

DULWICH PARAGON CC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL

7PM TUESDAY NOVEMBER 16 2021

The Temple Bowling Club
1a Sunset Road
Denmark Hill
London
SE5 8AE

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Introduction from club chair Patrick Hawkins.**

- 2) Club finances - club treasurer Alex Brooke Turner.**
Back to normal
Surplus of £200 in-year
£31,000 income
£30k in bank

- 3) Annual reports from committee members**
Some given as written reports. *(See below.)*

Charlie – Cyclocross/MTB:

Largest most diverse group of racers in club
Clubs most successful winter CX season ever
Promoting 3 races this season (1/4 of london league)
Members in high London League rankings in various categories
5 x DPCC members in Masters World Championships
Donating £900 to HHV CX funds

Kathryn – Volunteering & Commute to Club

Commute-to-club scheme. Group of 12 women signed up and progressing well – from 30km to 60km rides so far. 3 members joined club already.

Volunteering – 482 stints in 2021 / 226 people / 58% members over 25 events. Thx to all volunteers

DPs nationwide reputation for volume of events run. Be proud.

Karim – Diversity

Covid & BLM – turning point in clubs thinking – membership doesn't reflect the community we live in

Working group formed to generate ideas for inclusivity. Outcome:

Diversity statement on site

Starter list of actions – appointed diversity sec. to committee - Karim stepped in

Monitor progress - measure diversity make up of club

Education - what inclusivity means

Review comms

Inviting others to volunteer ideas

Linda – Women's Secretary

79 F members - 17% of club

Social / off road / track

Race training sessions at HHV

Crit league @ velopark

Clare M – club road champ

Linda – club track champ

Patrick - On Art's behalf – Men's Road Racing

RR contingent come on loads this year

Patrick's personal highlight – running Palace crits - Amazing achievement

Joe on behalf of Chris – Website / Comms

Needs more content for newsletter – write / put in newsletter

Our website is not in great shape – not easy to nav esp. on phone – will be looking for support to review/update.

4) Club Constitution

Constitution = relatively fixed, subject to change at a general meeting

Rules – more evolutionary, may be adjusted by the committee

The new constitution and club rules were adopted by a show of hands

5) Questions from floor

Q. How do we compare to other local clubs in terms of diversity? Growth?

Peckham – relaxed FB group approach to membership

Penge – massive growth (esp more women / older / but also competitive - broaden the base of the pyramid) – shorter rides available avoiding the climbs over Crystal Palace

DPCC – a sporting club vs social club

VCL – youth focused

Compete with Brixton / attract from further afield

Brixton /VCL - Paired with a cycle shop / a hub – more casual intro to the club

Lots of clubs in London with 500 members / 15% women

DP set apart with volunteering / promotion / open meets at the Velodrome – esp at track

Q. What size should DP be? Optimum?

At lowest point went down to approx. 20 people. Set up a no drop Saturday ride – that attracted people

Peaked at over 600 after 2012

400-500 = a good number – not aiming for major expansion

5) Election of new committee members.

Joe Booth - General Secretary

(prop. Patrick Hawkins; 2nd David Joss Buckley)

Show of hands. Carried

Karim Kanji - Diversity & Inclusion Secretary

(prop. Patrick Hawkins; 2nd David Joss Buckley)

Show of hands. Carried

6) Re-election of committee members.

Alex Brooke Turner (Treasurer), Arthur Tye (Men's Road Racing), Bob Ruszkowski (VP), Charlie Codrington (CX), Chris O'Hearn (Website & Communications), David Rees (Kit & Image), Gwyn Thomas (Rides), Kathryn Innes (Volunteering), Libby Gordon (Social), Linda Wijlaars (Women), Patrick Hawkins (Chair & BMCR), Martin Headon (TT), Rahal Goonewardene (IT), Steve Sorba (Track)

Show of hands. Carried

7) Statements from committee members standing down

Nigel Wood (President)

Joined in 79

Dark days of 80s
 Cycling grown
 DP evolved and grown with it
 Stepping down but not going anywhere –
 Committee were elderly suits who never rode!
 Continue to turn the pedals
 Next chapters in the club's history
 Honour to be president

David Joss Buckley (General Secretary)

Good to see old faces and healthy that new joiners
 Originally asked to be “bike box secretary”
 2009 – took position as general secretary

8) Closing statement

New trophy created in honour of Nigel and David - Buckley / Wood prize – rider of the year? Up to DJB and Nigel to decide on use.

