

THE
VETERAN

MARCH 2015



CAROLE GANDY



National Association for the 40 year old and over racing cyclist

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2015/16

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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 44

March 2015

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and
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by Kimroy

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Editorial

A smaller issue this quarter—maybe we'll be under the critical 100gm and so save the Association quite a bit of money.

As we go to press, the sunshine is streaming through the window and a full season beckons—would that it stays like that for each event, sans rain, wind and road works—if only!

It may be that many members will be unaware of the VTTA page on Facebook. It is proving quite useful in that I am able to publish photographs together with reports. Have a look sometime and let me know if there is anything I can add for you.

Jim Gibb reports that few Groups are contributing to the news pages on the web site. All Group publicists are able to do so by registering.

At the AGM, the motion to add to the Constitution went down like a dud firework. It seems it wasn't necessary anyway.

There are those who suggest that before amending Rules and Regulations, advice should be sought from experts. We've been there and seen that! The RTTC took legal advice some years ago and came up with the declaration on entry forms. They took further advice and formed a Limited Company and became Cycling Time Trials. Following further advice they have now become the *Board* and there is no longer a National Committee, just Company Directors. Doubtless all very necessary after taking advice.

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National Secretary

It barely seems like last week that we were putting our beloved time trial bikes away for Christmas and battling the winter lanes with our trusty mudguarded steel winter steeds. However, with the sun now setting after most of us have left the office for the day, we once again find ourselves at the beginning of an exciting new time trial season.

Whilst the start of this year's season is being particularly welcomed by me on a personal level as I have been unable to time trial for three seasons due to a series of health problems, I am also particularly excited about the National Executive Committee's own promotion of the 10, 25, 30 and 50 Championships this year. The events are on some of the most popular courses in the country, and we can be assured of

some absolutely first class competition for the top prizes – with undoubtedly many age records under threat.

I feel the format of the AGM was much improved this year, and it was great that so many prizewinners stayed on to take part in the meeting which followed. I also very much enjoyed meeting more of you, particularly those who had travelled quite significant distance. We noted at the AGM some comments that a more suitably located venue might be appropriate in future years, although we feel the current venue offers great road, rail and (for our Scottish attendees) airport links, with accommodation available to those who require it at very reasonable prices. However, if anyone does have alternative suggestions, then please do email them to me at rachael.elliott@gmail.com and I will investigate for the 2016 AGM.

One notable absentee at the AGM was Gordon Scott – the highly esteemed secretary of the North Midlands Group. I had had a long telephone conversation with Gordon just two weeks before the AGM and, despite being in very poor health, he was very much looking forward to the season ahead and we had an excellent discussion about the barriers encountered by riders at modern time trial events compared to those of yesteryear. Gordon was so passionate, lively and pleasingly opinionated, I could barely believe it when I heard that he had passed away at the beginning of March. I know Gordon's passing will leave a massive void; not only in the District, but across the whole association. Our thoughts and best wishes are obviously with his wife, Barbara.

Finally, for those of you who are lucky enough to be able to riding this year, I would like to wish you all the very best of luck and I look forward to seeing some of you at time trials during the season.



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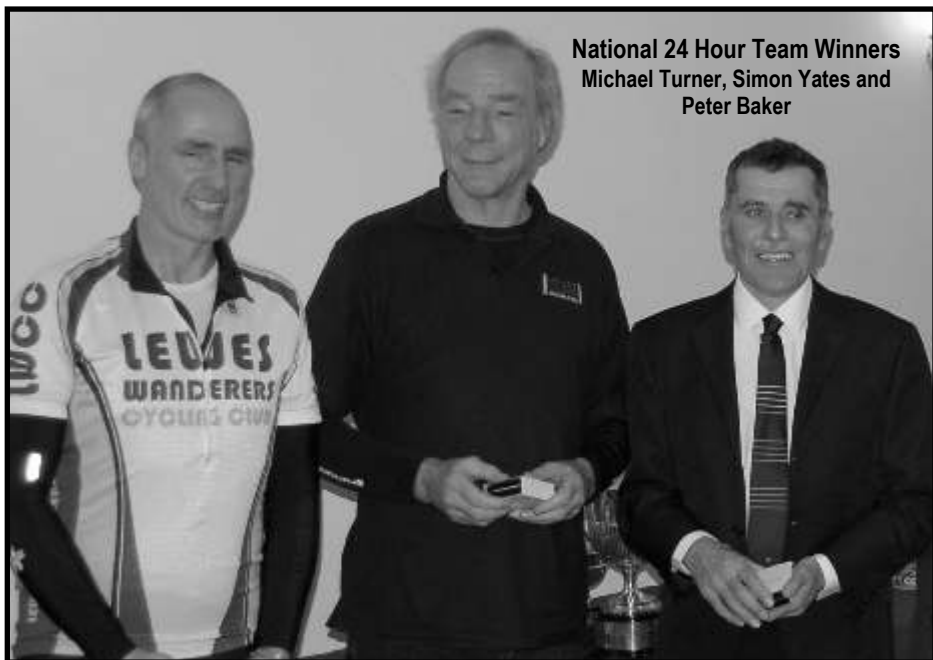
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AROUND THE GROUPS

Surrey-Sussex

Tim Carpenter

This is always a bit of a thin report for the Group but I must mention that Keith Wilkinson is standing down as Treasurer and Dave Cox is standing down as Time Trials Secretary at the end of this year. We need volunteers to fill these posts from the AGM in November this year. If you are interested then please contact Keith or Dave, or any of the other officials.

We had a great Group Lunch at the Normandy Centre (Masonic Hall) in Horsham on 1 February. The move of location was more challenging to find for those not local to the area but the hall was pleasant and the caterers (Robin works for them) were brilliant with lovely food.

The guest of honour was Keith Butler who made an entertaining speech and Mike Morley welcomed the guests and made up for the few words with some strange head wear.

As usual Keith gave an update on the past year and gave Horry Hemsley his certificate for 25 years membership and being over 80 years old.

We had the highest number of prize winners in a long time and it was great to see them and publicly acknowledge their efforts last year. We had quite a few National award winners but I suspect this was due to the 24 hour and 30 championships being on local courses.

Just a quick reminder of the Group events this year (hopefully we are back to normal after the chaos caused by the road works last year).

6 June Saturday Group 10
Dave Cox, 153 Brodrick Road, Eastbourne
East Sussex BN22 9RE

7 June Sunday Group 30
(Incorporated in Lewes Wanderers' event)
Simon Yates, Old Stables,
Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2HL
01892 655786

12 July Sunday Group 50
(Incorporated in ESCA event)
Sam Dix, 11 Woodlands Close, Uckfield
East Sussex TN22 1TS
07841 197342

9 August Sunday Group 100
(Incorporated in ESCA event)
Bob Harber, 51 Church Lane, Upper Beeding
Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3HP
01903 879598

23 August Sunday Group 25
(Incorporated in BEC CC event)
Keith Butler, 33 Clyde Avenue, Sanderstead
Surrey CR2 9ND

23 August Sunday 12 Hour
(Incorporated in KCA event)
Esther Carpenter, 10 Maplehurst Road
Baldslow, St Leonards on Sea TN37 7NA
01424 751581

20 September Sunday Group 25
Keith Wilkinson, Croft House, Chapel Road
Smallfield, Horley RH6 9JH
01342 842792

More information is available on the Group calendar page: (http://www.surreysussexvta.org.uk/newsite/php/vtta_calendar_all.php)(including start time, course and cost)

The Group committee meeting will be held after the June 10.

And finally....

A welcome to a few new members: Bruce English; Peter Eames; Kevin Plummer; Karina Bowie; Helen Bullimore; Mark Gray; Richard Weatherstone; Andrew Haste; Andrew Moore and Michael Draper

North

Gavin Russell

Further to an appeal at the Group's Annual Dinner for a volunteer to undertake the duties of the Group Press Officer and subsequent to the submission last issue by an unknown "Guest Scribe", a new Group Press Officer is now in Post, Me!

I am Gavin Russell, retired, the local Teesside Cycling Time Trial's District Secretary, Timekeeper, Course Measurer, Event Organiser, Cleveland Coureur's CC Secretary and also a Director, sitting on the Board of Cycle Time Trials Nationally. In my task as Press Secretary, I am being assisted by my Club's Chairman, Albert Harrison. If you have any news or want anything included in future North Group Reports, please contact me either by phone on 01642 654419 or email on gavin_russell@hotmail.co.uk

In this first report, may the Group correct the last *Veteran's* report by including Albert Harrison in the "Over 70 and Still Racing" listing on page 45. He is now 82 years young and managed to achieve amongst other results last season a creditable short 28 minute 10.

Starting with the social side: on 11 January at Hardwick Hall Hotel, near Sedgfield, 52 members, family and friends enjoyed the Group's Annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation organised once again by Ruth Crossley. Seven more were due to attend, however, due to ill health on the day, they didn't make it. We hope they are now fully recovered. All attendees agreed that the five course meal was excellent value at £20.50. The Prize Presentation went very well, under the stewardship of Dave Oliver, with a big thank you going to our visitor from Yorkshire Group, Brenda Littlefair (East Bradford CC), attending with her hubby, for making the presentation of the prizes and awards.

Requiring a large car boot to transport all the trophies he received, congratulations go to Steve Fullerton for a very successful season.

It is pleasing to report that with new members joining, there has been renewed interest in Group Track Records, with Howard Heighton achieving

records at 5 miles, 10 miles, 20km and 1hour. Included in the presentation were a number of awards from the Local Teesside District BAR and 25mile Championship. It is good to see that Group Members secured most of the age awards and featured significantly in the Teesside BAR. Whilst it is disappointing that more members don't support the Group in attending this function, those that did enjoyed the luncheon, with arrangements for 2016 confirmed for the 10th January 2016, so please keep this date free when you get your 2016 diaries.

Next is the report from the North Group Committee Meeting in February, which had a good reported attendance, with a number attending by bike. (Press Scribe missed meeting having tried to put some sneaky miles in before meeting start, only to suffer two punctures and had to make a detour to 'borrow' a tube to get home on, which also punctured – that will teach him). Outcome from the meeting, which was treated to tea (courtesy of Mary) and cake (courtesy of Ruth) included:

- A debrief on the annual luncheon, including Ruth's efforts to acquire a refund for some of those who were unable to attend. 2016 Luncheon date is confirmed as 10 January 2016 at the Hardwick Hall, Sedgfield, with the price maintained at £20.50.
- In view of 100% increase in N.&D.C.A. subscription It was decided the Group would not affiliate for the 2015 season; however, should any member wish to compete in the N.&D.C.A. BAR, they can affiliate individually for £10.00 per rider.
- A brief discussion took place regarding the proposal to give medals rather than certificates for the team winners in the various Group BAR competitions, as it was recalled that they were changed to certificates previously due to the cost of all those medals.
- Members are to be reminded that if they have not already paid their membership, it expires on 31st March (2015 Subscriptions remain at £11.00 Single & £12.50 Couples)

2015 Group events are confirmed as:

3rd May, a 25 on the M25/10 course, with Jim Allen organising.

6th June, a 25 on the T252/3 course, with Ruth Crossley organising

20th June, a 10 on the T102 course, with Paul Garstang organising

28th June, a 15 on the new 153 course, with Dave Bennett organising

18th July, a 25 on the T252/3 course, with Gavin Russell organising

22nd August, a 10 on the T102 course, with Dave Herbert organising

29th August, a 50 on the T502 course, with Dave Oliver organising

26th September, a 25 on the T252/3 course, with Gavin Russell organising

4th October, the Group Hill Climb Championship, is incorporated into the Cleveland Wheelers Hill Climb on Clay Bank

Members are reminded that only rides completed after the payment of the Standard fee will count for Standard Medals/Plaques.

