



# VETERANS TIME TRIALS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1943 - Age related competition for racing cyclists over 40

## SPECIAL ISSUE NEWSLETTER

### Coronavirus Update - April 2020

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Daily we are reminded by the media that social distancing is still vitally important, so lockdown will have to be endured for longer. Good news for those hoping to continue racing however - our National Recorder, Glen Knight, has been successful in securing time trial races on Zwift virtual cycling platform; racing will be over a distance of just under 11 miles and this should enable you to keep your competitive edge. For the rest of us, who just want to keep reasonably fit, almost every cyclist has some form of home turbo trainer so even if lockdown restrictions continue it is still possible to maintain fitness. Those of us who have spent hours on a turbo trainer are well equipped to fight boredom.

The necessary current restrictions are the worst in our lifetimes even though we are allowed one daily form of exercise. Thankfully cycling is allowed, albeit on our own or with another member of our household. Continue to listen to the daily advice which is important to allow the NHS to positively and safely nurse all those who unfortunately find themselves ill with the virus. Keep cycling and keep safe and hope to see you down the road in the not too distant future.

*Carole Gandy*

#### FROM THE EDITOR

The current coronavirus crisis has caused the VTTA to review our more immediate communications with our membership. The next edition of The Veteran was due to be compiled in May for publication in early June; however with competitive cycling activity severely curtailed it was obvious that there was going to be very little to report on. There was also a recognition that we would be short of late renewals and new members - those who join when they want to qualify in some VTTA event or ride a

championship. This will have a significant impact on our income in 2020, so we have opted for a 'cheer and cheerful' newsletter this time, issued early to keep members informed. It is hoped to publish a full Veteran in September but in the meantime you can get more updates and news on the [VTTA website](#) or [facebook page](#).

This and other cost saving measures will ensure that the VTTA remains solvent. The work now being commenced for competitions automation (see Chairman's report) will ensure that we are in a strong position for the 2021 season, with a good offering for our members.

Cyclists tend to be quite a solitary bunch of individuals, so although we know who does what on two (or three) wheels we often have little idea about who does what in the 'real world'. So firstly I would like to praise those of our members who work in the NHS, other caring professions or essential services - you know who you are. And a thought for our older members whose movements may be even more restricted than the majority in an effort to remain safe and healthy.

Talking of who does what in the real world, can I remind you that we are still without a National Treasurer - the role continues to be covered by the Chairman on a temporary basis. There must be a member out there with the necessary ability and able to spare the fairly small amount of time required. It is not an unduly onerous task and can give you the satisfaction of putting something back into our sport. I'm sure Andrew would appreciate a phone call or an email for a chat about what is involved.

Finally, deepest sympathy for members adversely affected by covid-19 or who have lost loved ones. To these, and all our members, stay safe and we'll meet up on the other side of this pandemic.

*Mike Penrice*

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Although CTT have cancelled events until the end of June, things have actually been quite busy for myself and other members of the NEC as we have sought to respond to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and also launch two notable VTTA initiatives.

### Coronavirus Impact on Membership, Finances and Standards

The cancellation of events is having an impact on our championships (see next article), and on membership and finances. We are assuming that this season we may not get the usual numbers of late renewals and new joiners. Total paid up and honorary members at 27<sup>th</sup> March was 2333, with around 400 members not yet renewing by that date. The NEC may therefore face an income shortfall in the region of £4000 so we are reducing expenditure where possible, such as by issuing this newsletter rather than a June edition of The Veteran. It is possible that the season could be so severely disrupted that members cannot achieve qualifying rides for standard medals although they have already paid their standards fee. If members cannot make claims for standards this year, then groups will have the discretion to carry forward their standards fee to next season. This seems a fair way of dealing with our members if events remain seriously curtailed.

