

Number 54

September 2017



THE VETERAN



THE NEW VTTA CHAMPIONS



James McKenzie, enjoying the morning sun after a wet night - 24 Hour Champion



Don McLean & Mark Ledbetter battle through the rain - 24 Hour Tandem Champions



Richard Bideau clinched the 12 Hour Championship with 312.101 miles (+107.571), having already taken the 100 Mile with 3:38:40 (+1:13:52)

All images courtesy of Kimroy



Katja Rietdorf's 258.508 miles earned her 1st woman, club team and group team in the 12 Hour Championship



Lynne Biddulph - 100 Mile 1st woman on std & club team; 12 Hour 2nd woman on std & club team; 24 Hour 3rd o/all on std, 1st woman on std, group team, club team

National Association for the 40 years old and over racing cyclist

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2017/18

President

Carole Gandy (Kent)
01622 762837 : carole.gandy12@gmail.com

Honorary Life Vice President

Keith Robbins

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
07837 551768 mary.corbett7@btinternet.com

Records Secretary

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

Editor & Advertising Secretary

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

National Recorder

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

National Secretary

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

Membership Secretary

Merv Player (East Anglian)
18 New Close
Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6NU
01438 814154
mervplayer33@gmail.com

Awards Secretary

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

National Executive Committee Members

Robert Jones (South Wales)
Barry Quick (London & Home Counties)
Alan Colburn (Midlands)
Brian Camfield (Manchester)

Website : vttta.org.uk and Facebook

Cover photo: Wessex member Steve Williamson (...a3crg) cruises to 300.834 miles in the CC Breckland 12 hour
(Photo: Fergus Muir)

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 54

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EDITORIAL

The cycling world and VTTA members in particular were shattered by the fatal accident to Ray Dare in the recent VTTA London and Home Counties 10. At 91 years old Ray was our oldest racing member and a multiple age record holder; he was an inspirational example of the benefits of remaining active and seeking new challenges well into old age and epitomised all that is great about veterans' time trialling. The thoughts of all our members are with his family and friends

as we all mourn his loss. A full tribute appears in this edition of The Veteran.

It has been a difficult year for veterans' time trials. In addition to the above tragedy the VTTA Championship 25 had to be abandoned following a serious accident to Kent member Simon Henderson. Although he sustained multiple injuries and will be out of action for a while, thankfully he is OK. The 25 Championship has been re-scheduled and will have been completed by now.

Also John Stewart (South Pennine RC), who although not currently a VTTA member was a well known organiser and official of many years standing, died as a result of a tragic accident in an evening club event. In all three cases a moving motor vehicle was involved.

Spare a thought for VTTA organisers David Guy (L&HC) and John Golder (EA), who both appear to have coped admirably with the extra and unanticipated demands placed on them in dealing with these major incidents. The general public often do not understand our compelling enthusiasm for time trialling and may be unsympathetic to our competition on open roads, although these events were organised to the highest standards of safety and were supported by an adequate and competent team of helpers on the day.

All members should assist in maintaining the standard of our promotions. VTTA provides equal competition across the full age range, not one where the old (and past it?) are expected to put themselves at the service of the younger veterans. So as an organiser myself it was disappointing recently when asking for helpers to be rebuffed by a regular (younger) rider claiming insufficient time for other than racing and training. VTTA members often continue racing into their 80's, so if we are not all willing to put a bit back in where are our helpers to come from?

Mike Penrice

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holidays tend to loom large at this time of the year with a great number of the British public setting off to destinations both at home and abroad. I was no exception and together with my husband we made our annual visit to our friends in France who as it so happened live very close to one of the 'flat' stages of the Tour de France this year. The stage started from Eymet which is a commune in the Dordogne department in Nouvelle-Aquitaine in south-western France. It is popular location amongst British expatriates, who account for a third of the local population and indeed in the local supermarket there is a British section. In the itinerary information the stage was listed as flat. For most of the people who have cycled in this area they wouldn't consider that to be the case. It is not until one gets towards Casteljaloux that it starts to flatten out. Whilst the scenery is stunning, with acres of fields brimming with glorious sunflowers all showing their faces to the sun, so are the rolling hills. One soon finds out that dashing down one incline does not give one enough momentum to get up the slope the other side without engaging the pedals. Indeed for many a triple chain ring is a godsend.



There were plenty of strategic places on hilly sections where one could marvel at the rate in which the riders zipped up the hills without, it would look very little effort. All the usual razzmatazz was enjoyed by the people who had sat for a good amount of time before that one fleeting glance of the riders was enjoyed. It is amazing that year after year thousands of people enjoy the spectacle of the Tour even though the actual amount of time one can try to see their favourite rider is extremely fleeting. You can see why once the Tour has passed a great number of people rush off to enjoy following the rest of the day's cycling on the TV.

Since returning the weather has not exactly been spectacular and from the day that the schools closed for their annual summer break the weather changed dramatically. Fortunately for many who are still racing this was not a great problem and looking at the results as they roll in each week there have been some great performances achieved. This is because for many of those

competing they take far more seriously how they train and the type of equipment they use and clothing they wear. Many years ago I stood at a result board when one rider made the remark that it was his first event of the year and it would take a few more events to get in to shape to race. In those days that was probably very true and the means of getting fit was to ride to events, race and then ride home. Even the great Beryl Burton stacked in the miles and indeed could be seen on race days riding more than once round the course before lining up on the start line. Congratulations to Alice Lethbridge who broke Beryl's 50 year old 12 hour record which goes to show just what a special rider Beryl was all those years ago.

Those of you who ride your bike whether it is for pleasure or for racing be safe. We can only be as vigilant as possible but we can never fully anticipate what other road users may decide to do.

Carole Gandy

THE CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

In the June issue of the Veteran I reported that we had chosen Xncreations as the supplier of our new national VTTA website. Since then Xncreations have been busy with the design and development of the site and by the end of the August much of the technical development was completed. We are now carrying out testing of the site and loading the required information about officials, standards, competitions, records and so forth. Our plan is to complete this by the beginning of October and for the site to go live in that month. We then plan to introduce the new online membership system by the end of the year.

We will be writing to Groups in September to give Group officials a more detailed report on progress and to allow a preview of the site. We will also need to confirm with Groups the details they will need to provide and how the national site can best work with those Groups that have their own website. As with all new websites there are bound to be some tweaking and refinements in the first few months as we get feedback from users. But this will all help in the delivery of a modern and easy to use and maintain site which will be an effective communication channel for the VTTA and its members. Other benefits will be better promotion of our Association to new members and the opportunity to provide some helpful points of integration with the CTT site.

We will be posting updates on progress on our VTTA Facebook page in the next few months so please watch that space!

On a different note, as many of us will know, this has not been a good season in terms of a number of accidents. I was present at the London & Home Counties Group 10 where Ray Dare was tragically killed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ray's family. You can read a fitting tribute to Ray and his exceptional performances as a rider later in the magazine.

Sometimes accidents are beyond anyone's control but I hope as the VTTA we can set a standard in our events with regard to rider safety in terms of start sheet guidance, signage and marshalling as well as doing our part as riders in terms of lights and clothing. No responsibility is greater on NEC, Group and event officials and as competitors then doing our best for rider safety in our sport.

Finally, I attended and rode my first national championship at the 50 organised by West Group in August. A pleasant morning, a good atmosphere, and many excellent performances. One question discussed at the HQ after the event was the low number of entries with various theories put forward. One was the fact that it was not a 'drag strip' type course but is that relevant in a championship where people are competing against each other on the day? Has the quest for personal best times taken over from competing against our fellow riders? Does that matter? What are members' thoughts?

Andrew Simpkins

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NATIONAL SECRETARY'S MUSINGS



It's hard to believe that the end of the season is approaching and, as I write this, we only have the 30 mile championship and the re-run of the 25 championship before we say "goodbye" to racing and standard chasing and "hello" to annual dinners and AGMs (or, in my case, racing gets replaced with string quartet bookings). Whilst we are on the subject of AGMs, the National AGM and Prize Ceremony will be on Saturday 27th January 2018 and will be at the new venue of the St John's Hotel in Solihull. This will hopefully provide a more accessible and central location, and the buffet options also look enticing.

Last weekend I had the pleasure of attending the 50 Mile Championship which was promoted by Gordon Scott and the West Group. The setting was one of the most idyllic I've seen for a championship - a three lap course around the perimeter of Westonbirt Arboretum in the southern end of the Cotswolds. Quite unsurprisingly, many riders had chosen to bring their families to the event and make a weekend of it. The only disappointment on the day was the lack of riders; there were just 30 solo riders on the start sheet and a single tandem. It could be argued that the location was too remote to attract a large field, but this argument is rather flawed when you consider the Realteam 25 on the same morning in the even more remote South Wales, which attracted a full field of riders. Are riders shunning championship medals in preference to the pursuit of age records or personal bests?

In the end, the 50 mile championship still attracted the high quality competition that a championship should, with Brian Sunter once again demonstrating his talent by winning the championship and Chris Melia consolidating her slew of age records by taking the women's gold medal. We do, however, also know that we will receive an influx of age record claims from the Realteam event on the same morning. Whilst we could be saddened by the lack of entry into the Championship, we can be equally cheered by seeing members of all ages achieving times that riders decades their junior couldn't possibly have considered achieving even as recently as twenty years ago.

What we do know is that whilst many riders do prefer the fast, dual carriageway courses, others prefer the challenge of more sporting, single carriageway events. We will soon be allocating the championship events for 2018, and I hope we manage to get a mix of events to suit everyone. And if the 50 mile championship is at an event in Northumberland next year, I fully suggest making a weekend of it. I can guarantee you will have a fulfilling and enjoyable trip – and might even win a national medal to boot.

Rachael Elliott



CTT MATTERS

*** IMPORTANT INFORMATION ***

Your VTTA Details on Your CTT Internet Entry Profile

You may not be aware that the CTT Internet Entry system now allows you to record your VTTA membership details. It is essential that organisers of VTTA events and national championships know that you are a VTTA member so that they can allocate you preferential entry.

To record your membership details you need to be registered as an Internet Entry User. If you have not already registered then go to www.ctt.org.uk and click on 'Register'. As part of the registration process you will be asked to enter your VTTA details as below.

If you are already registered but have not supplied your VTTA details then:

1. Click on your user name icon (top left) and then click 'My Dashboard'
2. Then Click on 'Settings' (far right in middle of page)
3. The under 'My Details' you will see an option 'VTTA Details'
4. Tick the 'I am a VTTA member' box and enter your Group and your membership number. Your membership number is shown on the postage label of your copy of the Veteran or can be obtained from your Group Secretary or Membership Secretary.

Please note that while the CTT system records your Personal Bests and your Last 3 Season best times it does not know your Best Plus. For national championships, in particular, you should enter your Best Plus (current and past 3 seasons) for the relevant event in the Online Entry 'Comments' field.

Note that the organisers of this year's VTTA 10 and 25 championships and other popular events had oversubscribed fields and without knowing an entrant's VTTA membership details and Best Plus they could not allocate them a place in the event. So please follow the above advice.

Organisers should be aware that when downloading the entrants they must tick the "VTTA event" box in order to receive the above information.

Double Entering of Events

Following a recent update on the website, event organisers and CTT admin have full visibility of who has entered events on the same day, which is only permitted in exceptional circumstances. Can we ask you all to familiarise yourselves with regulation 11(e), 11(f) and 11(g) which covers double entry of events.

If you have double entered events you can withdraw from any event before the closing date, by logging into the CTT website and from your dashboard go to:

- Event>
- Completed Entries>
- Receipt>
- Withdraw

VTTA 25 MILE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ABANDONED

SATURDAY 8 JULY 2017

Reporter and VTTA representative Geoff Perry

The E2/25 event was abandoned following a collision between a vehicle and one of the early male riders, number 45 Simon Henderson (Thanet RC/Kent), close to a lay-by about a mile from the start. Although only one of the three lanes was coned off, as the news filtered back to the HQ, the event was abandoned. All thoughts focused on the injured rider, who is now making a steady recovery from his injuries (see Kent group report).

Although all the women had finished as they had been set off first as a separate CTT BAR counting event, their VTTA results could not stand in isolation as the overall best on standard, club team award and group team award could not all be completed together in one event. As a consequence their results become void from a VTTA Championship perspective. The Championship is re-scheduled for Sunday 27 August on the same course.

It was a fast day with riders posting fast times from the off, on a sunny but breezy day. In terms of the women's event Bronwen Ewing (Rye & District Wheelers/Kent) was best on standard with +19:44 setting a national age record with 53:57 at age 51. She was followed closely by Chris Melia (Born to Bike/North Midlands) with +19:11 and an age record of 54:58 aged 53. Liz Powell (Mike Vaughan Cycles/Midlands) was third fastest woman on standard with +18:31 and fastest women vet on time with 53:12 and also an age record for 42 and younger. All records are subject to ratification.

By the time of the last timed rider, number 73, male best on standard was David Procter (Team Velocity/East Anglia) with +19:03 and also being the fastest on actual time with 50:03. Rachael Elliott, VTTA National Secretary, but not a veteran until next year was second fastest with 50:45.

VTTA 24 HOUR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 22/23 JULY 2017

Alan Colburn, with experiences by Bob Awcock

This prestigious event, incorporated in the RTTC National Championship 24 Hour and hosted once again by the Mersey Roads Club, provided riders on the start line with a choice – a wet suit or the more efficient dry suit! According to Bob Awcock ([Born to Bike-Bridgtown Cycles) there was 19 hours of rain; this turned out to be a bit of an exaggeration – the Met. Office reported only 18.5 hours!

The winner, Mike Broadwith (Arctic Tacx RT) turned in a fine 532 mile ride and said he had two complete changes of clothes, however Bob tried the concept of putting on an extra layer every so often in an attempt to soak up the excess water. This seemed to work quite well but didn't do much for his aerodynamic profile! This was Bob's first time at the distance so he put tri bars on his road bike, rode clinchers and changed his TT saddle for a Cambium which proved an excellent choice in the comfort department. He reported no major problems on his ride although he did suffer a bit of indigestion from time to time – he was advised to take some "proper" food on board but a Melton Mowbray pork pie isn't really a valid alternative to a gel! This young-at-heart 73 year old was very appreciative of his club's support throughout the event and also grateful for the excellent organisation by the Mersey Roads, eventually finishing with 327 miles and +80.27. Bob's maiden attempt at this distance was rewarded by his placing in the VTTA Club Team and also Group Team where he was in the very good company of Lynne Biddulph (+88.54), Jackie Hobson (+11.92) and Edgar Reynolds (+109.48) Born to Bike-Bridgtown Cycles.

Oh, I nearly forgot! Edgar got the silver medal and Lynne got the bronze overall and in the women's section Lynne emphasized her prowess with the gold and Jackie secured the bronze. All things considered – not a bad day!

FINISH ORDER - 2017 VTTA NATIONAL 24 HOUR TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos.	Name	Club	Group	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Awards
1	James McKenzie	CC Ashwell	EA	64	292.96	416.32	123.36	1 st on std. (Champion)
2	Edgar Reynolds	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	M&NW	69	269.55	379.03	109.48	2 nd on std. Club team
3	Lynne Biddulph	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	MID	48	314.46	403.00	88.54	3 rd on std. 1 st woman on std. Group team Club team
4	Bob Awcock	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	MID	73	247.42	327.69	80.27	Group team Club team
5	Paul Russell	Springfield Financial Racing Team	NL&L	50	341.01	421.19	80.18	
6	Angus Swanson	Stirling Bike Club	SC	49	343.95	418.51	74.56	
7	Nigel Briggs	South Pennine RC	N&EM	56	322.64	379.27	56.63	
8	David Greenwood	Rye & District Wheelers CC	K	52	335.08	377.66	42.58	
9	Jane Moore	Willesden CC	L&HC	50	287.12	310.34	23.22	2 nd woman on std.
10	Jacqueline Hobson	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	MID	52	304.24	316.16	11.92	3 rd woman on std. Group team
11	Dave Pemberton	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	MID	50	341.01	332.42	-8.59	
12	Chris Goode	Yorkshire Coast Clarion CC	Y	51	338.06	325.55	-12.51	
13	Bob Symons	Salt and Sham Cycle Club	W	62	301.17	264.45	-36.72	
14	Nick Hickman Nick	Hitchin Nomads CC	EA	50	341.01	303.54	-37.47	
15	Russell Carter	South Pennine RC	N&EM	56	322.64	265.80	-56.84	
DNF	Graeme Walsh (Stirling BC), Richard Parrotte (Shaftesbury CC), Robert Bullyment (Catford CC), John Hassall (Bossard Whs), Bob Richards (RN&RMCA)							
DNS	Janet Fairclough (St Helens CRC), Andy Cooke (Chippenham & Dist Whs), Richard Walker (VTTA N Mids), Ray Retter (North Devon Whs), Jocelyn Chappel (Aylesbury CC)							

FINISH ORDER - 2017 VTTA NATIONAL 24 HOUR TIME TRIAL TANDEM CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos.	Name	Club	Group	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Awards
1	Don McLean & Mark Ledbetter	Stirling Bike Club	Scot	57 & 50	343.38	400.09	56.71	Tandem champions
2	George Berwick & Philip Jurczyk	Edinburgh RC & West Lothian Clarion	Scot	76 & 72	250.58	250.52	-0.06	

VTTA 12 & 24 HOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS



Clockwise from top left - Edgar Reynolds splashing to silver in the 24 hour, Jane Moore in 24 Hour night time attire, Russell Carter on his 322 mile ride, Andy Jackson on his 12 hour silver medal winning 306.526 miles ride, Finsbury Park's Gray Turnock took a fine third place in the 12, Janet Fairclough, 12 hour 3rd woman on standard with 239.815 miles



All images courtesy of Kimroy



VTTA 12 HOUR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST

Reporter and NEC representative Geoff Perry

The Championship was most news-worthy for the performance of a non-veteran, in that Alice Lethbridge broke Beryl Burton's 50 year old 12 hour women's competition record with 285.645 miles (subject to ratification) on the E2/12 course based around Newmarket, with a new triangular finishing circuit. This has broken the dreams of at least three women veterans who have been attempting this feat in the last couple of years and getting to within 5 miles of the previous record of 277.25 miles.

The event was run in very favourable conditions with blue sky throughout the morning with temperatures rising to 20C followed by broken cloud in the afternoon, which helped to cool things down a little. What was most noticeable was the low wind speeds with the local wind farm on the finishing circuit sitting idle in the afternoon. So due to the majority of the direction of course SW-NE any slight wind was perpendicular to the direction of travel, which enhanced the distances achieved.

