



Number 52

THE

March 2017

VETERAN





Crabwood CC had a special guest at their club 10 in September. Chris Summers (Sotonia CC & VTTA Wessex) is pushed away by Jens Voigt, former professional but still a superstar



Jens shares a laugh with the locals – new VTTA National Treasurer Mary Corbett (Sotonia CC/VTTA Wessex) and Stephen Skinner (New Forest CC/VTTA Wessex)

THE VETERAN

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
OF THE

VETERANS TIME TRIALS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1943 to promote cycle time trialling for those aged 40 and over

Number 52

March 2017

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Cover photos – Yorkshire Group member Stan Chadwick celebrated his 100th birthday in April 2016; Stan joined the VTTA in 1956. Top image shows young vet Stan 55 years ago, riding an Isle of Man Week time trial. The lower image shows 100th birthday boy Stan surrounded by his Scarborough Paragon CC clubmates and well wisher Sir Gary Verity with the Tour de Yorkshire Trophy. Stan went on to be a VIP Scarborough finish line guest at that race and shared champagne with Tour de France legends Brian Robinson and Bernard Hinault and its Race Director Christian Prudhomme. See the Yorkshire Group report for Stan's latest adventure.

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Supply format for contributions

Email or an attached Word or Open Office file. Photographs **must not** be embedded within such files but should be sent as separate files. Content can be supplied hand written or typed but I have to then retype it, which takes time and may introduce errors.

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Vice Presidents

Mrs D Maher E A Green

Chairman

Andrew Simpkins (Midlands)
18 Richmond Close, Hollywood, Birmingham, B47 5QD
07767 835004 : a.j.d.simpkins@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Mary Corbett (Wessex)
28 The Meadows
Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7EL
02380 283371
mary.corbett7@btinternet.com

National Secretary

Rachael Elliott
6 Pindar Place
Newbury, RG14 2RR
07931 722817
secretary@vtta.org.uk

Records Secretary

Geoff Perry (London & Home Counties)
8 The Meadow
Loughton, Milton Keynes, MK5 8AN
01908 200680
geoffreyperry@aol.com

Membership Secretary

Merv Player (East Anglian)
18 New Close
Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6NU
01438 814154
bikies@pat-merv.freemove.co.uk

Editor & Advertising Secretary

Mike Penrice (Yorkshire)
Tawnylands, South Duffield Road
Osgodby, Selby, YO8 5HP
01757 291196
mike@mrpenrice.plus.com

Awards Secretary

Ian Greenstreet (London & Home Counties)
Davendry, Long Lane
Newbury, RG14 2TH
07980 301321
iangreenstreet@gmail.com

National Recorder

Steve Lockwood (Midlands)
Honey Combe Cottage, Willow Road
Martley, Worcs, WR6 6PS
01886 889174 : 07976 231420
recorder@vtta.org.uk

National Executive Committee Members

Robert Jones (South Wales)
Barry Quick (Wessex)
Alan Colburn (Midlands)
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Website : vtta.org.uk and Facebook

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Carole Gandy



It was pleasing to see more prize winners attending the AGM to collect their well earned spoils of their 2016 racing season. The AGM enjoyed some lively discussions, the results of which will be published in the minutes of the meeting. It was perhaps an end of an era this year with the retirement of Jim Burgin from the Chair after many years of loyal service to the Association for which his unstinting work was greatly appreciated. I am sure that the cut glass bowl presented to Jim will have pride of place for many years to come. The new Chair Andrew Simpkins, who is also the Chair of the Midlands Group, was welcomed and everyone is looking forward to working with Andrew to continue the work of the Association for the benefit of all its members.

Well most of us have seen snow in some form or another, but as one weather forecaster said “Don’t rush to get your toboggans out as the snow will not hang about”. This was certainly true for us in the southern part of the country. As a child I used to enjoy getting the sledge out and flying down wintery slopes along with many other people. Sadly our alpine toboggan has sat for many years in our shed not seeing the light of day. With the dire warnings of global warming it is probably true to say that it will not be used for a long time to come. Even skiing has suffered with snow falls being unpredictable and whilst there are large dumps which tragically cause avalanches overall the amount of natural snow that falls appears to get less and less with resorts having to rely on snow making machines which again cannot operate if the temperature is too high or too low. Snow is something that I welcome as although I am only an average skier I do spend a large amount of the winter with friends skiing in France.

On the cycling scene warmer weather in the winter probably enables more people to enjoy riding their bikes. Whilst those who race have specific programs to follow it is still nice to be able to feel the wind on ones face and enjoy cycling round the country lanes, be it for training purposes or just for riding with like minded friends. With the daffodils almost in bloom and in some cases already blooming along with other spring flowers and tulips also breaking ground this hopefully is heralding the approach of spring. Instead of sitting on turbos, attending spinning classes etc we can once again look forward to longer days of daylight and get out our lighter bikes and shed our longs and heavy jackets.

Happy cycling in 2017. I wish everyone a safe and successful season.

THE CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

Andrew Simpkins



It was an honour for me to be elected as the new National Chairman at the 2017 AGM and I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Association in this important role. It seems appropriate to say a few words of introduction about myself in this issue of the Veteran.

I am 63 years old, married to Sara, with three grown up sons and two granddaughters. We live in Wythall on the southern edge of Birmingham. I am now semi-retired after a career in management consultancy and IT. I do some postgraduate teaching and am on the leadership team of my local church.

I joined the VTTA in 1997 and have ridden for my standards every year since then. They have been at the centre of my racing season and I am grateful to the VTTA for the motivation and sense of achievement that standards have given me over these 20 years. I also do some road racing with the LVRC and have ridden some of the big European sportive challenges. Although my current time trial bike is a Bianchi I am a Colnago fan and have a little collection of four of their famous bikes from the last 20 years.

In December 2004 I became the Midlands Group chairman. In this role I have helped to organise and raise sponsorship for a season long points competition and have been the event organiser for the Group's open 10 and 25 mile events. I appreciate how the Group structure is at the heart of the VTTA and the need for the NEC to work with and support the Groups for the good of the Association as a whole.

In 2011 I chaired the Standards Working Party which led to the creation and approval of the new standards. I am pleased that they have been successful in providing a level playing field for all our members. Two principles from that experience I trust will guide me in my role as Chairman. Firstly that we should always aim for fairness in the way we conduct our affairs and competitions. Secondly when we look to make changes we should do so on the basis of sound evidence and analysis so that we can be confident they will produce a positive outcome for the membership.

We have a great sport in which people are showing increasing interest. I hope we can attract more women and men into time trialling and help produce yet more incredibly healthy and fit veteran cyclists. One initiative that should help with this is to develop and improve our website and this will be one of my priorities for the NEC in the year ahead.

Finally my best wishes to everyone for good riding and racing in 2017.

NATIONAL SECRETARY

Rachael Elliott

With this new issue of the Veteran, we witness the dawn of a new era. Jim Burgin officially retired from his role as Chairman of the Association at the February AGM. When Jim first mentioned his retirement many months ago, I feared his boots would be very difficult, if not impossible, to fill; the knowledge, efficiency and diligence which Jim has imparted to the Association over the years has been absolutely supreme.

However Andrew Simpkins has taken to the new role of Chairman like a duck to water, and I am excited about what he can bring to the Association. His enthusiasm for getting involved in projects such as the website straightaway reflects his dedication to the Association. Mike Penrice has done a sterling job producing this, his first ever edition of the Veteran. Mary Corbett, the new National Treasurer, is clearly quickly getting to grips with the intricacies of the VTTA National Accounts.

Of course, the real test of the effectiveness will be once the events start and, with the first Championship – the 10 mile – on 8 April this year, this test will come early in the year. With the organisation of the events going back to the Groups this year, I have every confidence that Manchester & NW Group will put on an event to remember.

Whether rightly or wrongly, 2017 does feel like a new era for the VTTA, but I have every confidence that the new Committee will continue to do the absolute best it can to protect, promote, support and forward our wonderful sport of time trialling.

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EDITORIAL

Mike Penrice



Welcome to this, my first issue of *The Veteran*, as your new editor. All previous 51 editions have been produced by our most distinguished Chairman Jim Burgin, now enjoying a well earned retirement.

I will aspire to maintain the high standard of content and presentation as our previous editor and look forward to receiving regular contributions from our many group and national contributors, anyone with a general interest article and maybe anyone with views to air of a veteran persuasion. I also hope that our advertisers will continue to support *The Veteran* and that the VTTA membership will continue to support them.

There have been several changes in group correspondents, along with some national changes. It is not an entirely new team but I am sure all us newbies will strive to continue the good work of our predecessors.

There is much to do in settling into this new role and the short time between my appointment at the AGM and the print deadline makes this production a bit of a mad rush. So the new computer and desk top publishing software will have to wait, while this edition is put together using ever reliable MS Word. So for this first issue I don't have the fine control over page design or photos, but things will improve. Hopefully you will find the content satisfactory.

All the usual features remain in this edition. Sadly there seem to be more obituaries than normal, so it has been necessary to edit some down slightly. This does not detract from the achievements of our deceased members nor the good work by the group correspondents in writing the obituaries.

So a little bit about me - I am a Manx born Yorkshireman, recently retired from a lifetime in engineering project management. I started riding in 1963 with Huddersfield Star Wheelers, then had a long spell with Seacroft Wheelers but now am simply a Yorkshire VTTA member with a modest racing career stretching back over fifty years. I am a third generation cyclist – riders on the Isle of Man have been competing for my grandfather's Samuel Penrice Memorial 25 mile trophy since 1947.

My wife Barbara (also a lifelong cyclist) and I now only compete on the tandem, although we both used to race solos at all distances up to 12 hours. Together we have been widely involved in race organisation, time trialling and cycling generally in God's Own County.

Grateful thanks are expressed to Jim for all his hard work over the years and on a personal level for his continuing help and advice in handing over the editorship in as painless a manner as possible.

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.....
ANNUAL TRAINING CAMPS

February, March, April and September
.....

AROUND THE GROUPS

EAST ANGLIA

Mary Horsnell

An application may well be necessary for the appearance of a crowned head above this column in the last issue of the Veteran. Readers are assured that this honour was not the result of any cycling achievement, nor indeed any sporting achievement, but the result of being invited to be “Queen for the day” in the village of Pleshey, where we have resided for 50 years, on the occasion of the street party to mark the 90th Birthday of H.M. the Queen. In the true spirit of Speaker Bercow, my husband refused to wear tights or knee breeches - nor to act the part of Consort! Final word – the two parishes adjacent each treated their oldest female resident to a luncheon, but somehow I survived a cold damp afternoon on a sandwich and a cup of tea in case the very elaborate dress became soiled.

Here is the final round-up of the 2016 season (omitted last time):

Presentation of Group Trophies by National Chairman, Jim Burgin:

Lionel Lincoln Memorial Shield
Group BAR 25, 50, 100 and 12 hour

Dave Green (Team Velocity)

Harry Hayes Shield
Group Championship 10, 25, 50 and 100

Peter Horsnell (Chelmer CC)

Syd Parkinson Cup
Ladies Championship BOS any 10, 25, 30
Sue Triplow (Essex Roads CC)

Ron Fisher/Jack King Memorial Shield
BOS in Second Group 10

Peter Horsnell (Chelmer CC)

Geri Lane Memorial Cup
BOS 2nd Group 25

Dave Green (Team Velocity)

Charlie Cliff Shield

BOS in Group 10

Andrew Grant (Cambridge CC)

H F Nevill Cup 25

BOS Group 25

Dave Green (Team Velocity)

HF Nevill 12 Hour Cup

BOS 12 Hour

Dave Green (Team Velocity)

Syd Parkinson Cup

BOS Group 50

Peter Horsnell (Chelmer CC)

Bob Haworth Memorial Cup

BOS Group 100

Peter Horsnell (Chelmer CC)

Freddie Frost Memorial Cup

Greatest Mileage – 12 Hours

Dave Green (Team Velocity)

East Anglian 10 Mile TT Shield

10 Miles Points Competition

Darren Bigmore (Glendene CC)

East Anglian 10 Mile TT Shield

10 Miles Points Competition Ladies

Denise Hurren (Sole Bay Cycle Sport)

Gordon Irons Memorial Cup

Outstanding Services to Group

Dave Nook

Back to business:

An interesting part of the National Meeting is meeting prizewinners and delegates from the various Groups, fifteen in all; people travel from as far away as Wales and the extreme South-West to the far North and Scotland. Today we have received a photo from Iain McLeod, all the way from Stirlingshire as promised, taken by him at Newmarket Sports Centre, of me with that never to be forgotten man Derek Stewart

after the National 25 in 2014, with the hope that it will “bring back happy memories” – need I say more what a kind thought.

It was another surprise when a hand appeared over my shoulder, holding a very early CTC membership card and the name on it was that of Syd Parkinson, an early member of the East Anglian Group. The bearer then introduced himself as Syd’s grandson, who had previously contacted John Golder after reading that Peter H. had won the Syd Parkinson Cup (for the third time) and sent a photo of Syd being pushed off in an event in his army days, by another soldier, who sadly was killed shortly afterwards. This was obviously (from the mule in the background) during his service in India, where he won many medals and cups, two of which he presented to the Group, the other being the Ladies Cup. The one referred to is simply inscribed “presented by Mr and Mrs Parkinson”. The first winner in 1967 was R K Cable, followed by R Haworth, E Lees and E Lees, all of the Chelmer CC. Not until 1971 did it pass to Colchester Rovers’ S J King.

