



# THE VETERAN

VETERANS' TIME TRIALS  
ASSOCIATION



## NEWS LETTER

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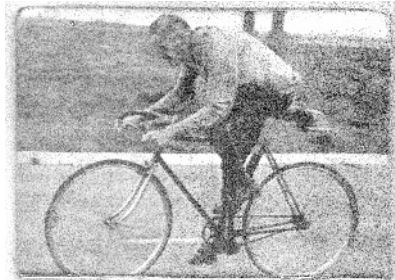
NUMBER SEVEN

APRIL 1945

FREE TO MEMBERS

THE PRESIDENT .... HIS PAGE

E. H. STREVENS



Founder and First President

DEAR MR. EDITOR AND FELLOW MEMBERS,

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL, THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF OUR "NEWS LETTER", FOR THE HONOUR YOU HAVE PAID ME IN SELECTING ME FOR YOUR FIRST PRESIDENT.

IT WILL BE MY ENDEAVOUR TO LIVE UP TO THE TRUST YOU HAVE SHOWN IN ME.

YOURS VERY SINCERELY,  
E. H. STREVENS

-----

"GOOD COMPANY" PROMOTER :

The election of E. H. Strevens to be the first V.T.T.A. President is the natural expression of the members' appreciation for all the work he has put into the cause of the veteran racing cyclist. That his enthusiasm is still undimmed at the age of 75 speaks volumes for his alert mind and abundant energy.

# 75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



*Chairman of Surrey/Sussex Group, Keith Wilkinson was a very surprised recipient of Distinguished Life Membership*



*Ron Hallam (Notts & East Midlands Group) won the 10 and 15 Miles Championships, the Short Distance Competition, numerous team awards and the C W Cooke Trophy*

## THE NATIONAL PRIZE PRESENTATION

*By VTTA President Carole Gandy*



*Peter Horsnell of East Anglian Group retained the Three Distance Competition for a fourth time in addition to becoming 25 Miles Champion and being a team winner in both*



*Lynne Biddulph of Born to Bike and Midlands Group collected numerous lady and team medals at the longer distances of 100 miles, 12 and 24 hours*

*National Association for the 40 years old and over racing cyclist*

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Barry Quick (London & Home Counties)  
Alan Colburn (Midlands)  
John Hawkridge (Kent)  
Keith Dorling (East Anglian)

**Website : [vtta.org.uk](http://vtta.org.uk) and Facebook**

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# 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 56

March 2018

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### EDITORIAL

Most members will be aware that the Veterans Time Trials Association is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2018. You may already have admired the nice retro cover of this edition of *The Veteran*, showing a facsimile of the April 1945 VTТА newsletter which announced that our founder E. H. Strevens had been elevated to the position of first ever President. Inside we also have an interesting feature about the early days of our organisation, with material drawn from several sources including wartime *Cyclings* and contemporary start and result sheets. There are also some tributes to E. H. Strevens which were published on his death in 1952 and which have been carefully conserved in the official VTТА minutes books.

It is hoped to publish more memorabilia and historical features in future editions of *The Veteran*. I already have some interesting pieces but would always welcome more contributions.

But what of the present? For the duration of 2018 the VTТА has adopted a special Anniversary Logo, which you will see used in this magazine. The logo will also be used on all champion's jerseys, standards awards and certificates during this special year and we hope these will be much sought after souvenirs. The NEC would also like VTТА event organisers and group officials to use the Anniversary Logo wherever possible in place of the standard one. You can request the digital logo files from me; they are available as both pdf and jpg format and blue/yellow and black/white colouring.

On to organisational matters and our National Secretary Rachael Elliott recently suffered a stroke; she is recovering well but will inevitably be out of circulation for a while. The NEC and I am sure all the VTТА membership wish her well for a return to full health and fitness as soon as possible. Interim arrangements to cover her enforced absence are summarised on page 6.

Another matter of great concern is that following the retirement of Steve Lockwood as National Recorder the position remained unfilled at the AGM, there being no volunteers. To widen the net and hopefully find a suitable replacement a job specification is published on page 7. You may think that Steve's is a hard act to follow but in fact he has created a standardised format for processing competition results and which is used by all groups, so any member with a competence in Excel and Word and an interest in the VTТА competitions can tackle the job. I understand that Steve is willing to spend some time handing over the role so that the new volunteer is fully briefed on the systems and procedures.

As the snow falls outside I can only wish you all well for the coming season, which I hope will be warm, dry and with a gentle wind on your backs.

*Mike Penrice*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

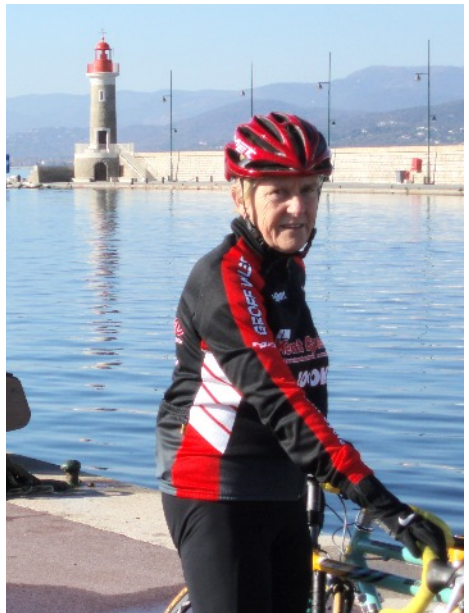
This year the VTTA celebrates 75 years and I am sure that the organisation will eventually celebrate its centenary.

The National AGM at Solihull went well this year and it was great to see a large number of prize winners turning up to receive their awards, which has been sadly lacking in previous years. Some stayed on for the AGM which again ran smoothly. The workshop regarding our new vets website also went well and I for one hope that the site will be very successful and will attract cyclists of 40+ wishing to join an organisation such as ours. This augers well for us and it is pleasing to see the organisation is looking ahead to ensure that we keep up with ever evolving technology.

It is that time of year when group AGMs and luncheons take place. This year the Kent Group invited someone who most people would consider an unusual choice of Guest of Honour, until one starts looking at what Sophie has achieved so far in her life. Many will never have heard of Sophie Faldo. Some might ask the question "Is she related to Nick Faldo, the golfer?" and they would guess right as her father and Nick Faldo are brothers. Most of the family do happen to play golf but Sophie has a different claim to fame. She won the Great British Bake Off in 2017, which was broadcast on Channel Four. Listening to what she had to do just to make the programme was highly interesting and anyone who gets that far deserves to do well in the catering profession. Sophie's talents do not stop there despite her tender years. She was a captain in the Royal Artillery and served in many of the hot spots in the world. She is also ski instructor and was doing this when she got a call to attend for interview for the program. She is a boot camp instructor and is also training to be a stunt woman as well as being in the process of writing a book. One of the main reasons for inviting her to our luncheon was because she is no mean track cyclist and has achieved success in the UCI Veterans World Championships and having taken out a year will be competing again in 2018. So even cyclists have hidden talents and I am sure her name will crop up in the future, especially with her diversity of interests.

This winter has been much colder than ones of late and indeed a lot more snow has fallen, but sadly in our area not enough to get out the sledge which has been sitting in our shed for many a long year. Thankfully training is not as reliant on reasonable weather over the winter months as it is all so much more scientific these days and very often conducted indoors. Gone are the days when people rode their bikes doing long miles to get fit and use the first events to sharpen up their performances. Now riders come out of the starting blocks fit and ready to go and would be disappointed not to achieve a good result from the very first event. Happy training everyone and good luck for the 2018 season.

*Carole Gandy*



# OFFICIAL JOTTINGS

## News on Rachael Elliott

Many members will be aware that our National Secretary, Rachael Elliott, recently suffered a stroke. She will remain in hospital to the middle of March and then faces a period of recovery and rehabilitation, as her vision is currently impaired. Rachael has been encouraged by the many messages of support she has received from friends in the cycling world. She has also been awarded Berkshire Sports Personality of the Year but sadly could not attend the presentation. You can see updates from Rachael on her Facebook page. Our very best wishes go to Rachael for a full recovery.

In Rachael's absence members should contact directly the NEC member who covers their matter of interest. For matters of a more general nature please contact the Chairman in the first instance.

## Fraudulent Email Requests (Also Known as Phishing)

VTTA members are probably aware from the media of the practice of what is known as 'phishing'. This is where you receive an email from a purportedly credible organisation asking you to send them your personal information, or credit card number, or in some cases actual money. These emails can also provide a link that if you click may take you to a false website and/or allow your computer to be hacked and information stolen. These email requests are fraudulent and have led to people suffering significant financial loss.

We should therefore stress to VTTA members that you will never receive a request for your credit card information or money from any third party purporting to be acting on behalf of the VTTA. Requests for payment of subs and standards will only come from your named Group officials and would be paid to the Group bank account.

With the introduction of the online membership system, members can also pay securely through this new service on our website. You should never respond to an email that suggests you pay through some link provided in the email. You should only pay online, when as a registered VTTA member, you are using our official website ([www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk)).

If you ever have any doubts about whether an email concerning the VTTA is genuine please contact your Group officials.



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Can collect from most areas if  
required  
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## Advertising

New advertisers are most welcome; this magazine goes to over 2500 members and provides good exposure especially for cycling equipment, services and holidays. Contact the editor for rates. Four insertions (one year) preferred but minor amendments between each can be accommodated.

## Copy Dates

21<sup>st</sup> May 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**WHEN RESPONDING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE  
MENTION *THE VETERAN* AND THE VTTA**

# VTTA NATIONAL RECORDER REQUIRED

## *Job Description*

The national recorder's job is a key role in the VTTA for the running of our season long competitions. It requires work to be done in the period between late August and December. There is now an automated Excel workbook that makes the compilation of results much easier and this is a key tool for the national recorder's job. The national recorder therefore needs to be a reasonably competent (but not expert) user of Excel spreadsheets. Training will be provided in the use of the workbook.

### **Receiving End of Season Claims**

- In late August or early September send out a circular to all 16 group recorders reminding them of the deadlines of when claims for the BAR, Short Distance and Three Distance Competitions need to be submitted. Include the template spreadsheet in the circular on which they should enter their group claims.
- Group recorders should preferably submit all entries on the template spreadsheet provided to them by the national recorder, though paper or scanned entries will be accepted.

### **Produce Results**

- The national recorder copies or enters the claims into the Excel workbook and compiles the results utilising the automated facilities that are designed for this purpose. The Excel workbook also assists in producing the results for group teams and for club teams.

### **Publish Results**

- Provisional results should be sent to the group recorders, and suggested amendments asked for.
- The final results should then be sent to the appropriate NEC members to be placed on the web site and to be published in the December issue of *The Veteran*.
- Arrange for all certificates to be printed and distribute certificates promptly to groups so they can be awarded at their annual presentations.

### **NEC Meetings**

- The National Recorder is an NEC member. Meetings are held in March, June, September and late November.

If you would be interested in helping the VTTA by performing this important role please contact the National Chairman, Andrew Simpkins on 07767 835004.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

It was good to meet all those who attended the AGM and Awards Presentation in January. I enjoyed the recognition we gave to the various winners, and the AGM itself was a positive and constructive meeting. You can read Mike Penrice's report of the day elsewhere in this issue. The website workshop was a good opportunity to demonstrate the online membership system and to answer various questions. I have given a full update on the rollout of the membership system in a separate article.

On a personal note I achieved one of every racing cyclist's ambitions back in January when my photo appeared in Cycling Weekly. Not, as various clubmates hastened to point out to me, in the results section. No, I just happened to be one of the people that the journalist Simon Smythe talked to at the Colnago Owner's Day event at Chavenage House near Tetbury back in September. At the Bike Show at the NEC I had got a discounted ticket to attend this event run by Yanto Barker's Le Col clothing company in conjunction with Colnago. So I took along my steel Colnago Master with its pretty Mapei colour scheme and chrome forks and stays. About 200 people were present and we first set off for an enjoyable and fast 40 mile sportive through the Gloucestershire lanes. Back in the grounds of Chavenage House there was an exhibition of Colnago bikes from the last 50 years plus all the current models. Lunch on the lawn followed and a Q&A session with Ben Swift fully kitted out in his UAE Team Emirates kit and Colnago C60.

Simon approached me and asked me about my bike as I was wandering amongst the exhibition. One is always grateful for the opportunity to enthuse about one's bike to an interested and informed listener. There was time to give him a quick run down of my 20 year love affair with Colnago bikes and a resumé of the models I have in my modest collection. There was also a chance to suggest that Cycling Weekly might like to do an article on the VTTA!



Acknowledgement Cycling Weekly/Jesse Wild

I wondered if anything would appear in Cycling Weekly but 3 months went by and I forgot about it. But then the 11 January edition arrived with a 6 page article on the event including the photo of me and my bike. For a couple of weeks afterwards I was mockingly referred to on club runs as 'Oh, here's the guy from Cycling Weekly!'

One final touch to this my '15 minutes of fame'. It was only a couple of days after the magazine arrived that I looked at the headline on the front page again about the Colnago day article. Behind it there was a picture of the head tube of a Colnago with the badge. I suddenly recognised that this was actually a head tube shot of my bike. So there we are – one's photo in Cycling Weekly and one's bike on the front page. My 2018 season is sorted before I have even ridden an event.

*Andrew Simpkins*



# NATIONAL PRIZE PRESENTATION & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018

*By Mike Penrice*

This year we relocated to St John's Hotel in Solihull for our annual get together. The more central location and easy accessibility resulted in attendance being slightly up on recent years, despite the dismally wet and cold January weather.

The proceedings commenced with a workshop on the new website and on-line membership system. This was led by our Chairman Andrew Simpkins and Aaron Bird of website developers XNcreations and was well supported by Group delegates. Issues discussed are reported on in the Chairman's update of the online membership system.

The lunch break was spent queuing interminably for a 'hot' meal, which then had to be hurriedly eaten before the proceedings recommenced.



We moved on to the presentation with many of the award winners in attendance and detailed descriptions of their exploits provided by Rachael Elliott:

**Tracey Rowlinson** (M&NW) 3rd lady in 30 miles championship.

**Janet Fairclough** (Mer) 3rd lady in the 12 hours championship.

**Alex Deck** (NMids group correspondent) 15 miles tandem champion.

**Murray Kirton** (Mids) and **David Stockley** (Mids) 10 miles tandem champion then Murray also collecting his share of the 50 miles tandem championship, where his partner was Mick Ives.

**Alison Vessey** (West) 2nd lady in 30 miles championship and 3rd lady in 100 miles championship.

**Andrew Grant** (EA) 15, 25 and 30 miles club team, 25 and 30 miles group team.

**Colin Parkinson** (N&EM and organiser of the forthcoming 25 miles championship) 10 miles group team.

**Chris Dyason** (EA) 15 mile, 25 and 30 miles club team, 30 miles group team.

**Jacqueline Hobson** (Mids) 3rd lady in 24 hours championship.

**Karen Dennett** (EA) 2nd lady in 25 miles championship.

**James McKenzie** (EA) 24 hours champion.

**Bob Awcock** (Mids) 100 mile, 12 hours, 24 hours and best all rounder club team and 24 hours group team.

**Chris Melia** (NMids) 1st lady in 30 and 50 miles championships, 1st lady and club team in 3 distance competition.

**Lynne Biddulph** (Mids) 1st lady in 100 miles championship, 2nd lady in 12 hours championship, 3rd overall, 1st lady, club and group team in 24 hours championship, 100 miles and 12 hours club team.

**Peter Horsnell** (EA) 25 miles champion, 25 miles group team, three distance champion, three distance group team.

**Brian Sunter** (Yks) 3rd in 15 miles championship, 2nd in 25 and 30 mile championships, 50 miles champion, 3rd in short distance competition.

**Ron Hallam** (N&EM) 10 and 15 miles champion and group teams, short distance champion and group team, C W Cooke Trophy.

In introducing Ron Hallam for his awards Rachael rightly described him as a “legend of the VTTA” then went on to read his nomination for the C W Cooke Trophy. Ron has become one of the most successful vets over many years with outstanding performances in National events as well as his many wins in open and club events. At the age of 87 he has raced every year since 1946, which is for 72 consecutive seasons. During his national service in the RAF from 1950 – 52 he was never without his bike, which was locked to his bed in the billet when not in use. In addition to the awards already mentioned Ron also set national age records at 10, 25 and 50 miles, to add to his already substantial collection.

Paul Dawson (N) collected the Ted Bricknell Award on behalf of his father, Les Dawson, who was unable to make the lengthy journey from Teesside at 91 years of age. This award is made for outstanding services to the Association - few would disagree that his continuous service to North Group in almost every role for over 30 years made him worthy of the Bricknell Award.

