

Number 58

September 2018

# THE VETERAN





The Born to Bike women took the Club Team Championship - Lynne Bidulph, Katja Reitdorf and Susan Semple




Rachael Mellor (Holmfirth CC) indulges in some multi-tasking

## NATIONAL 100 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

Richard Bideau (Pendle Forest CC) retained his 100 mile crown

Gethin Butler (Preston Wths) looking determined on his way to 7<sup>th</sup> overall and a Group Team medal for North Lancs & Lakes



Championship images courtesy of **Kimroy Photography** 

Front cover - Keith Murray (Drag2Zero & North Group) cruised to a championship bronze medal

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

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# THE VETERAN

## THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE VETERANS TIME TRIALS ASSOCIATION

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

**Number 58**

**September 2018**

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### EDITORIAL

Welcome to another 75th Anniversary Year Veteran. It has been a very busy 3 months with racing in full swing and there are five championship reports and results included.

This has been the time of year for longer distance events of 100 miles, 12 and 24 hours and it has been fascinating to look back to 1942 when our founder, Ernest Strevens, first proposed to run a veteran's 12 hour event. There was considerable opposition to his plans from those who believed that such long distance challenges would prove too much for the over 40s, leading to elderly gentlemen in various states of distress and collapsing along the Great North Road. How times change - today the majority of the fields in distance events are over 40. The anniversary feature in this edition focuses on that first veteran's 12 hour of 1942, in the darkest days of WW2.

Sadly 12 and 24 hour races are becoming increasingly rare, as fewer riders have the background of very long all day clubruns, due to changes in living habits. Additionally, increasing volumes of traffic have forced changes in roads leading to loss of courses, and roadworks and traffic accidents now frequently result in an enforced abandonment due to rider safety concerns. These are difficult challenges which time trialling is having to face up to and change is inevitable, although I have no doubt that the sport will survive. Qualification in 2018 BAR competitions has become a challenge as several 100 mile and 12 hour races have been lost.

The 52 pages of this Veteran are packed with news and race reports. Due to cost constraints the page numbers have been restricted, which has led to a small amount of material being held over to December and some editing of extensive results in group reports was also necessary. Please accept an editor's apology - there will be more space available in the next edition.

Enjoy what is left of the summer. The fastest days often come in September as the year mellows.

*Mike Penrice*

Copy dates for the next two editions of *The Veteran* are 19<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

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

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## THE CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

Since my last piece we have completed the rollout of the new online membership system to all the groups. New members have been joining and existing members renewing on the system on an almost daily basis. Since the system has been live for groups, just under half of existing members (47%) have taken the opportunity to renew online, while 85% of new membership applications have been made online. By the time of writing (10<sup>th</sup> August) that is a total of 211 new members joining us online. This is clearly evidence of how valuable the new online system will be for attracting and increasing our membership. I also expect that come the next renewal season we will see more members take up the convenience of the online option.

This month we have also added a major new facility to our national website which provides a direct link to the CTT site so that members can view all VTTA events and their results. The results of our events will also be displayed in order of best plus (assuming these have been submitted by organisers to the CTT site). See the Events/Results menu item on the website ([www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk)). Our thanks to the CTT and to the Xncreations team for enabling this new facility for us.

In recent months we have had a busy period of national championships of which I have managed to ride and attend four (25, 30, 50 and the 100). It has been great to see the quality of performances in these events and to appreciate the hard work that goes into them by the organisers and their teams. We have some new champions this year and an encouraging spread of ages winning medals. You can read the event reports elsewhere in the magazine.

While we can't all win championship medals, most of us can keep trying for standard medals each season. For myself, standard medals have motivated me for over 20 seasons. Perhaps it is wanting to delay the ageing process and the sense of achievement that you have 'beaten yourself' if not all the other riders. May I encourage members to take the opportunity of the last few weeks of the season to see if they can add to their standard medal collection and also consider submitting a claim for the season long competitions. Many of us have ridden two open '10s' and '25s' so qualify for the short distance competition while those with more stamina can submit their times for the BAR (25, 50, 100 mile and 12 hour) and 3 Distance Competitions (25, 50 and 100 miles).

Finally, I am glad to report that Rachael Elliott will be rejoining us as National Secretary from 1<sup>st</sup> September after her brain haemorrhage. Rachael has been making good progress although her visual impairment means she won't be returning to time trialling. I would also like to thank Jon Fairclough who stepped in as Interim Secretary. Jon has agreed to continue on the NEC supporting our new IT systems.

*Andrew Simpkins*

### STOP PRESS - HEADLINE RESULT OF 15 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP - HELD 25TH AUGUST

MEN - 1st - Ron Hallam +10:55 (42:01), 2nd - Keith Ainsworth +10:51 (30:41), 3rd - Liam Maybank +10:14 (29:40)

WOMEN - 1st - Angela Carpenter +9:12 (34:15), 2nd - Helen Reynolds +8:38 (35:20), 3rd - Liz Powell +8:33 (34:17)

CLUB TEAM - Drag2Zero (Gavin Hinxman, Alan Murchison, Liz Powell) +26:56

GROUP TEAM - London & Home Counties (Liam Maybank, Greg Woodford, John Lacey) +29:18

TANDEM - Norman Harvey & Mary Corbett +6:32



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## NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The duties of the National Secretary are very well defined, mainly covering organising the NEC meetings, the VTTA AGM, and the VTTA National Championships. Over the last three months I have been working in all three areas, attending and minuting the NEC meeting in May, booking the venue for the 2019 AGM, which will be at the Ramada Solihull, and writing to groups to host a National Championship in 2019. We have already nearly a full programme of National Championships allocated.

I have also been helping to bring the National Online Membership System (NOMS) project to fruition. One of my jobs was to define a template for membership data, collect the member files owned by each group and then transfer the data to the template, cleaning it up in the process. I also did a lot of work on testing the system, writing test plans and managing defects. Although Andrew and I caught most of the defects before the system went live, a few inevitably slipped through but were quickly fixed by Xncreations. I have been working in IT for many years and have seen very few projects deliver ahead of schedule with good quality. This one has! The survey of the officials I made in June and July showed a very high satisfaction rating, which was pleasing.

When I have not been wrestling with spreadsheets of VTTA data, I have found some time to complete a few more items on my cycling bucket list. In May I did the Tour de Yorkshire Sportif. Very enjoyable. I was on my road bike, but for some of the route I rode with a lady on a TT bike "because she needed the training"! I could not ride my TT bike up a 25% hill! In June I went to Spain to take part in their largest Granfondo, the Quebrantahuesos. 8000 cyclists take part, mostly Spanish. The route is simple. Start near Pamplona. Cross the Pyrenees. Climb a mountain in France. Cross the Pyrenees again to get back to where you started. 123 miles and 11302 feet of climbing. Strava said it was a "historic relative effort" and it certainly felt like it. It took me 8 hours and 39 minutes, so I scraped a gold medal in my age category by 59 seconds, despite having some chainset problems that lost me time. In July I did the Land's End to John O'Groats ride. I took a different approach to Michael Broadwith who had set a new LEJOG record a few weeks before. I used the Sustrans route, which is 1200 miles, so rather longer, and a race bike with some touring features: triple chainset, winter tyres and a luggage rack attached to the seat post. No mudguards though. Unnecessary weight! I stayed in B&Bs and carried my own kit. No support vehicle! I did two or three of the Sustrans stages per day. After a few punctures I started to avoid the cycle paths unless they were tarmac. It was wonderful seeing Britain from a bike. The weather was good most days, and I only got rained on in Malvern, Appleby and Aviemore. After getting to John O'Groats on schedule on day 12, I caught the ferry to Orkney and spent a day riding around the island. The next day I did the same with Shetland. I also did the Tour of Cambridge TT and Sportif and am going to the UCI World Championships later this month for the Sportif.

The kind of work I have been doing for NOMS will also be needed for new IT projects, and so from September I will be taking on the role of IT Manager on the NEC. Rachael Elliot will be resuming her role as National Secretary. I will from time to time be reporting on IT matters for the Veteran, which will give me more chances to tell stories about my bucket list events.

*Jon Fairclough* - Interim National Secretary

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## RIDER Q&A - JAMES RIX

James Rix races for Team Bottrill / Vanguard and is a member of Surrey/Sussex Group. He set a new 10 miles national age record 17:47 in 2017 and at the time of writing he is leading the 2018 CTT rankings. He is interviewed here by Jon Fairclough.

Q: How many events have you done this year?

James: I race too much, or so I'm told, but enjoy it too much. I've raced 21 opens, 4 club and Tour of Cambridge with a few more to come. Winning 12 open and 4 club events.

Q: How many at each of the distances?

James: Previously I have stuck with 10s and 25s as I really struggle in the TT position for longer than an hour, but this year I gave the Knight Classic Series a go so had to break that hour limit and meant there were a few non-standard distances too. I've ridden 8 x 10 miles, 11 x 25 miles, 7 x non-standard distance plus Tour of Cambridgeshire.

Q: Where have the events been?

James: A fair bit of travelling was required for the Knight Classic Series. On top of that I've cast the net wide "locally" with G, P, H, E, F districts plus a trip to South Wales and North Midlands (when visiting family).

Q: Have you set any new records?

James: I've broken the national age record for 25 miles for 42 years twice with 46:51 on E2/25 and 46:35 on R25/3H, plus some course records.

Q: What has been your greatest achievement so far this season?

James: This is hard to choose. The two national age records obviously. Also, 19:13 on G10/87 where the previous CR was 19:30 by Sean Yates in 2000 and no other 19s had ever been ridden on the course. Considering how much the course is used for club and open events over the years I was really happy with the time.

Q: What are you aiming to achieve in the rest of season?

James: The National team time trial is on 19<sup>th</sup> August which I'm really looking forward to. It should be a great challenge and experience as I am riding with two very strong riders. I also have the National Closed Circuit Champs and some other plans, but don't want to tempt fate!

Q: Could you describe your bike?

James: I'm riding a new bike this year, a Giant Trinity Advance Pro TT. Kitted out with Ceramicspeed oversized pulleys, Revolver disc wheel, PCD chainring and 1 x 11 setup. A noticeable step up from what I was riding last year.



Q: When did you start time trialling?

James: I started in 2015. My planned start to the season was delayed due to major spinal surgery and a protracted recovery, but I soon made up for it

Q: What sacrifices do you make to perform so well in time trialling?

James: My weekday evenings. I'm either training or working late to allow me to leave early on training nights. My coach Dan Barnett is the master at setting training with limited available time. I have a very understanding wife who makes it all possible.



## ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

### The 1942 Controversy - 12 Hour Time Trials for Veterans

'The Voice of Ernest Strevens' in the previous edition mentioned resistance to the proposed Nor-o-Lon veteran 12 hour race of 1942. The controversy raged in the pages of 'Cycling' but it went ahead successfully and with some commendable results.

Special thanks to Mike Jupp and Ray Retter for providing archive material for these pages.

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July 4, 1942

Outdoors Group

### The Veterans' "12"

A Distance Event Is Preferable to a Short Distance for Veterans—  
Getting Ready for the "12s"

**FIFTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD** Upper Holloway C.C., the president of which is that bewhiskered, bald-headed, jovial old-timer, Jack Musprat, is making careful plans for its 12 hours trial for men over 40 years of age, and E. H. Strevens, the honorary secretary of the event, is confident of getting a good entry. The local R.T.T.C. district council committee refused to grant the Upper Holloway C.C. permission to run the event, you may remember, but the club appealed against the decision at the annual meeting of the clubs, and the executive lost the day after listening to a speech from Mr. Strevens, in which this tough but charming old rider ridiculed the suggestion that the older men did not know when they had taken enough punishment and that distressing roadside scenes might be the result of too much ambition but not enough energy. I was at the meeting and I reflected deeply, as I listened, upon the strangeness of life wherein the old so often have to fight the young in sport as in other matters, and while I understood and appreciated the committee's reasons for their attitude, I did feel that a 12-hour event was probably a better trial for the old stagers than one over a distance of 25 miles. In age, as in youth, it is the pace which causes the damage—not the miles.

Page 1, 1942



CHARLES FEARNLEY On—

### SHOULD VETERANS SPEED?

**THE** Upper Holloway C.C. are soon to run their Veterans' 12-hour time trial in spite of a mild storm of discussion voiced early this year at a R.T.T.C. annual general meeting.

Naturally, the discussion both for and against was mainly on a health basis, so let us have a look at middle-aged man and try to determine whether or not it is safe for him to ride speedily.

Old age, I would remind you, is no disease nor sign of disease. The veteran who has raced and toured a wheel all his life is much better qualified to ride in a speed trial at 70 than is the seventeen-year-old. There is far less likelihood of his doing himself an injury or imposing upon his body some anatomical or organic strain. He will not slash at the pedals as if it were a sprint. From past experience of course-length and difficulty of gradient, he will gauge his effort and husband his resources. His feeding, too, will be planned prior to the ride, and during it the knowledge of past triumphs or tummy troubles from dietary indiscretions will stand him in good stead. In a word, the veteran stage is surely the age of discretion in cycle road racing matters when brains control the legs in so many ways.

The objection to old-timers competing in a classified event was on the grounds of distress being registered on some previous occasion. I consider it a much more unpleasant sight to see a youngster "fallen by the wayside" in a distressed condition than that of a virtual grandad. If we admit for the sake of argument, acute heart strain from the above-described exertion, it is surely less of a tragedy for the grandad to die in the midst of his beloved sport than for the youngster to survive.

It has been said that the "poor old codger" flopped out on the grass verge more dead than alive is a sorry sight and bad for the sport. It is not good to see anyone winded and whacked, but as this temporary condition is common to all ages of competitors, I fail to see why the veteran should not be allowed his right to the wallop. The percentage of such sufferers is small.



'Cycling' magazine of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1942 reported on the veterans only 12 hour race organised by Mr Jack Musprat with E. H. Strevens as honorary event secretary. When first proposed this event had caused controversy in the RTTC and the pages of 'Cycling' but the fears that the challenges of such a gruelling race would prove too much for the veterans were proven to be unfounded.

The event was the earliest veterans' only 12 hour race, all thanks to the visionary members of the Upper Holloway CC who promoted under the Nor-o-Lon banner. They promoted three events in 1942 (the other two being 25s) and were the forerunners of the Veterans' Time Trials Association, which came into being the following year. The winner of this first 12 was Arthur Rogerson of Spen Valley Wheelers with 214½ miles and who became a founder member of the Yorkshire group in 1945.

The event was repeated the following year as an inaugural year VTTA promotion, with the winner then being A. E. Metcalfe (Barnet CC) with 195 miles. Whilst the winning distance was somewhat lower the year end awards ceremony indicates awards for beating their standard and six handicap awards, which appears to be an attempt to offer motivation to all competitors.

### VETERAN COVERS 214½ MILES IN "12" FIVE RIDE MORE THAN 200!

ON a hard day, 45-year-old A. Rogerson, Spen Valley veteran, covered 214½ miles in the Nor' o' London "12" to win from E. F. Butt, Hants R.C., who rode 205 miles at the age of 59! E. H. Strevens, Upper Holloway, 72-year-old racing secretary, organized the event and managed to cover 174½ miles, notwithstanding. The leading Londoner was P. Baker, Fulham Wheelers, with 204 miles 3 furlongs. Eight competitors gained standard medals, and the special prizes were awarded for greatest distances in sections; 40 to 50 years—200 miles or more; 50 to 60—190 miles or more; 60 or over—170 miles or more. No one qualified in the 50-60 group. The course was well marshalled, and the event was a great success. Details of the leading five finishers:—

Name and Club	Miles.
A. Rogerson, Spen Valley ... ..	214½
E. F. Butt, Hants R.O. ... ..	205
P. Baker, Fulham Wheelers ... ..	204¾
A. Metcalfe, Barnet C.C. ... ..	202
W. Wright, Catford C.C. ... ..	201¾



A. Rogerson, Spen Valley, winner of the recent Nor' o' London Veterans' "12."

JANUARY 13, 1943.



Road Sport Statistics—9

## ALL THE 1942 WINNERS

### 12 HOURS (MEN)

EVENT	WINNER	MILES
South Western R.C. ... ..	J. G. Witcombe Twickenham C.C.	236½
Manchester & District T.A. ... ..	R. Kitching Yorkshire R.C.	236½
North Road Club ... ..	R. Kitching Yorkshire R.C.	233½
Reading & District C.A. ... ..	W. Perkins Maidenhead C. & A.C.	225½
Nor o' London Vets. ... ..	A. Rogerson Spen Valley Wheelers	214½

# VTTA NATIONAL 100 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

## Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018

*NEC Representative Geoff Perry*

The third VTTA National Championship of the year was the 100 miles Championship, piggy-backed on the long running Anfield BC event on Shropshire roads on Bank Holiday Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Anfield event has been running since 1889, initially as a bunched race, but as a time trial since 1900.

The weather was fine with a slight easterly wind and it was warm and humid. The event was very fortunate to miss the heavy thundery downpours which inflicted much of the UK, and especially Birmingham which was not that far away. There was just one large puddle for the riders to negotiate on each of the four finishing laps, but that was easily avoided.

Defending Champion Richard Bideau (Pendle Forest CC and NL&L Group) retained his title by a comfortable 6:30 on standard margin over Andy Jackson (AeroCoach and Yorks Group) and with Keith Murray (Drag2Zero and North Group) a further 3:33 back.

The women's winner was Katja Rietdorf, who also won the 30 mile Championship earlier in the year; her plus was good enough for fifth overall against the men. She was followed home by Born to Bike-Bridgtown Cycles team mates Susan Semple and Lynne Biddulph. Lynne has previously been the fastest woman in the Anfield event, and was the first VTTA woman in 2017.

Group Team Champions were again North Lancashire & Lakes with Richard Bideau being supported by then current End-to-End record holder Gethin Butler (Preston Whs) and Paul Russell (Springfield Financial RT).

Born to Bike-Bridgtown Cycles were the Club Team Champions, with all three team members being 1-2-3 in the Women's Championship, probably a first for a VTTA championship. In fact Born to Bike had enough finishers that the second best club team was also BtB. Lynne was also in the winning team last year.

The Anfield Bicycle Club once again provided excellent organisation and marshalling. NEC Members Andrew Simpkins and Geoff Perry provided a double act with the VTTA awards ceremony.

Three VTTA NEC members put their money where their mouths are and rode the event, with Chairman Andrew Simpkins (Midlands) getting bragging rights over Committee Member Bob Jones (South Wales) and Interim National Secretary Jon Fairclough (Surrey/Sussex).