New club president – honorary role
 DJB proposed and voted in
 Presidential medal handed over

SECRETARIES' REPORTS

Membership - Joe Booth

Membership numbers as at October 2021:

Membership type	Female	Male	Total
Ordinary membership (first claim)	65	327	392
2 nd claim	8	12	20
Youth/young adult (21 & Under)		4	4
Committee membership	3	13	16
Honorary Life Members		4	4
Life membership	3	28	31
Total	79 (17%)	388 (83%)	467
<i>November 2020</i>	<i>71 (17%)</i>	<i>347 (83%)</i>	<i>418</i>
<i>October 2019</i>	<i>84 (18%)</i>	<i>375 (82%)</i>	<i>459</i>

Membership has remained largely stable over the last two years, despite the effects of Covid in limiting club activities at times in both years. The proportion of female members has stayed consistent but lower than we would like to see. The “commute to club” initiative is one way of trying to address this. We don’t currently collect any data on other protected characteristics (e.g. ethnicity). Since Spring 2020 we have taken a more relaxed and flexible approach to joining requirements, particularly where people were not able to get to scheduled introductory rides, had an existing connection to the club, or had prior experience in another club. However, we still think that the monthly intro rides remain the best way for most people to experience the club for the first time and decide if we are right for them.

Track - Steve Sorba

As soon as lockdown lifted the season started at HHV. A full complement of Track League, Women’s League, Vets League, Sprinters League and Open Meetings. Not to mention Dery Fests, The Dave Creasy and Velofete. Our own World Champs and sundry other races including a crit league and fixed gear racing. If you were committed to pinning a number on your back as often as possible your only worry would have been running out of safety pins.

Dulwich Paragon was represented at almost every level. And all the club’s achievements are too many to mention. But in Track League a special mention has to be made of Adam Clifton who came third overall. And I’m struggling to remember the last time a Dulwich rider made the podium. He could also claim to be the first overall of riders with a day job! And we had plenty of other riders in the As pleasing the crowds with often doomed long range attacks.

We had Euan making a strong showing in the B’s regularly placing and taking several wins.

We had plenty of riders invigorating the C category too. And I suspect that they are destined to be riding in the Bs next year.

And we had Linda flying the flag for us in Women’s League.

We even set up our first satellite team in Russia led by Moscow Steve.

And Jon Maher took over commentary duties when the usual suspect was too busy following his son race the Tour.

To put some of those achievements into perspective. Please note that the top woman in track league has just signed her first pro contract. On one evening the As were forced to race against a rider who had just completed the Tour De France. And half a dozen regulars past and present were to be found winning UCI road races not to mention medals at the Olympics and the Nationals. So if you aspire to be the best why not come and race against the best.

As usual we held a well-attended world championships at the end of the season. And once the rain abated made it all the way through the programme till the Marymoor Crawl. With a mixture of grizzled veterans, peak power whippersnappers, and absolute beginners making it an unforgettable day.

As well as the World Champs we also helped host a variety of events at the Track. A round of the Womens’ league, The Women’s Dery Fest alongside Brixton, and an Open Meeting. Our volunteers are so accomplished that I have commissaires lining up to attend as they know everything will run smoothly. So a big thanks to everyone who turned out to help.

And even now, as the inclement weather rolls in and the temperature drops, we're still running Wednesday evening road bike sessions through the winter. Because the track never sleeps. See you there.

Time Trials - Martin Headon

After a curtailed season and some tentative post-lockdown events in 2020, this year we managed to run a full suite of club events, including - thanks to Joe Booth and a host of volunteers - our traditional May Bank Holiday Open TT near Dorking, on the rolling, 18.7 mile GS-484 course. 14 club members attended, with Charlie Gaimster the fastest in blue on the day.

In the Harry Must road bike TT series on the 10 mile Polhill course (climb up it, race down it), Arthur Tye was dominant, winning every single round and taking the trophy with maximum points (even though he was supposed to be taking it easy in the last round as it was the day before he was due to race the Wally Gimber!). Meanwhile Amelia Pettit racked up the points to take the overall in the women's event.

Finally, in the hill climb on a slightly damp and slippery White Lane, it was another notable road racer, Lucas Rowley, who emerged victorious at the crest of the hill. Promising newcomer Claire Maynard took the women's crown, with Veteran prizes going to Chris Bedson and Patrick Hawkins.

