

THE
VETERAN

Number 45

June 2015



Bernard Hill : Centenarian



Steve Irwin
100 Mile Champion
(Kimroy)

National Association for the 40 year old and over racing cyclist

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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*

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COVER PICTURE

Bernard Hill

Bernard is the fifth member
to be awarded a Centenarian Certificate

He was born on the 5 June 1915 and in 1955
riding the North Lancs Olympic 25
he became the first veteran to get inside the hour

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The President's Piece

Unfortunately I was away when the last magazine was produced so would like to take this opportunity to say how surprised and honoured I was to be elected your President and to follow in the footsteps of Ethel Brambleby, who gave me a great deal of support during my racing career and Doreen Mahar and also Alan Colburn who I have just followed. This is a unique organisation and it is great to see that younger veterans are now joining. The idea that old and young can race and compete actively against one another does not, as far as I am aware, happen in many sports.

I am very grateful to the London Group for getting the rules changed to allow women to join. For the Association's first 33 years they were not on the radar.

The National Championship 10 on the fast V718 course attracted 390 entries which naturally meant that many people didn't manage to secure a ride. Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the event. There was however a few dissenting voices from the fairer sex, some of whom contacted me because they were disappointed that there were no women's prizes. I was also contacted after the Veterans National 100. It was voted on at the 2013 AGM that there would not be separate awards for women as it was considered that with the change of the standards the women were now competing on a level playing field.

The VTTA is a democratic organisation and all the changes that have taken place which led up to the 'Level Playing Field' were as a result of that democratic procedure. Should the membership feel that the field is still not level the answer is in their hands. A proposition from a Group at the AGM is the way to go.

Summer is well and truly upon us although we may be forgiven for thinking otherwise as to date it would seem that we do not have more than two days alike. As I am writing this it is nearly mid-summer's day and summer at the moment does not seem to want to grace us with its presence. Here we are in Flaming June with temperatures one would expect in March or October. Luckily we are a hardy lot. Let's hope all of you who race enjoy a good second half to the season, and those of you who ride your bike for pleasure have plenty of sunshine and find that the wind always follows you.

Carole Gandy

"The problem with aging is not that it's one damn thing after another---it's every damn thing, all at once, all the time."

— John Scalzi

National Secretary

Rachael Elliott



I can't quite believe that, as I write this, we are already the wrong side of Midsummer's Day. The season has flashed by in a blur of racing and admin-type duties. Whilst I absolutely love the racing season, I need to send a note to myself to remind me that organising a 12 hour time trial (which is part of a National Championship) and a popular open 10 within six days of each other is not to be advised.

One event which certainly didn't pass by in a blur was the VTTA National Championship 10 on the fast V718 course in Hull. Whilst the event may not have seen the half the country lining the bridges of the A63 to cheer on the country's national cycling hero, Bradley Wiggins, it could be argued that we saw some far more impressive performances at the Championship than Bradley's 39 second miss of the 10 mile competition record just a couple of weeks prior: Derek Stewart recorded a new age record to win the event with a plus of 8:23 (22:35) at age 78, whilst 81-year old Gill Henshaw (VC Long Eaton) stormed around the course to set a new age record by 3 seconds (27:08) and recording a plus of 7:31. Mike Williams had put together a fantastic event – a real celebration of achievement – and I'd like to thank him for that.

Organising the VTTA championship 12 hour proved a monumental task once again. Ironically, being in hospital in the run up last year meant I had a lot more time to organise everything due to hours and hours of enforced "rest" time, but things proved a little more taxing this year. Nevertheless, the event was a big success – with a much larger field than the previous year – and testament to the dedication of the huge team of helpers (and not least Jim Burgin, the Chief Timekeeper – there can't be many people who are happy to sit next to a dual carriageway for over 13 hours on a Sunday). Jim's report of the event is later in this magazine.

Finally, I have been in receipt of a number of letters and emails from women who are calling for changes to be made to the way prizes are awarded in Championship events with some containing detailed scientific analysis of why there should be separate prizes for women at championship events. Whilst personally I had always considered that standards equalled the playing field for both men and women, some of the points put forward are worthy of debate. Doubtless the agenda for next year's AGM will contain some interesting items!

I would like to wish all of you a safe successful end of season, whether in a racing, organising, supporting or "fan" capacity.

Editorial

Jim Burgin



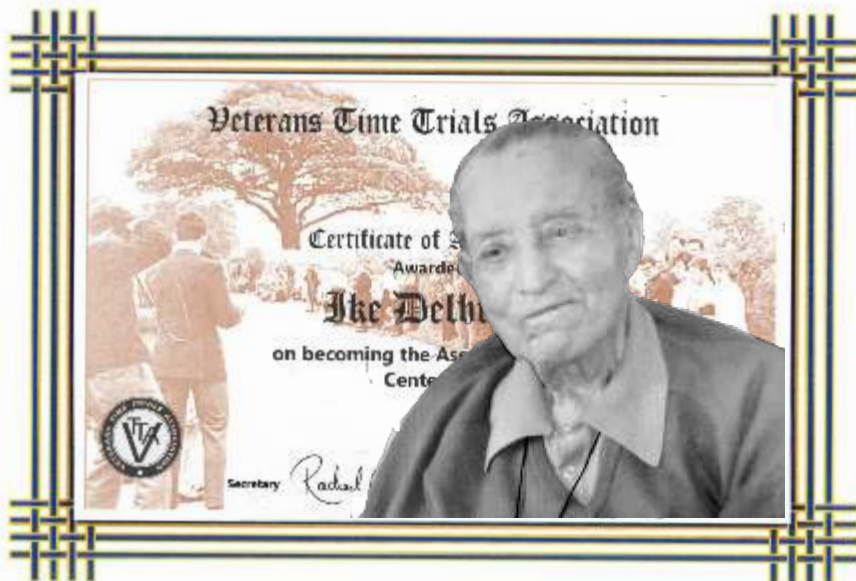
It is sad to see a record number of obituaries published in this issue; so many friends and loved ones departing. I hope that the two illustrations of Centenarians will bring some cheer.

Being in a position to record these losses over 12 years now, one thing it does illustrate is the value of organisations such as the VTТА; can there be any other sphere where so many 'senior' citizens are senior but so youthful. It may confirm me as self-righteous but being one of the many members listed in the front of the Handbook who make it all possible is gratifying.

The main feature of the VTТА is that it provides the opportunity for competition amongst its members and, of course, that is centered upon the Standards. What a source of debate they have been since the beginning! For years they were debated until finally serious consideration was given and, although it took a lot of work by a dedicated band of experts, new figures were produced, accepted, tried, and then amended and again accepted. Which takes us to the present when there is, to quote the so often repeated phrase, 'A level playing field'. Is there any other sporting organisation where all participants are equal? Age and gender (as long as one is over 40) no longer apply. No discrimination, no apparent preference. Women are equal with men, a 40 year old is equal to an 84 year old—and so on. Not so it seems.

I confess to be baffled by the 'women's lib'. As I read of the frequent references to apparent objectification of women in the media I become concerned that I may be getting in wrong, that women do not need or want to be placed 'on a pedestal' they are the same and deserve equal opportunity. So, they get as much cuddling and kissing on the winners' pedestal as the men!





Ike Delbridge

Ike became the Association's third Centenarian on the 14 April 2013.

His long career began with the formation of the Hemsworth Wheelers CC in 1928, when he was still only 15 and he went on to become a prolific winner as a track rider in the 1940s and 1950s.

He recorded his last win in an open event in 1961.

In 1983 he was awarded the BCF North Midlands Division Gold Badge of Honour for almost four decades of exemplary service to the sport.

He has been a member of the VTTA since July 1971



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East Anglian

John Golder

The racing season is well under way and members of the Group are getting some good results despite the autumnal conditions, as I type this it's wet and blowing a hooley outside, so much for flaming June!

The National VTTA 10 on the super-fast Yorkshire V718 course had some of our members travelling up there and they were not disappointed, Glenn Taylor (Shorter Rochford RT) and Mark Arnold (CC Desiragear) set the fastest time of the day on the tandem with a cracking 17:36, only 15secs off comp record, winning the tandem event and getting a new National VTTA age record.

In the solo event Len Benton (77) clocked 22:33 giving him a plus of 8:07 to take 3rd place, getting back to his former glory days of the mid to late 90s. Derek Stewart (78) won with 22:35 and a plus of 8:23 with Brian Sunter (72) 21:14 to take 2nd with a plus of 8:12 - who said the new standards favour the youngsters!

The fastest solo ride on the day was from ex-Group member Steve Irwin who clocked 18:40, one second off his PB. Steve has moved 'oop norf' and we wish him every success for the season.

Mick Pepper, our archivist, was pleased with this year's turnout for the Pat Pepper memorial 25 in mid-April; he got nearly 70 entries including 11 women on the sporting B25/50 course that does two circuits of the Redenhall & Bungay bypass. Mark Arnold (CC Desiragear) was the fastest with a 53:44 and the Pat Pepper memorial trophy was presented to the fastest woman, Verity Smith, (Stowmarket & District CC) with a 1:05:58.

The Victoria CC series of four events always has a good field, organised by our treasurer, Christine Yareham, and workhorse hubby Doug, who organise four events at the end of each month starting in May and for a nonstandard distance (10.2 mile) and on a SPOCO course; they get a great turn-out and the first of the series was no exception. They had eleven two-up teams, seven three-up teams and 83 solos enter. East Anglian vets did very well with Mark Arnold (CC

Desiragear) taking 2nd fastest solo in 21:51 behind pro Russell Hampton in 21:11, Sue Triplow (Essex Roads CC) took the fastest woman with 25:15.

The Age groups that were won by our Group members were:

40/44	Mark Arnold (CC Desiragear)	21:51
45/49	Antony Stapleton (Chelmer CC)	23:29
50/54	Steve Miles (Stevenage CC)	25:49
55/59	John Iszatt (Team Vision Racing)	26:13
75/79	Richard Glover (CC Ashwell)	26:46
80/84	Mary Horsnell (Chelmer CC)	44:51
85/89	Peter Horsnell (Chelmer CC)	31:35

Team of three Best on Standard

Chelmer CC	+6.42
Antony Stapleton	+3.12
Peter Horsnell	+2.12
Duncan Gilbert	+1.18

The next dates for these events are:

Saturday 20th June closing 9th June	07.31
Saturday 5th July closing 14th July	07.31
Saturday 29th August closing 18th Aug	07.31

Sue Triplow also did very well in the ECCA 50; after a disappointing cancellation of the North Norfolk 100, she managed to get an entry into this event and was rewarded by being the fastest woman with a PB of 2:02:04.

Although Dave McGraw, Cambridge CC (only a youngster) posted the fastest time of 1:43:27, it was no 'float day' on the exposed E2/50c course and congratulations to all those who improved, as many riders were well off their best.

Richard Parrotte (Shaftesbury CC) took 3rd on handicap with 2:02:00 and the fastest team were all Group members from CC Sudbury. Robert Davies (1:52:49), Jonathan Weatherley (1:53:29) and Jody Downs (1:54:11) beating their club record by over 22 minutes.

Keith Dorling (Bishops Stortford CC) made his comeback in 2012 after a 12 year lay-off and getting up to 16 stone. He decided to do things properly and see what he could do so with a power meter, following a structured training plan and diet, last year he got down to a long 20 for a 10, a 54 for 25 and a 1:54 for a 50, so this year he

decided to tackle a 100.

He chose the Hounslow 100 down in Surrey at the end of May. The day looked good when arriving at the HQ with clear blue skies and not a hint of rain as was forecast, there was a westerly wind, but it didn't feel that strong. The course is approximately five laps of the Bentley course. The previous week he had PB'd in the ECCA 50 with a 1:53:34 so things were looking good.

He had yours truly only six minutes in front of him so had a nice carrot. After taking nine minutes out of me in the ECCA 50, he rated his chances. I would like to point out that this 100 was only my second event, but felt pretty good after spending two weeks in sunny Majorca a month before.

I should have realised how hard it would be on the return leg when I got to the first turn at 27mph average with a nice tail wind. The return was into a rising westerly wind that got stronger as the morning went on. On the bottom half of the course the surface is not smooth like our local E2 and it drains you; I certainly wouldn't contemplate doing the 12 hour on there!

Anyway, Keith caught me before 50 miles and although slowed, he still did a cracking 4:14:49 on the day. I ended up with a 4:24:20; I don't think that there were any other Group members there, sorry if I missed you, I was a bit blurry eyed at the finish.

The event was won by Adam Topham with a 3:34; obviously he has his eye on the BBAR again and maybe the VTTA BAR unless our Pete Horsnell can swap places with him this year.

The ECCA scratch 10 & 25 championships are always good events; the 10 on the E2 on the Saturday afternoon had a full field, unusual for an ECCA occasion. This was the 10 in which Alex Dowsett broke competition record a year ago (17:20). Maybe that had something to do with the entry. He wasn't entered this year, but there were still four sub 20 minute times recorded.

Again it was a nice sunny, blustery day and everyone, apart from the fast boys, know what that means on the E2. Jason Layne (CC Ashwell) won the event with 19:31, but the majority were

off their best times. It was still a really good event: then you wouldn't expect anything else from Dave Nock, he organises so many events each year and when he isn't organising he is there helping out, whether it's a time trial or road race. He also helps coach the youngsters in the Essex Roads CC on a Saturday morning; what would we do without people like Dave?

Sunday's ECCA 25 was totally the opposite as far as the weather was concerned, wet and windy on the E1/25, although the same course as the Victoria run their successful series of events on, there was an entry of only 55 riders and a tandem, I wonder how many entries they would have got if it had been on the E2? Though with the conditions as they were, if it had been it would undoubtedly have been cancelled.

It was a hard event with only 29 finishing, fast out with the south westerly wind and a bit of a gravel back, but again Dave McGraw (Cambridge CC) made it look easy winning with a 55:30. Antony Stapleton (Chelmer CC) had a return to form taking 2nd place with 57:24 and fastest vet. The fastest woman was Lisa Haines (Maldon & District CC) 1:07:28. Chelmer won the team, but Antony was the only vet. Dean Lubin and Ewan Hendon (Ciclos Uno) did 54:51 on the tandem.

Well the weather can only improve can't it? Let's hope June, July and August sees some fast results. The 50 on Saturday 13th June on the E2/50c is a new event and has a full field of 90 riders (course time restriction) and 10 reserves. Over two thirds of the field are Group members, but nobody had their entry returned (except the three non-vets that had entered).

Mark Arnold is also organising two new evening 10s on the E2/10 on Thursday 18th & 25th June. It will be interesting to see what the entry is like and if the wind really does drop in the evening.