The early starters were off in the twilight just after 5am and the last rider off by 6.30 am, with 24 VTTA members completing the event.

After a prolonged wait whilst the official result was checked Richard Bideau (Pendle Forest CC/North Lancs & Lakes) was the overall best on standard with +107.571 miles, having ridden 312.101 miles (2 miles shy of a national age record). He was followed by Andy Jackson (SSSL RT/Yorkshire) in second place with +95.406 miles and Gary Turnock (Finsbury Park CC/East Anglia) completing the podium with +91.028 miles. In the women's competition last year's 1-2 defended their positions in the same order with Katja Rietdorf (Born to Bike/London and Home Counties) first on +72.588 miles, followed by Lynne Biddulph (Born to Bike/Midlands) with +67.845 miles and Janet Fairclough (St Helens CRC/Merseyside) not far behind for third with +66.425 miles. Katja rode about one mile further than last year and set a new L&HC Group record with 258.508m, as well as being in the winning club team and group team.

Born to Bike had five riders who completed the 12 hours and the only complete team, with Bob Awcock and +47.619 miles making up the club team with Katja and Lynne, for a total plus of 188.052 miles. Bob just edged out his team mate, Edgar Reynolds (+47.296 miles) as third counting member of the team.

London & Home Counties won the group team award with Katja supporting John Lacey (Hemel Hempstead CC) +73.687 miles, who also set a group age record, and Daren Austin (Twickenham CC) with +65.655 miles for a total group plus of 211.930 miles. L&HC beat East Anglia (+172.056m), followed by Kent (+169.298m) and finally Midlands (+152.711m).

There were no tandem entries and just one trike. The 'lantern rouge' went to Chris Close (Sleaford Whs) with 185.300 miles and a small plus of 2.39.

FINISH ORDER - 2017 VTTA NATIONAL 12 HOUR TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos.	Name	Club	Group	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Awards
1	Richard Bideau	Pendle Forest CC	NL&L	46	204.53	312.101	107.571	1 st on std. (Champion)
2	Andy Jackson	SSLL RT	Y	41	211.12	306.526	95.406	2 nd on std.
3	Gray Turnock	Finsbury Park CC	EA	49	200.87	291.898	91.028	3 rd on std.
4	Paul Jackson	Team Bottrill/HSS Hire	S/S	51	198.44	278.636	80.196	
5	John Lacey	Hemel Hempstead CC	L&HC	53	195.95	269.637	73.687	Group team
6	Katja Rietdorf	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	L&HC	46	185.92	258.508	72.588	1 st woman on std. Group team Club team
7	Lynne Biddulph	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	Mid	48	183.72	251.565	67.845	2 nd woman on std. Club team
8	Julian Pegg	Hitchin Nomads CC	EA	54	194.68	261.467	66.787	
9	Janet Fairclough	St Helens CRC	Mer	57	173.39	239.815	66.425	3 rd woman on std.
10	Daren Austin	Twickenham CC	L&HC	49	200.87	266.525	65.655	Group team
11	Virginia McGee	Charlotteville CC	Wsx	54	177.04	242.533	65.493	
12	Theresa Taylor	Preston CC	NL&L	57	173.39	237.442	64.052	
13	Robert Royston	Sydenham Whs	K	62	182.91	244.483	61.573	
14	Richard Claxton	VC Elan - Harry Perry Cycles	K	73	159.18	213.249	54.069	
15	Alec Mayes	Ashford Whs	K	72	161.82	215.476	53.656	
16	Neil Allonby	Icknield RC	L&HC	47	203.30	253.824	50.524	
17	Bob Awcock	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	Mid	73	159.18	206.799	47.619	Club team
18	Edgar Reynolds	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	M&NW	69	169.11	216.406	47.296	
19	Richard Yates	Sleaford Whs	N&EM	51	198.44	240.406	41.966	
20	David Greenwood	Rye & Dist Whs	K	52	197.21	235.408	38.198	
21	Jacqueline Hobson	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	Mid	52	179.32	216.567	37.247	
22	Adrian Watkins	Tornado RCC	Wsx	49	200.87	223.130	22.260	
23	Ian MacKenzie (Trike)	Southend Whs	EA	71	152.97	167.211	14.241	
23	Chris Close	Sleaford Whs	N&EM	62	182.91	185.300	2.390	
DNF	Gary Boyd (Hub Velo/EA), Sandy Wallace (Fife Century/Scot), John Golder (Chelmer CC/EA)							

VTTA 100 MILE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

MONDAY 29 MAY 2017

Brian Camfield



Peter Greenwood leads the line out in the rain up one of the many drags, on his way to a very close second on standard and Group Team for NL&L (ack. Robert Jones)

This year the National Championship was held in conjunction with the Anfield Bicycle Club 100 on the undulating and exposed D100/2 course in North Shropshire. After a week of glorious sunshine, the weather took a nosedive for this Bank Holiday Monday with rain and an easterly wind which riders found troublesome. The first rider got under way at 6.01am. Of the 120 accepted entrants, 86 were veterans with 46 being VTTA members.

It was a very close race between Richard Bideau (Pendle Forest CC) and Peter Greenwood (Team Swift) and after 100 miles just 1 minute and 4 seconds separated them on standard in the challenge, for Bideau to achieve Champion status.

This left David Hargreaves (North Lancs RC) last year's champion, in the bronze medal position despite bettering his time on standard by over 8 minutes.

Coincidentally, Alison Vessey (Mickey Cranks CC) who took the women's gold medal last year also ended up taking the bronze medal this year and she also improved her time on standard by nearly 8 minutes. Lynne Biddulph put in another of her traditional strong performances to take gold for the women exactly 4 minutes ahead of silver medallist, Theresa Taylor (Preston CC) who underlined the strength of the North Lancashire & Lakes Group in the medals table.

The North Lancs & Lakes Group stormed ahead of all the others to easily win the Group Team award whilst the club team medals went to Born To Bike's top three - Lynne Biddulph, Bob Awcock and Edgar Reynolds.

Nearly all riders when asked thought this was a really hard 100 with rain and wind contributing but they also commented that the road surface in many parts made it a challenging ride. When it was flat it was also exposed to the wind, usually against you!

Any 100 mile event takes a lot of effort from many people and I do not hesitate to thank Peter Catherall for leading his Anfield Bicycle Club team to make this a successful day, building on the experience of the club over the last 138 years!



Bob Awcock was a Club Team counter for Born to Bike - Bridgtown



Alison Vessey (3rd woman on standard) is overtaken by Port Sunlight's Keith Jones

Yorkshire Group scribe Chris Goode in action



All images courtesy of Kimroy except where noted

Macclesfield's Lynne Skellern takes on a bottle - keeping hydrated despite the wet conditions!



FINISH ORDER - VTTA 100 MILE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos	Name	Club	Group	Cat.	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Awards
1	Richard Bideau	Pendle Forest CC	NL&L	M	46	4:52:32	3:38:40	1:13:52	1 st on std (Champion) Group team
2	Peter Greenwood	Team Swift	NL&L	M	65	5:17:29	4:04:33	1:12:56	2 nd on std Group team
3	David Hargreaves	N Lancs RC	NL&L	M	70	5:29:13	4:21:20	1:07:53	3 rd on std Group team
4	Ray Retter	North Devon Whlrs	West	M	71	5:32:03	4:26:30	1:05:33	
5	Adrian Hughes	Seamons CC	M&NW	M	50	4:56:36	4:04:52	0:51:44	
6	Arthur Winstanley	Liverpool Phoenix CC	M/side	M	60	5:08:49	4:18:20	0:50:29	

Continued overleaf

FINISH ORDER - VTТА 100 MILE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos	Name	Club	Group	Cat.	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Awards
7	Colin Parkinson	South Western RC	N&EM	M	55	5:02:08	4:12:46	0:49:22	
8	Andy Ashurst	Manchester Whlrs	M&NW	M	52	4:58:43	4:09:29	0:49:14	
9	Derek McMillan	SVTTA	Scot	M	56	5:03:21	4:15:42	0:47:39	
10	Lynne Biddulph	Born to Bike	Mids	F	48	5:18:05	4:34:58	0:43:07	1 st woman on std Club team
11	Paul Russell	Springfield Financial RT	NL&L	M	50	4:56:36	4:13:38	0:42:58	
12	Theresa Taylor	Preston CC	NL&L	F	57	5:29:09	4:48:02	0:41:07	2 nd woman on std
13	Kevin Larmer	Port Sunlight Whlrs	M/side	M	46	4:52:32	4:14:34	0:37:58	
14	Simon Dighton	Beacon Roads CC	Mids	M	53	4:59:49	4:23:43	0:36:06	
15	Matthew Moore	Walsall Roads CC	Mids	M	51	4:57:39	4:22:01	0:35:38	
16	Alison Vessey	Mickey Cranks CC	West	F	63	5:39:09	5:07:45	0:31:24	3 rd woman on std
17	Neil Jones	Port Sunlight Whlrs	M/side	M	48	4:54:33	4:24:37	0:29:56	
18	Annis Moore	Walsall Roads CC	Mids	F	49	5:19:12	4:53:18	0:25:54	
19	Bob Awcock	Born to Bike	Mids	M	73	5:38:21	5:13:44	0:24:37	Club team
20	Barrie Whittaker	Lyme RC	M&NW	M	60	5:08:49	4:50:25	0:18:24	
21	Edgar Reynolds	Born to Bike	M&NW	M	68	5:24:04	5:06:28	0:17:36	Club team
22	Ian Casson	Birkenhead Victoria CC	M/side	M	64	5:15:33	4:59:12	0:16:21	
23	John Robertson	Mid Shrops Whlrs	M/side	M	62	5:12:00	4:56:18	0:15:42	
24	Claire Clementson	Wigan Whlrs CC	NL&L	F	40	5:08:49	4:58:09	0:10:40	
25	Helen Tudor	Oswestry Paragon CC	M/side	F	48	5:18:05	5:07:51	0:10:14	
26	David Golden	West Pennine RC	NL&L	M	57	5:04:37	4:57:46	0:06:51	
27	Chris Goode	Yorkshire Coast Clar CC	Yks	M	51	4:57:39	4:58:09	- 0:00:30	
28	Alan Meinhardt	ProVision Cycling	M&NW	M	51	4:57:39	5:01:09	- 0:03:30	
29	Dave Pemberton	Born to Bike	Mids	M	50	4:56:36	5:01:39	- 0:05:03	
30	Lynne Skellern	Macclesfield Whlrs	M&NW	F	50	5:20:20	5:28:53	- 0:08:33	
Disq	Andy Jackson (SSLL RT)								
DNF	Nigel Clementson (Wigan Whs), Steve Nutley (RT23), Robin Vessey (Mickey Cranks CC), Chris Tye (Team Skipper)								
DNS	David Wilson (N Shrops Whs), Jacqueline Hobson (Born to Bike), Jenny York (Mid Shrops Whs), David Emery (Dulwich Paragon CC), Rachael Mellor (Holmfirth CC), Chris Scawn (Plymouth Corinthian CC), Stephen Costello (Abbotsford Park RC), Andy Cook (Chippenham & Dist Whs), Ian Cox (Fogarty Ins Tri), Philip Brown (Walsall Roads CC)								



OBITUARIES



BRIAN HATTON

1941-2016

Brian was born in Oldham in 1941 and joined his first cycling club in 1955, which was the Oldham branch of the National Clarion Cycling Club. Moved to the local road racing club "The Meteor Road Club" in 1957, and raced as a junior under the British League of Racing Cyclists, notching up ten successive 4th places one year because he "couldn't sprint for toffee".

After becoming a senior in 1959, moved to the Medlock Vale Road Club in Manchester, after which a career in the aircraft industry with associated studies started to interfere with training, leading to a withdrawal from active racing for quite some years. During one period of studying - at the request of team mates - he made up the team numbers for the Easter Merseyside four day in Wales and won the Lantern Rouge as no training had been done at all, which led to a lot of time trialling off the back of the bunch, but in stunning scenery.

In 1966 he went overseas and began a new career in the oil and gas industry, with a first assignment in 1967 to Aberdeen for two years where non-competitive cycling commenced again. After that, during a nine year spell in Brunei, he won the Brunei National Championship three times - in a road race from one end of the small country to the other. Thereafter spells in Nigeria and back in Aberdeen did not include any racing activity, just "getting in the miles". Road racing commenced again after a move to Cape Town, South Africa in 1990, where he raced in veterans events with many good positions and notably winning the age related section of the Cape Argus Cycle Tour two years in succession.

Returning to Aberdeen in 1995 he joined the Vets and Deeside Thistle Cycling Club and mixed both road racing and time trialling (including the DTCC evening league events), managing to lift the vets prizes on many occasions. He kept competing locally until another move overseas in 2000. Thereafter infrequent visits back home always included a few time trials as a private member, but after being diagnosed (too late) with prostate cancer in 2011 performance plummeted (after going on to the testosterone busting hormone therapy), so it was just a case of personal pride in trying to ride a few events each year. He had always led a very healthy lifestyle.

His last years of competing were 2014/15, the occasional time trial back home in and around Aberdeen, and riding his tenth and final Argus Cycle Tour (now Cape Town Cycle Tour) in 2014 with a very respectable time of 3:23hrs for 109km, finishing second in his age group out of 293 and overall position of 2310/31225.

Brian loved cycling, it was a huge part of his life and he was very passionate about it. He made many friends over the years through racing but also lost contact with many due to his work overseas.

Brian lost his five and a half year battle with advanced prostate cancer on 14th December 2016, aged 75. He is survived by his wife of 49 years Marianne, children Susan, Shirley and Norman and by grandchildren Connor, Joanna, and Alex.

Submitted by SVTTA

RAY DARE

On 19 July 2017, Ray Dare – at 91 possibly the oldest rider still racing in the UK – was riding the VTTA 10 on the F10/11 near Tring. He was attempting to beat the 29:43 record for his age. By all accounts he was riding well and on course to do a ride that significantly bettered that time. With approximately 2 miles to go he was involved in an incident with a vehicle that not only ended his record attempt but also ended his life, despite the best efforts of many people, both amateurs and professional medics, at the scene.

Ray was born in June 1926 – a mid-season birthday that helped fuel his competitive instincts over the years. He was the youngest of three brothers and born into a CTC family who cycled for leisure. Born in South Wales he moved to South London with his family; early exploits on a bike involved rides back to Caerphilly to stay with family, whilst still in his teens. He joined the Cheam & Morden section of CTC South London DA, and rode with them and other sections in the DA all his life. This association led to joining the Kingston Phoenix Road Club and a 65 year membership, during which he owned virtually all of the veteran records and won almost all of the club trophies and awards at one time or another, setting senior records at most distances too.

Ray lived a bachelor life into early middle age, with his work in the telecoms industry taking him all around the world, until he met Beryl and everything changed for the better. Beryl came with a ready-made family and although Ray always seemed wary of stepping into another man's shoes as father or grandfather, he embraced them all as his own and loved the family life they gave him. He also very much enjoyed the garden at the home he shared with Beryl, plus his allotment and the produce he grew there. It was common for Ray to have been up early spending time in the allotment before a day's cycling, or for him to have spent an afternoon laying concrete before riding an evening 10. Well maybe he didn't do the concreting very often!

Ray loved cycling in all its forms, not just racing. Touring was his first love - he enjoyed the freedom and exploration of cycle touring and day rides with the Wayfarers once he retired. His competitive instinct was not confined to bike racing as he was a runner for many years too, with three London Marathons under his belt (the last aged 70) and a long association with the Ranelagh Harriers.

We lost count of the number of times that Ray "retired" from bike racing – and there were many years where he either didn't race or barely did so, sometimes due to work or family life, sometimes just because he had "retired from racing". He always seemed to bounce back to go for yet another age record, and that mid-season birthday always meant he was fit at the time he could challenge for a new age record. Ray never seemed to grow older; even at 90 he still seemed very much the same man I met 35 years ago.

Keeping track of Ray's VTTA achievements over the years has been like herding cats. Despite his prowess as a Vet and his determination to beat and claim the records from the VTTA, he was very modest about his achievements with the rest of us. The VTTA erase records once beaten, making it difficult to research records that were not noted within the club at the time Ray set them. Ray currently holds six National solo bike records and two National tandem bike records. He also holds an additional fifteen Surrey/Sussex Group records for solo bike and six Group records for tandem bike. Event wins as a veteran were thinner on the ground than as a senior, but Ray was proud of his three wins of the Redmon CC Grand Prix des Gentlemen paced by Simon Mitchell.

Ray was not only a competitor, in retirement he was involved with the Surrey/Sussex VTTA Group, where he promoted events and had a stint as press sec, trying to keep up with rides done

by his fellow members (who often weren't forthcoming about their achievements, either).

Ray will be sadly missed, not only by Beryl, but his cheerful enthusiasm will be missed from Phoenix social rides and competitive events alike.

Lisa Colombo (Kingston Phoenix Road Club)



RAY DARE'S RECORDS

VTTA NATIONAL & GROUP AGE RECORDS						
Men solo bicycle		25	87	2013	1:08:21	
		50	87	2013	2:23:59	
		10	88	2014	0:27:57	
		25	88	2014	1:12:26	
		50	88	2014	2:52:01	
		25	90	2016	1:20:14	
Men tandem bicycle		10	137	1998	0:21:09	With Martyn Winter
		30	137	1998	1:06:53	
SURREY/SUSSEX GROUP AGE RECORDS	Men solo bicycle	12h	70	1996	232.517	
		100	74	2000	4:47:01	
		12h	75	2001	216.622	
		50	76	2002	2:14:01	
		100	76	2002	4:51:01	
		100	77	2003	4:57:49	
		25	79	2005	1:06:08	
		50	79	2005	2:16:20	
		10	81	2007	0:27:37	
		25	81	2007	1:07:05	
		50	81	2007	2:18:53	
		100	81	2007	4:59:25	
		25	82	2008	1:11:23	
		100	82	2008	5:15:44	
	25	86	2012	1:06:42		
	Men tandem bicycle		10	127	1990	0:21:36
		25	127	1990	0:59:06	
		30	129	1991	01:06:07	
		25	137	1998	0:54:48	With Martyn Winter
		25	139	1999	0:57:00	
	50	139	1999	2:02:13		

MARGARET GANNAWAY

About 100 relatives and friends attended the funeral of New Forest Cycling Club stalwart Margaret Gannaway on Wednesday, July 19. Margaret (82) had fought a long battle with cancer.