Outside of club events, there were as usual many standout performances by members. Perhaps the greatest achievement, as it surely involved the most suffering, was winning the Team Prize at the RTTC National 24-hour Championships, thanks to Sam Crossley, Hector Kidds, and Jamie Baskerville. There were also wins at the Kingston Wheelers Open on the G10/42 for Charly Roberge, and the Brighton Mitre Hill climb (GH/94) for Matt Sumpton. Plus Alex Brooke-Turner retained his National TT Champion's jersey in the Handcycles H4 category.

To end on an administrative note, 2022 will be my final season as TT Secretary. My hope is that someone will come forward to help me run things in 2022, learn the ropes and the administrative quirks, before taking over fully in 2023. I'm committing to next season so we can still put on some races, but to put it plainly - if we don't have someone in the post by 2023, there might not be any events in 2023. So do please get in touch if you think you might be able to take on the job.

Volunteering - Kathryn Innes

482 volunteer stints done by club members in 2021 supporting 25 different events

- 8 Crit Races: CP Crits 6 weeks of set-up sign on & judging (2 canx), 1 week of marshals, 3 weeks Velopark evening crits, DP Club World Champs
- 1 Road Race: Wally Gimber, (LVRC race canx).
- 6 Time trials: DPCC Open, Harry Must (3 weeks), Footpath Hill Climb, White Lane Hill HC
- 3 Track: DP Track world champs, DP Open Meeting, Women's Demy Fest
- 4 Cyclocross: CX summer series HHV (2 weeks), CX Race Swanley, CX Race Hog Hill
- 3 Other: London Youth Games, Ride of the Falling Leaves, Black Unity ride, other ad-hoc activities.

226 individuals: 58% of those who should volunteer have done at least one event, 40% have done their two events at least (393 individuals eligible to volunteer, 471 members total).

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	2021	
		%		%		%		%	Covid lockdown – only a handful of volunteer events		%
Eligible to volunteer			502		424		380			393	
Total stints completed	712		687		634		506			482	
Events					47		41			25	
0 Stints			182		217	51%	132	35%		202	51%
1 Stint		67%	366	73%	100	76%	66	65%		69	58%
2 Stints		38%	213	42%	168	53%	136	47%		104	40%
3 Stints			37		33		30			31	
4 Stints			20		15		9			10	
5+ Stints					8		7			12	

To note:

- Volunteer numbers and stints include those done by those in the club who are not required to do additional volunteering (Committee, 2nd Claim, youth, pre-existing life members) – this is why % who have done none plus % who have done 1+ does not =100%
- Additionally 5 events were cancelled this year with >2 weeks notice (higher than prev. years), this represents a further 47 volunteer stints (46 individuals). These are not counted in the numbers above and will contribute to the lower % of volunteers who have volunteered compared to previous years.

202 club members who haven't done their 2 stints will be emailed to check records are correct and to see if they intend to renew if they'd like to do their missed ones next year.

Rides - Gwyn Thomas

I have been in post as Ride Secretary for exactly a year after the 2020 AGM elected me. To begin with the focus was entirely on organising weekend club rides that complied with the Covid restrictions in place at the time. This meant a strict limit on the number of riders allowed in a group; a leader for each group; and registering attendees. We used Rider HQ for sign-up to Saturday rides; and the Club Forum to record everyone attending Sunday rides.

Restrictions were lifted in the summer and the weekend rides have now returned to normal.

For Saturdays, this means turning up at Herne Hill Velodrome for different paced rides departing from 9AM onwards following the club route. However, I do make a weekly request for a volunteer to lead an alternative option which could be a ride of similar distance using a different route such as a loop to the grounds of Woldingham School; or a longer ride of 70 to 80km. On top of this, there's a monthly request for

as many ride leaders as possible to help with the prospective new members' introductory ride.

Sunday rides appear on the Club Forum with a ride leader and route decided in time for a mention in Martin's weekly email round-up. We try to always have at least two pace options of steady (around 22kph average) and intermediate (around 24kph average) to compliment the original Sunday Club Ride that Steve Sorba normally leads at an average pace of 25kph. Routes for steady and intermediate Sunday rides vary from week to week with a recommendation of a distance of around 100km during British summertime and 70 to 80km in the winter. But this is guidance only and route and distance is ultimately up to the ride leader to decide.

