



# MAD Musette



## News and musings from Maldon & District Cycling Club



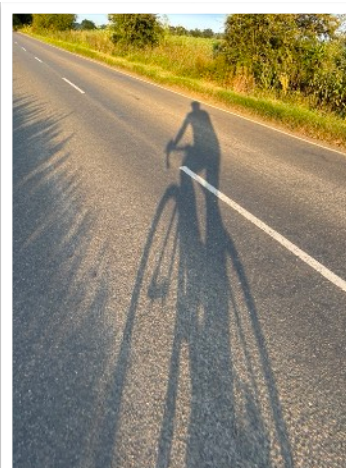
### Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of the club newsletter. It was great to see pro racing back in Essex with stage 2 of the Ride London Classique rolling out and back from Maldon! Let's hope the sight of world class racing inspires more people to ride. If they do MADCC is the perfect place to offer a safe and welcoming place for them to join the ride! Please let me have feedback for future newsletters. A few words and pictures on your cycling adventures will help the newsletter to prosper.

Here comes the summer! Apparently! Perhaps the picture above of the intrepid participants in this years 50 mile reliability could have been seen as an omen of things to come (well done to all who took part and completed!) but fingers crossed things get better. The TT competitions are well under way with the club hilly, open 50 done and the Tuesday evening 10s in full swing. Still time to get on the BAR competition with events coming up that qualify. Check Spond for details! Sunday club runs continue, meeting outside the old Police station in Maldon at 9:30 so if you fancy some company for those Sunday miles give it a try.

Club members have been out and about here and abroad on cycling adventures (maybe looking for the sun!) so read on to find out what your club mates have been up to!

Fingers crossed that sunny days now lay ahead for us to get out, explore more places, get in a few more miles and cast happy bike shadows! Ride safe and enjoy!



## News bites

A round up of what's been going on...

The hammering rain didn't deter a good turnout for the clubs 50 mile reliability ride on 17th March. Almost 20 riders braved the loop up through Coggeshall with obligatory stops for coffee cake and breakfast en route.



The club hilly TT took place on the E21/12 course on 24th March. 24 riders started on a chilly and blustery morning with 20 finishing demonstrating the tough nature of the challenge. On June 2nd the Open 50 took place on over the familiar E21/50. Again a good field of 33 riders took on this challenge with **Alex Dowsett** taking the honours in a new course record 1hr 41:15. He also got the win at the hilly!

Left: 'Hagg Hill... again!!! Yaaay!

Away from the TT on the racing front **Doddy** has been over at Travers in Rochford taking part in MTB racing. He has also been getting stuck into the Ford CC Dunton Go Races at the Dunton circuit. Up at the Colchester circuit **Darren Wood** and **Neil Chapman** have also been taking part in the TLI Schools Hare and Hours races. All fast a furious stuff... despite the rain!



Circuit racing. The storm before the.. storm!



Doddy getting filthy again.

The 2023 club member of the year, **George Wakefield**, is back out racing and representing club and country! On 11th May competing in the Hanningfield Triathlon over the Olympic distances he not only won in his age group but took the overall! He also placed a respectable 23rd at the Essex TT champs (Adrian pipped him placing 18th!) and is currently in Portugal representing GBR in his age group at the European Aquathlon and Aquabike Champs. (Hot off the press he placed 8th in the aquathlon) congrats George!



Why wait for it to rain whilst cycling when you can swim first and do the job properly!



## A bit of Dutch courage. Club trip to the Amstel Gold weekend.

A taste of a weekend riding the roads of this famous spring classic and then watched the pros show! **Adrian Tovey** writes...

In April I joined what is quickly becoming an annual trip for the Maldon and Crest clubs to see the Amstel Gold race. This was the 3rd time the group had been. Jack Gibson did the organising and did a great job of nailing every little detail; from arranging entry into the sportive, booking a great hotel, rides on the non-event days and locating prime spots to see the actual race.

Most people arrived on Thursday and we shared an enjoyable meal in the hotel, taking the opportunity to reacquaint or introduce everyone. It made for a very welcoming start. On Friday we did the '3 countries, 1 day' ride. A 50 mile route through Holland, Belgium and then into Germany for coffee at Aachen and a stop via the event HQ to pick up our event numbers and information. A very sociable ride at a steady pace. Saturday was the day of the sportive. Most of our group chose the 150k event. A few adventurous souls including Jack elected for the 240k challenge and had to make a very early start. Unlike previous years, the weather was fine which made the challenging course a little easier. Our large group split up into little sub groups which often regrouped temporarily at feed stops. The route had 15 named climbs culminating in the Keutenberg and then finishing on the famous Cauberg. It was a great feeling to ride into town, swoop round the final bend and start the final Cauberg climb to the finish. There was a large crowd and plenty of support. On Sunday we had a more leisurely start time to see the race. The route passed a few miles from the hotel and we planned to see the women first and then catch the men. Unfortunately a crash and significant delay meant the women's route was altered so we did not see them. We did however get a good look at the mens race and it was a great spectacle. Our location meant we saw them several times. On the flat...cruising, on a hill... still cruising but then in a village 30k from the finish they were racing hard. The village had a small marquee with music, food and drink and we were warmly welcomed by the locals. We could follow the race on the big screen and then see it pass right by.

Our travel schedule afforded us a short ride on Monday morning before heading back to our crossings. It was a thoroughly enjoyable few days. I'd certainly recommend it and it was great to spend time with club members in such a cycling friendly place.



Tilting at windmills... rude not to!



'Too pro to wave'... oh yeah - they're working!

## Going back in time at Retro Ronde

An enthusiastic group of club members made their annual pilgrimage in early June to Belgium for the Retro Ronde. With the emphasis on enjoying the ride in retro style, club members and friends of the club made the most of the good weather, hospitality and to indulge in a bit of bike nostalgia. From the pictures no effort was spared to make an impact on the proceedings! Ice creams anyone?



Top: Rolling feed-stop... Mr popular I'm sure!

Middle: No school like the old school!

Bottom: Glad to see the Maldon flag flying but is it 'retro'?

## Diary Dates

Events are published on the Spond app. Please make sure to sign up and join in the discussion. Please accept to let organisers know when you are going to join in and let's make our events a success and a celebration of all we love about cycling. Some specific dates to think about:

- Club TTs 7pm start every Tuesday at the Star Inn Steeple. Last event 20th August.
- TBC club 75 and 100 mile reliability rides.
- Southend open 50 TT for BAR event. Sunday 30th June
- Chelmer CC open 25 TT BAR event. 28th July
- Colchester open 50 TT BAR event. 4th August.
- Club open 10 TT. BAR event. 17th August E21/10.
- ECCA 25 E9/25 BAR event. 1st Sept.
- Saturday morning 10 series starts. 9:30 at Steeple. Goes through until 19th October.

If you have other events to publish let us know. Thanks to all Marshalls and volunteers who have made events possible this year. If you haven't volunteered yet then please do. Your club needs your support!



### Contact Information

madcc.org.uk

WhatsApp | X | Facebook | Spond

membership@madcc.org.uk

### Member info

How much and what you get

£20 / year (£10 for second claim and under 18s)

Discounts, events, coaching, friendship and good times!

Check the website for details

### Club gallery Club life in pictures...



Ride London Classique in Maldon. Ladies bunch sprinting to see who can be first to get to the old police station to join the MADCC club run!



Game face firmly ON!

Taking in the Amstel Gold spectacle!



Sunny club rides - yes please!



The final word...

Retro Ronde 2024