### Automating the Results of the VTTA Season Long Competitions

At the National AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> January I presented a proposal to undertake a significant development on the website that would provide automated results for our three season long competitions (the 4 distance BAR, the 3 Distance and the Short Distance Competitions). This proposal was well received and groups agreed to help fund its development. I am pleased to say that we are now ready to commence the project. Even if it does not prove possible to run the competitions in 2020, undertaking the project this year will mean that this significant new feature will be ready for 2021.

By automating the competition's results, members who participate will be able to see the position and status of all competitors throughout the season rather than only at the end of the season. It also means that every member who completes the

necessary qualifying rides will be included and members will no longer need to compile their results and submit claim forms. Only a minority of our members (less than 350) currently submit claims for the competitions so we expect that by modernising how our competitions work we will enable and motivate greater participation.

### Online Time Trials with Zwift

With no CTT events I am sure many of us have turned to our turbo trainers and may be using such platforms as Zwift to participate in some online racing. Our NEC members Rachael Elliott and Glen Knight have been able to arrange time trial events on the Zwift platform promoted by their Newbury Velo cycling club. From 18<sup>th</sup> April, there is a regular Saturday morning time trial open to all Zwift members starting at 10.00am. This will be over an approximate 11 mile course and results will be published on standard as well as scratch. We also plan to have a league table of the best 11 mile pluses achieved during the season. We hope VTTA members will enjoy participating in this event so for details on how to sign up for these events and for results please see the news item on the VTTA website home page – [www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk). Obviously, this type of online racing cannot be taken too seriously. There is no way we can verify the accuracy of whatever power measurement a rider is using. But we hope it provides some kind of alternative outlet for your competitive juices!

*Andrew Simpkins*



# VTTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS UPDATE

The coronavirus pandemic has led to the suspension of CTT sanctioned time trials, initially those to the end of May but since extended to end of June. VTTA national championships have been disrupted and the following is the current status of these events, although it is stressed that these may still be subject to further changes and restrictions in response to government and CTT directives.

## 15 Miles

Originally scheduled for 29th March, now rescheduled to Sunday 20th September; all other details remain unchanged. 111 solo and 5 tandem entries for the original date have been retained but may be withdrawn; additional entries can be made prior to the new closing date (8th September).

## 10 Miles

Originally scheduled for 25th April, now rescheduled to Saturday 12th September; all other details remain unchanged. Entries are trickling in, at the time of writing there were 30 solos and 2 tandems.

## 30 Miles

Scheduled for 20th June but now cancelled as no suitable late season alternative dates available. Entries have been returned.

## 25 Miles

Scheduled for Saturday 11th July. This date still stands although organiser Dave Collard-Berry thinks it unlikely (and has already had his HQ booking cancelled). If necessary and possible it will be rescheduled to a late season date.

## 24 Hours and 12 Hours

The following an extract of the statement by the Williams family on the CTT website.

*"We have decided, with the support of CTT, that this year's 24 will not go ahead. This event takes a great deal of preparation both on our part and that of the riders and we feel with the level of uncertainty around*

Mary Corbett, the Wessex VTTA group treasurer, has been raising money for ME research by riding tandem time trials with various illustrious partners (not least Jens Voigt). [Here](#) is the account of her latest adventure with a somewhat unusual partner. If you enjoy the story please consider donating via the [link](#) at the end.

*COVID-19 restrictions it is just not feasible or sensible to go ahead. We apologise profusely to anybody who was still hoping to ride this year and we hope that you understand our decision, it wasn't taken lightly.*

*If current restrictions are not extended then the National/WCTTA/LTTA/MDTTA/MLCA 12 Hour which our family organise will go ahead as planned on 23rd August. This 12 hour is on the same course as the 24 hour and highly recommended as preparation for the Mersey Roads 24 Hour 2021."*

## 50 Miles

Scheduled for 26th July. Basic arrangements are in place for this date and it is hoped that the event can proceed.