My thanks go to anyone and everyone who has led a ride over the past year. Without ride leaders we would have been unable to function as a club when Covid restrictions were in place and continuing to offer different weekend ride options relies on willing ride leaders.

If anyone is interested in trying out leading rides, please let me know. I use WhatsApp groups to ask for volunteers each week: there's one group for Saturday and one for Sunday. Leading rides is not difficult and is something I hope you'll enjoy as much as I do. The Sunday rides in particular are starting to depend on a relatively small number of regular leaders, and it would be great to increase our number and have different people leading.

Finally, my job description makes me responsible for overseeing other regular club rides that take place such as Dawn Raids, and the non-racing Wednesday night chain gangs but in all honesty, these successfully occur with zero involvement from me!

Cyclocross and MTB - Charlie Codrington

The ever-growing popularity of off road helps support the seemingly nonstop growth of these disciplines – so much so that I believe in terms of numbers the CX racing squad is easily the largest and possibly most diverse group of active racers in the club.

Of the 20/21 CX season, less said the better – we tried, we supported, we got beat by the wretched Covid, a familiar story.

However – all was not lost, the club offered a series of MTB and CX training evenings in the Spring and early Summer in preparation for the Beastway series of MTB races at Hog Hill.

Summer 21 was Beastway time – a series of MTB races hosts Hog Hill and eagerly supported by the MTB posse with some fairly respectable results – Dylan Bexley took the overall Gold in the seniors, Meg Pugh, the bronze, the ever-juvenile Mr Rees bringing a respectable 8th in the Seniors. (I came 7th in the Old men and it nearly killed me)

Beastway and Summer CX series kind of merged, I think one week there were 3 Off road races at Hog Hill, local legends to all who entered. As ever, the members took the challenge in their stride, the numbers that competed in both series was significant – but it wasn't only participating, Dulwich hosted both the Summer Series races at Herne Hill, even if one of those races was held in the midst of one of those tropical type cloud bursts we are all supposed to be getting used to.

And on, running, we currently running thorough what I think is arguably the club's most successful on Winter CX season ever.

Again – the club has supported local racing in an unprecedented way, originally booked to host 2 races, the club took over one of the many cancellations and put together another ground breaking event at Canada Heights with only 2 weeks' notice – so by promoting 3 races this year's we're shouldered over a quarter of the London League races.

Best results to... Caroline's Midas touch has been seen at National and Local level, one has high hopes for the World Series later this year. Caroline is not alone, Dylan Bexley is ruffling feathers collecting the odd bit of metal in V50's as has Stuart Lynn in the seniors.

I believe we have 5 riders representing the club at an international level in the Masters' Worlds later this year, and God knows how many will enter the Nationals at both Cyclopark and Ardingly.

A bit about this racing mob or squad, those 40 or so active regular racers, competing in all adult categories at every level of skill and fitness but always with supportive enthusiasm. We have winners, we have riders in the top 10, the middle and in some categories, we dominate the tail end. Actually it doesn't really matter where you finish, it's a joy to be part of such an inclusive, dynamic, supportive, and friendly group who just get and do.

DP is a key supporting club in Herne Hill's plans to revamp the trails and promote CX and MTB to a wider audience than is currently possible, we've help with volunteer support gardening and by channelling all the profits from the Summer Series - £900 and a potential £1500 from our Winter promotions to the HHV trail funds, I'm confident, we're putting money where it matters.

So in conclusion, I think it's safe to say the MTB and CX groups are in a healthy state, the club is a key player in the region providing support for local racing as well as offering our growing squad subsidised training and support. None of this could happen without the time given and I appreciate the, I think, universal support of those involved.

Kit – David Rees

Giordana Kit

After a quiet 2020 (no idea why?!) kit sales have taken off again with over 115 orders placed in the last year – considerably more than for most of 2020. The vast majority of sales are for Club Jerseys, with the Men's Bibs also a popular item. The new club cap is proving very popular as well with a record number of sales in the 24hours since they were launched. Strangely we've only sold one pair of Women's Bibs in the last year despite having stock in all sizes and jersey purchases by Women members still being healthy.

Verity and her team at Giordana continue to provide an excellent service, handling both storage and delivery logistics with the same fast, friendly and efficient manner they've always done, esp. considering some of the hurdles this last year has thrown up in terms of global and local logistics!

