



CHAIN MAIL – JULY 2022

(The JUNIOR/YOUTH NEWSLETTER Of Velo Club Venta)

It has been a while since the last edition of “Chain Mail” as the road and time trial seasons have been in full gas. Riders competing at a national level in Yorkshire, Wales, Cheshire to name but a few while we have also had a regular core of young riders supporting evening racing at Portsmouth. This month we review some outstanding individual performances as well as celebrating the joy and camaraderie of riding together. It is going to be hot over the coming days so wherever you are riding, stay hydrated.

Stuart Gilmour – VC Venta Youth Racing Officer

National Youth Circuit Championship

The National Youth Circuit Championship is the pinnacle of the youth road race season with the National Championship this year returning to the challenging circuit at Olivers Mount in Scarborough. The course includes multiple times up (and down) Olivers Mount which has a maximum gradient of 17% so definitely a circuit that suits the lighter riders. Oscar Lawrence on the back of an outstanding weekend at London 2 day (more of that later) went with high expectations in the youth B (under 14) category and he did not let himself down riding to an astonishing 6th place. Anybody who knows Oscar even slightly will know he is never lacking in self-confidence and speaking to him subsequently there was disappointment that he did not make the podium. I can assure Oscar however that 6th place at Scarborough and particularly from a rider who is really in his first year of National competition is an outstanding result. Well done Oscar. Alex Murphy has had a season of frustration and disappointment in the National Youth series which has been beset by mechanical issues while juggling GCSE's and by his own admission Alex would not put Scarborough in his top one hundred favourite circuits to race. A really determined ride from Alex though saw him finish 37th from one hundred and ten starters and a very satisfactory weekend. Congratulations to both Oscar and Alex.

National Junior Road and Time Trial Championship

The junior equivalent of the National Youth Circuit Championship took place this year on the grippy Yorkshire roads around the Howardian hills. Matt Gilmour had the time trial as his primary objective for his first-year riding at junior level. A week before,

tinkering with the bike geometry to ensure it was UCI legal and would pass the JIG check was stressful along with some illness which meant he went in to the weekend perhaps not completely in the best place psychologically. A strong ride in the time trial however saw him finish 20th from 43 starters despite being hindered early by a slow car. Just finishing the road race the following day was an achievement as more than 30% of the riders failed to finish. A tough weekend of racing but one that in reflection Matt will be very proud of.



National Youth Circuit Series

It is mid-July but the National Youth Series is already nearly at an end with rounds already completed at Pembrey (2 Day), Oulton Park, Loughborough and London (2 Day). Alex Murphy, Bobby Buenfeld and Samuel Hughes have all been competing in the youth A races with Oscar Lawrence introducing himself to the youth B riders (under 14). There have been some huge positives but also too many disappointments with the boys involved in racing crashes and mechanical incidents. Oscar has gained in confidence as the series has progressed after a relatively quiet start at Pembrey where he finished 28th on GC with a best placing of 16th on the final stage. On to Oulton Park the following week and another 16th place before London 2 day where he really announced his arrival as a genuine contender in the age group. Day one at Redbridge saw Oscar take 7th on prologue and 9th on stage two before the event moved on to Cyclopark in Kent for day two where 11th on stage three was the pre-cursor to his first national podium with Oscar sprinting to second place on stage four for 7th on GC. A super solid weekend of results.



Alex Murphy undoubtedly went in to the national youth series this year with genuine and realistic expectation of challenging for podiums. A GC placing of 19th at Pembrey did not reflect a weekend of really solid racing from Alex with two stage top tens including 5th place on the last stage and my sources telling me that he was active near the front all weekend. Oulton Park the following week consequently was a huge frustration as a massive group came out of the final turn with Alex near the front before being forced on to the grass and rolling in well down the field. Loughborough was another frustration with the race splitting and London (2 day) saw chances ruined with a puncture on stage two. Day two though enabled Alex to show what he is capable of finishing 7th on the last stage.

Bobby Buenfeld like Oscar is really competing for the first time at a national level on road. A decent prologue at Pembrey saw Bobby sitting in 21st place but a crash on stage two resulted in some wrist pain so to complete the two days was a real testament to Bobby's courage and determination ending the weekend 57th on GC. Bobby had a similar Loughborough experience to Alex rolling in 48th from nearly eighty starters. Not surprising really that Bobby does well on prologues securing 24th at London 2 day but finishing the weekend 63rd. The season has definitely been a learning curve for Bobby at a national level but undoubtedly lots of positive indicators that he will be competitive when moving to junior next season.

Youth cycling is tough for first years as the age bands increase in two-year cycles so it is not really a surprise that Samuel Hughes as a first year under 16 has found competition to be tough this year. Samuel rides with a never give up attitude though and completed London two day.

Congratulations to all of the boys who have been racing Nationally this year.

[National Youth Omnium Series](#)

When I last put a copy of Chain Mail together Alex Murphy had ridden two qualifying rounds in the 2022 National Youth Omnium series. Since then two more really strong performances have all but guaranteed Alex a place at finals day to be held at Derby Velodrome in August. Preston Park in Brighton is one of the oldest cycle tracks in the country, a rather strange 540 metre circuit around the outside of a sports field which definitely favours those with some previous knowledge. A fantastic 3rd place at Preston Park was followed up a few weeks later with 4th place in a super strong field of more than thirty riders at Palmer Park in Reading. Samuel Hughes is our only other track rider and after missing Preston Park finished 32nd at Reading. A fantastic series from Alex and we look forward to following his progress at finals day.