Richard Reade is another new organiser to the Group, running a Wednesday evening 10 on 8th July on the fast B10/3b. Again it will be interesting to see what sort of entry this event gets.

If you have an email address let me know; from the 327 members, I only have 40 without an email address, but those 40 cost the Group nearly £60

every time I put out a newsletter due to the printing and postage costs; this will help cut the costs for the Group and you will receive any communications quicker.

Membership currently stands at 327 (though some of those are couples): we are one of the largest groups in the country, but also one of the most widely spread, from the Thames to the Wash and across to the borders of Hertfordshire, yet we still struggle to get marshals to support our great events calendar, though I guess most groups suffer the same issue.

If you can spare a few hours to support the future Group events, please contact the organisers; they really will appreciate it (Dave Nock has signed up for all of them!)

Here is the list of the forthcoming Group events & the ECCA 100 & 12 hour opens within which we include our championships:

Thursday 18th June			
Group Open 10	E2/10		Mark Arnold
Sat 20th June			
Victoria 10 (Inc Group10)	E1/10A		Christine Yareham
Sun 21st June			
ECCA 100 (Inc Group 100)	E2/100		Lea Marshall
Thur 25th June			
Group 10	E2/10		Mark Arnold
Wed 8th July			
Group 10	B10/3b		Richard Reade
Sat 11th July			
Group 25	E2/25		John Golder
Sat 11th July			
Open Women's BBAR 25	E2/25		John Golder
Sat 25th July			
Victoria 10 (Inc Group10)	E1/10A		Christine Yareham
Sat 8th August			
Group 10	B10/43		Barry Freeman
Sun 9th Aug			
Group 25	E2/25		Paul Hirst
Sun 16th Aug			

ECCA 12 hr (inc Group 12hr)
E2/12h Dave Nock

Saturday 29th August
Victoria 10 (Inc Group 10)
E1/10A Christine Yareham

Sat 12th September
Group 10 E2/10 Keith Dorling

Sat 3rd October
Leo 30 (Inc Group & ECCA 30)
E2/30 John Golder

Finally; we are still looking for a newsletter editor. If you are interested contact me; it's not difficult as it's all put together by George Potter, not even a Group member. With his vast experience in the press industry he makes it look professional, all you have to do is gather articles.

Take care out there

London & Home Counties

Peter Tasker

With the racing season now in full flow it is interesting to look at the difference in the way the riders in events have changed over the last few years. Many of us older Vets who were racing from the 50s to the 90s have seen the reduction of the number of open events across the country and the fact that the size of the fields have reduced, unless it is a fast course and so over-subscribed.

If I look at the F1 course which has been very popular over in the past, this year has only seven events; yes there are road works at Black Cat roundabout, but I remember when we had events each weekend with some having an event on both days. The longer distance events have reduced in all areas but the 10 mile events have increased vastly, yet not so many years ago a 10 mile time trial was considered a track race not a road event.

Many club riders are now content to ride their Club events but don't want to progress to the big world of open events. Is this because of the Sportive type event which has become so popular over the last few years?

It makes you wonder whether it is time for the

world of time trials to change, to promote its events in a different way; it is still very much like it was back in the 60s when it was under cover and the public knew nothing about it. Why not have the race start down a ramp, electronic timing on the bike, and no timekeeper with their watch at the side of the road?

Having stated the case, it is time to see what has been going on in the group over the last few months.

The well-known North Road Hardriders classic 25 was cancelled on the day due to ice on the roads and not much was happening in March; the Hemel Hempstead CC 21 mile event had a good entry but what a day - heavy rain and wind and having to climb Bison Hill up by Zoo, part of which is 1 in 4.

In the Welwyn Wheelers' 50Km on Good Friday, Tim Davies punctured but Richard Moule clocked 1.38.50 on a hard morning.

On the same date there was the High Wycombe 10 in which Peter Lawrence clocked 19.49. Ian Greenstreet did 20.57 and Liam Maybank 20.59.

On Easter Sunday in the Icknield 30Km, held in the Chiltern Hills, Peter Lawrence was again to the fore with 44.15. Other results were: Tim Davies 46.50, Steve Morrell 47.01, Grant Orsborn 48.37, Alan Crane 49.38, Richard Moule 51.21 and Peter Harridge 51.29.

A week later in the Beds Road event on the F1B/25, the following represented the Group: Simon Norman 54.25, Jason Gurney 56.52, Grant Orsborn 59.55, Peter Harridge 1.03.15 and Richard Moule 1.04.31.

Down to the west of the Group area on 19th April we had the West London C.A. 25 in which Peter Lawrence was the fastest with 51.18 and a plus of 15.21. Others were Laim Maybank +13.47 (52.39); Rob Gilmour +12.49 (58.27); Danuta Tinn +12.05 (1.01.23); Nic Staggs +9.16 (57.35); Richard Moule and Dave Rogers +4.48 (1.02.31 and

1.04.36).

In the NDCA 10 near Wellingbrough on 25th April Paul Woodham clocked 27.18.

On the Bank Holiday Monday, the 4th of May, Greg Lewis once again promoted the Don Byham Memorial 10 on the popular F11/10 course.

There was a full field of 150 with some reserves. A remarkable distribution among the ages produced the best 10 who are listed the end of this report. (The full result is available to view on the VTTA website).

The group had 74 riders out of 144 finishers, could be some record for the group. Not last was our Group Treasurer, 84 years old Chas Jepson who clocked a plus of 2.54 and a time of 30.23.

Greg has already agreed to promote the event next year, along with an overflow.

On the same weekend in the Lea Valley CC 10 over on the E1 course David Solomon clocked 26.27 and Peter Cockbain 28.39 and on the following weekend of 10th May in the Charlotteville CC 50 Ian Greenstreet recorded 1.51.08 and Rob Gilmour 1.59.07.

At a recent meeting, the Committee resolved that in all events with an entry in excess of 100, marshals would be paid £30; this in addition to a free ticket to the annual luncheon for a first place in any of the Group's events and cash prizes in events with an entry of more than 100.

It's been a good year for recruits so far, 55 have been welcomed into the fold. The list appears at the end of this report

That's about all from me this time round, hoping the weather gets warmer so that you can all do PBs or improvements on last season. Take care out on the roads and I am sure I will see some of you as I start you off in events.

continued on the next page

London Group *(continued)*

The top ten in the Don Byham Memorial 10

Jim Moffatt	London & HC	58	0:19:59:	0:07:27:
Ian Greenstreet	London & HC	51	0:19:59:	0:06:51:
Peter Lawrence	London & HC	43	0:19:32:	0:06:41:
Vincent Jenkins	Midlands	74	0:23:14:	0:06:39:
Keith Lea	Surrey-Sussex	45	0:19:45:	0:06:38:
Rchard Gifford	Surrey-Sussex	52	0:20:18:	0:06:36:
Liam Maybank	London & HC	43	0:19:37:	0:06:36:
Simon Norman	London & HC	44	0:19:42:	0:06:36:
Roger Porter	London & HC	68	0:22:07:	0:06:35:
Stuart Evans	South Wales	69	0:22:18:	0:06:34:

London and Home Counties Group

New members joining in 2015

Jim Parker	Nigel Croxford	Stuart Auckland
Chris Brown	Maurice Burton	Sally Withey
Gavin Tillson	Creighton Varney	Adam Laycock
Carl Bond	Stuart Hewlins	Robert Sutton
Steve Seeby	Matthew Rowley	Rachel Badham
Robert Saunders	Mark Brooking	Richard Beery
Alison Nimmo	Malcom Rose	Chris Ford
David Taylor	Robert West	Dena Ford
Martin O'Sullivan	Michael Briars	Darren Powell
John Hoskins	James Wright	Julian Elliott
Tim Beaven	Neil Morris	David Emery
Michael Bennett	Peter Lavery	Paul Smith
Paul Nicholls	David Marshall	Andrew Nnando
Adrian Buchanan	Andy Sykes	Clare Kitching
Christian Spencer-Davies	Thomas Pfeiffer	Jane Moore
David Cook	Bruce Davidson	Simon Drewett
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"This was our 3rd New Year and 4th stay as guests of Colin and Wendy in their splendid 'Old Forge' Barn. As always, the warmth of the welcome and generous hamper that greeted us on arrival was simply lovely. The barn cannot be beaten for utility, charm and home comforts".
 England

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

Merseyside

Geoff Edgerton

After surviving another winter of training and club runs - and to be honest it is not getting easier - Spring for me usually means a cycling tour or holiday. Mind you, the Winter wasn't all that bad. The Sunday club runs were in the main quite dry. In fact, the only real soaking we had was in early March. And what was really encouraging from my club's view was the numbers who are participating, another sign of an increasing popular sport. Anyhow, after years of cajoling, I finally decided it was time to visit the island of Mallorca, the last week of May being the designated time and I have to say what a thoroughly enjoyable experience it was. I had heard it was a popular destination for cyclists but hadn't realised to what extent and obviously a major boost to the economy before the 'other' tourists arrive. The weather was pleasantly warm and dare I say hot in the middle of the day; a visit to the pharmacy for sun tan lotion was definitely needed. The first day I went out on the run with my arm warmers but after a very short time, they were despatched to the back pocket. Another beauty of cycling in foreign parts is the fact that you can get off the beaten track and see the real Mallorca. My first impression as we came in to land was how green the island was. On closer inspection, there was large potato industry (funny how farming is now called an industry) and on poorer ground sheep, besides the tomato growing and orange and lemon trees more perceived with a Mediterranean island. The hay was already in, as they say. Other members of the Wheelers were staying on the west side of the island, we were at Pollenca and it was good to meet up with them in the town of Petra. The town square was absolutely laced with cyclists!

The first group event of the year was the West Cheshire 10. Last year it was held on the fast Pulford course. Unfortunately this has been 'lost', with traffic lights having been installed. Last year, I wrote that the event was held in sunny conditions with light winds with good early times being recorded. Tony Harvey of the Mids was fastest with a 21.41. What a contrast to this year.

The event is now held on the Farndon-Wrexham course. Without being unkind, hardly the fastest. The weather was cold, very wet and windy. To be fair the rain did abate a little, but I personally was pretty soaked from the warm-up. Kevin Larmer of Port Sunlight Wheelers was fastest with a time of 24.00 (+2.18) for which he wins the Leo Madden Trophy. The Ron Yates Trophy for best on standard was claimed by Phil Guy of North Shropshire Wheelers with a plus of 2.24 (25.59). Just eight members participated in this event. North Shropshire Wheelers' Tim Rex put in a decent shift to record 24.41 (+1.28) while Wrexham's Paul Holt's time of 25.27 (+1.42) was hampered by a late start penalty of 1:06. Oswestry Paragon's Helen Tudor was the lone woman entrant with a time of 29.46 (-1.12). North Shropshire Wheelers' Geoff Edgerton was next rider home in 30.21 (-1.49) with club mate and newcomer to the Vets ranks Richard Berry recording 30.38 (-3.24). Completing the field was Peter Booth of Rhos-on-Sea finishing in 33.29 (-4.15).

The second group event of the year was another West Cheshire organised promotion, the 30. Held on a cool Sunday morning, there was however an encouraging sixteen members competing. Arthur Winstanley of Liverpool Phoenix opened his account for the season by winning the John Clucas Trophy for best on standard with a plus of 13.12 (1.11.05). The Merseyside group has adopted a one rider one prize rule with the standard the premier award. That being the case, Kevin Larmer is the recipient of the George Hayes Trophy for fastest with a time of 1.11.12 (+9.27). Phil Warburton of Liverpool Phoenix showed good early season form with 1.11.26 (+11.21). Wrexham's Paul Holt was next rider home in 1.12.21 (+11.03) edging out Tim Rex's time of 1.12.36 (+7.33). Ian Hawkins who now wears the colours of Chester RC recorded 1.15.27 (+5.42) finishing ahead of team mate Neil Southern's 1.18.37 (+3.29). Newcomer to the Vets ranks, Derek Parry of Birkenhead Victoria, recorded 1.19.06 (+5.30). Two women competed with another newcomer to the Vets, Emma Tilston of Chester RC, whose 1.28.46 (-0.38) placed her ahead of Oswestry Paragon's Helen Tudor -

1.29.37 (-1.37). Other Vets competing included Clive Gudgeon 1.21.17 (+3.19), Ian Casson 1.27.44 (-2.04), Peter Booth 1.35.07 (-4.20), Pat Haywood 1.36.08 (-0.17). I hope I have included everybody who raced. A quick reminder to all that the National Vets Championship 25 mile time trial is on the fast 25/3L course on the 26th July. Good Luck to all for the season.

Roy White, a member of the Merseyside Vets and as many of you will know, a previous editor of the National Vets and Merseyside magazines has

compiled a mini book of articles and cartoons called "Chain of Events" which is a compilation of his early and later writing, with humour the pervading theme. Five years ago Roy was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease which curtailed his cycling. Price of the book is £7 with £3 going to the Parkinson's Disease Society. Contact details for Roy are 0161 456 5741 ,9 Torquay Grove, Woodsmoor, Stockport, SK2 7BB.

Tim Carpenter comments:

"There follows a photo of Peter Baker during the National 24 Hour last year (part of the winning Vets team).

The lady he is kissing is his wife who kindly marshalled. Obviously he might have done a few more miles if he had not stopped".

Editor's Note:

*The Lewes Wanderers team, comprising:
Michael Turner, Peter Baker, and Simon Yates
were omitted from the 2015 Handbook — apologies*



Surrey-Sussex

Tim Carpenter

As ever this seems to be a quiet period after the lunch and before the racing starts in earnest although by the time you read this we will have a new 10 Mile Champion – or perhaps we won't.

When I was young, back in the 80s, proper racing never seemed to start until May when the first evening events were run. Now it starts almost before the snow has melted. Steve Dennis did a 55 in April and is now down to a 53minute 25. Horry Hemsley, who became a life member at the lunch, rode the ESCA hard riders during March in 1:18:42. Our women must not be forgotten. Jackie Dodd has ridden a few events but it would appear she may have competition for the various women's competitions this year as Helen Bullimore has been doing some rides that would put the men to shame (ok me anyway). She already has a 25 minute 10 and a 1:03:55 for 25 miles.

These results are only a snapshot of the Group members' performances as I have been shocked by the constant flow of new members to the Group over the last few months. Given the huge area that they are appearing from, I am assuming Keith is using his rides to target individuals and persuade them to join. There is another quite long list at the end of those who have joined since the last edition of the Mag. Our Group seems to be growing and now I am slowly coming out of hibernation, hopefully I might be about a bit more and see what has been going on.