Completing the role call was Keith Wilkinson (S/S), who was clearly delighted and very honoured by the surprise awarding to him of Distinguished Life Membership for being the driving force behind his Surrey/Sussex Group for many years.

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

The medals were all put away and it was on with the AGM, handled swiftly and efficiently by Chairman Andrew Simpkins. Discussing the annual report Andrew explained in some depth the need for an increase in subscriptions. In addition to inflation there are additional costs due to

website hosting, maintenance and support (the basic cost of website construction was paid for from the Les Lowe bequest), paid national secretary and increased championship costs due to extra awards and one more event. All of these costs are currently depleting the Association's reserves. A three year forward projection showed that a break even situation could be achieved in this period by increasing membership by 250 and by increasing the subscription by £3.

- It was agreed unanimously to implement the proposed £3 subscription increase for 2019. It was also agreed that (paid for) Life Membership be discontinued with immediate effect, but with existing Life Members to retain their benefits.
- The technical change to rules proposed by Scotland to permit appropriate event entry method for events under either CTT or SC rules was approved, but only after changes to the wording to simplify and to clarify the intent.
- Scotland Group's further proposal to allow other groups to 'take up' an AGM proposal should the proposing group fail to be present, was adopted.
- Surrey/Sussex wanted to change the membership year end from 31st March to 28th February and the meeting agreed. The argument was put forward that there was a cost in supplying 'The Veteran' to non-rejoinders in March and it also ensured that riders must rejoin before commencing racing (and possibly winning awards in Association events).
- During 2017 there was an occurrence of a rider submitting two entries for one of the season long competitions, one on a bike and another on a trike. To clarify that this was not permitted a new rule was proposed by the NEC clarifying that only one solo and/or one tandem entry was permitted in each season long competition, but that a single entry could be on a mix of these two machines.
- The requirements for awarding of Honorary Life Membership to over 80 year olds were amended at the 2017 meeting from 25 years continuous membership to recognition of service to their Group. East Anglian felt that some Groups had abused this process and therefore sought to revert to the previous arrangement. After some heated debate the proposal was withdrawn by EA but it was noted that the NEC should review how the costs of awarding HLMs were addressed by the Association.
- EA's other proposal regarding championship closing dates caused some confusion. Did 'normal' mean CTT standard closing date or should it be changed to 'standard', meaning something different. Eventually EA withdrew their proposal after it was agreed that the NEC would provide a recommendation of a consistent 3 weeks closing date for championships where these are promoted directly by VTTA Groups.
- Election of officers followed with all sitting incumbents re-elected, with the exception of National Recorder Steve Lockwood, who has retired due to other demands on his time, and committee member Brian Camfield, who had resigned part way through the year. There being no volunteers for either position, the Chairman called on members to identify potential volunteers for the role of National Recorder and highlighted that the retiring National Recorder, had automated much of the process for calculating competition results. *(Note - Keith Dorling has since volunteered as a committee member, but a National Recorder is still urgently sought.)*

The Chairman asked the meeting for opinions on the new venue. Although feedback was more positive than for the previous venue at Kings Court Hotel, it was noted that there were issues getting attention from staff and the queues at lunchtime were long. The location was considered to be much more convenient. The Chairman promised to come back with alternative suggestions for 2019.



*Left - East Anglian Chairman Andrew Grant (Cambridge CC) in the 25 Miles Championship. Andrew collected five championship team medals in 2017.*

*Below - Surrey/Sussex rider James Rix (Crawley Wheelers) was outright fastest in the 30 Miles Championship in South Wales with 59:22. At 41 years of age we can expect to see more of James in coming years.*



### ***An apology from the editor***

*Due to gremlins at the printers these two images appeared in miserable monochrome in the December Veteran.*

*Images supplied courtesy of Kimroy Photography*

# ONLINE MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM UPDATE

*By Andrew Simpkins*

By the time you read this article our new online membership system will have begun a live trial in three groups. We are grateful to Midlands, Notts & East Midlands, and Surrey/Sussex for agreeing to take part in the trial and to their members who offered to be the first live participants. The trial will run to the end of March and then we plan to take on a few groups each month from April with the aim to have all groups on the system by late summer. This means that groups will move onto the system during a quiet time of the year for joiners and renewals but that everything should be in place when we come to handle membership for 2019.

For those comfortable with IT, or indeed with just using the Internet to make purchases, the online system will make joining the VTTA, or renewing membership, a simple convenient task. New members will enter their personal details, while existing members will only need to confirm or update their information. Payment of the relevant group subscription, and for standards if required, is then made by a standard card transaction. Industry security arrangements will apply for all online payments.

Authorised group and national officials will have the facility to manage membership and payment information on the system. There will be a range of enquiry and reporting facilities that will make officials jobs easier and improve our ability to manage the Association in an efficient and effective manner. We will have more accurate and complete information on our national membership and an improved ability for both officials and members to keep that information up-to-date.

Jon Fairclough, who is the treasurer of Surrey/Sussex and a retired IT manager, has given generously of his time to help with the testing of the system. Jon and I will be supporting the groups during their take-on of the system and will visit the appropriate group officials as required.

The main task for groups prior to going live will be to review their membership data as currently held on the national list. We know we have incomplete data on members. For example, in quite a number of cases we don't know their date of birth. We must have established they are over 40 by some other means! In the trial groups this review has already proved to be a helpful exercise.

The website workshop that we held prior to the AGM was a good opportunity to demonstrate the online system and to answer various questions. No doubt, there will be a need to continue to answer queries as we roll out the system and we will of course welcome feedback. We will be placing updates on the website and in the Veteran and will aim to give answers to 'frequently asked questions' as they come in. It looks like a busy and exciting year ahead as we introduce this major new improvement to the VTTA!



## Tuscany - Italy

This is an excellent holiday base from which to enjoy the beautiful countryside and historic villages of Umbria and Tuscany, whilst only being 90 minutes from Florence

For further details contact:

Jean Burrow, Fuchsias

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Arezzo (AR) 52033

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# MY INDOOR TRACK RECORDS ATTEMPT

*By Ray Retter (West Group)*

Having completed my final race of the 2017 season on the E2/30, I took five days off the bike as a typical end of season rest, although shorter in time. It dawned on me that my racing had been very mediocre yet again and it would be rather nice if it was possible, to take on a new challenge whilst still having some degree of fitness about me. With that in mind I contemplated the possibility of achieving a VTTA indoor one hour record for my age, 72 years. I had previously trained and raced indoors some six or seven years ago with some minor success, having gained a second and a third in the LVRC track championships in those years. Track riding in general does not suit my natural time trialling style, as generally it entails something I have no affinity to at all and that is high cadence pedaling.

I went along to Newport Velodrome on five Friday afternoon veterans training sessions and one Monday session to familiarise myself with the riding manner and technique of the 250 metre indoor track. The second and subsequent visits the session coach allowed me to spend fairly long periods of time riding the black line at the bottom of the track, that effectively is the shortest distance around the track that you are allowed to ride.

I had already got a track bike, albeit a very basic frame with tri-bars (similar to those I use on the road) and a rear disc wheel. The main factors I had to consider were the gear to use and what lap times might I be able to maintain. Previously racing I had used 53x15 but this is not competitive racing, so what should I choose for a sustained effort of riding? So the track sessions were all about devising the optimum gear selection for me. Here riding the track entailed lap after lap learning to hold the line constantly well, attempting to build up some fatigue and going again further learning more about the cadence and lap times. Within this period it was thought sensible to acquire power pedals, so I rented PI pedals; this provided some insight into exactly what the power levels are, was very revealing. What it suggested is that I had to increase the cadence rate by quite a bit, which would be rather a hard task, or put on a higher geared sprocket. The higher cadence idea was quickly dismissed, as something around 80 is on the upper edge of sustainability for me. To add power via the lower cadence would be a more natural approach. The week that I experimented with the 53x12 was an occasion I felt a little "under power" in terms of a slight cold or something and I became unsettled by the prospect of becoming fatigued later in the event and being unable to complete the one hour effort at all. At this stage I decided to use 53x13, with a possible reduced record, but a safer chance of achieving it. It became apparent that on this gear and at around 80 cadence 21 point something second laps were not going to be sustainable. It also has to be borne in mind that you have to be able to get out of the starting gate (standing start) and moving off in some sort of controlled manner, without falling over.

On the record attempt day in my new Born to Bike Bridgetown Cycles kit I started my effort at approximately 12.40pm 11th December 2017. A very slow first lap was unwisely followed by ten or so laps in the 21 seconds band which brought me back on schedule. Realising this to be outside my capabilities, 22 second then low 23 second laps followed thereafter, causing me to miss my scheduled distance (and 25 miles in the hour) but still achieve a VTTA age record.

Records now ratified are:

5km in 7 min 26.938 sec, 10km in 15 min 1.526 sec, 20km in 30 min 24.388 sec

5 miles in 12 min 2.239 sec, 10 miles in 24 min 22.141 sec, 15 miles in 36 min 49.741 sec

1 hour in 24.352 miles or 39.191 km.

A pleasing result, but with room for improvement!



# 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](http://www.oldforgeknockin.co.uk)  
e-mail: [enquiries@oldforgeknockin.co.uk](mailto: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.





More recently West Group member Ray Retter was given six bound copies of *Cycling* for the years 1940 to 1945, which had been owned by the late Harvey Alford; the formation and early activities of the VTTA are recorded therein. *Cycling* cuttings and comments by Ray are also used in this story, as are further documents provided by Mike Jupp.

Looking through the old *Cyclings* Ray was surprised that despite the country being at war and severe hardships being experienced, there appears to have been quite a lot of travelling taking place, as well as club functions; dinners, dances, meetings and even holidays were being advertised. Alongside these was the posting of those killed in wartime action, their rank and where they fell.

Ernest Strevens was clearly a life-long cyclist and was a member of London club Upper Holloway CC. At the age of 73, an age when most cyclists would have dismissed any further racing aspirations, he had up to date and notable rides to his credit from 25 miles to 12 hours. He established in the North London area in 1939 an organisation called 'Nor O' Lon', specifically to promote veteran's time trials. These events he ran, financed and developed and as can be seen from the start and result cards for the 1941 promotion they were supported by riders from a wide area. At that time riders were divided into one of three age groupings, similar to the arrangement in some CTT and LVRC time trials, and finishing times appear to have been quite respectable, despite the risk of being called upon to stop by the military or the police and by the possibility of encountering a military convoy.

# NOR O' LON

## Veterans' Open 25-mis. Scratch, Handicap & Team Trial

Promoted by The Upper Holloway C.C.  
held on

### Sunday, July 21st 1940

#### — RESULT CARD —

Timekeeper: Mr. L. F. DIXON

#### SECTION A

Fastest Time ... A. Rogerson, Spen Valley Whls. ... 1 10 29  
1st Handicap ... R. H. Gayton, Middlesex Rds. (10) ... 1 7 30  
2nd Handicap ... O. W. Baker, Warwickshire Rcs. (6½) ... 1 9 53

#### SECTION B

Fastest Time ... A. E. Cumber, Oak C.C. ... 1 16 30  
1st Handicap ... J. S. Lewsey, Middlesex R.C. (8½) ... 1 14 17  
2nd Handicap ... W. H. Steer, Birmingham Cros. (5) ... 1 14 30

#### SECTION C

Fastest Time ... E. H. Strevens, Upper Holloway C.C. 1 25 16  
1st Handicap ... W. C. S. Harris, Upper Holloway C.C. (11) ... 1 23 37

#### TEAM

1st ... Swindon Wheelers (H. Marsh, W. Lewis) ... 2 31 31  
2nd ... Middlesex R.C. (R. Gayton, J. S. Lewry) ... 2 40 17

The Cyclist Press, 72 Ashbrook Road, London, N.19.

No	Name	Club	Age	H'cap	Time
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#### Section C (60 years and over)

1	Harris, W C S	Upper Holloway	74	10	NF
2	Muspratt, J	"	75	30	1 50 32
3	Holmes, A C	"	69	18	1 33 37
4	Strevens, E H	"	71	6½	1 23 24
5	Keen, A J	Unity	62	Scr	1 17 49
6	Murrell, A	Serian	65	3	1 25 54
7	O'Donovan, D R	Doncaster Whls	65	1	NS
8	Jakobi, W	Upper Holloway	65	1	NS
9	Purves, G J	Ealing	68	Scr	NS
10	Sayner, G	Upper Holloway	76	1	NS
25	Clements R	Whynot Whls.	61	6½	1 29 38

#### Section B (50-60 yrs. of age)

11	Perry, A E	Beds. Rds.	54	11½	1 25 54
12	Stiles, E	Actonia	55	8½	NS
13	Denton, F J	Rushden Cent.	54	8	1 18 44
14	Steer, W H	B'ham, Crescent	59	1	1 15 32
15	Berry, A	Gospel Oak	53	6	1 20 27
16	Pepper, J W	Marlboro'	55	5½	NS
17	Parkinson, S	Southern Elite	50	1½	NF
18	Lewsey, J S	Middlesex Roads	56	8½	1 17 19
19	Binder, C	West Road	53	5½	1 21 8
20	Gardner, J	London Clarion	58	Scr	1 13 6
21	Martimer, H	Swindon Whls.	52	7½	NS
22	Holloway, F	Middlesex Roads	53	5	1 21 55
23	Stancliffe, W	Upper Holloway	51	6	NS
24	Gayton, R H	Middlesex Roads	50	3	1 14 6

#### Section A (40-50 yrs. of age)

26	Stainle, F N	Comet	47	8½	NS
27	Hawitt, E A	Beds. Rds.	49	8½	1 20 14
28	Webb, H	Upper Holloway	47	6	1 21 4
29	Phillips, G W	Beds Roads	40	11½	1 18 33
30	Bussell, R J	Canford	44	10	1 13 57
31	Metcalfe, A E	Barnet	43	8½	1 12 14
32	Lewis, W S	Swindon Whls.	47	7½	1 14 12
33	Butcock, C F	Kent Road	42	4	1 10 5
34	Baker, O W	Warwickshire Rds.	48	7½	1 15 9
35	Marsh, H	Swindon Whls.	41	7	1 14 40
36	Sturt, C A	Bec, C.C.	40	5	1 21 40
37	Rogerson, A	Spen Valley Whls.	42	Scr	1 9 12
38	Jolley, M	Serian	44	4	1 9 58
39	Hooker, A	Upper Holloway	47	4½	NS
40	Clark, L M	Sa'mrd & Cry, Whl.	45	8	NS
41	Whiston, J	Fulham Whls.	43	4½	1 10 44

Acknowledgement Mike Jupp

The Cyclist Press, 72 Ashbrook Road, London, N.19. ARC 208

Despite the difficulties of racing during the war, there was clearly a demand for time trial competition amongst older riders, so by the inspiration and enterprise of Ernest Strevens there was formed in spring 1943 the Veterans Time Trials Association. The following cutting shows the inaugural meeting was called for Sunday 7th March 1943, held at the Salisbury Hotel, High Barnet, Herts. The next cutting shows that the meeting was great success, the Association was formed with 45 present and another 36 postal members - members had to be males and 40 years of age or older. A committee was formed with C. W. Cooke (Polytechnic CC) as chairman and Strevens as secretary and treasurer. Most notable amongst the committee was Harry H. England, editor of 'Cycling', and a member of North Road CC.

### **TIME-TRIAL ASSOCIATION FOR VETERANS?**

**A** MEETING will take place at the Salisbury Hotel, High Barnet, Herts, on Sunday, March 7, at 11 a.m. to consider the founding of a time-trial association devoted entirely to veterans of cycling sport. Among the rules and suggestions which will be submitted for approval are, that the Association shall be open to males of 40 years of age or over; that the aims and objects shall be the promotion of time trials for veterans and that an associate class be created. The suggested membership subscription is 5s. per annum with an entry fee of 2s. 6d. The Association will be affiliated to the R.T.T.C. Full particulars can be obtained before March 4 from E. H. Strevens, 71, Grosvenor Avenue, Highbury, London, N.5.

The VTTA became a functioning entity, with approved rules and officials, at its first General Meeting on 16th May 1943. At its inception the Association visualised a nationwide organisation offering congenial membership and road competition for all aged over 40 (male) cyclists, no matter where they resided; they did not aim to confine their services at that time to members only, but to recognise veteran standard rides and hallmark records as and when they were established and to be the veteran's

authority in the wider sphere of cycle time trialling as a whole. It was envisaged that branches would, in time, be formed in all the main cycle racing areas of the country.

Despite the war, membership grew steadily. In June 1943 a badge was designed and approved, being sold for 1/- (10p).

The early meetings, which helped establish the longer term framework and success of the Association, were held at the then National Cyclists' Union Headquarters at 35 Doughty Street, London WC1, which also became the VTTA Headquarters. At that time and from that address Strevens put out an appeal in *Cycling* for best known times, presumably to establish the age records tables which we now know so well.