It is to the diaries of their present long-serving President and one-time eminent timekeeper Geoff Keeble that we are indebted to for the following:

“Group 25 miles 29 May 1966, only the second event they had ever held, on the old E7 course, Colchester. There were 16 entries, among them that wonderful old gentleman Syd Parkinson, South Western RC, who at 75 years’ young recorded 1:29:03. A month later the Group organised its first 50, on the old B7 course, Baylham – Long Stratton in Suffolk. Syd took part and recorded a very creditable 2:57:24.

He had some wonderful stories. He recalled a massive crash on a tandem in his youth; this was at Letchworth on the Great North Road (A1), where they came off on loose gravel! Cycling legend Frank Southall once

worked for him. Geoff continues; “When I became of age (40) and joined the club, I took out insurance to get accepted. I was proposed and seconded by Sid and Jock Wadley. No committee would ever dare to turn down such an application.”

Turn back the faded pages of my own scrapbook for the obituary of an even older distinguished soldier, Colonel Sir Gilbertson Smith, remembered in Essex as President of the Brentwood RC in the Gibbons era and also President of the Essex D.A. CTC, with whom he rode at an advanced age. Before he died at 90, the first military cycling corps was the 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) VRC, of which this gentleman became C.O. in 1904. Four years later, their title was changed to become the 25th C of L (Cyclists Battalion) the London Regiment. The Colonel remained in command and when war came, in 1914, he raised a second battalion. Meanwhile the first battalion, in which many well-known racing and club cyclists were enrolled, had been sent to India, as an infantry unit. Syd Parkinson was one of their number and this was how he came to serve in India. I do remember Mr and Mrs Parkinson attending, when the Group Lunch was held at Hadleigh, and once met him cycling near his home in North Norfolk, when I said to the group of youngsters I was leading on an Easter tour “today you have seen someone famous.”

Yes, I am off track and down Memory Lane again – so back to the National Meeting 2017. It was obvious that the smallest groups have problems of their own and did not fully appreciate the problems of a large group, when so many members cannot get into events to qualify for National honours, or even to get a ride. When E.A. events are held in conjunction with other organisations, the entries are usually taken on best times and not on standard. However, the 10 mile series run by that hard-working pair Christine and Douglas Yareham and their

well-drilled well-established team of helpers, on behalf of Victoria CC, are open to all vets and prizes given, as well as VTTA medals for members. It is very difficult to believe that some groups have no record of the ages of their members, so do not know when they qualify for HLM. The alteration to this rule devalues the award for those who have “done their time” to deserve that honour. It was said that one could be a member for 40 years and done nothing to help, but just paying their subs must count for something – say no more!

The meeting was not improved by people talking continually throughout, while the Chairman was striving to give everyone a fair hearing. Is there someone out there willing and able to make the new Chairman a gavel? The splendid one handed over recently to new E.A. Chairman Andrew Grant, was made by one of our senior members, Bob Ward, a skilled worker in wood, and is highly valued. Andrew gave a good account of himself at his first National Meeting, putting the group’s motion in a very eloquent manner.

It does seem a pity that some delegates are so strictly mandated. When they attend the meeting, they will hear other points of view, with which they may agree, and then say “I do agree with you, but have to vote the other way”. Could they not just be advised to use their own discretion – again just a thought.

In these parts, the Eastern Counties luncheon etc marks the end of the social season and here there was a change of tempo, main trophy winners coming from the outer periphery of the ECCA – Finsbury Park, Hitchin Nomads, and added to the Vets list, Kettering CC, Icknield RC, CC Breckland, Norwich ABC, Ely & District, Wolsey RC, Stowmarket & District, Whitewebbs CC, but Chelmer took the Keehner Shield with the old firm John Golder, Pete Horsnell and Ann Shuttleworth. Ann’s name will also go, with that of Mary Bower, on the George Hunter

Trophy as Ladies BAR team, while new name, Colchester’s Anna Deering, put Sue Triplow, Essex Roads in second place, for the BAR Bates Trophy and it was pleasing to see the old school represented when Baz and Eileen Bristow took the Festival Club Team Championship Shield on behalf of Southend Wheelers.

London East riders may have lost their former dominance, but it was their popular District Secretary, also well-known timekeeper and competitor, Wendy Dorling, who presented the prizes – last, but not least, she is the wife of Keith, now Group Treasurer and fast man. Terry Anderson, having completed his term invested the new President John Cottee with the very impressive Chair of Office. John’s name will forever be connected not only with years of timekeeping and 12 hour promotions, but with service to the Chelmer club, of which he is a life member.

And in case you should wonder why some top names are well down the list of the Vets Trophy, it is because the new standards are used while retaining the traditional +mph method that has always been used.

No more looking back – it is time to move forward; the programme for the coming season is included in the 2017 VTTA Handbook which accompanies this Veteran magazine. John Golder has put a lot of work into this; please continue to support him and the other hard-working group officials. Needless to say, marshals are always needed, not forgetting other helpers, and thanks to those new promoters who continue to come forward as well as those who carry on through the years.

Here’s to happy days on the road and chatting around the Result Board; both this column and the Newsletter need more information.

KENT

Ian Turner

The Group's Annual Lunch and Prize Giving was held on Saturday 11th February at the Weald of Kent Golf Club - the third time we have used this excellent venue, and once again it did not disappoint. The organisation of the event by Tom Morton was again impeccable and I am sure that everyone who attended found the occasion an uplifting experience. Our Guest of Honour this year was Alf Engers whom I'm sure needs no introduction to any familiar with the time trialling scene. Alf gave a fascinating incite into his era of racing and the many characters competing at the time.

MC duties at the lunch once again fell to Paul Mephram - notwithstanding his statement at the end of last year's lunch that he was standing down from the role - who ensured proceedings, in particular the presentation ceremony, were enlivened with his vast knowledge of the Kent time trial scene. Speaking from the Recorder's point of view, I can't imagine an annual lunch without Paul doing his stuff, and he has certainly made my life much easier than it might have been over the years I have been Recorder, so please don't hang up your MC hat just yet Paul - we'll all miss you!

The usual banter and cross-toasting was much in evidence following the President's address - a new President's address of course, as Mark Vowells took up his role for the first time, having taken over from Dave Wright for the next three years. This year, eleven prize winners were present, down from last year's thirteen which was a shame. Bronwen Ewing and Simon Henderson were our two most prolific winners at the lunch, and it was delightful to see a Lady once again stepping up to receive awards.

With so few of our prize winners attending the annual lunch each year, it does mean that I have accumulated a significant number

of medals over the past few years that have not been collected. Group policy is not to send these to winners in the post - it would be far too expensive. I will publish a comprehensive list of names in the next edition of the Kent Veterans News in the hope that recipients will arrange to collect them from me.

The Group's programme of events for 2017 kicks off on Saturday 25th March with the ten mile event on Q10/22 for the Mick Dansie Cup organised by Val Peachey. This is a little later than of late, and hopefully it might mean we get some nice Spring weather to get the season off to a fine start.

Safe training out there and the very best to all for an excellent 2017 season.

LONDON & HOME COUNTIES

John Hoskins

This year has seen huge changes in the London & Home Counties group. Not far off a totally new committee, with new enthusiasm and new ideas. With the retirement of Jim Burgin, someone who will be sorely missed in West London (see elsewhere in this issue), followed by Ron and Gladys Purdy, along with Chas Jepson, deciding that they too felt it time to hand over to "younger" members. John Hoskins has taken on the secretaryship and treasurer's duties and David Guy has taken over as chairman. Geoff Perry continues as awards secretary and Katja Rietdorf has come onto the committee as social secretary.

It was Katja who ran the January luncheon at the Aldenham Golf Club, where attendance numbers climbed back to where they had been for some years before last year's inexplicable fall in attendance. Unusually the committee decided not to invite a chief guest from outside of the group as we had a

National Champion as organiser. Katja is not only the current Ladies VTTA 12hr Champion, but also the CTT National 12hr Champion and the group Ladies BAR. So it was agreed that she would give a talk to the lunch about how she has improved from being a novice time triallist through to becoming National Champion in just less than three years. Her talk rounded off an excellent lunch, attended by almost 70 members and guests.

Part of the increase in numbers was due to the new policy of rewarding members and friends who marshal any of our five Open promotions with a free ticket to the lunch – and actually getting paid for any event that has over 100 riders. Event organisers get their rewards too, the committee (both last year's and this year's committees) believing that this should make it easier to find the help necessary to run events. One thing that has gone back to what it was is that the many group trophies were on display at the lunch, which hasn't happened since 2011. Liam Maybank of the Twickenham won the lion's share of the awards, taking home a large array of silverware. They included the Arthur Wilkins trophy, the Charlie Cole Cup, the Russ Cup, the Members' Cup and the Laurie Dixon Bowl amongst other awards.

Other trophy and medal winners attending who collected their awards included Roger Sewell, Ian Greenstreet, John Sullivan, Gill Reynolds and of course Katja Rietdorf herself.

Whilst on the subject of trophies, the committee would love to hear from anyone who could take on the job of looking after the trophies. Someone needs to get the trophies engraved and to ensure that they are at the Annual Lunch for presentation. If anyone is interested in helping with this, or indeed coming onto the committee, please email me on secretarylahc@btinternet.com.

Before we get on to the news of our Open Promotions in 2017, I must report on one event that has already been held very successfully. Our new Chairman, David Guy, has agreed to stand as organiser for three of our promotions but felt that he needed some help. So David organised a conference to help experienced organisers and timekeepers bring their knowledge to the table to help new and less experienced organisers.

Twenty two people attended, seventeen of whom felt they could gain from getting advice from more experienced organisers. Based on a question and answer format, rather than a system of lectures, the meeting concentrated on local events and courses. Those trainees that attended all felt that they now knew much more of how and where to get information and many of them would call on experienced organisers to mentor them. The meeting was also designed to guide people to thinking of becoming timekeepers, of which there is a shortage in the area. Six people have expressed a desire to get more information on timekeeping. The London and Home Counties Group is very grateful to David Guy for organising the meeting which could have far reaching effects in west London Time trialling.

Two of the trainees attending the meeting will be organising events for the VTTA this year and our program this year is similar to 2016. A ten on F11/10 on 1st May (Bank Holiday). A ten on Thursday 25th May on H10/2, a similar event on Wednesday 3rd August – also on H10/2 with a further event on the F11 in between those events on 19th July. The season finishes as before with the Rocco 25 on H25/1 on the 1st October.

All of the organisers are hoping that finding marshals and helpers won't be a problem. So I'm using this opportunity to ask you all if you are available to help for any of those

events please contact me on secretarylahc@btinternet.com and I will pass on your details. As mentioned above, marshals get rewarded in L & HC events. All marshals get a free ticket to the lunch in January, and if the event has over 100 riders (as both of the F11 events almost certainly will have) get paid £30. So please check your diaries and let me know if you can help.

Of course if you want to ride then all you have to remember is that you must be a paid up member of the VTTA. If you haven't paid by March 31st you will have to re-apply for membership so it's much easier to pay before then, cheques or direct transfers welcomed (details from me).

MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST

Jim Ogden

I started my report in March 2016 with the news of Jim Gresty's near fatal injuries received when he was hit head on by a car on Monday 18th January. After a year spent in hospital, Jim was finally returned home to Market Drayton on Monday 6th February; however he is still unable to walk. Helen will be his full time carer and she has consented to continue as our Group treasurer, the post previously held by Jim.

Our secretary Brian Camfield received a letter from David Clarke to say that his father, Derrick (HLM) had died age 95 last November at his home in Conwy, North Wales and that his mother, Josie, had died 6 weeks later, aged 93. David felt he was unfortunately not sufficiently well versed in his Dad's cycling career to pen an obituary, but I can confirm that Derrick had been very well known in the North West cycling community over 60 years ago. He was a BLRC member and in the 1950s rode in Tours of Britain and the Warsaw – Berlin- Prague Peace Race. Derrick also owned a popular bike shop in Oldham until he retired to live

in North Wales in the mid 1980s. I remember in writing my reports in the 1970s, Derrick would ride the occasional 25, regularly recording 57s! Josie enjoyed her cycling, but more touring than racing. David said his dad derived very great pleasure from reading the Veteran, which he continued to keenly scrutinise, despite his failing eyesight. Our condolences have been sent to David who says he is "the only surviving member of our branch of the family"

Casting the mind back to last year, Group Member Dave Fearon, Weaver Valley CC, promoted the M&DTTA Christmas 10 on Sunday 11th December. It had attracted a full field, including the fancy dress section. Actual fastest was visitor Simon Beldon SSSL Racing Team in 21:29. For the second year, the fastest M&DTTA affiliated rider, who wins the Jim Broome Trophy, is Rob Pullen, Ashley Touring Club. His 22:30 was an impressive ride on a sporting course in December. Group Member Roger Wrenn, Macclesfield Wheelers won the V-70 category price in 27:27. The Victorian Sociable Tandem, ridden by Valerie and Tony Baxter of Withington Wh took first prize again in the fancy dress competition. Their actual time of just under 2 hours, included stopping on every corner to raise the spirit of the marshals with a mince pie and a drink.

To avoid clashing with the 10, the cyclist's annual carol service at Chelford Church was held the week before and as usual was well attended.

