

OBITUARIES

Alan Brooks **1928 – 2013**

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of a dear friend and long-serving club-mate Alan Brooks. Alan joined the Middleton CC in August 1945 and went on to become a Life Member of the club. His interests were mainly time trialling. He competed from 10 miles to 12 hours with success. For him, his best distance was 100 miles and, quite a few years after becoming a veteran, he did a personal best of 4:20:18. He also rode on the old Fallowfield track in the 1950s.

He did extensive touring with his wife Hilda who was to die within a few weeks of Alan.

His contribution to his club included ten years as Treasurer and many more years as Auditor and Racing Committee Member.

Alan worked as a draughtsman, staying in engineering all his life. He was a Honorary Life Member of the VTTA, having joined on his 40th birthday. He will be sadly missed by his club-mates and his many friends.

Jack Ramsden
President, Middleton CC

Lilian Heald

Lilian Heald, Honorary Life Member of the VTTA, died aged 92 in March. After joining the South Lancashire RC as a teenager, her life's work has been her involvement in fostering cycling in the Manchester area. She was a founder member of Manchester & District Ladies Cycling Association, one of five still remaining and all aged over 90. She was also involved with the Manchester & District Time Trials Association.

Together with her late husband, Les, in recognition of their outstanding service to the Road Time Trials Council, they were each awarded a badge of Honour in 1994, a badge Lilian always wore with pride. Until quite recently she would be in attendance at event headquarters in Cheshire and at social occasions. She was a close friend of Eileen Sheridan, who has supplied some of her beautiful engraved glass pieces for M&DLCA awards.

Lilian was one of the now few remaining of her generation who, by their work and dedication, enabled the rest of us to follow our sport of time trialling, and this was appreciated at her funeral on 11 March 2013.

Jim Ogden

John Arnold

John Arnold, who was born in Scarborough on 20 May 1929, died aged 83 on 21 March 2013. He is survived by his twin sister, Irene, who still lives in Yorkshire.

A member of the Middleton CC, John set more National Records on three wheels than anyone else in the history of time trialling. Although his membership of the VTTA had lapsed, he would attend the Manchester & NW Group's annual Lunch & Prize Presentation until curtailed by ill health. He used to bring to the Lunch a throw-away camera and subsequently sent me the photographs of prize winners together with stamped envelopes for me to forward, as he did not know their names or addresses.

His 457 miles in the Championship 12Hr in 1953 smashed the RTTC Trike Competition Record by an incredible 35 miles. Although placed second in the event, which was won by Nick Carter, in those days trikes were not eligible to win Championship awards. That they are now is thanks to John Arnold. He was awarded the RTTC Bidlake Memorial Plaque in recognition of this achievement.

John teamed up with Albert Crimes in 1954, and together they went on to set tandem-trike records: five Northern RRA records, 13 RRA records and also six Competition Records from 100 miles to 24 hours.

Their 1954 End-to-End record ("with Albert in front where I can see him") covered the distance in 2 days 4 hours and they went on to set the thousand-mile record of 2 days 13 hours. At that time their records were the fastest that had been done on **any** machine. For a tandem-trike their record still stands after 60 years.

John was asked to sign the Golden Book of Cycling in recognition of his outstanding achievements.

John Pardoe has written a comprehensive appreciation for the Tricycle Association's gazette from which I have extracted the relevant facts.

Jim Ogden

Roy Swinnerton

Roy Swinnerton, of Swinnerton Cycles in Fenton, Stoke on Trent peacefully passed away on Monday 4th March 2013 aged 87. Born May 3rd 1925.

Roy started his club cycling career with the St Christopher's back in 1939 and his wife Doris shortly afterwards in 1944. They married in 1950, the same year Doris was elected club president. Doris also participated in the formation of the Lyme RC and was elected president in 1956.

Roy had a great passion for cycling and family life; taking over the family business in 1952 from his father Ted. Roy and Doris went on to create a legacy in cycling in Stoke on Trent and the UK. As well as being an excellent grass track racer Roy also went on to become National Team Mechanic at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and Track Team Manager, Commonwealth Games in 1974 in New Zealand, as well as attending various World Championships as Team Mechanic.

Roy was prolific and almost unbeatable on the track as anyone who's seen the beautiful trophies won by him on display in the shop. Among them the Michelin Perpetual Trophy, the Brooks Bowl, the BSA Trophy, and the Granta Trophy, and also National half-mile grass championship at the Michelin sports in the 1950s.

Roy also had a deep family life with his wife Doris and their seven children, all of whom went on to compete at both National and International levels both on the road and track, cementing the Swinnerton family name in UK cycling history. Throughout the 50s, 60s and 70s Roy and Doris also attended and helped to organise every local cycling event across North Staffordshire.

In 1970 Roy and Doris were asked if they would be prepared to run a cycling section for the City of Stoke Athletic Club. Stoke ACCS was formed and was to become one of the most successful clubs. Stoke AC can boast members competing in the Tour De France, the Ladies Tour De France, World Championships, National Championships both Road and Track and many Divisional Championships. Competing in many countries of the world: Germany, both East and West, Holland, France, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Norway and even Palestine to name but a few.

In 1990, Roy retired from the family business, but was regularly seen on club rides and out on his bike and enjoyed spending time with his 22 grandchildren, who have also started to follow in Roy's wheel tracks, with two national achievements, the national sprinters' league 1st place and national sprint title in their third generation.

Roy joined the VTTA in May 1967 and became an Honorary Life Member.

Taken from the CTT Web site