For many years she had been a respected timekeeper at club and open time trials in the Bournemouth and Southampton area. In 2014 she was awarded the Ray Price Award for services to the sport in Cycling Time Trials' South District.

It was cycling that brought Margaret and husband Chris together. In the mid-1950s she worked at an estate agency and had a friend who was a New Forest club member. Margaret helped her out by typing up the club newsletter and, as a result, got an invitation to the annual dinner dance. She and Chris got chatting and he ended up seeing her home safely: by bike, of course. They became a couple and married in July 1957.

They had three children: Carol (now deceased), John and Sarah, plus nine grandchildren.

Margaret had given up work when they married and in addition to bringing up the children, supported his racing. "She rode the odd time trial but didn't really get on with it," said Chris. Nevertheless she was no slouch because she once held the Bournemouth and District Women's CA's Ringwood to Cadnam and Back record. She and Chris also enjoyed Youth Hostel touring.

She occasionally served teas at club events and then, at the age of about 30, was taught the skills needed to become a timekeeper.

JOHN ROBERTSON

1922 – 2017

It is with deep regret that the SVTTA reports the loss of John - a National Hon Life member since 2001, after a lengthy period of failing health. John joined the Group in 1976 and remained a staunch supporter of the Group and cycling on the whole.

Before entering the car sales business in Glasgow, he had formed his own cycling club, Team Milano, and a cycle shop where he produced his own brand of bike (the Milano), after which he joined the Regent CC. As to the Italian reference of his bike and team, it alluded to John's keen interest in continental and local road racing, in which he met with considerable success; an aspect he continued to pursue when he moved to mainland Spain in later years.

Having moved to Monte Alto, Benalmadena area of Spain, he was to prove a great friend to many of the cycling fraternity, and more so the members of the Regent CC who were notable by their annual visits to John's home where they, and others, were treated to barbecues and meals by his late wife Gina.

John's party piece was to take two of the visiting friends along with close friend, the late Hugh Donald, in his light aircraft for a short flight to give them an aerial view of Gibraltar. However, before taking off from Malaga Airport the two guests were each issued with the proverbial "sick bag" as his flight path included a few loop the loops over his home before heading over the mountain tops to pass over Ronda. Needless to say the journey over the mountains was not without a great deal of turbulence, which was oft-times the reason many never saw Gibraltar, as turbulence of a more personal nature prevailed!

After the loss of his wife John returned home to take up residence in Ardrossan, where he continued to enjoy his cycling and the company of friends with his companion Dorothy until the onset of his failing health.

The committee offer, and I am sure when others learn of this sad occasion, also offer their very sincere condolences to Dot.

GRAHAM MORRIS

At rest 9th April 2017 aged 84

Let's remember Graham, from his birth and throughout his life,
How he overcame adversity and how he met his wife.
He didn't have an easy start, he was born with a twisted knee,
But it never held him back, as soon you all will see.

A clever lad and practical, to grammar school he went,
Then he joined the Coal Board, a mining surveyor his intent.
He told of riding off to work, through snow six inches thick,
The only tracks were Graham's bike, but he'd still get there double quick.

At twenty-four he left the pit, to Morris Brothers he did go,
His Dad and Uncle Harry used to run the show
After ups and downs the company soon took an upward turn
And Graham he enjoyed his role and engineering he did learn.

But let's not get ahead too soon, let's return to his younger life,
His Dad took Graham dancing, where Graham met his wife.
Mavis Cooper went along, and as the story goes,
Graham made a big impression - he kept treading on her toes.

Three daughters quickly followed, through good times and through strife
Somehow he crammed in everything, Morris Brothers, kids and wife.

But Graham had another love, an addiction he never beat,
It involved a frame, dropped handlebars and a bloody un-comfy seat.

Graham rode like no one else, single minded in his aim
And Best All Rounder many times, an Altrincham Ravens he became.
A multiple Best All Rounder, but then committee work soon called
Manchester DC, then Nationally as Chairman he was installed.

ten years at the top, a respected man, with that same determination,
He took retirement gracefully and if you believe that explanation.

Graham turned to another sport and a golfer he became
For Mavis and those at Astbury, life would never be the same.

America, Spain, wherever it was, if there was a course they'd play
And once again that Graham grit would often win the day.

Mr Captain, Senor Captain and other names I can't mention here
Whether work or cycling or playing golf he did it without fear.

It's true he was single minded, but he never failed a task
If you wanted help from Graham you only had to ask.
Some plumbing or some wiring, a computer fault, no problems
He had a talent for everything, whether big or little jobs.

On Friday 7th April Graham's adrenalin tanks were full
His new handicap of 21 was like a red rag to a bull.
He shot a round of 86, blew away those handicap blues
He played just like a man possessed, he even hit two twos.

So there we have it people, Grahams life in a proclamation
His popularity and his legacy need no further explanation.

Look around as you are gathered here, to say a last adieu
And I'll close by saying Graham, you bugger, we are going to miss you

By Graham's son in law, John Robinson.

GORDON PICKERING

Gordon was National Secretary of the VTTA for ten years from 1997 and also served on the committee of VTTA Manchester & NW Group from 1995 to 2007.

I first met Gordon at a Stretford Wheelers club night in October 1954. Then on the following Sunday I went on my first club run; this was 63 years ago and yet there are six members from that ride still with us today. Soon afterwards Gordon, who was a sheet metal worker, suffered an accident at work and although he recovered, the long term problems from his injuries were no doubt responsible for his lack of mobility in later life.

The Stretford Wheelers were known as a family club and Gordon and each of his four sisters followed both their parents into membership. His father Tom was a keen racing member for the club 90 years ago. Gordon joined in 1951 and was awarded life membership in 1972.

He was junior and then senior champion and raced in time trials from hill climbs through all distances to 12 hours; he also participated in road and track races.

It was on one of our many touring holidays that we celebrated his 21st birthday in Devon. However, on his return home his National Service "call up" papers were waiting for him. This meant a couple of years off the bike but he did get to travel, as he spent most of his time as a military policeman stationed in Hong Kong. He certainly took his duties seriously; once, when back in England, he booked a fellow cyclist from a rival club for being improperly dressed for not wearing a uniform.

Racing took a back seat once Colin and Tracy were born, but cycling certainly didn't. With sidecars and a specially adapted tandem he was soon leading the club runs with all his family. He also took on the work of running the club. He served many years in various posts such as Captain, General Secretary, Racing Secretary and President. Cycling in the late 60s and early 70s lost popularity and yet through the efforts of both Gordon and Maureen and their policy of recruiting young members, Stretford Wheelers survived and remained a successful club until cycling in general became more popular again. They certainly deserve a great deal of credit for the fact that we are now in our 98th year.

Lack of mobility meant that Gordon was unable to ride as much and as often as he would have liked. Having always been keen on expressing his opinion he turned to putting more time into serving on local committees and promoting events for others to enjoy. He was a delegate to the CTT, North West Cycling Forum, British Cycling, Trafford Sports Council and many others and last year was elected President of the Manchester & District Time Trials Association. The wall of the living room in their house is covered with certificates of appreciation from the various bodies supported.

As a popular member of so many organisations, Gordon was one to whom you could pass on your views on how things could be improved. He had dabbled in timing our club races, then decided to take up timekeeping at a higher level. He went on to become a most popular and respected timekeeper in the area and timed events including National Championships further afield.

Earlier this year I went with him to The Christies Hospital where he had an appointment with his consultant regarding a new form of cancer treatment. The procedure was monthly injections and the possible side effects were discussed in great detail. The consultant then asked Gordon if he had any questions. "Yes," said Gordon, "whilst undergoing this treatment can I still carry on timekeeping?". That is how much it meant to him.

Always a cyclist, when in his car he wanted to be out on the open roads, or should I say the narrow lanes. Never one to take the shortest route he opted for the quietist and more picturesque journeys, distance was never a consideration. Recently he told us how they went out for a loaf and bought it in Chester - a round trip of some 60 miles. It goes without saying that he will be sorely missed by the family in particular, but also by so many others amongst the cycling fraternity. But you can be sure of one thing, he made sure he will never be forgotten.

Trevor Bracegirdle.

AROUND THE GROUPS

EAST ANGLIA

Mary Horsnell reminisces

The season is nearly over, and what a season it has been! There was a time when events in the RTTC handbook were set in stone and that was known as "The Bible", but now events have to be abandoned, cancelled and moved to other courses, often at short notice. Officials are kept on their toes trying, usually successfully, to cope with all this and everyone should be grateful to them, with no moaning.

The London East District Committee of CTT have reviewed the traffic conditions on the A14. Next year there will be no Saturday afternoon events on E2 from Spring Bank Holiday weekend to the first weekend in September, they must be moved to early Sunday mornings or to elsewhere. Events can be run in East or London North CTT Districts (B or F courses).

New organisers are also needed to replace those retiring, which may mean changes to the planned programme to suit the new volunteers. Eric Angell has run the circuit 25 on E33/25 for a number of years in a very efficient manner, while Paul Hirst has dealt with the 25 and 50 (both on E2 courses) very ably, but is about to move north. These two will be difficult to replace. It is hoped that the time trials programme will not have to be reduced.

If you would like to organise one of these events, please contact John Golder our TT secretary ASAP, as the details have to be into CTT by the beginning of September. If we cannot get organisers for these events, they will be dropped from the calendar for 2018; any new organiser can rely on the depth of experience within the Group to help them through their first year.

More changes among key officials indicate the breakup of the well established team, which during this century has worked hard to steer the EA Group to its present level of membership and fame.

All this time Tony Clarke has acted as Group Recorder, which is a very busy role as records continue to fall. He has also been responsible for collecting trophies and awards and for engraving, as well as preparing everything for the prize giving. Last year he was also MC in the absence of Mick Gambling, which was possibly a step too far. His wife Sue, always an unofficial helper, two years ago took over the role of Age Records Secretary and this formidable partnership, have carried on the good work, which has included cleaning the large number of cups and shields and housing those left on the table unclaimed - do some people feel guilty? In addition they have not neglected their marshalling duties, but would now like more time for their touring abroad.

Group Secretary and membership responsibility has been that of Merv Player, who has steered the ship through troubled waters, but he has warned that he will need to be replaced at the end of this year. Webmaster Charles Willets has also dropped out, sadly he and his wife have resigned from the Group.

Thanks are due to all these folk, who have become good friends over the years. With both the Chairman and Treasurer already in situ the time has come to add more fresh faces.

Meanwhile new members continue to flow in. We welcome: Graham Laws (Ipswich BC), David Crisp, Barry Mc Donald, Gary Pamment (all Velo Schills Interbike RT), Gray Turnock and Cheryl Smith, Neal Marrin (all Finsbury Park CC) - ex lapsed, John Pugh (Godric CC), Jonathan Puleston-Jones (Dulwich Paragon, Stephen Hitchcock (CC Sudbury), Sam Wightman (Chelmer CC), Stuart & Jackie Field (CC Ashwell), Paul Lilley, Steve & Lindsay Clarke (all Fenland Clarion), Gary Boyd (Hub Velo), Anthony Cork (St Ives CC), Anthony Holden, John Bonnyhood, David Carey (all Maldon & District CC), Rob Stephenson (Southborough & District Wh), Mark &

Jennifer Smart (VC Norwich), Tina Reid (Trainsharp), Trevor Roberts, David Sawyer (both Wolsey RC), Paul Sewell, Mark Valios (both Bigfoot CC)

News of HLM's - Pete Baumber, off for some time following his accident, has been seen around events with his timekeeping relatives. Despite wrecking his new bike he could not resist having another go - you can't keep a good man down! Eric Marsh is still in good humour despite now suffering "only" restricted movement in his neck, after his serious accident. Llewelyn Ranson, our oldest member will celebrate his 100th birthday on 28 November. Group greetings will be sent, but if anyone wishes to convey their congratulations, his address is that of his daughter Anne - Toux Farm, Mintlaw, Peterhead, AB42 4LX.

2017 has been a strange year and not a happy one for the Chelmer CC, in danger of losing their HQ in Chelmsford in their 70th year to make room for 300+ dwellings.

Jo Butcher travelled to Wales for the National 25 with her friend and neighbour Sue Triplow, who has had such a great season, and afterwards came off descending a hill and hit a tree. She has fractured both her shoulders, cheek bones, lower skull and has 15 stitches in her face, but is now back home. Hopefully her superb fitness as a fitness instructor will aid her recovery. The previous day Graham Painter, who after such a great 100 improvement, was knocked down near home returning from a training ride by a driver who was watching the vehicle behind in his mirror! Graham is recovering but his injuries prevented him starting the 12. Therefore the President's Cup (for 50/100/12), presented by the Hon. Maynard Greville in 1951, will go unclaimed for the first time ever since being presented in 1951.

The ECCA 12 has long been the event of the year. Previously in Essex, the course has since moved further afield, thus losing support from the East London clubs for marshalling. The close proximity of the Breckland 12 creamed off some of the faster riders, who thought that their course was faster than the untried

ECCA one. Some had obviously entered both as an insurance, which must have accounted for 20 non-starters in the National, but only 7 DNF's. DNF's included Sandy Wallace, who ended up in hospital after being hit by a wing mirror, very unfortunate when he had travelled from Dundee.

Entrants had come from every point of the compass and entering the HQ it was difficult to spot a local, until the timekeeper came in, all the old familiar faces, what should we do without them and all the other helpers?

The result took some sorting out, but there were four over 300 miles and seven women over 250 miles with mileages which, not so long ago, would have graced a men only event. General opinion was that the new course was an improvement but the slower riders found it rather hard going, especially those who had to ride at least 15 miles back to HQ. As the hall emptied the ubiquitous Dave Nock was setting out to collect the remainder of the signs he had put out the night before. This job and the marshalling could surely have been undertaken by another party - or even the CTT. Only Dave knows what mileage he covered for the event, which was his last promotion of the ECCA 12. How well he has done!

Our Time Trial Secretary John Golder has had a difficult year, but he and his partner Chris Holmes can be relied on to deal with any situation with aplomb. A big test came in the National 25, when police closed the road following a serious accident to a competitor, causing the abandonment of the event. John has arranged another date and hopefully this one will be free of incidents.

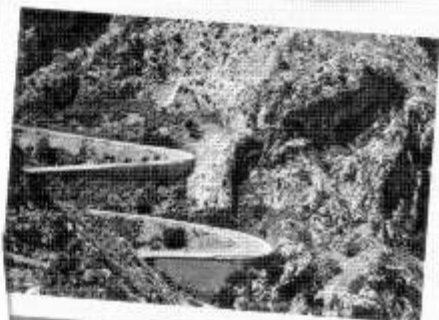
Looking ahead, the date of the AGM, lunch and prize presentation is 26 November, at the Holiday Inn, Ipswich. Considering the size of our Group we hope for good support, as does our long serving organiser Ian Mackenzie, a capable and cheery fellow, aided and abetted enormously by his wife Vivienne.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the group, to congratulate National Secretary Rachael Elliott, not only for her personal achievements, but those of her team,

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crowned by the wonderful new 12 hour record by Alice Lethbridge. Ours was the check point she passed at Six mile Bottom, with 20 minutes in hand to beat Beryl Burton's famous ride. Bystanders could not believe what they were seeing!

I well remember that day in 1967. Beryl had kindly invited me to stay , if I wanted to ride in Yorkshire. Having reviewed the course I found it rather complicated for a stranger and feared that I might get lost, so I opted for the Oldbury 12 that day, which was nearer. This was won by June Pitchford, whose 254 miles ride was completely overlooked when Beryl's new record was published. It was after 7pm when I finished in hail and darkness. In pouring rain I changed in a bus shelter and we started for home in our old Morris Traveller. No dual carriageways then, we got back after midnight and I was up again at 4.30am, cycled to work and did my 12 mile post round as usual - those were the days..... DNS was a disgrace, DNF even more so.....

Pardon the reminiscences.

KENT

Ian Turner

We all wish Simon Henderson of Thant RC a full and speedy recovery after he was in an accident during the VTTA National 25 mile Championship. Simon was taken to Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge with serious injuries but is now at home making progress towards recovery.

Our thoughts are also with:-

Graham Orchard (San Fairy Ann) currently in Pembury Hospital recovering from surgery;

Clive Bradburn (San Fairy Ann); at home and back on his feet - if not his bike yet - following a hip replacement; and Martin Derham (Southborough Wheelers); at home and back on his bike following a knee replacement.

Results and comments on the Group's events since the last edition follow.

The Group's 25 on 18 June held on the Q25/8 course for the Aubrey Sheather Shield saw Andrew Meilak, who is enjoying a brilliant season, win with a plus of 14:51. Andrew was also first vet on scratch with 53:23. Simon Henderson was second with +12:49, Lawrence Martin third with +11:38, Gary Grayland fourth with +11:08 and John Osborn fifth with +10:42. Team honours went to Thanet RC: Simon Henderson and Lawrence Martin with +24:17.

Next event up was our 10 mile championship event on 2 July on Q10/30. This saw a tie for first place - Bronwen Ewing and Kevin Tye with +6:36. Third went to Andrew Meilak with +6:03, fourth was Nick Dwyer with +5:53 and fifth was Simon Henderson with +5:19. First team prize, and with it the Ernie McMillan Team 25 Shield, went to Velorefined Aerosmiths - Kevin Tye and Andrew Meilak - with +12:39. First vet on scratch was also Kevin with 20:33 and fastest lady vet was Bronwen Ewing with 22:22. So Bronwen and Kevin are our joint 10 mile champions this year - not sure that we've ever had joint champions before but someone will tell me if I'm wrong no doubt!

The 50 mile championship event for the Peter Philppott cup held on Q50/11 on 16 July was won by Andrew Meilak with +33:13. Andrew was also fastest vet on scratch with 1:47:14. Nick Wilson (+29:08), Carl Ferri (+26:09), Chris Bax (+23:36) and Huck Garip (+23:29) filled the other medal slots. First vet lady on scratch was Jane Wiley with 2:13:45. The team prize was taken by Dulwich Paragon CC (Carl Ferri and Christopher O'Hearn) with +47:59.

The 10 mile event on Q10/1 held on 22 July 2017 was won by Bronwen Ewing (+6:24), with Andrew Meilk (+6:20), Matt Kuwertz (+5:37), John Osborn (+5:17) and Mark Vowells (+5:10) filling the other medal spots. First vet on scratch was Andrew Meilak with 20:30, and first team was PMR@Toachim House with Chris Bax and Bob Giles (+8:47).