Our Group is now attracting the younger members; which is vital if it is to continue, although my worry is that the change in standards has driven away quite a few of the older racers, and with it a vital source of help at events. Hopefully a growing Group won't be scuppered because there is no one willing to take on the administration, which I think has always been seen as the older person's role. And this is where I will repeat the request from the last mag. 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 need people to fill these posts as they are vital to the Group continuing.

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):

12 July Group 50 Sam Dix
Incorporated in ESCA 11 Woodlands Close
Event Uckfield, E Sussex

TN22 1TS
07841 197342

9 August Group 100 Bob Harber
Incorporated in ESCA 51 Church Lane
Event Upper Beeding

Steyning
West Sussex BN44 3HP

23 August Group 25 K Butler
Incorporated in Bec CC 33 Clyde Avenue
Event Sanderstead

Surrey CR2 9ND
020 8657 4921

23 August 12 Hour Esther Carpenter
Incorporated in KCA 10 Maplehurst Road
Event St Leonard's on Sea

TN37 7NA : 01424 751581

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

The Group committee meeting will be held after the June 10 so there may be more exciting news; or perhaps there won't.

And finally....

A welcome to a few new members: Sam Dix (who is organising the 50); Paul Medcraft; Don Parker; Jim Ley; Maryka Sennema; Andrew Green; John Marinko; Timothy Holmes; Trevor Leeding; Ben Crick; Jos Hickson; Salim Mohamed; Richard Newey; Keith Lea; Paul Thmpson; Matthew Whitaker

Manchester and North West Report

Jim Ogden

With the first 50s already held, competitors in our events seem to ignore the old weather lore – “don’t cast a clout until May is out” – as skin suits could define what is minimal wear.

We are well into the new season. Locally it started back in February with the Nova CC 2-up 25 held on the Gawsworth-Siddington-Congleton circuit on February 28th. It was well supported, promoter Ian Ross had received entries just three pairs short of a full field. Fastest time was posted by the last team to start, Jon Surtees, Team Swift and Ben McIntosh, Crewe Clarion Wheelers in 55:47, 40 seconds faster than the Manchester Wheelers pairing of Jerry Cross and Scott Burns. Philip Warburton and Arthur Winstantley, Liverpool Phoenix were best on standard with their 59:18 +10:02.

The following Saturday, Scott Burns moved up a place to win the first of the early season M & DTTA 10s with 21:27. Dave and Caroline Fearon, Weaver Valley CC, the only tandem entered, recorded 24:19.

The Altrincham Ravens medium gear and Open 25 on March 14th, promoted by Louise Cumming on J2/9 included this group’s 25 mile awards. George Coghlan, Janus RC was the fastest of only 6 finishers in the medium gear event in 1:01:11. Mark Turnbull (42), TORQ Performance, won the open event in 55:02 +11:24, just nine seconds ahead of Scott Burns, Manchester Wheelers, whilst the best on standard was our own Mike Cotgreave (71), Westmead Team 78 with 1:02:19 +12:17. Mike’s plus will count towards the Group’s 25 mile Championship cup to be awarded for the best aggregate on standard over two events. The other counting event is the Group 25 incorporated in the Nova CC event on July 11th. The Group’s memorial handicap shield was won by Janetter Barber (57), Seamons CC with 1:12:45, handicap time 51:05.

The following day in the Crewe Clarion Wheelers Hilly 17, Group members Barry Charlton (49), Swinnerton Cycles and Paul Robinson (51), Lyme RC tied for fourth place in 38:36. Event winner

was Joshua Williams, Revolution Racing, in 35:09.

The first of the RTTC classic series of time trials was promoted by Stafford RC over a hilly 23 mile course on March 23rd. Paul Robison, Lyme RC made a solid start on target time, placed 7th in 52:06 +10:13. Peter Greenwood (63), Team Swift, was the first leader in the series with 54:03 +14:00.

In the second round, promoted by Buxton CC using one lap of their notoriously hard circuit on Good Friday April 3rd, saw Paul Robinson move up into second place on target time in 59:17 +00:20, behind Peter Greenwood who clocked 1:02:22 which gave him a +2:43. Ian Holdbrook (46), Stone Wheelers, was 7th with 1:02:18 - 04:50 and another using local knowledge, Mike Knudsen, Macclesfield Wheelers, was placed 10th in 1:04:31 -05:46.

The third round in the series was promoted by Beacon RC on April 26th, using their classic mountain time trial course. Peter Greenwood was again first on target time covering 39 miles in 1:47:37 +10:35, with Paul Robinson runner up with 1:43:50 +04:33 with Ian Holdbrook, 7th again in 1:47:58 +03:28.

The North DC promoted the fourth edition on the 3rd May and used the Circuit of Bassenthwaite Lake. The winner didn’t change, but Paul Robinson slipped to 5th place, the rolling 15 miles taking him 35:44 +4:55.

The M&DTTA 25, their championship, was to be held on Saturday 18th April on J2/9. However, the event was affected by a serious accident which occurred on the course. Chris Senior, North Cheshire Clarion, rider 22, on his first lap, was in collision with a car exiting onto the course from the side road at the Whipping Stock PH. He was hospitalised with his injuries, the worst affecting his vertebrae. I understand that he is recovering. The police closed the road and as no rider had finished, the event was abandoned. Entry fees are being donated to the hospital treating Chris. The M&DTTA are investigating options to run their championship later in the year.

On the following Saturday, April 25th, the Glossop

Kinder Velo 25, also on J2/9, had to be curtailed due to road works. In the subsequent 10, visitor Andy Wilkinson, Port Sunlight Wheelers, who is becoming a J course specialist, was a clear winner in 20:43. Group members in the top ten were Martin Bullock, Buxton CC, 22:35; Mostyn Bowers, Stone Wheelers, 22:57 and Nige Wood, Wills Wheels, 23:12.

On the same afternoon, Manchester and District Ladies CA, promoted their open women's handicap and men's invitation 10 mile time trial on J2/1. In the women's event the visiting Pearl Izumi Sports Tours International Bobc filled the first five places. Ciara Horne just beating Dame Sarah Storey by two seconds with her 22:45. The promoting club's fastest rider and their first veteran was Pauline Atkinson, Seamons CC, in 26:28. Alistair Rutherford, The Nab, was fastest man in 21:42.

The following Saturday, May 2nd, saw the women promoting their standard 10 on the same course with just 14 finishers. Pauline Atkinson was again fastest in 26:07, 11 seconds ahead of Karen McBarrons, Kidsgrove Wheelers.

One 25 on J2/9 that was completed without incident was the Withington Wheelers event on Saturday 4th April. The winner, another regular visitor, was David Crawley, Fibrax Wrexham RC in 52:37, ahead of Simon Bridge, Manchester Wheelers, 53:27, who was also best on standard with +13:24. Barry Charlton, Swinerton Cycles, 55:15 +12:35 placed 3rd and 2nd on standard. It has come a long way from the days when it was a novice's event.

As I write, last Saturday, May 9th, was the District's first 50, the classic Duckinfield CC event, held under the direction of long time promoter Steve Holt. It was a close finish, but the men in form mentioned in the previous paragraphs filled the first three places. Andy Wilkinson 1:48:33; Simon Bridge 1:48:48 and David Crawley 1:52:22. Keeping it in the same family, if not the same club, Jill Wilkinson, Cheshire RC was fastest woman in 2:06:31 and her fast 51 year old husband found that his winning time also earned him best on standard with a +31:34. A more local couple from Stretford

Wheelers should be pleased with their rides. Robbie Harcourt 2:07:40 whilst wife Jo eased inside evens with 2:29:55. Consistent Nige Wood was the Group's fastest finisher in 1:58:33.

A full house at the Manchester Velodrome saw Alex Dowsett, Moviestar, cover a record 52.937 kilometres in the hour. Arguably the ultimate time trial. His smooth style and accelerating finish implies he still has more in reserve for when and if Sir Bradley sets new figures. His 17 minute competition record 10 is eye watering and Bradley has now entered a couple of 10s on the V718, South Cave/A63 course near Hull with the prospect of a 16 minute ride in his sights. I wouldn't have got to the turn!

News of the longer BAR distances next time. There is a lot of the racing season left.

North Lancs and Lakes

Dave Brown

Our Group suffered yet another very sad loss when Jack Roughley of the Lancashire Road Club died at age 84 in early May. Over very many years Jack was a tremendously hard worker for our sport and particularly time trialling. This included an incredible continuous 40 years as organiser of our much loved and now much missed 12 Hour event on our local Brock/Garstang roads. Jack was also Chairman of the North District Council for 17 years where he was always very well respected when representing the North DC at National Meetings. An obituary written by his long term friend and Club colleague John Ainslie is in the back section of this The Veteran.

The Group April 25 was once again organised by Richard Taylor and also once again there was almost a gale blowing on the locally famous 'sands' road between Cockerham and Pilling with temperature down below 10 degrees just as an extra test for the riders!

It was the Yorkshire men who came out tops in those conditions with our old friend Brian Sunter winning on Standard with a ride of 1:02:03 to give him a Plus of 12:33 whilst fastest on actual came

from not-yet-a-vet Nigel Haigh of Strategic Lions with a truly super time of 56:12.

Nevertheless, our own Group members were not far behind with Paul Fleming, Preston Wheelers, second on Standard with a ride of 57:13 (which was also third fastest) for a Plus of 10:37 and a tie for third with Ian Cox and Dave Hargreaves both having a Plus of 10:06. Ian's Plus came from an actual of 56:57 which also gave him second fastest Dave's from an actual of 1:03:04.

Sharon Clifford produced the fastest ride from the three women entered, recording 1:10:46 (Plus 3:52).

The team award had a particularly interesting feel to it as the winners were Preston Wheelers with Paul Fleming supported by Gethin Butler in his first VTTA event at the age of 46 with 59:43 (plus 07:32) and Geoff Duteson actual 1:10:07 (plus 02:37).

A month later, our Secretary Derek Black organised the Group 15 which used a chunk of the 25 course and therefore also crossed the dreaded 'sands'. The total of 30 riders entered was lower than we had hoped, although there was a 10 mile on the fast Levens course later in the day. Of interest in this event was the entry of eight of the British Cycling 100%ME development squad as part of their race training and under the keen eye of none other than ex-pro Keith Lambert. It was no surprise that they wiped the slate when it came to fastest!

19 year old Scott Davies ignored the twists and turns of the course - remembered by many veterans as the old finishing circuit or 'Grave Yard' of that famous Lancashire Road Club 12 hour event - and returned to timekeeper Terry Kay in just 31:21 - a fraction short of 29mph!! Of the veterans, Paul Fleming was fastest with the very good time of 33:36 and he also claimed the fastest on Standard award with Plus 06:38. Fastest woman was Jan Scotchford North Lancs Road Club with 41:06.

The Group now have the 25 on the A59 Clitheroe by-pass course L259 on Wednesday 17 June at 7pm with Richard Taylor again event secretary.

In addition Dave Shorrock will again be organising an 'Enter on the Line 10' on the famous 'Levens' course L1015 on Sunday September 13th at 8am, entry fee just £4 (as last year, no pre-entry is possible). The event is open to members of the VTTA from all groups and the first 60 of them signing on that morning will get a ride - there were only 15 last year so there is a good chance for having a ride on the ex-Competition Record course. A perfect excuse for a late weekend in the Lake District!

We welcome three new members to our Group with Simon Diggins of the North Lancashire Road Club, Gregory Plummer on the Cleveleys Road Club and Richard Bideau of the Pendle Forest Cycling Club who is likely to be quickly on the Group record trail.

North Midlands

Alex Deck

As I said in my last report, we lost our beloved Secretary in March. I'm sad to say there have been four more losses to the group this year - Margaret Procter, Gwen Morris, George Steers and Barbara Scott; there are obituaries for all four in this issue. Not a great start to the year.

We've had a nice little flurry of new members though, which brings membership up to 121, heavily weighted to the men with 105. Of the 16 women only two or three race regularly - I'd be interested to know how this compares with other groups.

On a more positive note, we've had some great results from members so far this year. Karen Ledger (Langsett Cycles RT) has won 4 of the 5 events she's entered, coming a close 2nd in the 5th. To have a vet with a real shot at the BBAR is a real honour. We've got some great riders in our group - Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Wheelers), Daryl May (Sheffrec CC), Chris Ledger (Langsett Cycles RT), Alan Cooke (Matlock CC), Bill Seddon (Bolsover & District CC), Joe Le Sage (Rutland CC), Michael Dodson (Bolsover & District CC), Steve Cook (Lindsay Roads CC), Paul Heggie (Birdwell Wheelers), Mick Lamb (Kiveton Park CC), Tony Keyworth (Kiveton Park

CC), Graham Barker (Rockingham CC) & Chris Duggleby (Brough Wheelers) on the tandem and Andy Newham (Lincoln Wheelers) on the trike - to name but a few. A really good range of talents who don't necessarily get the recognition they deserve in the press but who train hard and consistently turn in good times, often in horrible conditions. I don't doubt that group age records will be tumbling this year.

2015 events

We are running two 25s on the A25/25, on the 6th June and 18th July. This is a fairly fast course on the A1 (Matt Bottrill holds the record with 48-04), starting in Carlton on Trent and turning at Long Bennington. 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 - we appear to have 45 members without email addresses. Come on people - this is the 21st century, I can't afford to keep a fleet of carrier pigeons.'

North

Gavin Russell

With the start of the season, the usual early season mixed weather and road works is upon us. First the road works, which have had an impact across the Group's area. With road works appearing, the first North Group event of the season, Jim Allen's 25, up in the Newcastle area, on 3rd May, was cancelled. In the Teesside area following routine Highway Agency inspection, an issue has been identified with the bridge deck at the Cleveland Tontine overbridge, which requires major rectification work. The result being that the planned 10 mile time trials scheduled for the T102 have all been moved further south on the A19. A course previously used in 1992/3, starting in Thimbleby Lane (just south of Osmotherley junction) and turning at Knayton has been re-assessed and will be used for the affected events. The 25, 50 and 100 courses, all starting local to Crathorne are unaffected.

Members are reminded of the 2015 scheduled

Group events: Ruth Crossley's 25 on 6th June on Crathorne course, Paul Garstang's 10 on 20th June on the re-visited Thimbleby/ Knayton course and Dave Bennett's 15 on 28th June on the newly measured circuit course local to Croft. Gavin Russell's 25 on 18th July on Crathorne course, Dave Herbert's 10 on 29th August on the Thimbleby/ Knayton course, Dave Oliver's 50 on the 29th August on the A19/A168 course, Gavin Russell's 25 on the 28th September on the Crathorne course and finally on the 4th October, the Group Hill Climb Championship on Clay Bank, just south of Stokesley. If you can ride great, if not, any offer of help would be greatly appreciated by the organisers.