In July 1943 there was the first proposition that ladies should be allowed to join; the proposal was unsuccessful and despite repeated attempts the Association remained staunchly all male until 1971, when London Group finally succeeded in having ladies accepted.

### **VETERANS' BEST TIMES?**

Time trial secretaries are requested to inform E. H. Strevens, Veterans' T.T.A. Headquarters, 35, Doughty Street, London, W.C.1, of any known best times for out-and-home rides in R.T.T.C. 25, 50, 100 miles, and 12-hour events performed by veterans (40 years or over).

In the early days there were several changes in officials and clearly some in-fighting, most notably between Strevens and C. W. Cooke. Ernest Strevens became National President in 1945, but remained active in other roles. This elevation was announced to the wider membership on the cover of the April 1945 Newsletter, a bi-monthly publication started in 1944 and which continues to this day as *The Veteran*.

## VETERANS' T.T.A.

Promising Inaugural Meeting of Promoting and Record Hall-marking Organization for Over 40s



Laurie Dixon helping secretary E. H. Strevens (left at table) to take subs. for the newly formed Veterans' T.T.A., as the founder members queued up to pay!

**T**HE Veterans' Time Trials Association came into being at an inaugural meeting in Barnet on Sunday, with promise of a great future. No fewer than 41 clubmen, with the "youngsters" round about 40 years ranging up to the over 70s, chiefly represented by the Association's inspiration, E. H. Strevens, decided the constitution of this time-trial-promoting body and record hall-marking authority that may one day have branches in the main cycle-racing areas all over the country. In addition to the founders at the meeting—who queued up to pay their initial subs!—56 other veterans supported the movement by postal vote, so that already the V.T.T.A. is assured of at least 70 founder members. Many of those at Barnet on Sunday have raced in recent years in Nor.-o'-Lon. events and there was an interested sprinkling of men who were in the "young class" of noted time trialists a decade or more ago.

The meeting was conducted under the chair-

manship of C. W. Cooke, with E. H. Strevens introducing the matters for inaugural decision. The Association is to be open to individuals of the male sex who are 40 years of age or over. In addition to promoting time trials, open to all members or other—H.T.T.C. affiliated—club veterans, the V.T.T.A. will establish a competition record schedule covering the different veteran classes. Efforts will be made to authenticate the "bests" already set up for the various distances and at suitable age groups. The annual subscription was fixed at 5s., with an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. The following officers were elected:—Chairman, C. W. Cooke, Polytechnic; hon. secretary and treasurer, E. H. Strevens, Upper Holloway (71, Grosvenor Avenue, Highbury, London, N.5); T.T. secretary, F. E. Reed, Polytechnic; committee, H. J. Bussell, Cufford, H. H. England, North Road, J. J. Gardener, London Claron, A. E. Metcalfe, Barnet, and J. R. Painter, Oak.

Clearly the VTTA got on with the business of event promotion during its first year, with a report of their final 25 of the 1943 season appearing; this was very well supported, with 37 entrants and 23 starters from a wide area of the country and including some from Strevens' pre-VTTA promotions and several national officials. The age category system used for the earlier Nor O' Lon events was still employed but it is likely that the current standards system was adopted soon after, most likely 1944. (Perhaps we have a current VTTA member with good records who can identify the earliest instance of the age standards system being employed.)

#### V.T.T.A. "25" WON BY ROGERSON

CONDITIONS were good for the last event promoted by the Veterans' Time Trial Association, and Arthur Rogerson, Spen Valley W.L., demonstrated his fitness by easily winning the "25" last Sunday in the good time, for a 44-year-old, of 1 hr. 8 mins. 41 secs. He was closely followed by T. Goodman, Birchfield C.C., in 1.9.38, and E. F. Butt, Hants R.C., (the winner of the 50-60 section, with 1.10.34. Butt had a very easy win in his age group, his nearest rival being C. Binder, Westerley R.C., over 6 mins. slower. In the over 60 section, J. J. Gardner, London Clarion, was an easy winner with the exceptionally good time of 1.17.12, followed by E. H. Strevens, the organizer of the event, with 1.25.4 and W. C. S. Harris, aged 76, Upper Holloway C.C., with 1.28.42. Harris, despite his age, won the handicap prize in his section. The team race was decided on the V.T.T.A. principle of the two riders ignoring sections whose aggregate time is less than their V.T.T.A. standard time by the greatest amount, and the Upper Holloway C.C. pair (Stevens and Harris) were the winners from the Birchfield C.C. (Dakton and Goodman). Cecil Cooke timed the event. Out of 37 riders on the start card, 25 started and every one finished. Results:—

#### "A" Section (40-50 Years)

Age.	Name and Club.	H'cap.	mins.	h.	m.	s.
44.	A. Rogerson, Spen Valley	¾	1	8	41	
40.	T. Goodman, Birchfield...	4½	1	9	38	
42.	C. A. Sturt, Bee C.C. ...	6	1	11	26	
H'cap.—C. A. Sturt, Bee C.C. (5), 1; W. E. Dalton, Birchfield (6½), 2; H. Clode, Cardiff (5½), and T. Goodman, Birchfield (4½), 3.						

#### "B" Section (50-60 Years)

Age.	Name and Club.	h.	m.	s.
50.	E. F. Butt, Hants R.C. ...	1	10	34
55.	C. Binder, Westerley R.C. ...	1	16	54
53.	G. W. Turner, V.T.T.A. ...	1	16	56
H'cap.—J. Badger, V.T.T.A. (11), 1; W. E. D. Mundson, V.T.T.A. (7), 2; E. Butt, Hants R.C. (scr.), 3.				

#### "C" Section (Over 60 Years)

Age.	Name and Club.	h.	m.	s.
60.	J. J. Gardner, London Clarion ...	1	17	12
73.	E. H. Strevens, Upper Holloway	1	25	4
H'cap.—W. C. S. Harris, Upper Holloway (18½), 1.				

The London Group was first to be formed, with Manchester and Yorkshire both also coming into existence during 1945.

Winter clubruns also seem to have been an activity of the VTTA in the London area, with a run every Sunday, each starting from a different point around the capital and usually to a public house. Again these were well publicised in *Cycling*, no doubt due to the welcome support of H. H. England.

Early in 1950 Ernest Strevens became ill and was missing from meetings for nearly a year, though he still remained as National President. By the 1952 AGM C. W. Cooke had died, then Strevens died in November of the same year, aged 82. Tributes published in the cycling press at the time appear in the obituaries section of this *Veteran*.

In forming the VTTA Ernest Strevens was clearly ahead of his time in recognising that athleticism need not end at 40. Cycling must have been one of the first sports to provide veterans competition, with allowances specifically tailored to take account of the effects of ageing and to provide, so far as is possible, a level playing field regardless of age. Many other sports have now followed suit, so that veterans sporting competition is no longer regarded as unusual, but rather as beneficial to a healthy and prolonged life. The

concept devised by Strevens and his contemporaries has clearly stood the test of time and with very little change to the activities and aspirations of the Association. The standards stood the test of time until 2012 before needing any revision. although having been expanded to include trikes, tandems and most notably women.

*Editorial note - If any member has items of VTTA historical interest these will be most welcome and will be published in future editions during our 75th anniversary year.*

**AGE RECORDS PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF THE VTTA  
(All Solo Bicycle)**

Dist.	Age	Name	Club	Year	Record
25	40	A Rogerson	Spenn Valley Whs	1939	1:07:46
25	47	A G Keen	Unity CC	1926	1:09:33
25	50	E F Butt	Hampshire RC	1943	1:10:34
25	58	A R Dyble	Norwood Paragon CC	1937	1:10:48
25	60	W H Steer	Birmingham Crescent Whs	1942	1:14:28
25	62	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1932	1:17:00
25	67	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1937	1:21:06
25	69	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1939	1:21:28
25	71	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1941	1:23:24
50	41	J B Austin	Oxford City RC	1942	2:12:55
50	46	A G Keen	Unity CC	1925	2:21:34
50	51	A G Keen	Unity CC	1930	2:28:04
100	55	W H Steer	Birmingham Crescent Whs	1937	5:31:15
100	63	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1933	5:39:12
100	64	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1934	5:51:52
12	43	A Rogerson	Spenn Valley Whs	1942	214.50
12	45	E F Butt	Hampshire RC	1938	219.76
12	46	A G Keen	Unity CC	1925	203.75
12	62	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1932	193.50
12	72	E H Strevens	Upper Holloway CC	1942	174.50

*Acknowledgement Steve Lockwood & TT Forum*

**V.T.T.A. WINTER RUNS**

**A** SERIES of Sunday morning runs around London is to be featured this winter by the newly formed and enthusiastic Veterans' Time Trial Association. On the first Sunday in each month there will be a run led by F. B. Reed, Polytechnic C.C., to meet at the church at the top of Barnet Hill, for a ride to the Merrythought Café, Hatfield. On the second Sunday of each month the run will be led by C. A. Sturt, of the Bec C.C., meeting at Tooting Broadway Underground, to the "Walnut Tree," Downe, Kent. C. W. Cooke, Barnet C.C., will lead the run on each third Sunday of the month, from Whipps Cross to the "Wake Arms," on the Epping Road; and on the fourth Sunday the run will be led by F. S. Johnson, Balham C.C., with the meet at the south end of Richmond Bridge, followed by a ride to "The Shanty," Stanwell Moor, Wraysbury, near Staines. **All runs will meet at 9.30 a.m. and move off at 9.45 promptly. Prospective members, who must be 40 years of age and over, will be made welcome.**

# AROUND THE GROUPS

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## EAST ANGLIAN

### *Mary Horsnell's musings*

There was a new venue for the national meeting this year and it was certainly a new experience. The hotel was based on three reception areas, with corridors radiating off. therefore a fair bit of time was spent finding the three different rooms allotted to the VTTA delegates and prize winners. When the agenda is discussed, it is always interesting to hear the views from different parts of the country, but as most delegates are mandated to vote, is all this really necessary? Obviously it is easier to operate a small group where members will be known to each other, than a group spread over a large area. It would be interesting to know membership numbers of the various groups as several seem to have difficulty in finding officials. In the case of running events in with opens, on popular courses, the vets are only allowed a certain percentage of places, selected on fastest times, which goes against the spirit of the VTTA?

At the prize giving, which followed the buffet lunch, the Ted Bricknell Memorial Award was presented to Paul Dawson on behalf of his father Les, who was unable to attend. Never was an honour more richly deserved. The citation was detailed in the December *Veteran*, but Les and Mary will always be remembered for their visits to Essex. One report records that they were rewarded with 4 of the 6 medals available - and that was typical. 'The Veterans Link' of June 1988 records the VTTA National 30, with Les on trike taking 4th on standard and Mary 5th, both setting national age records. In her day Mary was one of the few ladies who could beat the men on standard and this she did many times over the years and at most distances. In this event however, both had to give way to Eric Marsh, who was 2nd on

standard. The ever adaptable Eric was the chap who regularly took best on standard on his trike and, when it was said that the trike standards gave him an unfair advantage, he turned to two wheels and was still winning! He has not been able to ride since his disastrous accident but has now adapted to a non-cycling life.

As well as the regulars, it was good to see at the presentation so many of the younger women, who have been doing such fantastic rides. And it was also good to see that CTT have honoured Beryl's outstanding achievements by putting her on the cover of their 2018 Handbook. In the December *Veteran* the over 80s roll of honour shows Gill Henshaw, Mickie Hornby and Brenda Littlefair, who all date back to Beryl's time, as does Barbara Penrice, who heads the list - they are survivors and still going strongly, so well done.

Not only flurries of snow, but flurries of social activity marked the end of the 2017 season. HLMS Ted Jackson and Geoff Allum had a surprise when evergreen District Chairman Don Saunders, having just completed a difficult reliability trial, stepped aside and indicated that they should conduct the prize presentation, at the East District CA lunch - a task which they carried out with aplomb. Both have just retired after decades of service to the EDCA, serving as secretary and treasurer respectively. Ted needs no introduction but Geoff, though having topped the alphabetical list of members for a number of years, is not so well known in the Group, living as he does in Kings Lynn, far from the main centre of activities, although he did once venture to the E2/10 and beat evens, or so rumour has it! Having moved up from Enfield his original club was the old Elsyng RC, where Ken James was his best mate. He had been used to running events for them and

continued to do so, also taking on the role of club secretary at one time.

Dave Green did not take home his usual assortment of trophies from the EDCA, having concentrated on BBAR events, with excellent results. However he still retained both the 12 hour cups as did Karen Eaton for the ladies, with Verity Smith also figuring highly among the major award winners.

Meanwhile the Eastern Counties results have a certain repetition about them, with Gray Turnock retaining the BAR, Caspian Cup and the Dunlop 12 hour cup, although he had to give best to Liam Maybank for the Maude and Bill Temme Memorial Trophy for vets BAR (over 25, 50 and 100 miles), in which Sue Triplow was sixth and best Essex rider. Chelmer retained the Keehner Team Shield with John Golder (10th), Peter Horsnell (12th) and Graham Painter (16th), while Rob Young retained the Pickering Short Distance Trophy on points. It was pleasing to see Graham Mann go up for the 12 hour team shield, also for the Banks Trophy for the map reading contest, accompanied by his soigneur Rob Dulson; their positions are now reversed following Rob's retirement from a very successful racing career, during which he was always encouraged and ably assisted by Graham.

For the Bates Trophy, Ladies BAR Sue Triplow moved up a place and pushed Verity Smith into runner up spot; she also took the 25 mile trophy, but the 10 cup went to Verity. Sue has recently moved home to Hadleigh in Suffolk, so competition should be even more intense, though both have had to give way to Jackie Field on the national stage.

Not such good news of another Essex Roads top lady, Lea Marshall, who with Gwen Cook was setting national tandem age records not so long ago. Lea had recovered from an operation and spells in hospital and was back on her bike, before being knocked down by a careless driver. Neither of these two have enjoyed good health in recent years and it is unlikely

that they will be seen in competition again. Karen Eaton suffered a similar bad experience and has to take things easy for a while, but her achievements are legendary and she should bounce back. Both she and Colin Kindred were out of hospital and able to attend the recent Wolsey RC luncheon. Colin is now best known as a timekeeper and was long serving secretary of the Essex and Suffolk Border Combine, which was wound up in 2001.

Further casualties were reported at the special meeting held in February. The new webmaster, Noel Toone, at whose behest the date was changed to a Saturday, was unable to attend following an accident and medical advice not to drive. It was also reported that John Golder had been knocked down leaving work, although he later arrived courtesy of his chauffeuse - nothing broken, but badly bruised. Unfortunately these incidents are becoming all too common.

Ian MacKenzie had made extensive enquiries re a more central location for the annual luncheon. As a result of this the 2018 gathering, also for the AGM, will be the Rosebury at Exning, near Newmarket (this should be familiar with all who compete in that area) and the date will be 25th November. Mervyn Player will not be standing that day for re-election as general secretary, but is willing to continue as membership secretary. Another office which needs to be filled is that of awards secretary, a new appointment to spread the load.

Chairman Andrew Grant will be compere. Mick Gambling, who in such a lively and entertaining way was MC for countless years, is often enquired after, so here is his 2017 end of term report: "Recovered from two operations, back on bike and was run over by a double decker bus!" Obviously he has not lost his sense of humour!

Moving on from the bad news, Merv Player had a nice message from Llewelyn Ranson's

daughter Ann, following his 100th birthday party and giving of his Centenarian's certificate: *"Llewelyn had a small birthday party with close friends he has got to know since living with us in Aberdeenshire. I enclose a montage of photos and leave you to select which ones you wish to use.*

*He really appreciates the Certificate and we will have it framed and placed in his room. Please pass on my thanks to the Association members who remember him in his hey-day and for the kind thought of this presentation.*

*He is keeping remarkable well although not quite so active as he used to be, but still vividly reminisces his cycling memories.*

*For the presentation he is flanked by myself, left, and my sister Judith.*

*If anyone wishes to catch up with him on the phone feel free to call 01771623544.*

*Kind regards  
Ann"*

So to all those suffering, short or long term, as a result of accident or infirmity - here's to a speedy return to sport, if that is applicable, otherwise be assured that you are not forgotten by your old friends ..... and so into another season.

## **KENT**

### ***Ian Turner***

The Group's Annual Lunch and Prize Giving was held on Saturday 10th February, once again at the Weald of Kent Golf Club which has an excellent carvery and one which we have to book early to be sure of securing the venue. The reason for choosing a Saturday is because we know that as long as we get enough guests we can guarantee the use of the whole of the venue; this was more than achieved with 97 members of the Kent Group attending.