### FINISH ORDER & AWARDS - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 100 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos	Name	Club	Grp	Age	Std	Actual	+/-Std	Award
1	Richard Bideau	Pendle Forest CC	NL&L	V47	4:53:33	3:43:13	+1:10:20	Champion 1st man Group team
2	Andy Jackson	AeroCoach	Yks	V42	4:48:22	3:44:32	+1:03:50	2nd man
3	Keith Murray	Drag2Zero	Nrth	V43	4:49:26	3:49:09	+1:00:17	3rd man
4	Mat Ivings	Buxton CC	M&NW	V45	4:51:31	3:53:07	+58:24	
5	Katja Rietdorf	Born to Bike	L&HC	WV47	5:16:58	4:19:00	+57:58	1st woman Club team
6	Adrian Hughes	Seamons CC	M&NW	V51	4:57:39	4:02:04	+55:35	
7	Gethin Butler	Preston Wheelers	NL&L	V49	4:55:34	4:01:37	+53:57	Group team
8	Simon Higgins	Liverpool Century CC	Mer	V58	5:05:57	4:17:05	+48:52	
9	Arthur Winstanley	Liverpool Phoenix CC	Mer	V61	5:10:22	4:21:42	+48:40	
10	Andy Ashurst	Manchester Whlrs	M&NW	V53	4:59:49	4:11:17	+48:32	

Pos	Name	Club	Grp	Age	Std	Actual	+/-Std	Award
11	Rob Vessey	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	V55	5:02:08	4:13:37	+48:31	
12	Andrew Simpkins	Solihull CC	Mids	V64	5:15:33	4:27:14	+48:19	
13	Sue Semple	Born to Bike	Mids	WV52	5:22:40	4:36:12	+46:28	2nd woman Club team
14	Sean Quinn	Law Wheelers	Scot	V45	4:51:31	4:06:58	+44:33	
15	Trevor Mayne	Birdwell Wheelers	NMids	V54	5:00:57	4:17:22	+43:35	
16	Mark Brearton	Wigan Whlrs CC	M&NW	V48	4:54:33	4:11:08	+43:25	
17	Lynne Biddulph	Born to Bike	Mids	WV49	5:19:12	4:35:49	+43:23	3rd woman Club team
18	Philip Brown	Walsall Roads CC	Mids	V66	5:19:33	4:36:18	+43:15	
19	Stuart McCormick	Port Sunlight Whlrs	Mer	V50	4:56:36	4:13:26	+43:10	
20	Paul Russell	Springfield Financial RT	NL&L	V51	4:57:39	4:14:30	+43:09	Group team
21	Rachael Mellor	Holmfirth CC	Yks	WV54	5:25:07	4:42:40	+42:27	
22	Matt Stell	Springfield Financial RT	NL&L	V40	4:46:07	4:04:24	+41:43	
23	Christina MacKenzie	Stirling Bike Club	Scot	WV41	5:10:04	4:28:56	+41:08	
23	Chris Tye	Plomesgate CC	EA	V51	4:57:39	4:16:31	+41:08	
25	Carl Bullingham	B/ham Run&Tri Club	Mids	V50	4:56:36	4:16:02	+40:34	
26	Kevin Larmer	Port Sunlight Whlrs	Mer	V47	4:53:33	4:14:03	+39:30	
27	Howard Heighton	Ferryhill Whlrs	Nrth	V45	4:51:31	4:22:48	+28:43	
28	Robert Jones	Cardiff 100Miles RCC	SWls	V66	5:19:33	4:52:57	+26:36	
29	Alison Vessey	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	WV64	5:41:09	5:16:05	+25:04	
30	Bob Awcock	Born to Bike	Mids	V74	5:41:51	5:17:26	+24:25	
31	Jon Fairclough	Woking CC	S/S	V64	5:15:33	4:51:14	+24:19	
32	Emma Bexson	Stratford CC	Mids	WV43	5:12:28	4:48:50	+23:38	
33	Jenny York	Mid Shropshire Whlrs	Mer	WV60	5:33:45	5:11:38	+22:07	
34	Theresa Taylor	Ribble Valley CC	NL&L	WV58	5:30:37	5:10:02	+20:35	
35	Helen Tudor	Oswestry Paragon	Mer	WV49	5:19:12	5:05:28	+13:44	
36	Tracy Rowlinson	Lyme Racing Club	M&NW	WV53	5:23:52	5:11:39	+12:13	
37	Tim Rex	N Shrops Wheelers	Mer	V45	4:51:31	4:40:24	+11:07	
38	Dave Pemberton	Born to Bike	Mids	V51	4:57:39	4:48:28	+09:11	
39	Ian Casson	Birkenhead Vic CC	Mer	V65	5:17:29	5:08:52	+08:37	
40	Lynne Skellern	Macclesfield Whlrs	M&NW	WV51	5:21:29	5:15:18	+06:11	
41	Chris Goode	Yorkshire Coast Clari	Yks	V52	4:58:43	4:52:51	+05:52	
42	Paul Revell	Barrow Central Whlrs	NL&L	V56	5:03:21	5:03:00	+00:21	
43	April Lewis	Born to Bike	Mids	WV56	5:27:45	5:43:14	-15:29	
DNF	Gary Boyd (Hub Velo), Dave York (Mid Shropshire Whlrs), Annis Moore (Walsall Roads CC), David Bucknall (Royal Dean Forest CC)							
DNS	Michael Cox (North Lancs RC), Archie Johnstone (Stirling Bike Club)							

**PHOTOS OF 100 CHAMPIONSHIP ON FRONT COVER AND INSIDE FRONT COVER**

# VTTA NATIONAL 12 HOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018

NEC Representative Geoff Perry

The 12 hour VTТА National Championship was incorporated into the RTTC National 12 hour championship on the H12H/8 Bentley bypass course. This is a very straightforward 12 hour course for riders and helpers alike, with a longer morning lap up and down the dual carriageway giving way to a slightly smaller finishing circuit during the afternoon.

The weather was surprisingly dull and cool for mid-summer with a steady and rising south westerly wind but without the gusts which have marred the Newbury RC event in previous years. The rough road surface at the south/west end of the morning circuit creates discomfort for all riders and catches out any rider with a screw loose in their handlebars or anywhere else for that matter, and duct tape was much in evidence, particularly for rider #60 (Mark Turnbull, Torq Performance), whose tri-bars were swathed in tape later in the day. The north/eastern roundabout had been resurfaced since last year but the pot holed section leading up to it caught out last year's winner Richard Bideau (NLL) who crashed out after 185 miles.

Stephen Williamson (Wessex) became the 2018 VTТА National Champion, edging out East Anglian's Jackie Field by less than a mile on standard. The day cannot be far away when a woman will take the overall on standard in a championship

MBOS is Stephen Williamson (1st) from Paul Jackson (2nd) from Ray Retter (3rd). Ray set a national age record for age 72 by approximately 13 miles with 243.612 miles. He was VTТА national champion in 2014.

VTТА group team winners were Wessex, with champion Stephen Williamson leading home, Nigel Sign and Brian Hygate with a plus of 209.242 miles from East Anglian with 208.601, so it was very close.

WBOS is Jackie Field (1st) from Katja Rietdorf (2nd - winner in 2017), from Lynne Biddulph (3rd - 2nd in 2017). Jackie sets a 53 years age record of 273.376 which also put her third on the all time list.

Tandem winners were Donald McLean and Mark Leadbetter, both of Stirling Bike Club & SVTTA, which was the only tandem competing. There were no tandem winners in 2017.

Club team competition winners were Born to Bike/Bridgetown Cycles with the counting riders of Ray Retter, Katja Rietdorf and Lynne Biddulph, with two other team mates backing up. This repeated the win in 2017 with Katja and Lynne again receiving medals.

The three veteran women from Born to Bike/Bridgetown Cycles set a CTT competition team record (subject to CTT ratification) of 749 miles; they were Katja Rietdorf, Lynne Biddulph and Sue Semple, who was riding her first '12'.



*Jackie Field rode strongly but missed the overall win by less than one mile*



Steve Williamson (...a3crg) champion with +96.13 miles and led Wessex to group team title



Brian Hygate (Fareham Whs) helped Wessex to their group team win at 80 years young

## ***NATIONAL 12 HOURS CHAMPIONSHIP***

Wessex group team member  
Nigel Sign (Fareham Whs)



Ray Retter (Born to Bike) took the men's  
bronze medal after covering 243.6 miles



**FINISH ORDER & AWARDS - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 12 HOUR TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pos	Name	Club	Grp	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Award
1	Stephen Williamson	...a3crg	Wsx	47	203.30	299.430	+96.130	Champion 1st man Group team
2	Jackie Field	CC Ashwell	EA	53	178.19	273.376	+95.186	1st woman
3	Paul Jackson	Team Bottrill	S/S	52	197.21	281.507	+84.297	2nd man
4	Ray Retter	Born to Bike	West	72	161.82	243.612	+81.792	3rd man Club team
5	Nick Cave	Lutterworth Cyc Ctr RT	N&EM	52	197.21	274.580	+77.370	
6	Katja Rietdorf	Born to Bike	L&HC	47	184.82	257.883	+73.063	2nd woman Club team
7	Lynne Biddulph	Born to Bike	Mid	49	182.63	255.488	+72.858	3rd woman Club team
8	Doug Hart	Ilkley CC	Yks	45	205.77	277.684	+71.914	
9	Steve Burrows	Vive Le Velo	Yks	58	189.19	254.634	+65.444	
10	Richard Claxton	VC Elan	Kent	74	156.42	219.135	+62.715	
11	Neil Barford	45 RC	EA	53	195.95	256.773	+60.823	
12	Sean Quinn	Law Wheelers	Scot	45	205.77	265.838	+60.068	
13	Nigel Sign	Fareham Wheelers CC	Wsx	61	184.57	243.559	+58.989	Group team
14	Susan Semple	Born to Bike	Mid	52	179.32	236.100	+56.780	
15	Angus Swanson	Stirling Bike Club	Scot	50	199.66	255.798	+56.138	
16	Alison Vessey	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	64	163.22	218.501	+55.281	
17	Brian Hygate	Fareham Wheelers CC	Wsx	80	137.17	191.293	+54.123	Group team
18	Dan Bromilow	Ely & District CC	EA	44	207.05	259.642	+52.592	
19	Jon Fairclough	VTTA (Surrey & Sussex)	S/S	64	179.37	231.798	+52.428	
20	Nick Jones	Bournemouth Jub Whs	Wsx	42	209.71	258.308	+48.598	
21	Gordon Scott	CC Weymouth	West	57	190.63	238.559	+47.929	
22	Kate Bradley	Mickey Cranks CC	N&EM	40	193.19	236.858	+43.668	
23	Martin Arundel	Verulam CC	EA	53	195.95	237.267	+41.317	
24	Harry Cowley	Chester RC	Mer	70	166.79	193.349	+26.559	
25	Dave Pemberton	Born to Bike	Mid	51	198.44	219.212	+20.772	
26	Adrian Watkins	Tornado Road CC	Wsx	50	199.66	219.802	+20.142	
27	Richard Bideau	Pendle Forest CC	NL&L	47	203.30	184.572	-18.728	
28	Robert Bullyment	Catford CC	Kent	45	205.77	144.266	-61.504	
29	Theresa Taylor	Ribble Valley CT	NL&L	58	172.09	83.807	-88.283	
30	Richard Parrotte	Shaftesbury CC	EA	53	195.95	103.960	-91.990	
31	Nigel Brooks	Stirling Bike Club	Scot	64	179.37	83.807	-95.563	
32	Ed Neilson	Vive Le Velo	Yks	41	211.12	103.960	-107.160	
33	Jocelyn Chappell	Aylesbury CC	L&HC	58	189.19	63.654	-125.536	
34	Andy Jackson	AeroCoach	Yks	42	209.71	83.807	-125.903	
DNS	Jacqueline Hobson (Born to Bike)							



# The Old Forge

*B & B and Holiday Barn, Knockin*

**The Old Forge Bed and Breakfast and Holiday Barn**  
**Knockin, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 8HQ**  
**Telephone: 01691 682024 or Mobile 07828 663615**  
**www.oldforgeknockin.co.uk**  
**e-mail: enquiries@oldforgeknockin.co.uk**

**The Old Forge B and B**  
**Rated 4 Star by Shropshire Tourism**



A warm and friendly atmosphere greets all guests to The Old Forge Bed and Breakfast, Knockin, which offers two twin en-suite bedrooms and one double/family room with en-suite. We pride ourselves on our full English breakfast using local produce. We offer a menu service so that guests can choose their own breakfasts. Wi-fi is available free of charge.

*"Excellent in every way. Thank you very much". Victoria, Australia*

***Please visit our website and view our Customers' Comments section.***

**The Old Forge Self-Catering Holiday Barn**  
**Rated 4 Star by Cottages4You**



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

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

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

# VTTA NATIONAL 24 HOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

## Saturday/Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

NEC Representative Alan Colburn



*Andy Jackson with the historic Brazendale cup for winning the Mersey Roads 24; also both RTTC and VTTA national champion*

It was, as we have now learned to take for granted of course, yet another very well organised event by Jon Williams and the Mersey Roads team. This was the 75th running of the event, first held in 1937 and only missing the war years, so the club have got the organisation off to a tee. Even the last minute road works closure of one of the major loops was taken in their stride with apparent consummate ease as if it were a minor inconvenience. (So quotes David Steel, Hereford & Dist. Wh. who rode the event with his usual "bonhomie" and kindly offers his views.) The logistics of reorganising a contingent of marshals, whose numbers nearly exceeded the riders, within an hour of the start doesn't really bear thinking about, but as far as the riders were concerned – seamless result.

The weather stayed fine and mostly slightly overcast, not too hot and not too cold, so pretty much perfect conditions. The course change, however, meant that the loop down to Battlefield Church became more or less the mainstay of the event but as its average elevation per mile is more than twice that of the closed Espley/Shawbirch loop this prompted some changes of plan by the riders. Quite a few settled for a slightly less optimistic target on the on the day with early finishes on the Wrexham circuit seeming more commonplace than usual.

These trivial matters of gruelling gradient which cause us mere mortals such considerable difficulties didn't seem to bother Andy Jackson and Christina Mackenzie who stormed round to secure Gold medals with Andy also taking the National Champion honours with +164.98. Silver and Bronze went to

Doug Hart and Ray Retter with Lynne Biddulph and Kate Bradley taking the same in the Women's category.

The only club team to finish for a Gold was the Born to Bike/Bridgtown Cycles trio whose performance was quite convincing while the Group team gold went to Yorkshire with a very excellent +320.41.

The advantage of racing tandem is that you always have someone to talk to – as long as you are still on speaking terms. I heard nothing to the contrary about Don McLean and Mark Leadbetter who combined well to take the Tandem Gold medal for the third year running.

May I offer my thanks to Jon and his team at Mersey Roads for their expertise and experience and also to all riders in this pinnacle event – didn't they do well ?





*First year veteran Kate Bradley was third woman*




*Scottish rider Christina Mackenzie was first woman and beat all but two men*

## ***NATIONAL 24 HOURS CHAMPIONSHIP***

*Don McLean and Mark Leadbetter of Stirling Bike Club retained their tandem champions' title*



Championship images courtesy of **Kimroy Photography** 

*Hereford's Dave Steel always finds plenty to smile about*



**FINISH ORDER & AWARDS - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 24 HOUR TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pos	Name	Club	Grp	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Award
1	Andy Jackson	AeroCoach	Yks	42	365.63	530.61	+164.98	Champion 1st man Group team
2	Doug Hart	Ilkley CC	Yks	45	355.91	492.94	+137.03	2nd man Group team
3	Christina Mackenzie	Stirling Bike Club	Scot	41	333.59	431.64	+98.05	1st woman
4	Ray Retter	Born to Bike	West	72	253.26	345.53	+92.27	3rd man Club team
5	Lynne Biddulph	Born to Bike	Mid	49	311.92	397.74	+85.82	2nd woman Club team
6	Ron Lowe	Deeside Thistle CC	Scot	53	332.06	410.45	+78.39	
7	Dave Brown	Tuxford Clarion C C	N&EM	50	341.01	418.61	+77.60	
8	Paul Jackson	Team Bottrill	S/S	52	335.08	407.65	+72.57	
9	Nigel Brooks	Stirling Bike Club	Scot	64	292.96	349	+56.04	
10	Paul Revell	Barrow Central Whs	NL&L	56	322.64	377.04	+54.40	
11	Martin Arundel	Verulam CC	EA	53	332.06	385.04	+52.98	
12	Bob Awcock	Born to Bike	Mid	74	241.38	293.12	+51.74	Club team
13	Mark Gray	Derby Mercury R C	S/S	48	321.62	367.08	+45.46	
14	Jocelyn Chappell	Aylesbury CC	L&HC	58	315.94	357.76	+41.82	
15	Roger Squire	Wrexham RC	Mer	49	343.95	379.29	+35.34	
16	Michael Hutchings	Harrogate Nova CC	Yks	52	335.08	353.48	+18.40	Group team
17	Chris Goode	Yorkshire Coast Clar	Yks	52	335.08	352.61	+17.53	
18	Bob Symons	PDQ Cycle Coaching	West	63	297.14	308.54	+11.40	
19	Kate Bradley	Born to Bike	N&EM	40	336.74	345.39	+8.65	3rd woman
20	David Steel	Hereford & Dist Whs	Mid	71	258.89	264.27	+5.38	
21	Dave Pemberton	Born to Bike	Mid	51	338.06	321.68	-16.38	
22	Jacqueline Hobson	Born to Bike	Mid	53	301.63	250.17	-51.46	
23	Libby McLaren	Born to Bike	Mid	43	327.71	243.65	-84.06	
DNF	Christina Murray (Army CU / Wsx), Graham Barker (Rockingham CC / NMids), Gary Boyd (Hub Velo / EA), Steven Fullerton (Darlington CC / Nth), Michael Henley (Maidenhead & Dist / L&HC), Richard Parrotte (Shaftesbury CC / EA), Angus Swanson (Stirling BC / Scot), Neil Barford (45 RC / EA), Daren Austin (Twickenham CC / L&HC)							
DNS	James Bromley (Becontree Whs / EA)							

**FINISH ORDER & AWARDS - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 24 HOUR TANDEM TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pos	Name	Club	Grp	Age	Std.	Actual	Plus	Award
1	Donald McLean	Stirling Bike Club	Scot	58	340.08	427.97	+87.89	Tandem champions
	Mark Leadbetter		Scot	51				
2	George Berwick	Edinburgh RC	Scot	77	244.05	314.29	+70.24	
	Phillip Jurczyk	West Lothian Clarion	Scot	73				
3	Bob Richards	Royal Navy & Royal	West	60	331.65	345.56	+13.91	
	Stewart Cox	Marines CA	West	54				

# AROUND THE GROUPS

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## EAST ANGLIAN

### *Mary Horsnell's musings*

Congratulations to our chairman, Andrew Grant, on achieving cover status for the 75th and special anniversary edition of *The Veteran*. He is also to be congratulated for doing the decent thing on 11th August by supporting the VTTA event run by Barry Freeman, on a less popular Suffolk course, thus abandoning the ECCA 10 on the popular E2 course on his local patch. He was rewarded with fastest and best on standard. Meanwhile the entry at Six Mile Bottom totalled 170, including a ladies open of 43. The first five ladies times were crammed between 20:30 and 20:59; of the men, the first six were between 19:05 and 19:53. Fastest vet was Mick Hodson, organiser of the group's early season 25 - well done! No standard results available so far.

Another capable organiser, Paul Hurst, kindly took over this ECCA event, despite his move to Derbyshire and retirement from the sport - he plans to stick with hill walking and will be hard to replace. It would have been Terry's promotion, and has been renamed 'The Terry Anderson Memorial'.

We last saw Len Finch at the re-run Lea Valley 10, after which he hoped to improve on his 31:13 "next time". Alas it was not to be as he died a few days later, through natural causes and not as widely reported in the press and on TV (for which no apology has been made). 'Next time', when number 9 was called, his CC Sudbury clubmates were already all lined up behind timekeeper Peter Smith, chairman of London East DC, and stood for one minute's respectful silence in his memory. Likewise at his funeral, again resplendent in their distinctive scarlet and gold strip, they lined the path as his cortege left the church, played out in style by The Lady Killers New Orleans Jazz Band. The band followed the family mourners and after the committal continued to play until all had left. As Len and Mavis lived at St Marys Close, Chilton, it was appropriate that he was laid to rest in the quiet churchyard nearby.

Len will be remembered as a quiet and genial man. He was dismayed when it was no longer possible to publish in *The Veteran* the names of all those still time trialling over 70 and it was he that compiled the roll of honour for our group of those over 80. He was the unofficial photographer at the annual prize giving

but always ensured that everyone was sent a photo, plus a set for the archives.

Another name now missing from the list of HLMs is that of Don Forsbrook. He kept on racing up to an advanced age, but when health problems prevented him even riding his bike he gradually faded away from the cycling scene. He died just short of his 90th birthday after a long and interesting life, well spent.

On a more cheerful note, new members continue to come in from all points of the compass, some already making their mark. We welcome: Alison Wood and Steve Smith (both Redbridge CC), Matthew Saunders (Team Vision Racing), Ritchie Parkins (Diss & Dist CC), Mark Greenhow (St Neots CC), Trudy Sharem (Lea Valley CC), Martin Atkinson (Peterborough CC), Simon Hance (Ipswich BC), Brian Evans (North Road CC), Philip West, Paul Harrowing and Graham Denny (all North Norfolk Whs), James Dynes (Cambridge CC), Christopher and Joanne York (both Maldon & Dist CC), Brett Harwood (Team Botrill), Ralph Mullan (Shaftesbury CC), Julian Bosley (Stowmarket & Dist CC), Paul Hayward (VC Barrachi), Claire Hall (Dunmore Velo), Craig Elliott (Becontree Whs), Shawn Gough (Tuxford Clarion), Jan Smith (Great Yarmouth CC), Tim Hector (CC Ashwell) and Rod Kohanzab (Hub Velo).

The numbers joining so far this year just about equals non-renewals, thus maintaining the status-quo.

What a strange year it has been - and not only weatherwise - the programme has been slashed to pieces by various cancellations and abandonments, due mainly to traffic incidents and everlasting roadworks, causing last minute changes to courses. Those officials who have dealt admirably with all this are to be applauded. It has been a nightmare, although it would be good to think that the roads are being properly repaired and resurfaced. This is particularly true of a patch of the road surface on a much used course in Norfolk, which is causing difficulties to cyclists in particular. Could this not be taken up with the appropriate authority? There is already enough danger from the ever increasing size and speed of vehicles. Are country lanes any safer? The debate goes on.

Following the loss of the Counties 100, next victim was the 12 hour, due to extensive roadworks at Stetchworth, a key point on one of the circuits of the

proposed new course. This will mean fewer qualifiers for the BAR tables from club to national level, unless one travels further afield - not ideal for those who compete without support. Among the lucky ones already qualified are Dave Green and Becky Murley, who are now East District Champions. Becky's ride was voted 'ride of the day' in the CC Breckland 12. Another who did well, on a baking hot day, was John Golder, celebrating his recent birthday/retirement with an all time best and national age record. These three should rate highly on the end of season results.

It will be noticed that I have deliberately refrained from mention of the unbelievably fantastic times being recorded. We do not have a computer and do not always receive start or result sheets and it does not seem fair to pick out some people over others. Time trialling is, after all, a personal thing and every result board is still anxiously scanned by not only those at the top, but others engaged in needle matches with their contemporaries. An example of this is the friendly rivalry between two who share not only the same forename but also the same birth year, Chris Nudds and Chris Dyason. They have now moved into a higher age group and seem to take it in turn to beat each other in alternate events; that surely is what it is all about for most of us.

Just a reminder that the annual lunch and prize giving will have a new venue this year - the Rosery Country House Hotel in Exning, Newmarket. It is on 25th November. Details from Ian MacKenzie, 27 Laburnum Grove, Hockley, Essex, SS5 4SQ. Free tickets are being given out, in order to persuade more prize winners to attend. Who will qualify for these? Wait and see, not everyone approves... Only to thank those who help us with info. You know who you are, see you there...

## **KENT** ***Ian Turner***

Results and comments on the Group's events since the last edition follow:

The Group's 25 on 17 June held on the Q25/8 course for the Aubrey Sheather Shield saw Andrew Meilak (Velorefined Aeromsmiths), who is enjoying a brilliant season, win with a plus of 14.36. Andrew was also first vet on scratch with 53.50. Mark Hill (Velorefined Aeromsmiths) was second with +12.19, Steve Gooch (Rye & Dist Whs) third with +11.50, Mark Doxey (Abellio SFA RT) fourth with +11.12 and Pete Elms (Velorefined Aeromsmiths) fifth with +11.10. Team honours went to Velorefined Aeromsmiths: Andrew Meilak and Mark Hill with +26.55.

This event was held when the weather was cold and wet! Contrast that with the events which follow. In particular, Bob Giles, the organiser of both this event and the 50 on 15 July (see below), commented that in June it was a cold and wet morning for the later starters; in July it was a really good morning, very light wind (especially for the Marsh) but very hot, even for the early starters.

Next event up was the 10 mile championship event on 1 July on Q10/30. Andrew Meilak continued his excellent run with a fine first place with +6.32. Andrew was also fastest vet on scratch with 20.22. Second went to Peter Elms (Velorefined) with +5.57, third was Mark Hill (Velorefined) with +5.44, fourth was Antony Bee (Wigmore CC) with +5.38 and fifth was John Osborn (Folkestone Velo) with +5.34. This event also qualified for the Kent Group championship and in this competition, restricted to Kent Group members, the first three places were taken by Andrew Meilak, Mark Hill and Antony Bee. First team prize, and with it the Ernie McMillan Team 25 Shield, went to Velorefined Aeromsmiths - Andrew Meilak and Peter Elms - with +12.29. Fastest lady Vet was Charmaine Pullen (Folkestone Velo) with 23.38.

The 50 mile championship event for the Peter Philpott cup was held on a very hot Q50/11 on Romney Marsh on 15 July, with an absence of the usual pernicious winds which usually plague events on this course. The event was won by Andrew Meilak with +32.54. Andrew once again combined this with fastest vet on scratch with 1.48.00. Nick Wilson (Rye & Dist Whs +30.36), Mark Hill (Velorefined +26.49), Dean Chiddention (Abellio SFA RT+26.11) and Geoff Pullen (Rye & Dist Whs+24.01) filled the other medal slots. First vet lady on scratch was Debbie Percival (Kent Velo Girls) with 2.14.35. The team prize was taken by Velorefined Aeromsmiths - very habit forming - (Andrew Meilak and Mark Hill) with +59.43.

The 10 mile event on Q10/1 held on 21 July was won by Nick Wilson (Rye & Dist Whs +6.27), with Geoff Pullen (Rye & Dist Whs +5.43), John Osborne (Folkestone VC +5.43), Adrian Hawkins (Thanet RC +5.20) and Bob Giles (PMR +5.18) filling the other medal spots. First vet on scratch was Martin Jones (Gemini BC) with 20.41 and first lady vet on scratch was Charmaine Pullen (Folkestone VC) with 24.49. The team prize went to Rye & District Wheelers (Nick Wilson and Geoff Pullen) with +12.10.

The monthly '10 at 10' series, after a shaky start with the April event cancelled, has now enjoyed an uninterrupted calendar with the events in May, June, July and August all having run without a hitch. The first

four riders in the overall result following the July event were: Chris Bax (PMR) +17.51 with three events; Mark Vowells (Bexley CC - trike) +12.16 with two events; Roger Wilson (Spin Wheels Team), +9.07 with two events; Mike Perry (San Fairy Ann CC) +5.25 with three events. The best four events over the season count, so it's a close run thing between Chris Bax and Mark Vowells, and subject to the August result, and the yet to be contested September event, all to play for!

Finally, it is with great sadness that we report the passing of Graham Orchard from San Fairy Ann CC on 26 May 2018. Graham will be sadly missed by all who knew him. A full obituary appears elsewhere in this edition.

PS As I put the finishing touches to this report, it looks like the (very hot) summer is over (cue for a Dusty Springfield song there). I'm not sure if I'm happy or sad about that, but certainly the 33 degrees Celsius which we saw recently with the accompanying humidity was not the most conducive for turbo training in the garage - nor even that comfortable out on the road! Oh well, we do have to complain about the weather, don't we.....?

## **LONDON & HOME COUNTIES**

### ***John Hoskins***

There have been two L&HC promotions since the last news. The May event on the H10/2 was expected to be wet but actually not a drop of rain fell all day. The group achieved a clean sweep of all of the awards in the event – ably organised by group chairman David Guy –with Ian Greenstreet's 21:29 giving him best on standard of +5:35 and Joy Payne's 25:22 giving her women's BoS of +4:37. New(ish) member Gill Morgan was third in women's BoS and her two clubmates in the Westerley CC - Ben Allen and Tim Childs –took the team prize.

Then on July 15<sup>th</sup>, again under the stewardship of David Guy, we promoted on the F11. This event had previously been run midweek in the afternoon but traffic levels indicated a necessary change to an early start on a Sunday. With well over 140 riders it was an achievement to get into the results at all but group members Simon Norman and Mark Jones were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> on standard overall, and Claire Emans and Joy Payne were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> amongst the ladies on standard. Joy's ride equalled the L&HC age record and was another personal best. In fact this season Joy has achieved PB's at 10m, 15m, 25m and 30m! It was certainly a fast event with numerous riders under twenty minutes, and Simon Norman and Mark Jones were the two fastest, only a second apart on 18:48 and 18:49 respectively.

Talking of fast events Joy Payne and Katja Rietdorf travelled to Wales for the superfast R25/3H. Katja managed second fastest lady with her 56:05 and Joy sliced over three minutes off her personal best with a ride just 50 seconds outside the hour. Another of our fast ladies, Gill Reynolds, has been updating a number of age records for the L&HC group. In the Breckland 15 in July she achieved a 38:26 – a national age record - whilst in the same event Joy Payne's 36:05 was also a national age record. At the same time Katja Rietdorf was the fastest lady with her 33:41, yet another national age record. Gill also updated some L&HC age records with her 24:47 for a 10 and her 1:06:16 for a 25, both in June. Also of note was Gill's ride in the RTTC National Championship 25 when she won her age group award.

Brian Moon was not so fortunate when he rode the Reading 25 in May. Struggling to get under 90 minutes in the pouring rain Brian collapsed in the HQ with hypothermia. He was revived by blankets and hot drinks, recovered enough to get a train back to Slough and rode the rest of the way home – still in the pouring rain.

We have two promotions remaining this season. Rachael Elliott, slowly recovering from illness, is promoting the National VTTA 15m Championship on August 25<sup>th</sup> (too late to get the result in these notes). With over 100 entries it should prove to be an excellent event. The group's thanks go to the Newbury for providing the bulk of the marshalling.

Then we have our traditional season finale, the Rocco 25 on 7<sup>th</sup> October on the H25/3 – probably the fastest course in the London west district. The event always needs a lot of marshals – so please contact myself or the organiser Tim Childs on [tmc164@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tmc164@yahoo.co.uk).

Following the Rocco 25 the next "event" is the AGM. This is your chance to offer help with the organisation of the L&HC group or just tell the committee how they've done in 2018. Most of the big jobs are likely to stay with the same members but new blood on the committee is always welcome. The AGM is on 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Great Missenden Memorial Hall at 11am. Refreshments will be available before and after the meeting.

And then there's the big social event of the year – the Annual Prize-giving Luncheon on 13<sup>th</sup> January, at its long term home of Aldenham Golf Club. This is your chance to honour the prize winners whilst having a good time. Katja Rietdorf is the organiser and you can contact her on [katja.rietdorf@gmail.com](mailto:katja.rietdorf@gmail.com) if you want tickets. See you there.

## MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST

### Jim Ogden

Locally, after the Dukinfield 50, the longer distances begin in earnest on Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> with the Warrington RC Harry Barker Memorial 50, with David Wright as event secretary. It also incorporates our Group 50. In spite of the east wind (not a good direction for the course) six riders got inside two hours, led by Ben Norbury (Congleton CC) with a 1:52:05. Placed fourth, Adrian Hughes (Seamons CC) in 1:53:38 is this year's Group 50 mile champion and wins the E. S. Ward Memorial cup. David Shackleton (ABC Centreville) was second to Adrian in 1:58:08 and Stephen Turner (Westmead Team 88) was third in 2:05:12. Other Group members included Ronan O'Cualain (Seamons CC) 2:00:26; Matt Yardley (Macclesfield Whs) 2:07:17; Paul Jennings (Lyme RC) 2:21:44 and team mate, 'never say die' David Steele, 2:57:09.

The Saturday after the 50, Salford CC promoted a 25 on J2/9. It proved to be an interesting afternoon for riders and spectators. I was at the Allostock event HQ in support of my grandson Mike Cuming, (of Madison Genesis), riding his road bike as the sponsor's TT bike had not arrived in time. As far as I can remember, this was the first time a drug test has been carried out at one of our events. The testers had to be patient because riders, having ridden hard over 25 miles in the heat prevailing that day, were in no condition to provide a quick specimen. I spoke to one of the testers, who was not letting Mike out of his sight. It turned out he wasn't a cyclist himself, but a rugby league player. As expected, all tested were clear.

Now for the actual winner, Simon Wilson (Ribble Pro Cycling). Again I'm relying on my memory, but I think his time of 50:00 will be the new course record. It was 2 minutes 10 seconds faster than second placed rider Mark Turnbull (Torq Performance). Ben Norbury (Congleton CC), riding his new disc rear wheel recorded 53:40 and Mike Cuming recorded 54:35, just ahead of Adrian Hughes (Seamons CC) 54:52. Yes, time trialling can be exciting for spectators as well as riders.

The following weekend Janus RC promoted their Fred Gratton 25 with Goostrey Village Hall as HQ and Peter Brocklehurst as event secretary. It also incorporated the first of our two Group 25s. Mark Turnbull, second the week before, made no mistakes and improved to win in 51:35, beating Andy Wilkinson (Port Sunlight Whs) who recorded 52:07. Darren Maironis (Velotik Racing Team) was third fastest in 52:44. There was a reshuffle on standard with Andy +16:45 leading Mark +15:28 with Darren still third +14:19. However, Darren was our Group's best on standard ahead of Mike

Cotgreave whose time was 1:02:08. Regular Group riders in the top 10 included Adrian Hughes 54:22 and Rod Mason (Stockport Clarion) 55:24. Rod's team mate Derek Hodgins, still competing in 1:16:24, a minute ahead of David Steel 1:17:32.

Nowadays all Derek's training is done indoors on his turbo (over 3,000 miles this year) due to his full time caring duties for his wife Barbara. The positive news is that the weather is 'never a problem these days' according to Derek.

The ladies had recorded some excellent times in the Janus event. The fastest times came from the Storey Racing Team - Mellissa Lowther won in 59:00 followed by Monica Dew in 1:00:09. Emily Martin (Weaver Valley) was third in 1:01:57. Regular veteran lady competitor, Lynne Skellern (Macclesfield Whs) recorded 1:13:14.

Road works, automatic traffic signals and increasing traffic have been a problem for some events this year. For the Weaver Valley 25 on 2<sup>nd</sup> July it was a more unusual occurrence that stopped the event. There was no village hall available that day for the headquarters. It is hoped to re-schedule the event in September. The Cheshire RC 50 on 21<sup>st</sup> July had actually started when a large wide load came onto the course, preventing the event continuing. Again it is hoped to reschedule for September.

I will let the promoter of our only local 100 (M&DTTA event on 1<sup>st</sup> July), Dave Fearon, explain what happened with his event:

*"Traditionally this event has caused problems, but until now we have always managed to deliver a 100 mile course on the day. In this respect we failed on the day, as we had to shorten the course to approximately 91 miles due to an emergency road closure on the circuit. I only discovered this at very short notice. Apparently there was a broken cable killing power to many houses in Holmes Chapel. However, it was decided it would be worthwhile giving riders a race and most competitors appreciated the decision. The results will count towards various trophies etc that depend on this event, including many club championships.*

*The winner and quickest M&DTTA rider was Adam Darby (Salford CC) with 3:32:04. Ben Norbury was second in 3:33:53, Rod Mason was the quickest vet in his first ever '100' taking an excellent fourth place overall with 3:35:32. Claire Harrison (Vision Racing) took the ladies prize in 4:12:19."*

Just to conclude the report for this event, Adrian Hughes won the vet on standard award with +1:15:33 and also led the winning team backed by Ronan

O'Cualain and David Mathers. Fastest lady on standard was Polly Wilding (Congleton CC) +11:11.

The Group's last counting 25 was incorporated in the Seamons event on July 28<sup>th</sup>, the only difficulty that day was the rain. Regular visitor Andy Wilkinson this time was a clear winner on time and on standard with 52:25. Alan Chorley (Seamons CC) was placed second in 53:54 and led the winning team supported by Adrian Hughes 55:39 and Chris Siepen 58:13. I understand that Adrian Hughes, by his times in both counting 25s will be this year's champion. Last year's champion, Darren Mairionis had chosen to ride the VTTA championship 25 on the same day. He wouldn't be too disappointed as he was second fastest in 51:39 in that event.

Looking through the Seamons finishing sheet, two of our ladies vets tied, Claire Harrison and Lis Matheson (Leigh Premier RC) both clocked 1:04:15. Mike Cotgreave recorded 1:06:16 whilst our secretary Nev Ashman (Manchester Velo) dodged the showers with 1:15:34.

Health problems we may have had as young vets unfortunately don't decrease with age. Committee member Barbara Wellings is just home from having had her fifth operation for a reverse shoulder replacement. We all hope that this time it has been successful. Another Group committee member, Denise Hurst, is nursing her husband David, currently in hospital. However, she was able to tell me the Vet's Group lunch will be at Middlewich Masonic Hall and is booked for November 25<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available at £22 from Denise 01782 517362.

Goostrey Village Hall is booked for the AGM on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am. Well, all that is looking ahead, but there is still plenty of racing left. Next weekend (as I write) our local 12 hour, WCTTCA and the LTTCA event, will take place. News will follow next time.

I have just received the news that Buxton CC member Bob Vale, died from leukaemia on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Older members will remember Bob and his wife Shirley on their tandem before they moved to live down south. They were ever present as helpers at all Group events. A full obituary next time.

I am sure we all enjoyed Geraint Thomas winning the Tour. Now, in a few years, I wonder can we get him to join the Vets. Years ago we got Reg Harris!!

## **MERSEYSIDE**

### **Geoff Edgerton**

I think my comment in the May newsletter was that I hope the weather holds. I am just making a start on the August edition, it is 7.30pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August

and I am sitting on the patio with the lap top on my knee and I must admit a bottle of beer by my side. When I made that comment, I never realised in my wildest dreams the weather would hold for as long as it did. It is indeed shades of 1976!

What a contrast to early season and my first race. A Sunday morning in mid-March and a trip down to Abergavenny to ride a 10 on the R10/17. The weather forecast didn't look great but it is never that bad is it? Anyhow an early start meant a 5am rise and a quick look through the window to see snow flurries. I thought that's it, we won't be making the trip now. I'm up so kettle on and a quick cup of coffee before jumping back into bed. Next minute I receive a text and I thought that will be Phil calling it off. It is a text off the very same to inform me that it is indeed snowing and that he is still up for it if I am. Why am I not surprised? Anyhow, off we go. Daylight breaks and mercifully the snow stops and we decide to give it a go. The weather did get better, temperatures rose to just about hover around zero degrees. I think that was one of the shortest warm ups I have ever done and a time trial with the most clothing ever. Not one of my best but I had a pretty decent excuse. But that is something that we time triallists are good at, the excuses for below par times or races. I still cannot believe that the hot temperatures haven't been used but more than likely I have been out of earshot.

Most of you will know Denis Milsom, an honorary life member of the Mersey Vets and President of Mid Shropshire Wheelers. Denis is still an age record holder at 10 and 25 miles and has the distinction of breaking the hour at age 80 and 81 - an amazing achievement. Denis recently enjoyed his ninetieth birthday and by way of celebration, he decided to complete a ninety mile cycle ride. Early August and an early 6am start saw Denis leave his home in Shrewsbury and cycle down the A49 to turn at Hope under Dinmore south of Leominster, where he was met by Mick Ward who provided him with food and drink. Denis did a more scenic route on the return taking in Leintwardine and Clungunford before returning to the A49 for the final leg back to Shrewsbury. On arriving home at 5pm, Denis had completed 93.5 miles, a truly remarkable achievement for a remarkable person.

A couple of group events to report on. The West Cheshire 10 mile was the third group event of the year with 20 Mersey Vets making it to the start line. Fastest on the day was Port Sunlight Wheelers Kevin Larmer who recorded 20:26 (+6:06) to claim the Leo Madden Trophy as fastest rider. Arthur Winstanley of the Liverpool Phoenix was next rider home with a time

of 20:59 and a best plus on the day of 6:52 to win the Ron Yates Trophy. Newcomer to the vets Stuart McCormick, also of the Liverpool Phoenix, put in a good ride to finish in third in 21:21 (+5:24) with Wrexham RC's Luke Vallance next in 21:59 (+4:33). The top five was completed by Simon Higgins of Liverpool Century RC in a time of 22:03 (+5:23).

Three ladies competed with Mid Shropshire Wheelers' Jenny York first home in 24:57 (+4:54). Oswestry Paragon's Helen Tudor finished in 25:35 (+3:04) with a newcomer to the group, Julia Smith of Port Sunlight Wheelers, recorded 26:04 (+2:35).

The next group event was the Chester RC 25; again the group was represented by 20 riders participating. Kevin Larmer's good form continued as he again finished fastest recording a time of 56:10 (+11:16) for which he wins the WJ Smith Rose Bowl. Stuart McCormick was another to take advantage of good conditions to finish in 56:55 (+11:07) with club mate Arthur Winstanley taking third place in 57:39 with his plus of 13:18 best of the morning for which he takes the Colin Rutter Cup. Phil Warburton of Liverpool Phoenix recorded 57:57 (+11:37) to hold off the challenge of Simon Higgins who finished in 57:59 (+12:05). Janet Fairclough of St Helens RC was first lady with a time of 1.07.11 (+7.58) with Jenny York not far away with 1.07.55 (+8.32). Ian Casson was next in 1.07.55 (+4.03) with Les Boughey recording 1.09.15 (-0.01). The final places were filled by two newcomers to the group - Paul Edwards of Graham Weigh Cycling posted a time of 1.09.19 (-1.05) with Linda Beckett of North Shropshire Wheelers finishing in 1.25.48 (-13.25).

I hope I haven't missed anybody out and times are correct. *(Sorry Geoff, it has been necessary to make some cuts to this piece - Ed)* Enjoy the remainder of the season and stay safe.

## **NORTH**

### **Gavin Russell**

Firstly an update on injured group members. Ruth Crossley, our social secretary, is the latest to be in the wars. She tripped whilst out walking and managed to fracture her elbow. Having an arm in plaster she has been unable to drive, so has been unable to travel for her work. In addition, her absence from behind the counter at local North Group events, offering tea, cake and kind words to both competitors and officials alike, has been greatly missed. It was good to note that she made herself available to assist at the Group's open 50. With a further 5 to 6 weeks recovery, she then

hopes to resume her work and life. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Dave Herbert continues his recovery from the serious accident he experienced during 2017. I am reliably informed that he is currently planning a trip to Majorca in late September/October, with the possibility of riding a bike. Ted Scurr, another 2017 casualty, although briefly returning to competition this year, was advised not to continue, so has resorted to riding his turbo, with the occasional sortie out in the North Yorkshire lanes.

In the last report, information was provided on the new designed courses (T254 & T104), using the Catterick to Leeming and Sinderby service road. Following on from Ruth Crossley's June 10 mile group event, held on the T104, and noting feedback from participants, it has been agreed to move the start further north and the finish further south. This will remove some of the rise at the start and increase the length of the descent prior to the finish, so hopefully improving times.

Results of all the group's events to date have been published on the CTT website. Highlights of the events held since the last report include:

2 June – 10ml TT – T104 – VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Ruth Crossley – Russ Richardson was fastest on standard with a +5:47, with Keith Murray, fastest (20:36) and also 2<sup>nd</sup> on standard with +5:37. Shaun Tyson completed the top three with a +5:11. Gary Hunt continued his good form, recording 5<sup>th</sup> fastest time and 4<sup>th</sup> on standard with +4:59.

22 July – 25 ml TT – T252/3 – Cleveland Coureurs/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Gavin Russell – Fastest on standard was Yorkshire raider, Brian Sunter with +18:43. Russ Richardson continued his consistent form with 2<sup>nd</sup> on standard of +15:28. Gary Hunt rode into 3<sup>rd</sup> position with +14:50. With this event being the Teesside district championship, it is confirmed all the over 40 age group awards that had participants were won by group members.

12 August – 50 ml TT – T502 – Hartlepool CC/VTTA (North Group) – Organizer: Phil Wright – Unfortunately due to heavy rain through the previous night the decision was reluctantly taken to cancel after a half hour delay. Confirmation that this was the right decision was seen, as heavy downpours were experienced when the event secretary was collecting the signs in at 9am. With an entry of 94, containing many national time trial names, it was noted that 24 riders pulled out by the evening before.

The Group's Nouva shield, presented annually to the North group member best on standard, was competed for in the Sunderland Clarion 25 on Sunday 17th June. With this not being a VTTA event, no standard awards



or results were published, so work is currently being undertaken to establish group participants, their ages and their corresponding plus for the event. The winner will be announced in the next Veteran report.

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

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE, All North Group events are open to all ages and thus are eligible for points in the new National CTT ranking system.

Pete Manners, who was not well early season, has rediscovered his mojo and riding over in Lancashire he broke a group age record for 25 miles. The group records will be amended and a record certificate prepared.

I have been informed that In another fantastic ride, again in Lancashire, group member Mick Bradshaw, a previous RTTC National 50 Champion, who has experienced serious health issues over a number of years including a heart transplant, has ridden a 25 minute 10 mile time trial. When you consider that his first completed 10 was in Ruth Crossley's 10 last year with a 30 plus minutes, you can appreciate the progress made by Mick over the last 12 months. Congratulations to both Pete and Mick from all the North Group members.

Our group luncheon, to be held at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019, will not only honour all our competition winners by presenting their awards, but will also welcome group members to receive their standard plaques/trophies. This is a great social occasion which provides the opportunity to meet fellow group members for a chat and experience good food. Tickets, will be available shortly from the group's social secretary, Ruth Crossley. Please support this function, as without continuing members' support, its future is at risk.

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

## **NORTH LANCASHIRE & LAKES**

### ***Dave Brown***

It has been a busy 3 months for our VTTA Group members – and very successful at that!

The famous Anfield '100' held on May Spring Bank Holiday Monday also included the VTTA 100 mile Championship. We had our own group member Richard Bideau second fastest for the third time 'on the run' in the Anfield and winning the VTTA national title on standard and leading our group to team winners on standard.

Richard riding for the Pendle Forest CC returned to the timekeeper in an excellent 3h 43m 13s – just over a minute behind overall fastest veteran (but not VTTA member) Mark Turnbull of TORQ Performance - this gave Richard the winning plus of 1:10:20.

Richard led our group to the winning team on standard. The RTTC 100 mile national champion in 1992 and 1993 Gethin Butler of Preston Wheelers was our group's second best on standard with an actual time of 4:01:37 giving him a plus of 53:57. Surprise third group member on standard was Paul Russell of Springfield Financial who clocked an actual of 4:14:30 to give a plus of 43:09 and to ensure the NL&L Group the team award. The 'surprise' element was that Derek Parkinson – also Springfield Financial - had initially been given a bigger 'plus' but he had not renewed his VTTA membership in time for the '100' but clocked 3:53:35.

Our group promoted the VTTA National 50 mile Championship on the scenic Keswick to Cockermouth course. Originally scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> May it was postponed when road works on the A66 road were announced for that time; the new date was Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

The almost unbeatable - when it comes to standard - Brian Sunter of Condor Road Club had a definitely unbeatable winning plus of 33:43 from his actual of 2:04:08. Second came to our own group's Steve Irwin of the North Lancashire RC where his actual time of 1:45:45 gave him a plus of 32:58. Steve's actual time was beaten into second place by just 12 seconds by the slightly younger Derek Parkinson of Springfield Financial whose excellent 1:45:33 was fastest ride time on the day. Fourth on standard stayed in the NL&L group with Dave Hargreaves of North Lancs Road Club arriving at the finish timekeeper – who just happened to be the start timekeeper and also event secretary - Richard Taylor - in a time of 2:03:05 for a plus of 31:25 – just one second behind third placed Parkinson!

Top lady on standard was our own group's Deborah Moss of Team Merlin whose actual time of 2:4:33 gave her a winning plus of 25:42. Rachel Mellor

(Holmfirth CC) was second lady on standard with 2:08:06 giving her a plus of 25:06 whilst our own group secretary Sue Cheetham of the North Lancs RC finished in 2:09:52 – a personal best at age 55 - for a plus of 23:52. Theresa Taylor (Ribble Valley CRC) was our group's third best lady on standard - her time of 2:18:03 giving a plus of 17:26. The actual fastest time from the lady riders was the excellent 2:02:46 from Charlotte Boothman (ABC Centreville) with second fastest going Deborah Moss with 2:04:33.

Our promoting group were winners of the group team on standard thanks to Steve Irwin, Derek Parkinson (by now signed up again as a group member!) and Dave Hargreaves. The top club on standard was the North Lancs RC thanks to Steve Irwin, Dave Hargreaves and Sue Cheetham.

Unfortunately the event was marred by an accident to David Pritchard of the Kennoway RC. Scotland group member David suffered a broken left arm and additionally bruised ribs and thigh. The police were investigating with the possibility of action against one of the drivers involved.

Two weeks later on the same roads – literally twice round the '50' course – the North Lancs TTA promoted the RTTC National 100 mile Championships. This resulted in a new incredible course record time – and almost competition record - of 3:17:39 from new national champion Marcin Bialoblocki!

In mid-June the West Pennine RC and our VTTA Group promoted their annual 25 mile on the A59 Clitheroe by-pass. The fastest ride on the night came from non-vet Phil Jones of Transition RT in a very good 52:08 but the over 40's took most of the rest in the top ten. Fastest vet on actual was Steve Irwin in 52:57 after a short break from the racing scene. This was partly - I established on the night - due to setting up of his new TT bike which at first glance is a Lotus, but was later confirmed as a TriRig Omni machine.

Top six on fastest after the above two were Derek Parkinson (Springfield Financial) in 53:30, Gethin Butler (Preston Whs) 55:06, Paul Fleming (Preston Whs) 55:59 and Sean Owens (Croston Velo) 56:05. Charlotte Boothman of ABC Centreville did another top ride to take fastest lady in 1:00:57 which also gave her the famous and long established Eva Benson Trophy presented annually by the West Pennine RC.

Group member Pete Greenwood (Team Swift) was unbeatable on standard with his 57:06 ride giving the 66 year old a plus of 15:14. Steve Irwin took second on standard with plus 14:29, next was Dave Hargreaves with a plus of 13:09 from his time of

1:01:05 and Derek Parkinson took fourth with his third fastest ride of 53:30 and plus 13:09. Best of the ladies on standard was Sue Cheetham, her 1:3:43 ride gave her a plus of 10:55.

There was no surprise with the team on standard with Steve Irwin, Dave Hargreaves and Sue Cheetham again being top for the North Lancs RC.

Gethin Butler was back in action – and in our thoughts – just days afterwards. Gethin's 2001 record for the famous End to End epic was under attack and finally beaten by Michael Broadwith. Who was out at some unearthly hour encouraging Michael between Preston and Shap Fell? – no less than Gethin himself!! After arriving at John O'Groats 17 years ago Gethin carried on to re-set the 1000 record – but not Michael!

We welcome a number of new members to our group – Kenneth Roy Addison, David Harry Rundall and Scott Taylor and we hope you all enjoy your time with us.

Our group AGM will be held on Sunday 4 November at Claughton Memorial Village Hall, Stubbins Lane – one of our venues of a few years ago - on the road between Garstang and Inglewhite. We will open at 10am with tea/coffee served before the meeting starts around 10-30am. All are welcome.

I loved the comments of Event Secretary Richard Taylor – who else?? – on the result sheet of that WPRC/VTTA '25'. Many readers of this VTTA publication will have similar feelings!!

*"Many of you will have noticed the retro feel to my events and this one is no exception. Apart from the old fashioned cheque and paper entry, the hark-back to the 70's with numbers at the start and the use of lay-by for headquarters, many may argue, it is hardly more than a club event. Fair comment, but the essence of the event is social as well as competitive, the buzz of friendly chat and camaraderie at the finish board in the back of a hatchback car, is a reminder of a gentler era when rivals dispersed home awheel for hours in pouring rain only to be confronted by a hostile missus and a tripe butty for supper, before being up at 6 for the early shift down't pit!"*

I class that as brilliant, Richard!!

## **NORTH MIDLANDS**

### **Alex Deck**

It's been a funny season. I'm wondering now about the longer term ramifications of not having the V718 and the knock on effects to other DC courses. I'm not optimistic. As this goes to press we aren't sure we're going to be able to run our October 10 on the

fast O10/3 (the A1) due to pressure from the local police. At this rate we'll be back to 5am starts and no numbers before we know it.

Some notable long distance results: Alex Deck and Joe Le Sage, both Rutland CC, set new club records and pb's in the Team Swift 100 and the CC Breckland 12 hour respectively. Alex battled cold, strong winds and constant rain to win the women's event with 4:36:30, whilst Joe had to contend with equally tough conditions at the other end of the thermometer, with temperatures up to 30 degrees - still managing a whopping 277.88miles. Chris Lea (Buxton CC) set two new group age records - 3:45:26 for 100 and 272.66 miles for a 12 hour, aged 56. Brilliant effort Chris.

Syd Wilson, now 89, set a group age record for 25 miles of 1:17:49 at the Rossington Wheelers event on the O25/11, which isn't a fast course at all. We were hoping he'd be able to take a few more minutes off this at the VTTA 25 champs but conditions would not allow. Congratulations Syd. *(Syd has recently been seen racing on a new carbon fibre Scott in pursuit of faster times - Ed)*

We've been enjoying reading about Andy Clark's return to racing (see the group report in the last issue) and watching his steady progress (and enthusiasm) as he gradually lowers his 10 mile pb. Since the last issue he's knocked another minute and a half off it, which just shows what you can do with hard work. Here's how he did it (RB= road bike, TTB = time trial bike):

17/02/18 Coalville Whs 10, A10/34 - 29:46 (RB)  
10/03/18 Leicestershire RC 10, A10/13 - 27:56 (RB)  
14/04/18 Birdwell Whs 10, O10/1 - 26:48 (RB)  
21/04/18 Barton Whs 10, C10/7 - 26:21 (RB)  
05/05/18 Rossington Whs 10, O10/1 - 25:51 (TTB)  
13/05/18 Bourne Whs 10, C10/10 - 25:23 (TTB)  
28/05/18 Stowmarket & District CC 10, B10/38 - 24:44 (TTB)  
09/06/18 Bolsover and District CC 10, O10/5 - 24:29 (TTB)  
28/06/18 Buxton CC 10, J10/1 - 24:27 (TTB)  
07/07/18 Sherwood CC 10, A10/14 - 23:40 (TTB)

We're looking forward to the next season and that short 23 Andy!

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

## NOTTINGHAM & EAST MIDLANDS

### David Herd

Despite the breeze it appeared to be a warm day for the NEM Group open 25; however we were soon to

know what warm really means, with much higher temperatures in the following weeks. Held on the Elston-Stragglethorpe-Farndon course on 19 May, it delivered some fast times. Senior rider Adam Duggleby (Vive Le Velo) was fastest with a splendid 46:57 and other non-vets scooping up second and third with 30 mph plus rides.

VTTA members were split into four age groups:

40 – 49: 1<sup>st</sup> Karen Ledger (Rutland CC) +18:39; 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Gibbons (Team Klincutapparel.com) +16:04; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sean Vincent (Team Backstedt) +15:12.

50 – 59: 1<sup>st</sup> Michiel Vaal (Team Backstedt) +17:14; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) +16:38; 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Ledger (Team Bottrill) +16:19.

60 – 69: 1<sup>st</sup> Geoff Platts (Team Bottrill) +17:41; 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Grant (Cambridge CC) +17:39; Michael Stevens (Melton Olympic CC) +14:32.

70 plus: 1<sup>st</sup> Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) +21:17; 2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Sewell (Wisbech Whs) +16:55; 3<sup>rd</sup> Ken Stevens (South Pennine RC) +16:31.

Karen Ledger (Team Bottrill) was first lady with an excellent ride of 53:44, with Becky Murley (Wisbech Whs) second lady on 57:16. Karen was also in the count for team on standard with Team Bottrill colleagues Geoff Platts and Chris Ledger.

This was a really well run event by Russell Gent and his team of helpers and well-done to all the prize winners.