Amongst new members joining so far for 2015, is a certain Keith Murray, who joined the day after his 40th birthday. He has a sub 20 minute 10 time, sub 50 minute 25 time and is not slow in the 50 either. Welcome Keith.

At the time of writing, (mid February), the new season is nearly upon us, so here is wishing everyone good weather to train and race in, a swift start to the season, resulting in some satisfying rides and standard achievements. Any News, don't forget to get in touch.

Kent

Ian Turner

The Group's Annual Lunch and Prize-giving was held on Sunday 22nd February at the Weald of Kent Golf Club - the first time we have used this excellent venue. The organisation of the event by Tom Morton was impeccable and I am sure that everyone who attended - 105, which was well up on last year - found the occasion an uplifting

experience due in no small way to the fine talk by our Guest of Honour Ned Boulting. In this writer's view, the carvery style food was extremely good value for the ticket price, and a marked improvement on any previous Annual Lunch I have attended.

Ned Boulting will be familiar to any who have followed the Tour de France commentary on ITV4. It was interesting to hear that he had been a football commentator before being asked to take on cycling commentary, and the move inspired him to take up cycling himself - for which he is very grateful and is now a passionate follower of the sport as well as an ardent cyclist himself.

MC duties at the lunch once again fell to Paul Mepham who ensured proceedings, in particular the presentation ceremony, were enlivened with his vast knowledge of the Kent time trial scene. Cross-toasting during the lunch was perhaps a little subdued this year - not sure why. This year, eighteen prize winners were present, which was a marked improvement on the ten who supported last year's event. Shay Giles was the Group's BAR and was also the National 100 mile Champion in addition to a host of other awards and Group Age Records. Kevin Tye received a prolific haul of trophies and medals, taking the Group's '85' Competition Cup, and trophies for 10, 15, 25 and 50 mile championships as well as a host of scratch awards and Group age records. Simon Henderson completed the trio of main trophy winners, being the Group's 30 mile Champion and taking the Geoff Jones Trophy for the best combined plusses on age standard in the Group's three ten mile promotions. Two Honorary Life Membership certificates were presented - to Bob Loader and Peter Baker, with a third to Ron Hayward, who was unable to attend.

The Group's programme of events kicks off on Saturday 7th March with the ten mile event on Q10/22 for the Mick Dansie Cup. Here's hoping for some nice Spring weather to get the season off to a fine start!

Safe training out there and the very best to all for an excellent 2015 season.



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London & Home Counties

Peter Tasker

Firstly it is that time of the year when you have to put your hand in your pocket and get the cheque book out to pay your subs to Chas or if you are in the modern world arrange a bank transfer for your account into the Group's account: details are: Sort Code 30-91-85; Account No 00034721 Lloyds Bank: VTTA (London and Home Counties) (VTTA will usually do).

Having done that and with Christmas festivities over it's 'On your Bike' to start and get the miles in ready for the new season for those members who are the racing fraternity, which in our Group amounts to a lot. It is good to see so many of the younger members racing in anger each year and trying to achieve a P.B. or improve on last year's best times.

The Group had another very successful Lunch on 25th January at the Aldenham Golf and Country Club. Total bookings were 64, just four down on last year but still much higher than the immediate years previously. Food and service was up to the normal high standard which we have come to expect at this venue and with our new Chairman, Gladys Purdy, getting the show on the road after having said grace, it was all talk and chat around the tables with some interesting cross toasts which we could not always hear as the older we get some don't speak so much. However, Cecil Hambelton, Ron Purdy and our own National Chairman, Jim Burgin, were audible when they stood up to toast.

Our Guest Speaker was Trike rider Jane Moore, accompanied her mentor, Mark Brooking, both of the Willesden CC. In August 2014, Jane set a new RRA Land's End to John O'Groats record. It was very interesting to hear what she had to say about such a mammoth effort to ride that distance and the support she had both from Club members and many other cyclists up and down the country as she pedalled her way 'Up North' as they say. It was interesting to note that she had been a runner for many years in her home country of South Africa and it was only when she arrived in the UK and got talking to some bikies in the North

London area and found out they were in the Willesden CC that she got involved in riding a bike again. She enlightened us how she rode some long distance time trials and was then encouraged to have a go at the LtoJG. And as they say it is now 'Water under the Bridge'

Moving onto who won what in 2014 and with Master of Ceremonies Jim in control and Jane to make the awards it was time to applaud those winners. Danuta Tinn won the Don Byham 10 Cup, Ian Greenstreet collected the Laurie Dixon Bowl, Members' Cup and the Group BAR Trophy; Jim Moffatt collected the Russ Cup, Tom Drew Medallion and Charlie Cole Cup.

Peter Lawrence received the Arthur Wilkins Cup, Autumn Cup and Rocco 25 Cups, John Lacy collected the Mal Rees 12hour Shield and the BAR runners up Cup, Katja Rietdorf won the Ladies BAR and Roger Sewell with Rob Gilmour collected the Sturt Team Cup. Other notable winners were Geoff Perry, Group and National Tandem records, Stephen Campbell 18th place in National BAR and Rob Gilmour who set Group and National age records from 5miles to the hour on the track at Reading.

By the time you read this, the first events of 2015 season will have been held and although names of Group members have not been evident, the guess is they are saving themselves for the warmer weather.

The first Group event is the Don Byham 10 on Monday 4th May, using the F11/10 with a 150 rider limit starting at 1600hours. I am sure Greg Lewis, the organiser, will be looking for some help so please give him a call if you are able to assist.

Not a lot more from me this time around so take care when out on the road on your bike and keep the pedals turning.

The Group welcomes 20 new members since the beginning of the year but notes there are almost 100 who have not yet paid their subs—time is running out!

As this report is drafted, reminders are already on their way.

Manchester & North West

Jim Ogden

It may have been drier than last year, but January this year has certainly been colder. However, as I am writing these notes on Valentine's Day, early season 25s have already resulted in a crop of sub-hour rides and a new Guinness World endurance record has been set by Dave 'Bruce' Berkeley. In January's 31 days he covered 6,059 miles, averaging just under 18 mph. I would readily admit that it's a few years since my annual mileage even approached 6,000.

Casting the mind back to last year, Group member Dave Fearon (Weaver Valley CC) promoted the M&DTTA Christmas 10 on Sunday 7 December. Including a Fancy Dress section, it had attracted almost a full field. As the start time approached and marshals were taking up their positions, horizontal rain was sweeping the course, but by the time the race began the rain had stopped, although it probably accounted for a number of non-starters. Actual fastest was Rob Hayes (Manchester Wheelers' Club) 22:26, for which he wins the Jim Broome Memorial Trophy. Last year's winner, Rob's team-mate Scott Burns, was placed third in 22:55. There were four vets category prizes on actual time and our Group members won two of these: Greg Dancer (Stone Wheelers CC) in the 60s with 25:53; and Mike Cotgreave (Westmead Team '88) in the 70s with 26:00. First Lady was Linda Hubbard (Welland Valley CC) 28:28. After the usual presentation of awards there was only just time to move to Chelford Church for the Cyclists' Annual Carol Service – a fitting end to our competitive year.

The Group celebrated its 68th Annual Luncheon at the Middlewich Masonic Hall on Sunday 30 November. Details of the prizewinners were given in the last report. However, Roger Wrenn (Macclesfield Wheelers) has since alerted me to omissions for which I apologise. Since reaching the age of 70, Roger has set the following outstanding Group Age Records: 10 miles 21:33; 25 miles 55:00; 30 miles 1:09:33 and 50 miles 1:56:56. Our Guest of Honour was the National VTTA President Alan Colburn accompanied by his wife Margaret. Alan and I were both serving in the Canal Zone 1953/54 and whilst I was

conventionally demobilised, travelling home by air in an Avro York, Alan managed to be demobbed in Egypt and traveled home alone overland. When he came to present the awards, one notable prizewinner was missing, but he did have an enviable excuse. Derek Hodgins (Stockport Clarion) who had set four Group 80-year-old Age Records, was absent because he and Barbara were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary that day with their family. Actually, Derek was still recovering from the accident back in November when a fall from his bike left him concussed, with broken ribs and a badly injured arm and shoulder. Even now, in February, it has resulted in almost three months of non-cycling. Ever optimistic, Derek hopes his enforced 'rest' will result in improved speed. His brother Ken is also recovering, not from an accident but from a successful prostate operation.

A much larger number of prizewinners attended the M&DTTA luncheon on 25 January. Again it was a full house at Middlewich Masonic Hall, the occasion being hosted by their recovering President the aforementioned Derek Hodgins. Caroline Fearon (Weaver Valley CC) presented the numerous awards covering all categories. Two of our Group members who had a successful season and were prizewinners, Rod Brooks (Warrington RC) and Brian Camfield (Stone Wheelers CC), have both decided that 2014 was to be their last season in competition. Rod, always an outstanding 100-miler, ended his season with a sub-four-hour ride and Brian's achievements included winning the coveted Nick Carter Trophy for BoS in the Association's 100. Special awards were made to Barbara Hodgins and Gordon Pickering for their long service to the Association.

Brian Camfield and Jim & Helen Gresty were the Group's delegates to the National AGM, held at Alcester on 31 January 2015. A separate report on the meeting will be included elsewhere. Mike Cotgreave had been awarded the C.W. Cooke Trophy for his outstanding Hour Track Record and, although unable to collect it on the day, it is hoped the presentation will be made amongst his fellow Group members at our first event, which is incorporated into the Altrincham Ravens 25 on 14 March. A prolific winner of Ladies'

Championships, Carole Gandy of the Kent Group will be the National President for the next five years. Carole was a memorable Guest of Honour at our Group Annual Luncheon some years ago – an excellent choice of President.

Hoping we can all stay accident-free and healthy so that I can report more positively on the J course events next time.

Merseyside

Geoff Edgerton

I trust everybody survived the Christmas and New Year. It really is a lovely time of year. A slight over-indulgence perhaps, but nothing an extra training session here and there can't rectify. Anyhow, that's my theory. That just leaves the Mersey Vets dinner and prize presentation to be held, the final event of the festivities. Once again, this was at the Cheshire View, Christleton. Although numbers were slightly down on last year, it was nevertheless a most enjoyable afternoon. Mo Cliff, our secretary, opened proceedings by welcoming everybody and introducing our guest speaker, Shaun Bradbury, secretary of the Liverpool DC, who gave a most enjoyable and enlightening speech including his 'comeback' to the sport. Phil Guy once again announced the award winners with Shaun presenting them.

On to the awards: Standard medals were awarded to Phil Guy and Dave Smith (one medal), Dave Nicholas (two medals), Mick Ward, Jenny York, Dave York and John Flynn (plaque for three), Geoff Edgerton, Neil Southern, Helen Tudor, Neil Boyle, Andrew Clarke (plaque for four), Ian Casson (plaque for five) and Arthur Winstanley and Phil Warburton (plaque for six).

Moving on to the trophies, the Leo Madden Trophy for fastest in the West Cheshire 10 was won by Tony Harvey of Mid Shropshire Wheelers in a time of 21.41. Arthur Thomas of the Holyhead CC secured the Oscar Dover Shield for best on standard in the Rhos-on-Sea 10 with a plus of 5.54 while Dave Short of Prescott Eagles RC claimed the Ted Fitzpatrick Shield for nearest to plus 0.02 in the Phoenix 25. A newcomer to the top table was Tim Rex of North Shropshire

Wheelers who won the 12 hour cup with a distance of 256.04 miles with Ian Casson of Birkenhead Vics winning the Lanterne Rouge with final place in the three distance competition. The meritorious cup, awarded by the committee for overcoming hardship, was this year awarded to Andrew Clarke of Mid Shropshire Wheelers.