Finally, it is with great sadness that we report the passing of John W Smith from West Kent Road Club. John was a very successful long distance time triallist, especially in 12 and 24 hour events. He also served his club loyally

and enthusiastically in numerous roles. John will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

LONDON & HOME COUNTIES

John Hoskins

A shadow fell over the L&HC's promotions this summer in our ten on the F11 on July 19th when Ray Dare of the Kingston Phoenix was run down from behind by a van. Despite the efforts of first aiders at the scene and later the attendance of the air ambulance he died at the scene. The event was abandoned of course and money that would have gone to prizes and many of the marshals will be directed to a charity of Ray's family's choice. Further donations are welcomed, please contact John Hoskins (Group Secretary & Treasurer) for details. Geoff Perry attended the funeral on the Group's behalf.

This was a poor reward for the huge efforts put into this event and the two other mid-season, mid-week events by our novice organiser and group Chairman, David Guy. Whether this will affect our 2018 event promotions has yet to be decided by the committee.

Following the successful Bank Holiday 10 promotion by Geoff Perry (reported in the last issue) we ran the first of the two tens on the H10/2 course at Knowl Hill. Road works threatened the running of the event right up to that afternoon; thanks to the Wokingham Borough Council workmen who worked through their lunch hour to clear the roadworks before the event. Despite being David's first promotion the organisation was faultless and rewarded by a field of over fifty riders, including 32 L&HC members. Keith Murray (Drag2Zero) was both fastest (19:51) and best on standard (+6:18) with the only ride under 20 minutes. Group members Liam Maybank and Martin Winter of the Twickenham won the team award with +5:53 (20:30) and +4:48 (22:11) respectively. Fastest lady on standard was Danuta Tinn (Maidenhead) with +5:24 (23:29) and fastest actual time by a lady was by Melanie Sneddon (TORQ Performance) with 23:25 (+4:43).

Other group members' results were: Jeff Roberts 22:09 (+4:45); Stuart Auckland 21:26 (+4:43); Rod MacFadyen 22:44 (+4:30); Claire Emons 24:33 (+4:10); Nicolas Stagg 22:19 (+4:08); John Dowling 23:31 (+4:07); Gillian Reynolds 27:03 (+3:58); Geoff Perry 23:34 (+3:46); Alan Allcock 24:13 (+3:38); James Churchard 22:29 (+3:30); Jo Payne 26:43 (+3:08); Tim Fowler 23:42 (+3:08); John Beer 25:43 (+2:40); Pete Cookson 25:52 (+2:31); Gary Martin 24:56 (+2:30); Dave Marshall 24:29 (+2:25); Richard Burton 25:54 (+1:57); Bryce Taylor 26:04 (+1:47); John Payne 26:52 (+1:31); Peter Warwick 25:05 (+1:27); Tony Flynn 25:02 (+1:16); Hilary Walker 29:24 (+0:50); Brian James 33:53 (+0:27); Richard Bennett 27:11 (-0:39); Les Gardner 29:49 (-0:47); Brian Moon 30:09 (-0:55); Philip Burgin 29:07 (-1:01); Rosslyn Young 33:19 (-1:15)

This was followed by the cancelled F11 event on 19th July, then only 3 weeks later David's third promotion (again on the H10/2) took place. This event is always popular amongst group members as although it's an open event it is restricted to VTTA members and has a definite "club" atmosphere. Ian Greenstreet of the Newbury (and the L & HC group) was fastest rider with a 21:04 and he also won the best on standard with +5:55, narrowly beating Phil Watts(+5:37) of the North Hants who was also second fastest. Ian completed a trio of awards by sharing the club team award with fellow Newbury member Cliff Voller (+3:04). Gill Reynolds (Willesden) was both the second fastest woman with a 26:13 and best on standard with +4:48. Joy Payne of the Amersham RCC beat husband John by two minutes with the fastest ride by a woman, recording 25:18 (+4:33). There were 20 L&HC Group members in this event.

Other group members' results were; Alan Allcock 22:53 (+4:58); Rod MacFadyen 22:34 (+4:40); John Sullivan 22:26 (+4:33); Michael Garvey 22:57 (+3:53); Matt J Smith 22:20 (+3:44); Geoff Perry 23:38 (+3:42); Peter Stainer 23:28 (+3:41); Gary Martin 24:25 (+3:01); Michelle Ayres 27:36 (+1:56); Gary Blundell 27:20 (+1:49); John Payne 27:11 (+1:21); Tony Flynn 25:02 (+1:16); Philip

Burgin 27:58 (+0:16); Les Gardner 28:59 (+0:03); Gill Morgan 29:37 (-0:05); Brian Moon 29:45 (-0:31); Rosslyn Young 34:22 (-2:18)

Our last promotion this season will be the Rocco 25 on October 1st on the ski-slope course at Marlow. Promoted by another novice organiser, Tim Childs of the Westerley, we look forward to finishing the season with a large entry. Just in case you read this before the event, offers of help welcomed by Tim (tmc164@yahoo.co.uk) or John Hoskins (07717 086 689). The committee would like to thank all of the volunteers that marshal/time and generally assist in our events year after year. As most readers already know we try to award all marshals/helpers with at least a ticket to the January prize giving luncheon, and for the bigger events monetary awards are given to those helping.

And so to open events with group members' results. Information provided by Geoff Perry.

In the National RTTC 100 Championship a notable ride from Jill Bartlett (Hounslow & District), taking the London West DC award with 5:11:49. Katja Rietdorf not only led the Born To Bike –Bridgtown Cycles ladies team to the team award with her 4:08:54, but won her age group award as well.

In the RTTC/VTTA National 12 hour Championship the big news was that Beryl Burton's 50 year old national record was finally beaten, by Alice Lethbridge with 285.645 miles. For group members, once again Katja Rietdorf was our star. Successfully defending her women's title won last year, with a small increase to her mileage to 258.508, setting a new group record. Katja won on standard with +72.588 and also (with Lynn Biddulph +67.845) won the club team for Born To Bike. She also helped John Lacey and Daren Austin to the group team award with a total plus of 211.930. John also set a new group age record with +269.637 (+73.687m).

Kevin Stokes and Geoff Perry have been riding the tandem with mixed success but still setting L&HC age records. On the B15/1 in July they set a group record of 32:23 for 54/57 year olds.

They then twice travelled to Hull and back to ride the famous V718 course but without favourable weather conditions. The first time they were only a few seconds off a national age record but nonetheless set a group record with 19:51 for 54/57 years. A couple of weeks later they were up there again, a year older on aggregate, again achieving a group record of 21:17, including a delay with an unshipped chain for 55/57 years old.

In the first 100 of the year, the North Norfolk Wheelers, Katja was best on standard overall, not a common happening for a woman to win best on standard overall, particularly in a 100. Katja set an L&HC group age record but subsequently beat it with her sub 4 ride in the recent E2/100 event where she was second fastest woman and set a national age record - only the second woman vet to go sub 4 hour and she now heads the list with astonishing 3:55:15.

In the RTTC National 50 Liam Maybank was eighth overall and fastest vet. Katja was ninth fastest overall and won her age group ('band') (RTTC does it in 5 year intervals).

So it seems that the London & Home Counties group is in fine form, seemingly not suffering from the huge change in administration. Although Jim Burgin left a huge hole it has been mostly filled, although Jim has hardly vanished as he's provided start and result sheets and been a huge help to our new novice group of organisers. His presence at the other end of a phone (or email) has been extremely helpful – particularly to David Guy (our new chairman and multi organiser) and John Hoskins (new secretary and treasurer). The committee has attracted some new members during the season in David Devine (Bath Road Club) and Paul Marchant (Amersham CC) – both very welcome.

There will be a motion on the AGM agenda suggesting the installation of the post of Group President. Possibly not too difficult finding a suitable candidate! There may also be a motion proposing a small rise in subscription fees. It may come as a surprise to many group members but we (the L & HC group) keep very little of the £12 received, as £10 is forwarded directly to the national VTTA

organisation. With the costs of promoting events rising steadily (for example the HQ for our F11/10 events costs nearly £500) we need to remain financially viable.

The AGM will once again be held at the Great Missenden Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden, HP16 9AE on 19th November starting at 10.30am. The hall will be open by 9.45 and refreshments will be available. There's not too much danger of members being elected to official positions against their wishes but new committee members do help in spreading the load a little! Please make an effort to attend.

MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST

Jim Ogden

The obituary of Graham Morris in this edition is, like Graham, unique in that it is written in rhyme. It was written and read at his funeral by their eldest son in law, John Robinson, and it was given to me by Mavis, Graham's wife of 63 years.

Following the early season 10s and 25s, the longer events began on May 27th with the Warrington RC Harry Barker Memorial 50, with David Wright as event secretary. It also incorporated our Group 50. Like most events today the majority of riders were vets – as were half of the 24 who finished under two hours! Older vets may remember a radio comedy programme from the 1940s and 50s, with Tommy Handley - "It's that Man Again" (ITMA). Well, it could well apply to our most regular winner and it was Charles Taylor (Team Bottrill) again, with his 1:45:50 being five seconds faster than last year. He beat no less a personality than Andy Wilkinson (Port Sunlight Whs), who recorded 1:48:45 and had the best plus of +32:36. Fastest rider from our group was Adrian Hughes (Seamons CC), placed tenth with 1:53:54 with a plus of +25:40, which was the Group Best on Standard. Other local Vets amongst the 72 finishers include Phil Robinson (Janus RC) 2:00:23; Steve Hankey (Warrington RC) 2:01:57; Stephen l'Anson (Buxton CC) 2:10:15 and Liz Matheson (Leigh Premier RC) 2:13:38.

Predictably the actual fastest lady was Jill Wilkinson (Chester RC) 2:03:35.

The Manchester & District TTA 100, the only event at this distance in our area, was held on Sunday 2nd July and I can do no better than quote promoter Dave Fearon's view of it given on the finishing sheet - held under excellent conditions. The 16 non-starters and 18 non-finishers from the high entry of 96 missed out on a good result. The area record of 3:45:11, which was set in the 1994 National Championship 100 by Geoff Platts, was destroyed by Mark Nulty (Glossop Kinder Velo) in 3:39:21 and also beaten by Charles Taylor with 3:44:14. Bearing in mind that the National Championship was held on much quicker roads using a lot of dual carriageways, Mark's average speed 27.33 mph takes some believing on our sporting roads. Six riders beat four hours, which is unprecedented in Cheshire. Jill Wilkinson's 4:25:38 was also very quick, giving her over 11 minutes margin over novice 100 miler Deborah Moss (Chorley CC), who could be proud of her 4:47:01. It was also good to see a junior, Thom Hughes (Pro Vision Cycle Clothing), having a go at the century with a very respectable 4:58:32.

Personally, I was with timekeeper Ian Ross and phoned results through to headquarters. Fastest M&D rider on standard was Adrian Hughes with 3:58:00 (+58:36) and he wins the Nick Carter trophy. He was backed by team mates Alan Chorley and Ronan Cualaen to win the South Lancashire Team Shield for the Seamons CC. Group member Ian Holbrooke (Stone Whs) was placed 7th in 4:00:18; Alan Chorley was placed 9th in 4:00:41 and other local Vets include Jim Duffy (Weaver Valley) 4:18:09; Alistair Stanway (Weaver Valley) 4:19:24; Nathan Turnbull (Leigh Premier RC) 4:22:55; Liz Matheson 4:41:55; Robbie Harcourt (Salford CC) 4:49:51, Edgar Reynolds (Born to Bike-Bridgetown) 5:07:48 and Paul Jennings (Lyme RC) 6:04:14.

The following weekend Ian Ross promoted the Nova CC 25 incorporating the Manchester & NW VTTA 25. It was another fast event with four riders beating 54 minutes, led by Tony Cullen (Tri Central UK) in 53:15. Our two fastest vets were

Darrian Maironis (Velotic Racing Team), fourth in 53:57, and fifth was Adrian Hughes 54:51. On standard the placings were reversed, with Adrian +13:11 and ahead of Darren's +12:54. Alan Chorley was third on standard with 54:57 (+12:18). Other local vets who finished include Nathan Turnbull, 56:53; Nige Wood (Vision Racing) 57:08; Mostyn Bullock (Buxton CC) 57:32; Steve Hankey (Warrington RC) 59:17; Robbie Harcourt 1:01:03; Stephen l'Anson 1:03:29; Mike Cotgreave (Westmead Team 88) 1:04:25; Roger Wrenn (Maccelsfield Whs) 1:05:32; Paul Jennings 1:07:24 and David Steele (Lyme RC) 1:16:29.

Our last Group event, a 25, was incorporated in the Seamons event held on Saturday 29th July. Roadworks during the week had luckily cleared by the Saturday for yet another fast event. Winner on the day was regular visitor David Crawley (Velotic RT) in 51:52. Of the 35 beating the hour 21 were Vets. The Group's fastest finisher was Darren Maironis placed third in 53:39 (+13:12) and Adrian Hughes our second fastest placed seventh in 55:20 (+12:42). Comparing their plusses in this event and the Nova, they were very close but the sum had Darren 13 seconds to the good so he will be the Group 25 mile champion. Seamons won the fastest team with Adrian, Alan Chorley and Chris Siepen in 2:47:58. Other local veterans include Alan Chorley 55:50; Nige Wood 57:31; Mostyn Bullock; Dan Mathers (Seamons CC) 57:59; Phil Robinson (Janus RC) 59:20; Steven l'Anson 1:02:59; Mike Cotgreave 1:05:03; Rob Bailey (Cheshire RC) 1:10:08; Mike Wolstenholme (Macclesfield Whs) 1:16:38 and David Steel 1:18:59.

I have been the Group's correspondent for almost 40 years, long before mobile phones and computers. I will be 88 before the season starts next year and have not raced myself since turning 80. It was easier when racing myself to gather news, not so now. I rely on promoters such as Dave Fearon and David Wright to send me the finishing sheets. I am hoping at the AGM that some budding reporter may volunteer to take over.

The AGM will be held on Sunday November 12th at Goostrey Village Hall and a fortnight later the

Group Luncheon and Prize Presentation will be held at Middlewich Masonic Hall, Sunday 26th November. Tony Farrell, "Lealtad", Bookledge Lane, Addlington SK10 4JU, 01625 820210 has taken over from Helen Gresty and will be lunch organiser, although the ticket price is yet to be fixed. Jim Gresty is back in hospital in Newcastle, Staffs, with Helen visiting daily from Market Drayton, so Tony has also taken over from her as treasurer.

57 riders could face the time keeper in the local 12 hour tomorrow (20th August) but news of that and our BAR winners must wait until next time.

MERSEYSIDE

Geoff Edgerton

First of all, I think you will all be pleased, no, delighted, that since the last magazine I have not been on any cycling holidays or trips, which limits my contribution to *The Veteran*. At least from your point of view, this stops me from boring you.

I've got a bit of a void at this moment in time so what better than to update the results for the Mersey Group Events. It's a bit of a miserable day, well a typical English type of day, one minute lovely sunshine, then next minute dark clouds and then raining - a day off from training, so let's get the laptop out and update the results. We don't have a secretary at the moment so I'm taking on a bit more than I should do, but that doesn't matter, somebody has to do it. Anyhow, a couple of hours later, done and dusted, I am ahead of the game. I can relax now, can't think of anything else, I may have made the odd mistake in the standards, hopefully I haven't, but if so somebody will quickly tell me.

What to do now? Hang on, the Mersey Vets article for *The Veteran* magazine is due in a few weeks time. I'll make a start on it, never done it this early before, now I am really ahead of the game and I haven't even had the e mail reminder off Mike Penrice. Time to turn the computer off, but first I will check if there are any emails. Log in only to find that I have an e mail from Mike Penrice reminding that the

Mersey contribution to *The Veteran* is due in three weeks time. I am thinking to myself, this chap is still pretty keen. But he must be making a lasting impression on me, this is the first time I have started my this early. As Arthur Winstanley would say when he's telling one of his anecdotes, this is a true story.

The VTTA 100 mile championship was incorporated in the Anfield Bicycle Club's time trial and as a contribution we help with the marshalling duties. For my sins, I spent two hours on the Espley roundabout fulfilling my obligations. It's not that bad really, I know that nobody really wants to do it, but, nevertheless, without this commitment, there wouldn't be a race. But with three laps of the finishing circuit, I can gauge the efforts of the riders competing. There were six Mersey vets competing with Port Sunlight Wheelers Kevin Larmer fastest with a time of 4:14:34 (+37:58). However Arthur Winstanley was best on standard with a plus of 50:29 and actual of 4:18:20. Neil Jones (Port Sunlight Whs), a newcomer to the vets ranks, put in a good effort of 4:24:37 (+28:56) with Mid Shropshire Wheelers' John Robertson, in his first attempt at this distance, recording 4:56:18 (+15:42). Birkenhead Vic's Ian Casson just managed to break five hours with 4:59:12 (+16:21) with Oswestry Paragon's Helen Tudor, a regular participant of this event recording, 5:07:51 (+10:14).

There are a couple of group events to report on. Remembering we operate a one member one prize with the standard as the premier. The second Group event, the West Cheshire 30 mile time trial was held in early May on the Prees-Espley course and had a healthy thirteen members competing. It was pleasing to see four lady members in the mix. North Shropshire Wheelers' Richard Kay was again fastest posting a time of 1:09:16 (+10:53) for which he wins the John Lucas Trophy. He was pushed pretty hard by Port Sunlight Wheeler Kevin Larmer who finished an agonising one second adrift in 1:09:17 (+11:37). A newcomer to the VTTA ranks, Luke Vallance (Wrexham RC) was third fastest with 1:09:51 and again a healthy plus of 11:03 on standard. Chester RC rider Ian Hawkins keeps putting in consistent

rides, this time posting 1:15:56 (+5:56). Mid Shropshire Wheelers' John Robertson finished in 1:16:46 (+8:54) and the MSW husband and wife team of Dave and Jenny York were the next two to finish. Whilst Dave was a little quicker with 1:18:32 (+7:08), it was Jenny who took the honours and claimed the George Hayes Trophy with the best standard of plus 11:51 and a time of 1:19:33. A regular supporter of group events, Birkenhead Vics' Ian Casson produced a personal best time of 1:19:37 (+6:51) with another newcomer to the Vets ranks, Janet Fairclough (St Helens CRC) recording 1:20:27 and a healthy plus of 9:57. North Shropshire Wheeler Dave Wilson recorded a time of 1:21:20, for an impressive plus of 11:44 which was second best on the day. Liverpool Phoenix's Rachel Mayers was yet another making her mark as a newcomer recording 1:22:05 (+4:09) with Helen Tudor (Oswestry Paragon) finishing in 1:24:18 (+3:50).

