

Letter from The International Cycling History Conference (ICHC) Publications Committee Chairman: A Short History of the ICHC and Its Future?

The ICHC was founded in 1990 by Nicholas (Nick) Clayton who believed that the world's bicycle organizations were doing a good job of providing many opportunities for serious cyclists to assemble for most of the activities of prime interest to persons with a deep interest in a specific subject such as cycles (i.e., bicycles, tricycles, and manupedes of all types) except for a Conference dedicated to an in depth discussion and exploration of all aspects of these machines and their use throughout history. To follow-up on this ardent interest, Nick Clayton spoke with several other like minded persons and found that there was interest in holding such a Conference which lead to the impromptu organization of the International Cycling History Conference that was held at the Museum of Transport, Glasgow, Scotland, on 30–31 May 1990 with 5 papers presented for discussion in addition to the large amount of conversation on cycling issues of special interest to the 41 persons present in this august group. This 1st ICHC Conference had convened with no plans to hold a 2nd Conference, but the Participants were so pleased with the experience that they decided to hold a 2nd Conference and Nadine Besse volunteered to organize this 2nd ICHC at the Musee d'Art et d'Industrie de St. Etienne, Loire, France.

The 2nd ICHC was another success with an enthusiastic attendance at which Nick Clayton gave a talk recollecting the success of 1st ICHC and recognizing the importance of these Conferences that brought forth the results of research by bicycle enthusiasts which added to the world's understanding of how the bicycle came to be, how it developed, and the role it has played in the history of the world. Nick even expressed his hopes to see the ICHC continued on an annual basis.

In 2015 at the 26th ICHC in Entraigues-sur-Le-Sorgue, France, it was announced that the underlying support of the Veteran Cycle Club (V-CC) for the publication of the ICHC Conference Proceedings had been discontinued which was a disconcerting surprise that required a rapid realignment since the publication of the *Conference Proceedings* was

a critical aspect of the organization's *raison d'être*. Gary W. Sanderson was at the meeting of the small group of persons who had come together to foster the ICHC, and he decided to set up a program to self-finance the publication of the ICHC Conference Proceedings by a Pre-Paid Publication Program whereby each Person registering for an ICHC Conference would pay for a copy of the Proceedings with their Registration Fee and known Friends of the ICHC would be given a chance to buy a copy of the ICHC Proceedings by Pre-Paying for a copy prior to its publication. This system has worked reasonably well for the operation of the 26th through the 32nd ICHC, and it is intended that the ICHC will continue to operate by this system until a better system is developed and accepted by the Friends of the ICHC at a future ICHC Conference.

And so the ICHC was started, and it has continued continuously as an annual Conference for 32 years except for the 2 years of 2020 and 2021 with no Conference because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. In summary, the ICHC has continued since its inception in 1990 with no formal constitution and no formally elected officers. In the beginning, Nicholas Clayton was the presumed Leader of the ICHC, a role more recently filled by Gary Sanderson. Each Conference has been organized by someone who volunteered at one Conference to organize the next year's Conference and was accepted by a vote of the person's present at the Conference before the Conference under consideration. Payment for all arrangements for the physical Conference, including the preparation, printing, and distribution of the Conference Proceedings to the Conference Participants (generally covered through Conference registration fees) is also the responsibility of the Conference Organizer. This brings us to some interesting situations that need to be dealt with at the next ICHC Conference's Business Meeting:

- We need someone who has a history of supporting the ICHC to step up and volunteer to take over the job of leading the ICHC. If you are interested in taking on this job, please make yourself

known to the members of the ICHC Publications Committee who are listed at the end of this Letter, and we will see that you are presented to the Friends of the ICHC at the next Conference's Business Meeting.

- Considerable interest has been expressed in publishing the ICHC 'On-Line' which has important implications. This matter will be presented for discussion at the next ICHC's Business Meeting.
- The ICHC Publications Committee is an "Ad Hoc Committee" formed by Gary Sanderson to make sure that all activities needed to ensure that ICHC Conferences are organized each year and that the

Program for each ICHC Conference is complete and relevant to the history of cycles in the broadest sense:

Chairman: Gary W. Sanderson; Verona, New Jersey, USA

Member: Thomas Baker; Tempe, Arizona, USA

Member: Phillip P. Sanderson; Oceanside, California, USA

Member: Jan Kralik; Prague, Czech Republic

Member: Heinrich Bultemann-Hagedorn; Bremen, Germany

Member: Mark W Scherer; Vienna, Austria