

# VETERAN

March 2012



Nic Bowdler

## Veterans Time Trials Association

National Association for the over 40 year old Racing Cyclist



**Derek Stewart**  
**25 Mile Champion**  
**at the**  
**Prize Presentation**

*Photo by Kimroy*

*National Association for the over 40 year old racing cyclist*  
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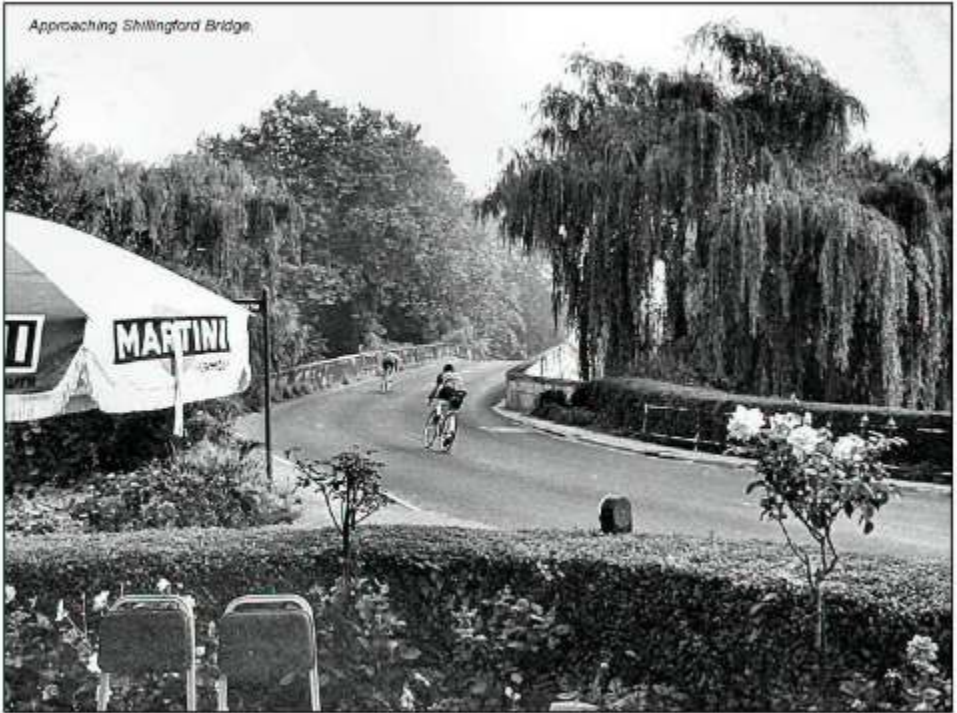
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*Approaching Shillingford Bridge*



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# Officials' Reports



## **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

*by Alan Colburn*

The enduring salutation on the death of a monarch is "The King is dead, long live the King" – a phrase which didn't make a lot of sense to a seven year old when I first heard it! However it is the concept which I couldn't help thinking about when I started to write about the new Standards Tables.

The original Standards recently consigned to the archives by popular vote, means that we now have a new set of Standards to race against. The old Standards had become skewed largely due to the increase in older, fitter riders – we can all look back to our early racing days when the appearance of a fifty year old on the start line would have excited much comment.. Nowadays, seventy and eighty year old competitors are an accepted part of the time trial scene which was the idea behind Mr Strevens's original thoughts.

I'm sure we've all been checking against the new Standards to see what effect they may have on our personal aims – instead of getting +8s and +9s for the Ten, I shall be looking at +5s or in that region. The really encouraging thing about the subsequent rule changes means that even if you get a minus, a rider can still attain a medal if he improves on that.

I would like to congratulate the Association's AGM on its courage in taking this vital step to rejuvenate the VTTA and to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the Working Party in enabling this to be decided.

The new Standards have arrived at almost the same time as the 2012 CTT Handbook which produces that anticipation of turning the shiny new pages to see what events are available generally followed by the frustration of not being able to link events together week on week to fit your own plans. I've started to put a few crosses against

some events – all I have to do now is to get to grips with the new entry form and on-line entries.

During the winter I had the privilege of speaking at two Group Lunches and what a pleasure it was. The meal, an odd drink or four, the chat, the reminiscences and the presentations all combine to round off another season of competition: Many thanks to the Merseyside and London and Home Counties Groups for inviting me to share their

celebrations.

The new season has started for a few hardy souls so let me finish by wishing everyone good luck for the coming year and stay safe. But just remember what Mark Twain once said:

“When your friends begin to flatter you on how young you look, it’s a sure sign you’re getting old.”

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## **SECRETARY**

*by Ann Butterworth*



You will have read much about the AGM elsewhere in this issue of *The Veteran* and of particular interest will be the adoption of the new Standards Tables. However, feedback from the AGM has shown that many members (even those who were present at the AGM) are confused about claiming for Personal Standards. So, I’ll try to explain as simply as possible.

From this year, any member can ride a Type A event and claim a Standard medal whatever their plus or minus may be. For example:

John rides a 10 mile event this year. He is 70 and so his Standard is 28:36. John does a time of 30:35, so he does not get a plus, but rather a minus of 2:01. As long as John has applied for attempts for Standard medals, John will get a Standard medal at the end of the season.

In order to get a Standard medal next year, he has to improve on his -2:01. He will be 71 and so his Standard will be 28:45. To improve on -2:01 by just one second, he will have to do a ride of 30:45 to produce a minus of 2:00 ( $28:45 + 2:00 = 30:45$ ).

You will now have realised that you no longer have to beat your Standard to get a medal. Once you set your plus or minus using the new Standards Tables, you just have to improve on this by getting a bigger plus or a smaller minus.

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## EDITORIAL

I've had a particularly busy Social Season this year and have met a lot of people who, over the seven years I have been editing this magazine, have been names without faces.

Reflecting on this I have decided to include in each issue as many faces as I can, beginning with the valued contributors who give some point to this publication. As you will see, not all have sent photographs yet but they will doubtless do so.

On the subject of photographs, Brian Jones of *Kimroy* has agreed to act as official photographer at the Association's championships this year (the one exception being the 25 which clashes with CTT's National Championship - Brian is booked for all of those). Notice that he attended the recent Prize

Presentation - I wonder - was he surprised at how few photographs he was called upon to take!

I ponder just how many trophies there are existing in the Groups and then the clubs. My club has 46 of them and 22 were awarded in respect of the 2011 season: that means 24 were stored somewhere.

My Group has 16 and 7 were awarded at the recent presentation; however, not all the winners wanted to take the trophies home which led to another storage situation. I wonder how this is dealt with by the many who must have the same problem. The minimum price I could find from one of the myriad of storage companies was £13 a week - £676 a year. No club or Group could afford that surely! Perhaps the answer is to buy a shed for the specific purpose, taking it down and re-assembling it each time a new official is recruited to deal with the annual award season. Nationally we do have the Ted Bricknell award: that is purchased each year and given to the

winner; is that the way forward I ask myself.

When donating a trophy - and virtually all are donated in commemoration of a person or persons, the donor must assume that each year's winner will proudly display the award until returning it for the next recipient: no one imagines that there won't be a winner or, if there is, that the winner won't want to take the trophy home. This is a problem that's not going to go away and I for one would appreciate any helpful suggestions from those readers who have experienced the same difficulty.

One subject dominates this issue and that is the new Standards. In spite of the overwhelming vote in favour, there are those vehemently against what they see has a change too heavily in

favour of the younger rider. Although sitting on the fence on this issue, I have witnessed the enormous amount of research and analysis carried out by the Working Party in its efforts to achieve a just and equitable set of standards for those from 40 to 90. That the existing tables were unfair was not really in dispute and so we have to find out how fair the new set are. Being



based upon a formula, adjustments may easily be made (so I am told) thus would it not seem a sensible idea to reserve judgement and to watch and see how it pans out in 2012, then putting forward proposals for modification where thought necessary?

To return to the theme of my mixing with prizewinners this year, I thought it likely that some readers might think I have never been one - a prizewinner that is - so I modestly publish the picture above as I receive a shining cup from one of my heroes, John Pritchard.

# Around the Groups

## SURREY-SUSSEX



by *Tim Carpenter*

This is my first report for the Veteran having

taken over from Ray Dare as Group Press Secretary. Some of you may have already read some of this report in the electronic newsletter and Crank, so apologies to you.

The 2011 AGM is probably a good place to start as this was held after Ray submitted the last Veteran report. The AGM was held at Handcross Village Hall with a small group of members present. The most significant change to the officials was Ray Dare standing down as Press Officer, and me taking over. Ray has done a sterling job over the last few years collecting material for the Veteran and he will be a tough act to follow.

The officials are: Keith Wilkinson as Chairman and Treasurer, Esther Carpenter is Secretary, Dave Cox is Racing Secretary, Ann Bath is Social Secretary, and I am Press Secretary and

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Recorder. The committee is made up of Barbara Atkins; Dave Dalziel; Ray Dare; Bob Harber; Mike Morley; Robin Johnson and Charles Robson.

The 2011 season finished with the Group having another National Record holder with Ann Bath breaking the Ladies 24 Hour Record for a 62 year old with 319.99 miles (plus 5.85 miles). The confusion in the last Veteran was laid to rest quickly after publication with confirmation that Ann was the Ladies 24 Hour Champion.

Four Group records were broken this year. Ann with the 24 Hour and she set a new standard distance at 12 hours for a 63 year old lady with 168.504 miles: Ray Dare (85 years old) 25 mile record with a 1:08:32 (plus 23:45) and John Randell (80 years old) 10 mile with a 26:40 (plus 7:59).

We had our first Group Record of the 2012 season set on 1 January. I am not sure if that is a record in itself. Maurice Carpenter (Dad) did a 37.01 for 10 miles on his trike. The one photo of him shows him putting his hand out for a drink? I suspect that is the result of living with Esther!

The lunch and prize presentation was held at Rowfant House again this year. There were 60 sitting down to the lunch, which was a substantial increase on previous years. John Warnock was the guest of honour and gave an interesting and humorous speech covering his rowing and cycling exploits. He also presented the prizes, which read pretty much the same as previous years, with Geoff Smith winning the BAR, Mel Robertson taking the Three Distance competition and the 25, 50 and 30 trophies. Jackie Dodd the Charles Robson trophy for the Ladies short distance competition. Harry Featherstone won the September 25 and Alan Robinson won the June 10. There are some new names on the team awards, and you can see a full list of award winners on the web site.

'Hurry' Hemsley was presented with a National VTTA Age award medal from the 24 Hour, although this was not straightforward and he will have to wait for the engraved version.

The last award is always the Sportsman trophy, and this year the Tooting Bec won it for their support during the 24 Hour. Esther proposed them for the award and as they're over 80 the committee thought they deserved it, although as they're all over 80 they probably don't sleep that well so were grateful to have something interesting to do for once. They were so pleased and surprised it made the presentation an excellent end to the day.

By the time you read this, members will have already competed in some of the early events (except for those cancelled due to the awful weather) and hopefully we will have all digested the new standards. As the Group voted against the change we will have to see what is decided by our membership on which version we use for our Group competitions.

Finally, don't forget that this year that the VTTA 100 mile Championship on 19 August is incorporated into the ESCA 100 and that we are using the ESCA 50 on 15 July for the Group Championship.

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## **SOUTH WALES**

*by Barry Williams*



February in South Wales, it's usually cold and wet with plenty of ice and snow. The roads will be covered in salt and sludge, definitely not good for cycling. Having anticipated these unfriendly elements, my wife and I have decamped to our son's home in South West Houston, Texas. We are within 40 miles of the Gulf of Mexico and therefore in a warm weather zone, thank goodness!

In early January before leaving, I was out and about on the bike, meeting some members at the Downs Cafe, Cowbridge, and others at their new Golf Range coffee venue on the Golden Mile near Bridgend. There was much to discuss, especially important were topics surrounding the imminent implementation of the New Standards Tables. Long time member, Ken Squibb, aged 76, managed an occasional prize under the old tables; he knows now that there will be no such chances under the new scheme. He wonders why this change could be so harsh in its treatment of riders in his age group -

He said "I am lucky to be alive at my age, my best recent 25 is 1-07-30 - how can I compete with 40 year olds like Jeff Jones clocking 25s in 48 minutes"? - I have to sympathise with Ken, notably concerning the New Standard of 1-06-00 for 40 year olds - unchanged from the old 1944 tables - this appears to be a big anomaly. My experience is most of this young vets age group, finish 25s well under the hour and the top 10% under 55 minutes.

