

## **Echelon-cycles.co.uk/VTTA Midlands £1,000 Points Series**

### **Gone with the Wind**

#### **Race Reports for 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May**

The Echelon-cycles.co.uk/VTTA Midlands £1,000 Points Series continued on the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May with a 10 mile test on the Weston to Stone K48 course followed next day with a 23 mile race around the undulating roads between Rugeley and Uttoxeter including an exposed crossing of the Blithfield Reservoir. There were very strong winds from the east on both days and many of the lighter-weight riders were severely buffeted about on the dual carriageway towards Stone forcing some early retirements. On the second day, the headwind up to Blithfield Reservoir made that section massively harder than normal forcing some competitors to grovel up on their lowest sprocket. However, the last leg from Uttoxeter to the finish was a flyer with speeds over 40 miles an hour easily attainable for long stretches. How on earth Rob Wood managed to set a course record for the longer event in those conditions is incomprehensible to me but then again he's a brave young lion and I'm a fat old goat. Rob also stacked up valuable points in the Midlands SPOCO competition which was incorporated into the event and which partly accounts for the 50% increase on the number of competitors compared with previous years. Having said that, there were seventeen non-starters on the second day, presumably their enthusiasm for the ride really had gone with the wind.

In the A Group, Neill Coventry made a spectacular return from early season illness and injury to fly round in 22.01 and record the second fastest time of the day. That was some ride by any standard; and he's a vet! Joe Murray must have been a little surprised because, despite being one of the lighter riders buffeted around by the cross-winds, he also produced an excellent time for third on actual but was half a minute down on Neill. David Barnes and Mark Mullender also produced fast times to win places in the top ten on actual and showed that, despite their relative youth, they are likely to challenge the older riders in their age group for top prizes in the series. Stafford's Alastair Semple is already staking a claim; he was ninth on actual in the '10' and also picked up more useful points by completing the longer event where he and David Barnes showed that they could cope with the wind; David's 53.16 was a super ride and Alastair's 56.17 earned him a place in the top ten on actual. Well done to them both. Although well below form, it was good to see David Stringfellow back in action in Sunday's race; he has struggled all season with poor health and seemingly been DNS in more events than he has managed to ride. However, he's a strong lad and he'll be back!

In Group B, Walsall' Phil Brown demonstrated why he is this years VTTA Champion for 30 miles in the 50 – 59 years Age Group. His 23.21 for ten miles earned him eighth place on actual time and 20 points in the B group. He was chased home by team-mate Steve Wilkins who, a week earlier on the Etwall course, had set a PB of 55 minutes for 25 miles. The same two riders battled the wind on the following day with the same outcome; Phil took

another 20 points and Steve earned 19 with just one other rider, David Evans from Worcester St John's, taking the start on Sunday morning. Where were all the other B Group riders? You guessed it. Gone with the wind.

In Group C, Arthur Somerville adopted the careful approach to dealing with the blustery winds and only occasionally use the tri-bars on his elegant, black Colnago. David Fear of the Walsall club was also cautious but he too did an excellent ride and was chased all the way by Coventry's John Grumbley. Arthur, David and John were prominent again next day, all three earned lots of points to take top places in the overall series. It was also good to see another Walsall rider, John Blower, take the start on both days to demonstrate that he has the enthusiasm for a crack at the Points Series again this year.

Brian Newton stormed away with 20 points for Group D in the ten mile race but was DNS the following day. Members may know that, a couple of days later, Brian suffered a serious accident which is likely to keep him off his bike for several months. The D Group is therefore wide open for someone to stake a claim for the overall Series. Bill Duffin, Richard Hewitt and John Pottier are likely candidates because they seem to support the Series and did super rides in Saturday's race. But, and it's a big but, only one competitor in the D Group turned out for the longer event on the following day. Brian Hall of the Stafford club rode his only event in the Series so far and picked up 20 points for braving it. Well done Brian. All the others? Gone with the wind.