The Group celebrated its 70th annual luncheon and prize presentation at the festively decorated Middlewich Masonic Hall on Sunday 27th November. Details of the prize winners were given last time. As last year, the committee had decided not to invite a guest of honour but rather devote more time to the presentation of the awards. This was carried out by the double act of Brian Camfield and former recorder,

Tony Farrell to universal approval. The generous donations raised for a chance at the many raffle prizes ensured that the luncheon, including the free table wine, stayed in financial credit.

2017 is the M&DTTA 81st anniversary and was celebrated by a full house at their annual lunch and prize presentation held on Sunday January 29th at Middlewich Masonic Hall. When Guest of Honour, Janice Slater (wife of former President Rod) came to present the awards, VTTA members were again prominent amongst the winners. Neil Skellern, Team Swift, was runner up in both the Association Best All Rounder (BAR) and the Middle Distance Championship. The BAR Team Champions (Seamons CC) are all Group Members – Adrian Hughes, Pauline Atkinson and Jeanette Barber. Pauline and Jeanette were also placed second and third in the Ladies BAR Championship. The 25 mile Championship was won by Group Member Darren Maironis, Coveryourcar.co.uk in 54:51.

The 12 hours ladies champion is Pauline Atkinson, having covered 231.24 miles for which she receives a gold medal.

A reminder that the first VTTA National Championship, the 10, is our Group promotion on Saturday 8th April. Promoter Roy Deakin is expecting a full field. It's a chance to see the country's fastest Vets racing on the J2/1 course, which uses the Chelford – Knutsford road.

In closing, may I add my thanks to Jim Burgin, the retiring Chairman and Editor. Always helpful and a pleasure to work with, or just to be with, the excellent Veteran we now read in colour owes much to Jim's work as Editor. Long may he and Dorothy enjoy his 'somewhat less' dedication to cycling.

MERSEYSIDE

Geoff Edgerton

I have recently heard the sad news that Ben Griffiths of the Anfield Cycling Club has died. Ben was an honorary life member of the Mersey Group. I didn't know him that well but he always came over and had a few words with me. Very much part of the local cycling scene. An obituary will appear in a future edition of the Veteran.

You will remember that Jim Gresty, together with his wife Helen, was guest speaker at our 2016 annual dinner and prize presentation. The following day, Jim was involved in a road accident and sustained serious head injuries. After thirteen months in hospital, Jim is returning home. However, he does have cognitive and short term memory difficulties and is confined to a wheelchair. When Jim has settled in, we will be visiting him and I will convey the Merseyside groups best wishes for his continued recovery to both Jim and Helen.

This years annual prize presentation was well received and well supported which makes the organising of it rewarding. A big thanks to Phil Guy for this, putting in a lot of time and effort. Guest speaker was Dennis Milsom who also presented the awards. What was particularly pleasing was apart from a couple of absentees, all the recipients of the cups and standards were present to accept them. One of those absentees actually lives in Indonesia so we cannot be too hard on him. Arthur Winstanley of the Liverpool Phoenix claimed most of the major awards. The Tom Johnson Trophy for group four distance champion as well as the Wally Gradden Cup for three distance champion on standard and the Bill Taylor Memorial Shield for group three distance on actual time. Arthur also claimed the John Clucas trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 30, the Dick Corris Trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 50, the

Walvale trophy for best on standard in the Phoenix 25, the Colin Rutter Cup for best on standard in the Chester RC 25, the Dave Towel Cup for fastest 100, the Bill Hanson Cup for best 100 on standard, the 12 hour cup on distance and the BW Bentley Rose Bowl for best 12 hour ride on standard. Helen Tudor of the Oswestry Paragon was again ladies champion claiming both the Doreen Mahar Rose Bowl on standard and the Dave Swales Cup on actual time. Helen also won the Hilda Dover Cup for best lady on standard in the Rhos-os-Sea 10. The final major award, the Harry Mahar Salver, for the short distance competition was the best supported with thirteen members qualifying. Andy Hazell of Mid Shropshire Wheelers comfortably saw off the opposition to retain this award. Andy also won the Joe Brook Trophy for best on standard in the North Shropshire Wheelers and awarded the Meritorious Cup for recording a personal best time of 21.33 in a ten mile time trial. Port Sunlight Wheelers Kevin Larmer also had a decent haul of silverware. Kevin claimed the Eddie Gradden Cup for fastest in the West Cheshire 50, the Leo Madden Trophy for fastest time in the West Cheshire 10, the Oscar Dover Shield for best on standard in the Rhos-on-Sea 10, the WJ Smith Rose Bowl for fastest time in the Chester RC 25 and the Brooke Cup for fastest in the Phoenix 25. North Shropshire Wheelers Richard Kay claimed the George Hayes Trophy for fastest in the West Cheshire 30, the Ron Yates Trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 10, the Derek Ireland Trophy for fastest in the Rhos-on-Sea 10 and the Gomersal Cup for fastest in the North Shropshire Wheelers 25. Mandalin Hadwin claimed the Lanterne Rouge for final place in the three distance competition with the final cup, the Ted Fitzpatrick Shield, going to Sakib Shamas of the Phoenix CC. Fifteen Members claimed standards. Derek Parry of Birkenhead

Victoria received a plaque for six awards. Harry Cowley and Ian Hawkins of the Chester RC plaques for four, Geoff Edgerton of the Norths, Andy Hazell, Jenny York and Dave York of the Mids and Martin Sturge of Graham Weigh Racing plaques for three. Medals for two standards were awarded to North Shropshire's Phil Guy, Ian Casson of Birkenhead Victoria, Andrew Clarke of Mid Shropshire Wheelers, Dave Smith of Deeside Olympic and Port Sunlight Wheelers Kevin Larmer. Medals for one standard were presented to Arthur Winstanley of the Phoenix, Helen Tudor of Oswestry Paragon and last but certainly not least, North Shropshire Wheelers Barry Ralphs and Richard Berry.

I hope everybody had a good Christmas and New Year. Writing this in early February, it does feel a million miles away now, especially with the first local race, the Chester Hilly only a couple of weeks away. It does feel like and probably is that the race is a little early in the year. However, it is a chance to assess early season form and if it doesn't go to plan, then you were not quite ready and a few more weeks training will get you back on track. On a personal note, the winter training has gone really well. Trying to improve on last year's efforts and fighting father time is no easy task. To break the monotony of training, we are off to Belgium for a long weekend to ride the sportive on Saturday and watch the professionals in the Gent-Wevelgem on the Sunday and soon afterwards flying off to Mallorca for a fortnights cycling in the sun. It's a hard life retirement.

I would like to wish all group members the best for the coming season, whatever your aspirations and a safe cycling season

MIDLANDS

Jeff Matthews

Apologies for being unable to provide a detailed report for this issue.

Our presentation lunch went well, with 60 members in attendance. Awards were given by Simon Richardson MBE, who gave an inspirational speech on resilience and on never giving up. Simon's story is incredible, and over £500 was raised for the Air Ambulance for Wales at the lunch.

In 2001 Simon Richardson was struck from behind by a car doing 60 mph, shattering his leg and breaking his back in 2 places. With a ratchet support system fitted to his spine Simon used his love for cycling to rebuild his body. His story is an inspiration. In 2008 he became part of the now legendary success of the Great Britain cycling team at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics when he took two Gold medals on the track and a Silver medal in the Time Trial. He was awarded an MBE by the Queen in the 2008 New Years honours list.

In August 2011, Richardson was very seriously injured again when struck by a hit and run driver whilst cycling. He was described as being in "critical condition", with "fractures to the spine, a broken pelvis, a broken breast bone, cuts to his legs, and a "detached" lung". The injuries meant that he was unable to compete at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London, despite having been "a very top contender to be considered" for the Games. He continues to make good progress and drew great respect from our members.

Here he is presenting new National Chair Andrew Simpkins with his Standard Award. This is the 20th year that Andrew has achieved his Standard.



Also Sue Kelly presenting the newly awarded Bayliss Cup for Women's Best All Rounder, to winner Sue Semple, Born to Bike – Bridgtown Cycles. Sue (nee Bayliss) presented the cup on behalf of her family.



See elsewhere in this issue for details of the Welland Trophy VTTA/LVRC time trial.

NORTH

Gavin Russell

Hope everyone has wintered well and, that with the mild winter experienced to date, you are all in good shape for the coming season.

Social matters first. The annual Group luncheon was held at Hardwick Hall Hotel in January, with 55 members and guests sitting down to an excellent meal. Both service and offered food maintained the high quality that has been a hallmark of this venue in recent years. It was extremely pleasing to welcome the Guests of Honour, Bryan Bevis and his wife, who kindly presented all the 2016 awards on behalf of the Group and also a number of Teesside District Awards won by Group Members. A list of all Group Award winners, together with the details of all the Group Competitions, are included in the 2017 North Group Year Book, copies of which were distributed at the luncheon. If you were not in attendance at the luncheon and would like a copy, please contact Les Dawson, who will be only too happy to provide you with one.

The North Group Committee held a meeting in January to discuss the contents of the National VTTA Annual Report and Agenda. With Ruth Crossley and Dave Oliver both briefed on the meeting attendees thoughts, they are to make the long trip to the National AGM on behalf of the Group members, in the hope that there is a better representation from elected National Officials than in 2016.

During the meeting, in addition to thanking Ruth Crossley for her valued efforts in delivering yet another successful function, it was confirmed that the Group had been informed that Hardwick Hall have increased the cost slightly for the scheduled January 2018 luncheon to celebrate the 2017 season. It was agreed that the venue would be booked for 2018, however it was also tabled

that the hotel are introducing a £200 room hire charge, however they will not implement this for the 2018 luncheon. The meeting charged Ruth Crossley to seek out alternative venues for 2019 and thereafter, to ensure that value for money was maintained.

2016 members are reminded that subscriptions are overdue and should be forwarded to Paul Dawson, the Group Treasurer (remain unchanged at £12 for single membership and £13.50 for couples), Standard fees are £12 for the full set of standards and £3 for any number of attempts at a nominated single distance. Please note that both your subscription and standard fees are required to be paid, prior to competing in 2017 fixed distance events, that you want to claim for. Failure to do so will mean the ride(s) will not qualify for any awards or competitions.

With a number of distance records set by Howard Heighton during 2016 on the recently opened outdoor Teesside Velodrome at the Sports Village in Middlesbrough, it has engendered some interest in further attempts being made by slightly older members. Once achieving accreditation is realised, which is proving quite an obstacle, then it is hoped that some new records can be set by members.

By the time you read this the 2017 season will be underway, so I have identified the following VTTA North Group and associated events:

Saturday 22 April: Hartlepool CC/VTTA North Group 10ml on T105 – Organiser: Phil Wright

Sunday 14 May: Hartlepool CC/VTTA North Group 25ml on T252/3 – Organiser: Paul Garstang

Saturday 3 June: VTTA North Group 10ml on T104 – Organiser: Ruth Crossley

Sunday 13 August: Darlington CC/VTTA North Group 50ml on T502 – Organiser: Dave Bennett

Sunday 3 August: Cleveland Coureurs/North Group 25ml (incorporating Teesside District Championship) on T252/3 – Organiser: Gavin Russell

Sunday 17 September: Hartlepool CC/VTTA North Group 25ml on T254 – Organiser: Paul Garstang

It is also worth noting the following dates that could well affect your preparation and racing season:

Sunday April 30th VTTA National 15 mile Championship is being held in the adjoining Yorkshire District on the super fast Hull based V278 course (an extension of the V718 course).

Sunday June 25th Cycling Time Trials National 50 mile Championship is being held in the Teesside District on the fast Crathorne/Dishforth course based on the T502 course.

In a plea to all members to provide support to these events, if you can lend a hand, whether in part, or in whole, it would be most appreciated by the small band of volunteers who organise these events.

As a reminder to all competitors for the 2017 season, a new Cycling Time Trial Regulation comes into force that requires all riders to sign in and out at open events. Failure to personally sign out, (when returning your number) could lead to a DNF being recorded against your name.

Once again, should you wish any news or information to be included in these reports please do not hesitate to contact the writer on gavin_russell@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01642 654419.

NORTH LANCASHIRE & LAKES

By Dave Brown

Our Annual Group Luncheon and Prize Presentation was held at the regular Crofters venue at Garstang and was its usual success. Inevitably, as we are an organisation catering for older people, the numbers attending seem to be unfortunately reducing each year.

We are always sure of a good welcome from our ex- Group Chairman John Leach who continued as Master of Ceremonies for the day in his usual jovial way. Our Chairman Richard Taylor along with guests Christine Higgs of Macclesfield Wheelers and Steve Davies of Ferryhill Wheelers conducted the prize presentations and the toasting of the Group which all went in an excellent manner.

Our Group was celebrating its most successful season ever at National level in 2016.

The top performance of the year has to go to Richard Bideau who enjoyed a wonderful season which was applauded by those present. Richard had won the CTT British Best All Rounder (BBAR) competition outright with the Pendle Forest CC member's incredible performances of 1-35-22 '50', 3-22-16 '100' and 305.765 '12 hour'. These had resulted in the fastest BBAR ever as well as recording an unbeatable 'Plus' to win the VTTA BAR. After the function had finished Richard was spotted re-dressing into his cycling kit to ride the 30 plus miles home – and – on the second Sunday of the year it was already dark outside. A 'proper' cyclist for sure!