## 100 Miles

Scheduled for 30th August and incorporated in the Tyneside Vagabonds 100. Basic arrangements are in place for this date and it is hoped that the event can proceed, especially as this is the last of only a very few 100s remaining this year. The course is a 4 lapper with HQ at Pegswood, near Morpeth in Northumberland. It is scenic and consists of some main road and some twisty country lanes but has yielded a course record 3:34:25 to Adam Wild, son of race organiser Nick Wild.

## **SURVEY OF PAYMENT METHODS**

Thank you to those who responded. The response rate was 50%. In summary:

- 68% of all members prefer to pay their sub by card at the VTTA website; this is by far the most popular method of payment.
- The payback time for the investment in Direct Debit is at least 5 years. This is not sufficient to justify its implementation.
- Only 40% of members desire the VTTA to store their card details. Considering this, the frequency of transactions and the frequency at which card details change, provision of this feature is not recommended.

*Jon Fairclough*

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The VTTA welcomes the following 119 new members joining for the 2020 year, almost all of whom joined before the cessation of any serious cycling activity. We hope that you are able to benefit from your membership as the year progresses. New members are always welcome but unsurprisingly we have not seen many since mid-March.

**East Anglian** - Lorna Hanlon (Shaftesbury CC), Nigel Shearing (Cambridge Tri Club), Brian Seward (Fenland Clarion), Patrick Ellis, Grant Orsborn (Bedfordshire RRT), Patrick Compton, Scott Beard (Shaftesbury CC), Mark Munnings (Lowestoft Whs CC), Donna Hayman (NCTC), Mark Lloyd (Colchester Rovers CC), John Curtin (Hitchin Nomads), Laurence Bellamy (Shaftesbury CC), Martyn Wagner (West Suffolk Whs), Stephen Knott (Chelmer CC), Will Phillips (Kettering CC), David Ledgerton (Team Salesengine.co.uk)

**Kent** - Martin Dickinson (Adalta CC), Gary Ricks (Woolwich CC), Stewart King (Ashford Whs)

**London & Home Counties** - Matt Wilmington (Icknield RC), Richard Davis (Verulam CC), Jo McDonnell (Bedfordshire RCC), Ian McDonnell (Bedfordshire RCC), Judy Reid (Icknield RC), Richard Collier (Banbury Star CC), Roger Williams (St Neots CC), Chris Vessey (Willesden CC), Steven Wirth (Challenge Tri Camp), Mathew Wilson

**Manchester & NW** - Steve Johnson (Tatton Velo), Jamie Town (Horwich CC), Graham Noble (Pirate Juice CC), Malcolm Horner (Warrington RC), Steven Hankey (Warrington RC)

**Merseyside** - Ben Love (Rhos-on-Sea CC), James Meldrum (Liverpool Phoenix CC (Aintree)), Bruce Gregory (Wrekin Sport), Paul Lomax (St. Helens CRC), Brian Woods (Pirate Juice CC), Wesley Iyanda (Liverpool Phoenix CC (Aintree)), Amanda Bailey (Fibrax Wrexham RC), Andrew Rudge, Christian Russell (En Velo), Philip McCormick (Pirate Juice CC)

**Midlands** - Jon Weavell (Stafford RC), David Smith (Solihull CC), Denise Burrows (AeroCoach), Martin Stanley (Worcester St Johns CC), Fiona Prew (Stone Whs), George Richardson (VTTA)

**North** - Ian Gaskins (Bishop Auckland CC), Simon Muir, Robert Noble, Paul Felce (Velo Culture), Paul Roberts (Hambleton RC), Elliot Gowland (MTS Cyclesport), Steven Homer (Houghton CC)

**North Lancs & Lakes** - Timothy Lawson (Secret-Training CC), John Lewis, Bill Maxwell (Border City Wheelers), Paul Blackburn (CoveryourCar.co.uk RT)

**North Midlands** - Lee Shipman, John Wilson (Common Lane Occasionals)

**Nottingham & E Mids** - Gary Poulson (SWCC / RAF), Nicholas Cousins (Ilkeston CC), Anthony Marlow (Mercia Lloyds CC), Stephen Woodus (PSSA CC), Robert Barker (Kettering CC), Pamela Moore (Coalville Whs CC)

**Scotland** - Liz Bondi (SVTTA), Phillip Jurczyk (West Lothian Clarion), Alan Davidson (Dundee Thistle), Fiona Davidson (Dundee Whs), Gavin Thomas, Paul Stevens (Ayr Burners), Stuart MacCallum (Dundee Thistle RCC), David Mitchell, Harry Tweed (Glasgow Whs), Kevin Earl (Fechan Flyers), Bob Cowie (Aberdeen Whs CC), George Findlater, Gregor Sharp (Hawick CC), Steve Macluskie (VC Glasgow South), Olga Hamilton (Orkney CC), Garry Latimer (Team Moriarty Bikes Project Go), Bud Johnston, Stuart Reilly (Dundee Thistle), Russell Mowat (Fullarton Whs)

**South Wales** - Lee Perrott (Cycle Specific), Ian Gibson (Abercynon RC), Gareth Shanklin (Team NBCC), Paul Colman (Pembrokeshire Velo)

**Surrey/Sussex** - John McDonald (Trainsharp), Mark Cain (Army CU), Andy Critchlow (Norwood Paragon), Ben Thomas (SWRC), Bill Houghton (Unity CC), Colin McDermott (Festival RC), Mark Van Niekerk (Dorking CC)

**Wessex** - Ian Sherin (3C Cycle Club), Gary Chiverton (Bournemouth Jubilee Whs), Fraser Scott (Hampshire RCC), Adrian Talley (Portsmouth North End CC), Phil Brown (Torq Performance)

**West** - Mike Horwood (Clevedon & District RC), Helen Willis (Camel Valley), Alison Vuagniaux (Bath CC), Paul Jones (Bristol South), Huw Jones (Clevedon & District RC), Stephen Bray (FTP Racing), Robin Short (Cotswold Veldrijden), Stuart Edwards (Royal Navy & Royal Marines CA), Gerald Page, Barry Pope (Salt & Sham)

**Yorkshire** - Cheryl Quigley (Hull Thursday RC), Ross Burton (Calder Clarion), Colin Dickens (Yorkshire Coast Clarion), Duncan Smart (Richardsons CC), David Young (AlbaRosa)

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO REGISTER THEIR VTTA MEMBERSHIP ON THEIR RIDER PROFILE. ON THE CTT WEBSITE. FOLLOW "MY DASHBOARD > SETTINGS > MY DETAILS .> VTTA DETAILS"**



# AROUND THE GROUPS

## **EAST ANGLIAN**

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

The lonely roads are reminiscent of the 40s and 50s, with plenty of cyclists, who have obviously dusted the cobwebs from long stored bikes, enjoying the bird song and peaceful traffic-free environment.

Len Benton has become a recent e-bike convert and goes out with a chum, whilst the long proficient Mick Pepper has extended his e-bike outings to about 60 miles. Not so long ago these two were taking top places in competition, so the once maligned e-bike is now ok. Ernie Taylor has gone one better - still in his comfortable bungalow with carers and hot meals brought in daily, he has a mobility scooter. He is now 87, but unable to walk far as a consequence of an old work injury.

Nonagenarian Eric Marsh's terrible crash left him with a neck injury and unable to ride bike or trike, although he can still drive. Eric remains philosophical about it all, remembering the glory days when he was top man and he takes it out on the turbo now!

Also well established in the upper age bracket, Connie Tapper remains as chirpy as ever and still riding bike and turbo, while John also remains in good humour (and keeps their garden in immaculate trim?)

Some bad news - Mick Gambling is one of the unlucky ones who has had a serious operation postponed. One can only commiserate with him and with those who are totally confined to their homes.

Nearly forgot - a report on Peter's activities has been requested. He says he is coping well with the demands of gardening and household jobs, after years of neglect, but he is still training, with 2 hour rides, pilates and turbo. Luckily we are not confined to home by health, only our age. Our village support group is insisting that they do our shopping, so we have swallowed our pride and like the rest of you are making the best of it. Thanks to everyone who has rung and enquired about our welfare - we hope to see you again some day.

## **KENT**

### **Ian Turner**

All best wishes from deepest Kent.. Our first event in March was cancelled as it fell just within the lockdown, I suspect in common with most of the country. Paul Mephram and his co-workers are in our thoughts: Paul is the proprietor of a bike shop and has a number of customers who are NHS staff who use their bikes for work - so helping to keep the front line up and running!

Please stay safe if you are out training, or indeed simply enjoying the glorious Spring weather in the absence of traffic!

## **LONDON & HOME COUNTIES**

### **John Hoskins**

With Zwift being the only competitive cycling around, the Newbury Velo events – fronted by two L&HC committee members Rachael Elliott and Glen Knight - are a big success. And they're just about to start including standards in the results.

By way of news, long term member and very busy timekeeper (normally) Pete Tasker has had surgery to remove a benign brain tumour and the operation was a complete success. Pete is recovering well and taking phone calls from friends. I'm trying to keep in touch with our more senior members, most of whom aren't on email and I would always welcome a phone call from any of you out there.

Of course there no events for the time being. Rachael Elliott has arranged for the VTTA Ten Championship on a west of Newbury course to be put back to September. Both of the mid-week tens are already cancelled, with the July ten (on the F11) and the Rocco 25 (on the H25/4) both under monthly review.

## **MANCHESTER & NORTH WEST**

### **Ken Workman**

This brief offering is a result of lock-down. Other than the passing of two members, there is little I can include.

Joe Pilling, our HLM, passed away recently aged 90. Joe was a one-off, we may never see his like again. We've also lost John Bethel, an octogenarian with many miles under his wheels.

See the M&NW section of the website later for tributes to both.

If restrictions no longer apply, look out for the Knutsford Great Race on 13th September. Penny Farthing riders, some in traditional costume, some lycra clad, strive to cover the greatest distance in three hours. It's held every ten years, attracts riders from many countries, with thrills and spills. There's live music, food, beverages and a market. Their website shows it's still "on" but check it at: [knutsfordgreatrace.com](http://knutsfordgreatrace.com)

There's still the need to be "careful out there," which I urge you to do.

## **MERSEYSIDE**

**Geoff Edgerton**

The Group's 15 mile time trial which incorporated the national championship was one of the early casualties of the present situation. However, organiser Phil Guy has managed to re-arrange the event for the 20<sup>th</sup> September. We had 111 entries which was great and hopefully most will be able to make the new date. If you hadn't entered, now is the chance to make it a full field.

I still have a few medals and plaques for group members who did not make it to the presentation. As soon as life returns to some sort of normality, and it will, I'll get them to the recipients.

Not too sure what, if any season we will have but we will return to racing. But for now sport must take a back seat. Stay safe.

## **MIDLANDS**

**Alastair Semple (Chairman)**

With the 2020 season postponed and racing unlikely to commence until July at the earliest, the Midlands Group committee has decided to cancel all Midlands Group season long competitions.

We hope that if racing resumes later this year, the single event competitions could be rescheduled. The committee will keep this under review and inform members at the earliest opportunity about plans for these competitions.

It is also hoped there will be enough events for members wishing to claim Standards for 2020. However, the committee has agreed individuals may carry forward their 2020 Standards fees to 2021, simply by not claiming any Standards award for the 2020 season.

Finally, on behalf of the Midlands Group Committee I would like to extend our best wishes to all VTTA members, their families and friends.

Stay safe, Stay home and soon we will race together again!

## **NORTH**

**Gavin Russell**

No news from North Group. Early events were cancelled; those remaining will be subject to CTT guidance.