Revenue for Giordana kit:

- 115 Orders in last 12months
- Gross was £4,965.90
- Net (minus fees, 2 refunds) was £4,772.17

NoPinz

Unfortunately we're still awaiting sale figures from the NPz for our kit shop but these will be provided as soon as. The NPz kit continues to offer members a comprehensive range of race-specific kit items through their online shop and take up does seem to be pretty high among the racers groups within the club.

New items

We've introduced two new items of kit in the last 12 months; the limited edition snoods which have proved popular (kudos, and thanks to DaveJB for all the hard work on these!), and a new club cap which has just launched (on sale now in the club shop!) which has quite literally been flying off the virtual kit shop shelves over the last 24 hours!

Looking ahead, we will continue with the NoPinz model and Giordana lines as they provide members with both a wide range of quality kit offerings to suit most disciplines and activities as well as allowing us a good degree of flexibility through limiting the amount of club funds tied up in unsold kit stock. Lastly we hope to be able to introduce some new and exciting additions to the club's kit offerings over the coming year which will offer everyone even more opportunities to cover themselves in Dulwich blue, so watch this space!

Newsletter and Website - Chris O'Hearn

After quite a bit of disruption the newsletter should be back to the quarterly schedule now, with a new edition out soon.

As always I would love to receive more contributions from members. The newsletter is more of a magazine these days which means we have plenty of scope for personal stories and first-person reports plus images.

So please think about contributing stories about epic rides, exciting races, or your own development in the club – even if you aren't a confident writer I am very happy to help edit.

For me the highlight of the newsletter this year was Sarah White's account of the NC500 trip with Gary MacGowan over summer – brilliant writing, personal emotion and amazing images.

That brings me to the website, which has been a bit temperamental this year. For example older editions of Paragon News but also things like committee minutes etc have disappeared because of software no longer being supported. It's out of date and creaking quite badly.

We need to update it but the first step is to get someone more expert to see if it needs a complete re-start or can be modernised on the current platform and what functionality can be added. If anyone has expertise in this then please let me know – I'll also put out a call on the forum.

We would be happy to pay someone for their advice so even an external person or company you might know would be welcome.

General Secretary - David Joss Buckley

After the barren year that was 2020, it was gratifying to see the club returning to something like normal activities, so first of all thanks to my fellow committee members who worked so hard to get the show rolling once again - and to all the members who assisted in that. Aside from the usual admin duties, I was personally involved in a few other things: 2021 started with a distribution of club-branded buffs, designed by David Rees and dished out as a NY prezzy. No club awards this year, so my annual trip to Go-Go Cobblers (!) the engravers was postponed, but I hope to

renew my acquaintance with them for a prize-giving early in 2022. No Wally Gimber in the spring, either - but Patrick was determined not to lose it for a second year (it was the longest, continually-run road race in the calendar until the pandemic hit) and wrangled it into being in September. A great day's racing, too - or so it appeared from the rear-view of the lead car I was driving. Bob is also a determined character and with his, Art, Iain and Ben's help we got CPCrits launched again. However, the weather and various festivals in the park, meant we were only able to mount 4 rounds out of the usual 16. Undaunted, Racing Sec Art set up a very successful 4-week crit series at Velo Park, where it had the honour of being the first post-Covid racing on the circuit. The Dulwich Footpath hillclimb and social was a fun afternoon as usual, though there seemed to be more enthusiasm for the Woodhouse beer tent than the 15% climb up to it. Odd that. I'm always slightly amazed that the Dulwich Estate grants permission for the event, but they do, so thanks D.E. The weekend after that saw the return of the Dunwich Daylight ride to the Sussex coast. Numbers dwindled a bit after a dodgy weather forecast, but apart from the odd shower, everyone got to Dunwich beach before a rainstorm of biblical proportions hit us. As always, it's a treat to sink into a coach seat and be driven back, though a couple of hardcases did the round trip by bike, while 40 of us snoozed our way home. We'll do it all again next year! As we will the Broadstairs ride to Morelli's ice-cream parlour. Another grand day out, though I had one or two moans about the route: apparently Zipp 303s don't go well on seaweed. Who'd have thought it? Which brings us pretty much up to date.

So it's AGM time once again - in the living flesh this year, too. It's my 12th year as General Secretary, and finally it's time to conclude my personal reign of terror. So, I'm standing down and handing over the whip and whistle to Joe Booth. He will be a superb GS, so you're in good hands. Better hands, probably.

But I'm not going anywhere, there's a few k's left in the tank, and a few other things to organise once again (see above)