It goes without saying that Tom Morton, our Social Secretary and his good wife Barbara

ensured another successful event and over the years our numbers have increased because of their efforts.

Our Guest of Honour this year was Sophie Faldo, a lady who has risen to fame with her culinary prowess, being the winner of the 2017 Great British Bake Off. Not only can she cook and make fantastic cakes but she is also an accomplished track rider; it was thanks to Tom Morton spotting her on the track and indeed, Sophie joining Tom's club, that he was able to persuade her to be our guest of honour. Sophie kept the guests entertained with a stimulating question and answer session.

MC duties at the lunch once again fell to Paul Mephram even though he promises year on year that this is going to be his last. Paul will be sadly missed when he does actually do what he threatens as he is excellent at keeping proceedings moving along smoothly. One of his tasks, sadly, was to remember with those present members who have sadly passed away over the year. One such member that some of you may remember is Pam Manser wife of the late Roy Manser. Pam was a keen racing cyclist and was a prominent rider on the Kent roads.

Tom Morton did the speech for Ladies and the Guest of Honour and Mark Vowells, in his second year as President, did the concluding speech. Again this year the number of prize winners attending the luncheon was small, with a number of the main prize winners absent.

I myself was unable to get to the lunch this year because of a family health issue. It was the first I have missed since becoming the Group's Recorder and Reporter in 2008, and my heartfelt thanks go to those who rallied round to deliver the trophies and ensure that they were placed in the hands of the correct prize winners!

The Group's programme of events for 2018 kicks off on Saturday 24th March with the ten mile event on Q10/22 for the Mick Dansie Cup - always an enjoyable, if chilly, event ably organised by Val Peachey. Following this, the



Group is again hosting the National 30 on Sunday 29th April. Tom Morton is organising this event, which will be run on the Q30/2 course based around the A2070 from Ashford to Brenzett and back. This is one of the fastest roads in the south east of Kent and was the venue of the VTTA national 30 mile TT two years ago. The men's course record stands at 1.2.36 and the ladies record at 1.12.36. The race HQ is at the Hamstreet pavilion. Ashford town is an easy drive from the start and there is ample accommodation to meet anybody's needs or budgets nearby.

Winter this year seems to have been particularly miserable and longer than usual - or is that just me and an age thing? Whatever, I understand that many group members are not deterred and are getting plenty of training in. Best of luck for the 2018 season.

## **LONDON & HOME COUNTIES**

### ***John Hoskins***

As usual for the London & Home Counties Group, the year's promotions started with the Annual Prize Giving & Luncheon – once again at its long standing “home” of Aldenham Golf and Country Club. Over sixty members and their guests attended, and as usual the meal and the service were excellent.

The chief guest was Alice Lethbridge – currently resplendent on the front cover of the CTT handbook - who gave an amusing and informative speech about her season and the lead up to it. Amongst her many achievements in 2017, including of course becoming the women's BBAR, was her becoming the competition record holder for the Women's 12 hour with 285.64 miles, finally beating the record held by the incomparable Beryl Burton for fifty years, by a comfortable seven miles plus. In recognition of this fabulous ride Alice was presented with an engraved glass award by the London & Home Counties group, inscribed with the details of her ride. And then it was her turn to present the prizes to all of

the group's prize winners. As usual it was Liam Maybank who secured the lion's share of the silverware, not only by frequently achieving the fastest ride in a competition but equally winning standards awards, despite having the disadvantage of being younger than most of the other riders competing for those prizes. John Lacey and Peter Lawrence also picked up a brace of trophies each, John with the “Screwed Down” trophy and the Mal Rees Shield, and Peter with the Rocco Memorial Trophy and Autumn 25 Cup – both won by a fabulous ride in the Rocco 25 last October.

Other major prize winners included Katja Rietdorf, finding time to organise the lunch as well as racing at an extremely high level; Tim Childs, who also organised the Rocco 25 for us; Gier Robinson, who also, as well as winning the Dick Goodman Cup for best 10 on standard is now helping the committee to organise the trophy engraving for next year; Richard Hutt (fastest 55+ in the Rocco 25) and Joy Payne, who became the first winner of the new season long Jim Burgin award, based on standards in all of the year's L & HC promotions. It was unfortunate that Jim Burgin himself wasn't well enough to attend the Luncheon to present the award to Joy, the first he has missed since joining I'm led to believe. Although following a brief spell in hospital Jim is well on the road to recovery now. Amongst the many awards given out was the presentation to Pete Tasker of his richly deserved Honorary Life Membership of the VTTA. Whilst in the past these HLM awards were automatic, based on age and membership, this year the award is only made on the specific recommendation of a group committee – so our congratulations go to Pete, who has served us for many, many years as a timekeeper (amongst other duties).

Talking of HLMs, for once none of the three holders of Distinguished Life Membership were at the lunch. The London & Home Counties Group owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jack and Sylvia Armstrong and to Jim Burgin for the work done for the group over many, many years.

Jack and Sylvia WERE the London & Home Counties for many years as far as organisation went. It was particularly sad that they were absent as the group is celebrating (along with the VTTA nationally) our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. We were the first group to be formed within the VTTA, and it was the London & Home Counties Group that fought to allow women to be members. The VTTA wouldn't be the same without its huge female membership and this is one reason why the group is looking this year to increase the Ladies' Awards in all of their promotions in 2018.

The committee actually have yet to decide quite how to do this, as the standards are supposed to totally equalise women and men as well as equalising age differences. So should there be women only standard awards? In theory they are competing on a level playing field with the men. But no doubt common sense will prevail in the end. On the subject of committees, the current L & HC committee is almost entirely different to the committee of only a few years ago – and one of our major intentions is to do more to promote the idea that the Group is a CLUB, not just an organisation to promote events. We would welcome ideas regarding how we could move towards achieving this aim. Perhaps more social events (not necessarily major events like the luncheon); perhaps running more low key “club” events for members only; maybe even a hill climb. What we need is feedback from the membership.

We have now got enough members helping on or with the committee that we feel confident we can progress towards providing more for our members. Gier Robinson has taken on most of the organisation of the trophies and their engraving, which was a worry. Although perhaps there is someone out there who would willingly take on the production of this quarterly article for *The Veteran*, if so please let me know. A recent committee meeting was very optimistic about the future of the group. This year we're promoting two National Championship VTTA events. The 10 mile, as

part of the May Bank Holiday Don Byham Ten (May 7<sup>th</sup>) and then the 15 mile Championship on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Put those dates in your diary now as lots of help will be needed, along with the tens on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> August, and the Rocco 25 on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Another reminder to all of our members is that by the time you read this, membership subscriptions will be overdue. So just in case you have forgotten, this will be your final reminder. Cheques (£18 or £22 for a couple) to J.Hoskins, 8, Ryvers Road, Langley, Berks, SL3 8SB. Or directly to our bank VTTA, London & Home Counties Group, Sort Code 20 45 45 and Account Number 73251837 (if you have any different details stored on your online banking, please delete them).

## **MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST**

***Jim Ogden***

Writing during the winter Olympic Games, where doing acrobatics on snow and ice is the norm, I feel glad that in our sport we at least try and stay upright.

In reporting on our AGM last time, when we had failed to fill any of the committee vacancies and I indicated that I felt that the end of the Group was in sight. Well I had underestimated the resilience of our members. By the end of the Annual Luncheon and Prize presentation on November 26<sup>th</sup>, a full house had appreciated the Group's executive problems and we now have a full complement. Our new Secretary is Nev Ashman, 77 Hulme Hall Road, Cheadle, SK8 6JZ. 0161 485 7969. Our new treasurer is Edgar Reynolds, 141 Main Street, Halton Village, Runcorn, WA7 2PP 01928 581 416, whilst Tony Farrell will remain at Group Recorder at Lealtad, Brookedge Lane, Addlington SK10 4JU 01625 820210.

Reporting on another of my failures, the list of Group events given in the December edition of *The Veteran* was correct, but now that I have

my copy of the CTT Handbook, the dates given were wrong, so here is the corrected list:

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> April 2pm - 10 - J2/3 - Roy Deakin

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May 2pm - Warrington RC 50 - J4/16

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June 2pm - Janus CC 25 - J2/9

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July 2pm - Seamons CC 25 - J2/9

The first event this year on a J course will have been the Stretford Whs Gordon Pickering Memorial 10 on Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gordon will be remembered as being a time-keeper ever present at local events and also as a past national secretary of the VTTA.

The AGM of the National Association was held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at a new venue, the St John's Hotel Solihull. Our Group was not represented by any delegates. However, from the minutes, I can report aspects of interest.

The annual subscription fee will be raised by £3 from 2019 and with immediate effect the VTTA shall cease to offer purchased life membership. Members are currently given until 31<sup>st</sup> March to pay their annual subscriptions. A proposal by the Surrey-Sussex Group to amend the deletion date to the 28<sup>th</sup> February was passed. This would prevent non-payers being sent the next edition of the Veteran and the National Handbook for the following year as they would no longer be entitled to receive them.

Of the two regular events held in December on which I report, only one was held. Dave Fearon, promoter of the M&D Christmas 10 on December 10<sup>th</sup>, had no option but to cancel the event due to dangerously adverse weather conditions. On the previous Sunday, the cyclist carol service was held as usual at Chelford Church, always a happy and well attended occasion.

The last luncheon and prize presentation is always that of the Manchester & District Time Trials Association (M&DTTA) and it was a full house at Middlewich Masonic on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Their current President is Keith Stacey, Seamons CC, who will always be remembered as British Best All Rounder from 1965 when all his counting rides were achieved on our local J

courses. Keith welcomed the visitors and introduced Denise Hurst, Congleton CC, who presented the prizes ably assisted by Keith, Derek Hodgins and Ian Ross.

Adrian Hughes, Seamons CC, who had been the major prize winner at this Group's luncheon, again took centre stage at the M&D event. He was their middle distance Vets champion, runner up in the senior and the middle distance BAR and the 12 hour where he led the winning team which included fellow Group member Daniel Mathers. Ladies Best All Rounder and Middle Distance Champion is Liz Matheson, Leigh Premier RC and she was also the 100 mile Ladies Champion with her winning ride of 4:41:55. The men's championship was won by Mark Nulty (Glossop Kinder Velo) in 3.39.31, where Adrian Hughes was third in 3:58:00. No, we do not have a drag strip!! I am not the only one who would have been quite pleased in being an hour slower. How times are changing. Another excellent social occasion, which finished with the sun still shining and most of the Seamons, who had come on their bikes, able to ride home in daylight.

Early season events to report next time and I hope your training bring the results you all hope for.

## **MERSEYSIDE**

### ***Geoff Edgerton***

Another festive season done and dusted. Not the best personally, having gone down with the dreaded man flu. Well, a chest infection which resulted in a visit to the local medical centre and a course of antibiotics and steroids. Off the bike for a fortnight, devastated, this is going to ruin the start to my season, it could even ruin my entire season. Come on Geoff, pull yourself together, think rationally, you're a grown man. Anyway there could be benefits from this. I wonder what type of steroids I have been prescribed, performing enhancing perhaps, I need all the help I can get. I had been struggling with my breathing as well.

Perhaps I should have asked the doctor if I could have had an inhaler to help with this. Probably best not to open that can of worms.

The group held its annual dinner and prize presentation on the 14<sup>th</sup> January at the Cheshire View, Christleton. A big thank you to Phil Guy for being instrumental in the organising of this event. Fifty-six members and friends were present and particularly pleasing was the fact that all the major prize winners were present and the standard winners also made the effort, for which we are grateful. Guest speaker was Becky Lewis of Mid Shropshire Wheelers who also presented the awards. The previous day Becky, together with her family, had attended the CTT awards and travelled up to Cheshire the following day to attend our event.

The ladies were to the fore in our awards list with Jill Wilkinson of the Chester RC finishing in top spot in the four distance BAR competition. In the process Jill claimed a national age related record in the 12 hour competition with a distance of 272.80 miles, which is also the greatest distance achieved by any over 40 lady rider. Jill's haul of trophies included the Tom Johnson Memorial cup for first in the BAR, the 12 hour cup on distance, the BW Bentley Rose Bowl for the 12 hour on standard and finally the Group awarded Jill the meritorious cup for her achievements in the 12 hour.

It also proved to be a good season for Janet Fairclough of St Helens CRC. As well as finishing runner up to Jill in the BAR, Janet also claimed the bronze medal in the National Vets 12 hour competition. Janet was the Group ladies champion on standard, for which she wins the Doreen Mahar Rose bowl, and on actual time, for which she receives the Dave Swales cup.

Port Sunlight Wheelers Kevin Larmer is a regular visitor to the top table and this year was no exception. Kevin was Group three distance champion on actual time to claim the Bill Taylor Memorial Shield. Along the way Kevin's haul included the Brooke Cup for fastest in the

Liverpool Phoenix 25, the Leo Madden Cup for fastest in the West Cheshire 10, the WJ Smith Rose Bowl for fastest in Chester RC 25, the Derek Ireland Cup for fastest in Rhos-on-Sea 10 and finally the Dave Towel Cup for fastest time in a hundred mile time trial.

Arthur Winstanley of the Liverpool Phoenix was again group three distance on standard to claim the Wally Gradden Cup. Arthur also took home the Walvale Trophy for best on standard in the Liverpool Phoenix 25 and the Bill Hanson cup for best hundred on standard. Andy Hazell of Nova Raiders retained the Harry Mahar Salver as group short distance champion and the Ron Yates Trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 10. Jenny York of Mid Shropshire Wheelers took two trophies, the Colin Rutter Cup for best on standard in the Chester RC 25 and the John Clucas Trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 30. There was three trophies for North Shropshire Wheeler's Richard Kay - the George Hayes Trophy for fastest in the West Cheshire 30, the Gomersal Cup for fastest in the North Shropshire Wheelers 25 and the Eddie Gradden Trophy for fastest in the Mid Shropshire Wheelers 50, with fellow North Shrops member Dave Wilson collecting the Joe Brooke Trophy with best on standard in the North Shropshire Wheelers 25 and the Dick Corris Memorial Trophy for best on standard in the Mid Shropshire Wheelers 50. Harry Cowley of Chester RC took the Lanterne Rouge for final place in the three distance competition with the final cup, the Ted Fitzpatrick Shield, going to Ian Corrin of Port Sunlight Wheelers.

Sixteen members claimed their standards. Janet Fairclough received a plaque for six standards, John Robertson of Mid Shropshire Wheelers a plaque for five, Harry Cowley and Rachel Mayers of Liverpool Phoenix a plaque for four, Jeff Mace of Chester RC, Helen Tudor of Oswestry Paragon, Ian Casson of Birkenhead Victoria and Martin Sturge of Graham Weigh Racing, plaques for three. Medals for two were awarded to Kevin Larmer, and North

Shropshire Wheelers Phil Guy and Richard Berry and a medal for one going to Keith Nield and Ian Hawkins of Chester RC, Andy Hazell, Arthur Winstanley and North Shropshire Wheeler Geoff Edgerton.

I have to report the passing of one of our Honorary Life Members, Frank McConville. Frank, a member of Wavertree CC, was our oldest member, born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1918. Sadly, Frank died in early December 2017. Hopefully an obituary will be in a later edition of the Veteran.

The racing season will soon be with us, in fact the first local event, the Chester Hilly 14, which is in late February will have been completed by the time this hits the doormat. I hope everyone has a successful and safe cycling season and your aspirations are achieved.

## **MIDLANDS**

### ***Jeff Matthews***

The 2017 Midlands Group Prize Presentation Lunch took place at the Kings Court Hotel, as it has for a number of years. Once again it was ably organised by Greta Spiers, supported by Margaret and Alan Colburn, and some 40 diners sat down to share a meal in convivial company. All were welcomed by the Group Chair and then Alan Colburn, who resumed his role as MC, despite having said last year that he would rather give it up and enjoy his lunch. He will be a tough act to follow in 2019, unless he again relents.

Guest of Honour was coach and triathlete Dr Garry Palmer, who was asked to speak on 'the ageing athlete' and judging by the small queue of people wishing to speak with him one to one afterwards, clearly he struck a note that was appreciated. Garry operates through his West Midlands based company, Sportstest, which he founded in 2003 to provide high level fitness testing primarily to triathletes, cyclists and runners.

Amongst the prize winners were Best All Rounder Lynn Biddulph who retained her title. The Echelon Cycles Points series was won by Jon Simpkins who had sent his apologies. Of those that were there the evergreen Murray Kirton took most improved rider, demonstrating that consistency will out.



