

# VETERAN

September 2012



**Veterans Time Trials Association**

National Association for the over 40 year old Racing Cyclist



**Peter Moon - 100 Mile Champion**  
*Photo Kimroy*

National Association for the over 40 year old racing cyclist

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**Gill Henshaw submitted by David Herd  
Photo by Bill Stanley**

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#### Advertising Rates

Full Page £75

Half Page £55

Third Page £40

Quarter Page £35

#### Copy Dates

17th November : 17th February : 17th May : 17th August

# OFFICIALS' REPORTS



## PRESIDENT

*Alan Colburn*

Drama, agony, suspense, hope and satisfaction – a novel by Barbara Cartland? No – it's the Olympics come to town. Who could fail to appreciate the endeavours of so many athletes in so many sports all hoping to attain the supreme recognition? I must admit to getting slightly annoyed with some sports interviewers who would ask a competitor if they were disappointed with "only a Bronze" – it's still means you're the third best in the Worlds greatest competition. The commentators sometimes give me a smile when they haven't done their homework properly, but I have always maintained a healthy respect for the opinions of Michael Johnson and Colin Jackson – respectful, knowledgeable and authoritative in discussion and delivery.

The concluding seconds of the 10,000 metres saw these "Kings of Cool" bouncing up and down, yelling their heads off like schoolboys in encouragement as Mo Farah won the event. It

was a very funny but magical occurrence which emphasised the passion that comes with great sporting moments.

Not quite the same feelings about the Men's road race when GB tried to take on the rest of the world – without a Plan B. However Bradley Wiggins restored the feel-good factor when he took the Time Trial with a superb performance, Lizzie Armitstead, the Track boys and girls all performed brilliantly and it was, indeed, a pleasure to watch them all.

Another great sporting achievement that didn't get the headlines of Olympic proportions, but really deserved it, was the new 12 hour record by Andy Wilkinson of 317 miles (to be confirmed) in the Breckland event. That's over 26 miles per hour. What a cracking ride!

On a more personal note, I have recently made the decision to give up competitive riding and have hung up my race wheels. Actually – that's not true - I sold 'em! I've done track, road race and time trials, enjoyed my participation, savoured a few wins and what's more important have met some great people in the course of competition. I've ordered a new bike and will now have time to research and write the book I have been promising myself for a few years - "Coffee Shops of Rural Worcestershire".

Going back to the Olympics - you may have seen Oscar Pretorius of South Africa competing in the track events using carbon fibre lower legs. He didn't do that well but he achieved one of his ambitions – to be allowed to compete against the World's best.

I recently read an account of Oscar speaking to a group of school-children in South Africa and he started off by saying "I am not disabled – I just don't have any legs"

With that outlook you can understand how that young man has achieved, and will continue to achieve, great things in his life.

## SECRETARY

*Ann Butterworth*



A few years ago when we were bidding to host the 2012 Olympic Games I confess that I did not want us to win. My reason was simple: the country could not afford it. But we won and, as the years and then months went by, the projected cost of the Games increased dramatically as the country sunk deeper into recession.

I had been brought up to believe that, if you can't afford it you can't have it, so I assumed that our Olympic Games would be a shabby affair in comparison with the lavish spectacles staged by previous countries. How wrong I was.

I should have remembered that no country can better Great Britain at putting on a spectacle. Indeed, every year many thousands of tourists brave our unpredictable weather in order to view our historic buildings and our pageantry. During the whole of the Games, Great Britain showed that we still excel.

Not only did the organisers do the country proud, but our athletes too and none more than in cycling. We had already been delighted at Bradley Wiggins' Tour de France win, and his continued success in the Olympic time trial was a joy to watch. All our cycling competitors gave superb performances, but my favourite moments were when I was on the edge of my seat watching Sir Chris Hoy win the Keirin and then watching him receive his gold medal. My pride in

Great Britain could not have been greater than his pride in his achievements. But how pleased I was to share it with him even if only from my chair in front of a screen.

You will gather from the above that I am proud of my country. I am also proud to be a member of the VTТА and I admire the successes achieved by others in the Association. So I was greatly disappointed that, of the 71 VTТА National prizewinners, only 19 attended the Presentation earlier this year.

It seems that many who answered the questionnaire enclosed in the last issue of *The Veteran* are also disappointed. However, they recognise that the cost of posting 80 unclaimed medals and the storage of unclaimed trophies is prohibitive. Moreover, there is the enormous amount of work involved in collecting the trophies, transporting them for engraving, bringing them back again and then taking them to the Prize Presentation, only to have to take them back again to store for another year. No wonder that over 86% of the respondents think that the VTТА should no longer hold a National Prize Presentation.

