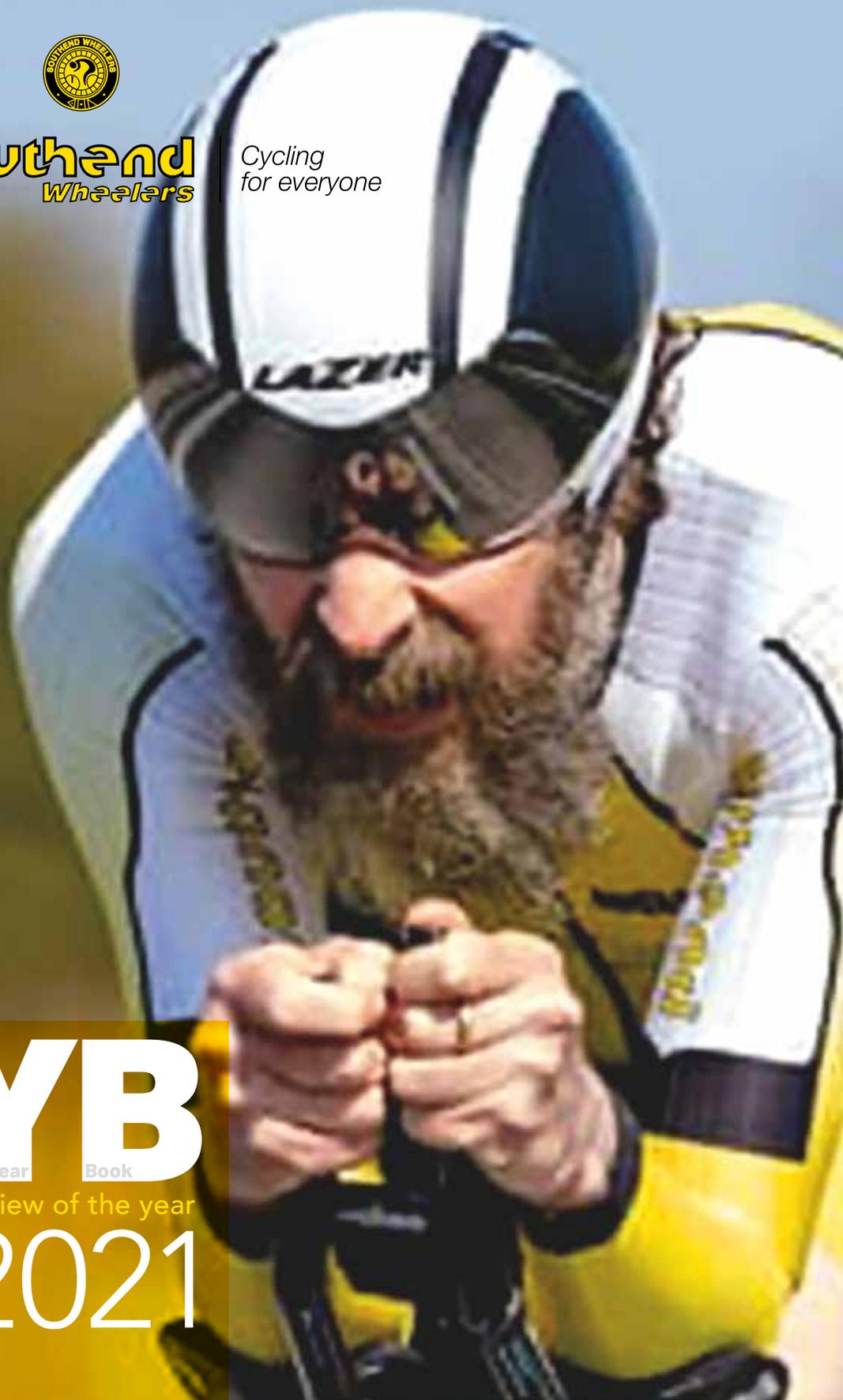




Southend
Wheelers

*Cycling
for everyone*

YB
Year Book
Review of the year
2021





Review of the year 2021.

*'Thank You'
to everyone
who
volunteered
this year, in
whatever
capacity!*

It's difficult to review 2021 without mentioning the elephant in the room: COVID-19. Although it was a year disrupted again by the dreaded lurgy, despite this (or in some cases, perhaps because of this) we were able to achieve a good number of 'positives' (pun intended!) in our club year. I do mention a few names below, but the truth is that every event and the club itself rely on our volunteers to make things happen and I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who volunteered this year, in whatever capacity!

