanent organization.

If you know of any former enthusiast who may not be aware of this movement, please play your part by passing on this circular.

Charity Donation

The Children's Medical & Research Foundation
PADDY FITZSIMONS

John Fitzpatrick, the regional fundraising co-ordinator for the Children's Medical & Research Foundation expressed 'Many Thanks' for the donation of 385,000 Euro. The 385,000 Euro was raised by the Christmas raffle held by IVCA. This money goes towards the research projects that investigate children's incurable diseases and ailments. As you will agree, this is a very worthy cause and will no doubt be supported by future fund raising events. The foundation is based at our Lady's Hospital for sick Children, Crumlin.

\$30 million Cycle Track

New cycle track under construction in Melbourne, Australia
DONAL O'CONNELL

In the City of Casey, a suburb of Melbourne, in partnership with the Victorian State Government, a state-of-the-art criterium cycling track is to be constructed. With sweeping bends and long straights, the 3km circuit will be permanently closed to traffic. At the centre of the track, it will eventually be used for rugby, soccer, cricket and Australian football and a social club. The city of Casey is investing \$30 millions into the development. The Victorian government has guaranteed to maintain it. It can also be divided into smaller circuits.

Their races are divided into 6 groups. Each group is a separate race with prizes for 1st to 3rd place and if a group is large, then prizes from 1st to 4th places are awarded. If one group catches a slower one, the group caught has to allow the faster group to go ahead. If a rider jumps on to the faster group not only is he disqualified, but also his whole group is. The latest information from Len Laycock is that the circuit will open at the beginning of April and they expect 400 riders to compete on the first day. Len, as mentioned earlier is a member of our Association.

Thank you

Newsletter

I would like to thank all of the members who have contributed to this month's newsletter. Without you, the newsletter would probably contain very little of interest, so keep those articles coming in. Lionel



Wicklow 200

News and updates
DOLORES USHER

The organizing of the Wicklow 200 has begun in earnest. The route details have been finalized and you can view these details on the Wicklow 200 web site. Entries for this event will be taken in early March and if you are serious about riding this event, then don't leave your training and preparations too late. This is a demanding event with over 2000m of climbing, however the atmosphere and spirit of this event is fun and good-humored.

At the moment I am looking for volunteers for the Wicklow 200 and if you would like to help, then please contact myself on

086-2302573

For further information you can visit our web site at

www.wicklow200.ie

Wicklow 200 reaches Japan

The notoriety of the Wicklow 200 has even reached Japan! Donal O'Connell has received a post card from a pupil of a friend he met on the tour of Hokkaido, Japan. The post card and its message can be read on the IVCA web page.

Membership fees

Late fee entries

I hate to mention again, but by the request of the directors, membership fees for the 2006 season are now due. An online form can be obtained from the IVCA web page. From the opening page on the web site, just click the link in the left-hand panel and print out the form. Yearly subscriptions will not be taken on the morning of the first race, so make sure that they are paid before that. A rider who has not paid his/her subscriptions cannot be allowed to ride, as no personal insurance cover would be in place. The treasurer will not be collecting money at the race. Sorry!

FBD Insurance RÁS 2006

Exciting finish to the 2006 RÁS

PAUL DEANS

The route for this year's FBD INSURANCE RÁS 8 -Day International Cycle Race has been announced by the race organizer Dermot Dignam. The race presents a considerable challenge to the 150 top -class riders from at least 10 countries. From the start on Sunday 21st May there are; Twenty-three KOM climbs with six stages over 150 km in length, a team time trial, plus a down -to-the-wire final stage. The 2006 RÁS has a total of twelve hundred and thirty y km. Also, An Cheathru Rua, Clara and Skerries see for the first time stage finishes and return visits to Enniscorthy, Cobh, An Daingean, Listowel and Westport.

Interestingly enough, there is a stage transfer between stages four and five. The journey from County Kerry to County Clare will be made by Ferry. The entire entourage will make good use of the Shannon Ferry to the start of stage five in Kilrush.

In what is an exciting break with tradition, the last day will be a fully-fledged road stage rather than a circuit race, increasing the tension in the tussle for the final yellow jersey. The riders will face a total of four KOM climbs between the start in Clara and the finish in Skerries, including one climb on each of the two laps of a tough 13.7 kilometre finishing circuit. It will be a nail biting and dramatic end to what should be a superb edition of Ireland's biggest cycling race.

ROUTE DETAILS

STAGE 1 SUNDAY, MAY 21ST
DUBLIN TO ENNISCORTHY
121 KM

STAGE 2 MONDAY, MAY 22ND
ENNISCORTHY TO COBH
180 KM

STAGE 3 TUESDAY, MAY 23RD
COBH TO DINGLE
173 KM

STAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH
DINGLE TO LISTOWEL
150 KM

STAGE 5 THURSDAY, MAY 25TH
KILRUSH TO AN CHEATHRU (CARRAROE)
178 KM

STAGE 6 FRIDAY, MAY 26TH
TT STAGE 24KM AN CHEATHRU
AN CHEATHRU (CARRAROE) TO WESTPORT
83 KM

STAGE 7 SATURDAY, MAY 27TH
WESTPORT TO CLARA
168 KM

STAGE 8 SUNDAY, MAY 28TH
CLARA TO SKERRIES
FINISH