As you are aware, Harry Mahar, our vice president, passed away last year. Harry was a fervent and passionate supporter of Mersey Vets and it was apt that he was awarded the George Butler Memorial Cup for outstanding services to the group: and it was really nice for his wife Doreen, our President, to accept the award.

In memory of Harry, Doreen has kindly donated a silver salver for the short distance competition. Jenny York of Mid Shropshire Wheelers saw off the opposition to be the first winner with a plus of 56.02. Jenny was also the group's ladies champion on standard and actual time for which she wins the Dave Swales Cup and Doreen Mahar Rose Bowl respectively.

Port Sunlight's Kevin Larmer also had a useful haul of trophies. He claimed the George Hayes Trophy for fastest time in the West Cheshire 30 mile time trial in 1.11.32, the Derek Ireland Cup with a time of 20.36 in Rhos-on-Sea's 10 miler and the Brooke Cup for fastest time of 56.45 in the Phoenix 25. Kevin dominated North Shropshire Wheelers 25 mile time trial by winning the Gomersall Cup in 56.10 and the Joe Brook Cup with a plus of 10.29 and to cap a fine season, the Bill Taylor Memorial Shield for the Group's three distance champion on actual time.

That just left Arthur Winstanley of the Phoenix CC to pick up the rest of the trophies. He had an amazing haul of twelve which included the John Clucas Memorial Trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 30 with a plus of 12.17, the Ron Yates Trophy with a plus of 5.32, a clean sweep in the West Cheshire 50 winning the Dick Corris Trophy with a plus of 24.22 and the Eddie Graddon Trophy in 1.59.32, the same in the Chester RC 25 mile time trial, winning the Colin Rutter Cup with a plus of 13.15 and the WJ Smith Rose Bowl in 56.34, the Walvale Trophy for best on standard in Phoenix 25 with a plus of 12.02, the Dave Towell trophy for fastest 100 in a time of

4.06.51, the Bill Hanson Cup for best on standard with a plus of 45.31, and the BW Bentley Rose Bowl for best 12 hour on standard with a plus of 60.82 miles. Arthur's haul was complete by being crowned the Group's three distance champion on standard for which he wins the Wally Gradden Cup and four distance champion to claim the Tom Johnson Memorial Cup.

There are two advantages from Arthur winning all these trophies. It makes my job much easier when I collect them back but the real plus is him replying on behalf of the prizewinners. He is an accomplished speaker and doesn't disappoint. He rounded off a really enjoyable afternoon in style. By the time this hits the doormat the racing season will have started. I hope everybody hits their targets and have a good and safe season.

North Lancs and Lakes

Dave Brown

It was another very enjoyable Luncheon and Prize Presentation for our Group at The Crofters Hotel which stands alongside the historically famous Brock course on the Garstang by-pass. Chairman John Leach welcomed the 70 plus members and friends present and then introduced the gathering to Jocky Johnston of the Scottish VTTA Group who, after another excellent meal, was to present our prizes. Not that Jocky needed much introduction as although based officially in Scotland he is often seen on our patch in the summertime and is well known to many local cyclists of all ages - particularly at the café stops and event headquarters!

Not all of our prize winners were able to be present to collect their well-earned awards but Paul Fleming arrived on his newly acquired trike to be there as main beneficiary in collecting the locally famous 'Trader's Cup' for winning the Group Championship on points whilst Sue Cheetham took the Ladies Championship. Other Prize Winners had been mentioned in the previous *Veteran*.

The aforementioned event was only on the fourth day of 2015 but the Group had already met at lunchtime at a local hostelry on the first day of the year but sadly only four members braved the

torrential rain to be there. John and Jean Keith, Jack Stokes and myself were present with not a bicycle in sight. Jack reported later that it was 7.30pm when he arrived home so we can only assume that he certainly must have enjoyed himself! Admittedly our two events were within a short space of time this year but more Group members going along to The Plough at Eaves next New Year's Day would be nice. It would be sad if we had to see another of our annual get-togethers going the same way as our long lamented Reliability Trial went just a few years ago.

Our Group Recorder Richard Taylor has drawn up the list of 10 qualifying events that will be used in order to collect points for our Group Championship this year with just four necessary to be ridden to quality but at least one of the four must be of 50 miles or over. They are:

April 15 Wednesday 1pm	Group VTTA 25
April 26 Sunday 8-30am	Wigan Wheelers 30
May 02 Saturday 6pm	North Lancs Road Club
May 09 Saturday 2pm	Group VTTA 15
May 25 Monday 6am	Anfield BC 100 (Includes National VTTA Championship)
June 14 Sunday 9am	Border City Whs 50 (Hard-shell helmet compulsory)
June 17 Wednesday 7pm	Group VTTA- West Pennine RC 25
July 05 Sunday 10am	VC Cumbria 50
July 26 Sunday 7am	Lancashire RC 25 (NLTTA Championship)
Sep 06 Sunday 7-30am	Lancaster CC 25

Of the three Group events on that list Richard will promote the two 25s and our Secretary Derek Black the 15. Certainly we would welcome an offer to promote an additional event for the Group in 2016.

Dave Shorrock will again promote a 10 on the fast Levens course with this year's event scheduled for Sunday 13 September with an 8am start. Entry conditions will be given in the next copy of *The Veteran*.

One member who will not be riding these events next year is our multi-Group Champion of recent years Frank Kerry. Frank who was also winner of

the National Three-Distance Competition in 2008/9 and 10, holder of several National Age Records and was a member of the Standards Review Committee has decided to retire from competition as he closes in on his 80th birthday. However, he will still be very much part of our sport as son Martin and Martin's son William and daughter Hope are still competing with William now in possession of Granddad's very fast time trial machine.

Several of our members were well placed in the National VTTA final tables for 2014 whether in the BARs or Records.

Sharon Clifford was our only Group finisher in the Four-distance BAR with an excellent 20th position overall and this also gave her the best placed woman in that table.

In the Three-Distance table Ian Cox was our best placed in 9th place with Paul Fleming not far behind in 16th position with Kevin Shand just making it into the top 50 in 48th place, Sharon in 59th place, Denis Thompson 84th and Harry Haseley 86th.

We were better represented in the Short Distance competition where Mick Ellerton took an excellent 6th place despite a season disrupted by an accident and sickness. Next best in this highly competitive table was Paul Fleming in 23rd place with Ian Cox 30th, Phil Barnes 39th, Mike Westmorland 41st, Neil Fort 52nd, Sharon Clifford 53rd, Sue Cheetham 132nd, Kevin Shand 133rd, Denis Thompson 136th and Harry Haseley 141st from 161 qualifiers. Our best placed six riders in this table gave us fifth place in the Group competition.

Our North Lancs and Lakes Group have very sadly lost another long term member in Bernard Rockcliff at the age of 90. Bernard was a long term member of the Preston Wheelers and an HLM of the VTTA.

An obituary for Bernard by Terry Kay is published in this copy of *The Veteran*.

Our Group Treasurer Hazel Matthews reports a healthy number of new members joining the North Lancs and Lakes Group this year to date. We welcome the joint membership of Zoe Whiteside and Scott Leverinton of Croston with Zoe a

member of the Lancashire Road Club and Scott a member of the Chorley CC. Also Rob Rix of Southport and a member of the Southport Cycling Club, Barry Whittle of Padiham and Alan Douglas also of Padiham and Steve Irwin transferring from the East Anglian Group after returning back to Lancashire and signing up for membership of the North Lancashire Road Club.

We congratulate Tom Longbottom of the Lancashire Road Club on becoming an Honorary Life Member of the VTTA after his 80th birthday earlier this year..

For those who have not yet rejoined, the subs for 2015 are £13 single and £14 for a couple.

I am sure that we wish all success to veteran Steven Abraham on his incredible task of attacking the 1939 annual mileage record of 75,065 clocked up by Tommy Godwin. Steven has been regularly logging up between 180 and 200 miles each day in all weathers - and plans to step that up as the weather improves!! We toasted your success at our annual luncheon, Steven.

North Midlands

Alex Deck

It is with immense sadness that I announce the death of our beloved Hon Secretary and North Midlands Group stalwart Gordon Scott, who died on Tuesday 10th March. Gordon had been ill for some time, and to say he will be greatly missed is a huge understatement. Gordon's wife Barbara is in our thoughts. Details of the funeral will be posted on the website and a full obituary will be in the next issue of *The Veteran*. We will miss you Gordon - you are a hard act to follow.

To be honest, nothing else seems to matter much at the moment, but here's what's happening in the North Midlands.

We have a new committee:

Chairman, Treasurer, Recorder & Membership Sec - Phil Morgan

Web and Press Secretary - Alex Deck

Secretary - Iain McColl

Social Secretary - Alan Sides

Special thanks to Phil Morgan, without whom there would now be no Committee and no Group. You're doing a great job Phil. A warm welcome also to all our new members - please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

18k

Scheduled for 14th March, our traditional season-opener has attracted over 60 riders and we hope for a good day at Ranby. Thanks to all the members who have volunteered to help out.

North Midlands TT series

Not a VTTA series but one which many of our members compete in. If you're not already aware of it have a look at the new website: <http://northmidlandsttimetrialsseries.org> or follow them on Twitter for the latest updates - @nthmidstT.

2015 events

We are running four events this year, including the 18k. These are two 25's on the A25/25 on the 6th June and 18th July, and a 10 on the O10/3 on October 3rd. Full details on the website - all welcome.

As always, check out our website for regular updates <http://vttanorthmidlands.co.uk> or follow us on Twitter at @VTTANorthMids. If you are a member but aren't on our mailing list, please get in touch.

Good riding everyone

Notts and East Midlands

David Herd

I start with the sad news that John Perry, Beeston Road Club, died just before Christmas. I am grateful to Francis Grafton, Notts Clarion, for writing John's obituary in this issue of *The Veteran*. John was both recorder and scribe for the Notts and East Midlands. I first got to know him through promoting time-trials for Witham Wheelers CC when he kindly agreed to do the handicapping and field setting. He was a master of the craft of handicapping, revelling in the discrepancies of entry times and often had a more accurate picture of a rider's ability than they did (I include myself in this). Cycling aside, John was a true gentleman and was liked by everyone.

Just to add some additional information from my

previous report of the AGM 16 November 2014, the Group has two specific VTTA events planned for the fourth coming season, all to be held on the Flintham/A46 course:

Ivan Mahon Memorial 25
Saturday 25th April A25/34 Russell Gent

Bert Christian Memorial 25
Saturday 15 Sept A25/34 Malcolm Mann

In addition to the above Brian Fenwick has agreed to incorporate the Jack Watts Memorial 25 into the Melton Olympic CC event as follows:

Jack Watts Memorial 25
Saturday 25 July A25/34 Brian Fenwick

Malcolm Mann will not be organising the Bert Christian 25 next year so the Group will require a new promoter to be in place by 20 August 2015 for this event in 2016.

The Group are compiling a pool of helpers and marshals for future events, if you are able to help in anyway please contact our secretary Russell Gent and let him know.

A related issue was brought to my attention by Michael Mills stating that Hinckley CRC are promoting the RTTC National 10 on 30 August 2015 and asked for marshals to help out on the day. Please see events list and/or handbook for details.

The Group was privileged to have as their guest of honour Sheila Hardy, Chairman of Cycling Time Trials, at our Annual Luncheon on 25 January. Sheila gave an enlightened speech on the work of the CTT and the importance of grass roots of cycling and cycling clubs.

Our recorder Graham Green compiled the results of the NEM Group and the National BAR competitions and the prizes were presented at the Group's Luncheon.

