

VTTA North Midlands

The racing year: 2024

Thursday 15th May

A first report of racing news from the VTTA North Midlands, with more regular reports to follow:

Braving the almost unrelentingly cold, wet, and windy months of this Spring, relieved only by a brief fine spell for the early May bank holiday and the few days following, have been some twenty or so hardy riders from the VTTA North Midlands.

Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) has been the most prolific thus far, riding 8 races, and starting in early March. She has been peppering the 30 minute mark in 10 mile time trials, with a best so far of 29:02 in Manchester Wheelers 10 on the J10/1 Chapel-en-le-Frith bypass, in an event where temperatures didn't rise above 6 Celsius despite it being late April. At 25 miles she has been rumbling over the rough Cheshire roads, recording a fastest time of 1:17:58, but surely with more to come. And, also taking to the hills in Matlock CC and Buxton CC's events, both run in tough conditions.

Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) rode the same two hilly events as Tracy, with a good time of 1:07:39 in the Buxton race.

Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield) kicked-off her season with the Buxton race – which is more mountainous than hilly – and promptly won her category of female veteran on a road bike, completing the two laps in 1:18:19.

Steve Gibson (Peak RC) prepped for the RTTC National Road Bike Championships with a 25 in Cheshire, recording 58:53 on his road bike – a very solid ride. In the Championships, again on his road bike, he averaged close to 26 mph, placing 28th overall and 11th Vet.

Riding Sheffrec CC's 25 which was reduced to a 10, were John Martin (Elmsall RC) in 26:12 and taking over a minute off each time at the distance this year, Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) in 23:42, Daryl May (Sheffrec CC) in 23:38, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads Club) in 23:33, Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) in 22:49, Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) with a super 21:03, and Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) with a very rapid 20:38 in the 2-up race.

Andy Newham (Lincoln Whs) raced his trike to a time of 24:50 on the A46-based A10/3 in the VTTA East Midlands event in late April, having fought a challenging headwind on the longer outward leg. Also, in this race, Andy Thomas recorded 20:40 for 9th place overall and 5th Vet against competition of the highest standard in the form of Matt Bottrill, Richard Oakes, Matt Uttley and Julian Ramsbottom.

Having ridden a couple of 2-up races, Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC) raced to 23:34 in City Road Club (Hull)'s 10 on the V714 (sadly, not the long-lamented V718). Partnering Simon in the 2-ups was clubmate John Gadie. Anthony Nash (Lindsey Roads CC) rode this event too, recording a season's opener of 22:57.

Tackling both of Matlock CC's open events thus far this season – the hilly 25 in early March (windy) and the 10 in early May on the Darley Dale to Bakewell road (cold) – David Hayward of the promoting club is surely right in thinking that he'll improve as the season progresses, with the 20 mph barrier ready to be broken at both distances.

Ady Dench (Team Sheffield) opened his season with 22:39 in Otley CC's 10 on the V212 on the lumpy road south of Boroughbridge.

Andy Whitehead placed 5th overall in Yorkshire Coast Clarion CC's hilly event in the Wolds to the west of Bridlington at the beginning of May. Is this event an homage to David Hockney?

Recording the Group's fastest solo 10 of the season thus far, Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) rode 20:30 in East Lancs Road Club's 10 on a wet 'Levens; this after 21:05 in Manchester Whs 10. More recently, he rode an impressive 1:53:41 for 7th place overall in Dukinfield CC's 50 on Cheshire – held in rare fine weather. Chris Lea (Buxton CC) also rode this event, albeit 2 mph slower, in 2:04:08.

Friday 24th May

Hard to believe that I'm writing this.....but last Saturday the weather was near-perfect for time trialling. Benefiting from the lovely conditions was the VTTA North Midlands 10 on the O10/1, incorporating the VTTA Championships, and also a fast 10 on Levens in the evening.

There was a strong turnout of riders and rides from the North Midlands in the VTTA 10. On age-adjusted time, on which the Championships are based, we had:

20:04, Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC)
20:34, Tony Nash (Lindsey Roads CC)
20:57, Alan Cooke (Peak RC)
21:03, Stuart Wells (Lindsey Roads CC)
21:09, Mike Allen (Team Enable – MI Racing)
21:16, Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs)
21:18, David Hayward (Matlock CC)
21:20, Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC)
22:11, John Martin (Elmsall RC)
22:24, Miles Haslam (Buxton CC)
22:27, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC)
22:38, Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) – fastest rider on a road bike, on AAT and on scratch
24:52, Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC)
25:05, Anne Haslam (Buxton CC)

On scratch, things were somewhat different, but Andy Thomas still came out on top:

21:06, Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC)
21:52, Stuart Wells (Lindsey Roads CC)
22:05, Tony Nash (Lindsey Roads CC)
22:29, Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC)
22:36, Alan Cooke (Peak RC)
22:55, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC)
23:03, Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs)
23:21, Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC)
24:16, John Martin (Elmsall RC)
24:58, Miles Haslam (Buxton CC)
26:21, Mike Allen (Team Enable – MI Racing)
27:05, David Hayward (Matlock CC)
29:09, Anne Haslam (Buxton CC)
29:32, Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC)

Andy & Ala Whitehead (Rockingham CC), rode brilliantly on their tandem, to record 22:47, actual time.

