

Audax Season 2012

With no major events such as Paris Brest Paris or London Edinburgh London dominating the national scene, last season was a year when Audax activity tends to reduce with less riders riding in fewer events. Such was also the case in Southport CC with a couple of exceptions.

In the National club competition Southport CC finished the year in 8th place out of 216 clubs on a total of 160 points compared to the previous season's total of 263 points when we also finished in 8th place. The points are based on 1 point for every 100kms in rides of 200 kms or more ie 124 miles or more. One thing to be borne in mind is that in 2012 the season was shortened to an 11 month year in order to start and finish the season earlier from next year.

As part of the club's overall total, Malc Heathcote and Steve Ginty weighed in with 15 points each and there were contributions from Damian Peacock, Bill Dean, and returning to the fold the "Bolton Lads", Lee Hunt and Dave Walker. Two notable absentees from the list of riders this year were Nev Holgate, who was preoccupied with his move to New Zealand and his long time riding partner, Terry Seanor. Terry was struck down with a mystery injury earlier in the year and at one time was unable to stand or walk never mind ride his bike for 100 or so miles. Happily, although not fully recovered by any means he is riding regularly again up to 50 miles plus and no-one would bet against him attempting his comeback in 2013 in what would be his 80th year.

And so to the exceptions to the rule this year. 80% of the club's total points came from two riders. Pete Gawthorne retained the newly named Neville Holgate Randonneur Trophy with a record haul of 71 points and was the only club rider to complete a Super Randonneur Series with rides at 200km (124mls), 300km(186mls), 400km(248mls) & 600km (372mls). Allan Taylor improved on his 5th place last year to finish 2nd with 47 points failing to complete his 1st ever Super Randonneur Series when he fell & broke his arm half way through a 372 mile ride on a wild & wet hillside in Yorkshire back in July.

The 2013 season has already commenced and has welcomed two new Randonneurs in Will White & Mark Davies and one or two other riders have expressed an interest in taking part this year. More details on this branch of cycling can be found on the Audax section of the club website or the national website www.aukweb.net or by contacting any of the above named participants.