From my interviews, John Pritchard and Stuart Evans in their mid 60s, were happy with the revamped tables and I am pleased they felt so empowered by them. On the other hand, Gordon Butler and your correspondent, both in our mid 70s, agree that while some amendment of the old tables was necessary, the whole thing was rushed with little consideration for older riders - originally the new tables were planned for 2013. We would also ask the new tables panel, if the 70-80 age group standards were calculated on the times of just one exceptional athlete?

Perhaps I am over reacting, the new system was fairly voted in and it's the sport that really matters. Prizes are only a small part of the equation - enjoying competition and keeping healthy in body and mind are our real aims.

I am finishing this contribution while still 10,000 miles away in Texas. I appreciate that it's cold and icy in the UK and to my surprise also in Mallorca, if reports from UCI Tour of Mallorca are true. Houston (population 4.5 million) is not a cycling friendly city; however, I have found a nine mile cycleway along Braes Bayou and most mornings I do three laps for 27 miles. There are no hills and very little breeze. The scenery is uniform, a route by a river (bayou), riding there feels more like using the turbo trainer. To find good cycling roads, I am told it's necessary to drive some 40 miles up route 290 - the road to Austin. To reach Austin itself, the State Capital and home of Lance Armstrong, it will take a drive of 150 miles.

Texas is bigger than France and England put together - easy to get lost in its vastness. Austin, famous for music festivals, has good facilities for cycling, probably achieved under Lance's tutelage.

Before returning we hope to spend a weekend up there, something to look forward to.

## **NORTH LANCS AND LAKES**

*by Dave Brown*



Mick Black was the star of the show when the North Lincs and Lakes Group gathered for their Annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation at The Crofters alongside the famous A6 time trialling road near Garstang. Mick, of the Cleveleys Road Club, spends a good chunk of his year living in Spain but managed to organise his trips home sufficiently well during 2011 in order to ride the events that counted towards him becoming the Group BAR Champion for the first time. This gave him the coveted Trader's Trophy but in addition Mick also went home with the Paddy Maloney Trophy for the Best on Standard in the Group 50, the Karimor Saddle for ditto in the 100, the Group Points Series award and an age record certificate for his 50 mile performance.

As our Lady Champion of 2011, Sue Cheetham was on a pre-planned visit to visit her sister in Australia on Presentation Day and as I just happen to be her Uncle I was honoured to be asked to go up and collect her BAR Trophy plus Standard Medals at 25 and 30 plus certificates for Group Age Records at 10, 25 and 30. (Details of Group BAR and Age Records elsewhere in this edition)

Other Prize Winners present at the Luncheon to collect their awards were Ian Woodcock of Wigan Wheelers (Standards at 25, 30, 50 and 12 hours), John Draper (the Crowther Shield for sixth on Standard in the Group 100), Paul Fleming of Preston Wheelers (the Baxter Rose Bowl for first Handicap in the Group 100, Second in the Points Series and third in the Group BAR), Harry Haseley of the North Lincs. Road Club (the Priestley Trophy for BoS in the counting 12 Hour, Standard at 50, second in Group BAR and third in Group Points Series) and certainly not forgetting our regular major

winner Frank Kerry who on this occasion went away with the Dobson Trophy for BoS in the Group's three 25s, Group Age Records at 10, 25 times two at aged 75 and 76, plus 30 and a belated handing over of a National Age Record Certificate for 10 miles in 22:39 from the 2010 season.

The North Lancashire Road Club trio of Harry Haseley, John Draper and Sue Cheetham took the Group BAR Team Shield.

Our Guest of Honour was Derek Parkinson of the Cleveleys Road Club who was a team-mate of Mick Black during the 2011 season. Derek, who is not quite yet a Vet, had himself enjoyed a wonderful season in 2011 which included third place in the British Best All Rounder Competition, second place in the CTT National 12 hour with a magnificent 299 miles, and also the North Lancs TTA Champion plus resetting several course records on North District Council roads. He presented all of these prizes assisted by the Group's Keith Tattersall. Look out for Derek in the Drag2zero.com colours in 2012.

Three of our members had attended the VTTA National AGM principally to support the vote on the controversial issue of Standards. Frank Kerry and Bill Lloyd had been members of the Working Party and Keith Tattersall had also attended. The proposition on the National AGM Agenda had originated from a proposal from our member Peter Knott who had tabled a motion on our Group 2010 AGM Agenda: 'To change Standard Times to more closely match the performance of present day Veterans'. After this was discussed and accepted at the local meeting it was passed to the Agenda of the 2011 VTTA National AGM after which the Standards Working Party was formed. Not everyone has been happy with the result of the vote to adopt the new Standards at the January National meeting but certainly a majority in our Group has supported the change and these modified Standards will be used in our Group events in the 2012 season.

The Group will promote four events this coming season and will use also Open events at 25 miles, 50 miles and 100 miles as well as 12 hours for the 2012 awards.

Saturday 17 March 10mile 2-up  
(at least one rider a Vet)

L101 3pm Derek Black

Wednesday 18 April 25 miles

(Two lap course)

L2521 1pm Richard Taylor

Wednesday 6 June 25 miles  
Clitheroe By-pass

L256 7pm Richard Taylor

Tuesday 3 July 10 miles

Levens L1015 6pm Peter Knott

The Lancashire Road Club 25 on L2525 on Sunday 22 July (note this is shown as 23 July in NLTTA handbook), the Preston Wheelers 50 on Sunday 1st July on L508, the NLTTA 100 on L1009 on Saturday 23 June and the Lancashire Road Club 12 hour on L1204 on Sunday 19 August will be used for awards in the North Lancs and Lakes VTTA Group.

I am sure that Group members will offer their condolences to Honorary Life Member Jack Roughley whose wife Marion died in January after a marriage of well over 50 years. Marion had given her support to Jack who, until recent years, was organiser of the famous Lancashire Road Club 12 hour event for as long as most members will remember and was also a long term Chairman of the North District Council of the CTT.

We welcome two new members to our Group - Brian and Linda Gore of Parbold and members of the Lancashire Road Club.

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## LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES

*by Peter Tasker*



*London Vets Lunch*  
*January 2012*

Photographs by Peter Tasker



With the Group AGM out of the way and Group Treasurer Charles Jepson reminding members it is time to renew your membership for the 2012, the festive season and social season is well under way.

I've heard stories about some members doing over 800 miles a month as basic training for the new season; this could be a festive story when members are out having a festive drink or dreaming it was them. Anyway early season times will tell who has or has not been getting in the winter miles.

As I sit and type this up in the warm we have about five inches of snow and it is bitterly cold outside here near Whipsnade Zoo; even the winter animals look cold.

Not a lot of news going the rounds at this time of the year as group members do not meet up often as our Group covers such a large area from down in north-west London by the Thames to Bicester and then across to Cambridge and then back again to the City.

With the National AGM held at the end of January and the voting supporting the new proposed standards, it will certainly be an interesting season in 2012 as riders without doubt compare their rides against the old standards and the new. I am sure it will bring some new and possibly younger names to the forefront in local events and National Championships; let's wait and

see.

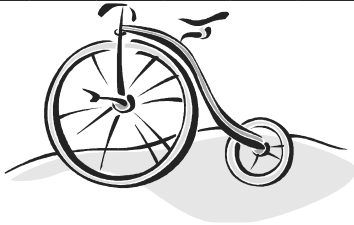
The group lunch was held on Saturday 4th February at the Aldenham Golf and Country Club with 68 booked for the meal. There were a few empty chairs, one in particular being Rocco Richardson who was the lunch organiser. Unfortunately Rocco was in hospital and his jovial manner and smiling face were missed: we all wish him well for a full and speedy recovery.

Guest of Honour was our National President Alan Colburn who gave an interesting talk about his life inside and outside of cycling; particularly the early years when he met up with his predecessor as President, Jim Ogden, in Egypt. The response to Alan's speech was by yours truly.

When it came to the presentation of those hard earned awards it was group secretary Jim Burgin handing them to Alan to present. In addition to the trophies, Rob Gilmour was presented with a VTTA jersey at the instigation of the Group Committee in recognition of his continuing top class performances.

Other members who received plaques or medals were Peter Hopkins, Roger Queen, John Pfeifer, Nikki Hunt, Dave Rogers, Peter Cockbain and Tim Davies.

The meal was up to a high standard and there were many lucky prizewinners in the free raffle. It should be noted the names of some of the Cups like Charlie Cole, Dick Goodman, Tom Drew and



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Mel Rees; these were riders in the group who were some of the original members just after the war ended in 1946.

As the years go by, so we increase the number of members reaching the age of 80 and thus attaining Honorary Life Member status: the latest recruit to this distinguished club is Roy Coe - best wishes Roy!

The group would like to welcome the following who have joined since the last Newsletter and we all hope they enjoy the racing, riding and social aspects of the VTTA.

Norman Bright, Keith Gandy, Philippa Teago, Helen Boatman, Chris Boulton, Steve Davies, Pete Lawrence.

Have just heard the sad news about Ken Usher having been killed while out on his trike, he was a prolific winner of National Awards over all distances and will be sadly missed, the group's condolences go to his family

Well, not a lot more from me this time, hope the weather improves so that we can all get back on the bike and enjoy our cycling whether it is competitive or riding with club members or just out and about. Take care on the roads.

---

## **MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST**

*by Jim Ogden*



February used to be a quiet time in the cycling year. However, writing on the 12th, I see from the CTT Handbook that the Ely & District CC promoted the season's first 25 today. When I went out this morning our small, leisurely group was constantly

being overtaken by larger groups of much more enthusiastic riders. Yes, times have changed, and so have the Standards Tables, but more of that later.

The last event of our local season is always the M&DTTA Christmas 10, promoted by Dave Fearon on Sunday, 11th December. Unfortunately, rain came as the Fancy Dress Event competitors were assembling at the start and as the first eleven starters were the 'Chelford Chicks'; Dave commented, 'Pity they did not come as ducklings.' However, in spite of the rain, only eleven of the 99 entrants were non-starters. Some who did start were taking it seriously. Steve Burke (Macclesfield Wheelers) was fastest in 22:54, just five seconds ahead of Ian Cooke (Team Swift). It was a local man again on Standard: Roger Wrenn (Macclesfield Wheelers) 25:31 (+5:59), with Dave Bates (South Pennine RC) 26:36 (+3:54) the runner up. After their new President, Derek Hodgins, presented the awards in front of an appreciative crowd at Goostrey Village Hall, there was ample time to move to Chelford Church for the Cyclists' Carol Service. A fitting end to our competitive year.

The Group had celebrated their 65th Anniversary at the festively decorated Middlewich Masonic Hall on Sunday, 27th November. Details of the prizewinners were given last time. An excellent attendance of over 100 was entertained by our Guests of Honour, Ruth and Bob Williams. Ruth had promoted the VTTA Championship 12 hour last year and the Williams family have long been part of the team responsible for the smooth running of the Mersey Roads Club 24 hour. Bob's reminiscences of growing up during the 1930s in a Liverpoolian cycling family would stand comparison with Ken Dodd.

Now, the new Standards. Derek Hodgins and I were among the 39 who attended the National Special General Meeting held at Alcester the day before our Group Luncheon. Andrew Simpkins and Steve Lockwood gave an excellent presentation of the work done by the Standards Working Party and made their recommendations for the use of the proposed new Standards Tables. So Derek and I were fully briefed for our Group Special meeting held on Sunday, 22nd January to discuss the agenda for the national AGM to be held on the following Saturday. Special attention was given to the proposed new Standards Tables. The meeting

agreed by a small majority that we vote for them. Discussion then focused on when they should be implemented. It was agreed that the Group delegates (me, Derek and Barbara) should put forward an amendment, the object of which was to delay their coming into force until after the AGM in 2013. This would enable the new Standards Tables to run in conjunction with the current Tables purely for comparison purposes for a year. It was thought that this would give the general membership of the VTTA a better opportunity of assessing their value and assist them in making a more informed decision on a permanent change to the new Standards in 2013. When the amendment was put to the National AGM at Kings Court, it was lost with only five votes in favour. The new Standards Tables were then adopted for immediate implementation: 22 in favour, seven against.

The National Prize Presentation took place after the AGM. It is disappointing to report that the table, full with the sparkling array of trophies at the start, appeared to be hardly depleted at the end. In fact, of the 71 prizewinners who had been sent invitations to attend, only 17 were present. However, I am pleased to report that three Group members were amongst them: Brian Camfield (Stone Wheelers); Rod Brooks (Warrington RC); and, as ever, Derek Hodgins (Stockport Clarion).