[Time Trials In Focus](#)

As bunch racing has returned to more normal circumstances compared to the post covid 2021 season, so the number of riders competing in time trials has seen a definite reduction. Last night however, six Venta members contested the South District youth championship at Goodwood with Bobby Buenfeld taking the overall boys win from Oscar Hoult. Oscar and Bobby took the respective wins in the M16

and M15 categories respectively. It was a good night for the Hoults family with Isla fastest girl on the night and of course taking the F13 win. Oscar Lawrence took second place in the M14 category with Sam Hughes in 3rd place in the same category only a second further back. Ethan Skipwith also put in a strong ride to finish 2nd in the M13 group. Congratulations to all of the riders.



Bobby has been mixing up some strong time trial performances with his road racing in addition to the district championship taking two wins at Goodwood open events and two third places at Sotonia opens including going sub 20 for the first time recording a time of 19m 47s. He is also the British Schools Association hill climb national champion.

The club time trial on Wednesday 6th July saw eleven Venta junior and youth riders signing on to ride. Bobby clearly felt the other riders in the club needed an opportunity for glory and was a notable absentee but the youngsters still totally dominated. Pedro Hutchinson still finding fitness after a bout of covid took the overall win in a fast time of 24m 05s with Alex Murphy on a standard road bike less than 20 seconds further back in 2nd place and Oscar Lawrence completing the podium. Harrison Warner finished in a highly credible 7th place with a time of 26m 38s with other youth riders coming in Ethan Skipwith (riding 2 up with Charles Carr) in 15th, Luca Day-Borloz in 22nd place and riding on his 15th birthday. That really is dedication. Peter Wylie 23rd, Elliot Gurney 24th, Isla Hoults 26th followed in by Ben Carr and Peter Clarke. Well done to everybody who entered.

[Summer CX Series Review](#)

So the summer CX series promoted by Fareham Wheelers during June has been and gone with plenty of young Venta riders competing during the three weeks. The early start time for the younger riders undoubtedly made it problematic for some to get to Romsey but round one saw Theo Plumb following in the Plumb family footsteps competing in the under ten age group and finishing a highly credible 12th.

Well done Theo. In the combined U14/U16 race a really strong ride saw Josh Chamberlain take 2nd place and Harrison Warner in 8th. Week two and only Josh and Harrison on the start line taking 7th and 8th respectively. I cannot find results for week three but understand the series was a relative success and likely to be repeated in 2023.

[Wessex League 2022/23 Registration Open](#)

Anybody who intends to ride in more than two rounds of the Wessex Cyclocross League this season is encouraged to pre-register which will then speed up the sign on process at your first race of the season and subsequently. If you pre-register this season your race number will also have your name on the number which is pretty cool. Registration can be completed by following the link here but is only open until 22nd August 2022. Following that date you will need to register at your first race:

<https://www.wessexcyclocross.co.uk/2022/miche-wessex-league-registration-2022-23/>

Mountain Bike Update

The Southern XC MTB series finished today in a baking hot New Forest. Results still pending but the photo seems to suggest that the Venta boys had a good day out.....I think



Junior rider Pedro Hutchinson has had a frustrating summer spending more time off the bike than on it with covid and a little bit of parental pressure perhaps to do at least some work for his GCSE's. When he has had the opportunity to race like Alex Murphy he has had some mechanical issues losing a pedal in his only national Mountain bike race at Cannock in May. Now exams are finished we look forward to seeing Pedro back on the bike building form and fitness ready for his next assault on the cyclocross season.

Development Opportunities

The summer term of go-ride has been severely disrupted with travellers at the park and ride and also issues with coach availability. We very much hope that normal go-ride service will return for the September block of coaching.

Malcolm has continued with regular off road rides and coaching around Farley mount on Wednesday evenings with the plan for more structured CX coaching in September subject to some venue issues being resolved.

Regional School Of Racing – Nominations Required

I hope anybody who is interested has seen the post on the Facebook forum or your parents have picked up the message on Whats App. The Regional School of Racing (RSR) is the first step on the British Cycling pathway development programme with coaching for youth A boys (under 16) and youth A/B girls available in various disciplines, Cyclocross, Track Endurance and Sprint, Mountain Bike and Road. There is an expectation that nominees for RSR are competing or intending to compete at a regional or national level. More details are available on the Facebook forum but if you cannot find the post or require more information please email racing@vcventa.co.uk. Time guidelines are tight however with any expression of interest required by the club by 25th July and nominations then being forwarded to British Cycling by 1st August 2022.

.....and Finally

It has been fantastic seeing so many of our young members competing in all sorts of disciplines as well as just enjoying time on their bikes with friends at Farley Mount, on youth rides and youth chain gangs but it does create a problem for me in trying to keep tabs on what everybody is doing so for those who I may have missed in this edition, apologies. It is also great seeing your photos on WhatsApp or other forums taking on climbs in Europe or just enjoying your bike on your holidays. Wherever you are riding this summer, enjoy it.



*****HOT OFF THE PRESS*****

Literally while I have been sweating over a keyboard putting this edition together, Alex Murphy has finally had the stars aligning as he rode to victory in the Bike Bath Summer Races which included the South Regional Circuit Championship. Congratulations to Alex on becoming the South Region Under 16 Circuit Race Champion. Form is temporary, class is permanent.....



[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