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In My Time



**Memoirs of a Sporting Cyclist
by Mick Coward**

I have been a cyclist for over 60 years, starting as a novice club rider with '34 Nomads CC on through my amateur days to become a professional road racer, then finally re-instated back to amateur again where I am still at it as a veteran time triallist. Within the 203 pages of this book, you will find stories of my racing days, my working days, mostly in the cycle trade, plus other segments of my life.

**For a copy of
In My Time
send a cheque for £7.50
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THE VETERAN

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
OF THE
**VETERANS TIME TRIALS
ASSOCIATION**

*FOUNDED IN 1943 TO PROMOTE CYCLE TIME TRIALLING
FOR THE 40 YEARS OLD AND OVER*

Number 37

June 2013

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OFFICIALS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT

The other day I was looking at a rather splendid looking glass paper weight trophy on a polished wood base and remembering the violent rainstorm that ensued during that event. The award was for the best team on Standard over a 60km course and was promoted by the Midlands Group with awards donated by Ron Smith of the London & Home Counties Group. Perhaps you remember the event? It was to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of this Association and it was held in September 2003.



So that makes us 70 years old this year! I wasn't there at the founding because I was otherwise engaged – I think it was double maths and they wouldn't let me out of school.

We have almost certainly seen more changes in these last ten years than in the previous sixty which begs the question – do we need these? May I suggest that we do! Some of these changes have been quite radical but in a world that has seen more change than ever before we can't enjoy the option of standing still. I have heard some remarks that the Executive is pushing through change against the wishes of some members. Let me state quite clearly that your Executive exists to carry out the wishes of the members and the forum for this procedure is the Annual General Meeting.

OK! Mini-rant over. It's now time to do some more research on the "Coffee Shops of Worcestershire".

Enjoy your cycling and stay safe



Just a few of the Association's Trophies which may become museum pieces

NATIONAL SECRETARY



I am writing this report the day after the National Executive Committee meeting where the Membership Secretary reported a large fall in membership. This is the time of year when the cut-off date for members to renew their subscriptions has been reached and when many new members have joined, so it is the best time to compare figures with previous years. The number of new members has not decreased, so why have so many members resigned or failed to renew their subscriptions? Three possible reasons are:

1. the failure of Groups to actively chase up non-payers;
2. dissatisfaction with the new Standards Tables; and
3. disappointment from members who can no longer apply to achieve their own individual Standards and who dislike the fact that these have been replaced by Performance Awards.

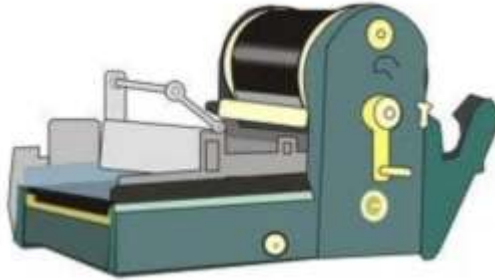
Personally, I doubt that number 1 is the main cause, as it is unlikely that Groups suddenly abandon their usual successful practices of chasing up non-payers.

As for number 2, there was dissatisfaction from some members when the new Standards Tables were introduced in 2012. One of the reasons for change was to make the system fairer to all ages and, in this respect, the change was successful. Results showed that there was a more even spread of ages in the award winners and, after evaluating the results of last year's championships and competitions, minor changes were made to the 2012 Tables in order to further 'level the playing field'. I know that it is impossible to please all of the people even some of the time, but I think that the 2013 Standards Tables go a long way to providing all racing members with attainable goals for their different levels of ability. As proof of this, last November members of my Group had already applied for their Standards, obviously believing that they were still able to attain some successes, despite the change in the Standards Tables.

So, to Performance Awards. Many members have been (and still are) very confused by the substitution of individual Standard awards by Performance Awards. Some are still under the misconception that they have a choice of applying for Standards or Performance Awards. Others feel that Performance Awards are not worth attempting: "If I can't get my Standard, what's the point?" In other words, they feel patronised. Those members whose only goals for the season have been to get their Standards (a substantial percentage of the racing members) feel they have been denied the pleasure in attaining something worthwhile. Contrary to the belief that the 2012 Standards would produce many minuses on result sheets, this has not been the case and members know they would still have a good chance of achieving their goals.

The Standards Tables are synonymous with the VTTA and it is likely that the 2013 Standards Tables will remain unchanged for some years until another need for change is called for by the membership.

However, changes to other aspects of the organisation of the VTTA will become necessary each year. The purpose of the National Committee is to carry out the wishes of the membership. These wishes are conveyed to the NEC via the Groups who submit proposals for the AGM. The only way a Group committee knows what their members want is for those members to attend the Group AGM and put forward their views. With every proposal, it is vital to consider the long-term implications of proposals and the benefits weighed against the disadvantages. A successful change will always be one that is for the good of the VTTA as a whole.



EDITORIAL

'On-Line Entry' is all the rage with many promoters this year. I must confess to being a bit apprehensive of the idea but signed up for it and have been impressed with the result.

For example, watching the list grow and checking the details of the entrants has proved invaluable in the case of the Championship 25. As the event was open only to members of the VTTA, it was possible to immediately contact those not members and to provide them with the opportunity of joining. Those who were not veterans were also notified in time to enter another event if they wished. And what a boon to have all the entry fees paid in one lump sum and (presumably) for the correct amount.

I didn't make use of the facility to download start sheets but pasting the information from the spreadsheet provided was simplicity itself (I do confess to having made an error in adding the numbers when arranging the order of start but that was a lesson learned).

The experience has added stimulus to those urging changes to the system of joining the Association and, perhaps more potently, renewing their membership. Those of us who can look back to the years of collecting the entry forms together, returning the (in those days) customary excess entries and formulating the start sheet, then spreading the forms all over the floor in order to arrange the placing before asking one of the lady members to type them out ready for the stencil and the duplicator, must be delighted at the progress over the years but for many the speed of the change is too much to cope with.

However, there are many new members who view the necessity of completing forms, buying stamps and posting envelopes as being hopelessly out of date and as the years continue to pass, the changes will have to be made, just as they have been since the days of the stencil and the duplicator. If we are to continue to exist, then, unlikely as it may seem, those new members will be taking on the promotions and the administration and they will not be expecting to lick stamps, write cheques and pay frequent trips to pay money into the bank.

We ought perhaps to make ready for the changes.

Imagine being reminded automatically when your subs are due and paying with a few strokes on the keyboard. Or joining with the same small effort.

In my case, within a couple of hours on the morning after the event closing at precisely 6:00 pm the night before, the start sheets were being distributed to all but nine of the field, at no cost! After 60 years from the stencil to the email, that was really something to celebrate!

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AROUND THE GROUPS

EAST ANGLIAN



Matters arising – the cold, wet, windy winter weather left so many riders completely unprepared for the start of the season when local time trials drew poor entries and brave souls were greeted by snow, as in the Plomesgate 10 when only fourteen of forty entrants started. The ECCA 10s on 9 March and 23 March were cancelled, as were the Chelmer 25 (Jim Perrin Memorial) and the Diss 25.

However, it was a pleasant, tho' cold, afternoon for the Group's Open 25 on 24 April and no-one was surprised when Michael Hutchinson clocked 50:25 on an up and down circuit to win by over 8 minutes. Only fifteen group members turned out, with five DNS and one DNF. Very disappointing for an enthusiastic organiser like Eric Angell, who is anxious to put something back into the sport and now feels discouraged so that the future of this event may be in doubt. Chris Dyason won in his group and was best on standard. taking the Stourvale Shield; older group winners were Ron Back, Merv Player and Peter Horsnell. So where were all those people who say that they do not want to ride on "fast" courses?

Move on a week to Ron Back's 10, again an

open event, with only twenty members finishing. Fastest and winner of the lowest age group was new member Jim Burgess, putting Ian Cammish into second place - although positions were reversed on standard with the latter also winning his age group. Senior age group winners were Brian Davies, Bob Bush and Peter Baumber. All the usual marshals and helpers were out on these dates; their continued support is much appreciated, but what a pity that this 10 again clashed with the Colchester Rovers Open (which includes the Group 50). Surely something can be done about this another year?

The Counties 50 is not a Vets event, but was won by Glen Taylor with 1:47:15. Honor Wood, making her VTTA debut at 50, made a startling improvement with 2:20:25, which made her an easy handicap winner. Three younger ladies had a close contest, resulting with Corinna Francis 2:01:33, Tricia Goulden 2:02:58, Ann Shuttleworth 2:03:30. Unfortunately Laura Gambling, known as "the lovely Laura", top lady on her patch, will not be competing this year as Mick, sad to say, is not in good health and is unable to drive. He has been MC at the Group Lunch for many years and formed an entertaining partnership with Brenda Tate, which had the company in stitches. Surprisingly, this lady is the latest to achieve the status of HLM, as is Cliff Brocklesby, for long a stalwart of the Newmarket club. Mick Pepper was presented with his HLM certificate by chairman Peter Horsnell at a surprise party given by his children, but a shadow was cast over the gathering by a 'phone call to say that Errol Baker had become yet another victim of a road traffic accident. By a strange and sad coincidence, it was on Rod Walters' 80th birthday, with a cake at the HQ waiting to be cut, that Jim Perrin was killed in a time trial. It's hard to believe that was 10 years ago.....

Errol had been a member of Colchester Rovers for nearly 30 years and was a Vice President held in great respect. Prior to his move to Colchester, he belonged to the Hainault RC, starting cycling at the age of 15; he was still racing

up to last year, at 73, and won the Club Vets' Championship six times. The local paper gave front page headlines and two more pages of tributes and photos, including his ride up Mont Ventoux. During his time as a manager for Wimpey Homes, Errol was mainly responsible for the organisation of the well-remembered Wimpey series of sponsored 10s on the popular A12 course. His boss, the late John Duffett, sanctioned all this with the Essex and Suffolk Border Combine then handed over to Errol. Many personal bests date back to that time. The Combine was wound up in 2001, due to lack of event secretaries, and over £3000 was handed over to the Dave Rayner Fund. Errol had a wide circle of friends, as was reflected in the attendance at his funeral when riders preceded the hearse.

Another former Hainault rider who suffered an untimely death was Arthur Dobbin. Both these two derived much pleasure from mid-week rides with the 40+ CC, Arthur with the elite Essex "A" section and Errol with the North Essex, where they found not only racing pals past and present, but also made new friends, all of whom will miss them – as will the cycling community in Essex.

Now the good news – here is a list of new signings:

Steve Bristol	60	Kings Lynn CC
Michael Remblance	49	Wolsey RC
Adrian Whiting	46	Wisbech Wheelers
Martin Palmer	53	None
Marcus Hopkins	40	Kings Lynn CC
Sue and Clive Haworth	61/64	Chelmer CC
Steve Willis	61	Colchester Rovers
Martin Jones	40	Fenland Clarion
Jonathan Weatherley	40	CC Sudbury
Ian Damant	52	Becontree CC
Honor Wood	50	Maldon & District CC
Denise Leeder	48	CC Sudbury
Kirsty White	41	CC Sudbury
Martin Sida-Page	53	Anglia Velo
Jody Downs	40	CC Sudbury
Steven Bass	45	Maldon & District CC
Sandra Mackay	44	GB cycles.co.uk
Steve Clarke	58	TMG Horizon RC
Jim Burgess	40	Anglia Velo

Nick Standley	43	CC Breckland
Peter Hopkins	68	Team Swift (transferred from London & Home Counties)
James Greenwood	54	West Suffolk Wheelers
Lea Marshall	43	Essex Roads CC (rejoined)

It is pleasing to welcome Lea back after a year out, although her erstwhile tandem partner in record breaking, Gwen Cook, is still advised by the medics not to ride. Lea partnered Dean Lubin recently, when they recorded a promising 50 time. 1:45:41. which augurs well for the future. Although up until now in denial, Dean has promised to join the group with a view to future records.