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## RECORDS SECRETARY

*Geoff Perry*



Many will be aware that Len Grayson died as a result of an accident whilst competing in the

Team Swift 100m time trial. Len was an Age Record holder and can I confirm that he set a 10 mile record for a 74-year-old in 2011 of 22:12 and also one at 30 miles in 2010 of 1:10:20. In the pending file is his claim for 22.10 at 10 miles, set on the 4th of July this year.

As it is getting towards the end of the season I am starting to receive notification of record claims, by 'phone, e-mail, iPads and the post, as well as observing likely claims myself first-hand.

I have not heard any more about track records but, based on 2011, these usually take place in August/September when various championships are held.

Nothing further has been done about updating records on the website or deciding how to put the historical records on the website, but this will be a good off-season activity

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## WEBMASTER

*Jim Gibb*



There have not been a lot of changes to the website ([www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk)) but entries continue to be made by individuals and the number of viewers increases gradually. Excerpts from *The Veteran* will be included in the future.

Experience indicates that potential members will look at the site before deciding whether to join so event secretaries and members are urged to send news, start sheets and result sheets by email to

[webmaster@vtta.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@vtta.org.uk). Group officials can also request a User Name to allow them to post news directly to the site.

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## CHAIRMAN/EDITOR

*Jim Burgin*



The talk at Committee Meetings, at refreshment stops on club runs and at result boards at the end of events, is all about *Standards*. Doubtless members of the NEC are, as am I, receiving letters, emails and even telephone calls about the new *Standards*. It seems that the 'Fast Men' are winning all the prizes both standard and actual, which seems to indicate that hitherto there was an 'unwritten' acceptance that the awards were to be shared between 'young' and 'old'. Back in 1943 it was the intention that, with due regard to differences in performance by virtue of age, all were equal and the best man won. It was probably some 30 years ago when I first became aware of a growing discontent with the tables, the emergence of the belief that they favoured the older rider. As is so often the case, there was a lot of talk but little action. As the years passed and my involvement at Committee level increased, I began to realise the real problem... change would cause discontent perhaps greater than existed...in any case, the status quo was easier. And so it seems to have been proven; the complaints are many, the alternative proposals are few as will doubtless become evident when the Agenda for the AGM next January appears.

Further illustration of the point may be drawn from the recent questionnaire which was circulated among the membership with the June issue of this magazine. The holding of a Prize Presentation is not mandatory by inclusion in any Rule and, thus it was contended, a decision as to its continuance could be decided by the views of the membership, hence the questionnaire. By the accepted standards of such things, most would agree that an almost 30% response was representative and an 86% per cent vote from that number for a particular course of action, was decisive.

Whatever one's views may be about the Standards, a questionnaire would not be able to provide the same conclusion, for the Rules do not provide for their alteration based upon the results of a referendum. A fascinating prospect would be to introduce a Rule which would allow a rule change by a postal vote by the membership and then to formulate a single or number of questions regarding the tables. Following that, to analyse the results and to then make the changes... imagine the grumbles!

The fact is that, by means of as much use of democratic procedures as possible, members were asked to consider a set of proposals from a Sub Committee which had worked for seven months or more to produce them. The progress was reported, comments were received and taken into account, all prior to a preliminary Special General Meeting at which delegates made further suggested amendments. Out of this came the final proposals. Amendments were put at the AGM but not accepted and so, by any benchmark, the membership accepted the new Standard tables. We were told by the 'experts' that tweaking based upon the experiences of the first season of implementation would be easy to make and it would seem sensible to accept that;

to wait for the suggested 'tweaks', if any, and go from there in the search for perfection, if perfection is possible, which I doubt. For those who wish for a different approach, who advocate a referendum for example, say what should be done rather than complain about what has been done. Does anyone want to return to the original tables?

I was nearly as delighted as was Cliff the Treasurer when, back in June 2011 *The Veteran* began to be printed by a different company at far less cost; "this will wipe out the deficit on the accounts" I wrote back then. None could have foreseen the massive increase in postage costs which came into effect in April this year. A few extra grams in weight costs the Association around £600! That's quite a responsibility for the Magazine Editor to contemplate.

In March we have *The Veteran* and the Handbook so the extra cost is unavoidable. In December the AGM Agenda, Annual Report etc which, together with the complete result of the BAR and Three Distance Championship, usually takes us well over the 100 gramme mark.

How to reduce the weight? The fabled 'Blue Pencil' is not a device with which I am comfortable: why reduce the news from a Group which has much to report whilst at the same time including all of a smaller contribution?

It is possible that the answer is at the website: [www.vtta.org.uk](http://www.vtta.org.uk).