Mapperley CC held their 10 on 26 May using the A46 for the second year running but unfortunately it turned out to be a very windy day again this year. On this occasion the wind came from the east which made it hard on the outward leg and blew riders back on the return leg. Veteran David Mead (Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT) was fastest with 20:23, with Dan Barnett (Team Bottrill) being the fastest Group member on 20:56. Others were: Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) 21:38, Jim Boyle (NopinZ) 21:53 and Chris Ledger (Team Bottrill) the last NEM member to go under 22 minutes on 21:55. This was an excellent event with a full field of 120 riders; I'm sure the weather will come right next year on the basis of being third year lucky.

The weather conditions were much better for Witham Wheelers 10 the following Saturday. Conditions were dry with a steady westerly cross wind on the A15 Sleaford-Osbourne course. Senior Matt Sinclair (Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT) was fastest with 20:13; it was left to Ian Guilor (Mapperley CC) to be the first NEM Group member on 20:55. Michael Davis (Beeston RC) came in 7<sup>th</sup> 22:28 with Nic Hitchens (Peterborough CC) 11<sup>th</sup> 23:02, Gary Symons (first

veteran Witham Wheeler) 12<sup>th</sup> on 23:02. James Westwood also from the promoting club came in 16<sup>th</sup> on 24:22, Michael Lamb (Kiveton Park CC) 17<sup>th</sup> with 24:36, Nigel Finch (Mercia CC) 21<sup>st</sup> 25:14, and Michael Smalley from the promoting club 24<sup>th</sup> on 25:22. Other Witham Wheelers NEM group members were grouped closely together and achieved the following times: Martin Hedley 25:43, Tony Hardenberg 26:02, Louise George 26:41, Tracey George 26:54. David Herd 27:02. Finally Michael Church (Rockingham Forest Whs) did 27:06.

Leicester Forest CC held their 25 on the rolling Seagrave-Stragglethorpe-Six Hills course on 9 June on what appeared to be a hard evening; it was won by senior James Gelsthorpe (Velo-One Cycling Team) in 51:59 with Sean Vincent (Team Bottrill) the fastest NEM veteran on 52:45 for sixth place. The event was well supported by a further 17 NEM members.

Spalding CC 25, held on the 17 June, attracted some high quality riders, with senior (and soon to become national road race champion) Connor Swift of Madison Genesis being fastest, averaging over 30 mph with 49:39 on the challenging C25/35 Donnington-Quarrington (Sleaford) course. Equally talented Harry Tanfield (Tour de Yorkshire stage winner and Commonwealth Games TT silver medallist) was second with 50:30. Chris Ward (Team Swift) 11<sup>th</sup> was the fastest NEM Group member on 57:10 followed by a further 8 group members.

Our Group Recorder Graham Green took on his Team Bottrill promotion of the 10 mile Breedon Circuit on 23 June. Fastest on the day was David Mead (Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT) 20:33, but it was his team mate Michael Wills in 8<sup>th</sup> place with 23:02 who was fastest of nine NEM group members. It appears to be a hard but an interesting course.

On the same afternoon Sleaford Wheelers CC 15 on the A52 Threkingham- Donnington Course with a menacing wind on the return leg. Senior Matt Sinclair (Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT) was fastest in a stunning time of 30:23 with Mapperley CC's Ian Guilor second on 31:59. Michiel Vaal (Team Backstedt) came in 5<sup>th</sup> on 32:54. There were 12 further NEM times, showing our strength in depth despite this clash of events.

Lincoln Wheelers CC annual charity 10 was held on 7 June. It was won by the host club's senior Billy Jarrish in 20:36 on this testing course with only a finishing half mile of downhill to look forward to. The host club veteran Sean Hunt came in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 21:36, Chris Ward (Team Swift) 5<sup>th</sup> 21:57, I came in on 26:48 with Peter Holland (Lincoln Whs) on 32:07.

There was a disappointing number of entries for this local well run charity event.

In the meantime later that evening Sherwood CC ran their open 10 on the A10/14A Long Bennington-Gonerby Moor course with a full field of a 120 riders, of which 36 were NEM members. A bad local clash confirming that the faster course will always draw the riders.

Well that's all from me for this issue. Please send any information to my new email address:  
davidherd63@gmail.com

## SCOTLAND

**James Skinner**

### Member News

It is with sadness we have to report on the passing of Shirley Gisbey. Shirley joined the group in 1991 and was an Honorary Life Member; the thoughts of all in the Scottish Group are with her husband Malcolm and family. A full obituary will appear in the next Veteran.

SVTTA's longest serving member Jock Elder became 100 years old on 12<sup>th</sup> May. In recognition of this our chairman, Michael Devlin, presented him with a certificate from the VTTA and he also had a visit from Dunfermline CC and the CTC. Jock rode for many years with John Cramb in veteran events, winning many awards. He then turned to riding tricycles and went on to break every veteran tricycle record in the Scottish group.

Royal Albert rider John Gallagher was assaulted recently by a motorist whilst out training. Luckily there were no lasting effects and as there were a few independent witnesses, it is in the hands of the police.

David Pritchard of the Kennoway RC suffered a broken arm after being involved in a collision at the 50 mile TT in Keswick, resulting in him having a plate inserted, and a bit of bruising, all in the Scottish group wish Dave a speedy recovery.

Jackie Connor and Eddie Nelson are both suffering a bit of ill health at the moment, all in the Scottish group wish both all the best.

### Racing

The Boomerang Trophy 2up TT is now being run in conjunction with the Archie Speed 2-up on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May saw the second running of the one lap hilly TT of Loch Leven, Glencoe. The fastest group member was James Cusick (Dooleys RT) with a

42:18 and fastest local member Donald Paterson (Nevis Cycles) riding a 43:19.

This event followed the CTT Scotland Four up Team Time Trial Championship which was held in the same area the previous day. Only two members rode with their club team - namely Jonny May (Edinburgh RC) and Gordon Murdoch (GTR Return To Life).

Congratulations to Jim Cusick (Dooleys RT) who won the first Isobel Smith Memorial 25 mile TT at Fourdon with a 54:52. 14 group members rode this event in memory of Isobel.

In the north two members rode in the East Sutherland Wheelers 10 at Dunrobin. Alasdair Washington (Caithness CC) continues his good form with 27:42. and Amanda Wagstaffe (East Sutherland Whs) completed in 28:29.

One hundred and eleven riders returned times in the Velopreda 25 on the Westferry course, with 40 under the hour, and 5 of the first 20 being Scottish Group members. The event was won by John Archibald in 48:13, with our own fastest being Jim Cusick riding a 53:23 to take 7th overall.

Alisdair Washington (Caithness CC) rode a 1:04.55 to win the John Cramb handicap trophy by a minute and a half in the Aberdeen Wheelers Neish/Low Trophy 25 at Fordoun. The SVTTA would like to thank the organiser Dan Ewing, and Bobsawheeler for looking after its interests in this event.

Jim Cusick (Dooleys RT) added the 50 mile championship to the 10 mile which he won earlier in the season at the Harry Robert memorial; this was incorporated into the Alistair Speed memorial TT in Fife. Riding a 1:56:00 gave Jim a +25:21 on standard, with first lady on standard being Miriam Rennet (Kinross CC) with +15.08. 23 Scottish group members rode in the event.

On a weekend that saw only one event in Scotland a couple of riders travelled south for a weekend's racing. On the Saturday evening 10 mile TT at Garstang Robert Brown (EH Star) did 25:00 and George Skinner (Royal Albert CC) rode 27.03, local super vet Alex Munro (SVTTA) joined them in riding a 29:48. Less than 12 hours later the pair were at it again in the Lancashire Road Club 25 with Robert riding a 1:05:43 and George finishing in 1:08:32.

Christina Mackenzie of Stirling Bike Club came second in the ladies' RTTC championship and first lady on standard in the VTTA championship with a splendid ride in the Mersey Roads 24hr TT. Mark

Leadbetter and Donald McLean, again of the Stirling Bike Club, retained their VTTA tandem championship.

### New Members

The Scottish group welcomes the following new members: Steven Blom (GTR), Nigel Brooks, Archie Johnstone, Nigel Myrie Holl and Elizabeth Clayton (all Stirling Bike Club), Bill Blyth and Ronald Lowe (both Deeside Thistle), Steven Clayton and Amanda Jane Tweedie (both RT23), Wullie Cosh, Michael Dennison and Liam Farrell (all unattached), Ron Defelice (Glasgow Couriers), John Gartland and William Turner (both GJS Glasgow Nightingale), Alan Graham (East Killbride), James Hall (Rock and Road), Janette Hazlett (Glasgow Ivy CC), Neil Howarth (Deeside Thistle), Bill McMullan (Glasgow United), Thomas McNeish (Royal Albert CC), James Moffat (Velopreda), Giles Oakley (of Dunbar noted as riding for Clevedon & District RC), Davis Ross (Falkirk BC), Donald Sharp (Glasgow Whs), Andrew Smith (VC Glasgow South), and Findlay Iain Watt (Dunfermline CC).

Welcome back George Grant of Forres CC, rejoining after a few years absence, and apology to Neil Pendrich (SVTTA) for the misspelling in the last issue.

### Other Items

The group AGM will be held in McQ's, Bannockburn, on the 18th November at 11am, with lunch at 1pm for those wishing to stay. McQ's in Bannockburn will also be the venue for our prize giving lunch on the 20th January 2019; doors open at 12 for a 1pm start, contact George Skinner for tickets priced £13.50.

For Scottish group clothing contact David Millar, at [davemillar@ntlworld.com](mailto:davemillar@ntlworld.com), as he has plenty of stock in hand.

If any riders from the Scottish group are racing down south let our TT secretary Jim Harris know all about it on [jimharris35@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jimharris35@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## **SOUTH WALES**

### ***Barry Williams***

The last two months have seen some fantastic weather, 2018 is likely to be the finest summer of the twenty-first century and reminiscent of 1976. UK weather is ever unpredictable, but in my long life experience, I have known quite a few years with snow and ice in March, followed by glorious sunny summers. 2018 has been one of those - cold winter, hot summer - but on this

occasion, further embellished by a Welsh winner of the Tour de France.

I joined a group of Cardiff cyclists on the Sunday of the Tour finish in Tongwynlais Cycling Café. We watched the celebrations in Paris on TV as Geraint Thomas enjoyed his victory moment on the Champs Elysees. Geraint's abundant talent was well known from the start. While he was a very young teenager, I can recall riding with him at the front of a group, he rode at my pace, no attempt at using the half wheel to increase the tempo, he was happy to fit in with us. An attitude he carried into his professional career, making him a popular team member who fitted in with his comrades, teamwork being everything in Grand Tour success.

Last Thursday, August 9th, Geraint returned to Cardiff to be acclaimed by thousands in a parade through the city. The local politicians were there, keen to share in the Tour de France winner's limelight. They made speeches saying how fantastic this win would be for the region and for Wales as a whole. Promises were made for better routes and facilities for cycling in this area.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely to happen, austerity is still ruling us and I am almost certain that the local authorities are likely to continue as before, doing nothing, except "kicking the can down the road". Harold Wilson, Prime Minister in the 1960s famously said that "a week is a long time in politics" therefore, I guess that like so many other famous occasions, our Tour de France win will soon disappear into the ether, overtaken by events.

I have been browsing the recent time trial results and as expected with the warm weather, there have been plenty of records and individual personal bests. British time trials were traditionally isolated from other forms of world cycle racing. When I started racing in the 1950s, the stars of the day, Vic Gibbons, Ken Joy and the Higginson twins, were pure time trialists, cycle racing on the open road was against the law. Cycling's time trial races were known as Britain's secret and silent sport, with start sheets being marked 'private & confidential'. Therefore, it was impossible to make performance comparisons with their continental rivals at that time. Now it is all changed, especially with the arrival from Poland of Marcin Bialoblocki, a world class professional, happy to ride for fun, he is living in Bridgewater, Somerset and he is rewriting the time trial record books - 10 miles in 16 minutes, 25 miles in 42 minutes and 50 miles in 90 min. Although some might disagree, I am happy to call his performances "a breath of fresh air".

The first South Wales event to attract my attention was the WCA 12 hour on July 1st – Apparently, conditions were extremely hot, but this did not stop a magnificent

297.29 miles ride by Anthony Jones (Towy Racing Club), I am almost certain that this is a Welsh record. Maybe it was the weather, but just two of our members completed the course. It's well done for David Bucknall (Royal Dean Forest), who must be proud of posting 263.35 miles, Bob Jones also finished, however, he told me that the heat caused him hydration problems, thus reducing his mileage to 206.88. At least Bob rode the course to the best of his ability, there were 4 DNFs and 4 DNS – only 24 entries, which poses a question, what is the long term future of the 12 hour time trial?

The National 12 hour Championship held on June 17<sup>th</sup> helped to answer that question with 60 entries and some record breaking performances. The winner, Adam Duggleby posted a record 321.45 miles. Adam is right up there performance wise, already holding the 100 mile record with 3.16.51, a time that Marcin Bialoblocki recently failed to beat in a recent attempt. It was good to see Kieron Davies from Llanelli recording 319.69 miles also beating Andy Wilkinson's 2012 record of 317.97 miles, well done Kieron. It has been 50 years since Beryl Burton posted her famous record 277 mile 12 hour – Alice Lethbridge passed that record in 2017 with 285 miles and made a further improvement while winning the ladies title with 290 miles. None of this should detract from Beryl's true greatness, reflected in her winning five world championships and numerous UK time trial championships at all distances between 1958 and 1986.

I also looked at the Ross on Wye and District 10 held 14<sup>th</sup> July on R10/17 won by Arthur Franklin Portishead in 18:18, I think that could be a Welsh record. I was pleased to see Stewart Evans name on the finish sheet, Stewart is recovering from a serious prostrate operation, he posted 24.54, which shows a positive recovery. Other members riding included Rod Hicks 21:55, Marco Marletta 24:05, Andrea Parish 23:19, Jo Buckland 23:51, Sue Shook 24:43 and finally my old friend Dave Davies, battling with old age, 32:28.

Dave Davies also rode the Realteam 10 - 28<sup>th</sup> June on R10/17 posting 32:16 and another veteran comeback man, Pat Jerome showed up with an improved 27:54. These guys are showing that you can take a break from competition, yet, in old age still come back and enjoy a fun ride.

The Cardiff 100 Miles Club 50 on 5<sup>th</sup> August, course R50/1b provided some fast times. The Portishead flyer, Arthur Franklin posted 1:42:57 which could also be near the Welsh record. Our members recorded some good performances, Steve Powell 1:53:24, David Wilson-Evans 2:01:06, Steve Curry 2:01:24,

Terry Anthony 2:04:03, John Shehan 2:11:24 and Diane Wilson-Evans 2:18:10.

In scouting other 10 and 25 mile results from South Wales, it appears that just two courses are grabbing the headlines. R10/17 Abergavenny-Raglan has provided lots of happy 10 mile results for our members. But it's the 25 mile course, R25/3H, Neath Valley dragstrip that attracts PB hunters from far and wide. July was a popular month on this course – Merthyr CC on the 8<sup>th</sup> was good for John Shehan, 59:06. Hugh Davies 59:18 and Clare Greenwood just outside the hour with 1:00:02 – Realteam on the 22<sup>nd</sup> saw Chris Massey post 51:18, Leon Evans, 53:31 and just a few weeks earlier Bynea CC on June 24<sup>th</sup> had Rod Hicks recording 51:54, David Wilson-Evans 54:27, Steve Madeley 57:18 and Marco Marletta 57:42.

To our members, keep posting these fast rides and don't forget VTTA's season long competitions, especially the short distance table. At the end of September go to VTTA website and enter your two best 10s and 25s – chance to feature in the overall for 2018.

I started this report in wonderful sunny weather, but as I finish, we are heading back to a normal British climate, plenty of wind and rain. On that note I wish our readers good luck safe cycling.

## **SURREY & SUSSEX**

***Jon Fairclough***

### Welcome to new members

A welcome to seven new members: Conor Boyle (Woking CC), Jim Ford (Dorking), Dean Kirkwood (Kingston Wheelers), Sian Charlton (Anerley Bicycle Club), Katie Crowe (Dulwich Paragon), Marcus Edwards (Kingston Phoenix RC), Terence Keen (Smile CC). Nearly all have joined using the online membership system rather than completing and posting joining forms and cheques. It's a lot easier for everyone, both new members and administrators.

### Results of Surrey/Sussex open events

The Surrey/Sussex VTTA 30 run by the Lewes Wanderers on 20<sup>th</sup> May on G30/88. Forty-five riders were on the start sheet and forty-four made the start line. The top four veterans on standard were 1<sup>st</sup> Nick Dwyer (Lewes Wanderers CC) 1.06.49 (+16.18), 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Smith (Crawley Whs) 1.04.33 (+16.06), 3<sup>rd</sup> Howard Bayley (Blazing Saddles) 1.05.45 (+14.43) and 4<sup>th</sup> Donald Parker (Brighton Mitre CC) 1.14.42 (+14.14). Lisa Davis (Lewes Wanderers CC) 1.15.10 (+13.38) was the fastest lady on standard. Thanks to Simon Yates for organising the event.

The Surrey/Sussex VTTA 50 run by East Sussex CA on 17<sup>th</sup> June on G50/90. Seventy-one riders were on the start sheet and fifty-eight made the start line. The top four veterans on standard were 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Smith (Crawley Whs) 1:49:23(+28:03), 2<sup>nd</sup> Donald Parker (Brighton Mitre CC) 2:07:26 (+24:52), 3<sup>rd</sup> David Clements (Eastbourne Rovers CC) 1:56:14 (+22:04) and 4<sup>th</sup> Adrian Blacker (Norwood Paragon CC) 1:59:59 (+21:50). Lisa Davis (Lewes Wanderers CC) was the fastest lady on standard at 2:07:31 (+20:22). The fastest in age category (not winning another prize) were: Aged 40 – 44 Neil Couchman (Southborough & Dist. Whs) 1:55:06, Aged 45 – 49 David Clements (Eastbourne Rovers CC) 1:56:14, Aged 50 – 54 Lawrence Wintergold (Hounslow & District Whs) 1:57:24, Aged 55 – 59 Glenn Karpeta (East Grinstead CC) 2:11:28, Aged 60 – 64 Peter Baker (Lewes Wanderers CC) 2:04:28, Aged 65 and over Donald Parker (Brighton Mitre CC) 2:07:26. Thanks to Mark Gidney for organising the event.

The Surrey/Sussex VTTA 100 run by East Sussex CA on 12<sup>th</sup> August on G100/861. Fifty riders were on the start sheet and thirty-seven made the start line. The top four S/S Group Veterans on standard were 1<sup>st</sup> David Clements (Eastbourne Rovers CC) 4:12:01 (+40:31), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Davis (Lewes Wanderers CC) 4:33:49 (+38:39), 3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Baker (Lewes Wanderers CC) 4:40:52 (+27:57) and 4<sup>th</sup> Brett Davis (Lewes Wanderers CC) 4:28:15 (+23:16). Thanks to Bob Harber for organising the event.