In the National VTTA 3 Distance Competition (25, 50 and 100 miles based on Age Standard) Richard finished second overall, beaten only by some great performances

from Peter Horsnell of the East Anglian Group. Richard was backed by Steve Irwin in 3rd place, Peter Greenwood 4th, Dave Hargreaves 10th, Mick Black 12th and Paul Fleming 17th to give our Group a winning Plus of 5 hours 48 minutes exactly.

The National Awards did not finish there with our Group also unbeaten for the VTTA Short Distance Team Award based on Age Standard. In this competition Steve Irwin finished overall 4th, Peter Greenwood 5th, Mick Ellerton 6th, Mick Black 7th, Paul Fleming 19th and Dave Hargreaves 22nd to table a winning Plus of 7 hours 43 minutes 12 seconds.

The main Prizewinners for our local competitions were:

TRADERS CUP : Group Championship:

- 1 Steve Irwin, North Lancs RC
480 points
- 2 = Paul Fleming, Preston Whs.
471 points
- 2 = Derek Parkinson, Springfield
471 points

LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Theresa Taylor, Preston CC
463 points

DOBSON TROPHY - Best 25 Plus
Steve Irwin, North Lancs RC +16m 29s

PADDY MALONEY TROPHY - Best 50 Plus
Mike Westmorland, Border City Wheelers
+35m 16s

CROWTHER SHIELD 100m - 7th on Standard
Harry Haseley, North Lancs RC +41m 57s

BAXTER ROSE BOWL - 100 on Handicap
Scott Leverington, Chorley CC 3h 00m 58s

KARRIMOR SADDLE - 100 on Standard
Steve Irwin, North Lancs RC +1h 17m 59s

KEN PRIESTLEY TROPHY - 12 hour on
Standard
Richard Bideau, Pendle Forest CC
+100miles

TEAM SHIELD

North Lancs RC - Steve Irwin, Sue Cheetham
and Harry Haseley

Our regular Dinner Organiser Terry Kay was unfortunately missing this time round following his death almost a year ago. However the job was taken over very efficiently by our Group Treasurer Hazel Matthews and husband Bob along with our ex- Chairman John Leach.

Our Group Recorder Richard Taylor has issued the list of Group Championship Qualifying Events for the 2017 season with four events required to qualify with at least one of those of 50 miles or longer:

Wednesday 12th April, 1300
VTTA NL&L Open 25 miles – L2521A

Sunday 23rd April, 0830
Wigan Wheelers 30 miles – L304

Saturday 13th May, 1800
West Pennine RC 10 miles – L109

Sunday 21st May, 0700
VTTA NL&L Open 50 miles – L505R

Sunday 11th June, 0900
Border City Whs 50 miles – L505

Wednesday 14th June, 1900
WPRC/VTTA NL&L 25 miles – L256

Sunday 25th June, 0700
NLTTA 100 miles – L1009E

Sunday 23rd July, 0700
Lancashire RC 25 miles – L2521A

Sunday 13th August, 0730
Lancaster CC 25 miles – L2524

Sunday 17th September, 0730
Springfield Financial 10 miles – L1015

Group Recorder Richard makes the point that members applying for personal Standard Awards this year must pay their £9 per distance up-front before the rides are

completed. Send to Richard at his address in VTTA Handbook with cheques payable to R. Taylor

In January we lost another of our Honorary Life Members when Tom Hoyle died after a long illness. Tom - a life-long member of the North Lancashire Clarion – was one of our area's most successful riders covering many years. Initially he was successful both in time trials and in road racing and latterly in Veteran's events.

My own first meeting with Tom was when he won the long-gone British League of Racing Cyclists (BLRC) Bowland Knotts Road Race in 1957. The event was organised by Veteran legend Harry Aspden who was a member of the same club as Tom. As I still have the start and result sheets of the 800 or so events that I rode it was good to look back at that event where I was happy to finish in a group of 10 and given equal 6th place – no finish-line photo cameras in those days! No Police notifications to run events either – we just got on and did it! It was a wonderful era for cycling in my opinion. An obituary for Tom by his clubmate Robin Hatherall will be found later in this The Veteran.

One of our Group's workhorses and most popular members Keith Tattersall spent a good part of his Christmas and New Year having a heart replacement valve fitted. He even had to miss our Luncheon which must have been a first on that count for a very long time indeed. Happily at the time of writing Keith is home again and well on the way to a full recovery.

New Members: We welcome new joint members Claire and Nigel Clementson of Wigan Wheelers, David Ian Hilditch of the Ribble Valley CRC, Paul Russell of Springfield Financial and returning member Bill Smith also Springfield Financial Racing Team and we hope that you enjoy your time with our Group.

For anyone who has not yet renewed or knows of cyclists who would like to join our Group then subs are £13 for single membership and £14 for dual membership. Applications should be sent to our Treasurer Hazel – address in the VTTA Handbook – along with name and contact details, club if any and Date of Birth.

NORTH MIDLANDS

Alex Deck

As I write this there isn't much happening, but by the time this plops through your letter box most of us will be well into the 2017 season. Frankly the prospect of racing in cold and windy March is becoming less and less appealing - personally, my season will start when the temperature reaches 15deg and not before. About August then.

Probably the most exciting event since the last issue was the **CTT Champions Night** in January. It was quite an inspiring event, highlighting as it does the range of competitions that vets can succeed in. The North Midlands had two very worthy prize winners: Daryl May (Sheffrec CC) was 3rd vet in the Classic series, and Chris Melia (Born to Bike) was part of the winning women's team at 50m. Congratulations both.



Something that continues to occupy our group is **traffic counts**, specifically relating to dual carriageways. The only fast courses in our district are on the A1, which are, until someone is prepared to organise an event at 6am on a Sunday, effectively lost to us. What

concerns us is the apparent lack of input from the CTT NEC. Many of us feel that traffic counts should be mandatory for all courses and the results made public. Presumably what stops groups from doing them is the likelihood of certain well known courses being well above the current recommended limits and the subsequent complications this would bring.

We ran a poll recently to see what the general feeling was toward racing on the A1 and it was 70% in favour. Many of our group feel that the recommended limits (available on Guidance note 9) should be updated to reflect 21st century motoring and safety regs, and that all groups should complete them for all the courses in use. This would benefit riders wondering whether or not to race on a certain course. We are doing counts on all the North Midlands (O) courses this season and results are available by contacting our Courses Secretary (details on the website).

Good news at the recent **AGM** regarding the VTTA website - a working group is being put together to plan a new one. This is long overdue and hopefully we will be able to develop a more useful resource. New Chairman Andrew Simpkins will be leading this. Mike Penrice was welcomed as the new Editor of this magazine and we look forward to working with him.

Finally, we are only running two events this year, and due to the difficulties in running events on the A1 (see above), both are on new courses:

11th March – 14.7 miles SpoCo on O14C

30th September – 10 miles on O10/16

As always, check our website for regular updates <http://vttanorthmidlands.co.uk> or follow us on Twitter at @VTTANorthMids.

NOTTINGHAM & EAST MIDLANDS

David Herd

I have decided to carry on as Veteran Reporter for the time being, but if anyone would like to take on the job please come forward and I promise I will give all the help I can in this rewarding task. My new email address is davidherd63@outlook.com.

Just a further reminder which is contained in Russell Gents Newsletter regarding subscriptions for 2017, please send your subscriptions direct to our treasurer Kath Smith at: 14 Main Street, Wilsford, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3NP. Cheques should be made payable to VTTA and should be paid by the 31 March 2017 at the latest. Membership rates remain at:

Single membership £11.00

Joint membership £13.00

Life membership £6.00 (if you wish to receive the Veteran; £1.00 if not).

Honorary members – those that are 80+ and have 25 years membership of the VTTA – there is nothing to pay and you get the Veteran free as well. As usual, to keep postal costs please let Kath know if you need a receipt.

The Groups Presentation Luncheon held at The Riseley.Park was well supported. Our thanks to our dinner secretary Gail Summerlin for promoting the event, together with those who prepared presentation material, those who organised the presentation and those who helped on the day to make the luncheon a great success.

The Group committee also worked hard this year in presenting the prize winners with their well earned efforts, the following is just two of the selected sections.

National Age Records:

Ian Guilor(Mapperley CC)

10 miles 18:35

Graham Green (Team Bottrill)

15 miles 35:42

Gill Henshaw (VC Long Eaton)

10 miles 27:05

15 miles 44:04

25 miles 01:12:04

Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC)

10 miles 24:24

15 miles 44:04

25 miles 01:04:03

The Tandem Boys:

Jeff Bowler & Dave Bates (South Pennine)

10 miles 21:20

25 miles 54:07

50 miles 01:54:55

NEM VTTA Trophy Winners for 2016

BAR

1. Colin Parkinson (South Western RC)

2. Nigel Briggs (South Pennine RC)

3. Steve Boat (Welland Valley)

Senior BAR

Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC)

Ivan Mohan 25 miles

Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) +15:48

Bert Christian 25miles

Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) +21:18

Fred Smith 50 miles

Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) +44:35

Jack Watts 25 miles

Nick Cave (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) 52:19

Prestige Points

Nick Cave (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) 34pts

Hermes 100

Colin Parkinson (South Western RC) +45:35

Joe Baines

Jim Boyle (Sleaford Wheelers) +14:19

The H F Bloodworth Trophy was awarded to our Group Secretary Russell Gent for his contribution to Veteran Cycling in the Nottingham and East Midlands Group.

Well done to all the prize winners particular the new names on list, Nick Cave who produced some stunning rides throughout the season, Nigel Briggs whose endurance rides were truly amazing and Jim Boyle who also produced some good rides throughout the season in particular, the +14:19 on the new LRRR 30 mile course during what appeared like a howling gale on the final leg was a great effort.

Our Chairman Sue Bowler welcomed the visitors which included CTT National Chairman Sheila Hardy and CTT committee member David Barry, who proposed a toast to the Group and prize winners. The guest speaker was 2016 24 hour Champion Lynne Biddulph from Born to Bike-Bridgtown Cycles who gave an interesting account of her endurance activities.

I would like to wish Roy Oakes a speedy recovery after falling down the stairs and breaking his leg but I hear that hopefully he will have his plaster taken off this week.

Well, if you are like me you spend quite a bit of time at this time of year flicking through the new handbook and planning the 2017 season's events, so good luck and ride safely.

SCOTLAND

James Skinner

The Ivy C.C. held their "Burns Supper" at their club rooms in Torrance. Unfortunately, Jimmy Goldie guest singer was unable to attend as was Poet, Donnie Connachie. Although an 'Ivy' event, a number of Group members were involved with the evening's entertainment, and started with Gus McLafferty opening the proceedings with the song "Leezie Lindsay", with Allan McGinlay

providing the music. This was followed by Iain McLeod piping in the haggis, which was duly addressed by Gus in his inimitable fashion i.e. everyone stayed well clear of his "Trusty" knife during his address to the Haggis!

Prior to enjoying the Haggis, neeps and tatties, Kenny Clark provided a fine recital of the Selkirk Grace, and following the meal, Willie McLuskie gave a Toast to the Ivy C.C. Gus, again accompanied by Allan, gave a fine rendition of the "Green Fields of France", and this was followed by Dick Barnes giving a Toast to the Ladies, and later, a very humorous satirical poem also aimed at the fairer sex.

At this point Iain was again to the fore and played the relatively unknown tune "Ode to the Ivy", which was followed by Gus singing and Allan providing the music to the 'Braes O' Killiecrankie O', which is commendation of the battle that took place there in 1698.

Before the close of the evening's 'ongoings', and the traditional rendition of Auld Lang Syne, Kenny gave a Toast of Thanks to the members that attended, to the evening's catering, guests and those who ably entertained the company.

SVTTA Presentation Lunch

This year's prize giving presentation proved to be the best attended for several years, with 66 attending and 14 call offs.

In total there were 34 prize winners with Johan Thayne presenting the 6 ladies prizes.

In attendance was Jackie Connor (age 94. 95 this year). Jackie provided the Group with its first RR Trophy in 1974, which was the first SVTTA Road Race, and started and finished in Johnstone after encompassing three circuits of the Howood/Dalry circuit. The event was organised by the late George Burns and the winner of the event was the late Hugh Donald, Regent C.C. Jackie also

presented the Group with the prestigious "The Most Improved Trophy".

Also in attendance were John and Rita Montgomery; it was also Tommy and Elizabeth Clark's first appearance at a Group Presentation since it was held in Hamilton Town Hall many years ago.

Rita was the SC Ladies B.A.R. Champion 1983 – 1986; SC Ladies 25TT Champion 1986, and World Veteran Ladies RR Champion 1980 & 1983, while Elizabeth was the SC Ladies 30TT in 1987, 10TT Champion 1989, 3rd in the SC Women's' BAR, 1996; 4th in the Women's Olympic TT Series 1996, and 3rd in the BAR, while finishing 4th in the SC Women's BAR 1997 and 3rd in the Women's Championship 10TT. Both featured in a number of SC Championship Team winners, and held many of the Groups Age Records until recently

Rita was also the Group's women's 10TT Champion 1986, the Group's 25TT Champion 1985 & 1986, and the Group's 50TT Champion 1986, with group records at 10miles in 1989, 1990 & 1997.

Elizabeth was the Group's 10TT Champion 1990, and the Group's 30TT Champion 1989, with Group records at 30 miles in 1989, 1992, 1996 & 2000, and at 50 miles in 2000

Racing

With several group members enjoying a full season of winter cyclo-cross we are all watching for some strong performances in the early season from the year round racers.