Without cost, Jim Gibb will include all the results submitted in listed form to me. Anyone who does not have access to the web or wishes to receive hard copies of those results have only to ask me and I will forward them - meanwhile, keep your eyes on the web site and don't hesitate to let Jim Gibb know your views.

### **KIMROY PHOTOGRAPHY**

Brian Jones was booked to cover all the VTTA Championships this year (apart from the 25 which clashed with the CTT event — he is already committed to all CTT Championships).

The Editor wishes to express his gratitude for Brian's help with the provision of photographs for the magazine and to make known that the record for provision currently stands at three minutes from the request to arrival in the mail box.



# **In My Time**



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

Cyclists, in particular Time Triallists and even more so Veteran Time Triallists, love to talk of days gone by; to recall the magic of riding a bike in all its variations.

You are invited to join me in sharing 203 pages of my stories, accumulated during a time span of 76 years

**For a copy of  
*In My Time*  
send a cheque for £7.50  
(which will cover the cost of the book  
and the postage)  
to  
Mick Coward  
39 Elmwood Road  
Keighley BD22 7DW**

# AROUND THE GROUPS

## SURREY/SUSSEX

*Tim Carpenter*



It has been a varied three months since I prepared the last set of notes for the magazine.

Charles Robson (82) died following a short illness. Although he had been suffering from Parkinson's for several years, his death was unexpected and unconnected. Charlie had been a stalwart of the Group and still holds the 30 mile record for a 73 year old and 24 hour record for 59 year old. To promote the Ladies racing in the Group he provided the Group with the Ladies short distance trophy (10, 25 and 50 miles). He was Group Recorder for many years. There is a separate fuller tribute to Charles in the Veteran. Alec Wingrave (92) also passed away recently. He was Group secretary at one time also secretary of the SRRRA and sometime Group record holder on his trike.

There have been some positive events since the last Veteran. The most notable of these was Peter Moon's ride in the National 24 Hour hosted by the Mersey RC. His 471 miles ensured he was VTTA National Champion, broke the Group 24 Hour record for a 51 year old, and also bettered the long-standing Eastbourne Rovers CC record held by Charles Robson.

Maurice Carpenter also set a new best for 80 year old trike 10 mile time with 33:19 in the Eastbourne Rovers 10 on 11 August.

The most notable other performer in the Group has been Pete Tadros (In-Gear Quickvit Trainsharp) who has competed at the highest levels with 14th place in the RTTC National 25 mile Championship and 10th place in the 10.

June 2nd saw the group promote our first event of the year, which is the 10 Championship for two trophies. The Stan Harvey Memorial Trophy (Best on Standard) was won by Richard Gifford (In-Gear Quickvit Trainsharp) with plus 4:45 (21:54 on actual). Richard had to settle for second place on standard as Peter Crofts had a plus of 5 minutes, but as Peter does not belong to the Surrey Sussex group he did not qualify for the trophy. The Eastbourne Rovers team of Peter Moon (+04:02); Geoff Smith (+03:32) and Kevin Burton (+01:13) won the Wilf How Cup (Team Trophy).

The 30 Championship for the Mick Burgess Trophy which is incorporated in the Lewes Wanderers event on the 1st July was run in typical 2012 summer weather. There were periods of torrential rain, gale force winds and bright sunshine (I know as I struggled through the event). Steve Dennis (East Grinstead CC) was fastest on actual and his plus of 15:52 was the greatest of any other Group member to win the Mick Burgess Trophy.

The BEC 25 on 8 July in which group members compete for the Aubrey Wenman Trophy was on another wet day, although conditions seemed to favour those who did brave the elements (I heard the rain lashing at the bedroom window when the alarm went off at 3:30 so rolled over and went back to sleep). Nick Dwyer (Lewes Wanderers) was third on actual with 53:49 (over three minutes slower than his best) but did just enough to beat Iain Brogden (who was fastest on actual with 53:10), to win the Aubrey Wenman trophy. Iain and Nick were the only two in the top four who did not improve their LTS PBs. Of the Group riders Alan Lloyd was the only one to improve his LTS best with a 1:06 bettering.

The 50 mile award is the Aldershot Cup and for many years has been incorporated in the Anerley BC 50. This year the Anerley did not run the 50 so we moved it to the ESCA 50. I cannot remember what the weather was like, although I have it on good authority that there were very heavy showers interspersed with dry periods. (I thought it might possibly have been dry, but your mind does blot out bad experiences, which this was, as I did another slow ride!). David Shepherd (GS Stella) did 1:57:05 for a plus of 23:06 and won the Aldershot Cup.