A much bigger proportion of prizewinners attended the M&DTTA Luncheon on the following day. It was a full house at Middlewich Masonic Hall, presided over by President Derek Hodgins,

and Group members were prominent amongst the prizewinners. Nige Wood (Wills Wheels) took the Robin Murray trophy as winner of the Middle Distance Championship, as well as being the Veteran on Standard and Karen Popplewell (Seamons CC) was the Ladies Champion. Derek collected the P E Carter trophy for the eighth time as Veteran on Standard in the Association's 100. Robin Haigh (Seamons CC), Steve Hargreaves (Warrington RC), Brian Camfield (Stone Wheelers) and Dave Fearon (Weaver Valley CC) all collected gold medals for their 12 hour distances.

If the above should inspire readers to have a go in 2012, below is a list of Group events, full details in the new VTTA Handbook.:

Tues	10 April	10	J2/1	1400
Sat	9 June	50	J4/10	1400
Sat	7 July	30	J4/11	1400
(VTTA National Championship)				
Tues	21 August	25	J2/9	1400

Two obituaries for Group members are in this edition of *The Veteran*. John Lewis contributed the one for Bill Bradley and Howard Clarke's is a heartfelt tribute to his mother, Wynne. Wynne Clarke was stoker for Bev Chapman when she was 68 and for Vin Fitzgerald when she was 83, setting 10 mile mixed tandem age records that still stand.

My Standard allowances usually go up on 6th February but, looking at the new Standard Tables, at age 82 they appear to have gone down. Oh, well! We will all be starting with a clean sheet as far as Standards are concerned.



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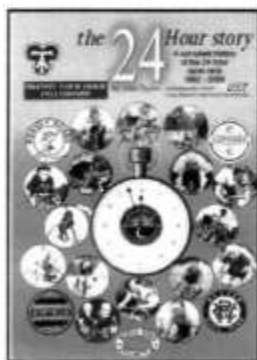


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## MERSEYSIDE

by Mo Cliff



On Sunday 15th January 2012 Merseyside Group held their 50th Annual Lunch and Prize Presentation at the Cheshire View at Christleton. Alan Colburn, VTTA National President kindly agreed to be the guest of honour.

72 members and guests sat down to an excellent meal before the prize presentation started. Alan gave an entertaining talk about his life as a cyclist which kept the company interested and amused.

The prize presentation commenced with Phil Guy acknowledging the efforts of everyone who had won an award in the Group, and Alan presenting the prizes.

A total of twenty members claimed for standard awards. Collecting them on the day were John Flynn, Helen Tudor, Pat Haywood, Miles Jenkins, Dave York, Stephen Ireland, Dave Smith, Malcolm Tudor, Nigel Farr, Peter Crutchley and Geoff Edgerton.

Roger Squire collected his standard award and Lanterne Rouge.

Susan Seller was the winner of the Hilda Dover Cup. The Group Recorder, John Maddox collected the Fitzpatrick Cup and his standard

award. Gwyneth Greenwood collected the George Butler Memorial Cup; this was for Gwyn's contribution to helping John with the group recording role. Ian Hawkins collected the Leo Madden Rose Bowl and his standard award. Bryan Cliff collected the George Hayes Trophy. Phil Guy the Oscar Dover Cup.

Justin McIlveen, in his first year as a Vet collected the Eddie Gradden Trophy and the Brooke Cup.

Andy Wilkinson was awarded the Meritorious Cup in recognition of his 24 hour record ride.

Neil Boyle had a very successful year, and took home the Ron Yates Trophy, The John Clucas Cup and the Joe Brooke Trophy.

Dennis Milsom won the Walvale Trophy and the Colin Rutter Cup and his age records at 10 miles, 25 miles and 50 miles were recognised in addition to his National Champion 10 mile award.

Jenny York claimed her standards in her first year as a VTTA member and is Ladies Champion on Actual taking the Dave Swales Cup and on Standard taking the Doreen Mahar Rose Bowl.

Another rider in his first year as a Vet is Gareth Bowyer, who had a very successful season winning the W J Smith Rose Bowl, the Derek Ireland Rose Bowl, the Dave Towell Cup, the Gomersal Cup, the 12 Hour Cup and finally the Bill Taylor Memorial Shield for fastest in the three distance championship on actual.

Arthur Winstanley was the final rider who won numerous awards this year. He took home the Dick Corris Cup, the Bill Hanson Cup, and the Wally Gradden Cup for the three distance champion on standard and finally was the Merseyside Group BAR winning the Tom Johnson Cup for the four distance championship on standard.

The majority of award winners were present on the day to collect their trophies and certificates, which makes the event worthwhile.

Harry and Doreen Mahar took centre stage once again for the raffle draw. Their efforts once again raised funds for the group.

We are looking forward to the 2012 season and the changes that will come about now the new standard tables have been accepted. See you all at an event soon..

## MIDLANDS

by Miranda Harris



On a cold and very windy day in January, VTTA members new and old came together to celebrate another year of Awards and enjoy a very convivial lunch. Before the main proceedings began, there was exchange of winter training progress and plans for the forthcoming season. Mark Mullender, under 50s and Age Group winner, has to take the opportunity to train and race whenever he can, with shift work patterns dictating how many hours he can devote to his sport. On the other hand, Gary Shuker, with three standard medals 10, 25 and 50 miles and two personal bests over 25 and 50 miles, devotes 23 hours a week to training and wants to go faster this year as a result of all this hard work. Michael Deamon, 25 mile Handicap winner, expressed a desire to improve on his time of 57.46 but has to be satisfied with eight hours a week with 60 miles being his longest ride. Steve and Christine Walker, in anticipation of the new Standard Times, have applied for lots of Standards on the tandem. Bob Franks is pleased he has much more time for training now that he has packed in work and caught up with the long list of jobs which had accumulated. Training started on January 2nd and he is averaging 160 miles per week. His target is to beat 27 minutes for a ten mile time trial and do some of the longer distances again. He remembered the 12 hour course he rode in the 1990s.

One of the things which make for an exciting

season is friendly rivalry, and Committee members are not immune from this phenomenon. Stuart McKie, who was unable to race after the National 50 last year due to a virus, had to settle for fourth place behind Andrew Simpkins. In 2010, Midlands Group Secretary managed to beat his fellow competitor to draw even, so now he looks forward to addressing the balance. His only consolation was in the Shirley 50, beating our Chairman by one second after his rival had been on training holiday. Stuart plans to start serious training now and his race schedule so far includes the Dragon ride and the Welsh 100 in July. Some riders have started racing already: Steve Wilkins started the year off well on New Year's Day with a five mile time trial, finishing second out of 50. It took him just 10.26 which he attributes to the 5kg he has lost in weight.

All riders enjoyed comparing courses from the past, the developments in equipment they had seen and how they had recovered from their various injuries. All are in favour of the new Standard Times. Many have set themselves challenges for the New Year, none more so than one of our female riders, Jackie Hobson. In her first year of competing Jackie raised a few eyebrows - someone who juggles teenage children, a job and voluntary commitments as well as an enormous amount of dedicated training to cycling. She is a very generous and considerate individual who is always there to help - in other words, someone who ticks all the boxes. Except on her entry forms which has led to her missing out on several awards and records. However, undeterred, she now has some remarkable goals for 2012 including the National 24, the Long distance BAR and an improvement over 10 miles!! Knowing Jackie, she will do it.

After Grace, Master of Ceremonies Alan Colburn handed over to the Group Secretary.

Stuart thanked all the members for coming and congratulated them on their achievements. He welcomed Les Lowe and Dave and Peggy Humphreys who have been absent for a few years. He was pleased to see Murray Kirton - but bemused to find out that Murray has been married for 39 years, a comment he put on the Annual Award's lunch form.

Stuart thanked those standing down from their positions, Fenella and Greta for their service on the Committee, and welcomed new members of the Committee Jeff and Miranda.

Stuart was particularly appreciative of the

sponsorship provided by Echelon which has enabled the Group to run the Points series - the envy of many other VTTA groups. Many thanks and appreciation was shown by all to Tim and Emily Wood, Echelon Cycles, for their continuing support.

One of many presentations at the lunch was the Wooden Spoon awarded by Alan on behalf of John Dixon, who could not be present. His introduction to the winner had us all guessing. Tall, handsome and intelligent; who was this man? Someone who contributes to events, is very committed to the sport etc etc, someone who enjoys competing, gets on well with everyone, is very popular. However this person has blotted his copybook - what has he done? He has beaten his standard 10 miles by one second on the K33/10D. Alan revealed the winner - the world's best stirrer is Peter Rose. Known as a legend in his club by the youngsters, Peter started racing in 1967 having done a lot of touring initially. He has been involved with the organisation for 50 years, after joining the CTC In 1961.

Certificates were presented to Greta who has covered the roles of Treasurer, Editor and lunch organiser over the years as well as raised the profile of the VTTA at different events, and Les Lowe whose attitude to his work are legendary and diligent, as quoted by Andrew Simpkins. Greta also received flowers for her superb organisation of the lunch and for once in Alan's living memory, was lost for words: please refer to the photograph of Les and Greta with Alan on page five.

Alan then introduced the guest speaker, Jim Burgin, as Superman and we waited with anticipation as to whether he would reveal his underpants over his skin suit. Having assured us he was just a regular guy, Jim said he felt very welcome by this friendly Midlands group. He gave us an amusing account of his introduction to time trialling. Having been 'called up' as an air-craftsman, the only flying he did was on his bike, out of uniform and alone on his steed. From then on Jim became more and more engrossed with the sport and all the trimmings that went with it. In those days, to be nominated onto the committee was a compliment, not like today when we have to beg people to join us!

Jim let the various distractions take over as is apparent now with his many roles and his ongoing commitment to the organisation. He has tried all the jobs in the organisation, ridden all the events except a 24, lost two businesses because they interfered

with his cycling and like many of us present at the lunch, recognises that cycling has given him a purpose and a huge circle of friends.

Jim gave a most entertaining account of where he has and hasn't been; he has never been in cognato, or in cahoots but he has been in flexible and in capable and one of his favourite places is in suspense. Sometimes he thinks he is in vincible, but one thing is for sure he is always in demand.

Jim referred to many of the members of the Midlands Group including Les Lowe, whose Wikipaedia description of a wise old man seemed very apt, and many of the Committee including Alan Colburn who is now so famous he must fear his phone is being tapped, the formidable Stuart and the devoted Andrew and Steve Lockwood. Although the absence of both Andrew Simpkins and Steve Lockwood was felt at the lunch, their presence in Jim's inbox has not been missed. As well as names from his past, Mick Ford and Sue Kelly, Jim gave recognition to the many riders who have made an impression including Marina Bloom, Jackie Hobson and Rob Weare.

Miranda replied on behalf of the Group, thanking Jim for such an amusing speech and for sparing the time to come to the lunch, especially when he was so 'in demand'. Jim has many roles in the VTTA as well as the challenging role of Chairman. He is Secretary to the London and the Home Counties VTTA, Editor, production and distribution manager for the Veteran and this year he has organised the prize presentation at the National AGM and Awards event so it was considerate of him to join us at our local event.

To quote his words, Jim has been a member of the VTTA for 41 years. Times have changed since then when riders approaching 40 very much looked forward to joining the association. Judging by membership nowadays that does not seem to be the case, attributing this possibly to the current Standard Times, where riders do not feel they have much chance of winning awards until they reach their 60s. Therefore we are grateful to Jim as Chairman for embracing the recent proposals for change so enthusiastically and we are delighted they have been accepted. Let us hope we will see a revival of the once much treasured VTTA that were Jim's first recollections.

Following on, Tim Wood proposed a toast to the worthy prize winners, many of whom have been

mentioned already. Unfortunately, Rob Weare, winner of the Stokes, W E Jones and Godiva Awards, who was meant to reply could not be with us as he was held up in casualty after an accident on his bike that morning, so Stuart responded to the toast on his behalf, commenting on a very successful year where awards have been spread over a large group and not just a few individuals. Stuart thanked all those who marshal, organise, time keep and cater. He voiced his concerns for the future of the VTTA; if it wasn't for those people who we take for granted, we wouldn't have such a great series.

The Grand Finale was the prize presentation – see photos for more details, and after the formalities were over, everyone mingled before drifting off home, agreeing it had been a very successful occasion and things look positive for the new season.

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## NORTH

by Les Dawson



Not a lot to report, though some of what I have could have serious consequences for our group, read on.

The Group must face up to the fact that aged officials cannot go on for ever, it is stand up and be counted time: at the meeting which was held on

5th February the Group Recorder announced his resignation effective from 4/11/12 (AGM).

Members must realise that unless a replacement is found to take over by that date it is possible that Medals and Trophies will not be available to present at the Luncheon, and since our Social Secretary, Pam Clayton has, in view of health problems, resigned her post as of 6th February, will we have a Luncheon and Prize Presentation?

Meanwhile "The show must go on".

