

BRC cyclists “sign on”

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone - cyclists will commence registration for the 2011 cycling season this Monday evening 10th January following their monthly meeting at their Rex Bonar House club rooms in Railway Street. This first meeting is mainly aimed at newcomers to the club although existing members should note that their insurance expired on 31st December and they too should register as early as possible. Similarly those wishing to take part in the early season open road races need to sign up ASAP.

“Signing on” will continue each Monday night in January and on the first Monday of February and March.

146 cyclists joined the club in 2010, which was only 6 short of the record total of 152 achieved in 2009, and there is no reason why these numbers cannot be reached again this year.

Fees are similar to 2010 as Cycling Ireland hasn't increasing their charges, although the continued strength of the Euro against Sterling means there is little chance of a reduction.

The Ballymena Road Club part of the overall fee too hasn't been increased and this is thanks mainly to the continued support of the club's main sponsors – Northstone NI – and other generous financial backers.

Any cyclist who takes part in the club's weekend touring or training rides is expected to join the club so as to benefit from Cycling Ireland's third party insurance cover.

The main benefits of membership include 24 hours a day 7 days a week Public Liability Insurance cover of up to 7.5 million Euro from Royal Sun Alliance. There is also personal accident cover and Legal cover in the event of a disputed claim having to go to court.

As well as the essential insurance benefits there are also numerous advantages to be had by joining a club such as Ballymena Road Club.

BRC members have excellent club house facilities and the use of their Events' Vehicle mini bus. The club has a comprehensive calendar of mid week club race events and also plenty of touring activities for those who do not wish to race competitively.

Each weekend club members may take part in a choice of club runs on both

Saturday and Sunday mornings with rides to the North Antrim coast often on the agenda.

There are a range of membership categories on offer depending on the aims of each individual applicant.

Cycling Ireland is continuing with their “beginners” membership fee for 2011. This will cost £25 and includes insurance for cycling (excludes racing). The BRC fee and NICF fee is also included in this £25.

The “cycling membership” (non racing) fee is £43. This “cycling membership” category includes third party liability cover for those assisting or officiating at a club event.

Other category fees are: Club racing membership £71. Restricted open racing licence £97. Full racing licences - adult £128. The junior membership fee is £51, while under 16 youth membership costs £36 with under 14 youth £10.

All first time Cycling Ireland applicants must produce a copy of either: birth certificate, passport or driving licence for ID purposes. (Please bring a photo copy of the appropriate document with you when coming in to the club to sign on; this will be posted to Dublin along with your application form) Those seeking an International licence for overseas competition need to supply a photograph with their application and also an additional fee of £18.

BRC treasurer Richard Wilson asks club members to pay by cheque which should be made out to Ballymena Road Club.

Weather causes postponement of time trial.

The Stan Finlay memorial 10 miles time trial which was scheduled to have taken place on Monday 27th December had to be postponed because of the adverse weather conditions.

The club left the final decision as late as possible to monitor how the “thaw” was progressing but on the Sunday night it was deemed fool hardy to continue with the race as the met office was still issuing weather warnings regarding the possibility of black ice on some road surfaces. As it turned out Monday was relatively mild but the dark conditions and the constant rain fall reduced visibility on the A26 “Antrim road” dual carriageway course and the

decision to postpone turned out to be a wise one. I understand that the Stan Finlay memorial rose bowl will now be competed for during the club's first 10 miles time trial of the season on 20th April 2011.

Club runs return.

The road club's cyclists were delighted to finally take part in the weekend club run last Saturday as they had only managed one group ride on the previous five weekends. The route took in Waterfoot and the coast road to Carnlough before the climb back up Glencloy and the fast run in through the Braid to Broughshane, a most enjoyable outing.

Calendar

Monday 10th January 2011. Ballymena Road Club will hold their first monthly meeting of 2011. Club members are reminded to return their fireside quiz sheets on Monday night by the latest as the draw will be made from all the correct entries. Unsold sheets must also be returned on Monday night.

Registration for the new season will also commence.

Cycling Ulster will be holding the 2010 season's Prize Night on Saturday 15th January 2010 at Massereene Golf Club Antrim. The format for the night will be the meal, with a choice of main course, followed by the presentation of medals to both Ulster and Northern Ireland Champions, also on the night the Slane League winners along with the voucher winners in the Ciclisport.com Wee Foot Trophy will receive their prizes. The Martin Birney and Sport Active trophies for time trials will also be presented. The evening will start at 8pm and be finished by 11.30pm. Tickets cost £20 for adults and £10 for youths and are available by contacting the CU website.