**VCV Racing Report 2022**

In contrast to the previous year 2022 saw a full program of riders and races, covering road, cx, TT, MTB and other races. This is a highlight so if I have missed you apologies in advance!

The focus for 2022 was to get as many riders from VC Venta out racing and getting involved, the broader the base layer of a pyramid the higher the peak can reach. Every rider who entered an event in 2022 helped create that broad base that was reflected in one of the best years for VC Venta from a racing perspective, so well done for all those riders who did not make the podium but put their number on and gave it their best effort.

Velo Club Venta for the first time ever were 1st ranked club in Road & Track South region beating 70 other teams. This shows the breadth of talent across a number of riders across a number of races. Well done all.

Some standout performances in National and regional races include Nationally: Alex Murphy, Bobby Buenfeld, Sam Hughes, Oscar Lawrence, Matt Gilmour. Regionally: Matt Gilmour, Jamie Plumb, Pedro Hutchinson, Tom Smith, Carl Morris

Congratulations to riders moving up the BC Category rankings: Carl Morris, JP, Matt Gilmour, Jack Tomlinson, Pedro Hutchinson, Bobby Buenfeld, Alex Murphy, James Locke, Oscar Hoult,

**Race as a Team**

This year we launched an initiative to give riders a discounted entry to encourage a wider participation of riders. This was successful at Thruxton & Reading CX. We will be repeating this in 2023 and also including the Southern MTB XC series as well as a Masters road race.

**Events**

The club ran a number of successful events in 2022 with the focus on putting on events that our members want to ride and race in, they take up a huge amount of time and effort so a big thank to the event organisers and volunteers (you know who you are). Highlights include:

VCV Open TT on Alresford circuit with over 50 entrants, a great start to the season

VCV Road Race held as a 3/4 race on the Littleton circuit with JP getting onto the podium.

Club 10 Time Trial on Old Alresford course, thank you Darren Lyons.

VCV Hill climb, another successful event well run and organised by Nick Tarmey and featured in British Cycling spotlight on volunteers.

**Go Ride Racing**

The first step on the cycle racing calendar made its successful return in October 2022 with a number of riders from 6-16 putting a number on their back and racing their bikes for the first time ever. We look forward to repeating this again next year and supporting this part of the pyramid.

**Esports**

The eSports arm, based on the Zwift platform, of VCV was started in January 2021 to provide a competitive outlet as the pandemic shut down competition, it consists of Venta riders with support from Worthy Wheelers and other friends of club members. (Paul Double guest appearance).

Venta ladies participate under the Sotonia umbrella with Amy Thorpe (VCV) organising this.

In the 21-22 Venta had 5 teams competing in Tuesday nights Zwift Racing League (ZRL) 2,200 teams in scratch races and (TTT) leagues. Thursdays saw 2-4 teams in the WTRL TTT which at its peak saw over 800 teams completing. Season highlights were:

Matt Gilmour and Oscar Hoult’s outstanding individual performances for VCV Alfred in the top tier (A category) of the ZRL against some very strong adult riders.

Our top TTT group making the Platinum League in December 2021 (this is an invitation only league for the fastest 12 worldwide category finishers the previous week). This group also topped the BC South Zwift TTT league with 7 wins from 7. VCV Aethelstan, our team of Cat C stalwarts, won the interclub handicapped interclub TTT hosted by Sotonia. This saw 12 teams from both clubs taking part and the inaugural outing for the Venta ladies.

**MTB**

We had an increasing number of riders entering races including: Southern XC MTB, Central XC and Vittoria MTB monster marathon. This year we also had 8 riders form the club racing the Transpyr Trans Pyrenes race representing Venta across France and Spain.

**Ultra-Endurance**

Increasing number of club riders getting involved in ultra-endurance riding and racing with events lasting 24hours ++ including Audax, SDW\*2, KAW, Basajuan, Great British Escapes races and many more.

**Last but not least National Champions**

Nick Tarmey is the 24hour National Time Trial Champion for 2022 covering a staggering 516miles (825km) in 24 hours. A club legend, TT record holder, great guy and an honour to have as a club member. Read his blog: [How to ride a 24 hour time trial\* – \*by someone who hasn't done it yet… (fullgas.uk)](https://fullgas.uk/)

Next Year plan and ambitions

1. Promotion of Junior Road race Team
2. Race as a team events to include MTB, Circuit, CX and Womens event
3. Co-Host Sotonia/VC Venta Park and Ride crit
4. Run Road race for cat 3 and cat 4 riders
5. Run Hill climb event

With thanks to our sponsors in 2022: The London Camera Exchange, Vankru Cycling and The Endurance Habit Coaching.