An addition to the events which will count for the Points Competition 2012; 23rd September, Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA 25, course T152/3: also the Sunderland Clarion will not host the Hill Climb Championship; this will once again be incorporated into the Cleveland Wheeler's event on 7th October.

Sadly I have to announce the death of John Gradwell on 19th January at the age of 98 followed in February by Arthur Palmer, an Honorary Life Member who was aged 99.

Then we heard that George Hugill had a heart attack and is in hospital in an induced coma.

More bad news: Ray Ross has had a fall and broken his arm, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Better news of Ray Lockett, he has a new hip and is becoming more mobile.

It looks as though after holding our Standard fees for many years we will have to make a substantial increase next season, due to the fact that we will undoubtedly make a huge loss this year, with the introduction of the new Personal Standards System.

Don't forget, if you have not already renewed your membership anyone who has not paid their subscription (£10.00) by the 31st of March will be struck off.

If any of you have anything to say about the new standards and the future of the Group why not spare a little time and attend one of the monthly meetings at Ceddeshfield Hall, Sedgefield, (11am start); you can ride there and you will get a cup if tea. The dates are 4th March and 1st of April.

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## NOTTS & EAST MIDLANDS

by David Herd



The NEM Group presentation luncheon was held at Cleve Lodge, Long Eaton, on 29 January 2012. The Guest of Honour this year was VTTA Chairman Jim Burgin who is also Editor of the Veteran. Jim was introduced by Chairman Joe Summerlin in his usual anecdotal style acknowledging Jim's contribution not only to the VTTA but to the sport of cycling time trialling generally and his work with Cycling Time Trials..

In Jim's response he said the Notts and East Midlands Group had "names be proud of": Jim Goodwin, Geoff Platts, Ron Hallam and the tandem team of Jeff Bowler and Dave Bates.

It was a personal pleasure for me as it was my first time at the presentation luncheon and a privilege to meet Jim as the Groups reporter.

Jim kindly presented the following prize winners with their trophies:

Men's BAR:

1st	James Singlehurst	+7.618
2nd	Ron Hallam	+7.581
3rd	Graham Green	+7.396

Women's BAR:

Clare Ella	+4.113
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Jim made a belated presentation to Tandem pair Jeff Bowler and Dave Bates for records at 50 and 100 miles set in 2010.

Senior BAR:

Ron Hallam	+7.968
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Hermes 100 Mile Cup:

Ron Hallam +122-11

Fred Smith 50 Mile Cup:

Ron Hallam +59-09

Joe Baines 30 Mile Cup:

Dave Pike +16-04

Ivan Moan 25 Mile Shield:

Ron Hallam

Prestige Points Trophy:

Ron Hallam 60 points

The Bert Christain Trophy was presented to Ron Hallam by Bert's sister Olive and it was lovely to see Bert's sons Robert and Andrew and Andrew's wife Julia.

For a full list of the winners, see the results pages.

Well done to all those group members who achieved good times during a very mixed season in terms of weather.

I have to report the sad news that Ken Usher died as a result of a road accident at Whaplode Drove in South Lincolnshire on 4 February 2012. Ken lived within the NEM Group Area and had been a Member of a number of NEM Clubs over the years but was a Member of Cambridge CC. We wish to convey to his family our deepest sympathy.

I also have to report the sad death of Robert Fotheringham (Bob) of Lincoln Wheelers CC. I hope to produce a full obituary in this or a future addition.

As the weather is picking up, time trialling will be soon starting in earnest and I wish all riders a safe ride and fast times.

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## SCOTLAND

by Steve Nutley

I hope that everyone has had a good winter's training and has lots of miles under their belt for the 2012 season, which will be well underway by the time this lands on your doormat.

Commiserations to those who took a tumble on the, thankfully rare, ice this year. Whether you slid and slipped on the ice, braved the gales and rain, or just stayed in the warm on the rollers or turbo I hope you're feeling ready for the races ahead.

This season we shall be missing one notable official at the SVTTA events as Jim Harris has hung up his time-keeper's hat after many years of

service. I'm relieved to report though that Jim will still be around in other capacities at our SVTTA events.

Since the last issue of *The Veteran* two important Annual General Meetings have taken place. Firstly, at the Scottish Cycling AGM it was confirmed that the ruling that would have seen the adoption of UCI regulations for time trials in Scotland has been revoked. Veterans, particularly those nearing the end of their racing career, were amongst those who would have been worst affected by this ruling, which could have seen many forced to buy new equipment. It's a great relief to many of our members who can now continue to race on their existing bikes and in their existing positions - both of which may have been developed and tuned over a good number of years! Also at the SC AGM it was reported that the Rules Committee had decided to make compulsory the use of rear lights in all time trials. Although I have seen nothing in writing regarding this as yet, it would make sense to start preparing and finding a way of fitting a rear light to your aero seatpost in readiness for the season ahead.

The other AGM was of course the National VTTA AGM at which the proposal to adopt a new set of Standards tables was voted in, 22 for and 10 against. Members intending to compete for Standards this season need now to pay particular attention to the new tables as they have a direct influence on what Standard times you now have to achieve. A copy of the adopted 'Standards Tables' was included in the December issue of the Veteran Magazine, and are now also available on the National VTTA website. Later in this article you will find Iain McLeod's report on the AGM.

The new Standards are intended to promote fairer competition amongst all veteran age groups and should see fast veterans of all ages competing for our championships and trophies this year. What this also means, of course, is that there has never been a better time to try and recruit new SVTTA members from amongst your clubmates, so let's get to it.

In other news from our membership, Royal Albert's Tommy Bell came off on black ice and spent a few days in Hairmyers Hospital, East Kilbride. He suffered a badly broken collar-bone but will no doubt be well on the road to recovery by now

Meanwhile Jackie Connor is making admirable progress following his hip replacement and by

coincidence has been receiving physiotherapy from Iain Binning's son.

Reportedly, Deeside Thistle past member John O'Donovan has been putting in the miles along with Derek Stewart so maybe we shall see fireworks from him in the coming season. Another DTCC member, John Ramsey, also hopes to return to racing in 2012.

Our website at <http://www.svttta.org.uk> is slowly coming online and will be improved as the season progresses. If you have any material either for the magazine or the website do please send it to the Press Officer.

Finally, a warm welcome to those new members who have joined us for 2012.

### **Awards Presentation**

Our Social Secretary, George Skinner, organised a very successful evening which saw the function room at McQ's Tartan Arms almost full to capacity. Members enjoyed an excellent meal, with a good choice of dishes on offer, after which the presentation of awards took place. Timetrial Secretary Jim Harris is happy to report that for the first time all certificates and trophies heading to mainland riders were collected in person and none were left to be taken back home.

The following riders collected their certificates, standards and trophies:

Sanny Roy	Joe McCann	Bill Haggart
Patricia Baird	Robert Cooper	Jocky Johnstone
Alec Munro	Graeme Hay	David Miller
Isobel Fletcher	Alan Solway	George Berwick
Allan MacCLean	David Pritchard	George Skinner
Frank Gamwell	Steve Beech	Derek Stewart
Steve Nutley		

After the presentation there was a raffle with some excellent prizes kindly donated by local businesses, after which many of the assembled gathering were to be seen stretching their racing legs on the dance floor!

### **Place-to-place records**

A note from Jim Harris brings word of a possible revival of interest in Place-to-Place records - a worthy quest in themselves but also a great way of adding interest to those miles that must be ridden over the close season.

The following table shows the current record holders:

Gretna to John 'O Groat's	Age 46
George Berwick 1987	19:17:55



Perth to Inverness		Age 48
Alec Duncan	1972	05:21:34
Glasgow-Dundee-Glasgow		Age 48
Alec Duncan	1972	08:09:19
Glasgow-Stranraer-Glasgow		Age 48
Alec Duncan	1972	08:51:42
Edinburgh-Berwick-Edinburgh		Age 49
Alec Duncan	1973	05:47:40
Glasgow-Oban-Glasgow		Age 48
Alec Duncan	1972	10:06:07
Glasgow-Dumfries-Glasgow		Age 53
Pinky Williams	1972	06:58:53
Dundee-Oban-Dundee		Age 55
James Soutar	1965	13:32:19
Glasgow to Perth		Age 68
Ian G. Walls	1990	03:32:31
Edinburgh-Perth-Edinburgh		Age 77
Morton Bryce	1990	06:48:47

Rides start and finish at the relevant main Post Office. Although some of these may no longer exist, or be in the same location as when the records were set, it would simply be a case of identifying the former location and using that in any new record attempts.

There exists also a comprehensive list of age standards covering the above and other routes which is too lengthy for this article, but I'll endeavour to publish it on our website in the coming days.

For any further information on the subject of Point-to-Point records please contact either Jim

Harris or Bob Gibson.

#### **National VTTA AGM report**

Iain McLeod and Alex Munro attended the AGM on our behalf, along with Derek Stewart.

Here is Iain's report of the proceedings:

The National AGM and Prize Presentation was held on 28th January 2012 in the Kings Court Hotel, near Alcester. This is a rural setting about 15 miles south of Birmingham. Any VTTA member can attend and take part in the discussions. Each group is allowed a number of voting delegates in accordance with the group membership. Scotland group delegates were Iain McLeod and Alex Munro. Also in attendance was Derek Stewart, who would collect the trophy for winning the National Championship 25.

Full minutes will be published, so here are some of the main topics.

Treasurer's report – warning that increased postage stamp price will have significant effect on distribution costs of the magazine and may require increased subs next year.

4b. Rule 2.9.5 requires subs to be paid by 31st March. A motion to change this to 31st January was lost.

4d. This was the motion to adopt the new Standards Tables. There had been much debate and a special meeting prior to the AGM. Only a few delegates had a "free" vote, but there was still a lot of discussion, covering arguments for and against the new Standards.

Finally, Frank Kerry of North Lancs & Lakes



group summed up the motion simply and clearly: If you want the VTTA to be an organisation that gives a fair opportunity to riders of all ages, genders and abilities, then you should vote for the New Standards. The motion won by 22 votes to 10.

4e to 4n. These motions were identified as being needed to tidy up rules affected by the New Standards. Key points:

For the transition to the New Standards, there will be a clean break from the old Standards and all riders will be able to claim a Standard award for any open event they have ridden. Claims can be made for Minus times or distances.

A rider's times/distances for the previous seven years had to be used to determine if an improvement had been made on Standard. This has been reduced to three years.

I expect that it will take some time before we all, riders, timekeepers, organisers, find out just how the new rules work out in practice. It was explained that the new Standards tables should not be considered as "set in stone", but should be reviewed regularly to see if changes might be appropriate.

### **Other items**

You may already have seen that SVTTA life members Rita and John Montgomery have been hitting the headlines recently, with an article in the national press and mentions on Braveheart and Scottish Cycling websites. The text below is reproduced with the kind permission of the Daily Record.

'If Rita and John Montgomery whizzed past you on their bikes, you might not give them a second glance.

Like many dedicated cyclists, they've got the latest colourful gear and hi-tech, lightweight bikes. The only difference is that Rita is 80 and John is 79. And while top cyclists such as Graeme Obree and Sir Chris Hoy may be household names, Rita could be considered the godmother of cycling in Scotland.

Through decades of competing she won countless prizes, from Scottish titles to World championships, breaking records and causing upsets along the way.

As cycling prepares to get a massive boost from the London Olympics, Rita's story should resonate among fans of the sport everywhere.

Born in 1931, she wasn't yet a teenager when she began cycling during the war in Johnstone,

Renfrewshire.

She said: "The Johnstone Wheelers were renting a clubhouse, but when the war started they all went off to fight, so no one was using it.

"I was 12 when my dad found me an old frame with this big, heavy seat and straight handlebars.

"Eventually the guys came back from the war and got stuck with all these kids who were using their clubhouse.

"They would always try to drop me, but they couldn't, so they eventually gave in.

"Years later, they told me that the reason they didn't want me to go with them was because I was too good and I'd give them a showing up."

Soon, Rita was competing at events across Scotland, making an immediate impact.

"I nearly broke the Scottish record in the first-ever 25-mile time trial I did," she said.

"I was catching up with all these fast women ahead of me and didn't like to pass them because I was too polite."

After honing her competitive instinct, the honours started flowing and Rita won a record eight Scottish Best All-Rounder titles, in which riders compete to record the fastest average speeds in time trials.

She'd train every day by cycling to and from her work as a draughtswoman, but the real dedication came in getting to and from the races.

"You didn't have transport in those days, so you'd have to cycle to the race," she said.

"If we were going to Perth or Dundee, the girls would meet up in Glasgow where the lorries stopped and see if we could get a lift up the road.