As we go to print there has been no time trialling this year, but watch this space for results and updates as the season gets underway.

A new series of midweek events organised under the CTT banner has been arranged, the midweek Georgetown TT league will consist of 13 Events starting on Wednesday 3rd May - 7:15pm – details as below can also be found on their facebook page.

May 3rd, 10th, & 17th
June 7th, 21st, & 28th
July 12th, 19th, & 26th
August 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th

The missing dates on the calendar are either open events in the West or will be filled with Johnstone Whs 25TTs on the Lugton Road (to be confirmed).

There will be a slightly different system this year with each riders fastest four times over the series counting towards their final league standing. This will be updated each week so you can keep track of your progress.

As with previous years there will be awards in each age category.

Presentation takes place at the Georgetown Cup on Saturday 2nd September.

The tour of Glencoe Time Trial has been organised for Sunday the 14th May. Prizes are already being gathered and interest is high. The winner will lift the Jason MacIntyre Memorial trophy after 18 miles of the most scenic time trial course anywhere you will ever find. For entry details see the CTT website or get in touch with Steve Blom or Willie Cosh at Qbikes in Paisley.

The Scottish group welcomes the following **new members**.

Couple: Willie & Kirsty Stephen, Velo Club Vitesse
Edwin Nelson: Glasgow Couriers
Edward J. Atkinson: Elgin C.C.
Bill Groves: (Edinburgh)
Mary Morgan: Dunfermline C.C.
Andrea Pogson: Gala C.C.
Neil Daly: Dunfermline C.C.
Alistair Abbot: Falkirk B.C.
James Muir: (Bishopbriggs) Unattached
Gordon Dick: Lomond Roads
William D. Bavridge: (Aberdeen) Unattached
Miriam F. Rennet: Kinross C.C.
Christopher White: Gamma Race Team

George A. Stewart: Gamma Race Team (Note this particular Geo Stewart isn't the mischievous timekeeper we all know, but his young son George. Not a bad cyclist, but still worth the watching.)

If readers have any information, news, or gossip, get in touch at jamesmskinner@hotmail.com or INFO@SVTTA.ORG.UK

SOUTH WALES

Barry Williams

I am recommencing this contribution for VTTA South Wales after failing to find a successor among our current members. Hopefully, I will be able to research some informative news.

I have just returned from Kings Coughton near Alcester Warwickshire after attending the VTTA 2017, AGM. I have to say that our organisation, founded in 1944 continues to flourish with over 2,000 members and net assets of £37,000. It sounds good and is good, but in this world of Brexit, nothing is that simple and we are typically dealing with a few urgent issues.

(Barry went on to mention issues discussed and changes agreed by the meeting. Since this is covered elsewhere in this issue it has been omitted here. – Ed)

It was goodbye to long serving chairman, Jim Burgin. Jim had kept the VTTA ticking for many years, he organised championships, he edited "The Veteran", he was the life and soul of the organisation for many years; we will miss his wisdom, energy and above all approachability in solving day to day problems. In speaking for members in South Wales, we wish Jim a long and happy retirement.

The meeting wound up in time for a group of us to watch the Wales v England

International from Cardiff, as you know the English won, which was well received in this hotel bar in Shakespeare's Warwickshire.

On the following Sunday morning it was snowing, giving your correspondent an excuse for abandoning a planned bike ride in the Cotswolds. Luckily, we have planned a visit to Mallorca later this month hoping for some great rides in the sun.

At the time writing, February 13th, some 35 members have renewed their subscriptions for 2017, hopefully a lot more of you will subscribe in the next few weeks. If you are over 40 and enjoy riding time trials, the VTTA standards offer a fully researched measurement of performance by age. This offers older competitors an equal chance against the whippersnappers, an opportunity to win a trophy or even better, some prize money. Therefore if you ride time trials and live in South Wales or Herefordshire, send you subscriptions, £11 single membership, £12 joint membership. By cheque to me at 34 Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glam CF644DA or direct to the Bank: VTTA South Wales,

HSBC, Sort Code 40-16-15 a/c no. 81228501. Reference, your name.

I will conclude by listing VTTA South Wales Trophy Events for 2017:-

10 Miles – VTTA South Wales 10, Saturday 13th May – Course R10/17

25 Miles – Welsh Championships, Sunday 30th April – Course R25/3H

50 Miles – Cardiff 100 Miles RCC, Sunday 30th July – Course R50/1b

100 Miles – West Wales Cyclists League 100, Sunday June 16th – Course R100/1

12 Hours – WCA Welsh Championships, Sunday July 9th – Course – R12/16

SURREY & SUSSEX

Jon Fairclough

I have just come back from the Annual Group Lunch which was attended by 40 people. Well, 41 when you include Mike O'Gorman who had rushed from the airport, where he had just got off a flight from Cape Town, to the Normandy Centre and arrived just in time to receive his award and have his picture taken. I also took pictures of all the other award winners, but being a very amateur photographer their pictures did not come out so well. I'll try and do better next year...

Jim Burgin was our guest of honour. We all enjoyed his speech. The group thanks him for all the work he has done as National Chairman, editor of the Veteran plus a multitude of other tasks. I am pleased to report that the tradition of cross toasting has been re-established at the Annual Group Lunch. Several people stood up and entertained the group and reminded us all why we all like or liked getting out on a bike with our friends. We also remembered members of the group who had passed away during the year. Obituaries of Harry Featherstone, Ian Bashford, Reg Searle and Jim Trenowden appear elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

When I took on the press secretary role in November I wrote to all the group members asking for anecdotes about cycling. I am pleased to say I have received some. Frank Penton writes "It is such a long time now since my first becoming a member, 1970, at the age of 40 years. What wonderful days they were, never to be forgotten! I would ride out to local events, but many times my pal Doug Crease (late of Belle Vue), would give me transport in his London Black Taxi Cab, bike in back with yours truly. We were great pals, he would never accept cash for petrol. In one year, 1972 or 3 I think, I was down to ride the Bath Road "100". On

leaving the house, he said "I'll put the flag down to see what the fare would be". We were passing Heathrow and it was showing £7.50. On getting to Pangbourne the lads were all getting their machines ready, pumping up the tyres etc. Doug opened the door saying in a loud voice "That's £14.50, sir, do you wish me to wait?" (!) You could see in their faces "Blimey, what we got here?" But not only then, for they must have seen the black cab all around the course and thought "he's not only waiting, but also feeding him as well!". Doug and I had many a chuckle on this over the years!"

David Eccles sent a report that "The Devil rode in the Farnborough & Camberley C.C. open ten on 19 December 2015 and could only manage a 27:48 riding single fixed.



The Angel, however, riding the same event on 17 December 2016 on a Sturmey-Archer ASC couldn't manage evens. Is there some moral to be drawn from this? The angelic messenger complained afterwards that he had been obliged to stop to adjust his wings on the return leg. (Not sure that there isn't some CTT regulation concerning wings.)

I look forward to receiving more stories from members.

Our Group has a revamped web site at <http://www.surreysussexvttta.org.uk/>. Many thanks to Tim Carpenter who develops and maintains it. He is updating the records on the web site and will review retrospective



claims. Go there to see more pictures from the Annual Lunch.

Welcome to two members: Robyn Yates of Addiscombe CC and Ben Houston of East Grinstead CC.

The weather has been awful recently. For those of you planning to race this year I guess you are wearing out your rollers and turbo trainer. At least I am. I have signed up for the 2017 London Edinburgh London event. It's like doing five 12 hours on consecutive days. I'll be raising money for the Surrey Care Trust. If you want to donate please go to:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jon-Fairclough6>

WESSEX

Bob Jolliffe

VTTA President Carole Gandy presented awards to Wessex Group members at their annual lunch and prize presentation at Chandler's Ford near Eastleigh on 5th February.

More than 40 members, friends and relations celebrated some cracking results from Wessex Vets last season.

45-year-old Steve Williamson of ...a3crg was on hand to pick up three standard awards and the Best All-Rounder Shield with a plus of 1hr 9min 52sec with his rides of 49-59 for 25 miles, 1-47-47 for 50 miles, 3-44-29 for 100 miles and 293.33 miles in 12 hours.

Clubmate Sarah Matthews took the three-distance Women's BAR with a plus of 46-06 with 22-22 for 10, 1-01-39 for 25 and 2-08-30 for 50, while another ...a3crg member, Mike Boyce collected a standard award and team medals for the Wessex 10-mile championship.

Tornado RCC's Adrian Watkins collected four standards awards plus one for the short distance BAR. Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers' John Samways was third in the Wessex 25 Championship and fourth in the Short Distance Competition behind Terry Icke (Newport CC), Andy Langdown (Blazing Saddles) and Phil Watts (North Hampshire RC).

Andy Langdown went home with a large selection of awards including the Wessex Short Distance BAR, the 10 Miles Championship Cup (20-17, +6-15) and the Harry Keates Memorial Trophy.

North Hants RC riders Philip Watts and Barry Eeles were presented with awards for taking second and third in the Wessex Championship 10 with 21-01 (+6-13) and 22-02 (+4-39) respectively while clubmate Jonathan Hobby was second in the Wessex BAR with a plus of 34-56.

Others on hand to collect standard awards were Dave England (Crabwood CC), Mary Corbett and lunch organiser Norman Harvey (both Sotonia CC), Dave Hanbury (Saracen RC) and Bob Jolliffe (New Forest CC).

Martin Whitty of ...a3crg was presented with the Chalky White Memorial Trophy for lantern rouge position in the Wessex Championship 10. Maybe not one he will appreciate for his ride, but it is a decoratively-mounted acetylene rear lamp and a handsome adornment to any room. I write as one who has experience of having it in my front room.

Other major winners not in attendance were Greg Parker of VC St Raphael (the D H Jack Trophy for winner of the Wessex Championship 25), Alan Emmott of Fareham Whlrs (Ray Price Trophy for the 50 Miles Championship) and Terry Icke of Newport CC (Wessex Short Distance Competition).

Honoured

Wessex Group membership secretary and age 83 years record holder Norman Harvey has been honoured by South District Council of CTT by being presented with the Ray Price Memorial Award.

The annual award, made to those who have made a special contribution to cycle sport, was originally given in memory of auctioneer Ray who gave 25 years of service to South DC.

Last season Sotonia CC stalwart Norman set records for an 83-year-old Wessex member over 10 (27-52), 25 (1-12-13) and 50 (2-34-10) miles, and has just set a National Age Record claim of 43-08 for 15 miles in the Newbury Road Club event in late July, bettering Arthur Thackeray's previous record by 81 seconds and beating his own 82-year-old national mark by 31 seconds.

Norman was presented with the award by group trophy secretary Alan Sharpen at the Wessex Group AGM. Later he said: "Needless to say I was stunned when Alan made the presentation.

“Ray Price was a legend in the world of cycling in the South. Not only in time trialling, but all aspects of cycling.

“It is a great honour to be linked with his name. Thank you for all your votes and appreciation.

“I love my cycling.”

Another vet who loves his cycling is Dave England of Crabwood CC. He has been awarded the Ray Price Memorial Trophy for the year’s best performance by a Group member aged 70-plus. Dave was made up after he set a new Wessex Age Record for a 73-year-old when he clocked 4-39-38 in the East District CA 100 on the B100/4 course on July 17.

Multi-national records holder Terry Icke may have moved from Dorset to the West Midlands and joined Newport CC, but he retained his Wessex Group membership and his National Record-setting ways by clocking a rapid 54-08 for 25. In addition he set Wessex Group records of 21-00 for 10 miles and 1-52-44 at 50 miles for a 72-year-old

More Wessex records came in the form of 18-40 for 10 miles for a 41-year-old by Fareham Whlrs’ Paul Ashley, ...a3crg’s 56-year-old Sarah Matthews who clocked 22-22 for a 10 and 1-01-39 in a 25 and Velorefined Aerosmiths’ Stephen Whitewick (55) who recorded 3-43-20 for 100 miles which, backed by 52-50 for a 25 and 1-48-49 for 50, gave him +52-42 in the national Three Distance Competition.

Two deaths

Two Southern time trial enthusiasts have died in recent months. The first to leave us was VC Venta and Wessex Group trike enthusiast Bob West who lost a brave battle with cancer in early December.

Also passing away after suffering memory issues for several years was CTT Honorary Life Member Roy Fairchild of Bognor Regis

CC who died in January. He ceased to be a member of the VTTA in 2015. Both were remembered in silence at the annual lunch. Obituaries appear elsewhere in this issue.

Injured

Former South DC chairman and treasurer and former Wessex Group general factotum Ken Blowe (80) broke his right leg in a fall at his home in October.

“I fell over in the yard and landed on my super titanium knee. That didn’t break but the nearest bone to it did: the tibia, from the knee to the ankle,” said the Fareham Wheeler, who was awarded a CTT Badge of Honour in 2009.

Despite the injury, Ken managed to get himself indoors to raise the alarm. The break meant a two-week spell in hospital and then a further two weeks in respite care. He is now fighting to rehabilitate himself. He said he cannot walk more than 100 yards and when he does it leaves him “cream-cracked”.

His intention is to get himself fit enough for bowls and golf, though he recognises he is unlikely to cycle again.