The winners of the Championships did fantastic rides. Linda Dewhurst (Ride Revolution Coaching) 23:06 (AAT 18:05) at age 65; Richard Oakes (Team Ohten Aveas) 19:55 (AAT 18:46) at age 55; Rachel Elliott and Ian Greenstreet (Newbury Velo) 20:14 (AAT 18:07).

Up at Levens, both Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) and Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) rode superbly to go sub-20, with 19:23 and 19:55, respectively. Those times are going to be hard to beat this season. The impressive Simon Wilson was fastest overall, with 18:00 (33 1/3 mph), whilst Jo Patterson was quickest female with a very rapid 20:34.

Thursday 30th May

Last Saturday afternoon, several North Mids Vets rode Melton Olympic CC's 25 on the A25/34, on the A46 dual carriageway to the south west of Newark. The weather forecast was annoyingly accurate, with a stiff headwind on the long return leg. Thankfully, it stayed dry.

Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) put in a strong performance to finish 6th, in 52:27. Alan Cooke (Peak RC) underlined the form he showed at the previous weekend's VTTA National 10, with 55:45 for 12th place; Simon Aaby (Barton Whs CC) was not too far behind, in 56:15, and placed 13th. Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) did another cracking ride on his road bike, finishing fastest in that category, in 57:47. Chris Lea did 58:31, John Martin (Elmsall RC) 59:51, John Gadie (Barton Whs) 1:00:14, David Hayward (Matlock CC) 1:09:42, Michael Weaver (Rotherham Wh CC) 1:12:38, and Ben Hamilton (Rutland CC) 1:16:32. In what was apparently his first ever 25, Thomas Lee was quickest overall, in 48:28! (in his events so far this season, 4 x10s and one 25, his average speed is 29.8 mph – a name to watch, then). Denise Burrows was fastest female, in 59:33.

East Bradford CC promoted a 15 mile event on the lumpy V221, which runs north to south, from Boroughbridge. Also on Saturday afternoon. Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) was 10th in 37:16. In-form Jack Levick was most rapid, in 31:25, whilst Samantha Bissell was quickest female in 38:05.

Thursday 6th June

The previous weekend was fairly quiet on the racing front for North Mids vets, with just a 25 and a 10 to report, plus a mid-week event from last night.

On the Saturday afternoon it was Yorkshire Road Club's 25 on the grippy and lumpy V235 to the south of Boroughbridge. Steve Gibson (Peak RC) did 56:39, which is a really fast time for that course. Also taking on the challenge were Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC), just over the hour in 1:00:21, and Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) in 1:03:37. Ben Marsh was well clear of the rest of the field to finish fastest in 51:45. Beth Grogan was quickest female, in 1:03:32.

Sunday morning and it was Selby CC's 10 on the V511 between North Duffield and Barlby; a fairly flat single carriageway course, but in places rather exposed to any wind. Clubmates Simon Aaby and John Gadie, from Barton Whs, rode, recording 22:48 and 24:06, respectively. Fastest female was Beth Grogan, in 24:32, whilst Jack Levick put in another impressive performance to top the leaderboard with 19:54.

Finally, last night Mike Allen (Team Enable – MI Racing) took the trip down to the fast F2A/10 course on the A428 dual carriageway between Madingley and Caxton Gibbet, south west of Cambridge. Unfortunately, conditions were far from ideal. Nevertheless, Mike did a 25 mph ride, with 24:00. Somehow, the big hitters still went uber-fast, with Will Lowden quickest of all, in 18:09, whilst Anastasia Bowler did 21:53 as fastest female.

Monday 24th June

Just over two weeks ago saw two local 10s run on the same Saturday afternoon with, in each case, VTTA North Mids riders present. These events were blasted by a strong east wind.

Birdwell Whs event on the O10/1 had Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield) finish as fastest female, in 24:35. Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) and Anthony Nash (Lindsey Roads CC) placed 7th and 10th respectively, with 22:22 and 22:35. Organiser Trevor Mayne was not far behind, in 22:59. John Gadie (Barton Whs CC) recorded 23:50 and John Martin (Elmsall RC) 24:07. Ben Marsh did a storming 19:39 to win overall.

Melton Olympic's 10 ran on the A46 dual carriageway on the A10/3, and in the windy conditions proved a test of bike handling as much as speed. Nevertheless, Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) did a cracking 20:38 for 6th spot. Teammate Stuart Wells also had a strong ride, with 21:09. Chris Lea was only a smidgeon ahead of Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) who was again riding his classic 'Time' road bike (a proper road bike set-up...) and finishing quickest in that category; times being 22:55 and 23:01. Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC) did 27:48 for an AAT of 22:44. David Mead was the only rider under 20 minutes, with 19:24. Denise Burrows was fastest female, in 24:18.

Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) has been concentrating on shorter distances, riding 21:44 in Matlock CC's mid-week 10 on the A6 between Darley Dale & Bakewell – an event in which David Hayward from the promoting club did 28:03. Ben Marsh did another super ride, over two minutes clear of the rest of the field, in 19:57, whilst youth rider Maia Howell was quickest female in an impressive 23:31. Taking place the next evening, the East Anglian VTTA 10 on the fast F2A/10 saw Mike Allen (Team Enable) edge closer to George Steers' age group record of 24 years standing (23:26), with a rapid 23:49 (and 2 seconds faster on the same course a week later). Anastasia Bowler beat all but 19 riders to finish as fastest female in 21:36, whilst junior Patrick Casey did yet another fantastic ride, to top the leaderboard in 18:35. A day later and it was Buxton CC's evening 10 on the J10/1 Chapel-en-le-Frith bypass; run in desperately cold temperatures for June, with wind and rain to boot. Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) did 29:27. Alice Taylor was quickest female in 23:18. Ewan Mackie did 20:34 for top spot overall. Friday evening and it was Sheffrec CC's hill climb (what, so early in the season? But why not ?!) on Woodfall Lane between Low and High Bradfield. Nick Latimer was 3rd overall, in 2:23.4, whilst Simon Warren rode 3:08.7.

A week ago last Saturday and it was Hemel Hempstead CC's 10 on the rapid F11/10 course. Ady Dench (Team Sheffield) rode 20:47, in an event won by youth rider Leon Atkins, in 17:56.....! and which looks to be a 5 second beating of his own national record. Kate Allan was only just outside a 30 mph ride, with 20:03, to finish as fastest female in a strong field. The same afternoon it was the M&DTTA 50 on the rough roads of Cheshire; on the J4/9. Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) set a new Group Age Record at 50 miles, of 2:44:33. Miles Haslam (Buxton CC) did 2:08:28, a PB. Alex Royle was fastest overall in 1:47:19, and Jenny Zwijnen was quickest female, in 2:05:52.

On the same afternoon it was VTTA East Midland's 25 on the A25/34 dual carriageway south west of Newark. After a delayed start to allow the roads to dry out, the later starters were hit by freakish weather with hail, storm-force winds, and temperatures plummeting to just 7C. North Mids' riders who survived to finish were: Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC) 56:57 and tied with Simon Warren (again, fastest road bike), John Gadie (also Barton Whs CC) 59:41, John Martin (Elmsall RC) 59:55, Sarah Harrison 1:01:14 and Michael Weaver 1:11:33. Junior Dylan Sage did a remarkably fast 47:45 for the only sub-50 minute ride. Denise Burrows was quickest female in 59:47.

Last Wednesday evening it was ADDFORM Vive Le Velo's 10 on the V7113/1. North Mids members rode strongly, with Stuart Wells doing 20:18 and Matt Goodwin (Barton Whs CC) PB'ing in 21:22 despite being brought to a complete halt at two roundabouts. Paralympian Adam Duggleby topped the results with 18:17 whilst youth rider Abigail Miller was fastest female in 21:27. Notice how fast are these younger riders! The same evening it was Peak RC's sporting time trial on the roads between Stoney Middleton, Miller's Dale and Ashford-in-the-Water. Nick Latimer rode a very fast 44:55 for 7th place overall, Martin Nelson did 47:59, Simon Warren 49:42, Ady Dench 50:32, and Dominic Watts (Rutland CC) 56:51. James McKay did a superb 42:25 to win overall. Joanna Brewis also rode superbly to finish in 47:05 as quickest female and not far outside of Lizzy Banks' 2019 course record of 46:30.

Results for the weekend just gone are still being posted, but include 29:47 for Tracy Gregory in the M&DTTA 10, 20:42 for Andy Thomas in the Kent Valley RC 10 on Levens, an impressive 1:47:06 for Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) in the Cambridge CC 'Viking' 50 on the F2/50, and 4:09:36 for Chris Lea in the Welsh CA 100.

Thursday 4th July

Mike Allen (Team Enable) and Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) both rode midweek 10s last week, recording 24:04 and 29:34, respectively, in the VTTA East Anglian and Westmead Team 88 events. In the rarely-raced distance of 15 miles, Tracy did 45:43 in the VTTA Manchester & NW event on rough Cheshire roads, which is a new Group Age Record.

In the VC Cumbria 25 on Sunday morning, held on the same roads that host the National 100 Championships on 14th July, Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) was 5th overall in 53:23. Former winner of the BBAR (and still fast) Richard Bideau posted the quickest time of the day, with 51:32. Kate Kirkland was fastest female, with 1:03:34.

Finally, Monday evening just gone and Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) kicked-off her hill climbing season with 2:14.5 in Matlock CC's Charity event on the back lanes around Winster. Tracy Gregory also rode, finishing in 2:30.7. Youth rider Maia Howell was quickest female, in a rapid 1:12.1, whilst Alex Reynard was fastest overall, in 54.2.