*Sue Kelly receives the Mary White Plate for services to Midland Group from Jeff Matthews*

The Group was particularly pleased to award the Mary White Plate for services to the Group to Sue Kelly. Wife of Graham Kelly, she has served on the committee in a variety of roles and continues to be an active time keeper. Racing husband and wife team Sue and Alistair Semple scooped awards on standard, and in the Points Series with Sue winning the Baylis Cup for women's short distance BAR and Bart Cup for BoS over 10 miles.

The awards on standard and those for the Echelon Points Series were presented first by Group Chair, Jeff Matthews; this was followed



*Alistair and Sue Semple, multiple award winners, with Jeff Matthews*

by those for the season long BAR awards by the good Doctor. A highly enjoyable event.

## **NORTH**

### **Gavin Russell**

Following on from news in the December Veteran, congratulations go out to Les Dawson, up to recently the Group's Secretary, on being awarded the 2017 Ted Bricknell Memorial Award, which is presented for outstanding service to the Association. A well-deserved award, of which I am sure that all group members will echo its merit.

With the social season (if there still is one) and the weather showing no sign of improving it was great for friends old and new to meet to celebrate the 2017 season.

Our group annual luncheon and award presentation took place on Sunday 7 January at the Hardwick Hall Hotel. Slightly down in numbers from last year, 47 members and guests enjoyed an excellent five course meal. With Chairman and Treasurer Paul Dawson

acting as master of ceremonies and new group secretary Gavin Russell welcoming guests, friends and members, Norman Bielby was welcomed as our Guest of Honour. Assisted by Dave Oliver, our group recorder, Norman presented the range awards to worthy recipients across all age groups. It was disappointing however, that more award winners were not present to collect their hard-earned awards.

It was pleasing to see Dave Herbert attending the luncheon, making his first social appearance since his very serious accident last summer. He is still awaiting further surgery to repair the damage sustained. Notable absentees were normally ever-present Pam and Burt Clayton and Jim and Brenda Littlefair, both sadly for health reasons, together with Richard and Ann Bland who have now relocated to Peterborough. We wish them all well in both improving health and their relocation.

The award presentation was combined, as in previous years, with the Cycling Time Trials Teesside District Awards. I'm happy to report that many of the District age group awards were won by group members. Also attending the luncheon, after delaying his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party to later in the day, was young Adam Japs of Manilla CC as the Teesside Junior SPOCO Champion and overall Teesside hill climb champion (where he gained maximum points after winning 4 of the 5 district hill climbs). Adam, who is to ride for Bottrill RT in 2018, has just received notice that his application, supported by a number of group members, has been successful in joining the Cycling Time Trials 2018 Scholarship programme.

Of those in attendance, many contributed to the raffle prizes, which through the generosity of those purchasing tickets managed to raise £157. From the positive feedback received, congratulations go once again to our group social secretary, Ruth Crossley, for again organizing the event.

With the threat of a £200 room hire charge being implemented at our recent luncheon venue, Ruth has researched other available local venues to ensure value for money and sustainability is maintained in future years. With a number of suitable local venues identified and contacted, Ruth presented all the detail to the North Group January committee meeting. In addition to the details of the new venues, it was also confirmed that Hardwick Hall, our recently used venue, had come forward and offered us the venue again without the threatened room hire charge being imposed. The committee discussed in depth the various options and whilst it was agreed that all were suitable and could meet the requirements for our luncheon, it was decided to remain at Hardwick Hall. This decision was taken in light of its geographical location (especially for those travelling from the north) and their past record in delivering an excellent luncheon. Of concern, was the fall in numbers and the possible increase in costs. To address this, the number of meal courses was discussed and a decision reached to reduce to a four course meal (in lieu of previous five) with soup, mains and dessert followed by coffee & mints. This means that this year's ticket price can be maintained.

It is therefore confirmed that next year's luncheon is on Sunday 6 January 2019, at the Hardwick Hall Hotel at Sedgfield, Co. Durham. Further reminders will be posted in future Veteran magazines. Please support this event as without it, with dwindling numbers, future luncheons could be in jeopardy.

At the January and February group committee meeting it was confirmed that both Jack Athey and Pete Manners on reaching four score years and with in excess of the 25 years membership each, both qualify for Honorary Life Membership.

The meeting also reviewed the group's events for the 2018 season. These being:

- 21 April – 10ml TT – T105 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Phil Wright
  - 13 May – 10ml TT – T105 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Paul Garstang
  - 02 June – 10ml TT – T104 – VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Ruth Crossley
  - 22 July – 25 ml TT – T252/3 – Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Gavin Russell
  - 12 August – 50 ml TT – T502 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Phil Wright
  - 02 Sept – 25 ml TT – T252/3 – Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Gavin Russell
  - 16 Sept – 25ml TT – T254 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Paul Garstang
  - 30 Sept – H/C – THC32 - VTTA (North Group) Hill Climb Championship - again included in the Cleveland Wheelers CC Clay Bank hill climb
- The Group's Nouva shield, presented annually at a group 25 mile event to the member best on standard, will this year be competed for at the Sunderland Clarion 25 mile time trial, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Refer to CTT Handbook or website for event details.
- Please note that the events on T104 & T254 are based on newly designed courses, local to Catterick in North Yorkshire and travelling north and south on the old A1 roads (now single carriageway service roads for the recently opened A1M). Can we remind members/readers that if you can assist in any way at any of the above events, please do not hesitate to contact the organizer, who will be only too pleased to receive your help.
- In closing, can I remind members that should they require any information regarding the Group's activities or wish for anything to be included in future *Veteran* magazines, please do not hesitate to contact the writer either by email on [gavin\\_russell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gavin_russell@hotmail.co.uk) or by telephone on 01642 654419.

## **NORTH LANCASHIRE & LAKES**

### ***Dave Brown***

The Annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation of our Group once again offered a very pleasant and enjoyable Sunday afternoon at The Crofters Hotel near Garstang. This location is fondly remembered by us older members as The Mayfield Transport Cafe. The 'tranny cafe' sat alongside the famous old Brock 25course on the A6 where -50 years ago next year- the late Alan Shackleton set British Competition record at 55m 38s – on his favourite 86inch 'fixed' of course. We have to wonder what 'Shack' would think of the 25 record now standing at a 'short' 44!!

Our Group Chairman Richard Taylor and our previous Chairman John Leach co-coordinated the function whilst one of our own long term and popular Group members John Keith handed over the wonderful array of trophies that the Group have acquired over many years.

I had reported 12 months ago that the 2016 season had been our Group's most successful ever at national level but the 2017 season certainly came very close – if not better - to that success level. Our Group Recorder/Chairman Richard said as he welcomed the prize winners "It has been an excellent season in 2017 and not only for quality but quantity as well".

It is not a simple task to select our most successful member of the 2017 season as there are certainly three contenders in Richard Bideau, Steve Irwin and Peter Greenwood. Richard may just have the edge for his rides that included the overall win in the VTTA 4 distance – 25, 50, 100 miles and 12 hours Best All Rounder competition. As reported in the last *The Veteran* the Pendle Forest Cycling Club member's performances included the fastest 100 ever ridden by a VTTA member of 3 hours 18 minutes 54 seconds – a 30 mph plus ride at the age 46 which is a record that is very likely to stand well into the future! However Richard was pushed into third place by our own Peter

Greenwood in the VTTA 3 Distance Competition. Richard's performances over 50, 100 and 12 hours also gave him overall second place in the Cycling Time Trials British Best All Rounder (BBAR), he having won that competition in 2016. He was also a member of the North Lancs and Lakes team to take second slot in the group teams of 6 riders on standard in both the VTTA National 3 Distance and the Short Distance Competitions.

Richard's performances were outstanding but his friend since junior-school years Steve Irwin of the North Lancs Road Club also had an excellent season. Steve's performances included three new national VTTA age records with terrific times of 17m 59s, 46m 54s, 56m 52s for 10, 25 and 30 miles - all at age 46. Steve was also overall 4<sup>th</sup> in the National Short Distance competition. He was also a member of the six rider teams in both the national Three Distance and Short Distance competitions where our group took second place.

Pete Greenwood riding for Team Swift was another national record breaker, clocking a 50 of 1 hour 46m 46s and a 3h 43m 16s 100 – outstanding rides at age 65. In the national Three Distance Competition Pete took an excellent second place overall and was only bettered by the almost unbeatable Peter Horsnell of the Chelmer Cycling Club.

On the local front Theresa Taylor (Preston CC) was proclaimed our Group Ladies Champion and also reset five of our Group age records at 10, 25, 30, 50 and 100 miles during the 2017 season. At the age of 57 her times were: 24m 39s, 1h 03m 37s, 1h 22m 11s, 2h 17m 13s and 4h 52m 25s – all done on courses that are just the opposite to those near Hull and on the A50 road!

The big majority of members who had achieved their standards in 2017 were present to collect their awards at the Luncheon. The Group had 21 plaques and medals awarded compared with only 14 in the previous year. Local awards were presented to: Jim Lawley (Barrow Central Whs) - 25 standard, Jamie Carson (Chorley CC) -



10 and 25 standards, Denis Thompson (West Pennine RC) - 10 and 25 standards, Graham Sheard (North Lancs. RC) - 10, 15 and 30 standards, David Golden (West Pennine RC) - 10, 25, 50 and 100 standards, Sue Cheetham (North Lancs. RC) - 10, 15, 25, 30 and 50 standards. Relative newcomer to our group Deborah Moss of Chorley CC and also Harry Haseley (North Lancs. RC) both achieved 10, 15, 25, and 100 standards.

The results at National level showed the strength in depth of our group at this point in time:

National 3 Distance Competition 2017 – based on 25, 50 and 100 miles – our group took 2<sup>nd</sup> overall team of 6 riders:

Pete Greenwood 2<sup>nd</sup>, Richard Bideau 3<sup>rd</sup>, Steve Irwin 7<sup>th</sup>, Dave Hargreaves 8<sup>th</sup>, Paul Fleming 16<sup>th</sup> and Mick Black 17<sup>th</sup>. In the same competition the North Lancashire Road Club took 2<sup>nd</sup> overall 3 rider team thanks to Steve Irwin, Dave Hargreaves and Harry Haseley.

In the national Short Distance Competition our group again took overall second team:

Steve Irwin 4<sup>th</sup>, Dave Hargreaves 5<sup>th</sup>, Richard Bideau 8<sup>th</sup>, Pete Greenwood 13<sup>th</sup>, Mick Black 22<sup>nd</sup> and Mike Westmorland 41<sup>st</sup> all out of over 300 qualifiers nationally. In this competition the North Lancashire Road Club were overall winners of the club team of 3 members thanks to Steve Irwin, Dave Hargreaves and Mervyn Wilson.

Selected events that will qualify for our Group Championship in 2018 are:

Wed 11th April - VTTA NL & Lakes 25 - L2521A

Sun 29th April - Wigan Wheelers 30 - L308

Sat 12th May - West Pennine RC 10 - L109

Sun 20th May - VTTA NL & Lakes 50 - L5012 (VTTA NAT CHAMPS)

Mon 28th May - Anfield BC 100 - D100/2A (VTTA NAT CHAMPS)

Sun 3rd June - Preston Whs 25 - L2525 (NLTTA CHAMPS)

Wed 13th June - VTTA/WPRC 25 - L256

Sun 8th July - RTTC National 100 - L10010 (also NLTTA CHAMPS)

Sun 22nd July - Lancashire RC 25 - L2525

Sat 4th August - VC Cumbria 50 - L5012 (shows as '25' in CTT h/b)

Group Members should ride at least four events to qualify of which one must be 50 miles or more.

As our Group is hosting the VTTA National Championship 50 mile on the course between Keswick and Cockermouth on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> Event Secretary Richard Taylor would welcome offers of help for that major promotion. The RTTC National 100 is on the same road on July 8<sup>th</sup> and Nigel Clementson will also welcome offers of help.

We should thank our Group Secretary Sue Cheetham for representing our Group and the National VTTA AGM in Solihull in January.

We welcome three new members to our group: Sean Owens (Penwortham / Croston Velo), Paul Revell (Barrow Central Whs) and returning member Alan Stark (Leyland / Southport CC). New members are always welcome. Fees this year are £13 for single members and £14 for couples. Contact our Membership Secretary Sue Cheetham for a membership form – details under the North Lancs and Lakes Group on the VTTA website.

## **NORTH MIDLANDS**

### ***Alex Deck***

In a change to the usual, new member Andy Clark tells his story of racing, weight gain, weight loss and return to racing.

*My name is Andy Clark. I was racing in the mid 80's with Rotherham Wheelers and Askern CC; if you don't remember me you might know my Dad, Ron Clark. I drifted out of cycling in the 1990's, but cycling never left me. This is my story of how cycling saved my life.*

*My beloved Father passed away in 2015, throwing me into crisis and despair. I was overweight (96kg), my blood pressure and cholesterol were sky high, and the doctor told me I had to lose weight. After watching the 2017 tour I said to the present Mrs Clark, "I'm going to get a bike and start cycling again". I set off to Halfords and bought a lovely blue aluminium road bike. I know I will get laughed at when I turn up at a time trial on it, but remember, it's not the bike, it's the rider.*

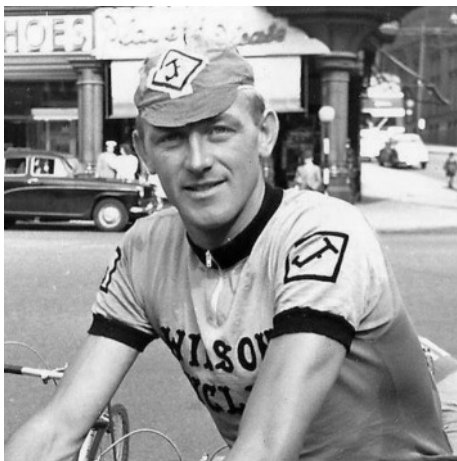
*I replaced the 38/48 chainset, added clipless pedals, which were just coming in as I left racing, and better tyres. I started ordering my clothing and was truly amazed at the quality of the items I bought, so much better than the 80's stuff. I spent most of my first ride adjusting the saddle height and cleats on the shoes I bought from a charity shop for twenty quid. It was a hilly nine miles which took me 44 minutes and when I got off, my legs were like jelly. But I persisted.*

*The more I rode the more weight I lost. My blood pressure was normal, so were my liver and kidney functions. But the biggest change was my attitude, I was now happy and cheerful, not morose and depressed. I am now 75.6kg, thanks to the bike. I ride every morning in the dark but I don't care because the cycle lights have improved so much, much better than the Pifco lights I had to use all those years ago.*

*Now I want a kind race promoter to allow me to ride a time trial and let me show my mettle. The first race will be a poignant affair for me because I know in my heart that Dad will be there with his SLR camera ready to take my photo at the start and finish but that will only spur me on, give the chance and I will prove that sheer bloody mindedness and determination will win, or in other words, it's not the bike, it's the rider. See you up the road.*

We look forward to welcoming Andy to one of the local evening 10s and to our first open event of 2018 on March 24<sup>th</sup> on the O10/16 (closing date March 13th).

If you haven't paid your subs, now's the time. Send your cash to Phil Morgan - details on the website. And finally, here's a fantastic photo of our record breaking Syd Wilson (now 88), from back in the day.



## **NOTTINGHAM & EAST MIDLANDS**

### **David Herd**

Well it's been bad news for winter training, with the weather both cold and wet, and the turbo trainer sometimes the best and only option.

The AGM, held on the 19 November 2017 at Granby Village Hall, was well attended. Russell Gent's secretary's report reflected the success of the Group's 2017 season, although membership was slightly lower than the previous year. The group received high entry levels for our three open events, however the Melton Olympic 25 held on 22 July (which incorporated the group's Jack Watts Memorial) attracted fewer entries because of the rescheduling of the Bolsover open 25.

With the extra events this year we will require additional marshals and helpers; this includes the VTTA National 25 on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July, so if you are able to help out in any way please contact Russell Gent on his email: [rwgent@btinternet.com](mailto:rwgent@btinternet.com) or telephone 01162 858738.

Our Treasurer Kath Smith presented her accounts which again remain healthy, adding £260.18 to the funds and closing the year with a large balance. This means that our subscriptions will stay the same for the coming year, ie. single membership £11, joint membership £13, life membership £6 if you require *The Veteran* and £1 if not required.

Once again the group has donated £130 to each of the air ambulance services that operate in the region. The report was approved and accepted by the meeting and Kath was rightly awarded the Bloodworthy Trophy for her excellent work for the Group.