Our year began like the previous year: with pandemic wave and lockdown. This curtailed our activities, with club social rides, social events and Burnham & Baddow ride all being cancelled. Undaunted, we took things online for our Sunday rides and led by Matt Stock, we regularly 'Zwifted' as a social group. It wasn't until March that we were able to return in restricted numbers to the road. Canewdon hall being closed, those who ventured out still managed to get their socially distanced coffee and cake fix at the cycle cafe in Battlesbridge – and very nice it was, too! Meanwhile, to break the indoor tedium of a winter lockdown, some Wheelers took to Zoom for a weekly quiz that certainly exercised

the grey matter if not the cycling muscles!

March saw the start of a 6-week coaching course offered by Paul Hart. The club was able to support 2 of our youth riders to attend this course and with some rather more senior riders also taking up the offer, this proved to be a success with many of the attendees experiencing a structured coaching plan for the first time (and with some impressive results to prove its worth, most notably from Dan Jenkins and Jan Harvey!).

Lockdown over, we returned to time trialling in April with the Easter Egg '10', won by Henry O'Kill, followed by the first Wednesday evening '10', a two-up won by Dan Walsh & Jennie Page. Thanks due here to Dave Pennington and Jennie Page, who organised the Wednesday league this year and did a superb job. Congratulations to James Lonergan who was the overall winner of the league (with a perfect score!) and Jan Harvey who took the women's title. Our successful Saturday '7' series repeated this year, with events each Saturday in June and September. Jane Harris and Nicky Hark jointly organised these and a good time was had by all – these are a great (and local) introduction to time trialling so why not get out and try one next season? Oliver Pidgeon was Saturday

league champion and Jan Harvey the Women's champion. Meanwhile, Henry O'Kill stormed to the double of '10' and '25' mile championship wins, many congratulations, Henry!

September saw three of our youth riders compete in the final of the GHS '10' at Mallory Park racing circuit: all three achieved personal bests in the event and gained valuable experience – well done to you all.

Other highlights of the racing year included the club road race and track days; the road race once again organised by Adrian Cartwright and well supported by members. The 2022 version is at the new Colchester circuit on June 26th. Our track day at the iconic Herne Hill velodrome took place in August and Bob Barber was in charge of proceedings there. Everyone who attended enjoyed these days, with some new converts to the track based on their experiences.

Our two open events are the Norman Wells memorial '50' time trial and the Andrews Trophy road

race; fortunately we were able to run these events again, with excellent organisation by Arthur Knowler and Trevor Mills respectively, with the support of many club members and friends, so thank you to all involved.

Speaking of Bob, I must mention his inspirational achievements on the bike this year: 5 national age group titles at the British Cycling and British Masters Cycle Racing track championships, along with podium places in another 4 events! After 53 years of track riding, including two team pursuit world championship titles, Bob has shown persistence (and dedication) in achieving his success – many congratulations!

Away from the racing scene, this year's club rides have been ably organised by Kevin Smith, with our now tried and tested 'multicolour Sunday' format being used to help people find a ride that suits them.

2021 also saw the club move further into the digital age, with our Instagram guru Jorja Perry and Chris Smith for our Facebook pages. The

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increase in awareness is significant and thanks go to them for pushing us towards the inevitable. The effect however is quite extraordinary, with increased awareness of the club and membership over the year rising two-fold. Watch out also for a new format club website in the near future!

Our social calendar was severely affected by COVID, but we did manage to meet just before Christmas (after the Christmas fun TT) at the Shepherd & Dog pub for a delicious Sunday Lunch. Hopefully our usual calendar of events will return for 2022, but whatever happens, I wish you a healthy, safe and successful year!

Barry Simpson
Club chairman

A digital version of this Yearbook with more content will be available after the Awards dinner.

