

VETERAN

June 2012



Veterans Time Trials Association

National Association for the over 40 year old Racing Cyclist



Rob Pears - 10 Mile Champion
Photo Kimroy

National Association for the over 40 year old racing cyclist

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2011/12

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Cover photograph of Kevin Tye by David Jones



The Scots' Mallorca Trip

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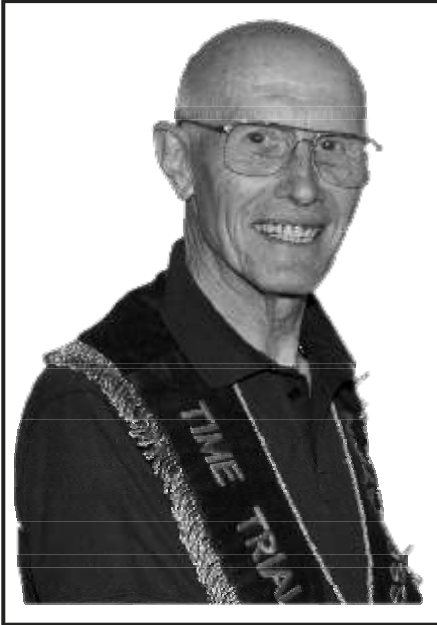
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OFFICIALS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT



I'm writing my contribution for this issue with the VTTA National Championship 10 looming on the horizon. To be honest, it's looming a bit too quickly for my liking. After a good winter's training, I was looking forward to the 2012 season with some confidence until it started to go belly-up in March. Details can be omitted but after a lot of stress, I ended up with bronchial pneumonia which took two lots of antibiotics to clear up. So here we are with the Championship in 12 days' time and only one event under my disc wheel. I think it's called "Life" but I can think of a few other phrases.

It's going to be very interesting to see the results of the first Championship under the

revised Standards where some of us more mature gentlemen (OK! Old Codgers!) will be struggling to get a good placing. Although I've not been looking at results in detail, it seems as though the "young 'uns" in the Midlands are scoring well under the new system. Steve Lockwood is mashing results into his computer and at the end of the season it will be possible to assess the outcome of the changes in a balanced manner.

Of course, I have been aware of some mutterings in dark corners and have chatted to quite a few riders who have confided their views regarding the changes. I have listened carefully to these criticisms which include – why change it at all/changes pushed through by NEC/should have been delayed by 12months/should have had a national referendum plus a few others. All of these remarks have a relevance but when I ask the question, "Did you attend your Group AGM to discuss, vote and mandate your delegates?" the answer is invariably, "No – I didn't"

In case it has been forgotten, the proposal for change came from one of your Groups 12 months previously and everyone had the opportunity to debate the issue at their Group AGM and subsequently at the National AGM. This is the way that democracy works – through the Rules of the Association.

No-one would deny that we have seen a major change but we're still cyclists, we're time triallists who compete against the clock and enjoy the sport and the friendship it engenders. In this Association the motive has always been to encourage the older rider to continue in competition and long may this continue.

Whatever your targets and ambition for this season – I wish you success and a safe ride.

Alan Colburn

SECRETARY



The new Standards are intended to dispense with categories. Everyone in a VTTA event, regardless of gender or whether he/she is riding a bike or a trike is eligible to become the winner on Standard. We do not need separate Ladies Champions and Tricycle Champions; there is only one winner. Similarly, in the BAR and Three Distance competitions, there is no reason to have Men's Teams and Ladies' Teams: merely one team for each competition.

Championship Result sheets should no longer have separated lists of men and women. To separate them would give incorrect placings for the great majority of riders. On Standard, just one list on is required.

I could sum it up by saying that the new Standards are a brave attempt to make us all equal.

Ann Butterworth

At the time of writing, two VTTA Championships have been run: the 10 and the 25. The results have made interesting reading especially as Champions, Rob Pears and Kevin Tye respectively, were also the winners on actual time. However, this is not surprising as in both instances the winners have also set National Age Records.

What I find pleasing is that, in the 10, Christine McLean (Shetland Wheelers) won the silver medal for 2nd on Standard and an Age Record. Under the old Standards, Christine would not have been justly rewarded for her excellent ride, so it would seem that the new Tables have provided a much needed improvement in respect of the women's Standards. At the Championship 10, Christine was leading on Standard until the last man off Rob Pears' time came through. The fact that a woman could be the National Champion caused some excitement amongst cluster of people round the result board, perhaps remembering that Mary Dawson had come very close to doing so in the past.

RECORDS SECRETARY



The early season poor weather has not been kind to record breaking but, despite the cold at Easter, two National Age Records were set (subject to ratification) on the V718. Jeff Jones (40) and Rob Pears (49) both did sub 19 minutes for 10 miles, with Jeff posting the fastest ever by a vet of 18:07 and Rob Pears 18:50. These will wipe out many of the younger vets' records.

At the VTTA National Championship 10, no fewer than three age records were set (strictly only two), with winner on Standard Rob Pears (49), Bath CC, achieving 19:13. This broke the record set at end of 2011 and was also a course record. Derek Stewart (75), Deeside Thistle CC, achieved 22:34 and Christine McLean (51), Shetland Wheelers, achieved 21:47.

- Rob Pears' 19:13 beats the record as at end 2011 which was Alan Cooke's 19:23 at age 46 (set 2011) and John Pritchard's 19:18 at age 43 (set 1991).
- Christine McLean's 21:47 at age 51 beats Carol Gandy's 22:08 at age 51 (set 1996) and also beats her own age 50 record (set in 2012) of 21:49 – an improvement of two seconds.
- Derek Stewart's 22:34 at age 75 slips in between two existing age records of Len Grayson at age 74 of 22:12 (set in 2011) and Ron Hallam at age 79 of 22:42 (set in 2009).

Geoff Perry

WEBMASTER



The website is now pretty stable; visitor numbers are reasonably steady with occasional

peaks of interest. After the Home page, the next most viewed page is the Standards Tables followed by general information about the VTTA. To generate more interest, the content of the website needs to change more and I would appreciate it if Groups and event organisers were to submit start and result sheets along with a report of each event. News about Group activities would also be welcome.

The forum is on hold as the software I was planning to use is undergoing a major overhaul. In the meantime I have set up some social media accounts on Twitter (@VTTA_News), Facebook and Google+ with the intention of using that as a channel to publicise news about the VTTA and that will generate a degree of feedback and, perhaps, enquiries. Following the approval of the NEC, these will be publicised and then the social interaction elements will be added into the website.

Changes to the website include the items listed below.

- Updating the Group information pages to show where membership applications can be sent.
- The addition of all the Competitions results from 2011.
- The introduction of a new user rights management scheme that allows the Webmaster to define what any particular user can do once logged on to the site. Although this is invisible, it enables all future user-specific interaction on the site.
- The introduction of a new News Manager. This makes the publication and updating of news easy and, I hope, intuitive.

There are still enhancements to be made, such as uploading a photograph, but it is active now.

The updates listed below are in the offing:

- The Event Manager that will allow easy updates to events such as adding start and result sheets and, for specific officials, the ability to change fundamental event details such as the date, time and event organiser.

- The introduction of social media buttons to allow users to easily share parts of the website that are of interest and thereby generate more interest in the VTТА.
- Restart work on introducing the Forum.

Jim Gibb

CHAIRMAN/EDITOR



I wonder how many VTТА members concern themselves with the anachronism that is the House of Lords? The pages of *The Veteran* are not the place where I should express my personal feelings on such matters but, reflecting on the current topicality of the issue, I can't help but feel how similar it is to the question of the New Standards. (Notice I use capital letters in

mentioning this momentous subject - the New Standards I mean, of course).

Perhaps the membership of the VTТА is not too bothered about it, but each manifesto from those seeking our votes, mentioned the *Reform of the House of Lords*. Now that it comes to it, they seem to want to back off - it is too complicated; we don't have time; there are other matters of more importance - blah, blah, blah. It has been going on for most of my life but still they can't bring themselves to do it.

The VTТА could be accused of the same thing you know. I can't count how many years the bleating has been going on about the Standards and how 'unfair' they are (were). To be honest, I have watched this from the sidelines: I have never been involved in a personal way with the standards and, too my everlasting shame, do not compete against those fantabulous people who not only race against the clock but take time off to administrate, organise and generally manage our wonderful sport. Thus I don't have an axe to grind on this contentious subject. However, once finding myself in the position of having to take up a stance, it seemed the way forward was to '*do something*'. As it turned out, Frank Kerry *did something*. He was instrumental in getting a proposition on the Agenda at the 2011 AGM which, once carried by the meeting, left the NEC with no option other than to *do something!* (Might I add that, prior to this resolution, there had been others, involving better minds than mine in making calculations, which were summarily dismissed).

Thanks to the help of others, frequently mentioned in past issues, something was done and, would you believe it, a new set of Standards were set before the meeting: not before, might I add, hours and hours of debate, analysis and conclaves via the medium of email (my Inbox

KIMROY PHOTOGRAPHY

Brian Jones has been booked to cover all the VTТА Championships this year (apart from the 25 which clashes with the CTT event and he is already committed to all CTT Championships).

The Editor wishes to express his gratitude for Brian's help with the provision of photographs for the magazine and to make known that the record for provision currently stands at three minutes from the request to arrival in the mail box.

bears witness to the extent of all this).

It is history now, but history which records that the meeting decided in favour of those proposals. The meeting voted against the procrastination of action, the meeting voted in favour of moving into the future and made a decision which is something it seems our Members of Parliament are unable to do. They perhaps have much to lose personally, were they to become 'elected' to the 'Upper House' whereas the members of the VTТА have nothing to lose except a medal, or perhaps not even that, maybe a placing on the result board.

This edition of *The Veteran*, my 33rd, contains repeated references to *The New Standards*: my inbox contains sometimes vituperative comment on the new format and the discussion around the Results Boards and at Committee Meetings are of little else.

There has been talk of mass resignation - as if the VTТА serves only to ensure the possibility of a medal, but there has been a surge of new applications for membership. Read into this what you will. I, admittedly, as expressed earlier, do not expect and do not seek, to gain from these changes, I remain still ingenuously delighted to be a part of a group of nearly 3000 people who share the same predilection of bike riding, but in particular bike riding on the road, alone, against the clock, early in the morning, just to have the opportunity to talk about it afterwards whilst the sad individuals write figures onto a large sheet of paper which records how long it took, in my case, others, to cover a particular distance and how that reflected against their peers of whatever age.

I love the various Village Halls, I enjoy the Committee Meetings (albeit involving tedious and ever increasing costly journeys) and the digressions into anecdotes and amusing stories of days gone by, so I don't comprehend why one resigns if one doesn't agree - were I to disagree with anything so passionately, I would seek to introduce change - as did Frank and I thank him for that.

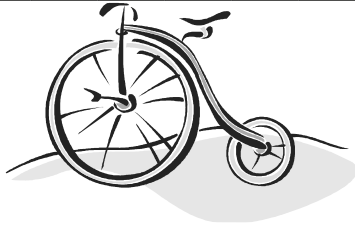
Onward to matters more parochial. I have a problem with trying to keep the size of the magazine down to within a lower postage cost range. My predecessors (or some of them) used what I understand they called the 'blue pencil',

reducing the content of contributions to a particular number of words: this presumably meant that if Scotland (who have a membership almost equal to East Anglia) submitted more words than another Group - much smaller in numbers - its text would be curtailed. Apart from being difficult, such action might be construed as being unfair and I can't bring myself to do it. Thus what I shall be attempting is to reduce the listing of results. Jim Gibb tells me that he can include as many results as we all may wish, without cost, so, for this issue anyway, I'll be sending the results pages to him.

There will still be the detailing of achievements by Group members in individual reports, of course and I would beg contributors to continue with that, adding comments and stories as they go. But listing results as per result sheets will be, unless the protests are overwhelming, on the web at www.vtta.org.uk.

Jim Burgin





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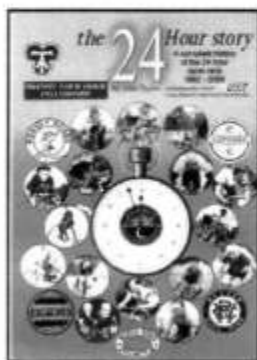


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AROUND THE GROUPS

YORKSHIRE

As I write this piece in late April we are still in the grip of Winter; having just returned from a spell in sunnier climes, I find it all a bit depressing. The countryside is under water as we are in a drought of course: a typical start to the season then.

While I was away, I heard the sad news that Brian Haskell, Huddersfield RC, had died. Yorkshire has lost one of its great riders, the like of whom we are unlikely to see again. Our sympathies go to his wife Kathleen and family. A full obituary appears elsewhere.

Our first event of the season was Mike Williams's 10 on 14 April. The day wasn't good, with heavy rain before the event; had the start not been put back, it would have been called off. The strong wind dried things out and the event went ahead; needless to say it was grim. The new standards were in operation and it would seem that all the whimpering has paid off. Eight of the first ten on standard were 40 and 50 year olds. The other two were our own Brian Sunter (62), Condor RC, 22:50 +5:29, who was fifth, and Mike Shacklock (67) Yorkshire RC, 22:50 +5:22, who was sixth. Two great rides at their age, while conceding up to 27 years to those in front. They would have needed to go almost a minute and a half faster to have a chance. It would seem it's no country for old men.

Speaking from a personal point of view, I never had a problem with the standard tables. When I became a Vet, I realised I had no chance on standard so I set my stall out to do the fastest time. This has always been the prize that the young guys should aim at. What seems to have caused the problem is exceptional men like the late Brian Haskell and, more recently, Denis Milsom and Ron Hallam, but these guys are one-offs. The majority of seventy and eighty year olds won't give anybody any trouble. This is just my opinion, so back to the event. The winner on both actual time and on standard was Charles McCulloch (51), Drag Zero, 20:01 +6:42; a great ride considering the conditions. In second place was Gabriel Martinez (41), VC Meudon, 20:07

+5:57, again both on standard and actual time. Our own Ged Millward (47), Ilkley CC, 20:49 +5:42, was fourth on standard and third on time. In third place on standard was David Robinson (51), Tyneside Vagabonds, 21:03 +5:44 and also fifth fastest. Lawrie Holmes (53) 22:08 +4:47 led Team Swift to the team prize, being supported by Alan Dawson (46) 21:54 +4:32 and Derek Roe (63) 23:14 +4:31. Best of the Ladies was Rachael Mellor (48), Holme Valley Wheelers, 23:29 +5:13. She also took the fastest prize.

Amazingly on such a foul day, a National Age Record was set: Dave Bates (64) and Jeff Bowler (67), South Pennine RC, set the record on a tandem recording 20:45. Congratulations to them. Surprisingly there were 35 non-starters, but a 100 hardy souls finished.

So that was our first event. Once again Stan Chadwick, Scarborough Paragon, made a generous donation to the prize fund. Many thanks Stan and thanks, too, to Mike Williams for organising the event – and the good news: he will be doing it again next year.

A reminder now: our half-yearly meeting will be on 6 August, 7:30 pm at Otley Clubroom. It is important, as next season's events are decided at this meeting. Come along and give us a surprise.