In the Club Points competition, Walsall RC is storming away with an accumulated total of 2056 points, almost three times as many as the Stafford and Solihull clubs which take second and third places respectively. To their credit, Walsall turned out eight riders in the ten mile event, the next highest number was three. This team commitment and infectious enjoyment of racing makes Walsall a formidable force in both Midlands and national cycle racing. It will take a super team to catch them in the Points Series.

### **10 Mile TT Result 24<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Fastest on Actual – all ages**

1	Andy Moore	Mammoth Lifestyle	21:30
2	Neill Coventry	agiskoviner.com	22:01
3	Joe Murray	Hinckley CRC	22:33
3	James Cowan	Solihull CC	22:33
3	Daniel Bill	Stratford CC	22:33
6	David Barnes	Wyre Forest CRC	22:38
7	Mark Mullender	Walsall RC	22:42
8	Tony Taylor	MI Racing	23:13
9	Alastair Semple	Stafford Road Club	23:15
10	Philip Brown	Walsall RC	23:21

#### **Vets on Standard - VTTA Members only**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Plus</b>	<b>Group</b>
1	Brian Newton	Echelon SPIUK	23:49	32:00	08:11	D
2	Ron Johnson	Altringham RRC	26:13	33:50	07:37	D
3	Tony Taylor	MI Racing	23:13	30:30	07:17	C
4	John Bevan	MI Racing	26:10	33:02	06:52	D
5	Vince Jenkins	Rugby Velo	25:34	31:30	05:56	D
6	William Duffin	Ratae RC	30:18	36:03	05:45	D
7	Neill Coventry	agiskoviner.com	22:01	27:33	05:32	A
8	Philip Brown	Walsall RC	23:21	28:52	05:31	B
9	Arthur Somerville	Royal Sutton CC	25:36	31:00	05:24	C
10	Ramon Hill	Stone Whs.	28:17	33:34	05:17	D
11	Phil Guy	North Shrop Whs	24:26	29:34	05:08	C
12	John Grumbley	Coventry RC	25:31	30:30	04:59	C
13	Richard Hewitt	Shirley RC	30:01	34:55	04:54	D
14	David Fear	Walsall RC	25:17	30:02	04:45	C
15	John Blower	Walsall RC	26:24	30:45	04:21	C
16	Joe Murray	Hinckley CRC	22:33	26:54	04:21	A
17	Steve Wilkins	Walsall RC	23:44	27:46	04:02	B
18	Mark Mullender	Walsall RC	22:42	26:42	04:00	A
19	Andrew Simpkins	Solihull CC	24:37	28:25	03:48	B
20	David Barnes	Wyre Forest CRC	22:38	25:42	03:04	A
21	Harry Spurling	Shirley RC	27:36	30:30	02:54	C
22	Alan Roberts	Stone Whs.	26:57	29:48	02:51	C
23	Bob Awcock	Coventry RC	28:08	30:45	02:37	C
24	Ian Middleton	North Shrop Whs	27:18	29:48	02:30	C
25	David Evans	Worc St. Johns CC	25:29	27:46	02:17	B
26	Stephen Lloyd	Warwickshire RC	28:14	30:30	02:16	C
27	Alastair Semple	Stafford Road Club	23:15	25:30	02:15	A
28	Kevin Highfield	Walsall RC	24:23	26:30	02:07	A
29	Gary Bartram	Wyre Forest CRC	24:51	26:54	02:03	A
30	Gary Shuker	Walsall RC	26:03	27:59	01:56	B
31	Geoff Edgerton	North Shrop Whs	27:58	29:48	01:50	C
32	John Pottier	Midland C & AC	33:08	34:22	01:14	D
33	Mark Shore	Walsall RC	26:15	27:20	01:05	A
34	Adrian Humpage	Kidsgrove Wheelers	25:44	26:30	00:46	A
35	Graham Lawrence	VTTA (Man)	33:20	33:50	00:30	D
36	Susan Semple	Stafford Road Club	27:31	27:33	00:02	A
37	Malcolm Wright	Stratford CC	28:45	28:25	- 0:20	B
38	Harry Morgan	Solihull CC	31:15	30:30	- 0:45	C
39	Alex Zebedee	Solihull CC	28:30	27:20	- 1:10	A