Hopefully, the August submission to the Veteran will include reports of further successful performances in some of these events.

With early season events in the area suffering from varying weather conditions, the Stockton Wheelers 50 on the T502 course was graced with calm cool conditions, with a rising south west wind. With the event supported by a number of members, John Warrington (a new member) recorded 1:50:47, Nev Martin 1:50:49, Dave Robinson 1:52:47, Howard Heighton 1:58:41, Steve Fullerton 1:59:39, Paul Dawson (our chairman) 2:09:12, Dave Bennett 2:14:33, Mike Drake 2:14:58 and Paul Garstang 2:23:50. Also worthy of reporting were the results from the Drighlington BC event held on 3rd May on V236/1 course, where five of the North group competed. First year veteran Keith Murray recorded 52:24 for third place, whilst Alan Lang 58:23, Ian Hutchinson 58:33, Terry Bashford 1:03:28 and Peter Manners 1:10:37.

With times like these, it is timely to remind members that if you intend to compete, do not forget to register for your 2015 standard awards. Cost is £12 and should be sent to Mary Dawson, the Group Treasurer, before you ride an event.

New events are being introduced into the Group's area this year. They are closed circuit time trials, to be held on the Croft Motor Circuit on Wednesday 10th June and 15th July and based on the "Come & Try It" principle, with the added functionality of being able to enter on line.

Although there are to be two events, the first one in June will be held prior to publication of *The Veteran*. It is hoped that the second one in July will include a North Group Veteran's Closed Circuit Championship, based on fastest on standard. It is anticipated that events will be run, amongst others, for VTTA members and non-members. Further information will be circulated nearer the date and also on the CTT web site.

Reporting on the April North Group Committee Meeting provided feedback on the National AGM by the two attending delegates, Ruth Crossley and Dave Oliver. Other issues raised included a proposal to be placed before the local AGM (put 1st November 2015 in your diaries) that due to the small loss incurred by the Group in 2014 that the membership fees be increased to £12 from the current £11.

In closing this report, it has been reported the sad news that Ted Scurr's wife has passed away after a short illness. She accompanied Ted to the many events across the North that he competed in. Our condolences go out to Ted at this sad time.

Again, may I remind members if they have any news, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01642 654419 or gavin_russell@hotmail.co.uk and I will include in future reports.

Scotland

James Skinner

Weekly time trials have commenced this year under the TLI banner, and have gone from strength to strength, using the classic Georgetown road 7.5 mile course, from Inchinnan to Houston and back.

Organised by Stevie Blom, information can be found on the Paisley Velo website <http://www.paisleyvelo.co.uk> or at the West of Scotland Time Trial League 2015 Facebook page. Entry costs £2 for TLI members.

Racing

First result of the year was in the Fullarton Wheelers Ice Breaker 10 mile 2 up TT, with Tony

Nugent of East Kilbride Road Club finishing in 25:26 with teammate Sean Dupree.

Jim Cusick was 2nd overall in the Gordon Arms hilly TT with a 53:59, 6 SVTTA members took part in this challenging event.

In another tough event Graeme Cockburn, Nightingale CC, rode a 1:12.21 in the Lang Whang hilly TT to gain 4th place and 1st Vet

The Robert Cooper Memorial 10 mile TT incorporating the Jim and Betty Train Trophy was held on the Cambusbarron 10 course. The near freezing conditions took their toll on everyone's times, Gavin Shirley of Dooleys CRT was fastest on the day with a 22:25, and fastest Vet was Carlos Riise with a 23:36.

Standard prize went to Derek Stewart, Deeside Thistle, with an actual 25:58 giving a +5.00.

The top notch catering was very well received by both riders and helpers, after being out in such poor weather.

Thanks go out to Davie Miller for organising the first 15 mile TT under the name of the SVTTA, the event incorporates the turn of the Cambusbarron 10 course with the start and finish near the roundabout under Stirling Castle.

Graeme Cockburn, Nightingale CC was fastest on the day with a 34:02 (new course record) and Derek Stewart winning the Vet on standard, his 39:13 giving him a +7:35. Katherine Wren was 1st woman on Standard with a 41:06.

The Tandem ridden by J and L Cluxton: Stirling B.B. set a new tandem course record with a 38:49.

Birthday boy Gavin Laffoley of Fife Century set a new junior course record with a 41:59.

With three weeks to go until the Scottish 10 mile TT Championships, three members were producing good results on the Eglington course. Iain Grant of Fullarton Wheelers won the event organised by his new club in a 20:31. Jim Cusick, Dooleys CRT, was 4th overall with a 21:25, and Tom Gordon was 6th overall with a 21:34.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to

Gary Wallace from the VC Glasgow South who was hit by a car at the roundabout, and suffered a broken clavicle, ribs, several bones in his right hand, as well as the associated road rash.

Iain Grant, Fullarton Wheelers, went on to win the Scottish 10 mile TT championships with a 19:58 on the rain soaked Westferry course. Graeme Cockburn, Nightingale CC rode a 20:38 to gain 5th overall, and Jim Cusick finishing 8th overall with a 20:50.

Jim Cusick travelled over the border to ride the RTTC Classic 15.3 mile TT at Bassenthwaite. A time of 34:27 earned Jim 2nd place overall with the fastest being Julian Ramsbottom, Pedal Pushers, with a 33:44.

Peter Greenwood, Team Swift, won on standard with +8:08 and Jim was 4th on standard with +5:54

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

Notts and East Midlands

David Herd

The 2015 Time-Trailing Season is well underway which seems to have brought stronger than normal winds. Lutterworth Cycle CRT's David Kierman was placed 3rd overall in the Midlands VTTA 10 held on 04/04/15 and 3rd on standard, his 21:13 producing +04:51. Fastest time of the day was set by senior James Middleton - Medio Velo 20:58 whilst 2nd was Keith Lee - PacelineRT on 21:11 giving him 1st on standard with a +05:12. Steven Howgill - Leicestershire RC finished with 22:57 (+03:53) and Steve Loraine - Hinckley CRC 24:23 (+03:03).

I am pleased to welcome a number of new members: Johan Van Aardt - Fonana CC; Ian Palmer - Bolsover & District; Richard Smith, Geoff Parkin and Wayne Hughes - Hinckley CRC; Adrian Jackson - Retford & District; Mark Morgan

and Guy Webster - Derby Mercury; Gary Symons and Rick Yates - Witham Wheelers CC; Jason Swann - Mapperley CC; Grant Warwick and Andrew Tomkins - Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT; John Davidson, Linda Hubbard and Phil Raynor - Welland Valley; Steve Jenkyn - Club PB Performance. I will always be pleased to receive any social, personal, club or racing news from both new and existing members, my telephone number is 01400 281116 or Email me at: herd@gripper.demon.co.uk.

Doug Laidlow promoted Sleaford Wheelers' CC Charity 10 on 04/04/15 in aid of Cancer Research UK. With a fantastic 129 entries and generous donations the event raised over £1200 which was tremendous effort. Mapperley CC's Ian Guilor claimed 1st place with 21:34 with the first NEM Group rider Jim Boyle - Cherry Valley RT in 10th place with 22:19 beating his team mate Ian Dalton in 18th place with 22:56, closely followed by new group member Gary Symons - Witham Wheelers CC on 22:58. Other new members to make their mark: Richard Yates - Witham Wheelers CC 23:35 and Steven Jenkyn - Team PB Performance 25:07 and Sleaford Wheelers CC's David Smith 25:11. Other group members' times: Anthony Hardenberg 25:39, Martin Lister 26:41, Paul Fairey 26:47 and David Herd 28:05 all Witham Wheelers CC. Bryan Fenwick - Melton Olympic CC 27:30, John Needham - Alford Wheelers 28:38, Dave Pike - Sleaford Wheelers CC 28:42 and Peter Holland—Lincoln Wheelers CC Trike 31:52.

The NEM Group's VTTA 25 on 25/ April was held on the A25/34 A46 and was promoted by Russell Gent - Melton Olympic CC. The event had mixed fortunes for riders due to changeable weather conditions. The freak conditions of sunshine, showers, strong winds and calm meant that some competitors benefited and some struggled to cope and achieve good times. Best on Standard on the day was Ron Hallam - South Pennine (1:09:48 +15:44), but Ian Palmer - Mapperley CC, who was joint 3rd overall on 51:54, was a close 2nd on standard with a +15:32. Michael Wills - Hinckley CRC came 3rd on standard with an actual of 55:04 (+14:13) and 4th was Ian Dalton - Cherry Valley RC on 54:23 (+13:27). Other

notable times; Chris Ward - Spalding CC 56:32 (+11:18), Colin Parkinson - South Western RC 57:31 (+11:08), Anthony Keyworth - Kiverton Park CC, 01:02:07 (+11:03). Anthony Hardenberg - Witham Wheelers CC is threatening to go under the hour very soon with a credible 01:00:46 (+10:50). Others included Stewart Gregory - Notts Clarion 57:23 (+10:39) and Richard Yates - Witham Wheelers CC 57:24 (+10:26). Fastest on the day was senior Matt Sinclair of Lutterworth Cycle Centre RC who recorded 50:24, whilst Adam Gascoign - Pedal Power Loughborough (also senior) did 51:10 and Veteran Neil Palmer-Spalding CC 51:54.

The BDCA 25 on 11 April was won by Matt Bottrill - www.drag2zero.com in 47:28 with the first year group member Mark Morgan - Derby Mercury in 14th position with 52:43. Other times were: Ian Guilor - Mapperley CC, 54:05; Steven Howgill - Leicestershire RC, 56:33; Neil Holden - Lutterworth Cycle Centre, 57:22; Paul Mapletoft - Kiverton Park CC and Mark McCartney 59:03. It appears that it was a rare good day as the first 77 riders were under the hour. The final NEM groupings, which were still very good times, are as follows: Jeff Bowler - South Pennine 01:01:37, Michael Wilkinson - North Notts Olympic RC, 01:02:21, Graham Green - Leicestershire RC, 01:03:31; David Fear - South Pennine, 01:08:49; David York - Ratae RC, 01:11:36 and Michael Spurr - Leicestershire RC, 01:14:44.

In the South Pennine RC 25 on the 9 May, Matt Bottrill set the fastest time of 47:31. The best veteran on the day was Steve Irwin - North Lancashire RC recording 49:44 whilst Ian Guilor - Mapperley CC was the NEM group's fastest rider on 53:02. Nick Cave - Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT finished with 53:08 and Colin Parkinson - South Western RC 54:12. The women's event was won by Jasmin Muller - Paceline RT in 58:46 with Jo Corbett - Team Swift on 01:02:20 and Gill Henshaw - VC Long Eaton 01:13:52.

Ian Dalton - Cherry Valley RT was back to winning ways in Barton Wheelers 10 on the 9th May in a time of 21:19 (+5:22) in an event which mainly comprised veterans including group members Martin Hedley, who came in on 24:29 (+2:12), John Needham 25:05 (+4:09) and Peter

Holland 30:07 (-1:25).

Like many others I was surprised when I received my start sheet for City Road Club (Hull) middle markers 10 that Sir Bradley Wiggins was riding off No. 120. Brad was fastest on the day with 17:58, which was short of his target time of below 17:20 the current fastest time set this year by Team Sky's Alex Dowsett. The start time was delayed for 45 minutes to attend to a broken lamp post. The outward straight was very fast but the six mile return leg was directly into a fierce head wind. Only four riders from the NEM Group were part of this spectacular event, Bryan Fenwick recorded 25:00 and David Herd 25:27. In the women's event Jo Corbett of Team Swift did a 24:31 and it was another age record for Gill Henshaw with a plus of 5:51. The experience for me was overwhelming, with a large crowd at the start, down the slip ways, in the lay-bys on the bridges and around the turn shouting encouragement and applauding riders as they went through.

Whilst riding out in the Waltham Wolds area it was nice to see Norman Portess out on his bike. I have also spoken to Dave Bates, who is still recovering from a shoulder injury. He has had a plate inserted in his right shoulder together with a tendon graft. He will be off his bike until the end of August but he is undergoing physiotherapy and exercising and is able to ride on his turbo. Dave also informed me that his wife Ellen was going into hospital next week for an operation. We wish you both a speedy recovery.

South Wales

Barry Williams

It's just one of those dull wet nights in May, the big subject on everyone's lips, is the general election result – However, for us cyclists, it really doesn't matter, politicians come and go, but the weather, either cold or wet and windy never quite escapes the cyclist's attention. Unfortunately, for your correspondent, it's more to do with a stubborn chest infection than climate or elections, that has been hampering his participation in this season's sport.

Nevertheless, I have been active with two trips to Puerto Pollenca. First outing in February went well until we got back to Palma Airport only to discover that our return tickets to Bristol were booked for 26th March and not the actual date 26th February – the next available seats on EasyJet to Bristol were on 2nd March, we had no option than to pay an extra 90 Euros for that flight and re-hire our car and return to the Viva Tropic Hotel for the next 5 days. An internet booking mistake, which hopefully, I will not repeat, resulted in four extra days cycling in sunny Mallorca – not such a bad mistake!

The second trip, was with another group of friends. We stayed in the Pollensa Park, recently upgraded with better food and facilities than last year. On both occasions I hired bikes. The weekly rate is between 100 and 120 Euros, the latter machine was an 11 speed carbon Willier, a really nice bike in perfect working order. I would recommend hiring for being much easier, and almost as cheap as dragging heavy bike bags through international airports. Most of the hirers require you to take your own pedals, while some might wish to take their own saddles for additional comfort.

I am pleased to report that VTTA South Wales has increased membership this season. Several of our new members being from nearby areas have commented on the excellence of the time trial courses in South Wales, especially the fast 25 mile tracks at Glynneath and Usk, also our 10 course Abergavenny- Raglan. For that reason they have joined us; however, we are aware that we need more promotions if we are keep up with huge numbers of new people joining the sport.

VTTA South Wales are promoting the Gordon Butler Memorial 10 on Saturday, 16th May on the Abergavenny-Raglan course and surprisingly, we have over 150 entries, which is a big increase on last year. The Tour de France plus super cheap carbon bikes and health and fitness demands have all contributed to cycling's recent increased popularity. Hopefully, the new Government will keep the promise to improve cyclist's safety on our busy roads.