Kath Smith was the only NEM member to complete the four distances BAR, placed 26th nationally with +42:07.

The NEM Group Three Distance BAR competition was as follows:

7th	Colin Parkinson	52	+52:18
8th	Michael Wills	55	+51:23
31st	Steve Howgill	50/51	+44:23
34st	Peter Lavine	59	+43:41
61st	David Smith	62/63	+35:00

71st Kathryn Smith 60 +31:26

The above group were placed fourth in the national competition with a collective +04:18:10.

The NEM Group senior BAR for riders over 70 years:

1st	Ron Hallam	83/84	+01:19:18
2nd	Graham Green	71	+52:18
3rd	Dave Pike	70	+25:13

Eight NEM came within the top 30 nationally in the Short Distance BAR:

2nd	Ron Hallam	83/84	+01:19:18
10th	Ken Stevens	83/84	+01:11:10
12th	Graham Green	71	+01:07:42
17th	Gill Henshaw	80	+01:06:50
19th	Nick Cave	48	+01:06:43
22nd	Colin Parkinson	52	+01:06:34
26th	Dave Bates	66	+01:04:43
27th	Jo Corbett	58	+01:04:39

The NEM Trophy winners:

Prestige Points Trophy	Mick Wills
Bert Christian Memorial (25 miles)	Ron Hallam
Ivan Mahon	
Memorial Trophy (25 miles)	Jim Boyle
Joe Baines Trophy (30 miles)	Ron Hallam
Fred Smith	
Memorial Trophy (50 miles)	Ron Hallam
Hermes Trophy (100 miles)	Mick Wills

The South Pennine RC trio of Ron Hallam, Ken Stevens and Dave Bates won the Short Distance Club Event and second place club Team Swift included NEM Group Member Jo Corbett in the three riders.

We would like to welcome four new members to the NEM group:

Gary Purdy	Leicester Forest CC
Rod Weston	Syston Syclers
Ian Guilor	Mapperley CC
Susan Hoare	Lincsquad (Not new to the VTТА but new to NEM Group)

It has been reported that Jack Mitchell Boston Wheelers CC and President of the Lincolnshire RRA was taken into hospital in November last year. The recent news is that Jack is back home and recovering slowly. Our best wishes go to Jack for a speedy recovery.

Well that's all for now, but I would like to wish all members a safe a fast season.

Scotland

James Skinner

At the National AGM on 31st January, the Scotland Group was represented by delegates Iain McLeod and Alex Munro, with our secretary George McLaughlan as an observer and Derek Stewart there to collect his prizes. Proceedings started with a buffet at 12 noon, followed by the Prize Presentation. Those present to collect prizes ranged from 46 years old Adam Topham for the BAR to 84 years old Peter Horsnell for the Three Distance, with Derek Stewart there as joint winner of the 10 and second in the 25.

The Group's AGM was held in McQ's, "Tartan Arms" in Bannockburn on the 23rd November with 29 attending and 25 staying for the meal. Nominations were as follows: the Chairman, Secretary, Time Trial Secretary, Web Secretary, Track Secretary, Records Secretary, Press Secretary and 3 member posts remain as before, and the group welcomes Steve Beech as our new Treasurer.

A proposal for age related results ridden on CTT courses outside Scotland to be considered was motioned, but after much debate was out-voted. A proposal for SVTTA members to be recognised in team prizes in open events was motioned and passed

The Group's Presentation and Luncheon was held in McQ's, 'Tartan Arms' in Bannockburn on Sunday the 18th January.

Thanks go to Bob Taylor for presenting the awards, which amounted to the usual two tables full of trophies, plaques, medals and certificates. With over 60 attending, there was a great deal of catching up and banter to be had. Thanks go out to all who provided prizes for the raffle, and to all who participated.

George McLaughlin received the following letter from Isabel Campbell.

Hi George, Thank you so much for your letter, and the Vets information, it's good to be kept in the loop. It was my birthday on the 8th November, we had a lovely day. 21 again(!), so I wish. Being 101 years young has been good, it has its good and not so good points, however one must be grateful. Please pass on my warm wishes to all that asked for me in your letter, and to yourself we

look forward to seeing you on your next visit, for lunch in Esporles. Take care and stay fit. All the best Isabel and Sharon.

The Ivy CC held their Burns Supper on the 5th February with the following report by George McLaughlan:

Attended by an admirable number of members and friends, with proceedings ably led by the piping in of the Haggis by Kenny Clark. Following on from this was the address to the Haggis by Ivy CC and group member Gus McLafferty, after which the traditional meal of Haggis, Neeps and tatties, was ably served by Willie McLuskey and his band of helpers.

The immortal memory was then delivered by Willie (Hazel) Hay, while Dick provided an illustrious toast to the ladies, and Iain McLeod providing a response to the Ivy C.C to round off another excellent evening's entertainment. However, not unlike Tam O'Shanter after he aroused the wrath of the carlin 'Nannie' at Kirk-Alloway, the hall soon emptied when the dulcet tones of 'Nannie' alias the caretaker made her presence known! Thankfully on this occasion, everyone went happily on their merry way.

We are sad to report that John Byrne of the now defunct Eun Mara Cycling Club passed away in his sleep. John semi retired to his family home in Ireland some years ago but still kept an interest in Scottish Cycling. He was made an honorary life member of the SVTTA in 2012. John was the original gentle giant. Condolences go to John's wife Maureen and family.

George Adam has now relocated from Troon to Crieff; the group thanks George for his continued support and assistance at our events. Note from the group secretary: the group membership fees are now due, get in touch with George McLaughlan and keep up to date.

SVTTA 2015 Event Calendar

12th April, 10 mile TT Cambusbarron - The Robert Cooper 10 inc J&B Train trophy, organised by Law Wheelers entry postal £10, on the day £25, start 0800hrs

Contact - Steven Kelly 92 Carvale Avenue, Salsburgh, Shotts, Lanarkshire, ML7 4NQ, email: stephen.1969@hotmail.co.uk

19th April, 15 mile TT - New event - Davie Miller is organising the group's 15 mile TT, which will embrace the Cambusbarron 10TT course. Details to follow.

21 June, 50 mile TT, Freuchie, The Alistair Speed Memorial 50 inc the Harry Roberts Trophy, organised by Mhairi Laffoley, entry £12, start 0800hrs

Contact - Mhairi Laffoley, 22 Frankfield Place, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline, Fife KY11 9LR, email: mhairilaffoley@gmail.com

5 July, 25 mile TT, Cambusbarron, The Ben Smith Trophy, organised by law Wheelers, start 0700hrs cost £10

Contact - Robert Clements, 18 Holmwood Avenue, Uddingston, Glasgow, G71 7AJ email: rabclements@blueyonder.co.uk

19 July, 30mile TT, Thornhill, Pinky Williams trophy, organised by Michael Devlin, entry £10, on the day £12, start 0800hrs

Contact - Michael Devlin, 36 Erskine Hill, Polmont, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, FK2 0UQ, Tel: 01324310242

The following events are noted on the provisional Scottish calendar and are awaiting confirmation.

14 June, Tom Anderson Memorial, Vets Championship Road Race organised by Falkirk BC.

23 August, 100 mile TT, Furneux 100/ National 100, organised by Deeside Thistle C.C.

4th October, Tour de Trossachs, 28.5 mile Mountain Time Trial, organised by Janette Hazlett

A new event to note if you're chasing your standards is the 15 mile TT organised by Mhairi Laffoley on Wednesday 1st July starting at 1900hrs - on the day entry only, for £5, £2 youths. Race HQ is the Heatherhall Woods Car Park, Near Ladybank, Fife, KY15 7UH, sign on closes at 1845hrs

The entire Fife midweek calendar is available on the BC website, nice and early, showing the rest of us how it's done.

The group hopes to see many members out in their new SVTTA kit this year, many thanks go to Dave Pritchard for organising our kit order with

Endura, Sales are going very well, with many items selling at the AGM and the luncheon. To view pictures of the new kit visit our website <http://www.svttta.org.uk/gallery.html>, Please contact Dave on dhpritchard1@aol.com to arrange to buy items

New Members

The Scottish Group welcomes the following new members, and wishes them all the best in 2015

Barry Dawson from Girvan, riding for South Elmsall Social C.C.

Andrew Dobinson from Uddingston, riding for Glasgow Green C.C.

John Gallagher from Lesmahagow riding for Royal Albert C.C.

Stewart Gordon from Oakley, riding for Dunfermline C.C.

John S. Ramsay from Banchory riding for Deeside Thistle (reinstated)

George Shanley from Dunfermline riding for Kinross C.C.

Racing

Stirling Bike Club's Graeme Walsh was the only member to feature in this year's national BAR competition, finishing in 30th place. Graeme's stats for the 25, 50, 100 and 12 hour were as follows.

01:05:38, 02:05:42, 04:10:44 & 245.85miles

The 2014 season has seen a good number of veterans' time trial records being broken plus, for the first year, we have embraced track records. A total of 19 age related records have been set, with 18 records superseded, and 3 records submitted for approval at national /VTTA level, of which two have been ratified as records.

Many thanks go out to our Records Secretary Bob Gibson whose reports can be seen in full on the news page of the group website, as well as a full list of current SVTTA records

If readers have any information, news, or gossip, get in touch at jamesmskinner@hotmail.com Information for inclusion to the group's website can be sent to Steve Nutley at INFO@SVTTA.ORG.UK

South Wales

Barry Williams

Cycling is a weather related sport: the daily weather forecast is a subject that's eternally close to my heart. Just now we are in deepest February, the barometer is as high as it ever gets, no wind, no rain, plenty of cloud and very cold 2c to 3c all day. Today I joined the usual Wednesday ride around the Vale of Glamorgan and on to our meeting place, Cowbridge Common café. Poor attendance, only 8 hardy souls to enjoy the hot coffee and cakes. Main topic slippery roads, not from ice, but from an obnoxious mixture of salt and molasses, which cash-strapped local authorities in South Wales are spreading over the roads. This substance may be OK for motorists, but for us cyclists it stains our clothing and leaves us sliding and slipping. Some scheming public official had a brainwave and as ever, everyone decided that salt and molasses was a brilliant way to antifreeze the roads. It's just a pity that they never tried riding bikes on this slimy stuff.

Not much to report on the racing front, none of our members have involved themselves in the South Wales Cyclo Cross League, which is disappointing, because it's a great way to keep in shape during our darkest months. However, my club, Cardiff 100 Miles maintained their record as promoters with the New Year Day 10. We are indebted to Bob Jones for the leg work for this event. He hired excellent headquarters in the St Brides Community Centre, a picturesque village near Ogmore by Sea. We had an above average entry of 20 and got lucky with a weather window sandwiched between two Atlantic storms. Apart from the locals, competitors travelled from Bath, Gloucester and Worcester and to our surprise posted some very competitive times compared to previous years. The results:-

Individual Results

1	Mark Rosser	Ogmore Valley Wh	23.27
2	Mark Nott	Ogmore Valley Wh	23.59
3	Rob Hall	Salt & Sham CC	24.38
	Diccon Hill	Cardiff 100 Miles	24.38
5	Matt Field	Birmingham Run&Tri	26.49
6	Rob Jones	Cardiff 100 Miles	26.51

Fastest Woman

9	Michelle Spiten	Salt & Sham CC	29.12
Two-Up Results			
1	Joseph & Richard Beech	Ogmore Valley Wh	24.36
2	Tom Stoddart & Simon Kinsey	Acme (Rhondda) Wh	29.32
3	Ian Llewellyn & Callum Mitchell	Cardiff 100 MRCC	34.45

Given the time of year and its nearness to the festive season, competing and doing a ride was the prime objective; however, I understand that time keeper Norman James and some riders with GPS watches had failed to reach agreement. Not to worry, it was an enjoyable occasion, especially as we all joined in the presentations and gorged ourselves on an ample supply of tea and cakes. One final comment about those faster than usual times, the course, a new route for us, turned out to be only 9.6 miles!