## **NORTH LANCASHIRE & LAKES**

**Dave Brown**

The North Lancs. and Lakes Group have rescheduled their events in the recent The Veteran as follows:

Assuming that there is agreement that time trials can be held from July 1<sup>st</sup> the NL&L Group propose their program as follows: We will use the following events for our championships this season. 100 miles NLTTA event on Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> L10010 Cumbria – 50 miles Velo Club Cumbria Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August L5012 Cumbria – 25 miles Lancashire Road Club Sunday 26 July L2525 Garstang. (Note- these events are all given in our notes in the previous The Veteran but not always for the group championships).

Our Chairman Richard Taylor plans to replace the 25 mile previously planned for June 3<sup>rd</sup> on L256 with a mid-week date in September on the same course.

## **NORTH MIDLANDS**

**Chris Lea**

The North Midlands membership are a hardy lot and started racing early this season, which was just as well, given what is now unfolding. Those taking to the start line before the lockdown include Andy Clark (Rutland CC), who was almost two minutes faster in the Team Sportslab 10 than the previous weekend's 10: at that rate of progression he'd have equalled comp record by 18<sup>th</sup> April, but now we'll never know

for sure....Also braving the elements in early season racing were Richard Gray (Norton Whs), Steve Gibson and Andy Hicklin (Peak RC), Ala and Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC), Alan Wailoo (7 Hills CC), and Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs).

The VTTA North Midlands Group 10 is postponed to the 29<sup>th</sup> August and will be held jointly with the Rutland CC's 10, on the O10/1: prizes will be based on standard times and awarded to VTTA members only.

Sad to report that Wayne Fuller passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Wayne had been a member of Rotherham Wheelers for 60 years.

## **NOTTINGHAM & EAST MIDLANDS**

### **David Herd**

Firstly, the VTTA N&EM 10 on 18 April was cancelled and then the VTTA N&EM 25 on 16 May is also cancelled; there are no proposals to reschedule either events at later dates. The Melton Olympic CC 25 on 6<sup>th</sup> June, which incorporates the VTTA Jack Watts Memorial, is still proposed, however a decision to reschedule the event remains a possibility. Rescheduling will of course rely on the timing of Government's decision on lock down, and other issues such as permissions, availability of headquarters and help from members. The VTTA National 50 on 26 July is further away and is still on, but Event Secretary Colin Parkinson has asked me to point out that the HQ will be at the Flintham Cricket Ground and he will still need support from members and friends on the day. As N&EM 25 on the 19 September is such a long way off at this point I will investigate this at a future date. I am informed that the Central CTT Committee hope to meet on the 29 June to discuss all events, so I guess that there will be further information available then.

I contacted Karen Ledger (Ace Test Team) to see how she was surviving during lock down, and unfortunately she has been grounded by a series of illnesses. So we wish her well and hope that she is able to recover before time trialling starts again. A similar picture emerged when I spoke Ron Hallam (South Pennine RC) who as far back as February walked into a sizeable parcel near his front door, damaging his leg and being unable to ride his bike for some time, However he has recovered sufficiently to ride now but, both he and Pat are self-isolating so

Ron is confined to spending every other day on the turbo.

## **SCOTLAND**

### **James Skinner**

With no time trials and only one road race having taken place in Scotland this year, hopefully we are all safely getting our fix on the indoor trainer.

We received word that Archie Berry passed away. Archie started his cycling life with the Zenith Cycling Club, then moving onto the Lomond Roads riding time trials from 10 miles to 12 hours, and also organising events for the club. Condolences to daughter Sharon and his two sons.

Also word came that Jim McAleese had passed away. Jim was a lifelong Glasgow United C.C. member and interested in all aspects of cycling; condolences go out to his wife Linda.

Jim Cusick is recovering well after his hip replacement and with a bit of realignment is progressing to perhaps be better than he was - great news for Jim, but maybe not for the other trophy hunters.