### **23 Mile Time Trial Result 25<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Fastest on Actual – all ages**

1	Rob Wood	Echelon SPIUK	51:13
2	Andy Moore	Mammoth Lifestyle	52:16
3	David Barnes	Wyre Forest CRC	53:16
4	Daniel Bill	Stratford CC	53:47

5	Charles Taylor	South Pennine RC	53:50
6	Paul Grindley	Liverpool CRC	54:21
7	Jamie Burrell	MI Racing	54:57
8	Paul Robinson	Lyme Racing Club	55:15
9	Alastair Semple	Stafford Road Club	56:17
10	Richard Miles	Stourbridge CC	56:44

### Vets on Standard - VTTA Members only

	Name	Club	Time	Plus	Group
1	Tony Taylor	MI Racing	00:57:30	20:50	C
2	Arthur Somerville	Royal Sutton CC	01:02:00	17:30	C
3	David Fear	Walsall RC	01:00:39	16:32	C
4	Philip Brown	Walsall RC	00:58:17	16:05	B
5	Phil Guy	North Shrop Whs	00:59:58	16:05	C
6	Brian Hall	Stafford Road Club	01:06:51	14:26	D
7	John Grumbley	Coventry RC	01:04:54	13:26	C
8	David Barnes	Wyre Forest CRC	00:53:16	13:14	A
9	Paul Robinson	Lyme Racing Club	00:55:15	12:45	A
10	John Blower	Walsall RC	01:06:59	11:56	C
11	Steve Wilkins	Walsall RC	01:01:40	9:59	B
12	Alastair Semple	Stafford Road Club	00:56:17	9:43	A
13	David Evans	Worc St. Johns CC	01:03:04	8:35	B
14	Geoff Edgerton	North Shrop Whs	01:08:31	8:06	C
15	David Stringfellow	Leamington C&AC	01:01:56	6:35	A
16	Bob Awcock	Coventry RC	01:12:53	6:02	C
17	Susan Semple	Stafford Road Club	01:08:00	3:07	A
18	Andrew Curley	Beacon Roads CC	01:04:55	3:05	A
19	Alex Zebedee	Solihull CC	01:08:29	2:06	A
20	Harry Morgan	Solihull CC	01:18:42	- 0:22	C

### Group A 40 – 50 years

Name	Club	5 April	24 May	25 May	Total
Alastair Semple	Stafford RC	15	16	18	49
Joe Murray	Hinckley C.R.C.	20	19		39
David Barnes	Wyre Forest CRC		17	20	37
Mark Mullender	Walsall R.C.C.	18	18		36
Alexandra Zebedee	Solihull C.C.	11	10	14	35
Susan Semple	Stafford RC	7	11	16	34
Gary Bartram	Wyre Forest CRC	16	14		30
Andrew Curley	Beacon R.C.C.	13		15	28
Mark Shore	Walsall R.C.C.	12	13		25
Neill Coventry	agiskoviner.com		20		20
James Heaton	Rugby R.C.C.	19			19
Paul Robinson	Lyme Racing Club			19	19
Richard Howes	Coventry RC	17			17
David Stringfellow	Leamington C&AC			17	17
Kevin Highfield	Walsall RC		15		15

Mick Murray	Hinckley CRC	14		14
Adrian Humpage	Kidsgrove Wh		12	12
Martin Hall	Evesham & DW.	10		10
David Ralley	Walsall R.C.C.	9		9
Stephen Cooke	Walsall R.C.C.	8		8

### Group B 51 – 58 years

Name	Club	5 April	24 May	25 May	Total
Philip Brown	Walsall C.R.C.	20	20	20	60
Stephen Wilkins	Walsall C.R.C.	19	19	19	57
David Evans	Worc St. Johns	17	17	18	52
Andrew Simpkins	Solihull CC	18	18		36
Malcolm Wright	Stratfod CC	14	15		29
David York	Ratae RC	16			16
Gary Shuker	Walsall C.R.C.		16		16
Keith Walton	Stratford CC	15			15
Deborah Sheridan	BRAT	13			13
Philip Wade	Ratae RC	12			12
Eamon Sheridon	BRAT	11			11