Looking ahead, our next events will be Andrew Vaughan's 25 on 22 July and Steve Gaunt's 10 on 8 September. Also, this year Yorkshire has the RTTC National Championship 12, which incorporates the VTTA National Championship. It is being run by the Elmet CRC and help will be welcome. Yorkshire winners of the 12 Championship are few and far between in recent times; Kevin Dawson was the last in 2007. You then have to go back to 1982 to find Danny Horton and another 10 years to 1972 for my late club-mate Roy Caspell, and back in the sixties my other late club-mate, that master of long distance time trialling, Nim Carline. Nim's second win was over the new sensation of the day, Ant Taylor, Oldbury and District CC, who went on to win the BBAR. The following year, in 1969, the 12 in question was down in Warwickshire. It was my first 12 and the pain is still etched in my mind 44 years

later! Nim had an all day battle with Taylor; a bigger contrast in styles would be hard to find: Ant Taylor, public schoolboy, all the latest technology, and Nim, rhubarb farmer, riding what resembled a farmyard implement. Taylor had the edge until the finishing circuit, where Nim finally prevailed to take the seventh of his eight national titles, two at 12 hours and six at 24 hours. One of Yorkshire's best, willpower on wheels, it was a privilege to have ridden with him.

I mentioned in the last issue that the BBC was doing a programme on Beryl. It was shown in February on the local 'Inside Out' programme; the footage of one of her world championship wins came from German TV. The crowds were amazing: a far cry from her domestic time trialling at dawn. Footage had been shot in Morley, where they stopped people in the street and asked them if they knew who Beryl Burton was. They didn't and yet they were standing outside 'Beryl Burton Gardens'. Sad, I don't think that even the young racing men of today have any knowledge or grasp of the scale of Beryl's achievements.

Well, that's about it, the Giro d'Italia has started. Mark Cavendish won the first road stage. The sports news of the day: Two football matches and some blokes in bow ties poking balls around with sticks! Ah well, will we have a Summer? A free thermal jacket to the winner! See you up the road.

Malcolm T Cowgill

EAST ANGLIA



Congratulations to our hard-working Editor. *The Veteran* has been much enhanced by the addition of photographs. Pin-up of the March edition was Derek Stewart, who is quite a celebrity in Aberdeen from whence he drove down to win the National 25 at Newmarket last year and also to take his trophy at the National Prize-giving; nice to think that some cyclists are feted in their own community. By the time this is read, we will know whether Derek has retained his title.

It is sad to hear that the NEC has discussed the cancellation of the annual awards ceremony, which follows the AGM, because of lack of support from prize-winners. Most clubs and groups have the problem of unclaimed cups and medals. Many riders win so many that they cannot attend every one and/or don't want to miss a day on the bike, while to others just to take one medal is a big occasion. There can be few sports in which people of such varying abilities are able to compete together... "on a level playing field"...no comment. This expression raises the vexing matter of the standards, and reading the lines (and between the lines) of the various group reports, it is obvious that older members generally are not happy about the changes. There will be fewer prize-winners to support the social gatherings and some of the usual familiar faces will be missing. Hopefully they will not be missing from the lists of officials, for these changes also mean more work for them and more expense for the groups. Happily the EA group are financially sound, where others doubtless wish that they could say the same.

Seven members have resigned, only one octogenarian giving "Standards" as his reason, but another 20 members' subs are unpaid and these, including one record-holder, may be struck off. However, the following new members are welcomed...so membership remains the same:

Neil Turner, Great Yarmouth CC
 Martin Young, Newark Castle (from Notts/East Midlands Group)
 Michael Wood, CC Breckland
 Kevin Norman, Stowmarket & District CC
 Andrew Holyoake, Icení Velo
 Brian Farrow, Maldon & District CC
 Nick Green, Fritch Crono
 Jon Vidler, Plomesgate CC
 John Taylor, Shaftesbury CC
 Colin Wilgress/Giselle Devlin, Essex Roads

Robin Bevan, Southend Wheelers
Simon Doyle, Hitchin Nomads
Tom Boulton, Finsbury Park CC
James Poulain, Shaftesbury CC
Duncan Lorne, Norwich ABC
James Redfern, Braintree Velo
Robert Watson, None
David Moore, Norwich ABC
Robert London, Norwich ABC
Ivan Dockerill, Essex Roads cc
Gabriel Hanley, Lea Valley CC
Darren Russell, Anglian Velo (Rejoined)
Keith Barnes, Great Yarmouth CC
Philip O'Dell, Bes RC
Stuart Clarke, Chelmer CC

Ernie Taylor, of Bocking, is the latest member to put HLM after his name, having achieved 80 years. He is, of course, of the generation who cycled everywhere – no cars. Originally a member of the old Braintree Wheelers, he was one of the survivors, he joined the Chelmer CC when the club folded and subsequently Colchester Rovers and Maldon and District CC, before returning to the Chelmer. A long racing career from 10 miles to 24 hours saw him become champion of all three clubs at different times. He still rides his bike and long may he do so.

The weekend of 28/29 April will be long remembered, not for events that happened but, unusually, for those which did not happen. Excess flood water on the roads caused the cancellation of John Iszatt's 25 at Newmarket, Ron Back's 10 at Bury St Edmunds and the Colchester Rovers 50, which incorporated the Group Championship. Commiserations are due to these organisers who had put in so much work and to those good folk who turned up to help. Worse was to come for John who, a few weeks later, suffered a very nasty mishap which has spoilt his good looks - at least for a while. Nevertheless, he is in good spirits and is still hoping to organise the 25, re-scheduled for September.

Chris Worsfold, whose accident in February necessitated a hip replacement, is now back on his bike, while John Coles' fall, whilst wintering in Spain, means that, to date, he is having to "make do" with the turbo ... good wishes from the Group go out to them.

Ken Nichols still has copies of his book, the

History of the Wolsey Road Club, available, 'The First 50 years 1961-2011', at £2 – or £3 by post. Well recommended! Congratulations, also, to West Suffolk Wheelers, celebrating their 90 years in 2012. Their leading man, Peter Balls, is keeping their name in the news, with top placings and BoS becoming a habit.

The Chelmer made a successful foray into wildest Norfolk to support the North Norfolk 100, a new promotion on an 'unknown' course. Antony Stapleton's winning time of 3:59:38 was a club record, as was his 1:43:41 in the ECCA 50 the following week, both times heading the winning team. The latter event produced a host of fast times, yet to be confirmed, with many improvements, group and club records pending due to a long awaited improvement in the weather, but meanwhile his near neighbour, new father and protégé Richard Evans, was improving Antony's club 10 record to 19:56. In only his second season, he is sticking to short distance - but wait!

There a number of very versatile ladies in the EA Group. If they are absent from a time trial, it is usually because they are taking part in a triathlon, long distance run – even Marathon or Iron Man! Notable among these is Karen Eaton, protégé of Mick Pepper, who is steadily building up a medal collection in Suffolk. Another relative newcomer worthy of mention is Chris Holmes, John Golder's partner, who in her capacity of Sports Liaison Officer with Tendring District Council, was very much involved with the organisation of the Tour of Tendring which drew over 1400 entries supporting charities.

The names of Tony and Sue Clarke may well be absent from start sheets this year but, thankfully, not from the list of officials and helpers. Tony, as Group Recorder, has had a busy time converting various competitions to the new standards, having in only 2011 changed rules for the handicap trophies to standards and is responsible for producing the prize list, storing the unclaimed trophies and posting plaques and medals, a considerable task which involves the Group in some expense. This will be greater this year with the increasing postage. Tony and Sue, first winners of the new ladies' points contest last season, have decided to have a break from competitive cycling. Another recently joined fast female celebrated her 'coming of age'! She was Antony Stapleton's

tandem partner for the record-breaking 15 miles in 30:31.

Margaret Hamon was often in the news for her racing achievements over the years, but now comes the sad news of the death of her husband Peter at the age of 68, who was taken ill on holiday. Despite being long-standing residents and active members of the cycling community in Norfolk, they had retained their membership of the Verulam CC. It does not seem possible to write a report without some sad news ... Margaret has the sympathy of all members ... what more can I say.

Mary Horsnell

NORTH MIDLANDS

The Group's season got under way with the 18k in March. Spring-like weather welcomed the riders for this popular event. However, a head wind made it tough up to Blyth from Barnby Moor. Fortunately, average speeds were able to recover somewhat on the final leg to the finish down the A1.

New North Midlands member Julian Ramsbottom certainly kept his average speed up, being the fastest with a new course record of 22:16. BOS, and winner of the Ron Blythe Trophy was Tony Nash with 23:07 (+ 6.03.)

Interestingly, though not surprising, the new Standards produced more "minuses" than usual amongst the older riders. The suggested bias to the older rider under the old Standards seems to have swung towards the younger riders with the new Standards. Whether or not the new Standards will be deemed fair by the end of the season remains to be seen. The transition from old to new is allowing riders to set their own Standard for the first year being able to claim a medal just by finishing an event. My own view on this is that, it's like winning something by default. At 76 years old I'm hoping I can beat my new Standard, which for the shorter events will mean I'll have to average about 20mph. Personal pride tempts me to submit only my worst plusses for a medal rather than my worst minuses.

A Group meeting was held in March with 15

out of about 160 members attending. Events Secretary, Gordon Scott, reported he wasn't running the Group's 25 and 30 next year and appealed to anyone out there who would be willing to take them on. Treasurer, Barbara Scott, said the Group's Bank Balance stood at £2050.15 with £156 in hand with the 18K profit to come. It was agreed the Group would obtain two Timekeepers' watches at a cost of £42 each. John Clarke kindly offered to buy one of the two in support of the Group. Alan Sides, Social Secretary, said he had booked the Group's annual Luncheon at the Carlton Hotel for the 25th of November.

Welcome to nine new Members so far this year.

Anthony Beech – Kiveton Park CC
Rachael Eyre – Kiveton Park CC
John Malloy – Lindsey Roads CC
Chris Wallis – Clarence Wheelers CC
Pauline Wallis – Clarence Wheelers CC
Ian Cross – Doncaster Wheelers CC
Robert Barnard – Team Cystic Fibrosis
Julian Ramsbottom – Scunthorpe Poly CC
Gary Ward – Doncaster Wheelers CC

Not forgetting our ten Honorary Life Members which are;

Eileen Reaney, George Steers, Brian Clayton, Dorothy Blythe, John Doocey, Alex Wallace, Jim Proctor, Margaret Proctor. Ken Chapman and Mick Charlesworth.

Well, with the season well under way, I hope our competing members are finding their form. With the recent wet April, my miles are down and turbo sessions up. As I write this report, It hasn't stopped raining since they announced the hose-pipe ban. Regarding our male competitors, if your racing isn't going to plan you may want to take a leaf out of Jacques Anquetil's book. Quote. "Here's the routine I'd advise for the evening before the race: a pheasant with chestnuts, a bottle of champagne and a woman." He did win the Tour de France five times.

Please get in touch if you have anything to report that the membership may find interesting. E-mail me joswil@talktalk.net or telephone 01302865218.

Good luck and take care.

John Scully

KENT

As I write this report, late as usual, - sorry Jim - the weather has finally looked up and Summer has arrived. Not sure when Spring was, except a dim recollection of some nice weather in March when, coincidentally, our first open 10 was held on Q10/22. This event, for the Mick Dansie Trophy, was held on 10th March in unusually good weather and was won by Phil Bull (VC Elan) with +4.49, a fourth place scratch time of 22.19. The team prize was taken by Thanet RC (Simon Henderson and Bill Hawkes) with +6.45.

The Group's second open event of the season was the 30 held on Q30/2 on 13th May. A sunny but chilly morning but with just a slight breeze from the South West made for near ideal conditions. The course had to be amended due to road works - the bane of promoters' lives in this neck of the woods at present - but if anything, the revised arrangements were an improvement (this a personal opinion from one who rode it!). First on age standard was Carole Gandy (PM Racing) with +13.10 (scratch 1.20.37) First on scratch was Andrew Meilak (Data Team Allstars) with 1.07.57. PM Racing took the team prize represented by Carole and Tom Morton with +16.55.

The Group's Wednesday 10 series, which continues to be arranged by Duncan Leith, was programmed to have had two events by now, on each of the first Wednesdays of April and May. The May event had to be cancelled due to, yes - road works! The April event, held on what threatened to be a cold and rainy morning, actually proved a rarely good day and was well attended by twenty three riders and won by Carole Gandy with +3.53.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Mike Ducker on 27 February, aged 71. Mike had been a long-standing member of our Group's Committee, and after a break from cycling in the early 1950s following his marriage and the birth of three daughters, he returned to cycling after retirement in the 1990s. He was an avid fundraiser for cystic fibrosis research and as part of this effort he sold on unwanted cycling paraphernalia donated by cycling friends. Mike had suffered seriously from throat cancer and had dealt bravely with the consequences, which included having to cope with a prosthetic nose - or should I say noses, as he had summer and winter versions to cope with the effects of weathering! Mike will be sadly missed. The

Group has dedicated a tree to the Woodland Trust in memory of Mike.

Our second committee meeting this year was held immediately following the 30 on 13th May. It was reported by Carole Gandy, our Secretary, that the Group now had a total of 204 members which included three who had joined that morning prior to the 30 mile event taking place. There were 51 members who had so far not renewed their membership, a number citing the new standards as reason for not doing so. There have been 21 new members of which only nine are in the younger age bracket.

As might be expected the new standards were, debated at some length. The committee heard that there have been a number of group members who have voiced their disquiet, and who feel that the new standards have not properly addressed the objective of fairer standards for all. All that appears to have happened with the implementation of the new standards is to transfer an advantage which was hitherto enjoyed by veterans in the upper age bracket to those who are younger; this is causing as much consternation to the older vets as it did to the younger vets under the old regime. The Secretary informed the committee that the National Committee would be publishing a request in the June edition of The Veteran for suggestions that members might have regarding a possible fairer way of using standards. We look forward to this with interest.

The Group's events are as listed in the 2012 Handbook and on the VTTA website.

In addition, the Committee decided at the above meeting that the ESCA 100 to be held on 21 August on G100/86, will qualify for the Group's BAR competition and other relevant Group awards.

Finally, as the new season is about to get under way, a reminder that if members are competing for the National BAR, Three Distance Competition or National records, they must claim using the appropriate forms and enclosing the official result sheets with their result clearly highlighted. This applies equally to members who wish to be included in the Group's own BAR, '85' Competition, Ladies BAR and Age Records. Full details of the claims process are described in an article in the latest Kent Veterans News, and forms can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the Group Recorder.

Safe training and racing out there - let's hope this current good weather is a harbinger of a nice summer.

Ian Turner

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES



The dreadful news that Rocco Richardson died on the 11th of June came after the submission of Group News from Peter Tasker.

Rocco went into hospital for what was expected to be a day or two's observation. This was extended and when he was discharged he was not a well man and the prognosis was not good. Nevertheless the news came as a great shock to the many who knew him and valued his friendship and his contribution to cycling..

The Group has promoted its first three events all at the short distance of 10 miles and all have been successful but not high in entries. Is this a sign of the times, that riders prefer only to ride their own Club's evening league events?

News of what has been happening in the Group is again a bit on the thin side, so we have to keep looking at the CTT website to try and pick up what our group riders have been doing, it is a bit easier for me up in the northern area of the group, as being a timekeeper, I am at quite a few events in the area.

Four of the Group's ten mile events have taken place as these notes are penned, commencing with the 'Pipe Opener' at Great Missenden on the 1st of April.

