

CLUB  
MARK



# Don't get fooled, come to East Newport Cycle Speedway Club

## Outdoor training has started again

Now that the clocks have gone forward and the country once again can enjoy the warm spring evenings, midweek training has begun with masses of riders and helpers turning out on Tuesdays and Thursday 6pm to late to help each other get fit and fast ready for the new season.

With such a varying age group of riders, the club decided that training would start at 6pm with the first half hour allowing the track to be set up then 6.30 to 7.30 exclusively for juniors and then seniors taking to the track from 7.30 to 8.30.

Early indications are that the new techniques club coach, Tony Bennett, is using is paying dividends. They sound a little unusual at first but there's not many riders fit enough to complete them without suffering from a distinct lack of breath..!!!

The club is always looking for new riders to come and join the Eastend

family so if you want to bring a relative or a mate please just invite them down. We are also looking forward to welcoming back the riders and friends who turned up last year. A lot of people chose to take the winter off from indoor training but we need to get the message out to them that we are once again open for business.

Even though its still very early we have welcomed many new faces to our successful training sessions and we hope all these people enjoy their chosen and look forward to getting better and better until we can cheers you all on in finals around the c o u n t r y and hopefully the world.



*Some of our 2008 juniors plus Andy*

## New Shirts

The club has had some great news in recent weeks with two new sponsors found who will provide a complete set of new racing shirts that will display their names on. The club are keeping with the Newport City colours of Black and Amber and the shirts will be the same design for all sizes and ages. We probably wont have them in time for the first South

West junior Grand Prix but will definitely have them ready for the second one at Exeter. Don't forget, the club are still taking orders of the new jackets as well.



Selling a bike part? Looking for a new jersey? Or if you want to include any features on this club newsletter just let Rob Absalom know and it can be added to next months edition.



*Hacksaw racing in 2008 Euro Clubs at Leicester*

### Forthcoming events:

#### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

British Youth & Junior League 1 – Southampton (12pm)

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

East Newport v Exeter - Div1/Comb/Conf (2pm)

#### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Newport v East Newport – Conf (1pm)

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

East Newport Car Boot Sale at the Underwood Social Club

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

British Youth & Junior League 2 – Exeter (12pm)

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Filton v East Newport - Div1 (2pm)

## Track development

Work on the Polo has been continuing throughout most weekends with the new announcers building, the electric starting tapes and the pits projects all nearing completion. Even before we pat ourselves on the back for those jobs well done the next lot of projects are already being designed to make your track the very best it can be. A new outside kerb and spectator seating is being considered and providing there's not too much red tape the seating will be in the form of a raised stand with at least three tiers. On training days parents can then watch their kids in much better comfort and the match day benefits are obvious. Club funding officer, Shan Jones, is working frantically to raise the much needed cash to fund these developments. I doubt very much the track will ever be finished such is the drive of club chairman Rich Hughes who has many ideas for the East Newport track.



## Meet the rider—Andy Cobley

Andy's Cycle Speedway career began in the late 70's when thrilled by the fast action of the Newport Wasps and wanting to emulate his heroes he found a cycle speedway club at Black Ash Path Newport and decided to join the Newport Dragons CSC. Team mates such as Gilbert Davis and Russ Cook were there at the time but in early 80's the club split in two. Andy joined the new club, Newport Stars CSC, and carried on building on his talent by regularly racing in the first team in the Western League. Andy's time in the sport ended in the mid 80's and went on to do other things like having his daughter Danielle who is a very talented and accomplished golfer. He returned to the sport in 2006 joining the Eastenders and quickly grew into a permanent fixture in the A team. Now one of the clubs Child Welfare officers, Andy is an important member of the family who has made the difference in East Newport becoming a Clubmark accredited club.



**Don't forget to visit [www.eastnewportcsc.co.uk](http://www.eastnewportcsc.co.uk)**

## Bearo returns from Australia but retires

Gilbert Davis has for over 20 years been at the forefront of cycle speedway. Known worldwide as 'The Bear' he has enjoyed a distinguished racing career reaching the very top level by representing Wales on numerous occasions and qualifying for the World Veterans Individual Final in Australia in March where a bad racing accident finally ended his racing career. The Bear has always been a dedicated club man and excellent team rider over the years wearing his heart on his sleeve, proud when he pulls on a Welsh shirt and has gained many admirers worldwide with his never say die style of racing. As a rider he was a team managers dream, his presence in the pits alone was worth an extra 10 points to his side and was every opponents nightmare. Away from racing Bear is just as popular with his wicked sense of humour and love of a good time making him the good company to be with. A devoted father of Josh and son of Joyce you can of-

ten see the loving side to the Bear. The word icon is often overstated but I feel Gilbert is a true icon of the sport with his behind the scenes work and racing ability never truly being recognised. We at East Newport are the real winners to the Bearo as a valuable family member. All members of the East Newport club wish Gilbert the Bear a happy retirement and hope he has many happy seasons ahead shouting from the trackside.



Above: Gilbert in action during the recent World Vets in Adelaide. The sport will miss his exciting style of racing.

By Ian 'Von' Sizer

## And finally.....

### Entries to National Events

We are going to start taking names and enter riders into the British Individuals soon so if you want to enter your age group come and chat to Tony the coach or Rob at any time.

**Under 10**

**Under 13**

**Under 16**

**Under 19**

**Women's**

**Open**

**Vets**

### Meet the Travel Management Team



*Travel Manager  
Ian "Von" Sizer*



*Assist Travel Manager  
Tanya Smith*