The National VTTA 100 Championship on 19 August, which was incorporated in the ESCA 100, enjoyed some of the nicest weather that I have raced in all year. Mind you it still managed to rain, but after nearly everyone had finished. Unlike the Olympics, the Group riders did not seem to benefit from home advantage. Brian Camfield from Manchester & NW Group was champion with a plus of over 107 minutes. Local riders Andy Miles and Shay Giles were second and third. They ride in Kent (Kent Group) for the VC Elan and they did not have a third counter for the team so this went to the Lewes Wanderers: Alan Lloyd, John Mankelow and Peter Baker, so at least our Group picked up one award. Peter Moon receives a special Group medal as the fastest Group finisher.

We still have the Group 25 for the Robin Buchan Cup (best on standard) and the Pound Hill Trophy (team award) on 30th September, which must be one of the last events in the racing calendar.

Also please remember that the Group AGM is at Handcross Village Hall on Sunday 18th November starting at 9:30. It would be nice to see a few more Group members present; Robin kindly provides tea and coffee and a few of us turn up very sweaty having ridden down, so why not use it as an excuse to get a few miles in.

With my Recorder's hat on I have put together the current three distance competition standings - this does not include the ESCA 100. (See the results pages). I am not aware anyone has ridden a 12 Hour yet.

As mentioned before, I will be using email to remind members about claims for the various awards and competitions wherever possible to save on postage so please make sure I have an up to date email address for you. My email address is recorder@surreysussexvta.org.uk. To put it in

context, our Group element of the annual subs per member now pays for just four second class stamps. I am, as ever, happy to receive scanned copies of the various claim forms and result sheets for the Group competitions and I hope that the same will apply for the National Competitions. Finally welcome to the new members to the Group:

Iain Brogden (Eastbourne Rovers CC)  
Robert Royle-Evatt (Addiscombe CC)  
Ishmael Burdeau (GS Gazzetta)  
Emma Cutler (Rye & District Wheelers)  
Michael Mergler (4TPlus)  
Peter Wright



**Maurice Carpenter**

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## **NORTH**

*Les Dawson*

I find it difficult to fill this column with 'News' since most of the snippets of information are out of date by the time you read them, however one thing which I can throw at you is the subject of the New Standards. Based on the results which I have seen to date, a non scientific assessment would indicate that if you are an older rider (75 plus) or a Tricyclist you can wave goodbye to a win on Standard.

Following upon conversations which I have had with members at some of the events which I have

attended it seems that quite a number of people are just realising that the new 'Standards' are not age standards since at a particular age riders can claim a 'Standard Time' which is not in the Table of Standards, in fact the tables are really only a list of Annual Increments; surely this ludicrous state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. It does seem that we will be able to dispense with Veterans awards based on Actual Time since many of the results have shown the fastest rider to also be the winner on Standard. Also the new 'Personal (non) Standards' arrangements will I feel, impose an unsustainable financial burden on the Groups since we will probably need to increase the entry fee fourfold to break even. Will members be willing to pay something in the order of £30.00/£40.00 to enter for their Standards?

On a sad note I have to inform you that Irene Pengilly died suddenly on 5th June Aged 74, a great loss .

More bad news which a lot of you will already know is that both Phillip Everitt and David Oliver have been hit by errant motorists, suffering severe injuries, we all wish them both a speedy recovery .

We have had a number of new names setting Group Age Records i.e. Kristina Slater and Dave Robinson, but there is a serious shortage of members competing at 100 miles which will threaten the future of our BAR Competition.

A reminder that our annual Luncheon will be held on Sunday 13th January at our usual venue, The Hardwick Hall Hotel, and will be organised by Ruth Crossley who can supply you with tickets.

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## NORTH MIDLANDS

*John Scully*

The run up to the London 2012 Olympics should be an inspiration to all of us as we compete in our chosen sport. Well, having said that, I wonder how many riders have been inspired as they waited to be pushed off on a cool and blustery day typical of this season's weather. Records were certainly tumbling but that was for rainfall and average temperatures. A prime example was our Group's 25 in June. The unseasonable weather decimated the field with 40 not starting and 9 not finishing. Well done to the 36 brave souls who did get round to the

finish. Typically, our top riders weren't hampered too much by the conditions with Julian Ramsbottom being fastest and BOS. Alan Cooke taking third OS and Alex Deck, our top lady, fifth OS taking the Ladies prize. This was the second qualifying event for the Prestige Points competition. Four other qualifying events were the YCF 100, the YCF 50, the Elmet 12 hour in July and the 30 in August. Only Alan Sides entered the 100 but DNF. In the 50, points were picked up by Gary Ward, Doncaster Wheelers (10). Tony Keyworth, Kiveton Park (9). Wayne Fuller, Rotherham Wheelers (8) and Alan Sides, Rotherham Wheelers (7). In the 12 hour Wayne Fuller was the only North midlands rider to finish, picking up the 10 points and beating his standard with 200.96 miles. The 30 had a very disappointing turnout with only 20 riders finishing. Fastest was Kevin Dawson with 59.57 a course record and Julian Ramsbottom 2nd with 1,01.53. Fastest lady was Alex Deck clocking 1.13.06. With only one event to go the leaders are Tony Keyworth, Alex Deck and Wayne Fuller. The last event is the 10 on September 29th. If you can help in running the event please call organiser Ian McColl on 01302 533325.