Thursday 11th July

Mike Allen (Team Enable) rode the fast E2/10 again last Wednesday, going a smidgeon faster than the previous week in recording 24:03.

On Friday evening, 7 Hills CC held their open hill climb on the edge of Sheffield, up Whitelaw Lane and climbing from Dore to the Hathersage Road. Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) continued her early start to the hill climb season, finishing in 7:11.5.

In City Road Club (Hull)'s 10 on the exposed V714 between Gilberdyke and Howden, Steve Gibson had a cracking ride last Saturday afternoon whilst battling strong winds, to finish 2nd overall in a very fast 20:43. Stuart Wells (Lindsey Roads CC) placed a fine 7th with 21:46, Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) and Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC) tied with 22:36, Alan Cooke (Peak RC) was not far behind in 22:55, whilst Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC) and Ben Hamilton (Rutland CC) also did battle with the wind, recording 26:30 and 27:19, respectively. Elliott Fraser was quickest overall, in 20:12, and Jill Speight was fastest female, in 25:40.

In Weaver Valley CC's 25, run on the same roads that will be used for the RTTC National 25 Championships on 3rd & 4th August (closing date extended to tomorrow, Friday night, and places still available – get your entry in and be part of something special), Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) had to work

hard in the windy conditions to record 56:12 for 7th place. Miles Haslam (Buxton CC) did 1:04:45. Maxwell Hereward had the fastest ride of the day, in 52:25. The M&DLCA event ran in parallel, with Emily Martin posting the quickest time of 58:29.

This coming Sunday morning it's the RTTC National 100 Mile Championships on the L10010 between Keswick and Cockermouth. Mat Ivings and Miles Haslam ride, as does Tom Thornely (FTP Race Team). Can in-form John Archibald break Marcin Bialoblocki's Comp Record of 3:13:37? The weather forecast is good and I reckon he'll do it.....and with a few minutes to spare. Let's see.....

Thursday 25th July

The big event two weekends ago was the RTTC National 100 Championships on a course between Keswick and Cockermouth. Not the fastest of 100 courses and the weather turned disappointingly cold and damp, albeit with generally light winds. Incredibly, in this his first 100, John Archibald broke Bialoblocki's competition record by riding an average of just over 31 mph in recording 3:12:58. Wow. Kate Allan's ride was also up there with the best, being the 2nd fastest ever for a female - 3:40:14. Superb. Tom Thornely (FTP Race Team) was just a smidgeon slower than Kate, with 3:41:09, a cracking time and recorded despite stopping to check on a rider involved in an accident. Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) overcame a run of bad luck in 100's and posted a fine time of 3:49:53. Miles Haslam (Buxton CC) felt that he'd had a disappointing ride, but did well to finish, in 4:41:42.

At the other end of the distance scale, Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) rode the VTTA London & Home Counties 10, on the same morning as the 100, posting a very rapid 19:37 which is a PB – congratulations! Ady Dench (Team Sheffield) was only just outside a 30 mph ride, with 20:07, whilst Stuart Wells' (Lindsey Roads CC) ride was only a little less quick, in 20:14. Mike Allen (Team Enable) continues to post 25+ mph rides, even at the age of 77, finishing in 23:43. Lauren Creamer was fastest female, in 21:29, and Nick Trbovic topped the leaderboard with 17:45!

Birdwell Wheeler Trevor Mayne rode the Teeside CRC 'sporting' 24-mile time trial near Barnard Castle, however his computer recorded closer to 21 miles. Having driven through continuous rain to get there he was pleased that they only had standing water to contend with during the event...Taking in quiet, rolling roads using his road bike he came 11th overall in 57:47 compared to the winner's 50:12. He was also 9th veteran and 7th in the road bikes category.

In last Saturday's M&DLCA 25 on the rough roads of Cheshire, Tracy Gregory recorded 1:18:41, whilst Jo Cebrat was quickest overall, in 1:01:39.

Finally, Andy Hicklin (Peak RC) is again turning the pedals in race mode, starting with the stern test of the Sheffrec CC Hilly between Chesterfield, Baslow and Oowler Bar, recording 52:34 on his road bike (average speed almost 22 mph across those hills). Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) rode too, placing 8th in 49:02, also on his road bike, at just over 23 mph. Fine results, both. Ryan Williams did the quickest ride of the night, in 44:34, whilst Joanna Brewis put in a strong performance to finish 9th overall and quickest female, in 49:13.

Thursday 1st August

It was a fairly quiet weekend of racing just gone.

In the Seacroft Whs 10 on Sunday morning, on the Selby by-pass, Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC) took 9th place with 22:44. Continuing his comeback to racing after some years out, Alan Sides recorded 35:10. Stuart Henderson was quickest overall, in 20:34, and Kat Handy was fastest female, with 24:22.

In Cheshire, in Congleton CC's 50, and run in very good conditions for a change, Miles Haslam (Buxton CC) finished with 2:09:21. David Williams put in a fast 1:47:02 to top the overall leaderboard, and Jo Cebrat rode 2:07:40 as fastest female. As an aside, hard rider Mark Lovatt was quickest on a road bike, in an impressive 1:54:50.