The event had 33 entries, six of whom were

veterans but non-members, together with six 'youngsters', doubtless desperate to reach 40 so that they can be part of the crème de la crème.

Fifty-one year old Geoff Powell was the winner with regular favourite, Rob Gilmour, who is 60, in second place. Andrew Wright, a new member who is 44 was third. All London Group events are handicapped this year, replacing the previous 'Best improvement on Standard' due to the new tables. This for Group members only. Andrew won that award also and was one of the winning High Wycombe CC team.. The full result is on the web site.

The Don Byham Memorial was next. Promoted by Greg Lewis and the VC10 on the fast Witney bypass course known as H10/181, this is the 'richest' of the Group's promotions with VC10 providing a large prize list and the consequent proliferation of non - VTTA members - not that any are precluded as a result, of course.

Sixty-one entrants for this one, with Peter Crofts travelling up from Kent to take first place with a plus of 4:30. Local fast man Dave Johnston of VC 10 was second with +4:10 whilst Jeremy Wooton was third with +3:37. Dave was the best from the London Group and Nick Druce from the Didcot Phoenix took the handicap award. See the web site for the result.

Then two days later on the F12/10 we had the first of the group afternoon events with an entry of 38 but 9 were DNS, weather a bit wet and windy, results Roger Porter 23.52 +4.06, Richard Williams 24.40 +3.39, Richard Moule 24.33 +2.31, Malcolm Ash 25.35 +2.23, Colin Holmes 27.17 +1.10, Dave Ford 28.00 +0.04, Gill Reynolds 29.57 +0.02 and Brian Moon 29.05.

On the 30th of May Chas Jepson ran his customary Wednesday afternoon event not far from Ascot, attracting a field of 22 riders. Richard Williams was the winner (+3:37); Peter Cockbain was second (+2:38) and Kirk Roberson, a new member, third with 2:34. Kirk was also fastest in 23:25 and won the handicap award with a net 23:14. See the web site for the full result.

Going back to mid March in the Maidenhead 30, Richard Moule clocked 1.20.23 then in the Farnborough and Camberley CC 10 Rob Gilmour finished in 22.06 +5.22, Peter Cockbain 25.42 +3.03 and Les Morris 26.50 +1.37.

In April in the VTTA East 25, Roger Porter

clocked 1.04.38+6.35, Dave Solomon 2.20.24 +0.30 and Les Morris 1.12.20 +0.12.

On Good Friday in the Welwyn Wheelers Hilly 25, Tim Davies finished in 1.00.48, Roger Porter 1.08.59 and Richard Moule 1.10.24.

Next day down in Dorset, Geoff Perry riding the CC Weymouth 10 event clocked 24.05 and in the Team Sales Engine 10 mile event Tim Davies recorded 22.02.

At the end of April in the Team MK 15 on the new Brogbrough course Tim Davies recorded 34.24 +5.16, John Dowling 35.21 +5.29 and Geoff Perry the event organiser 37.14 +3.16.

Into May in the Cambridge CC 10, Tim Davies did 20.58, Roger Porter 23.09, Richard Williams 23.59 and Clive Faine 25.18.

A day later on 6th May in the Norlond TTC 30 on F1, Geoff Bunyan finished with 1.11.26, Peter Harridge 1.14.23, Richard Moule 1.14.39, Dave Rogers 1.16.18 and John Pfeifer 1.27.32.

A week later on the same Great North Road course in the Norlond TTC 50, Tim Davies recorded 1.54.04 and on the same day in the High Wycombe CC 25 Simon Greenland finished in 57.32 +11.49.

On the Saturday in the Bossard Wheelers 10, again on the new Brogbrough course, Roger Porter clocked 22.59, Peter Harridge 23.45, Malcom Ash 25.32, Dave Ford 25.49, Les Morris 26.01, Clive Faine 26.08 and Keith Richardson 26.11.

On the same weekend of 12th May in the South Pennine RC 25 Ian Marshall and Kevin Stokes on tandem won the event with 51.53 - could be a new group age record.

Moving onto the North Road CC 25 on the sporting Guiden Morden course Roger Porter clocked 1.00.54, Dave Creese 1.02.00 and a day later in the Sri Chinmoy 10 event Danuta Tinn passed the line in 23.14 +5.23, Peter Cockbain 25.24 +3.21, Michelle Ayers 26.42 + 2.26 and Gill Reynolds 26.28 +3.11.

On the same day in the Lampard RC 10 on the F12/10 course, Tim Davies recorded 21.51 +4.27, John Dowling 22.38 +4.26, Dave Rogers 24.46 +2.13, Richard Moule 25.02 +2.02 (this was after having ridden the preceding 2up event), Les Morris 26.49 +1.38, John Pfeifer 28.14 and Brian Moon 28.46.

On a different track: an HLM who had moved

away from the area some 20 years ago and with whom contact was lost, John Westcott, Icknield RC, has now been found as a resident in a care home in Charminster, Dorset.

The Wednesday afternoon event scheduled for Wednesday 1st August has been moved to the 12th of September due to the intrusion of the Olympic Games and potential entrants to the Autumn 25 on the 7th of October should note that, due to Rocco's passing, the event Secretary is now Jim Burgin.

It has been a really good year for new members and a welcome is extended to those listed below, enrolling since the last edition of the magazine. The total of new recruits for the year so far number 23. Deletions total six.

Steve Davies : Chris Boulton
Les Gardner : Roland Collicott
Geoffrey Reynolds : Helen Reynolds
Kirk Roberson : Andrew Halliday
Geoff Collins : Andrew Barnes
Keith Richardson : Chris Parrott
Kevin Creese : John Sullivan
Colin Holmes : Gary Martin
Eldar Softic

Don't forget to keep abreast of local news on the VTTA website www.vtta.org.uk/london_hc

Peter Tasker



Rocco Richardson

MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST



The weather has always been a talking point amongst cyclists and so far this year there has been plenty to merit comment. In March I had a couple of rides in shorts and short sleeves. Then April broke all rainfall records accompanied by cold northerly winds. However, in spite of it, records have been falling on the track, in time trials and with our roadmen abroad. It being Olympic year and in London, may have something to do with it.

Alan Geldard, former track star and Group member, will be carrying the Olympic torch later this month whilst in his wheelchair pushed by his grandson. Alan won a track medal in the team pursuit at the last London Olympics in 1948. He is one of only three cycling medallists surviving from those days, the others being Tommy Godwin (track) and Gordon "Tiny" Thomas (road).

Event record was broken in this season's 25 on J2/9, the Altrincham Ravens event on 24 March, when Andy Wilkinson (48), Port Sunlight Wheelers, recorded 42:19. Using the new Tables, he was also best on Standard with +15:15. Keeping it in the family, Mrs Wilkinson, Jill, was first Lady with a personal best of 1:01:36 before she set off for a run round Goostrey as befits an Ironman triathlete. Applying the "one man one prize" rule, Ian Clark (67), Abbotsford Park RC, and Dave Wright (53), Warrington RC, tied with +10:28 as runners-up on Standard with 1:01:22 and 58:00 respectively. There were 22 riders under the hour. In the Medium Gear event, run concurrently, Nige Wood (48), Wills Wheels, was fastest 1:00:14, beating a previous winner of this event Paul McAllister (40), Seamons CC, by just 13 seconds, with medium gear

specialist John Hobson (35), Chevin Cycles, third 1:00:31. Dave Fearon (48), Weaver Valley CC, was best on Standard 1:01:15 (+6:19).

The Nova 2-up 25 is always the first event on local roads. On Saturday 3 March 25 pairs completed the sporting circuit course with visitors filling the first three places. Manchester Wheelers' Gerry Cross and Paul Greenhalgh were 2nd on Standard 57:49 (+9:34) and Paul Robinson and Chris Wilcox, Lyme Racing Club, were placed third with their 59:14 (+8:20). A Pendle Forest/Team Swift duo was best on Standard 55:09 (+12:44).

The M&DTTA promoted their usual series of 10s in March, using the (slower) Twemlow to Chelford course. All the usual suspects were present the week following the Nova event and a baker's dozen of them got inside 23 minutes. The only one inside 22 minutes was Barry Charlton (46), Lyme Racing Club, and his 21:52 was also best on Standard +4:32. Later in the season on 5 May, Barry demonstrated his ability on three wheels by winning TA (East) 25 in 1:00:21.

I have heard complaints from older vets that, with the new Standards, there is a trend for the fastest vet to also be best on Standard. In mitigation locally the men achieving this double as well as Barry Charlton, include Andy Wilkinson (48) and Charles McCulloch (50) who are hardly average younger veterans and could well have won both awards under the old Standards.

Andy Wilkinson did it again in the Nelson Wheelers classic Circuit of the Dales 50, fastest vet and best on Standard 1:58:23 (+20:38). Actually, roadworks at the start meant the course was slightly less than 50 miles so that Richard Handley's winning 1:55:38 on Rapha Condor Sharp wasn't a course record. Winning times have certainly tumbled since I first rode the event in 1951 on a 72 inch fixed gear. This year there were over 100 finishers including ladies and some riding trikes. Group member Paul Shallicker (40), coveryourcar.co.uk, was in the top twenty with his 2:11:56 (+3:39).

The following weekend Withington Wheelers held their 25 on J2/9 when Simon Bridge, Manchester Wheelers, got back to his winning ways in 53:29. Returned from Ingleton, Paul Shallicker moved up into the top five with his 57:14. Other Group members "inside" were Dave Fearon, Weaver Valley CC, 58:29 and Brian Camfield (64),

Stone Wheelers, 59:33.

On Sunday 15 April VTTA South Wales promoted two 25s on the super-fast R25/3L: an Open event and one giving preference to VTTA members. It was briefly mentioned in Cycling Weekly but I got the full result from the CTT website – incredible times! The first four, all from www.drag2zero.com, were inside 50 minutes: Matt Bottrill 46:47, Mark Holton 48:47 and D. Parkinson 48:52, which I believe earned them a new Competition Team record of 2:23:46 – and in a vets event! Their fourth man Jeff Jones, the current BBAR, had some consolation when his 49:46 was best on Standard with +16:14. Taking advantage of what must have been a good day was our Treasurer Jim Gresty, Mid Shropshire Wheelers, 54th in 58:42 (+13:08) and Jim's team mate Phil Guy, who by the time you read this will have promoted the VTTA Championship 10, was 61st with his 59:39.

On Good Friday Buxton CC promoted their 33 mile Mountain TT, allowing Matt Bottrill to demonstrate his versatility by winning in 1:26:34. I feel a little better now about the increase in the price of stamps, knowing that Matt is a postman. Simon Briggs, Manchester Wheelers, was placed sixth in 1:32:08 and Chris Wilcox, Lyme Racing Club, completed the course in 1:48:30.

Abbotsford Park RC promoted their Easter Monday 10 in wet conditions on the faster J2/1 course. Scott Burns (30), Manchester Wheelers, was fastest in 21:50, 20 seconds ahead of Paul McAllister (40), Seamons CC, who put Mostyn Bullock (46), Buxton CC, into third place by four seconds. Sarah Storey, Viored RT, used the event as part of her training for the Paralympics, recording 23:41.

The following day, Tuesday 10 April, Bob Norton took over the promotion of the first Group event; a 10 on the same course, when the original promoter Tony Farrell's holiday plans happened to coincide. Like the previous day, the riders had showers, this time including hail, and again the fastest vet was best on Standard: Carl Ruebotham (46), Team Swift, 22:09 (+4:17). Paul Shallicker was second fastest vet with 22:48 and Jim Gresty 2nd on Standard 24:08 (+4:08). See Results section.

It was a surprise to see Peter Nelson, Congleton CC, competing. Peter had given up racing after being present when his team mate Karl

Austin was killed last year. Now Peter says he is missing it so much that, even after selling all his equipment, he is starting again. Welcome back!

Charles McCulloch, www.drag2zero.com, had been DNS in the Group 10 with back trouble. But a month later rode the same course in the ABC Centreville 10 and, following the current trend, was fastest and best on Standard with 20:47 (+5:56). Mike Cotgreave, Westmead Team '88, was 3rd on Standard 23:40 (+4:39) and Nige Wood, Wills Wheelers, was best of the rest of our Group members 22:27 (+4:08).

To get so far in this report without mentioning Derek Hodgins, Stockport Clarion must be a record in itself. When I phoned to see what he had been up to, I was too late; Derek was in Majorca. Feeling sure he would have ridden the M&DTTA 25 on 21 April, the website confirmed that he had and his time was 1:09:23 (+7:30). Andy Wilkinson must be very familiar with the J2/9 course by now, enabling him to ease up just enough to still win by 9 seconds in 53:16 from Simon Bridge, Manchester Wheelers. Consistent Karen Popplewell, Seamons CC, was first lady in 1:06:09. The cool windy conditions didn't suit everyone, although 34 riders did beat the hour. But some, like Trevor Horton, Warrington RC, 1:02:42, Ian Clark, APRC, 1:03:33 and Nev Ashman, Manchester Velo, 1:09:47 were lower down the finishing list than usual. Mindful of the criticism of the new Standards coming from older members, the event had Standard prizes in 5-year categories, so that Dave Wright (53), Warrington RC, won his category with 59:26 (+9:02) and Brian Camfield (64), Stone Wheelers CC) was a category winner in 59:37 (+11:19). With this method of prize allocation, Derek was also a prizewinner in the 70+ category with his 1:09:23 (+7:30).

The first 50 on a local course, the classic Dukinfield CC event, was held last Saturday (as I write) 12 May and I have some bad news to report. Mark Turnbull, Leigh Premier, number 50 in the event and the runner-up in last year's M&DTTA BAR competition, was in collision with a motor vehicle near Chelford Church and, amongst other injuries, sustained a broken jaw and was taken to Wythenshawe hospital. As the road was temporarily closed and no riders had actually finished, the event organiser, Steve Holt, had no alternative but to abandon the event for the first time in its long history.

Phil Guy has received a lower-than-average entry for the VTTA Championship 10 which usually attracts a full field. It's being held this year on the fast St Asaph/Abergele course on Sunday morning 27 May. Possibly the thought of getting to North Wales by 8:00am is too reminiscent of some very early starts in the past. Still, the prospect of a weekend away can be very tempting at any age. Just look in your Handbook; there are plenty of events left, both near and far. Think of the pedalling postman, Matt Bottrill, and what he has proved to be possible. And remember, this year, when you've paid up, no matter what you do at any distance, you can claim a personal Standard award. If that is good news, I'll end with it.

Jim Ogden

SURREY-SUSSEX



Logistical issues (the wife decided to change the family car and we were without a vehicle for several weeks) and the bad weather earlier in the year meant the first event I got to was the East Sussex double bill of 10 and 25 on 21/22 April. The first person I saw on the Saturday was Harry Featherstone, VTTA stalwart and Group Champion for many years, who has decided to retire - we will see as he admitted that he had retired five years ago. He appeared in the hall both days so I suspect he was checking out the opposition for the new season.

On the Saturday, Maurice Carpenter (Dad), rode his trike and did a 35:10, which improved on the Group 79 year old Trike Record standard he set on 1 January 2012. With his birthday in July I suspect he will knock quite a bit more off the record, but as an 80 year old, once the warmer weather comes and he ditches several layers of clothes he has been wearing.