Tandem Tart

Wessex Group treasurer, ace time keeper and keen tandem pedaller Mary Corbett picked upon the politically-incorrect moniker of the Tandem Tart for herself in a bid to raise money for a charity she has a personal interest in.

In 2013 Mary, of Sotonia CC, was diagnosed with ME (severe myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome) and fibromyalgia (chronic muscle pain).

She became one of about 250,000 people, young and old, in the UK who endures the debilitating neurological disorder. It is untreatable and there is no cure.

Determined not to let the symptoms overwhelm her, Mary said: "Last year I embarked on a plan to ride a 12 hour again and in so doing, would raise £12,000 for the ME Association's Ramsay Research Fund.

"My mind was willing but the old body still had other ideas.

"I had to break this down into more achievable goals and so the Tandem Tart Challenge was born. The idea was to see how many different tandem partners I could race with during the 2016 season."

She started with a list of four, but that soon grew. The total so far is 16 and the rides have included clocking 23-08 with Velorefined's Steve Whitewick in a club event near Lyndhurst and concluded with a 33 minute effort in fancy dress with clubmate Penny Cossburn as Two Old Bags in New Forest CC's Boxing Day 10.

She and Steve later went on to clock a new Wessex mixed tandem record of 21-19 in a windy Charlotteville CC 10 at Bentley later in the year, though this was not part of the Tandem Tart Challenge. Another record not part of the TTC was the 142 years combined age ride with Norman Harvey on the P415 course near Poole when they finished with 25-46.

Other TTC partners have been Norman Harvey, Julian Gee, Mick Bradban, Jeff Oswald, Dave Davenport, Jon Dudley, Rob Tomlinson (all Sotonia), neighbour Phillip Field, Paul Jones (Primera), Gary Allen (GA Cycles), Eamonn Deane (Bournemouth Jubilee Whlrs), Ray Hughes (Clarence Whlrs) and Stephen Skinner (New Forest CC), the latter in a Crabwood CC club 10 in which Jens Voigt was pusher-off.

So far the TTC has raised £1,651. And Mary already has 24 more TTC partners lined up for 2017.

Here's wishing Mary and, as Group chairman David Collard-Berry said at the annual lunch, all Wessex VTTA members success for the coming season.

WEST

Brian Griffiths

Most disappointingly for me I was not able to join Gordon Scott to represent the WestVets at the VTTA National Annual Meeting at Alcester on Saturday 11th February. Unfortunately I went down with a viral infection on the day before and had to pull out at the last minute. It was best for me not to come along and infect you all anyway. This meant that I also missed out on the Midland Tricycle Association dinner at the same venue on the following day so I lost out all round. Thankfully I am already much better as I write this.

I have always been happy to come along to these meeting to meet with friends from other regions and to get their points of view. I learn a lot and am able to gauge how things are going in a very changing and challenging period.

More than anything I was particularly disappointed that I was not present to say thanks and congratulations to that outstanding figurehead of our organisation for the past several years Jim Burgin. In my view he has quietly done more for the vets and cycling than many people realise. He has raised standards; he has promoted our image and has been a substantial pillar of strength when we have needed it most. He will be a hard act to follow and we certainly will miss him, though I am sure he will still be around when we need him.

Whilst I was not at the meeting and cannot be certain what happened, it appears that all the important positions were taken and that

the meeting concluded in a way that we would all have hoped they would. No doubt it will all be reported somewhere else in this magazine and will make interesting reading for me. It is always difficult to find someone with the right qualifications and experience to take up committee positions and perhaps we are fortunate that we can find those who are willing to step forward and do this essential work. Perhaps we should already be looking around to encourage more of our youngsters to get involved at this early stage. Especially as I foresee difficult times ahead in our rapidly changing world.

On behalf of all WestVets I would like to welcome the new committee members and thank them for taking on their new responsibilities, which I am sure we will live to appreciate in the years ahead.

Unfortunately little fresh news has filtered through to me during the winter months but then it often is a quiet period with no racing to report. However that is no reason why I should not remind you of two very important events for you to note in the coming year. Not just for WestVets because we would welcome other vets to take an interest and join us on both occasions.

The first date is Friday 5th May and will be held on the UC861. We are holding a ten mile time trial at Seagry, which will be followed by our prize presentation and then you will all be treated to a most magnificent buffet to round the evening off. This is the third occasion that our secretary Gordon and his charming wife Jemma have organised this special occasion and it simply just gets better and better. Entries for the time trial cost just £4-00 and should be sent at least one week in advance. The buffet will cost you the princely sum of £5-00 and you certainly won't get anything better

anywhere. All are welcome because it is quite a family affair.

Our next important event, which is open to all because it is the Veterans National Championship 50 on the U109. It takes place on Sunday 20th August when you should all be flying fit. You can be certain it will be a well supported event so get your entries in; even if you are not riding be certain to be there as we could do with as much help as possible to make this occasion a big success.

I notice that Mike Jupp, the editor of the WestVet, our very own proud Journal is once again pleading for material to fill up the pages. He does a magnificent job scouring such a variety of sources to make it a really interesting read. Make his job easier and please try to make a contribution. We all have stories to be told.

The next edition is due to be published in time for our prize presentation on May 5th and you should pick up your copy there to save the cost of postage.

Bristol is twinned with Bordeaux and as I established a cycling relationship with them more than 20 years ago, every month they send me a 16 page A4 size colour club magazine. How on earth they get material for that I really don't know, but they certainly make a good job of it.

Just a quick reminder about your subscriptions, which are now due! Get your money paid over to Ian Pritchard our treasurer soon otherwise you might not get your summer issue of the WestVet which would be a tragedy. We are tightening up on the late payers because we want their subs much earlier.

YORKSHIRE

Chris Goode

In 1980 Malcolm Cowgill* rode a 2 up with the great Beryl Burton on the O2 (not the arena) and there was a touch of wheels, and down Beryl went. There was blood everywhere, as it was a head wound.

Malcolm turned back and asked if she was alright; not unexpectedly Beryl carried on and then tore past Malcolm. They got back up to a good pace, finishing with a creditable 58, when a 56 minute ride had been on the cards. Not only is Beryl a hard act to follow, Malcolm is too, with his vast knowledge and enthusiasm for the sport. On behalf of everyone else that has read Malcolm's column since he began in the previous century, we would like to thank him for his detailed reports and good humour. Perhaps when BBC weatherman Paul Hudson retires he could take over on Look North.

The last Sunday in January saw the Yorkshire Group's lunch, organised by Mickie Hornby. She has done a magnificent job and Mike Williams will take over as Social Secretary. Thanks are also due to the outgoing Racing Secretary and Recorder, Cliff Ralphs and Bob Tate respectively. Blair Buss and Jim Trevor step into their shoes.

The Guest of Honour was Condor RC Veteran Champion Brian Sunter, who gave a good speech contrasting how it was when he started racing to the modern day. Younger veterans' eyebrows were raised to hear that people used to ride out to events, with mudguards and wheel-carriers, dressed in dark clothing and had to race with a bell. No bell no ride. He thanked all helpers and organisers that make events possible.

One such helper, Mavis Charles, recently passed away. She was a superb provider of refreshments at the Elmet 12 hour, plus many other events and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with her family. Flowers

were given for Janet Tate who was in hospital but is making a good recovery. A meritorious award was given to our Treasurer, George Young, for his eleven years service. Thanks were also given to the outgoing Medals Secretary and Trophy organiser, Geoff Hornby. The trophy winners were recorded in the December issue and congratulations are given particularly to the short-distance champions, Karen Taylor and Andy Askwith. 53 people were present and it was a very enjoyable occasion, with £106 raised in the raffle. Thanks to all who helped out including Bradley Wiggins who called the numbers.

Six days later super veteran, Stan Chadwick faced having to DNS at the Paragon Dinner due to a broken lift at his nursing home. However, all was not lost as a member of staff, with contacts, called the fire brigade and they helped him down the stairs and into the taxi. There was another surprise with Thomas Voeckler, by video link, accepting Honorary Membership of the club. Le Tour de Yorkshire takes place 28-30 April, concluding on the same day as the inaugural VTTA National 15 mile time trial, organised by the swift Mike Williams. Please support both and perhaps the Yorkshire Coast Clarion event on the Saturday.

The group has two tens this year on 22 July, organised by Andrew Vaughan and another on the V718, on 2nd September, put on by Mike Penrice. Good luck also to Mike, taking over at the helm of The Veteran Magazine.

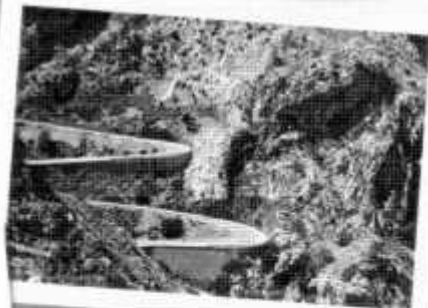
Finally a late additions: Malcolm's December report listed our group "Super Vets" still racing. To that list must be added Mike Smith of Team Swift at age 73.

*There'll not be many riders that rank next to Fausto Coppi. See the index in Beryl's book Personal Best, p.177.

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NATIONAL PRIZE PRESENTATION & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



A large group of delegates and award winners gathered from all corners of the kingdom at Kings Coughton on a dismal February afternoon to show appreciation of Jim Burgin's hard work over many years – the end of an era indeed. As we gathered for refreshments there was firstly a little ceremony where Jim cut into a beautifully iced and delicious celebration cake, thanks to our multi-talented National Secretary Rachael Elliott.

Then it was on with the

formality of the awards ceremony, with a good attendance by recipients - Peter Horsnell (EA) - 3 distance champion, Paul Fleming (NL&L) – competition team awards, Bob Richards and Mark Gorman (both West) – tandem 12 hour champions, Murray Kirton (M) – tandem 25 mile champion (with Mick Ives), Dave Hargreaves (NL&L) – 100 mile champion, Edgar Reynolds (M&NW) – 24 hour champion, John Murphy (West) – 12 hour team member, Katja Rietdorf (L&HC) – ladies 12 hour and 3rd overall, Philip Brown (M) – 3rd in 25 mile, Chris Scawn (West) – 12 hour champion, Brian Sunter (Y) – 25 mile champion and other placings, and finally Alison Vessey (West) – ladies 100.

The presentations concluded with an appreciation upon his retirement of Jim Burgin's massive contribution to the smooth running of the VTTA by past President Alan Colburn and the presentation to him of an engraved glass bowl.

Photos of the presentation can be viewed and purchased from Kimroy Photography website.

Then things got even more formal as we moved on to the AGM, with several longstanding NEC members due to retire. The accounts were assimilated without comment, all appearing in good order and with the VTTA remaining solvent, not least due to a generous bequest from Les Lowe (although this was after the accounts period).

The annual report discussed the delay in implementation of on-line membership and issues with the current website and a proposed new one, standards for disabled riders and adjustments to women's standards (all of which are still under deliberation). The practice of listing in The Veteran all over 70s still racing is likely to cease, since members of this age group still racing has now more commonplace, although there remains interest in continuing the listing for over 80s.

- On to agenda motions and firstly it was agreed that the post of Webmaster be abolished, but only after some healthy debate of where the association is going with its on-line presence. A small working party as a priority is going to look into getting the existing website updated with current information. In parallel with this they will develop proposals for a new website with increased functionality and which may be professionally produced and managed.
- Notts and East Midlands proposal to establish a procedure for disposal of assets in the event of dissolution of a Group or the VTTA also brought plenty of healthy debate. Eventually the Chairman called order and the proposition was agreed. So if a Group is dissolved their own members must distribute monies and assets to other cycling organisations or charities. If the VTTA is dissolved the NEC have the power to determine distribution of monies and assets.
- Midlands proposal for a change in the process of awarding Honorary Life Membership highlighted the difficulty which sometimes exist in establishing the requisite 25 years continuous membership for over 80 year old members. Stretching back as it does to pre- computer days when each Group kept paper records with varying degree of detail and even these are not always available. It was agreed that in future Honorary Life Membership can be awarded by a Group committee to any 80 year old who it deems worthy, without any reference to period of membership.
- Another contentious issue was raised by the practice of some Groups imposing special conditions to their events on the most popular/fast courses whereby preference is given to their own members. By a narrow margin the meeting decided that such conditions were a local matter and this special condition would not be outlawed.
- Last year's change of championship team awards from club members to group members has not met with universal popularity and East Anglia therefore proposed that there should be two sets of team awards, being three from a club and six from a group. After amendment it was agreed that championships should now offer awards for club team of three AND group team of three.
- Election of Officers then followed, with Jim Burgin relinquishing his Chairmanship to Midlands Andrew Simpkins – a long serving official at both group and national level. Other changes saw Mary Corbett (Wessex) take over as Treasurer and Mike Penrice (Yorkshire) as Editor. John Hawkrige (Kent) also joined the committee.
- In any other business a discussion took place over clothing orders. Members now order their VTTA kit direct from Gear Club, but recently a member had asked whether they could provide VTTA design kit but in alternative colours (to match his bike). It was agreed that VTTA would permit Gear Club to provide directly to our members in alternative colours should they wish to do so and at whatever price they may dictate. It may be cheaper to get a frame respray in blue and yellow!

So that was it for another year and time for goodbyes until chance meetings at event HQs throughout the year. Jim Burgin saddled up his old horse for one last time and rode off slowly into the sunset.....