So far, I have missed this season's events,

however, some interesting performances have appeared on the CTT website. The Bynea 30 on Sunday 19th April is always popular. The event is just south of Llandovery, the Towy Valley and the scenic Black Mountains are a great backdrop for this race. The winner, Kieron Davies posted 1.03.01, fantastic for a ride on farm roads. Our members also stretched their lungs: Stuart Evans, 1.17.30 and +11.26 was pushed all the way by Dave Brice, 1.11.28 and +11.23 for the Vet's prize. While John Shehan +9.34 and Dave Evans +9.10 showed their competitive mettle. Paul Rees, Sally Harmer and Paul Griffiths posted respectable times.

The May Day Bank Holiday weekend featured two events, Saturday May 2nd saw Port Talbot Wheelers 10 on R 10/23, the slower Neath Valley back road. Rod Hicks clocking 23.42 and +3.03 was ahead of John Sheham 26.12 and +2.30. Marco Marletta recorded 25.33 and +1.03 and Phil Batch 28.21, +0.55. Paul Rees and Sally Harmer also finished in good order.

On the following day, Sunday May 3rd, the WCA Welsh Championship 25 attracted a large field. Kieron Davies showed exceptional form in posting the winning time in 48.10. From our members, I noted the following performances: Dave Brice 54.44, Rod Hicks 55.26, Steve Madeley 58.06, John Shehan 58.43 and Pete Murrieri 1.01.23. Paul Griffiths, 1.06.17 and Ron Boast, 1.09.41 recorded times in the overflow event.

Sunday May 10th featured the Blaenau Gwent 25 on the Usk - Monmouth course, R25/7. Once again, Kieron Davies showed great form to record 47.31, which I think is a course record. Everyone in South Wales will be hoping that he can produce something special in next month's 25 Championship. Looking at the other times, our members produced some good rides. Especially Stuart Evans 59.00 and +14.37 to take the vet's prize. Paul Durrant, over from Spain posted 1.00.26 (+13.44), Paul Cannon 59.33 (+11.24) and Steve Madeley 59.14 (+9.25); all gave a good account on the day.

Finally, I was pleased to see one of our new members, Paul Rees, having a go and posting 1.06.05, a very respectable performance.

Wessex

Peter Warhurst

Because of family commitments I have needed to draft these notes a week or so early and, up until this morning, was wondering what news I could find that is worthy of gracing the pages of this august (or is it June or July?) journal. The answer came with a bang today (10th May) with Adam Topham in, I suspect, his first open of the season winning the Charlotteville 50 in 1:42:18, surely the fastest early season 50 ever done by a Vet. In the BDWCA 25 today Norman Harvey finished with Group age 82 record of 1:12:54. Such diverse age/distance achievements put a burden on us scribes as to which to headline.

In the aforementioned 25, Terry Icke turned in his best effort of the season with 56:50, taking the 1st Vets' award at age 71 with +17:46. Also shining with 2nd on standard and 4th on scratch with 56:27 was our Cliff Rowe with 56:27 at age 56. It has to be said that in most Groups such times would constitute age records but John Woodburn was their forerunner down here.

In the rival 25 in the area today (10th May), the a3crg 25, Lesley Walking broke yet another Group womens' age record for a 49 year old with 58:55. In that event Seb Ader also shone with 4th place on scratch in 53:02.

This was not Lesley's first Group age record of the season for in the Hants RC 10 a few weeks back she achieved 22:40, while in the same event newcomer Sarah Matthews gained her first certificate with age 54 record in 23:12. Very promising in her first open event.

While on the topic of Group age records further research shows that I seriously understated the number of Group age record certificates gained through the years by Bob West, putting it at 80ish. The true figure should have been 104! This is backed up by 53 bicycle standard awards plus 71 trike standard awards. I wonder whether there is a member of any Group who can top these totals. Sadly Bob tells me that he has recently been diagnosed as having a rare lung disorder but is reasonably confident that this will not keep him off the road.

We wish you all the best Bob but urge you not to push too hard at age 77.

West

Brian Griffiths

Having just returned home from a marvellous evening at our Prize presentation, I have plenty to write about. For the second year our energetic and enthusiastic secretary Gordon Scott and his lovely wife Gemma put together another truly memorable evening. For those who didn't attend—you really don't know what you missed, especially when Ray Retter and his charming wife Grace found it worthwhile to come all the way up from deepest Devon to enjoy the offerings and were full of praise for what they found.

The evening started with a blustery 10 mile time trial around the local lanes, with just a slight tinge of rain in places.

Then we all retired to the new and ultra- smart Seagry village hall for the social get together. New and old faces soon mixed in a friendly and chatty atmosphere. It was good to see former WestVets Chairman Phil Green back among us looking very fit and joining in the many conversational topics.

Whilst we were chattering among ourselves, Gemma and her team were busy preparing what I can only describe as a real gastronomic treat for us all. The quality and variety of food on offer had to be seen to be believed.

A sparkling variety of trophies were well displayed and were duly handed to the many grateful recipients by our President Ted King. Ray Retter seemed to collect a major share of the awards after a very successful season.

As darkness began to fall proceedings were gradually brought to an end, but what an evening it had been. This is what cycling is all about and is the reward for long hours of training and preparation and a chance to meet so many like minded friends. The ladies were made to feel most welcome and the social atmosphere was a true joy to behold.

We are assured that it will all be repeated next year and I hope that the attendance can be improved so that you can all see what was on offer. Gordon you really did us proud and proved what a true asset you are to the WestVets in more ways than one, we really do appreciate your efforts.

The season is now well under way but unfortunately I don't have any reliable indications as to how WestVets are performing. I have been out to a number of local events to offer my help but failed to make notes of where our riders were in the results. It seems to me that time trials are not the social events they once were. Everyone seems to turn up at the last minute, change, leap on their portable rollers to warm up, ride the event, warm down, grab a cup of tea and a piece of cake and then disappear. I like to wander round after the event and have a chat with the unfamiliar faces, but seldom seem to get the chance.

This morning our Chairman Brian Barraclough rang me to discuss an interesting event mentioned in our latest WestVet magazine. It's the Royal Navy Cycling Festival which is being held at Ilton Airfield near Yeovil on Wednesday afternoon on the 3rd June. It describes an event with a completely new format which includes a 3 mile TT prologue, a 21 mile 2up TT and a handicapped pursuit road race. Could this sort of event re-vitalise our sport? Brian and I will be going down to make our own assessment as the idea really does sound appealing to us both. If anyone else is interested they could get more information from seannilpointschilds@hotmail.com

Mike Jupp continues to produce a lively magazine with a good variety of interesting features, but he does rely on your contributions so please see what you can do to help him for the next edition with a deadline of the end of July.

Very recently I went with a little group of old cycling friends to the Shropshire/Welsh borders. I arranged for us to stay for a few days at an establishment advertised in our magazine, the "Old Forge" at Knockin.

We were very satisfied in every respect and so I

can heartily recommend it to our members. We were very well looked after by our friendly hosts Colin and Wendy and found that we had a really good choice of quiet well-surfaced lanes to explore whilst we were there. Fortunately we had perfect weather and enjoyed good beer and good food at the pub next door.

Whilst we were there we were invited to an excellent lunch on the outskirts of Shrewsbury with the Shropshire Old Time Cycling Friends with the chance to meet up with old friends from many years past for some convivial chat.

On the following day those who knew him went to the funeral of Alan Griffiths to pay our last respects to this well known Shropshire cyclist. You will remember that along with Jim Blackhurst he held the RRA 50, 100 and the Liverpool to London tandem records for many years, indeed I believe they still hold the latter record.

To conclude! Let's hope the weather becomes more stable as the summer goes on and lets us all enjoy our cycling and our racing.

Midland

The Welland Trophy

The idea for this event was conceived after an informal meeting between the VTTA and the LVRC in the middle of last year and after months of planning and discussion – the day finally arrived. Saturday 18th April was bright and dry but with a very chilly easterly wind and at 14.02 the first rider started on the hilly 12.5 mile circuit around Malvern. The co-organisers were Mike Amery (LVRC) and Alan Colburn (VTTA) with generous support from Tim Wood at Echelon Cycles, Pershore who kindly provided the Team prizes of £20 per rider.

The original plan was to use a rolling 16 mile circuit but major road works to a motorway bridge were running severely behind schedule and forced a change to the shorter but decidedly lumpier circuit. As the main results were being calculated on the recently revised VTTA Standards it was decided to take the figures for 15 miles in respect of the more demanding terrain.

It had been decided that the main prize would be the Team Award contested by teams of ten riders representing their respective associations for a new trophy presented by Alan Colburn – Past President of the VTTA.

After the event most riders stayed on for a short presentation in the well-appointed HQ at Welland Village Hall. Excellent refreshments were provided by Mike Amery who also slaved over a hot computer to work out the results.

The Team Award this year went to the LVRC who had a total plus of 47:19 over the VTTA whose plus was 33:43 – a convincing victory and well deserved. Members of the winning team were Karl Moseley +7.30, Steve Bunn +6.12, Richard Coleman +4.54, Paul Moss +4.28, Mike Amery +4.27, Nick Stinton +4.23, William Davies +4.03, Jeremy Pile +3.54, Mark Thomas +3.49 and Chris Davis +3.39.

Other awards went to the following:

BoS Road Bike: Paul Moss, Coventry RC +4.28; Scott Westwood, Walsall RCC +4.14; Mark Thomas, Worcester St. Johns CC +3.49.

Fastest Men: Mark Corbett Worcester St. Johns CC, 32.06; James Middleton, Media Velo 32.32; Karl Moseley, Stourbridge Velo 32.58.

Fastest Women: Liz Powell, Mike Vaughan Cycles, 38.08; Annis Moore Walsall RCC, 42.16.

Vets Std: Karl Moseley, Stourbridge Velo +7.30; Mark Corbett, Worcester St. Johns CC +7.12; Steve Bunn, Welland Valley CC +6.12; Brian Sunter, Condor RC +5.52; Tim Wood, Team Echelon-Rotor +5.19.

The organisers would like to thank all their friends and club mates who helped to make the event a success by acting as “back room” staff and look forward to seeing everyone next year on the Welland/Longdon 16 mile circuit – rumours say it might be a two-up TT.

(Photograph next page)

Kent

Ian Turner

The Group's events kicked off on 7 March with the Open 10 on the Q10/22 course from Harrietsham to Charing and back. This event, for the Mick Dansie Trophy and organised with the normal friendly efficiency by Val Peachey, was won by Andrew Meilak of Velorefined Aerosmiths with +4.32, which, given the rather breezy conditions, was excellent. Last year's winner Simon Henderson (Thanet RC +4.18), Ian Hodge (Southborough & District Wheelers: +4.04) and Dave Stocker (Abelio SFA +3.32) filled the other medal slots. The team prize was taken by Thanet RC (Simon Henderson and Brian Hood) with +5.42. Val, in her post-event report, wrote: 'I think it is fair to say everyone enjoyed one of the better days on the A.20 taking into consideration the time of year. I can't say that it was hot but the sun shone, the only drawback being the rising wind from the west. The only casualty on the day was Tom Morton who rode one mile to the start, duly punctured and walked one mile back to the hall.'

The second open event of the season was the Group's Championship 30 held on Q30/2 on 10th May for the Charles Robson Cup. The weather was once again cool, and honours once again went to Andrew Meilak, +14.42, Simon Henderson, +12.33 and Ian Hodge + 12.11 - a definite pattern emerging here.... First team was Velorefined Aerosmiths (Andrew Meilak and Mark Hill) with +23.47.

The Group's Wednesday 10 mile series, which continues to be arranged by Duncan Leith on the first Wednesday of each month, was sadly bedevilled by an accident in the May event. Bob Giles, the Group's Time Trial Secretary, skidded on gravel on the exit of a corner of the Sugarloaf course, colliding with a stationary vehicle and sustaining a broken shoulder and serious lacerations. He is now at home following a fairly lengthy stay in hospital culminating in surgery on his shoulder. Our best wishes go to Bob for a speedy recovery. There were no declared results as riders stopped to help Bob. The April event on Q10/38 (Great Chart) was won by Shay Giles (VC Elan) with +6.22 based on old age standards. The

June event was held on Q10/33 (Tenterden, Appledore, Woodchurch) and was won by Chris Bax (PMR) with +5.46.

As a result of Bob Giles's accident, he will not have recovered sufficiently to organise the Group's 25 on 21 June, and the event has therefore had to be cancelled.

We learnt with great sadness of the passing of Ted Hill, who had been an active member of the

Group over many years and had been unstinting in his support of the Group's activities, both through his membership of Committee and help in organising events. Space in a general report in the Veteran is not enough to do Ted justice, and a full obituary will be sent and hopefully published in the Veteran as well as the Kent Vets News.

Safe training and racing out there – let's hope for a really good second half of the season. Flaming June seems reluctant to ignite.... !



The Welland Trophy along with the recipients

(In case there is anyone left who doesn't know him, the bloke holding the trophy is Alan Colburn, one-time President of the VTТА)



Yorkshire

Brian Cowgill

As I start this piece in late April, we have had a couple of weeks of dry weather; any more and it will be a national crisis with water shortage! It has been freezing for the early events, with no sign of a rise in temperature. The so-called heatwave didn't reach the frozen north.

I have just received my Certificate of Honorary Life Membership of the VTTA on becoming 80 and half my life, 40 years, as a VTTA member; where has all the time gone? During that period, the time trialling scene has changed enormously. Looking back, it was so different, no cars, riding to events in the early hours, carrying your racing wheels on sprint carriers on the bike. I remember riding the National 50 Championship in 1966 which started at 5am; I was finished before 7:30 with a PB. Then riding over to Knaresborough for breakfast. Those were the days.

The finishes at Cowthorpe Lane end of the famed Boroughbridge course; some stick in your mind, like 1964 when the 50 mile competition record was broken four times in the same event, or 1968 in the 100 mile Championship when John Watson led all the way around, only to lose it in the last mile from the Flags at Walshford to Martyn Roach. The 02 course in North Mids saw some classic events, always with full fields of 120; when 'the king' Alf Engers came to ride, crowds came to watch. If he had been a footballer, he would have put thousands on the gate. As I said, it was a different scene, a different time, sadly never to return.

Enough nostalgia! Looking forward, our half yearly meeting will be on 3 August, 7:30 pm at Collingham Memorial Hall, where our events for 2016 will be decided.

Looking ahead, Andrew Vaughn's 25 will be

on 25 July and Mike Penrise promotes our September 10 on 5 September. Helpers will be welcome.

Mike Williams' 10, which this year incorporates the VTTA National Championship, was later in the year on 30 May and after the closing date for copy so I will report it in the next issue.