A special welcome to Clive Haworth and his wife Sue; Clive is the son of Bob, of VTTA and Buckshee Wheelers fame, for whom the 100 mile Memorial Cup is named.

Some of the above-mentioned have already appeared on prize lists. Here's good luck to them and all the others – may they have good times!

Good weather is all that is needed now – hailstones again as I write – see you up the road.

*Hey! Ring-a-ling! Suddenly it's Spring
and all the birds sing
as they swing in the trees, waft in the breeze,
but all I can wheeze is Oh! my poor knees -
a cyclist's song in Spring.*

Mary Horsnell

YORKSHIRE

Just like last year, it is almost May as I write this piece and we are still in an icy grip; the snow has only just gone. I only hope we are not going to get the same amount of rain as last year.

Still on a sombre note, we didn't get to the end of March before a rider was killed in one of our District's events; Chris Auker (65), Brough Wheelers, was hit by a car and caravan in the City RC Hull Good Friday 10. a stark reminder that we have the most dangerous playing field of any sport. Our sympathies go to his wife and family.

On 10 April, Yorkshire lost another of its great riders: Gordon 'Tiny' Thomas, Yorkshire RC, passed away at the age of 91. Gordon won the 1953 Daily Express Tour of Britain, beating another Yorkshire legend, Brian Robinson, Britain's first ever Tour de France stage winner. Gordon was also part of the Great Britain silver medal winning team in the 1948 London Olympic Road Race; he finished eighth individually. He was also the 1950 National Road Race Champion and winner of the 1947 Classic Circuit of the Dales 50; also in 1947, he was part of the winning Yorkshire RC Team in the National 100, along with Baz Smith and Doug Heppleston. Gordon joined the Yorkshire RC when he was 12 years old, hence the nickname 'Tiny'. His passing severs another link with the post-war years. Our sincere condolences to his family.

In the last issue, you may remember I mentioned the fact that Stan Chadwick, Scarborough Paragon, was not at our Annual Lunch and those present signed Get Well cards. Since then, I have received a Thank You from Stan to all the people who signed the cards. He says he is very well, but just getting old; Stan is 96! You are a gentleman, Stan, and we hope to see you next year.

Now to our first event of the season, Mike Williams' 10; in comparison to what had gone before, I suppose you could say it was held on a reasonable day. Some fast times were recorded, with 33 riders inside 23 minutes. The winner on the day was Steve Smales Boneshakers Trek (42), both on standard and fastest time +5 59 (20 10). In actual fact, it was a tie for first place on standard; Blair Buss, Team Swift (48), also had +5 59 (20 37). In third place was Brian Sunter, Condor RC (69), with +5 49 (23 03). A great ride by Brian, getting to just 10 seconds of the best plus by riders over 20 years his junior. In fact, eight of the first ten on standard were 52 or less; the pendulum has swung the other way. Best team on the day was Team Swift, Blair Buss being backed by Julian Read (48) +5 04 (21 34) and Richard Hembrough (51) +4 49 (22 01). The Ladies event was won by Jo Corbett, Team Swift (54) +5 37 (23 55). Fastest ride of the

day was recorded by non-Vet Rebecca Rimmington, Team Sharp RT (30) 22 27. Once again Stan Chadwick made a generous donation of £50 to the prize list; many thanks, Stan. Our thanks also go to Mike Williams for organising the event.

My usual reminder: Our half-yearly Meeting will be on 5 August, 7 30 pm. at Otley Clubroom and as usual our events for next season will be decided. Looking ahead, our next events will be Tony Stott's 25 on 25 July and Steve Gaunt's 10 on 7 September. Marshals and helpers are required for both. The organisers can't run them on their own; they deserve your support, otherwise you could be looking for new event organisers.

Now an apology: George Masson, Calder Clarion, was somehow omitted from the Yorkshire List of Super Vets. George is 80 and still racing. Once again please accept apologies, George; Long may you continue to compete.

On a different note, when I was researching my piece on Tiny Thomas, I was looking down the lists of Championship winning teams in the CTT Handbook. They look like a list of internet websites, not cycling clubs. Something has been lost that's for sure; progress some would say – the future ain't what it used to be or is it just me getting old?

Looking on the bright side, the football season is over and the Giro d'Italia has started. At least Wiggins hasn't bitten anybody yet! Cavendish has done just what it says on the tin and won the two stages available to him. As for Wiggo, it's more a case of major losses than marginal gains. In his defence, the Sky bikes keep falling apart. I would have thought that while they were in Italy, they could visit a certain factory and get some decent equipment. Still, there is always Le Tour. I wouldn't mind being a fly on the wall at the Sky Team discussions.

Well, that's about it. Will we have a Summer? By the time you read this, the nights will be drawing in. Now there's a thought.

See you up the road.

Malcolm T Cowgill

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MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST



As a topic of conversation weather has been dominant this year. We all know how it can affect results: I have often thought I would have done better riding in the other half of the field. However, in a couple of events this year there was no field to ride in. The late snow in March caused the cancellation of the Altrincham Ravens 25 on 23 March and the Buxton Mountain Time Trial on Good Friday, 29 March. The Ravens event will now be held on 10 August on a new course based on Byley and using King Street, as the usual J2/9 will not be available on that day due to the annual Traction Engine Rally. Additional entries will be accepted. The Buxton event was actually held on the May Bank Holiday, 6 May, the warm, sunny weather helping Tejvan Pettinger (SRI Chinmoy Cycling Team) to set a record time of 1:23:20 for the 33 mile course. Simon Bridge (42), Manchester Wheelers' Club, was the fastest vet placed 4th in 1:28:24. There were specific athletes' prizes for riders using pure road bikes, the winner being Mike Cuming, Rapha Condor/JLT in 1:26:06, which also placed him 3rd fastest overall. In the same category, Mark Lovatt (41), Plant X, was placed 2nd in 1:32:27, actually 7th overall.

The first Group event of the season, a 10, was promoted by Bob Norton, using the Monks Heath to

Knutsford course on Wednesday, 9 April. In spite of the east wind (a cross wind) excellent times were recorded with Jerry Cross (50), Manchester Wheelers' Club, 21:40 (+5:05) fastest and best on Standard, ten seconds ahead of Andy Bennett, Omnipex Bioracer RT, 21:50 (+4:33). On Standard, Group member Brian Camfield, Stone Wheelers CC, 23: 20 (+4:54) was runner-up with Jim Gresty, North Shropshire Wheelers placed 3rd with 24:02 (+4:40). The Seamons CC trio of Paul McAllister (+3:17), Alan Chorley (+2:56) and Neil Rothwell (+1:39) won the team on Standard with a plus of 7:52. Gillian Reynolds (64), Willesden CC, won the women's prize with 27:11 (+3:12). An indication that Derek Hodgins (79), Stockport Clarion, was below par with a chesty cold was his 27:41 (+3:38) and he has subsequently been DNS in more recent events. However, I am assured he will be back. A car ran into the back of Derek's brother Ken when he was joining the normal Wednesday training run at Chelford on 15 May. Alex Young and Rob Nelson waited with him until the ambulance arrived. He has now been returned home badly bruised, but with no bones broken. Hope it's a quick recovery, Ken.

The Withington Wheelers' event, held on 6 April, was a repeat win for Andy Wilkinson, Port Sunlight Wheelers, 53:35 (+14:15) and best on Standard. David Wright, Warrington RC, was our fastest Group member, getting into the top 20 with his 1:00:04 (+8:48). Brian Camfield, Stone Wheelers CC, 1:01:08 (+10:50) and Roger Wrenn, Macclesfield Wheelers, 1:02:04 (+11:06) were well placed on Standard. Although Olympic medal holder, Joanne Rowsell, Wiggle Honda Pro Cycling Team, was DNF. Her father, Phil, riding for the North Cheshire Clarion, kept the family name on the finishing sheet with his 1:03:02 (+4:24), only six seconds behind the winner's wife, Jill Wilkinson.

A week later conditions had improved for the Macclesfield Wheelers event and 33 other riders followed the winner, Simon Bridge's 53:02, to post sub-hour rides. Simon Burke in 6th place with 55:35 was fastest from the promoting club. Group members include Dave Fearon, Weaver Valley CC, 58:26, Dave Wright 58:32 and Steve l'Anson,

Buxton CC, 59:37.

Saturday, 20 April saw Phil Tosh promoting the M&DTTA Championship 25 on J2/9. It was another win for the consistent Simon Bridge 53:22 (+13:04) best on Standard, backed up in second place by team-mate Scott Burns 54:07 and with S. Morton clocking 57:07 in 12th place made the Manchester Wheelers' Club team winners and they will take the Tom White Trophy at the annual Prize Presentation.

A very generous prize list included age categories for Veterans on Standard and Group members benefited from this largesse. In the 55-59 category Steve l'Anson pocketed £20 for his 1:01:04 (+8:15). In the 60-64 category it was Chris Knox, Lyme RC, who took the award for his 1:01:58 (+8:40). Brian Camfield benefited in the 65-69 category for his 59:54 (+12:14). And in the 70+ category David Steele, Lyme RC, was surprised to get £20 for his 1:17:45 (-2:02). Fastest woman was Sarah Byrne, Champion System/Maxgear, 1:01:10. As her club is not affiliated to the M&DTTA, the David Hamilton trophy and medal go to M. Bailey, Seamons CC, for her 1:09:49.

Events cancelled by weather were a part of our early season, but travelling north on 12 May for the VTTA National Championship 50 based on the Keswick/Cockermouth road, and taking with me medals, jersey, sash and hat for the winners, it was a shock on reaching the headquarters to find the event cancelled due to a road closed for road works. Barry Rimmer, promoter of the NLTTA event, which incorporated the VTTA Championship, had been assured the previous day that the event would be accommodated: cones would be moved to allow riders (not vehicles) through. On the morning of the event it was discovered that the workmen had not kept their word and the promoters had no alternative but to cancel the event. It will now be run

on Bank Holiday Monday, 26 August, starting at 2:00pm. News of this event and the longer distances next time (road works permitting!).

Spring should be a time of renewal. However, for me, this year it has been a time of sadness at the passing of old friends including three Honorary Life Members: Lilian Heald, Roy Swinnerton and Alan Brooks and also tricyclist supreme John Arnold. All are remembered in the obituary section.

Jim Ogden

MERSEYSIDE



Extracts from my diary:

Saturday 23rd March, Merseyside

Woke today to four inches of snow on the ground. Immediately started to receive phone calls from riders and marshals concerned about tomorrow's WCTCA 10 at Pulford. Some are blocked in; I can't remember conditions so bad in

The Veteran by Email

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March. Decided to cancel the event, I can't see it thawing by tomorrow. Spent the day emailing and phoning riders and officials. It was really nice, the number of riders who contacted me and thanked me for taking the decision away from them. No-one criticised. Will try to re-schedule the event for a few weeks time.

Monday 24th March, Merseyside

E mailed Cheshire police with a new police form for 7th April, very surprised that they replied so quickly and have agreed the event can go ahead as it wasn't four weeks notice. Need to contact everyone to see who can ride the re-scheduled event, and make sure the marshals are available.

Sunday 7th April, Merseyside

Managed to run the re-scheduled 10 today.

Only lost about 18 riders, most had entered the Crewe Clarion Hilly before they knew the new date. It was good that I could re-set the field, according to the new regulations, with no gaps. As I drove to the course at 6am this morning the temperature gauge in the car was down to minus 4 degrees! I was expecting a few non starters, but testers in North West England are a hard bunch, and braved the conditions. In the end a good event.

