

## HOW CYCLING WORKS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY

Velo Club Chevaliers Bleus is the official cycling club of Cambridgeshire Constabulary, based at Police Headquarters, Huntingdon, we cater for the whole county with ride outs at various locations. Initially set up around five years ago by PC Steve Godfrey as the Thorpe Wood chain gang and a closed group Facebook page, this has evolved to its current form and was officially established in 2015 due to the growing interest in cycling and member numbers, which is around 70 at present and expected to exceed 100 in our first year. We are affiliated to British Cycling & Cycling Time Trials.

All club members are either serving or retired police officers and police staff, their immediate family members, aged over 18.

The club is at present closed to members of the public in our first year so we can establish ourselves and put in foundations to build on for next year, when it is hoped we will open membership to everyone.

The club name came about as we felt we needed something subtle that said 'Police', which is French and has derived from the International Police motorcycle club the 'Blue Knights', hence the name Velo Club Chevaliers Bleus.

The club moto has a double meaning and a little light hearted, it is latin 'A Vita Post Vectes' and in English translates to 'Life Behind Bars'.....think about it!!

VCCB meet once a month at Huntingdon where members from the around the county can get together for a larger club ride, other club rides are arranged locally at three other locations around the county. The club is aimed at both beginners to the sport, through to seasoned club racers, we have something for all abilities, both on and off road.

VCCB work closely with partners Cambridgeshire County Council and the Road Safety Partnership to attend roadshows around the county and deliver the safe riding and driving message, we also give advice on cycle security. Thanks to our partnership working this has resulted in us having the Department for Transport's current THINK! campaign message displayed on the rear of our club kit, as a mobile bill board, according to British Cycling we are the first club to be involved in helping spread the road safety message in this way. Two committee members are made up of Road Policing Unit officers, which helps when the club or force are asked for media interviews.

We secured a venue at Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire to host two closed circuit test events, promoting a 2/3 Cat and separate 4 Cat race's over two dates. Turnout was very good on what is a fast, flat, twisty and technical 2km circuit & feedback from riders was excellent. Cambridgeshire does not have any venue for such racing, with local riders having to travel to race & midweek this is not always possible, the circuit is accessed direct from the A14/A1(M) A full summer series is being planned now for 2016 with other local clubs and teams having showed an interest to run a summer league, race training days and a winter series are also being considered. This is intended to be run on the same format, with one day a month for E/1/2 Cat and a separate women's race. We are keen to promote new racers to the competitive side of the sport & also minority groups such as women and youth racing.

Club members set off on the inaugural club ride 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015.



[www.vcchevaliersbleus.co.uk](http://www.vcchevaliersbleus.co.uk)

Twitter: @vcchevbleus

<http://godfrey.co.uk/club/vc-chevaliers-bleus>

Search Facebook, 'VC Chevaliers Bleus – Closed Circuit Road Races' for more info on the events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1613875752184571/?fref=ts>

