

AGM Report - Webmaster Tony Emery.

WWW.WESTVET.ORG.UK the VTТА West Group website has now been live for over a decade. The site provides pages covering most aspects of our sport including: News, Secretary's Newsletter, Diary of Events, Details of Our Officials, How to Contact Us, Racing Results, VTТА Standards Tables, VTТА Claims Forms, West Vet journal/archive and most importantly *How to Join us*.

There are web links to most local, national and international cycling organisations together with some local clubs giving us increased 'exposure' through reciprocal links. Note though, that the VTТА now provides excellent Group Pages on the much improved www.VTТА.org.uk with WestVet national results back to 2008 – more on this later in this report.

Our sport continues the growth trend in the West District with several new clubs affiliated to the CTT bringing the total to 94 (63 in 2014, 78 in 2015, 83 in 2016, 92 in 2017 and 94 in 2018) and the large majority having websites. As the internet becomes an integral part of our lives, clubs are also turning to social media (Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter etc.) to keep in touch with their members and you can be sure that your club-mates are using Strava or Training Peaks to keep one step ahead.

Over the years we have reported steady activity on Westvet.org.uk and a survey at the end of last year allowed to assess the value of the website to our members. Although your response was disappointing with about 10% of the membership responding, they found it a valuable resource for checking events, results, records, the AGM and back copies of the journal. Visits are regular, but generally infrequent, a pattern that is typical of a site that is primarily informative. A significant benefit of our existing site would be to allow members to renew their membership through PayPal – a service we have not taken up.

Earlier this year the VTТА organised a workshop where a new on-line membership system was presented and this now allows new and existing members to make on-line payments for their subs and standards claim fees. New member applications can also be made on-line. These new services are already proving popular, clear evidence of how valuable they will be attracting new members, whilst helping reduce the treasurer's and secretary's workloads by monitoring non-payment and keeping track of our members.

At the same time, the VTТА have made some improvements to the Group pages available on the national site and we have been piloting these in parallel with WestVet.org.uk, including news, committee info, events and our journal archive. Whilst it is not without its 'quirks', I am sure that the national site will improve as more groups join in. The VTТА pages are already a workable replacement for our current site, allowing our club to save the associated hosting costs (£114 per year) .

Against this background, the proposition from your webmaster is:

At the end of 2018, (or whenever the hosting charge is up for renewal), close the Cosmic hosted site and continue maintaining our web presence using the West Group pages on the VTТА national site. (Please note that your webmaster is 'happy' to continue this task) .[16]