"Sometimes we'd get a lift some of the way, other times we'd have to cycle there."

But all the training and competing came to an end for Rita in the early 1960s when she gave up competitive cycling to look after her ill mother. And in 1966 she also married husband John, a top cyclist and member of rivals the Chryston Wheelers.

It was John who inspired Rita to get back into competing in 1979.

He said: "I'd always wanted to buy Rita jewellery but she said if I wanted to buy her something I should get her a new bike.

"I phoned our friend in Italy and told him I was looking to buy a Colnago – the creme de la creme of racing bikes.

"When Rita saw it, she said she couldn't have a beautiful bike like that and not start racing again."

Rita and John set their sights at the top, entering

the World Veterans' Championships in the Austrian Tyrol in 1980.

Women can enter veterans' races aged 30, so Rita was facing riders up to 19 years her junior. But she was convinced the 40-mile Alpine course would play to her strengths. Rita won, retaining the title in 1981 and winning it for a third time in 1983.

John also took bronze in the men's 90-mile race in 1982.

Rita said: "We had good times, roads with no traffic." John added: "We regard that as the golden era of cycling."

### **Lanzarote training**

Steve Beech and Iain McLeod went to Lanzarote in early January for 10 days looking for guaranteed warm weather training conditions. Conditions were up to expectations – arm warmers advisable early morning, but 23°C typically as the day progressed, five minutes of rain one day, but strong winds on a few days. Cycling was mostly in groups, organised by Andy Cook Tours. The groups comprised cyclists with a wide range of age, experience and targets. The support provided included guides in each group, with a car supplying food, water, gels and mechanical assistance on longer runs. Some of the guides were from Andy Cook Tours and some were from Club La Santa. Also in the mix was Magnus Backstedt, winner of Paris Roubaix 2004, now based in UK, with some of his Team UK Youth riders– try holding on to his wheel But if you can you get plenty of shelter!

Landscape in Lanzarote is a mixture of volcanoes and broken up lava with very little greenery. Camels are used to transport tourists to look at volcanoes. Winds from Africa brought over sand clouds. Local winds whipped up mini sand storms in a few places, which gave brake blocks and chains a hard life.

Rides varied from 80 km to 160 km with the top group averaging up to 20mph. Most rides exceeded 1000m of climbing and the 500m. Tabeyesco climb featured on several rides. Rapha Condor Sharp team were at the same location for a technical training camp including James McCallum. They, Magnus and other guides took part in some very interesting evening question time sessions.

Overall, a good week, with plenty miles cycled in good company, punctuated by discussions on the merits or not of the proposed changes to the Vets standards!

## **WEST**

*by Brian Griffiths*

It's a delight to see that the days are getting longer. We have had a reasonably mild winter here in the West. It has been so much better than last year so far, so that some of us at least, have not had our training plans curtailed by snow and ice.

It was a pleasure to accompany Gordon Scott, our secretary, to the AGM at Alcester and to witness the struggle to satisfy everyone that the proposed new Standards system was going to be a winner.

Personally I am very pleased! For years we have been complaining about the Standards, which were carefully planned by Mr Strevens many years ago. I'm not certain that they were ideal even then, but times are very different now and we have such a diversity of age and capabilities to cope with that it certainly was time to have a very careful look at an alternative. This is exactly what our team of experts did and I'm sure burnt much midnight oil in the process: A really difficult task which must have had them in despair at times. However, they have come up with a pretty good solution; it has to be a compromise of course, but it is certainly a very fair compromise and they will continue to monitor results to see that it is working as planned and if necessary will be able to tweak it from time to time. It has built in flexibility.

For me it would be an insult to their hard work to refuse to accept the end product of their endeavours. Neither they nor the VTTA have an ulterior motive in their desire to please us all and in the end I am totally convinced that the results will justify our faith in taking this vital step forward.

Our president, Ted King, is a wise old owl and if he is able to express his approval in glowing terms, then that is good enough for me.

My only sadness is that the late Chris Hart is not around to see the fruits of the efforts he put into promoting a similar idea years ago.

The Westvet magazine is a great favourite with our members here in the West. Editor Allan Norwood has made an excellent job of keeping us all informed, entertained and amused for about ten years: Not surprisingly he thinks that he would like to hand the job over to some one else. He enjoys the task a lot but surely we should look to be giving the man the break he needs. I know he doesn't mind helping out especially with the graphics! Surely there is someone out there who could take on the job? Perhaps we could have an editorial

team, if you have even a basic interest I am sure Allan will tell you what the job entails and stand by you for a while to start you off. Please don't let him down, especially if you think you can do a better job.

Recently in *Cycling* magazine I read a very good five-page article about Tommy Godwin, who broke the year's mileage record in 1939 with a grand total of 75,000 miles. The article was written by Dave Barter and is the first decent account that I have read about this exceptional cyclist in recent times. Some of you will be aware that I knew Tommy and over the years have made some effort to get his achievements acknowledged in an appropriate way. Godfrey Barlow has now produced a book about Tommy and it is available on the Stone Wheelers web site. It is a fascinating and most unusual story to read, giving a good insight into what drove this remarkable man to complete 75,000 miles in 365 days in 1939, using what to us would be a very basic machine. It's certainly worth considering buying, especially as any profits will go to a very worthwhile cause.

I hope that we in the West will have a little more luck with our courses this year, we really do seem to be running out of roads with the required speed potential to satisfy those who consistently want fast times. For me the situation can only get worse!

Speaking to our super efficient Treasurer Ian Pritchard, I understand that there are still a number of annual subscriptions outstanding. Come on lads, dip into your pockets or get your chequebooks out and let him have this payment! If you can't be certain whether you have paid or not his phone number is in the Westvet and he can soon tell you.

For fifteen pounds you get four excellent magazines to read during the year, and that alone makes it very good value.

Keep the information coming; I am always responsive to any news items that I can turn into something to send to Jim.

How to enjoy a good bottle of wine! Open the bottle and let it breathe. If it doesn't breathe, give it mouth to mouth!

Is gross negligence one hundred and forty four times as bad as ordinary negligence?

To demand respect is a sure sign of failure. To command respect is a sure road to success!

## **NORTH MIDLANDS**

*by John Scully*

Here we are embarking on yet another season of cycling activity. We are also entering into new territory with the introduction of the new Standards System. It will be interesting to see what impact they have on the 2012 events, particularly, the VTTA National Championships.

The unusually mild January allowed me to get more miles under my belt than I would normally at the beginning of a new year. Having said that, it also softened me up nicely for the ensuing icy blast from the east.

The Group's Annual Luncheon last November went very well, thanks to Alan Sides, our Social Secretary. The proceedings were chaired by John Fitch with George Morris introducing Guests of Honour, Keith and Joyce Webb. Jim Goodwin responded to Keith's speech and awards were presented by Joyce assisted by John Clarke and Barbara Scott.

Trophy winners were as follows ;

Ron Blythe Memorial Trophy - 18K

Alan West, Kiveton Park CC

Sheffield Central Cup - 25 & 30

George Lascelles, Rutland CC

Sid Sharmans Cup - 50

Tony Keyworth, Kiveton Park CC

Sheffield Unity Cup -100

Neil Howarth, Sheffield Phoenix CC

Brian Beardsley Memorial Cup -12 hour

Alan Jones, Yorkshire RC

Cleethorpes Shield -10

Michael Alan, Belper BC

Watson Trophy - Prestige Points Competition

Tony Keyworth, Kiveton Park CC

Susie Denham Cup - Ladies BAR

Alex Deck, Planet X

Meersbrook Trophy - BAR 10, 25, 50

Alan Cooke, VC Chesterfield

Colin Bell Cup - BAR 10, 25, 30, 50, 100

Wayne Fuller, Rotherham Wheelers CC

Ethel Scothern Cup - BAR 25, 50, 100, 12 hour

Trevor Mayne, Birdwell Wheelers CC

In addition, nine members were successful with Standards claims. In all, a total of 21 Standards claims were awarded.

The Group's AGM was held in December with Officials and Delegates agreeing to serve another term. Barbara Scott, Treasurer and Recorder,



reported that the Group's finances were satisfactory and the membership stood at 161. On the competition front, Barbara reported that 16 members aged over 70 had ridden events in 2011 and 9 Group age records plus 4 National age records had been achieved by the Group's riders. They were as follows :

Kevin Dawson (41) Sportscover Strategic RT  
 10miles -18:52 (National)  
 25 miles - 52:35 (Group)  
 50 miles - 1:40:14 (National)  
 100miles – 3:35:43 (National)

Alan Cooke (46) VC Chesterfield  
 10miles - 19:23 (National)  
 25 miles - 51:02 (Group)  
 50miles - 1:46:07 (Group)

Alan West (63) Kiveton Park CC  
 10miles - 20:37 (Group)  
 30 miles - 1:5:10 (Group)

Rob Townsend (42) Sheffrec CC  
 30 miles -1:03:10 (Group)

Remember to contact Group recorder Barbara Scott if you think you have qualified for a Group or National age record.

Barbara, who does three jobs for the Group, asked if there was anyone in the Group who could lend a hand or take over one of the jobs. If there is anyone out there who could lighten Barbara's load please get in touch.

Chairman, John Fitch, had been contacted by Elmet CRC, ( who are hosting the RTTC National Championship incorporating the VTTA National Championship 12 hour), for some help. In view of the fact that we have been given access to the event over the years for our Group 12 hour, the meeting agreed it was appropriate to lend a hand. It was decided to donate £50 towards prize money and to help with marshalling etc. Please contact John or Janet Fitch on 01226 751409 if you can help.

Some sad news now. Bob Fotheringham of Gainsborough Aegir CC has recently passed away following a stroke he had just before Christmas last year. Aged 70, Bob was well known in the North Midlands participating as a competitor, riding trike and tandem, and also helped with marshalling events etc. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

Best wishes go out to Brian Waslidge of

Conisbrough Ivanhoe CC for a speedy recovery. Brian broke his hip while walking on the beach at Filey in December and faces many sessions of physiotherapy. However, Brian is optimistic about getting back on his bike.

In the CTT 2011 annual report, concern was expressed about the number of riders colliding with stationary or slow-moving vehicles. In response, a new campaign highlighting the dangers of head down riding is being prepared for the 2012 season. They also continue to recommend a rear LED light when racing.

Our first event of the year is looming, the 18k in March, which is a popular event and usually attracts a large field. If you are racing, good luck with your aspirations, and if you're not, help with the running of events is always appreciated. Best wishes for the 2012 season.

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## WESSEX

As deadline for copy drew near, Ken Blowe, the Wessex Group's man of all work had to go into hospital with what he believed to be a bowel infection and some hydration. It finished up with a 19 day stay which luckily did not involve an operation. He returned home on the 3rd of March. He is still fairly immobile but is optimistic that things will get better as the days pass.

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## EAST ANGLIAN

*by Mary Horsnell*

Congratulations to Ken Platts on his pin-up picture in Veteran. A real poser (poseur?), now challenging John Golder, and others. who bravely bared all for a charity calendar! Not forgetting the Chelmer trio appearing as models in a glossy magazine. Seriously, Ken has had an excellent season, topping the charts in the Group BAR, and Championship, as well as the Eastern Counties Vets BAR and finally retaining his title as VTTA BAR. Well done!

The Annual Lunch and Prize-giving seems a long while ago now, but was voted the best yet by many, thanks to Ian Mackenzie, Tony Clarke and MC Mick Gambling, all receiving able backing from their wives. Tonia Antonis, as was expected, proved to be an interesting and entertaining speaker, telling of

her exploits in triathlons at home and abroad and only touching on her formidable career with Suffolk Police, which would be a topic in itself!

The Lunch was preceded by the AGM, where another good year was reported. The main topic of debate was the proposal of new standards. Terry Anderson gave a very comprehensive presentation, which was listened to in silence, before a unanimous vote against change. There was no-one under the age of sixty at the meeting, surely denoting that most were happy with the situation. It was perhaps unfortunate that this weekend coincided with the special National meeting; therefore the Group was not represented there.

Moving on to the National AGM, some of the senior riders came away very saddened as it was openly stated that the main objective was to remove the perceived advantage of the oldest competitors – surely this is ageism? Here is a quote from today's paper:

“We are now in the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations – EY2012. It's a chance for all to reflect on how Europeans are living longer and staying healthier than ever before – and to realise the opportunities that represents. It is also key to maintaining solidarity between generations in societies with rapidly increasing numbers of older people”.

Now, it could be said that this was the policy of the VTTA for many years – were we before our time? Here are the thoughts of some octogenarians, typical of comments we have received.

“If the proposed idea of altering the standards system is approved to the detriment of the older veterans, it may cause many to call it a day, not bothering to renew their membership, which could affect the existence of many groups”.