The next group event was the Chester RC 25 mile time trial. Held in early June, there were nine members competing. Kevin Larmer got his hands on the Colin Rutter Cup as fastest with a time of 58:27 and a plus of 8:48, which was second fastest standard on the day. However Jenny York claimed the WJ Smith Rose Bowl for best standard with a plus of 10:22 and actual time of 1:01:21. Port Sunlight Wheeler Neil Jones, competing in his first vets event, was second fastest with a time 59:04 (+8:34). Ian Hawkins was next rider home in 1:01:45 (+5:05) with Liverpool Phoenix's Sakib Shamas recording 1:03:21 (+3:18). Another newcomer to the group, Jeff Mace of Chester RC, produced a good effort of 1:04:32 (+4:07) whilst Janet Fairclough's time of 1:06:57 (+7:56) got the better of Ian Cassons' effort of 1:05:50 (+3:46). The field was completed by Rachel Mayers who put in a good ride of 1:08:24 (+3:19).

The West Cheshire 10 mile time trial was held up at St Asaph on the D 10/15 and had fourteen Mersey Vets competing. Kevin Larmer continued his rich vein of form, claiming the Ron Yates Trophy as fastest with a time of 21:24 (+5:03). Andy Hazell (Mid Shropshire Wheelers) took the Leo Madden



The Old Forge

B & B and Holiday Barn, Knockin

The Old Forge Bed and Breakfast and Holiday Barn
Knockin, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 8HQ
Telephone: 01691 682024 or Mobile 07828 663615
www.oldforgeknockin.co.uk
e-mail: enquiries@oldforgeknockin.co.uk

The Old Forge B and B
Rated 4 Star by Shropshire Tourism



A warm and friendly atmosphere greets all guests to The Old Forge Bed and Breakfast, Knockin, which offers two twin en-suite bedrooms and one double/family room with en-suite. We pride ourselves on our full English breakfast using local produce. We offer a menu service so that guests can choose their own breakfasts. Wi-fi is available free of charge.

"Excellent in every way. Thank you very much". Victoria, Australia

Please visit our website and view our Customers' Comments section.

The Old Forge Self-Catering Holiday Barn
Rated 4 Star by Cottages4You



In the garden of The Old Forge house stands the beautiful barn with south-facing views which is fully furnished and is let on a self-catering basis. It sleeps 4 guests. From the afternoon patio you are able to enjoy the use of the built-in barbecue with views of the local farmer's field where sheep, lambs and cattle are often seen.

"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.

Trophy for best on standard with a plus of 5:40 (actual time 23:22). Richard Kay was second fastest with 21:42 (+22:03) with Luke Vallance next in 22:03 (+4:24). Neil Jones produced a good ride of 23:06 (+3:30) and Frodsham Wheelers' John Flynn, making a first appearance in a group event, was good enough for sixth fastest in 23:51 (+3:53). There was another consistent ride from Ian Hawkins in 24:25 (+2:16) with a really good ride from Ian Casson to finish in 24:49 and a plus of 3:17. The next three were making their first appearances of the season in a group event with Ian Corrin (Port Sunlight Whs) recording 24:59 (+3:00), Martin Sturge (Graham Weigh Racing) with 25:08 (+1:37) and George Aldridge (Birkenhead North End) with 25:07 (+3:07). Dave Wilson finished in 25:26 and a healthy plus of 4:41 with Helen Tudor, the only lady competing, recording 27:15 and a plus of 1:28.

Hope I haven't made any mistakes but if so I am sure you will let me know. Enjoy the rest of the season and stay safe.

NORTH

Gavin Russell with tales of woe!

Following my words in the last edition of the Veteran, where I stated I have nothing to report on injuries, I unfortunately have to report that this is not the case this time.

In late June, a number of group members whilst out on the usual Wednesday run to Catterick and back suffered a major accident. A large tractor towing a trailer, on passing them cut in, with the trailer hitting the lead rider and causing all 8 riders to crash. The front rider, Ted Scurr (Hartlepool CC & North Group), a prolific winner of group awards and who was the lead rider in the single line that had been formed when the tractor had been approaching, was the most seriously injured. He was unconscious at the scene, but recovered after a short time. Taken to hospital, he was identified as having a broken shoulder, which necessitated a period of confinement in hospital. Another of the riders, Martin Bourner, a group supporter, whilst receiving severe bruising and cuts that required hospital

treatment, was allowed home on the same day. However he had to return to hospital a week later with blood clots.

Both riders are slowly recovering, with Ted covering over 1000 miles on his turbo, with a specially constructed arm support, whilst Martin is still able to ride his bike. The driver of the tractor has been charged with dangerous driving.

On recovering from this terrible news, we were informed in early July of yet another couple of members being hit by a car. The incident happened following both Dave Herbert and Neil Stuart (both of Hartlepool CC and North Group) having completed a local club 10 mile time trial; they were riding home when hit by a car turning across their carriageway. Neil suffered serious bruising and cuts and was allowed home after hospital treatment. Thankfully, he has now resumed riding his bike. Unfortunately Dave's injuries were much more serious and he is still hospitalised as I write. He has numerous fractures throughout his body and has experienced serious breathing problems, which has necessitated him being placed in an induced coma for a number of weeks. It is hoped that he will make a good recovery, however I don't know whether his future will include riding a bike, never mind time trialling.

I am sure that the group members and other cyclists who know those involved, will wish them a full and speedy recovery.

With the season's events continuing, local riders have produced some excellent times, both locally and in other districts.

North Group events held since the publication of the last edition of the Veteran include:

Ruth Crosssley's North Group 10 mile time trial, (3rd June) held on the T104 Leeming course with 45 riders entering, and 32 VTTA members present. Best on Standard saw Yorkshire infiltrator, Brian Sunter win with a plus of 6:21. Local pride was saved by the next five places being taken by North Group members - Russell Richardson +5:49. Shaun Tyson +5:43, Gray Walker +4:55, Steve

Fullerton +4:49, Dave Robinson +4:47. Overall fastest rider was Shaun Tyson with 20:44.

Following the successful and very fast RTTC National 50 mile Time Trial Championship in late June, the Darlington CC/North Group 50 mile time trial held on the 13th August on the T502/3 saw nearly 80 riders entered. Of the 64 finishers, sadly only 20 were VTTA members. Fastest overall was non member Phil Graves (too young) with a time of 1:39:37 (30.115mph). Fastest on standard was Peter Greenwood with +41:52. Best North Group rider was Gary Hunt +29:18, with Steve Fullerton +28:13, Roy Burne +27:08, Alan Lang +24:28, Howard Heighton +23:49.

2017 group events still to come are:

Sunday 3 September - Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA North Group 25 on T252/3 organised by Gavin Russell.

Sunday 17 September – Hartlepool CC/VTTA North Group 25 on T252/3 organised by Paul Garstang - Please note the course has been changed from the T254 to the T252/3 to provide riders with a chance to compete for a late best all rounder time.

Again, should you wish any news items or information to be included in future issues of the Veteran, then please do not hesitate to contact the writer on gavin_russell@hotmail.co.uk or 01642 6554419.

In closing, may we wish all group members and other cyclists, no matter what or where they enjoy riding their bikes, safe and enjoyment.

SURREY & SUSSEX

Jon Fairclough

Ray Dare

Most of you have heard that Ray Dare died in a VTTA event on the F11/10 course on 19th July after he was hit by a motor vehicle. Ray was a member of Kingston Phoenix and an honorary life member of the Surrey/Sussex VTTA group, and held many group age records. As a TT cyclist, he was an inspiration

and a model of what the VTTA is all about. His obituary appears elsewhere in this issue.

News on Surrey/Sussex Open Events

The Lewes Wanderers CC 30 mile TT Sunday 21st May on G30 / 88. The top three veterans on VTTA standard were Peter Tadros In Gear Quickvit +16:27 (1:04:42), Mark Smith Crawley Wheelers +15:46 (1:04:39) and Nick Dwyer Lewes Wanderers CC +15:19 (1:07:32). Eastbourne Rovers CC (Howard Shaw, Marc Townsend, Michael Davey) was the fastest team (3:21:32) and the Lewes Wanderers CC the fastest team on standard (Nick Dwyer, Peter Baker and Sam Ramsey). Thanks to Simon Yates for organising the event.

The Surrey/Sussex VTTA 10 mile TT Saturday 3rd June on G10/87. The top three veterans on VTTA standard were Peter Tadros In-Gear Quickvit Trainsharp RT + 05:12 (21:15), Nick Dwyer Lewes Wanderers CC + 05:08 (21:51), Chris Lord Brighton Excelsior CC + 05:00 (23:06) and Carl Richardson Trainsharp + 04:28 (22:26). The Fastest in Age Category (not winning another prize) were 40-50 Dominic Maxwell Worthing Excelsior CC (22:36), 51-60 Peter Baker Lewes Wanderers CC (24:08), 61+ Paul Townsley Worthing Excelsior CC (25:23). The fastest woman was Jane Shrubbs Oxted Cycle Club, 26:24. Pete Tadros wins the Group's Stan Harvey trophy and the Lewes Wanderers win the Wilf How trophy as the winning team. Thanks to Dave Pollard for organising the event.

The East Sussex CA 50 mile Time Trial 18th June on G50/90. The top four veterans on VTTA standard were Mark Smith Crawley Wheelers +28:24 (1:48:35), Tom Glandfield Lewes Wanderers CC +22:42 (1:54:44), Peter Baker Lewes Wanderers CC +22:23 (2:02:06) and Carl Richardson Trainsharp + 21:46 (1:59:35). The Fastest in Age Category (not winning another prize) were 40-44 Neil Giles Mid Sussex Triathlon Club (2:04:33), 45-49 Philip Murrell Finsbury Park CC (1:57:28), 50-54 Carl Richardson Trainsharp (1:59:35), 55-59 Peter Baker Lewes Wanderers CC (2:02:06), 60-64 Peter Davies Brighton Mitre CC (2:19:54), 65+ John Mankelov Lewes

Wanderers CC (2:19:18). The fastest woman vet was Rachel Baker Mid Sussex Triathlon Club (2:13:24). Tom Glandfield won the Aldershot Cup as fastest VTTA Surrey/Sussex member on standard and the Lewes Wanderers got the team award. Thanks to Sam Dix for organising the event.

The Kent CA 12 hour 25th June on Q12 was cancelled due to a lack of sufficient marshals, so the Group will not be awarding a 12 hour medal this year.

News on Surrey/Sussex VTTA Members at Other Events

Sussex 15 mile TT Saturday 10th June on G15/93. The top two veterans on CTT Target Time were Mike O'Gorman of Worthing Excelsior CC with +9:16 (35:46) and David Shepherd GS Stella with +7:38(34:32). Nick Dwyer (34:14) was fastest in the 50-54 age category and Alan Robinson (41:18) in the 75-79.

Sussex 50 mile TT Sunday 2nd July on G50/10. The weather was wet for the first half. The top two veterans on CTT Target Time were Steve Dennis East Grinstead CC +26:20 (1:52:18) and Donald Parker Brighton Mitre CC +24:07 (2:09:18). Jon Fairclough (2:22:42) was fastest in the 60-64 age category. Steve Dennis has now won the Sussex CA 50 trophy 13 times, spread over four decades. A great achievement.

Sussex 30 mile TT Sunday 30th July on G30/91. The top two veterans on CTT Target Time were Steve Dennis East Grinstead CC +17:29 (1:05:37) and Donald Parker Brighton Mitre CC +16:12 (1:15:52). Keith Lea (1:05:41) was fastest in the 45-49 age category and Mike O'Gorman (1:15:10) in the 65-69.

David Shepherd did a creditable 287.02 miles in the CC Breckland 12 hour event on Sunday 31st July for 5th place.

New Group Records

Congratulations to James Rix (Crawley Whs) who has set new group records at 10 miles (18:53) and 25 miles (47:11) for a 41 year old.

Also congratulations to Mike O'Gorman of Worthing Excelsior CC who has set new group records at 10 miles for a 64 year old (21:21),

15 miles for a 65 year old (35:46) and 50 miles for a 63 year old (1:53:31).

Congratulations to Alan Robinson (Central Sussex CC), who has set a new Group 10 mile record of 25:09 for a 76 year old on 12th August at the Lou Smith Memorial 10.

Other News

There was a surprise for Pete Swetman when he arrived for lunch at the Sussex Oak pub at Warnham on 23rd May, which was the day of his 80th birthday. Having joined the VTTA on his 40th birthday, his 40 years continuous membership clearly qualified him for honorary life membership of the Association but he was also presented with HLM certificates by the Forty Plus CC and the East Surrey Road Club with appropriate speeches. Three in one day, is that a record? Pete has very ably announced all the award winners at our Group's annual lunch for many years and his best racing achievement was probably in 1979 when he won a Championship medal as part of the East Surrey's winning team in the RTTC National 12 hour event. He and his wife Sue are also leading members of the 300,000 Miles Club. See the photo (page 39) of the presentation.

A welcome to new members: Ben Crick (East Grinstead CC), Andrew Quye (Southborough & District Whs), Sam Ramsey (Lewes Wanderers CC), Richard Tully (Elitecycling) and Tony Tuohy (Redmon CC).

The Group still needs one or two people to volunteer to take over the Group Recorder and Social Secretary roles. The main job of the Social Secretary is the organisation of the lunch. The Group Recorder analyses members' TT results, prepares the list of group awards, and communicates results to the national recorder for the evaluation of national awards. The Group is operating with a very small Committee at present and it is essential that our members come forward to take on the vacant positions. 'Many hands make light work' but if all the work is left to a couple of people it becomes too onerous. Please contact Keith Wilkinson our Group Chairman if you would like more details of either vacant position.

Upcoming Events

The Surrey/Sussex 25 mile event is on Saturday 24th September. See the handbook for details.

The Surrey/Sussex AGM will be held on Sunday 19th November at 10:30am. The address is Parish Hall, High Street, Handcross RH17 6BJ. The room will be open from 10:00am for coffee and to allow meeting attendees to read the meeting papers. We welcome members to attend the AGM and join the discussions and inject new ideas, and learn about the responsibilities of vacant roles. When I took on the treasurer role two years ago after learning that there was a vacancy, I went to the AGM, not knowing anyone after only being a VTTA member for a few months, asked some questions about the job and then took it on. I am sure Keith did a check that I was a fit and proper person but he never told me about it!

The VTTA Surrey/Sussex Group is considering setting up a Strava group for its members. The benefits would be to share ride data and have leaderboards for segments, especially TT routes. The matter will be discussed at the AGM. If you want to express a view on this please attend the AGM or email jon.fairclough54@gmail.com.

A date for your diary - the Group's annual prize giving lunch will be held on Sunday 11th February 2018 at the Normandy Centre in Horsham. It is hoped that all our award winners will be able to attend.

Hope you have had a good season!

SOUTH WALES

Barry Williams

Cyclists are weather watchers with good reason, the rain is not only unpleasant, but it ruins our bikes. South Wales gets more than its fair share of the wet stuff and when we had that hot spell in June I was thinking that maybe we would have one of those rare great summers. Now it's August and we are back in the usual jet stream with regular Atlantic storms. The fine hot summer is not going to

happen, not yet, but perhaps, something before winter.

Talking of winter, I am looking for a bike with guard clearance for wet conditions. I have just sold a top of the range disc brake equipped machine because the wheels were not inter changeable with my other equipment. Additionally, disc wheels are fiddly to lock in after a puncture. I am now considering going back to a fixed wheel machine to withstand the mud and grime.

On the racing front, my last article took us through to mid-May. Glancing at the results the Acme 25 on Sunday May 21st on R25/3H produced some fast times with Kieron Davies winning in 45:37. Our members posted the following times: Chris Massey 51:07, Steve Curry 54:15, Chris Fishbourne- 54:57, Diccon Hill 55:03 Stuart Evans 56:49 (which was probably good enough to take the vet-standard). Marco Marletta, steadily improving, 57:21 and Mike Broadbent 58:30.

The next event on the course, Sports Mad 25 on June 4th, appears to have had more difficult conditions because Steve Curry posted 56:15, back by 2 minutes from the Acme result. However, shades of things to come, the winner was Dan Bigham in 45:32. It was good to see Simon Wix posting 55:36 and David Wilson Evans 56:21, Dave Evans (Pershore) 56:41. Also, well done Hugh Davies beating the advancing years with 58:47, Bob Jones not fully fit 1:04:14 and Sue Shook took the ladies standard with 1:01:41.

The West Wales 100 on June 18th is the only TT at that distance in South Wales this season, congratulations to Chris Fishbourne, the only member to finish, 4:35:52 is respectable on a tough course. Chris will be VTTA South Wales 100 Champion for 2017.

Saturday 24th June, Bynea CC 10. The winner Luke Cornish 20:18. Our members 4th Chris Massey 20:45, 10th Rod Hicks 21:46, 16th David Wilson-Evans 22:35 and Chis Fishbourne with the West Wales 100 in his legs 22:31. Stuart Evans, showing age doesn't matter 22:43, John Shehan was probably disappointed with 25:05. Two ladies posted

times - Diane Wilson-Evans 25:53 and Sally Harmer 28.01.

The weekend July 1st and 2nd saw 25s on each day, Cardiff 100 MRCC on Saturday and Merthyr CC on Sunday. I have to say that I think promotion clashes such as this should be avoided because it resulted in reduced field for both events, over to you at South Wales District date fixing.

In the Cardiff 100 event Luke Cornish was the winner in 50.33 – members posted the following times; Anthony Jones 51:42, Chis Massey 53:35, Dave Brice 57:50, Hugh Davies 59:51, John Shehan 1:03:19. I have to mention Pete Wilson (Bath CC) posting 1:11:45 at age 83. Really good in hot windy conditions. Pete is 2 years older than me and physically I think I could still clock something similar, but mentally, I could not cope with going 10 minutes slower than my performance 4 years ago on the same course. Pete, if you read this, keep racing and keep your athlete's body in shape as long as possible. Bob Jones promoted this event and I would take this opportunity to thank him for the care and trouble he went to in bringing the race to a successful conclusion.