It is good to see Steve Dennis back on his bike after damaging his wrist. He did a good ride in the Addiscombe 25 on a very wet and windy 29 April on his road bike and would have been in the top five at the Sussex event except for over nine minutes late start. He did a 53:01 in the Norwood Paragon 25 on 13 May so looks to be back to near his best. Geoff Smith also seems to be going very well since his move to the Eastbourne Rovers CC last year. Although he appears to be one vet losing out to the new standards as he has come close several times to an award. Group fast man Mel Robertson managed to win the Vets award in the SCCU 25, although the event used the CTT standard times. Vets standard awards based on the new VTTA standards still seem to be picked off by the fastest on actual, although perhaps the view that older vets go better when it's warmer may come true because it has been pretty miserable down south this year.

By the time you read these notes we will have the results in for the Group 10 Championship for the Stan Harvey Memorial Trophy (Best on Standard) and the Wilf How Cup (Team Trophy), which is on 6 June. This is the first Vets competition so may give a better indication of how the new standards are shaping up. Other competitions this year are the 30 Championship for the Mick Burgess Trophy incorporated in the Lewes Wanderers 30 on 1 July; The BEC 25 on 8 July for the Aubrey Wenman Trophy; and the ESCA 50 on 15 July for the Aldershot Cup. There is the Group 25 for the Robin Buchan Cup (best on standard) and the Pound Hill Trophy (team award) on 30th September. Do not forget that ESCA is host for the National VTTA 100 Championship on 19 August. It covers the roads used in last year's record breaking 24 hour so it must be good. Bob Harber (51 Church Lane, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3HP) is organising the event and it would be great to see as many Group members as possible riding.

With my Recorder's hat on I am taking an early opportunity to warn everyone that to save on the

rising postage costs, I will be using email to remind members about claims for the various awards and competitions wherever possible so please make sure I have an up to date email address for you. My email address is recorder@surreysussexvta.org.uk. To put it in context our Group element of the annual subs per member now pays for just four second class stamps. I am as ever happy to receive scanned copies of the various claim forms and result sheets for the Group competitions and I hope that the same will apply for the National Competitions.

I hope to keep an informal record of the three and four distance competitions for the Group during the year. I have calculated a list of the best plusses on standard so far for 25 miles (the first 50 is after the closing date for my report) and for comparison I have also included the old standard \pm . This may not be 100% accurate as I have had to base it on information from the CTT website. (Please see page 22)

Finally welcome to the new members to the Group:

Richard Barnes (East Surrey RC)
Philip Burgin (Kingston Phoenix RC)
Geoff Clifton (Redhill CC)
Mick Deen (Redmon CC)
David Eccles (Redmon CC)
Richard Gifford (In Gear Quickvit RT)
Phil Headen (East Surrey RC)
Clive Jackson (Central Sussex CC)
Barrie Le Grove (Worthing Excelsior CC)
Stuart Medhurst (Eastbourne Rovers CC)
Mike O'Gorman (Worthing Excelsior CC)
David Pollard (In Gear Quickvit RT)
Dennis Tapping (Hampshire RC)

Tim Carpenter

MERSEYSIDE



The season started in Merseyside with Chester RC promoting their 14 mile Hilly on the Broxton - Coddington course. The event was won by Gareth Bowyer of Rhos on Sea CC in 32.07. Other Mersey Vets were Roy Sumner 32.43; Justin McIlveen 35.52; Dave Newton 35.59; Gary Maoudis 38.15; Kevin Larmer 38.32; Christine Wilcock 38.33; Phil Millar 40.03; Miles Jenkins 41.49; David Smith 44.44; Susan Seller 48.24 and Peter Booth 49.05.

Next to promote a Hilly was Oswestry Paragon CC on the 17th March. Andy Bason, Team Pedal Revolution, won in 43.58. Mersey Vets who competed were Jenny York 55.06; Dave York 56.09; Helen Tudor 1.07.58 and Susan Seller 1.11.42. Here come the girls! (Sorry Dave). Well done.

Although the WCTCA 30 was held on April Fools Day, the event went off without any jokes or mishaps. Nigel Haigh, Sportscover-Altura RT, won the event in 1.06.11. Arthur Winstanley had a successful day, winning both the John Clucas Memorial Trophy on standard with +9.58 and the George Hayes Trophy on actual with 1.13.08. This was the first event on Merseyside where the new standards were used and it is interesting to see that Christine Wilcock was second on standard with +9.49, a great result.

On Good Friday, the 6th April, the BNECC Hilly was promoted. A late change of course because of road-works meant the Hilly was two laps of the Chester course, or 28 miles instead of

SURREY-SUSSEX BEST PLUSES AT 25 MILES

Name	Club	Std ±	Old Std ±
Steve Dennis	East Grinstead CC	14:33	17:03
Nick Dwyer	Lewes Wanderers CC	13:44	16:14
David Pollard	In Gear Quickvit RT	13:33	18:09
Richard Gifford	In Gear Quickvit RT	13:16	16:06
Peter Tadros	In Gear Quickvit RT	13:15	13:32
Shaun Kennedy	Bec CC	10:51	14:45
Jeremy Wootton	Worthing Excelsior CC	10:51	14:23
Mel Robertson	Worthing Excelsior CC	9:17	17:16
Geoff Smith	Eastbourne Rovers CC	9:04	16:06
David Shepherd	GS Stella	8:54	12:26
Mark Newton	Team Edwardes Elite	8: 44	10:14
Paul Thatcher	Brighton Mitre CC	8: 42	11:12
Mark Brambleby	Northover Vets Team	8: 35	10:24
Peter Moon	Eastbourne Rovers CC	8: 24	11:56
Ian Bashford	Old Portlians CC	8: 21	13:40
Mick Deen	Redmon CC	7: 56	13:36
Alan Lloyd	Lewes Wanderers CC	7: 31	13:53
Mike O'Gorman	Worthing Excelsior CC	6: 05	12:48
John Froud	Festival RC	4: 49	14:49
Paul Valks	Sussex Nomads CC	4: 26	13:32
Oliver Tuckley	Lewes Wanderers CC	4: 07	09:26
David Eccles	Redmon CC	3: 49	11:48
John Mankelow	Lewes Wanderers CC	2: 29	10:28
Peter Baker	Lewes Wanderers CC	1: 54	6:30
Kevin Burton	Eastbourne Rovers CC	1: 41	7:00
Stuart Payne	Central Sussex CC	29	3:19
Tim Miles	Hastings & St Leonard's CC	27	8:44
Tim Carpenter	Hastings & St Leonard's CC	09	3:20
Keith Wilkinson	East Surrey RC	08	8:42
Andrew Stobbart	Eastbourne Rovers CC	07	3:18
Stephen Gaston	Lewes Wanderers CC	- 1 11	58
Clive Jackson	Central Sussex CC	-1:43	4:39
Robin Johnson	Brighton Mitre CC	- 2:45	4:56
Bryn Tully	Anerley BC	- 2:45	6:06
Barrie Le Grove	Worthing Excelsior CC	-3:22	4:37
Peter Horsfield	Redmon CC	- 3:35	3:27
Jackie Dodd	Kingston Phoenix RC	-4:03	3:30
Grant Pyke	Kingston Phoenix RC	- 6:26	4:02
Horry Hemsley	Lewes Wanderers CC	-18:43	-8:04

22. The event was won by Andy Wilkinson, Port Sunlight Wheelers, in 1.02.46. Fastest Mersey Vet was Paul Howarth with 1.09.14; followed by Kevin Larmer 1.11.12; Dave Newton 1.12.54; Bryan Cliff 1.13.52; Gary Burns 1.16.54; Phil Guy 1.16.58; Gary Maoudis 1.17.09; George Aldridge 1.17.52; Phil Millar 1.18.58 and Miles Jenkins 1.22.03.

Easter Monday is traditionally a 25 promoted by Mid Shropshire Wheelers, and this year was no exception with a two-up and a solo event on the Prees – Esplay course. The solo event was won by Andy Bason, Team Pedal Revolution, in 51.32 a new course record. Mersey Vets who competed are listed in the results pages.

The final early season Hilly was the Fibrax Wrexham RC Mountain Time Trial on 15th April. As usual it climbed the Horseshoe Pass at Llangollen before going to Ruthin and back, finishing at the top of the Pass. Ryan Mullen Planet X won the event in 1.02.21. Bryan Cliff took the Vets 50 – 59 award with 1.17.35. Other Mersey Vets were Gary Maoudis 1.22.58; Roger Squire 1.24.49; Christine Wilcock 1.25.16; Phil Millar 1.25.18 and Miles Jenkins 1.31.08.

22nd April brought the first 10, the WCTTCA event on the fast Pulford course. This was an opportunity for everyone to set a new standard for the distance. Justin McIlveen won the Ron Yates Trophy with a +5.07, and also the Leo Madden Trophy with an actual of 20.57, a fantastic ride for an early event – see results pages

Leigh Premier RC held a 10 on the Rainford course on Saturday 28th April. The event was won by D Evans, Rhos on Sea CC, in 21.02. Mersey Vets who competed are listed in the results pages.

On Sunday 29th April, the WCTTCA held their 50 on the Prees – Shawbirch course. The event was won by Nigel Haigh, Sportscover-Altura RT, in 2.01.07. This proved a really hard day with strong winds and rain; only 23 of the 55 strong field started and only 18 riders finished. Three Mersey Vets braved the elements but I am sure they will be entering another 50 soon to try and improve their standard. (See results).
Port Sunlight Wheelers held a 10 on the Pulford course on 6th May. Gareth Bowyer, Rhos on Sea CC won the event on actual and on standard. (See Results)

The Group Trophies are a provisional result and our Group Recorder John Maddox will be providing confirmation.. If you have any queries, let me know. If I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies. The next important event, the VTTA National 10 on the St Asaph – Abergele course will have taken place before this is printed and distributed. It is expected to be a fast course with times on a par with the Pulford course. I look forward to seeing the result.

Safe riding.

Mo Cliff

NORTH LANCS AND LAKES



There will be more than a passing interest in how the new 2012 Standards will affect result sheets this season. Our North Lincs and Lakes Group have promoted just two events at the time of writing but certainly the Standard results have had a different complexion this year.

The first event promoted by Derek Black in March was a Two-Up 10 on the Garstang based course in which at least one rider had to be a Vet. Derek has his own system of calculating Pluses or Minuses in this one by giving any rider under the age of 40 the 40 years old VTTA Standard with the Vet in the duo allocated his normal Standard based on age. The result was that our Vice-Chairman Paul Fleming teamed with not-yet-a-Vet John Morgan

were winners both on fastest (with an actual time of 20:25) and also Best on Standard with a 'Plus' of 5:48 based on the new tables. (See result pages)

In the second of our 2012 promotions, Event Secretary Richard Taylor found temporary traffic signals on the course and the event was hastily changed from a two lap 25 to 10 miles of the same circuit. Paul Fleming was again fastest with 22:05 and at the age of 46 also took second on Standard having to concede top place to Peter Greenwood of Clayton Velo who is having a wonderful season, having just turned 60 and a ride of 22:39 gave him a winning Plus of 4:21.

Our top Standards winner over recent years, Frank Kerry, who was also a member of the Standards Working Group, admitted to an under par performance on the day but it is unusual to see him in sixth place when age is taken into account.

Now comes what must appear, unfortunately, to be a Medical Bulletin: Several of our well known Group members have been suffering ill health over the past months and missing their usual bike riding. Our ex-National VTTA Chairman George Nowland started towards the end of last season with an irregular heartbeat which was confirmed as Atrial Fibrillation. He had a re-boot - as he calls it - and things seemed to be back to normal but a re-occurrence has set him back again resulting in a second re-boot. George swears that using a heart rate meter helped to detect the problem in the first place.

Mike Speight of Barrow Central Wheelers has also been having a heart problem after tiredness in January was diagnosed as a narrowed Heart Valve. He is due to have a biological or mechanical valve fitted in the near future and has been assured that this will solve his problem.

In the meantime, long-term Preston Wheelers member Jack Stokes has also been having heart problems but after a pacemaker was fitted is back on his bike again for leisurely rides.

Another of our top racing veterans in this area, Ron Mellor of the West Pennine Road Club, has been receiving various treatment for almost two years with much of that time having Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy and although having lost a lot of weight, he feels that he is getting the best treatment possible at Christies in Manchester.

Yet another of our fast-men, Ken Hargreaves,

who lives near Cockermouth, has been having treatment for prostate cancer. His recent three month check has thankfully shown him clear and he is now riding his bike when the weather is OK.

John Ainslie of the Lancashire Road Club is presently recovering from a successful hip replacement operation. John is always an integral part of their long-running 12 Hour which is on the North District's programme and to be held on 19th August. This event is also a VTTA counting event and hopefully a bigger entry will be received this time around after less than 20 were received last year.

An important date change for members of this Group and those from other groups who have pencilled in their intention of riding our event on the ex-Competition Record Levens 10 mile course. Event Secretary Peter Knott has had a change of date agreed and it is now moved from Tuesday 3rd July to Wednesday 4th July. All other details as per Handbook.

As I write, the next Group event is the 25 on a new course based on the A59 Clitheroe by-pass and to be organised by Richard Taylor.

The Preston Wheelers 50 on the Garstang course on Sunday 1st July is a VTTA counting event (entries to Gethin Butler) and the Lancashire Road 25 on 22nd July is also a combined VTTA event (entries to Glenn Bower). The only 100 this year in the North DC is the NLTTA event at Cockermouth (HQ Embleton village hall) on Saturday 23rd June (1pm Start) and entries to Phil Shaw with the Lancashire Road Club 12 (as above) on Sunday 19 August (entries to Mike Smith).

As is the system nationally and following of the issuing of new Standard Tables, all those riding an event at a standard distance are eligible for Standard Awards. This is providing they have paid their fees in advance - in our case to Group Recorder Richard Taylor.

Very sadly we have lost two of our long-term members in the past months. Harry Benson of the West Pennine Road Club and writer of this Group's *Veteran* notes for many years, died peacefully after some years in a nursing home in Garstang. One week after Harry's funeral, the West Pennine organised a good old fashioned Wake at the Red Lion at Littleborough. Knowing something about West Pennine social functions, it was sure to have

been a great 'Do'! Trevor Kingham of the Cleveleys Road Club died much more suddenly on 1st April. Obituaries for both of these members are in this edition of the magazine.

We welcome just three new members to our Group and we wish Jason Bateman of Earby, David Michael Oak of Longton and Richard Carey of Formby enjoyable times with us.

Dave Brown

NORTH



Good news: Ruth Crossley has taken on the vacant post of Social Secretary and would be interested to hear of any ideas which members may have regarding the Annual Luncheon which has been booked for 13 January 2013, once again at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield: make a note of this date. However since we have not had any volunteers to date to take on the post of Recorder, which will become vacant on 1st November it may be that the Prize Presentation will be somewhat diluted.

With the advent of the "New Personal Standards System", we will incur a considerable loss this season on medals; therefore it would seem financially prudent to increase the entry fees.

Since the cost of an engraved medal is now £10.44 (NEC figure), have you any suggestions? What about £5.00 per distance and £15.00 for a full set? Also, with the advent of an increase in the National membership fees expect an increase in our Group subs.

Please note that future meetings of the Group in 2012 (7th October, 4th November AGM and 2nd

December) will be held at 10 Pinewood Road, Eaglescliffe.

The news of George Hugill is that he is back at home and on the long road to recovery.