“As I understand the change, I don't see men over the age of 68 being likely to get a 1st Standard award”.

“A week has passed since the AGM and there are still some very upset older members”.

The Group's first medal winners, in the Breckland 10 on New Year's Day, were no surprise, Chris Nudds and Peter Baumber riding on the old standards for the last time.... to end a chapter.

The weather has since curtailed training, save for those fortunate enough to get to warmer climes, especially if they have relatives there; Australia seems a popular destination but there are many others, with Majorca still the favourite for many.

John Coles, spending the Winter, as usual, in Spain, has had a fall and broken his hip. Thankfully, no more casualties have been reported.

Latest to be promoted to the rank of Honorary Life Members are Eileen Edney and Len Finch – Congratulations!

While looking back at the past – Herman Ramsey says that his was the only bike at the Lawford Carol Service at Christmas. Happily, the Norwich service continues to draw a good crowd. Long may it remain so .... and as the snowdrops fade and are replaced by the primroses, everyone is looking forward to another season.

See you up the road.

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## **YORKSHIRE**

*by Malcolm T Cowgill*

Well here we are again at the start of a new season. At the time of writing, we are in the middle of a freezing spell which has followed what seems like weeks of gales. Once again the turbo trainers will be taking a bashing, but at least that's safe. I have heard on the grapevine that Jack and Peter Macklam, Yorkshire RC, have had a fall and broken bones were involved; our sympathies to them and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Our AGM took place in December on a much better day than in 2010 and this was reflected in the attendance with 21 present, the best turn-out for several years. Tony Stott, our new Secretary, could not be present due to a prior booked holiday before he took on the job. Elaine Ward, our previous Secretary, made the journey from Scarborough to take the minutes, for which she has our sincere thanks. George Young, our Treasurer, was also absent due to illness but had submitted a report on our finances, which are sound. Our membership is down by 44 - standing at 175, which includes 16 life members and 15 honorary life members. On the racing front, it was reported that we donate £100 to the Elmet CRC 12 for Vets prizes. An approach has been made to the North Mids Group for a contribution as they also use the Elmet 12 for their Vets, but so far a reply has not been received.

In the VTTA National BAR, Ged Millward, Otley CC, and Dave Thompson, Scarborough Paragon, have finished ninth and tenth respectively. Claire Jessop, Otley CC, was fifth in the Ladies BAR. In the National Three Distance BAR, Len Grayson,

Team Swift, finished fourth and Mike Shacklock, Yorkshire RC, eighth. Mike also led Stan Mills and John Baines to the Club Team prize. Our congratulations to all the above.

Your officials for 2012 are the same as for 2011. Bob Tate remains as Chairman, Tony Stott Secretary, George Young Treasurer, Cliff Ralph Racing Secretary, George Hornby Medals Secretary, Bob Tate Recorder, Mickie Hornby Social Secretary, Stan Mills and Geoff Hornby Auditors and yours truly remains as Press Secretary. Cliff and Mickie are your CTT delegates, Cheryl Trueman and Bob YCF delegates and Bob and Janet Tate your National delegates.

Last year you may remember the death of one of our senior members, Harry McKechnie; well, in his will, Harry donated £500 to the Yorkshire Group, for which our thanks are due. After some discussion, it was decided to use some of this money to purchase a new trophy for our Ladies BAR. Harry's son, David, was to be invited to our annual lunch.

Our subs for 2012 will be £11 single, £13 couples, £6 for the Vet for life members and £10 for standard attempts. Tony Stott has put forward the idea of paying subs by direct debit and a form was sent out with the AGM agenda papers. He has also requested that if you have an email address, you let him have it so notices could be sent out via email to save on postage.

Our August meeting will be on 6 August 2012 at 7 30 pm at Otley Clubroom and the 2012 AGM on 2 December 2012 at 10 30 am at Collingham Memorial Hall.

So that was your AGM for 2011.

As I write, the Reliability season is in full swing. 'Ron's Reliable Five' will no longer include the Yorkshire RC ride; they have withdrawn due to Police becoming involved as a result of it becoming a race without numbers, with riders who hadn't signed on and paid a fee; a case of cyclists being their own worst enemy once again.

Looking forward, by the time you read this our first event, Mike Williams' 10, may have been run on 14 April. Sadly there will not be a 30 this year.

Now to more sombre news: John Cuthbert, Yorkshire RC, died suddenly on 8 December 2011. John had been our Secretary for 5 years between 2003 and 2007. He will be greatly missed by his many friends in Yorkshire. There was an attendance of almost 200 at his funeral at Skipton Crematorium; a full obituary appears elsewhere.

On a brighter note, our Lunch and Prize Presentation had an attendance of 92, up on last year, a great reward for Mickie's efforts. The Lunch has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and to show our appreciation, Mickie was presented with a bouquet of flowers. The first award presented was the Eric Linley Trophy. This is an award for meritorious service to the Group and this year was presented to John Hatfield, who has promoted our 30, and 25 before that, for 20 years; the presentation was made by Dora Linley. Next up was Mckie Hornby, Team Swift, to receive the new Ladies BAR Trophy, a modern elegant glass affair. As I said earlier, Harry McKechnie, who died last year, left £500 to the Group in his will and part of this was used to purchase this new trophy, which will be the Harry McKechnie Trophy. His son David had been invited to the Lunch and he made the first ever presentation of this trophy. Our Guest of Honour, my clubmate Denise Burton-Cole, Morley CC, presented the remainder of the prizes. Denise, of course, was a World Championship medal winner 37 years ago; she also won the British Ladies Road Race Championship. Notable among the prize-winners was Andrew Asquith, Bridlington CC, with a Standard Plaque for a 10 in 20-20, 25 in 52-55, 50 in 1-53-06 and a 100 in 3-59-51. Impressive stuff! George Dawson, Teeside RC, received the F B Ward Shield for his win in our 25 on standard, 1-15-14 on his trike at 85. Amazing! Len Grayson, Team Swift, collected certificates for fourth in the National Three Distance BAR, two National age records (73) 30 miles 1-10-20, (74) 10 miles 22-12. Len was also second in our Short Distance BAR; again impressive stuff. Mike Shacklock, Yorkshire RC, collected the Ron Bailey Shield for his win in our Short Distance BAR. Next up was David Thompson, Scarborough Paragon; he was fastest in our Group BAR with an average speed of 26.374 mph, with a 25 in 52-58, 50 in 1-4-36, 100 3-47-15 and 12 hours 274.69 miles. He also rattled off a 10 in 19-28. What next – he is only 43! Finally, the Oliver Cup for of 2011 BAR was collected by Ged Millward, Otley CC, with +6.070 mph. So that was it for another year. The raffle raised a record £196. Also worthy of mention was Stan Chadwick, Scarborough Paragon, in attendance once again just short of his 96th birthday! See you next year, Stan.

One final piece of news: The BBC are making a short programme about Beryl and I, along with

Charlie, Denise and other Morley CC members from the past, spent a sub-zero day at the Otley CC clubroom with a film unit. We await the outcome with interest.

Well, that's about it. By the time you read this, the season will be under way and the output from the wind farms will be picking up! As I finish this piece, it's minus 4oC. I'm off back to the sun; see you all in April.

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## KENT

*by Ian Turner*

Our Group's Annual Lunch and Awards Presentation was held on 19 February as this issue was going to press. The event was extremely well organised for the first time by our new joint social secretaries, Bernadette Conefrey and Angela Nye, and was well supported with 22 of the guests collecting awards. Unfortunately, our BAR winner, Shay Giles, was unable to attend as his wife was unwell. Pat Hill was also unable to be present due to illness, and was greatly missed. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to her and Shay's wife.

The event was again held at Smarden Charter Hall, and both the venue and the occasion were very good and warmly appreciated.

Our Guest of Honour was Vin Denson, who gave an entertaining speech with many amusing anecdotes of his competitive career. MC duties once again fell to Paul Mephram who ensured proceedings, in particular the presentation ceremony, were enlivened with his vast knowledge of the Kent time trial scene. There was, as usual, some excellent cross-toasting during the lunch.

The Group's committee met for the first time this year on 22 January. The Committee's membership has changed in that we now have a new Secretary, Carole Gandy, who succeeded Derek Duchemin. Derek had been Secretary for over ten years and will be a hard act to follow. The Group honoured Derek at the annual lunch with the 'Sacred Post' Trophy, which is awarded each year to the member who, in the Committee's opinion, has given outstanding service in a non-competitive area. The main business of the meeting was to mandate delegates to the National AGM, especially with regard to the new Standards proposal of which the

Group was not in favour. It therefore came as a disappointment to learn that the new Standards had been accepted – the Group feels that this will have a negative effect on membership – but that’s democracy, and we of course accept the decision

and will work hard to ensure its successful implementation in Kent.

Safe training out there, and have an excellent 2012 season.

### **NEC MEETING 3RD MARCH**

The new Committee met on the 3rd of March and it was new too: a new venue (Kings Court Hotel, near Alcester) and some new members. Steve Lockwood the new Recorder and Barry Quick, a volunteer; both were readily welcomed. Barry is the Chairman of the Reading CC and a member of the London West District Committee of Cycling Time Trials; he is also a member of Wessex Group. Steve of course is the man behind the science which has devised the new Standards.

The meeting had much to concern itself with following from the momentous decisions taken by the AGM.

Not least was concern at the possibility of a huge increase in expenditure this year by Groups as a result of the new Standards and the fact that Standards could be claimed for any time achieved at any of the distances.

Most present were led to believe that the Personal Standards awards system was self-financing; i.e. that Groups recouped whatever expenditure was incurred; on reflection it seemed that this might not be so. It seemed insoluble until the idea of a ‘special’ certificate in lieu of the customary medal for those Groups unable to finance or collect from members the expected large increase was proposed and agreed. This of course is contrary to the Rules which state ‘medals’ will be awarded. Should there be a large request for such certificates, doubtless the membership will be asked to allow the suspension of the rule for 2012.

An earlier decision by the NEC to cease awarding medals to the members of Group and Club team winners of the BAR and the Three Distance competitions had been cause for one or two protests and the meeting agreed to present a special certificate to those too – and retrospectively.

Those present learned that the new Standards are Copyright: all are free to use copy and distribute the Standards for non-commercial purposes provided that they are attributed to the VTTA and the underlying information is not altered. Any commercial use of the Standards must be agreed, in advance, with the VTTA (use of the Standards by cycling clubs affiliated to CTT, SC or BC is not classed as commercial use).

Noting this, it was agreed that the Australian TTA should be allowed use of the new Standards tables.

When it came to talking about money, the Treasurer emphasised how worried he is at the threatened huge increases in postage costs due in April, and there followed some discussion re possible measures to reduce the impact.

Jim Gibb told the meeting of the preparations for the re-introduction of the forum; a proposal which received unanimous support.

Much discussion followed the reported apparent apathy in respect of the prize presentation. Although upbeat on the day, a mere 19 of the 71 prizewinners attended with 80 of the 105 medals having to be posted.

With so many of the trophies not being collected, their storage is a perpetual problem, exacerbated by the absence of an Awards Secretary.

The future of this occasion is to be a subject of a questionnaire addressed to all the membership in June.

It was decided that future meetings would continue to be held at Kings Court and that the dates should be: 2 June; 1st September; 1st December with the AGM at the same venue on Saturday the 2nd of February 2013.

Members are reminded that they are welcome to attend the meetings as guests; a fringe benefit taken advantage of by ex President Jim Ogden whose wise words at intervals were appreciated.



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## The New Standards – Why We Need Them

The VTTA Standards Tables were first issued in 1943 for the 25 mile distance to give an effective handicapping system for riders over 40 years of age. Over the years the other event distances and durations were added but essentially following a similar formula that, it was believed, reflected the projected age decline in riders' performances. However changes in health, life expectancy, nutrition, training and equipment have meant that the assumptions on which the Standards Tables were based have increasingly departed from the reality of riders' contemporary performances. This had become well recognised but changing the Standards, with which vets were so familiar, was seen as a nettle that one feared to grasp. The 2011 AGM, however, seized the nettle and established a Working Party to come up with a viable new system. After a year of intensive research, analysis and discussion, stimulated by helpful if at times critical inputs from many different vets, the National Executive Committee accepted the Working Party's recommendations and put forward a series of rule changes to this year's Annual General Meeting. The key motion to accept the new Standards was passed by a decisive two-thirds majority. So 69 years on from when they started we are now in a new world of Standards Tables which will have a major impact on vet competitions. Should vets look forward to this major change with hope and excitement or some anxiety and trepidation? Let me explain these changes in

ANDREW SIMKINS



some detail and the benefits they will bring to the VTTA and its members.