The Merthyr CC event, next day on the Championship course R25/3H, the times were routine for the course, except perhaps for the winner, Hamish Bond with 45:22. This was one month before the Championship 25 which Hamish's time would have won, surprisingly, he did not ride the big event on August 6th. Since then I have learnt more about Hamish Bond, he is a special athlete having won 2 Olympic Golds and 5 world titles for New Zealand in rowing, now he is crossing over to cycling time trials and we should watch out for his name in the next World Championships in Norway. As a foot note, I was also glad to see Bob Jones posting 1:00:32, a just reward for hard work in the previous day's 25.

The Realteam 25 on Sunday 23rd was back on the R25/H dragstrip in favourable conditions. The highlights show some impressive times by members. Especially newest recruit, Anthony Jones from the Towey Club, passing the time keeper in 49:38, brilliant for a 44 year old vet.

Also prospering on the day, Chris Fishbourne, 53:14, Steve Curry, 53:17, Stuart Evans, 56:14, Marco Marletta, 56:33, I think that is a PB for Marco. Andrew Hayward, 56:40, Andrea Parish, 56:21, also a PB? Clare Greenwood, shades of past glories 59:52, Michelle Fishbourne, 59:58, John Shehan, getting back to form 1:01:18 and Diane Hynam 1:10: 45. Most rides show at least a 2 minute improvement on the Merthyr event July 2nd, I wonder, what time would Hamish Bond have posted had he ridden?

The following week brought a welcome change of distance with the Cardiff 100 Miles Club 50. This is one of the oldest events on the South Wales calendar dating from the 1920s. VTTA South Wales also use this for our group 50 championship. Anthony Jones was the 2017 winner with 1:48:38 (+30.03 on standard). Second on standard was Andrea Parish, 2:03:13 + 27.30, third on standard was Davis Wilson Evans 1:59:29 + 25.36. Other performances were, Chis Fishbourne, 1:57:11, Steve Curry, 1:57:17, Dave Brice, 1:58:34, Terry Anthony 2:04:48, Steve Madeley, 2:10:41, Bob Jones 2:11:11 just short of a PB. Michelle Fishbourne, 2:12:19, John Shehan, 2:15:37, Diane Wilson-Evans, 2:16:27. Finally, don't forget Pete Wilson, at age 83 when it's hard to sustain the old power, especially for as long as this 50 mile test required, 20 years ago he probably went 30 minutes faster, on this occasion it was a grind in 2:35:53. Keep going Pete, we are all rooting for you.

Before finishing, I would mention the National 25 Championship organised by Martyn Heritage Owen on Sunday 6th August here in South Wales on the Glynneath course R25/H. I have been following 25 mile time trials since age 16 in 1952, when Stan Higginson had the record in 57:08. In this championship that result would have taken last place out of 139 finishers, 50 competitors beat 50 minutes and the champion, Dan Bigham posted 45:40.

Luckily, life is not all about racing, cycling for fitness is still fun, therefore, for the retired living in the south west area of Cardiff, we have rides out of Penarth, Dinas Powys, Barry and Rhoose on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

sometimes on Fridays, naturally dependent on weather. On Tuesdays we stop for coffee and cakes 11.45 to 12.15 in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge and Wednesdays it's 11.30 to 12.00 at Hannah's Diner, Stalling Down on the A48, top of Primrose Hill. If you would like to join us, please do, our talk is mostly about sport and politics, but anything goes, we have open minds.

MIDLANDS
Jeff Matthews

As is becoming our style here in Midlands, I'm offering something a bit unusual. Our occasional cycling correspondent has written an account of a race which might be a bit different, with picture. I will provide a summary of the racing later in the year, when we have something more to write about! (and don't just finish up repeating ourselves).

Dear Sue, Jeff and Alan

As I get older, I find it can be helpful to remind myself from time to time that it is better than the alternative.

One such occasion occurred recently:

Definitely Not Funny (DNF)

As you know very well, every season I grovel my way around an assortment of time trials in a desperate attempt to find easy targets to score 4 "ticks in the box" for standards awards (some of which are even plusses!) so that I can add to my collection of coveted plaques, proudly displayed in my sock drawer along with my ankle supports, knee braces, Asthma inhalers and half empty tubes of Voltarol dating back several decades.

This season is no exception, but after narrowly missing a tick in the box for a "10" in my first outing, I approached my next outing with what turned out to be misplaced confidence. This was a "30" up in the wilds of Shropshire, but yet again I missed the magic time by a mere 20 seconds!

Panic was now beginning to exert its grip, so it was with some relief that I found another "30" in an area of the country known as the Somerset

Flats. Unable to find any course description on any website, I confess that I was blinded by the word "Flats", and hurriedly bashed off an entry.

Eagerly scanning through the start sheet the moment it arrived, I discovered to my utter dismay that this was not in fact a "30" at all, and also there was certainly nothing "Flat" about it either!

After a lie down my breathing eventually returned to something slightly less alarming than the sound of a consumptive seal trying to escape from a shark, and my self control was such that I was able to hold a telephone conversation with the event organiser without sobbing.

He explained excitedly that it was in fact a 22 mile hilly hard-riders event over two laps of terrain remarkably reminiscent of Nepal, for which the course record equated to not much more than 15mph! Gearing is the key he went on brightly, something in the region of 30 inches was his recommendation, eg. Perhaps a 34 x 32 he added helpfully?

By now too distraught to explain that I don't have a compact chain-set on my TT bike, and that in any case I only use a single ring, I weakly thanked him for his advice and went to bed for the rest of the afternoon to recover from the shock.

The day dawned and fortunately I had an early start – which as if to rub salt into my psychological wounds, was situated at a cattle grid near the bottom of the first of several 3 mile climbs.

Now I confess I do like to make people laugh, but on this occasion I found it quite disconcerting that people were also pointing! This may have had something to do with my chosen steed, which being the only bike I possess with a low enough gear is a folding "Shopper" with 20 inch wheels (in a rather tasteful shade of blue I like to think), as you can see from the photograph.

I declined the assistance of the pusher-off, primarily because he was laughing so much I feared for my safety, but of course clipping one's foot into the pedal when starting off on a steep hill has risks of its own, not the least of which were the unsuppressed guffaws accompanying my wobbly progress on a



The Dahon Mu EX (the drops are not standard)

machine which at the best of times handles like a shopping trolley.

Now you will know how the very act of pinning a number on one's back seems to transform one into a highly toned athlete? No? Me neither, so barely four minutes into my ride I heard the unmistakable whoomph – whoomph – whoomph of a time trial bike bearing down on me at great speed.

"My goodness" I thought (well, something like that anyway), I did not realise Froomie was riding this event, so as this *"Olympian"* overhauled me, I was quite surprised at his Lycra-clad girth, in garments which had clearly been purchased at least two stones previously, with stretch marks to rival my own!

"Idiot" I thought to myself, *"he has obviously gone off too quick!"*, as he disappeared up the road never to be seen again. Two minutes later this ignominious experience was repeated, and then again, and again, until I lost count.

One elderly chap was quite chatty as he glided past, and at first I thought it odd that he had a saddle bag on, until I realised he had no number on his back and was just out for a pleasant little Sunday morning ride!

The final straw came when a young lady riding in the opposite direction called out to me in a voice filled with concern *"Are you all right?"* so at the end of the first lap (having already been lapped!) I retired from the event explaining to the timekeepers that I had promised my wife I would be home before dark!

It is only since subsequently managing to get two *"ticks in the box"* for a *"15"* and a *"100"* I feel able to talk about this unnerving experience, and then only because my therapist has advised it will be good for my PTSD!

So the moral of this little story is that sometimes, just sometimes, one needs to remind oneself that growing old is better than the alternative – have fun out there!

David Steel (Hereford Wheelers)



Surrey/Sussex Group member Pete Swetman with his certificates on his 80th birthday - see S/S Goup report

SCOTLAND

James Skinner

News

As we go to press a spate of incidents have been noted, Gordon Johnstone of Dumfries has broken his collar bone, but will still be training on the turbo.

During the Pinky Williams 30 Mile TT Craig McGowan (Pedal Power) crashed on the rough surface near Packers Lane road end, sustaining a badly broken arm and some concussion, Katherine Wren of Stirling Bike Club was on site very quickly and a couple of motorists stopped to assist; and due to their

quick actions the ambulance was there within ten minutes.

Sandy Wallace had a altercation with a vehicle whilst riding the RTTC 12 hour Champs on Sunday near Cambridge, resulting in a suspected broken arm and hip, but the final diagnosis turned out to be a broken ankle, and a lot of road rash, and of course the worst was his brand new pair of Assos bib shorts had to be cut off. Best wishes go out to Gordon, Craig and Sandy for a speedy recovery.

Our Vet's 100 mile TT will now be run off on the 1st October in conjunction with the SC Championship, this is the same date as the Boomerang TTT, but as Sandy Wallace is the organiser watch this space.

Racing

Congratulations to Jim Robb Deeside Thistle on winning the Cramb Trophy organised by Aberdeen Wheelers. 14 riders went under the hour in what was a wet and breezy morning, so said Boabsawheeler. The Group sends their thanks to Bob for organising. Fastest was Kyle Gordon with a 52:49

Congratulations go to Jon Entwistle (GTR) who was second in the SC 25 Mile TT championships held in Forfar with a 49:27. With 27 members riding the event it was one of our best attended events of the year so far.

In Fife, at the Alistair Speed Memorial 50 mile TT congratulations go to Christine McLean for winning the Harry Roberts Trophy with +23:54. It was a pleasure to see 36 Scottish Group members on the start sheet of Alistair's Memorial event of 82 riders. The Speed family name goes back a long way in the SVTTA with Archie in the sixties then Alistair joining him when he reached the magical age; now Mhairi and Brian with son Gavin keep the tradition going. The Alistair Speed Trophy went to Douglas Watson with the fastest time of 1:49:09, team on standard was RT23 Nutley/Beech + 44:40

In Bute this popular island event series attracted 83 entries. Alas only 64 started the round Island TT, group member James Cusick (Dooleys Cycles RT) took first place with 19:19, with Tom Gordon taking second with a 19:50.

In the hill climb 32 entered, with 26 reaching the top. SVTTA member James Cusick (Dooleys Cycles RT) had to settle for second overall with 5:37, behind winner Scott Newman (Glasgow Couriers) with 5:30.

On the subject of Island racing, congratulations go to Christine McLean of Shetland Wheelers who took gold in the women's individual TT at the Island games held in Gotland Sweden. Christine also took 22nd in the road race, recording the same time as the winner in the bunch sprint finish. The Shetland ladies team narrowly missed a bronze in the Individual TT team prize, just edged out by the Isle of Man team.

At the same games Carlos Riise took 10th place in the men's individual TT, and 44th in the road race, recording the same time as the winner in the bunch sprint finish. The Shetland men's team recorded a 6th overall in the Individual TT team prize.

David Millar (SVTTA) won the Ben Smith trophy in the 25 mile TT held on the Cambusbarron to Buchlivie course with a 1:00:09, giving him a +14:27.

In the cycling festival organised by Caithness, Tam Gordon (GTR) clocked 27:15 in the Loch Calder 11 mile Hilly TT to claim second place, Ed. Atkinson (Elgin CC) took sixth place with 30:21, and A.B.G. Washington (Caithness Cycling) finished in a time of 37:15.

In the 10 mile event Tam Gordon (GTR) raised his placing, winning in a time of 22:00, Ed. Atkinson (Elgin CC) rode a 25:07, and A.B.G. Washington (Caithness Cycling) finished in a respectable 28:10.

The weekend was rounded off with the Mack Mowat Trophy 25 mile TT, with Tam Gordon (GTR) gaining second place with 1:00:00, Ed Atkinson (Elgin CC) took eighth place with 1:03:05, John Falconer (Caithness CC) finishing in a 1:06:52, followed by Amanda Wagstaffe (West Sutherland Whs) 1:10:00 and A.B.G. Washington (Caithness CC) with a 1:11:02. Congratulations to Caithness for organising a three event week-end and to Tam Gordon for travelling to compete.

In the Stuart Turvey Memorial 10 mile TT seventy-three riders paid homage to the memory of Stuart Turvey, so tragically taken from us at an early age. It was fitting that a RT23 rider returned the fastest time - Kyle Gordon 20:14. The fastest SVTTA member was Peter Ettles (RT23) with 21:26 in seventh place.

The Pinky Williams Trophy was lifted by Andrea Pogson of Gala Cycling Club, riding 1:11:20 and winning with +19:43. 37 members competed in this event, on a new flat two lap Cambusbarron course with 33 riders achieving a plus on their standard.

Four members took a wee trip over the border for the Pendle Forest CC time trial ridden on the Levens L1015 10 mile course: Brendan McCabe of Aberdeen Wheelers was fastest with a 22:51, James Skinner (SVTTA) rode 23:58, Jocky Johnstone (Icarus RT) 25:08 despite having done a heavy mileage session in the morning, and George Skinner (SVTTA) finished in 26:10.

At the Team Swift 12 hour five riders travelled south, with Graham Jones (Edinburgh RC) riding 244.27 miles. New member Sean Quinn (Law Wheelers) rode 257 miles, and Derek McMillan riding for the SVTTA rode 264.71 miles. Unfortunately Sonja Drummond (Dundee Thistle RC) was DNF.

On the same roads Randle Shenton took advantage of the 100 mile event which was run during the 12 hour event, finishing in 4:35:19. Randle has proposed a new 100 course running between Gretna and Abington on some very quiet but wide roads (watch this space).

In the Mersey Roads CC 24 Hour (and VTTA championship) Donald McLean & Mark Leadbetter (Stirling BC) came out as tandem champions, riding 400.09 miles. Full report elsewhere.

The Scottish group welcomes the following new members. Miss Catherine Logan and Steve Donaldson (both Fullarton Whs), James Petrie (Dundee Whs), Eric Davidson (Moray Firth CC), Gordon Dick (Lomond Roads), Andrew Duncan (Ythan CC), Mark Ewing and Craig Gilmour (both Falkirk BC) Victor Harrison (Hitchin

Nomads CC), David McLellan (Dooleys CRT), John Myerscough (Kinross CC), Donald Patterson (Nevis Cycles RT), Sean Quinn (Law Wheelers CC), Andrew Stewart (Dunfermline CC), Amanda Wagstaffe (West Sutherland Whs), Willie and Kirsty Stephen (VC Vitesse), Alex McAllister (Ayr RC), Stuart Whitelaw, Gary Bratt and Iain McKay (Fruin CC), Christina Mackenzie, Michael Cheney and James Robb (Deeside Thistle). Members renewing membership after time out: Charles Adams (VC Glasgow South), Gus McLafferty (Ivy CC), Jon Entwistle (GTR), Tam Gordon (Dooley's CRT).

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

NORTH MIDLANDS

Alex Deck

We've had a pretty good summer of racing here in the North Midlands but some districts have been less lucky. The death of John Stewart, of Central District, at Etwall, was a real low point and the number of accidents and cancellations has been noticeably higher than usual.

Group Age Records

On a more positive note we've seen a number of new Group age records and, at the time of writing, five new National age records. Congratulations to Keith Ainsworth, Chris and Karen Ledger, Syd Wilson, Chris Lea, Andy Newham and Chris Melia for their achievements. Syd Wilson (pictured, in the 1950s and last year) in particular has had a great season, breaking his own 10 record at least twice. He still looks great on a bike as you can see (over).

- Keith Ainsworth (58) - 10m: 19.11*
- Karen Ledger (44) - 10m: 20.38
- Chris Melia (53) - 10m: 21.26*
- Andy Newham (44) - 10m trike: 22.05
- Syd Wilson (88) - 10m: 26.50*

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1008	24
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659.88	Top £25- short £29.99
1319.76	Top £25-short £29.99
2580	Top £18-short £25
1800	Each add £15 + vat





Old pro Syd Wilson (Sheffield Phoenix)

- Chris Ledger (55) - 25m: 50.21
- Keith Ainsworth (58) - 25m: 50.24
- Chris Melia (53) - 25m: 54.58*
- Chris Ledger (55) - 50m: 1-46.50
- Karen Ledger (44) 50m: 1-51.35*
- Chris Lea (55) - 100m: 3-47.38
- Chris Lea (55) - 12 hour: 269.42m



*Elswick-Hopper riders in the 1950s
Harry Reynolds (left), Ron Coe (centre) and
Syd Wilson (right)*

**national age record, subject to ratification*

North Mids TT series

Three members have placed second in the tough SpoCo series based in the Peak District: Darryl Wall (Out of the Saddle) in the men's whilst Alex Deck (Rutland CC) and Ann Walsham (Maxx RT) tied for 2nd in the women's. Darryl Wall might have won the men's if he'd not been beaten by Olympian Connor Swift, who turned up to one of the events along with fellow stars Elinor Barker and Katie Archibald. Can't see the course records they set being broken for a long time. More details here:
<http://northmidlandstimetrialseries.org/SpoCo.html>

As always, check our website for regular updates <http://vttanorthmidlands.co.uk> and if possible follow us on Twitter at @VTTANorthMids - if any other groups are on Twitter please get in touch!

NORTH LANCASHIRE & LAKES

Dave Brown

It has certainly been a highly successful season to date for our Group members in both VTTA and Cycling Time Trials National Championship events.

In the famous Anfield '100' – which also included the VTTA National Championship –



*Harry Haseley, Theresa Taylor and Mick Black
proudly wear their RTTC 50 Championship
medals*

our North Lancs and Lakes Group members came home with more than their share of the prizes. Our 2016 BBAR Richard Bideau of the Pendle Forest CC took an excellent second fastest place overall with a time of 3:38:40 ride – only beaten by the 3:31:08 of the 14 years younger Adam Duggleby. When it came to veterans awards Richard was unbeaten with a winning plus of 1:13:52 for his age of 46.

He was backed by two more excellent rides – Peter Greenwood (Team Swift) 4:04:33 for a plus of 1:12:56 at age 65, taking second on standard, and Dave Hargreaves of North Lancs. RC with 4:21:20 for a plus of 1:07:53 at age 70 and third on standard. The trio easily took the VTTA 100 mile team title for our group.

In the CTT/RTTC National Championship 50 in Teesside we had Dave Hargreaves taking the 70-74 age group title with a 2:01:30 ride and Harry Haseley (also North Lancs. RC) taking the 75-79 age title with 2:28:16.

Just two weeks later in the CTT/RTTC National 100 Championship, held in London West District, Theresa Taylor, riding for Preston CC, clocked 4:40:21, Mick Black 4:17:00 and Harry Haseley 5:01:47 and all returned north with age group medals.