### Records

Alan Robinson Central Sussex CC set a new S/S age record for 10 miles by a 77 year old of 25 minutes 20 seconds at the Horsham 10 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

James Rix Team Bottrill/Vanguard set a new S/S age record for 10 miles by 42 year old of 18.08 at the Lea Valley CC 10 on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Jon Fairclough, Woking CC, set a new S/S age record for a 12 hour of 243.78 miles at the CC Breckland event on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

### Q & A

This is a new section where a member of the Surrey/Sussex group is interviewed. First up is James Rix of Team Bottrill / Vanguard, who set a new national record in 2017 of 17:47 at 10 Miles. At the time of writing he is leading the 2018 CTT rankings. *(This has moved to page 7 as it is of wider interest - Ed)*

### Upcoming Surrey / Sussex open events

The remaining event is the 25 on 23<sup>rd</sup> September on G25/89. This event is listed on the CTT website and

in the 2018 CTT Handbook. We are hoping for a big turnout at this end of season event.

### Committee Vacancies

We now have a Group membership total of 151 but only 5 are currently on our Committee. For the last two years these reports in the Veteran have mentioned that we need our members to help with the administration of the Group by taking on the roles of Group Recorder and Social Secretary and it is essential that volunteers now come forward. The Group Recorder is responsible for collecting and analysing results and record claims and organising the certificates, standard medals and trophy awards ready for presentation. The Group Recorder's work is needed at the end of the season in October and November. Given that the VTTA is all about races and records, the Group Recorder's work is fundamental to what we do. The main responsibility of the Social Secretary is to organise the Annual Lunch. Effort is mostly needed in December and January for the lunch in February. Both roles require knowledge and experience of using Word, Excel and email. We also now need someone to take on the role of Group Secretary, which is an administrative position dealing with any correspondence and preparing the agenda and minutes for two meetings each year. Please consider helping the Group by taking on one of these roles; if you would like any further information, please contact Keith Wilkinson at [keithwilkinson@talktalk.net](mailto:keithwilkinson@talktalk.net).

### AGM and Annual Lunch

The Group AGM will be held on Sunday 18th November 2018 in the Handcross Parish Hall, High Street, RH17 6BJ. Arrive from 10:00am for a cup of tea or coffee and to read the annual reports before the meeting starts at 10:30am. All Group members can attend, particularly if you would like to take on one of our vacant committee positions.

The Group's annual prize giving lunch will be held from noon on Sunday 3rd February 2019 at the Normandy Centre, Denne Road, Horsham, RH12 1JF. Please support this event which honours the achievements of our Group members in the 2018 racing season. There will be a 3 course meal and a guest speaker. A booking form will be sent out in December. All members, their partners and friends are welcome.

## **WESSEX**

### ***Bob Jolliffe***

#### Sarah beats the boys in 15 champs

SUMMER arrived with a vengeance in the South. But while flowers and fields were wilting under the sun,

Wessex Vets responded to the heat with a bumper crop of rides.

Group chairman David Collard Berry's series of evening events on the A3 road in eastern Hampshire have been supremely successful in providing a happy hunting ground for those in search of fast times.

One of those events included the inaugural Wessex Championship 15 on P881 which was won with +11-08 by Sarah Matthews from promoting club ...a3crg with a new national age record of 33-35. CC Weymouth's Greg Parker was second on standard with +10-20 from an actual 30-30, Andy Langdown of Blazing Saddles was third with +10-16 from 29-58 and Antony Green of New Forest CC fourth with +9-43 from 31-07. Other rides of note came from 71-year-old Fareham Wheeler Alan Emmott (fifth with +8-47, 35-22), Jerry Bromyard of ...a3crg (63 years, +8-08, 34-06) and Crabwood CC's 75-year-old Dave England who finished with 39-57 and a plus of 5-34 after making a steady comeback from a broken leg last summer. At the conclusion of the event, group membership secretary Norman Harvey said it was probably one of the best attended Wessex championships in years, and it was on a Wednesday evening.

Sarah, who incidentally was event secretary for the CTT women's and juniors' National 25-mile Championship races, has also set new 58-year old national age records of 21-33 for 10 miles on P881r on July 18 and 55-24 for 25 miles in the Realteam event in South Wales on July 22.

#### Green group 10 champ

New Forest's Antony Green was the worthy winner of the Wessex Group 10-mile Championship held as part of the Alton CC promotion on the H10/8 course with 20-20 which earned him second place overall behind Chris Loake of Pure Motion CC in 19-33. Green's time gave him a plus of 6-49. Since then he has gone on to clock several other faster 20-minute rides, including two of 20-07, but has yet to beat the magical 30mph barrier. But the season is not yet over . . . Fareham Wheelers' Nigel Sign was second on standard with plus 5-44 from an actual 22-00 and Farnham Road Club's Richard Williams was third with plus 5-36 from 24-17.

#### Saddle blazing despite cooler conditions

The Wessex 25 Championship was staged by North Hampshire Road Club on the H25/8 at Bentley in slightly cooler conditions than previously experienced. Andy Langdown of Blazing Saddles was the winner on standard with a plus of 16-33 from an actual 51-17. Antony Green was second with



+16-04 (52-48) for second place and Nigel Sign third with +15-04 from 55-34. Alan Emmott took fourth (+13-20, 1-01-16) and, after a winter dogged with illness, 85-year-old Norman Harvey (Sotonia CC) was fifth with +13-10 from 1-13-45. A further nine Wessex group members returned times.

### Sign tops the times

In the Wessex 50 Championship hosted by Southdown Velo on the P901 in West Sussex, Nigel Sign came out tops on standard and actual with plus 31-23 from 1-54-20. Norman Harvey was second with +24-20 from 2-38-20 while another Fareham Wheeler, Dave Dalton, took third with +23-32 from 1-57-22. Others were: Nick Andrews (Portsmouth North End CC) +23-01, 1-57-53, Steve Skinner (Bognor Regis CC) +21-24, 2-05-42, Mike Boyce (...a3crg) +13-33, 2-12-51, Neil Dyble (Bournemouth Arrow CC) +5-01, 2-16-48, Simon Craig-McFeely +2-29, 2-22-00 and Adrian Watkins (Tornado RCC) +1-07, 2-18-53.

### Wessex success in National 12

...a3crg success came in the form of last year's Wessex best all-rounder Stephen Williamson who, after being initially left off the results of the VTTA National 12-hour, ended up winning the event in a brilliant 299.430 miles and a plus of 96.130 miles. An excellent result, especially as he was injured in an accident earlier in the year. Backed by Fareham Wheelers' Nigel Sign (+58.989, 243.559) and his 80-year-old clubmate Brian "Sid" Hygate (+54.123, 191.293), Williamson led Wessex Group to team victory with a total plus of 209.242 miles over East Anglian (208.601). Sid Hygate set a new Wessex age record into the bargain. The "12" was staged by Farnborough & Camberley CC on roads based around Bentley in north Hampshire.

### Carpenter chisels out highs from lows

More success for ...a3crg came from Angela Carpenter who at age 49 set a new national age record with 52-30 in the Acme Wheelers 25 on R25/3H in May. She was fifth overall in the women's/juniors'/overflow event. Her time was good enough to beat Liz Powell's 42-year-old time of 53-12 set in 2017. Just days later she set a new Wessex 10 record of 21-43 in one of her club's Wednesday evening events.

Earlier, on May 7, she had a taste of tough times when she had a mechanical issue before the VTTA National 10 and suffered a time penalty. Her actual time of 21-02, would have given her fastest time in the event, not to mention a new record. A little later in the season she inadvertently crashed while riding in Peterborough and fractured her elbow and pelvis. But she now

appears to have recovered: she finished the ...a3crg 10 on August 7, just before copy deadline, with a sparkling 21-56. Expect to hear more of her.

### Summertime smiles at Poole

There have been too many excellent TTs with good or reasonable weather conditions this season to list each and every one, but in addition to the ...a3crg series and the Andover Wheelers' 10, the Poole Wheelers' Summer 10 on P415 deserves special mention.

Youngster David Janes (Wheels of Dorset) won with 18-47, but Wessex Vets did themselves proud. Andy Langdown (Blazing Saddles) was fifth with 19-19, Antony Green (New Forest CC) 11<sup>th</sup> with 20-07, Simon Berogna 15<sup>th</sup> with 20-50, Terry Icke (Poole Wheelers) 24<sup>th</sup> and first on standard with 21-36, just to mention some of more rapid riders.

### Four silvers

Yours truly, a kidney transplantee since 2009, has enjoyed a good season at Transplant Sport level, taking silver in both time trials and road races for those aged 60 to 69 years at the European games in Sardinia on June 19 and 20, then the British games held on the Stourport Sports Club closed circuit in Worcestershire on August 3.

In addition to providing sport for transplantees of all ages and abilities, transplant games are staged to showcase the efficacy of life-saving organ transplants and to encourage individuals and families to consider donation, should the worst happen.

### AGM nag (and ride opportunity)

The Wessex Group AGM is taking place at the Haywain pub beside the A336 at Bartley at 10am on Sunday, November 18.

In recent years turnout has been poor (and that's putting it mildly). Things are bumping along at the moment but, like every organisation which relies on volunteers, Wessex committee members are getting older (better than the alternative, of course), but it would be nice to see more interest from our younger members who might, some day soon, take over.

The Haywain serves teas, coffees and even breakfasts. It is also located less than a mile from some lovely New Forest lanes, so why not make the AGM a starting point for a pleasant ride to round off the season. I might even lead it. Just don't leave vehicles in the pub car park as it serves Sunday roasts and gets very busy, and we want to be able to go back there in the future. Leave them at the Forestry Commission car park at the cricket field off the A337, a two-minute drive away from the pub via Cadnam Roundabout.

## **WEST**

### **Brian Griffiths**

Very little has reached this news desk this quarter and to be honest it appears that very little has happened. I admit that I have not been out and about as much as I would like, but events these days don't seem to be quite as social as I have always remembered them. Riders turn up, warm up on their turbo, ride the event, warm down and then are off home instead of enjoying a cup of tea, the odd cake and a bit of sociable conversation..

Here in the West we are very short of good courses and we constantly seem to suffer the annoyance of inconvenient road works to deter our best efforts. This now seems to be becoming a national problem for our sport and it is hard to know what to do about it. Will we have to use more closed circuits or can a solution be found by talking to the police? Why cannot we close sections of the road for an hour or so on a Sunday morning, or could we come off and marshal paths through traffic lights with suitably trained people as marshals?

It has sadly become apparent that we have another serious problem to contend with before our AGM. Mike Jupp has consistently produced a first class quarterly journal for the group for quite a few years now. Unfortunately all good things must eventually come to an end and having just read and really enjoyed his latest masterpiece, the very next one in the autumn will be his last. It is not easy for many of us to appreciate the time and effort that goes into producing the quality article which we have come to expect. I know Mike has burnt many midnight candles on our behalf to produce and perfect each edition and I also know that he feels that his efforts have not always been appreciated.

I do hope that amidst our present membership there is someone who will take on this essential task, otherwise a vital organ of group communication will disappear. So I do appeal to anyone who feels that they can consider taking on this task to please step forward as soon as possible. You will be appreciated by every single member and I am quite sure that Mike will give you every assistance to help you through the initial stages.

Recently I helped to marshal the Welsh and West District 12 hour championship. There were 26 on the start sheet, but only 20 started and about 12 finished. What a lot of work goes into organising such an event, weeks of preparation and the willing efforts of all those who turn out to make it a success on the day. I can only say that it is a jolly good job that we have such enthusiasts as Robin Field around to take on this

commitment year after year. Perhaps it is not the fastest of courses but the weather was good, though perhaps a little warm for some, and certainly the organisation could not be faulted. So what keeps so many riders away from such events? Is it simply that we are not up to riding the longer distances any more?

I am sure we all watched with hope the intrepid progress of Geraint Thomas as he stormed to victory around the challenging route of this year's Tour de France. What a magnificent achievement it was and no one can deny that it was well and truly deserved in every respect. I understand that he will be staying with the Sky team so we can only speculate how things might work out between our two eligible contenders next year.

I have not seen many results from our group riders but I am sure they will soon be heading my way. Probably it's me but I cannot seem to navigate my way through the CTT web site very successfully.

Don't forget to reserve a day in your diary for the West Vets AGM, which is scheduled for 4th November at Sutton Benger village hall. There are plenty of interesting topics on the agenda for you to get your teeth into and in any case we value your opinions and comments on what we intend for the year ahead. There are things to be learnt about the new organisational shake up nationally, which you could take advantage of. Hopefully you might want to volunteer to play your part on the committee and replace some of our long standing committee members. I can promise that there will be no arm bending. There will be tea and cakes on offer of course.

If you have any aspirations to be a magazine editor you would be welcomed with open arms, so please give it serious thought as we do not want to be without a West Vet Journal next year.

## **YORKSHIRE**

### **Chris Goode**

It has been a busy summer for many of our members and officials. Our July 10mile time trial proved to be a success despite the well publicised demise of the V718 and consequent move to the slower adjacent V714 (Gilberdyke - Howden). Organiser, Mike Penrice, did some sterling work contacting former riders and was rewarded with 71 entrants, including a good smattering of visitors.

The day benefited from the July heatwave and light variable winds. Regular supporter of the event Ron

Hallam (South Pennine RC) brought the caravan to Yorkshire and was rewarded with 1st on standard with +7:50 from 27:06. This was a most remarkable ride, beating second placed Yorkshire super-vet Brian Sunter (Condor RC) by one and a half minutes, when Brian recorded 23:47 for +6:20. Another regular supporter Dan Barnett (Team Bottrill), many years junior to the top two at a youthful 44, took third sport with +5:43. Dan's actual time of 20:35 was however good enough to be fastest vet, beaten only by Richard Dean (Cyclomania) with 19:44.

As is usual with Mike's event the refreshments money all went to charity, with Yorkshire Air Ambulance receiving £75.

Brian Sunter's record in VTTA championships deserves a special mention - 2nd in the 30, 6th in the 10, won the 50 for the sixth time in seven years, 3rd in the 25. Rachael Mellor was an excellent second-placed woman in the 50 miles event.

Andy Jackson won the 24 hour National Championship (both RTTC and VTTA) on his debut at the distance. I saw both Andy and Doug Hart during this race and they were both very impressive. Doug was second in the VTTA competition and fourth overall, with 496 miles, and was backed up by Michael Hutchings, with a solid 353 miles, deservingly winning the group team. Chris Goode also rode, improving from 2017 to record 352 miles.

Doug Hart also tackled the new RRA Circuit of the Yorkshire Dales before tackling the 24 hour challenge. He beat the standard time of 6 hours 45 minutes with a time of 6:28:23. Well done Doug on your superb riding this year. Readers will remember Doug's account of the York to Edinburgh RRA record attempt in the last edition of The Veteran.

Yorkshire also had a good day in the VTTA 25 championship with Simon Beldon winning on a super hard day. Brian Sunter was in third place and Blair Buss also well up and together it was another group team win for Yorkshire. Blair is also the organiser of our forthcoming 10 miles TT on 22 September, on the V714.

On 8th August Karen Taylor was in action on Scunthorpe's Quibell Park outdoor track setting a 100km age 50-59 woman's track record under World Ultra Cycling Association rules. This is the same organisation responsible for the Race Across America and numerous other very long distance challenges.

Scunthorpe is a large and shallow outdoor track but is well sheltered on all sides, which was as well because the day was windy. Under WUCA rules Karen was

able to tackle the ride on her normal timetrial bike and found it most suitable on this type of track, although she found no need to change gear. Lapping consistently at 48 to 50 seconds per 485m she faultlessly completed her 207 lap ride and 100km in 2:49:51, beating the existing record by 22 minutes. At the time of writing there is some doubt as to whether the VTTA would ratify this or shorter records for intermediate distances of 10 miles ((26:50), 20km (33:27), 1 hour (22.229miles), 25 miles (1:07:35) and 50km (1:24:17) due to her enforced choice of mount. Women's outdoor track records already exist for distances up to 10 miles but Karen narrowly failed to beat the shorter ones as she was pacing her effort for the much longer distance. This leaves some business and there is talk of another distance attempt aimed specifically at shorter distance VTTA age records. Karen and coach Adam Hardy also starred on Look North being interviewed by Keeley and Harry. They both came across extremely well.

The motivation for Karen to focus on these outdoor track records came from the disastrous season with open time trials in Yorkshire - V718 discontinued (so no fast short distance events) and several longer distance events being cancelled or abandoned due to accidents. The hoped for new fast course has also not materialised due to the Yorkshire District Committee being cautious in their approval following a recent accident.

We have a number of new members to welcome into our ranks and they include: Neil Barwick and Michael Hutchings (Harrogate Nova CC), Mike Beckett and John Savage (Hull Thursday RC), Jonathan Bennett (City RC (Hull)), Andrew Blades (Rutland CC), Kenneth Corbett (Wakefield CC), Ashley Fawkes (VTTA Yorkshire), Helen Goldthorpe (Otley CC), Todd Roberts (VTTA Yorkshire), David Ingham (Holme Valley Whs), Ciaran Pickering (Team Sportslab) and Greg Thorley (Parentini Test Team).

The Yorkshire group lunch and prize presentation will again be at the Bridge Inn, Walshford. The date is Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January and Mike Williams is the organiser. Please support this excellent social event.

Enjoy a pleasant autumn awheel and remember to get your Standard and BAR claims to Jim Trevor by 14<sup>th</sup> October.

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

# **VTTA NATIONAL 50 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP**

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

*NEC Representative Andrew Simpkins*



The National 50 championship was held on the L505R course between Keswick and Cockermouth. This is a two lap course for a 50. The stretch alongside Bassenthwaite Lake is the most beautiful stretch of time trialling scenery I have yet experienced in the UK, not that you get that much opportunity to enjoy it when hunched over your tri-bars. Being next to the Lake there were some confusing shifts in wind direction early in the morning, but it was very warm and sunny.

The event had got underway when an accident occurred directly outside the HQ. A motorist had inexplicably driven into the back of another car turning right

into the HQ. Unfortunately, Dave Pritchard of Scotland VTTA was directly behind the driver causing the accident and had no chance of avoiding the collision. He ended up in the road with a broken arm and much bruising. The police and ambulance service were soon on the scene but one-way traffic round the accident had to be managed for some time. I was just about to leave the HQ for the start when the accident occurred and there was obviously some doubt as to whether the event would continue. However, the situation was under control by the police and we were fortunate not to have to abandon.

Our thanks go to Richard Taylor of North Lancs & Lakes and his team for organising the event and dealing with the accident and its aftermath including following up with Dave Pritchard and his brief stay in hospital. I would also like to commend those riders who stopped racing at the place where the accident occurred in order to be of help. Competing is great but not more important than the safety and well-being of our fellow competitors.

You can see the full results list of the event after this article. The National Champion's jersey for the best plus on standard (male or female) went to Brian Sunter for the sixth time in seven years, an amazing achievement and a demonstration of perseverance and consistency at 75 years of age. Well done to Brian for another gold medal. The men's silver and bronze medals went to Steve Irwin and Derek Parkinson respectively, with Dave Hargreaves pushed into fourth place by a single second.