Twenty-two members have not rejoined and the current membership stands at 84; in 2011 it was 110.

At the time of writing we have had two events in the Points Competition based on the new Standard Tables.

The provisional positions are Mike Harris 1st on standard in all three categories: 37 points on Standard, 37 points on Actual and 36 points on handicap. Ted Scurr is 2nd on standard and handicap (30 and 21) followed by James Allen, 3rd on Standard (28). Ian Knights and David Robinson are tied for 2nd actual with 20 points and Elliott Gowland is 3rd on handicap with 20 points.

That's all folks.

Les Dawson

NOTTS AND EAST MIDLANDS



The Group's early time trial promoted by Dave Yarham (Peterborough CC) on 14 April 2012 at Tuxford was a wet and windy affair, with a number of non-starters. It didn't stop Kevin Dawson (Strategic Lions) setting the fastest actual time on the day of 20:27 with a winning standard time of +5:42. Karl Saint (Yorkshire RC) was second fastest Vet with an actual of 21:28 and a +4:58. Miss Alex Deck (Planet X) was the Fastest Lady on actual 24.40 a +3:43, with Jo Corbett (Team Swift)

fastest on Standard +3:56 from an actual of 21:32.

Malcolm Mann (Melton Olympic CC) was less fortunate with the weather at the Group's 25 mile TT at Long Bennington on 28 April 2012. It had rained all that day until just after the start time and it was such a shame that Malcolm had to cancel his first event as Secretary.

Russell Gent had better fortune for the Group's 25 which was run in conjunction with the Ivan Mahon Memorial on the Six Hills/A46 course. It was raining on and off right up to start but thankfully it stopped in time for the early starters, although some of us were already wet through riding to the start.

Geoff Platts (MG Décor –Team Carbon Bikes) took the honours with a +12:53, receiving the Ivan Mahon Memorial Trophy from an actual of 56:22. Other prize winners on standard were David Robertson (ALP Action/Etteridge Cycles RT) +10:49, 58:02 actual, Christopher Walker (Melton Olympic CC) +9:30, 58:26 actual, Anthony Brown (Kettering CC) +9:07, 59:10 actual, Neil Taylor (Coalville Wheelers) +8:57, actual 58:37 and John Howgill (Leicestershire RC) +8:33, 59.01 actual.

Graham Green (MG Décor –Team Carbon Bikes) was just outside the hour in South Pennines 25 on 12 May 2012 with a 01:00:05, James Singlehurst (Rockingham Forest Wheelers) had a similar experience with a 01:00:42 and Russell Gent (Melton Olympic CC) did a good ride with a 1:01.28.

Ron Hallam is having some time off from racing this year as he is undergoing treatment for Polymyalgia Rheumatica which causes swelling and stiffness of the muscle. We all hope you will recover quickly and race again soon Ron.

David Herd

SCOTLAND

The early season weather has remained obstinately cool, and only as I write this in mid-May are there signs of it beginning to warm up. A predominantly easterly wind off the cool North Sea had led to some decidedly chilly early morning starts, and consequently times recorded thus far have not been remarkable. Time trialling in this era of severely reduced road maintenance and increasing traffic densities continues to offer its challenges. The amount and severity of road

defects continues to increase, while those repairs that are carried out seem to be of a lower standard: our courses just seem to get rougher and rougher. On the other hand, there are now some very well-polished stretches of road surface which, if you can manage to guide your machine along them, do offer some fast, low friction riding.

In the last issue I mentioned the compulsory use of rear lights but surprisingly this does not seem to have been written into the regulations yet. It does seem, however, that many more riders are now displaying them and having used one myself at all events this season, I do notice that it changes driver behaviour and you do seem to be given a much wider berth as they pass.

Another issue mentioned in the last *Veteran* was that of UCI regulations for time trialling in Scotland. It was suggested that this issue was 'done and dusted' but it now appears that it rumbles on within the walls of Scottish Cycling and we have been given only a temporary reprieve. I would encourage anyone who feels strongly about this issue to continue to discuss it and to make representations to your clubs, associations and SC themselves.

The first few events of the season have given an interesting insight into how the new standards will affect this year's results and seem to confirm that it will be easier for the younger veterans to come out on top. It is important to note though that the situation is under review and further changes may be made, so this year should be regarded as transitional.

Finally, a reminder to keep visiting our website at <http://www.svttta.org.uk> for all the latest news, start sheets, results and pictures etc. This site is now updated in preference to our pages on the national VTTA site so should be your first port of call for all things SVTTA.

Our Boomerang Trophy 2-up team time trial attracted a very good entry this year from both SVTTA and other teams.

Fastest over the out-and-back course on a cool and windy day were the Dooleys Cycles pairing of Iain Grant and SVTTA member Tam Gordon who together took a full minute off the existing course record.

The trophy itself was won by Couriers' Davie Millar paired with team-mate Jim Cusick. The 2011

trophy winner Derek Stewart had to be content with second place on the day under the new standards

The full results for veterans on standard are in the Results section.

On the same day, and in the same conditions liberally dosed with hail showers, up in Aberdeenshire the SVTTA featured strongly in the Neish-Low 25 with the race being organised by our Records Officer Bob Gibson and the first four places being taken by SVTTA members. In fact the combined age of the podium was noticed by *Cycling Weekly* who published the report below in their racing round-up.

"Hundreds of miles further north was the Neish-Low 25-mile event at Fordoun in Aberdeenshire, and there was a vast array of experience on show.

Shetland Wheelers' Carlos Riise took the win with 55-30, while Steve Nutley (Sandy Wallace Cycles) was second and Phil Kelman (Deeside Thistle) third.

Between them, the total age of the podium was 150, with Riise being 47, Nutley 56 and Kelman 47!"

It was good to see that the SVTTA has enough members to do justice to two events on the same day.

In the Scottish Cycling 10 mile championship on the Westferry course, although neo-veterans Arthur Doyle and Iain Grant rode into first and second places, the first SVTTA member home in the men's event was Jim Cusick in sixth place. In the women's event there were medals for Shetland Wheelers' Christine McLean and Shelley Farrar of Deeside Thistle - silver and bronze respectively.

The Jim and Betty Train 10 mile championship was run by Law Wheelers on a largely still day although cold with an early frost and mist lying along the Kippen flats. The new standards produced a close result in the fight for the trophies, with the men's and women's competitions being decided by three and six seconds respectively. See *Results pages*

The early start allowed for a mass exodus to Balfroun where many were seen spectating at the Scottish Road Race Championships in the warm afternoon sunshine.

Veterans Mallorca Trip – report by Iain McLeod

Several of our members were in a group of 25, organised by Iain Binning, who went to Port de

Pollenca, Mallorca, at the end of April for a week of cycling in the sun. Temperatures were in the 20s, with just one thunderstorm, which chairman Michael managed to paddle through.

The riders had a variety of targets in mind, but over the week, the climbs of Luc, Randa, the Puig Major and Sa Calobra were completed. Others were doing interval sessions, attempting to reach the southernmost tip of the island (failed) and heading for the cake shop in Muro (succeeded).

This seems to be a popular location and time, judging by the number of other cyclists from Scotland that we met – members from Denny RC, Law Wheelers, Sandy Wallace, Falkirk BC, Stirling BC and the Glasgow Ivy, plus Team GB represented by Sir Chris Hoy, Bradley Wiggins and others.

On a sadder note, former member Jeanie Ross died just days before our trip started. Jeanie had visited the island many times and was featured in a *Cycling Weekly* article, climbing Sa Calobra with a smile! Many of the group knew her and had enjoyed her company. A short service, led by Iain Binning, was held at a fine viewpoint on the road to Formentor, at a time which coincided with the funeral service back in Scotland. A very moving service and I cannot think of a better way to pay tribute to such a wonderful person.

The week finished up with what I think must be a unique event – a synchronised swimming demonstration in the Puerto Azul hotel pool by seven of the girls in our party. These brave, gutsy volunteers(!) had all of us and the other hotel guests amazed, entertained and applauding their brilliant display. Well done them. Filmed by Steve Irvine http://youtu.be/jPwXm_rZwKc

A somewhat shorter report this quarter than has become usual of late - come the next magazine deadline we will be well into the racing calendar so hopefully there will be much more to report upon. Our next SVTTA event is the 50 mile championship up on the A90 and those who like to race over this distance could be very busy in June, with a 50TT scheduled every weekend throughout the month.

Please do send any items of interest for either the magazine or the website to info@svtta.org.uk.

With almost everyone now carrying a phone-camera in their pocket it would be good to brighten up the reports and website with a few more

pictures, so please try and take a few photos when you are out-and-about at the races and send them to me for publication.

Steve Nutley

SOUTH WALES



Frequently it's raining in Cardiff, especially when I am writing South Wales District quarterly reports and today, May Bank Holiday Monday, is grim, more like winter than spring. On returning from Texas at the end of February, batteries recharged in a sunny climate, I recommenced my rides in the cloudy Vale of Glamorgan. The Downs café, Cowbridge, is a favourite cyclist's rendezvous and it was good to see Ken Squibb back riding his bike, having completed a treatment cycle for a prostrate problem. Ken is feeling much better and now looks forward to proving his fitness during this season with a few 10 mile TTs. The Golden Mile Golf Range Cafe is the other meeting place and being further to the west, we see members from Port Talbot Wheelers, Ogmore Valley Wheelers and Acme Wheelers enjoying coffee and cakes.

I am told John Pritchard is not feeling well enough to race this season; we wish him a speedy recovery. Stuart Evans will be racing, although not until the weather improves and Hugh Davies, Port Talbot Wheelers, will be racing again as soon as he recovers from the stress of promoting our open 25.

I would follow this by adding that Hugh and Les

Thomas really did a magnificent job promoting our Open 25 on the 15th of April. Fortunately for all concerned, they managed a full card, 94 vets and 26 seniors. The weather was dry but very cold, about 5°; no trouble for Matt Bottrill; he posted a PB of 46.47. The event was our first experience using the new standard tables and something of a shock for those competitors over the age of 70. John Murphy, Gloucester City, age 72, managed 18th on standard with +12.29, Sherlock (Scott – Ed) Holmes, Hillingdon CC, 23rd with +11.23 and your correspondent 33rd after posting +10.39. We were all well beaten by current BAR Champion, Jeff Jones, whose winning time was 49.46 = +16.14 on standard. Jeff is age 40, in a group seemingly favoured by the new standard tables.

As previously mentioned, I have difficulty in understanding the reasoning behind the retention of 1.06.00 standard at 25 miles for 40 year olds, unchanged from the old tables. In our event, 12 of the first twenty were in the 40-49 age categories. If it was considered right in 1944 when competition record was 59.18, how can it still be right in 2012 when competition record is 45.54? Additionally, I understand that the revision committee based their re-calculation on the top 10% performers in each age category; however, for those over 70s this may have been no more than one or two riders, hardly a representative cross section of active "lucky to be alive" +70 year old veterans. I am sure these new standard tables will continue to interest competitors. As the season progresses we will find whether or not the various categories were fairly judged. I would ask Standards Panel a question "What if the fastest 40 year olds win both the scratch and the standard prizes; will that be regarded as fair play for other categories?"

Not much to report on the event front: the wet spring has affected several early season promotions; rain storms caused cancellation of the Ogmore Valley Wheelers 25, which disappointed a stellar field including 25 Mile Champion, Dr Michael Hutchinson. The Hereford & District 25, Easter Monday, was also affected by cold wet weather, in spite of which 50 of 75 entries braved the elements. I would commend our members Peter Murrieri, 1.10.15 and Gordon Butler, 1.17.00 for completing the course in such unfriendly circumstances.

Back in March, my wife and I flew out to Mallorca to join the many thousands of cyclists

escaping the rigors of the Northern European winter. We managed a good deal with the Pollensa Park Hotel in Puerto Pollenca and, perhaps unsurprisingly, found the hotel was almost entirely populated by cyclists. The basement bike rooms were full; therefore, most of us had our machines in the rooms or more conveniently on the balconies. The fun bits occurred in the mornings, when everyone was in a rush to get out; the lifts were jammed by riders and their bikes – happily nobody complained, we were all cyclists together enjoying a great holiday atmosphere. Most mornings I joined the rides from Tolos Café; they leave at 9.00am and usually return by 1.30pm, ideal for those with wives and families to entertain. These outings, usually between 90 and 100 kilometres, included a café stop for coffee and oranges, the latter being handed out as part of this year's abundant crop in the Balearic Isles. Those staying at our hotel were mostly British and Irish, but the majority of cyclists on the island were members of German health and fitness clubs. Apparently their Mallorca trips are financed out of monthly health club fees, an inclusive flight, bike hire and hotel package is a springtime bonus. Also among those enjoying these fantastic conditions were riders from USA and Canada. I asked them "why would you travel so far?" and the reply was "where else would you find roads both mountainous and flat with good facilities and lots of other cyclists to ride with!" Mallorca is great for cycling – Fellow vets, get down there as soon as you can.

Barry Williams

WESSEX

Group members have already been made aware of the reason why a report on the Group's Lunch and Prize Presentation which took place on 12th February at The Rose Bowl in Southampton did not appear in the March edition. In all fifty seven members and guests attended (slightly down on the previous year) with Geoff Shergold our Guest speaker. Best known for his cyclo-cross connections both as a leading local and national rider he has also acted in various roles (mechanic, commissaire and team manager) over the years in events like The Tour de France and Olympic and Para-Olympic games. He remains very much involved locally in grass roots cycling generally.

His detailed and amusing address on another aspect of cycling activity conveyed much which was new to many of those present, except perhaps those who had early on in their career competed in the grounds of the naval establishment at Southwick (events organised by past chairman Nick Carter for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines CA) or in the woods surrounding the outdoor track at Southampton Sports Centre where Geoff had spent all the previous weekend helping run a national event.

Major award winners Terry Icke (who had won quite a few trophies again this year including all four associated with the Two Up TTT in September) and Lesley Walking (Ladies BAR) were both unable to attend. However Nik Bowdler (BAR Champion), Jack Brown (10 and 25 miles Champion) and John Woodburn (who regained the Harry Keates Memorial Cup from last year's winner Terry Icke) were there and received their trophies from Geoff's partner Sue who also presented the various team awards, Standard winners' medals and records certificates. Incidentally I picked up an article from the VTTA National website showing John Woodburn, although only fifth in the all time list of record holders, is the most prolific with his dozen or so times from 25 miles to 24 hours (505.500 miles in 1980) spanning a period of over 30 years.

I myself was particularly pleased to see Lionel Veck (accompanied by his wife and other family members) collect the Over 70's Trophy for his ride over 10 miles just after his 95th birthday on a tandem with the late Peter Dawson.

Shortly after the dinner, Jack Brown went to Spain for a training holiday but the group he was hoping to be with had made other arrangements so he was at a hotel on his own with no other cyclists. One day when he went training in the hills he got blown off his bike by high winds and ended up in a hospital where no-one spoke English. After a traumatic number of days, his family managed to get him home by air ambulance and when I spoke to him later he told me he was recovering but slowly. He was persuaded to ride one of his own club's Open Tens at the beginning of April which he had entered before he went abroad, although he just treated it as a ride and not a race. He is however determined to get back the strength he lost as soon as possible and compete to his own high standards later in the summer.



