



CHAIN MAIL – SEPTEMBER 2022

(The JUNIOR/YOUTH NEWSLETTER Of Velo Club Venta)

As summer drifts in to autumn the road, time trial and mountain bike XC seasons are drawing to a close and cyclocross definitely takes centre stage as far as competitive cycling goes. The Wessex League cyclocross season has already started on a bumpy hillside course at Clanfield. There is no such thing as the wrong weather for cycling, just the wrong clothing, so start digging out those thermal and waterproof layers but whatever you do, keep cycling.

Stuart Gilmour – VC Venta Youth Racing Officer

National Youth Time Trial Championship

Four members travelled to Doncaster recently to participate in the National Youth Time Trial championships against some of the very fastest boys and girls in the country. Entry is by invitation only for riders who had qualified through regional events so Isla and Oscar Hout, Bobby Buenfeld and Oscar Lawrence were already winners before even taking to the start line. Isla Hout was one of the youngest competitors in the girl's field finishing a highly credible ninth place. In the boy's event Bobby came eleventh overall with Oscar Hout in twenty first and Oscar Lawrence twenty ninth. The boys combined times did however earn them the team prize and the biggest trophy of the weekend. Congratulations to all of the riders.



National Youth Circuit Series

The National Youth Series reached its conclusion for 2022 with the final round being the North West Youth Tour on the August bank holiday weekend. Alex Murphy was our lone representative riding in the youth A (under 16 category) which saw 102

riders take to Morecambe Promenade for the opening prologue. Alex rode a strong prologue to finish 25th, however a disappointing second stage on a hilly road circuit outside of Lancaster saw Alex slip down the general classification. Day three is a fast circuit race around Lancaster University campus with a bunch sprint always inevitable, Alex taking 47th on stage and finishing 60th on GC. It has been a tough season for Alex in the National Youth Series with mechanicals and accidents hindering his hopes of a high placing in the overall standings.

Oscar Lawrence although not riding at the North West youth tour, as reported in previous editions of Chain Mail has had an outstanding season and finished in 18th place overall in the series standings. Although he may not appreciate the relevance, a top twenty position in the series standings will ensure Oscar is able to ride in any National youth events next season when he moves up to youth A (under 16). Superb series Oscar in your first full season of national competition.

Regional Recognition

Pedro Hutchinson and Alex Murphy both received regional recognition recently with Alex selected to represent the South Region at the School Games National Finals a multi-sport event held at Loughborough University. Pedro meanwhile was on the team bus as part of a South Region team selected to ride at the Inter-Regional MTB Cross Country championship.

Pedro unfortunately had a frustrating weekend when he was involved in a crash and having come off a few weeks previously when training in France, he was advised to withdraw from the event. A frustrating conclusion to his first regional representation.

The School Games cycling event necessitates a team of four boys and four girls racing multi-discipline on track, street sprints, short criterium style races and then a hilly road stage. Alex took 17th place in the road race with the British Cycling South Region team finishing 8th overall.

Wessex League Up And Running

The Wessex League is up and running with the first round at Clanfield already done. An incredible thirteen Venta youth and junior riders took to the start line for the first event on a tough, bumpy hillside course. In the under 10 race Oliver Nurse finished in 10th place, under 12 race saw our first podium of the new league season with Harry Mitchell in 3rd. Isla Hoult moved up to the under 16 girls race this season and finished a highly credible 8th in her first outing. Our strongest entry was in the under 16 boys with Josh Chamberlain 13th, Harrison Warner 22nd, Elliot Gurney 26th, Luca Day-Borloz 27th, Monty Wyatt 30th and Peter Wylie all finishing. Last season the junior field would often see only three or four riders but more than twenty took to the start line at Clanfield with Pedro Hutchinson our highest placed rider in 7th, followed home by Oscar Hoult 13th, Bobby Buenfeld in 16th and Daniel Lean completing the junior boys field. A fantastic turnout for the first round although some

will be hoping that the weather changes and the ground becomes a bit muddier and more technical as the season progresses.

Circuit Race Round-Up

As the circuit race season draws to a conclusion, several season long series have finished with considerable VC Venta success. I may have missed some but to summarise very briefly, Bobby Buenfeld claimed overall series victory in the Portsmouth North End Wednesday evening race series in the youth A category. Pedro Hutchinson took second overall in the Racing Club Omega Portsmouth Evening Series in the 3rd cat group despite moving out of that classification half way through the season. Matt Gilmour took fifth place overall in the Racing Club Ravenna Goodwood Series in the E12 category despite only racing in two of the three rounds. In addition Alex Murphy was in the prizes picking up a prime sprint at Thruxton riding up as a youth with seniors in the third category race and Bobby Buenfeld taking second place in the final race of the Thruxton season again riding up on a dispensation with seniors in the 3rd cat race and winning a bag of coffee for his efforts.

Regional School Of Racing

The club nominated four riders to be put forward to the Regional School of Racing across all disciplines, cyclocross, track and road. I am hopeful that all of our nominees will get approved for the disciplines that they requested although at the current time we are still awaiting results of the regional selection programme. Our thanks to the riders who put themselves forward for consideration. We are confident as a club that we have put forward suitable candidates who we would hope to see accepted for this next level of coaching input.

Cyclocross Training

Cyclocross training is currently taking place most Wednesday evenings at Strawberry Lane in Up Somborne. All ages are welcome with Ollie Nurse I think our youngest rider mixing it with some far more senior riders, and all benefitting from the wisdom of our ever-enthusiastic coach and mentor Malcolm Cross. We are still seeking another training venue closer to Winchester. If your parents have any ideas, please message info@vcventa.co.uk. If you are interested in cyclocross and your parents are not already members of the WhatsApp junior or cyclocross groups get them to message me asking to be added. Lots of coaching and racing information is shared on WhatsApp so you need to be in it to win it.....



[Club Hill Climb](#)

The annual club hill climb takes place this weekend with members and guests racing up Old Winchester Hill. Junior Matt Gilmour won the title last year and is looking to defend the title again this season against strong senior and junior competition including junior members Bobby Buenfeld, Samuel Hughes and Corbin Gregson. If you are not going to Swindon on Sunday for the next Wessex League race, join us on the slopes of Old Winchester Hill where the first rider goes at 9am.

[National Closed Circuit Time Trial Championship](#)

The final time trial event of the season for many is the National Closed Circuit ten mile time trial championship which is held each year on the smooth tarmac of Thruxton race circuit. The event this year is on Sunday 9th October. Entries close on 27th September but for juveniles (under 16 on the day of the event) click here <https://www.cyclingtimetrials.org.uk/race-details/24056> and for juniors aged 16-18 click here <https://www.cyclingtimetrials.org.uk/race-details/24055>

[.....and finally](#)

It has been fantastic during the summer holiday to see lots of photos of the club jersey at the top of many of Europe's highest Cols. Congratulations to all of our young members who have been exploring some of the highest peaks in France and Italy, cycling memories that will stay with you forever.

[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