Sunday 14th April, Merseyside

Sent out the result sheet for the 10 today, and filed everything away. My first experience of using the Internet Entry system as an organiser and it was really easy. Much simpler to contact everyone by email. Packed the bikes ready for flying to Barry Clarke's training camp in Majorca on Friday. Phil Guy texted from Pollensa, it is 26 degrees and sunny there, can't wait. Haven't been able to do as many miles as usual with the poor weather and organising the 10, but it will be lovely to ride in the sun. We are a good group this year, Bryan and I, Darrell and Margaret Cooke (OPCC), Bob and Roberta Davies (NSW) and Dave and Lynn Wright (Warrington RC) plus everyone else on the camp.

Tuesday 23rd April, Cala Bona Majorca

Woke today and watched the sun rise over the

Mediterranean at 6.50am. Not a cloud in the sky – it's going to be a hot one! Went for a walk along the front before breakfast, decided to ride out in a sleeveless top and work on the tan.

Set out with Margaret Cooke from OPCC to ride to Petra for coffee and meet some club mates who are on holiday in Pollensa. Left Cala Bona at 9.30am and rode along the lanes through Son Carrio and San Llorenç to Manacor. The poppies are coming out, fields of wild flowers, birds singing, traffic free, 20 degrees C, what's not to like? Carried on from Manacor along a lane to Petra. Picked up a lovely tail wind, 26 miles an hour and effortless. Bound to pay for this later! Sat on Margaret's wheel for the final 6km to Petra into the head wind, she's stronger than me. Thought I wasn't going to catch that old local man pushing his bike up the last hill!

Arrived at Petra about 12 noon, Phil and Marie Guy (NSW) and Geoff Chaplin (Chester RC) were already there, having ridden from Pollensa to meet us. Also hubby Bryan and his Group 2 from the Barry Clarke camp. (And hundreds of other cyclists, this was my first time in Petra this year, but it was as busy as always). Bryan soon moved on, they had finished their portions of Strawberry cheesecake before we arrived. He put in another loop and did about 80 miles. Margaret and I settled down in the square in the sun with Phil and Co tucking into orange segments and coffee while we chatted. Forced ourselves to move after about an hour.

Set off for the return journey, head wind wasn't too bad as we took a different route back and managed to keep to a cross wind. Logged a 50 mile ride. Quick shower and settled down in the sun by the pool with my Kindle for a bit of R&R.

Got together with everyone else over dinner and drinks, we had all had a good day, enjoying the sunshine.

Sunday 12th May, Merseyside

NSW club 25 today. Cold and windy again, really unseasonal weather, but 35 riders signed on the line (not me - I was just a spectator) and it was won with a 56, so it couldn't have been too bad. I

don't mind admitting I am a fair weather rider. Roll on next year's training camp.

Time to start thinking about the SCCA 100 on 14th July, and send in the police notification. Hope we get plenty of Vets as it's the VTTA National 100 this year.

Morag Cliff

SURREY - SUSSEX



It has been a quiet three months since the last set of notes were prepared in February, and it is only a few weeks since the last *Veteran* thumped on the doormat.

Some of you will already have read most of the following through the emailed newsletter. If you have not received a copy then let me know (recorder@surreysussexvttta.org.uk)

Group members will already have competed in numerous events since the last magazine, including the ESCA Hardriders and the ESCA double weekend. It was at the ESCA ten when I found out that Peter Moon (our VTTA National 24 Hour Champion 2012) had been mountain biking, fallen off and hurt himself – well slight understatement.

He broke his neck. Although he won't be racing this year he seemed fine (although the large bolt through his neck was slightly unnerving).

Peter Tadros has been our most successful rider so far winning events in Kent & Sussex with a best 10 & 25 so far of 19m 44s and 52m 12s on very ordinary courses. Nick Dwyer has featured in the first half dozen in the events he has ridden.

The Group mid year committee meeting will be held after the Group ten on 10 June, so I am afraid you will have to wait until the next edition for an update of the meeting and more importantly the result of the 10 and who are this year's winners of the Stan Harvey and Wilf How trophies.

The other Group events this year are:

30 June – Group 30 Championship incorporated in the Lewes Wanderers event on G30/88.

Contact Rob Pelham

7 July - Group 25 Championship incorporated in the Bec CC event on G25/45

Contact Keith Butler.

14 July - Group 50 Championship hosted by ESCA on G50/90.

Contact Simon Yates

18 August - Group 100 Championship in ESCA 100 on G100/86.

This is a new championship with a medal up for grabs.

Contact Bob Harber.

1 September – Group 12 Hour Championship, which is another new award for us, will be run in the KCA 12 Hour on Q12HR.

Contact Esther Carpenter or look on the event website at www.kca12hour.org.uk.

To finish off we have the Group 25 event on 22 September on G25/89 organised by Group Chairman, Keith Wilkinson. If you are not riding I am sure he would be grateful for offers of help.

The Bec event is being run on the G25/45 Kingsfold course instead of the usual G25/53 in view of the extensive works being carried out on the A264 between Horsham and Crawley, which are causing a great deal of disruption to events in London South District this year.

I know membership numbers will be of interest

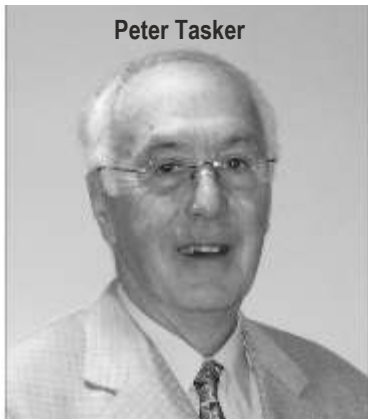
to some. Keith Wilkinson has worked like a Trojan to ensure the membership numbers have stayed the same this year. A few days before pulling these notes together he emailed to say his efforts had managed to secure some more renewals. So we lost 15 (one of these was an individual who joined the wrong Group so was always a bit of a bonus).

So welcome to the following new members:

Adrian Blacker (Norwood Paragon CC)
Jay Chisnall (Brighton Mitre CC)
Paul Clarkson (Kingston Wheelers CC)
John Cole (Tooting BC)
Ben Crick (East Grinstead CC)
Kaye Dyer (Crawley Wheelers)
Tom Glandfield (Lewes Wanderers CC)
Fred Green (29th Wheelers CC)
Paul Jackson (Charlotteville CC),
Andrew Jones (Charlotteville CC),
Gina McKeever (Brighton Mitre CC)
Michael Turner (Lewes Wanderers CC)
and finally welcome back to Michael Valks (Lewes Wanderers CC) who has rejoined after a year's absence.

Tim Carpenter

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES



There is a song we must all know which starts

'What a difference a day makes' well in the case of the Group change of course for the first two events of the year it should read 'What a difference a course makes'.

For both the Don Byham Memorial 10 on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May and the first of the Wednesday afternoon 10s promoted by David Matthews on the 8th May the new F11/10 was used and for the Monday event we had 131 entries and for the Wednesday race it was 100 entries. This new course on the Aston Clinton by-pass is quick with the winning time in the Monday event being 18.51 and the winning time for the Wednesday event was 18.39.

More on these results further down the script, let's start at the beginning of the season to see how the winter's training and possibly those who attend the Majorca training camps have performed.

Starting with the North Road CC Hard riders 25 in late February reduced to a 22 due to road works, we had Tim Davies clock 55.47 +11.16, Richard Moule 1.08.10 +1.09 and Tom Cosgrove 1.18.24 +11.21.

In the Maidenhead & District CC 29 on 10th March Geoff Powell clocked 1.13.46 and Greg Lewis 1.18.07 and a week later in the A5 Rangers Hilly 31 miler Trevor Parrish recorded 1.40.16.

On Good Friday in the Welwyn Wheelers 50Km reduced to 21 miles due to ice on the roads, Tim Davies clocked 56.19, Roger Porter 1.03.46, Richard Moule 1.04.49 and on the same day in the High Wycombe 10, Danuta Tinn passed the line in 24.14 +3.59, Malcolm Ash 26.38 +1.46, Peter Cockbain 27.08 +2.18, Gill Reynolds 29.26 +0.57 and Michelle Ayres 29.17 +0.18.

On weekend of 6th/7th April in the Team Sales Engine 10 on F15/10 Roy Porter clocked 22.46, Clive Faine 26.02, Trevor Parrish 26.35, Gill Reynolds 26.38 and visiting group member from Kings Lynn, Peter Hopkins 28.29. On Sunday the 7th in the Oxford Road Club 10 Cliff Grant recorded 26.45 +1.48 and Frank Pressling 27.13 +1.19 and on the same day in the Icknield RC Sporting 30Km over the Chiltern hills Tim Davies finished in 45.19 for 3rd place, John Dowling 49.24, Richard Moule

50.15, Clive Faine 58.04 and new group member Ian Beale 58.10 and a week later in the Beds Road CC 25 on the F1B south course Tim Davies clocked 57.22 for first place.

Moving on to the May day weekend, up north in the TA (NE) 10, Peter Hopkins on three wheels clocked 28.37. Now to the results of the two events on F11/10. Firstly the Monday event which I understand was a warm windless afternoon, I may have missed a few group rides but found the following: Tim Davies 20.11 +6.12, Geoff Powell 20.15, +6.39, Danuta Tinn 21.8 +6.55, Richard Moule 22.01 +5.13, Richard Williams 22.30 +6.12, Dave Rogers 22.51 +4.18, Peter Cockbain 23.46 +5.40, Malcolm Ash 23.55 +4.28, Clive Faine 23.59 + 4.24, Gill Reynolds 24.06 + 6.17, Frank Pressling 24.09 + 4.23 and Les Morris 24.47 + 4.15.

In the Wednesday afternoon event some of the riders said it was a better afternoon than the Monday and this was to some extent reflected in the times as a new course record was set with the fastest time of 18.39. Anyway, group riders' times were Jim Moffatt 19.51 +7.18, Tim Davies 19.58 +6.25, Geoff Powell 20.09 +6.45, John Dowling 20.47 +6.27, Greg Lewis 20.54 +5.51, Roger Porter 21.27 +6.56, Richard Williams 22.36 +6.06, Richard Moule 22.40 +4.34, Dave Rogers 22.49 +4.20, Cliff Grant 23.36 +4.47, Frank Pressling 23.57 +4.35, Peter Cockbain 24.10 +5.16, Gill Reynolds 24.55 +5.28, Brian Moon 26.35 +1.57 and 82 year old Chas Jepson 28.48 +3.35. Finally on tandem, Geoff Perry and Kevin Stokes clocked 19.38.

On the following weekend of 12th May I could only pick up group rides in the Norlond TTC 50 on F1 of Tim Davies 1.53.01 +24.51 and Dave Rogers 2.12.03 +10.16. However on Saturday 18th May in the morning in the North Road CC 25 out on the Guilden Morden circuit Roger Porter clocked 1.01.09 +14.28 and Richard Moule 1.03.43 +6.42 and in the afternoon in Lampard R.C 10 on F12/10 we had Tim Davies 22.06 +4.16, John Dowling 22.44 +4.24, David Creese 23.53 +3.40, Graham Pepperdine 24.13 +2.26, Stuart Simmonds 24.22 +2.25, Clive Faine 26.13 +1.51, Les Morris 26.40 +1.56, Colin Holmes 26.40 +1.56, John Hassell

28.25 – 0.13 and Brian Moon 29.13 – 1.01. Next morning in the High Wycombe CC 25 Geoff Powell clocked 54.16 +14.10, Paul Holdsworth 55.48 +11.50, Danuta Tinn 59.27 +13.35, Peter Harridge 1.01.57 +7.37, Dave Rogers 1.02.38 +6.27 and Frank Pressling 1.04.18 +8.26.

I know that some of the new group members and even some of the older members' rides have been missed off as it is very difficult to remember all the names of members who race and locate their rides in the CTT Results list of events on the website, hopefully I will catch a few more of your rides for the next report in September.

Perhaps the highlight of the season for the Group was the Championship 25, promoted on the 2 June.

