



CHAIN MAIL – MAY 2022

(The JUNIOR/YOUTH NEWSLETTER Of Velo Club Venta)

Apologies that this May edition is a week later than usual but I was on the Isle of Man last weekend at the third round of the National Junior Road Race series. We are only in the second week of May and my personal journey with Matt this year has already taken me to Devon and Dorset as well as the Isle of Man for junior road races and Wales and Yorkshire to come before the end of May.

This weekend three of our youth riders are in Wales at Pembrey Country Park for the second round of the National Youth Series so to start this month a quick word of thanks to all of the parents and our enthusiastic band of coaches without whom our young riders would not have access to so many opportunities to ride their bikes both competitively and socially.

Stuart Gilmour – VC Venta Youth Racing Officer

April Road Race Review

I really am not sure where to start with my April review of road and circuit racing as we have had youth and juniors racing at Odd Down, Portsmouth, Hillingdon and Thrupton to name a few with victories during April for Bobby Buenfeld and Oscar Lawrence at Portsmouth.

Bobby historically has not ridden a huge amount of circuit races but with five wins already in 2022 he is clearly finding his road racing legs. Probably the most notable victory was in the Omega Circuit Series at Portsmouth which also contributed to a counting round in the Southern Youth Series. Oscar Lawrence secured his second victory of the season taking victory at Portsmouth on 27th April to back up his first victory of the season at Hillingdon in March. Both Bobby and Oscar are racing in the National Youth Series event at Pembrey this weekend along with Alex Murphy who started April by representing the South Region at the five stage Youth Tour of Scotland (YTOS). Alex rode superbly all weekend and although perhaps slightly disappointed with 28th overall, Alex secured 7th place on stage two. An unfortunate mishap where another rider rode in to the back of Alex while rolling out to start stage one resulted in a cracked frame so a great relief that Alex made it through the weekend safely and without further incident.

It has been good seeing so many Venta youth riders making the journey to Portsmouth throughout April, Harrison Warner, William Hart and Samuel Hughes also competing this month.

Our junior riders Matt Gilmour, Pedro Hutchinson and Oscar Hoult have been mixing up circuit racing at Portsmouth and Thruxton with Pedro claiming two top tens at Portsmouth during April. Oscar started the season as a 4th category junior but with 4th place at Thruxton early in April he has already moved to 3rd category. Matt moved up to 2nd category in February following early season races and has been progressing nicely at Thruxton with three top tens during April, securing his best result of the season so far with second place to end April.



National Junior Road Race Series

The National Junior Road Race Series brings the best junior riders in the country together for a ten race series consisting of both one day and stage races. Matt Gilmour has been our only representative so far riding all of the first three rounds with two events in April. The Velomax Junior Road Race took place on military roads in the tank training area at Bovington Camp in Dorset and then a three stage event on the Isle of Man. Matt secured his first series points on the Isle of Man with 6th place on the opening prologue and 19th on general classification. The next round is the Cadence Junior Road Race in Powys, Wales on 22nd May with the National Junior Time Trial Championship and National Road Race Championship the following week in Yorkshire.



National Youth Omnium Series

The National Youth Omnium series is a competition for track bikes with five qualifying weekends culminating in a final, this year at Derby Velodrome in August. Alex Murphy secured an outstanding second place at the Portsmouth qualifier in April which sets him up nicely for the remaining qualifying rounds and a very real expectation of securing a finals place. Youth racing in two year jumps is always challenging as a first year but competing adds to experience and Samuel Hughes as a first year youth A can be proud of his effort to finish 15th.



Time Trials In Focus

Our open time trial event on 10th April saw several of our young riders taking to the start line. Matt Gilmour in the TT bike category put in a storming ride for a personal best and third place overall on category. Road bike categories are becoming increasingly popular in time trials as you clearly do not need any different equipment to your normal road bike to compete. Oscar Hoult was another to record a personal best on the Candover course taking first junior and fourth overall in the road bike category and Isla Hoult taking first juvenile. Bobby Buenfeld has probably been our busiest rider of the year so far, in addition to his road bike efforts posting several fast time trials and an occasional MTB XC race. Bobby took overall victory at the first Crabwood CC time trial in the New Forest on 28th April winning by more than a minute.



The major time trial event of the year is not a national event but the inter-club time trial against Sotonia. This year the event is taking place at Kings Somborne on Thursday 19th May. Anybody aged twelve or over can enter a time trial which takes place on open roads. The club are paying all entry fees so all you need to do is to register using the link below and then turn up to ride. We get a point for every rider who competes so it really is about the taking part on this occasion which will help us to retain our trophy (hopefully). If you have never done a time trial or are nervous about riding a race on open roads, why not enter as a two up where you can ride with a parent or friend. A two up is a great way to experience time trials for the first time:

<https://forms.office.com/r/p0gA5NnW2X>

[Summer CX Racing – Coming Soon](#)

Entry is now open for those who are missing cyclocross with the four race Fareham Wheelers Series at the New Forest Outdoor Learning Centre now open for entries via the British Cycling website. Races will be taking place each Tuesday evening in June with a link for entry to the first round below:

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/261547/FWCC-Summer-Cross-Round-1>

[Development Opportunities](#)

The spring term of go-ride has started and we have forty five young riders registered for coaching every Sunday afternoon at South Winchester Park & Ride. Malcolm Cross is also organising regular weekly off-road rides at Farley Mount prior to formal cyclocross coaching and training returning later in the spring. Details of the off road rides are generally posted either on Facebook or either the Junior or CX WhatsApp groups. If your parents are not currently on either of these groups, email info@vcventa.co.uk and we can add them so that you are kept up to date with everything that is happening.



Huge thanks to Andy Lean who has organised and led several youth rides already this year.

Several of our young riders experienced track cycling at Calshot during the winter at track cluster coaching sessions and in the summer these coaching sessions move outdoor to the Bournemouth velodrome, an outdoor track at Slades Park in Bournemouth. See the link here for more details:

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/263929/British-Cycling-South-Programme-Track-Club-Cluster---Bournemouth-4>

Dates For The Diary

Monday 9th May @ 6pm – Track Club Cluster at Bournemouth Velodrome

Wednesday 11th May @ 6pm – Portsmouth Circuit Races At Portsmouth Mountbatten and every Wednesday until September

Thursday 19th May @ 7pm – Inter Club Time Trial VC Venta v Sotonia. HQ Kings Somborne Village Hall

Sunday 22nd May @ 10am – VC Venta Road Race. HQ Littleton Village Hall. Come along and support our road race for 3rd and 4th category senior riders.

Tuesday 7th June @ 5.30pm – Fareham Wheelers Summer CX Round 1

Sunday 12th June @ 9am- Sotonia Summer Criterium at South Winchester P&R. Racing for all ages from under 8. Entry via the British Cycling website:

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/258050/Sotonia-Summer-Criterium>

.....and Finally

Good luck to all of our young riders who are taking GCSE's over the next few weeks. Exams will be finished before you know it and then there will be a whole summer stretching ahead of you to get out and ride your bikes.....

Some Useful Links

Velo Club Venta Website: <https://www.vcventa.co.uk/pages/11-about-vc-venta>

Velo Club Venta Members Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VentaRacing>

British Cycling Website (Events): <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/home>

CTT (National) Website: <https://www.cyclingtimetrials.org.uk/>

CTT (South District) Website: <http://www.southdc.org.uk/>

Stuart