### What is the Purpose of the Changes?

The key purpose of the changes can be simply summed up as creating a fairer basis of competition for all VTTA members, a 'level playing field' for vets of all ages and for both men and women. As members recognise, the results in open events and championships have become largely skewed in favour of older male riders. For the future health and credibility of the VTTA this had to change. In developing the new tables and calculations the fundamental issue has therefore been one of ethics not mathematics. The Working Party's aim was to achieve fairness, and the use of thousands of event results and the many iterations that were tried in formulae and tables were a means to that end. As the work progressed, and in discussion with the NEC, the broader implications of new Standards became clear and this has resulted in quite a wide ranging set of changes that were proposed and approved at the AGM in January.

### What are the Key Changes?

The approval of the recommendations resulting from the review of Standards has resulted in changes that impact virtually all aspects of vets' time trialling and competition. In summary the key changes are:

New standard tables for all distances (10, 25, 30, 50 and 100 miles) and durations (12 and 24 hours)

Separate tables for women and trikes and use of the new tables for tandem results

Simplified rules for awards in National

## Championships

New formulas for the 3 Distance and the 4 Distance BAR Competitions

New rules regarding applying for Personal Standard Claims at the end of each season

### **How will the changes affect Vets ?**

It is helpful to draw out the implications of the changes under four areas as follows:

**Results on Standard in Time Trials** – we will be encouraging all CTT event organisers as well those of VTTA organised events to use the new tables to calculate results on Standards. We will be providing result sheet templates on the VTTA website that will give organisers an automatic calculation of a rider's plus or minus against Standard on input of their age, sex, and machine type. Using the new tables will give a level playing field that will stimulate a much more open and fairer competition on Standard for vets of all ages and both sexes.

**National Championships** – given that we now have a level playing field, all age category awards in National Championships have been abolished. There will be one result in National Championships covering all riders. There will also be no distinctions in terms of men and women, bikes and trikes for the riders taking part in team awards. This will create a very open and exciting National Championships with all VTTA members competing on equal terms. It means that younger riders and women in particular will have a real chance of winning National medals from which they have been effectively excluded in recent years.

**3 Distance Competition and 4 Distance BAR Competition** – firstly these competitions will also benefit from the level playing field provided by the new tables. In the case of the 4 Distance Competition there is a more sophisticated formula for combining the 12 hour duration event with the 25, 50 and 100 mile distance events. In addition

each of the 3 or 4 distances will now contribute equally to the final result whereas in the past for example the result of the 3 Distance Competition was largely determined by the much greater plus that could be achieved in the 100 mile event. These changes create fresh and fairer season long competitions and will make them more open to riders of different ages as well as equalising abilities at the shorter and longer distances.

**Personal Standard Medals** – a rider will make their end of season Standard claims based on performances against the new tables. In 2012 (or the first year a rider competes for Standards) they will only have to complete an open event at any of the distances or durations in order to claim their first Standard medal. In subsequent seasons they will have to improve on the plus or the minus they have recorded previously. This means that Standard medals are open to all riders who improve even if they do not produce a plus result on Standard. The new Standards do generally give smaller increments year on year which will make achieving improved results on Standard somewhat harder. Therefore if a rider has not achieved an improvement after 3 years (not 7 years as under the previous rule) they can 'reset' their Standard and start again with effectively a new claim. This is a great opportunity for all vets to achieve Standards under the new system and to pursue the challenge of consistent year on year on performance.

The above changes provide a fresh foundation for vets' time trial competition. The AGM endorsed the view that these changes are justified and necessary and I believe they will go a long way to stimulating competition and participation. The VTTA will also be seen as an organisation that has a modern, fair and well-founded system.



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# RESULTS

## NORTH LANCS AND LAKES

### Group BAR

Mick Black	Cleveleys RC	64	58:58	2:01:20	4:18:22 +155.39
Harry Haseley	North Lincs RC	69	1:04:45	2:08:37	4:35:57 +147.20
Paul Fleming	Preston Wheelers	46	55:22	1:53:03	4:02:19 +109.10
Julian Markham	Preston CC	45	55:57	1:53:40	3:58:04 +108.19
Simon Phillips	Pendle Forest	50	58:25	1:57:07	4:17:01 +103.01
Barry Rimmer	Wigan Wheelers	47	1:03:52	2:09:42	4:33:36 +56.37
Sue Cheetham	North Lincs RC	48	1:05:59	2:21:37	5:13:54 +38.33
John Draper	North Lincs RC	74	1:21:28	2:49:53	5:53:03 +35.45

### Lady Champion Sue Cheetham

<b>Team:</b>	North Lincs RC	+221.38
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### Group Age Records

<b>10 Miles</b>	Age 50	Mike Ellerton	Team Swift	20:18
	Age 75	Frank Kerry	Lancashire RC	22:49
<b>25 Miles</b>	Age 50	Mike Ellerton	Team Swift	53:45
	Age 75	Frank Kerry	Lancashire RC	1:01:33
	Age 76	Frank Kerry	Lancashire RC	1:01:59
<b>30 Miles</b>	Age 75	Frank Kerry	Lancashire RC	1:19:28
<b>50 Miles</b>	Age 45	Julian Markham	Preston CC	1:53:40
	Age 64	Mick Black	Cleveleys RC	2:01:20
<b>100 Miles</b>	Age 45	Julian Markham	Preston CC	3:58:04
<b>Women</b>				
<b>25 Miles</b>	Age 48	Sue Cheetham	North Lincs RC	1:05:59
<b>30 Miles</b>	Age 47	Sue Cheetham	North Lincs RC	1:24:54

## NOTTINGHAM AND EAST MIDLANDS GROUP MEDAL WINNERS

Ben Waddington	Leicester Forest CC	10 Miles	25:36
Bill Wood	Spalding CC	10 Miles	28:09
Neil Dixon	Hinkley CRC	10 Miles	24:04
Ivan Waddington	Leicester Forest CC	10 Miles	25:51
Ivan Waddington	Leicester Forest CC	30 Miles	1:24:14
Chris Close	Sleaford Wheelers	25 Miles	1:09:34
Chris Close	Sleaford Wheelers	30 Miles	1:23:48
Mike Spur	Leicestershire RC	10 Miles	27:31
Mike Spur	Leicestershire RC	25 Miles	1:16:38
Graham Green	Leicestershire RC	10 Miles	22:37
Graham Green	Leicestershire RC	50 Miles	1:58:35
Graham Green	Leicestershire RC	100 Miles	4:11:10
Russell Gent	Melton Olympic CC	10 Miles	23:08
Russell Gent	Melton Olympic CC	25 Miles	56:27
Russell Gent	Melton Olympic CC	50 Miles	2:05:45
Peter Holland	Lincoln Wheelers	10 Miles	25:39
Peter Holland	Lincoln Wheelers	25 Miles	1:07:40

### Plaques

Chris Hubbard	De Laune CC	10 : 20:34	25 : 53:27	30 : 1:07:20
		50 : 1:54:12	100: 4:06:19	
Dave Pike	Sleaford Wheelers	10 : 24:34	25 : 1:01:25	30 : 1:19:45
		50 : 2:22:53		
Jim Ithell	Melton Olympic	10 : 25:29	25 : 1:10:46	30 : 1:21:04
		10 Trike	27:24	
Peter Holland	Lincoln Wheelers (All on Trike)	10 : 27:32	25 : 1:16:28	50 : 2:35:32
		100 : 5:17:37	12hr : 201.908	24 : 341.830

Dear Editor



As a Group Treasurer, I am deeply concerned by the decisions of the AGM on Standards. If every member enters for their Standards this year, they are bound to get them no matter how slowly they ride - provided the timekeeper is still there when they finish. After this year they only need to improve on their minuses.

The cost of Standard medals and plaques this year will be horrific and with slowest qualifying this will go on for years.

Those folk who haven't entered this year will have to abide by the new tables next year and qualifying with plusses - where is the *fairness* in that?

*Mary Dawson*

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# OBITUARIES

## **JAMES (JIMMY) MCCALLUM** **1924 - 2012**

Jimmy passed away a few weeks short of his 88th birthday, having lived his latter days in a care home after the death of his wife in 2001.

He cycled well into his seventies, meeting up with old clubmates to sunbathe on a Sunday at the Cloch Lighthouse on the shore of the River Clyde with afternoons at the Golf Inn after a cycle run for a quiet beer.

In his younger days Jimmy was a track man riding in the colours of the Glasgow Regent and travelling all over to track meetings with the club, picking up numerous prizes including Scottish track championships. On the demise of the Regent, Jimmy moved his allegiance to the Glasgow Road Club where, with his lovely manner and always with a smile on his face, he was most welcomed.

Jimmy was a Honorary Life Member of the Scottish Group with 38 years membership. Group and club members gathered along with non-cycling friends at the crematorium to bid farewell to Jimmy.

*Jim Harris*

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## **LESLIE WILLIAM (LES) HARRISON** **04/06/1933 TO 01/11/2011**

Les passed away at home amongst his family, after a short illness.

He started his lifelong love of cycling in 1948, with the Middlesbrough Co-op Cycling Club. As an apprentice painter and decorator the pay was not too great so, what little money he had, Les would go Youth Hostelling most weekends. Later in 2008, when he decided to solo ride the Land's End to John O'Groats, hostelling was the first choice for accommodation.

In 1951, along with a number of cycling friends, the Cleveland Coureurs Cycling Club was formed, to ensure that through affiliation to the BLRC, road races could be participated in. Over the years the

club spread its wings into time trialling, with Les becoming an event organiser and timekeeper. In addition to competing in road races, Les enjoyed success in time trials at all distances between 10 and 100 miles and including 12 hours.

Following completion of his National Service in the Army, Les took on the mantle of club secretary, a post he was to hold until his death. Using his sign writing and other artistic talents, Les, over the years has always excelled at producing good event result boards and signage, not only for his own events but also for others who asked for his help. Within the club, Les, known for his sense of humour, created paper machè caricatures of members, and was instrumental in introducing the prestigious "Old Codgers Award".

With touring always part of his cycling, Les used weekends to visit Belgium to watch one or other of the Spring Classics, with touring holidays also undertaken further afield to France, Spain, Italy and Majorca.

In the late 1990's Les organised, on behalf of the local cycling fraternity, a very successful RTTC National Championship 50 mile time trial, which received many accolades from both National Officials and competitors. In addition, Les has performed timekeeping duties in all the National Championships organised within the Cycling Time Trial (CTT) Teesside District over the last 20 years. In appreciation and recognition of this commitment and support to time trialling spanning 50 years, at both National and local level, Les was presented with a "Certificate of Merit" by the CTT.

You will be sadly missed Les, as gauged by standing room only being available when we bade farewell to you on your final journey.

Our thoughts go out to his widow Joan, daughters Joy, Joanne and Jennie and grandchildren Elle, Jade and Jorge.

*Albert Harrison*  
*(no relation but lifelong friend)*



# OBITUARIES

## WINIFRED CLARKE

by *Howard Clarke*



My mother Winifred "Wynne" or "Wynn" Clarke died following a chest infection on 23rd January 2012, aged 93. A proud life member of VTТА, Mum enjoyed a lifelong passion for cycling.

I spoke after Mum's death to Vinnie Fitzgerald who with Mum set many age records when both were in their 70s and 80s. Despite the onset of time and the challenges that brings, Vinnie himself still manages 10 miles a day. I can imagine them being very well suited in a competitive environment. Vinnie spoke very warmly of Mum's courage and determination which saw her racing competitively well into her 80s. Even after that, and despite arthritis in both knees, Mum cycled to the shops on a daily basis for her paper and daily crossword, until ultimately even Mum found she could no longer cycle through the pain.

In common with so many young women during WW2 Mum was widowed, her husband Acting Petty Officer Telegraphist William Eric Anderson, being one of the HMS Upholder crew, which was the most decorated submarine in the British fleet. Tragically Eric died when the submarine was sunk off the coast of North Africa in 1942. Wynne was

invited to Buckingham Palace to collect Eric's posthumously awarded medal from King George VI himself.

After the war, Wynne married Tom, who had also experienced family loss in the war. Apart from myself she had a daughter June and grandchildren Wayne, Leon, Sam and Frances, who she adored. With her children grown up and the death of Tom, Wynne, by now in her late 60s but still very fit, returned to her lifelong passion for cycling. She always enjoyed the company of cycling colleagues, specialised in mixed tandem as the 'stoker' and formed partnerships that saw her hold many age records for distances from 10 to 50 miles. Some of those records remain on the national books to this day. Through cycling she showed her qualities of determination, mobility and fitness that she was blessed with into her early 80s. Even when well into her 70s, she thought nothing of travelling several

hours on a train to stay in touch with family members.

