

# THE VETERAN

Number 46

September 2015



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**6th 24 Hour Championship**



**Leslie Walkling  
7th 50 Mile Championship**



**Danuta Tinn**  
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# **THE VETERAN**

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE  
OF THE

## **VETERANS TIME TRIALS ASSOCIATION**

*Founded in 1943 to promote cycle time trialling  
for those aged 40 and over*

**Number 46**

**September 2015**

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### **COVER PICTURES**

**Featured in this edition are the highest placed women  
in the National Championships**

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Kimroy**

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For many the end of the racing season is fast drawing to a close, with some fine results throughout the time trialling fraternity. The VTTA Nationals produced worthy winners and proved that those more advanced in years still have a good chance of standing on the podium.

For the 25 championship in Wales the weather took its toll with many riders electing not to ride. Amazingly, looking at the conditions, no-one would have thought that any good times could have been achieved— but not so.

Well done to everyone who has raced this year. You may be hanging up your wheels to start the social side of things but I am sure that you will all be back next year hankering after better times and standards. For the really keen amongst you, you may have October off to relax, but serious work will start after that.

For those of you who no longer race but still enjoy riding your bike, you will always find interesting routes and company to enjoy. Our roads might be getting busier and perhaps we down in the south of the country find that many of our country lanes are no longer the quiet sanctuary for turning one's pedals, but thankfully roads can still be found.

I had the opportunity of riding an electrically assisted bike and thoroughly enjoyed whizzing around and being able to put the wellie down without much exertion. I know there is always a feeling that it is really not cycling but if it means people can go out either by themselves or in a group then I feel that an electric bike is the answer. The longer we can keep active the better and this is something that the medical profession is always preaching. Whilst I have not quite got there myself, when I do then it is something that I will put on my list of 'must haves' just so I can still enjoy riding my bike.

This is the time of year when groups throughout the country start holding their AGMs. It really is important for you to get any proposition that you might wish to succeed submitted before the deadline and then make sure you go along to see it through, so if there is something that you are passionate about you can put it as a proposition to be discussed and voted on at the National AGM.

Let's hope we have an Indian Summer enabling us to continue to get out on our bikes.

Carole



## National Secretary

*Rachael Elliott*



It seems all too premature that the season is once again drawing to a close, and racing members will once again be pouring through their performances for the year and applying for Standard Awards. One area where we anticipate there being heightened interest is with the new 15 mile standards, my own concession to this being organising a new 15 mile event through my club, Newbury RC). Whilst the event was on a reasonably fast course which one would expect to attract younger riders seeking a quick time over an unusual difference, the field was instead dominated by VTTA members seeking to achieve their Standard Award over the difference or, better still, a national age record. One of those was 82 year old Norman Harvey (Sotonia CC) who rode 43:39 for a new age record. Rather heartbreakingly, Norman was brought to a complete stop at traffic lights during the race which prevented him achieving the record all the way down to 76 years.

This reminded me what a lottery time trialling can be. And this year certainly seems to have been more of a lottery than most years. I think I can count on one hand the number of events I've ridden which have been run in anything less than a force five wind and there certainly seem to have been an unusual number of events being called off this year due to monsoon-like conditions. There have been the unusual smattering of events where I've reviewed the results and kicked myself for not entering, and we seem to have been blessed with a beautiful late summer for those who can bear to carry on time trialling post-August.

The late season events held on carriageways semi-submerged in leaf fall naturally lead us to thoughts of our club and Group AGMs, and I would urge anyone who would like to see changes brought to the Association to consider making a proposal to be taken to the National AGM. The Association does seek to serve the best interests and desires of its Members – and this can best be achieved if proposals are put through to the AGM, thus providing all with the opportunity to voice their opinions.



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## Editorial

*With the Compliments*



*of the  
Carlyle Cycling Club*

Sorry to be so late with this issue. Ironic really that my favourite job should have to be delayed for other matters cycling. Not that those other jobs are onerous of course – it's just that there are sometimes not enough hours in the day.

Something that keeps coming to mind is equality and by that I mean equality for male and female. In recent years it has hardly ever been out of the news and for someone of my age it is sometimes so confusing.

When I was five years old, my foster mother decided to overlook the school playground and saw me punching a girl (the shame of that confession.) Later in the day, she gave me a brief lecture, and pointed out that females were very, very special, as indeed I soon discovered. At that time in my short life, we were all equal and, brought up to be the first to land a punch, I knew no better.

The years passed and I was taught to keep to the right hand side of the pavement when walking alongside a 'lady'. To give way at a doorway, to offer up my seat in a bus or railway carriage and certainly not to swear in front of these exotic beings.

Now, so many, many years later, I am beginning to be persuaded that it was all a mistake. I have been guilty of a lifetime of sexism! It seems it is patronising to behave in front of ladies (now women) differently to behaviour in the company of men.

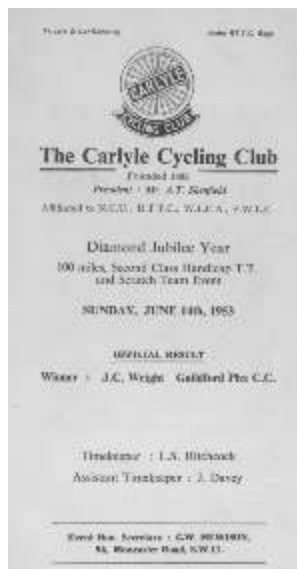
I have tried so hard to get to grips with this; on each occasion when I refer to Marion Fountain or Rachael as 'Dear', I have to give myself a smack in the face. I know it should say the name and I am trying, honestly I am.

I've lived through the 'no ladies' period; the 'ladies only' events and the acceptance of joint membership, joint events and, at last, *equality!*

People like Steve Lockwood have been responsible for the drafting and re-drafting of the Standards. The term 'ladies' has been removed from the rule book and, happy days – Mick and Marion are the same, so too are Derek Stewart and any female rival of the same age (plus 2 minutes and 29 seconds). But what is that I hear? Additional prizes for 'ladies' – not women? What happened? Doubtless there is someone who will be able to explain all to a simple old man – trying so hard to keep up!

Another thing on my mind is the matter of Start and Result Cards/Sheets and emails. Event Organisers these days download the internet entries. They also receive those by Royal Mail, named 'snail mail' by most.

I have been 'labouring under the illusion' (forgive the cliché) for many years that competitors like to retain evidence of their past; perhaps relatives and offspring to look back on and say "There's granddad". Way back there was the start sheet and there was the result sheet. Now there is the email and, if you're lucky (it seems so often not) the email of the result. So people like Peter Lawrence have a mass of files on their computer that his descendants can view (if they have the inclination). Whereas I have some start and result cards (see illustration). Am I wrong—should I desist from this nostalgic nonsense—is it indeed nonsense?



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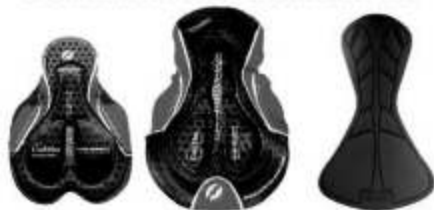


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# AROUND THE GROUP

## North

*Gavin Russell*

Hoping all Group Members are experiencing both the good and bad days that normally make up the Northern time trial scene. Blessed with some very good calm days, unfortunately the scene has been dominated by adverse weather conditions and somewhat inclement weather.

First, a short report on the wellbeing of a couple of our Group members. Pete Manners experienced a medical incident following and at the Barnesbury 50, which has subsequently left him facing numerous tests to establish the cause, so ending his time trial season prematurely.

Dave Herbert, a frequent traveller to Munich and finding limited available cycling routes, decided to ride on the Olympic Park; however, in the opposite direction to that in which he normally rides. His next recollection is being loaded into an ambulance by paramedics, having demolished a barrier on the circuit. Dave has no recollection of what happened, but with no serious injury identified at the time, he is now experiencing issues with his forearms, which has prompted an early finish to his season. As an aside, Dave was shown his helmet after the accident, which had sustained catastrophic damage to the rear, with the comment from the paramedic that it had saved the back of his head. Is there a message? Let's hope Pete and Dave both make full recovery and we see them competing next season.

With the four year tenure of our current President, Jack Athey, coming to an end, a very good and appropriate prospective nominee has been approached and accepted to fulfil this honorary role. The nominee will be formally installed at the forthcoming Group AGM (to be held at the Dawson residence on Sunday 1st November at 11 am). The Group's thanks go out to Jack for the diligence and professionalism he has shown during his term of office, with the hope that we continue to see him at many of the Group

events in the future.

Now to the competitive results. Unfortunately, despite the contractor's best efforts, Ruth Crossley's 25 on the A19 had to be cancelled. This is two consecutive years that we have lost this event (last year due to torrential rain). Let's hope it will be third time lucky in 2016.

The next event of note was the Stockton Wheelers 100 on the T1002 course. Whilst not being a VTTA event, it did create quite a stir in time trialling circles. Some outstanding rides were recorded, some probably never to be repeated. Won by a VTTA member in a new CTT competition record time of 3:18:54, this beat the old record by three+ minutes. Another VTTA member, Steve Irwin, in recording 3:25:19, to take second place, also led the North Lancs RC team to a new CTT team competition record.

On a day of a rising southerly wind for the final 25 mile leg, local riders capitalised on the ideal conditions, with John Warrington recording 3:40:32, Steve Fullerton 3:49:24, Howard Heighton 3:52:37 and Paul Dawson (our Group Chair) 4:24:26. With rides like these, many personal bests and standards were achieved from a small field of only 44 entrants. Group members are reminded to ensure that they make their 2015 Standard Claims in good time to Dave Oliver. It is worth noting that the course used for this event is the one to be used for the 2016 National CTT 100 mile Championship on the 10th July.

Next event was the Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA (North) 25 on the T252/3 run by my good self. Out of an entry of 46 riders, 31 completed the course. Best on Standard was Richard Booth who had a +13.42. Other notable rides from the 20 VTTA members who entered were: Shaun Tyson +13.21, Darren Gee +13.07 (overall winner with 53.19), Gary Hunt +9.34, Alan Lang +9.14, Steve Fullerton +8.26, Neil Foster +6.25, Ian Hutchinson +5.31, Ted Scurr + 3.45, Stuart Gordon +2.26, Paul Dawson +2.01, Phil Wright +0.05, Mike Drake -1.01, Neil Stuart -2.10. With

the event also being the Teesside District Championship, it was good to see that Group members were successful in all the age categories for the over 40s. Please note that the District Age Awards will be presented to those attending the Group Luncheon on 10th January 2016 at the Hardwick Hall Hotel. Further information is available from Ruth Crossley.

The latest event, a 10, organised by the Hartlepool CC, and on the T102/1 course, showed another good local turnout amongst the small field of 35 entries. 19 local VTTA members entered. Fastest on standard went to a visitor Ron Hallam with a plus of 7.19. Fastest North member was Richard Booth with +6.30.

With the Group's 50 imminent at the time of writing, a large field of 94 riders have entered from all parts of the country. I suspect many are hoping for a repeat of the Stockton Wheelers 100 weather, as the course covers one circuit of the afore-mentioned event. A report from this event will be included in the next edition of the Veteran magazine.

In closing, may I confirm the current status of the A19 road in the Group's Teesside area? Contrary to information published on various media sites, the imposed ban on cyclists on the A19 is restricted to a small five mile stretch of the carriageway, running from just north of Teesside (A689 junction) through to the Parkway junction, (A174) just south of Teesside and in no way impacts on any approved time trial courses in the Teesside District, which start some five to six miles to the south. In addition, the repairs to the Cleveland Tontine Bridge are progressing well and should be completed during October. The current works will not affect any of the remaining events on the A19.

As always, if any members have information for inclusion in future reports, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

---

## **Wessex**

*Peter Warhurst*

These last few months have seen a host - I was going to say swarm but thought I might cause offence - of excellent performances by Wessex

Vets. This is emphasised by the fact that as a result there are no less than two claims for National age records and eighteen Wessex age records pending.

Pride of place must go to Adam Topham for his stunning 314.3 miles to win the ECCA 12 hour event on his 47th birthday, 16th August. I doubt that he will have had the breath to blow out the candles on getting home! Readers of my Notes in the March 2015 *Veteran* may recall Adam's painful experiences in riding 12s and his resolve on finishing never to ride another, but nonetheless a determination to top 300 miles. Well now the superman's staggering determination has borne fruit and one's mind boggles at what went into it.

Prior to this towering performance Adam had recorded near records at 25miles (49:33), 50 miles (1:39:30) and 100 miles (3:33:05).

Our other National record breaker is 82 year old Norman Harvey, setting a time of 43:39 (for bicycle) in the Newbury Open 15 miles on 25 July. He has also added the Group age 82 10 and 30 mile records to his collection with 27:27 and 1:29:57 respectively. Norman's efforts are especially praiseworthy because he spends a good deal of time working behind the scenes as the Group membership secretary (and hosting Group committee meetings at his home).

I had in mind listing the Group age record breakers in alphabetical order but must give pride of place to 69 year old Alan Emmott's 100 miles in 4:17:28, over 11 minutes inside our current record. Although not records, Alan's rides this year at 25 (58:23) and 10 (23:04) are also well worthy of mention.

Now to 71 year old Terry Icke with four Group records so far this time round; 2:01:56 followed by 2:00:14 at 50 miles, 55:28 at 25 miles and 21:32 and 21:19 at 10 miles.

Then our relative newcomer Sarah Matthews at age 55 with Group women's records at 10 miles (23:11), 25 miles (1:00:00) - where did she lose that second - 30 miles (1:18:03) and 50 miles (2:12:33).

Bringing up the rear is our perennial women's age record breaker, now at age 49, Lesley

Walking. This year she has achieved records at 10 miles (22:40 followed by 22:06), 25 miles (58:17 followed by 56:39) and 50 miles (1:57:15). Great rides by them all!

The Group was honoured to hold the National 50 Championship on 9th August and trust that when the riders looked up they appreciated the delightful rural scenery through which the soulless dual- carriageway course had been carved. Brian Sunter's super winning time took one's breath away, clearly demanding total concentration and not even a glance at the rural scene. A number of Wessex riders shone on the day, especially Lesley Walking whose 1:57:15, (+33:28), gave her the women's' Championship award. No doubt the full result will be shown elsewhere in this journal. One of the Group's newest new members, Steve Williamson showed that he will be a force to be reckoned with, taking 12th place with 1:45:25 (+32.01).

Now to our Group Championships, of which even at this advanced stage of the season only that at 50 miles has been run. This is because the 10 programmed for 25th July had to be cancelled because of heavy rain on the exposed course. Through the good offices of the New Forest CC the Championship will now be accommodated in their Open event on the afternoon of Sat 12th September on course P303. The 25 Championship is programmed for Sunday 30th August in the Southdown Velo event.

Our Championship 50 winner was Jerry Bromyard 1:55:40 (plus 29:25), with Nick Andrews 1:51:06 (plus 28:28) and Cliff Rowe (1:54:52) joining him on the podium. The full result can be seen on the Group web site.

Overall the range of fine performances by Wessex members to date this year promises close competition when our new Recorder Claire Newman comes to work out the placings in the various competitions. I list below the best performances so far by the likely contenders.

They are in no particular order.

Steve Williamson - age 44: 10, 20:08; 25, 53:24; 50, 1:45:25; 100, 3:50:14.

Andy Langdown - age 46: 10, 20:00; 25, 53:49; 50, 1:52:56; 100, 4:03:55.

Phil Watts - age 44: 10, 21:01; 25, 53:35; 50, 1:51:27.

Barry Quick - age 70: 10, 22:35; 25, 1.00.55.

Hamish Walker - age 43: 10, 21:08; 25, 58:18; 50, 1:54:14.

Dave Pitt - age 65: 10, 22:01; 25, 58:19; 50, 1:54:37.

Now I admit to showing a modicum of bias towards my club mates in the Bournemouth Jubilee by highlighting their prowess separately . Strangely, in my many years as Group Recorder I recall only rarely dealing with any significant performances by BJW Wessex Group member veterans: the outstanding exception being when friend Eamonn Deane set our 24 hour record at 501 miles in 2007. Now, like waiting for a number 11 bus, four have come together. Here they are, in alphabetical order this time.

Dave Pickering - age 47: 10, 20:19; 25, 53:40; 50, 1:50:27; 100, 3:55:20.

Kevin Ridge - age 52: 10, 23:10; 25, 1:00:53; 50, 2:01:14; 100, 4:45:13.

Cliff Rowe - age 56: 10, 21:27; 25, 53:28; 50, 1:54:52.

John Samways - age 41: 10, 20:18; 25, 53:03; 50, 1:48:49; 100, 3:59:09.

Finally I give formal notice that the VTTA Wessex Group AGM will be held at The Valley Park Community Centre, Chandlersford, Hants SO53 4ST on Sunday November 15th Commencing at 10.30 am.

---

## Surrey/Sussex

*Tim Carpenter*

I had intended to put this bit at the end but it is so important as we desperately need volunteers for the following jobs that I am drawing your attention to it immediately:

Treasurer; Time Trials Secretary and Organisers for the June 10 and the September 25. If we don't have organisers we don't have events. If we don't have a Treasurer and Time Trials Secretary we don't have a Group.

Now back to business. I am writing this just a

few days away from the KCA 12 Hour which I help mother with (as does most of the family). The 12 Hour is our Group championship and we only have three Group members, two of whom are women. It is unfortunate that the event clashes with the Bec CC 25, which is a Group 25 event, and the National 12 Hour.

Talking of 12 Hours most of you will have seen David Shepherd's picture on the back cover of the last mag as he was the winner of the VTTA 12 Hour Championship incorporated in the Newbury RC event. We had a good turnout with Tom Glandfield 2nd and Adrian Blacker 4th. Michael Turner from the Lewes was just in the top ten at 9th.

But I need to go back a few months to June when we held our Group 10 for the Stan Harvey Trophy. It is the only event I have ridden for the last few years and it was quite cold and windy, although dry until after the event. Peter Tadros (In-Gear Quickvit Trainsharp RT) won with plus 5:38. He rode fixed and only managed a 20:40 to be beaten into second place by Connell Yates by a mere three seconds.

The Wilf How Trophy for the team went to In-Gear Quickvit Trainsharp RT with a plus of 13:27. The team was Peter Tadros (5:38); Carl Richardson (4:39) and Sam Dix (3:10). Sam also organised the ESCA 50, which was our Group event; but more on that later.

The 30 was held the next day and the Mick Burgess Trophy awarded to Pete Tadros with a plus of 16:49. His teammate Dave Pollard was second on standard and with Carl Richardson, the In-Gear Quickvit Trainsharp RT won the Group team award with plus of 45:18. Simon McNamara was third in the Group and third Vet overall.

The 12 July was the date of the Group 50 which was won by Nick Dwyer (Lewes Wanderers CC) with a plus of 28:29 and he takes the Aldershot Cup. The Team was the Lewes Wanderers made up of Nick Dwyer (28:29) Tom Glandfield (22:41) and Peter Baker (21:09) for a total plus of 1:12:19.

Tom Glandfield moved up to win the Group 100 Championship on the 9 August with a plus of 40:21. Once again the Lewes Wanderers CC

won the team award although this time it was Tom Glandfield, Peter Baker (36:06) and Mike Hannay (26:11).

The Group 25 that is incorporated in the Bec event is on the 23 August, the same day as the 12. This year there are three twelves within seven days (ECCA on 16th and then the National and KCA on 23rd).

The last Group event of the season is the 25 that Keith is organising in September. He is looking for help with marshals etc.

The AGM will be held at Handcross Parish Hall on 22 November. The hall will be **open at 10.00am** to have time for refreshments before the meeting which **starts at 11.00am**. Please make an effort to attend. As I have already mentioned, we need a Treasurer and Time Trials Secretary as well as someone to promote the June 10 & September 25.

A very large list of new (and rejoined) members for this report:

Chris Lord & James Stone (Brighton Excelsior CC); Dave Abbott & Stuart Jago (GS Stella); Jon Frost & Richard Vaudin (Redmon CC); Alex Napier and Robert Charles (Blazing Saddles Cycles); Justin Steele (Sussex Nomads); Mike Hannay & Lisa Davis (Lewes Wanderers CC); Gary Holder (Horsham CC); Paul Cannon (Epsom CC); John Shaw (Velosport CC); and Jon Fairclough (Woking CC).

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## East Anglian

*Mary Horsnell*

The sudden death of Jonathan Weatherley following a tragic accident, has stunned the Group. Described as a 'lovely chap', always willing to help', he was one of the younger members, only 43, making a name for himself not only in the racing world but as a gifted architect. He had great promise, already holding most of the CC Sudbury club records. He will be so much missed by them as well as his father, mother and brother, to whom our sympathies are extended.

How pleasing to see the centenarians featured in



Peter Horsnell gets a dowsing!

*The Veteran.* It's good that they have kept in touch all through the years. So often when meeting someone who has dropped out, they say "I have packed up racing" or "I don't ride a bike now". One of these who contacted the Group recently was former Chairman Peter Jackson, who had to step down some years ago after having a heart attack on the golf course, after which Peter Horsnell was head-hunted to fill the gap. Peter Jackson was a notable rider in his day, setting both Group and National age records. At 88½, it is so pleasing to be able to say that he has joined up again.

Of course, so many thanks are due to those people mentioned above, who retain their membership and continue to help out with time-keeping, marshalling etc, as well as a hundred and one other jobs to keep the Group going; and this includes those who are recovering from accidents or illness, but are hoping to be back in

action before too long (you know who you are!)

A 1994 copy of the late-lamented Counties Magazine (official journal of the ECCA) throws an interesting light on past history:

*"The AGM of this group was held on 20 February at Ipswich with a good attendance. Stan Raby took the chair for the last time as both he and Herbie Nevill have stood down after 30 years service to the group.*

*After the usual formalities of reading the minutes etc were out of the way, the members got down to the task of finding replacements for the above-mentioned worthies. No small matter when one considers that Herbie has been doing five jobs!*

*The end result is that Gordon Irons was elected Chairman, Terry Anderson is our new Secretary/Treasurer and 'Big Mo' Maurice McDermott is Dinner Organiser. Two posts were left unfilled and volunteers will be made welcome as follows:*



*Newsletter Editor and Awards Sec. Bob Ward also stood down this year from his job as Group Recorder after a long period in this capacity; his place has been filled by John Morley."*

....and from another report:

*"The wind of change is blowing thro' our local Vet's group, with the first change of officials in 30 years, and maybe some others? Was Catherine Gray the youngest ever to attend a VTTA function, when Sue presented the prizes at the Kent Group luncheon taking baby along? Whatever would the all-male founders have said....?"*

Geoff Keeble, timekeeper par excellence with 58 seasons to his credit, is collecting data for a book to celebrate Colchester Rovers 125 years in 2016. Women were admitted to membership in 1936, and Geoff, President for the last 16 years, is thrilled with the five women on their present committee and says "they are 'brilliant'." The old time Rovers would have been so pleased to see Len Benton back at the top of the tree, with Jim Read not far behind, and that Rik Laws, whose parents were both racing members, is still putting in some useful rides. (No, I have not forgotten Elspeth Holt, a new national record holder).

Talking of old timers brings to mind the latest HLM who needs no introduction: Mick Gambling is, perhaps, best known for his amusing articles which appeared in Cycling Weekly 1964-2004 – over 4000 pieces. At that time, he and Connie Tapper on tandem set a number of records and, with the late Tom Blanchflower, he achieved 10 and 25 records at National level. Many riders have benefited from his 51 years of coaching, for which he was presented, by the Lord Mayor of Norwich, with a plaque for 'a lifetime of service to sport!' Not many people receive such an honour....well done to this well known raconteur, who will again be acting as a popular MC at the Annual Luncheon and Prize-giving on Sunday 29 November, when the National President, Carole Gandy, has kindly agreed to grace our table and present the awards, to the delight of organiser Ian MacKenzie, who is at present trying out a new super-trike...watch this space!

Another trikie who deserves Congratulations is Jane Moore, who has blossomed since leaving

the Group to join the rest of the three-wheelers in the Willesden CC, tho' still resident in Witham. She was once known as Jane Swain in Sue Gray's Chelmer team, but now her new name goes into the record books – and Sue is now Mrs David Sill.

The extraordinary times clocked up by male members have almost ceased to astonish; certainly Steve Irwin has precipitated himself into the top ranks after moving north. He will be greatly missed from the EA teams of six. Members are reminded to put their names and times forward for these National competitions as in 2014 there were people eligible for teams who did not claim; this needs to be remedied.

The women are also putting up some fantastic times, none more so than National Secretary Rachael Elliot, who is improving so rapidly. Not such good news of Essex Roads duo, Gwen Cook and Lea Marshall, holders of various National Tandem Records. Gwen is having to rest, while Lea has been undergoing back surgery with varying results. It is hoped that they will be seen back in action eventually. Everyone will wish them well. Meanwhile their club have made another discovery in Sue Triplow, who has been likened to the young Sue Fenwick and is already well established among the prize-winners.

It is good to be able to report that Ken Platts' name has started to re-appear on result sheets again, if lower down the result sheets—no doubt this will be remedied in the not too distant future.

Much sympathy is felt for nonagenarian Rod Walker and his son John following the death of Joan, who was one of my oldest cycling friends. We first met at the Gospel Oak 10, only my second "open" in 1949 when, with other girls from the Rosslyn Ladies, we shared digs at one of the famous transport cafes on the old A1 at Hatfield, Herts. Was it the Oakleaf, behind the Marsh Moor? We slept in a lorry-drivers' dormitory and were astounded at the antics of Daisy Stockwell (Franks) and others playing cards late into the night. Later, Joan rode for miles with Johnny on his little seat behind. After giving up racing, she became a much-respected and efficient leader of the 40+ CC. Latterly, we met each year at their annual lunch, now alas discontinued. Memories,

memories.....all through the lanes and through the years.....

There has been a marked increase in new members joining the Group this year—85 compared with 61 last year.

Unfortunately 40 are no longer members, three transferring to other Groups, 10 resigning, 24 lapsed and sadly three have died: they being Mick Burrow, Eileen Edney and Jonathan Weatherley.

In 1954, 54 resigned/lapsed or died.

Membership now stands at 375 with 350 individual members and 25 partners. Membership at then of 2014 was 334.

During the year, three members were granted Honorary Life Membership (Anthony Leach, Mike Gibbs and Mick Gambling. Vic White will qualify in October. There will be no qualifiers next year.

## London and Home Counties

*Pete Tasker and Jim Burgin*

The last three months have not been what you can call 'Summer'; yes there have been some nice days but not often did they fall on Saturday or Sunday. To compensate for this we had the excellent coverage of 'Le Tour' on ITV 4, particularly the afternoon session which covered the live action but the evening slot gave very good showing of all the main action of the day, remembering that it is French TV that we are seeing with Phil and Paul doing the coverage. The year I thought that it was a big improvement though, with Chris and David giving great feedback and comments on the riders and the day's actions.

Again another win for Team Sky with Chris Froome and the other riders in this very well organised and presented outfit.

Now that the preamble is over what have the Group's riders been achieving in events during these last months?

Starting on 6th June with the Beds Road 10 on F15/10:

Andy Halliday	23.17
Roger Porter	23.21

John Dowling	23.27
Ian Marshall	23.28
Richard Moule	25.09
Paul Woodham	25.36
Trevor Parrish	26.54
Gill Reynolds	27.44
Les Morris	30.19

A day later in the WLCA 25 (reduced to a 10 due to road works):

Peter Lawrence	20.00
Liam Maybank	20.37
Stephen Campbell	21.42
Andy Halliday	21.57
Paul Holdsworth	22.04
Bob Gilmour	22.05
Richard Moule	23.17
Danuta Tinn	23.50
Jill Bartlett	26.51

On the same day but on the F1B/50 in the Finsbury Park event:

Tim Davies	1.54.17
John Lacey	1.54.19
Grant Orsborn	1.59.18
Alan Crane	2.00.52
Neill Allonby	2.07.28
David Rogers	2.15.37
David Solomon	2.17.36
Anne Lacey	2.33.58

What a difference a week makes; on the following Saturday afternoon in the VTTA East 50 on E2/50 course it must have been one of the fastest events of the season:

Peter Lawrence	1.40.33
Richard Hancock	1.44.45
Tim Davies	1.46.14
Grant Orsborn	1.47.28
Andy Halliday	1.47.35
Greg Lewis	1.49.47
Keith Griffin	1.50.31
Richard Moule	1.54.57
David Solomon	1.58.57
Colin Hodges	1.59.36
Tina Goddard	2.00.11
Richard Davies	2.02.23
Joanna Spragg	2.09.49

The next weekend of 17th June in Yorkshire:

Greg Lewis	21.02
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Into July and on the 4th in the Reading 25:



**Nikki Hunt and Brian Foran**

Bob Gilmour	59.36
Richard Moule	59.45
Les Morris	1.15.10
Chas Jepson	1.23.52

On the same day in Nottinghamshire in the

Belper RC 25:

Tim Davies	54.31
John Dowling	54.40
Geoff Perry	55.15
Danuta Tinn	57.38

Next day in the DIW 10

Greg Lewis	21.28
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During that week Jill Bartlett clocked 1.06 41 in the a3crg 25 and Anne Lacey 25.28 in the Team Swift 10

On Saturday 11th in the VTTA East 25, there were 22 men and 4 women from the Group riding so only a few times posted from Pete Tasker's collection:

Peter Lawrence	50.02
Robert West	51.01
Robert Young	52.29
Richard Hancock	52.49
Jim Moffatt	53.29
John Lacey	54.48
John Dowling	55.00
Tim Davies	55.16
Grant Orsborn	56.01
Andy Halliday	56.29
Danuta Tinn	57.47

Next day in the WLCA 50

Ian Greenstreet	1.50.54
Paul Holdsworth	1.57.49
Bob Gilmour	2.02.06

On Saturday the 18th, Peter Harridge back after illness clocked 59.24 in the VTTA North Mids 25. In the Team Cambridge 10

Roger Porter	21.59
Alan Crane	22.35

Clive Faine	24.41
Gill Reynolds	25.47

On the next day, Danuta Tinn clocked 56.22 and Peter Cockbain 1.05.55 in the www.realteam 25.

There were 30 Group members among the 156 entrants for the VTTA National Championship 25 which was held in Wales on the R25/31 course on the 26th of July. Frequent notices of non-starters began to arrive before the day, which indicated that modern riders study the weather almost as much as their power output. There were 98 non-starters and, on a percentage basis, London Group, with 15 starters and finishers proved the more hardy, producing 8th place with Peter Lawrence (+14:37) and 10th Danuta Tinn (+14:35). Roger Sewell who had been pessimistic of his chances of getting accepted, was 13th (+14:23), completing a winning team (although the team award is, of course, based upon club teams).

On the first Wednesday in August in the Group 10 there were 16 Group members riding, so only some of the times:

Peter Lawrence	20.47 +5.26
Gill Reynolds	25.57 +4.44
John Sullivan	22.14 +4.36
Tim Childs	22.48 +4.11
Andrew Wright	22.44 +3.48
Stuart Auckland	21.42 +3.47
Andy Halliday	22.37 +3.36
John Francis	24.58 +3.25
Peter Lavery	22.50 +3.23
Chas Jepson	33.01 +0.16

At the weekend on the 8th August in the Cambridge C.C. 25

Roger Porter 1.01.37 and Les Morris 1.22.40.

Next day in the VTTA East 25 on E2/25:

John Lacey	52.46
Tim Davies	52.59
Jeff Roberts	53.20
Andy Halliday	53.48
Grant Orsborn	54.12
Gill Reynolds	55.20
Peter Harridge	57.35
Anne Lacey	1.07.54

On the same day in the Beds Road C.C. on F1B/25:

Richard Hutt	57.55
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Alan Crane	59.15
Neill Allonby	1.00:48
David Rogers	1.07.34
Trevor Parrish	1.08.18

The 50 Mile Championship was held in Hampshire and from a field of 78, the Group was represented by 15 entrants, of whom Bob Gilmour was the highest placed (5th). The same story this time - the Group produced the best trio on Standard.

That was followed the next Sunday (16th) by the 30, this time on local roads with the usual stalwarts in support of the VTTA National Committee who promoted the 25, 30 and 50 events. Bob Gilmour led the Hounslow to a club team win and, of course, a Group team best. A highlight was the return to competition of Nikki Hunt who has been very ill and has some way to go for a full recovery. She and Brian Foran became the tandem champions.

The result of the three Championships are published in this issue.

The influx of new members has, of course, slowed but even so we welcome Brian Foran, Roderick MacFadyen, Adam Evans, Paul Callinan, Ed James and Keith Revell, bringing the 2015 total so far to 61.

The Group has been involved in a number of promotions in 2015. Two events on F11/10, two on H10/2 and one on H25/2, in addition, members have assisted with the VTTA Championship 25, 30 and 50 as well as West London CA events, two CTT events and the CTT National Championship 25. There follows the names of some of those reliable people who have made so many events possible:

Beryl Brooks, Dave Loader, Brian Harris, Dave Devine, Beryl and Ted Russ, Cecil Hamblon, Dave Gaida, Paul Marchant, Connie May, Roy May, Peter Hoare, Peter Cross, Peter Long, Veronica Long, Bill Gladwin, Chas Jepson, Greg Lewis, Brian James, Gladys Purdy, Ron Purdy, Dave Mee and more.

As the season began to wane, it got embarrassing to keep on asking them but still they turned out. It is possible that the gratitude will extend to them all with a free ticket to the

Annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation in January or even a present from the multitude of grateful riders who have benefited from their services.

That's about all the news for now but looking ahead before the next issue of this magazine we have the Group AGM on Sunday 15th November at Great Missenden, please make an effort to attend to support your Committee and to take the opportunity of voicing your views and perhaps having a part in introducing change in the affairs of the Association.

Take care on the roads be it racing, training or just out riding for pleasure.

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## **Kent**

*Ian Turner*

It is with the greatest sadness that I have to report that Roy Manser passed away on the morning of 5 August 2015 whilst going home from the Wednesday Wobblers. Roy had been a member of the San Fairy Ann CC for 68 years and among his many cycling achievements he came 5th in the 1958 National 25 mile championship; set a national 10 mile tandem record of 18.17 in 1989 partnered by Anthony Wallis and won the Kent Cycling Association's BAR four times between 1959 and 1969. Roy was also a frame builder of very high repute, and took part in many non-cycling outdoor activities including skiing - he also made his own skis. Friend and Hero to many, Roy will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Pamela and son Andrew.

Since my last report to the Veteran, Kent Group has held a number of events, the results of which are summarised below. On 5th July, our 10 mile Championship on Q10/30 resulted in a fine win for Alan Rowe (De Laune) with +6.40. Alan also took the Dave Wright Cup for this ride, which is awarded to the rider with the best plus over all three of the Group's 10 mile promotions. Simon Henderson (Thanet +5.34) and Andy Miles (VC Elan +4.58) were second and third respectively, while Alan Rowe and Malcolm Adams took the team prize.

The 50 mile Championship, held on 19 July on Q50/11, was won by Andrew Meilak (Velorefined Aerosmiths +29.32) who also takes the Peter Phillipot Cup. Nick Wilson (Rye Wheelers +28.44) and Richard Birtwhistle (Sydenham Wheelers +28.44) were joint second and Alan Rowe 4th with +26.49. The Team award went to Nick Wilson and Gary King (Rye Wheelers) with +49.14.

The 10 mile event held on 1 August for the Morris Crowe Trophy on Q10/1 was won by Nick Wilson (Rye Wheelers +5.53) with Andrew Meilak (+5.50) and Ian Hodge - Southborough and District +5.23) placing second and third respectively. Team honours went to Chris Bax and Mark Hill (PMR) with +10.16.

The first three positions in the Wednesday 10 Series after four events with two to go are: Chris Bax +16.44, Tom Morton +16.09, John Durey +12.15. These events have been down on rider attendance of late, which is a great shame and it is hoped that this is a temporary situation. There's little more soul destroying than to organize events which are then poorly supported.

My last report contained news that Bob Giles had been seriously hurt in an accident at one of the Wednesday 10 events. I am delighted to write that Bob is back on his feet and recovering well enough to attend meetings of the Committee, if not fully back to his competitive riding self yet.

The Group's Annual Luncheon and Prize Giving will be on 21 February 2016 at the Weald of Kent Golf Club. This venue was used for the first time this year and proved a great success. The Guest of Honour has yet to be confirmed - watch this space.

So, with another season drawing to a close, thoughts turn to AGMs, hill climbs (not my bag - too short and sharp), winter training, reliability rides and planning next year's season - not necessarily in that order. Stay safe out there.

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## **Manchester and North West**

*Jim Ogden*

Writing at the height of the season, with only the

12 hour events to come, the times being recorded are a shock to the system for old testers like me! When I first faced time keepers, no hundred miler had got inside 4 hours 20 minutes, now competition record is inside 3 hours 20 minutes.

So, I'll start with the hundreds, to my mind the ultimate test of time trialling ability. Always the first on the calendar is the Anfield RC event, which this year included the VTTA National 100 mile championship and was held on the 25th May. The winner, who also became the Vets 100 mile champion, was Steve Irvine (44) North Lancs RC, with a time of 3:46:02, actually the fastest of four vets inside 4 hours. Our fastest local rider was Neil Skellern (51), from Congleton, now riding for Team Swift and a member of the Yorkshire Vets. Neil was placed in the top 10 with 4:06:03. Our three other finishers were Barry Whittaker (58), Lyme RC with 4:51:07, Mark Nichols (49), Kidsgrove Wheelers 5:06:06 and Edgar Reynolds (66), Congleton CC, 5:13:10.

Moving on to three hundreds all held on 5 July, pride of place went to the RTTC National Championship which took place on the South Wales R100/8A course and was won by defending champion Charles Taylor, South Penine RC in 3:33:50. However, it was in the Stockton Wheelers event held on course T1002 that veteran Richard Bideau, Pendle Forest CC, riding his first hundred, set the new competition record of 3:18:54. His mentor and VTTA Champion, Steve Irvine was runner up in 3:25:19.

Group members did not figure in either of these events because, on the same day, the Manchester & District 100 was held on the sporting J4/18 course. This event had been won previously by Charles Taylor, so in his absence it was left to Neil Skellern to win by over 6 minutes in 3:55:17. Group members to finish were led by Steve Hankey, Warrington RC 4:14:19 with Robbie Harcourt, Stretford Wheelers 4:44:31; Phil Holden, Seamons CC 4:50:45; Edgar Reynolds, Congleton CC 4:58:11; Denise Hurst, Congleton CC 5:25:23 and David Steele, Lyme RC, happy to have got his standard in 5:36:52.

I've only brief details of the Mersey RC 24 hour event which incorporates the Vets Championship

at the distance, held on the weekend of 18 July. It will no doubt be covered elsewhere, but the breathtaking result is worth restating as the winner, Michael Broadwith, Arctic Tacx, riding his first 24, covered 537.35 miles – nudging a competition record I had thought would be untouchable. The Group's only competitor was last year's Vets Champion, Edgar Reynolds, who covered 384.21 miles.

Two group events have been held since the last report. The first was included in the Warrington RC 50 on 6 June on the local J4/16 course, which would be used the following Saturday for the RTTC National Championship. The result provided a surprise in that Brett Harwood, Terry Wright Cycles RC, with his 1:46:23 was a full minute ahead of firm favourites Charles Taylor, South Pennine 1:47:00 and Andy Wilkinson, Port Sunlight Wheelers, 1:47:23. The following week in the championship, Brett improved to 1:44:47, taking third place behind Matt Bottrill and Matt Clinton.

Neil Skellern, Team Swift, 1:47:41, was the fastest local rider in the Warrington 50. However, the Manchester Vets 50 mile champion for 2015 is David Wright, Warrington RC, by virtue of his 2:06:03 +16:46. Other group members were Robbie Harcourt, 2:09:13 +11:14; Tony Boardman, VTTA Manchester & NW, 2:09:55 +15:04; Phil Holden, 2:19:08 +12:10 and the slowest, ever persistent David Steele, Lyme RC 2:39:40. Women finishers were Denise Hurst 2:32:50; Jo Harcourt, Stretford Wheelers 2:37:22. Louise Cuming and Bob Norton handled the finishing board.

Returning to the National Championship 50 the following week, 45 riders finished inside two hours! Neil Skellern improved to 1:53:19 ahead of Macclesfield Wheeler Mike Knutson 1:46:40. Other group members included Greg Dancer, Stone Wheelers 2:01:51; David Wright, 2:02:53; Robbie Harcourt 2:04:57 and Steve l'Anson, Buxton CC 2:05:14.

The last of our group events was combined with the Nova CC 25 and promoted by Ian Ross on July 11th on J2/9. Scott Burns, Manchester Wheelers added to his list of local wins with his 54:25. Neil Skellern was again the local fastest vet in 55:24. Other finishers were Mostyn

Bulloch, Buxton CC 56:58; Nige Wood, Wills Wheelers, 57:52 and part of the winning team, Paul Shalliker, Coveryourcare RT; 58:41; Robbie Harcourt 1:00:20. Mike Cotgreave, Team Westmead 88, with a time of 1:00:31 was joint best on standard with Dave Isherwood, Team Swift, both on +14:05. When combined with Mike's +12:17 in the March Vets event, it has made Mike the Group's 25 mile champion of 2015.

Mike already holds the hour record in the 70-74 category and is now attempting to become the UCI UWCT time-trial champion. The first ever qualifying event to be held in the UK was over an undulating distance of 28k on closed roads from a ramped start inside the spacious Peterborough Marina. Mike's time of 42:22 was fastest by over a minute. Ian Middleton was second fastest in the 65-69 category with his 43:52. As this is a full blown UCI event, bikes must comply with the measurements applied to professional riders. The final is to be held in Denmark on 3 September. We can only wish them well.

The fastest 25 J course is J5/8 on the A50 Blythe Bridge to Uttoxeter road and the Stone Wheelers event is usually oversubscribed. Held this year on 15 May, riders had to contend with a head wind for the return journey. However, the first seven were still inside 54 minutes led by Charles Taylor in 51:13. Neil Skellern 54:10 +14:01 was third on Standard and Paul Shalliker, again in the winning team, with his 56:08. Other group members were Martyn Bulloch 54:34; Mike Knutsen 55:34; Martin Bowers, Stone Wheelers 55:46; Phil Robinson, Janus RC 56:43; Dave Fearon, Weaver Valley, 58:05; Greg Dancer, 58:35, Stephen l'Anson 59:17; Nige Wood, 59:28 and Robbie Harcourt 1:00:00. At the other end of the finishing sheet, Nev Ashman, Manchester Velo 1:09:06; Caroline Fearon, Weaver Valley, 1:10:32 and David Steel, 1:14:32. All had plus standards.

The fastest 50 course is on J5/12, which also follows the A50 to Hilton, but promoters tend to avoid it and J4/16 is our preferred course and was used by the Cheshire RC on the 25 July. Charles Taylor again demonstrated his domination by winning by over 3 minutes in 1:44:41. Neil Skellern with his 1:53:45 +26:42 was placed 5th and best on standard. Consistent

David Wright recorded 2:03:17 ahead of Stephen l'Anson 2:05:37 and Dave Fearon 2:09:55. Denise Hurst had a plus with her 2:31:45, but not this time for David Steele with his 2:41:57.

Derek Hodgins (81), Stockport Clarion, has curtailed his time trialling drastically. However, with a new bike and, for Derek, ultra low gears, he feeds his competitive instincts by riding the harder sportives. Recently, with his brother Ken, he successfully completed the Dark Peak sportive which includes some of the steepest climbs in Derbyshire. On the sportive theme, a group of veteran women from the 'Chelford Chicks' including Louise Cuming; Margaret Herety; Karen Bale, Cath Scofield and the Riley sisters Danielle and Terrie, successfully completed the difficult Mark Cavendish 'Rise Above' event in North Wales. Mark rode the event himself and the girls were full of praise for his encouragement. Money raised was for charities 'Help the Heroes' and for children 'Right to Play'.

Sadly I conclude by reporting the death of Ron Johnson, Altrincham Ravens, aged 83. Ron was fully committed to this Association, both as a successful competitor and helper, laying out course markers being his speciality. A book could be written about his adventurous life which his obituary in this issue can only attempt to précis.

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## Yorkshire Group

*Malcolm T Cowgill*

At the time of writing, the end of Summer is just over the horizon. So far, we haven't had a hot day; Saturday afternoons have been windswept affairs. My sympathies go to those racing.

Mike Williams' 10, which was the VTTA National Championship, was a hugely successful affair with 385 entries. Derek Stewart (78), Deeside Thistle, who last year was a joint winner with Rob Pears, was the outright winner this year with a plus of 8:23 and an actual 22:35, which was an age record. In second place was our own evergreen Brian Sunter (72), Condor RC, with +8:12 (21:14). Third place was taken by Len Benton (77), Colchester Rovers CC, with +8:07 (22:33). The best woman on the day was the

remarkable Gill Henshaw (81), VC Long Eaton, +7:31 and 27 08, another age record. The fastest ride of the day was set by Steve Irwin (44), North Lincs RC, with 18 40, but only by a single second from Richard Bideau (44), Pendle Forest, 18 41. Our own Peter Yates (82), Otley CC, +7:39 (24:44) took sixth place. The team prize was taken by Team Swift (Michael Ellerton (54) +7:29 (19 35), Peter Lawrence (43) +7:00 (19:13) and Robby Krygsman (54) +6:51 (20:08). Rachael Elliot, the National Secretary, presented the prizes. So our thanks must go to Mike Williams, who has promoted this 10 for many years and this promotion was to be his last. The group owes you, Mike, and also your many helpers over the years; once again, many thanks Mike.

July saw the 84th running of the classic Andy Wilson 50; sadly, the entries for this event, which is run in memory of Andy Wilson, a Yorkshire legend in his short life, were down to 57 with just 40 finishers. The winner was Paul Thirling, Stockton Wheelers, who did 1:49:50 – a fine ride. Philip Turton, Yorkshire RC, 1:52:27, took third place. Brian Sunter, Condor RC, 1:57:21, finished fifth. So Mark Atkinson's event record survives for an eleventh year, but a long way short of Dave Dungworth, who held the record for eighteen years.

Still with racing matters, in the VTTA National 100, Joel Wainman, Team Swift, took eleventh place with +49:20 (3:56:47). The Championship was incorporated in the classic Anfield 100.

Turning to social events, our Rideout Lunch will be on Sunday 25 October at Old Otliensians RUFC Clubhouse in Otley, 12.15 – 3 pm. Tickets £12 (pay on the day). Book with John Churchman (Telephone 01274 926194). As I have said before, give this event a try – it's a good do.

Andrew Vaughn's July 25 was a victim of this foul Summer and sadly had to be cancelled due to the bad weather.

The Team Swift 12 hour also suffered foul conditions, with five hours of rain. Robbie Krygsman (53), Team Swift, recorded 259.85 miles for sixth place. Andy Asquith (50), Bridlington CC, with 256.21 miles, finished in ninth place. There were just 25 finishers from 33

starters. With the huge organisation required for a 12, one has to ask should this relic from the past be consigned to history; it would seem to have no relevance in the modern time trialling scene dominated by 10 mile events. Just my opinion, I hasten to add.

Following on from his second place in the VTTA National 10, Brian Sunter (72), Condor RC, was second in the VTTA National 25. Congratulations once again, Brian.

You may have noticed in the last issue that we have two centenarians in our Group in Bernard Hall and Ike Delbridge. Next April, we will have a third with Stan Chadwick; Stan has, for several years, made generous donations to the prize list of our April 10. There must be something in the air in Yorkshire.

Now to our August meeting; the usual 13 were present. Tony Stott reported that our membership had risen to 180 from 153 last year. It was felt that this rise could be due to people joining so they could get into our 10s at Hull, where entry was restricted to VTTA members. We now have 34 Honorary Life Members and 13 Life Members. It was reported that the performance awards had been scrapped at the National AGM. We had not used them anyway. As for our events for next season, at the time of writing we only have a promoter for our September 10, Mike Penrice agreeing to continue in this role. So we lack promoters for our Spring 10 and July 25. Entry fees will be held at £10.

On the social scene, it was hoped that the Rideout Lunch would continue in 2016. Mickie Hornby agreed to carry on with the Annual Lunch in 2017 and also reported that our Guest of Honour for our Lunch in 2016 will be the remarkable Gill Henshaw, VC Long Eaton. Gill, you may recall, set an age record of 27:08 at the age of 81 in the National 10. Also please note that the date of the Lunch is 31 January 2016 and not as shown on the fixture card. Tickets will be available from Mickie in due course.

Mike Penrice put forward a proposal regarding tandem standards to go to the National AGM. He also mentioned the fact that we don't have a 10 mile trophy; this will be looked into.

Finally, it was reported that Donald Benn,



Yorkshire RC, had passed away. Our older members will remember Donald; he was a member of the Yorkshire RC winning team in the RTTC National 100. Willing to marshal in our events, he will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to his family.

So that was the August meeting. Our AGM will be on Saturday 7 November, Collingham, at 10.30 am.

A reminder to Yorkshire members that our Short Distance BAR is now based on 2 x 10s and 2 x 25s; not a 10, 25 and 50 as previously. Application forms can be obtained from the VTTA website or from the Group Recorder.

That laughable affair, the football season, has started; over-paid fairies rolling around in agony. Compared to Cancellara, who rode 40 miles with a broken back, or Jean-Christophe Peraud, who rode most of the Tour with half his skin missing.

Bradley Wiggins failed in his attempt on the hour; never mind Chris Boardman's record – he was almost a kilometre short of Tony Rominger's mark of 55.291 km set 21 years ago on an old Colnago Train frame. Still, with Black socks, he was doomed to failure. At least Chris Froome won the Tour; now there's a stylist. Get your elbows out, guys.

See you up the road.

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## North Lancs and Lakes

*Dave Brown*

In the last edition of *The Veteran* I welcomed new members to our Group as is normal practice and one of those new members happened to be a certain Richard Bideau of the Pendle Forest Cycling Club. As I had come across the ability of Richard locally I added a comment that 'he is likely to be quickly on the Group record trail'. How much of an understatement can you make!?

Most readers will know that on 5 July - and just as that edition was sliding through our letterboxes - 44 year old Richard rode his first ever 100 mile time trial - the Stockton Wheelers CC event on



**Richard Bideau**

T1002. The result? - He smashed Kevin Dawson's 12 year old Competition Record by almost four minutes! His time was an incredible 3 hours 18 minutes 54 seconds which is the first ever 30 mph ride at the distance.

As if that was not sufficient, another NL and L Group Member Steve Irwin (3:25:19) took second place in the event and Ian Cox (3:34:39) third and with the help of the 3:42:04 from not yet a Vet Brian Fogarty these gave the North Lancashire Road Club a new Competition Team Record for 100 miles of 10:42:02. Richard's ride was obviously a new VTTA record at age 44 - or any age over or under 40! - whilst Group member Peter Greenwood of Team Swift reset the VTTA 100 mile record for 63 year olds with a superb personal best time of 3:42:17 on the same day.

Then on Sunday 16 August Richard was entered for his first ever 12 hour event - the Eastern Counties Cycling Association. In a day-long tussle with three times BBAR Adam Topham he clocked up just short of 310 miles against the 314 of Adam.

Richard had enjoyed the benefit of his old school pal Steve Irwin helping and feeding him throughout the event. This performance plus his 3:18 100 and 1:38 50 had put Richard in pole position for this year's BBAR with a record average speed. However there were several other counting events still scheduled as we go to press which could change the outcome.

On Wednesday evening, 17 June, Group Recorder Richard Taylor promoted his annual West Pennine Road Club/NL and L Group VTTA

25 on the very testing A59 Clitheroe by-pass.

The winner? None other than Richard Bideau and taking both fastest and standard awards. His time of 51:26 was a new course record but Steve Irwin was close behind in 51:57. Third fastest was Mark Haydock of North Lancs Road Club - who will be a Vet by the time this edition is circulated - in 54:56 and in fourth place came Gethin Butler with a time of 55:30 and now 46 years of age giving him third on Standard behind Bideau and Irwin.

The Group have one more event as I write which is scheduled for Sunday 10 September on the Levens 10 mile course.

At the time of writing the event organiser Dave Shorrock is having a Pacemaker fitted and we wish him all success in that operation.

Mentioning the Levens 10 mile course we should thank Dave Poulter from far-away Telford who promoted a series of three 'Do It Yourself' events on Thursday evenings in July and August which turned out to be very successful. It required that entrants had to supply the timekeepers/marshals etc to run the events and Dave plans to do the same next year.

This year's series was won convincingly by Steve Irwin with an unbeatable hat-trick of 19 minute rides.

We have three Honorary Life Members confirmed in the recent past and congratulate Frank Kerry - known to many VTTA members across the country - William Sellers and Phillip Smith.

A member of a decade or so ago, Warren Chamberlain, has rejoined and we are very happy to have him with us again.

The Group AGM will be held at Winmarleigh village hall on Sunday 25 October with tea and coffee being served from 10am and the meeting starting at 10.30.

Chairman John Leach has said that he will definitely be standing down and therefore requests offers to take over the position for the Group.

The Group Luncheon and Prize Presentation will again be held at The Crofters Hotel on the Garstang by-pass on Sunday 10th January at

1pm with the bar open from 11.30am in order to enable the usual get-together and gossip that we enjoy on that occasion.

Tickets for the Luncheon are available at our AGM or otherwise from the organizer Terry Kay and Keith Tattersall.

## **Merseyside**

*Geoff Edgerton*

At our recent committee meeting. Mo Cliff, who is group secretary, and Keith Nield, who is chairman, both stated that they will be standing down from their posts at the annual general meeting in December. Mo is in her ninth year as secretary and has made an immense contribution to the wellbeing of the group, taking over the post at a difficult time. Keith has been chairman for a shorter period but nevertheless has also made an important contribution. We thank them for their efforts. But obviously moving forward, we will need replacements for these posts. Mo has said that she will give all the help to her successor to make the change as smooth as possible. We are only a small committee but with Phil as treasurer, we help and advise each other and personally speaking, it works very well. If there is anybody out there who is interested in these posts then please get in touch with us. We do need a secretary and a chairman in order to function as a group.

This year, the Anfield 100 mile time trial also incorporated the National Vets Championship with the Group having five members competing. Pride of place must go to Arthur Winstanley of the Liverpool Phoenix Club who flew the flag for the Mersey Group with a super ride and time of 4:07:19 with a plus of 58:38 to claim the silver medal. His team mate Phil Warburton also put in a good effort to finish in 4:10:56 with a plus of 50:01. The recently joined Richard Kay of North Shropshire Wheelers was next group finisher with a time of 4:16:10 (+29:57) with team mate Tim Rex not far behind with 4:19:19 (+29:03). Birkenhead Vic's Derek Parry time of 4:42:31 gave him a plus 26:18 with another newcomer to the group Peter Groom of Liverpool Century recording 4:46:18 (+19:16). Ian Casson completed the men's field with 5:12:14 (-0:14). Two women competed with Helen Tudor of

Oswestry Paragon recording 5:07:08 (+8:44) and Emma Tilston of Chester RC with 5:31:14 (-3:09). Interestingly, the riders finished in the same order for both time and standard.

The third group event of the year was the Chester Roads Club 25. Held in early June thirteen group members made it to the start line. Two cups were up for grabs with the premier award, the Colin Rutter Cup for best on standard going to Phil Warburton of Liverpool Phoenix with a plus of 11:06 (actual 57:46). North Shropshire Wheelers Richard Kay quickly made his mark as a Mersey Vet to win the WJ Smith Rose bowl for fastest with a time of 57:39 (+8:21). There were three other riders under the hour with Kevin Larmer of Port Sunlight Wheelers next with 58:00 (+8:51) closely followed by Peter Groom with 58:46 (+9:04) and finally Tim Rex in 58:52 (+7:34): Helen Tudor and Emma Tilston again flew the flag for the women recording 1:10:45 (+1:51) and 1:12:30 (+0:32) respectively. Other competing were Ian Hawkins of Chester RC 1:02:59, (+4:27, Phil Guy of North Shropshire Wheelers, 1:03:06, (+9:14), Neil Southern of Chester RC 1:04:17, (+3:45), Ian Corrin of Port Sunlight Wheelers, 1:04:57, (+5:41) and Mick Ward of Mid Shropshire Wheelers, 1:14:21, (+1:22).

The next group event was the West Cheshire 50. Held on the Prees-Market Drayton-Shawbirch course, Phil Warburton took the Dick Corris Memorial Trophy for best on standard with a plus of 23:10, (actual 1:58:39). With the group adopting a one rider, one prize award, the Eddie Gradden Trophy for fastest will have a name fresh to the Mersey Vets with Simon Higgins of Liverpool Century RC recording 2:02:10, (+20:09). Peter Groom put in a good performance with 2:02:31, (+17:03) and John Flynn of VC Halton, in his first appearance in a group event, was next man home in 2:09:56, (+14:23), Other Mersey Vets included. Ian Hawkins, Chester RC, 2:10:23, (+8:10), Phil Guy, North Shropshire Wheelers, 2:11:01, (+18:28), Derek Parry, Birkenhead Vics, 2:12:14, (+12:51), Ian Casson, Birkenhead Vics, 2:20:07, (+6:07), Helen Tudor, Oswestry Paragon, 2:20:41, (+8:38), Geoff Edgerton, North Shropshire Wheelers, 2:29:05, (+1:17), Pat Haywood, North Shropshire

Wheelers, 2:39:21, (+10:41), Harry Cowley, Chester RC, 2:46:10, (-15:48).

Phil Guy and I travelled down to South Wales to ride the National Vets 25 mile Championship. Not the best of day's weather-wise which was a great shame and reflected with two thirds of the field deciding not to race. Anyway we raced with Phil doing 1:00:24 (+12:20) with myself doing a 1:06:37 (+6:07). Nothing unusual, par for the course.

Beginning of August, Phil and I had been out for a ride and when I got home, the result sheet for the Vets Championship was waiting for me. I opened it, checked my time and I was still no faster and put it down. Not long after Phil texted me to ask if I had the result sheet. Sent him one back saying yes and shame about the non starters. Casually I picked up the result sheet again and there I was, in all my splendour on the front page, in full racing trim. Excitedly I said to my wife, "I'm on the front page of the result sheet", I quickly showed it to her but for some reason, she didn't quite share my enthusiasm. Then I thought, why me, why has Jim Burgin put me on the front page, I don't pull any trees up in the cycling world. Why did Jim pick me? Then vanity took over again, I don't care, I'm taking it. Still excited, I texted Phil back, I can't believe it, I'm on the front page. To which he replied, it's not you, it's me. Both of us thought we had made the front cover when Jim had put each individual rider's photo on their result sheet. I'm pretty sure others would have thought the same. Never even made my fifteen minutes of fame!

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## North Midlands

*Alex Deck*

Since the last report back in July our members have ridden dozens of events all over the country, setting pb's and age records along the way. Here are just a few highlights - read more on our website <http://vttanorthmidlands.co.uk>

**VTTA National 10** - Nine North Mids riders rode this and afterwards I was thinking how interesting it would be to see how the proposed "group team" rather than a "club team" award would



Chris Melia

**Championship 24hr** but Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Wheelers) rode the **CTT National 24hr**, (I wonder if this is a reflection of how some young vets see themselves, ie not 'really' vets yet...?) clocking an amazing 453.38m in a rain-soaked event, breaking Christine Minto's 45 year old club record by 25 miles and coming 3rd on standard. He's still recovering by all accounts.

#### **North Midlands TT champs**

Although not a vets event, lots of our members compete in this, on a testing 29km rolling course near Hemsworth. Once again Trevor Mayne proved his worth, coming 5th overall in a strong field, with Daryl May (Sheffrec CC) at 9th, Alan Cooke (Peak RC) 11th, Michael Dodson (Bolsover & District CC) 15th, Craig Devonshire (Bolsover & District CC) 22nd, Graham Huck (Doncaster Wheelers) 28th and Janice MacWilliam (Bolsover & District CC) 31st. Alex Deck won the women's event for the 5th year in succession.

#### **North Midlands time trial series**

Once again, not a vets-specific event but a very popular series in the district. Now split into three competitions - single carriageway, sporting, and hill climbs. The first two have concluded, with vet Alex Deck winning both for the women. More info at <http://northmidlandstimetrialseries.org>

#### **Age records**

Congratulations to all our members who have achieved age records this year:

- 10m - Mick Allen (age 68) 20:33
- 10m - Alex Deck (age 48) 21:47
- 10m - Chris Melia (age 51) 22:33
- 10m - Andy Newham (age 42) 24:39 (trike)
- 15m - Tony Keyworth (age 68) 35:37
- 15m - Wayne Fuller (age 70) 36:05
- 15m - John Smith (age 70) 39:08
- 25m - Chris Ledger (age 53) 51:48
- 25m - Chris Melia (age 51) 55:59
- 25m - Andy Newham (age 42) 1:05:28 (trike)
- 50m - Chris Melia (age 51) 1:59:12
- 50m - Karen Ledger (age 42) 1:55:58
- 50m - Andy Newham (age 42) 2:09:19 (trike)
- 100m - Andy Newham (age 42) 4:51:04

**Unfortunately there were a couple of lowlights too:**

Graham Huck (Doncaster Wheelers) was

have worked out.

**National 10** - Alex Deck (Langsett Cycles RT) - 2nd in the Vet B age category with 24:49

**National 50** - Karen Ledger (Langsett Cycles RT) - 1st in Vet A age category with 2:04:39

**VTTA National 50** - Joe Le Sage (Rutland CC) - 41st on standard with +24:31

**National 100** - Chris Ledger (Langsett Cycles RT) 4:11:43 (56th), Karen Ledger 4:22:54 (8th woman); Andy Newham won the trike event with 4:51:04.

**Team Swift 12hr** - Chris Ledger - 7th overall, 259.17m; Joe Le Sage 10th overall, 253.75m - both brilliant efforts in this gruella.

We didn't have any riders in the **VTTA**

knocked off during our group 25 on the A1. He sustained a broken pelvis, collar bone, ribs and collapsed lung.

Steve Cook (Lindsey Roads Club) was hit by a car in August and sustained similarly grim injuries, breaking his back in two places, his leg and several ribs, together with a smashed chest bone and a punctured lung.

Both are doing as well as can be expected but recovery will be slow. We really do wish them the very best.

As always, check out our website for regular updates <http://vttanorthmidlands.co.uk> or follow us on Twitter at @VTTANorthMids.



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## **Notts and East Midlands**

*David Herd*

Well the time-trialing season is coming to an end. It must be an age thing, as I go slower the season goes quicker.

I am pleased to report we have a number of new and rejoining members. So welcome to Chris

Close and David Ashley, Sleaford Wheelers CC, Louise Day, Team Swift, Ann Staley, Mercia CC, Paul Martin, South Pennine, Michael Wilkinson, North Notts Olympic, Simon Cooper, Notts. Clarion, Phil Gray, Blest-Beeston RC, Craig Lamb, Alford CC, Mark Morgan, Derby Mercury, Dale Norris, Leicester Forest CC, Simon Parkin, Belper BC, Ashley Roue and Dael Sidwell, Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT, and Phillip Warton, Leicester Forest CC.

I try to include all members in my reports but I realise I sometimes do miss some of the NEM rider's endeavours. I would like to assure everyone that this not intentional and I am sorry if I have not included you in the event summary, particularly if you have ridden a fast time or a personal best. If you have ridden a good time, especially if the course is out of the region or in a National event, please drop me an Email [herd@gripper.demon.co.uk](mailto:herd@gripper.demon.co.uk). I do apologise for not including a number of NEM group rider's times in the last issue of the *Veteran* for the City Road Club event on 16 May.

Lincolnshire RRA 10 held on 17 May was won by senior Alexander Coleman, Arrow Cycles, in 20:25 with Ian Dalton, Cherry Valley RT, the first NEM Group Member on 20:43 +06:36, Gary Symons, Witham Wheelers CC 21:59 +03:55 with team mate Rick Yates 22:25 +04:55. Ian Pike, Fenland RC 22:41 +04:13, new member Craig Lamb, Alford Wheelers CC 23:01 +03:41, David Smith, Sleaford Wheelers CC 23:39 +06:51, Tony Hardenberg, Witham Wheelers CC 24:49 +05:56, John Needham, Alford Wheelers 25:25 (with the best plus of the day of +07:05), Dave Pike, Sleaford Wheelers CC 25:57 +06:33 and Kathryn Smith, Sleaford Wheelers CC 26:30 +05:30.

The Mapperley CC 10, on 23 May, took place on the Cograve course on quite a windy but dry day. Matt Bottrill was fastest on 19:26 with fastest vet and first NEM member Ian Guilor from the promoting club on 21:01. Ian also headed the winning Mapperley CC team of three with his team mates Russell Jelly, 21:30 and Shaun Eden, 21:47. Other top 20 times: Ian Dalton came in on 21:31, Geoff Platts, 21: 42, Jim Boyle, 21:50 and Guy Webster, 22:29

BDCV/VTTA 23 mile on 24 May promoted by Stafford Road Club.

This was won by Charles Tayler recording 48:17. NEM group rider Mick Wills, Hinckley CRC, 55:09 +08:28, team mate Steve Loraine, 58:04 +06:00 and David Fear 1:04:59 +02:09.

Witham Wheelers CC 10 on 6 June was blighted by strong cross winds on the Sleaford-Osbourne course. James Perkins of Team Zenith GC was fastest with 20:59, the first NEM Group rider was Jim Boyle, 21:54, with the promoting club's Gary Symons, 22:34, Simon Inman, 24:35 and Tony Hardenberg, 26:00. Louise Day with 26:22 was just pipped from being fastest woman by Louise George who finished with 26:22. The windy conditions on the day were such that the VTTA (North Mids) 25 due to be held on the A25/25 later that evening was unfortunately cancelled.

The Leicester Forest CC 25 on 13 June was won by senior Adam Gascoigne in 49:44. NEM group member Nick Cave finished in third place with 51:28 +16:22 with Ian Guilor fourth on 52:21 +15:05. New member Dale Norris, Leicester Forest CC, 56:11 +11:27, Nev Bray 1:01:08 +12:29, Bryan Fenwick 1:06:16 +06:54 and Colin Spurr 1:12:26 +03:17.

Lincolnshire RRA 50 - 13 June

Held in wet conditions on a part flat, part undulating course

Joel Wainman	1:50:48 +27:15
Ian Dalton	1:57:06 +29:26
Chris Ward	1:59:18 +27:14
Martin Hedley	2:13:06 +13:27
David Smith	2:13:15 +30:35
Kathryn Smith	2:22:36 +27:23
Chris Close (promoter)	2:24:44 +14:19

Lindsey Roads CC 10 on 20 June attracted a small field with Adam Gascoigne fastest on 20:35, Ian Dalton on 21:47 and John Needham 25:23.

The Walsall RC 25, held on the Etwell Course 20J, gave preference to BDCA Clubs and produced some fast times with Matt Bottrill coming in on a blistering 46:30. The fastest NEM Group member was Mapperley's Ian Guilor on 50:39. Ashley Roue followed on 52:10 with team mate Ian Wroblewski on 54:06. Mark McCartney 54:57, Wayne Hughes 55:26 with team mate Steve Loraine 57:03 and on the same time Nigel Finch. Graham Green had a good ride on 58:34

and last rider to go under the hour was Jo Corbett on 59:53. A very good ride for Ron Hallam, 1:03:21, with David York 1:05:50, Anne Staley 1:05:50 and Ken Stevens 1:07:19.

Two NEM Group members were placed in the top six in Spalding CC's 25 held on 21 June. Chris Ward riding for the promoting club was placed 3rd overall with 56:19; Ian Pike recorded 58:14. The fastest man on the day was also from the promoting club, veteran Neil Palmer on 55:33. Fastest woman on the day was Louise Day 1:06:49. Team mates Tony Hardenberg (20) Martin Lister (22) from Witham Wheelers CC came at 1:07:34 and 1:09:30 respectively with Dave Pike of Sleaford Wheelers CC on 01:12:18.

James Perkins was fastest in Hinckley CRC 25 held on 21 June with 53:51. Other times; Colin Parkinson, 58:53, Dale Norris, 1:01:44, Richard Smith 1:02:05 and Steve Radmall 1:03:28.

The BDCA 50 mile 'A' event of 30 riders held on 27 June on the Etwell-Blythe Bridge course produced some fast times with senior Russell Jelly coming in first top group with 1:49:24. NEM Group rider's times: Nigel Briggs 2:04:08, Michael Wilkinson 2:07:24 and Ron Hallam 2:17:01. In the 'B' group event Matt Bottrill was fastest with an amazing 1:35:54 with Steve Howgill the only NEM group member riding in this section on 1:55:33 with Paul Mabletoft 1:56:32.

The Belper BC 25 on 4 July, held on the Etwell course, attracted a full field but there appeared to be a significant number of DNSs. Matt Bottrill was fastest 46:38, Ian Guilor was placed 22nd and was the first NEM group member home with 51:25. Dale Sidwell did 52:27. Then came a group of three NEM riders: Mick Wills (54:18), Colin Parkinson (54:34) and Neil Taylor (54:38). Others - Steven Howgill (56:13), Guy Webster (56:29). Fastest woman was VTTA National Secretary, Rachael Elliott (53:56) with Louise Day 1:00:52, team mate Jo Corbett 1:01:28 and Anne Staley 1:05:20.

Witham Wheelers CC promoted their first 25 mile TT for ten years using the undulating C25/34 going from Sleaford- Osbourne-Grantham and return with Tony Hardenberg as race secretary. Neil Palmer was fastest with 54:53 +11:58, with his fellow club mate, Chris Ward recording 55:33

+12:17. Gary Symons from the promoting club came in on 58:34 +07:52, David Smith 1:04:01 +07:35, Martin Hedley 1:08:17 -00:27, Chris Close 1:09:27 +02:09, Martin Lister 1:10:14 +00:43 and Dave Pike 1:11:29 +03:29.

Sherwood CC 10 held on 11 July

The Long Bennington – Gonerby Island course with a slight cross wind proved quite quick for the majority of riders’

Lee Tunniceff	19:34
Geoff Platts	20:32
Andrew Tomkins	20:45
Ashley Roue	20:51
Ian Pike	21:03
Mick Wells,	21:42
Guy Webster	21:44
Paul Mapletoft	21:49
Steve Howgill,	22:00
Mark McCartney	22:11
David Smith	22:41
Steve Loraine	22:42
Craig Lamb	22:45
Martin Hedley	23:05
Russell Gent	23:14
Jeff Bowler	23:29
Jo Corbett	23:54
Team Swift	24:06
Tony Hardenberg	24:15
Martin Lister	24:21
Bryan Fenwick	25:03
Kathryn Smith	25:07
David York	25:47
Mick Davis	25:55
Ron Hallam	26:09

VTTA (North Midlands) 25 : 18 July

Course Carlton – Long Bennington Course

Antony Bromley	51:22
Nick Cave	52:49 +15:01
Phil Raynor	55:01 +13:01
Mick Wells	55:49 +13:30
Karen Ledger	57:58 +13:45
Jo Corbett	1:01:04 +14:39
Louise Day	1:02:33 +12:20
Kathryn Smith	1:06:59 +09:21
Gill Henshaw	1:16:32 +12:19
Paul Mapletoft	57:28 +10:46
Mark McCartney	57:44 +09:54
Steve Howgill	57:53 +10:21
Craig Lamb	59::23 +07:52

David Smith	1:00:03 +11:33
Michael Wilkinson	1:00:41 +08:24
John Needham	1:03:18 +11:51
Tony Hardenberg	1:04:11 +07:47
Ron Hallam	1:05:37 +19:55
Bryan Fenwick	1:08:00 +05:10

On the following Sunday morning (19 July)

Sleaford Wheelers CC ran their annual Nev Crane Memorial 25 with 108 entries. Matt Bottrill took his 4th win in four visits to the event with 50:03 which was 10 seconds outside his own course and event record. NEM group members in the top twenty: Ian Guilder 55:14, Ian Dalton 57:10 and Ian Pike 57:36.

The Melton Olympic CC 25 held on 25 July using the Farndon to Stragglethorpe course attracted a full field with James Perkin fastest on 51:30. NEM Group members Chris Ward 52:57, Nick Cave 53:06, Geoff Platts 54:10, Mick Wills 54:42. Louise Day was 2nd fastest woman with 1:02:25 with team mate Jo Corbett 3rd fastest on 1:03:01. Russell Gent won the 70-79 section just going over the hour with 1:00:33 and Ron Hallam taking the 80+ award on 1:06:18.

For those of you who don't know, there is always great benefit in studying the course details before you start. I have certainly learnt this lesson for the first time when I went off course by going straight on at the Elston traffic island. This route adds distance and drags up quite a lot. Geoff Platts was set off one minute behind me but I didn't know until back at HQ why he didn't catch me. I have since been subject to much ridicule and cruel jokes and I am now having to go under therapy and counselling.

It is my sad duty to inform you that Dave Pike (Sleaford Wheelers CC) died suddenly as a result of a heart attack on the 13 August. Our condolences and good wishes go to all of his family.

## South Wales

*Barry Williams*

The early part of August generally sees some fine warm weather, which reminds me of my youthful cycling days in the 1950s, when August Bank Holiday was the first Monday in the month.

Our club, Cardiff 100 Miles always enjoyed that Bank holiday weekend at the Bath Road Club's 100 Mile Time Trial. The Milers had two riders who qualified to compete in this blue ribbon event, Ken Price and Bob Vaughan, for the rest of us, well, we carried the team drinks, sponges and had fun. The finish in Pangbourne Lane was absolutely packed with club cyclists from all parts of the country. The Bath Road 100 was a unique in those days when cycling was something of a Cinderella sport, in getting a mention on the national news back pages. I can remember being a spectator when in 1956 Ray Booty emerged from the mist to post the first under 4 hours 100 record in 3:58:28, an awesome result at the time.

The previous year's event was held in hot sunny weather and after the race, a large crowd of us gravitated to Pangbourne meadow by the Thames, where a really funny event occurred. A group from the Westerley Road Club were enjoying a swim in the river, which annoyed a few fishermen who yelled some abusive language in their direction; next, one of the fishermen was pulled into the river, causing the others to attack our friend from the Westerley Road Club, without realising that the meadow was packed with cyclists, relaxing after the race. These fishermen, heavily outnumbered by the fun loving club cyclists, were thrown into the Thames together with rods, lines and equipment. For me, a teenager, it was a fantastic funny memory from a sunny day 60 years ago. Looking back, I guess being thrown in the river was tough on the fishermen, but I have to say it was a typical club cyclists jape of that era.

Back in the present, due to age, plus a viral infection, I have missed many recent events. Checking the results I see that members of VTTA South Wales Area have produced some commendable performances, none better than Paul Gamlin, Northover Vets, in the National 100 Championship. Paul made it on to the national podium with a brilliant 3:38:41, in terms of vet on standard he was +70:45, from which, he also takes our 100 cup for 2015 by a large margin, well done Paul. In the same 100 Championship, I would commend Andrea Parish, 4:31:12 +45:46 and Steve Madeley 4:34:32 +26:25 for producing

sterling efforts in a competitive field. Paul Griffiths never gives up and completed the course, posting 5:25:17.

There was a battle royal for our 50 cup in the Cardiff 100 Miles RCC, 50 on August 2nd. Our cups are awarded on standard and some 80 seconds covered the top four finishers. Simon Wix, 1:56:10. +24:44, Dave Brice 1:57:13, +24:36, John Shehan 2:07:08, +23:59 and Andrea Parish 2:06:30, +23:17, very close with Simon from Worcester St Johns winning the South Wales VTTA 50 Cup by the narrowest of margins, just 8 seconds.

For 25 miles we have the Cambridge Cup, which was run in conjunction with the Ross on Wye & District 25 on Sunday July 12th. On this occasion we have a woman cup winner, Sue Shook posted 1:02:10 +12:59 ahead of Hugh Davies +11:10. Others who made the journey to sunny Monmouthshire were Gerard Oram 1:00:10, Mike Broadbent 1:00:15, last year's winner, Paul Durrant 1:02:55 and Clare Greenwood 1:03:30.

The Welsh 12 Hour Championships were held over the mid-summer weekend, conditions suited young Joe Beech, who clocked 271.35 miles. Joe is third generation of a famous Cardiff cycling family, his grandfather Dave organised the South Wales 12 over many years, while his father, Richard, is still producing some top ranking time trial results. Sadly, Dave is no longer with us, because he would have really enjoyed watching Joe win his 12. Diccon Hill, Cardiff 100 Miles posted 236.6, but Bob Jones, also from the Milers took our 12 hour Cup with 228.29 +47.12. Congratulations Bob! There was one other finisher among our members, Paul Griffiths finished with 186.18 a plus of 0.01 miles, another unusual statistic which should please the standards committee.

South Wales hosted this year's VTTA National 25 Championship on Sunday, July 26th. Overall we had experienced a long dry interlude, but this particular event clashed with the first serious low pressure system of the summer and the venue, Neath Valley was right in the firing line for a cold wet morning. The event was conducted in heavy rain with the temperature never reaching 10c, therefore, it was hardly surprising that from a field



of 150, 94 went DNS. Sixty-seven started and of those, only one went DNF; perhaps, once soaked, competitors had little option other than to finish. All those who rode were heroes, the winner Derek Stewart aged 79 was truly astonishing. He had driven down from Aberdeen, almost 500 miles, then produced a time of 59.40 in tough conditions that saw most riders at least 90 seconds down on average. His 88 second lead over eternal second, Brian Sunter, another excellent ride, was special, but the lead on standard over third placed Gavin Hinxman extended to over four minutes – Derek, if you read this contribution, congratulations from all of us in South Wales.

I would conclude by thanking Jim Burgin for organising this event, I heard that at least he enjoyed a dinner down in the Mumbles, hopefully, that made up for the inclement weather. I would also thank Bob Jones and Robin Field for marking the course out on Saturday and providing great support on the day. Also Tony Howell, Ogmore Valley Wheelers, assistant time keeper and my friends Keith Morgan and Gareth Jones for two hour marshalling stints in that rain storm, which cannot have been much fun. I think at least seven competitors should offer special thanks to Keith for stopping them going off course on the Tonna/Aberdulais roundabout at the bottom turn.

VTTA South Wales needs members prepared to help out with the administration, to run a presentation dinner distributing our six trophies, all won by different members this season – Anyone interested? Please telephone or email me, contact details under South Wales in this magazine.

Safe cycling to all our readers.

***A note from the Editor:***

**Barry also made an enormous contribution to the Championship 25 – thank you Barry**

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## **West**

*Brian Griffiths*

The days of autumn are already beginning to appear on the horizon. The summer has passed so quickly and the good weather has been so

intermittent, with seemingly little or no respite from the wind, which has been so troublesome most of the time.

Early in June our Chairman Brian Barraclough and I noted a new interesting cycling event taking place near Yeovil. So off we went to Filton airfield to find out what it was all about. It was run by the Shaun Childs for the Royal Navy. The event consisted of a three mile prologue time trial, followed by a much longer 21 mile two-up time trial and ended with a handicap pursuit race.

The events were held on the wide and well surfaced perimeter track of the airfield, and so it was good from the spectator point of view. Especially as from the headquarters and car park it was possible to watch the progress of the riders most of the way round the circuit. Though it would help to have a good pair of binoculars with you.

The idea of such an event run under such safe conditions certainly does have possibilities and might be worth considering, when we seem to have so much trouble finding suitable courses on our busy roads.

Not being an ardent web user I have not seen or heard very much of local riders' performances to report to you, but if you have anything useful for me I am usually available to contact and would be most interested. Two 10 mile events that I have ridden locally were both won by Bob Pears who seems to win these short events with almost relentless frequency.

On my annual trip to the Mersey Roads 24 to help out with the overnight marshalling, I was pleasantly surprised to see the size of the field with some interesting new names taking their chance on these longer rides. Perhaps many of them were AUK members riding to qualify for the Paris-Brest-Paris but it all helps to swell the numbers.

I was hoping to witness another brilliant ride by Ray Retter but unfortunately things were obviously not going well for him and he retired late in the evening. There was lots of rain and wind during the night but this normally would not bother him unduly. The trouble with 24 hour events is that there is normally only one each year so that despite all the time and labour

intensive preparations, you usually only get one chance and if you miss it, that's it until next year.

100 miles in 3:18:54 is truly incredible. I still can't quite believe that someone could take such a big chunk off the current 100 mile record. I do not intend to question the validity of this ride, as no doubt this has already been done, but it really does seem almost too good to be true. How long do we have to wait before someone gets anywhere near it?

Congratulations to Chris Froome on a very noteworthy Tour de France performance. A very entertaining and close battle all the way! Personally I have no doubt at all that he is clean and having run my eye over some of his performance statistics I have to believe that he really is an exceptional athlete. Just as pleasing to me is his gentlemanly conduct in dealing with his detractors, who have given him quite a trying time.

There will always be cheats, but in cycling we have certainly led the way for some time in drug testing. If only other sports like football, tennis and athletics would apply the same techniques and standards. Accurate tests cost a lot of money but it is money well spent even if it only protects people from damaging themselves. We will never stay ahead of performance enhancing technology, but the very least we can do is weed out the perpetrators and their advisors when we can, and really punish those who can be proven to have deliberately used illegal methods as well as those who have supplied or recommended them.

The sad thing is that there appear to be an increasing number of smart-alec lawyers waiting in the wings ready to make a quick buck defending their guilty clients with their highly developed theatrical skills.

I hope we might just get a bit of an Indian summer to help compensate for the irregular weather patterns we have suffered so far. This will round up the season very nicely.

Oh! If you have any Christmassy stories, our WestVet editor Mike Jupp would probably like to hear from you for a forthcoming magazine.

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## Scotland

*James Skinner*

The Aberdeen Wheelers 10 in June was postponed for a couple of hours due to an accident shortly before the start, but when racing commenced SVTTA rider Davie Miller showed some good form with a 22:16 earning him 3rd place.

The following letter was received from the organiser

*All*

*A bit of an eventful day. Having moved this race from its usual September slot after being thwarted by the weather a couple of times over the last few years, I was gutted to see the rain this morning. Having got my head around this, I then heard about the accident a short distance before the finish line which had closed the road. Having gone to the crash scene and talked to the Police, they had thought the road would be open by 11:00, so, we planned to start then. However, the tow trucks were late arriving and we eventually got the go-ahead for 11:30. Thanks for bearing with me, it was a very long day for you guys, but I'm sure those who raced appreciated you staying back to help. I have spoken to John Ure (Aberdeen Wheelers) who was in one of the cars involved in the accident whilst on his way to the race. He is suffering from a bit of shock, but luckily has no serious injuries. A Nissan Almera travelling in the opposite direction had lost control on a bend and ended up running head on into John. John tells me that the engine from the Almera ended up in a field some distance away, so, I think they were both very fortunate as it could have been much worse.*

*Colin*

Thoughts go out for Malcolm McLachlan (Denny Road Club) who passed away on the 22nd of June; Malcolm was a commissaire in the Mid District with over 30 years service to cycling.

Hislop Dickson, Ivy CC, suffered a nasty accident back in May when making his way to meet up with his cycling friends at Lochwinnoch. This resulted in spending nine days in Paisley Royal Alexander Hospital with a number of broken ribs and damage to his sternum.

A couple of days later in the same area, Steve and Sharon Flindall were knocked off their motorbike sustaining some serious broken bones but no head or spinal injuries. Both spent substantial time in Crosshouse hospital recovering.

The Scottish group welcomes the following new members.

Charles Adams - VC Glasgow South.  
Nigel Brooks - Stirling BC.  
David Kirton, Kennoway RC.  
Joe Shaw - Falkirk BC.  
Miss Sandra Tulloch - Leslie Bike Shop/ Bikers Boutique.  
Neil J Milton - Auchencrow Thistle,  
Mrs Joyce Smith – Falkirk BC  
Alan Crosbie – Pedal Power  
Liam Farrell - SVTTA

The following are Group members who have qualified for National Honorary Life membership in 2015, John Marshall, Dundee Wheelers; Mrs. Johan Thayne, Glasgow Wheelers; Jim Mullholland and Jock Milne, SVTTA Racing.

Competing in the Alistair Speed 50 mile TT was Derek Stewart, at age 78, returning a time of 2:15:38, to win the Harry Roberts 50TT Trophy on Standard with a +29:19, beating last year's winner Iain Grant by a margin of +2:27. Ian however, won the Open event with a time of 1:50:49. The Group's Team Award went to Christine McLean, +23:12 and Carlos Riise, +22:43, Shetland Wheelers, giving an aggregate Standard time of +45:55, beating Deeside Thistle's duo of Stewart Mitchell and Derek Stewart's time of +44:50. In total, there were 30 Group members taking part in the event, of which, seven were new members to the Group. It was good to see one of the new members, Miss Sandra Tulloch of Leslie Bike Shop/Bikers Boutique making her first appearance and finishing with a +4:52.

Derek McMillan (St Christopher's CC) is this year's winner of the Jacky Connor Road Race Trophy, which was run in conjunction with the Falkirk BC/Tom Anderson Memorial Road Race, while Robert Regan won the Jim Lyon Trophy in the same event

Derek Stewart added to his National 10 title when

he won the VTTA National 25 Championships on a wet and windy South Wales course riding a 59:40 giving him a +20:22. Second place went to Brian Sunter with a +18:58

Derek also won the Pinky Williams 30 on Standard, his 1:16:07 giving a plus of 20:47. Twenty-seven veteran riders took part in a field of 40. Not only was the weather against this event, the organiser discovered two sets of traffic lights on different parts of course three days before the event. After measuring a new course on the Friday, the offending lights were taken down, leaving riders to battle the numerous large puddles on the original course. Six DNS and one DNF. Poor David Baird came down on an oily patch and went home with a few bumps and scratches. Hope they all heal well David.

Dundee Thistle Road Club ran a 10 on the Moniefieth course near Dundee, and that man again Derek Stewart was the fastest SVTTA member with a 25:06, which makes you think this course might be worth trying out.

The second 15 of this year was in Fife, using part of the popular Freuchie 25 mile course. Twelve SVTTA members were present in a field of over 50, with Graham Barclay - Leslie Bike Shop/ Bikers Boutique taking 6th place overall with 36:08.

Seventeen SVTTA members took part in the Scottish 50 mile championship organised by Granite City RT with 17 DNS and 5 DNF. Jim Cusick rode a 1:55:26 to earn 5th place overall. Alan Thompson (Sandy Wallace Cycles) took overall victory with 1:50:28.

Kelso Wheelers hosted Round Three of the Border Trophy with their 10. Three SVTTA members rode with Neil Milton (Auchencrow Thistle) recording a 23:43, Douglas Kirkham 23:50, and the far travelled Mike Ferguson of Johnston Wheelers 25:11.

Two group members rode in the Skelly Trophy 50, organised by the Ross-shire Roads CC. Alasdair Washington (Caithness CC) did 2:16:23, and William Munro 2:10:48. Fastest on the day was Calum Finlayson, (Moray Firth CC) with a 1:51:13. Calum recently recorded 3:48:39 in the RTTC 100 Championships.

Several group members have ventured south recently in search of courses. George Berwick achieved 264.16 miles in the Mersey Roads 24 hour event, and Graham Jones (Edinburgh RC) riding the Team Swift 12 hour event covered 236.85 miles.

Carlos Riise, Shetland Wheelers, took part in the Team Swift 100 finishing in 4:01:43.

Eddie Addis, Peebles CC, returned a time of 4:37:44 in the Stockton Wheelers 100.

George Skinner, trying out some new courses rode a 1:16:16 in the Border City Wheelers CC 25 at Southwaite on what was termed a sporting course: George also did 28:00 in the Border City Wheelers CC 10 near Tebay, and a couple of weeks later riding the Pendle Forrest 10 on the Levens course recorded 25:35, with son James riding a 24:20, on what the local riders were calling poor evening's conditions.

Jocky Johnstone also raced the Levens 10 course, riding in the DIY Wheelers charity event series finishing in a respectable 23:29.

As we go to print the West of Scotland Time Trial League enters its last couple of events. This series has been a huge success, focusing mainly on the Georgetown road 7.5 mile course, with

occasional events held on the A77 10 mile course.

The hard work put in by Stevie Blom and Willie Cosh every week will surely establish this series as the place to be on a Wednesday night, with over 120 riders taking part this year and 30-40 regular attendees

The series has attracted Infinity as a sponsor, Infinity are a premium car brand with a showroom located at Braehead.

The league is run under TLI rules, but is exploring several options for next year Whether it be British Cycling, CTT or TLI, be sure and keep an eye on the Paisley Velo website for updates.

Sunday 4th October is the date for the Tour De Trossachs, a 28.5 mile Mountain TT incorporating the Bill Lennon Trophy, organised by Janette Hazlett, this classic time trial makes a good end of season event whether riding or watching

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

## Midlands and Echelon Cycles 25

22 August 2015

### Actual

Jon Simpkins	www.drag2zero.com	51.48
Tom Ward	Team Echelon Rotor	52.06
Stephen Vanes	Wyre Forest CRC	53.14
Tim Wood	Team Echelon Rotor	54.47
Jason Haynes	Leamington C&AC	54.52

### Standard

Richard Coleman	Stourbridge Velo	13.24
Karl Moseley	Stourbridge Velo	13.15
Annis Moore	Walsall Roads CC	13.05
Justin Walters	Wyre Forest CRC	11.54
Phil Brown	Walsall Roads CC	11.49

## Midland

*Miranda Harris*

This year there were a few newcomers to the Midlands VTTA trophy winners including Annis Moore from Walsall RRC who won the VTTA 25 mile Bricknell Cup (Best on Standard) and from Stourbridge Velo, on the same course, Richard Coleman claimed the Billy Steer Cup (also BOS) with club mate Karl Moseley taking home the Williams Rose Bowl on the VTTA 10. Stefan

Harrison, Lutterworth CC was BOS at the Echelon 10, which gave him the Birks Cup. Mark Corbett, representing Worcester St Johns CC, a winner from 2014, did the double winning the Victory 'Handicap' and the Stokes 'Fastest' Cup on the Shirley RC 50 mile time trial. Another winner from last year was Joe Costello, Walsall RC who also had success at the Shirley 50 with a BOS, in the Wells Cup.

### VTTA Trophy Winners 2015

Williams Rose Bowl	VTTA 10	Karl Moseley	Stourbridge Velo	+5:09
Wells Cup	Shirley RC 50	Joe Costello	Walsall RRC	+28:46
Victory Cup	Shirley RC 50	Mark Corbett	Worcester St Johns CC	1:37:03
Stokes Cup	Shirley RC 50	Mark Corbett	Worcester St Johns CC	1:48:43
Bart Cup	Hinckley CRC 25	Dave Schofield	Newton Leisure Lakes Bikes	47:02
Birks Cup	Echelon 10	Stefan Harrison	Lutterworth CC	+6:03
Billy Steer Cup	VTTA 25	Richard Coleman	Stourbridge Velo	+13:24
Bricknell Cup	VTTA 25	Annis Moore	Walsall RRC	+13:05

### VTTA Midlands and Echelon Cycles OPEN 25 MILE TIME TRIAL – K33/25S Saturday 22nd August 2015

A sunny afternoon produced some very fast times, as well as a few incidents, which unfortunately clouded the day. On actual fastest it was another fine win for Jon Simpkins [www.drag2zero.com](http://www.drag2zero.com) (51.48) chased by Tom Ward, Team Echelon Rotor (52.06) and Stephen Vanes, Wyre Forest CRC (53.14). On standard, first prize went to Richard Coleman (+13.24) with Karl Moseley (+13.15) in second (both representing Stourbridge Velo) and Annis Moore (13.05), from Walsall Roads CC in third.

In total 32 out of 56 riders were part of the Midlands Group. The results contributed to the season-long Points Series for VTTA members sponsored by Echelon Cycles, based on the Midlands ranking system, which draws to a conclusion this month.

Once again riders would like to thank Echelon Cycles and Tim Wood (fourth overall with 54.47) for their continued sponsorship. Many thanks to the officials, Bob Franks, Charlie Barnett and Steve Lockwood and catering team Jan and Daphne, VTTA Committee members and their wives, and other friends for generously giving of their time to ensure an enjoyable event, and thanks in particular to the Midlands Group Chairman, Andrew Simpkins who organised the event.

Despite best efforts, this was not uneventful and due to the serious incidents that occurred during the event, the Chairman has since reminded all riders of the importance of riding safely and considerably, not just for their own safety as well as other road users, but also to ensure there are no grounds for complaint from anyone, which may jeopardise the future of races on the open road. After much discussion with the Committee, it has been decided to run this race on a Sunday morning instead of a Saturday afternoon next year.

*Results on page 35*

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## The Championships



### Championship 24—Result

First	Paul Jackson	In-Gear Quickfit	Surrey/Sussex	+133.53
Second	Stuart Edwards	RN&RM CA	Surrey/Sussex	+118.33
Third	Trevor Mayne	Birdwell Wheelers	North Midlands	+115.32
Team	Stuart Edwards		Surrey/Sussex	
	Garry Drew	RN&RM CA	West	+277.96
	Bob Richards		West	
Tandem	Jane Moore Mark Brooking	Willesden CC	London & Home Counties	+020.97

Paul	Jackson	In-Gear Quickfit Trainsharp RT	Surrey/Sussex	477.48	+133.53
Stuart	Edwards	RN&RM CA	Surrey/Sussex	459.34	+118.33
Trevor	Maine	Birdwell Wheelers	North Midlands	453.38	+115.32
Edgar	Reynolds	Congleton CC	Manchester & North West	384.21	+104.77
Garry	Drew	RN&RM CA	West	444.75	+103.74
Lynne	Biddulph	Born to Bike	Midlands	412.45	+092.85
Nigel	Briggs	South Pennine RC	Nottingham & East Midlands	386.91	+057.92
Dean	Madden	Barnesbury CC	North	415.97	+056.92
Bob	Richards	RN&RM CA	West	375.23	+055.89
George	Berwick	Edinburgh RC	Scotland	264.16	+022.78
Dave	Pemberton	Born to Bike	Midlands	353.44	+006.55
Ian	Crosby	Berkhamstead CC	London & Home Counties	322.85	-015.21

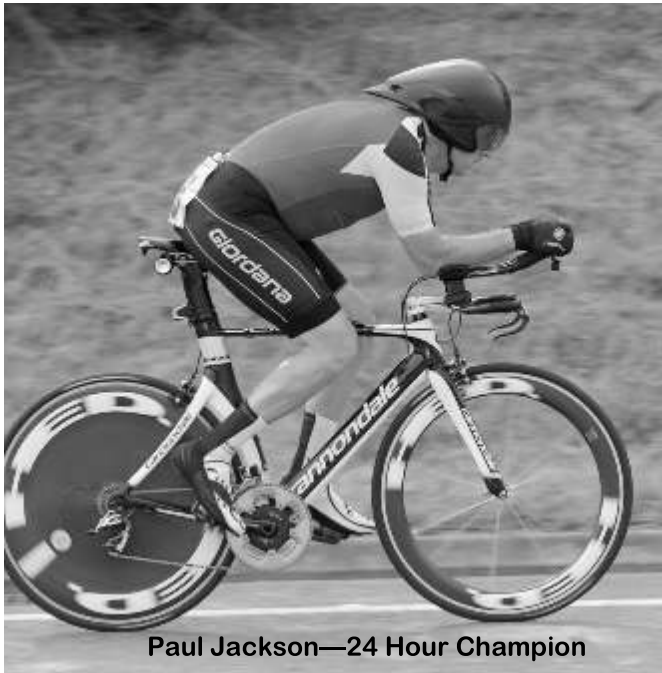
#### TANDEM

Jane	Moore	Willesden CC	London & Home Counties	347.95	+020.97
Mark	Brooking	Willesden CC	London & Home Counties	347.95	+020.97



## The National Championship 24

*Alan Colburn*



**Paul Jackson—24 Hour Champion**

As has been the case so many times in the past, the Association's 24 hour Championship in 2015 was incorporated with the CTT National Championship, organised by the Mersey Roads Club under the management Jon Williams.

I joined the event on the morning of the second day and noted a very busy feeding/service station in the Prees area which seemed well organised; then I followed the route for some way along the A41.

Competitors were all behaving as they should and I was also pleased to see that practically each vehicle that overtook a rider did so with plenty of room to spare. There was

one overnight casualty where it was reported that a rider's front light fell off into his front wheel and there were several retirements during the heavy rain which fell for a few hours.

I arrived at the Farndon HQ at about 11am and met Jon who told me that things were under control and the all-important refreshment bar opened within a few minutes with its display of an excellent range of food and drinks.

Riders were already on the finishing circuit which ran past the HQ so there was a good crowd applauding their efforts and they responded with a range of acknowledgements ranging from a weary nod of the head to blowing kisses back at the crowd; although some of the leaders came through as if they were riding a 25, intent on the final mileage and oblivious of the fans at the side of the road

Eventually finishers began to enter the HQ in various states of disrepair and the process of rehabilitation and the administration of TLC was started by the helpers.

Over the next few hours, more than a hundred people gathered to share experiences and a result sheet was circulated. After this was digested and then modified, the prize presentation for the CTT National was completed, during which I frantically set about producing the VTTA result. Having done so there were a couple of queries regarding proof of VTTA membership but it all came out in the wash and a delightful event came to a conclusion.

A poignant part of the day was the minute's silence to mark the unwarranted death of Don Lock of the Worthing Excelsior. A request by this recently deceased supporter of the Mersey 24 was carried out by the scattering of Don's ashes on part of the finishing circuit—an act which seemed entirely appropriate.

## The Championships



### 25 MILES—SUNDAY 26 JULY

With a field of 150, plus tandems, plus reserves, the hugely anticipated VTTA 25 Mile Championship with its promise of a multitude of PBs on course R25/3L fell victim to the weather forecasts which preceded the day. The event Secretary began to receive apologies from intended DNS from all parts of the United Kingdom as predictions of monsoon-like conditions were broadcast, announced and printed.

Arriving in Merthyr Tydfil on the Saturday before the big day, under cloudless skies and appreciative of the obvious efforts to turn this sometimes maligned part of the world into a tourist attraction, I was not greeted by the reception staff at the Castle Hotel because the bell didn't work. However, I did find a couple of Celtic Maidens who were perfectly civil towards this invading freeloader from England.

My room was acceptable, although the smell of lavatory cleaner was invasive and the imminent collapse of the toilet seat reminded me that I hadn't brought my tools with me. But this is not the place to report on the Welsh Hostelry—forgive me.

Bob Jones, who turned out to be an event organiser's salvation, met me in the lounge and initiated me into the complexities of Course R25/3L (although, to give him his due, Greg Lewis, at great expense and time, had treated me to a review of the ground several weeks before).

Later that same afternoon/evening, the said Greg Lewis collected me from the Castle Hotel and, along with Danuta Tinn and Andy Wright delivered us to a pre-booked restaurant in The Mumbles where the discussion centred on the intricacies of electric gear changing and the geographies of various courses on which personal bests might be achieved; during which I just enjoyed the best meal I had eaten in yonks and admired the view as the sun dropped down below the horizon, leaving its glow on the waters of Swansea Bay. Would Sunday produce such a vista?

Meanwhile Bob Jones and Robin Field were busily placing many, many signs along the roundabouts and junctions of the A465.

The day began with grey, black skies and light rain which increased as Robin set his watch and Bob, attired from head to foot in 'hi-vis' kit, complete with leeks protruding from each arm, prepared himself to push off those who didn't listen to the weather forecast.

The result says it all; there were heroes and heroines (61 of them) and they are listed herewith. All of them who finished were furnished with ample tea and cakes and a result card which included each individual's photograph on the front cover.

A Championship made possible by Robin Field, Greg Lewis, Robert Jones, Barry Williams, Keith Morgan, Gareth Jones, Tony Howell, Carole Gandy and John Hawkrige and, of course, the 61 riders.

*Jim Burgin*

## Championship 25—Result

First	Derek Stewart	Deeside Thistle CC	+20:26
Second	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	+18:58
Third	Gavin Hinxman	Kettering CC	+16:17
Tandem	Chris Martin and Shaun Walsh	RNRMCA	+13:33
Team	David Brice David Wilson-Evans Mike Broadbent	Bynea CC	+32:47

Name	Club	Group	Actual	Standard
Derek	Stewart	Deeside Thistle	Scotland	0:59:40: 0:20:26
Brian	Sunter	Condor RC	Yorkshire	0:56:11: 0:18:58
Gavin	Hinxman	Kettering CC	East Anglian	0:51:09: 0:16:17
Chris	Scawn	Plymouth Corinthian CC	West	0:55:58: 0:15:38
Vincent	Jenkins	LeisureLakesBikes.com	Midlands	1:01:27: 0:15:32
Stephen	Potts	Somerset Road Club	West	0:54:28: 0:15:06
David	Hargreaves	North Lancs RC	North Lancashire & Lakes	0:58:16: 0:14:54
Peter	Lawrence	Team Swift	London & Home Counties	0:52:02: 0:14:37
Ray	Retter	North Devon Wheelers	West	0:59:02: 0:14:35
Danuta (W)	Tinn	Maidenhead & Dist CC	London & Home Counties	0:58:53: 0:14:35
Colin	Parkinson	South Western Road Club	Nottingham & East Mids	0:54:15: 0:14:24
Liz (W)	Powell	Mike Vaughan Cycles	Midlands	0:56:50: 0:14:24
Roger	Sewell	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Counties	0:58:47: 0:14:23
Gary	Stevens	St Ives CC	East Anglian	0:55:30: 0:14:19
Richard	Coleman	Stourbridge Velo	Midlands	0:56:20: 0:14:18
Matthew	Rowley	Oxonian CC	London & Home Counties	0:53:13: 0:14:13
John	Lacey	Hemel Hempstead CC	London & Home Counties	0:54:02: 0:14:12
Stuart	Stow	Twickenham CC	London & Home Counties	0:54:05: 0:13:57
John	Murphy	Gloucester City CC	West	1:03:11: 0:13:48
Stephen	Campbell	Twickenham CC	London & Home Counties	0:53:37: 0:13:38
Dael	Sidwell	Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT	Nottingham & East Mids	0:52:40: 0:13:33
Gerry	McGarr	Gloucester City CC	West	0:57:55: 0:13:21
David	Brice	Bynea Cycling Club	South Wales	0:55:38: 0:13:14
Clare (W)	Greenwood	Bush Healthcare CRT	South Wales	1:01:50: 0:13:03
Neil	Holden	Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT	Nottingham & East Mids	0:53:42: 0:12:57
Robert	Saunders	North Bucks RC	London & Home Counties	0:56:15: 0:12:50
Jeff	Roberts	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Counties	0:55:16: 0:12:46
Steve	Clarke	TMG Horizon Cycling Team	East Anglian	0:57:42: 0:12:39
Greg	Lewis	VC 10	London & Home Counties	0:55:53: 0:12:33
Wayne	Pitman	Fit to Ride	Wessex	0:54:02: 0:12:24
Geoff	Reynolds	Hemel Hempstead CC	London & Home Counties	0:55:27: 0:12:23
Paul	Smith	VeloRefined Aerosmiths	Kent	0:54:17: 0:12:22

Phil	Guy	North Shropshire Wheelers	Merseyside	1:00:24:	0:12:20
Susan (W)	Shook	Bush Healthcare CRT	South Wales	1:02:53:	0:12:16
Joanna (W)	Knight	Bristol South CC	West	1:02:32:	0:12:06
Thomas	Woollard	Northover Vets Team	Wessex	1:01:39:	0:11:58
Andrew	Barnes	Hillingdon CC	London & Home Counties	0:56:49:	0:11:50
Tim	Davies	Icknield RC	London & Home Counties	0:55:37:	0:11:49
Andrew	Halliday	Westerley Cycling Club	London & Home Counties	0:54:54:	0:11:45
Steve	Lorraine	Hinckley CRC	Midlands	0:58:33:	0:11:31
Chris	Massey	Cwmcarn Paragon RC	South Wales	0:55:17:	0:11:22
Cliff	Voller	Newbury RC	West	1:00:30:	0:11:06
Martin	Dickinson	Deal Tri	Kent	0:56:19:	0:10:32
David	Wilson-Evans	Bynea Cycling Club	South Wales	0:59:48:	0:10:01
Steven	Madeley	Ogmore Valley Wheelers	South Wales	0:59:04:	0:09:48
Mike	Broadbent	Bynea Cycling Club	South Wales	0:59:20:	0:09:32
Leon	Thompson	Ipswich Velo	East Anglian	0:59:08:	0:09:06
Mark	Williams	Port Talbot Wheelers CC	South Wales	1:00:16:	0:09:03
Daniel	Kempe	Bristol South CC	West	0:59:26:	0:08:24
Sergio	Henriques	Guernsey Velo Club	Wessex	0:58:49:	0:08:02
Dale	Jones	Bynea Cycling Club	South Wales	1:01:34:	0:06:16
Geoff	Edgerton	North Shropshire Wheelers	Merseyside	1:06:37:	0:06:07
Philip	Batch	Bynea Cycling Club	South Wales	1:04:23:	0:05:41
Peter	Murrieri	M&D Cycles/Fusion/Worx	South Wales	1:04:14:	0:05:05
Annette (W)	Lacey	Hemel Hempstead CC	London & Home Counties	1:09:03:	0:04:52
Paul	Griffiths	Cardiff Ajax	South Wales	1:07:50:	0:02:31

#### TANDEMS

Chris	Martin	Yeovil CC	West	0:51:53:	0:13:33
Shaun	Walsh	Yeovil CC	West	0:51:53:	0:13:33
Mark	Gorman	RNRMCA	West	0:55:36:	0:06:36
Bob	Richards	RNRMCA	West	0:55:36:	0:06:36



**Chris Martin & Shaun Walsh  
Tandem Champions at 25 Miles**

## The Championships



### 50 MILES—SUNDAY 9 AUGUST

Just two weeks earlier, contenders for the 25 mile championship hurtled along the A465 in South Wales—a dual carriageway with little traffic but a biting wind and drenching rain. Ahead of them, out and back, little but tarmac and leaden skies. The outcome of that one has been published and chewed over, providing food for thought as the 2016 programme is contemplated.

Just a fortnight later, the scene changed to a sunlit morning on another dual carriageway which, on this occasion, and in spite of the earlier start, was heaving with vehicles, going hell for leather, competing to arrive as fast as possible to wherever they were going.

In both events, turning points were of the variety which included ducking under the main road, going what appeared to be backwards to seek out a large roundabout which required each rider to find his or her way past a number of junctions in order to rejoin the route from whence they came. However, it has to be mentioned that this potential confusion was clarified somewhat by a myriad of arrows, plus altruistic individuals who, come rain or shine, indifferent to arriving at the crack of dawn, attempted to direct the riders, heads down and intent only retracing as fast as possible.

The plea for help didn't go unanswered but it was close. With just days to go, eight volunteers stepped forward and the two Jims slept a little sounder as the day approached.

It was a beautiful day to be venturing along the hectic A3 (no wonder events have to be off of it before 10.00 – the suck-blow must become enormous).

The result was spread over the age range with Brian Sunter, at 72 the winner, for the fourth year in succession, and accruing a total of six wins of this particular championship.

In second place was the Kent Group's Kevin Tye, at 53 the fastest but with a plus nearly four minutes smaller than Brian's.

Third was 49 year old Andrew Meilak, also from Kent and the youngest of the winning trio with a plus of 35:31.

The team medals went to David Shepherd, Ben Fielden and Richard Weatherstone of the GS Stella with a total plus of 1:26:54 and an average age of a little more than 58.

From a field of 77, seven failed to finish and ten didn't start.

A great success for Jim Gibb who should have been in training for his attempt at the Great North Run and a big thank you to Ian Austin, David Devine, Dave Loader, Dave Gaida, Ken Rayson, Andy Miles, Philip Morris, Lizzy Yates, Den Tapping, Lorna Wallis, Richard Weatherbed, Kathleen Collard-Berry and Norman Harvey.

*Jim Burgin*

## Championship 50—Result

First	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yorkshire	+44:46
Second	Kevin Tye	Velo Refined Areosmiths	Kent	+40:24
Third	Andrew Meilak	Velo Refined Areosmiths	Kent	+35:31
Team	David Shepherd Ben Fielden Richard Weatherstone	GS Stella	Surrey-Sussex	+86:54

Name	Club	Group	Actual	Plus
Brian Sunter	Condor Road Club	Yorkshire	1:50:57	44:46
Kevin Tye	VeloRefined Aerosmiths	Kent	1:40:57	40:24
Andrew Meilak	Velorefined Aerosmiths	Kent	1:44:03	35:31
Robert Gilmour	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Counties	1:53:37	34:14
Chris Scawn	Plymouth Corinthian CC	West	1:53:39	34:12
Mike O'Gorman	Worthing Excelsior CC	Surrey-Sussex	1:53:31	33:35
Lesley Walking	Velo Club St Raphael	Wessex	1:57:15	33:28
Charles Zanettacci	Cheltenham & County CC	West	1:47:40	33:14
Ricky Froud	Alton CC/Owens Cycles	London & Home Counties	1:45:07	33:11
David Shepherd	GS Stella	Surrey-Sussex	1:48:45	33:04
Steven Cottingham	Cadence RT	West	1:49:18	32:03
Steve Williamson	...a3crg	Wessex	1:45:25	32:01
Alan Murchison	Banjo Cycles.com	London & Home Counties	1:45:30	31:56
Alex Napier	Blazing Saddles	Surrey-Sussex	1:44:37	31:27
Colin Parkinson	South Western Road Club	Nottingham & East Mids	1:49:56	31:25
Cliff Rowe	Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers	Wessex	1:51:24	31:25
Ben Fielden	GS Stella	Surrey-Sussex	2:06:16	30:44
Alan Emmott	Fareham Whs	Wessex	2:00:57	30:21
Mick Wills	Hinckley CRC	Nottingham & East Mids	1:52:34	30:15
Nick Andrews	Portsmouth North End CC	Wessex	1:49:24	30:10
Dave Pickering	Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers	Wessex	1:49:34	30:00
Gerry McGarr	Gloucester City CC	West	1:57:39	29:27
Richard Newey	Thames Turbo Triathlon Club	Surrey-Sussex	1:50:41	29:19
Dave Warne	Old Portlians CC	Kent	1:55:13	29:16
Stephen Campbell	Twickenham CC	London & Home Counties	1:49:04	29:14
Donald Parker	Brighton Mitre CC	Surrey-Sussex	2:00:44	28:45
Aran Stanton	Velo Club St Raphael	Wessex	1:50:04	28:39
Roger Taylor	Frome & Dist Whs	West	2:03:47	28:31
Kevin Bexley	Team Optima	West	1:52:31	28:23

Gawie Nienaber	Farnham RC	Wessex	1:55:09	28:12
Tom Cox	Northover VT - Rudy Project	Wessex	1:57:38	28:05
Tim Childs	Westerley Cycling Club	London & Home Counties	1:53:19	28:02
David Patten	Bognor Regis CC	Wessex	2:00:16	26:50
Paul Holdsworth	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Counties	1:53:44	26:43
Stuart Stow	Twickenham CC	London & Home Counties	1:53:29	26:31
Jonathan Hobby	North Hampshire RC	London & Home Counties	1:54:00	26:00
Hamish Walker	Hampshire RC	Wessex	1:51:17	25:22
Adrian Blacker	Norwood Paragon CC	Surrey-Sussex	1:55:10	25:17
Rupert Dickinson	VC Godalming & Haslemere	Surrey-Sussex	1:51:23	24:41
James Wright	Charlottesville Cycling Club	London & Home Counties	1:51:54	24:38
Joe Le Sage	Rutland CC	North Midlands	1:52:01	24:31
Richard Weatherstone	GS Stella	Surrey-Sussex	1:56:03	23:06
Murray Kirton	A5 Rangers CC	Midlands	2:15:50	22:43
Gawain Young	Sotonia CC	Wessex	1:54:56	21:36
Damian Poulter	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Counties	1:55:27	20:37
Jackie Dodd	Kingston Phoenix RC	Surrey-Sussex	2:13:00	19:41
Kevin Ridge	Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers	Wessex	2:01:40	19:14
John Marinko	Brighton Mitre CC	Surrey-Sussex	2:01:30	18:30
Robin Vessey	Micky Cranks CC	West	2:02:44	18:10
Joanna Wells	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Counties	2:15:57	17:15
John Isard	Hampshire RC	Surrey-Sussex	2:10:55	16:11
Jill Bartlett	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Counties	2:17:52	15:52
Adam Evans	Newbury RC	London & Home Counties	2:01:15	15:24
John Howells	Corinium CC	West	2:23:26	15:07
Leon Thompson	Ipswich Velo	East Anglia	2:07:14	13:13
Simon Craig-McFeely	a3crg	Wessex	2:10:04	12:45
Andrew Green	Bec CC	Surrey-Sussex	2:03:28	12:07
Allan Renyard	Guernsey Velo Club	Wessex	2:30:59	06:01
Adrian Watkins	Tornado Road Cycling Club	Wessex	2:12:50	05:53
Gerry Peppin	Corinium CC	West	2:19:12	02:09
Simon Hall *	Andover Wheelers *	Wessex *	2:23:17	-05:25

*Simon's time includes 15 minutes late start*

## The Championships



### 30 MILES—SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

Thus it was that with hardly time to take a breath, the 30 mile Championship arrived on Sunday the 16th of August on what turned out to be beautifully sunny day.

The venue was the H30/1 which is officially called 'Thatcham – Theale' which is a misnomer for being part of what once the most famous stretch of time trialling road in the kingdom: the A4, Bath Road; scene of the Ray Booty 100 and renowned events from years gone by when riders north, south, east and west, made their way to the Lamb in Theale, Pangbourne Lane, Mac's Café, The Towers, Calcot Row, Blossom Square and perhaps 'Cosy Cot'.

Mac's Café has recently gone, replaced by numerous housing, sited right where the railway carriages used to be.

The Towers, with its memories of Tubby Randall, Digger Balch, Ken Joy and so many others, vacated, empty and forlorn for so many years, now a park for the sale of white vans.

Not many of the 50 entrants remembered, or even knew, of those days, for all that is left is a 15 mile stretch between one roundabout and another. However, little has changed along that piece of hallowed ground and some will tell you that as they ride through Woolhampton they can hear the sound of Dunlop number twos humming.

Compared to their experiences of the two previous championships, most of those riding the 30 probably thought they were on a country lane instead of the main route from London to the west coast of Wales. There was a fair amount of traffic but, as Rob Pears will perhaps confess, he had to overtake some of it for it was going so slowly.

Fulfilled perhaps from a splendid second place in the 25 three weeks earlier and a Champion's jersey in the 50 fourteen days later, Brian Sunter had virtually lived down-south from his base in Yorkshire and, along with Danuta, camped out at various sites as he prepared for his shot at another jersey.

He won it and, in the process, beat two brilliant (younger) riders in Jim Moffatt and Rob Pears.

President Carole Gandy was there with John and presented the prizes in front of an appreciative audience, among them David Devine, Paul Marchant, Cecil Hambelton, Roy and Connie May, Peter Cross, Chas Jepson, Marion and Mick Fountain, Dave Gaida and Rachael Elliott who together made the whole event possible.

So ended the 2015 season of VTTA National Championships, promoted for the first time by the newly formed club 'NEC-VTTA' – a learning curve for all involved.

*Jim Burgin*



## Championship 30—Result

First	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yorkshire		+21:53
Second	Jim Moffatt	Virgin Active	London		+19:47
Third	Rob Pears	Pro Cycling Magazine RT	West		+19:04
Team	Bob Gilmour	Hounslow & District	London and		+43:12
	Lawrence Wintergold	Whealers	Home Counties		
	Paul Holdsworth				
Tandem	Nikki Hunt	VTTA (London )	London & Home Counties		+3.59
	Brian Foran	Lampard RC			
Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yorkshire	34:30	1 08:55	21.53+
Jim Moffatt	Virgin Active	London & Home Counties	32:30	1 04:30	19.47+
Rob Pears	Proycling Magazine RT	West	31:52	1 03:32	19.04+
Phil Watts	North Hampshire RC	Wessex	32:49	1 05:40	17.44+
Robert Gilmour	Hounslow & District Whs	London & Home Counties	35:25	1 10:14	16.14+
Charles Zanettacci	Cheltenham & County CC	West	33:18	1 06:31	16.05+
Ricky Froud	Alton CC/Owens Cycles	London & Home Counties	33:12	1 06:24	14.45+
Sue Triplow	Essex Roads CC	East Anglia	36:46	1 13:29	14.39+
Roger Taylor	Frome & Dist Whs	West	37:05	1 14:21	14.35+
Tim Childs	Westerley Cycling Club	London & Home Counties	34:28	1 08:29	14.22+
Nick Andrews	Portsmouth North End CC	Wessex	33:38	1 07:44	14.08+
Lawrence Wintergold	Hounslow & District Whs	London & Home Counties	34:08	1 08:04	14.02+
Tom Cox	Northovers VT	Wessex	35:41	1 11:33	13.44+
John Eames	Team Swift	North Lancs & Lakes	37:45	1 14:54	13.29+
Stuart Stow	Twickenham CC	London & Home Counties	34:21	1 08:47	13.19+
Jeff Roberts	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Counties	34:31	1 08:54	13.12+
Jerry Bromyard	RNRM CA	Wessex	36:28	1 12:07	13.10+
Paul Holdsworth	Hounslow & District Whs	London & Home Counties	34:46	1 09:25	12.56+
Roderick Macfadyen	Reading CC	London & Home Counties	35:10	1 10:14	12.53+
Dena Ford	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Counties	38:41	1 16:21	12.03+
Chris Ford	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Counties	36:01	1 11:13	11.23+
Richard Parrotte	Shaftesbury CC	East Anglia	35:28	1 11:00	11.06+
Martin Dickinson	Deal Tri	Kent	34:56	1 09:38	11.01+
Joanna Knight	Bristol South CC	West	39:37	1 19:06	10.59+
Norman Harvey	Sotonia CC	Wessex	44:18	1 29:59	10.37+
Cliff Voller	Newbury RC	West	37:18	1 15:54	10.34+
Daniel Kempe	Bristol South CC	West	36:12	1 11:58	9.54+
Alison Vessey	Micky Cranks CC	West	41:07	1 22:24	9.46+
Robin Vessey	Micky Cranks CC	West	36:43	1 13:08	9.28+
Alan Morris	Hinckley CRC	Nottingham & East Midlands	37:13	1 14:16	8.51+
Lez Young (Trike)	TA (Thames Valley Region)	London & Home Counties	40:07	1 21:42	8.49+
Allan Renyard	Guernsey Velo Club	Wessex	42:22	1 23:26	8.05+
Adrian Feek	Bath Road Club	London & Home Counties	36:54	1 13:59	7.38+
Murray Kirton	A5 Rangers CC	Midlands	42:17	1 25:33	6.43+
Mary-Jane Hutchinson	Bristol South CC	West	42:31	1 24:42	6.21+
Sarah Wheeler	Gillingham & District Whs	West	41:11	1 21:50	6.18+
Robert Hutchinson	Bristol South CC	West	40:04	1 19:41	5.59+
John Howells	Corinium CC	West	42:34	1 26:34	5.42+
Jill Morris	Hinckley CRC	Nottingham & East Midlands	44:50	1 28:39	1.08+
Mark Sanders	Mid Devon CC	West	51:01	1 26:02	2.61-
Mick Fountain	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	46:29	1 33:37	1.41-
TANDEM					
Nikki Hunt & Brian Foran	VTTA (L&HC) & Lampard RC	London & Home Counties	38:16	1 17:07	3.59+



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# OBITUARIES

## John Thayne

John Thayne, a member of the Glasgow Wheelers Cycling Club since 1941, died on 8th July at the age of 89.

Like many of his era, at the age of 18 John entered National Service in 1943 and served as a Royal Navy Signalman in Ceylon. During his time there, he competed for the Jungle Roamers CC against the Tropical Twiddlers and Kassas CC in 10 and 25 mile time trials and managed regularly to break 'evens', sometimes on borrowed bikes with bamboo wheels.

In the mid-'40s, with the Glasgow Wheelers taking a leading role, the Scottish Section of the BLRC was formed, and John was a regular road racing. He rode Glasgow six day events he won the hill climb on Rothesay September that stood for over 30



Whilst continuing to '60s, John spent on club duties and over Race and General President of the a member of the

Commonwealth Games in 1970 and 1986 in Edinburgh and officiated as timekeeper and judge on a number of Scottish Milk Race events during the '70s. He was regularly to be found down at Westferry and on the 'Lochside' as a West of Scotland Cycling Association timekeeper from 1976-2005, and as a committee member of the SVTTA since 1980, held the roles of TT secretary, race secretary and press officer.

Along with his wife Johan, John returned to competition in the early '80s, and annually attained standards at distances from 10 to 100 miles for over 25 years. The pair raced regularly in the vet's time trial events at the Isle of Man Cycling Week.

Retirement gave John and Johan the time to travel more widely, and they were to be found on the slopes of Alpe d'Huez for the Tour and at the World Championships in Oslo and Lillehammer in 1993. But it was Majorca that was their cycling Mecca, and in springtime each year throughout the '90s, they could be found in the lanes of the west and the high mountains of the north.

John was eventually advised to hang up his cycling shoes in 2010 and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him as an unassuming gentleman dedicated to his sport.

*Iain Thayne*

# *OBITUARIES*

## **Martin David Pike**

'Dave'

25.01.44 to 13.08.15



The cycling community of Lincolnshire was shocked by the sudden death of Dave Pike member of Sleaford Wheelers CC, Notts and East Midland VTTA and an active member of Lincolnshire RRA. Dave died from a heart attack on the 13 August and whilst the suddenness of his death was incredibly hard for his wife Ann his family and close friends, in many ways this was a blessing because he was such a healthy, busy and active person he could not have been an invalid or a burden to anyone.

There were many tributes and fond recollections by his club mates at Dave's funeral held on the 27 August. He was a truly nice man and would help anyone both in and outside of cycling;

## *OBITUARIES*

he was always particularly willing to help the club and various cycling associations including the LRRRA and VTTA to which he was a member. Dave served on the Lincolnshire CTT Committee and wife Ann was also CTT Treasurer and also served LRRRA Committees.

Dave was born in and spent his early life on the family farm near Crediton in Devon and there are many accounts of his mischievous exploits as a young man. At the age of 15 he became a boy soldier in the Royal Engineers training as a welder. He was posted to Germany and also served in Aden where he was fully employed as a welder which he particularly enjoyed. Dave and Ann had three children, Debbie, Ian and Mandy.

In 1967 he bought himself out of the Army as a Lance Corporal and returned to Devon where he worked for the NCB as a shot firer for the next 22 years. The family's next move was to Aylesham near Canterbury and it was in Kent that his son Ian who was already cycling gave Dave the racing bug. The pit work came to an end and Dave undertook a number of jobs including managing the cycle department at Halfords.

The family moved to Metheringham near Lincoln in 1993 to live near their daughter Debbie and it was then that Dave joined Sleaford Wheelers CC and became an active member of the club and an accomplished veteran rider. His wife was also involved in the club as a committee member and time-keeper. Dave's son Ian Pike is an accomplished tester and also a member of the VTTA.

Dave was a great character, he never lost his West Country accent and was always ready to encourage new and younger riders. He never had life easy and has been carer to Ann for the last 10 years. He survived and made a full recovery from prostate cancer two years ago. He never moaned and often expressed to other veterans the benefits of getting themselves tested. His funeral was well attended by members of Sleaford Wheelers CC, Lincoln Wheelers members CTT and LRRRA committees.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Ann, daughters Debbie and Mandy and son Ian, his four grandchildren and his seven great children. He will also be missed by his Sleaford Wheelers club mates and all of the Lincolnshire and East Midland cycling community.

I am grateful for the contribution made to this obituary from John Pavey who delivered the Eulogy, his club mates Chris Close and Richard Horton who gave the tributes.

*David Herd*

# ***OBITUARIES***

## **Ron Johnson**

**05.09.31 – 17.06.15**



Ron was of that generation who became teenagers during the 1939 - 1945 war. No private motoring, only essential traffic allowed on the roads and when riding a bike really did make cyclists 'kings of the road'. His love of all things cycling that was kindled then, stayed with him to the end.

He did his National Service in the REME at Blandford camp, where he started a cycling club by recruiting members using the notice board.

Back in Manchester, Ron joined the BLRC South Manchester RC and became a successful road man. He rode in the Manchester section team in the 1952 Tour of Britain, forced to retire after a crash in stage seven in Scotland.

He married Joan in 1957 and their family grew to two sons, Alan and Mark, and a daughter, Joanne, together with four grandchildren. Ron took his

young family on the £10 assisted passage to Australia in 1963 but returned in 1966 when Joan became homesick.

He had always been an enthusiastic tourist, including canal tow paths. He completed solo passages of the Cheshire Ring and the Leeds Liverpool canal. He also led a group completing Wainwright's coast-coast route, but they did it on bikes and it's still talked about today! Later with a group, he completed a northern passage along Offa's Dyke from Chepstow.

From the mid nineties, Ron enjoyed his racing with the Altrincham Ravens, road racing with the LVRC and found he had a natural talent for time trials. He won numerous best on standard medals as well as being a member of the Ravens Vets championship winning teams at 10 miles and 25 miles.

After Joan died in 2007, Ron kept himself busy doing taxi work and doing jobs for friends, he could tackle any do-it-yourself job. He was also a talented artist and had watercolour exhibitions in Knutsford and Macclesfield. During this time, Joan's best friend Sheila Burns, a widow, became a welcome companion and they enjoyed many outings together. Wherever they were, Ron would say, 'I've raced up here'

Ron was diagnosed with leukaemia, amongst other complications and died after a short illness; his funeral took place at Vale Royal Crematorium on Friday 10th July. The service began with the music from *The Great Escape*, a reference to Ron's last week in a Nursing Home when he escaped through the kitchen and walked into Knutsford. Tributes were paid and afterwards at the Victory Hall Mobbetley and selections of Ron's watercolours were on display for people to take home. Club runs will never be the same. Ron was a 'one-off' and we've been privileged to know him.

*Jim Ogden*

# ***OBITUARIES***

## **Mike Dyason** **1938—2015**

Mike Dyason, passed away on 24 February aged 78.

Mike started cycling as a teenager and joined the Epping Forest Section of the CTC when he was 17. Soon after that he started racing and joined the Viking Road Club which had over 100 racing members at the time and he remained a member for over 60 years.

Cyclo-cross was in its infancy at that time and he had his first win when just 18, shortly before doing his National Service, during which time he was able to travel to events at the army's expense, recording many wins and placings.

He was a keen time-triallist, being one of the earliest riders to get under the hour with 59:14 in 1959 and recording several notable wins in the London East area during the 50s and 60s.

He continued riding time trials off and on until 2003, but he was a cycling all-rounder, winning several road races as well as being a regular at Herne Hill track league in the 1960s. To say he was passionate about bike racing would be an understatement and he would encourage anyone and everyone to have a go. Almost all members of his extended family have raced at some time—son André being a fast Vet in recent years and brother Chris still racing.

Mike was an entrepreneur with a string of businesses during his life but he was best known to cyclists for his Ozzo-branded cycling accessories that he sold by mail order. He ran this business for nearly 30 years after starting it mostly as a hobby.

Having been diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2000, Mike had various treatments over the years but knew some months ago that the end was close. He then took delight in arranging his own funeral 'farewell' at his golf club near Grantham which he attended in his casket before leaving alone for the crematorium. A lovable eccentric to the end.

*Chris Dyason*

# OBITUARIES

## **Roy Lancelot Davidson** 1909-2015 (aged 105)

Roy was born in Woodford, Essex, second son of John an architect of Scottish ancestry and Mary. He went to school at Bancroft's in Woodford and then joined Barclays Bank, working in the City and Shoreditch in the foreign exchange and other departments. He joined the CTC in 1921 and cycled to work every day keeping a suit and shoes there to change into. In 1929 he married Marjorie Brown ("Bunny") and son Hugh was born 1938. They both toured in the UK and on the Continent and he time trialled with the Viking Road Club. He was an active worker for the Essex DA and in 1936 became DA Secretary until 1940 when he joined the RAF.

War Service was with the RAF in Intelligence. He was very secretive about this and all he would say was "an ability to do the *Times* crossword puzzle in less than six minutes was the test used prior to working at Bletchley on code breaking". He would never elaborate on this, and Bletchley records on personnel were destroyed on Churchill's orders during the war. He was horrified to find out that tours of Bletchley are now available as he was sworn to secrecy! He also served in India, Malaya and Ceylon, followed by Europe. During the early '40s he was stationed in Durmess in Scotland near Cape Wrath, possibly connected with the monitoring of German naval movements near there.

After the war he became a member of the Epping Forest Section of the CTC when it was founded in 1949. He became a Vice-President of both the Essex DA and the Viking Road Club and was a qualified timekeeper for decades with Eddie Engel. The Davidson's were great friends with Eddie and Eve Engel and often toured with them. He cycled until his late '80s frequently partaking in annual 100 mile outings and thinking nothing of it! He was a Vice President of the ECCA (Eastern Counties Cycling Association), a member of VTTA and its first centenarian. He was a member of the RRA (Road Records Association) and Forty Plus CC.

He retired from Barclays in 1971, followed by six years part-time employment in the City. "Bunny" died in July 1994 following some years of ill-health.

Roy was a quiet unassuming man of few words but his counsel was always worth listening to, he had a very perceptive wit, great intelligence and was a long term *Telegraph* crossword addict. He was a devoted cyclist, friend to hundreds, time-keeper, utterly reliable and trustworthy. He was a proud and supportive family man with son Hugh, daughter-in-law Val, two grandchildren and five great grandchildren and was greatly loved by all.

*Hugh Davidson*



# ***OBITUARIES***

## **Jim Jones**

**1936—2015**

Jim Jones, founder member and long-time Secretary of the Oundle Velo Clud, died after an extended illness on 19 August aged 78.

Jim was a strong and aggressive roadman as well as a prolific time triallist. Beginning racing in the mid 1950s, he raced continuously for over 50 years, well into his 70s. Had he restricted himself to regional events he would have won even more prizes but his philosophy was always to test himself against the best. He himself was numbered amongst those; in 1967 for example, he represented Great Britain in the International 50 Mile Time Trials, also winning the Southend 50 in a time of 1:53:55.

Racing as a veteran over a 30 year period, Jim's prize haul was extensive, his compulsion to do well keeping him competitive, producing 53 minutes 25s in his mid sixties. He enjoyed racing away from his home turf and made friends in Essex, North London and Midland regions.

There are many within the sport who are grateful for Jim's assistance and encouragement at the beginning of their careers and his passing leaves family, clubmates and friends, the poorer for his absence.

*Geoff Lee*

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## **John Byrne**

**August 1932—December 2014**

The Scottish Group was saddened to hear of the passing of fellow member John Byrne of the now defunct Eun Mara Cycling Club. John was an honorary life member of the Scottish Group. He moved to Eire into semi-retirement from his trade as a Master Stonemason some years back but still kept in touch with his friends in the Glasgow area.

Although a through and through cyclist, John, with a set of shoulders the size of a bus, competed in his youth in the Mr Universe Body Building contest with some success. You could say that John was the original gentle giant.

The Scottish Group extend their condolences to John's wife Maureen and her family.

*Jim Harris*

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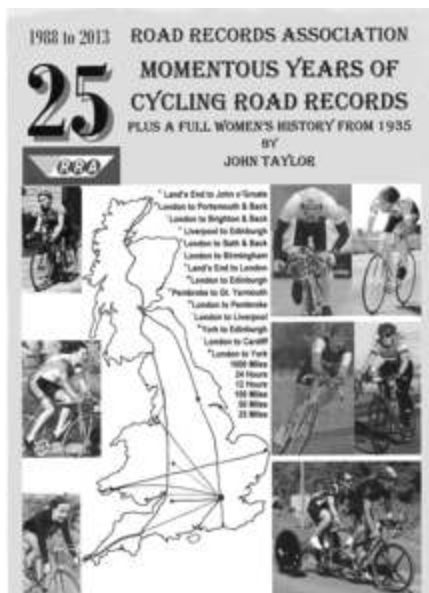
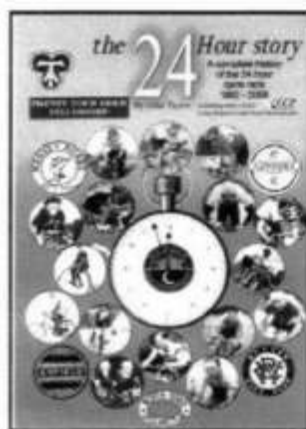
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Dear Jim

I was delighted to see that Carole Gandy has become our President. In my last year of serious racing (1997), I was on the result sheet of an Open 50 with Carole and I'm pleased to say I was just a little bit faster than her—but not by much. She could certainly 'Go a Bit'.

I was after the the VTTA record for the 50 and managed it in the Middlesex RC 50 of 1997 (1:56:21). I was 67 and still on a steel bike, not carbon.

My last race was in 2007 at St Johann—9th in the 70+ World Road Championship at 77. Someone had made the hills much steeper!

Dave Orford

PS: I'm still a rebel; at present I'm campaigning for the Fellowship of Cycling to lower their age limit to 40 instead of 50; this would be in line with Veteran status.

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### **INFORMATION REQUIRED!!**

Is there anyone amongst the Association's three thousand members who is able to provide any information at all about the Arden Wheelers CC?

It existed in the Essex area in 1937 and the VTTA has been asked if the could find any information about the club, and in particular S Banks.

Response (if any) to the Editor please.

### **HERE'S A LIST OF 'CLOBBER' LEFT AT RECENT EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE LONDON GROUP.**

Alpine Pro Performance Fleece, Long Sleeves, Size XL, Lime Green, half zip

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There's some expensive stuff there! A cheque for £3.50 to Jim Burgin will ensure its return.

## Jim Harris (Scotland) Writes

Dear Jim

When our new Competitions, Standards and BAR tables were worked out and published, I thought I had read on our website or magazine that some Groups were going to continue using the old method for their Group competitions, and that they had the blessing of the Committee. Have I got this all wrong?

Jim Harris

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Dear Jim

When the first changes were made to the standard tables, it would be an understatement to suggest that they were unpopular. But a year's experience demonstrated that they were a big improvement on those used for the previous 70 years and, after they were adjusted and a couple of season's experience had been assimilated, the general consensus is that Steve Lockwood and his fellow boffins have got it right.

*It is true that there are still those grumbling and missing getting in the medals, but perhaps that demonstrates how wrong the original tables were, certainly many more of the younger veterans are currently among the prizewinners.*

*The aim was to have a set of standards which, as far as possible, meant all riders were equal; male and female; at any age as long as it was 40 or more.*

*There is some speculation that one or two Groups are using the old figures for local events but the National Committee have not been involved in any such decisions and it is hardly likely that they would be in favour. However, each Group has its own autonomy. What is important in all this is that the membership made the choice for change and some might feel it a bit sad that there might be those who feel they are unable to abide by the those decisions.*

*Perhaps with the passing of time and the occasional modification, it will be perfect for all.*

Jim



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