At the Group meeting in May, Barbara Scott reported that the membership was down to 141 including 9 new members. In spite of Barbara troubling to send reminders out, 26 people have not re-joined for one reason or another. She also reported that 23 members had applied for standards and a claim for an age record had been submitted by Mike Alan of Belper BC. 65 years old Alan is claiming for a 10 with a time of 21:03. Please contact Barbara if you think you have achieved an age record or know of anyone who has. On the social front, Alan Sides said the venue for the Annual Luncheon was booked.

Regarding other business, Chairman John Fitch asked members to express their opinions about the new Standards. The subject was discussed at length resulting in the general feeling that Senior Vets were being disadvantaged. However it was felt that a wider discussion with other members competing would help to establish a broader view on the subject worthy of a report to the NEC AGM. It would help immensely if more members attended their Group meetings.

Another matter of concern is the decline in Timekeepers. It seems that the ones who are

retiring are not being replaced. In addition to the problem, some Timekeepers do not wish to time on the A1. Unfortunately, early in the season, a competitor was killed on one of the courses re-introduced on the A1. Since then, some events have been cancelled or moved to other courses. After all the effort North Midlands members put in to get back on the A1, for one reason or another, the new courses haven't been very well supported.

Well, since the uninspiring weather in early summer, things have picked up a bit. Bradley Wiggins, Tour de France winner and Olympic TT Champion along with our other Cycling Gold Medals has surely re-kindled our enthusiasm to finish the season on a high note. I'm sure I've seen more bums on bikes just lately so hopefully British cycling achievements have been an inspiration. Good luck until the end of the season and take care.

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## LONDON & HOME COUNTIES

*Peter Tasker*



What a year we have had for Cycling in the big time, it must be Bradley Wiggins's 'Tour' win for first spot then along with all the gold, silver and bronze medals for both the men and women on the track at the Olympics, what a great year for cycling and let's hope it brings more people both young and older into the sport. Must say the TV companies really did a great job in the broadcasts for the 'le Tour' and the Olympics. For all us Vets it

must bring back memories of time gone by when you were able to compete at higher levels.

Interestingly when you look back at RTTC Junior 25 mile Championship results we had Chris Boardman in 1986, David Millar in 1995 and Bradley Wiggins in 1998. I remember this one as it was promoted by the late Nipper Adams for RTTC London North on a local course near Bedford and when we saw Wiggins ride we all said there is a star in the making and time has shown this to be correct, with all three having made big time on the continental pro scene.

Now for the more local news of what our group members have been achieving in the rather unpleasant English summer.

Way back on 26th May in the Chronos RT 10 on the F2, Roger Porter clocked 23.03, Geoff Perry 23.32, Richard Moule 23.52, Colin Holmes 25.46 and Clive Faine 26.12. On the same Saturday afternoon in the Farnham R.C on an 'H' course Danuta Tinn clocked 23.20 + 5.17, Peter Cockbain 25.18 + 3.27 and Gill Reynolds 26.26 + 3.33.

A day later in the Herts Wheelers' 30 on the F1, Jason Gurney recorded 1. 03.16 + 16.53, Tim Davies 1.04.31 + 16.07 and Geoff Perry 1.07.59 + 14.26. In the same event group member Peter Hopkins with Colin Burnet of East Group on Tandem Trike clocked a new group age record of 1.14.03.

On the first Sunday in June riding the Hitchin Nomads 25 on the F1, Tim Davies recorded 57.35, Roger Porter 1.01.42 and Richard Moule 1.03.38: I am told it was a hard morning.

The following Saturday, 9th June I heard there was a super-fast East Group 25 on E2; I've had no results but Peter Hopkins phoned me to say that he and Colin Burnet had set a new VTTA National tandem trike age record of with a time of 1.04.12: well done to both of them.

Next day 10th June on F1 we had the Finsbury Park CC 50 with Tim Davies clocking 1.50.45 + 26.39, Simon Greenland 1.54.08 +29.29 and Dave Rogers 2.04.43 + 13.54.