As I write it is now two weeks since the CTT/RTTC National 12 hour event was held on August 13th and the official result has not yet been published. Our Group member Richard Bideau is convinced that his own ride was certainly a Personal Best of around 312 miles.

All these results had followed the Group's earlier success in the VTTA National '15' in Yorkshire where Peter Greenwood, Steve Irwin and Dave Hargreaves had won the group team award on standard.

Most of our selected events for our Group Championship have been completed as I write with two rescheduled ones – due to road works on the A66 in Cumbria – the 100 mile now to be held on Bank Holiday Monday 28 August and the Yorkshire Road Club '50' on September 10th which replaces the Border City Wheelers of June 11. The final qualifier will be the Springfield Financial '10' on the Levens course on September 17th.

The joint VTTA/ West Pennine Road Club 25 on the A59 Clitheroe by-pass in June resulted in a win for JLT Condor pro James Gullen as last year but with a slower time of 49 minutes 21seconds. Steve Irwin finished third fastest in 51:05, taking second on standard with +16:10, while Dave Hargreaves took the standard award with a superb 57:44 ride to give him a plus of +16:22 which was also a Group 70+ record. Third on standard was Paul Fleming with a 54:10 ride for a plus of +14:16 and Mick Black returned in 59:53 for fourth on standard with a plus of 14:13.

The qualifying event for our Group BAR on July 23rd – the Lancashire Road Club 25 mile on the temporary course whilst the Broughton by-pass is being constructed on the A6 – had Steve Irwin again as fastest Group member. His time of 53minutes 17seconds for third place was just over a minute behind Simon Wilson of the Brother NRG Wattshop squad. Other Vets in the top six were: John Morgan 55:50 4th, Gethin Butler 56:09 5th and Paul Fleming 6th 56:14.

Another qualifier for our Group Championship was the Wigan Wheelers '10' on the Levens course. The only result I have as we go to press is the main one for us veterans – with Mike Westmorland winning on standard with a very good 22:20 ride for a plus of 7:04.

The Group 50 – open to all ages – scheduled for 21 May was postponed until 20 August due to those road works on the A66 in Cumbria. It was a top class day for Steve Irwin when he achieved fastest time with 1:42:57, which is a new Group Age Record, and a win on standard. Steve's plus of 35:21 was just 6 seconds better than that of Pete Greenwood who had an actual of 1:53:23 for a plus of 35:15.

We congratulate our Group Secretary Sue Cheetham on beating the 'Hour Barrier' for the first time. Yes – I am somewhat biased as Sue is my niece - but to put it into perspective it has taken her to the age of 54 and 25 years of time trialling to achieve it!

It was good to see our long term Secretary of the CTT North DC Mike Westmorland starring in Cycling Weekly recently. Not for any of his

performances – although just about the time of publication he did clock up an excellent ‘under the hour’ ride and a win on standard given above. However his Border City Wheelers was the focus of ‘Ride With - (club name)’ for those who no longer buy ‘The Comic’. Mike admitted that daughter Carol – ex-national women’s 12 Hour Champion - travels to events with her dad so that she can get free petrol!

Our Group Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday October 22nd. After many years held in various village halls we have had a change of venue by moving to the Petre Arms public house near Langho. This is situated on the Langho – Whalley road around 200 yards from the turn in the 25 mile course on the A59 road. We will meet from 10am for tea/coffee/biscuits with our meeting starting at 10-30. One benefit is that we can enjoy a pint after the meeting! All North Lancs. and Lakes group members are welcome to attend.

We welcome four new members: Mervyn Wilson is returning to our organisation and riding with the North Lancashire Road Club. Mervyn is the father of Simon Wilson who recently improved his own PB to 47:35 in the CTT National ‘25’ and surely can’t be too far off becoming a ‘Vet’ himself.

Deborah Moss of Chorley Cycling Club has joined us recently. Clifford Degraff of Workington and the Velo Club Cumbria and Les Stephenson of Carlisle and a member of the Border City Wheelers are also new members. You are all very welcome and we hope that you enjoy your cycling and time with our Group.

NOTTINGHAM & EAST MIDLANDS

David Herd

Firstly it was good to see Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) on the front cover of the June edition of *The Veteran*, in acknowledgment of winning both the National 10 and the inaugural 15 mile championships.

The Group's Ivan Moham Memorial 25 held on 20 May on the A25/34 East Stoke - Stragglethorpe Course (A46). On a blustery

day with the threat of rain never far away David Mead (Lutterworth Cycle) set the fastest actual time of 50:04. Fastest on standard was Brian Sunter (Condor RC) with +15:01 (actual 1:00:42), just behind was Chris Ledger (Rutland CC) +15:00 (actual 54:05) and third position, winning the Matt Mohan Memorial Trophy, was Sleaford Wheelers Jim Boyle on +14:12 (actual 54:14). Fastest lady on actual and fastest lady on standard was Karen Ledger (Rutland CC) with 58:23 and a plus of +13:47. Other NEM prize winning group times: Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) 54:45 +13:05 - 2nd in 40-49 age group, Michael Wills (Hinkley CRC) 57:21 +12:28 - 3rd in 50-59 age group, David Smith (Sleaford Whs) 1:03:05 +08:53 - 3rd in age group, Graham Green (Team Bottrill) 1:05:05 +11:15 - 2nd in 70-79 age group. Graham also formed part of the Team Bottrill winning team on standard, supported by Chris Wallis +11:15 and Wendy Gooding +10:18.

On 27 May Mapperley CC held their open 10 on the new A10/3 which runs from the junction of the A6097/A46 and travels due east along the new A46 to East Stoke and tracks back west to the slip road to East Bridgeford and finishes 50 metres or so towards the village of Carr Colson. The event was run in very windy conditions but it didn't stop senior rider Daniel Bigham (Brother NRG Wattshop) going fastest with a fine 18:31. The fastest NEM Group member was Daniel Barnett (Team Bottrill) on 20:07 with Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) just one second behind on 20:08. Other times: Sean Vincent (Team Bottrill) 20:55, Ian King (VC Long Eaton) 21:07, Ian Dalton (Cherry Valley RT) 21:32, Andrew Tomkins (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) also on 21:32, Ashley Roue (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) 21:58 and Shaun Eden (Mapperley CC) just over the 22 minute mark with 22:01. Well done to Mapperley CC for developing this new course, I do know that the Club and the CTT District Committee had to hustle and work hard to measure the course and get the event on.

Another new 15 mile course (C15/1) has been developed by Sleaford Wheelers CC which tracks along the A52 from Theckingham to Donington Traffic Island and back. The inaugural event took place on the 11 June in

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windy conditions, making the return leg hard. Matt Sinclair (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) was fastest with 30:30, and Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) second fastest on 31:39 and third was Jonathan Wears (SSLL Racing Team) with 32:37. Other NEM Group member times, Ian Pike (Fenland RC) 34:59, Roger Sewell (Hounslow and District) 36:54, Jez Willows (VC Flintham) 37:15, Richard Yates 37:17, Chris Close 38:41, David Smith 38:54 and Dave Ashley 40:55 (all Sleaford Whs). Louise Day (Team Swift) was the fastest lady on 39:44 and Witham Wheelers CC Anthony Hardenberg 38:56 and David Herd 41:07.

Melton Olympic CC 25 mile TT which incorporated the NEM VTTA was held on A25/34 course on 22 July and proved to be one of the best days of the year. The warm cross wind was a slight hindrance on the outward leg but was mostly helpful on the return leg. Well done to Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) who was fastest overall with a personal best of 49:03 +18:47 and takes the Jack Watts Trophy as the fastest rider and was placed second on standard. Sean Vincent (Team Bottrill) 51:20 +16:06 was fourth on standard, Geoff Platts (Team Bottrill) 52:36 +18:21 was third on standard. Fastest lady and fifth on standard was Wendy Gooding (Team Bottrill) 58:55 +15:55. Ron Hallam was first on standard with an amazing +23:04 from 01:05:21.

Other NEM Group times: Jason Swann (Mapperley CC) 53:46 (+13:05), Steven Howgill (Leics RC) 55:35 (+13:04), Dale Norris (Leicester Forest CC) 56:46 (+11:16), Paul Brownless (VTTA N&EM) 57:23 (+10:23), Chris Spray (Ratae RC) 57:53 (+10:09), Garry Lee (Mapperley CC) 58:47 (+8:39), Rod Weston (Sleaford Whs) 59:00 (+11:16), David Smith (Sleaford Whs) 1:00:05 (+12:15), Kevin Humpreys (Sherwood CC) 1:00:18 (+11:18), David Yarnham (Peterborough CC) 1:00:18 (+11:18), Antony Hardenberg (Witham Whs) 1:02:05 (+10:39), Martin Lister (Witham Whs) 1:02:25 (+9:33), David Herd (Witham Whs) 1:03:42 (+9:55), Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) 1:05:21 (+23:04), David York (Ratae RC) 1:07:53 (+03:43).

The team prize went to Team Bottrill Sean Vincent, senior Neal Parkin and Geoff Platts.

On following week the A25/11 Etwall course was in use again for the first running of South Pennines RC's Joe Summerlin Trophy. Senior rider Hamish Bond (AeroCoach) 45:29 was fastest with Brett Harwood (Team Bottrill) 47:04. Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) did 49:34, Sean Vincent (Team Bottrill) 52:14, Colin Parkinson (South Western RC) 52:18 and Jason Swann 52:27. Jessica Rhodes-Jones (Beacon Roads CC) was fastest lady with 53:41, with Karen Ledger (now Team Bottrill) on 55:05 and Jo Corbett (Mapperley CC) getting under the hour this time on 59:55. Finally Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) came in 1:05:22 and Derek Hodgkins (Stockport Clarion CC) 1:10:11.

Some very good times were set by NEM group riders in the BDCA open 50 but it was senior Adam Duggleby (Vive Le Velo) who set the fastest time of 1:36:20; Nick Cave (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) was the first NEM rider on 1:45:47, followed by Michael Vaal (Team Bottrill) with 1:49:31; Colin Parkinson (South Western RC) was also well under the two hour mark on 1:51:02. Well done for setting good times by all the NEM group riders.

In the Association's 30 rider BDCA members event the fastest time was set by Ian Holbrook (Stone Whs) with 1:44:15, fastest NEM rider was Michael Wills (Hinckley CRC) placed 7th on 1:52:57, Gary Purdy (Coalville Whs) 11th on 1:55:28, Steven Howgill (Leics RC) 13th on 01:56:19, Dave Bates (South Pennine RC) 18th on 2:06:32, Graham Green (Team Bottrill) 2:14:16, Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) 23rd 2:15:45 and Michael Spurr (Leics RC) on 2:25:22.

Trent Valley 10TT on 5th August held on the Ingham Top course had a disappointing level of entries for what turned out to be a great and well run event. Geoff Platts was fastest on actual 21:36 and on standard with a +6:15 with Ian Dalton Cherry Valley RT in second on actual 22:02 and second on standard +4:48. Other NEM group times: Paul Brownless (VTTA) 23:43 +2:53, Garry Lee (Mapperley CC) came in 11th place 24:20 +2:12 and myself 21st

26:35 +2:17. The veterans prizes were awarded to Steven Hollowood (Kiveton Park CC) +4:14 (23:00) and teammate Anthony Keyworth +4:11 (24:51), Ian Fenson +3:40 (23:40), Paul Brownless (VTTA Notts and E.Mids) +2:53 (23:43).

In contrast Leicester Forest CC 10 held on the evening of 12 August attracted 105 entries, at a guess it could have been the standard of the home made cakes, but the catering was also pretty good at the Trent event. The weather was kind with a slight cross wind and Team Bottrill took the first three places with Matt Bottrill fastest with 19:38, second fastest was James Perkins 20:12 and NEM Vet David Longlands 20:13 +06:21.

The NEM Group riders times:

Geoff Platts (Team Bottrill) 21:20 (+6:31), Jason Swann (Mapperley CC) 21:29 (+4:49), Michael Wells (Hinckley CRC) 22:10 (+5:16), Phillip Wharton (Leicester Forest CC) 22:13 (+4:14), Ian Wroblewski (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) 22:40 (+3:33), Ed Watson (Ratae RC) 22:46 (+3:23), Paul Arnold (Mapperley CC) 22:46 (+4:39), Stephen Howgill (Leics RC) 23:01 (+3:58), Chris Ward (Team Swift) 23:05 (+3:45), Dale Norris (Leicester Forest CC) 23:18 (+3:27), Chris Sprott (Leicester Forest CC) 23:21 (+2:43), Chris Spray (Ratae RC) 23:55 (+2:50), Kevin Humphreys (Ratae RC) 23:55 (+3:01), Ben Waddington (Leicester Forest CC) 25:24 (+1:12), David Smith (Sleaford Whs) 25:30 (+2:53), Rod Weston (Leicester Forest CC) 25:45 (+3:17), Michael Church (Rockingham Forest Whs) 26:08 (+2:15), David Herd (Witham Whs) 26:19 (+2:33), Ivan Waddington () 26:22 (+3:04), Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) 27:07 (+7:13), David York (Ratae RC) 27:08 (+0:43), Mike Davis (Beeston RC) 27:24 (+1:50), Rob Bennett (Ratae RC) 27:57 (+1:05), Michael Spurr (Leics RC) 28:02 (+2:05).

As with the Trent event it was very enjoyable riding in good conditions with only a few spits and spots of rain.

Well there is still plenty of racing to come so go fast and ride safely.

WESSEX

Bob Jolliffe

Watts and Williamson Win Wessex Champs

Until the start of the school holidays it had been a cracking summer in the South, sparking some scorching rides from Wessex VTTA riders.

North Hampshire RC's Philip Watts won the Wessex 10 Championship, incorporated in the Alton CC event on H10/8, with an actual time of 20:49 and a plus of 6:31 from ...a3crg's Angela Carpenter who finished with 22:50 and +5:53. Her team mate Stephen Williamson was actually fastest of the Wessex Vets with 20:39, while Andy Langdown of Blazing Saddles was marginally slower with 20:48. But they tied for third on standard with pluses of 5:48. New Forest CC's Antony Green, concentrating on time trialling this year after a spell doing triathlons, was fifth on standard with a plus of 5:40 (actual 21:14).

Eight days after the 10 championship Andy Langdown was promoting the Wessex Vets' 50 as part of the Blazing Saddles event on the fast P885/50 course. This time Steve Williamson was not only fastest on "actual" with 1:44:02, but also took the standard award with a plus of 34:16. Greg Parker (VC St Raphael) was second on standard with +31:31 (1:49:50) from Farnham RC's Gawie Nienaber by a single second with an actual 1:52:59. Fareham Whs won the standard team championship with Nigel Sign fourth on standard with +30:13 and 1:54:52, David Dalton +28:47 and 1:51:40 backed by Alan Emmott +28:34 and 2:04:48; a combined plus of 1:27:34. Steve Williamson led ...a3crg team to second in the team competition with +1:24:52, while Bournemouth Arrow CC took third (+56:18).

Acme of Delight

Back in May Steve Williamson was happy to rattle off a stunning 49:44 to take seventh place in Acme Wheelers' 25 on the super-fast R25/3h Heads of the Valleys Road in South Wales. Another Wessex member, John Samways (Bournemouth Jubilee Whs) did 51:52 and his clubmate Andrew Cooper was only marginally slower with 52:26. Wessex

and National VTTA record-holder Terry Icke (VC St Raphael) clocked 56:04, a time he later beat on the same course on 23rd July to take yet another national record in the Realteam 25, when he finished with 53:13, an 83-second beating of Brian Sunter's age 73 mark and a scant two seconds slower than when he set the age 70 record.

Harvey's Andover Cream

Another record breaker was Norman Harvey who set a new Wessex 10 mile mark for an 84 year old when he passed the timekeeper after spending just 26min 17sec on the P612/10 course in the Andover Whs promotion on 16th July. He had previously beaten Lionel Veck's 17-year-old record of 31:01 several times already this year. Bournemouth Arrow CC's Michelle Walter also took advantage of good conditions at Andover to clock 23:29 at age 56, +5:55.

More Records

Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers' John Samways smashed his club 100 mile record by more than eight minutes when he finished the Eastern Counties CA test on 28th June with 3:33:14.

Andy Langdown set a new personal best of 19:19 as one of the early starters who got a time in the abandoned London & Home Counties' Vets 10 on F11/10 in which Kingston Phoenix's Ray Dare sadly died after being in collision with a motor vehicle.

Steve Williamson (46) is on course to hold on to the Wessex BAR title again when he clocked 3:44:51 in the CTT National Championship on the Bentley by-pass course;

he then went on to complete a provisional 300.824 miles in the CC Breckland 12 hour, which was won by Adam Duggleby with 317.343 miles after suffering two punctures.

Other excellent 100 championship rides from Wessex members included Simon Healey (Andover Whs) 3:57:20 and Phil Watts (North Hants RC) 3:57:39.

Wessex riders clocked some quick times in the National Championship 25s in South Wales. In the women's event Angela Carpenter zipped around to finish with 56:33 to take 21st place while her ...a3crg teammate Sarah Matthews was 59 seconds slower for 32nd. Andy Langdown earned 46th in the men's 25 the following day with 49:46. John Samways was 64th with 50:56 and Terry Icke 135th with 55:43.

England Out

Crabwood CC's Dave England is out of action for the rest of the season after slipping on a damp New Forest cattle grid when training and breaking his left femur. He had been well on the road to full fitness following a fall when his steerer snapped and he crashed heavily in a Bournemouth Arrow club 10 earlier in the season.

Trumpet Time

A bit embarrassing to blow one's own trumpet, but here goes: New Forest CC's Bob Jolliffe (me/yours truly) returned from the World Transplant Games in Malaga, Spain with a silver medal in the 60 to 69 year old 5km time trial with a time of 8:14, one tenth of a second ahead of France's Alain Fossard. Aussie all-rounder Bruce Giles was outstanding though with 7:35 for gold.

I also took bronze in the 30km road race behind Fossard and Giles. And, as a member of GB&NI's B team with Steven Donaldson (Fullerton Whs) and Declan Logue (Stratford CC), took 10th in the team time trial with 28:01. Fastest was a Dutch squad with 23:54.

Transplant Games are held at National, European and World levels to highlight the benefits of donating organs to those suffering with life threatening illnesses. Like most members of my family, I have polycystic kidneys; after almost two years on home dialysis I received a transplant from a



deceased donor in August 2009. Through a letter I was grateful to be able to thank the donor's widow for her generosity.