Speaking about 10 mile time trials at Hill, Bradley Wiggins has said he is riding the City RC Hill 10 on 16 May to give his rainbow jersey an airing. This should be interesting as, according to the CTT Handbook, this event is restricted to riders slower than 22 minutes in LTS, with preference given to the slowest riders. His entry form as a 17 minute man should be interesting. It is to be hoped his hour record attempt is better organised. Alex Dowsett has just beaten the so called record raising it to 52.037 km, ensuring Wiggins will be breathing heavier. They are still two miles short of Chris Boardman's mark. Wiggins has suggested that Boardman's bike was superior to today's bikes, which doesn't say much for 20 years of manufacturer's improving technology. So all you Vets are wasting your time with your carbon models. Get into the shed and dig out your old bike!

I have just watched the last stage of the Tour de Yorkshire which, despite the rain, was a huge success with massive crowds. The run in from Addingham to the finish over my old training roads brought back memories. How I used to stamp over the Cow and Calf climb I will never know. Now Gary Verity is trying to bring the World Road Championships to Yorkshire. If you had suggested this fifty years ago, men in white coats would have taken you away!

The Giro d'Italia is here, the football season has finished, what more could you ask? Will we have a Summer? Answers on a postcard!

See you up the road,

National Championship 100 *Gordon Scott*

The first VTTA Championship of 2015 was by courtesy of the Anfield Bicycle Club. Formed in 1879, the Anfield has been promoting its classic since 1889 so it is not difficult to imagine the delight of the VTTA when Peter Catherall and the Anfield Committee agreed to incorporate the Championship within its event this year.

From an entry of 110, 49 were members of the Association.

Riding and acting as the NEC's representative, Gordon Scott reported that he had a great day with the club, with support and marshalling 'second to none'. The weather was fine although with a not too favourable breeze which increased in strength as the morning progressed.

As Gordon summed up 'It is clear why this event remains so popular'.

Kimroy was in attendance and the photographs are viewable on his website <http://www.kimroy-photography.co.uk/>

The 2015 Champion is Steve Irwin, second David Hargreaves and third Nigel Haigh.

North Lincs Road Club won the team award.

The full result is on the VTTA website:<http://www.vtta.org.uk/>



National Championship 10

Rachael Elliott

The National Championship 10 was this year hosted by the National Executive Committee which the esteemed event organiser, Mike Williams, offered to host on behalf of the Committee. The fast V718 course was chosen as the venue for the championship and, with its reputation for fast times and ease of accessibility from all parts of the country, it was sure to attract a large entry. However, with 224 entries returned and the event closing on a plus of +5:55, the event not only proved popular – but boasted one of the largest entries ever seen for a National Championship.

Last year, Derek Stewart (Deeside Thistle) and Robert Pears (Procyding Magazine RT) were joint winners of the Championship. I spoke to Derek briefly before the start of the event and he immediately talked down his chances in this year's event – although personally I was quietly confident that he would be gracing the podium again this year. It transpired my gut feeling was right: Derek crossed the line in 22:35 earning himself a plus of 8:23 and a new national age record. Despite his best efforts and putting in a very impressive time of 19:01, 52 year old Rob Pears' time was only good enough for fourth place this year.

Meanwhile, last year's bronze medal winner from the Yorkshire Group, Brian Sunter (Condor RC), clocked 21:14 – an exceptional time for any rider, but even more impressive given he is now 71 years young. His time gave him a plus of 8:12 to finish just 9 seconds behind Derek.

A further five seconds adrift was third placed Len Benton of Colchester Rovers CC: Len finished two seconds faster than Derek – however, Len is a year younger – enough for an additional 18 seconds on standard – which meant he ended in bronze medal position.

A special mention must also go to timetrialling Queen, Gill Henshaw (VC Long Eaton). 81-year old Gill covered the course in 27:08 – a plus of 7:31, and a new age record by three minutes. The time was the best plus set by a woman on the day.

44-year-old Steve Irwin (North Lancashire Road Club) was actual fastest rider, riding 18:40 to finish just a second ahead of Richard Bideau (Pendle Forest CC). Gillian Pears (Procyding Magazine RT) was fastest woman on actual time, stopping the clock at 21:28 to beat Liz Powell (Mike Vaughan Cycles) by 15 seconds.

However, whilst Steve may have been the fastest rider – he couldn't claim the title of piloting the fastest machine on the V718 on the day: that title went to the tandem duo of Mark Arnold (CC Desiragear) and Glen Taylor (Shorter Rochford). The two riders rode a stupendous time of 17:36. Whilst this was, perhaps unsurprisingly, a new VTTA tandem record – it was also just 16 seconds shy of the current national competition record – a mark which Taylor himself has broken in the past. A faster day would surely deliver the pair the time needed to pass the record.

The team prize went to the veritable trio of Michael Ellerton (54), Peter Lawrence (43) and Robbie Krygsman (53) of Team Swift. The three riders managed a total plus of 21:20.

The event concluded with a grand prize ceremony, and was clearly a day enjoyed by all those who took part. It was, once again, a pleasure to be involved and I would like to congratulate Mike Williams for promoting a really successful event.

Tandem winners and second and third—next page

photographs by Dave Morgan

Mark Arnold and Glen Taylor



Len Benton



Brian Sunter



National Championship 12 Hour 2015

Jim Burgin

The third of the 2015 VTTA National Championships was the 12 hour incorporated within the Newbury Road Club event, which had as its event secretary, Rachael Elliott, the VTTA National Secretary.

The course used was the H12hr/8 which is entirely composed of a stretch of the A31 between Farnham and Alton. There were 65 riders entered which included 48 veterans, of which 23 were members of the VTTA.

The expressed doubts about the wisdom of using such a comparatively short section of the highway, inducing boredom if nothing else, were discounted in advance as the entry for 2014 was doubled.

The pundits intimated that it was an ideal day for such an event and the final results seemed to prove it so; although there were nine non-finishers and eleven non-starters.

Fifty-four year old David Shepherd lapped the course 15 times (including the shortened finishing section) and his magnificent 284.81 miles which became a plus of 90.13, only slightly overshadowed the youthful Tom Glandfield's plus of 75.85, gleaned from his total of 285.56. In third, was a new member of the Association, 63 year old Gerry McGarr with a splendid 62.77 (243.94 miles).

The Tandem Championship looked to be in the bag as the duo of Stephen Whitewick and Julian Jenkinson hurtled around the course, but after three laps they were no more and it was left to the stately pairing of London Group's duo of RRA Record Holder, Jane Moore, with Mark Brooking to take the tandem award with a plus of 13.13 from a total mileage of 206.95. For those who enjoyed (endured?) twelve or more hours of the A31, the sight of this majestic pair made it especially worthwhile.

The National Committee extends its appreciation of the Newbury Road Club's inclusion of the Championship within its event and congratulates the club and in particular its event secretary, on a splendid promotion.



Mark Brooking and Jane Moore



TANDEM CHAMPIONS AT 12 HOURS

National Championship 100—Incorporated in the Anfield 100-25 May 2015

Steve	Irwin	North Lancs RC	North Lancs & Lakes	03:46:02	+ 1:04:27
Nigel	Haigh	Strategic Lions	Yorkshire	03:52:05	+ 0:58:24
David	Hargreaves	North Lancs RC	North Lancs & Lakes	04:25:42	+ 0:58:22
Ian	Cox	North Lancs RC	North Lancs & Lakes	03:56:10	+ 0:55:21
Trevor	Mayne	Birdwell Wheelers	North Midlands	04:05:22	+ 0:52:17
Colin	Parkinson	SWRC-Evans Cycles-Pinnacle	Nottingham & East Midlands	04:08:26	+ 0:51:23
Ray	Retter	North Devon Wheelers	West	04:35:14	+ 0:51:19
Michael	Cross	Yorkshire Road Club	Yorkshire	04:08:07	+ 0:50:36
Gerry	McGarr	Gloucester City	West	04:23:39	+ 0:50:04
Phillip	Warburton	Liverpool Phoenix	Merseyside	04:10:56	+ 0:50:01
Joel	Wainman	Team Swift	Yorkshire	03:56:47	+ 0:49:20
Gareth	Metcalfe	Otley CC	Yorkshire	04:16:59	+ 0:46:22
Mark	Sanders	Mid Devon CC	West	04:17:18	+ 0:46:03
Rachael	Mellor	Holmfirth CC	Yorkshire	04:36:49	+ 0:44:40
Mark	Turnbull	Club TORQ Performance	Manchester & North West	04:04:17	+ 0:44:05
Lynne	Biddulph	Bornbike-Bridgtown Cycles	Midlands	04:33:18	+ 0:42:34
Matthew	Moore	Walsall Roads CC	Midlands	04:14:46	+ 0:40:48
Jerry	Bromyard	RNRMCA	Wessex	04:32:11	+ 0:36:38
Kathy	Smith	Sleaford Wheelers CC	Nottingham & East Midlands	05:03:02	+ 0:32:27
Annis	Moore	Walsall Roads CC	Midlands	04:47:04	+ 0:29:54
Harry	Haseley	N Lancs RC	North Lancs & Lakes	05:08:35	+ 0:29:46
Tim	Rex	North Shrops Wheelers	Merseyside	04:19:19	+ 0:29:03
John	Murphy	Gloucester City CC Rudy Pjct	West	05:16:47	+ 0:28:50
Derek	Parry	Birkenhead Victoria CC	Merseyside	04:42:31	+ 0:26:18
Carl	Saint	Yorkshire Road Club	Yorkshire	04:59:18	+ 0:19:54
John	Grumbley	Coventry Road Club	Midlands	5:09:39	+ 0:19:34
Andrew	Dobinson	Glasgow Green CC	Scotland	4:28:35	+ 0:18:41
Jon	Marsden	Liverpool Roads	North Midlands	4:37:46	+ 0:17:48
Gordon	Scott	Chippenham & District Whs	West	4:43:58	+ 0:16:59
Barrie	Whittaker	Lyme Racing Club	Manchester & North West	4:51:07	+ 0:14:50
Peter	Groom	Liverpool Century	Merseyside	4:46:18	+ 0:09:16
Helen	Tudor	Oswestry Paragon	Merseyside	5:07:08	+ 0:08:44
Nigel	Briggs	South Pennine Road Club	Nottingham & East Midlands	4:52:42	+ 0:08:15
Wayne	Powell	Congleton CC	Manchester & North West	4:51:48	+ 0:06:55
Edgar	Reynolds	Congleton CC	Manchester & North West	5:13:10	+ 0:06:23
Richard	Hill	Stafford Road Club	North Midlands	4:50:50	+ 0:00:41
Emma	Tilston	Chester RC	Merseyside	5:31:14	- 0:13:09
Peter	Hall	Kidsgrove Wheelers	East Anglian	5:13:26	- 0:11:18
Dave	Pemberton	Bornbike-Bridgtown Cycles	Midlands	4:56:12	- 0:01:39
Ian	Casson	Birkenhead Victoria CC	Merseyside	5:12:14	- 0:00:14
Andrew	Clarke	Mid Shrops Whs	Merseyside	DNF	
Chris	Close	Sleaford Wheelers CC	Nottingham & East Midlands	DNF	
Chris	Womak	VC Baracchi	East Anglian	DNF	
Paul	Fleming	Preston Wheelers	North Lancs & Lakes	DNS	
Rod	Goodfellow	North Lancs RC	North Lancs & Lakes	DNF	
Terry	Icke	VC St Raphael	Wessex	DNS	
April	Lewis	Stafford Road Club	Midlands	DNS	
Melvyn	Lewis	Stafford Road Club	Midlands	DNS	
Randle	Shenton	Team Swift	Scotland	DNS	

National Championship 10—30 May 2015

Tandem			Actual	Plus
Mark Arnold	CC Desirgear	East Anglia	17.36	6.02
Glen Taylor	Shorter Rochford R.T	East Anglia		
Mike Penrice	VTTA Yorkshire	Yorkshire	25.01	3.41
Barbara Penrice	VTTA Yorkshire	Yorkshire		
Solo				
Derek Stewart	Deeside Thistle	Scotland	22.35	8.23
Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yorkshire	21.14	8.12
Len Benton	Colchester Rovers CC	East Anglia	22.33	8.07
Rob Pears	Procyding Magazine RT	West	19.01	7.53
Ron Hallam	South Pennine RC	Notts and East Midlands	25.27	7.50
Peter Yates	Otley CC	Yorkshire	24.44	7.39
Steve Irwin	North Lancs RC	North Lancs and Lakes	18.40	7.38
Richard Bideau	Pendle Forrest	North Lancs and Lakes	18.41	7.37
Gill Henshaw	VC Long Eaton	Notts and East Midlands	27.08	7.31
Michael Ellerton	Team Swift	North Lancs and Lakes	19.35	7.29
Michael Black	Cleveleys RC	North Lancs and Lakes	21.19	7.23
Roger Wrenn	Macclesfield Wheelers	Manchester	21.52	7.22
Stuart Evans	Port Talbot Whs C C	South Wales	21.31	7.21
Gillian Pears	Procyding Magazine RT	West	21.28	7.06
Reg Smith	VeloRefined Aerosmiths	Kent	21.38	7.04
Peter Lawrence	Team Swift	London	19.13	7.00
Philip Brown	Walsall Roads CC	Midlands	20.59	7.00
Nick Frewin	Bournemouthe Jubilee	Yorkshire	20.28	6.58
Darren Maironis	Coveryourcar.co.uk RT	Manchester	19.12	6.57
Ian Greenstreet	Newbury RC	London & Home Counties	19.54	6.56
Nev Martin	Adept Precision RT	North	20.18	6.56
Vincent Jenkins	LeisureLakesBikes.com	Midlands	22.57	6.56
Joseph Costello	Walsall Roads Cycling Club	Midlands	20.19	6.55
Robby Krygsman	Team Swift	Yorkshire	20.08	6.51
Peter Greenwood	Team Swift	North Lancs and Lakes	21.09	6.50
Chris Scawn	Plymouth Corinthian CC	West	21.16	6.50
John Murphy	Gloucester City CC	West	23.17	6.50
John Lacey	Hemel Hempstead CC	London	20.01	6.49
Conrad Moss	Mid Devon CC	West	19.13	6.46
Paul Fleming	Preston Whs	North Lancs and Lakes	19.55	6.46
Richard Booth	Hartlepool C.C	North	22.06	6.46
Danuta Tinn	Maidenhead & District C.C	London	22.07	6.46
Ken Stevens	South Pennine RC	Notts and East Midlands	26.33	6.44
Liam Maybank	Twickenham CC	London	19.30	6.43
Jo Corbett	Team Swift	Notts and East Midlands	23.03	6.41
Nick Cave	Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT	Notts and East Midlands	20.02	6.39
David Robinson	Tyneside Vagabonds CC	North	20.25	6.39
Michael Allen	Team Jewson	North Midlands	22.03	6.39
Ian Dalton	Cherry Valley RT	Notts and East Midlands	20.03	6.38