PAT PEPPER MEMORIAL

East Anglian Group Archivist Mick Pepper (Wolsey RC) presenting the Pat Pepper Memorial Trophy to Laura Gambling (CC Breckland). Laura won the trophy with her 1:04:02 ride on a tough day in the Waveney Valley, which beat all her younger rivals on scratch. In fact her plus of 10:22 beat all the men on standard as well

The trophy is in memory of Mick's late wife Pat, a past competitor in the women's world championship road race. Laura (55) is coached by her husband Mick Gambling, whose humorous articles in *Cycling* once summed up the racing world for a generation of riders.

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The only event from last year not reported on previously was the long standing Farnborough and Camberley CC 10 held on 18th December won by Nik Bowlder with 21.25 which was also 3rd BOS (+4.29).

Early season events here in the South have not generally been held in anything like normal conditions and the unusual weather could also be a factor in riders not getting in enough miles training to be fit enough to try to start racing early season. The result is that the numbers of riders entering in the first six weeks of a very long drawn out season were down from previous years. In addition the introduction of the new Veterans Standard Tables at very short notice indicates that some promoters seem to have done away with Standard Times – even if they have not, most of the information which follows has come from Cycling Websites which do not always show other than actual times.

Notwithstanding these facts, the usual names continue to show on result sheets with John Woodburn achieving Fastest on Target Time (+4.25) in the a3crg Hardriders 10 and a time of 24.58 with Glenn Longland in the Antelope RT 2 Up TTT 10. John has already ridden Three National Rudy Project events and been placed 2nd on Target Time at Northampton (19 miles ridden in 53.47 for +7.36), again in 2nd spot in the Bassenthwaite Lake Circuit (15 miles covered in a time of 35.37 for +7.11) but was first in Race 2 (between the aforesaid mentioned trials) in Suffolk, where he covered the 20 miles in exactly 56 minutes for +8.36.

Terry Icke has lost none of his speed from last year and started with 5th place (22.48) in the Antelope RT 10 in which Ray Hughes was 6th with 22.56. Subsequently, he recorded 1.6.55 for 8th place in Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers 42 Km promotion, the same position in the East Dorset CA 24 (56.10), 8th place (21.54) in Bournemouth Arrow CC 10, 5th in CC Weymouth 10(21.25) and 2nd in another East Dorset event over 24 Km (37.00). Steve Walking did 20.52 for 6th place in a3crg 10 and improved to 20.37 to win the Andover Wheelers event at the same distance. Elsewhere, Robert Watson was 8th in Andover Wheelers earlier Hilly 10.2 miles race and Ray Hughes was BOS + 13.02 in the East Surrey Hardriders 29.9 miles and in 7th place (21.30) in a Farnborough and Camberley CC 10. The May Bank Holiday events on the Isle of

Wight were held on successive mornings at non standard distances (15.5, 22.8 and 39.5 miles). Grahame Stirzaker was placed 4th in each of the shorter races with times of 36.49 and 57.23 respectively, but improved to 2nd spot in the longest event (1.44.49) and led a3crg club to the team award in all three races. Robert Watson (North Hampshire RC) also rode and was placed in the top ten in all three events

The following Sunday, Terry Icke was 3rd fastest (53.53) and BOS +18.18 with Claire Newman BOS Lady +8.04 (1.05.41) in the Bournemouth and District Women's CA 25. Steve Walking was 5th fastest with 54.26 and in the winning VC St Raphael team whilst his wife Lesley did 1.00.32 for fastest lady rider. Twenty nine of the fifty nine starters beat the hour on what was probably the best morning this year.

The same day, Ray Hughes (Age 54) teamed up with Wendy Pails of Farnborough and Camberley CC (Age 47) on a tandem in the High Wycombe 25 at Marlow and returned a very fast time of 53.46. This is the first time that Wendy has beaten the hour on any machine and it is the first Record claim of 2012, beating the previous fastest mixed tandem ride of 56.46 done by Steve Brown (43) and Mary Corbett (45) in 2003 by exactly three minutes. Incidentally, Wendy joined the Group shortly after the pair of them had ridden the Sotonia CC 10 on the 24th March when they beat the time of Norman Harvey and Mary (22.17) by a mere nine seconds, this ride being done at the end of an event in which Ray had earlier ridden a solo to 9th place with 22.14 – there is surely an incentive for them both to try to set another record at the shorter distance later in the year.

John Maule (Bognor Regis CC) was sent an Honorary Life Membership Certificate on his 80th birthday in March and there are another seven members who qualify for such membership later on this year. This will mean the Group will have over 30 HLM's out of a total membership of some 160/170.

There has been a steady influx of new members since the beginning of the year. We welcome Colette Andrews, Karina Bowie and Paul Jackson (all Guernsey Velo Club), Graham Fielder (a3crg), John Grant (unattached), Philip Morris (Fareham Wheelers), Ian Neville (Clarence Wheelers), Wendy Pails (Farnborough and

Camberley CC), Kevin Ridge (unattached), Cliff Rowe (Bournemouth Jubilee) and Ken Ruffell (GS Vecchi) whilst Steve Bungay, Tim and Claire Day and Mick St.Leger have rejoined the Group and David Miesner has transferred from East Anglian Group. Unfortunately we have lost about the same number of members who have not renewed for varied reasons.

Advance notice to all Wessex Group members – Please note that because of advancing years (happily not senility) and recent health problems, I do not intend to stand after the Group's AGM next November for any of those positions I currently undertake. It means that we require at least four volunteers to put their names forward at that time for the posts of Secretary, Treasurer, Press Secretary, and Annual Lunch Co-ordinator. You may have seen from both CTT and Wessex VTTA Websites that Chris McGuire of Hampshire RC has agreed to act as Event Secretary for the 25 Miles Championship event run by myself over a long period of many, many years in the name of the Group on August Bank Holiday Sunday. In the past few years we have, as a Group, been fortunate enough to persuade other clubs in South DC to incorporate one or more of our three Championship events in their own Open Time Trials because of the lack of Group members willing to act as event organisers and I trust this arrangement may long continue.

Ken Blowe

WEST



What a funny year we are having weather-wise! Down in the West Country we were all out in shorts before Easter, basking in temperatures around 20 degrees.

Now look at the weather and we are well into May! Most of us are back in tights again and the prospects of getting some decent warm weather still don't look too certain for the foreseeable future. Ne'er cast a clout till May is out!

I believe that the doubters about the new standards seem to be diminishing. Putting a new idea into use will always produce this sort of difficult period until it is accepted, no one ever likes change! I believe that everyone will soon begin to understand the reason why we needed to change. I know that one of our fast 80 year old members, who did a 1-28 twenty-five in his first event of the new season, was very disappointed with a minus for the first time in years. Then two weeks later he did a 1-14 and he was chuffed to little mint balls when he achieved a decent plus. He had proved to himself that it could be done!

I wonder if we are making too big a fuss about the cost of providing so many medals this year. Will everyone insist on having a medal for all their improvements on standard? I for one will not go out of my way to claim all that I might be entitled to. I seem to have a drawer full, which I have gained over the years, and whilst they do mean something to me I don't necessarily want any more unless I consider I have really earned them. I ask you all to be sensible and if you feel like me, there could be a considerable saving for our precious funds in these austere times.

Our honorary treasurer informs me that we have gained three new members, so may I offer a warm welcome to: - Gerry McGarr, Yan Keene and Christopher Paling, I hope to introduce myself to you all sometime during the season.

He also tells me that nearly half way through the year there are twenty-eight members who still have not paid their subscriptions. So when you have read this can I ask you all to check up to see that you have in fact paid? If you have any doubts please confirm with Ian Pritchard on 01275 845779 to make certain and then if necessary get your hand in your pocket, otherwise you might not be getting many more of these excellent journals.

I often wonder if we are doing all we can to

encourage others to join us, especially the younger vets now that the new standards give them a far better chance to win prizes than previously.

Allan Norwood is still waiting hopefully and expectantly for someone to contact him about producing our WestVet magazine. Surely there is someone out there who feels that they could take over and give him a break. Perhaps an editorial team who could share the job! With modern technology things are so much easier than they used to be. Any ideas would be welcome but we must continue to produce this excellent magazine for you all to enjoy. We can't expect Allan to go on forever, though we often wish he might.

Has anyone managed to get tickets for the cycling part of the Olympics? I tried but like so many others ended up very disappointed. We even thought about going to watch the road race, but have given up on that, as I understand that lots of roads around the circuit will be closed all day. Unfortunately we are not being told which ones so it is impossible to plan and don't want to end up travelling all that distance, finding ourselves trapped on a closed road and not seeing anything of the event. I suppose we will have to be satisfied with watching it on TV, which of course lacks the atmosphere of actually being there to see the England boys make their bid for Gold.

I must admit I haven't been out to many events this year and I haven't seen many result sheets. I don't think our website tells me too much at the moment. However I do know that Bob Pears has been producing some outstanding times already this season. Well done Bob!

In two weeks time I am off to Asse in Belgium to ride the World Trike Championships, something that I really look forward to. I have ridden many Belgian events over the years and have many friends there, so I know just how enthusiastic they are about all forms of cycling. With the new ferry from Ramsgate to Ostend it is now so easy to get to many of the classics on your bike and experience for yourself how wonderful it is to have such a powerful cycling culture. Not to mention the beer and the chips!

I'm sure many of you will have noticed the big increase in numbers of cyclists on the roads, particularly at the weekends. Many of them are wearing expensive kit and riding expensive bikes. This must be a good thing but I wonder what their cycling is achieving for them apart from an ego boost. I hope they begin to enjoy more than just this current fashion thing and that they look to riding a few time trials and other competitive events. Do these people join clubs or do they remain individuals or perhaps form little elite groups? I would be interested to know if anyone has any answers. Looking at 'The Comic' it seems that many of them might ride Sportives but I am not into that sort of thing so I wouldn't know. I happily ride Audax events but I have never fancied paying expensive entry fees to ride with an often massed and untidy group to gain a tee shirt and a bag of goodies. I followed one such group over the Severn Bridge and was appalled at the amount of litter they left behind them. Banana skins, Gel packs and plastic bottles, not doing our sport and pastime any great favours at all!

Keep sending your news and views, especially about the new standards, coming my way so that I can pass them on to a greater readership.

Brian Griffiths

MIDLANDS

A profile of Jeff Matthews

Jeff Matthews decided over the winter to ride the Vets National Championship at 10 and 25 miles. He had been persuaded by Tim Wood to join Team Echelon, first claim and the plan was to put together a team of Vets who would have a go at competing for the National Awards.

An interesting switch to using power as the preferred feedback tool for training – rather than just heart rate – had produced a particularly painful spring of interval training and meant Jeff was feeling a bit fitter than would normally be the case for this time of the year. The new TT bike had been suitably broken in, helped significantly by finally finding a comfortable

saddle.

The VTTA National 10 was scheduled for May 27th on the A55 at Rhyl, a course Jeff hadn't ridden before, but had been assured by Brian Newton was "fast, on the right day". The only snag was an 8:00am start, which meant travelling up the night before. That would have been OK, but a commitment to a friend's 60th birthday party in Southampton on the day before meant six hours in the car, not ideal preparation. So, it wasn't until 10:30pm that Jeff pulled into the car park of the salubrious Halkyn Travel Lodge, just off the A55.

The morning of the event dawned warm, sunny and with a very light easterly breeze – ideal conditions for a change, compared to what we had been served up with in earlier weeks, and appropriate weather for a National Championship. A quick drive round the course revealed an interesting start. Slightly downhill with three islands in very quick succession through an industrial estate before joining the dual carriageway to thrash 4.5 miles to the turn; deep breath and thrash back again. Trying to discern drags up and down in the car is always a bit tricky, and it wasn't until on the road you start to notice that it wasn't quite as pan flat as it looked. The finish looked interesting,

too – up the slip road and back up the hill toward the start with three islands to negotiate – not ideal. Could see some speed being lost there.

Tyres pumped, helmet in place and computer set, Jeff trundled off to the start having made some cheery waves to fellow competitors. It is a feature of Vets events that the banter before and after tends

to be of a higher standard. Perhaps most of us are just pleased to be there.

Jeff found a great lane to warm up on – he does enough turbo training without warming up on one – and got himself prepared for the start. More cheery waves to pusher off and timekeeper and away, trying a new found discipline of not going off too fast to start with. The power meter has revealed for Jeff, as with a number of others, that "school boy" mistake of piling on too many watts in the first two miles and then wondering why you've nothing left for the final three.

Boy it was quick for the first five miles, downhill, slight tail wind, he was flying. Caught his two minute man at about three miles – a quick glance at the computer at five miles to reveal 10:26. Under the



A55 and up the drag and then just feeling the speed drain from the bike as he crawled back up the slip road. Head wind back. This was going to hurt. No wonder Jeff had been so quick on the way out, it had been gently downhill, most of the way. Three minute man homed into view, but he wasn't coming back quite as quickly. Past the turn to the HQ – very tempting as this was now starting to get painful. One mile to go - onto the slip road which was like hitting a brick wall and round the obstacle course of the industrial estate to finish in a heap – 22:29. Well, that's OK, Jeff. First '22' for two years, Jeff should be and was pleased with that.

Back to the HQ to hear tales of success and otherwise. No, they didn't get the team but that was always going to be a long shot. A good day out, however, and now it's on to the National 25.

Miranda Harris

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THE NEW STANDARDS – THE FIRST BIG TEST

It seems quite some time has passed since the proposals for the new standards was first presented to Group representatives at the Special General Meeting on 26th November 2011 and then voted in by the National Annual General Meeting on 28th January this year. Since the start of the 2012 season the question has obviously been, 'How are the new standards working?' and you can read various thoughts elsewhere in this issue. It is obviously difficult to draw conclusions from one or two early season events and the experience of individual riders. The first big test that gives good grounds for an evaluation has been the VTTA National Championships over 10 miles and 25 miles that took place on the 27th May and 9th June respectively. These events had good sized fields (74 finishers in the 10 and 110 finishers in the 25), a wide spread of ages from 41 to over 80 (although rather weighted towards younger vets), and of course some of the best riders in the country across all ages. Given the prestige of a National Championship and the credibility that is required of its results do we believe the new standards produced a fair result and worthy champions? As was explained at the SGM and AGM and in the various articles published in the Veteran on the new standards, the key issue for the new standards was the concept of fairness, by which was meant a 'level playing field' for VTTA members of all ages. Here is an analysis of the 10 and 25 results which examines them on the basis of fairness.

A way of looking at fairness is to compare how the top 30 places were distributed under the new standards and to compare that with how it would have looked under the old standards. Here are the results for the recent 10 mile championship.

10 mile championship 2012					
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		New standard		Old standard	
Age band	No of riders	No in top 30	% of number of riders	No in top 30	% of number of riders
40s	21	8	38%	1	5%
50s	21	11	52%	7	33%
60s	16	7	44%	11	69%
70s	13	3	23%	9	69%
80s	3	1	33%	2	67%
Total	74	30		30	

- Riders in their 40s and 50s make up half the field but under the old standard only 8 of those riders would have been placed in the first 30 on standard. See column (e).
- Columns (e) and (f) show how the distribution of top 30 placings would have been quite unbalanced under the old standard. Only one of the 40 year olds would have achieved a top 30 placing (despite there being two riders in that age group who beat or nearly beat age records).
- Columns (c) and (d) show how the top 30 placings were distributed under the new standards. This is clearly more balanced. I.e. the number of top 30 riders is more in proportion to the number of riders in the age group but of course the distribution is not perfect because of factors other than age in riders' performances.