JIM BURGIN – AN APPRECIATION

John Hoskins

I first knew Jim 45 years ago when I was racing secretary of the Westerley Road Club and Jim organised the local Combine. Coincidentally I took over from him for that job a few years later, just as I have now taken over from him as secretary of the London Group VTTA. Jim was already an established timekeeper and event organiser in West London. I worked closely with him when the Westerley ran the RTTC Championship 100 in 1983 and Jim produced a result board and presentation stage that outshone anything that I (or probably anyone else) had ever seen.

Jim Burgin by this time was a well-known figure throughout the London West area of the RTTC, both as district secretary and timekeeper. He was the foremost “go to” person for any help required with organising time trials in the district, his enthusiasm and knowledge seemingly boundless. He was by then very involved with the West London Cycling Association, an involvement that continued until the WLCA was wound down last year. He was for some years the central figure in the Swan Velo, a new club that within a few years of formation was running the National Championship 10. He was accepted as the senior timekeeper in the district and was the proud owner of the very first electronic watch certificate.

His work as RTTC district secretary and later district chairman was invaluable to the area; his experience, his willingness to help and his humour helping him to become virtually irreplaceable. About this time Jim also started to work with the VTTA London and Home Counties Group, taking over as secretary and general factotum. His enthusiasm for the VTTA knew no bounds and he soon went onto the National Committee. This culminated in him becoming National Chairman in 2011. He was still CTT LW district chairman at this time and one of the district’s busiest timekeepers and organisers. Last year, when the VTTA NEC ran most of their own Championships Jim was at all of the events. I can’t think of anyone else who maintained a workload this size, and managing to hold pivotal positions in three or four time trialling organisations.

So when he announced last year that 2016 would be his last year as a timekeeper, and that he wouldn’t be standing for election in any sphere, many people were concerned as to how Jim could be replaced. Of course he has been replaced, but only with numerous different people taking over his various roles. But he is still available to help those who are doing what were his jobs, and new organisers and officials alike will still benefit from advice given freely and comprehensively. When the new chairman was elected to the VTTA national executive in February this year, Jim was job free – probably for the first time for more than sixty years.

He took his first cycling job in 1954. Twenty years later I started to work with Jim, and now, a further forty years on, I’m still relying on him to provide information and help. But more importantly I feel privileged to have worked with Jim over such a period. His organisational record speaks for itself, and whilst no-one is totally irreplaceable, Jim Burgin is pretty close to being just that.

BOB WEST
VC Venta & Wessex Group
17th September 1937 – 6th December 2016



PROLIFIC Wessex VTTA trike record-holder Bob West died shortly before Christmas aged 79 after a valiantly fought battle against lung cancer, contracted after coming into contact with asbestos during his working life. Despite being given a life expectancy of a few short months in February 2015, Bob battled on until December 6, 2016 and cycled occasionally until the autumn of that year.

He leaves a widow, Sue who he married in 1965, daughters Judith and Ann, and four grandchildren.

Bob was born in Maidenhead, Berkshire and started riding with Maidenhead Cycling and Athletic Club in about 1950 before switching to South Bucks Road Club. He joined the Cyclists' Touring Club South Bucks DA in 1957 before joining the then West Surrey DA after moving to Woking. He was involved in time trialling, touring and

administration.

He and the family moved to Winchester in 1977. He joined VC Venta, of which he was a former chairman and president, and took up racing for the second time when he reached veteran status. He joined the Wessex Group of VTTA the following year.

He went on to race at all distances up to 12 hours on both bicycle and tricycle. It was on three wheels that his greatest achievements came, clocking numerous group records including a 10 of 25-23 at age 64 and even 33-19 at age 77. His 25 records included 1-06-54 at age 62 up to 1-18-41 at age 76; he did 1-22-19 for 30 miles at 65 years; 2-16-51 for 50 at age 61 and 4-54-57 for 100 miles also at 61. His two 12hr records on a trike are 208.015 miles at age 43 and 205.430 miles at age 55.

During his time with VC Venta Bob was instrumental in obtaining sponsorship from Wessex Window Systems which backed the club between 1987 and 2003. He also helped set up the Winchester City Centre Races which attracted Hampshire County Council sponsorship.

He was also a founder member of Winchester CTC Member Group and he founded a group for potters, which still thrives as Easy Rides.

As well as the VTTA, Bob was a life member of CTC, VC Venta Member Number 1, a member of the Tricycle Association, Sustrans, the Veteran Cycle Club and the Moulton Bicycle Club.

Sue West said her husband loved introducing people to cycling and she would go out on his Easy Rides with him. "Don't ask me how he did it but he always led us out into the wind and we always came back with the wind behind us," she said.

All holidays were linked to cycling - she has a photo of them on their honeymoon at Land's End and another taken with their bikes at the same spot on their 45th wedding anniversary.

"He was a lovely, lovely man.," she said. He will certainly be missed by cyclists in the South.

Bob Jolliffe

ROY FAIRCHILD
Bognor Regis CC & Wessex Group
23rd April 1933 – 8th January 2017



Roy was Chairman of Bognor Cycling Club in his later years, whilst still very active in time trialling, particularly on courses in the New Forest, along the north coast of the Solent and between Arundel and Havant.

In the summer months he would race on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as at weekends. Roy did reflect towards the end of his seventies that maybe he ought to reduce his "testing"; a couple of strokes shortly after turning 80 brought an abrupt end to active cycling.

Roy was very well known throughout the south as a tough competitor, who took a number of Veteran on Standard awards in short distance VTTA promotions.

His widow, Gilda, has kindly prepared the following comprehensive resume of his life.

Roy was born and grew up in Heston, Hounslow, and met Gilda through friends who skated at the Richmond ice rink. He was already a keen cyclist at this point and ice-skating was the winter sport of a cyclist, apparently. Roy and Gilda married in 1956.

Roy was taking a series of accounting exams, and sensibly as ever wanted to pass them before starting a family. Their first child, Kim, was born in 1959. Later there followed Lee, Gena and Julie. They went on to have a further nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

When Gilda went into labour with Kim he couldn't be reached immediately because of course he was out on his bike, - he arrived in time at the hospital and Gilda could hear his approach, with his footsteps clicking along the corridor as he still had his cycling shoes on.

He joined Colt in 1964 as a Cost Accountant and they moved to Hampshire then West Sussex. He stayed with Colt for the rest of his working life, progressing up through the company, and remaining a Trustee of the pension scheme until 2012.

Cycling played a big part throughout his life, he was always involved in the local and regional clubs (Hounslow Wheelers, Bognor Regis Cycling Club), competing in time trials usually twice a week then meeting with his cycling friends for a 'Sunday run'. He was on various committees for cycling communities, regarding cycle route planning, safety, improvement and maintaining of cycle paths, among other aspects.

Roy's children have spoken of when they were young, often being woken in the early hours, bundled half asleep aboard The Bus! (the blue and white bay window VW campervan) to go to races with him. He was always very optimistic, particularly about the weather, - "that mist will burn off by 8am", "it's not rain - that's a clearing up shower", and if it was blowing a gale "at least I'll have a following wind on the way back".

Don Lambert & Gilda Fairchild

GILBERT MARTIN

Notts & East Midlands Group

11th February 1927 – 28th December 2016



It was very sad to learn that Gilbert Martin had died just after Christmas 2016. It has been difficult to piece this tribute together but I am grateful to Sue Bowler and Chris Moon for their help and contributions to Gilbert's life story.

Gilbert was born in Leicester and in his youth he was very interested in the scout movement. He was never married and only had distant relatives; this has meant that we only have a few glimpses of what I'm sure was a very interesting life. He was a lifelong club cyclist and was still riding time trials up until about ten years ago - deciding to stop cycling when he could no longer ride in a straight line. He had belonged to a number of clubs including North Road CC, Leicester Forest CC and East Midlands CC.

I'm pretty sure that he became connected with the North Road because he worked at the RAF base at Alconbury, near Huntingdon, before he was called up himself. He served the army in the East Yorkshire Regiment and the Airborne Division in WW2, seeing service in Egypt and Austria.

Two particular items stand out and both relate to the period 1950-55. The first being riding a North Road time trial from Barnet to Doncaster and back which would be about 300 miles straight up and down the A1. Apparently the only check was at Doncaster and other than that you found your own way- or not! At that time every town would be ridden through and signs would simply say "Great North Road" .. Gilbert tried it twice but never managed to finish, getting a lift on a lorry each time on the way back.

Another one of Gilbert's exploits, was when a friend asked if he would like to ride tandem with him in a 30 mile TT. He agreed but not on the weekend of the North Road 24. Soon after he learnt that the event was in Portsmouth, which meant a 175 mile trip from Leicester the day before. On finding the digs they were told off for being late, until they said they had just ridden down from Leicester. After riding the 30, taking on food, they rode back to Leicester ready for work on Monday morning. They were made of different stuff those days.

Gilbert carried on time keeping long after he finished riding. He was a Cycling Time Trials Principle Timekeeper until he retired at the end of the 2015 Season and he was a Committee Member of Central District Cycling Time Trials until 2016 when ill health forced him to retire. He was a Honorary Life Member of Notts and East Midlands VTTA and although frail he attended the AGM in November 2016. The VTTA was well represented at his funeral which was held at Gilroes Cemetary Leicester on 27 January 2017 and was also well attended by his family and friends from his cycling life.

I did not know Gilbert well, but I always remember his cheery personality; he would always talk to you and have tale to tell, he was a true gent and will be missed around the cycling fraternity in the East Midlands and particularly in the Leicester area,

David Herd

HARRY FEATHERSTONE
Eastbourne Rovers & Surrey/Sussex Group
1932 – 2017



Harry Featherstone was a top-class rider over a long period. He was very popular and was hugely respected. He raced in time trials right up until the age of 80. His name can be seen with multiple entries on the Sussex CA Honours Board as he won a range of Veterans titles at 10 miles, 25 miles, 50 miles and Short Distance BAR. He also holds forty-one of the Surrey/Sussex VTTA records at 10, 25, 30, 50, 100 miles and 12 hours at ages between 58 and 77.

Harry was born in South London in 1932. When he took up cycling at 18, Harry joined the Kentish Wheelers and started racing at the Herne Hill velodrome and showed his cycling talent immediately. Within a year, he set the second fastest 4000m individual pursuit time in the UK and was considered for the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. Unfortunately selectors were cautious about picking teenagers and he missed out. Harry carried on winning track and time trial events throughout the 1950's until family and work commitments led to him taking a long break from competitive cycling. Twenty-three years later he was back, this time with Norwood Paragon, again winning events. He won the VTTA National 100 mile championship in 1990, was the VTTA BAR champion in 1990 and led the Norwood Paragon to win the club team BAR title in 1989, 1990 and 1991. Since then he has had his name engraved as winner many times on most of the Surrey/Sussex Group trophies. In 1997 he moved to Hailsham and joined Eastbourne Rovers and became a member of the Surrey/Sussex VTTA group. He later became an HLM.

The tributes from the Time Trialling Forum aptly summarize his cycling career. "Harry was a lovely man, and a great rider. Always had words of encouragement. He was a very interesting person and very fast. Always immaculate in his black Norwood Paragon kit. Harry rode the Wigmore CC Bill Philbrook Memorial 25 many times. Always first Vet on Standard. Passionate about testing, immaculate equipment and liked a good chat. A Super Vet, and a Legend. May the wind always be on your back Harry".

IAN BASHFORD
Old Portlians CC & Surrey/Sussex Group
1955-2016

Ian Bashford - known to everyone as 'Bash' or 'Bashers' - was a central figure in the Old Portlians CC from the time he joined in 1996 up until his untimely death at the Duo Normand on 25th September. He always led the Saturday club runs (even in atrocious weather) which were run at a civilised pace and aimed at newer members so that they never felt intimidated. Ian would welcome all new riders and offer guidance. He was also the 'go to' man in case of mechanical problems, being ex- Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (REME), he had repaired every sort of vehicle in his six years with the Army.



He was 'Captain Dependable' - a very strong rider, he specialised in time trials and every season he managed to motivate himself to train and produce top class results in events almost every weekend. 2016 was one of his best seasons and he dominated the club's competitions once again as he has done for many years. Not many people can achieve personal bests at the age of 60. In the past few seasons Ian had focused on TTs for 10, 25 and 50 miles – in 2016 alone he managed 55.50 (just shy of his PB) for 25 and 1.57.02 for 50. He won the club's competitions for the

3 distances and Veterans BAR on many occasions.

Being ex – Army, a Police Officer and in his final years in the Diplomatic Protection unit, Ian was a very disciplined and organised person – so he naturally volunteered to organise various club events over the years, including the annual Reliability Trial in the winter, as well as the Open Time Trial promotions. They always ran like clockwork when he was in charge!

Ian loved doing the Duo Normand weekend with the lads – he loved the atmosphere and the camaraderie. He and Pete Gray had last ridden as a team in this event in 2014 when they had posted a very good time of 1.26.35 for the 34 hilly miles around Marigny. Ian and Pete were on course to improve on that time despite the windy conditions, if he had not been tragically killed just 200 metres from the finish line.

Our deepest sympathies go to his widow Beverley, Neil, Victoria and all the family.