A week prior to today, Team Wheelguru held their evening 10 on the Chapel-en-le-Frith bypass, the J10/1, on what turned out to be a breezy evening. Andy Hicklin (Peak RC) completed this lumpy course in 23:18. Jo Cebrat was again quickest female, in 24:13. Local fast man Alex Royle was just one second ahead of teammate Alistair Rutherford, in 20:19, to record the fastest time of all.

Good luck to those taking on in-form John Archibald in the National 25 Championships on Sunday morning.....and watch out for Kate Allan's time.

Thursday 8th August

In the National 25 Championships last weekend John Archibald did a storming 47:23 on a tough Cheshire course, more than a minute and a half ahead of 2nd-placed rider Josh Charlton. Things were much closer between winner Kate Allan and Emily Martin, respectively 55:14 and 55:17! Cracking times! Sadly, there was no representation from the VTTA North Midlands.

However, there was a good turnout of North Mids riders in last Saturday's Tickhill Velo 10 on the O10/1 at Hatfield Woodhouse. In warm, dry conditions, but with a fresh cross-headwind for the return leg, times were surprisingly fast. Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) was third in 20:40 – an average speed of just over 29 mph. Steve Gibson (Peak RC) also had a strong ride for 6th spot, in 21:15. Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) did 22:57 for 17th place behind overall winner Andrew Whiteley's 20:15. Some riders were balked by traffic at Blaxton roundabout but Mayne got away with being behind the traction engine which appeared - by nipping past before it gathered speed! Others might not have been so lucky....Anthony Nash (Lindsey Roads CC) was just inside the top 20, with 23:17. Michael Allen (Team Enable) was on his road bike, but still did a rapid 25:39. Len Best (Matlock CC) was not far behind, in 25:57. David Hayward, also Matlock CC, did a 26:18 PB – nice one! Ben Hamilton (Rutland CC) also had a good ride, with 27:16. David Shepherd (Sheffield Tri Club) was not far outside the 20 mph mark, with 31:13. Madeleine Moore was fastest female, riding for Torq Performance, with 23:54.

Thursday 15th August

Just the one race from last weekend on which to report: The Yorkshire Cycling Federation 25 on the rolling V235 south of Boroughbridge. Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield) and Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) rode, recording 1:04:37 and just over the hour in 1:00:14, respectively. Angela Hannon-Flaherty was fastest female, and only a little faster than Sarah Harrison, with 1:04:10. Finishing well over four minutes ahead of the rest of the field, Ben Wiggins (yes, that one) rode an outstanding 48:32 to break the course record in, amazingly, his first ever open time trial.

A rider who has been under my radar, Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs), has been doing some cracking rides in his first full season of time trialling: finishing 9th in the RTTC National 24 Hour Championship, breaking the 400 mile barrier, with a total of 412.32 miles. Chapeau! Did I mention that he did it (and all his other races this year) on fixed.....84" in the 24 for those that are curious and lower than he would normally ride due to the hilly Battlefield circuit – which had to be tackled for about 12 hours through the night and early morning. Brutal. Two weeks later he rode the Bristol South Hardriders 100, recording 4:45:23, with only one rider under four hours – such is the unrelentingly hilly nature of the U86/100 course.

The big event* of the coming weekend is the RTTC National 12 Hour Championship, promoted by Breckland CC on Sunday on roads to the NW of Thetford Forest. Three from the VTTA North Midlands ride: Stuart Day, Miles Haslam (Buxton CC), and Tom Thornely (FTP Race Team). We wish them the best of luck. The weather forecast looks very good and it promises to be a most interesting day's competition.

*Notable past men's winners include Booty, McNamara, Cromack, Longland, Woodburn, Butler, Dawson, Cammish, Wilkinson, Hutchinson, and Wild; For women, current comp record holder Alice Lethbridge, as well as past and current E2E record holders Lynne Taylor and Christina MacKenzie.

Tuesday 20th August

Provisional results for Sunday's National 12 Hour Championship, promoted by CC Breckland, are out, although these are subject to amendment – often upwards and sometimes significantly. Tom Thornely (FTP Race Team) is credited with 279 miles. Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs) in his first ever 12, 251.6 miles. And Miles Haslam (Buxton CC) 228 miles. Well done to all three North Mids vets for completing this most arduous of races. Jake Sargent, also in his first 12, won the open category, in a most impressive 316 miles. Naomi de Pennington recorded the 2nd biggest distance ever by a female, with a fantastic 285 miles, building on her excellent 100 and 50 times of 3:46:10 and 1:47:50.

The previous day the focus was on the VTTA East Mids 25 on the A25/34 south west of Newark. This course can be quick, but if it is windy then it's tough as it is rather exposed, especially to a north easterly on the long leg up to Newark from the turn at Stragglethorpe. However, conditions were reasonably kind, resulting in some fast times. Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) was 4th overall, in 51:56; Matt Goodwin (Barton Whs) rode a PB of 54:11 for 10th overall and 2nd in his age category; Alan Cooke (Peak RC) also did a 54, with 54:53; Simon Abdy (Barton Whs) 55:27; Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) 57:07; John Gadie (Barton Whs) 59:23; Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield) was only just over the hour, in 1:00:16, and 2nd fastest female to Beth Grogan's 58:35; David Hayward (Matlock CC) and Ben Hamilton (Rutland CC) were separated by a minute, with 1:07:13 and 1:08:14 respectively, with David doing a PB. A fine set of results from North Mids riders. The phenomenon that is Richard Oakes was quickest overall, in 48:54.

Riding her 4th open hill climb of the year so far, Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) recorded 2:34.0 in Sitwell CC's event up Ulley reservoir road. Espoir Lilja Raine was quickest female, in 1:48.9, but I note 'only' 45 seconds quicker than Yvonne who shipped less than 1 second per year's age difference to Lilja. Steve Prince topped the leaderboard in 1:16.8.

Wednesday 28th August

A quiet Bank Holiday Weekend for racing. Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) rode his first 2-up TTT in roughly 15 years on Bank Holiday Monday - the Coalville Wheelers '18.9' mile event in a hilly loop around Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire, although the distance is nearer 20 miles: two laps of a nice, quiet set of lanes. Conditions were good – 10 mph winds, 18 degrees C and dry. Trevor rode with a mate from his BBAR days - Colin Parkinson of South Western Road Club – and recorded 48:49 for second team on actual vs 44:28 for the winners (Jelley & Shea-Simmonds). That said, only 3 teams out of the 6 entries actually rode....What can't be seen from the results is that Matt Bottrill rode on his own as his team-mate DNS'd and Matt's 42:17 ride would have won the solo event, for which he couldn't qualify! Mike Allen (Team Enable) rode the solo event and finished with 1:00:36. Andrea Winkless was quickest female, in 57:18.

Formal results for the previous weekend's National 12 Hour Championship, promoted by CC Breckland, are out now, with final mileages being 280.09 for Tom Thornely (FTP Race Team), 251.49 for Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs), and 228.60 for Miles Haslam (Buxton CC). Well done all.

Thursday 5th September

Two 10 mile time trials to report from last weekend: the Rutland CC event and the RTTC National Championships.

Rutland CC's race was held on the O10/1 at Hatfield. It was a tricky day, with a cross/head wind particularly on the return leg. Some riders were stymied by slow-moving traffic: as described by Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield) "what appeared to be a tractor convention! Long lines of tractors moving slowly down the road with cars backed up behind them... every TTers worst nightmare!"

There was a good turnout of North Mids riders, performing well on actual and age-adjusted time, tractors notwithstanding....Actuals first:

21:06 Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) & 3rd overall
21:59 Matt Goodwin (Barton Whs CC), 10th and a course PB
22:05 Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC)
22:16 Tony Nash (Lindsey Roads CC)
22:21 Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC)
23:47 Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC)
24:46 Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield)
27:00 David Hayward (Matlock CC)
27:23 Ben Hamilton (Rutland CC)
28:55 Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC)
37:32 Alan Sides (Rotherham Whs CC)

Quite some shuffling with AAT, but Andy Thomas is still quickest:

19:57 Andy Thomas
20:37 Tony Nash
21:13 David Hayward
21:32 Martin Nelson
21:37 Shaun Robinson
21:57 Sarah Harrison
21:54 Ben Hamilton
21:59 Matt Goodwin
22:16 Andy Whitehead
24:15 Michael Weaver
31:27 Alan Sides

Rutland CC's event was also the North Midlands Group 10, with trophies won as follows:

Sheffield Central Cup: Sarah Harrison, best female on AAT
Cleethorpes Shield: Andy Thomas, fastest on AAT
Ron Blythe Trophy: David Hayward, best on AAT in 70 to 79 age group.

Well done! Trophies will be engraved, and presented at the Annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation, early 2025.

Thank you to organiser Gordon Wordsworth, of the promoting club, for putting-on the race. Overall, Julian Ramsbottom was fastest, with 20:25. Deb Hutson-Lumb was quickest female, in 23:18.

In the National Championships, Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) honed his aero position to good advantage and finished in 20:37 on a rather exposed course based on the A428 south of Cambridge.

Phenomenal riders John Archibald and Kate Allan, already multiple national champions this season, won again, in 18:11 and 19:56.

Thursday 12th September

Some excellent times in the ECCA 10 last Saturday afternoon, with the E2/10 finally living up to its billing as a superbly quick course in the right conditions. Andy Thomas set a new Group Age Record, recording 18:51 (a PB), at age 55, placing 6th overall. Brilliant. Club mate Stuart Wells also had a cracking ride, with 19:31 and also a PB. Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) did 21:30, on his road bike! 52 year old Liam Maybank, and multiple National Champion Kate Allan, were fastest in their respective categories, with 17:24 (the 6th quickest on record) and 19:10 – a course and personal PB. 62 year old Kevin Tye set a new National Age Record, with 18:07. Wow. It makes you wish you'd been riding, eh?!