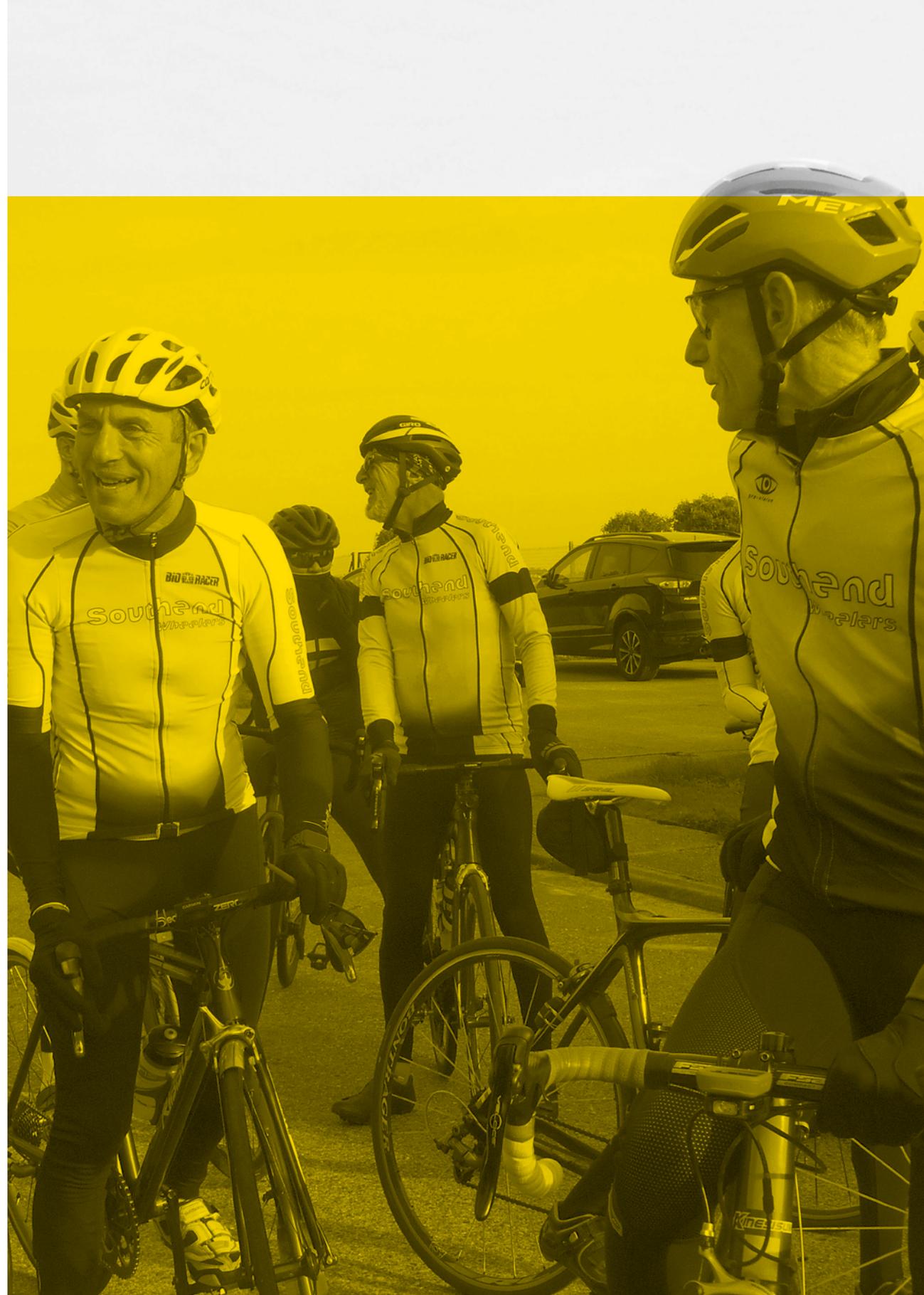
Off-road/MTB





Club runs and open days

On the first Saturday of the summer months we held a 'women friendly' ride to encourage new riders to join a social ride; these proved popular with rides being led by Carol Cartwright and Cheryl Perry. On the same weekends as the 'women's' rides, the club welcomed all comers to a 'come and try' day with rides for all abilities starting at the Canewdon Hall; once again, these were popular with several new members joining.







Women's Tour 2021



Another event that sparked interest and inspired, was the visit in October of the Women's Tour. The whole event was on our doorstep (and our regular training roads). Starting in Shoebury and finishing on Westcliff seafront we were ideally placed to promote the club near the finish, whilst promoting an inter-school a time trial for local school girls.





Track







Did you know?

During the course of the 2021 season the club promoted, or, as part of the club racing leagues ran

77 separate cycling events,

that's a total of

592 ride opportunities

Championship events:

Track Championship
Road race championship

Time trials

x1 Non-aero TT
x1 Open TT
x1 Women friendly TT
x8 Sat league events
x11 Sun league events
x20 Wed evening league events

Off-road

x15 Off-road rides

11 Womens Festival of Cycling events

and numerous club open weekends promoting women and club cycling

We had riders competing on Road; TT; MTB; CX;
Track at **club, regional** and **national events.**

Road race





Time trials