Although it's still mid-winter, the start of the racing season is a mere month away; I just hope some of the promised climate change kicks in, because it needs to be a lot warmer to enjoy proper competition among us older guys. Next week, I will be joining the throng heading south to Mallorca for ten days in Port d'Alcudia, which will hopefully help to brush a few cobwebs away in warmer conditions. This time, I will not be taking my own bike; with flight plus transfer charges amounting to approximately £80, hiring a good quality machine becomes an option – in my next article, I will discuss the pros and cons of hiring as it affected me. One small concern about Alcudia, Unfortunately I crashed, injuring my wrist and back three weeks ago, I still have a sore back, especially on rides of more than two hours duration, therefore, for sure, I will not be riding in the mountains.

Back in South Wales, I would thank 27 of last year's members for renewing their subscriptions, I have reminded the remaining members that subs for 2015 are due and would expect most of them will stay with us. However, many over 40 year old competitors are happy enough to accept prizes based on VTTA standards without ever thinking of supporting the organisation that created and maintains the age related system. Before the advent of VTTA tables, promoters used a clumsy

labour intensive handicap system to achieve a fair spread of prizes. I would suggest to our readers that you should pass on the news about VTTA's contribution to time trialling - with your club-mates – remember, it's easy to download an application and join in our national competitions.

Safe riding and best wishes to our members.

Wessex

Peter Warhurst

Happily the Group appears to be surviving following the forced retirement because of ill health of our long-term secretary/treasurer/ general dog's body, Ken Blowe, with the new coterie of officials beginning to get their feet under the table.

This was certainly emphasised by the bonhomie and general optimism of the 50 or so members attending the recent annual prize presentation lunch in Winchester; despite the disappointment of only nine of our two dozen 2014 award winners being there.

However, none of the diners gave hint of thinking of stepping into the shoes of any of us too ancient officials.

The brighter side of the lunch was that what was lacking in the number of award winners was made up in quality, primarily by the current British Best All Rounder/ National VTTA Best All Rounder, Adam Topham, gracing us with his presence and, more importantly, with his entertaining speech. Also there as an award winner (Group age record breaker at age 82 at 10 and 25, and standard medalist at 10) was Dick Poole, erstwhile End to End bicycle record holder. Now retired from bike racing, John Woodburn, also came along, surely making unique attendance at a Group lunch of two BBARs and two End to End record holders.

The Group's virility is demonstrated by the fact that there were more than 30 standard award winners in 2014, and six national age record certificates and 20 Group age records to hand out.

These latter included six to 76 year old Bob West, bringing his total through the years to in excess of eighty.

Adam's talk centered largely on the pain in most parts of his body on his exploits in 12 hour events. Pain which we mere mortals did not find entirely surprising bearing in mind that his 12 distances are invariably in the plus 290 miles area. The pain list includes burning feet and the need for stops for additional chamois cream: always a bit awkward he said with his mother often in his band of travelling helpers. Adam told us that on finishing each of his 12s he swears never to ride another but nonetheless is planning to top the over the 300 mile distances achieved by one or two of his rivals. Like his 12 hour efforts Adam's times at 50 and 100 miles are far beyond the comprehension of most of us normal oldies, as I instanced by pointing out that his 100 time (3:26:41) was give or take a few seconds **1 hour** faster than that which I ever achieved. Just think what can be done in an hour. I guess Adam would have his car loaded and be half way home before the likes of me would have crept past the finish in our heyday.

But perhaps I should be inured to the new scene having seen a year or two ago our Eamonn Deane caught for 22 minutes just before finishing a 3:52 100 ride. Consolation is that the catcher's time still stands as the current CTT competition record.

West

Brian Griffiths

Our Secretary Gordon Scot and I attended the recent National AGM and we are pleased to report that there were no drastic changes to consider. Everything went very smoothly as far as we were concerned. It was a grand opportunity to speak to many fellow vets from other regions and to get some idea of how things are going generally. From our point of view the business of the meeting progressed at a very satisfactory tempo, despite a few lively interjections from a certain well-known representative from the East Midlands. As usual the meeting was held firmly in check by our very capable chairman Jim Burgin, which led to a very expedient processing of the agenda.

There is no need for me to go into detail as I expect the proceedings will be reported in detail elsewhere. Just to round up my meeting report I should like to welcome Carol Gandy as our new President, I am sure she will prove a great asset to us all.

I was very pleased to read the editorial in the December edition of our magazine! I am exactly in accord with everything that was said by our Chairman and Editor. At times I think that some groups are dangling on a thread with just a few loyal members bearing the full weight of taking things forward. A big responsibility! It has always amazed me that among the talented and capable membership that we have, so few people are willing to step up and get involved with organising at least a part of their Group's activities. We really are very thin on the ground when it comes to rolling up our sleeves and doing what we all know needs to be done.

Please do consider making a contribution to the running of your Group. If you have doubts about your capabilities you can start off as an assistant to a committee member and get the feel of the job. Most people find it very rewarding to know that they are making a useful contribution, especially as a payback for all the benefits they have gained from membership over the years. We have a very capable National Committee and it so essential to keep it that way. The time is coming when we will have to relieve people who are ageing, they have made generous contributions over many years and they simply cannot go on forever! Think seriously about providing some help to keep this wonderful organisation in great shape for the years ahead.

I hope you will all give your support to the WestVets evening event in May. A ten mile time trial to ride or to watch, the prize presentation, excellent refreshments, a top grade venue and a grand social get together. What more could you want and feel free to bring your friends! We might get a few new members that way. Full details will be in the next WestVet, which if you haven't already had it will be with you shortly.

Bristol will soon be trialling driverless cars! It's interesting to speculate how it might work out. Certainly it should make cycling safer if they are

bought in numbers. Does it mean that you can now go to the pub and drink your fill without fear of prosecution and will we see cars passing us with a dog at the wheel? There are endless amusing situations, which come to mind and I can't wait to see how it all works out. What will motor insurance companies make of the idea; will our premiums go up or down?

With our first event next weekend on the 22nd February, the racing season will soon be in full swing, so I wish Veterans up and down the country all the best from the West, in the months ahead and enjoy lots of safe cycling

East Anglian

Mary Horsnell

Congratulations to Carole Gandy who, since the National AGM, must be referred to as Madam President - not "er from Kent", an expression often used at result boards by disgruntled males when asked who was the winner, for she was one of the few women who have been BoS in good-class events, still holding records from 10 to 100 miles before a serious accident ended her competitive career.

Carole follows in office only two distinguished women Presidents. Doreen Mahar, the first of her sex to be admitted to the then all male body and always a tireless worker, and Ethel Brambleby, a life-long fighter for women's rights as well as having an outstanding racing career spanning several decades - what an act to follow! Carole is quite at home on Eastern roads and everyone will wish her good luck in her new role.

Congratulations also to our worthy Chairman/ Editor, of whom it was said that, to him, multi-tasking has become second nature. He will not wish for anyone else to extol his praises, only to say the Bricknell Trophy was so very well deserved – it was a popular vote. Well done, Jim!

It's always good to see old friends at the AGM etc, even if their numbers diminish year by year. The 'Tartan Tear-away' from Aberdeen always makes the long journey and gets such a good reception, as indeed he does at EA events, where he is a regular prize-winner. Missing from the line-up this year was Ken Platts who, in spite of

recording some top times prior to, and indeed on, the day of his disastrous accident, did not submit them for any of the competitions, but did claim the 100 record set that day. How he managed to finish in 3:47:39 with such injuries no-one will ever know. Nevertheless, he was out marshalling at the 12 and is said to be training with the fast group – watch this space.....

Another regular, Eric Marsh, was unable to attend as his wife, Jean, who usually accompanies him, was unable to travel. He is anxious to let people know that he is alive and well and is still enjoying the dry/warm climate of Leigh-on-Sea in South Essex, not in Spain (as the South Wales scribe seemed to think when paying him a tribute) not even for a holiday. What happened to his planned attempt on the World's Hour Age Record? His club's sponsors, Cyclos Uno, at the time of writing are still waiting for a slot in a suitable programme. Eric is fired up and ready to go.

Talking of Octogenarians. an HLM Certificate has just been sent to Antony Leech of Red Lodge and Mildenhall CC; he qualified on age some time ago, but not on years of service until now. Congratulations! There are four more to qualify this year; one is a very popular lady, another a notable raconteur, but all will be revealed in due course. Unless, that is, John Golder has let it out in the Group's Newsletter – he is another who excels at multi-tasking, aided and abetted by his partner Chris, who is a female person tho' addressed as Mr in the local paper after promoting the Tour de Tendring on behalf of the local district council. She was also organiser of the ECCA Prize-giving lunch the day after the National, hence their failure to appear there.

Newcomer David McGraw, Cambridge CC, carried off four of the ECCA individual trophies, Rob Dulson the Dunlop (12 hour) Cup and Chelmer the 12 hour Shield, while Matt Molloy led the Finsbury Park to a team win after topping the Vets table, at 45, and winning the Criterium Championship – a good year for him.

Mervyn reports 25 new members in the group for 2015 so far but, unfortunately, over a hundred have not paid up. Please let him know one way or another as soon as possible; this is an annual plea as reminders cost the group dearly.

Steve Irwin, lead man in the top team of six, is moving from Kingston-upon-Thames and transferring to North Lincs and Lakes as his work takes him north, while Phil Young of Plymouth's decision to join the West Group was obvious; we wish them well. It is pleasing to note that quite a few of the newcomers are 'young'.

Newly qualified are fast men Mark Arnold and Murat Ozdenya, the former already signed up to run two events; another 40-year-old is Tan Short. Making a comeback is Graham Stellin, who not only represented Essex Police, but was in their team representing GB in the World Championships when he and Mike Klisky rode tandem; they were christened the Flying Squad by the local Press; that was 20 years ago.

Not all news is good news. Much sympathy is felt for Ron Back, whose wife, Maxine, died after combating illness with her usual good humour and fortitude. She was a very talented lady and after starting work at Barclays Bank, soon rose to a very responsible position to become a well-respected and long-serving employee. During this time, she was Barclays National Champion at Fencing, a sport never before mentioned in these columns! In the cycling world, she will be remembered for her cakes and tea after Ron's promotions. He has now bought a new bike and thrown himself wholeheartedly back into competition and says "watch out for the West Suffolk Wheelers team this year." His club-mate, a little star of the East, Connie Tapper, has not only hung up her wheels but has sold her bike (or at least John has)! She went out with a bang by breaking Mary Dawson's 10 mile record at 85, only just missing 'evens'. No need to say that beating any of Mary's figures is quite an achievement. These two have both been BoS in Vets' events, above all the men, thus joining an elite band in proving that it can be done; they have set a high standard.

Even after a brave and lengthy fight with debilitating illness, it came as a shock when Mick Burrow, whose palmeres would fill a page, passed peacefully away at home. Mick was a real encyclopaedia of cycling information and conversations with him were always interesting and informative; these will be missed, as will his

wise counsel. He had been riding regularly, whenever possible, with the elite A Group of the 40+ CC. When this was no longer possible, he would go to the Chelmer Headquarters, not far from his home in Chelmsford, and assist with the beginners' groups to initiate them into club riding and encourage them to progress to the faster groups. All this from a man who had once been second-to-none in Essex. This was much appreciated, especially when he would drop behind with any stragglers. It was a strange coincidence that when his son Jamie, seeking a reference for *Veteran*, opened the December issue at page 41, "Why," he exclaimed, "it's Paul Bennett, the very man who took my father's 25 record all those years ago, after only a few minutes".