It was open to VTTA members only and had an entry of 84 which included one tandem and seven women. The event was blessed with fine weather, although it was cold, particularly at the start at the top of the hill adjacent to the M40 junction. Thirty three marshals and helpers, all VTTA members, were out to cover the course and the morning was capped off by a presentation conducted by Gordon Wright who ensured a really grand finale.

To mark the occasion of the Group's 70th year, each rider was presented with a complimentary photograph of themselves in action on the day.

It is at this time of the year when Groups prepare their lists of removals from the membership database and in some quarters the reductions have been substantial. London and Home Counties seem to have bucked the trend somewhat as they welcome a further 27 new members since the publication of the last magazine—a total of 34 so far this year.

The latest recruits are:

Tim Burrows
Rik Froud
Michael Zuill
Joanna Spragg
Allan Simmonds
Lee Chaplin
Adrian Cox
Stuart Stow
Jenny Simmonds

Mike Appleyard
 John Hassell
 Richard Davies
 Rob Engers
 Vince Dey
 Robert Barrett
 Phil Brown
 Paul New
 Adrian Littlebury
 Peter Whitfield
 Dr Andrew Pearce
 Jeff Roberts
 Dave Spragg
 Tim Seddon
 Richard Burton
 Alan Crane

Enjoy your riding whether it be racing or just out getting the miles in with your club mates or on your own in this not so warm English so called summer.

NOTTS AND EAST MIDLANDS



The early season Lincolnshire RRA Middle-markers 25 held on 17 March turned out to be a cold, wet and windy day. Run on the exposed Saxilby course, only four riders managed to go under the hour, which included Ronald McWilliam, VC Lincoln with a plus of +8:46 from an actual of 59:14 which gave him 4th place overall. First on

standard was Peter Jones, Lincoln Wheelers with +12:19 from an actual of 1:9:34, with team mate John Woolley +10:23 from an actual 1:10:18. Taking 15th position overall Ian Pike now with Fenland RC gave a good performance with a +05:30 from an actual of 1:02:30 with, Paul Mabletoft, Kiveton Park CC just behind +07:59 from an actual of 1:02:36. Winner of the open event were riders, senior Joel Wainman Team Swift 57:16 came in 1st, 2nd Joseph Evans, Hargroves Cycles RT 57:22 and 3rd Richard Robinson Scunthorpe Poly CC 58:06.

Sleaford Wheelers' Annual Charity 10 held on 30 March was thankfully dry but run in very cold conditions which made the going hard. Ian Dalton, Cherry Valley RT took the honours setting the fastest time on the day of 22:12, 2nd Richard Eve, Wisbech Wheelers CC 23:04 and 3rd James Hedley-Smith, Clay Cross RT 23:04. Simon Inman, Mapperly CC 6th 23:39, Clare Ella, Born to Bike was the fastest lady 24: 50, Malcolm Church, Fenland Clarion came 36th with 25:38, 44th John Needham, Alford Wheelers 26:43 and finally my club mate Anthony Hardenburg, Witham Wheelers CC continuing to improve on 27:16.

VTTA (NEM) 27 April by all accounts was a very hard day, but it didn't stop senior Matt Bottrill www.drag2zero.co.uk going fastest on the day completing the course in 49:53 almost a full four minutes in front of second man Adam Gascoigne, Pedal Power Loughborough, with James Perkins, Team Zenith – Buzz Cycles on 54:06. First year VTTA Member Chris Pike MG Decor-Team Carbon Bikes came in with a 56:18 finishing 6th overall and 1st on standard with a +9:42. Steve Howgill, Leicester Forest RC 59:15 was 13th overall with a +8:35 which put him 3rd on standard. Just pipping Steve on standard was Michael Wills Hinckley CRC with an actual time of 1:00:16 giving him a +8:36. Peter Lavine, Coalville Wheelers came in 6th on standard with a +7.43 from an actual 1:02:06 and the South Pennine trio of Dave Bates 4th on standard 5th +8:04 from an actual of 1:03:54, Ken Stevens 5th +7:49 from an actual of 1:15:17 and Jeff Bowler 8th +7:10 from an actual of 1:06:00.

South Pennine 25 on 11 May again was also hard going. NEM members Steven Howgill, Leicester RC had an excellent ride on 56:05 with Peter Lavine, Coalville Wheelers CC not far behind on 56:23. Senior Matt Bottrill, www.drag2zero.com, seems to take the weather conditions all in his stride with an amazing 48:09, second fastest Adam Gascoigne, Pedal power Loughborough on 51:16.

Melton 10 held on 18 May was a dry but cold breezy day with Chris Pike MG Decor-Team Carbon Bikes fastest overall veteran on an actual of 21:31 +4:33 just in front of team mate Geoff Platts on a actual 21:34 but with a +5:52 which gave Geoff the 1st on standard position with Chris 2nd. Peter Lavine, Coalville Wheelers CC was 3rd on standard with a +4:15 from an actual of 23:11. Joint 4th on standard was fiercely contested with Stephen Howgill, Leicestershire RC with an actual of 22:30 giving him a +4:11 with Robert Gray, Pedal Power Loughborough an actual of 21:53 but the same plus of +4:11. Sleaford Wheelers' David Smith had a good ride on 24:42 Actual with a +3:02 being placed 25 overall and wife Kathy showing good form with an actual of 26:20 and a +3:24 putting her 9th in the Vet standings. Other Good rides: Nev Bray, Coalville Wheelers CC 25:19 actual, +3:13, Martin Lister, Witham Wheelers CC 25:49 + 1:49, Anthony Hardenberg, Witham

Wheelers continually improving on last year's times 26:35 +1:16 and local rider David York, Ratae RC coming in on 27:12 +0:26. It was good to see Kathy Platts, MG Decor competing again, with a finishing time of 27:18 and +1:06.

Norman Portess, Melton Olympic has unfortunately has had a set back from the leg fracture received after falling off in December last year. A pin which held the reinforcing plate to the fracture had worked loose and has had to be re-set. Our best wishes and we all hope the new work is successful and that you are soon back riding Norman. Those members that ride East Midland events will have noticed that Norman is keeping time keeper Bill Stanley in order by acting as his clerk.

Short Distance Competition, our secretary Russell Gent has ask me to draw members' attention to the new National VTTA Short Distance Competition. It will be calculated on your best two plus/minus times at 10 and 25 miles in any CTT authorised events. As with the BAR and three distance BAR please submit your claims to Graham Green, our Recorder, in early October so the Graham can forward them to the National recorder by the end of October. The details are set out in the 2013 handbook on page 28 (item 3.7 and 3.8)



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

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

NORTH LANCS AND LAKES



There was great disappointment when officials and riders arrived at Braithwaite village hall near Keswick which was the headquarters for the North Lancashire Time Trials Association/VTTA National 50 Championship and found that the event had been cancelled.

On the previous day the course was clear but by the following morning a mile or so of bollards had been erected down the centre of one of the carriageways on the only dual stretch and the opposite section closed for repair. As this contravenes CTT regulations on safety grounds, in such a situation there was no alternative but to cancel.

At the time of going to press it had been decided to hold the event on a later date with August Bank Holiday Monday (26th) at 2pm being agreed. New CTT regulations for 2013 allow additional entries in such a situation from this year so it should still be possible to enter and ride this Championship on that date.

Our only Group promotion to date has been the 25 of Richard Taylor on Wednesday 17 April on the -sometimes quite fast but mostly very slow!- L2521 two lap course taking in that wonderful but

notorious stretch of windswept road across Pilling Sands twice!

These sort of courses never seem to slow the top riders as much as the slower - and more numerous- ones with our group Vice- Chairman Paul Fleming of Preston Wheelers still getting around in 57:15, just a precious two seconds faster than Nigel Haigh of the charity raising Strategic Lions club and Paul Shalliker of Coveryourcar.co.uk. RT third in 58-31. When it came to Standard, however, no-one could beat our 2012 National 3-Distance Champion Pete Greenwood of Clayton Velo, who had to clock an actual of 1-00-24 for fourth fastest which gave him a Plus - on 2013!! Standards- of 10-42. Second on Standard was Paul Fleming and third Brian Sunter with an actual of 1-03-52 giving a plus of 9-45. There was a battle between the two ladies with Sue Cheetham (North Lancs. Road Club) returning 1-13-00 for a plus of 0-15 and just beating Sharon Clifford of Coventry RC whose 1-14-03 gave a plus of nine seconds less of +0.06.

The Wigan Wheelers' 30 mile around similar roads on Sunday 28 April was hit by atrocious weather and following their 10 on the previous day, 25 failed either to start or otherwise reach the finishing timekeeper. The event is a selected one for our Group Championship this year and fastest on the morning was non-Vet John Morgan with a top ride in the conditions of 1-10-27. Nigel Haigh took third in 1-12-32 for a third placed plus of +7-37 with Paul Fleming fourth fastest in 1-13-07 and plus of +8-16 for second in that category but top of the 'plusses' again went to Pete Greenwood with an actual of 1-16-10 giving a winning +9-07.

Since the last copy of The Veteran some modifications have been made by the Committee to the events that will qualify for the North Lancs and Lakes Group Points Competition- it is now:

10 miles	26 June 1900	L105
NL and L	Event Sec. David Shorrocks	
14 Duckworth Drive	Garstang PR3 1YS	
(Not as in Handbooks)		
25 miles	17 April 1300	L2521
NL and L	Event Sec Richard Taylor	

25 miles	19 June 1900	L256
NL and L	Event Sec. Richard Taylor	
(Max 60 riders)		
25 miles	28 July 0700	L2525
Lancashire Road Club	Event Sec. Glen Bower	
25 miles1	8 August 0700	L256
West Pennine RC	Event Sec. Richard Taylor	
25 miles	08 September 0730	L2524
Lancaster CC	Event Sec. Adrian Ibison	
30 miles	28 April 08-30	L304
Wigan Whs.	Event Sec. Amanda Black	
50 miles	16 June 0900	L505
Border City Whs	Event Sec. Paul King (Helmets compulsory)	
50 miles	26 August 2pm	NLTTA
(VTTA Championship)	Event Sec. Barry Rimmer	
100 miles	14 July 0700	L1009
Lancashire RC (CTT Championship)	Event Sec. Mike Smith	

Note that entries for this CTT Championship must be in by 18 June - 4 weeks before the event.

To qualify for the Group Championship riders must ride at least four events of which one must be a 50 or a 100.

Honorary Life Member Ruth Smith had a simple but nasty fall in her home in Earby and fractured her femur in the same leg as her knee replacement of some years ago. After some delay in gaining access to her she was taken initially to Royal Blackburn Hospital. At the time of writing Ruth is in the Pendle Community Hospital in Nelson where she is having daily physiotherapy to increase her mobility which will be required before she can be released. I am sure that I pass on our very Best Wishes for a rapid recovery not just from VTTA members but her many friends in our sport.

We welcome recent new members of the Group : Calum Campbell of Skelton, Penrith, Shaun Taylor of Chorley, Jason Nappin of Bolton with Mike Westmorland rejoining us after stating that his

protest over the New Standards is now over!

Dave Brown

SOUTH WALES



I started the quarter with two weeks in Puerto Pollenca in late February, a brief escape from a very cold British winter. As ever, conditions were better down there and I was able to get some 700 training miles under the belt. I guess I should have stayed there, because the weather in South Wales through March and April remained a serious obstacle to almost any outdoor activity.

However there was activity, we have to congratulate some of the braver members of VTTA South Wales for getting out in such spooky weather. Scanning their results, I note that the West Wales 10 held on April 6th had marched westwards to Pembrey, Carmarthenshire. Their times indicate a cold and windy parcours with only 24 finishing including our members, David Brice, Bynea CC with 23.48 +3.18, John Shehan Bynea CC in 25.25 +4.50, Sally Harmer posting 28.46 and Tom Samuel finishing with a valiant 35.16.

