

## Presidents Report – 2025

So, we come to the end of yet another busy year and my first as President since 2017. Much has changed in the seven years that have since passed, a lot for the good and in some areas, life has got far more complex, I guess that it is the world we now live in. Gone are the days where we would turn up on a Sunday morning for a 10 m TT, enter on the day and race, with the race results appearing in the Guernsey Press sometime during the following week. Anyway, I digress, so, to the 2025 season, as I mentioned earlier, it has been a very busy year with the four main sections on the Club (Road, MTB, CX and Flyers) providing an almost seamless 12 months of continuous racing options. Each section is overseen by a knowledgeable and enthusiastic sub-committee...thank you to all of those who make these events happen. The numbers of participating riders have been good throughout the year across all disciplines, apart from the road side, which in my opinion, have been a little on the low side for many of the races. We are looking to provide a more exciting road programme for the 2026 season and I would ask the members to support it.

The Club's Academy riders, have once again had a full calendar of racing with many riders taking part in the spectrum of races, Road, MTB (including Gravity) and CX. Many of the Academy riders have travelled overseas to the UK and France and beyond to compete in road and MTB. I will mention just a few if I may, Ollie Duguid, Seth Davey and Charlie Tourtel, Island Games and Zach Smith an exceptional year in the U16 MTB category, culminating in being invited to join BC's National School of Racing, a very select group of talented riders. I have been really impressed with the attitude and application of all our Academy riders during the short time I have got to know them, they are a great bunch of youngsters, as a Club, we should be very proud of them and I will follow their development with great interest.

I cannot complete this report without mentioning MTB TOG, this is a very special event and is open to non-club members. It provides a mid-season break to our normal racing offering a range of different and challenging races over the week-long event. Without Dan Thwaite and his team, this event would not happen.

Not a Club activity, but I must make a comment on Orkney 2025, we went with a with a smaller team than usual, but what a team. Second in the cycling medal table says it all. For, me, one of the best teams ever.

I need to include a mention of the new role of Comms Officer that Steve Palmer took on this year, with the support of Serena our communications and social media profile has gone to a level never seen before. This is a great development for the Club and long may it last.

Moving on to sponsors, without them many of our activities would not happen, especially Flyers and the Academy. So, thank you very much to, Upmost, Ian Browns, Adventure Cycle, Cycleworld, ZBK, Wheels & Co and Cobo Tearooms. I also need to add to this list the Guernsey Sports Commission who continue to provide financial support for our younger riders travelling to off island events. The support of sponsors enables us to put on events that add value to our racing programme that all GVC members can benefit from and for our Academy riders the financial support enables overseas travel to compete in the wider world, an important part of their development.

Finally, we have several people stepping down from their current role at the forthcoming AGM. Mark Smith (road) and Frankie Middleton, Karen Stonebridge and Donna Smith (Flyers), all will be difficult to replace, because they have all done a great job, but replace them we must. Remember, the club exists with the purpose holding cycling events for its members and it is only the members of the club that make it all happen, it's not a magic show. Being a member of the GVC has its benefits, but being a member also comes with an unwritten commitment to help run the club as and when needed. So, as people step back others need to step forward. So, be prepared to help when asked, better still do not wait to be asked...volunteer to help run the GVC, help spread the load.

So, as a wrap up, a great 2025 and looking forward to a 'greater' 2026.

Gary Wallbridge – President GVC