It was a sad week, for the news came shortly after that Eileen Edney had been found dead at home. She had not been well and had struggled with failing eyesight for years. She and her late husband Ron were an integral part of the London East TT world and the events on the famous 32nd course, where their club, the Comrades CC, have their HQ, much valued by the cycling community. After their move to Watton, Norfolk, they again became part of the local cycling scene and were among many London cyclists whose contribution was, and still is, highly valued in those parts. Eileen was an HLM and retained her interest to the end through her friends, notably Margaret Harmon.

Thankfully, there are no accidents to report this month, the weather is improving and it's nearly time for the first ECCA 10, for which the event secretary is the ubiquitous Dave Nock, shortly to be followed by the start of the Group's programme, Eric Angell's promotion.

Yorkshire

Malcolm T Cowgill

By the time you read this, the new season will have started and we will be looking forward to a better year than last. Since my return from the sun, I have hardly set foot out of the door. Some

days would have been suitable for an attack on the straight out land-speed record. Let's hope we are having all the gales before the season starts.

The attempts on the hour record continue unabated; so far nobody has beaten it. Jens Voigt, for whom I might add I have great admiration, couldn't beat the mark set by Francesca Moser 31 years ago on an outdoor windy concrete track without using tri-bars. So far these attempts have been cheap publicity stunts. If and when somebody beats Chris Boardman's 56.375 km and puts it on the shelf, what are the UCI, the masters of half-baked regulations, going to do? Wind it back 40 years to create interest and restore its prestige; I give in.

Now a correction - which may also appear elsewhere: Mike Williams' 10, which this year is the VTTA National Championship, will be on Saturday 30 May and **not** the 31st.

On the social scene, another correction: On our card for this year, it shows the date for our Annual Lunch in 2016 to be 24 January; this is incorrect - the date is to be 31 January 2016.

Our Annual Lunch this year was the usual success. There were 77 present, slightly down on the previous year. Our Guest of Honour was Ken Russell, the lone winner of the 1952 Tour of Britain, a feat not done before or since. It had been an emotional year for Ken; he finally got some recognition for his achievements. The highlight had got to be the invitation to drop the flag to start the second stage of the Tour de France in York. Ken had suffered a heart problem earlier in January, but he was determined to make it to our lunch. A more modest, unassuming man you couldn't wish to meet. The Group was honoured to have you as our guest, Ken. Many thanks.

Now to our Prize Presentation: The first presentation was the Eric Linley Trophy for Meritorious Service to the Group; this year it was awarded to Steve Gaunt, who has run our September 10 for the past eight years. Steve has run the event without any fuss and richly deserves this award. The presentation was made by our Chairman, Bob Tate.

Peter Yates, Otley CC, belatedly received his

Certificate for setting an Age Record when he won the VTTA National Championship 24 in 2013. Cheryl Trueman, Team Swift, received a Certificate for setting an Age Record at 15 miles, as did John Baines, Yorkshire RC, and our oldest prize-winner at 83. Arthur Thackray, Team Swift, also set an Age Record at 15 miles. Ian Peacock, Harrogate Nova CC, took a plaque for second place in our Four Distance BAR. The Ken Hartley Cup for 24 hours was taken by Neil Ridsdale, Bridlington CC, with 414.06 miles. Michael Cross, Yorkshire RC, took a plaque for second place in our Short Distance BAR and also the Fred Bottomly Cup for the season's fastest 100 with 3:46:39, plus the Charlie Rice Cup for the Best 100 mile plus of 72:04. Our Ladies Best All-rounder for the third year was Karen Taylor, East Bradford CC, retaining the Harry McKechne Trophy. Karen, at 47, also took a Certificate for setting an Age Record at 15 miles with 34:52.

The main prize-winner and the Yorkshire VTTA BAR for 2014 was Andy Askwith, Bridlington CC. At 49, he set an Age Record at 15 miles with 31:41. He had a standard plaque for four distances. He took the Pickles Cup for 12 hours with 258.94 miles. The F B Wood Shield for Fastest in our Four Distance BAR with 25.702 mph and finally the Oliver Cup as Yorkshire VTTA Best All-rounder for 2014.

Mike Breckon, who had written an article on our guest Ken Russell for Cyclist Magazine, brought a copy along, Ken autographed it and it was auctioned. It went under the hammer for £23, Beryl Baines outbidding everyone else. The Raffle raised £155, so we had £178 for Group funds.

Thanks must go to our Recorder, Geoff Hornby, who does an excellent job with the medals and trophies, ensuring that the Prize Presentation runs smoothly; and finally a big Thank-you to our Dinner Organiser, Mickie Hornby, who does a brilliant job. The Group owes you, Mickie; Many thanks. Thanks also go to Janet Tate for selling the raffle tickets.

Next year will be the 70th Lunch; let's make it special. The date, as I have said, 31st January 2016.

A note now for the coming season: our Short Distance Competition will now be on the same

basis as the National Competition, which is the Best on Standard for 2 x 10 mile and 2 x 25 mile events in any event in the CTT Handbook.

Now an apology: Mike Smith (71), our ex-Chairman, was omitted from the list of Yorkshire Vets over 70 who are still racing; Mike, of course, is still turning a carbon crank in anger! Apologies, once again, Mike.

As I finish this piece, we are into February and the freezing weather is continuing. I take my hat off to all those who have been riding Reliability Trials in January.

Jack Bobridge, the Australian, failed by 500 metres to beat the UCI half-baked version of the Hour record; but, to put it into perspective, he was three miles short of the proper record held by Chris Boardman. It just shows the kind of rider it takes to win our National 25. Bobridge was in such a state when he finished, they had to take the front wheel out to lower the bike to get him off it. "Never again," he said. Another Aussie, Rohan Dennis, managed to get within two and a half miles of Boardman's mark.

Moves are afoot to bring the World Road Championships to Yorkshire in 2018; if they ran the time trials up the Red Wall, we would find out how good they are!

The fascination of the Spitting and Rolling around in the Grass Brigade continues. The BBC has paid £204 million to retain the rights to 'Match of the Day'. I'm glad I don't pay a licence fee. Roll on Milan - San Remo with the finish back in Roma where it belongs.

I'm off back to the sun; see you up the road in April.

Midland

Miranda Harris

Nearly 50 VTTA members and their partners gathered together for the Midlands Group Annual Awards Lunch and a full report of the proceedings has been published within the VTTA web site (Midland Group).

Among the prize winners were:

Points Series:

1st Simon Dighton 2nd Terry Shough
3rd April Lewis 4th Bob Awcock

Cat. C

1st Matthew Moore 2nd Andrew Simpkins
3rd Susan Semple 4th Murray Kirton

Cat. B

1st Peter Delves 2nd Ian Hemming
3rd Richard Coleman 4th David Walker

Cat. A

1st. Jon Simpkins 2nd Joe Costello
3rd David Kiernan 4th Phil Brown

Club Team Competition

Worcester St Johns:

Mark Corbett, Simon Wix,
Dave Walker and Kean Bendelow

A trophy has been donated by the Speedwell BC in memory of Les Lowe. The trophy was originally presented for the best 24 hour ride and was first awarded in 1964. In the ensuing 27 years Les won it on no fewer than 24 occasions and it will now be given to the rider who covers the most mileage in 'K' events in the season. First known as the 'Sundial Trophy' it is now the 'Les Lowe' and it was presented by Greta Spiers who raced with Les; they still hold seven Age Records on the Tandem Trike.

The first winner of the trophy was Dave Walker of the Worcester St. Johns CC.

Scott Westwood responded to the toast to the prize winners and his speech contained some words which many would consider especially significant:

"There have been numerous prize winners this afternoon across a variety of ages and I think this speaks volumes for the fantastic 'standards' system that we now have in place. This, coupled with the points competition, makes the series inclusive to everyone and gives riders that want to compete a fair crack of the whip year on year. I just hope that, one day, similar systems will be adopted in the sport as a whole in order to give riders the opportunity to set different goals to that of chasing fast times on fast courses."

Ruth Eyles was the Guest Speaker and a résumé is published on a later page.

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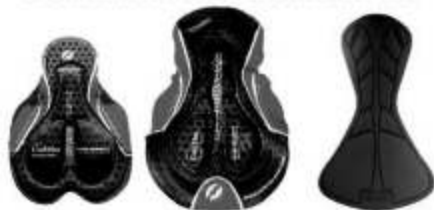


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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



A change in the 'programme' meant that the proceedings began with refreshments at noon before business began with a Prize Presentation; note the 'a' for there is no longer an 'official' prize presentation. Readers may recall the referendum which resulted in the decision to do away with it. However, events proved that some winners were always likely to be present as delegates, others might like to attend so that they might enjoy the company. Thus, and as the transportation back and forth of numerous trophies is no longer an

issue, invitations were sent to all the prizewinners and those present did enjoy the opportunity of applauding some of them. They were the overall champion, Adam Topham; Derek Stewart; Ian Greenstreet, Jim Burgin; Geoff Perry; Edgar Reynolds; David Rogers; Chris Holmes; Rod Brookes; Ray Retter; Jim Gresty and Peter Horsnell.

No pre-published reports were distributed this time and so each official was given the opportunity to face their critics but, it is pleasing to report, there were none or, if there were, the meeting didn't hear from them.

New Treasurer, Bill Gladwin wasn't present and the accounts were presented by the Chairman who described the collation of details necessary before handing over to Bill.

Secretary Rachael mentioned her happy induction into the role, apart from some problems with an email address which didn't feel inclined to communicate with all that was asked of it.

Recorder Steve Lockwood spoke of the preparation of the All-Rounder competitions and in particular the correction necessary to the third place in the four distance BAR.

Geoff Perry, the Records Secretary and champion tandemist, said he thought it was a satisfying year as far as records went.

Jim Burgin told the meeting that he was still enjoying producing the magazine and thanked the reporters for their continuing support with interesting descriptions of matters within the Groups. He added that very few members had chosen to have the magazine delivered digitally. He mentioned the Association's 'kit', remarking that there had been 181 orders for clothing in the five years since it was introduced; not many perhaps but doubtless worth continuing with.

Webmaster Jim Gibb thought that more Groups should look to put more information on the website, although the number that are is rising. There has been progress made in moving towards online membership and top launch by December 2015, although it has been agreed to keep the existing structure.

The competition results should all be online now – there had been some technical issues preventing them going up.

Ian Greenstreet said that he is still new to the role of Awards Secretary and he thanked Jim Burgin for his assistance in preparing the awards.

The meeting then moved on to confirm the programme of events for 2015, containing as it does innovative ideas to promote the short distance championships by the National Committee; the 10 in Yorkshire, the 25 in Wales, the 30 in Berkshire and the 50 in Hampshire. The NEC had registered with CTT as 'NEC-VTTA' and all members of the National Committee were members of that 'club'.

Item 5 on the Agenda sought to amend the Constitution. The proposal was thought necessary in order to receive a legacy left by Les Lowe but one delegate suggested that this was not so. He spoke at length on the matter and urged the NEC to withdraw the motion. The meeting then voted its agreement to do so.

Next was the proposal to alter the rules, transferring all responsibility for the suspension or expulsion of a member to the Group concerned. There was some interesting discussion before the motion was carried by 33 votes to 1.

Those present gave the NEC their unanimous support for the promotion of the short distance championships by the NEC before moving to the proposal by Nottingham and East Midlands Group that winning teams in the three all-rounder competitions be given medals instead of certificates. It was pointed out that the cost would be in the region of £500 per annum. The motion carried, 24 votes for and 8 against.

