

# Martin Bridgwood



I took on the job of Section Secretary at the end of 2001 and then Chairman in 2006 in between becoming the General Secretary of HACC (whole club) in 2005. The last time I was involved in cycling club management before that was about 20 years ago after being treasurer for the previous nine – I said then I'd never get involved in cycling club committees ever again. But still times change! (just a whinge here.... There's those that give and those that only take – I give ... I cant get on with people that only take!!)

I started riding with the West Brom CTC / Sandwell CRC at the age of 13; we'd go out on a Sunday and do 70-100 miles. I did race as a schoolboy and a 3rd cat but was hopeless! I stopped racing at the age of 21 when I was dropped in the neutralised section of a road race in Builth Wells! Something to do with the 6 pints and curry the night before I think – oh and the crash that nearly took my knee cap off

A couple of years later nobody volunteered to organise the Sandwells' road race – so I did. What was then the Birmingham Division sent out a couple of “old boys” as the Commissaires for the race, and on the way home I commented to my then wife how I could do a better job than they had. She unwittingly said why don't you have a go then.

The very next season I volunteered my services. After a couple of years as Commissaire in local events the BCF ran a National Road Commissaires course and examination. I passed. The following year I was invited to join the Milk Race Commissaires panel and was a Commissaire Judge on the final two Milk Races. Ever since, I've been appointed regularly to National events around the Country. During 2000 the Federation put my name forward to the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) to attend an International Commissaires examination in Vienna. There's a story there for a future club newsletter – “9 days of hell in Austria !!” Anyway I passed and have enjoyed International appointments in Denmark, France, Belgium, Holland and Spain regularly over the last few years. Back home, I was a member of the International Commissaires panel at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, I've been a Commissaire at all the Track World Cups in Manchester and I'll be at the 2008 World Championships. In between times I was Commissaire Secretary at the last 5 World Masters Track Champs.

So what else have I done? Well in 1995 I wrote the initial fundamentals for the BCF membership database that now produces your membership cards. In 1996 I wrote a database and managed the Accreditation Centre at the Manchester World Track Champs. I did the same in 1997 for the World Table Tennis Championships at Manchester G-Mex and the 1999 World Judo Championships at the NIA Birmingham. I also helped run the Accreditation Centre at the Manchester Worlds in 2000. I'm not a computer geek by the way – I run a construction site in the daytime

As an event promoter I've lost count of the number of local road races I have organised. But on the National side it has included three Elite Road Race Championships (1998, 1999, 2000), the National Criterium Championship (2000), the National Youth Circuit Racing Championship (1991). I was the Birmingham Division Registrar from 1990 until 1996 and the Divisions Racing Secretary from 1994 till regionalisation in 2003.

These days I enjoy promoting on the track and in particular our club Grand Prix. Over the last few years we have built the GP up into a respected meeting, which has included National Championships (Keirin and Madison), as well as National Series Events (Sprinters League, Womens Omnium). 2005 was our first attempt at bringing back International racing to “the Abbey” after an absence of some 30 years. I hope as a club we can continue to support our outdoor track racing in all its forms

I have plenty of stories to tell but I will keep them for club newsletters.