Our reporter Graham Green who was unable to attend the meeting put forward his Recorders report:

2017 Record Claims were made by Gill Henshaw, Ian Guilor, Ron Hallam and Ken Stevens.

#### The Group BAR Competitions

- 1.Mick Wills +49:49
- 2.Colin Parkinson +47:45
- 3.Alan Morris +19:55
- 4.Chris Close +18:46

#### Group Senior BAR Over 70's

- 5.Ron Hallam +71:19
- 6.Graham Green +49:03
- 7.Mike Spurr +21:16

#### Group Four Distance BAR

- 8.Alan Morris +29:09
- 9.Chris Close +18:46

#### Prestige Points Trophy Winners

- 10.Ian Guilor 47 points
- 11.Mike Wills 46 points
- 12.Ron Hallam 37 points

Well done to all the group winners, but Graham expressed his disappointment that so few of the eligible riders actually claimed their completed distances.

#### Election of Officers

President Bill Stanley (one year of three year term)  
Chairman Sue Bowler

Vice Chairman Jim Goodwin  
Secretary Russell Gent  
Treasurer Kathy Smith  
Recorder Graham Green  
Dinner Secretary Gail Summerlin  
Veteran Reporter David Herd  
CTT Reps. Michael Spurr and Jan Preston

Group delegates to the VTTA National AGM  
Graham Green and Colin Parkinson.

Colin Parkinson agreed to take on the role of administrator for Nottingham and East Midlands Groups revised website. Russell Gent agreed to assist when required. The role will be incorporated in the list of officers for future AGMs.

The annual Luncheon and Prize presentation was held at Risley Park and proved a most enjoyable, social event this year and well worth travelling though a snow storm to get there.

Along with the Group Awards the following awards and trophies were presented:

Jack Watts (25) Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC)  
Bert Christian (25) Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC)  
Fred Smith (50) Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC)  
Hermes Trophy Mick Wills (Hinckley CRC)

The joint Guests of Honour this year were Team Swift's Mike Williams and Jon Surtees. Mike gave some humorous anecdotes from his wealth of experiences in promoting time trialling and at the same time voiced some concerns of the challenges that our sport faces in the future. John kindly presented the Awards.

There were two special awards this year:

The first, the CW Cooke Trophy which was awarded to Ron Hallam for the most meritorious racing performance of the season. This was nominated by the Group and put forward to the National Committee.

Secondly, the CTT Badge of Honour which is awarded for outstanding service to the organisation was presented to our President Bill Stanley by CTT Chairman Sheila Hardy. Having known Bill for most of time trialling career I

could not think of a more worthy recipient.

Well that is all for this issue, please send me any information you may have on this year's racing, social or any other snippets that may be of interest to the readers. My email is davidherd63@outlook.com. Telephone 01400 281116

Have a fast and safe racing season.

## **SCOTLAND**

*James Skinner*

### News

Firstly an apology for the mix-up with the prize giving luncheon date submitted on the last issue of the Veteran, and many thanks to the committee members who rallied round and ensured everyone was informed of the correct details.

The prize giving luncheon was a success with 73 booked in, but with the heavy snowfall that weekend only 60 attended. On the day 29 riders received awards, with a further 25 being posted out.

The start of the year was marred by the passing of Isobel Smith, a great promoter of bike racing in the North East, and known to many far and wide.

Honorary Life members Harry and Christine Paul from Greenock, and members of the former Greenock Paragon C.C., having celebrated their Diamond Jubilee on 20th August 2014, are still to be seen out and about in their home town, with Christine a very active member of the local Barrs Cottage Writers Group; and Harry her mentor! As such, she had several short stories included in a compilation of stories by authors involved in the Group and, not one to let the ink in her pen dry out, she recently published her second book. Reflecting on their efforts as Scribes, Christine and Harry commented, "It was easier climbing the 'Rest

and be Thankful' in a big gear"! Having surpassed a number of metallic and bejewelled milestones during their marriage, both are now looking forward to their Platinum one and, write another book; perhaps about how to stay young and happily married!

Henry Heathcoate and his wife Morag sustained some nasty injuries when hit from behind by a "cyclist" during a late holiday in Tenerife last year. Morag was hospitalised and spent the second week of their holiday in a wheelchair due to her foot being in a plaster. After discharge, Henry and Morag spent most of the remaining holiday attending the hospital due to their injuries.

### Ivy C.C. Burns Night 25th January

With 26 members and friends in attendance the evening's proceeding started with the Haggis being piped in by the Group's own Iain McLeod to an eagerly waiting Gus McLafferty who, with his trusty knife in hand, was ready to address the piping hot and steaming trenchers of the "Haggis".

As the evening progressed, Dick Barns provided the address to the Ladies and Donnie entreated the members with a very witty 'cycling' poem. And, as no Burns evening should be without an appropriate song, Jimmy Goldie done the honours by singing the traditional 'My Love is Like a Red Red Rose'.

This was followed by Group member Gus enthralling everyone with a first class recital of 'Tam O'Shanter'. Such was the recital that those who had attended the function on their trusty bikes were a bit apprehensive of venturing past the local 'churchyard' on their way home! With the various addresses given, it was then the turn of Willie McLuskie (Group member), to conclude the evening's entertainment by acknowledging the Ivy C.C. and thanking all who had attended and assisted in ensuring that the evenings proceedings were up to the high standards expected.

### Dates for your diary are:

2018 AGM Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November held in McQs Bannockburn

2019 prize presentation luncheon is booked for Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> January again at McQs in Bannockburn

### Racing

The season opening Ice Breaker TTT was stopped mid event due to 3 riders crashing during the race, two of the riders were taken to hospital via ambulance, one has a few facial injuries (the helmet took most of the impact) and the other has a broken collar bone, but both are in good spirits, and hopefully by the time this drops through your door the riders affected are well on the way to recovery.

So no time trial results for the season yet as we go to print, but the hardy few amongst us have been having a great time racing cyclo-cross over the winter, noted results being Chris White racing for the SVTTA, and gaining a very respectable 17<sup>th</sup> V50 in the Santa Cross World Championships, and a 16<sup>th</sup> V50 in the recent British Championships Course test event at Irvine Beach, definitely a rider to watch.

Two changes to the original dates as follows. The 10TT has moved from the 13<sup>th</sup> May to the 1<sup>st</sup> April, this is to accommodate the CTT Knights Composite Classic Series Trial weekend at Kinlochleven. The other change is the headquarters for the 25TT at Aberdeen. This is now back to Fordoun Village Hall, Fordoun.

All Group Championship Race Dates are as follows

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10 Mile TT - Community Hall Cambusbarron 0800hrs, Cycling Time Trials event

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 15 Mile TT - Community Hall Cambusbarron 0800hrs, Cycling Time Trials event

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June Falkirk Road Race – Grangemouth Rugby Club

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 25 Mile TT J. Cramb Handicap Trophy – Fourdon Village Hall 0900hrs, Scottish Cycling event

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 50 Mile TT – Freuchie Cricket Club 08.00hrs, Scottish Cycling event

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 25 Mile TT Ben Smith Trophy - Community Hall Cambusbarron 0800hrs, Cycling Time Trials event

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August 100 Mile TT – Fourdon Village Hall 0700hrs, Scottish Cycling event

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August Ivy Road Race – Balfour High School 1100hrs, Scottish Cycling event

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 30 Mile TT – Community Hall Cambusbarron, 0800hrs Cycling Time Trials event

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October Tour De Trossachs 28.5 Mile MTT – Aberfoyle 1000hrs, Cycling Time Trials event

In addition to the championship and standard weekend events, take the time and sharpen up with some midweek racing as there are well supported season long TT leagues in Dumfries, Fife and at Georgetown Road in the west.

### And finally..

The Scottish group welcomes the following new members.

Patricia Baird riding for V.C Anderside, James Hall of Rock and Road CC, Thomas McNeish Royal Albert C.C, Stephen Payton riding for RossShire Roads, Neil Pendrich riding for SVTTA, and Michael Wood of the Edinburgh Road Club

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

### **SOUTH WALES**

#### ***Barry Williams***

When you get to read this, hopefully, the weather will have improved. But just now, I have to say that any cyclist dreaming of riding

outdoors will face a weather challenge. I have just returned from a short excursion through farm lanes in the Vale of Glamorgan; there I encountered mud, pot holes, puddles plus wind chill. Also, a low sun reflecting off wet roads and a worry that motorists will not see me. Today's traffic speeds and volumes are ever increasing, therefore, in my opinion, more risks to life and limb for cyclists.



We need more safe cycle paths like pictured in Perth WA. I have been down under a few times and seeing the bright blue sky in a TV cricket match had me thinking I wish I was there now. Riding my favourite daily cycling route, 6.30am from my sister in law's house in Cottesloe when it's 20c and comfortable along the beach side path to Freemantle ("Freo" to the locals) reaching the Swan River crossing, turn left to pick up Riverside path heading for South Perth, chance to see why Australia is a great sporting nation as the route meanders through golf courses, past cricket pitches and tennis clubs; fellow cyclists all enjoy the benefits of a great climate. The next turn is beside the Canning River, a few kilometres alongside the oarsmen of Royal Perth Rowing Club, on early morning training. Time to cross the Mount Henry Bridge, turn left and continue the path along the Canning and Swan rivers for 10K back to the Narrows Bridge, joining large numbers cycling to work in nearby central Perth. Now it's the return leg alongside the north bank of the river, past the University of Western Australia, Matilda Bay Nature Reserve,

and Dalkeith's millionaire houses to finish the 55K ride at Cottesloe Beach Café for breakfast with my wife beside a gleaming Indian Ocean. The Government of Western Australia has constructed over 1000 kilometres of similar pathways throughout the metropolitan area of Perth, a far sighted policy sadly lacking here.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council have started building a roadside cycle pathway along the 10 miles between Culverhouse Cross and Cardiff Airport near Rhoose, but somehow our authorities find these constructions difficult, there are gaps forcing riders on to the busy highway, then the exit ramps are placed in positions that force the cyclist to stop. Parked cars are another hazard as is debris on the path for want of regular sweeping. Infrastructural failures are well documented in UK and I cannot see any change in the near future.

Luckily we still have active winter cycling in South Wales with Bob Jones's New Year Day 10 mile TT January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. It's the time of year when the weather stays true to form - cold and windy with frequent showers. Never the less, some 33 brave souls faced the timekeepers in conditions that stretched times by 3 to 4 minutes above the summer average.

Lawrence Burrows (Vive le Velo) was fastest, posting 23.20 with local man, Joe Beech (Ogmore Valley Whs) just missing out with 23.37. - Joe is a third generation cyclist following the footsteps of grand- father Dave and father, Richard, who also braved the conditions in 27.36. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to another member of the Burrows family, Craig of Team Crank recording 23.58.

The 2-up section was won by Ian Cade and Jeff Cottington (Bath CC) in 24.02, closely followed by my friends from Cardiff JIF, Andy Hoskins and Andy Davies.

I was pleased to see some of our VTTA(SW) members taking part. Steve Curry 26.06, Rod Hicks 24.27, Wayne Thomas 26.36, Bob Jones 29.06 and Paul Griffiths with a mechanical 39.00. All put themselves to the sword. Well

done Bob, posting a time after his organising and pushing off duties.

It's the time of year when VTTA subscriptions have to be renewed, may be some veteran athletes think subscribing does not matter, because most events offer vets prizes irrespective of membership. However, I would point out that in 1944 the VTTA created the idea of age standards for the over 40s, and without their continuing input, such as upgrading standards according to current age performances, the concept would surely die. I have previously mentioned cycling in Western Australia, I rode some time trials out there and it was pleasing to see local organisers using our VTTA standard tables. The conclusion, the VTTA is worth your continued support!

On behalf of South Wales Group, myself and Derek Morgan attended the AGM in Solihull, the meeting covered improvements and updates to be completed during 2018. Full details of these will appear elsewhere in this Veteran magazine.

Hopefully, many who read this letter, will enter our Open 10 Mile TT on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>. By then the weather should be good and the course R10/17 relatively safe and straight forward. The HQ at Llanarth is 8 miles from the start, excellent for a warm up. To keep things interesting there will be a 2-up in addition to the solo event. We are always glad to see helpers on the day, if you are available, please phone me on 07833 786132.

This week is the half term for some. We will be joining our grandchildren in Cambridge and I will have a chance to ride one of the best cycling paths in the UK, 13 miles between Cambridge and St Ives, Huntingdon, without a car in sight.

Finally, early next month, we will be heading down to the Viva Tropic Hotel in Alcudia for a few days warm weather cycling and walking. Next time, I will let you know how that trip worked out.

## **SURREY & SUSSEX**

***Jon Fairclough***

### Annual Lunch and Prize Presentation

The Surrey / Sussex Annual Prize Giving Lunch was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Horsham. Forty members were at the event to hear the toasts and speeches and congratulate the award winners. Mike Morley welcomed visitors and ladies, the patient partners of us racing cyclists. Brian Powney told us about the cycling careers of the late Ray Dare and his father Ron Powney, who passed away at Christmas. Keith Wilkinson responded on behalf of the group. He noted that most of the ladies' age records in the Surrey / Sussex Group have stood for many years. Keith challenged lady cyclists to beat them before Alice Lethbridge, who recently beat Beryl Burton's 50 year old 12 hour record, and who hails from Surrey, gets old enough to set Vet's records.

Peter Swetman announced all the awards. Keith Wilkinson received an award of Distinguished Life Membership of the VTTA. Keith is the current VTTA Surrey/Sussex Group Chairman and has performed many committee roles over the twenty-five years of his membership including Treasurer. He is also the event organizer for the Group 25. At times Keith has single-handedly ensured the Surrey/Sussex group is a going concern, constantly filling in to cover vacant roles, such as social secretary and recorder. The Surrey/Sussex Group depends upon his knowledge of the history of group and the VTTA rules and regulations. Esther Carpenter received the Sportsman's Trophy for 2017 for her service to the Group over many years; she just stepped down from the post of Group Secretary since as she approaches her 80th birthday she feels that she can no longer travel to our meetings. Our congratulations and thanks go to Keith and Esther.

Thanks to Martin Aldridge for taking photographs of award winners, a selection of which appear in this issue.

## Membership

A welcome to new members: Rupert Bole (Kingston Wheelers), Eimear D'Arcy (Woking CC), Christopher Rosam (Epsom CC) and Stephen Wilkey.

## New Membership System

I have been helping Andrew Simpkins and our VTTA www site supplier Xncreations to develop an online membership system that will be accessed through the www site. Surrey / Sussex will be part of phase 1 of the rollout in March. This will mean email renewal notices and reminders will no longer come from me but from the system. Card and postal payment will be initially available. I expect a direct debit feature will follow in later releases. Members will be able to log on and view and edit their own details and to purchase products such as a place at the Annual Lunch and Awards, Standards Awards entry and to make donations. Members will be able to select their preferred method for receiving the Veteran, post or email. Officials will be able to view and edit details and generate lists of members eligible for events and awards. The new system will hugely reduce the workload for the membership secretaries!

## Surrey / Sussex open events

The Group 10 mile time trial on G10/87 has been moved forward from early June to 28<sup>th</sup> April to avoid clashes with other events. The other events are the 30 on G30/88 on 20<sup>th</sup> May, the 50 on 17<sup>th</sup> June on G50/90, the 100 on 12<sup>th</sup> August on G100/861, and the 25s on 19<sup>th</sup> August on G25/54 and 23<sup>rd</sup> September on G25/89. All these events are listed on the CTT website and in the 2018 CTT Handbook and you can register for them now.

## Strava Group news

I have set up a Strava Group called 'VTTA Surrey Sussex'. We have 13 members so far. Peter Baker tops the total distance leader boards every week with the huge mileages he accumulates. It's interesting to see the range of

routes and training routines that the members get up to. If you want to join, just send me an email or get onto Strava, find the group and ask to join.

## Committee Vacancies

As well as the position of Secretary mentioned above we still have vacancies for the positions of Group Recorder and Social Secretary and as we have been trying to fill these for two years now it is essential that volunteers come forward. The Group Recorder is responsible for collecting and analysing results and record claims and organising the certificates, standard medals and trophy awards ready for presentation. The Group Recorder's work is needed at the end of the season in October and November. Given that the VTTA is all about races and records, the Group Recorder's work is fundamental to what we do. The main responsibility of the Social Secretary is to organise the Annual Lunch. Effort is mostly needed in December and January for the lunch in February. Both roles require knowledge and experience of using Word, Excel and email. Please consider helping the Group by taking on one of these roles and if you would like more information as to what is involved please email Keith Wilkinson at keithwilkinson@talktalk.net.

## **WESSEX**

### ***Bob Jolliffe***

## Boxing Day 10 Cancelled

THE Hampshire hamlet of Avon seemed particularly well-named on Boxing Day when the adjacent eponymous river seemed to have merged with the B3347 road. Unfortunately the giant puddle, actually caused by overnight rain and not river overspill, led to the cancellation of New Forest Cycling Club's popular Boxing Day 10 on the P311 course. Only a relatively short length of road was affected, but the organisers, concerned about competitors and other road users coming into conflict, sensibly decided safety should come first and called off the annual event.