Stephen Potts	Somerset Road Club	West	20.36	6.38
Jon Surtees	Team Swift	Yorkshire	19.59	6.37
Alan Murchison	Banjo Cycles.com	London	19.42	6.36
Blair Buss	Team Swift	Yorksire	20.10	6.35
Richard Hancock	St Neots CC	London	19.58	6.34
Peter Manners	Barnesbury CC	North	24.06	6.34
Angus Macinnes	RAF CA	Surrey-Sussex	20.12	6.33
Shaun Tyson	Adept Precision RT	North	19.46	6.32
Anthony Westwood	Gravesend CC	Kent	20.09	6.32
Greg Parker	Velo Club St Raphael	Wessex	20.13	6.32
Mark Sanders	Mid Devon CC	West	20.43	6.31
Matthew Rowley	Oxonian CC	London	20.03	6.29
David Hargreaves	North Lancs RC	North Lancs and Lakes	22.14	6.28
Andy Langdown	Hampshire RC	Wessex	20.00	6.27
Paul Robinson	Lyme Racing Club	Manchester	20.24	6.26
Alex Deck	Langsett Cycles RT	North Midlands	22.13	6.26
Simon Henderson	Thanet Road Club	Kent	20.30	6.24
Chris Roberts	Anglia Velo	East Anglia	22.39	6.23
Scott Westwood	Walsall Roads Cycling Club	Midlands	19.52	6.21
Simon Norman	Arbis-Colbert Cycles RT	London	19.57	6.21
Trevor Mayne	Birdwell Wheelers	North Midlands	20.30	6.20
Liz Powell (W)	Mike Vaughan Cycles	Midlands	21.43	6.19
Duncan Mullier	Harrogate Nova CC	Yorkshire	20.05	6.18
Mark Steers	Team Vision Racing	East Anglia	20.32	6.18
Carl Whitwell	St Ives CC	East Anglia	19.57	6.16
Gerry McGarr	Gloucester City CC	West	21.43	6.16
Richard Gifford	In-Gear Quickvit Trainsharp RT	Surrey-Sussex	20.39	6.15
Mick Wills	Hinckley CRC	Notts and East Midlands	20.59	6.15
Dave Hudson	City RC (Hull)	Yorkshire	21.17	6.15
Derek Roe	Team Swift	Yorkshire	22.08	6.15
Dave Pitt	Charlotteville C.C	Wessex	22.01	6.13
Robert Watson	Newmarket Cycling & Tri Club	East Anglia	20.52	6.12
David Kiernan	Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT	Midlands	19.53	6.11
Maciej Wontorowski	Albarosa CC	Yorkshire	20.02	6.11
Jenny York(W)	Mid Shropshire Wheelers	Merseyside	23.24	6.08
Rachael Mellor (W)	Holmfirth CC	Yorkshire	22.51	6.07
Tony Harvey	Mid Shropshire Wheelers	Merseyside	20.58	6.06
Ian Holbrook	Stone Wheelers CC	Manchester	20.23	6.04
Sarah Matthews	...a3crg (W)	Wessex	23.16	6.04
Ashley Roue	Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT	Notts and East Midlands	20.24	6.03
Howard Waller	Python RT	London	20.42	6.03
Iain McLeod	Denny Road Club - SCU	Scotland	24.37	6.03
Paul Durrant	Club Ciclista Bivicosta	South Wales	23.00	6.02
Louise Day (W)	Team Swift	Notts and East Midlands	23.25	6.01
Andy Askwith	Bridlington C.C	Yorkshire	20.46	5.59
Ian Peacock	Harrogate Nova CC	Yorkshire	22.00	5.59
Ian Turner	North Road CC	East Anglia	20.38	5.58
Ray Retter	North Devon Wheelers	West	22.56	5.56
Alan Cooke	Peak RT	North Midlands	20.50	5.55

Walter Wilkinson	Harrogate Nova CC	Yorkshire	23.07	5.55
Andy Tyler	VC Cosmique	East Anglia	20.32	5.51
Simon Wix	VTTA South Wales	South Wales	21.03	5.51
Chris Womack	VC Baracchi	East Anglia	22.53	5.49
Randle Shenton	Team Swift	Scotland	21.33	5.47
John Dupen	Anglia Velo	East Anglia	21.51	5.47
Stephen Costello	Abbotsford Park RC	Manchester	21.40	5.46
John Martin	Elmsall Road Club	Yorkshire	21.14	5.45
Susan Semple (W)	Born to Bike	Midlands	23.07	5.41
Arthur Thomas	Holyhead CC	Merseyside	23.33	5.41
Jim Burgess	Anglia Velo	East Anglia	20.31	5.38
Greg Lewis	VC 10	London	21.17	5.37
Allen Bell	Yorkshire Road Club	Yorkshire	23.15	5.37
Karen Taylor (W)	East Bradford CC	Yorkshire	23.07	5.36
Stuart Wells	Flex-Tech R.T	North Midlands	20.39	5.34
John Needham	Alford Whs	Notts and East Midlands	23.44	5.30
John Smith	Thurcroft CC	North Midlands	25.11	5.29
Tony Kent	Harrogate Nova CC	Yorkshire	22.46	5.28
Allan Renyard	Guernsey Velo Club	Wessex	24.11	5.28
Anthony Keyworth	Kiverton Park	North Midlands	23.15	5.27
Andrew Clarke	Mid Shropshire Wheelers	Merseyside	21.48	5.26
Theresa Taylor (W)	Preston CC	North Lancs and Lakes	23.54	5.26
Nigel Goscinski	Team Swift	Yorkshire	21.30	5.24
Steve Loraine	Hinckley CRC	Midlands	22.03	5.23
Peter Weir	Banjo Cycles.com	London	20.32	5.22
Tony Boardman	VTTA Manchester	Manchester	22.10	5.22
Mike Shacklock	Yorkshire Road Club	Yorkshire	23.54	5.20
William Campbell	Weaver Valley CC	Manchester	22.41	5.18
Daryl Godden	Gloucester City CC	West	21.57	5.17
Keith Alderson	Cleveland Wheelers CC	North	24.36	5.17
Barry Quick	Reading CC	Wessex	23.48	5.14
Michael Hudson	Harrogate Nova CC	Yorkshire	21.46	5.13
Graham Huck	Doncaster Whs	North Midlands	23.16	5.07
Andrew Halliday	Westerley CC	London	21.09	5.04
Richard Hembrough	Team Swift	North Midlands	21.52	5.02
Nigel Wames	Team Swift	Yorkshire	21.57	5.02
Sally Withey (W)	VC Norwich	London	23.32	5.02
David Herbert	Hartlepool CC	North	24.01	5.01
Mike Williams	Team Swift	Yorkshire	23.56	4.56
Tim Humphhries	Team Swift	North	21.50	4.55
Brian Ward	Scarborough Paragon CC	Yorkshire	26.45	4.52
Andrew Ziemacki	Rotherham Wheelers	North Midlands	22.53	4.51
Sharon Clifford (W)	WCS Racing Team	Yorkshire	24.29	4.51
Peter Stirik	Elmsall Road Club	North Midlands	24.29	4.33
Mark Mccartney	Nottingham Clarion CC	Notts and East Midlands	22.04	4.32
Mickie Hornby (W)	Team Swift	Yorkshire	29.43	4.32
Neil Fort	Yorkshire Road Club	North Lancs and Lakes	24.36	4.16
John Churchman	Otley CC	Yorkshire	27.19	3.21
Arthur Thackray	Team Swift	Yorkshire	31.01	2.16

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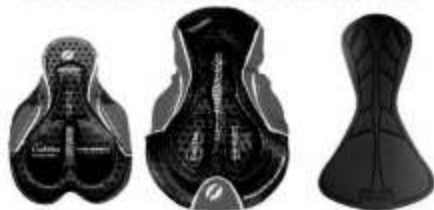


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Sunday 14 June 2015

Tandem (Trike)

Jane Moor & Mark Brooking	Willesden CC	47 54	206.95	13,13
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Solo

David Shepherd	G S Stella	54	284.81	90.13
Tom Glandfield	Lewes Wanderers CC	42	285.56	75.85
Gerry McGarr	Gloucester City CC	63	243.94	62.77
Adrian Blacker	Norwood Paragon CC	51	257.97	59.53
Mick Fountain	Didcot Phoenix CC	74	213.35	56.93
Chris Tye	Plomesgate CC	48	255.06	52.98
Jonathan Hobby	North Hampshire RC	50	247.14	52.46
Nigel Briggs	South Pennine RC	54	245.32	50.64
Michael Turner	Lewes Wanderers CC	47	249.77	46.47
Bob Richards	Royal Navy & Royal Marines CA	57	242.04	32.33
Stephen Skinner	New Forest CC	59	234.12	30.82
Richard Hull	Thanet Road Club	54	208.09	13.41



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VTTA Midlands and Echelon Cycles
Open 10 mile time trial – K11/10T - Saturday 4th April 2015

There was an oversubscribed entry for this early season 10 but a number of apologies meant that all reserves did get a ride. It was particularly encouraging to have a good field of 19 women riders. A chilly and breezy afternoon made conditions more difficult than they looked on this normally very fast course and times were noticeably slower than last year's event. On standard Keith Lea just pipped Karl Moseley for first place with Vince Jenkins continuing a strong comeback in equal third with Joe Costello of the Walsall RC. On actual fastest there was an impressive win for James Middleton, the only rider to get under 21 minutes, proof it was not an easy afternoon. Corinne Hall led the field of women followed by Liz Powell and Annis Moore who was the first woman on standard.

The Best Team on the day were Lutterworth Cycle CRT (Kiernan, Sidwell, and Tomkins).

Many thanks to the VTTA Midlands Committee members and their spouses, together with other friends and club mates, who provided all the necessary helpers to ensure this was another safe and successful event.

Pos	Name	Club	Time
1	James Middleton	Media Velo	20:58
2	Keith Lea	Paceline RT	21:11
3	David Kiernan	Lutterworth Cycle CRT	21:13
4	Piotr Klin	Coventry RC	21:19
5	B Xavier Disley	RST Sport/Aero-Coach	21:26
6	Matthew Nell	Team Jewson - MI Racing	21:29
7	Karl Moseley	Stourbridge Velo	21:41
8	Dael Sidwell	Lutterworth Cycle CRT	21:50
9	Russell Jelly	Mapperley CC	21:51
10	Elliot Maynard	Media Velo	22:03

Pos	Name	Club	Plus
1	Keith Lea	Paceline RT	+05:12
2	Karl Moseley	Stourbridge Velo	+05:09
3	David Kiernan	Lutterworth Cycle CRT	+04:51
4	Vincent Jenkins	LeisureLakesBikes.com	+04:46
5	Joseph Costello	Walsall Roads CC	+04:46
6	Phil Brown	Walsall Roads CC	+04:32
7	Ed Priddy	Solihull CC	+04:25
8	John Murphy	Gloucester City CC	+04:25
9	Richard Coleman	Stourbridge Velo	+04:24
10	Jeremy Stone	Solihull CC	+04:16

Pos	Name	Club	Time
1	Corrine Hall	Ikon-Mazda RT	23:50
2	Liz Powell	Mike Vaughan Cycles	24:10
3	Annis Moore	Walsall Roads Cycling Club	24:26
4	Vicky Smith	University of Birmingham	25:06
5	Libby McLaren	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	25:31



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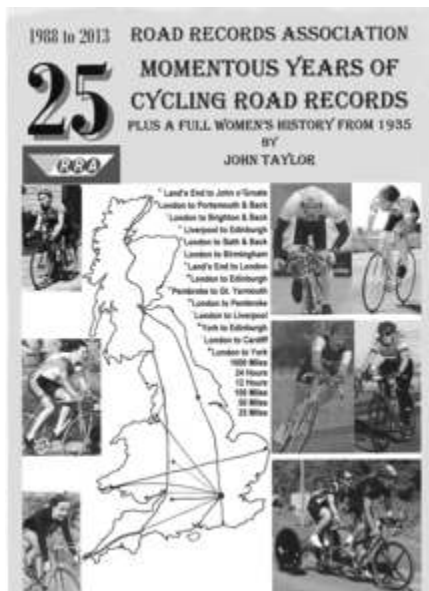
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OBITUARIES

George Steers 1923 - 2015



George was born on 18th February 1923 and got his first bike aged 12, built for him by his cousin. He continued cycling until the age of 86. He joined the Rutland CC in 1944 and was one of a number of Rutland riders who dominated the 24hr championship from 1955 to 1959: three individual champions and winning the team award 5 times - George was a member of the team in 1958/9 and achieved a pb of 456 miles.

George continued racing for 50 years until 2001 when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and prescribed a hormone implant which he had to continue taking. One of the side effects of the implant was to lower his testosterone level therefore losing his strength and he didn't race again for four years. During this time he took to fishing and he and Jim Hall spent many hours at the waterside. Eventually the desire to race again took over

and he started competing, setting many group and national age records. He still holds four national and numerous group records. He beat the hour for the first time aged 76 with a 58:33; this was probably his best year as he went under the hour again and also did a 10 in 23:25, a 30 in 1:11:39, a 50 in 2:03:12 and a 100 in 4:31:55.

As if that wasn't enough, George was also the 10 mile champion in 1993 and the 30 mile champion in 1999. He was awarded the C W Cooke trophy for the most meritorious performance of the season, nominated by the group, in 1995/96 and 2006/07.

Sadly George's racing came to an end in September 2009, shortly after setting a tandem age record with Alan Steward of 21:56 (with a combined age of 150 years), and the day after setting what is probably his best age record of 25:15, aged 86.

On the Sunday after the 10 record George was cycling down the hill into Bakewell when he was overtaken by a car which then turned left across him resulting in him going over top of the car and as well as severe bruising and damage to his face George suffered spinal nerve damage from which he has never recovered.

Sadly George passed away on April 29th 2015 after a fall at his home, at the grand old age of 92.

Alex Deck

OBITUARIES

Margaret Procter 1931 - 2015



Margaret Procter, wife of Jim, passed away at the age of 84 on 3rd March 2015. Although never a cyclist Margaret was always a supporter and together with Jim organised the North Midlands Group dinner for 10 years, as well as starting and running the Doncaster to Cleethorpes race for the same amount of time. She was often to be found serving in the tearoom serving tea and her homemade scones.