The women's gold medal went to Debbie Moss, with Rachael Mellor taking silver and Sue Cheetham bronze. A good turnout by local riders meant North Lancs and Lakes won the group prize and North Lancs RC won the club prize.

I found it a little disappointing that only 43 VTTA members entered the championship. Keswick is obviously something of a journey for people 'down South' but we try as an NEC to distribute championships around the country to give all the groups and their members the opportunity to ride in a 'local' championship. All I can say is, the scenery in the Lake District makes any trip there worthwhile!




Winning North Lancs Road Club team -  
Dave Hargreaves, Sue Cheetham and  
Steve Irwin



Fastest woman on standard  
and actual was Debbie Moss  
(Team Merlin)

## NATIONAL 50 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship images courtesy of **Kimroy Photography** 

Brian Sunter (Condor RC) powering to  
his sixth 50 miles championship in  
seven years



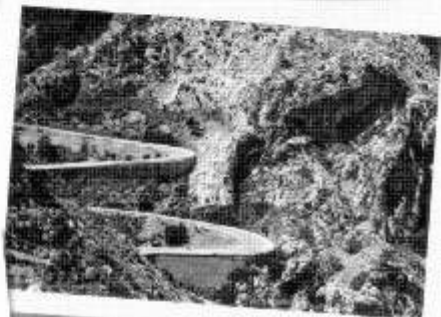
Third man on standard (and fastest overall)  
Derek Parkinson of Springfield Financial is  
congratulated by organiser Richard Taylor



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**FINISH ORDER & AWARDS - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 50 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pos	Name	Club	Grp	Age	Std	Actual	+/-Std	VTTA Award
1	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yks	75	2:39:51	2:04:08	+35:43	Champion 1st Man
2	Stephen Irwin	North Lancs RC	NL&L	47	2:18:43	1:45:45	+32:58	2nd Man Group Team Club Team
3	Derek Parkinson	Springfield Fin'l	NL&L	43	2:16:59	1:45:33	+31:26	3rd Man Group Team
4	David Hargreaves	North Lancs RC	NL&L	71	2:34:30	2:03:05	+31:25	Group Team Club Team
5	Paul Fleming	Preston Whs	NL&L	53	2:21:21	1:51:50	+29:31	
6	Ian Cox	Fogarty's Ins	NL&L	48	2:19:09	1:50:05	+29:04	
7	Mike Westmorland	Border City Whs	NL&L	73	2:37:00	2:08:06	+28:54	
8	Craig Horseman	Beacon Whs	NL&L	44	2:17:26	1:49:06	+28:20	
9	Peter Leonard	Southport CC	NL&L	66	2:29:29	2:02:52	+26:37	
10	Debbie Moss	Team Merlin	NL&L	W48	2:30:15	2:04:33	+25:42	1st Woman
12	Rachael Mellor	Holmfirth CC	Yks	W54	2:33:12	2:08:06	+25:06	2nd Woman
13	Steven Shore	Southend Whs	EA	71	2:34:30	2:09:54	+24:36	
14	Sue Cheetham	North Lancs RC	NL&L	W55	2:33:44	2:09:52	23:52+	3rd Woman Club Team
15	Simon Smith	Shutt Ridley CRT	Mids	43	2:16:59	1:53:24	+23:35	
16	Randle Shenton	Team Swift	Scot	60	2:25:05	2:01:40	+23:25	
17	Daniel Shackleton	ABC Centreville	M&NW	47	2:18:43	1:55:43	+23:00	
18	Matt Stell	Springfield Fin'l	NL&L	40	2:15:35	1:53:28	+22:07	
18	Martyn Uttley	Barrow Cent Wh	NL&L	58	2:23:54	2:02:29	+21:25	
20	David Wright	Warrington RC	M&NW	59	2:24:29	2:03:23	+21:06	
21	Paul Russell	Springfield Fin'l	NL&L	51	2:20:27	2:00:23	+20:04	
21	David Hilditch	Ribble Valley CRC	NL&L	65	2:28:38	2:08:34	+20:04	
23	Andrew Simpkins	Solihull CC	Mids	64	2:27:51	2:08:00	+19:51	
24	Roger Haydock	North Lancs RC	NL&L	69	2:32:18	2:13:08	+19:10	
25	Theresa Taylor	Ribble Valley CRC	NL&L	W58	2:35:29	2:18:03	+17:26	
26	Jez Willows	VC Flintham	NMids	53	2:21:21	2:04:22	+16:59	
27	Peter Haigh	Nelson Whs	NL&L	64	2:27:51	2:11:56	+15:55	
28	Carol Westmorland	Border City Whs	NL&L	49	2:30:43	2:16:31	+14:12	
29	Richard Durham	Settle Whs	Yks	63	2:27:06	2:13:15	+13:51	
30	David Golden	Army CU	NL&L	58	2:23:54	2:10:27	+13:27	
31	Melvyn Lewis	Born to Bike	Mids	59	2:24:29	2:12:35	+11:54	
32	Simon Diggins	North Lancs RC	NL&L	45	2:17:52	2:09:19	+8:33	
33	April Lewis	Born to Bike	Mids	W56	2:34:18	2:30:46	+3:32	
34	Michael Cox	North Lancs RC	NL&L	72	2:35:43	2:32:16	+3:27	
35	Clifford Degraff	VC Cumbria	NL&L	53	2:21:21	2:31:18	-9:57	
DNF	Denis Thompson (West Pennine RC), Keith Ainsworth (Sheffrec CC), David Pritchard (Kennoway RC), Frank Anderson (SVTTA), Peter Greenwood (Team Swift)							
DNS	Seam Owens (Croston Velo), Steven Loraine (Team Swift), Dave Topping (North Lancs RC), Robin Vessey (Didcot Phoenix)							

# VTTA NATIONAL 25 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018

*NEC Representative Andrew Simpkins*



*Karen Ledger was delighted to receive her first lady award from former 25 and 50 miles competition record holder turned world masters marathon record holder Mick Ward*

The National 25 mile championship was held on the A25/34 course south of Newark, organised by Colin Parkinson and the Notts & East Midlands Group. The A25/34 is a fast, mainly dual carriageway course on the A46 but this Saturday afternoon presented some particular difficulties. First, a serious traffic accident blocked the A46 south of the HQ and this delayed many competitors getting to the event. In consultation with the police the start was delayed initially by 30 minutes and then an hour. Secondly weather conditions were tough with a southerly gale blowing and occasional drizzle. As a result of the situation many riders decided not to start and several others did not finish. The consequence was that from a full field on the start sheet, we had only 79 solo finishers plus two tandems.

Conditions on the course were hard. However, it was mainly a block headwind going out and a fast tailwind coming back so some riders reported that in their case it had not proved as difficult (or dangerous) as they might have feared. Nonetheless most riders were around 5 minutes off their best.

Our thanks go to Colin and his team, including special guest and prize presenter Mick Ward, for navigating the difficult circumstances and bringing the event to a successful conclusion. Congratulations to all the prize winners (and all the riders) for overcoming on a difficult day.

<b>AWARD WINNERS - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 25 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>				
<b>Award</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Std.</b>
Champion and 1st Man on Standard	Simon Beldon	Team Bottrill - Vanguard	Yorkshire	+17:45
2nd Man on Standard	Keith Ainsworth	Sheffrec CC	North Midlands	+17:34
3rd Man on Standard	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yorkshire	+17:02





Local rider Jo Corbett on her way to 3<sup>rd</sup> woman



Simon Beldon - a new name amongst the champions and enjoying a stunning season

## NATIONAL 25 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship images courtesy of

**Kimroy Photography** 

Blair Buss rode imperiously to a place in Yorkshire's winning team



Team Swift pairing of Richard Dixon and Tim Humphries made light of the very strong wind



Award	Name	Club	Group	Std.
1st Woman on Standard	Karen Ledger	Team Bottrill - Vanguard	Notts & E Mids	+16:33
2nd Woman on Standard	Liz Powell	Drag2Zero	Midlands	+14:31
3rd Woman on Standard	Jo Corbett	Mapperley CC	Notts & E Mids	+10:46
Group Team Champions	Simon Beldon	Team Bottrill - Vanguard	Yorkshire	+50:06
	Brian Sunter	Condor RC		
	Blair Buss	Halifax Imperial Whs		
Club Team Champions	Simon Beldon	Team Bottrill - Vanguard	Yorkshire	+48:14
	Karen Ledger		Notts & E Mids	
	Sean Vincent		Notts & E Mids	
Tandem Champions	Richard Dixon	Team Swift	Yorkshire	+11:56
	Tim Humphries		North	

#### FINISH ORDER - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 25 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Std. Pos.	Name	Club	Group	Age	Std	Time	Time Pos	Plus
1	Simon Beldon	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	Yks	48	1:07:38	0:49:53	1	+17:45
2	Keith Ainsworth	Sheffrec CC	NMids	59	1:10:04	0:52:30	5	+17:34
3	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	Yks	75	1:16:59	0:59:57	31	+17:02
4	Karen Ledger	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	N&EM	45	1:12:23	0:55:50	11	+16:33
5	Ian Guilor	Mapperley CC	N&EM	51	1:08:14	0:51:56	4	+16:18
6	Darren Maironis	Velotik RT	M&NW	45	1:07:03	0:51:39	2	+15:24
7	Paul Westwood	CC Giro	Mids	45	1:07:03	0:51:43	3	+15:20
8	Blair Buss	Halifax Imperial Whs	Yks	53	1:08:39	0:53:20	6	+15:19
9	Liz Powell	Drag2Zero	Mids	43	1:11:56	0:57:25	23	+14:31
10	Steve Kaye	Fenland Clarion CC	EA	59	1:10:04	0:56:05	12	+13:59
11	Sean Vincent	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	N&EM	48	1:07:38	0:53:42	7	+13:56
12	Mick Black	Springfield Financial RT	NL&L	71	1:14:36	1:00:41	34	+13:55
13	Sean Hunt	Lincoln Whs CC	N&EM	54	1:08:52	0:54:58	9	+13:54
14	Ian Greenstreet	AeroCoach	L&HC	54	1:08:52	0:55:04	10	+13:48
15	Michael Wills	Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT	N&EM	59	1:10:04	0:56:30	15	+13:34
16	Stuart Wells	Flex-Tech Ettridge Cycles RT	NA*	46	1:07:15	0:54:27	8	+12:48
17	Keith Dorling	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	EA	59	1:10:04	0:57:20	21=	+12:44
18	Sidney Wilson	Sheffield Phoenix CC	NMids	89	1:33:53	1:21:13	79	+12:40
19	Joseph Costello	Walsall Roads CC	Mids	59	1:10:04	0:57:33	25	+12:31
20	Michael Smalley	Witham Whs	N&EM	73	1:15:43	1:03:38	48	+12:05
21	Rob Vessey	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	55	1:09:05	0:57:02	17	+12:03
22	Steven Loraine	Team Swift	Mids	62	1:10:57	0:59:03	28	+11:54
23	Alan Cooke	Peak Road Club	NMids	54	1:08:52	0:57:14	19	+11:38
24	Roger Sewell	Wisbech Whs	EA	71	1:14:36	1:03:16	45	+11:20
25	Mark Brearton	Wigan Whs CC	M&NW	49	1:07:50	0:57:01	16	+10:49
26	Jo Corbett	Mapperley CC	N&EM	62	1:16:40	1:05:54	61	+10:46
27	Daniel Shaw	Halifax Imperial Whs	Yks	49	1:07:50	0:57:06	18	+10:44

Std. Pos.	Name	Club	Group	Age	Std	Time	Time Pos	Plus
28	Richard Sheldrake	Lincoln Whs CC	N&EM	44	1:06:51	0:56:08	14	+10:43
29	Karl Caton	Elmsall Road Club	NMids	51	1:08:14	0:57:42	26	+10:32
30=	Phil Robinson	Janus Road Club	M&NW	49	1:07:50	0:57:20	21=	+10:30
30=	Nicholas Hitchens	Peterborough CC	N&EM	50	1:08:02	0:57:32	24	+10:30
32	Mark White	Mark White Coaching RT	N&EM	48	1:07:38	0:57:17	20	+10:21
33	Brett Harwood	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	EA	42	1:06:26	0:56:07	13	+10:19
34	Becky Murley	Team Swift	EA	52	1:13:55	1:01:39	36	+10:17
35	Anthony Keyworth	Kiveton Park CC	NMids	71	1:14:36	1:04:48	55	+09:48
36	Craig Lamb	Alford Whs	N&EM	49	1:07:50	0:58:06	27	+09:44
37	Richard Durham	VTTA (Yorkshire)	Yks	64	1:11:36	1:01:55	37	+09:41
38	Martin Bullen	Peterborough CC	NMids	66	1:12:20	1:02:43	40	+09:37
39	David Smith	Sleaford Whs CC	N&EM	67	1:12:44	1:03:15	44	+09:29
40=	Gary Kondor	Sherwood CC	NMids	55	1:09:05	0:59:38	30	+09:27
40=	Wendy Gooding	Team Bottrill / Vanguard	EA	54	1:14:23	1:04:56	56	+09:27
42	John Martin	Elmsall Road Club	NMids	56	1:09:19	1:00:32	33	+08:47
43	Andrew Simpkins	Solihull CC	Mids	64	1:11:36	1:02:53	41	+08:43
44	Richard Gray	Norton Whs	NMids	64	1:11:36	1:03:10	43	+08:26
45	Simon Dighton	Beacon Roads CC	Mids	55	1:09:05	1:00:49	35	+08:16
46	Mark Burtonshaw	Team Swift	Yks	60	1:10:21	1:02:12	38	+08:09
47=	Ian Pike (trike)	Lincoln Whs CC	N&EM	50	1:12:10	1:04:04	49	+08:06
47=	Ben Hamilton	Rutland CC	NMids	72	1:15:09	1:07:03	65	+08:06
49	Mathew Stonley	Sherwood CC	N&EM	45	1:07:03	0:59:06	29	+07:57
50=	Linda Hubbard	Welland Valley CC	N&EM	52	1:13:55	1:06:01	64	+07:54
50=	Murray Kirton	A5 Rangers CC	Mids	77	1:18:26	1:10:32	69	+07:54
52	Anthony Hardenberg	Witham Whs	N&EM	68	1:13:10	1:05:18	59	+07:52
53	Stephen Scott	Elmsall Road Club	NMids	59	1:10:04	1:02:13	39	+07:51
54	Andy Newham (trike)	Lincoln Whs CC	NMids	45	1:11:07	1:03:18	46	+07:49
55	Gary S Wright (trike)	Lincoln Whs CC	NA*	53	1:12:50	1:05:05	58	+07:45
56	Emma Bexson	Stratford CC	Mids	43	1:11:56	1:04:35	53	+07:21
57	David Buxton	Rotherham Whs CC	NMids	62	1:10:57	1:04:29	51	+06:28
58	Martin Lister	Witham Whs	N&EM	66	1:12:20	1:05:55	62	+06:25
59	Lee Statham	Houghton CC	NMids	43	1:06:39	1:00:20	32	+06:19
60	Alison Vessey	Didcot Phoenix CC	West	64	1:17:24	1:11:14	71	+06:10
61	Nigel Wood	Vision Racing /Swinnerton Cycles	M&NW	55	1:09:05	1:03:00	42	+06:05
62	John Robertson	Mid Shropshire Whs	Mer	63	1:11:16	1:05:41	60	+05:35
63	Kevin Humphreys	Sherwood CC	N&EM	58	1:09:49	1:04:30	52	+05:19
64	Paul Birkin	Buxton CC/Sett Valley Cycles	M&NW	56	1:09:19	1:04:06	50	+05:13
65	David Golden	Army Cycling Union	NL&L	58	1:09:49	1:04:42	54	+05:07
66	Paul Brownless	Lincoln Whs CC	N&EM	49	1:07:50	1:03:29	47	+04:21
67	Mandy Bunn	CC Sudbury	EA	49	1:13:15	1:08:57	68	+04:18

Std. Pos.	Name	Club	Group	Age	Std	Time	Time Pos	Plus
68	Chris Close	Sleaford Whs CC	N&EM	63	1:11:16	1:07:13	66	+04:03
69	Colin Holmes	VTTA (L&HC)	L&HC	75	1:16:59	1:13:05	75	+03:54
70	Roy Oakes	South Pennine RC	N&EM	73	1:15:43	1:12:28	74	+03:15
71	David Herd	Witham Whs	N&EM	70	1:14:06	1:11:05	70	+03:01
72	Garry Lee	Mapperley CC	N&EM	48	1:07:38	1:04:59	57	+02:39
73	Paul Brierley	Huddersfield RC	Yks	51	1:08:14	1:05:56	63	+02:18
74	Sarah Soden	Leicester Forest CC	N&EM	54	1:14:23	1:12:09	73	+02:14
75	Melvyn Lewis	Born to Bike - Bridgtown Cycles	Mids	59	1:10:04	1:08:14	67	+01:50
76	Sally Withey	Team Swift	EA	49	1:13:15	1:11:33	72	+01:42
77	Kathryn Smith	Sleaford Whs CC	N&EM	64	1:17:24	1:15:42	77	+01:42
78	Barry Drew	Spalding CC	N&EM	70	1:14:06	1:13:55	76	+00:11
79	Michael Weaver	Rotherham Whs CC	NMids	69	1:13:37	1:21:06	78	-07:29
DNF	Michael Church (Rockingham Forest Whs), Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC), Steve Cornish (VC Nottingham), Paul Lilley (Fenland Clarion CC), Adam Laycock (VTTA (EA Group)), Chris Ward (Team Swift), Roger Widdowson (Sherwood CC), Steve Hancock (Calder Clarion), Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC*), Jackie Field (CC Ashwell), Theresa Taylor (Ribble Valley CT), Susan Semple (Born to Bike), April Lewis (Born to Bike)							
DNS-A	Jon Fairclough (Woking CC), Ed Watson (Ratae RC), Norman Griffin (Vive Le Velo), Ken Stevens (South Pennine RC), Colin Lizieri (Cambridge CC), Ian Peacock (Leek Cyclists' Club), John Smith (Thurcroft CC), Chris Ledger (Team Bottrill), Terry Icke (Poole Whs), Vincent Jenkins (LeisureLakes Bikes.com), Neil Mackley (Fareham Whs CC), Kevin Stokes (Born to Bike), Ged Millward (Ilkley CC), Stuart White (Sleaford Whs CC), Chris Dyason (Cambridge CC), Chris Lea (Buxton CC), Neil Fort (Yorkshire RC), Frank Anderson (SVTTA), Andrew Grant (Cambridge CC), Graham Green (Team Bottrill), Phil Barnes (Team Swift), Phil Collier (Mapperley CC), David Manship (Leicester Forest CC), Ken Platts (Cambridge CC), Danny McCabe (Garstang CC), John J Murphy (Gloucester City CC), Kevin Tye (VeloRefined.com), Stu Wright (Planet X), Alastair Semple (Stafford RC), Ian Day (Aspire Velo RT), Dave Bates (South Pennine RC), Andy Jackson (AeroCoach), Geoff Platts (Team Bottrill), Andrew Hicklin (Peak RC), Paul Heggie (Birdwell Whs), Jonathan Durnin (Welland Valley CC*), Cliff Beldon (Selby CC), Deborah Moss (Team Merlin), Gill Henshaw (Velo Club Long Eaton), Deborah Hutson-Lumb (Nova Raiders CC), Alex Deck (Rutland CC), Joy Payne (Amersham Road CC), Janet Fairclough (St Helens CRC)							
DNS	Simon Geraci (Team Swift), Chris Spray (Ratae RC), Andy Cole (Sleaford Whs CC), Giles White (Sherwood CC), Matthew Miller (Team Bottrill), Rod Weston (Race Hub), Paul Eveleigh (Lincoln Whs CC), Chris Sprott (Leicester Forest CC), Richmond Denton (Parentini Test Team), Brett Lowndes (Pro Vision Cycle Clothing), Stephen I'anson (Buxton CC), David York (Ratae RC*), Edwin Kaye (Alford Whs*), Anne Staley (Mercia CC*), Sarah Lewthwaite (Team Sportslab), Mich Morley (Team Swift), Sonya Hurt (Team Backstedt Bike Performance)							
* Not a member of VTTA on the closing date - not eligible for awards.								