Consequently the only time trial in the Wessex Group area during the festive season was on the H10/8 at Bentley in North Hampshire where Farnborough and Camberley CC staged its winter 10 on December 16. Fastest rider there was Pat Wright of Paceline RT with a 30mph-plus time of 19-51. The three Wessex Vets taking part clocked sparkingly-festive times: Blazing Saddles' Andy Langdown took eighth place with a fine 21-01, Neil Mackley of Fareham Wheelers clocked 21-24 for 12<sup>th</sup> and Simon Berogna (VC St Raphael) finished with 22-21 for 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Cancer Claims Colin Crocker

Around 200 people, many in cycling kit, attended the funeral of popular Sotonia CC veteran Colin Crocker who died of pancreatic cancer on January 4. Colin had just completed his best season for four years, including being third member of the Wessex Group 25-mile Championship winning team along with Norman Harvey and Stuart Martingale, when he was told he had the aggressive condition.

And earlier in the year, members of Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers provided outriders for the cortege before the funeral of respected club member Bob Wareing.

Obituaries are published elsewhere in this edition of *The Veteran*.

### Lunch and Prizes

A total of 45 Wessex members attended the group's annual Prize Presentation Lunch in Chandler's Ford near Southampton on January 14. Guest of Honour was National chairman Andrew Simpkins and his wife Sara, who presented the awards.

Mr Simpkins congratulated the group on a very successful season including fourth team of six in the National Short Distance Competition when National 30 champ Terry Icke (VC St Raphael), Angela Carpenter (...a3crg), Andy Langdown (Blazing Saddles), Sarah Matthews, Stephen Williamson (both ...a3crg) and Alan Emmott (Fareham Whlrs) ended with a combined plus of 7-09-56.

The group also finished fourth in the Three Distance Competition as well. In this case, Steve Williamson was backed by Philip Watts (North Hants RC), John Samways (Bournemouth Jubilee Whlrs), Tom Cox (Northover VT/Rudy Project), Virginia McGee (Charlotteville CC) and Peter Perrin (Bournemouth Arrow CC) for a combined plus of 4-31-33.

Referring to Sotonia CC's Mary Corbett's Tandem Tart charity rides in aid of the ME Association's Ramsay Research Fund, Mr Simpkins said: "Mary's ride with Jens Voight must have been the coolest ride that you did in 2017."

Among the many receiving awards from Mrs Simpkins were Claire Newman and Dave England (both Crabwood CC), Norman Harvey (Sotonia CC), Antony Green, Catherine Pascoe and Bob Jolliffe (all New Forest CC), Barry Eeles (North Hants RC), Mike Boyce (...a3crg), and Ian Hayden (Tornado RCC).

Fareham Wheelers' Brian "Sid" Hygate received a good round of applause for setting a new Wessex record for 12 hours for 79-year-olds with 188.225 miles in the Newbury RC event.

Steve Williamson collected the Bob Naris Best All-Rounder Shield (+1-16-34), the 50-miles Championship Trophy (+34-16) and the Ray Price Trophy for biggest plus at 50 miles (+34-31).

The George Attenborough Cup for the championship team went to the Fareham Whlrs' trio of Nigel Sign, Dave Dalton and Alan Emmott. Alan also won the 25 championship with +13-14.

North Hants RC's Phil Watts won the 10-mile Championship Cup with +6-31 from Angela Carpenter (...a3crg, +5-53) and Steve Williamson and Andy Langdown (Blazing Saddles) who tied for third with +5-48.

Special mention must go to Tornado RCC's 49-year-old Adrian Watkins, who took standards awards at 10 (+3-41), 25 (+4-13), 50 (+12-13) and 100 miles (+24-10) and at 12hrs (+22.26 miles).

## Wessex Championship Events Confirmed

The group has introduced a 15-mile championship for the first time this season.

Group chairman David Collard-Berry is to stage the event as part of ...a3crg's Wednesday evening series on June 27 on P884/15.

Other championship events confirmed are: 10-mile to be promoted by Alton CC on H10/8 at Bentley on Saturday, June 23; North Hampshire RC will stage the 25-mile on H25/8 on the afternoon of Saturday, August 11 and Southdown Velo the 50 on P901 at Fontwell on Sunday, July 22.

At the AGM on November 11 it was decided that championships would also include a tandem competition with medals going to first place only. The move will bring the group into line with national competitions. It was also noted that the Tandem Tart challenge had brought about an increase in the number of tandem riders.

## AGM

Chairman David Collard-Berry said his Wednesday evening series of time trials had been a success and he had been unable to fit in all the riders who wanted to compete.

"Next season [2018] I intend to change the format of the ...a3crg events slightly to enable more vets to get rides. This year [2017] I was surprised with the enthusiasm and was caught out by the rider demand for places once we had laid out our format. What I have done with all my results is to publish a separate vets' result, I believe it is an easier way of explaining standards to riders. Those that don't will ask when they see the printed copy," he said.

In addition to two 15s he is staging, he said Andover Wheelers is promoting an open 30. "I hope Wessex vets will support that promotion and attempt to achieve their 15-mile standard."

While membership was down, results were "superb" and finances improved. He said it "is up to all of us to encourage more vets to join in

with a group that actually has a lot going for it, we are no longer on our 'uppers' and are one of the best performing groups in the VTTA."

Lastly, he thanked all officials for their hard work.

Membership secretary Norman Harvey said the overall group number in 2017 was 146, 11 less than in 2016, which was eight fewer than 2015. A total 42 had registered for standards attempts. "We really need to find a way of increasing membership," he said.

Treasurer Mary Corbett reported an annual profit of £396.63 and committee members agreed to increase subs to £15 for single membership and £17 for couples.

## Warm Welcome for Nicole Cooke

Former World and Olympic Champion Nicole Cooke was joint guest of honour at Crabwood CC's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and the next day joined southern cyclists on a ride into the New Forest as a guest of Bournemouth and District Women's Cycling Association.

Wessex Group membership secretary Norman Harvey shared the guest of honour role at the dinner on February 10. He set the scene in 1943 when the club was formed by describing wartime conditions on the roads when petrol was severely rationed, so travel was by train, tram, bus or bicycle, with tramlines providing a particular hazard to those on two wheels.

The club was started by Captains Haycock and Thompson, both officers at the Ordnance Survey based at Crabwood House in Southampton. They wanted to form a track team. Their first recorded clubrun was to Titchfield Haven on June 6, 1943 when they helped gather strawberries. By March 1944 there were 56 members and in 1946, 152. Membership started to drop off then until the club started organising time trials in 1948. Since then Crabwood CC has produced many champions and respected stalwarts of the cycling scene in many disciplines including riders Glenn Longland, Martin Springer and

Shaun Wallace and coaches Geoff Greenfield and Geoff Shergold, both now deceased.

It was the two Geoff's and others in the Crabwood cyclo-cross coaching team that helped 12-year-old Swansea girl Nicole Cooke with her dismounts and other skills in an under-16s' training session after a Crabwood CC open 'cross at Southampton Sports Centre. She recalled the help she received with warmth before presenting the awards to club members including Wessex Group members Claire Newman and Dave England.

The following morning Glenn and Sue Longland, along with Nicole, were at Netley Marsh with two groups of riders who headed onto some muddy lanes to the Royal Oak pub at Fritham for elevenses before the tailwind return for a buffet lunch.

Following that, Nicole gave a fascinating insight on her early years in the sport when she first decided to ride the women's Tour de France, right through to her Olympic win in Beijing. It detailed a real lesson in determination.

### Wayfaring Memories

North Shropshire Wheeler Geoff Egerton's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday ride over the Wayfarer Pass with Phil Guy last summer (Merseyside column, *The Veteran*, December 2017) took yours truly back in excess of 30 years when Phil and I did the same ride.

Like Geoff, I had little idea where I was and even less about how far we had ridden. But what I **do** remember was gripping the bars tight and pedaling very, very, slowly as I bounced and jolted up this rock-strewn trail in the Berwyn Mountains of Wales on something like a 66 inch fixed gear complete with panniers. At the top we stopped, probably for a brew, because that's the sort of thing we did in those days, signed our names in the metal-encased "visitors' book" before setting off down the other side for another helping of bruising.

A long, tiring, unforgettable, but undeniably brilliant day's cycling. Thanks for the memories Geoff and Phil.

## **WEST**

### ***Brian Griffiths***

Along with Tony Emery our IT expert, I was happy to attend the National AGM at Solihull. Unfortunately our well informed and capable group secretary Gordon Scott was unable to join us and learn interesting things at the pre-meeting workshop. I was later to learn that in the days before the meeting Gordon had suffered a double fracture of his leg in a cycling accident. No doubt it will mean a slow and painful recovery period, but let us hope things are reasonably straight forward, without complications. With his excellent normal fitness I believe he should recover quickly and be back awheel before long. I'm sure all our members wish you a speedy recovery Gordon.

I am not a computer wizard, having only recently moved up from XP to Windows 10 with great difficulty, but although I am not into Facebook and Twitter I found the presentation most interesting and informative and learned a lot.

To me it's sad that we have to throw away our established methods of communication and payment but that's the way of the world and it seems that we will have to go along with it and accept it. I am well aware that about one third of our older members will be somewhat confused and we may even lose a few who simply refuse to accept what they feel is being forced upon them. However I will do my best to persuade them to stay with us even if it means doing some things for them. I can see the convenience and simplicity of the proposed changes, especially for the majority who regularly use social media, and I can also appreciate the amount of data which can now be made easily available to our administrators but equally I am sure that it will take time before the advantages really begin to make themselves apparent.

After the workshop we went for lunch. My view was that neither the venue nor the food was as good as at Kings Coughton but I'm sure

someone will take note and make a satisfactory decision about next year's AGM venue.

After the prize presentation, with some very commendable rides being suitably rewarded, the AGM went very smoothly, but I thought that there were rather fewer regional representatives than I would have expected for such an important meeting. As I'm sure the proceeds of the meeting will be well reported elsewhere I will not go into detail, except to say that there were no major changes that will affect us except that we will probably have to make a decision about awarding life membership for 80 year olds with a continuous membership of 25 years. Indeed do our group records show this necessary information?

Gordon Scott and his dear lady Jemma will be organising our usual time trial, prize presentation and social evening on the first Friday evening in May. We hope our members will make every effort to attend but please inform Gordon if you do intend to come because this event has already become so popular that we believe we might have to begin to limit numbers this year. When I went to the AGM I brought back eight medals which were won by our members during 2017. They will be available to collect at our May prize presentation.

As I write we are well into February and the first event in the West, which includes a trike event, takes place in February. Too early for many, especially most WestVets in my opinion. The event is a 25 mile time trial and will be held at Tormarton. Not the fastest of courses but the best we can do. I believe the 10 course on the A38 (the U7) will thankfully be available again this year following a lengthy bridge re-construction and hopefully it will have been re-surfaced as there were some dangerous ruts on either side the last time I went that way.

At the beginning of the season I always like to remind members that if you are not racing please consider going out to our events to help our hard pressed organisers. It seems to me

that CTT handbooks and a calendar of local events are not as readily available as they should be. Does anyone else have an answer to that problem?

May I remind members that I am always very receptive to news, comments and other information to help me make up these reports and you all know how to contact me. Whilst I am still in an appealing mood, may I suggest something to help you while away the long cold winter evenings. Why not write a story or an article for the WestVet magazine and make our enthusiastic editor Mike Jupp really happy.

*Ian Moore's recollections of legendary WestVet Harvey Alford*

*My friend and fellow Exminster (Devon) villager was a prolific and renowned time trialist from 1945 until a year before his death in 2017. Harvey was a Cornishman born in Hayle on the 30th November 1926. He was given the forenames of one of his forebears, famous as an innovator and for developing Hayle as a port and a mining centre. He once told about how the town's people moved from the footway to the road when he went for a walk with his grand-dad. He said he never knew why they did this until I provided him with Wikipedia details, (look up John Harvey of Hayle Cornwall for yourselves - very interesting.)*

*His Mum and Dad moved to the village of Exminster in 1936. It was here in a now defunct road leading to the marshes - Piggy Lane - where he learned to ride his first two wheeler.*

*His first cycling club was the CTC-touring section with whom he went out Sundays in 1942/1944. WW2 delayed his progression to racing because he was conscripted 'by lot' as a Bevan Boy to South Wales in 1944, this despite him having passed the necessary tests to become a member of the RAF as aircrew.*

*His conscripted time in South Wales led to his life-long love of the area, to which he returned regularly in later years with his racing machine,*



*Top left - Llewelyn Ranson enjoys his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party with daughters Ann (left) and Judith (right)*



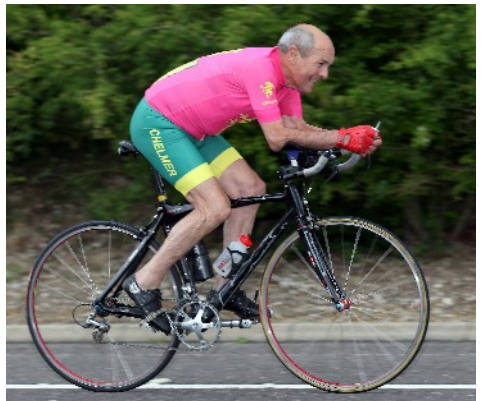
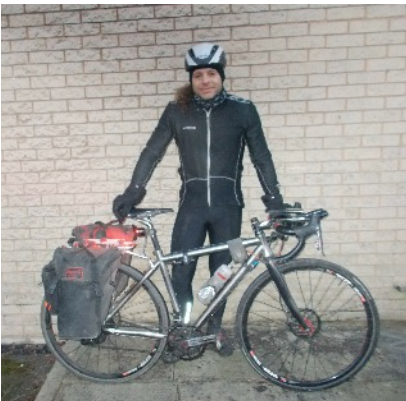
*Top right - South Wales correspondent Barry Williams cornering at speed in 2013*

*Centre right - Bill Stanley (N&EM president) receives his CTT Gold Bage from CTT chair Sheila Hardy*



*Bottom left - Richard Bideau ready for his 35 miles ride home from the NL&L presentation, panniers bulging with silverware*

*Bottom right - A final 2017 image of Chelmer's multiple champion Peter Horsnell*



*his caravan and wife Mary to sweep up TT awards.*

*It was in Wales, March 1945 when he competed in his first 25, a medium gear event which he won by 2.02 with 1-13-32.*

*Four and a half years elapsed before he broke 'the hour' for a 25 in August 1949 on the Bridgwater flats with the day's fastest ride in 59-03 on an 82.8" fixed gear.*

*Like the rest of us mortals his first 50 was not done in the same time as two fast 25's but in June 1947 he achieved 2-23-43 for 4th fastest.*

*He was 4th fastest again in his first 100 in July 1949 when he posted 4-56-49, (winner did 4-35-00). This may not appear quick by today's standard. It was however done on the old A38 between Exeter and Highbridge, a course if used now would attract a field of no more than three, due to the severity of the terrain--- they were hardy individuals in the 1940's.*

*He waited until September 1951 to ride his first 12 hour. It was the South West TT, which he won with 231.128 miles*

*Harveys's best rides were: 25 in 57-58, 50 in 1-59-32, 100 in 4-19-25 (July 1954 in wet and hard conditions he said).*

*All these times were done in the era of the greats, Vic Gibbons, Ken Joy and Dave Keeler.*

*He always said that he rode during a period when they gave proper medals - usually of precious metal. His best BBAR results were 5th, 6th, and 7th in 1953, 1954 and 1955 - the years Gibbons and Joy dominated the top of the table.*

*He did find time for work, initially with the local paper, the Express and Echo in their Advertising Dept. He moved to Kerry's, a wholesale motor factor in Exeter (Gervais Ave, now only 20 yds long and like Piggy Lane, now defunct.) He moved twice more before retiring to Westland Cycles a local Exeter shop and back to Kerrys*

*(which many of you may remember became Quinton Hazell.)*

*Harvey did have interests other than cycling and was a VERY keen Jaguar enthusiast, owning his first in 1962 and a new one in 1965.*

*He had various models up until 1989 which he and Mary sometimes took to Jaguar rallies. I think he had good results there too.*

*He leaves a wife, Mary who he met in a village not three miles from Exminster and whom he married on 31st March 1956. They had no children.*

*You will have gathered by now, Harvey kept meticulous records of his life of which I have given but a summary.*

## **YORKSHIRE Chris Goode**

Our lunch at the end of January was well-organised by Mike Williams. There were 67 assembled with guests of honour Sue and Jeff Bowler. Jeff gave an enjoyable speech, recalling people, pies and places. Most of the award winners attended, with those topping the awards being Andy Jackson, Brian Sunter, Rachael Mellor and Karen Taylor. There was just one standards plaque for Cliff Beldon who had a superb 2017.