It is a similar story for the 25 championship.

25 mile championship 2012

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		New standard		Old standard	
Age band	No of riders	No in top 30	% of number of riders	No in top 30	% of number of riders
40	38	13	34%	2	5%
50	38	10	26%	7	18%
60	22	6	27%	12	55%
70	9	1	11%	7	78%
80	3	0	0%	2	67%
Total	110	30		30	

It's noticeable from column (d) of both the above tables that the proportion of 70 and 80 year olds in the top 30 is lower than the equivalent proportion for riders in their 40s, 50s and 60s. This might imply that the new standards have some bias in favour of the younger riders. However, the following should be borne in mind.

- The number of riders in the 70-80 age groups is relatively small so one might expect considerable variation in their percentages just because the sample is quite small.
- A lot can depend on the makeup of the field – different riders might have produced a very different result.
- 3rd place in the 10 and 2nd place in the 25 both went to a 75 year old rider. This clearly shows that riders in that age group are by no means “handicapped out” and are able to contend for the top positions.

What conclusions can we draw from the above? Firstly we must say it is still somewhat early days and we need to examine a whole season's worth of results before drawing firm conclusions. In particular we need to see how the new standards play out at the longer distances as well. But from this first big test we can make the following observations:

1. The two championships were won by clearly outstanding rides – a sub 20 minute 10 by Rob Pears (19.13 at aged 49) and a sub 50 minute 25 by Kevin Tye (49.54 at aged 51). The feelings of observers on the day were also that these were worthy winners. Moreover the top three in the 10 were age record or near age record rides.
2. If we take just the top 10 placings in these events they show a good spread of ages. In the '10' they were spread from 43 to 75 with 2 riders in their 40s, 3 in their 50s, 4 in their 60s, and one in their 70s. In the '25' the corresponding top 10 were aged from 46 to 75 with 3 in their 40s, 3 in their 50s, 3 in their 60s, and one in their 70s. So all ages seem able to compete for top positions, quite a change from how the old standards typically worked.
3. The overall pattern of the results as explained above showed that younger vets achieved slightly better positions overall. But on the basis of two events there could be other factors than the new standards such as the make-up of the particular fields for these championships. We will have to see if this slight bias continues across the whole season and if so whether we need to make some adjustments for 2013.
4. What can be said is that in terms of fairness we appear to have achieved a very significant improvement.

We will continue to monitor results throughout 2012, to keep an open mind, and to establish on the basis of good evidence if any adjustments to the new standards appear needed.

Andrew Simpkins and Steve Lockwood



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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 10

Accepted wisdom says that there is a first time for everything and so it proved on Sunday 27th May when the first Championship under the revised Standards was held.

The weather was almost perfect – warm, sunny with a light easterly wind that was a bit niggling on the return leg of the mainly dual carriageway course. There were 90 riders plus the tandems on the start sheet and as the results started to come through to the HQ at Bodelwyddan Community Centre it was clear that it was going to be a fast morning.

There was a steady stream of riders checking their times at the result board with most riders seeming pleased with their ride. As time progressed the crowd around the result board grew especially when, at one point, it seemed that we could have a lady champion. It was left until the very last rider to determine the medals which he did with some style by going under 20 minutes to become champion.

Tandem	Paul & Kellie Sidwell (Hinckley CRC)	20.58	+3.10
Fastest	Rob Pears (Bath CC)	19.13	+7.26
Team	Westmead Team 88	67.50	+16.32
	Mike Cotgreave	21.36	+6.43
	Tony Farrell	22.09	+6.03
	Ian Middleton	24.05	+3.46
Bronze	Derek Stewart (Deeside Thistle)	22.34	+6.53
Silver	Christine McLean (Shetland Wheelers)	21.47	+7.08
Gold	Rob Pears (Bath CC)	19.13	+7.26

The event was extremely well organised by Phil Guy and his band of helpers who marshalled, result-boarded, car parked, stop-watched, administrated and refreshment provided in a good natured, friendly and efficient manner. It was good to see about 70 people at the medal presentation to applaud the winners and join in the general buzz of conversation which always goes with a bunch of cyclists at the conclusion of an event.

Can we draw any conclusions on the revised Standards? I suggest that it would be prudent to wait until the end of the season to see all the results, especially at the longer distances, to determine if the change has produced the result that was intended. If you look at the ages of the medallists today it might just be going in the right direction: 49/67/68/64/75/51

The full result is on the web site www.vtta.org/events/eventdetails.php?event=430

Alan Colburn

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 25

The Championship 25, arguably the Blue Riband of the Association's premier events, was promoted by East Anglia Group under the stewardship of John Golder for the second year in succession. The day took many by surprise – a pleasant surprise – after the preceding day with its gale force winds and driving rain. Many thought it might lead to a cancellation as happened back in 2007 but the morning dawned bright and even sunny, although windy.

John reports that he had to send 42 entries back, 12 of whom appeared to be non-members. Some entries were rejected due to entry forms being poorly completed.

Headquarters was at Newmarket Leisure Centre and as the name implies, it is a most impressive building – a far cry from the usual village hall.

In keeping with the modern trend, the result board was projected onto the wall with rapid updating as the results came in.

Many spectators watched with keen interest in anticipation of changes in the usual standings as the new standards took effect.

Kimroy Photography was not available for this Championship due to it clashing with the CTT 25 Championship and so David Jones stood in and used his camera to good effect.

The more senior riders figured quite prominently in the final result, although the comparatively youthful Kevin Tye, at aged 51, returned an absolutely stunning ride of 49:54 which provided him with a plus of 18:13, a long way ahead of the 2011 Champion, Derek Stewart whilst Ken Platts, noted long distance man, took the bronze medal.

Full result on the website www.vtta.org.uk/news/?newsid=323

THE CHAMPIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Actual Time</i>	<i>On Standard</i>
Kevin Tye	Datateam Allstars	Kent	51	0:49:54	+18:13
Derek Stewart	Deeside Thistle CC	Scotland	75	0:58:26	+16:44
Ken Platts	Cambridge CC	East Anglian	60	0:53:35	+16:19
Reg Smith	Datateam Allstars	Kent	66	0:55:20	+16:19
<i>Tandem</i>					
Ray Hughes and Ian Neville	Clarence Wheelers	Wessex	54/49	0:50:42	+10:41
<i>Team</i>					
Kevin Tye	Datateam Allstars	Kent	51	+18:13	+48:09
Reg Smith		Kent	66	+16:19	
Andrew Meilak		Kent	45	+13:37	
<i>Group</i>		Kent			+75:03

Kevin Tye +18:13 : Reg Smith +16:19 : Phil Bull +14:55
 Andrew Meilak 13:37 : +13:37 : Michael Morris +11:59

RESULTS ON THE WEB SITE

The following results have been sent to Jim Gibb, the Web Master for inclusion on the web site at www.vttta.org. Some were submitted within reports and others separately.

WCTTA 30 – 1st April

Mid Shropshire Wheelers 25

Mersey Vets' Times

WCTTCA 10 : Mersey Vets

Leigh Premier RC 10 : Mersey Vets

WCTTCA 50 : Mersey Vets

Port Sunlight Wheelers 10

10 April : Manchester & NW 10

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OBITUARIES

CLIFF ASH



4.05.1934 - 8.02.2012

Cliff Ash was born on the 4th May 1934 and was happy to make Shropshire his home for the rest of his life, which ended on February 8th this year when he lost his hard fought battle with a cancer that had been diagnosed only a few months earlier.

The Ash family have deep local roots, the youngest of four children Cliff was born at Stanton, in the north of the county, where he continued to live with his parents until he married Freda Makinson in 1958, his wife, closest friend, tandem partner and supporter in his myriad activities for the next 54 years. They remained in the area by making their home in nearby Shawbury, although he worked for most of his life in Shrewsbury, the county town.

In 1940 Cliff became a close friend of Jim Blackhurst, a fellow pupil at the village school; eight years later a visit to the then famous

Ellesmere Bank Holiday Sports and watching cycle racing on a banked grass track fired up in both an enthusiasm for cycling that lasted for the rest of his life, Cliff and Jim remaining both friends and cycling colleagues. One Friday evening in April 1949 they met members of the Mid Shropshire Wheelers in the club room at Shrewsbury; 24 hours later they found themselves on the road side at Crudgington, assisting with the marshalling of A.K.Letts's Lands-end to John O' Groats tricycle record attempt!

That sequence of events introduced into Shropshire cycling Cliff Ash, a truly nice man, a cyclist who put much more into the pastime than he took from it, someone respected by all who knew him and who with his passing earlier this year will be remembered with fondness and gratitude. His interest and enthusiasm for cycling never diminished, racing for 60 consecutive seasons and not just racing but performing at the highest level, the first rider to get under the hour for a 25 on Shropshire roads, winning so many awards that it is not possible to list even a fraction of them, competing over a wide range of distances and on any and every type of machine, time trial bike, mountain bike, road bike, tandem and trike. Cliff extended his National Service in the RAF to three years, spending much of the time in Kenya where, of course, his bike accompanied him and he still enjoyed both racing and touring.

Cliff knew how to enjoy all aspects of cycling, Sunday rides, weekending and touring he participated in everything. He also held Office on numerous occasions in several organisations including the Mid Shropshire Wheelers and Shropshire Cycling Club Association, he being a prime mover when that was formed. Membership of VTTA was a top priority as soon as he reached 40, meaning that he was a member for nearly half of his life. His involvement in Rotary Club, to which he gave a remarkable amount of time, also offered him the

OBITUARIES

opportunity to ride with their cycling section, competing and ultimately winning his age related class in their World Championship Road Race in Holland. With his usual humility, but rightful pride, bringing home in the year 2000 the world-beater's jersey.

Cliff led a full and balanced life in every way, a skilled engineer, for many years he was responsible for maintenance at Stadco, a large Shrewsbury manufacturer. He was even a keen gardener, something that is difficult for a cyclist as both activities require time and are best undertaken when the weather is good, but he somehow managed to balance all those demands. Above all he was the finest example of a family man, his three daughters and his grandchildren will, I know, remember him as good and dedicated, always available with help or advice.

A service was held at Shrewsbury Crematorium on 22nd February, giving friends the opportunity to join Freda and his family to say their goodbyes. The number attending was a clear illustration of the respect in which he was held, there almost certainly being more standing outside than inside the packed to capacity chapel, estimates suggested that over 350 were present to show their respects. The service reflected Cliff's character; as part of an appreciation a speaker reading out a joke as requested by him, true to the end Cliff was philosophical, organised and all with touch of humour. Although his immense number of friends will all be saddened at his passing, it is Freda and his family who will feel the deepest grief and all our thoughts are with them at this time and to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

Jim Leach
A friend since 1948

DOROTHY OGDEN

20th June 1934 to 19th May 2012



Dorothy Ogden, wife of the Manchester and NW Group chairman Jim, died peacefully at home in her own bed after a period of failing health, a few weeks short of her 78th birthday.

Almost inherent in her wedding vows in December 1956 was an obligation to join the rarely acknowledged band of helpers without whom the competitive side of cycling would soon have been in difficulty. At different times, Dorothy has undertaken almost all the tasks required in running a successful event, including helping Jim in his promoting, marshalling, feeding in distance events, catering at the headquarters – in fact everything except timing.

When, at a Manchester and NW AGM in the 80s there were no volunteers to organise the Group annual dinner (as it was then) and Prize Presentation, someone suggested Dorothy. She pointed out that she was only there as a wife, not a member; however, from that moment on, she became a member and organised this annual event for the next five years. Originally held at Stockport Co-Op, it was held once at a Northenden hotel and subsequently first at Macclesfield Masonic Lodge and latterly at

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Middlewich Masonic Lodge, by which time it had become a luncheon.

After leaving Thistley Hough High School in Stoke on Trent, she trained as a nurse at North Staffs Royal Infirmary. Although Dorothy was not to know at the time, nursing was to become an essential part of her duties after marriage looking after her almost unbelievably accident prone husband. Her daughter Josephine has inherited Dorothy's caring nature and is now an independent midwife.

Dorothy embraced life and welcomed new challenges. Throughout the 1960s the family were in Malawi, Central Africa, where Dorothy's work included managing a Travel Agency and being secretary of Lilongwe Golf Club. She also taught home economics and child welfare to local African ladies and her son Peter was born in a hospital on the slopes of Zomba Mountain. She was also blessed with an admirable singing voice, singing in choirs and music festivals from school days. She was a grade eight pianist and church organist. Her love of music lives on in her grandson Chris, himself a talented musician.

Back home in the 70s cycling moved again to the top of her agenda as Jim had just qualified as a Veteran, a title he embraced with enthusiasm! As the years passed, daughter Louise and son Peter caught the bug and still hold Altrincham Ravens club records. In the early 80s Louise's husband Dave Cuming became a professional cyclist in Belgium and their son Mike is now riding for Rapha Condor Sharp.

Peter and his family had returned to their home in New Zealand only ten days before Dorothy died. At the funeral, held at Broken Cross Methodist Chapel, where Dorothy used to play the organ, a "Skype" link was set up enabling Peter to be part of the 100-strong congregation, hearing and seeing the service, including tributes paid to his Mum by his two sisters, two cousins, his niece and his own tribute, read by brother-in-law Mark.

Dorothy had no fear of dying; her faith never faltered. The poem "Death is Nothing at All" by

Henry Scott Holland was read by Louise, the last lines being:-

*"How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting,
When we meet again."*

We can only hope the sentiment it expresses contains the truth.

Louise Cuming (Daughter)

COLIN ('CURLY') PATTISON (1927 - 2012)



Colin Pattison, known affectionately as 'Curly', died on 24 February 2012 following a short illness. He is survived by his wife, Audrey, and his two children Martin and Helen. Curly was a loyal servant of the Ratae Road Club, of which he was a co-founder and life member. He served as club president on two separate occasions and was actively involved in its running right up to the end, only relinquishing the job of membership secretary in 2011. He was a dedicated racing cyclist, still competing only 18 months before his death, and holds the Club's Veteran Time Trial Record at 25 miles. Although he eschewed the cycling helmet, which he thought made you look silly, he was known to don the streamlined version to help 'shave a few seconds off' when time trialling!

As expected, the north chapel at Gilroes Cemetery, Leicester was full to overflowing with

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family and old cycling friends on 6 March 2012 to help “push off” Colin on his last ride. A well crafted humanist ceremony, punctuated with his favourite jazz music, provided a fitting celebration of Curly’s life both in and out of the saddle. As well as his family, the congregation included two current members of the Buckshee Wheelers, with whom Curly raced in the late 1940s in Egypt and more recently in the annual Bully Beef 25 .(photo shows Curly – winner in 2010) There were also several veterans of the infamous Wednesday run to Redmile/Sedgebrook in the Vale of Belvoir and, of course, his friends from the Ratae and other cycling local clubs. The picture of Colin on his time trial bike and in full race kit, that adorned the catafalque, came from his last race a few months previously! This was its own tribute to Curly’s determination, or as some might say stubbornness, and will to win.

However, Curly was also a kind hearted and considerate person, always keen to welcome new people to the Ratae. He was a good organiser, which was illustrated by the dinner and traditional jazz concert that he had arranged for 1 March in the training restaurant at Leicester College.