Moving forward to 14 April when Acme CC (Rhondda) returned to promoting their annual 25. This event was first held in 1935 and it's great that

the club felt able to run it again. Unfortunately, the weather failed to co-operate and conditions turned out cold, wet and windy. Just 33 out of 80 entrants reached the finish line. A few of our most tenacious members hung in, including David Evans, Worcester St Johns 57.59, John Shehan, Bynea CC 1.2.27, Ed Hadley, Hereford Wheelers 1.4.22, Paul Griffiths, Acme CC 1.9.04 and Ron Boast, Ogmores Valley 1.12.36 – “Chapeau” to them from the rest of us who stayed at home.

There was one more event held in April, the Bynea CC 30 on Sunday the 21st on yet another cold 6c and rainy day. I must commend David Brice for recording 1.13.13, Paul Coleman clocked in at 1.18.42 followed by John Shehan 1.19.49, Nick Forbes 1.27.26, Ron Boast 1.28.58, Paul Griffiths 1.33.22, Tom Samuel 1.48.52 and Norman James 1.50.38 – to all those riders, congratulations for finishing in such conditions. Without doubt, April 2013 missed out in the weather stakes and on Sunday 28th came the final twist with cancellation of the Ogmores Valley 25 after a road traffic crash rendered the course unsafe for competition.

The holiday weekend of 4th and 5th May saw a marked improvement in the weather and happily this coincided with VTTA South Wales Gordon Butler Memorial 10 held on the Saturday afternoon. A stiff westerly breeze may have slowed some, but the warm sunshine acted as a positive counter. Our members posted the following times:- David Brice 22.14, Paul Cannon 22.37, John Shehan 24.04, Jeff Adams 24.42, Pete Murrieri 25.01, Nick Forbes 25.39, Barry Williams 25.49, Ed Hadley 25.50, Derek Morgan 28.40, Ken Squibb 29.28, and Paul Durrant 35.55, slower than usual, did he have a mechanical? Also not forgetting Bob Jones, a hard working member who did a great job organising this event.

The following Sunday morning saw the Welsh Championship 25 on the record breaking R25/3L course. With 239 entered and 197 finishers the event represents a great testimony to Welsh cycling with a special pat on the back for WCA secretary, Robin Fields for organising this large and very popular event. Checking the results, none of our

members made the first page of the leader board. Jeff Jones was the winner in 48.28 closely followed by Andy Wilkinson 48.56. Andy must be a very special athlete; I understand that he did not use the obligatory streamlined time trial machine, instead he powered around the course on his work bike. Amazing! Considering most of the field were thrashing down that drag strip on their £5000 carbon specials. Fifteen VTTA South Wales members recorded the following times:- Paul Coleman 56.22, Paul Cannon 56.25, John Shehan 59.31, Pete Murrieri 1.01.24, Jeff Adams 1.02.29, Nick Forbes 1.04.14, Barry Williams 1.04.34, Ed Hadley 1.05.57, Paul Griffiths 1.06.17, Ron Boast 1.07.00, Clive Chappe 1.07.15, Jeff Chambers 1.15.08. This was another day with a stiff breeze and many of the group, including your correspondent, had competed in the previous day's 10, resulting in some serious leg ache for those with a low pain barrier. I was glad to see that our National Treasurer, Cliff Grant got around in 1.01.39, hopefully Cliff, you enjoyed the fresh breeze that circulated in our valleys last Sunday morning.

I am pleased that more than 40 VTTA South Wales members have renewed their subscriptions for 2013; a few are still holding back and this is a reminder that if you wish to qualify for the group trophies and awards for 2013 you should renew asap. We managed to hold a meeting after the “Gordon Butler Memorial 10”. Derek Morgan attended and agreed to take over the recording of what was the standard awards and is now the performance awards. Derek, many thanks for joining our team. Rob Jones will continue as Event Secretary and I will carry on as Secretary, Treasurer and Scribe. – Rob has asked me to remind members that our trophy events for 2013 are as follows:- 10: Pontypool CC on 18th August, 25: Ross on Wye CC on 14th July, 50: Cardiff 100 Miles RCC on 4th August, 100: WCA on 11th August and the 12: WCA on 1st September.

If this South Wales group is to survive we still need more help from willing members. Therefore, it would be much appreciated if any member with

email and computer could take over the recording of times and arranging the engraving of cups and medals etc. Please contact me if you are interested.

I will conclude by wishing everyone safe and enjoyable cycling.

Barry Williams
South Wales - Group Secretary & Treasurer.

NORTH



Group News seems to be evaporating, What can I say?

Our first event of 2013 was a first time promotion by James Allen with 28 finishers, unfortunately only eight of these were North Group members. Our congratulations go to James on an excellent promotion, although he did have one problem which seems to be quite common, this being the poor attempts at completing the entry form by many of the riders. The first riders to get points on board are: Standard; M.Harris 20 points (also the Nouveau Shield). D. Robinson 19 points; C.Fenwick 18 points. Actual: D.Robinson 20 points; C.Fenwick 19 points; M.Harris 18 points. Handicap: I.Bryan 20 points; R.Sill 19 points; A. Armstrong 18 points.

Our membership is steadily dwindling, 19 have not renewed, only 60 paid this year. We have three new Honorary Life Members: Albert Harrison,

George Hugill and Ken Longstaff. Eighteen of our members have contributed towards medals which are to be awarded for success in the new *Performance Awards* scheme, about which I would like to hear your comments. My personal opinion is that while there may be some merit in the basic idea, the mathematics are incomprehensible and bear little relation to the real world. Perhaps we should consider running our own Group scheme using the new improved tables of Standard times.

One more thing, please do remember to submit your claims for Trophies, Competitions and any Group Age Records which you may have set to our Recorder, Dave Oliver, by the 20th of October. By the time that you read this (June) you will not have a lot of time left if you require any claim forms; please contact Dave or myself

Les Dawson

WEST



With the temperature seldom getting above 10 degrees for weeks it has been a slow start to the season. When you feel reluctant to get into your shorts for the first time at the end of April then you have to agree that it has been a pretty cool spring this year.

I have just returned from a few days in West

Flanders and it is no better over there, the cool breeze off the North Sea was particularly troublesome. With flat roads and wide-open spaces it was good to be able to tuck in behind strong and reasonably large Belgian club mates. Cycling-wise they do have it pretty good. There are safe and well protected cycle paths to take you everywhere you might want to go and when you do come across motorists they are ultra respectful of anyone on two wheels. We really have got a long way to go to catch up with the facilities that they have on offer.

The Northover Vets 10 and two-up event on the 1st of April was a particularly cold morning, with a goody wind behind the riders as they left the timekeeper. However, the return journey was a different proposition and was quite an ordeal with everyone more than pleased to get back to the warmth of the changing room in the village of Cross.

It was to be the day of the WestVets prize presentation, but there was a very disappointing turn-out when our President Ted King stepped up to hand out a glittering display of trophies to the worthy winners. Please chaps, try to make more of an effort to pick up your medals and give the winners a cheer in future. It helps to make the hard work of the committee members worthwhile and also saves us the inconvenience and expense of having to distribute them by alternative means.

Next year we have in mind to provide a proper celebration evening which we hope will receive much more enthusiastic support. Something like the ones we used to have when Janet Wilson was our secretary. If anyone has any bright ideas about how we should organise this event they would be very welcome indeed.

I regret to inform WestVets and other interested parties that the Western Counties RRA has had to freeze its present assets and put its operation into what we hope will be temporary storage. Interest in this branch of the sport has diminished to such an extent that there have been no new record attempts or even prospective inquiries in the last five years. Many other regions and indeed the National RRA seem to be suffering

from the same symptoms. As a past general secretary I am very sad that things have gone this way and hope that at some time there might be a revival. We have set up a board of trustees to manage our current assets and to look into the possibility that things might be put back in place in the future. Our hopes are not high but one never knows what might turn up.

Our new editor Mike Jupp has produced his first magazine, which was very well received. He has just completed his second issue and as I write I understand it is on its way to the printers. Needless to say he is always looking for material and I am sure every one of us has an interesting story to tell. So get out your pens or word processors and give it to him.

Little other news has come my way, but if you would like to get in touch I will always welcome anything I can use to fill out our bit of space in the magazine. Now that the season is in full swing I shall be out and about and hope to meet many more of you at events either as a competitor or a helper and let's not forget that organisers need all the help they can get, so why not pick up the phone and volunteer.

Review of a new book

I have just taken possession of a most interesting and informative new book which I can heartily recommend. It's by Dave Bater and is titled 'Great British Bike Rides'. I can only describe it as a comprehensive manual of some of the best British bike rides imaginable. It is stacked with information, maps contours and route details, and as far as I am concerned it is quite a unique source of reference to add to my library. The pictures alone make it a stunning presentation as I am sure many of you will already have tackled some of the suggested rides. More than anything for me it is book of ideas, an inspiration and a definite starting point to plan some really interesting and rewarding rides. Do take a look on <http://www.greatbritishbikerides.co.uk>, you won't be disappointed.

Brian Griffiths

WESSEX

Down here we've just about got our heads around the new Awards system and most seem to like its simplicity. Wearing my Group recorder's hat. I have written to the 20 or so who had entered for Standards informing them that said entries were being deemed as entry for Performance Awards. Good news for those, the majority, who having made no claim in 2012 had no target times to aim at. Eazy, peazy.

My limited investigation appears to show that 80 year old Norman Harvey became the first Wessex member to achieve a Performance Award, whilst being encumbered with a target time. This was with a 25 in 1:12:32 in the B&DCA 25 on 18 May. Also shining in that event were 69 year old Terry Icke with 56:25 and new member Ray Hughes with 57:08, just 14 seconds slower than his time in the earlier Sotonia 25. Terry has shone in most local events so far this year, taking a clutch of best on standards. His 1:56:54 in the Wessex RC 50 indicated stamina as well as speed. Fingers-crossed, Terry is limbering up for more of Vets' national records this year.

A new member truly burning a trail is a3crg's Sebastian Ader, winner of the Hampshire RC 10 with 19:52 and 13th with 20:46 in the CTC National Championship 10.

However, my biggest fillip in watching this year's results was seeing 1:5:10 beside the name of Crabwood's Dave England in the B & D.W.C.A. 25. It was only a few months back that we were fearing the worst as Dave suffered grievous injuries when struck by a hit and run merchant.

As a newcomer to this task of assembling statistics for the *Veteran* Notes, I have already run out of steam and append a shortened version of a piece which I proffered a month or two ago for our BJW Newsletter. You'll find somewhere in the later pages.

Peter Warhurst

KENT

Kent Group's Submission to Spring Veteran
2013

Omitted in error.

First, a correction to my report which appeared in the winter edition of the *Veteran*. In that edition, I reported on discussion that had taken place at the Group's Committee last year, and in particular our Secretary's report which discussed standards and any hoped for amendments to them at the National AGM. My report in the *Veteran* included the following quote: "*We did have a reply from the General Secretary which didn't give any hope that things may change. Basically the committee involved with the changing standards will assess the situation when all the results have been collated but feel that there would only be minor changes if any at all.*" The General Secretary, in the reply referred to, actually stated "*As claims for the BAR and Three Distance Competitions do not have to be in before 31 October, I believe that the Standards Working Party is waiting until the beginning of November before finalising changes to the Standards Tables, although I do know that there will be changes proposed*". It was never the intention of my report to be a direct quote of the General Secretary's letter; rather a report on the actual discussion that had taken place at our own Committee, as recorded in the minutes, which also reflected members' opinions and views at that time.

The Group's Annual Lunch and Prize Giving was held on 17th February at Smarden Charter Hall. The organisation by our departing social secretaries, Bernadette Conefrey and Angela Nye, was, I think everyone in attendance would agree, faultless and the event was certainly amongst the best I can remember. The Guest of Honour was Keith Butler, who gave an excellent talk on his experiences in the professional cycling world and some interesting character sketches of his rider friends and colleagues of the day. Dave Wright's response included thanks to Keith on behalf of those present and some very witty anecdotes from Dave's own catalogue of stories. MC duties once again fell to Paul Mephram who ensured proceedings, in particular the presentation ceremony, were enlivened with his vast knowledge of the Kent time trial scene. There was, as usual, some excellent cross-toasting during the lunch.

The Group's Committee was due to meet on Sunday 20th January, but the meeting was

cancelled at short notice due to adverse weather. The Group's programme of events kicks off on Saturday 9th March with the ten mile event on Q10/22 for the Mick Dansie Cup. Here's hoping for some nice spring weather to get the season off to a fine start!

Safe training out there and the very best to all for an excellent 2013 season.

Ian Turner

SCOTLAND

Introduction

After a few early season hiccups due to the weather the racing is at last in full swing and the first two of our own events have now taken place. Reports and results from the Boomerang Trophy and the 10 mile championship can be found below.

'Cold, wet and windy' seems to be the common theme, although riders from the west seem to have fared better, escaping the worst of the raw winds and snow showers that rolled in off the North Sea day after day after relentless day (you get the idea!) in early Spring, so disrupting pre-season training

Most riders are reporting a slow start to their racing and talking of being late in getting up to speed, so let's hope for better conditions for the remainder of the season ahead.

Escaping the Scottish weather by heading to warmer climes were a party of veterans on Iain Binning's trip to Majorca and we begin with a report on this trip from Iain McLeod.

Majorca 2013

Several of the Scottish group members were in a group of 35, who went to the Puerto Azul hotel in Port de Pollença, Mallorca at the end of April for a week of cycling in the sun, organised by Iain Binning. This was the tenth year that Iain has been the organiser and a new design jersey was created to mark the occasion. Thanks are due to Iain and Bob Hayley for designing and sourcing the jersey. Thanks also due to the sponsors whose

contributions helped to keep the cost down – The Bike & Ski Clinic, Pats Aerobics, The George Hotel Edinburgh, Alien Rock Indoor Climbing, Tangram Furnishers and Equinox Outdoors.

The weather was wet for the first three days but most of the group managed to get some decent runs completed. Thereafter it was almost 100% sun.

Possibly because of the rainy days, a few of the group were struck down with colds and tummy upsets. Also a good number of punctures and various mechanical failures were experienced. A Garmin computer was stolen from a bike parked close to its owner, so be aware and take care to avoid this rare but costly hazard.

Even after ten years, some first time visits were Boomerang two up team time trial, which was taking place the day after we returned to Scotland!

As always, the camaraderie within the group, with other cycling groups, with the hotel staff and with Mallorcan people helped to ensure that this was a very enjoyable week.

Racing

The first of our Group events, the *Boomerang Trophy*, attracted its biggest entry yet. Stirling Bike Club, who kindly organised the event, had to deal with a surplus of entries and thankfully of those lucky enough to make it onto the start sheet all but one team made it to the start. The conditions were far from perfect and the day featured a very cold west wind.

In an event largely dominated by fast veterans, Dooleys' Davie Gibson partnered by Arthur Doyle emerged as winner with +22:30 also coming second in the open event by a scant 10 seconds to clubmates Tam Gordon and Iain Grant. This year the course was shortened by a couple of miles with competitors turning at the first Stirling roundabout, so comparisons with previous years' record times cannot be made, but I think we can assume that it would have been there or thereabouts.

For the full results see *Results* pages.

Two weeks later in May our 10 mile championship, for the *Jim & Betty Train Trophy*, was held on the Cambusbarrow course in an event

kindly run by the Law Wheelers. Defending champion Davie Millar rode his first race of the year but was pushed into second place this year by Deeside Thistle's Derek Stewart who took the trophy into his care for the next 12 months by recording +6:29, over a minute clear on standard.

Although the day was not as cold as of late there was persistent mist and drizzle with a wind from the east making the homeward leg quite tough. (See *Results*)

In other racing, SVTTA members won bronze medals in both the women's and men's categories at the Scottish Cycling 10 mile championship held on the Freuchie course in Fife; congratulations to Christine McLean and Iain Grant respectively.

On the very same day, three of our members made the effort to travel down to the Lake District to compete in the VTTA national 50 mile championship but were thwarted by a late race cancellation half an hour before the scheduled race start. A stretch of contraflow on the course was deemed too dangerous for the race to go ahead and it will now take place in August.

We are trying to update our website on a weekly basis with a summary of times recorded by members at that week's racing. It won't always get done but we'll do our best, so please remember to go to www.svttta.org.uk for the latest news.





VTTA KIT

The Clothing is now subject to VAT,
hence an increase in prices.

However, the kit is
still very competitive
on price and quality.

Jersey Short Sleeve	Zip: ½, ¾, full, concealed	Coolmax fabric, high performance	£30.00
Jersey, winter, long sleeve	Zip: ½, ¾, full, concealed	Winter jersey to keep you warm	£36.00
Bibshort	Lycra short with high quality pad		£36.00
Skinsuit	Lycra with high quality pad, zip options available		£52.80
Windtex Jackets	Waterproof—heavy duty fabric		£57.60

Sizing Chart (inches)

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Chest	36/38	38/40	40/42	42/44	44/46	46/48	48/50	50/52
Waist	29/32	31/33	32/34	33/35	34/36	35/37	36/39	37/41
Women								
Chest	34/35	35/37	37/39	39/41	41/43	43/44	44/46	46/47
Waist	25/27	27/28	28/30	30/31	31/33	33/35	35/36	36/38

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RESULTS AND DIARY

North Midlands—Group Trophies 2012

Watson Trophy 29 Prestige Points Julian Ramsbottom (40)

Cleethorpes Shield 10 Miles Julian Ramsbottom

Sheffield Ctl Trophy 20 and 30 miles Julian Ramsbottom

Julian also gained a National and Group Age Record with 18:47 for ten miles

Susie Denham BAR Trophy

Alex Deck (L) 44/5 Trigon RST

*Alex also took Group Age Records with 22:34 at 10 miles,
1:13:06 for 30 and 2:01:50 for 50*

Meersbrook Trophy Short Distance Trophy Alan Cooke (48)

Alan, of Matlock CC, also achieved a Group Age Record at 25 miles—51:23

Sharman Trophy 50 miles Tony Keyworth (Kiveton Park CC)

Ron Blythe Trophy 18Km Tony Nash (46/7) Scunthorpe Poly CC

*Tony broke two Group Age Records with 19:38 for 10 miles
And 50:58 for 25 miles*

Beardsley Trophy 12 Hours Graham Barker, Congleton CC

*Graham (62) also teamed up with Chris Duggleby to achieve Group Age Records
for the tandem with 21:02 (10); 57:44 (25) and 2:02:25 (50)*

More age records as follows;

Mike Allen(66) Belper CC when 65 broke the Group age record with 20:31 for a 10m.

On reaching 66 he went on to get age records for 10 miles with 20:48 and 52:37 for a 25m.

Kevin Dawson age 42 of Strategic Lions achieved a Group age record for a 30 with 59:57.

John Mould age 80 of Lindsey Roads CC achieved a Group age record for a 10 with 25:00.

Scotland Group

Boomerang Trophy—22 Mile Two-Up Team Time Trial

Pos	Name	Club	Age	Time	Plus
	Arthur Doyle	Dooleys Cycles			
01	David Gibson	Dooleys Cycles	51	45.44	+22.30
	Iain Williamson	Denny Road Club			
02	Iain McLeod	Denny Road Club	74	54.14	+22.06
	Tam Gordon	Dooleys Cycles			
03	Iain Grant	Dooleys Cycles	42	45.34	+20.52
	John Campbell	Royal Albert CC			
04	Derek Stewart	Deeside Thistle CC	76	56.58	+20.43
	Matt Ball	West Lothian Clarion			
05	Steve Beech	Sandy Wallace Cycles	63	50.37	+20.39
	David Pritchard	Kennoway Road Club			
06	Alan Solway	Kennoway Road Club	62	54.02	+16.55
	Derek Ditty	Stirling Bike Club			
07	Neil McFarlane	Falkirk Bicycle Club	68	56.22	+16.48
	Richard McGhee	Vortex Racing Team			
08	Jeremy Greengrass	Vortex Racing Team	49	52.00	+15.50
	Sean Gray	Dooleys Cycles			
09	Robert S.Taylor	Dooleys Cycles	67	57.32	+15.12
	Robert Marshall	Hardie Cycles.com			
10	Andy Kilpatrick	Right-Move Windows	52	54.03	+14.23
	Scott McLelland	Lomond Roads CC			
11	Allan Ross	Lomond Roads CC	53	54.20	+14.19
	Kenny Kentley	Ecosse Sportive			
12	Graeme Hay	Stirling Bike Club	44	52.41	+14.10
	James Skinner	Royal Albert CC			
13	George Skinner	Royal Albert CC	67	59.36	+13.08
	George Welch	East Kilbride Road Club			
14	Tony Nugent	East Kilbride Road Club	43	53.54	+ 12.45
	Graeme Walsh	Stirling Bike Club			
15	Mark Leadbetter	Stirling Bike Club	46	55.04	+12.13
	Nicola Smith	Lomond Roads CC			
16	Gordon Dick	Lomond Roads CC	46	56.23	+11.52
	Douglas Flynn	Stirling Bike Club			
17	James Prentice	Stirling Bike Club	66	60.47	+11.37
	Aleks Jurczick	West Lothian Clarion			
18	Philip Jurczick	West Lothian Clarion	67	62.48	+09.56
	Gavin Laffoley	Fife Century Road Club			
19	Alister Speed	Fife Century Road Club	48	58.30	+09.08
	Nigel Brooks	Stirling Bike Club			
20	Archie Johnstone	Stirling Bike Club	55	65.29	+03.36
	Sean Newall	Royal Albert CC			
21	Graham Newton	Stirling Bike Club	41	65.15	+00.58

Scotland Group
The Jim and Betty Train Trophy
Ten Mile Championship

<i>Name</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>+ or --</i>
Derek Stewart	Deeside Thistle	76	23.54	6.29
David Millar	Glasgow Couriers	67	23.04	5.28
Steve Nutley	Sandy Wallace Cycles	57	22.02	5.18
Iain McLeod	Denny Road Club	74	25.18	4.35
Jocky Johnstone	Team Icarus RT	71	24.47	4.27
Brendan McCabe	Aberdeen Wheelers	49	22.26	4.15
Steve Beech	Sandy Wallace Cycles	63	24.03	3.56
Steve McLuskie	VC Glasgow South	43	22.35	3.38
Robert McGraw	Deeside Thistle	62	24.58	2.53
David Pritchard	Kennoway Road Club	56	24.26	2.48
Douglas Kirkham	Musselburgh R.C.C.	47	23.45	2.47
Alan Solway	Kennoway Road Club	62	25.11	2.40
Neil McFarlane	Falkirk Bicycle Club	68	26.03	2.39
Robert Cooper	Law Wheelers	72	27.03	2.23
Alex Munro	Lancashire Road Club	80	29.3	2.07
Mike Ferguson	Johnstone Wheelers	56	25.12	2.02
Graham Jones	Edinburgh Road Club	48	24.37	1.59
Alan Ross	Lomond Roads CC	53	25.22	1.37
Iain Binning	Stirling Bike Club	65	27.09	1.05
James Smith	Glasgow Nightingale	60	26.46	0.52
Alistair Speed	Fife Century R.C.	48	25.47	0.49
Robert Hayley	Law Wheelers	53	26.31	0.28
Michael Devlin	St. Christopher C.C.	71	29.52	-0.38
Tom Cummings	Fife Century R.C.	65	28.55	-0.41
David Mitchell	Perth United C.C.	67	30.53	-2.28
Frank Anderson	West Lothian Clarion	61	DNS	
Gordon Johnson	Sandy Wallace Cycles	75	DNS	
Andrew Kilpatrick	Right-Move Windows	52	DNS	

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 30

Barry Quick

Due to difficulties with booking the original HQ, the event was held on a new course in Yorkshire, the V246, starting at Asenby (A168) then via Dishforth, and twice round South Kilvington, Topcliffe circuit, finishing at Topcliffe. The HQ was Dalton Village Hall only a few miles from the start. The morning was cool with a little mist but it was dry and, with only a gentle northerly breeze, some fast times appeared on the cards.

Organiser Bob Tate had a few nervous moments when road cones were discovered on the verge but luckily they stayed there and caused no problems. During the pre race reconnaissance, some oil spillage was noted on the Dishforth roundabout but riders were notified of this at the start and no problems ensued.

The event was very well marshalled and apart from this correspondent suffering a "senior moment" and circling the first South Kilverton roundabout twice no other problems were reported! The after race refreshments at the hall were excellent with everyone commenting favourably upon them.

Bob Tate thanked all of his team for ensuring a successful and well run event including the timekeepers, the sixteen marshals, Tony Stott for putting out and collecting the road signs and Barbara Barker, Janet Tate and Hazel Stott for looking after the catering. He also commented upon how much more noticeable competitors were when their bikes were fitted with rear lights, something to bear in mind for the future.

The results were determined swiftly following the event and the winner, on both Time and Standard was Bob Pears of Bath CC, repeating his success of last year and setting the first course record for this new course!

Many thanks to Bob and his team for promoting this excellent Championship on behalf of the VTTA

Prizewinners

Gold : Bob Pears Bath CC +19:55

Silver : Brian Sunter Condor RC +19:25

Bronze : Peter Greenwood Clayton Velo +18:38

Team : Team Swift : Buss, Krygsman, Fenwick +46:36

Name	Club	Age	Actual	Plus/Minus
Rob Pears	Bath C C	50	1:01:20	+ 20:46
Brian Sunter	Condor R C	69	1:09:31	+ 19:25
Peter Greenwood	Clayton Velo	61	1:06:39	+ 18:38
Brian Camfield	Stone Whs C C	65	1:08:24	+ 18:31
Blair Buss	Team Swift	48	1:03:52	+ 17:45
Ken Stevens	South Pennine R C	82	1:23:12	+ 17:24
Nigel Haigh	Strategic Lions	42	1:02:48	+ 17:21
Karl Moseley	Stourbridge Veto	49	1:05:08	+ 16:44
Paul Fleming	Preston Whs	47	1:04:42	+ 16:41
Robby Krygsman	Team Swift	51	1:05:46	+ 16:35

John Dewhirst	East Bradford C C	50	1:05:52	+ 16:14
Chris Yates	Otley C C	56	1:07:38	+ 16:03
Gareth Metcalfe	Otley C C	54	1:07:05	+ 16:02
Peter Manners	Barnesbury C C	75	1:17:36	+ 15:28
Ray Retter	North Devon Whs	67	1:12:40	+ 15:12
Peter Macklam	Leeds St Christophers	70	1:14:27	+ 15:04
Richard Hey	Holme Valley Whs	52	1:08:00	+ 14:36
Anthony Keyworth	Kiverton Park C C	66	1:12:46	+ 14:36
Mike Shacklock	Yorkshire R C	69	1:14:28	+ 14:28
Andrew Askwith	Bridlington C C	48	1:07:46	+ 13:51
Edmund Spurgeon	Colchester Rovers	70	1:16:03	+ 13:28
Barry Quick	Reading C C	68	1:15:03	+ 13:20
Nigel Austin	Otley C C	64	1:13:22	+ 13:06
Rod Goodfellow	North Lancashire R C	74	1:19:15	+ 13:01
Andrew Ziemacki	Rotherham Whs	59	1:12:18	+ 12:18
Craig Fenwick	Team Swift	40	1:07:21	+ 12:16
James Cullen	Otley C C	49	1:09:38	+ 12:14
Wayne Thorpe	Team Swift	47	1:09:24	+ 11:59
George Young	Team Swift	62	1:13:42	+ 11:58
Richard Durham	Team Swift	58	1:12:23	+ 11:54
Allen Bell	Yorkshire R C	67	1:16:06	+ 11:46
Allan Renyard	Guernsey Velo Club	71	1:18:31	+ 11:38
John Murphy	Gloucester City C C	73	1:19:53	+ 11:38
Jim Trevor	Hull Thursday R C	40	1:08:50	+ 10:47
Stephen Rhodes	Stockton Whs	54	1:13:47	+ 09:20
Peter Haigh	Nelson Whs	59	1:17:25	+ 07:11
Allen Armstrong	Sunderland Clarion	76	1:27:02	+ 06:54
Mike Cole	Huddersfield R C	68	1:22:14	+ 06:09
John Churchman	Otley C C	75	1:27:34	+ 05:30
Geoff Hornby	Southport C C	78	1:30:26	+ 05:25
Paul Brierley	Huddersfield R C	46	1:16:37	+ 04:32
Alan Sides	Rotherham Whs	68	1:23:57	+ 04:26
Brenda Littlefair	East Bradford C C	77	1:44:47	- 02:06
Brian Ashworth	East Bradford C C	69	1:40:12	- 11:16

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National Championship 25

Jim Gibb

This year's VTTA 25 Mile National Championship was promoted on the H25/2 by London & Home Counties Group in the year they, and the VTTA, celebrate their 70th Anniversaries. The event attracted riders from across the UK to compete for the title of VTTA 25 Mile National Champion with some excellent rides and more than a few personal bests being done on the course that includes parts of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

London & Home Counties Group fielded a substantial group of helpers to make this event a success. There were many marshals guiding the riders around the course, the timekeepers and their assistants, the catering operation at the headquarters along with a contingent of other essential helpers ensuring that the event ran smoothly.

Gordon Wright introduced the prize presentation and introduced the Guest of Honour, Paul Bennett, a celebrated London Group member who, amongst other achievements set the competition record at 25 miles in 1965. Paul presented the awards to the award winners including this year's VTTA National 25 Mile Champion, Rob Pears.

National Champion	Rob Pears (Bath CC)	+17:33
2nd	Brian Camfield (Stone Wheelers CC)	+16:02
3rd	Steve Irwin (Kingston Wheelers CC)	+15:23
Tandem	Ray Hughes & Ian Neville (Clarence Wheelers)	+11:23
Team	Kingston Wheelers CC (Steve Irwin, Peter Anderson & Teresa Goddard)	+39:36

Result of the Championship 25

Rob Pears	Bath CC	West	50	50:29	+17:33
Brian Camfield	Stone Wheelers CC	Manchester & North West	65	55:56	+16:02
Steve Irwin	Kingston Wheelers CC	East Anglian	42	51:03	+15:23
Trevor Burke	Finchley Racing Team	East Anglia	50	52:56	+15:06
Sebastian Ader	a3crg	Wessex	42	51:29	+14:57
Ian Greenstreet	Newbury RC	West	49	52:57	+14:53
Andrew Meilak	Velorefined Aerosmiths	Kent	46	52:40	+14:35
Ken Stevens	South Pennine RC	Notts & East Midlands	82	1:08:49	+14:17
Peter Lawrence	Team MDT	London & Home Co's	41	52:00	+14:13
Stefan Harrison	Stourbridge Velo	Midlands	45	52:57	+14:06
Iain McLeod	Denny Road Club - SCU	Scotland	75	1:03:02	+13:57
Danuta Tinn	Maidenhead & District CC	London & Home Co's	48	59:19	+13:43
Liam Maybank	Twickenham CC	London & Home Co's	41	52:42	+13:31
Robert Gilmour	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Co's	61	57:16	+13:22
Richard Gifford	In-Gear Quickvit	Surrey/Sussex	50	55:02	+13:00
Geoff Powell	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	52	55:44	+12:42
Peter Anderson	Kingston Wheelers CC	East Anglian	62	58:18	+12:39
Scott Holmes	Hillingdon CC	London & Home Co's	50	55:25	+12:37
Nic Staggs	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Co's	42	53:50	+12:36
Allan Simmonds	VC 10	London & Home Co's	54	56:19	+12:33
Paul Holdsworth	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Co's	49	55:20	+12:30
Michael Gowan	Festival RC	London & Home Co's	69	1:01:15	+12:22
Alan Emmott	Fareham Wheelers	Wessex	66	1:00:19	+12:01
Phil Brown	Didcot Phoenix CC	London & Home Co's	41	54:19	+11:54
Ian Bibby	Finsbury Park CC	East Anglian	49	56:06	+11:44
Dave Bates	South Pennine RC	Notts & East Midlands	65	1:00:24	+11:34
Teresa Goddard	Kingston Wheelers CC	Surrey/Sussex	49	1:01:41	+11:34
Jeff Bowler	South Pennine RC	Notts & East Midlands	68	1:01:45	+11:25
Barry Quick	Reading CC	Wessex	68	1:02:09	+11:01
Stuart Stow	Hounslow & District Wheelers	London & Home Co's	48	56:52	+10:46
Simon Greenland	Maidenhead & District CC	London & Home Co's	60	59:36	+10:45
John Froud	Festival RC	Surrey/Sussex	73	1:05:08	+10:35
Andrew Jones	Charlotteville Cycling Club	Surrey/Sussex	50	57:47	+10:15
John Sullivan	Westerley Cycling Club	London & Home Co's	49	57:37	+10:13
Jonathan Thomas	Epsom CC	Surrey/Sussex	52	58:24	+10:02
Jeff Roberts	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	48	57:42	+9:56
Andrew Barnes	Hillingdon CC	London & Home Co's	51	58:46	+9:28
Graham Fielder	a3crg	Wessex	57	1:00:07	+9:27
Allan Renyard	Guernsey Velo Club	Wessex	71	1:05:10	+9:26
Geoffrey Reynolds	Hemel Hempstead CC	London & Home Co's	47	58:00	+9:26
Tim Childs	Westerley Cycling Club	London & Home Co's	51	59:06	+9:08
Andrew Wright	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	45	58:16	+8:47
Paul Smith	Cafford CC	Kent	41	57:30	+8:43
Vince Dey	Westerley Cycling Club	London & Home Co's	60	1:01:38	+8:43

Result of the Championship 25 *(continued)*

Simon Inman	Mapperley CC	Notts & East Midlands	40	58:12	+7:48
David Welling	Farnham Road Club	Wessex	59	1:02:21	+7:43
Michael Coward	Bronte Wheelers/	Yorkshire	76	1:10:09	+7:32
Michelle Ayres	South Bucks Road Club	London & Home Co's	53	1:06:40	+7:29
Michael McDonald	Finsbury Park CC	London & Home Co's	49	1:00:23	+7:27
Stuart Simmonds	Hemel Hempstead CC	London & Home Co's	51	1:00:57	+7:17
Peter Tantrum	Didcot Phoenix CC	London & Home Co's	48	1:00:27	+7:11
Norman Harvey*	Sotonia CC	Wessex	80	1:13:51	+7:11
Gareth Batson	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	41	59:17	+6:56
Chris Lowe	Swindon RC	West	54	1:02:05	+6:47
Robert Graves	GS Avanti	Kent	65	1:05:19	+6:39
Tim Seddon	Maidenhead & District CC	London & Home Co's	44	1:01:13	+5:38
Robert Royle-Evatt	Addiscombe CC	Surrey/Sussex	45	1:01:41	+5:22
Robert Barrett	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	62	1:05:43	+5:14
Gurpal Panesar	Maidenhead & District CC	London & Home Co's	52	1:12:53	-4:27
Andy Pearce	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	61	1:06:22	+4:16
Chris Boulton	Newbury RC	London & Home Co's	49	1:04:59	+2:51
Grant Pyke*	Kingston Phoenix RC	Surrey/Sussex	76	1:14:54	+2:47
Peter Horsfield	Redmon CC	Surrey/Sussex	62	1:08:31	+2:26
Peter Whitfield	Wychwood RC	London & Home Co's	65	1:10:02	+1:56
Zoe Ludwig-Tantrum	Didcot Phoenix CC	London & Home Co's	44	1:10:32	+1:38
Paul New	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	45	1:05:44	+1:19
Brian Moon	Willesden CC	London & Home Co's	67	1:12:35	+0:09
Rosslyn Young	Serpentine Running Club	London & Home Co's	69	DNF	
Colin Holmes	Icknield RC	London & Home Co's	70	DNF	
Rick Froud	Alton CC/Owens Cycles	London & Home Co's	44	DNF	
Derek Stewart	Deeside Thistle CC	Scotland	76	DNF	
Mark Brambleby	Northover Vets	Surrey/Sussex	47	DNF	
Helen Reynolds	Hemel Hempstead CC	London & Home Co's	47	DNS	
Tom Boulton	Finsbury Park CC	East Anglian	41	DNS	
David Johnson	VC 10	London & Home Co's	55	DNS	
Owen Goodspeed	Century Road Club	East Anglian	57	DNS	
Geoff Perry	Team Milton Keynes	London & Home Co's	53	DNS	
Adrian Littlebury	CC Topp	London & Home Co's	68	DNS	
Terry Shough	Worcester St. Johns CC	Midlands	51	DNS	
Jenny Simmonds	Look Mum No Hands!	London & Home Co's	42	DNS	
Richard Snow	London Dynamo	London & Home Co's	46	DNS	
John McGlashan	Redmon CC	Kent	61	DNS	
Clive Faine	Team Milton Keynes	London & Home Co's	66	DNS	
Dave Briant	High Wycombe CC	London & Home Co's	62	DNS	
Raymond Hughes			55		
Ian Neville	Clarence Wheelers	Wessex	51	50:25	+11:23

- Late starts: Norman Harvey includes 10 seconds
- Late starts: Grant Pyke includes 1m:10 seconds

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1980 B Brookes	1981 K Jones	1982 J Mackie	1983 G Herd	1984 T F Chant
1985 R Chambers	1986 E B Battye	1987 P A Whittaker	1988 L Crompton	1989 D Pike
1990 D Coffey	1991 C Miller	1992 R H Little	1993 B Lamb	1994 T Hanlon
1995 M Ashurst	1996 Ann Neligan	1997 C Bird	1998 A N Reynolds	1999 J French
2000 I Clark	2001 C Cowlard	2002 T Hewes	2003 P Greenwood	2004 R Taylor
2005 M Oliver	2006 P Jackson	2007 G Denny	2008 A Nye	2009 A Stapleton
2010 A Devriendt	2011 P Egan	2012 N Harrop : S Stoddart P Holden : Seamons CC 50 Miles : +26:43		

There's always another way.....



As some of you may know, I gave up racing around the countryside on expensive, unstable Time Trial bikes last year, sold the carbon fibre stuff, bought a Van Nicholas titanium and got my favourite bike shop to build it up.

One of the reasons for stopping racing was steadily advancing arthritis in my neck and hands and the years of riding round with my thumbs hanging off the brake hoods now proved unsustainable. I tried a pair of straight bars with MTB changers but couldn't get really comfortable so after consultation with Tim Wood at Echelon Cycles (Other

bike shops are available !) we eventually decided on a pair of "stoker" bars with brake levers in the normal position but fitting the Time trial gear changers on the ends of the bars. Double handlebar tape with a gel insert completes the setup which has proved to be pretty comfortable.

I suppose I could have used the electronic shifting system which only requires a light tap to change gear, but I am a pensioner and also heard that Bradley has reservations as well!

I appreciate that arthritis affects people in different ways so I'm not pretending that this set-up will suit everybody, but I can ride for a couple of hours and come home with a smile on my face.

Alan Colburn



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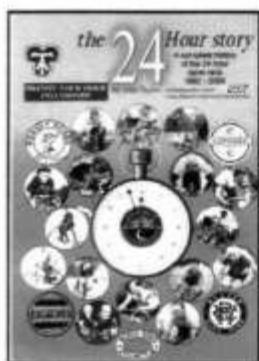


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GETTING INSIDE

There are various ways of getting inside, some as simple as just opening the door and going in, but to us relatively ancient bikies steeped in time trialling it had only one meaning: 'beating' the hour for 25 miles.

In these days of super light and engineered bikes, scientific training methods, computerised heart rate monitors and devices for continuously indicating the amount of pressure (watts) being applied to the pedals, not to mention increased traffic flow and billiard table like road surfaces on wide, single carriageway roads, I guess that the awe we oldies had for the supermen who achieved that feat in our day is akin to the reverence in which today's riders look upon the likes of Hutchinson and his ilk who now regularly get inside 50 minutes for the journey. I believe that in the south Wales event in which Hutch set up the latest record the slowest of the 108 finishers was timed at 58:50. But I am told that the course on which the event was run favours the riders by having the start a few hundred feet higher than the finish. Nevertheless it is within the parameters defined in the CTT Regulations. If only it had been around in my day!

Who is to say that nobody will ever knock the 107 seconds off of Hutch's record and thus get inside 45 minutes?

GETTING INSIDE (2)

As mentioned, there are other ways – even for racing cyclists – to get inside. I recall that some 40 years ago the then secretary (let's call him Fred Spoons) of my rather staid London club (let's call it CC Portem Austri) achieved it in, I hope, a unique way. Fred was at the time a technician employed by British Telecom (or for the pedantic, its predecessor) with the task of maintaining underground telephone cables. One summer in those distant times Fred took a week or two off from his hopeless efforts to beat the hour and set off with two of our club mates on a youth hostelling tour to Devon and Cornwall.

On about the third day it appears that they spent a night at a north Devon hostel and then cycled into Barnstable for elevenses. Meantimes, unbeknown to our trio, police called at the hostel which they had just left, apparently seeking three cyclists from north London, and in particular the Portem Austri. The detectives were too late to catch their prey there but either by brilliant detective work or by sheer luck soon came upon the three touring kit-laden bikes outside the café, and storming in accosted our three demanding to know whether they were from the PA, and in particular was one of them named Spoons,

Fred stepped up straight away and was immediately handcuffed and whisked outside to the police's mighty Rover 3500 which then stormed him back to London at super high speed and with bells ajangle. Our remaining two tourists took some time to recover from the shock. They told me that they felt a little affronted at the fact that the police neither provided transport for, nor suggested any facility for the safe storage of Fred's bike, before hurrying him off. I understand that the café proprietor stored the bike until after the return of the now twosome to north London whence one of them drove to Barnstable to collect the thing.

Later we learned from our local paper that the said Fred had been convicted and sentenced to eighteen months 'inside' for assisting criminals by in some way altering telephone connections to allow them undisturbed access to target buildings. The club was forced to find a new secretary.

Fred never returned to their fold but he did get "inside".

NATIONAL SECRETARY

Ann Butterworth has decided to relinquish the Secretary's job.

In a little over five years she has served the Association diligently and with skill – she will be greatly missed.

In an ideal world, we would simply wait for the AGM and receive nominations for the post, but we all know that is not likely to happen; witness the absence of nominees in the recent past: Treasurer, National Recorder, Webmaster and Awards Secretary, the last named still vacant resulting in the work being carried out by other officials.

To not have a National Secretary is not something that can be left to chance - it is too big and important a job for one of the, already busy, officers to take on, even temporarily, and so a volunteer is being sought with immediate effect. If there is someone who would consider taking on this vital role, would they please contact the Chairman, Jim Burgin at jim@jaburgin.co.uk to find out more.

Should the applicant not have the requisite IT equipment it will be provided. If he or she have their own, maintenance and other expenses such as Internet Security would be paid for, as, of course, would be the use of Broadband and the necessary office stationery.

A recruit stepping in now would have ample time to learn the job before Ann's departure in six month's time. A Job Description is available from Jim on request.

This is the most vital and thus perhaps the most rewarding of the posts on the National Committee, so please give the thought serious consideration.

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OBITUARIES

FRANK ELLERBY

1930—2013

The Scottish Group were sad to be informed that North of Scotland member Frank Ellerby (Elgin Cycling Club) had passed away.

Frank died on the 30th March and was cremated on 8th April. He was 82 years old and was a lifelong cyclist until ill health forced retirement from the bike. He held many district age records.

An honourable man with deep held Christian convictions, he also was a talented musician able to play all orchestral instruments, an active member of Elgin City Band and an accomplished chorister.

His dry wit is already missed out on the road.

He joined the Nottingham & East Midlands Group in 1982 and became a life member on the 15th October 1990. He transferred to join us in Scotland on the 29 May 1992.

In 2001 he was awarded the Group's Tom McGinness Meritorious Award.

The Scottish Group convey their deepest sympathies to his wife Pat and family.

ALEXANDER DUNCAN

29 December 1923—1 June 2013

Honorary Life Member of The Scottish Group

Alec Duncan was from the north-east of Scotland, being born in Strathdon. He served his country in the uniform of the Royal Air Force and was stationed in the Middle East. When it was time to leave the forces, he travelled the world with the Merchant Navy as a cook. Meeting and marrying his wife Ann, he came ashore to start a family and became a Cook/Chef in Belverdre Hospital in Glasgow.

In 1967, I first met Alec when cycling home from Glasgow to Cumbernauld where we both had moved to from Glasgow, staying in the same Street unknown to each other. As I passed him on the road, I would exchange greetings with him, then in time we would cycle along together, getting to know each other. I suggested he joined a cycling club, which he did, the Chryston Wheelers and he tried a few time trials. He also joined the Scottish Group VTTA and in time attempted some of the Group's Place-to-Place records. In the years 1972/73, he collected five age records which he still holds to this day.

He continued to cycle the Glasgow-Stirling road to and from work until one day he was run down from behind by a car; he ended up in hospital encased from toe to head in plaster - he had received a broken back.

Through time, when back to good health, he resumed his cycling, although to a lesser degree. Then disaster struck again, he was mowed down from the back as before and again he fought back to good health, but this time cycling was taking a

OBITUARIES

back step. Alec took up running, travelling far and wide entering hill running and events under the flag of Stornaway Athletic Club, the town from which his wife Ann hailed.

On retirement, I saw Alec out every day, running round the local rugby field or walking round our district.

He was also a member of our local Parish church and performed his duties as Church Elder.

Alec Duncan was small in stature but had the heart and strength of Samson.

The Scottish Group send their condolences to his wife Ann and daughters Jean and Annette.

ARTHUR DOBBIN 12.2.1942 – 11.3.2013

Arthur was born in Romford; his Dad being a cyclist – Bill Dobbin of London Clarion CC, we met in 1960 and married in 1966. From the London Clarion, he then joined the Bishops Stortford CC and that's when he started doing his good rides time trialling. Leigh was born in 1970 and we moved to Romford in 1972. Arthur then joined the Hainault CC and, finally, Ciclos Uno. He rode to work in London and wasn't pleased when he had to go by train due to bad weather! He loved his time trialling and also tried road racing and the track at Hog Hill; also going out with Leigh, who was also racing, and they did several 2-ups together. We have a motor caravan in which we went to races farther afield and toured from Scotland to Cornwall.

When Arthur retired, he still went out daily on his bike and joined the 40+ CC where he made more good friends, going out on Thursdays all day and riding about 70 – 90 miles.

Arthur was diagnosed in November as having mesothelioma and passed away peacefully in March.

His funeral was very well attended by family, friends and friends from all cycling clubs and about twenty from the 40+ CC, who rode behind him to the crematorium, bringing Upminster to a halt while they positioned themselves.

"Arf" had a great sense of humour, which we will all miss.

Angela and Leigh Dobbin



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This splendid photograph by *Kimroy* is of brothers Paul and Kellie Sidwell Ten Mile Tandem Champions in 2012 incorrectly credited in the March edition