

## **National Clarion Secretary's Report 2022/23**

The 2022/23 year started slowly and with the Easter Meet at Lancaster. This was, by comparison with previous years poorly attended with only 24 participants. An Audax event was added to the calendar, a new area for the Clarion at Easter and thanks are due to Neil Shand of North Cheshire for organising it.

Conference was held separately from the Easter Meet and again by Zoom, with a greatly improved attendance over that which would have been achieved if it had remained linked to the Lancaster Event. Postponed from the intended June date until a date in late September it attracted attendance from 13 sections and one private member.

Given that we had 29 sections representing over 2000 members and over 100 private members, attendance perhaps should have been even better. Each section had been invited to send 2 delegates.

There is a worrying lack of interest amongst members in Easter Meet as an event and in the mechanisms necessary for a club of this size to function and the committee are looking at ways of encouraging greater involvement from members.

There is a general trend towards lower attendance at events post covid and this is not unique to the world of cycling, and we must find ways to encourage greater participation from and engagement with members at large.

The Committee has continued to meet by Zoom on a monthly basis and there are no plans to revert to the old quarterly face to face meetings. Thanks are due to all my fellow committee members for all the hard work they put in to running the club. Conference saw the departure of Neil Matheson and Andrew Martin after a number of years' service between them and the arrival of two members from Dronfield, Jonathan Leigh and Michael Stainer. They have brought new ideas to the roles of Treasurer and IT Manager and their enthusiasm for the Clarion is great to see.

Boots and Spurs and Extra have continued to be the mouth pieces of the club. Two editions of the magazine were published in the past year, now with a maximum of 48 pages. The most recent edition has benefitted massively from the professional design of Matt Custance and that should continue for future issues. I am still having to rely on only a small group of regular contributors, and this risks the contents getting stale. I am very keen to hear from a wider group of readers, especially female members of the club and from some of you writing perhaps about the utility cycling that people do. I know some of you cycle to work, others I am sure have family days out by bike. Let's hear about the highs and lows of everyday bike usage.

I feel honoured to have been secretary of the National Clarion, a job I took because no one else wanted it. That can't continue. I am not a natural administrator, and my IT skills are not what they should be to do this job properly. I have no idea how to use Excel and at 68 am unlikely – or perhaps a little unwilling to learn.

I have previously stated my intention to resign from the post of Secretary at this year's conference to concentrate on editing Boots and Spurs. That was the job I signed up for and the one I wish to return to. Unless I can it will be an infrequent publication

I will do my best to assist any new Secretary we are able to enlist, so that the smooth operation of the club may continue.

***Edward Gilder February 2023***