On the same morning but south of the River Thames out on the old A4 road in the Reading 50 Rob Gilmour recorded 1.59.27 + 24.40, Howard Waller (Trike) 2.10.11 + 16.15 and Jill Bartlett 2.21.15 + 10.34.

On Saturday 16th June on the new F11/10 course Aston Clinton to Aylesbury and back in the Hemel 10, I picked up 10 group members riding, all of whom did super-fast times: Jason Gurney 19.49, Tim Davies 20.08, John Dowling 21.37, Danuta Tinn 21.39, Roger Porter 21.46, Ian Marshall 21.50, Howard Waller (Trike) 22.44, Clive Faine 24.13, Colin Holmes 24.33 and Brian Moon 27.30. Next morning in the Hemel 25 on the old single carriageway F13 course Bicester to Aylesbury John Dowling clocked 1.00.02 and Clive Faine 1.07.53. Presumably there were some tired legs from the afternoon before.

Group members travel all over to ride various courses, on 24th June Trevor Parrish riding the Hinckley 25 up near Coventry on a 'K' course clocked 1.13.16 and next day on a 'P' course in Hampshire in the a3crg 25, Howard Waller on 2 wheels finished with 53.41, Geoff Perry 54.52, Danuta Tinn 56.30, Gill Reynolds 1.02.46 and Jill Bartlett 1.03.40. Again on the fast E2 course in the East Group 25 on 30th June comeback man Dave Creese clocked 56.07, Roger Porter 57.29, and new group members from the start sheet Geoff and Helen Reynolds clocked 59.10 and 59.30 respectively. On the same evening in the Whitewebbs CC 10 on F20/10 John Dowling recorded 22.09, Geoff Perry 22.24 and Peter Cockbain 24.53. The next day in the Icknield RC. 25 (1st July) Tim Davies finished in 55.29, John Dowling 57.44 and Colin Holmes 1.07.47.

As we move into the month of July, more riders appeared to be competing from the group membership as the results show: on 8th July in Farnham 25 Rob Gilmour clocked 58.03 + 11.51 and Jill Bartlett 1.10.37 + 3.08 and on the same day in the Oxonian C.C. 25 Dave Johnson finished in 57.16 + 11.12 and John Dowling 57.59 + 10.52.

The following weekend (14th) in the North Hampshire RC 10, Nick Stagg clocked 21.14, Richard Williams 23.22 and Frank Pressling 25.12 and in the WLCA 50 Simon Greenland returned in 2.00.41 + 22.56 and out on an 'E' course in the EDCA 100 Ralph Dadswell on 3 wheels clocked 4.38.47.

On Wednesday 18th July, we had the 3rd of the Group's mid-week 10 mile events on the F12/10 course with Malcolm Ash as the organiser. Not the best of afternoons with rain about but with a field of 38 riders we had Neil Coventry fastest and BOS

with 21.46 + 5.13, then John Dowling 22.00 +5.04 and 3rd Dave Creese 22.42 +4.46. Team winners were the Willesden CC; Gill Reynolds and Peter Cookson with +3.42 and Handicap winner was Paul James with a net time of 20.19.

On Saturday 21st July we had one of those special days which every rider prays for when in the Shaffesbury CC 50 on E2 super vet Andy Wilkinson clocked the second fastest time ever at the distance with 1.36.37 and there were 67 riders under 2 hours on the result sheet, group members riding produced some fine times with John Dowling clocking 1.48.55, Geoff Perry 1.49.34, Rob Gilmour 1.50.11, 70 year old Peter Cockbain 2.00.51, must be a group age record and Jill Bartlett 2.08.27.

On the F2 in the Team Cambridge 10 on the same afternoon, Tim Davies clocked 20.38, Roger Porter 22.14, Richard Moule 22.49 and Clive Faine 23.05.

Next day in the Hounslow Rob Gilmour recorded 56.20 + 13.49 and Michelle Ayres 1.04.54 + 8.51.

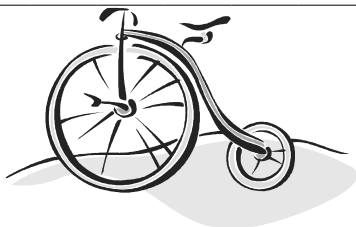
Up on F1 in the Verulam C.C. Invitation and Open events, Tim Davies finished in 54.55, Howard Waller back on two wheels 55.13, Geoff Perry 57.27, Dave Creese 59.12, Simon Greenland 59.25, Richard Moule 1.00.15, Dave Rogers 1.03.41 and Colin Holmes 1.05.28.

In the midweek a3crg 10 on a 'P' course, John Dowling finished in 21.25 and Gill Reynolds 24.51. On the last weekend of the month, we had the Rugby RCC 10 with John Dowling clocking 21.35 and Roger Porter 22.18 and next day Sunday in the Swindon RC 10 Peter Cockbain finished in 24.35.

Into August and in the CC Breckland 12 hour a new national vets record was established when Andy Wilkinson clocked 317 miles, group members Tim Davies clocked 271.12, Howard Waller on three wheels 255.71 and Geoff Perry 246.90. On the same morning in the Finsbury Park CC 25 on F1 Peter Dixon clocked 54.19, Richard Moule 58.53, Peter Harridge 1.02.17, Dave Rogers 1.02.13 and Colin Holmes 1.05.16.

On 12th August in the Reading 25 Frank Pressling clocked 1.06.27, Gill Reynolds 1.08.32 and Chas Jepson 1.22.29.

A week later on 18th August in the North Hampshire RC 25, Peter Cockbain clocked 1.01.39, Peter Cookson 1.02.17, Les Morris 1.09.13 and



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Brian Moon 1.13.36.

Next day in the ECCA 12 hours Ralph  
Dadswell on three wheels covered 227.6 miles.

In spite of the poor weather for much of the season, it has been a busy year for the London Group and its riders and with just two more events to go, it will be time to sit back and contemplate: to prepare for a massive attendance at the AGM in November as the membership sits down to debate the new standards and to consider the menu for the Lunch on the 26th of January. It won't be the same, discussing the latter without the presence of Rocco. We'll be looking for his replacement on that day but don't let the prospect of being coerced into it put you off from attending.

Before that Brian Harris promotes the postponed final in the 10 series; that's on Wednesday 12th September. Then the climax! The Autumn 25, renamed the Rocco 25 with a new trophy for the best on standard: A reminder that this is an event for members only and will include handicaps in accordance with the other Group events this year.

According to the Group Handbook, there are 17 trophies up for grabs each year; 16 were won in 2011; two recipients attended the Group Luncheon and one took a trophy away. The remainder were bundled up and saved in new boxes constructed by

Chas Jepson, Group Treasurer. They were then placed safely in some kind benefactor's loft ready to be hauled down, engraved, polished and taken to Aldenham Golf Club in readiness to be packed up again, and returned to the loft (if it is still available). The Committee thought about this sad state of affairs at its meeting recently and decided that the trophies will be photographed and that framed pictures of said trophies will be presented to the winners: the trophies will remain in their current hiding place until evicted to be rested elsewhere.

As we approach the end of the 2012 season, those with claims for records and possible qualification for placings in Group and National BAR and Three Distance Championships should contact Paul Newby ([pnewby33@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pnewby33@tiscali.co.uk)) and Stewart Boucher ([linda.boucher1@virgin.net](mailto:linda.boucher1@virgin.net)).

The influx of new members continues satisfyingly and a warm welcome is extended to:

Norman Penstone  
Vincent Douglas  
David Jones  
Barry McGuire  
Stuart Simmonds  
David Lancaster

Take care when out riding whether it be racing, riding for pleasure or just pottering in the lanes.





## MANCHESTER AND NORTH WEST

Jim Ogden



What a wonderful cycling year this is proving to be. With the Olympics following the Tour de France and with successes following successes, it's been hard to leave the settee. Cycling as a sport and pastime has never received a better press and, judging by the times I have culled from the CTT website, it has given a boost to veterans' racing as well.

My last report was filed before the Championship 10, which was held at Bodelwyddan on 27 May and, although Alan Colburn's report has appeared in *The Veteran*, I am commenting on the excellent rides achieved by our Group members: six in the top 20. Mike Cotgreave (68), Westmead Team '88, was 4th on Standard 21:36 (+6:37) and led the winning team, backed by Tony Farrell (67) 22:09 (+6:03) and Ian Middleton (54) 24:05 (+3:46). Nige Wood (48), Wills Wheels, was third actual fastest in 21:19; an improvement on his 22:49 in the RTTC Championship the week before. Other notable riders were: Jim Gresty (67), North Shropshire Wheelers, 22:16 (+5:56); Brian Camfield (64), Stone Wheelers, 22:02 (+5:49) and Derek Hodgins (78), Stockport Clarion, 24:35 (+5:30). Probably the youngest entry at 40, Paul McAllister, Seamons CC, did 21:33 (+4:26) whilst his dad, Malc McAllister (71) recorded 27:30 (+1:15).

