

## **PRESTON PARK TRACK REPORT – 17 AUGUST 2009**

### **Promoters Report 2009**

**By Vern McClelland**

For the second year running I must apologize for not being in attendance at the AGM and prize presentation but unfortunately work commitments have kept me in Scotland.

First I would like to start by congratulating all the prize winners.

It's a bit strange to be reviewing a season where I missed more events than I attended, hopefully I will not be absent so much next year. Weather wise it was one of the worst, if not the worst season for a long time for the number of cancelled meetings which included three of the weeks where I was able to attend but which were cancelled. The season also included our three championship evenings for sprint, scratch and points titles which were all run off on the designated evenings.

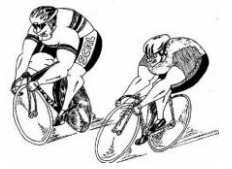
Once again rider numbers were good with a number of new riders. This year the Youth C riders progressed to riding on fixed wheel so we now have the top three youth age groups all riding on fixed. I think we should be very satisfied with the numbers of youth riders we have riding the league. It was good to see the number of girls riding in the youth categories and finishing well in the overall standings, especially Amy Barnes who took the C title and Amy Jacobs, Kim English, Sara Gent and Emily Barnes who finished second, third, fourth and fifth in the B category. I also shouldn't forget Evelyn Parle and Miranda Wright who finished second and third in the E category.

A new introduction this year was the way of deciding the winner of the senior B League where the first rider to win 5 events won the title and gained promotion to the A League. Early in the season it looked as though we would have an early winner but as it turned out the competition lasted for the majority of the season and long time leader Andy Parle who racked up 4 wins fairly quickly was unable to gain a fifth victory and it was Richard Bailey who took the title and in fact by the seasons close was the only B rider to score 5 wins. Andy Parle finished second with Martin O'Brien in third place.

The A League title race lasted until the final meeting and it was the consistent riding of long time league rider Mark Burgess that finally saw him take the title. Mark first started riding at Preston Park as a youth rider in the days when we only had about 10 regular youth riders and there were no separate age category races for the youngsters, how things have changed. Charlie Heffernan last years B category winner moved up to the A's this season and took second place while last years A category winner Felix English, despite only managing to attend 6 meetings finished third.

I should like to thank all those who have helped in the running of the league this year. The success of the league depends as much on the volunteers who turn up every week to officiate and help as it does on the riders and as promoter it is good

**SUSSEX CYCLE RACING LEAGUE**  
Preston Park, Brighton



to know that I have such a good team to run the league especially when I was away for so much of the season, however we are always on the lookout for more help.

In closing I look forward to a bumper season in 2010, which will hopefully include an open meeting at Preston Park to follow on from the success of the regional championships last September. Next season there will be no try the track sessions on the Wednesdays prior to the season instead we shall be starting the league season on the 14th April and finishing on the 11th August giving a total of 18 meetings. Lets hope for an uninterrupted season next year with no cancellations due to the weather. And finally on a bit of a low note, we had no ladies riding in the senior leagues this year so can everyone make an effort to encourage some ladies to try the "friendliest league in the country" next season.