Unfortunately he was unable to attend this in person but it is typical of him that he insisted to Audrey that the event should go ahead with or without him.

Despite the sadness that surrounded the occasion, the evening was a complete success and served as a ‘wake’ before the actual funeral; Curly always had his own way of doing things! Everyone present had a really good time, which is what Curly would have wanted and he is greatly missed by all his friends and family.

Kevin Commons, Ratae Road Club

HARRY BENSON 1925-2012

Harry died in his sleep, aged 86, and though he had no living relations, his family, the West Pennine Road Club and the North Lancs and Lakes Vets bade him a fond farewell. He certainly was the last of a breed. Harry was the West Pennine Road Club’s longest serving member, joining amidst the war years in 1943 and remaining in the club right up to his death 69 years later. He was described at his funeral as the ‘last of a breed’.

Harry’s involvement in the cycling world encompassed all aspects of the game, he raced, toured throughout Britain and Europe, was involved in the administration side of the sport, and was a contributor to the Rochdale Observer and *The Veteran*, to name but two. His enthusiasm towards the social scene was almost legendary.

After joining the ‘Pennine’, Harry became a ‘Bevin boy’ in wartime, and following the war he became a plumber and more involved in the local cycling scene. Although not gifted with a natural élan, Harry was to say the least dogged, and found his forte in the longer distance cycle events, breaking the club records at 12 hours in 1947 with 231 miles, and the 24 hour record in 1953 and 1957 with 415 and 418 miles. Harry continued his exploits both against the clock and in the bunch for many years, and almost no season was complete without riding the 12. In later years, the onset of age related racing saw his enthusiasm renewed, winning the West Pennine’s Veterans road race trophy for 10 consecutive years.

But racing wasn’t the prime reason for Harry’s activities, the act of riding a bike was his way of life and club life by no means diminished it. In those days of post-war austerity, riding out to events, especially on Brock were de rigueur, and no weekend was complete without an evening in the Green Man before facing the timekeeper at first light. Of course the end of a hectic year always brought on the social season with the

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rounds of club dinners and weekends away, and none was complete without Harry and his wife Jean.

Although spending the majority of his working life in the Rochdale area, Harry, with Jean, moved to the Garstang area in the late 70s, which saw both become more involved with the local cycling scene, notably the North Lancs group of the VTТА, up to the death of Jean in 2007. Harry spent the last few years in the Bowgreave Nursing Home, ironically at the bottom of 'Policeman's Brow', a notable drag on local courses, where he displayed his collection of trophies and still donned a racing vest to the bewilderment of other residents!

Richard Taylor

'Brock' course. In true Trevor style he was completely nonplussed to find that he was fastest that day.

In recent years he and Julie joined the Fylde RC luncheon club where he will be greatly missed by all the old comrades with whom he became reacquainted.

Our sympathies go out to Julie for her sudden loss and to all his friends who shared and appreciated his passion for cycling. Trevor's name will live on in the Cleveley's Road Club as he has donated trophies for schoolboy and junior awards.

Harry Colledge

TREVOR KINGHAM

13 October 1932 - 01 April 2012

A member of the North Lancs and Lakes VTТА Group for 40 years, Trevor started cycling in the late 1940s, firstly with the Fleetwood Road Club then after National Service in the RAF (where he was made Sergeant - they wanted to keep him!) he joined the Blackpool Road Club.

With the demise of the Blackpool Road Club in the early 1960s, Trevor joined the Cleveleys Road Club and was eventually made an honorary member. Although the phrase 'He was a true gentleman' is well worn, in Trevor's case it was very true. He was a kindly, good humoured person with a great sense of fun. On the Saturday before his completely unexpected death, he was out with Roland Duckett and their wives Julie and Elaine watching a 10 on his beloved Brock course, he was heard to mention that he was thinking of riding a 25 before reaching the age of 80 (which would have been in October).

One of the 'Old School', Trevor would be seen hammering round the Fylde lanes on a 50 years old Soens track bike riding 68 fixed. One of his proudest moments was being fastest on time in the 1977 NL and LVTTA 100 on his favourite

DUDLEY THOMAS

Acme (Rhondda) Wheelers



Dudley, who died aged 77 early in April was

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well known to all in South Walian cycling circles, be it Acme Wheeler club runs or local time trials. He will be remembered as one those ever present at any event involving cyclists and cycling. During his life-time, he must have ridden many hundreds of time trials at all distances. His greatest moment was in the Catford 24 Hour of 1956 when, with his close friends Len Jenkins and Neville Yeo, he picked up a team prize. Finishing a 24 hour race is an awesome achievement in itself, but actually taking such an award was fantastic for both the Club and Dudley, a moment he treasured forever.

We all have clear memories of Dudley riding time trials; it was difficult to miss his sizable presence. Dudley trained hard, put in big mileages, but loved his bag of chips. In spite of his weight he continued to produce good times well into his 60s; what he lost going uphill he would pull back on the descents. Dudley started his working life in Hopkin Morgan's Patisserie. Young cyclists have big appetites and I am sure that Dudley found working in a cake shop almost too good to be true. It was, and he soon moved on to a career in the Rhonnda Valley coal pits, well paid work to sustain his young family, wife Judith and children Rachel and David. Dudley was happy to travel to races and Poole, Dorset, was a popular venue, also convenient with Judith coming from that area. I am told that he produced some of his personal best rides on the sunny Wessex courses.

Dudley was one of the most popular Acme Wheelers, having been honoured as a life member in 2003.

His funeral saw a large contingent of club members gathered to join Judith and the family in celebration of his life, enough to fill both chapels at the crematorium. Dudley will be remembered for being friendly, fun loving and having a generous nature. South Wales cycling has lost a character.

We offer our sincere condolences to Judith and the family.

Barry Williams

JOHN (WILLIAM JOHN JOSEPH) WEBB

13.04.25 – 02.04.2012

Some readers of *The Veteran* will perhaps have noticed that recollections of the '70s' are currently topical – books and television documentaries abound. When it comes to recalling times past, few can rival the members of the VTTA, so there are bound to be many who remember the period of 30 to 40 years ago when the sponsored clubs were all the rage. One such was the VC Slough.

John Webb created the club and recruited many of the top time triallists of the day. VC Slough riders were holders of national records at 25, 30, 50 miles and 12 hours. They also set team records from ten miles through to 50 miles. The VC Slough under John Webb's leadership was a 'real' club which held social functions and promoted open events; in the latter, entrants were marshalled around the course by some of the country's top riders who gave up their rides in a demonstration of their qualification of being a 'proper' club.

John was married to Wendy for 51 years and they have a daughter Sarah and a son Matthew.

His brother Bob also rode a bike, although he wasn't as keen as John, but both were well known in cycling circles in south London.

During his early years he was a keen trackman and rode at Herne Hill track in various events. Like so many of his era, he was also an avid time triallist and did a "59" in the late 1940s.

Wendy recalls that he didn't much care for riding a bike, except to get to a timekeeper. He rode his fair share of club runs in his youth, but he never was a one for what he called the corduroy shorts and large saddle bag type of riding. Riding all over hell and back, as in touring, wasn't his cup of tea at all.

He was a member of the Catford CC for some years, also a couple of clubs that no longer exist and having left the cycling game altogether in the 50s he decided to take up the sport once more in the 70s and joined the Luton Wheelers

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having met up with quite a few of Luton Wheelers riders at events, such as Roger Queen, Steve Hunt, Dave Smith, Arthur Bouttell and many others. In the 1970s he decided to start his own club, hence Velo Club Slough. He was very proud of the name the Velo Club Slough gained in racing circles due to the good riders who wanted to become members and that he sponsored for quite a few years from the companies he and Wendy both had at the time. Office Associates Ltd, whose name was used on all clothing etc, and Electrical Services (Slough), which was John's electrical contracting company which he ran for over twenty years.

As with most of the sponsors of that period, the costs incurred were out of a love for the sport and provided little return for the businesses involved, except perhaps for the cycling trade,

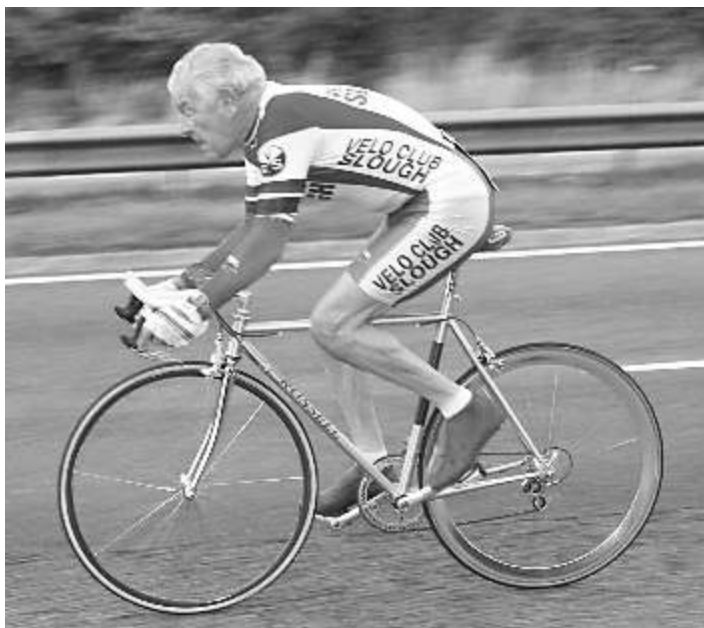
Unfortunately, John developed Dementia in

the late 90s and this put a stop to his cycling endeavours and after an operation for a broken hip (from which he seemed to recover) he then died quietly two or three weeks later.

Those who have been members of the Time Trialling Fraternity for most of their lives and thus have met and shared mutual enthusiasms with hundreds of men and women, will, if they knew John, remember him as one of the good guys: a fine rider and a fine person.

He had a quiet funeral, being attended by his family and the majority of staff from the Nursing Home and John Woodburn and Anne from the cycling fraternity. Wendy says she feels very strongly he is in a better place now, "after all, we lost him a few years ago really."

Jointly by Wendy Webb and Jim Burgin



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BRIAN HASKELL 1928-2012



Photo by Kimroy

Brian Haskell, Huddersfield RC, died on 10 March, aged 83. It would be fair to say that Brian was a legend in his own lifetime. He had been at the top of the cycling tree for over fifty years.

He was born in 1928 and first began cycling as a teenager. taking up the sport in 1945 when he joined the Holme Valley Wheelers Cycling Club. By 1947, he was their club champion at 25 and 50 miles. When he was called up for National Service he joined the Army, serving in the Middle East. While he was out in Egypt, he joined the Buckshee Wheelers and began winning their Bully Beef 25, something he continued to do when the Bully Beef 25 was run back in Britain. He must have won the trophy on at least fifteen occasions.

In 1951, he joined the Huddersfield Road Club and became part of a powerful racing team, along with Brian and Desmond Robinson, Tommy Oldfield and Peter Bates.

His road racing wins were prolific. He won the Galway to Dublin Road Race, in 1959. He was King of the Mountains in the Warsaw, Berlin, Prague Peace Race and, in the same year, King of the Mountains in the Tour of Britain. He won the Tour of Ireland twice and was also BLRC Hill Climb Champion. He turned Professional for Viking in 1957 and competed in the World Road Race Championships. He rode as an international until 1961 and then had to wait until 1969 to be reinstated as an amateur when he joined the Vets.

His wins and records as a Vet are staggering. He was the Yorkshire Group BAR ten years in succession from 1991 to 2000. He won several VTTA National Championships and led Huddersfield RC to numerous team championships. He set a National VTTA Age Record at 70 for 50 miles of 1:51:28 in 1999 which still stands and, what is even more remarkable, he had ridden a 57 minute 25 the previous evening. He still holds a 100 mile age record at 68 of 4:03:58 and three 12 hour age records. In 2002, he received the C A Rhodes Memorial Trophy to mark his contribution to cycling.

Away from cycling, he was a successful businessman. He trained as a sheet metal worker and in 1973 was a co-founder of Salamander Fabrications, which is still going in Slaithwaite, and to this day they still sponsor Huddersfield RC. He remained as Company Chairman until his death. It is fairly safe to say there will not be another one like Brian. He will be missed by his many friends in Yorkshire cycling. At his funeral at Huddersfield Crematorium it was standing room only. He leaves a widow, Kathleen, two children Janet and Michael, and three grandchildren, Zoe, Natasha and Maisie, to whom our deepest sympathies go.

R I P Brian.

Malcolm T Cowgill

HANDICAPS NOT STANDARDS?

As the new vets standard times, from the early season results, seem just as farcical as the old ones, is it not time to question the aims of these standards?

As standards go it does not really matter where they are set as long as the rider has a chance of beating the target and the year end medals were the main aim.

It is when the standards are used as a basis for prizes in Open events they become contentious.

The pendulum has now swung vastly in favour of the young with the winning three riders on actual times often also taking the standard prizes by a large margin.

It is now time to take the riders' previous best times into consideration, to eliminate the extremes that will always exist, if the system is to be fair to everyone. If you like, a handicap with an age related allowance, measured in seconds not minutes.

Several years ago CTT produced a handicap schedule to which could be added an age time allowance worked in five year age bands. e.g. 40 to 45 scratch, 46 to 50 plus 5 seconds, 51 to 55 plus 10 seconds, etc. etc.

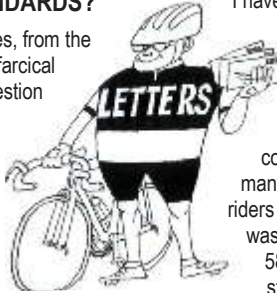
Newbury RC still use this system for our handicap 10 series throughout the year and find it remarkably effective with net times usually falling within 60 seconds of each other for a field of 20 riders. This could possibly be used as a basis for the future

I believe a rethink is again necessary on the standards as they will continue to be used as the basis for prizes.

Bob Lyle

GERRY IS UPSET

Nothing in my cycling life has upset me as much as these new standards, and that's since I first became a member of the St Neots & District Cycling Club on 14th August 1944.



I have kept strict records from the start of the season and conclude that no veteran over the age of 68 can ever win a standard again. Where does the fairness show in this? You can guarantee the three BOS will come in the first 10 on fastest and in many cases first five. The ages of male riders are between 40 and 49 years. There was one event of last weekend where a 58 year old managed a second on standard.

Although my heart is as strong as ever towards Veteran racing my eyes are preventing me from being active in the sport I love, but I can foresee many of the aged Vets quitting over this. We don't all race to win something but deep down we like to think we are in with a chance. As I said no one over 68, not an old man by modern day racers, but according to your new standards you have aged us out of the chance.

Gerry Ashley

SORT IT OUT!

I was recently in the company of many veteran cyclists who expressed heated views on the Standard Tables. I was told there had been many resignations. Many years ago, in a large west London club, a member benefactor found he could no longer financially support as much as before. The Club Committee felt they had to put up the subs substantially. The outcry, some 30% of the members resigned. They should have waited and organised themselves to reduce expenditure to balance the books.

The same thing seems to be happening with some vets. Please stay, speak to your representatives, go to meetings, even get onto Committees and sort this out democratically.

Cecil Hamblton

Chairman West London CA

These are my views and not necessarily that of my fellow committee members.

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**Laura Gambling - CC Breckland and East Anglian Group
in the Championship 25**

Photo David Jones