Hope to see you all, when racing resumes.

## **SOUTH WALES**

### **Bob Jones**

Wrth gwrs rydym ni'n siomedig iawn gyda'r prinder newyddion beicio o Gymru hyd yma eleni, ond gobeithiwn y bydd pawb yn cadw'n dda dros yr haf.

(Editor's note - Bob had nothing to report so has simply sent a goodwill message.)

## **SURREY & SUSSEX**

### **Jon Fairclough**

#### Surrey/Sussex open events

Updates will be posted on the VTTA website S/S page. Please go there to get the latest situation.

The '10' that was scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> April was cancelled and has been replaced by the ESCA 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The '30' that was scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> May has been cancelled and replaced by the SCA 30 on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

The '15' that was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> June has been rescheduled to 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The '50' that was scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> June has been cancelled and has been replaced by the SCA 50 on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

All other events in the calendar after 30<sup>th</sup> June are unchanged.

### Surrey/Sussex Age Records

Rebecca Wilson of Rye & District Wheelers set a new national 24 hour age record of 392.21 miles for a woman aged 54 at the 2019 RTTC National 24 Hour Championship.

### **WESSEX**

#### **Bob Jolliffe**

Time trialling hardly got going on "P" courses in the South. Only one to squeeze in before the Covid-19 lockdown was the Tornado RCC 10 won by Paul Jones (Primera-Teamjobs) in 22:37 in a gale on exposed New Forest roads.

Sotonia CC's Mary Corbett (62) and Norman Harvey (87) raced their tandem trike to a new, yet to be ratified, national age record of 34:45. They plan to go considerably faster, if the lockdown is lifted.

Other Wessex vets' times: Stuart Peckham (VC St Raphael) 26:23, Mike Boyce (...a3crg) 27:56 and his clubmate Drew Hosie 27:15 (road bike).

The previous day Wessex riders took advantage of better conditions in the Farnborough & Camberley 10 on H10/8 with Wessex's Evan Jardine-Skinner (Sotonia) finishing seventh with 21:20. Angela Carpenter (...a3crg) took 13<sup>th</sup> with 21:57, Stuart Peckham 24:25, Bob Jolliffe (New Forest) 29:00 and Brian Hygate (Fareham Whlrs) 32:33.

Sad news in that former multiple Wessex VTTA BAR champion (and father of ...a3crg's David Shepherd) Fred Shepherd died in hospital of a suspected heart attack. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic his family could not be at his side.

Hon Life Member Fred Burrell of Poole has also died following a stroke. He was aged 93 and leaves a widow, Jean.

### **WEST**

#### **Brian Griffiths**

I am sure we are all struck by the severity of the lock-down but hope you will understand that the more rigidly we apply its conditions the sooner we will be out of the wood and can return to normal. Though one wonders how difficult it will be to resume in the same way after such an upheaval.

Needless to say our April Prize presentation did not take place but I am sure that Gordon Scott will restore this important fixture to our calendar as soon as he is able.

I have heard a few rumours of discontent but believe me our National organisation is doing its very best in the most trying of circumstances, so please bear with them and let them find answers that should satisfy us all.

There are all sorts of ways you can stay fit and remember we are all in the same boat so it is up to us individually to adapt to these very trying times.

### **YORKSHIRE**

#### **Chris Goode**

The group have made a £500 donation to the national appeal to assist with IT development of automating results for future season long competitions, in response to the appeal by Andrew Simpkins.

Jim Trevor, our recorder, has received 41 applications for standards this year, including two for tricycles. Riders can hopefully get a few races in later in the season, however a decision will be made later in the year about applying for this year's standards or transferring the application to the 2021 season.

Due to the pandemic, our 25 miles TT was cancelled as will be the National 30 mile TT in June. Our next event is the 10 miles TT on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, on the V714. Tandems and those riding a medium gear are also included.

Best wishes to all during these difficult times and enjoy the quieter roads.

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