

Off-road Report 2020

This time last year we reported on what a busy year we'd enjoyed with multiple events organised and high levels of activity across the spectrum of off-road riding. 2020 hasn't quite lived up to expectations, but there have been a few rays of sunshine...

Central Cyclocross League - Last November we hosted our second event of the autumn at a very wet National Bowl, As always we had amazing support from club members in helping to deliver a fantastic event which attracted almost 500 competitors. A particular thanks should go to Lucie Gallen for her unstinting efforts to help make this event such a success.

There has been some off-road racing: Ashwell Summer CX and a few MSG and Southern XC events have been well attended by Team MK members.

Having free access to Aspley Heath Woods and Rushmere Country Park as part of the membership fee has been a tremendous boon this year in particular. During the first lockdown in March, April and May when the trails were dry and dusty, right through the summer and even this month with deep mud and restrictions caused by the logging activity, you'll regularly see dozens and dozens of Team MK members riding the trails. Once the lumberjacks have all finished and left Aspley Heath I'm sure we'll quickly see the trails fully return.

It's been fantastic to see the increasing number of members, especially women, who are using gravel bikes, 'cross bikes and MTBs to explore the bridleways and byways in the area, getting off the tarmac and riding in the countryside discovering a whole new way of cycling.

During 2019 the team delivered 6 mountain bike races, 2 major cyclocross races, 6 extra MTB training sessions and 16 'Cross Mash-Ups. Let's all hope that 2021 will start to see the re-emergence of more conventional bike racing, especially 'cross and MTB, perhaps we could even put on a couple of 'fun' events to get more members riding off-road? As always we couldn't put on the events that we do without the unstinting support of a number of key people from the adult and youth membership, so in anticipation of a busy year ahead, thank you for all your support!