#### FINISH ORDER - 2018 VTTA NATIONAL 25 MILE TANDEM TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Std. Pos.	Name	Club	Group	Age	Std	Time	Time Pos	Plus
1	Richard Dixon	Team Swift	Yks	55	0:33:10	0:54:17	1	+11:56
	Tim Humphries		Nth	54	0:33:03			
2	James Annan	Settle Whs	NA*	49	0:32:34	1:04:15	2	+03:22
	Julia Hargreaves		NA*	48	0:35:03			
NB - Tandem plus = 1 <sup>st</sup> rider std + 2 <sup>nd</sup> rider std - Actual time								

## 90TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO TED KING MBE

The name of our WestVets President, Ted King MBE, will be familiar to many members, especially our older ones. He was National President of the CTC from 1991 to 1997 but he has been enthusiastically involved in cycling for much, much longer than that. He celebrated his ninetieth birthday in July, still riding his bike and still full of youthful enthusiasm.

Ted began cycling at age seven with his first bike and he soon discovered a wonderful world opening up before him. Joining the CTC at age 16 showed up more avenues to add to his cycling experiences.

Within three years he was elected to Bedfordshire DA committee and was soon involved in promoting their interests. This was to be followed by the post of secretary of the Icknield Road Club when he became interested in the racing side of our sport.

Ted moved on to take the job of Bedford DA Secretary, before being elected as CTC Councillor for Division 9 (Bedford, Herts, Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk). Scaling new heights, he also became Bedford DA CTC President.

After four years his job took him to Bristol where his reputation soon got him on to the Bristol DA committee. Two years later he accepted the post of Bristol DA Secretary, which took up a lot of his time for nine years. Despite this he also took on the responsibility of becoming CTC Councillor for Division H (Gloucester, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall).

In 1978, aged 50, he joined Chippenham Wheelers and the VTTA and took up racing in quite a serious way, gaining age standards at all distances up to 12 hours.

The following year he was awarded the CTC Certificate of Merit and shortly after he became a National Vice President of the CTC. At Bristol DA CTC's next AGM they decided to elect him as their President, a post he held until the national body became a charity and dissolved the regional DA's.

Nine years of dedicated work were acknowledged when he took on the responsibility of becoming National President of the CTC, an honoured and highly respected position, which he held for 6 years.

Having done a valuable stint as President he then reverted to his previous role as a National Vice President, continuing to make a substantial contribution at the head of affairs. In the same year, 1997, he was made President of the York Rally and was also awarded life membership of the CTC.

With his interest in racing and his undoubted committee skills Ted accepted the job of President for the WestVets in 1999, a post he still holds to this day.

Some would say because of his modesty his efforts were often overlooked but eventually they shone through to the authorities and in 2002 he was presented with an MBE for his services by Her Majesty the Queen.

We can all wish Ted a belated happy birthday and thank him for his enormous contribution to our sport and pastime, which we all appreciate.

*Brian Griffiths*



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# OBITUARIES



## LEN FINCH

2nd February 1932 - 17th May 2018

Len died as a result of natural causes whilst cycling. He was 86 years old, was a lifelong cyclist and a founder member of CC Sudbury. He was still riding open trials as one of the oldest VTTA competitors and was regularly to be seen on E and B courses.

Len wrote a summary of his early life and his own words are used here together with reminiscences of friends past and present.

His schooling passed happily but was interrupted when the Second World war caused him to be evacuated from Walthamstow to Peterborough. In later life he moved to Suffolk

"In 1949/50 I got involved in cycle speedway - a new sport that blossomed after the war period. Most tracks were on bomb sites, especially in East London. I joined a new club formed in Walthamstow and we joined the East London League and built, or more likely marked out, a track on our bomb site. The riding was very hairy and there were many crashes and accidents."

**Mike Jupp** - When reading a newspaper article about a cyclist who had sadly died suddenly realised to my horror it was my friend Len. We first met at a London cycle jumble and had a

good chat and I visited his home quite a few times and bought vintage bits and pieces and to admire his collection that included a triplet

tandem. He had recently got in touch with me and sent me a BBC article about his involvement in speedway cycle racing which I thought our members would like to read -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-31013387>

"A new episode started in my life when I decided to join a cycling club. I contacted the local club and visited the secretary, Albert Wells, in Clapton; he invited me to come out on a club run and so I was introduced to the Marsh Racing Club. I can look back on some

wonderful memories and great people who have touched my life from that first club run."

"In July 1951 I rode the Marsh club 50 on the Southend Road course and did 2:16:25, my first ever event. I became noticed as my time was faster than many established club riders who had been racing for years. I was encouraged to enter the Becontree Wheelers 25, which was held a fortnight later. I did 1:6:56. Evidently very good times for a novice and the racing bug had bitten. I raced three more times that year."



**Derek Connor** - Back in the 1950s Len and I entered a race called 'Tour of West Flanders' in Belgium. The day before the start we were asked by the England team manager if we would replace two team members who were unwell. At the start of every stage team members, complete with bouquets of flowers, would parade around the town square to much applause. At this late stage the programme could not be altered and it identified Len, at the ripe old age of 23, as the under-18 champion of Great Britain.

On a rest day Len and I cheerfully imbibed and later on, staggering around town, we came across the hotel where the German team, sitting bolt upright, were listening to their team manager giving instructions. We were not popular as we listened to their team tactics - not that we understood a word of German!

**Harold Raymond** - I first met Len when, with my former club, I was selling advertising to fund the Ronde Anglia International bike race. It was suggested I try an ex-cyclist called Len Finch who had a shop called Finch Lea Hardware. After much talk about his former cycling achievements I finally got my £20 and left with a cheeky "Don't talk about it - get your bike out and do it."

I should have known that there is no such thing as an ex-cyclist, only dormant ones. A few weeks later I got a call to say he was back on his bike, so how about joining him? This was the start of 40+ years of regular rides and the direct result was also the formation of Cycle Club Sudbury in 1979.

Our Tuesday rides were always preceded by an 8.30 phone call, answered by Len with "Race control", and by me with "Are you practising today?" This is something his mother told people he was doing while out training. Our last ride together was two days before his sad demise. Goodbye Len, Tuesdays will never be the same.

*Editor - Len and Mavis had been married for 56 years, had two daughters, Julie and Karen and a son Kevin. They also have five grandchildren, Oscar, Anastasia, Madeleine, Martin and Jonathan. Len's friends in the VTTA and the wider cycling world offer the family deepest sympathy in their sad loss.*

*(The Editor apologises for the brief note in the June Veteran that Len died in an accident. This was taken from initial reports in the national media, which were incorrect.)*

## GRAHAM ORCHARD

18th September 1942 - 26th May 2018

We are sorry to have to report the death of Graham Orchard, San Fairy Ann CC, on 26 May, following a period of ill health. Graham and his twin brother Clive grew up in Tonbridge, Kent, and took up cycling as teenagers. They joined the Southborough and District Wheelers in 1959, having previously completed many long rides together. This meant they had no difficulty in stepping up to the all-day Sunday club runs that were a feature of club life at that time. Graham's first time trial was a club '10' on the Benover course near Yalding in 1960 and he went on to race throughout the 1960s.

In 1963 Graham and Clive transferred to the San Fairy Ann CC where, together with Roy Manser, Rod Overton, Dave Patten, Graham

Jones, Roly Crayford, Dick Wallis and others, they helped the club to frequent team wins in time trials across the south east. In 1965 Graham recorded his personal best '25' of 1-00-16 in the Zeus RC event on the Southend Road course. Roy Manser was the winner, beating a host of the country's top riders with his time of 56-03. Graham didn't ever quite manage to beat the hour for a '25' but it should be remembered that the men's competition record was 'only' 54-23 at this time.

The following season Graham returned to the Southborough Wheelers where he became club time trial secretary. He always believed in fair play and had a great sense of humour. One evening, after putting himself off at number one in a club '10', he was quickly overtaken by a

slow-moving bus that paced him all the way to the turn. After pedaling equally hard but without assistance on the return leg, Graham crossed the line in 22 minutes, well inside the course record. But he swiftly returned to the time keeper Warwick Dunford, who was already a prominent South East DC official, and announced 'I wish to disqualify myself!'. Warwick is said to have found this incident highly amusing!

Graham had suffered from diabetes from childhood but I do not recall him ever bemoaning his health or allowing it to affect his riding. Even though he had to time his eating very carefully, especially before and after events, he still raced at all distances up to 12 hours and he even attempted two '12s' in a season in 1966. Riding all distances enabled him to become the Southborough Wheelers club champion and in 1967 he was the East Sussex CA Best All Rounder, almost certainly his biggest racing achievement.

Clive followed Graham back to the Southborough Wheelers in 1969 where they joined up with Clive Ashby, a very fast rider who was returning to the sport after a long lay-off. This trio recorded numerous team wins, and set new club team records at all distances. But with further health problems beginning to emerge, Graham's last ever time trial followed soon after this, the 1971 Kent CA 12 hour. He retired at Yalding Lees, only about a mile from the spot where his racing had begun 11 years earlier.

Graham married Belinda in 1972 and their son Justin was born five years later. Tragically Justin died in 1989 aged just 12. Graham had been less involved in cycling in the 1970s but a

chance meeting with Roy Manser in 1983 led to his return and brought him back to the San Fairy Ann CC. In the following season Clive briefly made a racing come-back. No longer an active rider but always a good clubman, Graham became a keen supporter of the club's riders, and often marshalled and helped in various ways in local events, always wearing his trademark black hat. He particularly enjoyed helping in distance events, and with his knowledge of the local roads and his own experience of riding '100s' and '12s', he helped

many a rider, but particularly Roy Manser and myself.

In many respects the counties of Kent and Sussex played an equal part in Graham's life, both on and off the bike, and so it was appropriate that he should be elected to the Kent and Sussex Fellowship of Cyclists, which he supported very enthusiastically.

Apart from cycling, football, or more specifically Liverpool FC, was Graham's other great sporting passion. In accordance with this, his funeral service ended with the Liverpool anthem

'You'll never walk alone', a moving end to a very sad occasion. The service was very well attended, including many from the cycling world, from a whole range of clubs. We offer our deepest condolences to Graham's family and friends, and especially to his partner Gloria and to his brother Clive. I would like to thank Clive for helping me with some of the details included here of Graham's life. Finally, Gloria would like to thank all who made donations in memory of Graham. These totalled £400 which is to be split between Dementia UK and Hospice in the Weald.

*Mark Vowells*





## BRIAN MAJOR

13th August 1933 - 2nd July 2018

Brian Major, a man who has been described by those who knew and loved him as sensitive, popular, chatty, serious at times, dignified, ambitious, neighbourly, adventurous, brave, articulate, proud, fun, sociable, a lovely man and a true gentleman.

He died on the 2nd of July, he was 84 years old.

In May 1948, several friends got together and formed a cycling club. They knew little of the complexities of cycling as a sport, simply enjoying the pastime as it was then. Soon the club grew, swiftly reaching a membership of 100. The oldest member was 23 and he alone knew of the existence of time trialling.

This was in Middlesex, a county with famous clubs like the Hounslow, the Yiewsley, the Uxbridge and the illustrious Middlesex - together with many others, but the new club remained aloof, its name the South Ruislip Cycling Club (SRCC); so parochial was it that it named itself after just one small part of Ruislip.

Just a mile or two away, another such club had been formed at about the same time. It was called the Northwood Wheelers. Not quite the greenhorns of their immediate neighbour, they had a member, (although still a youngster), who had experience of time trialling, his name was Brian Major. Brian became the BAR Champion of the Northwood Wheelers in 1956, 57, 61 and 62 and he held the club records at all distances from 25 miles through to 12 hours.

During this period, the two clubs became close, promoting joint events, as the SRCC began to learn the inscrutability of the secretive RTTC. It

was fate that decided Brian should join the SRCC in 1963 - fate that was to change two lives and produce many more.

One distinctive feature of the SRCC was the predominance of its unattached, young and handsome male members (only one such being married). So much so that it became almost a source of eligible husbands. Turning this around, Bill Gladwin introduced his sister Pat to Brian and the outcome was a wedding which led to the creation of Andrea, Paul and Neil, followed by

Tom, Fran and Gemma, grandchildren, Christopher, Luke, Katie, Jake, Alanna, Olivia, Eleanor, Toby, and step-granddaughter Emma and her children Faye and Zak.

As a much admired and active member, Brian soon became, not only one of the club's leading riders, but an administrator taking an active part in the organising of the club's affairs and its promotions.

By now, the SRCC had become a club noted for its enviable number of experts in promotion and organisation but lacking in younger, up-and-coming champions. Thus it was decided to

amalgamate with the Uxbridge Wheelers which had the young and the talented - Brian played a big part in this. Thus was born the Hillingdon Cycling Club.

The Hillingdon progressed, witnessing and part of an ever changing environment with crowded roads and motor vehicles changing the pastime for ever.

Brian won many awards during the following years; he promoted many events and, not least, he organised functions like the annual club dinner



and prize presentation. He became the Club President whilst still a leading activist and it wasn't until 2004 that he finally retired from racing.

For his friends he remained and was part of, the strong and enduring fellowship which stemmed from those youthful days of early morning bike rides, committee meetings and club dinners and the subsequent sharing of families.

On Tuesday the 17 of July 2018, many of that fellowship, formed over more than 60 years, gathered at Amersham, along with his family, of whom he was so proud and who loved him so much, to say goodbye to Brian who left us on the 2nd July but who will remain in so many memories for ever.

*Jim Burgin*

## **DONALD EDWARD FORSBROOK** **31st July 1928 - 8th July 2018**

Don, as he was known to everyone, was a quiet and gentle man, who had an interest in many diverse subjects - from classical music to fine china and from fountain pens to clocks. But his most abiding interest was bikes and riding them, either just for the pleasure of a ride in his adopted county of Suffolk or racing in time trials.

Born in Blackheath, Birmingham, he was the eldest of three brothers and was always interested in science and books, believing they were a great source of knowledge. Aged 15 years he joined ICI and remained with the company all his working life. He started racing with Audnam Wheelers and rode to a good standard; he also played table tennis to county standard and with ICI teams.

His first marriage, to Maureen, produced two daughters, Gill and Pam, and during the 1960s he moved to Stowmarket and the ICI paints factory. He would often claim to be a professional bike rider as, head of nightshift, he would pedal a bike around the large site to check on production.

In the late 1970s Don and Maureen went their separate ways. Through Don's great interest in

cycling he joined CTC Suffolk and met fellow cyclist Olive. They married a couple of years later and enjoyed a long and happy marriage. In 1979 Don joined the Wolsey Road Club and renewed his love of testing himself 'against the watch'; he continuing racing until his early 80s. He was later elected a Vice President of the Wolsey RC for services to the club.

Don and Olive were a most hospitable couple; any cyclist was made welcome at their home in Ringshall. Regular visitors to their garden were neighbours cats, stray cats, hedgehogs and other wild creatures and birds - none left without sustenance. The mince pie pre-Christmas run was legendary, with more than 40 cycling friends being entertained. Olive sadly died in 2014, leaving a very large gap in Don's life.

As befits a man who enjoyed discovering how things worked, he liked taking things such as bikes and clock apart and fixing them. Hence his bikes were always kept in near showroom condition, despite some being over 60 years old. Those who knew him will remember his knowledgeable conversations and quiet calm manner.

*Ken Nichols*



# CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EDITOR

Dear Mike,

Congratulations on another fine edition of "The Veteran", which I very much enjoyed – particularly the front cover, of course – but also and especially the reminiscences by Mary Horsnell and Barry Freeman of Alf Engers' unforgettable first 30mph "25". Reluctant as I am to correct Mary, the Andy Grant whose undistinguished "56"- on no training - is recorded on the result sheet for that day, is indeed this one (the confusion may have arisen from the emergence of a young upstart of the same name in her own club, the Chelmer). In those days I rode for the Southend Wheelers and intermittently, in student events, for Cambridge University CC. Alf caught me for 4 minutes that morning, somewhere near Rivenhall End, I think, and still had time to drop me for three more.

I have an impressionistic memory of being passed, at a remote distance, by a fast-moving armada seemingly occupying a different set of space-time co-ordinates, but, to be fair, once he'd got past me, there was just Alf up ahead, in the inside lane, on his own, riding away at a very low cadence but a very high speed and that was what I told Doug Brunwin when I was called as a witness to the subsequent disciplinary hearing at the Midland Hotel.

I retired from racing in 1982 at the age of 29 and resumed in 2015 at the age of 62 after retiring from full-time work. The article prompted me to rise to the Chairman's challenge in the same issue to check the interval between my previous PB's and more recent ones, after a 33-year lay-off, so for what it's worth here they are. Any advance on 37 years? What this seems to show, though, is just how much "tapering" can benefit your performance.

Distance	PB	Year	Interval	Improved PB and year		Current PB and year	
10	21:14	1982	33 years	21:03	2015	20:06	2018
25	53:38	1981	34 years	53:14	2015	50:37	2018
30	01:08:46	1981	34 years	1:03:16	2015	1:03:16	2015
50	01:59:25	1981	35 years	1:48:29	2016	1:43:35	2018
100	04:21:21	1981	37 years	3:47:07	2018	3:47:07	2018

*Andrew Grant (Cambridge CC)*



*Andrew Grant:  
1981 RTTC  
National 25  
Photo by Len  
Thorpe*



*Andrew Grant:  
2018  
Stowmarket 10  
Photo by Trevor  
Harrison*

The Editor also received a letter from Brian Swallow (Maldon & District CC), who also rode that memorable Alf Engers competition record Unity 25 over 40 years ago. Brian confirms the atmosphere around the event, where he recorded 57:27 for 70<sup>th</sup> place. He also mentions another controversy at a 50 mile competition record 50 by Brian Wiltcher (Zeus RC) almost 20 years earlier. Unfortunately space limitations prevent this letter being published.

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