### Group C 59 – 66 years

Name	Club	5 April	24 May	25 May	Total
Tony Taylor	M.I.Racing	20	20	20	60
Arthur Somerville	Royal Sutton CC	19	19	19	57
David Fear	Walsall RCC	18	16	18	52
Phil Guy	North Shrop. Wh		18	17	35
Harry Morgan	Solihull CC	14	8	12	34
John Grumbly	Coventry RC		17	16	33
John Blower	Walsall RCC		15	15	30
Stephen Lloyd	Warwickshire RC	16	10		26
Bob Awcock	Coventry RC		12	13	25
Geoff Edgerton	North Shrop. Wh		9	14	23
Phil Gambles	Walsall R.C.C.	17			17
Robert Franks	Redditch R&P CC	15			15
Harry Spurling	Shirley RC		14		14
Peter Rose	Mercia MBM CC	13			13
Alan Roberts	Stone Wh		13		13
Don Picken	Stafford RC	12			12
Ian Middleton	North Shrop. Wh		11		11

### Group D 67 + years

Name	Club	5 April	24 May	25 May	Total
Brian Newton	Echelon-SPIUK	20	20		40
Bill Duffin	Ratae RC	18	16		34
Richard Hewitt	Shirley RC	15	14		29
John Pottier	Midland C & AC	9	13		22
Brian Hall	Stafford RC			20	20

Alan Colburn	Echelon-SPIUK	19		19
Ron Johnson	Altringham R RC		19	19
John Bevan	MI Racing		18	18
Murray Kirton	A5 Rangers CC	17		17
Vince Jenkins	Rugby Velo		17	17
Norman Wood	Coventry CC	16		16
Ramon Hill	Stone Wh		15	15
Mick Grey	Wyre Forest CRC	14		14
Tom Bailey	Ketering C.C.	13		13
Brian Taylor	Midland C & AC	12		12
GrahamLawrence	VTTA		12	12
Bernard Smith	Kettering CC	11		11
Pat O'Connell	Coventry C.C.	10		10
Graham Kelly	Beacon R C C	8		8

### Club Points Competition

Club	5 <sup>th</sup> April	24 <sup>th</sup> May	25 <sup>th</sup> May	Total 3 Events
Walsall RCC	795	805	456	2056
Stafford RC	247	179	328	754
Solihull CC	268	267	203	738
Coventry RC	104	207	219	530
North Shrop. Wh		297	223	520
Wyre Forrest CRC	207	193	113	513
MI Racing	120	235	120	475
Ratae RC	299	115		414
Echelon-SPIUK	237	120		357
Royal Sutton CC	117	112	119	348
Shirley RC	109	208		317
Hinckley CRC	206	105		311
Worcs St John's	99	96	108	303
Midland C&AC	189	89		278
Stratford CC	193	84		277
Stone Wheelers		210		210
Coventry CC	197			197
Warwks RC	92	95		187
BRAT	172			172
Beacon RCC	164			164
Altringham RCC		119		119
Rugby Velo		116		116
agiskoviner.com		114		114
Lyme RC			112	112
Rugby RCC	108			108
Leamington C&AC			106	106
Beacon RCC			103	103
Redditch R&PC	91			91
Kettering CC	90			90
Kidsgrove Wh		87		87
VTTA (Man)		86		86
Evesham & DW	83			83

The next events in the Echelon-cycles.co.uk/VTTA Midlands £1,000 Points Series are on the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July. There is a 10 mile race on Saturday and 25 mile on Sunday, both events on the Alcester by-pass. Full details are given on pages 256 and 257 in the CTT handbook. All VTTA members are asked to note that the Midlands Committee has reduced the number of qualifying rides in the overall series from five events to four so everyone still has a chance to win big prizes.

Tony Taylor  
Press Secretary and MI Racing  
1<sup>st</sup> June 08