The hill climb season gathers pace, with events by Buxton CC (Bunsal Cob incline out of the Goyt Valley) and Team Lifting Gear Products (Sir William Hill, from Grindleford – ouch) last weekend. In the former, Tracy Gregory, of the promoting club, did 10:53, and in the latter Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) did 12:42. Quickest overall in the Female category were Liz Batt in 7:20 (Buxton event) and Alice Larkin in 8:38 (Sir William Hill).

Thursday 19th September

It's nearly the end of the time trialling season, but North Mids vets are still racing, and in numbers.

In Harrogate Nova CC's 10 that was switched from the lumpy V212 south of Boroughbridge, due to roadworks, to the even lumpier V111 on the A168 north of Wetherby, last Saturday afternoon, Steve Gibson (Peak RC) placed 11th with 22:05, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC) was 16th in 22:37, John Martin (Elmsall RC) did 25:36, and Alan Sides (Rutland CC) 40:17. Adam Duggleby was sub-20, again, with 19:30 and over a minute ahead of anyone else; Samantha Bissell was quickest female, in 24:39.

Birdwell Wheeler Trevor Mayne just managed to complete two races of very different character on the same day on Sunday. Firstly, the NLTTA 50 on the A66 in Cumbria between Keswick and Cockermouth: in light rain (but fortunately not cold or windy) he recorded 2:02:20 for 21st place on actual versus the winner, Simon Wilson's 1:39:28. Notably, veteran Mark Lovatt rode a road bike and did a 1:49:59 on actual! Jo Cebrat finished fastest woman, with 2:05:15.

Mayne then hastily drove home to ride his club's Open hillclimb in the afternoon, which used the Well Hill, Green Moor climb. He only arrived at the start line, having changed bikes and clothing, with 20 seconds to go....He recorded 3:51.4 (12th) against Kieran Wynne-Catanach's new course record of 2:21.9. In the same event, Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) was 'on the podium'; 3rd in 2:34.6 and fastest vet. Nice one. Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) was just one place behind Mayne, with 5:09.3, soundly beating her club mate Harriet Eisner and finishing fastest female. Yvonne, by the way, is 74, so, hat's off!

Further afield, Cambridge CC promoted their 25 mile event on a roadworks-modified version of the Madingley-Caxton Gibbet course on the A428 dual carriageway, which instead turned at Cambourne rather than Caxton. Still fast, but with a profusion of roundabouts to negotiate, and an annoyingly-

brisk westerly, albeit warm and dry. Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) continued his fine form, with 52:02. Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) did 53:31 and Matt Goodwin (Barton Whs CC) 54:47; both quick rides in the conditions. Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield) was close to the hour, with 1:00:44. David Hayward (Matlock CC) rode 1:08:26, a little off his best pace, but is still very consistently hitting the 22 mph mark in 25's: good going at age 79! Also consistent is Matt Smith, fastest in the Cambridge event, with a superb 48:10. Matt has only been outside the top 3 twice in the 14 events he's ridden these past two seasons. Kate Allan continues her impressive season, finishing 8th overall in 51:39. She really is a superb time triallist.

Thursday 26th September

A big congratulations to Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC), who won the East Anglian VTTA 25 last Saturday afternoon, with 52:36, in windy conditions on the F2C/25 – a revised version of the A428-based course near Cambridge. In-form Kevin Tye was close behind in 2nd spot, with 52:40, which wasn't quite quick enough to take top honours. Well done Andy. Emily Varley was fastest female, just outside the hour, in 1:00:05.

Also on Saturday afternoon, Halifax Imperial Whs held their hill climb on the tough and classic V9919 Luddenden to Mount Tabor ascent of Stocks Lane. Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) was 9th, in 6:50.0. Olivia French was quickest female, in 6:52.4, whilst Kieran Wynne-Cattanach achieved his long hoped-for aim of going sub-5, with 4:56.9.

Sunday morning saw Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC) having another crack at The Struggle, Ambleside to Kirkstone Pass, after last year's National, recording 22:27.4 and, at age 72, placing a creditable 49th from 63 finishers. Andy Cunningham was a minute ahead of the rest of the field, with 13:37.1, whilst Abi Plowman did 17:29.2 to win the female event.

Here's to more hill climbing exploits this coming weekend, including Simon Warren taking on the epic ascent of Great Dun Fell in Rock to Roll CC's event on Sunday. Be interesting to see how Simon (and the rest of the field....) fares against women's current and double national hill climb champion Illi Gardner – who apparently has recently broken QoM records held by Annemiek van Vleuten on the Stelvio and Monte Zoncolan.

Thursday 3rd October

Climbing to the lofty and windswept summit of Great Dun Fell, Rock to Roll CC's hill climb took place last Sunday morning. This is a 4.4 mile climb, with a total height gain of some 620 m and topping out at a whopping 840 m. Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) was just inside the 30 minute mark, with 29:57.3; a rate of ascent of 1240 m per hour, which is good going. To give some indication of how tough is the climb, in-form Ed Laverack took almost 23 minutes (22:46.1) as fastest rider. Current National Hill Climb Champion Illi Gardner, in her first open hill climb of the year, rode to a superb 5th place overall, in 24:46.1, 4 ½ minutes quicker than 2nd-placed female competitor Madeleine Bell.

Also tackling a long climb, Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC) rode Glossop Kinder Velo's 3.2 mile event up Snake Pass, also on Sunday morning, recording 21:02.5. Monica Greenwood was quickest female, in 17:38.4, and fastest on the day was junior rider Harry Hudson, in 13:08.3.

Thursday 10th October

Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) is the first winner of the VTTA North Midlands new hill climb competition for females, with her ride in last Sunday's Sheffrec CC classic race up Monsal Head. Yvonne did 3:45.2. Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products), 31 years junior to Yvonne, won the equivalent competition in the open category, with 1:31.0, and just missed out on being fastest vet in

the race, by a mere 0.2 seconds! Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) got inside two minutes, with 1:57.7, whilst Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) was disappointed with 2:18.1 in this his first open hill climb since 2017, and vowed to return next year to have another crack at it. Andy Nichols was quickest overall, in 1:21.1, whilst Rachel Galler was just ahead of Monica Greenwood to finish as fastest female in 1:54.5.

Thursday 17th October

Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products), Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club), Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) and Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) were racing last weekend. Yvonne, Simon and Trev tackled Rutland CC's Mam Nick climb, a tough one (would make a great national championships....), finishing in 14:19.1 (and beating her clubmate, Harriett Eisner), 8:43.0 and 9:11.1, respectively. Andy Cunningham did a cracking 6:24.1 to top the leaderboard, whilst Sophie Yarwood of Macc Whs was fastest female, in 9:18.1.

On the Classic climb of The Ramsbottom Rake, with its 1:4 finish (furnished with a handrail for pedestrians to haul themselves to its summit), Nick Latimer was fastest vet, in 2:36.1, and by a big margin of 16 seconds, whilst also being in the winning team of 3 riders. Kieran Wynne Cattanach continued his superb form by winning the open event in 2:18.1, whilst Gemma Mitchell was quickest female, in 3:43.4.

Thursday 24th October

It's nearly time for the last big event of the season: the RTTC National Hill Climb Championships, this Sunday. 370 riders. Is this the best Championship of all? Answers on a postcard please.

Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products), Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC) and Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) are all down to ride. The hill appears similar although a bit longer than Peaslows, J9/1, in the Peak District, but is on the outskirts of Hexham. Illi Gardner and Andrew Feather are last to start in their categories, and both have shown fine form in hill climbs this year, but also watch out for Andy Nichols and Kieran Wynne-Cattanach, teammates of Nick Latimer. It's hard to see who can challenge Illi Gardner, but these Championships often throw a few surprises. As a bit of fun, my guess is a winning time for the open event of 2:40, and 3:15 for females.

Simon Warren rode his final preparation event last Sunday, Nick O' Pendle, promoted by North Lancs RC, recording 5:00.4 for 12th place overall, to Kieran Wynne-Cattanach's winning time of 3:22.1 and Abi Plowman's super 4:35.3 as fastest woman. Coincidentally, I have just come across a 1975 copy of Cycling, in the garage, with reports of that year's National on the Nick O' Pendle. Gareth Armitage (Oldham Century) beat the multi-talented Paul Carbutt into 2nd place, with 3:49.8, by just 0.6 secs, with Joe Waugh a further 1.4 secs behind in 3rd place. Some other names I noticed were Dudley Hayton, Ian Ross, Paul Sherwen, Rod Goodfellow and John Parker, all of whom made their mark on the racing scene in one way or another.

Monday 28th October

Congratulations to Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) and Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) for making it to the very end of the season, form intact, for the RTTC National Hill Climb Championships, last Sunday. That in itself is an achievement. However, especial congratulations to Nick, member of the winning open team along with clubmates Kieran Wynne Cattanach and Andy Nichols, 3rd and 4th overall, respectively. Nick was 3rd vet, in 3:46.20. Simon did 4:27.19, finishing in the top half of the whole field.

Junior rider Harry Hudson was 24 seconds faster than his nearest competitor and, if he'd been riding in the senior ranks, would have placed 3rd above Kieran Wynne Cattanach. It was a good day for

riders named 'Harry': H. MacFarlane just got the better of reigning champion Andrew Feather, to become this year's champion, in 3:09.43. Ill Gardner was fastest female, with a comfortable win, posting 3:58.70 – not that racing uphill is ever 'comfortable'. Once again there were large crowds of spectators, with Gardner giving a flavour of the atmosphere: "The crowds were incredible in the last few hundred metres – I couldn't actually see the road or finish line at all."

Oh, and I was way out with my guesses for fastest times, which were optimistic by some 30 to 40 seconds.

Here's to 2025!

Chris (Lea), Buxton CC

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