Item nine was to elect the Officers for 2015.

In accordance with Rule 2.11.5 Alan Colburn's Presidential term of office expired at the meeting and Carole Gandy of Kent Group has been nominated as the new President by London and Home Counties Group. There were no other nominations and Carole was declared the new President.

Before proceeding with the remainder of item nine, the Chairman made a presentation to the outgoing President, Alan Colburn who responded by saying he was "dumbfounded" by the gift and thanked the Association. He said he had very much enjoyed the time as President over the past five years

After the transfer of the Chain of Office, Carole said it was an honour to follow in the footsteps of Alan and she felt there are many who would have been just as appropriate. She thanked everyone for the nomination and votes.

The volume of applause indicated how popular the choice of the new President was.

The only change in the members of the National Committee was the election of Alan Colburn as a Committee Member.

After many years as the Association's Auditor, Margaret Colburn had decided not to accept nomination for 2015 and the meeting extended its thanks to Margaret for contributing so much of her time each year in ensuring the accounts are audited in time for publication ahead of the AGM. Doug Hitchcock, President of the North Hampshire Road Club, had agreed to accept nomination and was elected with gratitude!

There was some general discussion under 'Any Other Business', in particular the suggestion that team awards in all VTTA events and competitions would go to Groups and not clubs. Many points for and against the idea were put forward and it remains to see whether there is to be a proposal on the Agenda in 2016.

Another suggestion was that the venue for the AGM be within the area of M1/M6/M42/M69 triangle. Doubtless the Committee will look at that for the necessity of making it as easy as possible for delegates to attend is always held uppermost in mind.

The meeting came to a close just after 2.30pm.

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Should we be in business?

A speech to the Midland Group Luncheon

by Ruth Eyles



Cycling is BOOMING. There are ever more people out on bikes, more sportives, more middle-aged men in lycra (MAMILs), and even middle-aged *women* in lycra! We have Olympic Champions, World Champions, TdF winners, the Tour came to Yorkshire in the summer and there are many sightings of cyclists and cycling in the mainstream media.

But time trialling is very much the same, has the same types of events, roughly the same number of events, structured in the same way and organised in the same way as they always have been.

Have you ever heard of the frog analogy regarding change in business environments? Take a frog which is happy living in cold water, put it in a bowl of hot water and it will of course immediately leap out. But if you take the same frog and put it in a pan of cold water with a very gentle heat underneath, the frog will swim around very happily as the water gets hotter and hotter. It will be totally unaware of the gradually changing environment and will not do anything to save itself from being boiled alive. Can you see a parallel here with time trialling?

The other day something totally different got me thinking: I read an announcement from the National Committee of the CTT which said something along the lines of "The Board of Cycling Time Trials wishes to inform....." The word "Board" is what leapt out at me. The word was used because the National Committee of the CTT have in fact been the board ever since 2002 when the RTTC became a limited company called Cycling Time Trials.

This got me thinking about Time Trialling as a business. How do businesses organise themselves and go about things? Can we learn anything from taking a business analogy further as we consider the state of time trialling?

Businesses often make products and our 'products' in time trialling are our events. We have two types - open events and club events. These are well-established, mature entities which have been our 'products' for decades. But what has been happening to our 'product sales'? Open events are in decline. In 2013 there was a 4% fall in the number of rides done in open events nationally. In the Midlands District there has been a 17% fall in the number of open events from 2009 to 2014. What about club events? The number of rides done in club events nationwide rose by 10% in 2014. So why do our consumers (riders) seem to prefer one of our products (club events) over the other (open events)? Why is one product seeing growth and the other decline and what is driving that change in consumer choices?

Club events tend to be informal, friendly and relaxed, midweek turn-up-and-ride events. Are lifestyles more suited to mid-week informal events now? Probably the growth in triathlons and sportives has greatly increased the number of people who 'dabble' in time trialling, or use club TTs for training, without getting serious.

Open events, on the other hand, have to be entered in advance and are perhaps not as friendly and welcoming for someone who is new and does not yet know some of the names and faces of others at local events. There is a tendency for riders to rush off after racing without seeing the results come in –

people do not perceive these as social occasions for meeting friends or lingering to chat. Is there also an issue about the advances in equipment after a couple of decades of disc wheels and TT-specific bikes? Is there a feeling amongst those who do club TTs that there is no point in entering an open event unless they decide to buy a specific TT bike because they will not be competitive on anything less?

There is also a new product on the market this season – have you heard about the TT being run in Cambridgeshire under UCI regulations in June? The roads will be closed for a 16-mile TT and there are 700 places with 30-second start intervals, to be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. A big starting ramp is promised, in the style of the TdF time trials. Despite an entry fee of over £30 this event was sold out in less than a week and I understand there is a waiting list of another 300 people who would like to ride. This product is in huge demand!

If I was a business leader reviewing my product portfolio and I would say that my opportunities for growth are in informal club events at one end of the scale and in large, exciting, expensive prestige events at the other end. In fact, is one of our two main 'products', the standard open, looking like a tired product that's not suited to its time? Meanwhile fresher, new products – like the Cambs event - and humble club events have many more riders enthused and keen to participate.

So those are the products of our 'business'. What about other aspects? What about our public relations or 'PR' for our business? How do those outside time trialling view us? If there was a consumer focus group, what would all those MAMILs, sportive riders and new cyclists say about TTing? Would they say that we are all obsessed with ultra-expensive equipment and that there's no point in getting seriously into time trialling unless you have the money to buy the kit? Would they say that we are the nutters who think it's fun to ride up and down dual carriageways? Remember that our PR is not what we actually do, it is what people who don't ride time trials *think* we do.

What about our market share? Huge companies like the giant British food retailers, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda etc seem obsessed with holding onto market share - it is a vital measure of the success of any business. So how does time trialling compare to what is going on in, say, British Cycling? For decades membership of BC was fairly constant at around 15,000 members with fluctuations of a couple of thousand up and down from year to year. But in 2005 that started to change – drastically. In 2014 membership of BC rose to over 100,000 for the first time, more than a 6-fold increase in fewer than 10 years! Obviously the membership numbers of BC do not tell the whole story of what is going on in cycling in the UK but it is representative of the scale of the increase in numbers of people riding bikes and identifying themselves as cyclists. So, with very small fractional growth driven only by club events, time trialling is losing market share hand over fist. Thousands of new cyclists are out there but we are not winning them over to TTing.

What about marketing? Sportives are very cleverly marketed – just look at a website for a sportive and see how exciting the organisers are making it seem when you and I know that at its core a sportive is just a bike ride on roads you could ride on any other day you wished. But how do we 'market' TTs? We have a list in a handbook or online which entices people to come and take part with alluring words:

"9th March, Wobbly Wheelers 10, K33/10D, 14:00 £8.00" !

An example of the potential market I believe is out there was an event that we ran last September as part of the Midlands Women's TT Series. We needed one last counting event for the Series so the Speedwell BC ran a club event on a Saturday afternoon on the quiet Wolvey 10 course. We created a poster for it and announced that it was a "NOVICE'S 10-mile TT", playing down which club was organising it and simply saying that everyone was welcome. The poster said specifically that any bike could be used and that all riders of all abilities were welcome. We used Facebook and Twitter to pass word around.

Being a club event with entry on the day we had no idea what to expect but with an hour to go before the start there was a long snake of people waiting to sign on. Some club riders came along but the majority were not in clubs, many were women, 26 were complete novices. We had a friendly team of people welcoming them and explaining where the course went and what to expect. The pusher-off chatted to each rider to put them at their ease and make sure they were happy with being pushed off. Some were anxious about the push off so he handled that sensitively and persuaded some into trying it while others started on their own. We had the results relayed back and written up on big boards (a bit more work without having a start sheet in advance) and a prize presentation, particularly celebrating the achievements of the novices. I must say it was the most exciting, fun and enjoyable event I can recall ever attending. The smiles and laughter at the HQ told the tale of people having completed a challenge and enjoyed the experience. And almost half of them had never ridden a TT before in their lives.

So, we have a market share that is falling and yet, with good marketing, there is, I believe, massive potential for growth.

So what does thinking about time trialling with reference to business ideas lead to? It leads to the need to change: developing the product, better marketing, improving market share, and PR. Change needs to be brought about – not necessarily by revolution but certainly by evolution. Who is going to instigate that change?

Well, who puts on events? Clubs put on events, usually with very small teams of a few hardworking individuals. These are the workforce of time trialling. In my analogy the clubs and organisers are the 'employees' – the people who make the product. But individual clubs cannot bring about the kind of changes I'm talking about. Businesses need leaders whose role it is to understand the market, the business and their products and to take action when market share is falling. The direction is set by business leaders, not by employees.

At this point I'd like to comment on something the VTTA has done in recent years which I think stands out as a shining example of excellent leadership and management of change in the TTing world. Years ago when I thought about the VTTA Standards and realised they were quite strongly biased in favour of the oldest riders, it was obvious that they needed to be changed. But I honestly thought change could not be made. I could not see how consensus would ever be achieved or clear unequivocal arguments presented to convince the older guys to give up their advantage. And yet change was brought about with a revision of the standards but not by stream-rolling it through. Everything was done carefully, thoughtfully and sensitively, with a working party established by a vote at national level, irrefutable data to justify corrected standards, open debate and dialogue and then a democratic vote. The change was highly controversial but achieved through great leadership.

For the sport as a whole to develop we need more of this national level leadership and we need it at district level too. You can't expect the employees (clubs) to have an overview, to demonstrate the leadership and set the direction for change in a business. That's the job of the board which, you will recall, is how the National Committee would like to be perceived. Senior Management should also play a part and these should be our leaders at district level.

So, in summary, TTing has huge strengths – a large volunteer base, good structures and governance for a well-run sport but, in my opinion, now needs to think harder about the fact that the environment for cycling has changed and is changing beyond all recognition. Businesses have to adapt, understand their market, work hard on their market share by developing and updating their products to keep them fresh and up to date. Time trialling must do the same to avoid being like a frog swimming around in a pan of hot water, ignoring the fact that the world around it has changed and it hasn't done anything about it.

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Jokey Johnstone—The Road Man



18.02.13



5.02.14

But it's not about the speed

A popular rider who's well known across the land
Takes his bike from the shed with a gleam in his eye
He looks at his weather vane - the wind in the trees
Casts an experienced eye to the ever moving clouds
The River Clyde runs strongly under the auld Crossford brig
As the roadman passes by

The Braidwood taunts with its climb to the sky
Gilchrist and Cosy Glen claim they rise in stages
Chinatown tempts with its Alpine corners
Craignethan teases with its steep double climbs
Check, Nemphlar and Mouse declare less effort's required
But the roadman passes them by. . .

Yes a favourite route is calling him to come again
To Leadhills and Sanquhar via the Red Road brae
The sun's in his face and the wind's at his back
He thinks of all the years he has come this way
Past the Sandilands road-end and up Fockerton Mull
There the roadman will pass by ...

The pace is strong but there's much in reserve
His fast time-trialling speed is placed on hold
With body relaxed he's in metronomic rhythm
Using muscles powered by a lifetime of pedalling
Those who see him on the road will get a wave or a call
As the roadman passes by ...

Well beyond Abington, the curlews are calling
.Ancient dry-stane dykes draw lines on the hill
Rivers meander, cutting stones from the banking
Auld brigs arch perfectly with keystones intact
The heron stands to attention as it fishes in shallows
As the roadman passes by...

The lead is gone now from the mines of Leadhills
But the gold-panners still seek flakes in the burns
Scotland's highest village of Wanlockhead's next
Its gold in the past adorned the crowns of Kings
Then the descent twists and turns down the Mennock
Where the roadman passes by...

