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END OF THE ROAD FOR KIRKBY CYCLING CLUB, BUT EDDIE SOENS CLASSIC CONTINUES

It's the end of an era for Merseyside cycling with the announcement today that Kirkby Cycling Club will be disbanded at the end of the year. However promotion of the Eddie Soens Memorial Cycle Race, the traditional opening event of the Merseyside cycling calendar, will continue.

The Kirkby Cycling Club had it's heyday in the 1970's and early 1980's, producing many top riders who went on to national and international success. But in recent years membership of the club has declined, and it suffered a double blow with the demolition of it's home at Kirkby Sports Centre, shortly followed by the death of the club's President and driving force, Ken Matthews.

Club member Carl Lawrenson commented 'It is sad to lose any cycling club, particularly one with the proud history of the Kirkby. Unfortunately membership had declined to point where it was impractical for it to continue, a reality that even Ken had begun to recognise. Our priority was to ensure that the Eddie Soens Memorial Cycle Race – regarded as a classic event in the British racing calendar – would continue, and I am pleased to announce that the event will now be promoted by Merseyside Cycling Development Group (MCDG) and I shall be continuing as organiser for 2009.'

The race will take place on Saturday 7th March 2009 at Aintree Racecourse, and entries are open now with full details on the event website at www.ccs-uk.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk