

Number 57

June 2018

# THE VETERAN

Veterans Time Trials Association  
75th Anniversary : 1943 - 2018



**Andrew Grant - 30 Miles Champion**



**Ron Hallam Wins 10 Miles  
Championship for Fifth Time**

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

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

# 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 57

June 2018

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### EDITORIAL

The March Veteran was titled the '75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition' and left the editorial store of historical material pretty much empty. However it seems to have been very well received so I hope that the VTTA continues to make the most of this special year. Amongst the comments received were "Great read in The Veteran and liked the retro look for the anniversary issue", "I really enjoyed reading the March Veteran last night – I thought you had done a great job in pulling the historical material together – some fascinating stuff there!" And from someone who was around at the time (Dick Evans, President of Portsmouth North End CC) "Thank you Mike for the magazine, with all the past info. We have come a long way from our roads of 1943. As a 13 year budding cyclist the roads were devoid of traffic, except military transport, in the shape of tanks en route south. Our road on D-day minus one was jam packed with military vehicles."

The members' reactions have delivered some more historical material and I hope to continue the theme for the remainder of 2018, beginning with this edition. We have a piece written by Ernest Stevens himself in 1949 about the formation of the VTTA, some recollections of Laurie Dixon, a fellow founder member, and an early letter claiming to be the inspiration behind the VTTA's formation.

Moving forward in time, it is likely that many members recall the day Alf Engers broke through the magical 30mph barrier for 25 miles. But how many realise that it was just 40 years ago? Thanks to Mary Horsnell, who was there on the day, and to event organiser Barry Freeman for telling us their stories.

On to the current 2018 season and after a long and wet winter the sun came out just in time for the 10 miles and 30 miles championships. The 10 in particular proved very popular, being on a fast course and in a very central location. By now members should be familiar with our special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo and Andrew Grant, chairman of East Anglian Group, had the honour of being the first winner of a champion's jersey adorned with it, by winning his first ever individual championship in the 30. Not to be outdone evergreen Ron Hallam added to his considerable collection of jerseys by winning the 10, he also had the honour of cutting the anniversary cake.

*Mike Penrice*

# PRESIDENT CAROLE GANDY - AN INVITATION TO KENT

Kent might not be the county to choose to ride time trials in but is worth a visit for other reasons such as places of interest. So I thought I would diversify from a cycling article, especially as the holiday season is upon us. Kent is considered the Garden of England, although much of the orchards and agricultural land has been swallowed up with both housing and commercial development. It is also considered the Gateway to Europe, with both the Channel Tunnel at Folkestone and the Ferry Crossing at Dover.

Dover of course has the famous castle looking over the English Channel and which is steeped in history. Founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the castle has long been important for its defensive significance throughout history. There are old and new features to enjoy with one of the latest features being the opening of the extensive Secret Wartime Tunnels.

Another place of interest is Chartwell in Westerham, the home of Sir Winston Churchill for over 40 years from 1922 to 1965. It is a delightful and interesting house and the gardens have magnificent views and lots of features that Churchill implemented. A fascinating day can be had enjoying the house that Churchill so adored together with the garden and his art studio. There are also some interesting walks around the estate.

Ightham Mote located in Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks is a medieval moated manor house which has been described as the most complete small medieval manor house in the country. As you journey through the house, you travel through 700 years of history. Ightham Mote is not a 'show home' for one period in time, but a living house highlighting the changing fashion and needs of its owners. The gardens are also a delight to relax in any time of the year.

Perhaps the most mis-described property is Sissinghurst Castle, which as soon as you arrive you ask the question "How on earth is this a castle?" The only part of the house looking like a castle is the Elizabethan tower but the rest of the house does not. The reason that it was called a castle dates back to the 1750's when it was used as a prison of up to 3000 French seamen. The prisoners wrote home to their families, often referring to Sissinghurst as Chateau de Sissinghurst; the name stuck and it is thanks to these imprisoned seamen that it is now called Sissinghurst Castle. The Tower was the haunt of Vita Sackville West and her study is still as it was when she was alive, with thousands of books lining the walls. Vita was a successful poet, novelist and prolific letter writer as well as a garden designer, her legacy of which can be seen today. It is a delight to walk round both the house and gardens and there are also some lovely walks to be taken in the grounds.

Near to Maidstone is Leeds Castle - considered the most beautiful castle in the world. It has a wonderful setting bridging two islands in a large lake. Leeds Castle has been a Norman stronghold, the private property of six of England's medieval queens, a palace used by Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon, a Jacobean country house, a Georgian mansion, an elegant early 20th century retreat for the influential and famous, and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has become one of the most visited historic buildings in Britain.

This is just a quick sketch of some of the interesting properties that can be visited if you feel that Kent might be a place to explore.

*Carole Gandy*

## THE CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

By the time you read this we will have all 16 of our Groups live on the new online membership system. This is a big step forward for the VTTA and brings us up-to-date with what is expected from a modern organisation. The online system will make it easier for people to join the VTTA and for existing members to renew their membership. It will also make life easier for group officials especially as members make their payments via the website so there is no need to handle cheques or cash or to reconcile BACS transfers.

As we have rolled out the system to groups in the last 3 to 4 months about 100 members have renewed online, and encouragingly about 100 new members have joined online. These numbers reflect the fact that we deliberately avoided the peak renewal period this year in order to give time to trial the system and to establish confidence in officials and members. Feedback from officials and members has been very positive so we will be well placed to use the system fully when it comes to the 2019 renewal season.

I would like to thank all the group officials who volunteered to be trained in administering the membership system. It has been a pleasure to meet with them and I am grateful for the willingness and co-operation they have all shown in helping to get the system up and running for their groups. Jon Fairclough and Merv Player have also played vital roles in helping me with the introduction of the new system. I must also thank Aaron Bird and Matt Woollard at Xncreations who have been very helpful throughout the exercise.

We continue to look for feedback with regard to how the system may be improved. We are regularly making enhancements such as responding to the need to demonstrate our compliance with the new GDPR requirements (see separate note in this edition).

Even if you have renewed for 2018 you can still register now on the website to see, and if necessary to update, your membership record. Go to the website [www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk) and click on the Membership button and follow the directions for registering as an existing member.

Finally, on a personal note I was challenged over the winter with setting a new personal best for 25 miles. I started time trialling in 1996 aged 42 and my PB has been a 57:53 set in 2001, although I did a 57:54 in 2011. More recently I have done a number of 58's so it seemed feasible. With the help of a new TT bike and a helpful bike fit, plus more time for training, I did a 57:18 on the VTTA Notts & East Midlands event on the A25/34 on 19<sup>th</sup> May. This started me wondering what time gaps between PBs have been achieved by other vets. I am sure there must be some who can claim more than my 17 years. Let the editor know your experience and we could present an interesting table of such achievements which may encourage all members to keep on trying!

*Andrew Simpkins*

## NOTE FOR VTTA MEMBERS ON THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

Members will be aware of the new data protection regulations (GDPR) that came into force at the end of May. You have probably received emails from various organisations asking you to consent to being on their mailing lists. With the VTTA, and similar organisations, the situation is different in that if you are a paid-up member of a voluntary organisation it is presumed that the organisation has what is termed a 'legitimate interest' in contacting you and that you have by joining given your consent for this. So VTTA membership involves us sending you copies of the Veteran and the Handbook (which you can now opt to receive by email). It also means that Groups may contact you with regard to matters they consider pertinent to your membership. Another aspect is that it has been common practice to use photos of members taken in competition or in presentations in VTTA publications and social media.

The new national VTTA website and the introduction of the online membership system has raised additional issues to consider in the light of the GDPR. Members can now join and renew online and also update their own personal information at any time online. To make the system GDPR compliant we have introduced new Terms & Conditions and a Privacy Policy. You can see these on the website under the 'About' option. When new members register online they are asked to accept the Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy. They are also given options as to what we may contact them about and to the use of their photo in VTTA publications and media.

For existing members, we have revised the member's 'profile' page on the website membership system. This now provides options to opt-out of receiving the Veteran and the Handbook, to opt-out of receiving any VTTA communications not explicitly to do with your membership, and to opt-out if you do not want us to use your photo. You can set these options yourself by registering as a member on the website (follow the links for membership and complete the first registration page.) You can alternatively ask your group membership secretary to make the changes for you.

There are a number of other implications of the GDPR for Group officials and we have written to them providing further guidance. If you have any questions about how we are responding to the GDPR please contact your Group or the Interim National Secretary, Jon Fairclough.

### *The Fellowship of Cycling*

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# NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



Martin Sigrist

Following Steve Lockwood's retirement as National Recorder at the last AGM and the failure of anyone to step forward at that meeting, an advert was placed in the *March Veteran*. We are pleased to report that Martin Sigrist of Newbury Road Club has now volunteered for the job. The NEC and group officials look forward to working closely with Martin, who will be responsible for compiling all the season long competitions, which are at the heart of the VTTA's activities.

Our National Secretary, Rachael Elliott, is still out of general circulation whilst she continues to recuperate from her hemorrhagic stroke, which occurred deep in the centre of her brain. It is a long and slow road but she continues to make good progress thanks to her outstanding fitness and positive attitude. Her sight and balance have been badly affected but she has assisted with results at a local TT, has practised with the orchestra and has been improving her already outstanding baking skills. There is just no stopping Rachael.

Whilst Rachael recovers it has been necessary for the VTTA to appoint an Interim National Secretary - step forward Jon Fairclough, who was already doing sterling work for Surrey/Sussex group as treasurer/membership secretary and as press secretary. Jon has written the following short introduction to himself - it seems the ability to play a stringed musical instrument may be a requirement of being VTTA National Secretary!

*"I am a late comer to racing bikes, only taking up the sport in 2002 when my doctor advised me to get some sustained exercise to reduce my weight and cholesterol level. I bought a racing bike from a friend and competed in sportives such as the Etape (four times), the Marmotte, the Nove Colli (twice), Granfondo Stelvio and Cape Town Cycle Tour (five times, formerly known as the Cape Argus). I joined the VTTA in 2015 looking for a new challenge. For TTs I ride a BMC TM01 bike. You can recognise me at events because I have black, white and grey VTTA kit. I have done TT's at 10, 25, 30, 50 and 100 miles and will attempt a 12 hour for the first time this year at the age of 64, so I can qualify for the BAR competition. I am used to spending 12 hours on a bike – I rode from London to Edinburgh last year in two days.*

*I retired last year after a career developing software for satellites and telescope, software engineering standards for the European Space Agency and latterly managing and consulting for Hewlett-Packard. That means I know a thing or two about IT, and I am currently applying that knowledge in VTTA projects such as the new Online Membership System. When I am not riding a bike or doing VTTA work I play in bass guitar in two function bands, the Out of The Shadows and the Beat Goes On."*



Jon Fairclough

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT - MAY 2018

*Merv Player*

It has been quite a busy first four months of the New Year, although numbers of new members joining in the first month were down compared with 2017.

Following the introduction of the new website in March I have been kept busy extracting the new members who have joined on-line and sending them welcoming packs, as well as processing new members from the groups not yet on the website.

A comparison of new members and those deleted during the first four months for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are shown below.

During the year three of our members will have reached the grand old age of 100. They are John Edler (Scotland), Bob Jephcott (Midlands) and Roy Wilkinson (Nottingham & EM). John has already had a presentation and the others, being 100 in July, have that honour to come.

Twelve members were 80 in the first four months of 2018 with only six being given Honorary Life Membership status, for services to the Association.

	New Members Joining			Members Deleted (Lapsed or Deceased)		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
January	45	53	44	13	10	15
February	43	67	58	10	9	24
March	53	60	69 (31*)	19	19	32**
April	72	59	71 (38*)	106	135	342**
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>413**</b>
<b>Net change in membership</b>				<b>Plus 65</b>	<b>Plus 66</b>	<b>Minus 171**</b>

\* Indicates new members joining on-line

\*\* Large number of deletions is due to implementation of on-line membership system and more timely action to update membership lists by groups.



*SVTTA's longest serving member Jock Elder became 100 years old on 12th May. In recognition of this, Scotland chairman Michael Devlin presented Jock with a certificate from the VTTA. Jock also had a visit from Dunfermline CC and the CTC, shown here. Picture was supplied by Jock's daughter Anne.*

# VTTA NATIONAL 30 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018

*Promoted by VTTA (Kent) Group on Course Q30/2*

After the great weather of the previous week it was a shock to the system for riders opening their curtains on Sunday morning to venture out and ride the VTTA National 30 Championship held in Kent. Whilst the wind was not high at the beginning of the event it was a grey morning with intermittent fine rain showers persisting throughout. The temperature was also struggling to rise above 6 degrees and the wind was rising.

Considering the inclement weather conditions it was great to see that whilst there were those who chose to stay in bed rather than ride, 81 riders were happy to face the start timekeeper. The course is basically on the Ham Street By-pass, which is undulating, but the biggest factor is probably its location which is partly on the Romney Marsh and therefore prone to wind.

The marshalling was impeccable and it would have been difficult for anyone to go off course. A big thank you must be accorded to these individuals who manned their posts on an extremely cold and grey morning. The HQ was warm and inviting with hot drinks and cake on offer, which was much appreciated by everyone as they thawed out after their efforts of the morning.

From the start the course goes gently uphill but then flattens out after the first roundabout. Once having arrived at the Cloverleaf roundabout on the outward journey the going was easier with a more favourable wind and with parts of the course being mainly downhill and fast. The return leg from the Brooklands roundabout was against the wind and had longer stretches of uphill. Having said this, good times were achieved by competitors on a Kent course, with the county not sporting any extremely fast courses.

The fastest veteran, with an actual time of 1:5:50, was achieved by Andrew Meilak aged 51 (+16.31) from the Kent Group who came third overall in the championship. Brian Sunter aged 74 (+16.39) from the Yorkshire Group claimed second place with the overall winner being Andrew Grant aged 65 (+ 18.00) from the East Anglian Group. Since the revision of the age standards there often are discussions as to which age group benefits the most, but looking at these results it is spread fairly over the age range. The ladies prize went convincingly to Katja Rietdort from the London and Home Counties Group. Second was Janet Fairclough from the Merseyside Group and third was Alison Vessey from the West Group.

The group team prize was taken by Andrew Meliak, Mark Hill and Anthony Bee from the Kent Group. The club team prize was claimed by Chris Dyason and Colin Lizieri who joined with Andrew Grant the winner of the day all from the Cambridge CC.

It was good to hear that the riders appreciated the organisation of the event and National Chairman Andrew Simpkins, who had ridden the event, thanked organiser Tom Morton and all those involved in any way for a championship well organised.

The weather was not great but in terms of the season this is still early and there is plenty of time for the weather to warm up and it is to be hoped that the rest of the National Championships will enjoy good weather.

*Carole Gandy  
President and NEC Representative*



*Katja Rietdorf was fastest woman on standard*



*Colin Lizieri of the winning Cambridge CC club team*



*Brian Sunter took silver for second overall on standard*



*Kent group team winners Andrew Meilak, Antony Bee and Mark Hill receive congratulations from Carole Gandy*

**FINISH ORDER & AWARDS - 2018 VTТА NATIONAL 30 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pos	Name	Club	Grp	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Award
1	Andrew Grant	Cambridge CC	EA	V65	1:26:55	1:08:55	18:00	1st on std (Champ) Club team
2	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yks	V74	1:32:16	1:15:37	16:39	2nd on std
3	Andrew Meilak	VeloRefined.com	Kent	V51	1:22:21	1:05:50	16:31	3rd on std Group team
4	Neil Mackley	Fareham Whs CC	Wsx	V54	1:23:07	1:07:57	15:10	
5	Mark Hill	VeloRefined.com	Kent	V50	1:22:06	1:07:08	14:58	Group team
6	Chris Dyason	Cambridge CC	EA	V70	1:29:31	1:15:06	14:25	Club team
7	Chris Ward	Team Swift	N&EM	V52	1:22:36	1:08:38	13:58	
8	Antony Bee	Wigmore CC	Kent	V54	1:23:07	1:09:27	13:40	Group team
9	John Osborn	Folkestone Velo	Kent	V47	1:21:23	1:07:49	13:34	
10	Rob Vessey	Didcot Phoenix	West	V54	1:23:07	1:09:53	13:14	
11	Donald Parker	Brighton Mitre CC	S&S	V69	1:28:56	1:15:44	13:12	
12	Katja Rietdorf	Born to Bike	L&HC	LV47	1:27:52	1:15:36	12:16	1st woman on std
13	Philip Murrell	Finsbury Park CC	L&HC	V48	1:21:37	1:09:52	11:45	
14	Simon Dighton	Beacon Roads CC	Mids	V54	1:23:07	1:11:38	11:29	
15	Colin Lizieri	Cambridge CC	EA	V62	1:25:04	1:13:36	11:28	Club team
16	Mark Valios	Bigfoot CC	EA	V44	1:20:39	1:09:25	11:14	
17	Danny Frost	Folkestone Velo	Kent	V54	1:23:07	1:11:54	11:13	
18	Robert Giles	PMR	Kent	V71	1:30:09	1:19:39	10:30	
19	Mark Vowells (Trike)	CC Bexley	Kent	V65	1:32:16	1:21:47	10:29	
20	Chris Bax	PMR ToachimHouse	Kent	V66	1:27:22	1:16:55	10:27	
21	Stephen Tierney	Team Bottrill	Kent	V48	1:21:37	1:11:30	10:07	
22	Andrew Simpkins	Solihull CC	Mids	V64	1:26:28	1:16:56	9:32	
23	Michael Naulls	VC Venta	Wsx	V47	1:21:23	1:12:34	8:49	
24	Andy Robinson	Ashford Whs	Kent	V59	1:24:36	1:15:58	8:38	
25	Dave Greenwood	Rye & Dist Whs	Kent	V53	1:22:51	1:14:22	8:29	
26	Janet Fairclough	St Helens CRC	Mer	LV57	1:30:43	1:22:58	7:45	2nd woman on std
27	Alison Vessey	Didcot Phoenix	West	LV63	1:33:00	1:25:30	7:30	3rd woman on std
28	Jon Fairclough	Woking CC	S&S	V64	1:26:28	1:19:15	7:13	
29	David Golden	Army Cycling Union	NL&L	V58	1:24:17	1:18:26	5:51	
30	Joy Payne	Amersham RCC	L&HC	LV61	1:32:10	1:26:43	5:27	
31	David Roe	Revo Racing	West	V68	1:28:23	1:23:18	5:05	
32	Richard Claxton	VC Elan	Kent	V74	1:32:16	1:27:42	4:34	
33	Phil Wright	Hartlepool CC	N	V63	1:26:03	1:22:56	3:07	
34	Colin Ashcroft	West Kent RC	Kent	V55	1:23:24	1:20:21	3:03	
35	Geoff Perry	Born to Bike	L&HC	V58	1:24:17	1:23:16	1:01	
36	John McGlashan	Redmond CC	Kent	V66	1:27:22	1:28:18	-0:56	
37	Andrew McCall	Thanet RC	Kent	V63	1:26:03	1:27:13	-1:10	
38	Mike Perry	SFA CC	Kent	V73	1:31:31	1:35:13	-3:42	
DNF	Ray Retter (Born to Bike)							
DNS	Chris Melia (Born to Bike), Bronwen Ewing (Rye & Dist Whs), Kevin Tye (VeloRefined.com)							



# The Old Forge

*B & B and Holiday Barn, Knockin*

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

*"This was our 3rd New Year and 4th stay as guests of Colin and Wendy in their splendid 'Old Forge' Barn. As always, the warmth of the welcome and generous hamper that greeted us on arrival was simply lovely. The barn cannot be beaten for utility, charm and home comforts".*  
England

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

# VTTA NATIONAL 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Promoted by VTTA (London & Home Counties) Group on Course F11/10



*Club team winners Team Bottrill/Vanguard (l to r: James Rix, Wendy Gooding and Daniel Barnett) with championship organiser Geoff Perry*

The second VTTA championship of the year was held on the hottest early May Bank Holiday Monday for the last 75 years, which had a certain symmetry with the VTTA celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The hot weather and minimal wind resulted in scorching times and there were plenty on the F11/10 Tring/Ashton Clinton by-pass in Buckinghamshire.

Ron Hallam was National Champion again, retaining his title from last year. He was only a few seconds ahead of his team mate Kenneth Stevens. Keith Ainsworth completed the podium places.

All these three riders set men's national age records (subject to end of season ratification), with 87 years old Kenneth finishing before his time was subsequently beaten by also 87 years old Ron Hallam. Keith's record is as a 59 year old with 19:29.

The women's winner was Jackie Field, who was fourth overall on plus standard and she set a national age record by 2 seconds as a 53 year old, with 21:24 (subject to ratification). Liz Powell

just failed to retain her crown from last year and was second woman. Wendy Gooding rounded up the women's podium but picked up another award as part of the winning Club Team.

Wendy was supported by Team Bottrill/Vanguard team mates of James Rix and Daniel Barnett in winning the Club Team competition from Cambridge CC.

With first and second on standard both being in the same group, this set Nottingham & East Midlands to win the group team award with third counting rider Daniel Barnett, who collected his second team award.

Murray Kirton and David Stockley of A5 Rangers and Midlands Group won the tandem competitions by only 9 seconds, and also set a national tandem age record.

A special cake had been commissioned to celebrate the 75th year since the formation of the VTTA. Ron Hallam, resplendent in his champion's regalia, had the honour of cutting the VTTA birthday cake and distributing healthy portions to all those at the prize giving.

London & Homes Counties provided excellent organisation and marshalling with VTTA National Records Secretary, Geoff Perry, presenting the winners with their medals, jersey and cap.

*Geoff Perry*  
*Event Organiser and VTTA NEC Representative*



*Keith Ainsworth (Sheffrec CC) speeds to third place on standard*



*Second woman on standard was Liz Powell of Drag2Zero*



*Second on standard Ken Stevens (South Pennine RC) relished the heat*

**AWARD WINNERS - 2018 VTТА NATIONAL 10 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Std</b>	<b>Medals</b>
Champion & 1 <sup>st</sup> on Std	Ron Hallam	South Pennine RC	Notts & E Mids	+8:34	Gold
2 <sup>nd</sup> on Standard	Kenneth Stevens	South Pennine RC	Notts & E Mids	+8:26	Silver
3 <sup>rd</sup> on Standard	Keith Ainsworth	Sheffrec CC	North Midlands	+8:03	Bronze
1 <sup>st</sup> Woman on Std	Jackie Field	CC Ashwell	East Anglian	+7:45	Gold
2 <sup>nd</sup> Woman on Std	Liz Powell	Drag2Zero	Midlands	+7:34	Silver
3 <sup>rd</sup> Woman on Std	Wendy Gooding	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	East Anglian	+7:09	Bronze
Group Team Champions	Ron Hallam	South Pennine RC	Notts & E Mids	+24:30	Gold
	Kenneth Stevens	South Pennine RC			Gold
	Daniel Barnett	Team Bottrill / Vanguard			Gold
Club Team Champions	James Rix	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	Surrey/Sussex	+22:11	Gold
	Daniel Barnett		Notts & E Mids		Gold
	Wendy Gooding		East Anglian		Gold
Tandem Champions	Murray Kirton	A5 Rangers CC	Midlands	+6:47	Gold
	David Stockley				Gold

**FINISH ORDER - 2018 VTТА NATIONAL 10 MILE TIME TRIAL TANDEM CHAMPIONSHIP**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>VTТА Group</b>	<b>Cat.</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Std.</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Plus</b>
1	Murray Kirton	A5 Rangers CC	Mids	Male	77	29:26	22:39	06:47
	David Stockley			Tan	77			
2	Dave Bates	South Pennine RC	Notts & E Mids	Male	70	28:10	21:32	06:38
	Jeff Bowler			Tan	73			
3	Phil Barnes	Team Swift	Yorkshire	Mixed	63	27:39	21:14	06:25
	Sharon Clifford	SheHair RT						

**FINISH ORDER - 2018 VTТА NATIONAL 10 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>VTТА Group</b>	<b>Cat.</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Std.</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Plus</b>
1	Ron Hallam	South Pennine RC	N&EM	M	87	34:56	26:22	08:34
2	Kenneth Stevens	South Pennine RC	N&EM	M	87	34:56	26:30	08:26
3	Keith Ainsworth	Sheffrec CC	NMids	M	59	27:32	19:29	08:03
4	Jackie Field	CC Ashwell	EA	F	53	29:09	21:24	07:45
5	Andrew Grant	Cambridge CC	EA	M	65	28:14	20:35	07:39
6	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yks	M	74	29:53	22:15	07:38
7	Liz Powell	Drag2Zero	Mids	F	43	28:19	20:45	07:34
8	James Rix	Team Bottrill	S&S	M	42	26:09	18:37	07:32

Pos.	Name	Club	VTTA Group	Cat.	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus
9	Daniel Barnett	Team Bottrill	N&EM	M	44	26:18	18:48	07:30
10	Rob Pears	Bath CC	West	M	55	27:09	19:47	07:22
11	Mat Ivings	Buxton CC	M&NW	M	45	26:23	19:03	07:20
12=	Jim Moffatt	CC Luton	L&HC	M	61	27:44	20:25	07:19
12=	Andy Langdown	Blazing Saddles	Wsx	M	49	26:41	19:22	07:19
14=	Jon Simpkins	Drag2Zero	Mids	M	47	26:32	19:14	07:18
14=	Geir Robinson	Regents Park Rouleurs	L&HC	M	49	26:41	19:23	07:18
16	Ken Platts	Cambridge CC	EA	M	66	28:23	21:06	07:17
17	Wendy Gooding	Team Bottrill	EA	F	54	29:14	22:05	07:09
18=	Michael Parker	TMG Horizon CT	L&HC	M	53	26:59	19:51	07:08
18=	Frank Anderson	SVTTA	Scot	M	66	28:23	21:15	07:08
18=	Roger Porter	Verulam CC	L&HC	M	71	29:14	22:06	07:08
21	Keith Dorling	Team Bottrill	EA	M	59	27:32	20:25	07:07
22	Danuta Tinn	Maidenhead & Dist CC	L&HC	F	53	29:09	22:03	07:06
23=	Nigel Sign	Fareham Whs CC	Wsx	M	61	27:44	20:40	07:04
23=	Neil Mackley	Fareham Whs CC	Wsx	M	54	27:04	20:00	07:04
25	Chris Ward	Team Swift	L&HC	M	52	26:54	19:52	07:02
26	Liam Maybank	Twickenham CC	L&HC	M	46	26:27	19:28	06:59
27	Vincent Jenkins	LeisureLakesBikes.com	Mids	M	77	30:40	23:42	06:58
28	Antony Green	New Forest CC	Wsx	M	53	26:59	20:07	06:52
29	Simon Bowler	AS Test Team	S&S	M	52	26:54	20:05	06:49
30	James Wright	Charlotteville CC	L&HC	M	45	26:23	19:35	06:48
31	Claire Emons	Newbury RC	L&HC	F	49	28:48	22:03	06:45
32	Martin Reynolds	Cambridge CC	EA	M	55	27:09	20:27	06:42
33	Rob Young	Team Vision Racing	EA	M	44	26:18	19:39	06:39
34	Ray Retter	Born to Bike	West	M	72	29:26	22:49	06:37
35	Mick Hodson	Bedfordshire Road RT	EA	M	48	26:36	20:02	06:34
36	Paul Winchcombe	Chippenham & Dist Whs	West	M	58	27:26	20:52	06:34
37=	Mark Ellis	Team Milton Keynes	EA	M	53	26:59	20:28	06:31
37=	Adam Bidwell	Kingston Whs CC	S&S	M	41	26:04	19:33	06:31
39=	Paul Lilley	Fenland Clarion CC	EA	M	58	27:26	21:01	06:25
39=	Steve Kaye	Fenland Clarion CC	EA	M	58	27:26	21:01	06:25
39=	Julian Elliott	Finsbury Park CC	EA	M	47	26:32	20:07	06:25
42=	Roger Sewell	Wisbech Whs	EA	M	70	29:02	22:39	06:23
42=	David Guy	OV CC	L&HC	M	72	29:26	23:03	06:23
44	Rob Vessey	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	M	54	27:04	20:45	06:19
45=	Richard Gifford	trainSharp	S&S	M	55	27:09	20:51	06:18
45=	Andy Hazell	Nova Raiders CC	Mer	M	71	29:14	22:56	06:18
47	Simon Amies	Bicester Millennium CC	L&HC	M	49	26:41	20:25	06:16
48	Dave Stocker	Abellio - SFA RT	Kent	M	53	26:59	20:44	06:15

Pos.	Name	Club	VTTA Group	Cat.	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus
49	Antony Bee	Wigmore CC	Kent	M	54	27:04	20:50	06:14
50=	Michael Martin	CC Ashwell	EA	M	53	26:59	20:46	06:13
50=	Joy Payne	Amersham Road CC	L&HC	F	61	29:59	23:46	06:13
52	Howard Waller	Python RT	L&HC	M	53	26:59	20:47	06:12
53=	Gillian Reynolds	Willesden CC	L&HC	F	69	31:12	25:01	06:11
53=	Tim Beaven	Bicester Millennium CC	L&HC	M	44	26:18	20:07	06:11
55	David Rumm	Southboro' & Dist. Whs	L&HC	M	50	26:45	20:35	06:10
56	Simon Dighton	Beacon Roads CC	Mids	M	54	27:04	20:55	06:09
57	Chris Lea	Buxton CC	NMids	M	55	27:09	21:02	06:07
58	Ian Greenstreet	AeroCoach	L&HC	M	54	27:04	20:59	06:05
59	Tim Childs	Westerley CC	L&HC	M	55	27:09	21:05	06:04
60=	Martin Winter	Twickenham CC	L&HC	M	53	26:59	20:56	06:03
60=	Matthew Reader	Verulam CC	L&HC	M	48	26:36	20:33	06:03
62	Steve Clarke	TMG Horizon CT	EA	M	63	27:59	21:57	06:02
63=	Steve Shore	Southend Whs	EA	M	71	29:14	23:14	06:00
63=	David Cook	Bedfordshire Road RT	L&HC	M	62	27:51	21:51	06:00
63=	Alan Allcock	Didcot Phoenix CC	L&HC	M	63	27:59	21:59	06:00
63=	Andrew Wright	High Wycombe CC	L&HC	M	50	26:45	20:45	06:00
67	Hans Nilsson	London Phoenix CC	L&HC	M	62	27:51	21:54	05:57
68	Ian Pike (trike)	Lincoln Whs CC	N&EM	M	50	28:23	22:27	05:56
69	Alex Munro	SVTTA	Scot	M	85	33:47	27:52	05:55
70=	John Golder	Chelmer CC	EA	M	64	28:06	22:12	05:54
70=	Mark Woolford	Team Swindon Cycles	West	M	52	26:54	21:00	05:54
72	Karen Taylor	Team Sportslab	Yks	F	51	28:58	23:05	05:53
73	Tim May	MediaVelo	Mids	M	40	25:59	20:07	05:52
74	Richard Hutt	Harp RC	L&HC	M	60	27:38	21:48	05:50
75=	Chris Massey	Team Backstedt	SWIs	M	45	26:23	20:41	05:42
75=	John Dowling	Hemel Hempstead CC	L&HC	M	61	27:44	22:02	05:42
77	Jonathan Williams	Amersham Road CC	L&HC	M	42	26:09	20:29	05:40
78	Grahám Green	Team Bottrill	N&EM	M	75	30:07	24:28	05:39
79	Jez Willows	Velo Club Flintham	N&EM	M	52	26:54	21:16	05:38
80	Stephen Tierney	Team Bottrill	Kent	M	48	26:36	21:00	05:36
81=	Andy Court	Bicester Millennium CC	L&HC	M	42	26:09	20:35	05:34
81=	Colin Lizieri	Cambridge CC	EA	M	62	27:51	22:17	05:34
81=	Grant Warwick	Lutterworth Cycle Ctr RT	N&EM	M	72	29:26	23:52	05:34
84	Michael Stevens	Fareham Whs CC	Wsx	M	57	27:20	21:47	05:33
85	Geoff Booker (trike)	Oxonian CC	West	M	70	30:50	25:20	05:30
86	Tony May	TMG Horizon CT	EA	M	60	27:38	22:09	05:29
87	Robert Saunders	North Bucks RC	L&HC	M	58	27:26	21:59	05:27
88	Andy Sharman	Baines Racing	L&HC	M	47	26:32	21:06	05:26

Pos.	Name	Club	VTTA Group	Cat.	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus
89=	Steven Loraine	Team Swift	Mids	M	61	27:44	22:20	05:24
89=	Kevin Stokes	Born to Bike	L&HC	M	55	27:09	21:45	05:24
91	John J Murphy	Gloucester City CC	West	M	78	30:58	25:35	05:23
92	Peter Hatt	Velo Club St Raphael	Wsx	M	51	26:50	21:28	05:22
93	Rehman Haroon	Chelmer CC	EA	M	40	25:59	20:40	05:19
94	Sarah Lewthwaite	Team Sportslab	Yks	F	44	28:24	23:09	05:15
95	Cliff Voller	Newbury RC	West	M	67	28:32	23:18	05:14
96	Richard Moule	Bossard Whs	L&HC	M	61	27:44	22:35	05:09
97	Alan Emmott	Fareham Whs CC	Wsx	M	71	29:14	24:15	04:59
98	Paul Heggie	Birdwell Whs	NMids	M	64	28:06	23:09	04:57
99	John Martin	Elmsall Road Club	NMids	M	56	27:14	22:18	04:56
100	Carmelo Luggeri	CC Ashwell	EA	M	61	27:44	22:49	04:55
101	Ross Edgar	Lea Valley CC	SWls	M	43	26:13	21:19	04:54
102	Jeffrey Davis	Farnboro' & Camb' CC	Wsx	M	60	27:38	22:45	04:53
103	Nigel Finch	Mercia CC	N&EM	M	63	27:59	23:07	04:52
104	Nigel Croxford	High Wycombe CC	L&HC	M	60	27:38	22:47	04:51
105	Mervyn Wilson	North Lancashire RC	NL&L	M	67	28:32	23:44	04:48
106	Jon Talbot	Wisbech Whs	EA	M	46	26:27	21:40	04:47
107	Bernard Lamb	Hemel Hempstead CC	L&HC	M	75	32:00	27:15	04:45
108	Paul Welsby	Drag2Zero	Mids	M	51	26:50	22:06	04:44
109=	Clive Faine	Team Milton Keynes	L&HC	M	71	29:14	24:36	04:38
109=	Michael Cope	Kettering CC	EA	M	58	27:26	22:48	04:38
111	Barry Eeles	North Hampshire RC	Wsx	M	51	26:50	22:16	04:34
112	Sally Withey	Team Swift	L&HC	F	48	28:43	24:28	04:15
113=	Paul Valks	Lewes Wanderers CC	S&S	M	74	29:53	25:48	04:05
113=	Trevor Parrish	A5 Rangers CC	L&HC	M	73	29:39	25:34	04:05
115	Paul Allday	Fairly United CT	L&HC	M	45	26:23	22:20	04:03
116	Phil Wright	Hartlepool CC	North	M	63	27:59	24:48	03:11
117	Chris Roberts	Team PedalRev.co.uk	EA	M	73	29:39	26:42	02:57
118	Hefin Jones	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	M	44	26:18	37:52	-11:34
119	Angela Carpenter	...a3crg	Wsx	F	49	28:48	01:03:02	-34:14
DNS	Gill Henshaw (Velo Club Long Eaton), Thomas Pfeiffer (Dulwich Paragon CC), Blair Buss (Halifax Imperial Whs)							
DNS (A)	Geoff Perry, Libby McLaren, Bob Awcock, Steve Biddulph (all Born to Bike), Jennifer Doyle (Kenilworth Whs), Justin Robbins (Team Swindon Cycles), Robert Charles (Blazing Saddles),							
DNF	Jeff Roberts (High Wycombe CC), Alison Vessey (Didcot Phoenix CC), Stu Wright (Planet X), Michael Gowan (Festival RC), Steve Peck (Ely & Dist CC), Michiel Vaal (Team Backstedt), Richard Birtwhistle (Sydenham Whs)							
DQ	David Bucknall (Royal Dean Forest CC), Grant Osborn (Bedfordshire Road RT)							



## ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

This article by Ernest Strevens was first published in the  
V.T.T.A. Newsletter in 1949

### THE VOICE OF ERNEST STREVEN'S

THE V.T.T.A. - ITS ORIGIN AND MILESTONES ON ITS PROGRESSIVE ROAD

From 1939 to 1942 inclusive time trial for veterans were run by the Upper Holloway CC. The Great North Road, the natural home of competitive cycling, had not apparently been treated to a veterans event, the south had a few but very few and far between. This was to be made good. Girtford became the happy week-end venue of many veterans from all over the country. The first 25-mile took place on 23 July 1939 with an entry of 47. Many names on that old start sheet can be seen on those of 1949. A new feature was introduced, viz. "A" section for riders of 40 years of age, "B" for those of 50 and "C" for all over 60. Each section had a scratch man and handicaps, and one raced against contemporaries - fastest in one's section is probably more satisfying than say 6th or 7th h'cp out of the whole field.

23 August 1942 produced the first 12-hour, after our request for a date had been turned down by the committee of the North London District Council on the grounds of danger to the riders. At a subsequent full Council meeting when our appeal was successful, there were gloomy prognostications of the North Road being strewn with elderly gentlemen in all stages of distress, doctors and ambulances. We won through thanks to the younger generation who on the whole spoke in our favour. The event was held, attracting 27 entries, with special prizes for best beating of 200 miles by the 40's - won by a ride of 214½; 195 miles for the "B's" not won; and best over 170 miles for the over 60's won by 174½ miles. Eight standard medals were won and two certificates. Cutting-out detours was arranged for, so that when the "A's" had ridden 106m 1297y, "B's" had done 81m 1297y and "C's" 67m 1503y. Whether veterans are too tender to hurt themselves or too tough to be hurt, is an open question. Many events have been held since those days - no one has passed out.



The first real V.T.T.A. milestone was the holding of an inaugural meeting on March 7th 1943 at "The Old Sal", Barnet, attended by a good gathering of veterans who, backed by the favourable replies to a postal questionnaire, thrashed out and agreed the aims and general activities of the Association. The V.T.T.A. at its inception visualized a nationwide organisation offering congenial membership and open road competition for all over-40 cyclists, no matter where they may reside. It does not confine its services to members only. The V.T.T.A. took over the Nor-O-Lon racing programme for 1943 and from then has gone on increasing it - forging ahead in other directions as well. This is the work of many officials, each one contributing something towards the common aim.

In February a circular went out on the formation of Groups then being discussed; Birmingham members had, in fact, run one event, well supported by the London lads. A sub-committee drew up rules to allow for the finance of Groups. These passed, we soon had several running - Manchester, York, Central, West, Kent and last but by no means least - London.

1945 saw the B.A.R. started, we qualified in eligible events over 25, 50 and 12 hours. 1946 the 100 mile was added with much misgiving as this is a hard race. Only 17 qualified. 1947 - 20 sent in times for the four distances. 1948 - 13, the lowest; but in 1949 we have gone up to 28, easily the best.



Veterans' Time Trials Comments  
G.H.Stancer in "Cycling" 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1943  
Tom Hubbard in "The Veteran" in March 1973

MARCH 3, 1943.

CYCLING

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OUT AND ABOUT

By "G.H.S."



Veterans'  
Time Trials

THE proposal, sponsored by that speedy veteran E. H. Strevens, to establish a time-trials association for the elder-brethren seems to hang largely on the desirability, or otherwise, of recognizing the various records established by old-timers. It has been urged that elderly men should not be encouraged to overtax their strength by beating, or attempting to beat, the previous bests in their class; but this, of course, is an argument against all competitive cycling by veterans, and has no particular reference to records. If cyclists of 50 or 60, or whatever the age may be, are to race against each other, somebody is bound to do a faster time than everybody else; and if that time also happens to be faster than anything

done over the same distance in any previous race of time trial, then it will be a record whether we like it or not, for a record is nothing more than a recorded performance. The purpose of any records association is only, to see that the recorded performances are genuine and to prevent fictitious claims being accepted by the sporting public merely on the strength of a newspaper report. If the Veterans' T.T.A. is formed, therefore, I think it may with advantage undertake the authentication of records, although it may be necessary to divide these into age groups. Nobody in these days is a veteran before 50, but even the 50 class ought to be separated from the 60s and 70s to provide a fair comparison—the understanding being, of course, that the "juniors" must always show better times than the "seniors."

Dear Editor

It was I who told E. Strevens to get on with the job of forming a Vets Organisation for T.T.s, as he thought it was not fair for him to have to come in last in every North Midds & Herts event held on the Great North Road at Biggleswade.

In 1942 I used to leave my home at 4 or 5 a.m. to ride up to Fullers, Girtford Bridge, for the finish of the events. Ernie Strevens had ridden in an event and changed, and we both sat down to breakfast together at Fullers. When, after breakfast, he said to me "Cannot we old ones have a race amongst ourselves - you have seen me, I always come in last." I said to him, "You have finished work and have nothing to do. Get on with it, and form one." He said, "Alright, but first of all give me some names" and I did. But when he fixed the day to form the founders members meeting, I never turned up as I went somewhere else.

So the Vets was formed .. It was at his lodging at the "Cock" at Hatfield Broad Oak - he had a small room 9ft x 7ft upstairs at the back, which he turned into a study to do all the writing - that he worked all the details out. I visited him lots of times and he has shown me all the figures on umpteen papers - how he worked out average on Standard.

Yours truly  
Tom Hubbard (Marlboro A.C.)



## ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

### A recollection of VTTA founder member Laurie Dixon, Chairman from 1944 to 1948

Dear Editor

Congratulations on the special Anniversary issue of *The Veteran*. I was especially interested to see the photo of Laurie Dixon collecting subs at the V.T.T.A. inaugural meeting in 1943; I recently found a letter from him, dated 5/11/71, which was my first year with the V.T.T.A. The occasion was the Diamond Jubilee of the Eastern Counties C.A. and *The Gazette*, to which he refers, was the official journal of the "Counties". I was the Editor and had sent him copies to keep in touch - he was 86, now I am 86+.

5/11/71

Dear Mary Horsnell

What a pleasant surprise to receive your letter and parcel of 'Gazettes', which I have started to "digest".

I gather from the 'Gazette', 'Cycling', and other sources that you come from "my stable" - the gluttons for work stable.

I started my first job in the cycling world as Editor of the 'N. Middx. Gazette' in 1920(?) and have held a job ever since in various other bodies, and have enjoyed it all.

Folk may ask how or why, then I look back over the years and can say, the wonderful friends and friendships, etc, etc.

I am sorry to say that times have altered for the worst. I dread the forthcoming N. Middx. A.G.M.; there are several vacancies on the Executive, so I am wondering how they are to be filled.

I am now 86 years old, and still enjoying my honorary work - that is what makes me so angry, when the younger generations just won't come forward to do a real job.

So Mary, carry on your good work for our wonderful sport and pastime.

All best wishes to your good self and all my friends in the "Counties".

Sincerely yours

Laurie Dixon

As a result of my invitation for reminiscences, so many old timers wrote in that I was not able to cope with all the correspondence. I had to give the job up in 1972, but how pleased Laurie would have been to know that I have not given up altogether.

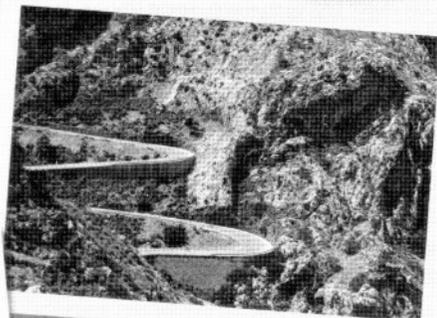
Yours sincerely and with every good wish.

Mary Horsnell

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# ALF ENGERS

## 40 YEARS SINCE THAT 49:24



*Alf Engers c1980 - still 'The King'*

It is exactly 40 years since Alf Engers achieved the 25 mile competition record with 49 minutes 24 seconds, thus becoming the first rider to break the 30mph barrier. Recollections of that magical day are provided by Mary Horsnell and event organiser Barry Freeman.

### Mary Horsnell

It was a lovely summer morning on the E72 course at Witham in Essex. When the ladies started first it was early and misty, but the sun was out and it was already calm and warm. Everyone knew it was a 'float'. The date was 5th August 1978.

Ladies prizes of £3, £2 and £1 went to Lorna Hanlon, Ann Illingworth and Shirley Killingbeck - all under the hour and a sign of things to come. It would be nice to say that I excelled myself but that was not so, I was 3 minutes away from my best. It was my 30th year of competition and the rot had set in!

At the other end of the field was a young teenager, proudly wearing her New Maldon strip bought with her first week's wages. Later she became Mrs Sue Bright, a timekeeper much sought after in Essex. She was disappointed with her own ride as she ended up with a poor time due to a puncture. Sue recalls us being among the crowd standing on the banking in Freebournes Road, alongside the A12, waiting for that diminutive but dynamic figure to appear - we all knew that Alf was on a ride.

Alf Engers already held the record, with 51:59 and then 51:00, although he had first held it back in 1959 with 55:11. It was Eddie Adkins who finished first in 50:50, figures only to stand until Alf crossed the line in a scintillating 49:24. This record was to stand until 1990 when a few seconds were shaved off it. Yes, Alf really was King of the Road - a colourful, charismatic and sometimes controversial character.....

The event was reported for *Cycling* by Dennis Donovan, but no-one who witnessed it will forget that amazing feat. Alf was certainly a man ahead of his time. In October/November of that year he wrote lengthy articles for *Cycling* - "Introducing the Engers Method". This was basically training and hard work but above all, concentration. It is just as true today, but for most of us the intensity is lacking.

Just for the record, no-one was in it for the money. The prize list was 1st Alf Engers - £6, 2nd Eddie Adkins - £4, 3rd Roger Queen - £3, 4th Mick Ballard - £2, 5th Mick Burrow - £1, 6th Glen Longland - £1. The VC Slough team of Adkins, Queen and Jon Burnham each received £10 vouchers from Evian and Harry Shawyer's 56:12 earned him a plaque for best on standard with +18:10.

The organiser, Barry Freeman, ran this event for the Unity CC for 40 years, until its demise only last year. Barry still soldiers on as an event secretary for EA Group - well done.

Even in those far off days, of 100 finishers only four failed to beat the hour; the 20 non-starters must have been kicking themselves. Riders that day who are still connected with the EA Group are Ron Back, Mick Pepper, Brian Swallow, Peter Jackson and Andy Grant (but not THE Andrew Grant who is now heading the Cambridge CC vets team with such success).

#### Barry Freeman

I joined the Unity Cycling Club in 1976 after about 18 years lay off from racing in the Midlands with the Concorde CC. I joined just to get fit and enjoying cycling again, but it wasn't long before I was roped in to help run the club and promote events.

In 1977 I took over the promotion of the Unity CC 25 on the famous E72 on the A12, near Chelmsford and I continued to promote this event until 2017, but by then on the slower E9/25. (40 years of promotion) I have given up promoting the Unity CC 25 because mainly we now have only a few members capable or willing to marshal. I am still promoting a 10 m TT in Norfolk on Saturday 11th August for the VTTA EA, on a friendly single carriageway course.

In my second year of promoting the Unity CC 25 on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1978 it was an event not to be forgotten. It was a warm day with only a light wind, just the sort of conditions for records to be broken. All the leading riders were in a full field so that anything could happen with the top competition that was available.



#### **Tuscany - Italy**

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# AROUND THE GROUPS

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## **EAST ANGLIAN**

### ***Mary Horsnell's musings***

Terry Anderson's death leaves a huge hole. He held so many official positions during his lifetime, being a former President of the ECCA and one time VTTA National Treasurer, in addition to holding office in his various clubs. For many years he edited the ECCA 'Counties' magazine, was their current treasurer and an event organiser. The current CTT London East District Handbook lists him as being responsible for events, webmaster, handicapper and course measurer. As well as time trial courses he delighted in devising routes for pleasure rides, including every possible hill. With his group of Shaftesbury 'oldies' he often extended his riding to the mountains of Sardinia, Majorca and other faraway places.

It is impossible to mention all Terry's achievements - but only to mention the tandem records with various partners, notably Connie Tapper. He raised a laugh by saying he "chose the lightest lady with the biggest plus." Yes, Terry could raise a laugh and that is how he will be remembered.

On to racing and the group made a good start to the season with an improved entry for the open circuit 25. There was no lack of helpers here as so many were unwilling to tackle the event after a difficult winter. Regular pusher-off Brian Swallow, turned up as usual only to find his place already taken, after a round trip of 150 miles. This did not prevent him turning out again the following week to assist the timekeeper. Conditions were sunny and good and the two fastest riders were vets who also took the standards with +18:44 and +18:40. Newcomers to the team medals were Ely & District and Beds. Road Team. The event was capably organised by Mick Hodson of

Peterborough CC, from the periphery of the Group's territory.

It was back to the standard E2 25 mile course the following week and a return to extreme cold, wind and intermittent rain. Nevertheless there were rewarding times for those who persevered. New organiser Rebecca Murley passed her test with flying colours and her reward was a PB. In the ladies open Alice Lethbridge produced another startling ride, followed the next day by a Beryl Burton type solo win in an Essex road race. Mat Smith was awarded the Herbie Nevill cup.. Could Mat be the chap who once described himself as "a self confessed roadie who dislikes time trials"?

No stranger to the prize list was Ron Hallam, who rarely goes home empty handed when he ranges further afield. Again he scored BOS with an excellent +21:42 and is to be congratulated on putting the boys in their place. The five riders below him were all from sponsored clubs. Chelmer took the team medals, with the old firm of John Golder and Peter Horsnell being backed by newcomer Ian Candy. They were followed by Wisbech Wh, Plomesgate CC and Verulam CC. The traditional cycling clubs held their own here on a day when there were 45 DNS, which must be a record?

New members. With his usual sterling service Mervyn has provided a comprehensive list of new members this year. 65 have resigned, plus another 27 have been deleted for non-payment of subs. This, in some ways, makes for sad reading, for among the names are several who for many years have served cycling well and the VTTA in particular.

New members: Jason Dynes, Ross Thomson (both Hitchin Nomads CC), Marcus Buksh (Kettering CC), Martin Arundel (Verulam CC),

Daniel Bloy (Team Velovelocity), Paul Willis (Wisbech Wh), Michael Fishpool, Paul Stafford (both unattached), Mandy Bunn (CC Sudbury), Harry Moore (CC Hackney), Mike Padfield (North Norfolk Wh), Matthew Smith (Drag2zero), David McGaw (Cambridge CC), Amanda Mallett, Trevor Caley, Matt O'Brien, Steve Cave (all Plomesgate CC), Andy Profitt (Ipswich BC), James Bromley (Becontree Wh), Simon Constable (Basildon CC), Matthew Cook (Beds Road Race Team), Ross Edgar (Lea Valley CC), Rehman Haroon (Chelmer CC), Dan Foster, James Wylie (both 3T Racing), Peter Johnson (Norwich ABC), Alister Campbell (Eagle RC), Stuart Morgan (Mercedes AMG Petronas CC)

Transfer from L&HC: Adam Laycock (Trisports), Thomas Dean (Eagle RC), Sally Withy (Team Swift)

Transfer from North: Richard Bland (Hitchin Nomads CC)

Rejoined: Ian Turner (North Road CC)

Accident report. Another who has given sterling service over a long period of time is Ian MacKenzie, staunchly backed by his wife Vivienne, who is now in better health, it is pleasing to say. She must have been severely shaken by Ian's latest escapade, when he was late for his 72nd birthday party. Thinking to celebrate he went out for a ride on his bike.....Unfortunately the Police Accident Reduction Unit was operating in the area and one of their vehicles collided with Ian's bike on a roundabout, causing it to be written off. As he lay in the road he saw a slogan on the police vehicle - "What did the driver say? - Sorry, I didn't see you". You couldn't make it up! A visit to hospital revealed only superficial cuts and bruises, so hopefully he is by now back in action.

Our annual lunch and prize-giving will be on 25 November. The venue is now confirmed as the Rosery Country House Hotel, Church Road, Exning, Newmarket, CB8 7HE.

## **KENT**

### ***Ian Turner***

A rather brief report from the wilds of Kent for this edition I'm afraid. Family health issues are a continuing distraction at present.

The Group's 2018 events kicked off on 24th of March with the open '10' for the Mick Dansie cup organised by Val Peachey on the Q10/22 course from Harrietsham to Charing and back. In fact, the distance on the day had to be reduced to 6.6 miles due to road works. The event was won by Anthony Wallis (Ciclo Uno) with +3:04; he was also first on scratch with 14:28. First of the Kent Group competitors was Gary Grayland (CC Bexley) + 2:47, for which he wins the Mick Dansie Trophy this year. John Osborn (Folkestone Velo) +2:36, Mark Vowells (CC Bexley) +2:11, and Chris Bax (PMR Toachim House) + 2:00 filled the other medal slots. The team prize was taken by CC Bexley duo of Gary Grayland and Mark Vowells with +4:58.

The Group's second open event was the National 30 mile championship event, incorporating the Group's own 30 mile championship, which was ably organised by Tom Morton on 29th April on course Q30/2 (Kingsnorth - Brookland - Kingsnorth). A full report on the National championship appears elsewhere in this edition. With regard to the Group Championship for the Charles Robson Trophy, the winner was Andrew Meilak (Velorefined Aerosmiths) - both scratch and OAS - with a time of 1:05:50, +16:31. Mark Hill (Velorefined Aerosmiths) +14:58, Anthony Bee (Wigmore CC) +13:40 and Jon Osborn (Folkestone Velo) +13:34 filled the other medal slots. The team prize was taken by Velorefined Aerosmiths' Andrew Meilak and Mark Hill with +31:29.

After making an excellent start to his season, Gary Grayland has unfortunately suffered a broken pelvis as the result of a collision with a pedestrian while cycling to work on 8 May. Gary has been ordered to rest up for eight weeks, and will therefore be off his bike for

some time. We wish him a speedy and full recovery.

There is much better news to report on Simon Henderson, Thanet RC, who suffered serious injuries after being involved in a collision with a car while riding the VTTA National 25 last July. Simon made his open racing return in the Wigmore CC 25 on 6 May with a time of 1:00:46, which he quickly improved to 58:25 in the Sydenham Wheelers 25 a week later. Simon is clearly well on the way to recovering his excellent form of recent seasons!

Kevin Tye and Andrew Meilak (both Velorefined Aerosmiths), have wasted no time this season in reaching their best form. Kevin completed two 49 minute 25s earlier in April before recording 48:47 in the VTTA East Anglian 25 on the E2 on the last weekend of the month. This appears to be a new national age record for age 56. Kevin's time of 18:44 in the Lea Valley 10, also on the E2, on 5 May also appears to be a new national age record. In the Farnborough and Camberley 25 at Bentley on 21 April, Andrew recorded an excellent 51:43, which he followed up with a time of 20:03 in the a3crg 10 at Liphook on 9 May.

The first of our monthly '10 at 10' series on 4 April fell victim to yet another set of road works and temporary traffic lights, leading inevitably to cancellation. Of those who arrived on the day Chris Bax (PMR@ToachimHouse) was the furthest travelled, but he made up for his disappointment in the May event when he recorded a winning 25:19 in very windy conditions. This gave Chris first on both actual time and standard from a field of seven riders. We are still hoping for more support for these monthly events which are now held on the sporting but still relatively fast Tenterden circuit.

Sadly, the Thanet RC and the Kent Group have lost several long-standing members in the last few months in Ernie Abdullah, Morris Crow, and most recently, Alice Haller. All three were

life-long cyclists and stalwarts of Kent cycling. An obituary for Morris, written by his son Derek, appears elsewhere in this edition. We would like to offer our condolences to their families and friends.

Safe training and racing out there - reports of seriously dodgy potholes seem to be on the increase!

## **LONDON & HOME COUNTIES**

### ***John Hoskins***

The first news is that the National VTTA website ([www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk)) is now up and running, which no doubt is well publicized elsewhere within these pages. Just go onto the home page, and if it's your first visit then you have to log on and generate a password. Then you have access to a lot of information, including a news page included in the London & Home Counties pages. You can also renew membership on the website and prospective London & Home Counties members can apply through the site too. You can also check that all of your details are correct and amend them if necessary. Already the L&HC has received six new members in the first two weeks since online membership applications were possible.

### Training of Timekeepers

Last year the L&HC group ran a successful training course for prospective event organisers, this year we're concentrating on timekeepers.

The Group (and indeed, the sport) needs more timekeepers. So for the events on 31 May and 9 August, both 10s on the H10/2 with HQ at Knowl Hill, training will be offered to those interested in becoming official timekeepers. The very experienced timekeepers at those events (Alan Hodgson, Mick Fountain) and our President Jim Burgin will be available to explain to a small group how it is done, to lend appropriate devices and give practical experience in timing a live event. Those interested will meet before the event in a local pub where the Group will provide lunch

and they will have an explanation of what is needed. Then the trainees will accompany the finish timekeeper, sit at the finish (a short distance away from the official timekeeper so there is no cheating!) and practise recording actual times. After the event these will be compared with the official times.

We are very keen to hear of anyone who may be interested in helping the group increase the number of timekeepers, please contact our chairman David Guy:

[ovcyclingclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ovcyclingclub@hotmail.co.uk) or 07711697900 as soon as possible.

### Marshalls/Helpers Always Needed

Anyone who can help to marshal at any of our events are asked to contact the relevant event organiser or the Group secretary (that's me) as soon as possible. I realise that the first two events are over and done but if you're free on the dates listed at the end please contact the organiser or me. For most of the events all helpers and marshals will be awarded a free prize giving luncheon (held in January) ticket or a contribution towards their expenses. Please let me know if you can help at any of the events. This applies particularly to the 15m event on Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> which is our second VTTA Championship promotion of the year. With Rachael Elliot still out of action for the time being, please let me know if you can help at this event.

We have had a volunteer since the AGM to help with organising the trophies for the annual prize-giving. Geir Robinson intends to get the engraving up to date on all the trophies and if things go well the trophies presented at the Luncheon will be fully engraved. However, his details are wrong in the national handbook. Please delete any details you have and substitute the following for Geir,

[geirrobinson123@outlook.com](mailto:geirrobinson123@outlook.com)

07557 398469

Talking of the Annual prize giving Luncheon, the idea has been put forward that we should

all wear name badges. This could take away the embarrassment we all sometimes suffer when talking to someone who knows who you are, but you can't remember their name.

I suspect that many other group news in The Veteran this month will be a little fuller of results than the London & Home Counties. I have been unable to get to any events this year, not even the very successful promotion of the National VTTA Championship 10, together with the overflow event riders competing for the Don Byham Award. Well over 200 riders enjoyed a classic promotion by Geoff Perry. What I need is some help from our members. So if any L&HC members are at any time trial event that includes awards on standards I would appreciate you letting me know your result and (even better) other L&HC members' results.

In the VTTA 10 Championship our best placed rider was Jim Moffatt of CC Luton whose plus of 7:19 was a sneaky second faster than Geir Robinson's (Regents Park Rouleurs) plus of 7:18. Danuta Tinn of the Maidenhead was our best placed lady (just outside of the medals) with her plus of 7:06. Our group Chairman David Guy achieved an impressive plus of 6:23.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Trial

The 75th Anniversary since the formation of the VTTA means that it is also the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the London group, which was the first one, formed in March 1943. So to celebrate this event the group ran its own special Anniversary 10m event piggy backing on the VTTA National Championship which was run earlier in the day on the superfast F11/10.

This additional event also operated as an 'overflow' for the National (for those who did not make the cut -top 150 on plus standard) - and secondly as a group event (incorporating the annual Don Byham Memorial) so that the event was eligible to count towards the group's season long competition - The Jim Burgin Trophy.

Perhaps for the first time ever, there was a dead heat between the fastest man and women on standard with both Keith Lea (Surrey/Sussex) and Linda Dewhurst (L&HC) achieving a plus of 6:56. Fellow L&HC team mate Ben Allen was third in 6:30, and as the second best placed L&HC group member is awarded the Don Byham Memorial Trophy.

In the women's competition Linda was about half a minute ahead of second placed Mandy Bunn (East Anglian) with April Lewis rounding off the podium places.

The Westerley CC (Gillian Morgan, Benjamin Allen and John Sullivan) won the club team competition from second placed Club London & Home Counties; that's right these three riders have L&HC as their first claim club, a growing trend.

The VTTA Medals will have the special commemorative 75th Anniversary VTTA centres, and these will be awarded at the Annual London & Home Counties Luncheon in January 2019. The Don Byham Memorial Trophy will also be awarded at this event.

Overall results: 1= - Linda Dewhurst (Team Milton Keynes & L&HC) +6:56 (actual 22:48), 1= - Keith Lea (Paceline RT & S/S) +6:56 (19:40 actual), 3 - Benjamin Allen (Westerley CC & L&HC) +6:30 (19:39 actual)

Women's results: 1 - Linda Dewhurst (Team Milton Keynes & L&HC) +6:56, 2 - Mandy Bunn (CC Sudbury & East Anglian) +6:27, 3 - April Lewis (Born to Bike & Midlands) +3:21

Club team results: 1 - Westerley CC +15:27 (Gillian Morgan +2:44, Benjamin Allen +6:30, John Sullivan +6:13), 2 - VTTA (London & Home Counties) +13:06 (David Manship +3:20, Paul Newman +4:28, Colin Holmes +5:18)

Remaining London & Home Counties 2018 TT promotions:

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 8am - 10m on F11/10

David Guy

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2pm - 10m on H10/2

Phil Melville

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2pm - 15m on H15/1  
c/o John Hoskins

This event will be the VTTA National Championship 15 mile

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 8am - 25m on H25/2  
(Rocco 25) Tim Childs

## **MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST**

### **Jim Ogden**

Weather is always a talking point amongst cyclists and it seemed that this year was never going to warm up. Spring showed little change from winter! However, as I write, temperature records were broken on the May Day Bank Holiday, trees are in full leaf with shorts and short sleeves the order of the day. Long may it continue.

I have committee member Ken Workman to thank for submitting the obituary of Alan Geldard, Olympic medal winner from the pursuit team of 1948. Alan carried the Olympic torch in Manchester from his wheelchair for the London Games in 2012. Sadly I have also to report the death of Nancy Hopwood, age 97. Nancy rode 217.17 miles in the YCF 12 hour in 1951, an Altrincham Ravens club record which I predict will never be broken.

But the racing goes on. For those of us who remember racing in the 50s and before, what we have today seems different in every way, including faster.

Manchester & District Time Trial Association (M&DTTA) promote three early season 10 mile events at the start of the season. The one held on March 10<sup>th</sup> proved to be the fastest, won by Joseph Dobson, Manchester Bicycle Club in 20:12. The Group had two members in the top 10, Adrian Hughes, Seamons CC was sixth in 22:22, with Paul Shalliker, Coveryourcar RT 22:33. Two other Group members on early season outings were Dave Fearon, Weaver Valley CC 24:20 and Robbie Harcourt, Salford CC, 24:52.

The Buxton Mountain Time Trial held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March was round 1 of the CTT Circuit Series and covered 33 miles. George Evans, Team Bottrill/Vanguard was a clear winner in 1:22:16. There was a specific Athletes prize for riders using pure road bikes and we had a local winner in Sandbach domiciled Mike Cuming, Madison Genesis in 1:25:39. This also placed him sixth fastest overall and gave notice of KOM prizes to come in the Tour de Yorkshire.

In the Vets event held over the shorter 22 mile course Jim Froggatt, Wills Wheels was placed thirteenth in 1:05:13 and Stephen l'Anson of the promoting club was twenty-eighth in 1:11:08. There is also a para-cycling section over the same distance which was won by Sarah Storey, Storey Racing in 1:07:47.

Roy Deakin, promoted the Group's only event this year- a 10 held on April 10<sup>th</sup> on J2/3 on a cool grey day. Twemlow/Chelford is not a fast course....so there were 15 non-starters from a field of 54. Adrian Hughes, Seamons CC (50) was best on standard 22:26 (+4:19), followed by three members of the Peak Road Club. Andrew Hicklin (52) 22:42 (+4:12) ; Steve Gibson (51) 22:42 (+4:07) and Chris Myhill (51) 22:50 (+4:00). It would appear from the times that Peak Road Club were the winning team on standard, but unfortunately for them only Chris Myhill is a VTTA member. This meant Adrian led the winning Seamons team completed by Alan Chorley (46) 22:50 (+3:37) and Barry Armstrong (64) 25:46 (+2:20) with a team total of +10:16. The actual fastest lady was Lindsey Astles, Weaver Valley CC in 28:08.

Amongst the non-starters was the oldest man on the start sheet, Derek Hodgkins, Stockport Clarion at 84. Derek's racing has been curtailed by the nursing of his seriously ill wife Barbara, who for so long has been a fixture with him wherever he was racing.

John Baddeley, Stone Wheelers, is noted for always finishing and when I questioned him on his time over the 10 miles of 48:24 (which was beaten by the first ten finishers in a

recent Welsh 25) John said it was because it was his first outing this year. When he got to Chelford Church, the slope up to the turn looked too steep so he got off and walked up it and round the roundabout. That to me is what time trialling is all about. It is taking part and enjoying our sport.

Road works involving temporary traffic lights are a frequent hazard on our local roads. Inevitably some have affected our events. The Withington Wh 25, due to be held on J2/9 on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April was a victim and had to be run as a 10. Two Group members featured in the top ten, Adrian Hughes was placed seventh in 22:27 only two seconds faster than his team mate Alan Chorley. The event was won by Simon Wilson, Ribble Pro Cycling in 20:20. Paul Shalliker returned 23:29 and another of our regulars, David Wright, Warrington RC 23:24.

On the following Saturday, the J2/9 was available for the Macclesfield Wh 25. Visitor Paul Ellison, Thatto Cycle Racing Team won in 52:52. Seamons had three riders in the top 10 - John Spearman was fifth in 57:12, Dan Mathers was seventh 57:42 and John Nottingham 10<sup>th</sup> in 58:11. There was a tie for fastest lady between Claire Harrison, Vision Racing and Monica Dew, Storey Racing, who both recorded 1:02:32. The promoting club's Roger Wrenn recorded 1:09:31 and his club mate, regular competitor Lynne Skellern finished in 1:12:27.

Last Saturday (as I write) 5<sup>th</sup> May, the first 50 on our local courses, the Dukinfield was held. The fastest ten finishers were all well inside two hours. The best of these was Mark Turnbull, Torq Performance in 1:46:01 which also won for him Veteran on Standard prize with his +31:51. Adrian Hughes was seventh in 1:52:13 and a great star from the past, current holder of the end to end record, Gethin Butler was placed tenth in 1:54:02. A present day star, Sarah Storey, was the fastest lady in 2:00:31.

When you are not on your bike and are at home instead, there is excellent cycling to watch on TV. The Tour of Yorkshire was blessed with excellent weather for exciting racing; I hope the Giro promoters saw it. It would make an excellent place for them to use as a start. The flat stages at the start this year in Israel were only a benefit for the sprinters. It was much improved when the race moved to Sicily. More news of the longer distances next time. There is a lot of racing season left!

## **MERSEYSIDE**

### ***Geoff Edgerton***

What a difference in a couple of weeks. After arguably a pretty awful winter, we are now bathed in beautiful sunshine. This winter, my club cancelled more club runs than in recent years and this continued into the beginning of the new cycling season when a handful of time trials were cancelled. But now I ask myself, is this the summer we have been craving for, for longer than I can remember? Could this be the summer that could emulate 1976? We can just hope.

Although we are one of the smallest groups in the VTTA, we seem to have quite an active group of cyclists. This year we have had over twenty members applying for their standards which compares very favourably with groups much larger than ours who struggle to reach such numbers. The one point of concern is that we seem to have quite a few members that join for a year and then lapse, but I suppose that applies to other groups as well.

For those that can remember, I pointed out in the Merseyside newsletter of November 2017 that the group had posted a loss on the year ending October and as a result we were going to promote a cycling event to offset this said loss. However, as a result, we had donations totalling just over £100 from members which was a magnificent gesture. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of the group for their generosity.

As you are all aware, especially those that competed, the group promoted a fifteen mile time trial in late March of this year and I am delighted to tell you that it was considered a success on all points. We were particularly fortunate with the weather, whilst the temperature was in single figures, it was dry with a slight glimmer of sun. We had some really favourable comments re the organisation of the event and also the fact that we made a modest but welcome profit. I would like to thank all those that gave up their time to marshal, it was really appreciated. And a big thank you to the catering ladies who provided excellent refreshments to round off a successful morning.

We had forty eight riders entered with nineteen Mersey vets competing. New member Stuart Proctor of Revolution Racing claimed the honour of leading Mersey vet and a second place overall with a time of 34 mins 52 secs. North Shropshire Wheeler Richard Kay was another to show good early season form finishing in fourth in 35:30 with Port Sunlight Wheelers' Kevin Larmer finishing in the top ten with 36:53. Chester Road Club's Jeff Mace was next man home in 38:03 with another newcomer to the vets, Gareth Brookes of North Shropshire Wheelers, time of 38:43 edging out fellow club mate Tim Rex who recorded 40:02. New member Steve Chapman of Nova Raiders recorded 41:16 with St Helens CRC Janet Fairclough leading Mersey vets lady with a time of 41:33. Mid Shropshire Wheelers' Dave York claimed bragging rights over his wife Jenny with a time of 41:35 compared to Jenny's 42:35. Stephen Glenwright finished in 42:11 with North Shropshire Wheelers' Dave Wilson recording 42:37. Oswestry Paragon's Helen Tudor was third Mersey lady with a time of 42:46 with Birkenhead Vic's Ian Casson stopping the clock at 43:51. Another new member, Jade Chapman of Nova Raiders, was next to finish in 43:59 with Port Sunlight Wheelers' Ian Corrin recording 44:00. A trio of North Shropshire Wheelers completed the field with

Richard Berry finishing in 44:37 and newcomers to the group Les Boughey and Linda Beckett recording 44:48 and 52:46 respectively. Commiserations to yet another newcomer, Gina Trasatti, of North Shropshire Wheelers who had the misfortune to puncture.

The first group event of the year was Mid Shropshire Wheelers 50 mile time trial. Held over four laps of the Prees-Whitchurch-Quina Brook circuit, it had seven members competing. Just a reminder to all that the group operate a one rider one prize with the standard award being the premier. The fastest and also first on standard was Phil Warburton of Liverpool Phoenix CC who recorded a time of 2:02:57 and a plus of 20 mins 24 secs. for which he wins the Dick Corris Memorial Trophy for best on standard. Returning member Simon Higgins of Liverpool Century recorded a plus on standard of 20:10 and a time of 2:03:11 to claim the Eddie Gradden Trophy. Chester Road's Ian Hawkins produced a time of 2:17:47 with plus 2:13 with Ian Casson recording 2:24:35 and minus 1:08. Jenny York finished in 2:24:08 with a healthy plus 12:39 with Helen Tudor not far adrift in 2:26:37 with plus 4:06. The Mersey field was complete with Les Boughey recording 2:28:15 and a minus of 5:56.

As you are probably aware the West Cheshire 30 mile time trial, which is a group event and was due to be held in May, has been cancelled due to roadworks. It is hoped to run it later in the year in September.

I think that's about it. Apologies if there is an odd mistake and I hope I haven't missed anyone out. Let's hope the weather holds and you all have a good season. Stay safe.

## **NORTH**

### **Gavin Russell**

First an update on the injured group members. Dave Herbert is continuing to progress on his long term recovery from the

life threatening accident that saw him spend 99 days in hospital. Although still requiring support in his movement, I am informed he is in good spirit, as we all look forward to his return to improved health. Ted Scurr, who was injured, when a tractor knocked 8 riders from their bikes on their Wednesday outing in 2017, although still suffering from the injuries sustained, has returned to competition in the Cramlington 10 (19 May 2018). Whilst not performing as he would have liked, he has now put a number on again, with his old enthusiasm returned.

The completion of the construction of the A1M (Baldersby to Scotch Corner), albeit about a year late, has been welcomed as it has created a number of alternatives for new courses on the adjacent service roads. With low traffic counts and good road surfaces, initially two new courses have been designed, both for use in 2018. The new 10 course (T104) utilises the road from Leeming up to Catterick and is to be used for the first time in Ruth Crossley's June group event. The new 25 mile course (T254) utilises the services roads created out of the old A1 main dual carriageways, albeit now a single carriageway. The designation of the T254 course reference, acknowledges the history of this road as one of the iconic record breaking courses of the past. Paul Garstang has identified this course for his September Group 25.

In addition to the remaining group events, for the third year, the Teesside District is organising four Wednesday evening club type 10 mile time trial events on the Croft Motor Racing Circuit. Whilst the events are open to all ages, many of the organising officials are VTTA committee and officers. With it being a closed circuit, it is the ideal opportunity to encourage new, old and grandkids to participate in our sport for the first time. Dates for your dairy are: 30 May, 13 June, 18 July and 8 August. Details are on CTT website, where if you wish you can enter on line.

Results of the group's events to date are published on the Cycling Time Trial's website. Highlights include:

21 April – 10ml TT – T105 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Phil Wright

With the winning ride of 19:59 recorded on this Sedgely based course by non veteran Phil Graves, a number of excellent rides were recorded by most of the field. 33 VTTA members were on the start sheet of 58 riders. On a warm Saturday afternoon, Gary Hunt was fastest on standard with plus of 6:12. Prolific winner on both time and standards, Keith Murray was a close second with a plus of 6:07. Nev Martin completed the top three on standard with a plus of 5:56. Fastest lady on standard was new member Jo Short with a plus of 2:28. Congratulations to all winners and those who recorded times.

13 May – 10ml TT – T105 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Paul Garstang

In the second group event of the season, Keith Murray returned to winning ways, by recording the fastest time with a 20:06 and a plus of 6:07. Harry Walker was placed second on standard with a plus of 5:34. Nev Martin completed the top three with a plus of 5:34. Previous winner Gary Hunt was placed fourth with a plus of 5:09. Of the 60 riders on the start sheet, 37 were VTTA members.

Details of the remaining group's events for the 2018 season are:

Saturday 2nd June – 10ml TT – T104 – VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Ruth Crossley

Sunday 22nd July – 25 ml TT – T252/3 – Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Gavin Russell

Sunday 12th August – 50 ml TT – T502 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Phil Wright

Sunday 2nd Sept – 25 ml TT – T252/3 – Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Gavin Russell

Sunday 16th Sept – 25ml TT – T254 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Paul Garstang

Sunday 30th Sept – H/C – THC32 - VTTA (North Group) Hill Climb Championship – once again included in the Cleveland Wheelers CC Clay Bank hill climb

All North Group events are open to all ages and are eligible for points in the new National CTT ranking system. To qualify for standard awards, the group membership fee of £12 must be paid, together with an application form to either the group Secretary (Gavin Russell) or Treasurer (Paul Dawson) prior to the start of the event. The same goes for the application for personal standards (currently £12).

Please be reminded that the Group's Nouva shield, normally presented annually in one of the group's 25mile events to the member best on standard, will this year be competed for during the Sunderland Clarion 25 mile time trial, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Refer to CTT Handbook or website for the individual event details. A leaflet, explaining how the standards work, is available as either hard copy or as a Word document from the Group Secretary (Gavin Russell).

If any member/reader can assist in any way at any of the above events, please do not hesitate to contact the organizer, who will be only too pleased to receive your help.

In closing, can I remind members that should they require any information regarding the group's activities or wish for anything to be included in future Veteran magazines, please do not hesitate to contact the writer either by email on [gavin\\_russell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gavin_russell@hotmail.co.uk) or by telephone on 01642 654419.

## **NORTH LANCASHIRE & LAKES**

### **Dave Brown**

2018 has certainly not seen the best start on record for promotions of the North Lancs. and Lakes Group!

The first problem we had was the mid week '25' that the Group runs in April each year. Held on a Wednesday afternoon on a quiet country road circuit in the Fylde - partly on the old finishing circuit of the much missed famous Lancashire Road Club 12 hour course!!

When the event secretary - our Chairman Richard Taylor - arrived on the day he found road works with temporary traffic lights directly on the course. The 25 mile course is over two laps of a virtually 12.5 mile circuit - in fact so near to half distance that the finish point is only 40 yards up from the start. That makes it very convenient for the timekeeper who - of course - is also Richard!

A quick change of start - and finish - to either side of those dreaded traffic lights and we had a 12.3 mile course to use!

No doubt about the result - at least for our vet's - with Steve Irwin clocking the fastest vet's time of 26 minutes 49seconds. Steve's ride would probably have been sufficient for the overall win - also on standard - had he not been stopped along the way to wait whilst a large wagon negotiated into a farm gateway. Fastest time actually came from non-vet Stephen Ayres of Bronte Wheelers just 25 seconds faster than Steve at the finish line.

For standards we conveniently halved the standards for 25 miles, with 66 year old Pete Greenwood of Team Swift having a time of 29m 03s giving him the winning plus of 7m 07s.

Dave Hargreaves of the North Lancs Road Club took second on standard with his actual of 30m 20s giving him a plus of 6m 58s for his age of 71. The delayed 26m 49s of Steve Irwin returned a plus of 6m 54s at his age of 47 for third slot.

Deborah Moss riding for Team Merlin was the ladies winner on standard with an excellent time of 30m 24s giving her a very good plus of 6m 01s.

For the team award the North Lancs Road Club were unbeatable with the 33m 05s time of our group secretary Sue Cheetham giving a plus of 4m 07s at the age of 54 adding to the plusses of Hargreaves and Irwin. A month or so later - on her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday - Sue claimed to have enjoyed her best birthday present ever after clocking a personal best 25 of 59m 27s on the Etwall course!

The second problem for our group in 2018 was the road works announced for the A66 Keswick - Cocker mouth road that would make problems during May and affect the scheduled VTTA National 50 mile promotion. As event secretary Richard Taylor said at the time - ironically the road works were to install a cycle-path!!

It was then announced that the VTTA National 50 will be held on Sunday June 24 with all other details as for those on the original date.

Certainly one of the better aspects of 2018 to date has been the number of new members who have joined our group. We welcome to our group:

Graeme Currie of Carlisle, Martyn Uttley and Michael Gregory both of Ulverston and Barrow Central Wheelers, Phil Roberts of Garstang and Lune Road Club, Paul Savage and Samantha Parkin of Kendal, Neil Pilkington of Horwich, Matt Stell of Walton-le-Dale near Preston and Dave Topping of Padiham near Burnley.

Our group is blessed with a number of outstanding racing cyclists. Several of them are at the top of the game even before standards are taken into account!

Already in 2018 Richard Bideau and Steve Irwin particularly have been winning or been placed in a number of open events.

Richard has been particularly successful this year with him tackling the Lakes and Lancs Sporting Courses (SPOCO) series of events. To date Richard was winner of his own Pendle Forest Cycling Club Circuit of Ingleborough promotion. This is held over a very tough 27 miles including the climb to the famous Ribbleshead viaduct - and an entry of 92!

In the even more famous Circuit of the Dales – promoted by the Nelson Wheelers club since 1949 and one of the very few true time trial classics - Richard finished an outstanding third in an entry of 110 with JLT Condor Pro James Gullen overall winner.

Even over the much shorter 9 mile ascent of Shap Fell on the A6 from Kendal on May Day Holiday Monday not one of the 60 finishers arrived at the summit quicker than 47 year old Richard!

The next promotion for our group is the 25 mile in conjunction with the West Pennine Road Club 25 on the L256 course on the A59 Clitheroe by-pass on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. That is providing the road works to build yet another RAB on that road have not started! All information is that work will not start by that date.

The above 25 on June 13<sup>th</sup> is a counter towards our ongoing group championship. Still to come are:

Sunday 24 June VTTA National 50 mile Championship on the L5012 course on the A66 road.

Sunday 8 July RTTC National 100 mile Championship (also the North Lancs. TTA Championship)

Sunday 22 July Lancashire Road Club 25 on L2525

Saturday 4 August Velo Club Cumbria 50 - NOTE! CTT handbook shows it as a 25 that day.

Of all the original 10 events selected for our group championship members only have to ride 4 to qualify with at least one of which

must be 50 miles or more. You could still qualify therefore by riding the above events.

It has been announced that one of the winning team in the 2017 National 15 mile Championship was ineligible.. This means that our North Lancs. and Lakes Group trio of Peter Greenwood, Steve Irwin and Dave Hargreaves will now receive medals for this Championship.

## **NORTH MIDLANDS**

### ***Alex Deck***

A busy start to the year including our first group event on the O10/16. This attracted a high quality field and was won by Michael Dodson (UK-Featherflags/TRI Race Team) with +4:13. James Rix (Team Bottrill / Vanguard) was actual fastest man with 20:53 and Alex Deck (Rutland CC) was fastest woman with 25:29.

One good thing about the North Mids group is that we can get to other districts relatively easily, so we've had members race on courses in Lincolnshire, Manchester, Midlands, Wales, Essex, East Anglia and Yorkshire. Not so many in Yorkshire now the demise of the V718 is looking like a distinct possibility - I am sure that I am not the only one looking forward to the report from Yorkshire district which may shed more light on their decision to suspend all events.

Keith Ainsworth (59) of Sheffrec CC has turned out some really impressive rides, already accumulating two group and (subject to confirmation) national age records, for 10 miles (19:29) and 25 miles (49:03). The 19:29 was at the VTTA National 10 champs, where he came third on standard and sixth overall.

Syd Wilson, now 89, set an age record for 10 miles at the Notts & East Midlands event in April with 31:01. I think he's got his eye on lowering it a bit before the season's out.

We've been enjoying reading about Andy Clark's return to racing (see the group report

in the last issue) and watching his steady progress (and enthusiasm) as he gradually lowers his 10 mile pb. 25:23 as this goes to press, but I wonder what it will be by the time he reads this.

Belated congratulations to Darryl Wall (Out of the Saddle CC) who (unbeknownst to him, or indeed, us) won the Strevens trophy last year, awarded by the National Committee for the best on standard of aggregate times set at both our short distance events in 2017. Your certificate will be with you soon Darryl!

Coming up in June are the North Midlands Divisional TT Champs, this year run on the sporting O10/14 course near Worksop.

As always, keep in touch with us via the website <http://vttanorthmidlands.co.uk> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/VTTANorthMids>

## **NOTTINGHAM & EAST MIDLANDS**

### **David Herd**

I will not dwell on the poor early season weather but I cannot remember such a wet and cold period. However it seems to have warmed up so we can hopefully look forward to riding in better weather.

Three NEM Veterans took the top three places in Leicestershire RC's early season 10 mile TT held on the 10 March, David Longlands (Team Bottrill) fastest with 20:21, with team mate Dan Barnett second just one second behind on 21:22 and in third place Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) 22:26.

On 24 March Coalville Wheelers CC 10 was won by Matt Bottrill (Team Bottrill) with 21:11, with next NEM member Michael Wills (Cycle Centre RC) coming in on 23:52 and Michael Spurr (Leicestershire RC) on what appeared to be a tough day on 33:10.

Alford Wheelers CC early season 10 mile TT on 25 May produce no surprises with senior Alexander Colman from the promoting club fastest with 57:54, with Darren Yarwood (Vive Le Velo) second on 58:25 and senior Steven

Guymer (Squadra RT) third on 59:01. Michiel Vaal (Team Backstedt Bike Performance) the last man to go under the hour in fourth place with 59:08, Craig Lamb, for the promoting club was in 10<sup>th</sup> place on 1:05:52 and Lee Thomas (Backstedt Bike Performance) 15<sup>th</sup> on 1:09:04.

Sleaford Wheelers CC Charity 10 mile TT attracted 145 entries but unfortunately as the last day of March roared out it left wet, windy and cold conditions with only 104 riders taking on the tough conditions. Senior Joe Perkins (University of Nottingham CC) was fastest on 20:49 with the first NEM veteran home being Michiel Vaal (Team Backstedt Bike Performance) on 22:51, with Chris Ward (Team Swift) just over the 23 min mark with 23:05. Other NEM members times: Gary Symons (Witham Wheelers CC) 23:43, Neil Holden (Lutterworth Cycle Centre) 24:03, Jez Willows (VC Flintham) 24:41, Roger Sewell (Wisbech Wheelers) 25:06, James Westwood (Witham Wheelers CC) 25:24, . The promoting club Rod Weston 26:10, Ian Pike (trike) (Lincoln Wheelers CC) 26:13, Michael Smalley (Witham Wheelers CC) 26:27, David Smith (Sleaford Wheelers CC) 26:32, David Yarham (Peterborough CC) 26:45 and Martin Hedley (Witham Wheelers CC) 27:10.

Melton Olympic CC early season 25 mile TT , which incorporated NEM VTTA middle markers (slowest 120 riders) attracted a good field of 88 riders. Held on the Farndon A25/34 course on 7 April three senior riders took the first three places, Gareth Pymm (Team Bottrill) was fastest with 49:53, with Nick Moore (uk-featherflags/TRI Race Team) second on 50:22 and Fraser Rounds (Tram KTM UK) 50:37. Sean Vincent (Team Bottrill) was the first NEM Group member with 51:28 +16:10 , Ed Terelli (Race Hub) 53:00 +14:15 and Michael Wills (Lutterworth Cycle Centre RC) 54:20 +15:29.

Other MEM Group members times: Ed Watson (Ratae RC) 55:54 +10:32, Chris Spratt (Leicester Forest CC) 56:31 +9:55, Jez Willows

(VC Flintham) 57:35 +9:55, Phillip Collier (Mapperley CC) 58:23 +12:34, Michael Wilkins (North Nott Olympic CC) 59:17 +10:32. Chris Spray (Ratae RC) was just over the hour on 1:00:14 +08:00 with Michael Smalley (Witham Wheelers CC) on the same actual but +15:29, David Yarnham (Peterborough CC) 1:00:27 +11:31, Paul Brownless (Lincoln Wheelers CC) 1:00:00 +06:38, David Smith (Sleaford Wheelers CC) 1:01:16 +11:04, Alan Morris (Hinckley CRC) 1:01:39 +07:39.

Lady riders produced good times in this early season event with Jo Corbett (Mapperley CC) on 1:03:11 +13:29, Kath Smith (Sleaford Wheelers CC) 1:04:24 +13:00 and Jill Morris (Hinckley CRC) 1:16:33 -01:24.

Finally Michael Church (Rockingham Forest) 1:06:29 +5:51, Matthew Finch (Lloyds Cycle CC) 1:06:40 +0:35, David York (Ratae RC) 1:09:19 +2:39, Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) 1:09:50 +20:14, Rob Bennett (Ratae RC) 1:10:36 +3:30 and Michael Spurr (Leicestershire RC) 1:12:27 +5:24.

I'm sure you will all join with me in thanking our secretary Russell Gent in combining the NEM VTTA event with Melton Olympic CC. Russell works very hard for our sport and as I write I have just received my start sheet for the next VTTA 25 event to be held on the 19 May which Russell is also promoting.

As you will probably know NEM are promoting the VTTA 25 Mile National Championships on Saturday 28 July; our secretary for the event, Colin Parkinson, asks that anyone who is able to help on the day contact him on 01162 750 203.

Spalding CC 18 Mile TT which was run on the undulating Edenham - Corby Glen - Colsterworth course was won by espoir Alistair Golby (Cambridge University CC) in 40:07, with Mapperley CC Shaun Eden coming in with 42:41, Nick Cave (Lutterworth CRC) came in 10<sup>th</sup> with 45:24 Michael Smalley (Witham Wheelers CC) 50:01 and John Royle (Fenland Clarion) CC 53:44.

The NEM Group 10 mile TT held on 21 April at the A10/14A Long Bennington – Gonerby Island course was won on actual by Richard Bideau of Pendle Forest CC with 19:42. There were five riders that secured times of under 20 minutes - Brett Harwood (Team Botrill) was second, Dan Barnett (Team Botrill) third with 19:51, Steven Irwin (North Lancs. RC) fourth 19:53 and Matt Sinclair (Lutterworth CRC) fifth 19:56. These were good times bearing in mind the strong wind on the outward leg, There was a field of 97 riders of which there was strong contingent of NEM Group Members so I will spare you a long list.

The five handicap winners were Samuel Clifton (Velo Club Long Eaton) 17:02, Matthew Stretton (Lincoln Wheelers CC) 17:15, Steve Cornish (Velo Club Nottingham) 17:38, Leon Wright (Race Hub) 17:54, David Manship (Leicester Forest CC) 17:56.

Winners on standard were -Karen Ledger (Team Botrill/Vanguard) +7:01, Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) +6:44, Stephen Irwin (North Lancashire RC) +6:39, Michael Vaal (Team Backstedt) +6:31, Chris Dyason (Cambridge CC) +6:19.

Fastest lady on actual was Becky Murley (Wisbech Wheelers CC) in 23:19 and fastest lady on handicap was Lucy Sturgess (Leicester Forest CC) with 19:09.

Fastest team on actual was Team Botrill/Vanguard (Brett Harwood, Daniel Barnett and Sean Vincent) 1:00:19 and team on standard was Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT (Nick Cave, Michael Wills and Neil Holden) +15:35.

Well-done and thanks to David Yarnham for promoting this excellent event.

Dan Barnett (Team Botrill) was fastest in the BDCA Members 10 Mile TT held on 28 April with 20:00, Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) came in on 21:04, Nick Cave (Lutterworth CRT) 21:14. Nigel Finch (Mercia-Lloyds Cycles), Kevin Humphreys (Sherwood CC) and Dave Bates (South Pennine) were all grouped together in

43, 44 and 45 place with times of 24:19, 24:28 and 24:51 respectively. Finally Russell Carter 25:32 and Jeff Bowler 28:01 both riding South Pennine RC. In the Ladies and Junior event Karen Ledger (Team Bottrill) was fastest with 21:54.

Brett Harwood of Team Bottrill continued his good form in VC Long Eaton 25 mile TT on the challenging Griffydham circuit, finishing with on 53:21, with NEM members Matt Bottrill (Team Bottrill) 55:47, Peter Boyes (TS Racing) 59:20 and Peter Lavine (Team Bottrill) 1:08:16.

## **SCOTLAND**

### **James Skinner**

#### News

Jim Petrie of Dundee Wheelers CC. was recently involved in a bad crash, fracturing the C2 peg in the top of his spine. The fracture is stable but Jim doesn't think he will be competing this year; all in the group wish Jim a speedy recovery, and thank him for sending his apologies as he had already entered a couple of championship events.

Davie Miler continues his rehab after his crash, and has been spotted out on the bike, here's hopeful of a return to the fast times.

The following letter was received from Bob Gibson regarding the Aberdeen Wheelers 25 mile TT:

*"Hi Folks*

*It has been brought to my attention by certain Mr A Munro that our ABERDEEN WHEELERS CC 25 is listed in the VTTA Handbook as Granite City.*

*The date/course and HQ is correct being the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018, on the - AB25/8, with the HQ being the Fordoun Village Hall*

*I hadn't checked the Vets' book but I would point out that the Neish/Low has been a Wheeler event for many many years and the Neish is probably one of the oldest surviving TTs in Schoatlan'.*

*Just to be clear - I am not the actual organiser [see SC/BC] but it was agreed that I would coordinate any correspondence coming direct from "the Vets" and I am currently facilitating Mr Munro's postal entry.*

*The word might need spreading??*

*Cheers*

*Bob {ABERDEEN WHEELERS CC const. 1929}"*

#### Racing

After a course change, from the Cambusbarron 10, to the old Blairdrummond 10 course, the SVTTA 10 mile championship for the Jim & Betty Train trophy was run early in April. With an impressive 41 group members making up the field of 90, there was a few DNS, including 12 group members. The morning started off chilly until the sun broke through. The event was well marshalled and the road surface was to everyone's liking, all riders got through the course without any traffic interfering. James Cusick was the vet kingpin of the day taking 4th place in the open event with a 22:06, as well as first on standard and member of first team on standard in the Jim & Betty Train championship.

Andy Wilson (St. Christopher CC) was the only group member riding the Gordon Arms Trophy Mountain Time Trial organised by Gala CC, in which he returned a time of 1:15.01.

In another Classic TT, the Tour of the Meldons, organised by the Edinburgh Road Club, from an original field of ninety four riders, only seventy five returned times to the time keeper. Wilson Renwick was fastest with 55 min. 04 sec, the only group member under the hour was James Cusick (Dooleys RT) with a 58:29.

Thirty four teams entered the Dooleys Cycles RT 17 mile TTT with thirty teams reporting to the timekeeper. Four teams were DNF, including group members Allan MacLean and Isobel Fletcher. Fastest team on the day Arthur Doyle / Douglas Watson (GTR- Return

To Life) in a time of 33 min. 40 sec. with Peter Ettles and Ewen MacGillivray of RT23 in 2nd place with a 35:00

The Fife midweek events started with the running of the 5 mile TT. Fastest on the night was Joe McMillan of Synergy Cycles with 10 min. 53 sec, with fastest veteran being Angus Wilson of Dundee Thistle Road Club 11 min. 28 sec.

Group member Amanda Wagstaffe East Sutherland Wheelers started her 2018 time trialling season competing in the Moray Firth CC 25 mile TTT with club mate David Mitchell returning a time of 1:12:55.

Group member Carlos Riise took 2nd place in the Mackie Tankard 25 mile TT on the Fruchie course in Fife with a 54:55, 16 SVTTA members were riding on the day.

Flying the colours in the VTTA national 10 were Frank Anderson SVTTA with a 21:55 and Alex Munro riding a 27:52

In the Scottish Cycling national 10 championships organised my Moray Firth CC, there were 21 group members. Jim Cusick was fastest in 6th place with a 20:52, and in the ladies event Amanda Tweedie riding for RT23 also finished in 6th place with a 25:38.

### New Members

The Scottish group welcomes the following new members: Patricia Baird (Inverclyde Velo), James Hall (Rock & Road), Peter McLardy (Fullarton Wheelers), James Moore (Peebles CC), Neil Penrich - (SVTTA), Michael Wood (Edinburgh RC), Angus Wilson (Dundee Thistle RC), Angela Dixon (Dunfermline CC), John Myerscough (Kinross CC), Stephen Payton (Ross-shire RC).

If readers have any information, news, or gossip, get in touch at [jamesmskinner@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmskinner@hotmail.com) or [INFO@SVTTA.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@SVTTA.ORG.UK)

## **SOUTH WALES**

### **Barry Williams**

I checked my diary and guessed I should not forget a morning ride into the "Beast from the East" on Tuesday 27th February. Conditions seemed fine, it was sunny and just a bit cold as I pedalled up Britway Road out of Dinas Powys. I was in for a shock, a mile further on, downhill to St Andrews church, the biting cold hit me. Feeling sick, I pulled over and lost my breakfast, "Wow" "surprise", so it wasn't to be a cycling day. The BBC weather site stated, feeling like minus 10 Celsius. I already knew that aged veterans like me struggle, now I know that extreme cold is absolutely a no go area for us.

The following week, my wife and I escaped south to Majorca. Naturally, it was warmer down there. Our Alcudia hotel was full of other northern Europeans, Germans, Scandinavians plus a few Brits. I hired an Ultegra equipped Specialised carbon bike, 8 days for 150 Euros and cycled approximately 80 kilometres each morning, leaving social afternoons for walking with my wife. Conditions at that time of year were breezy and between 16 and 18c. Would I go there again in early March? "Yes", anything to miss the "Beast from the East". The Viva Tropic is an excellent hotel, with tasty food and great facilities for cyclists.

Back in Wales the weather continued cold and windy, but on Easter Sunday, 1st April my diary tells me was 6c with an easterly breeze, apparently suitable conditions for the Merthyr CC 25, because winner Scott Travis posted 46:41 and local Swansea rider, Chris Gibbard recorded 48:38. Our members, notwithstanding the cold weather, also put up some good times. This is early season and these results are commendable. Rod Hicks 54:23, Paul Hayward 54:25, Steve Curry 57:22, Davis Wilson-Evans 58:24, Andrew Hayward 1:00:18, Marco Marletta 1:01:18, John Shehan 1:01:44 and Diane Wilson-Evans 1:09:58

For me Easter Day was a 50 mile ride in the Vale of Glamorgan and home in time to watch the Tour of Flanders on TV - a classic hard race, won by Dutchman, Nicki Terpsta. He is part of the all-conquering Quickstep Team, I was disappointed that the other elite teams failed to stop Quickstep dominating this year's Spring Classics but I guess that the likes of Team Sky have other race agendas for later in the season.

April was a busy cycling month for me, not so much for riding as preparations to organise VTTA South Wales Open 10 for Saturday 12th May. By this time I had already obtained the police permission and booked the Village Hall Llanarth as event HQ. The chosen course, R10/17, Abergavenny-Raglan is popular for its simplicity, out and back dual carriageway and a roundabout for the turn. Entries were coming from early March and by the closing date there were 20 in the 2-up and 83 competing in the solo event. Considering the recent erratic weather, luck was with us, a calm and sunny day. Chris Gibbard followed his recent 25 exploit by posting 19:42, too fast for the rest of the field. At the finish Chris told me "I held back on the uphill drags to accelerate over the top", a useful strategy that also yielded 47:16 in the Welsh Championship 2" on 6th May (which featured time trialling great, Marcin Bialoblocki from Bridgewater smashing the UK record with 42:58).

Our members joined in the fine weather PB fest at the Welsh Championship 25. Steven Powell 50:41, led the way, followed by Dave Bucknall 50:46, Chris Fishbourne 52:44, Rod Hicks 53:27, Steve Curry 54:52, Marco Marletta 57:11 and Terry Anthony 57:21. Female members also joined the fun with Andrea Parish 55:36 and Michelle Fishbourne 57:46. Others contesting the day were Steve Madeley 58:14, Hugh Davies 59:09 and John Shehan 1:01:23. Many in this group also rode our VTTA South Wales 10 with Steven Powell 20:47, Chris Massey 20:49, Dave Bucknall 21:19, Chris Fishbourne 21:34, David Wilson

Evans 22:40, Terry Anthony 23:24 and Marco Marletta 24:27. Michelle Fishbourne 24:01, Jo Buckland 24:03 and Diane Wilson Evans 29:38. Finally, I was glad to meet long time member, Bob Ibell, Bynea CC, 82 years old and recovering from a major operation. Bob showed plenty of spirit and confidence and was well pleased to post 30:56. As a special feature we ran a 2-up team race, the winners were Paul Hayward and his friend Carwyn Davies, passing the time keepers in 20:09.

That Open 10, my first as organiser for many years, was quite a challenge. I had to relearn Microsoft Excel, Cycling Time Trials is now fully computerised so my thanks to Sally Withy and Stewart Smith for their help and support. In South Wales my thanks to timekeepers, Robin and Frances Field and Phyllis Harradine, also to all the other helpers. The event was in memory of Gordon Butler, winner of many trophies for VTTA South Wales, who was tragically killed in 2012, while riding his bike in a country lane near his Hay on Wye home. The offending motorist failed to stop and was never traced. Gordon's widow, Pam attended our event HQ, we were proud to have honoured his memory.

VTTA run season long competitions, notably, the "Short Distance", requiring two best 10s and two best 25s; this is very popular, except among South Wales members, only six entered last year 2017, when Stuart Evans, Port Talbot Wheelers finished 15<sup>th</sup> out of 309. With the great times seen in this report, I am sure that many of you would make the top 50. Therefore, keep your records for 2018 season and get your name in lights.

At present Stuart is recovering from a major operation, but I hear that he back on his bike; we wish him a speedy recovery.

Finally a message to our members, I don't get to many events, therefore, email me with your best achievements for my next report. In the meantime, safe cycling.

## **MIDLANDS**

### **Jeff Matthews**

A report on the Midland Group 10, held 21st April. The event attracted 45 riders of which 33 of the finishers were veterans and 29 of which were also VTTA members. A fairly brisk breeze gave rise to most riders remarking on a hard homeward leg. Thanks to Don Picken from Stafford RCC for acting as start timekeeper. All of the other helpers were members of friends of Walsall RCC with the youngest, Oliver Westwood, being 9 years old and a member of the junior section of Stafford RC and also the organiser's son. For the first time in his life.... he helped with the washing up. Only another 31 years before he becomes a member of the group VTTA!!



*Oliver Westwood helping at Dad's event*



*Keith Ainsworth receives BOS award from Scott Westwood*

Keith Ainsworth of Sheffrec CC was the fastest on standard with a +6:13 followed closely by Midlands Group members David Kiernan (+5:48) and Liz Powell (+5:35). Liz also took the overall ladies prize in a time of 22:44. The overall fastest on the day was David Mead of Lutterworth CCRT with a time of 20:25. David Kiernan's time of 20:30 saw him being the fastest Midlands VTTA group member overall on actual and standard. For this he'll receive the William Rose Bowl with Liz Powell will take the Bart Cup. Both of these trophies will be awarded at the annual dinner / awards taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Owing to a poor entry, the Walsall 23 mile TT due to be held in May was cancelled. The effect for Midlands Group is that as it was one of the counting events for a number of our trophies, we have decided to promote a Type B or club event on 19<sup>th</sup> August on K34/25, based on Inkberrow, Worcs. It will start at 8:00am. Look out for more details on VTTA website, Midland news page, or on Facebook and we will be e-mailing members with specific information. However, as you will know such an event is entry on the line.

We are in discussions with a club to promote an open 25 in 2019, something we seem to be rather short of in the Midlands Area. More details later in the year.

Steve Jenks continues to be responsible for the Midland Group Age Records. There are a number of gaps, so you may be eligible to claim one. Take a look on the Midlands website. There's a link off the National site.

## **WESSEX**

### **Bob Jolliffe**

Marcin Bialoblocki and Zach Bridges were not the only riders to take advantage of the warm weather that greeted competitors in the Welsh Championship 25 and overflow events on R25/3H on May 6.

Those two may have stolen the headlines by smashing the men's and junior competition records (with 42:58 and 47:27 respectively), but there were plenty of other riders heading home after the event with smiles on their faces.

Wessex vet Michelle Walter was one. She improved her personal best by 3mins 30secs to 1:00:34, set a new Bournemouth Arrow CC's women's club record and earn herself a plus of 14:35 in the process.

Christchurch BC's Jase Cakebread clocked a great 55:02, Terry Icke (Poole Wheelers) spent 55mins 57secs on the road and even yours truly managed a best since 1983 of 1:04:16,

being caught by young Mr Bridges for two minutes halfway down the famous hill.

### National 10 Championship

The day after the Welsh Championship, Blazing Saddles' Andy Langdown took 13<sup>th</sup> place in the VTTA National 10 mile Championship near Aylesbury with a plus of 7:19 from an actual time of 19:22.

Fareham Wheelers' pair Neil Mackley and Nigel Sign tied for 23<sup>rd</sup> place with a plus of 7:04, though Mackley, enjoying the fruits of a super start to the season in hilly events, clocked 30mph exactly to his teammate's 20:40.

New Forest CC's Antony Green took 28<sup>th</sup> with a plus of 6:52 (from 20:07). Alan Emmott of Fareham Wheelers had a plus of 4:59 (24:15) and Barry Eeles of North Hants RC had a plus of 4:34 from 22:16. All times are provisional and subject to confirmation.

### Weather Report: Bad

Never in my memory has an early season in the South been so blighted by bad weather leading to the cancellation of numerous events both at club and open level.

The open event rot started way back at the beginning of March with the Farnborough & Camberley CC 10 succumbing, two weeks later Sotonia CC's Leg Loosener fell by the wayside and is now being re-run on Saturday, July 28.

Bournemouth Arrow CC's Good Friday 10 also cracked under the pressure of weather as did the Antelope RT weekend which suffered snow.

Most recently Hampshire Road Club's 10 on the quick P881 had to be withdrawn at the last minute because of heavy rain on the course causing dense spray. It is hoped this event will be re-run at a later date.

In addition, a change of date meant New Forest CC's Round the Forest 32-miler clashed with the National Motor Museum's

Autojumble at Beaulieu and was cancelled because of the threat of traffic jams on the course.

### Not All Bad

Nonetheless, there have been some cracking early season events held in the South.

Way back in February VC St Raphael held its hilly 18. Simon Berogna of the promoting club was best Wessex vet with 42:08 for 13<sup>th</sup> place in the time trial bike category. Other Wessex Group riders included Sarah Matthews of ...a3crg (45:56), Hamish Walker of Blazing Saddles (47:58), Martin Beale VC St Raphael (50:33) and Michelle Walter 51:01.

In the road bike race Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers' Nick Jones clocked 45:36, Julian Middlewick (Hants RC) 48:14, Stephen Skinner (VC St Raphael) 48:56 and Jerry Bromyard (...a3crg) 48:56.

Neil Mackley of Fareham Wheelers started his run of top placings with third in the time trial bike category in the Andover Wheelers' 24 with clubmate David Dalton not far behind with 1:02:54. Jake Prior (VC St Raphael) clocked 1:04:48 and Sarah Matthews 1:09:59. Nick Jones scored well again on his road bike with 1:06:58 and Stephen Skinner 1:12:59.

Mackley was fifth in the ...a3crg Hardriders' 10 with 23:56, Simon Berogna did 24:28, David Dalton 24:29, Sarah Matthews 26:19, Martin Beale 26:58 while Julian Middlewick finished with 26:43 in the road bike category with Nigel Sign a further minute back with 27:45.

Mackley took second place in the New Forest in Tornado RT's tough two lap 10-miler near Bransgore with 24:32, ten seconds ahead of sixth placed Nick Jones. Simon Berogna was seventh with 25:05 and Jerry Bromyard was best Wessex vet in the road bike race with 28:43.

CC Weymouth's Greg Parker was third in his own club's promotion at Owermoigne with 22:10. Nick Jones was fifth with 22:16, Terry

Icke 18<sup>th</sup> with 23:52, Nigel Sign did 24:07 and Sotonia CC's Graham Harman 24:37.

In the New Forest, Angela Carpenter of ...a3crg was fastest woman in the 17.8 mile Knight's Composite's test promoted by 3C Cyclexperience. She sped around the two laps in 43:43. Teammate Sarah Matthews was 5<sup>th</sup> woman with 45:05. Neil Mackley was fifth veteran with 41:51. Other Wessex vets competing included Philip Watts (North Hants RC) 42:25, Mike Boyce (...a3crg) 51:07 and Bill Simmonds (Christchurch BC) 52:49.

Mackley wasn't daunted by the steep hills around Lulworth when he took sixth place in Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers' 40km time trial bike event with 1:04:31. Dave Dalton finished with 1:05:36 while the promoting club's John Samways was third in the road bike category with 1:06:18.

Away from the sporting courses, Andy Langdown was happy with his 52:36 in the Farnborough & Camberley CC 25 at Bentley. Angela Carpenter did well with 55:25, Portsmouth North End CC's Nick Andrews clocked 55:28, Alan Emmott 59:14 and Sarah Matthews 59:20.

Nick Jones was fastest Wessex vet in the classic Charlotteville CC 50 on the Bentley course with 1:51:58. Last year's Wessex BAR Stephen Williamson of ...a3crg was next quickest with 1:54:54. Others: Julian Middlewick 1:55:56, Angela Carpenter 1:56:21, Philip Watts 1:57:18 and his North Hants RC clubmate Barry Eeles 2:04:49.

VC Venta's Michael Naulls earned a plus of 8:49 from 1:12:34 in the VTTA National 30 Championship in Kent. He was also one of many riders rattling in fast times in the first of ...a3crg's Wednesday evening series. He clocked 21:28. Others include Andy Langdown 20:15, Neil Mackley 20:25, Julian Middlewick 21:17 and Nigel Sign 21:49.

## **SURREY & SUSSEX**

### ***Jon Fairclough***

#### Results of Surrey/Sussex Open Events

The Surrey/Sussex VTTA 10 mile TT Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April on G10/87. Thirty-six riders were on the start sheet and thirty-one made the start line. We had moved event from June to April to attract more entrants due to lack of clashes with other events. This worked as we got thirteen more than last year, but we would have liked more, so next year the event will move to the last Sunday in April. It was a chilly morning, and there was a bit of a headwind on the return leg, but fortunately the April showers didn't happen. The top four veterans on VTTA standard were Nick Dwyer Lewes Wanderers CC + 05:36 (21:28), David Rumm Southborough & Dist. Whs + 05:03 (21:42), Gary Brind South Downs Bikes / Casco Europe + 04:42 (21:36), and Christian Yates East Grinstead CC + 03:51 (23:18). The Fastest in Age Category (not winning another prize) were 40 – 50 Philip Murrell Finsbury Park CC (22:52), 51 – 60 Peter Baker Lewes Wanderers CC (24:13) and 61+ David Phillips Old Portlians CC (25:28). Nick Dwyer wins the Group's Stan Harvey Trophy & Medal (Highest Surrey/Sussex Veteran Plus on Standard). Thanks to Dave Pollard for organising the event.

#### Upcoming Surrey / Sussex Open Events

The remaining events are the 50 on 17<sup>th</sup> June on G50/90, the 100 on 12<sup>th</sup> August on G100/861, and the 25s on 19<sup>th</sup> August on G25/54 and 23<sup>rd</sup> September on G25/89. All these events are listed on the CTT website and in the 2018 CTT Handbook and you can register for them now.

#### Sue Eaton

Sadly, Sue Eaton died in November 2017 following a very short battle with bowel cancer. Sue was a pioneer in the sport of triathlon and was at the forefront of women's vet racing throughout her life. She was a former National Long Course Champion and



medalled at World Long Course Championships through her 30 years of racing. She suffered a major stroke in 2012 and recovered her swimming and cycling ability to a good standard, returning to racing, despite medical advice that she would never swim, bike or run again. She was a member of the Surrey/Sussex Group and regularly marshalled at events following her stroke supporting other cyclists in the region, and her husband Andy who still races at a high standard. Her passion for sport was legendary in the area and her funeral was attended by many World and National standard triathletes and cyclists, many of whom had been inspired by her life.

#### Welcome to New Members

A welcome to thirteen new members: Steve Arscott, David Battersby, Howard Bayley (Blazing Saddles), Simon Bowler (AS Test Team), Brett Davis (Lewes Wanderers), Lisa Davis (Lewes Wanderers), Peter Franks (Charlottesville), Mike Hannay (Lewes Wanderers), Keir O'Donnell, Simon Powell (Redhill CC), Lisa Price (London Women's Racing), Jed Rock and Mark Smith (Crawley Wheelers).

#### New VTTA Membership System

The Surrey/Sussex Group membership data was uploaded to the new VTTA membership

system in March. People in the counties can now join the VTTA by going to [www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk), entering their details and paying their subscription and standards fees. Card and postal payment are available. A direct debit feature will follow in a later release. Members can log on and renew, view and edit their own details and purchase products such as a place at the Annual Lunch and Awards Presentation, Standards Awards entry, and make donations. Members will be able to select their preferred method for receiving the Veteran, post or email. Officials will be able to view and edit details and generate lists of members eligible for events and awards. The new system is explained in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter. I believe it will be a great asset to the organisation. If you have not logged in yet and set your password, please do it now!

#### Strava Group News

The Strava Group is called "VTTA Surrey Sussex" and now has 16 members. Peter Baker continues to top the leader boards every week with the huge mileages he accumulated through commuting. It will be interesting to see what happens now he has just retired! If you want to join, just send me an email or get onto Strava, find the group and ask to join.

#### American Potholes

The many potholes scarring the roads around Surrey and Sussex are a major hazard for cyclists. However the two counties, and the country are not alone in having them. Roads in the USA are great for time trialling practice – roads can be dead straight for ten or twenty miles. I was cycling along on such a road on a causeway south of Galveston, Texas, last November, and hit a pothole well hidden by grass growing in it. It threw me off my bike and I cut myself quite badly but nothing broke, including my bike(!), so I could cycle the fifty miles back to my car. When I got back to England, I realised I should have taken a photo of the hole and reported it. Instead I

found the location of the accident in my Strava record (where my speed went to zero) and then used Google Streetmaps to find a picture of the pothole. I then sent the image and location information to the Galveston county authority, who have acknowledged receipt and, I hope, will do something about it. I was amazed I could get evidence this way. Modern technology is not so bad after all. All we need is a pothole-fixing robot to crawl around our roads and fill them in...

### Committee Vacancies

We now have a Group membership total of 162 but only 5 are currently on our Committee. For the last two years these reports in the Veteran have mentioned that we need our members to help with the administration of the Group by taking on the roles of Group Recorder and Social Secretary and it is essential that volunteers now come forward. The Group Recorder is responsible for collecting and analysing results and record claims and organising the certificates, standard medals and trophy awards ready for presentation. The Group Recorder's work is needed at the end of the season in October and November. Given that the VTTA is all about races and records, the Group Recorder's work is fundamental to what we do. The main responsibility of the Social Secretary is to organise the Annual Lunch. Effort is mostly needed in December and January for the lunch in February. Both roles require knowledge and experience of using Word, Excel and email. We also now need someone to take on the role of Group Secretary, which is an administrative position dealing with any correspondence and preparing the agenda and minutes for two meetings each year. Please consider helping the Group by taking on one of these three roles and if you can, or you would like any further information, please contact Keith Wilkinson at [keithwilkinson@talktalk.net](mailto:keithwilkinson@talktalk.net)

### **WEST**

#### **Brian Griffiths**

On the 11th May the West Group held our annual big do, a time trial, the prize presentation and a simply wonderful social gathering before we all tucked in to a magnificent selection of food and good conversation. Fortunately this all happened just in time for me to record the evening's highlights before I sent this report in to the editor.

Gordon Scott, ably assisted by his wife Jemma, organised the event, despite him recently suffering a double fracture of his leg; but I am pleased to say he has recovered well and appears to be well on the way to regaining his full strength. Hard working secretary Gordon and his good wife Jemma came up with this excellent idea just a few years ago and have since tweaked it almost to perfection. Can I honestly say, and I am sure that anyone else who was there will agree, that it is certainly an event not to be missed. The refreshments were superb, and that is a vast understatement, and the ladies that provided them and served them did a truly wonderful job.

Unfortunately rain put a bit of a damper on the time trial but nevertheless 20 riders seemed to get some pleasure out of it.

Our president Ted King M.B.E. presented the prizes to those who turned up to collect them. Ted will be ninety years old very soon and is amazingly fit and still cycling, though of course



*Mick Fountain receives the Janet Wilson Trophy from Ted King MBE*

not in competition. I won't go into a long list of prize winners which will be of little interest to others not in our Group but I feel I must mention Mick Fountain who rode all distances for the BAR and took age standards at all distances up to twelve hours. This was surely enough justification to be awarded our top individual award for the year - the Janet Wilson Trophy. Very well done Mick.

West Group members took a small array of national awards last year mostly in the VTTA National Championship 50 which we organised. Rob Pears took second place in the men's event. whilst Zoe Betteridge was 3rd in the women's event. Rob Pears, Steve Cottington and Pete Wilson took the 50 mile Club Team Championship and Rob Pears, Steve Cottington and Derek Dowdeswell won the 50 mile Group Team Championship. Well done to all of you.

Perhaps like me I am sure many of our older members are perplexed by the changes that are taking place in our sport and pastime. Everything seems to be so complex now and yet I am constantly being told things are much easier now that everything is done on line. I suppose that if you are in to that sort of thing they are a considerable advantage, as was ably demonstrated at the workshop held in conjunction with this year's AGM at Solihull. My belief is that many of our members are still not on line and have no intention of availing themselves of this facility. Do they really miss out on so much or do they feel as though they are somehow being excluded? It would be useful to know whether the new routines have gained us more members or lost us a few. Do more members enter events now or are there less?

Go to a modern time trial and everyone seems to ride the latest technology, with machines that could easily cost £10,000. Do the owners really get a great speed advantage or do they in addition need to get wind tunnel tests, expensive bikefits, aerodynamic clothing and power meters etc. to get the very best

results? Indeed is it quite fair that the man or woman with the deepest pocket could get such an advantage over the rest of the field?

The sport I knew has changed to some considerable degree in the last few years. It really would be good to have a well organised debate to see if members would consider new rules or new thoughts to try to even up the equalities. Or have we really gone too far already!

I think of the time and effort that it took for Ray Booty to resolutely shave mere seconds off the hundred mile record to bring it inside four hours. Then I learn that great chunks have regularly been taken off it in recent times, so will someone explain to me what I am missing. It just doesn't seem real - I mean, 25 miles in 42 minutes! I will be called fuddy-duddy and old fashioned no doubt, but I would still prefer the days when winning depended more on physical performance than technical superiority.

The season is still young and there are lots of interesting events for members to enter. Let me know your results and comments, I am always interested especially if they can be converted into something to put into the magazine.

## **YORKSHIRE**

### **Chris Goode**

Mick Phillips successfully completed his fortieth finish in the Circuit of the Dales, in the Nelson Wheelers 50 mile time trial, on a good day. Well done, Mick. This is a top event and is worth riding and supporting. James Gullen set a new course record with 1 hour 55 minutes, an outstanding ride and a good warm up for his ride in the Tour de Yorkshire.

The final mile community event, in the North Bay, Scarborough on the Tour de Yorkshire third stage saw two super veterans at the head of the field. Stan Chadwick and Brian Musson rode together on a specially adapted bike and four year old George Stephenson

rode beside them. At 102 years of age Stan is the oldest VTTA member nationwide and octogenarian Brian still retains some VTTA tandem age records. Wonderful - a great celebration of our great sport.

Doug Hart attempted to beat the RRA York to Edinburgh record during Easter week and although he was not successful his trials and tribulations involved make for interesting reading; his story is overleaf.

*(As we went to press Doug informed me that on 28<sup>th</sup> May he successfully set a record of 6:28:23 for the new RRA Circuit of Yorkshire Dales National Park, beating the standard of 6:45:00. - Ed)*

Our Secretary, Tony Stott, recently enjoyed the Argus 109 km sportive in South Africa along with a few others: total entry was 35,000! It was on closed roads, through what must be some of the most beautiful coastal roads in the world. The course near Cape Town included some very challenging climbs. The fastest time for the elites was 2.5 hours, Tony a fraction slower and he intends to ride again next year.

Blair Buss recently organised our first Group event, a 25 on the Topcliffe - Thirsk By-pass course. Despite it being only 7th April there was a good entry of 77 riders, which included a strong raiding party from Lancashire. There was some wind and light rain but times were fast. Steve Irwin (N Lancs RC) produced a scintillating 50:27 to win the day both as outright fastest and with a plus of 16:59 also the standard. Brian Sunter (Condor RC) defended Yorkshire honour by taking second on standard with +16:07 (actual 1:00:13) and wins the group 25 trophy. There was a close tussle amongst the women, with Rachael Mellor (Homfirth CC) best on standard +11:21 (actual 1:03:02) only 10 seconds better than Kirsty Bramley (Team Swift) +11:11; Kirsty got the better on actual however, recording 1:00:45 for fastest lady.

Mike Penrice is organising our next Group event - a ten mile time trial intended for V718

but now on the Gilberdyke to Howden V714 course, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July. We hope that you enter, if not, volunteer to make the event a success. Food donations most welcome.

Our final VTTA Yorkshire event will be another 10, organised by Blair Buss on Saturday 21st September; this also was intended to be on V718. Although CTT Yorkshire are now permitting a limited number of early Sunday morning events on V718, this event hopes to trial a new course on Thirsk By-pass (A19-A168). Details still have to be finalised, but if the course is approved it should be very fast and be a good alternative to V718. Watch this space.

A volunteer is needed please to become the Medals Secretary. This involves stewardship of the trophies and collection from previous year's winners. The engraving of the trophies and medals needs co-ordination with the Recorder, Jim Trevor; it is an annual task with most of the work over the winter months. Contact Tony Stott if interested.

We would like to welcome the following new members: Oliver Potter (Rockingham CC), Andy Marshall (VS Cycles), Liz Ball (Valley Striders CC), Alasdair Bruce (Yorkshire Road Club), Ed Neilson (Vive le Velo), Robert Corney (Scarborough Paragon CC) and Mark Wolstenholme (Team Swift).

Welcome back to the following: Steve and Sandra Burrows (Vive le Velo), Richmond Denton (Parentini Test Team) and Chris Harris (Holmfirth CC).

We hope that you enjoy your membership and participating in various VTTA events throughout the country

Our next meeting is on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> August at Collingham Memorial Hall, at 19:30. It will be good to see you there and out on the road.

Enjoy the summer and your cycling.

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



## ROAD RECORDS ASSOCIATION YORK TO EDINBURGH RECORD ATTEMPT

*Doug Hart - Ilkley CC and Yorkshire Group*

The Road Records Association has been around since virtually the dawn of cycling (1888), with a focus on “place to place” records, pre-dating both road racing and time trialling. A chance conversation over a beer earlier this year had me looking into firstly Northern RRA (sadly defunct) and then National RRA records. York to Edinburgh stood out as being both local and a decent (but not daft) distance of 186 miles. The current record was (and still is!) 8hrs 21mins by John Murdoch of the Edinburgh RC set in 1978. I knew I could cycle at the required speed (22.3mph) for the distance, having done so in 12 hour time trials, but to do so over a route that involved over 9000 feet of climbing was a whole different challenge. Whilst technology has undoubtedly moved on in the last 40 years it was clear from my reading about previous RRA records that the weather and traffic conditions play a large part.

The usual course of action is to submit a notice and schedule to the RRA stating an earliest start date and then immediately postponing to wait for favourable weather. My earliest start date was set at Monday 2nd April. A week before this it so happened that Tuesday 3rd April was looking promising with a strong south/south-westerly being consistently predicted for several days in a row. It was due to be chilly and a bit damp, but that’s April for you. I hadn’t intended to go so early, but being able to have a go during the Easter holidays certainly appealed to me given



other goals later in the season. You are required to give 2 clear days’ notice of activating a postponed attempt, so I had until Saturday to decide. In the meantime I had arranged for an official RRA timekeeper and observer to be available (Sue Bowler, South Pennine RC) and checked that my dad was available to drive the support car to feed me on route and transport Sue to the finish. By the time Saturday came the weather was looking distinctly less favourable. A weakening tailwind to start, but, I figured, still strong enough to make good progress to Newcastle. However the various weather apps couldn’t agree what was going to happen after that, apart from I was going to get wet at some stage. With everything in place and the desire to get a long ride in over the holidays, I decided to go for Tuesday and hope that conditions remained favourable for the second half.

It was touching, on the day itself, to see that my Ilkley CC club mates Ged, Scott, Tim, Mike and Michael had taken on the 80 mile round trip to be on the start line at the Museum Garden Gates, in York. Shortly before 11am Ged held me up and Sue gave me the countdown and I was off.....straight into a queue of traffic at the lights. Strava tells me it took me 1:06 to do the first 0.1 miles, but after that I was out of the city and away. I made good progress through the first couple of checks and by Darlington (45 miles) I was 3 minutes inside my schedule of 8:10 and feeling comfortable. However I had missed my first planned feed at 31 miles as the support car

had not managed to get in front of me because of traffic congestion. Shortly after Darlington the rain arrived, earlier and heavier than forecast, and would be my companion for the next 50 miles. Just to rub salt in the wounds, the wind also dropped and swung round to NE.

I was dressed for the expected light rain, except that I had short fingered gloves on, my wet weather gloves being in the support car. By the next feed (66 miles) I had still not seen the car and made several stops (losing about 5 minutes in the process) to try to make contact thinking that there may have been a breakdown. It was at this point that I learnt an important lesson about touch screen phones not working in the wet! When I finally made contact I found that it was just traffic congestion causing problems so I pressed on conscious that the clock was ticking and my advantage over the record was slipping away. The car (and gloves) finally got back ahead of me at 86 miles for my first feed! You will appreciate the seriousness of this situation if I say I was down to my last fig roll, but couldn't eat it as my mouth was so dry.

By this point I was outside my schedule but still a couple of minutes inside the required pace for the record so, with neoprene gloves on and more fig rolls on board, I set off for what I knew would be the most challenging part of the route. I quickly realised that the limp flags were not just because of the weight of water on them. There was barely a breeze. Over the next 30 miles I had the dispiriting experience of legs that felt good (or at least as good as could be expected after 100 miles) and were producing the planned power, but not hitting the mph numbers I needed to keep ahead of record pace. Each time check saw me slipping back until, by the summit of Carter Bar (128 miles), I was 1 minute outside record pace. The next 10 miles down to Jedburgh were planned to be fast, and they were, but without the required wind assistance and not as fast as I needed to get back ahead of schedule. I pressed on hoping that the NE wind would swing back to the east and pick up a bit to give me a chance of making up the time, but alas it wasn't to be. By Earlston at 152 miles I was 5 minutes outside the record schedule and realised it was not going to be my day. With this realisation all my aches and pains that I had been ignoring for the last 50 miles came home to roost and I crawled up to the Soutra Summit.

At the Summit, in addition to my support car, there was a lone observer who I later found out to be John Murdoch (current record holder). He gave me a shout but must have been able to see from the look on my face (and the time on his watch) that it was over for me. On my planning I had been looking forward to the descent of Soutra knowing that it was 20 miles of almost constant downhill to the finish. However what was not expected was the appalling state of the roads on the run in to Edinburgh. On one part my bottle bounced out of the cage and, well and truly out of the race zone, I turned round to go back to retrieve it! It was at this point that the rain started again; I pressed on to get to the finish as quickly as I could as I was starting to get cold, after 8 hours on the road.

That sense of urgency was going to cost me as, approaching a deserted roundabout at speed, I managed to find one of Edinburgh's deepest potholes (and there are a lot to choose from). I went over the bars and landed heavily on my left side. Fortunately the waterlogged roads meant that I slid and my jersey and shorts came out unscathed even though I have tennis ball sized lumps on my hip, elbow and a very sore shoulder, but nothing broken apart from a tri-bar pad. The bike will be fixed in time for the Circuit of the Dales on Sunday; I just hope I will be! *(Doug did a great ride of 2 hours 14 minutes for 15th place in this race).*

Several important lessons learnt today that 'may' be useful in the future. Finally just to say a really big thanks to my Dad, Gordon, for driving the support car, Sue Bowler for officiating and thanks to everyone for all your kind words before, during and after my adventure.



# OBITUARIES



## TERRY ANDERSON (BIG TEL)

**5<sup>th</sup> February 1940 – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Most of us knew Terry Anderson as a big, strong and healthy man who seemed to have been on the cycling scene for ever, either as an enthusiastic clubman, organiser, official or as a tester, roadie or trackie. Terry approached all disciplines of the cycle racing world with enthusiasm and his well known competitive spirit.



*Photo by Davey Jones*

I well remember when as a member of the Hainault Roads Club I organised an open 25 using the Eagle RC grounds as a car park. Short of a car park marshal Terry offered his services; due to his skills as a time and motion expert he got all of the full field (120 riders) in perfect lines and spaces. I commented that it would have been nice to have all the blue cars and red cars in separate lines; quick as a flash he said he thought that separating the German, British and Japanese cars was more appropriate! By then most of the riders had gone home and it was difficult to disprove his reasoning.

He held various club event records and he still holds junior track records from the Hainault RC set in 1957. He also held records on trike as well as tandem; his foray into mountain biking

was short lived - broken collar bone in his first event.

He had a novel way of riding a 100, do a fast 10 then hold on! An event that he won in 1992 was the SPOCO 12 on a tough course for hard men and Terry came out on top with 235 miles on a sporting course at 52 years of age.

Terry was an only child, born in Dagenham. He went to the local grammar school and had a place at university which he declined because of his father's death, preferring to stay at home to help support his mother.

A future in IT beckoned which, in the early 60s really was ground breaking, but still his love of the bike in all its forms endured. He had a remarkable 60+ years of racing, only stopping at the age of 78 when he became a full time carer for Hazel.

Big Tel seemed at some time to have been on every committee going; representing our sport at national as well as club level and it must be said that our sport is the richer for his considerable influence. Indeed, I have sat on various committees with him and will always

remember that if he took his glasses off to make a point people listened but if he started off by saying "with respect" you knew somebody was going to get it in the neck!

In 2003 Terry, with some other cyclists, took up kayaking and organised a training trip on the Menai Straights in November; a frightening experience for all concerned but his love for the open air in an activity where you could be sociable or competitive is how I will remember him, sitting in various cafes putting the world to rights.

He will be missed as a loyal friend and mentor. A man of the highest integrity who has done so much for our sport and set standards that I hope many will follow. So the next time you are gathered around the result board raise a cuppa to Big Tel.

Our thoughts are with the family and wish them all well for the future.

*Roland Bright*

*Editor's footnote - Terry currently holds the following VTTA national age records: men's tandem 10 (age 141), men's tandem 30 (age 141), mixed tandem 25 (age 138), mixed tandem 30 (ages 130, 132 and 138), mixed tandem 50 (age 139).*

## **GENE ALEXANDER 1916 - 2018**

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of the club's oldest member, Gene Alexander, at the age of 102. Gene was originally a member of the Camberley Wheelers which merged with the Farnborough C.C. to become the Farnborough & Camberley C.C. and has been a member for over 60 years. In the 1950's she was a prolific rider in short distance road and track events and in 1951 with J.Budd broke the RTTC women's tandem 30 mile competition record in a time of 1.11.36, in 1955 as Gene Tiley she broke the RTTC women's 25 mile competition record in a time of 1.04.01. She was also a good track rider and at Reading track set a new hour record of over 22 miles - considering that was done on a cinder track I don't think there are many lady riders who could cover the same distance to-day in the same conditions.



Gene was always a staunch supporter of the club and would usually be present at Bentley issuing out the numbers at the club open events until ill health prevented her getting out. Her birthday was in February close to the club's AGM and I shall always remember the day the dates actually coincided and she still turned up!

A lovely lady who will be greatly missed by all those that knew her.

*Dick Poole*

## ROBERT ALAN GELDARD

### 16th April 1927 - 26th February 2018



Alan Geldard, the only surviving cycling medal winner from the 1948 London Olympic Games, has passed away. When he was 21 Alan was the youngest rider in the British, bronze medal winning team pursuit squad which beat Uruguay with a faster time than the French gold medal winners. 1948 also saw Alan win the first of his three national 25 mile track championships.

Alan was born in Rochdale and started time trialling with the Abbotsford Park R.C. in 1945. That year his father, Frank, helped to revive the Manchester Track League at Fallowfield Stadium; Alan's successes began almost immediately in winning that season's junior championship.

However, Alan was ambitious, and in 1947 he became one of several local riders who went on to achieve major success after joining the predominantly track based Manchester Wheelers.

Alan was one of the many 'Bevin Boys' - fit and healthy young men conscripted to do hard, dangerous work as coal miners, during and after World War Two. His three year stint ended in April 1948, just months before the Olympics began.

Alan had recalled "The 1948 Olympics were one of the highlights of my life, I remember the large crowd at Herne Hill, the atmosphere was very exciting." But, he added "There was a mix-up when someone forgot to bring the medals, so we only got the flowers. My medal arrived by post later, but I am still very proud of it, it made me feel proud to be British."

It's a sign of the times that instead of being treated as a celebrity as would happen now, when Alan returned home after the Olympics, he was sacked from his job as a commercial artist for having too much time off. "That was my reward for winning a medal for my country," he said.

Alan competed for club and country around the world, including New Zealand, where he rode in the team pursuit in the 1950 Empire (now Commonwealth) Games. During their long sea voyage the whole British team were obliged to share just one set of rollers. However, a puncture cost Alan his chance of another medal; he recalled "In total it was a four-month trip, a long way to go to get a puncture."

Alan retired from competition in 1957, he rejoined the Abbotsford Park club and successfully coached a series of individuals and clubs on both road and track. When Manchester Velodrome opened, he coached there for seven years before suffering a stroke in 2001. His contributions are commemorated by the Alan Geldard Trophy awarded at International Masters cycling events.

Prior to the 2012 Olympics, although confined to a wheelchair, Alan was a torch-bearer when Sebastian Coe, no less, requested that Alan should be the one to hand the torch over to him.

Alan lived an amazing life full of commitment, dedication and stubborn determination and passed away peacefully aged 90. His family, many friends, plus members of all the cycling clubs he had been associated with were present to honour him at Manchester's Southern Cemetery where he was cremated on 16th March.

*Ken Workman*

## MORRIS CROW

**3rd May 1935 - 24th December 2017**

Morris, the youngest of four children, was born in Ramsgate in 1935. As a child he would often witness the German Luftwaffe in aerial dogfights with the RAF over Ramsgate. His two elder brothers fought in WW2, both involved in the Normandy campaign. His elder sister married an RAF airman based at Manston, spending many years living in Yorkshire. In his teens, Morris was a keen course angler and sea fisherman. One of his memories was catching an enormous 20 pound pike on the Minster marshes. He would often go sea fishing in the English Channel, and one dark summers night he and his friends were nearly killed in their rowing boat by a very large cruise liner. As he and his friends rowed frantically to safety, Morris vividly recalled seeing couples dancing on deck.

Morris's passion was cycling. He joined the Thanet Road Cycling Club as a junior in the early 1950s, winning many races in all disciplines. During his National Service with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers, he rode with numerous high quality riders, including the legendary Ray Booty. Morris was based at Blandford camp in Dorset with his friend Len Coomber, another Thanet RC stalwart. They would often ride back to Kent on weekend leave, a distance of approximately 200 miles each way. In 1957 Morris married Margate girl Freda Foat, who was one of a select few Thanet riders to have appeared on the front page of Cycling magazine. Morris and Freda had two boys, Derek and Stephen. Morris broke many place to place records, many of which haven't been beaten. Ramsgate to Maidstone and back, Ramsgate to Canterbury and back, Ramsgate to Ashford and back.

In 1963, Morris took a 6 year break from racing but still rode his bike, riding daily from Thanet to Canterbury to his place of work as a sign writer for the East Kent Bus company. Morris took up racing again in 1969 and by the mid 1970's he was achieving personal bests at 10, 25, 30, 50 and 100 miles. In 25 mile time trials, he beat the hour twice and was very proud of his best 30 mile time trial in Essex in 1978, breaking the club team record with Brett Dennis and Ernie Abdellah. Of particular note, all three riders achieved a faster mph than their 25 personal bests. Such was the high quality of their rides, the club team record has not been beaten to date.

Morris was well known for his dry wit, was always impeccably dressed and was an inspiration to newer members. Both of his sons raced and in their youth, whenever their friends turned up at his house, Morris would check their bikes over giving them a service. He was a generous man, donating many trophies and prizes for both the Thanet RC and Kent Cycling Association.

Morris loved cycling with many of his Thanet Road Club friends. Their exploits were the cycling equivalent to the characters in Last of the Summer Wine. Morris took hundreds of photos of their exploits.

Morris had a photographic memory, recalling dates, names and weather conditions going back to his youth. Morris loved music particularly jazz and was an expert meteorologist, who was always spot on with his forecasts. Club members would often ring Morris requesting weather reports.

Morris was a kind, compassionate man and was an inspiration to all those who knew him. In later years he suffered badly with the debilitating effects of diabetes, which 6 ago forced him to hang up his wheels. Morris leaves behind 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

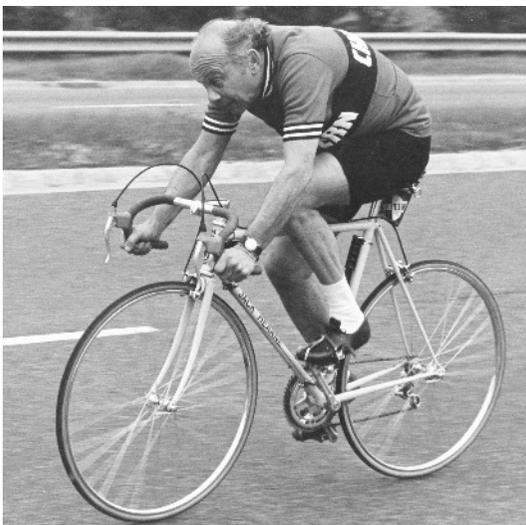
*Derek Crow-Brown*

## HARRY CAPLAN

1923 - 2017

Harry was a member of the London and Home Counties Group for more than 50 years and was an Honorary Life Member of the VTТА.

His racing achievements were just a small part of his enjoyment of cycling, living as he did in the era when there was much more to the sport than using a turbo trainer. A record of his performances, all accomplished before the days of computers and spreadsheets, has not been traced although in both 1988 and 1989, he was the runner-up in the Group's BAR Competition.



Born in 1923 to Ada and Henry Caplan, whose parents had arrived at the end of the 19th century as Russian Jewish refugees, Harry was

brought up in North East London with his elder sister, Anna, and younger brother, Bertram. After primary school, Harry went to Dame Alice Owens where he became head boy in his last year. At an early age he showed quite exceptional sporting ability and, at the age of 16 was the 440 All London Schoolboys running champion, and also swam for London.

He was evacuated to Aylesbury during the war and thoroughly enjoyed working outside on a farm in the summer holidays. In the later stages of the war he went to Canada to train as an RAF pilot; he flew Catalinas on coastal command and was noted for his orientation skills.

After the war Harry resumed his studies at Cambridge before going to Israel in 1948. Although he was an atheist, his Jewishness was a defining part of his identity and he believed in the progressive ideal of an Israeli state based on socialist principles.

Harry finished his medical studies at King's College London, where he met Sylvia. The two of them first settled in North London where they had their three children Mary, Max and Deborah and followed their careers in general practice and hospital medicine, both of them working for a while in the Whittington Hospital emergency department.

In 1963, when Harry was appointed Consultant Geriatrician, the family moved to Farnham Common. Harry was responsible for dragging geriatric care in Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough out of the Victorian era, reorganising the wards and changing attitudes to the treatment of the elderly. He was much loved and respected.

Now that he was outside London, Harry started cycling again, an activity he had always enjoyed as a young boy, when he used to have a Saturday job working in McCall's bike shop. He wasn't frightened of cycling long distances, and also, as a member of the Vegetarian C & AC, took part in time trials, including gruelling 12-hour competitions. He took up triathlons in his 60s.

His crowning achievement was cycling down from the north coast of France to Montauban, with all his camping equipment in his paniers at the age of 81. He was a keen follower of the Tour de France and saw several stages of the race over the years in different parts of the country. He even liked to try the stages himself, proudly cycling up the Ventoux, the Col du Galibier, the Alpe d'Huez and also the Tourmalet in the Pyrenees.

Of course, he also enjoyed cycling through France to get the chance to speak the language. He was a keen French scholar, taking lessons for many years and able to converse quite easily. Later in life, his interest in languages lead him to take on the task of learning Hebrew, which he enjoyed studying till the end of his days.

Harry was always a voracious reader, continuously adding books to his well-stocked library. Another love in his life was music. This was a life-long passion and he was immensely proud of being a card-holding member of the musicians' union.

He was an extremely sociable man who enjoyed the atmosphere of lively conversations and discussions. He continued to make friends through the different stages and activities of his life, with fellow students, doctors, cyclists and musicians. When he lived in Beechfield, he used to hold garden parties in the summer, bringing together people of different generations from the different spheres of his life.

In his last years, Harry really enjoyed the company of his three children and was unstinting in his praise and appreciation of them. He liked nothing more than to have family meals and was particularly happy if his grandchildren or two great-grandchildren were able to attend. What was remarkable was the rapport he was able to establish with the younger members of the family. The age gap was enormous, but the affection the grandchildren felt for Harry was natural and spontaneous, while the babies, Alessandra and Felix, never failed to respond to his generous smile.

The family are unanimous in their agreement that Harry was a truly wonderful man, who will live in their hearts for ever.

#### **LEN FINCH**

##### **C.C. SUDBURY & V.T.T.A. EAST ANGLIAN**

It is with regret that we must report that Len Finch died on 17<sup>th</sup> May, in an accident whilst cycling. Len was 86 years old, was a lifelong cyclist and a founder member of C.C. Sudbury. He was still riding open time trials and was a regular competitor on E and B courses.

The V.T.T.A. Offers sympathy to Len's family. A fuller tribute will appear in the next edition of The Veteran.

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# NOTICES AND LATE NEWS

## V.T.T.A. 50 MILES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This event is rescheduled to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June due to roadworks. It was originally due for 20<sup>th</sup> May, is promoted by VTTA North Lancashire and Lakes Group. All other details remain the same.

**STILL TIME TO ENTER - CLOSERS 12TH JUNE**

## V.T.T.A. 15 MILES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST

Rachael Elliott will still be receiving entries for this event, despite her current health issues, and will organise with support from her VTTA (L&HC) group members.

## 2018 HANDBOOK CORRECTIONS

The following corrections have been made to 2017 competitions results published in the 2018 Handbook and elsewhere.

### 15 Miles Championship

The Group Team Champions are now North Lancashire and Lakes (Peter Greenwood, Stephen Irwin and David Hargreaves) with +28:31.

### Stevens Memorial Trophy

The winner is now Darryl Wall (Out of the Saddle CC and North Midlands Group)

### Short Distance Competition

The Group Team Champions remain as Nottingham and East Midlands, but with the following amended members - Ron Hallam, Ian Guilor, Graham Green, Gill Henshaw, Ken Stevens and Jo Corbett.

## TEAM SALESENGINE.CO.UK

We are a team of around 20 time trialists who have had many years of racing in time trials at various levels, care about our sport, and want to put something back into it that is different, challenging, fun and could be a way forward for our sport.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> Team Salesengine.co.uk are proud to announce the inaugural Race 'Round Rockingham closed circuit time trial. This is an opportunity for veterans, juniors, first-timers (and even roadies!) to take part in a challenging and fun late Saturday afternoon/early evening mid-summer time trial. 120 Riders will be presented with the chance to test themselves against the clock (and against their mates!), in the traffic free environment of the Rockingham Motor Speedway circuit, near Kettering.

There are special categories for juniors and those wanting to ride a road bike. You do not need a pointy hat and a full blown Time Trial bike or kit to come and enjoy the chance to compete in this unique race setting.

There will be chip timing for live results as soon as you finish, and on-site catering provided by RealBelgianFries to give riders and their supporters a chance to refuel on classic Belgian fries, waffles and other tasty treats.

This event is being run under the rules and regulations of TLI Cycling - [www.tlicycling.org.uk](http://www.tlicycling.org.uk) and I must point out that this is not a commercial venture. Here is a link for more information:

<http://teamsalesengine.blogspot.co.uk/2018/05/tse-to-promote-race-round-rockingham.html>

Roy Robinson - Team Salesengine.co.uk and VTTA (L&HC)

Copy dates for the next two editions of *The Veteran* are 20<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> November.

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

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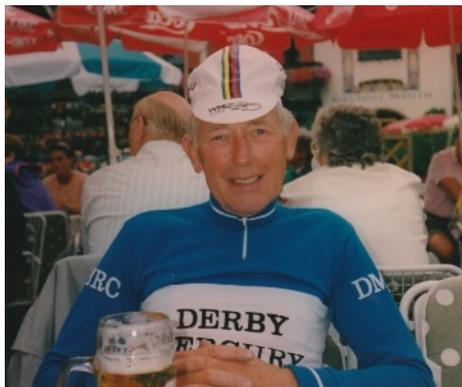
# CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EDITOR

Dear Mike

Having just got out of hospital after smashing my left knee gardening, reading the material from the VTTA was a nice lift, even though I'll never ride the bike again!

My story is quite simple. After a good career as a racing cyclist with the BLRC, as I came up to 40 I was aware that I lacked the effort needed for the time trial, and so on my 40th birthday (30/5/70) I sent off my fee to the VTTA. Riding a time trial meant a change of position on the bike, so after the first ride the saddle was lifted and its nose dropped a little; I then managed 55:18 in a 25 on O2. This gave me great confidence in going clear on my own in the road races I contested, and I was still able to win open events against the younger riders (*I know, I was one of those younger riders - Ed*).

After a while I was going to Belgium in the summer, and I later won the veteran (all ages) world TT champs, held on a circuit of 8km and 5 laps. I also won a few road races for the over 35 year olds under the rules of the WAOD. Then I went to St Johan in the Austrian Tyrol to ride veteran road races and going clear on my own, some way before the finish, became a winner.



Between 1990 and 1995 I was able to win three UCI World veteran Road Race Championships.

However my best effort was in contacting the Milk Marketing Board and getting their sponsorship for the @Milk Race@, which lasted 35 years.

Over a period of 60 years I organised many road events for all categories.

I enclose a photo, should you need it.

Yours sincerely

*Dave Orford*

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I would like to express my thanks to two folks for their help last Bank Holiday Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> May. After I had finished my ride in the VTTA National Championship 10, near Aylesbury, I punctured on the return to the HQ. Rider no. 102, Antony Bee, stopped to enquire if he could help. Having described my son, who was at the HQ, I hadn't walked very much further when he appeared to rescue his old Dad. Secondly, thank you also to Rob Pears for his very quick appearance also to help out. It does make you feel good that someone is looking out for you.

*Ray Retter*

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