JIM TRENOWDEN
Surrey/Sussex Group
1926 -2016



Jim joined Addiscombe CC in 1946 and first appears in their cycling history in 1951 by winning a team prize in the Balham Rough Stuff. He competed in 12 and 24 hour events, coming 10th in the 1951 24 Hours National Championship and 11th in the 1953 12 Hours National Championship. Jim was a member of the winning SCCU 100 and Best All-Rounder Team three years in row from 1972. He was not just a long distance specialist – he won a team award in the VTTA London 25 in 1977. In 1998 he was King Vet (70 years and older) in the SPOCO (sporting courses points competition). Jim carried on cycling into his 80's and he became an HLM. His club colleagues remember his faithful pedalling down to the Pine Cafe on a Saturday morning.

REG SEARLE
Worthing Excelsior CC & Surrey/Sussex Group
1929 -2016

Reg Searle was an HLM of the VTTA and was a Sussex Cycling Association vice-president. He was a life member of the Worthing Excelsior CC for many years and was a generous benefactor to the club. He joined Excelsior from the defunct West Sussex Road Club in the very early 60's. Reg competed for many years on solo, trike, tandem and on tandem trike. During his time, he had held many records, both at standard distances and place to place. He continued racing for a long period, right up to 1998.

Reg was a very gifted musician and was a playing member of the Petworth Town Band and the Littlehampton Town Band.

TOM HOYLE
North Lancashire Clarion C&AC & North Lancs & Lakes Group



Tom Hoyle, who died at the end of January aged 83, was a lifelong member of the National Clarion Cycling Club, both as a member of the Clitheroe Section and as a member of the North Lancashire Clarion C & A C, the local Clarion Time Trialling club.

Tom cut his racing teeth in the annual Clitheroe to Settle and Back Time Trial, getting third place in 1951 and going on to win the event six times. It was during this time that the rivalry between Tom and Alan Ramsbottom, also a member of the North Lancs. Clarion, began.

Although at his best against the watch Tom was proud of his victory in the BLRC North West Section road championship in 1957.

As with many of us with family commitments, Tom reduced his racing from the 1960's to the 1980's until, in the 1990's he returned as a Vet and, with team mates Peter Hargreaves and Harry Aspden, went on to win many VTTA team awards both outright and on Standard.

Tom carried on his racing campaign both in the North West and farther afield until the early 2000's when, again, he reduced his racing due to the onset of the illness from which eventually he died.

After he stopped riding Tom would drive out to local cafes and meet up with his Clarion clubmates, often in his British Racing Green MG TF which he spent much time maintaining.

Throughout the last few years Tom continued to keep cheerful, never feeling sorry for himself despite the many hospital visits and changes of treatments over the years.

Robin Hatherall North Lancs Clarion

ISABELLA CAMPBELL M.B.E.
Glasgow Nightingale CC & Scotland Group



It is with great sadness that I have to announce the passing of my beloved mother, Isabella Campbell M.B.E. She was a wonderful 101 years young.

When mum started competing, not only was it a man's world but she sometimes cycled to the race, competed and then cycled home! However, she often reminisced that these were "The good old days!" and that "the cycling world has changed – we had it good."

Over her career mum competed in 10, 25, 50 and 100 mile and 12 hour races. Paving the way for women to carry her mantle; mum held various British and Scottish records including Best All-Rounder.

She was both president of the Glasgow Nightingale CC and an honorary member of the Scottish vets.

Mum was showered with medals over her lifetime but the two most precious were when she was awarded the M.B.E. by her Majesty the Queen for her contribution to British Cycling since 1939 and the beautiful silver pendant gifted to her by the Scottish Veterans' Committee in honour of her 100th birthday. Both were worn with equal pride.

Not only was she competitive, she loved touring around the country on her bike. From Land's End to John O'Groats Mum spent her days on the road and her nights in a hostel or a friendly farmer's barn! She loved cycling in Florida and on Mallorca but Sundays at The Cloch and "drum-ups" up the Lochside were her true favourites.

Mum loved getting on her glad rags and attending the numerous annual dinner dances and prize givings and mixing with her old friends and being whisked around the dance floor.

Mum's zest for life was legendary, she was as passionate about life as she was about cycling. To her; age was just a number and if you met her, you would walk away with a smile on your face and a feeling that anything was achievable. But most of all she was my mum, my best friend and my inspiration. I, like you I am sure, will miss her dreadfully.

RON RICHARDSON
Hounslow & District Whs & London & Home Counties Group
25th February 1925 – 27th September 2016



I first met Ron 61 years ago, when I was 14, at the Kew clubroom of the Calleva RC. He was 30 then and in his prime. He was known by his clubmates as the *'Spanish Flea'* after the little Spanish racing cyclist ace, Apo Lazaredes, because of his ability on hills and, like Lazaredes, he was deeply tanned when he returned from India in 1946 after serving in the army there.

Ron had arrived at the clubroom in an old and unique Austin van, with flat panels all fixed on with hundreds of visible rivets and hand painted dark green. It was not an ostentatious vehicle. If you sat in the passenger seat, you risked boiling water dripping into your lap! Typically, like its owner, it was understated; I never saw another one like it!

The Calleva RC folded in 1956. So Ron joined the Hounslow club and remained a valuable member for nearly 60 years. He organised countless social events, time trials and road races. During the period when the Hounslow was a leading light in the world of racing, he was one of our staunchest supporters - we were lucky to have him with us.

Ron retired early from his job as a GPO telephone engineer and enjoyed 34 years of freedom. Although I have to say, for a telephone man, he was not great with his mobile. In the 1980s he flew to the other side of the world and cycle toured New Zealand solo from end to end.

In 1994, aged 69, while cycling locally, Ron fell and suffered a broken hip when one of his pedal cranks broke. He felt that this injury aged him prematurely, his foot not being aligned accurately following the surgery. He was never quite as quick and agile afterwards. This put paid to his time trialling, but Ron carried on cycling for pleasure it gave him right to the end.

His idea of heaven was a bike ride with his children and grandchildren. He loved the simple pleasures, like being out on his bike in the sun or tinkering in his cosy workshop.

When he reached 80, he surprised us all by uncharacteristically investing in a brand new Ferrari red Condor road bike. Then, to celebrate his birthday, he rode over 80 miles on it. His birthday ride was to a Gastro Pub at Hannington in Hampshire, with lots of his clubmates. It was a lovely day, one of the most enjoyable rides I can recall. Last December, at the age of 90, Ron cycled out to the Duke of Edinburgh pub near Windsor Park, for a Christmas lunch and the bar staff were well impressed that such an old guy would cycle there!

Ron was an enthusiastic Honorary Life Member of the VTTA London Group, promoting races and managing their trophies for them.

In 2006, Ron joined the CTC West Surrey Group where he was much appreciated by them also. Three years ago they presented him with their *'Inspiration to Others Award'* inscribed *'For always living life to the full, and dealing with the vicissitudes that life can bring, with fortitude, good humour and a few miles on the bike'* - absolutely!

He was a gentle soul. His humility and good nature are legendary. He will be missed, but remembered with fondness by so many.

Jeff Marshall

PETER BATES

Huddersfield RC and Yorkshire Group 5th November 1925 – December 2016

I first got to know Peter in 1984 when he made a racing comeback shortly after retiring aged 57 from a lifetime as a coal miner. He then raced until 1992, riding mainly club 10's, VTTA 25's and 50's. I later occasionally met Peter and his wife Barbara, bumping into them whilst I was out from work at lunchtime – Peter could talk for England and I could guarantee that I would be late back at my desk!

What I did not know then was that in his heyday Peter raced for England as a road racing pioneer and was one of the most exceptional riders of the 1940s. Although I knew that he had been part of the all conquering Huddersfield RC team, it turns out he was the catalyst who led to the subsequent successes of Des and Brian Robinson, Ted Penvose and Brian Haskell.



Peter kept detailed records and result sheets from all his races. He started time trialling in 1943 aged 17, whilst working long hours down the mines as a Bevin Boy. He was winning races in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire within two years. In 1946 he won eight races, including the Polytechnic 12 hour, and finished tenth in the BBAR.

The following year (1947) he went on to win ten of his eighteen races; these included winning the Yorkshire Century RC 12 hour (241.367 miles) and on the Bath Road course, the Westerley RC 100 (4:29:25). These rides earned him the Yorkshire BAR and ninth place in the BBAR.

At Whitsun he lined up for Great Britain in the News Chronicle sponsored Paris to London stage race, consisting of two “massed start” stages in France and a time trial from Folkestone to London. Most of the British riders were complete novices at “massed start” races and little was expected of them. However “The Bicycle” magazine dubbed it a turning point in British cycling history following George Fleming’s win. This was Peter’s first bunched race on the road and his 23rd place belies the difficulties and mechanical problems faced – he lost much time when a hessian sack got tangled in his gears and had to be cut free using a penknife borrowed from a spectator – but he finished fifth in the time trial, second best of the British.

Peter went on to mix his time trials and “massed starts” and by 1949 had been joined in Huddersfield RC by 21 year old Des and 18 year old Brian Robinson, who both went on to surpass his considerable exploits. On the local grass track circuit Peter also performed well to become both ¼ mile and 5 mile NCU West Riding Centre champion.

Racing gradually took less significance after he married Barbara (herself a lifelong cyclist and at that time Yorkshire RC member) in 1954 and took on family responsibilities. They went on to have five children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Peter never lost his love of cycling and both he and Barbara were often to be seen out and about. He kept riding well into his eighties, was a lifelong member of Huddersfield RC and an Honorary Life Member of the VTTA.

Mike Penrice



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"This was our 3rd New Year and 4th stay as guests of Colin and Wendy in their splendid 'Old Forge' Barn. As always, the warmth of the welcome and generous hamper that greeted us on arrival was simply lovely. The barn cannot be beaten for utility, charm and home comforts".
England

The Old Forge B and B and Holiday Barn, which is run by Wendy and Colin Pearce, is located in the village of Knockin, half-way between Shrewsbury and Oswestry in Shropshire, which lies about two miles from the A5 which is the main road that links the South of England to North Wales. Knockin is a central point for horse-riding, golf, fishing, walking, cycling and visiting National Trust Properties. In the village is a local pub which serves good food. Nearby there are also numerous eating pubs and restaurants.

THE WELLAND TROPHY

This year is the third running of this popular event, which sees friendly competition between VTTA and LVRC riders. The opening years saw time trials run under VTTA rules and resulted in a win for LVRC in the inaugural race and last year for the VTTA, who are the present holders of the “Welland Trophy”.

When Mike Amery and I volunteered to organise this joint event we were agreed that we would try and make it a bit different in format and organisation so that, in addition to acting as an early season try-out, it would grow into a “must do” event. Can I say that this is an event where there is virtually no profit to be made – as much of the entry fee as possible goes back into the prize fund and we try and spread the list as far down as we can.

This year will be a time trial – as usual. It will be one lap of the rolling 16 mile Welland circuit – as usual - and the HQ is Welland Village Hall – as usual. Now for the changes – the event will be run under LVRC rules which mean fastest time in 5 year Age Groups and the date will be Sunday 9th April with a very civilised start time at 10.00 am. The easiest method of entry is on RiderHQ using the following link: www.riderhq.com/events/72716/the-welland-trophy-lvrcvttta-time-trial (If you haven't used the site before then click on “View in Calendar” then “Events”. Scroll down to “Cycling LVRC event” and click “Online entries”) which open on 12th February. Please note that day membership and insurance for non-members of the LVRC is covered in the entry fee. You can, of course, enter by post if you prefer – all you need to do is down-load the form from www.lvrc.org.uk [Select “Racing” then “Race Entry Form”] and send to: Mike Amery, 18 Giffard Drive, Welland, Malvern WR13 6SE (tel: 01684 310168). Please write on the form your best 10 mile time in the last 3 years and make out a cheque for £10 to M.Amery.

Entries are for solo riders and 2-up teams and results from both categories are used to calculate the winners of the Welland Trophy so all you have to do is remember three dates – 12th February entries open, 28th March entries close and 9th April turn up at Welland on your shiny new TT bike. There is a prize for fastest on a road bike if you don't want to get the SNTTB dirty

Alan Colburn alan.colburn@martley.org
Mike Amery amery_07@fsmail.net

01886 888575
01684 310168



2016 VTTA team winners flanked by the organisers (L to R): Alan Colburn, Dave Walker, Paul Milner, Andrew Simpkins, Jon Simpkins [Holding the Trophy], Liz Powell, Jon French, Mike Amery

NOTICE BOARD

If any member would prefer to receive The Veteran as a pdf file please email your request direct to the editor.

Most members prefer the satisfying feel and ease of reading of a paper magazine, there is no intention of stopping printing and posting for the majority!

Mike Williams (Yorkshire Group) is organising our inaugural 15 mile championship on 30th April on the super-fast V728.

Many members may not have a qualifying time or plus at the distance. Selection will be based firstly on best plusses at 15 miles for those who have them, followed by best plusses at 10 miles.

This event is sure to be popular but with a field limit of 150 riders hopefully all will get a ride.

Next copy date is 21st May for the June Veteran. By that time we will have had both the 10 and 15 mile championships.

The three national trophies for nominated events are allocated as follows for 2017.

Strevens Memorial Trophy - 1st on aggregate standard for Norths Mids 14.7 on 11th March and 10 on 30th September.

Brafman Cup - Club team on standard in National 30 Championship (South Wales, 17th September).

Pett Cup - 1st on standard in National 15 Championship (Yorkshire, 30th April).

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25 mile champion



Edgar Reynolds
24 hour champion



Murray Kirton
Tandem 25 mile



Alison Vessey
Ladies 100 mile