In the later years of her life she discovered more of her first husband Eric's wartime exploits, going to Malta to see the commemoration to the HMS Upholder, also the Naval Museum at Gosport where she was able to contact a former crew member of Eric's, still alive in Australia. Finally, she was invited and attended a Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service for the Centenary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service at Westminster Abbey, despite painful arthritis. It was the last major engagement she was able to attend and once again Wynne found herself rubbing shoulders with royalty, this time the Queen and Prince Phillip.

Mum cycled with Seamons and Trafford Wheelers. Any VTТА member who remembers Wynne and wishes to commemorate her passing can do so by making a donation to one of three charities. The Alzheimers Society, "Cyclists Fighting Cancer or Royal Navy Submarine Museum and send c/o John Tollitt Independent Funeral Service, 10 Higher Road, Urmston, Manchester, M41 9BQ.

# OBITUARIES

## **ROBERT (BOB) FOTHERINGHAM** **1941 - 2012**

*by Paul Reynolds*

Bob was born in York and although he moved to Lincolnshire with his parents at the age of nine, he was always extremely proud and passionate about being a Yorkshire-Man. On leaving school he was apprenticed as a Carpenter and Joiner, becoming an accomplished tradesman in a profession he loved and which was to occupy him for the rest of his working life. One of the highlights of his career was the restoration of the 'The Old Hall' a manor house in Gainsborough. Bob worked on this project for 18 years utilizing his skills to the full.

Bob had three main interests in his life: his work as a carpenter and joiner, his cycling and later playing bowls. He was President of Gainsborough Aegir CC and for many years Club Captain, Life President and Vice Chairman of Lincolnshire Road Riding Association. He was keen to encourage others into the sport particularly youth riders whether for leisure or for sport.

Bob was never one of the fastest riders, more of a 'stayer' and rarely did any training. However, there had to be a serious problem for Bob not to finish an event and should there be a chance of a team prize he would complete at all costs. Bob was always keen to ride tandems, trikes, tandem trikes in fact anything with more wheels than anyone else. He had many riding partners over the years, but sadly his personal collection of steeds hardly saw the light of day.

Bob was a very resilient character and although retiring from his work left a large void in his life coupled with the untimely loss of his younger brother he bounced back. In recent years Bob suffered from a heart problem and again he came through this and was regularly riding his bikes again. As Club Racing Secretary Bob was doing a sterling job and it is only when you are left without him when you realize how much effort and hard work he put into the task.

Bob, never married, his closest family being his older brother, sister-in-law and their family, whom I know will miss him dearly.



# OBITUARIES

## JOHN CUTHBERT 1939 – 2011

*by Malcolm T Cowgill*

John Cuthbert, Yorkshire RC, died suddenly on 8 December 2011. John had suffered heart problems for some time and in 1999 had a quadruple heart by-pass. Although initially his health improved considerably, it did deteriorate in the last twelve months.

John was born in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, on 29 May 1939. He moved to Keighley at the age of six and eventually attended Keighley Boys Grammar School. He met his wife Maureen in 1957 and they married in 1959. Between 1960 and 1968, they had three sons.

John completed an Engineering Apprenticeship at Rolls Royce in Barnoldswick and worked in the Drawing Office, before moving to Keighley Lifts as a Draughtsman. He moved to Lichfield in Staffordshire in 1971.

Both he and Maureen were much involved with the Midlands racing scene. He was on the District Committee of the RTTC Birmingham and Midlands District, doing various jobs. He promoted both racing and social events. In later years, he served as Secretary for the Birmingham and Midlands VTTA.

During his time in Lichfield, he joined the Midlands Road Records Association and obtained the record time for Birmingham to Northampton and back in the early 1980s. After his boys had grown up and left home, he and Maureen returned to Yorkshire in 2000. He retired in 2011. He joined the Yorkshire Group VTTA and was Secretary for five years.

He and Maureen celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2009. John was a supporter of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the British Heart Foundation. He will be missed by his many friends in the Yorkshire Group and condolences go to his wife Maureen and family.

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## BILL SUTTIE

The Wessex group is sad to report that Honorary Life Member Bill Suttie died on 9th December aged 91 years. The funeral was held at Dundee on the 20th December.

He was a life long cyclist, starting with the Kingsbury Wheelers and then becoming a member of the Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers after marrying Barbara and moving to that area.

He is best remembered for his racing exploits on his trike and in 24 hour events, of which he completed 14.

He broke a number of club trike and long distance records and his 24 hour bike, 24 hour trike and 12 hour trike records still stand.

In order to train for his favourite long distance events he covered many miles during his life and was a member of the 300,000 mile club. He always cycled to work whatever the weather and was once pictured in the Bournemouth Echo on his trike in the snow ready for his ride to work.

He continued riding until he was 90 when he had to stop due to declining health. Always keen to encourage young people, he donated the 'Suttie Trophy' which is awarded annually for the best schoolboy 10.

He was an accomplished craftsman. During the war he helped build Mosquito Bombers and for many years worked in the aircraft industry as a tool maker. He used his skills at home for DIY and for one of his other hobbies - wood turning.

After living most of his married life in Bournemouth and after a few years of retirement, he and Barbara moved to Italy for a while to be with his daughter Jean during the time when his grandson, Jamie Burrow, was riding as a professional there. They then moved back to the UK to live in Glenrothes in Fife. He leaves Barbara, his wife for 63 years, three children and five grand children.

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# OBITUARIES

## KEN USHER A PERSONAL REFLECTION

*by David Jones*

I first met Ken in 1956. He had just been demobbed and, after some time in the Middle East, sported a deep tan, and lithe but muscular legs. I am not sure how he came to be a member of the Crouch Hill CC for we were essentially a touring outfit. It was a golden era for cycling. Swathes of club cyclists often comprising 40 or 50 riders were out on a Sunday which was for most, the only free day of the week. Motor vehicles were a luxury although Ken eventually acquired a Thames van painted in the club colours. Riders cycled out to events. Cars passed infrequently during a Sunday morning event. Riders would turn around marshals who stood in the middle of what now are major roads!

About a year later, when I was still riding my all-steel Raleigh, Ken sold me my first lightweight frame at a ridiculously low price. It was a Hetchins which were famed for ornate curly lugs. It was a period of austerity and ownership of such a beast was beyond my wildest dreams. It did not make me faster or famous but it was an act of unselfish generosity which I have never forgotten and a creed where possible I have tried to live by. We formed a bond.

The Crouch Hill CC had a number of riders who preferred three wheels which were disparagingly referred to by some as barrows. Personally, as a

spotty youth, I thought that the riders might have difficulty in balancing on two wheels! Ken, along with Jimmy James and Derek Hutchinson, were a formidable team who broke competition records at 30 miles but most notably at 12 and 24 hours in the 1959/60 seasons.

I moved away from my home town of Barnet in 1960 and lost touch until 1980 when the Crouch Hill CC celebrated their centenary. I discovered that Ken had specialised in long distance events. No surprise perhaps as he did 211 miles in the



Polytechnic 12 at the age of 18. He won the prestigious Mersey Roads 24 hour event in 1960 and repeated the feat two years later with a 474 mile ride just 10 miles short of competition records at the time. He won the Luton Wheelers 12 hour event, which he no doubt regarded as training, no less than three times in 1962, '63 and '67. As a vet, Ken was most well known as a trike rider. There is a gap in the information I have been able to find in the decade prior to 1980

but thanks to the Icknield RC and the Tricycle Association I have been able to piece together some results. Over the period 1999 - 2009 Ken won no less than four National VTTA National Championships covering distances from 10 miles to 24 hours. He was also a member of the Icknield RC team which won five National trophies over the same period. He won numerous Tricycle Association awards including The Tricycle Trophy (2ce), The S.F. Edge Trophy, The H.W. Bartleet Memorial Shield, The H.W. Wilson Shield and the

# OBITUARIES

Fliiss Beard Trophy (2ce). He still holds VTТА age group records at 100 miles (62), 12 hours (65) and 24 hours (65). Ken was continually experimenting with his trikes. Last season he bought a state of the art machine and went on to achieve 2nd place in the VTТА 25 mile National Championships. I have heard it said that this was his best ride ever. This year, plans were in place to ride the Mersey Roads 24 hour once more. Alas this will not materialise but his daughter Jayne intends to visit the event in order to provide a spiritual presence.

I am sure that we have all been to funerals to discover hitherto unsuspected interests of the dear departed. Ken exhibited dogs at Cruft's. Tropical aquaria were a great passion. He was even a Gooner! Nevertheless, I look back on Ken as the rider who used to sit *in* the bike: he believed in comfort rather than an extreme aerodynamic position. He was also an occasional circuit rider (including the Isle of Man) which probably explained why he rode gears rather than a fixed wheel - the norm for time triallists of the day. He always rode on tubular tyres and on leisure rides would be seen with a large bunch of spares strapped under his saddle. His fitness came from doing lots of miles. Cycling from Crowland to London puts a different perspective on lesser mortals who may also train by riding to work. Ken always managed a smile on the bike but perhaps this wouldn't have been the case at the end of a 24! Thus to me he was a role model. His seemingly simple gestures were part of his make-up but they also had a positive effect on me. This may be a sad occasion but his influence lives on in many ways.

Ken died instantly as the result of a road traffic accident close to his home on the 3rd February. He is survived by Gladys, his wife of 47 years, a brother, two adult children and four grand children.

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## **BILL BRADLEY 1927 – 2012**

*By John Lewis*

Bill Bradley died in hospital in Preston on 7th January. He was 84 years of age and had not enjoyed good health for several years.

Bill was a complete cyclist. He was a very successful time triallist in the 1940s and 1950s and also rode both road and track with equal facility. His resemblance to Fausto Coppi, 'Il Campionissimo', both on and off the bike, was truly remarkable and he was often referred to as Fausto by his club-mates and friends.

He turned to orienteering as a further challenge and his basic fitness, coupled with his sharp intelligence, proved to be an effective and successful combination. Unfortunately, the orienteering caused impact damage to his leg joints and his mobility became severely limited as a result. Bill coped with his disability in a phlegmatic manner that was an inspiration to all who knew him.

After joining the Manchester & NW Group in 1977, he became their Recorder in 1978, a position he performed with distinction until 1993. He served as a Committee member until 1996. A familiar figure at the result board at Group events, he could calculate Standards and handicaps in his head more quickly than lesser mortals could achieve using calculators.

He was a 'one club' man, being a life-long member of the Dukinfield CC. He was their President for many years and held Club records at a number of distances. Until his death, he was also the President of the Fellowship of Cycling Old-Timers.

Bill was married to Marian for 58 years and they have two daughters, Helen and Ruth, and one granddaughter, Lauren. Very proud of his family, ever helpful and supportive to both family and friends, incapable of dishonesty or deceit - he was simply a lovely man.

His death has left a void in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

# REFLECTIONS ON THE AGM

Forty took their seats as the meeting got under promptly at 11:00. All Groups were represented and, the preliminaries dispensed with, those present considered the annual report; the first AGM at which the concept was adopted in full. Nobody took exception to otherwise commented upon any of the content and so business moved on to consideration of the NEC's proposal to amend the procedure for joining the Association.

The wording of the motion was not exactly crystal clear to all but it was put and, according to the Chairman, was carried by 19 votes to 12. This turned out to be wrong - two-thirds of 31 not equalling 19. The mistake was realised after the meeting which served to increase the discomfiture of the Chairman.

The Midlands' motion to change the cut-off date for subscriptions didn't take long to come to the vote which resulted in a loss by 15 for and 18 against.

Item 5c was withdrawn and the meeting then moved on to the proposal to change the standards. It was established early on that most of the delegates had been mandated by their Groups; nevertheless, discussion was comprehensive with those opposing the change, perhaps understandably, speaking at length and with feeling.

Manchester sought to amend the proposition to make it operative from 2013 but this received just five votes.

In the end, as is perhaps well known by now, the proposal became a resolution and the new standards are to be introduced with immediate effect. It perhaps says much for the advance publicity, the demonstrative meetings and the special web site that the majority of the Groups had considered the matter beforehand and made their decision regardless of debate on the day.

The proposals which followed were all relevant to the main decision and will have far reaching effects. For example all Championships will be resolved equally; no separate categories for age groups, none for women and none for trikes.

The method of calculation for 12 and 24 hours has changed and the introduction of new tables means that all existing standards are obsolete and any ride in 2012 will be a rider's new standard, be it a plus or a minus.

The election of officers saw little change, except for the addition of Steve Lockwood as National Recorder - a recruit welcomed with enthusiasm.

And so ended the 2012 AGM.

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