In addition to kidneys, other Transplant Games participants have had, mainly, replacement livers, hearts, heart and lungs and bone marrow, but many other body parts can be transplanted. The message: Get a donor card from your GP and carry it in your wallet.

Other Wessex Championship Times

Championship 10: 6th Jerry Bromyard (...a3crg) 23:00, +4:51; Jake Prior (VC St Raphael) 22:27, +4:37; Norman Harvey (Sotonia CC) 28:43, +4:34; Barry Eeles (North Hants RC) 22:17, +4:28; Jeffrey Davis (Farnborough and Camberley CC) 23:05, +4:27; Drew Hosie (...a3crg) 22:41, +4:18; Andrew Phipps (RN&RM CA) 23:35, +3:34; Stephen Skinner (VC St Raphael) 24:25, +3:19; Mike Boyce (...a3crg) 24:32, +3:12; Dave Loader (Bath RC) 26:07, +2:55; Chris Jolliffe (Crawley Whs) trike, 26:46, +2:27; Bob Jolliffe (New Forest CC) 26:59, +1:07; Catherine Pascoe (New Forest CC) 28:44, +0:30; Martin Whitty (...a3crg) 28:13, -1:32.

Championship 50: 5th, John Samways (Bournemouth Jubilee Whs) 1:46:59, +30:00; David Patten (Bognor Regis CC) 1:59:44, +28:54; David Dalton Fareham Whs) 1:51:40, +28:47; Alan Emmott (Fareham Whs) 2:04:48, +28:34; Jerry Bromyard (...a3crg) 1:59:49, +27:17; Neil Mackley (Fareham Whs) 1:54:27, +26:54; Julian Middlewick (Hampshire RC) 1:50:32, +26:54; Peter Perrin (Bournemouth Arrow CC) 1:54:00, +26:00; Nick Jones (Bournemouth Jubilee Whs) 1:50:30, +25:34; Norman Harvey (Sotonia CC) 2:34:21, +25:06; Dave England (Crabwood CC) 2:14:12, +24:11; Drew Hosie (...a3crg) 1:57:57, +23:24; Stuart Martingale (Sotonia CC) 1:56:40, +22:54; Michelle Walter (Bournemouth Arrow CC) 2:12:13, +22:05; Barry Eeles (North Hants RC) 1:58:17, +21:43; Virginia McGee (Charlottesville CC) 2:11:12, +21:29; Mike Stevens (Fareham Whs) 2:03:40, +19:09; Andrew Phipps (Royal Navy and Royal Marines CA) 2:03:24, +18:55; Adrian Watkins (Tornado Road CC) 2:08:26, +11:08; Stan Bennett (...a3crg) 2:40:12, +8:50; Neil Dyble (Bournemouth Arrow CC) 2:12:58, +8:23.

WEST

Brian Griffiths

With hopefully a temporary restricted mobility I have been unable to get to many local events and therefore have not been able to pick up much of the usual bits of information that come my way. I am not a great facebook or twitter fan and so nothing feeds into system by that method either.

I will therefore try to fill my column with several of my opinions and scraps of news that may be of interest to the general membership.

After many long months of being drugged by the local hospital following a suspected slight stroke, I have finally determined that I have hospital induced ME. What is more commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. This limits me considerably and I am currently unable to cycle or walk more than a very few miles without suffering the consequences. With specialist help it will be a long hard journey back to eventual recovery as I have already lost 23% of my body muscle but I am determined to eventually get some of it back.

Despite these limitations I was able to get out to the Welsh and WTTA "12" hour championships centred around Raglan in South Wales, ably organised by Robin Field, and on the following weekend I managed to make my way in stages to the Mersey Roads "24."

I was sad to learn of the recent passing of Harvey Alford in North Devon. Many of our older members I'm sure will remember him. I believe he was about ninety years of age and raced until relatively recently. He is often credited to be the first man in the West to get under the hour for 25 miles and had some notable hill climb successes. Before the current standard tables were introduced he would regularly mop up standard awards by doing exceptional performances for someone his age. That's about all I can tell you at the moment but I will try to put together a decent obituary for my next report.

Gordon Scott our secretary tells me that he is receiving entries for the VTTA National Championship "50" on the 20th of August which he is promoting. It will be long gone by the time you read this. However I do know that a lot of hard work has gone into making this a special event so I hope it is a great success and that you all turn out to help out when you are most needed to welcome the riders to this part of the country. We know that U109 is not the fastest course in the country but let us just say that it is the same for everyone.

This event is followed by the Jack Gray Memorial "25" on the 10th of September which will be incorporated in the Bath CC event and will be getting towards the end of the season for many.

The West Group AGM will take place on Sunday 29th October and I would encourage you to make a note in your diary and be sure to be there. It's a great social occasion if nothing else but there are important issues to discuss. We would value your opinions and preferences when a new constitution comes up on the agenda for discussion.

I found this year's "Tour de France" quite fascinating with some very clever tactics noticeable for the observant viewer and ably described by a knowledgeable David Miller. I like the new 170-degree French cameras and the amazing HD quality. In fact one day I went up to John Lewis's store to watch the Col d'Izoard stage on the latest technology 72" curved screen and felt that at times I could have been in the bunch riding with them. Things just might be different next year when I feel that Chris Froome will have to work even harder for success with a new generation of promising French riders coming to the fore and making their presence felt.

Mike Jupp must always be commended for the excellent job he does in producing our quarterly magazine but I know like many editors he has great difficulty in providing sufficient material to fill the pages with quality



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stuff, and often has to work extra hard and search around his own extensive archives. I know and have always said that everyone has a story and even if they don't feel confident enough to write it up themselves there are those of us who are willing to help. When I go out to our Tuesday coffee meet there are amazing stories being told every week, so let's get them down on paper for us all to enjoy. Please realize just how important our journal is to us and think what it would be like to not have it to look forward to.

Now that we are into August I do hope the weather will become more stable for the remainder of the season and that some decent rides are achieved safely on our few remaining courses.

I did hear it said at one of our coffee mornings. It's better to risk your life out on the bike than die sitting on the settee all day.

YORKSHIRE

Chris Goode

First of all, a big thank you to all those officials, race organisers, marshals, tea-makers and bakers at our various events. Also Mike Williams, Andrew Vaughan and Mike Penrice who have organised the inaugural 15 miles championship and two VTTA 10s. The most recent to give you feedback on is the Andrew's 10 in July on the V718.

Fastest woman was Karen Ledger in 20:38 (29 mph) and also best on standard with +7:46, second was our Mickie Hornby (actual 28:06) +7:27, narrowly ahead of her close rival Gill Henshaw +7:23. Other local women were Michelle Morley +5:39, Lyn Hanson +5:26, Cheryl Truman +4:59, Carol O'Connor +4.48, Joanne Burnett +4:41 and Brenda Littlefair with +4:00. Some of you may not be aware that Brenda was second to the great Beryl Burton in the famous Otley CC 12 Hour of 50 years ago, recording 236.1 miles to Beryl's 277.25. Brenda also got an age record for 12 hours in 2014. Congratulations to Alice Lethbridge with a fabulous 286 miles (to be confirmed).

There were good performances in the tandem part of the event with a blistering 17:51 (33.6mph) by Howard and Becky Lewis (Mid Shropshire Wheelers), which updates their existing competition record by 10 seconds. Kevin Stokes and VTTA National records Secretary Geoff Perry got the best on standard with +7:19 and Mike and Barbara Penrice recorded 25.30 for a +5.46.

In the men's event the fastest were Daniel Barnett 18:38 (32.2mph), Peter Lawrence 18:42 and Gavin Hinxman 18:46. Other notable times by our group members were Ian Garbett 19:38, Brian Sunter 21:26, Tony Stott 22:50 and Allen Bell 24:00. It would take too long to list all the Yorkshire men's times so please look at the CTT website. Particularly well done to the riders who got a plus of over 6 minutes: Andy Askwith, Antony Ashworth, Tim Wheeler and John Martin. You have to

take your hat off to Sydney Wilson (aged 88, Sheffield Phoenix CC) with a plus of 8:45, narrowly beating Brian Sunter +8:27 and Keith Ainsworth +8:15 (Langsett RT)

On a sad note, Janet Tate died in May and we would like to pass on our deepest sympathies to Bob and family. We also owe our thanks to Bob who is retiring from his role as Chairman of the Yorkshire Veterans.

A few things for your diary: all standard and BAR times need to be with the Recorder, Jimmy Trevor, by 14 October please. Our AGM is now on Saturday, 18th November, at 10.30am, with the venue being the Memorial Hall, Collingham LS22 5BX. Also, the Annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation is on Sunday 28th January, at the Bridge Inn, Walshford, 12 for 12.30pm.

Please note the change of date for the AGM which was made at the August meeting. If the meeting had been a 25 mile race we would have comfortably recorded a competition record, with a time of under 41 minutes. Do not underestimate those super veterans.

Finally, a welcome to the following new members, several of whom are regularly making their mark in open time trials: Chris Johnson (Valley Striders CC), Doug Hart (Ilkley CC), Richard Walkner (Team Swift), Paul Garner (Worrall Whs), Simon Waller (Holmfirth CC), Sarah Lewthwaite (East Bradford CC), David and Sarah Bird (Barnsley RC), Ian Garbett (Holmfirth CC), Jonathan Reid (Calder Clarion) and Tim Wheeler (Selby CC).

Enjoy the autumn and keep those wheels turning.

NOTE - ALL NATIONAL AGE RECORDS REFERRED TO IN REPORTS ARE SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mike Penrice

The June edition brought a few reactions. Keith Williams (West Group) has added to the tributes to the legendary John Woodburn with a few more of his outstanding achievements. Keith wrote his biography, titled 'John Woodburn : Fifty Years at the Top'; this is sadly now out of print but well worth acquiring if possible.

Both Simon Smyth in Cycling and Jim Burgin in The Veteran have written good obituaries of John Woodburn's impressive career on the single. May I as his biographer point out some of his other qualities? He held twelve RTTC team championship medals, road tested the various Moulton designs before riding one to the Cardiff - London record before the Severn Bridge was built, and I believe he was one half (with John Patston) of perhaps the fastest tandem ever seen on British roads. Remember that some of the five road records they beat were previously held by Opperman and Milligan. I want to quote as an example just one of these road records, the Pembroke - London which was 242 undulating miles in under 10 hours. John always considered his fourteenth place in Warsaw - Berlin - Prague, with no team support, his best ride but I count the End to End when with Jack Fletcher's support he joined the legends of our sport. Despite his reputation as a grouch I know he has a lot of competitor friends in the sport, less so officials though. Anne and John always made me very welcome in Twyford when I was researching the book.

Mike Jupp's piece in the last edition about TUEs and prescription medicines was bound to provoke a reaction. The sender's name is removed from the following email.

I am saddened to see the depths The Veteran has plunged to in the latest issue. To read this on a forum is one thing but in the mag it is totally out of order.especially when the type of inhaler described has been acceptable without a TUE since 2010. Having had my peak flow reduced by an average of 27% due to asthma an inhaler is a small step to offsetting this loss. After beating a..... National Age Record two years ago and then developing a major chest infection I am just getting back to a point where I can ride for a couple of hours at a gentle pace and can go up two flights of stairs without the need to sit down to recover. To have somebody insinuate I am in some way cheating is a step too far. I trust this is one of aberration and is not the direction in which the Association is moving.

I trust that the sender has now simmered down and read the editorial response which followed the article and which distanced the VTTA from the strong views expressed, recognising that many of us (myself included) need to take some prescription medicine quite legitimately simply to be able to compete at a modest level whilst age continues its insidious progress.

Keith Williams (again) was also prompted to respond:

In reply to my friend Mike Jupp - I have been prescribed drugs to treat a medical condition, including one drug you mention. This prescription allowed me to tail off my racing career in my mid-seventies rather than having to stop with a bang in my sixties. These drugs were prescribed because I am ILL, Mike, but never fear as I seldom got within nine nine minutes of my personal best at ten miles.

Other than this I have had lots of positive comments on my editorial efforts and on the introduction of a bit more colour. Thanks for this.

NOTES & LATE NEWS

- Does anyone have a photo of VTТА Founder Ernest Strevens, in advance of the VTТА 75th anniversary in 2018? If so, please contact editor Mike Penrice.
- Copy date for the December Veteran is 19th November.

RESULT JUST IN

VTТА 50 MILE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 20th August 2017

Provisional result, subject to confirmation. Full result, report and photos in December edition.

1 st on std.	Brian Sunter (Condor RC/Yks)	+27:47 (2:10:36)
2 nd on std.	Rob Pears (Bath CC/West)	+26:10 (1:55:39)
3 rd on std.	Terry Icke (VC St Raphael/Wsx)	+24:32 (2:12:28)
1 st woman on std.	Chris Melia (Born to Bike/N Mids)	+19:51 (2:12:50)
2 nd woman on std.	Jayne Dickens (Vision Racing/M&NW)	+12:31 (2:17:44)
3 rd woman on std.	Zoe Betteridge (Southfork/West)	+8:01 (2:18:19)
Group team	West (R Pears, S Cottingham, D Dowdeswell)	+56:53
Club team	Bath CC (R Pears, S Cottingham, P Wilson)	+48:29
Tandem	Murray Kirton (A5 Rangers/Mids) & Mick Ives (T Jewson/Mids)	+6:48 (2:36:24)

RESULT JUST IN

VTТА 25 MILE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RE-RUN

Sunday 27th August 2017

Provisional result, subject to confirmation. Full result, report and photos in December edition.

1 st on std.	Peter Horsnell (Chelmer/EA)	+22:19 (1:07:45)
2 nd on std.	Brian Sunter (Condor RC/Yks)	+21:08 (55:12)
3 rd on std.	Liam Maybank (Twickenham/L&HC)	+20:05 (46:58)
1 st woman on std.	Jackie Field (CC Ashwell/EA)	+19:05 (54:50)
2 nd woman on std.	Karen Dennett (Bishops Stortford CC/EA)	+12:52 (1:03:09)
3 rd woman on std.	Rachel Jarvis (Colchester Rovers/EA)	+11:16 (1:02:39)
Group team	East Anglia (P Horsnell, J Field, A Grant)	+60:28
Club team	Cambridge CC (A Grant, A Dyason, C Dyason)	+55:16
Tandem	Glenn Taylor (Shorter Rochford/EA) & Mark Arnold (Desiragear/EA)	+19:43 (44:50)

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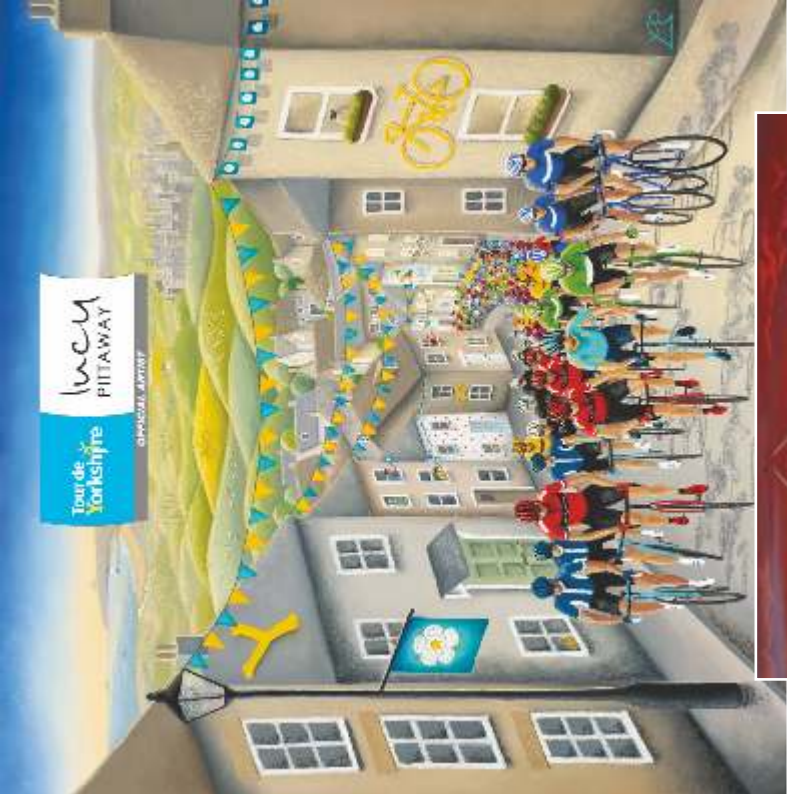
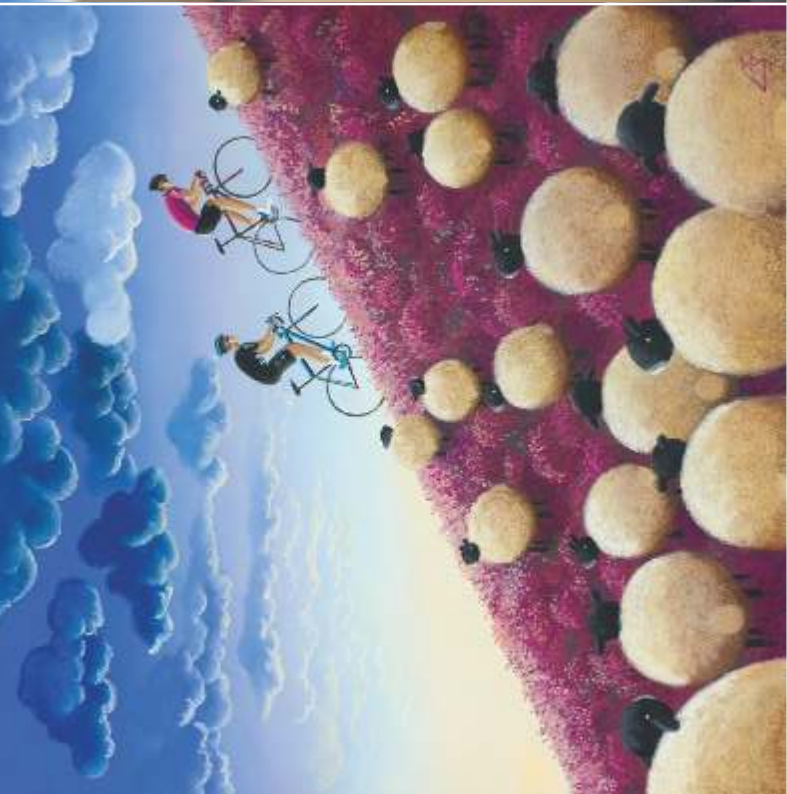
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