We were delighted to share our meal with two recipients of the RTTC/CTT Gold Badge of Honour, given to Mike Williams and Mick Phillips for all their work done over many years. Mike commented that he was not expecting the award and was delighted to receive it at the same time as Mick who has contributed so much to the Yorkshire CTT committee. Mike Williams has also received the C. A. Rhodes Memorial Award, the premier honour for cyclists in Yorkshire, which was presented at the Yorkshire Cycling Federation Luncheon. Well done to you both and well-deserved.

Confusion reigned after the Group luncheon, thanks to a coat mix up; in the depths of winter

black quilted coats are worn by about 80% of the population. Barbara Penrice travelled home in warmth and splendour and it was only the following day that she realised that she had become the custodian of a men's large black jacket. Peter Yates on the other hand travelled home in some discomfort, believing he had eaten so much that his jacket had become tight. Upon examination he found he now had a well worn ladies' size 12 jacket in place of his own brand new one. After several days of concern and thanks to the magic of Facebook rightful ownerships were eventually established and Peter's son Chris made the 50 miles each way trip on a cold and sleety day to effect an exchange, choosing to use his bike for part of the journey despite the conditions.

Mick Phillips of Drighlington BC, has ridden 39 Circuit of the Dales time trials and, hopefully, the 40th coming up the weekend after Easter, at 71 years of age. Mick first rode the event in 1974, riding consecutive events until 2011 (one year was cancelled due to restrictions for foot and mouth), making the total at this point thirty-six. Ill-health prevented Mick from riding for 2 years, but he has managed to complete a further three events since, a remarkable achievement.

The first Dales event Mick rode in was won by Randy Allsop, Cleveleys Road Club, the 50 mile TT champion at that time. Subsequent winners of note have been Dave Lloyd, Chris Boardman, Gethin Butler, Kevin Dawson, Mark Holton and many other top riders. Mick's best time ever was 2 hours 28mins and 27secs in 1978, when Vic Smith, Hull Thursday Road Club, won the event with a time of 2 hours 15mins 05 seconds, placing him 35th fastest in a full field of 120 riders.

Conditions are always varied - rain, ice, freezing snow and westerly headwinds from Hawes to Ingleton, making it a very hard finish. If anyone knows this route via Newby Head and Ribbleshead, you know exactly what it is like! It is a rare occasion to have a tail wind from Hawes to the finish. Nelson Wheelers have

done an amazing job organising this event over the years, well- marshalled and with much needed tea, sandwiches and cake at the HQ. Good luck to Mick.

As mentioned in the last edition of the Veteran, Jim Trevor has set up a closed Facebook page; to join please get in touch with our webmaster. The aim of this arm of social media is to help communication, arrange travel to events and raising a Yorkshire team.

Our first Group event this year is the 25m TT on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> April on the Topcliffe-Thirsk course. We need a good turnout of helpers for this event, so if you are able to assist please get in touch with Blair Buss.

The Yorkshire VTTA group would like to welcome two new members, Neil Cleminshaw of Hull Thursday RC and Darren Yarwood from Vive le Velo, with Ged Millward, Ilkley CC, returning to the fold.

By the time you get this great journal the season will have started and the winter will be a distant memory. Enjoy your cycling.

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*Top left - Prolific Yorkshire organiser Mike Williams (Team Swift) receiving the c. A. Rhodes Memorial Award from Melvin Gibson*

*Top right - Sid Hygate (Fareham Whs) completing his 188.225 miles Wessex Group 12 hour 79 age record*



*Centre left - Rebecca Wilson receives the Charles Robson Cup from Keith Wilkinson at the Surrey/Sussex presentation*

*Bottom left - Ray Retter (Born to Bike) after his recent successful indoor track records assault*

*Bottom right - Guests at the recent Crabwood CC dinner included (L to R) Claire Newman, Dave England, Nicole Cooke and Norman Harvey*







# OBITUARIES



## COLIN CROCKER

1<sup>st</sup> May 1950 - 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Photo credit Eamonn Deane

THE cyclists' funeral poem 'Oh Bury Me in Lycra' was recited to a packed Romsey Crematorium as family, friends and fellow cyclists paid a sad farewell to long-time Sotonia CC member Colin Crocker.

Last year 67-year-old Colin had completed a season which saw him clock his fastest 10 for four years, 23-30 on the F11/10 course in July.

But in the autumn, suffering from extreme tiredness, he went to his GP. Shortly afterwards he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Sadly he succumbed to the illness on January 4.

During the latter weeks of his life he was tended overnight at home by friends and fellow cyclists Andy Needham and Harold Finch. He also received end-of-life care from staff at Countess Mountbatten House Hospice, Romsey.

The youngest member of a cycling family, Colin started riding with Sotonia CC in the late 1960s. He also rode for the Rufus Wheelers for a few years, but later returned to Sotonia.

He broke the hour for 25 miles several times and never missed a year of cycling, although recently his racing seasons started later.

His eldest brother Dave, a fellow Sotonia member and CTT timekeeper, said that over the years Colin had enjoyed most aspects of cycling, being a keen tourist, time triallist, cyclo-cross rider and occasional track rider. However, he never road raced.

A former BT and gas company engineer, he was always happy to help out friends when he could. "He never smoked, he never drank and he never married," said Dave. "He was a good brother, a superb bike mechanic and a brilliant wheel builder."

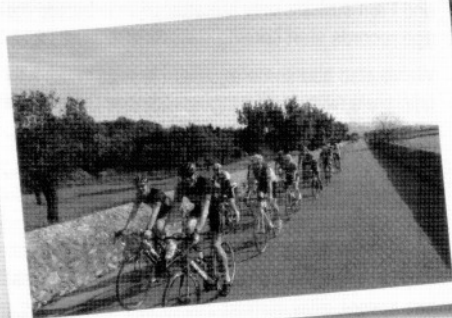
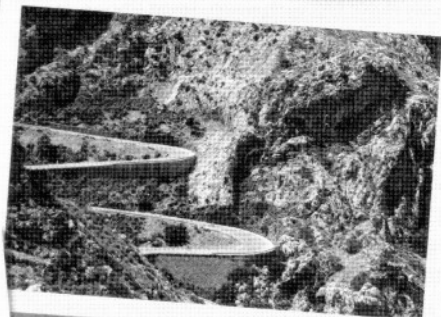
At the Wessex Group lunch and prize presentation chairman David Collard-Berry paid tribute to Colin and said he always knew if he was at a time trial because of his bright orange van.

Friend and fellow Wessex veteran Chris Summers often travelled with Colin in that van. Generous to the end, Colin gave Chris his prized time trial bike as a parting gift.

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## **ERNEST H. STREVENS - b 1870, d 1952**

### **Founder of the Veterans' Time Trials Association**

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#### **Tribute published in 'Cycling' 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1952**

The death of E. H. Strevens at the age of 82 deprives the Veterans' Time Trials Association of its most distinguished and best-loved figure. During the last year or two his health has been failing, but for long before that he was the hale and hearty head of the Association that he founded in 1943. First as secretary and afterwards as president he devoted an immense amount of time to the organization which originated in his active mind. Just as the Fellowship of Old Time Cyclists was a product of the first World War, so the V.T.T.A. arose out of the second tragic dislocation of human affairs. Early in the war Mr. Strevens, a rider of unusual ability for his age, began to organize time trials for veterans in the North London area, and by the middle of 1943 the V.T.T.A. was in full working order. It established a carefully calculated system of time standards related to age, promoted national competitions, set up regional branches, compiled a comprehensive list of records for all age groups, and under its founder's skilful guidance gathered together a host of enthusiasts whose interest in cycling sport might otherwise have waned. Mr. Strevens himself claimed a number of records at various ages and distances. At 62 he rode 193½ miles in 12 hours, and 10 years later he was still able to do 174½ miles, a fine ride for a man of 72. He even did a 12-hour ride of 171¾ miles when he had reached 75, in which year he was only 19 secs. outside three hours for a "50". There is no need to recount his many other excellent performances. They set an example that is being followed by many other old-timers, whose interest has been kindled by the keenness of their leader and his unselfish devotion to the movement that he created. As a clubman Mr. Strevens was attached to the Upper Holloway C.C., and until his health began to fail he was a familiar figure at the gatherings of the Pedal Club.

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#### **Tribute published in 'Out and About' by G. H. Stancer**

##### **Passing of a "Veteran" Who Stayed Young in Outlook**

A man who played a major part in the formation of what has become an indispensable section of the great cycling pastime died last Sunday week. E. H. Strevens, founder in 1943, and president of the Veterans' Time Trials Association, has passed on.

Strevens was an enthusiast who through his 60s, 70s, yes, and 80s, refused to believe that age should bring about the curtailment of enjoyment and helped to spread the gospel throughout the country so that there are now flourishing in many centres, groups of the Veterans' T.T.A. It is an organization open only to male cyclists above 40 years of age. The object is to allow racing enthusiasts to carry on in competition with their contemporaries and so enjoy sport in the happiest of circumstances once they have passed their prime.

At the age of 82 when taking the chair at the annual dinner of the London Branch in February of this year, Mr. Strevens said "I get as much out of this as you do."

His great work will be continued because it is built upon such a simple framework - enthusiasm for living demonstrated in the form of open air, pleasurable cycling with the added spice of competition.

## ROBERT “BOB” GEORGE WAREING 7<sup>th</sup> September 1934 – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017



MEMBERS of Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers escorted the coffin of Bob Wareing to the town's crematorium and provided a guard of honour as they said farewell to a much respected clubman. They were responding to a family request for cycling friends to accompany the cortege in club kit following his death last May.

Reading the eulogy, Jubilee Wheelers' president Peter Warhurst (who formerly wrote this column) said Bob was originally from Liverpool. He took up cycling with Melling Wheelers in 1951 before his work with Cortaulds took him to Nottingham.

Cycling took a back seat when he met and married Barbara and they had two children, Alex and Katrina, in the mid-1970s.

Bob joined Derby Mercury CC in 1977 before work took the family to Somerset. He then rode for Exeter Wheelers, while completing a maths degree which led to a move to an insurance business in Bournemouth in 1982.

Riding for "The Jubilee" he rode a 12-hour time trial almost every year until 1996. He rode his last time trial in 2003, aged 68.

"He is revered and remembered with enduring affection by all Jubilee members for the many years of work which he put into running the club's Tuesday evening time trial programme," said club chairman Eamonn Deane.

Latterly Bob underwent heart valve surgery. He also suffered with an irregular heartbeat, but he still managed a gentle ride on his bike most days. His meticulous records show that, despite his age and poor health, he still covered 923.3 miles in 2016 bringing his recorded mileage up to 316,196.

As Peter Warhurst said: "We are all fortunate to have had Bob in our lives and hope that he is now somewhere where he can ride his bike always gently downhill and with the breeze behind."

*The editor apologises for the delayed publication of this obituary, only recently received.  
Photo credits Eamonn Deane.*

# THE COVETED PLAQUE

It is that time of year again, and in the time it takes to look at your watch and focus until the pointers emerge from the blur on your wrist . . . . 4 seconds in my case . . . . I managed to squeeze my 4<sup>th</sup> performance award out of my (unfortunately not so) scrawny frame. At this rate I will soon need to find a larger sock drawer to proudly display my VTTA plaques in!

It literally was 4 seconds, because on the last morning before we went abroad, I rode a '10' and managed to beat last year's plus by 4 seconds. The '15' and the '100' were early season flukes (Errrrr . . . . keep that to yourselves, OK?), but the 12 hour in July was a serious business.

Not having done many miles this year I started the '12' very cautiously, and then as the day wore on and my confidence grew, I gradually eased off, finally annihilating my standard award target by almost 2 full miles and coming second to last!

Three weeks before the end of my season I rode a '10'. At the turn I was well within my target time and feeling good. At 8 miles I was hanging on by about 30 seconds. At 9 miles it was touch and go, and at the finish I had missed it by 7 seconds.

I consoled myself with the thought that everyone was saying the wind over the last 2 miles was grim, and looked forward to the weekend after when I had another '10' on the same course.

I was Mr Totally Determined on the start line a week later, so determined in fact that I comfortably (?) beat my previous week's time by all of 2 seconds! So, with one last chance remaining on the day before we were due to go on holiday, I was still 5 seconds adrift. I was again able to console myself (an essential aspect of time trialling I have always found) because the rather portly guy on the fixed wheel trike with toe clips, wearing the faded woollen Bianchi jersey with a natty collar and button down pockets on the front, had not beaten me by quite as much as he had done the previous week.

The build up to my final attempt was hell. Work piled up, late nights, early mornings, you know how it is when you are about to go on holiday - so not having even sat on a bike all week, when the alarm went off at 05:30hrs on the Saturday, I just turned over. However, my 70 year old bladder was having none of it, so I crawled out of bed 10 minutes later and blearily peered out into the chilly dawn. It was windy.

But, the bike was loaded, the bag was packed, lots of good people who had made the effort to organise this event would be up and about, and knowing how I would feel if I didn't at least turn up and have a go, I climbed into whatever clothes were lying on the floor discarded from the previous night, stumbled downstairs and made myself a cup of tea.

Almost awake now and yawning like the Mersey Tunnel, I took off my wife's fleece (I thought it had smelled too nice!), found one of my own in the laundry basket and donned that. Cleaning my teeth I noticed in the mirror that it was inside out, so I turned it the right way round and put it back on, forgetting I still had my toothbrush in my mouth! Ouch! Waking up is hard to do (eat your heart out Neil Sedaka!). A banana sandwich, another cup of tea, and sporting a brand new fat lip as a result of the toothbrush incident, off I set, vaguely wondering why I had cleaned my teeth BEFORE eating the sandwich.

I always like to arrive early. This time, I was so early I had time for a nap in the car. Well, it was either a nap in the car or a warm up in the chilly dawn. No contest, although most people seemed to have made a different choice from me, but I figured that as the start line was 3 miles away, that was enough of a warm up, so I only needed to start rolling 15 minutes before my start time, and the 20 minutes extra shut-eye would certainly do me good.

Getting changed I realised why the organiser had been darting nervous glances at me back at the HQ. She probably thought the fat lip and the toothpaste down the front of my top was because I had been foaming at the mouth. Can't say I blame her really as I still had my PJ bottoms on.

I guess that's what comes of being happy in your own skin – or maybe it is just being too old to care what other people think?

OK, here we go, game on: Set the bike computer. Set the heart monitor.

30 seconds. Narrowly miss kicking the pusher-off in the face as I swing my leg over the saddle, and start to settle myself down, apologising profusely and holding my stomach in to hide my donut gut. (They say that hearing is the last sense to go, but I think vanity probably beats hearing hands down!).

15 seconds Y-A-W-N

10 seconds OK, this is it, glance at heart monitor. It has stopped, battery dead.

5 . . . . Panic

4 . . . . More panic

3 . . . . Squint at wristwatch and note exactly where the second hand is

2 . . . . Hurriedly set bike computer to average speed

1 . . . . And . . . . Breathe . . . .

Go!

Grovel out towards the turn into the "gentle" (?) headwind, losing heart with every tortuous turn of the pedals. After less than 4 minutes some black clad Adonis sporting tattoos all over his legs Whoof Whoof Whoofed by (must be the winner I thought, but it turned out he wasn't even in the top 10!).

At the turn, struggled with befuddled calculations based on the average speed showing on my bike computer, and peering to see where the second hand now is on my watch, I calculated I was already a full minute down on my target time, so potentially 2 minutes down overall.

At well over a mile an hour below the required average speed with less than 5 miles to go the gloves came off (not that I was wearing any you understand, just a figure of speech), and gradually, very gradually, the number started to climb. Now I really was awake!

The finish is at the far end of a long lay by, a L-O-N-G lay by. Let me tell you that this lay by is haunted by the ghosts of those who thought they were onto a PB at the start of the lay by, but by the time they reached the other end, discovered that they were not.

This time however, as I reached the start of the lay by, I was still showing 0.1mph too slow to beat my target, but half way along it clicked over to the magic number and passing the chequered board a few heartbeats later, my wristwatch blurrily told me I had made it by a handful of seconds.

I can now justify a bigger sock drawer! My wife (she of the fragrant jumper) will be so pleased, no really. I honestly don't know why we do it, do you?

Anyone who asks me: "Why?" I just smugly say: "By the very fact you are asking that question it is clear you would not understand the answer". The truth is though, I really haven't got a clue either! I think it is just a "Use it or lose it" philosophy, but I, like most of us I suspect, wouldn't be without it!

Boy-Oh-Boy! Do we testers know how to enjoy ourselves or what!

Have fun out there Peeps, next season will be better (I always tell myself)!

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