The tall hills shaped long ago by glacial action
Curve gently down from the sky to the road
Their braes are ablaze with bright russets and gold
And the heather paints hues of purple and brown
Some hardy sheep are mowing the grass near the burn
As the roadman passes by...

Then it's Sanquhar, Crawick and Glentaggart climb
And another nice descent to the Glespin road
Up past the resting place of the Douglas clan
A Cameronian Memorial and a proud Polish camp
An auld tower marks where the Douglas castle stood
As the roadman passes by...

The Douglas climb is followed by Happendon hill
The A-seventy-four rattles teeth, bones and bikes
So the preferred journey home is the Coalburn road
The piggery, the factory, the truckstop climbs
The Kirkmuirhill speed sign may get as high as thirty five
As the roadman passes by...

At Pathhead Café he hears all the tales being told
How Wee Tommy drapped Sanny decades ago
How last week Gordon and Jim sat on Ian's wheel
Or how John's turbo legs caught Jay on the climb
Then all these Remoulds said how fast they were going
When the roadman passed them by...

When solo he engages with nature around him
The wild environment there attracts his eye
Old tracks are explored and history gleaned
He knows local names of all the places he's been
Life is wonderful and it's just there for the taking
Says the roadman passing by...

But when in a bunch his instincts are different
Hunting, chasing, watching, tactical-thinking
Analysing the moves like a computer screen
Waiting to pounce with a pace to match all
Young riders take a chance based on factors of age
But the roadman passes them by!

Dennis White December 2014



OBITUARIES

BERNARD ROCKCLIFF (Rocky)

1924-2014

Bernard was a lifelong member of the Preston Wheelers and an Honorary Life Member of the North Lancs. and Lakes Group of the VTTA of which he had been a member for over 40 years.

His father-in-law was Sam Williams who was also prominent in both groups.

Bernard's wife Jean died approximately 30 years ago and prior to that they had enjoyed cycling holidays in both this country and abroad. They also did a lot of touring abroad by motorbike and also quite a lot of caravanning.

'Rocky' was both the Preston Wheelers time trial secretary and also an assistant timekeeper for many years as well as officiating at Club and Open events.

In later years he enjoyed going to Ardnamurchan in Scotland each year.

Bernard had a claim to fame by having a Racehorse named after him - Super Rocky - which won quite a few races. He also enjoyed his Sunday lunchtime drinks in the 'Running Pump' at Catforth with his friends.

Terry Kay

JOHN BYRNE

August 1932 – December 2014

The Scottish Group was saddened to hear of the passing of fellow member John Byrne of the now defunct Eun Mara Cycling Club.

John was an Honorary Life Member of the Scottish Group. He moved to Eire in semi-retirement from his trade as Master Stonemason some years back, but still kept in touch with his friends in the Glasgow area. Despite being a through-and-through cyclist, John, with a set of shoulders the size of a bus, competed in his youth in the Mister Universe Body-Building Contest with much success; you could say that John was the original gentle giant.

The Scottish Group have sent their condolences to John's wife Maureen and family.

Jim Harris

OBITUARIES

JOHN HOWARD PERRY

1930 - 2014



John Perry a lifetime member of the Beeston Road Club died shortly before Christmas following a long illness aged 84 years.

Originally from the Croydon area, his family relocated to the East Midlands after the Blitz and thereafter Nottingham became his home.

A man of good education, John made a lifelong career in the banking industry. He was also conscripted into National Service where he served in post war Germany.

His early cycling years were dedicated to touring but in the late 1950s he joined the Beeston RC where, recognising his potential, he was encouraged by his club mates to take up competitive cycling.

It was not until 1960 at the age of 29 that John rode his first time trial but he soon established himself as a strong rider particularly at the longer distances. Never a greyhound, his slender physique belied a steely determination and stamina in abundance which he used to good effect.

He rode many of the classic distance time trials of that era and achieved personal best times of 4 hours 20 minutes for 100 miles and exceeded 250 miles for 12 hours.

Upon reaching the age of 40, John joined the VTTA Notts. & East Mids. Group where he established himself both as a competitor and official for many years.

His contribution to the Group cannot be understated. When the position of Group Recorder became vacant in the 1970s, his natural aptitude for numbers made him an ideal candidate for the job, so much so that he continued in the position for over thirty years until the onset of ill health.

Older readers will remember his well-written and interesting contributions to this magazine on behalf of the East Midlands Group.

He was an enthusiastic promoter of VTTA events, the best known being the Nottingham to Skegness race which he always enjoyed. He also served the Central District as a handicapper.

John suffered ill health for a number of years, firstly with Osteoporosis and later with the onset of Alzheimer's disease which eventually necessitated his going into care for the last three years of his life. Sadly he slowly became detached from his friends.

John will be well remembered by all that knew him for his qualities and unique characteristics. Strongly individual and non-materialist by nature he was a man who lived life through his experiences, mainly on a bicycle.

Always articulate and diligent in all that he undertook, he was a sociable and yet essentially very private man. Above all he will always be remembered as a gentleman.

Francis Grafton

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL J V BURROW (Mike)

08/01/1940 - 13/02/15

It is with great sadness that we bring you news of the passing of Essex fast man, Michael Burrow, after a tough two year battle with pancreatic cancer. Mike finally passed away peacefully at his Chelmsford home on Friday 13 February, in the company of his children Louise and Jamie.

A very popular figure in the Essex cycling scene. Mike's biggest career highlight was breaking the British National 25 mile time trial competition record in 1965 with a time of 54.04; a time most of us would be pushed to get even close to 50 years on.

Mike's time trialling brought him over 200 victories in a career spanning over 50 years and nearly 350,000 miles.

He lived and breathed cycling his entire life. Taking pleasure in helping newcomers into the sport. Marshalling, time keeping and organising events in the Essex region, for decades. It took him a while to make the transition from 'racer' to 'cyclist', but thoroughly embraced the family he made in the 40 plus cycling club. Their Tuesday and Thursday social rides soon became a way of life. Enjoying leisurely rides around the beautiful Essex lanes, taking in the many cafes, tea rooms and pubs, along the way.

Mike's passion for the bike was also passed on to his son Jamie, who proudly followed in his father's footsteps with a successful road career that saw him as World number one under 23, and race professional with Lance Armstrong's US Postal service team.

Mike will certainly be missed by many people, especially his presence as an encouraging spectator at many Essex time trials with his famous 'up' or 'down' time checks along the road.

Jamie Burrow

ARTHUR ROYCE WILKINSON

Arthur passed away in June 2014 at the age of 96. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer but was not really troubled by it until his final few months, really it was his age that caught up with him.

He was a cyclist from the age of 13 and not stopping until reaching 81. Known as 'Wilki' locally, he raced in time trials all his life; 10, 25, 50, 100 and a few 24 hours. He never broke any records but cycling was his passion.

He used to help the younger lads by repairing and building wheels and bikes. In his last few years he enjoyed building and restoring old bikes for people in the UK and abroad as a hobby and was to be found at bike jumbles and sales for miles around, buying bits that he required.

He enjoyed reading *The Veteran* and issues were read from cover to back.

Dad was a really clever man and knew everything about bikes, new and old. I inherited the cycling bug and still continue after him.

He was a member of Grimsby Clarion, Grimsby Road Club and later Lindsey Road Club.

Diane Walker

OBITUARIES

TOM (“TOMMY”) BARR 1929-2015



Dad passed away peacefully in the company of his family at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, after a short stay, aged 85. He is survived by his wife Betty (a 58 year marriage that also survived cycling!), his two sons, and two grandchildren that he adored. He had had a very happy 30 year retirement after leaving his job at the Thames Conservancy, now the Environment Agency, his services to the industry having been recognised with British Empire Medal.

Tom was cycling for pleasure up until several years ago when he fell into ill health, but he continued to avidly follow the sport on TV and in the press. We recently discovered he had been living on borrowed time – a bad crash (he came down hard on his bike about 13 years ago) resulted in an undiagnosed dissected Aorta he had lived in blissful ignorance of; a 50:50 survival chance. So somebody was looking after him. He kept his sharpness and wicked sense of humour up until the end; asked by a Doctor in Accident and Emergency last week if he had ever smoked he replied, “Oh yes. I had one in

1943”. So I guess Tom has now been dropped by the Bunch – he steadfastly refused to more fashionably call it the Peloton - for a final time. Or maybe he has caught a larger Bunch, having outlived many of his contemporaries. We shall all miss him terribly.

We plan to scatter his ashes around the Staple Hill Course, Chobham Common. If there are any punctures, sorry, but I'll be denying it.

Tom Barr (Junior)

I first met Tom in 1960 when I joined the Feltham Road Club. I do not recall racing with him but in those days the club run was a cycling club's strength anyway. Looking back through what records I have it is obvious that he had been very active, holding the club's 50 record in 1954 with 2:08:47; winning the 12 hour in 1957 and setting a club 50 tandem record of 1:53:18, also in 1957.

Prior to his joining the Feltham, he was a member of the Kingston Roads CC when in 1948 he was a member of the winning team in the National Championship 25 in a record time of 3:05:49.

Although still a member, I moved away from the club area in 1964 so non-racing contact became rather occasional; club dinners, LWDC meetings, event promotions etc. I also remember him holding the watch in club events and will remain grateful for a desperately needed bottle handed up in a time trial somewhere near Newark in 1976.

In later years, Tom had problems with walking but would ride out to elevenses with a walking stick on his bike to facilitate getting into the café and then back to his bike, proving that there will always be a need for toe straps.

Peter Long

There are many of the Time Trialling fraternity aware of the existence of *Cycling Time Trials*, known to those like dear old Tom as the RTTC. But it is perhaps a certainty that very few know of the work involved with the preparation and control of each District's club event programme.

In 2015 London West (the largest of the CTT District Councils) has almost 500 club events and in days gone by, there were many more. Tommy did that job for years and he loved it. He would receive applications in advance of each New Year and write them down on second-hand paper. He would chase those who had neglected to apply and would eventually produce a bunch of hand written sheets and pass them to me for fitting into the Year Book.

After that he would ensure that every club submitted the 'Police Notification Form' which was used back then and then he would sit back and make sure they all abided by the Rules and Regulations. Woe betide any club which didn't toe the line; he was on them like a ton of bricks which earned him the soubriquet of 'Hitler' and he was always pleased to be referred to as such. He and I formed a double act with me stirring him into maintaining his reputation. He never took offence and we built a special friendship. After many years, he stood down and walked off with a Certificate of Honour, possibly the last member of the District Committee to be able to say that he never used a typewriter, never mind a computer and never wasted a sheet of paper.

Subsequently we met up at annual meetings where he would strive to raise points through the chair, relevant or otherwise, so that we were able to reprise just a little of the exchanges we used to share in the years gone by.

I'll miss old Tommy, as will many others.

Jim Burgin

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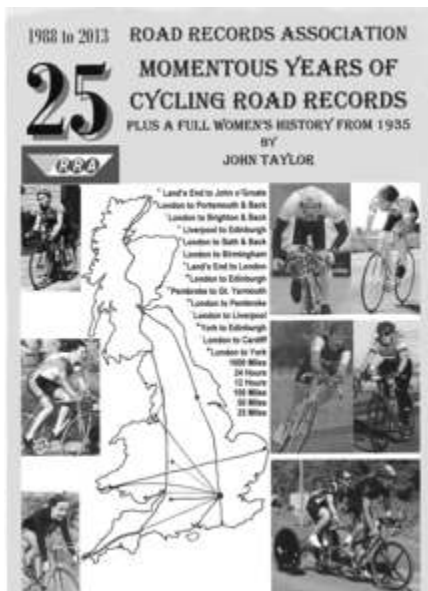
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