From 1981 she had joint membership of the VTTA along with Jim and became a life member. She enjoyed holidays touring Scotland, accompanying Jim on his bike on her motorbike. On 1st January 2015 Jim and

Margaret celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary with their family. Thank you to everyone in the cycling family who sent messages and came to Margaret's funeral.

Gwen Morris 1927 - 2015

Gwen Morris died in May . She was 88 and the wife of George Morris, a founder member of North Mids VTTA.

Gwen joined the VTTA in 1979 and was an Honorary Life Member

*Grief knits two hearts in closer bonds than happiness ever can;
and common sufferings are far stronger links than common joys.*

Alphonse de Lamartine

OBITUARIES

Bernard Buttree
29.04.1923—03.04.2015



VTTA Hon Life Member Bernard Buttree, a long serving member of the Yorkshire Group, passed away on the 3rd of April 2015 at Gledhow Christian Care Home in Leeds aged 91. Bernard had been suffering ill health for a few years but had maintained his independence at home until a fall last year made this impractical.

Bernard's death came a matter of a few weeks after his wife of almost 65 years, Elsie, had died following a long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease.

A Life Member of the Bramley Wheelers in Leeds, Bernard's interest in cycling

covered everything from time-trialling, (solo & tandem), touring and day rides in the Yorkshire Dales and Wolds. He was also a keen tinkerer and, when not riding, he would often be found fettling someone's machine or rebuilding one of his own collection.

Bernard was a committed enthusiast in everything he undertook and his interests over the years included skating, photography, fell-walking, his Vincent motor bike and Morgan sports car as well as Hi-Fi and music. His main "other" hobby, however, was model engineering, engendered by his time as RAF ground crew during WW11 and his subsequent long career as a Gas Board engineer. His garage was a treasure trove of machinery, measuring instruments, gauges, tools and more odd bits of metal than anyone could reasonably use in a lifetime!

Bernard will be greatly missed by all his many friends made over an active and widely varied life and that familiar voice is silenced at last.

Andrew and Liz Jackson

OBITUARIES

Eddie Stagg 13 June 1932 – 6 May 2015

Being of the same era as Eddie, and, as he did, coming to this area (Bournemouth) from London as a mature cyclist, I knew of him long before ever meeting him because as a leading time-trialist through the 1960s and 70s his name was consistently published in the TT results in *Cycling*, riding for the Old Portlians CC. What I did not know then was that Eddie was truly a gentleman always willing to help and who just loved riding his bike – so much so that he continued to ride solo from his Wareham home into the Purbecks until serious heart trouble followed by cancer forced him to stop. Eddie joined the VTTA at the first opportunity when reaching 40 in 1972.

Eddie was a very modest man who was always reluctant to mention his racing prowess, so it is clear that our then editor did well to persuade him to contribute this profile of himself to a Jubilee newsletter in 1991:-

'I started cycling in 1949. At first with the Clarendon CC on their club runs. Later in the year I switched to the Old Portlians CC and started racing, not very successfully at first. However as time passed I improved. My preference was for long distance riding, so I was happier riding 12 hour races. As a club we would meet at Croydon come rain or shine for club runs early on Sunday mornings, or in the summer to ride to local time trials or road races. When riding further afield we would assemble on Saturday afternoon and ride together to the Bath Road or Essex or Kent courses. We would stay overnight in bed and breakfast accommodation (no cars in those days) and then ride early on the Sunday morning. What a wonderful time in the late 50s to mid 1970s. Most of our rides were done on fixed wheel, 82" or 84".'

I did achieve some reasonable times through my racing career. 1:00:44 at 25 in 1960, 2:03:15 at 50, 4:14:41 at 100 in 1961, 262.25 miles at 12hrs in 1961 and 461.75 miles at 24hrs in 1960. My SRRA 12 hour record of 257.75 miles still stands. I managed to gain 3rd place in the Surrey Road Race Championship.

My cycling still gives me great pleasure, although each year it becomes harder, especially on the hills which I used to enjoy (but not any more).

When I moved to Dorset in 1965 I remained with the Old Portlians. Then I joined the BJW as a second claim member in 1972, switching to full membership in 1986.

Cycling has given me some wonderful memories of racing, club runs and friendly club members. I look forward to many more years of cycling with the BJW. The early morning rides through the Dorset lanes "Far from the Madding Crowd" continue to give me pleasure.'

The Jubilee will not be the same without Eddie in the background.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Maggie and children Louise and Richard.

Peter Warhurst

OBITUARIES

Jack Roughley 1930 - 2015



It is with great sorrow that I report the death of our dear old friend Jack Roughley, a long-serving member of the Lancashire Road Club.

Jack was born and lived all his life in Westhoughton, Bolton, and joined the local cycling club ,Wingates CC, as a teenager. It was the introduction to a life-long addiction to cycling! His main interest was time trialling and he soon made his mark with some fast times.

He joined the Lancashire Road Club in 1953 on the demise of his old club and began to improve even more, recording a 1-1 (on 82inch fixed gear) which was a very good time. He took a keen interest in club affairs

and in 1965 he became Racing Secretary of the club. This included organising the Lancashire Road Club 12 hour which he did every year until 2005. It was noted that, in that year, only those riders in the Veteran category were alive when Jack organised his first twelve!

In 1974 he was voted into the position of Club President and remained in that post for 25 years until he retired in 2000. He was also the Secretary and later became the Chairman, of the RTTC North District Council for a number of years.

Jack was hard working and popular and nothing was too much trouble for him. He was held in high esteem throughout the North West and was an honorary life member of the Lancashire Road Club and the VTTA.

Jack will be greatly missed by his friends in cycling, many of whom knew him for over 60 years, and particularly by my wife and me - we live next door!

John Ainslie

OBITUARIES

Ted Hill

7.5.32-17.5.15



We are very sorry to have to report the death of Ted Hill, an honorary life member of the Finsbury Park CC, San Fairy Ann CC, and VTTA, on Sunday 17 May, following a period of ill health.

Ted grew up in Hackney, East London, and after an uncle in the CTC gave him a brief introduction to cycling, he joined the Finsbury Park CC in October 1950. Ted had joined a club with a long history, a strong tradition, and some very notable members including the former Olympian, Jack Lauterwasser, Steve Pontin, a leading RTTC official and Pedal Club member, and Cecil Cooke, a founder of the Forty Plus CC. No doubt these men helped to influence Ted's loyalty to his club, his dedication to cycling, and his all-round interest in the sport, as he began to immerse himself not only in club riding and racing, but also in club administration work.

Upon taking up time trialling in 1951, Ted immediately showed great natural ability, with first season times of 1-3-00, 1-14-22, 2-08-38, and 4-39-03 for the standard distances. Two of these performances, the 30 and 50, were club records at that time. Ted also showed a strong aptitude for track racing, and in 1953 he recorded times of 1-20 for the standing-start kilometre, and 5-44.4 for the 4,000 metres pursuit. Ted's favourite track event was the team pursuit. At a time when there were relatively few sub-hour 25 milers, Ted recorded his first '59' in 1961. During the 1950s he served as sub-captain, time trial secretary and road race and track secretary. By this time Ted had also begun to take part in the Finsbury Park's annual Christmas walking holiday in the Lake District, a tradition that he would go on to follow for more than forty years.

Ted met his future wife Pat through cycling, and they married in 1956. Even though they set up home in Kennington, South London, they remained fully active in North London cycling circles, despite having a long ride across London to reach club meetings. However, living in South London meant that Ted could train regularly in the evenings at Herne Hill track. When Ted and Pat moved to Cranbrook, Kent in 1964, this coincided with a quieter period in their cycling lives, as Ted built up his successful plumbing and heating business. But they still attended Finsbury Park CC meetings whenever they could.

In 1972 Ted and Pat moved a few miles to Biddenden, and their first contact with the San Fairy Ann CC soon followed. They became active members, and within a few years their home had become an unofficial club country headquarters, as they hosted club runs, committee meetings, barbecues and firework parties. 'Oakacre' even became an unofficial refreshment stop for riders in the Kent CA Reliability Trial. Now a vet, Ted resumed racing and reduced his 25 and 50 times to 58-24 and 2-01-45 respectively, and he helped the Finsbury Park CC to several open team wins during this period. He also used his track experience to mentor a younger group of riders in the annual San Fairy Ann track championship at Herne Hill. Ted continued to time trial until 2004, but his greatest enjoyment of cycling always came from club riding and touring. For many years from 1972 onwards he was a staunch member of the San Fairy Ann Saturday afternoon club run, then in more recent years he rode regularly with Laurie Broad, enjoying the lanes of the Weald, and a quiet drink and lunch in a Kentish pub. As Pat has said, he was never a pot-hunter.

Ted's administrative work in Kent cycling was considerable. He completed seven years as Kent Group Time Trial Secretary; he promoted the Kent CA 100 for seventeen years, culminating in the promotion of the RTTC Men's and Ladies National 100 championship in 1996, and he served on the RTTC/CTT South East District Committee for 25 years, from 1986 to 2011. No less impressive was his total support for Pat, whose own vast service to the sport culminated in her election as President of both the Kent VTTA and Kent CA. At the many cycling functions they attended in these official capacities, Ted played the role of 'consort' to perfection. But of even greater help to Pat in recent years was his help and encouragement to her as she battled with her own very serious health problems.

Pat has said that the messages she has received from cycling friends in recent days have been of great comfort to her, and she must have been overwhelmed by the attendance at Ted's funeral on 15 June when the crematorium was full to over-flowing, with many having to stand in the aisles. We offer our deepest condolences to Pat and her family.

Mark Vowells

If I can write, before I die

One line of purest poetry;

Or chrystallize, for all to share

A thought unique, a moment rare

Within one sentence, clear and plain-

Then I shall not have lived in vain

Mary Wilson

OBITUARIES

Gordon Scott 1932 - 2015



Sadly our much loved Group Secretary Gordon Scott passed away in March after a long battle with cancer; he has previously survived bowel, liver and skin cancers but this one proved one battle too many.

Gordon worked tirelessly for cycling over many years, organising numerous events. He was one of the first, if not the first, to use digital projection for results boards. He also wrote many computer programs to help with the start and finish sheets and working out the times etc,

after teaching himself how to use a computer whilst recovering from his first battle with cancer.

Gordon was known as 'Mr Modify' as he was never quite satisfied with anything, from computer programs to cycles and even cycling clothing - he would spend many hours adapting things to what he thought they should do.

He was also a keen camper and member of a camping club and spent many a long weekend away with Barbara, even in the middle of winter when most people would be in front of the TV with the heating on. He owned various VW camper vans, which (naturally) he modified over the years, including making hoardings and tent-like structures to fit on the side of the van.

Another of Gordon's interests was photography and he took photographs at many awards ceremonies, including the Rutland CC and North Mids dinners.

To say he will be sadly missed is a great understatement. There is a huge hole in the North Midlands vets cycling scene.

Barbara Scott 30.11.1934 – 26.05.2015

I can't believe I'm writing an obituary for Barbara a mere eleven weeks after Gordon died. It would be easy to say "see Gordon's" for an obituary as they jointly did so much over the 60 years they were together - but Barbara was very much a woman in her own right, fully capable of manning the results board at events, administering the

North Midlands group's medals and records and serving as our Treasurer for many years.

She used to ride tandem with Gordon on long distance trips, including Germany and Lands End to John o'Groats - although due to Gordon's complicated way of doing it without going on major roads during the latter, they only managed to get as far as Bristol.

The photos displayed at Gordon's funeral showed they always seemed to have a lot of fun together, and I'd always look forward to Barbara's wry smile at Gordon's latest scheme.

They were a great couple and will be truly missed.

Alex Deck



**Mick Burrow
1960 - 2015**

Mick Burrow passed away at his Chelmsford home on Friday February 13th; his son Jamie and daughter Louise were with him at the end, Mick had just celebrated his 75th birthday in January and had bravely battled the effects of various cancers for the past couple of years.

Mick broke National competition record at 25 miles in 1965 on the fabled Southend Road (E3 – the A127) course with 54:04 only to see it bettered 20 minutes later by Paul Bennett who ironically also passed away not too many weeks ago.

Mick was a member of the East Anglia Group and was always one of the first to volunteer as a marshal since he stopped racing, he will be missed by the Group and our thoughts go to Jamie, Louise, his family and friends.

John Golder



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Dear Redneck son,

I'm writing this slow because I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left home. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles of your home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last Newbury family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure it works so well, though. Last week, I put a load of clothes in and pulled the chain. We haven't seen them since. The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice last week: the first time for three days and the second time for four days.

About that coat you wanted me to send: your uncle Billy Bob said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets. Bubba locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out.

Your sister had a baby this morning, but I haven't found out what it is yet so I don't know if you are an aunt or uncle. Uncle Bobby Ray fell into a whisky vat last week. Some men tried to pull him out, but he fought them off and drowned. We had him cremated. He burned for three days.

Three of your friends went off a bridge in a pickup truck. Butch was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. Your other two friends were in the back. They drowned because they couldn't get the tailgate down. There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much out of the normal has happened.

Your favourite aunt,
Mom.

To The Editor

The Midlands Group are considering submitting a change to the regulations at the next AGM. This concerns National Championships and specifically regulation 3.4.6 which states:

'Teams will consist of three first-claim members of the same club. The Team with the biggest cumulative plus on Standard will be the Championship Team and a medal will be awarded to each member of the team.'

Given that the VTTA is organised on the basis of Groups would it be better if the team prize was awarded to Group teams rather than club teams? This would widen the basis of the competition as all Groups could hope to field a team while they may not have a club team that could realistically compete at national level. It is worth noting in this regard that regulation 3.5.6 regarding the BAR competition provides prize certificates for both the winning club team (of 3 riders) and the winning Group team (of 6 riders). So another option could be to have both club and Group team prizes at National Championships. If these were certificates and not medals it would overcome the potential objection that we are increasing the costs of championships by adding more medals.

An issue we can see with this suggestion is that if we were to make Group teams a significant aspect of national championships does this imply that we should reserve places for Group teams and not just allocate places to riders on the basis of individual best on standard performances? People may feel that the priority for national championships should be to have a field of the best individual riders even though this means that the number of potential Group teams and indeed club teams is in practice limited. For example at the recent National Championship 10 with a field of 150 there were 9 clubs that managed to get 3 or more riders on the start sheet. What if say 64 places had been reserved to allow each of the 16 Groups to field a team of 4? Would most of these potential riders have qualified on their individual performances anyway?

What thoughts do other Groups and members have about this?

Andrew Simpkins
Chairman
VTTA Midlands



Derek Stewart
10 Mile Champion 2015
Dave Morgan

David Shepherd
12 Hour Champion 2015

Kimroy