Stone Wheelers held their popular early season

25 on the fast J5/8 course on Saturday, 19 May. On this day another family went one better: a father, a mother and a son from the Weaver Valley CC. Dad, Dave Fearon (48) 54:44 (+12:50), Son Jack did 1:00:04 and Mum Caroline 1:11:09 (+1:25). With 58 riders averaging over 25 mph and a top twenty inside 56 minutes, competition was keen. The event promoter, Greg Dancer, was well placed in 58:44 (+10:44) and Derek Hodgins' 1:02:59 was his best so far this year.

After the disappointment of having their 50 aborted by a road accident, the Dukinfield CC 25 on 2 June was a much better day for them. Using the same roads 45 riders beat the hour, four of them being Group members. Paul Shallicker (41) was best placed 8th in 55:48, whilst Nige Wood 56:16, Brian Camfield 58:04 and Mike Cotgreave 58:42 made up the four.

Run in conjunction with the Dukinfield event was the M&DLCA 25. Viv Slack, Manchester Wheelers' Club, was fastest in 1:02:21 with Karen Popplewell, Seamons CC, runner up in 1:02:53. Sally Cowan, Seamons CC, was our fastest Group member 1:08:10 (+4:24) with Christine Roberts, Crewe Clarion Wheelers, slower in 1:09:28 but better on Standard +4:42. Our other three finishers were Caroline Fearon 1:11:52 (+0:42), Mary Joynson, Kidsgrove Wheelers, Best on Standard with 1:12:27 (+4:51) and Tracy Rowlinson, Lyme RC, 1:13:59 (-1:13).

The classic Anfield BC 100 was held on the same weekend Monday, 4 June. First promoted in 1889, it's probably the oldest event on the UK time trials calendar. This year the clear winner was Richard Handley, Rapha Condor Sharp, in 3:46:08. Richard is from Wigan and, at 21, one of the youngest winners of this prestigious race. Proving his all round ability, Richard recently won the last stage of the 5-day Vuelta Ciclista Leon from a field that consisted of 25 pro teams. Group members in the Anfield put up a good show too. Dave Fearon was placed 10th in 4:08:40 (+1:03:29) ahead of the Warrington team winners Steve Hankey (39) 4:18:20 and Group members Steve Hargreaves 4:20:36 and Dave Wright 4:20:08. Tony Boardman, Team Swift, recorded 4:28:06 (+1:03:12). Our last two Group members were among the twenty finishers outside five hours: David Steele (72), Lyme RC, 5:55:18 and Lisa Costa (Kidsgrove Wheelers, 6:23:42).

The Group 50 promoted by Peter Hayhurst was held on Saturday, 9 June. I got a close-up of the starters whilst assisting Roger Little 'pushing off'. I noticed that steel frames seem to have disappeared along with 'normal' wheels. I then sat with timekeeper Phil Heaton, 'phoning times through to the headquarters and that was interesting. Having timed in one competitor, he went on to complete another circuit, passing us again at racing speed. His wife wasn't surprised; she said he was training for a 12Hr! Charles Taylor (30), South Pennine CC, a regular visitor, was the clear winner in 1:50:48. Best on Standard was Nige Wood 1:56:48 (+22:13), winning him the Strevens Memorial Trophy. The Brafman Cup for first Team on Standard was won by Seamons CC: Nigel Harrop, Steve Stoddart and Phil Holden. (More details in the Results section.)

Charles Taylor went even faster in the M&DTTA 50 on 30 June, but his 1:48:30 was not quite fast enough as he was beaten by veteran Simon Bridge, Manchester Wheelers Club, 1:47:27 who, with a plus of 28:37, was also Best on Standard. Paul Robinson, Lyme RC, 1:54:41 (+24:20) was 2nd on Standard. Other Group members well placed were: Paul Shallicker 1:55:57 (+20:07, Dave Fearon 2:01:55 (+17:05), Dave Wright 2:02:35 (+18:24) and Steve Hargreaves 2:04:23 (+14:38).

The Group's annual 30 is usually held mid-week. However, this year it hosted the VTTA National Championship and was held on Saturday, 7 July. To display the results the Group had bought a computer-operated projector and a screen, the stand for which had been constructed by Ian Clark. When it was mounted on the stage at Goostry Village Hall, it added that extra touch needed for a championship. Awards were presented by Alan Geldard, Olympic Team Pursuit medalist from 1948, who had carried the Olympic Torch into the stadium at Sheffield a few days prior to this Championship. My view as Group Chairman, possibly not unbiased, is that we had a very well run event and congratulations are due to the promoter Mike Cotgreave and all the others involved. A more detailed report from National President and NEC representative, Alan Colburn, appears separately in this issue of *The Veteran*.

The following day the RTTC Championship 100 was held in Shropshire where 16 men finished inside four hours. The Champion this year is

Matthew Bottrill in 3:37:13. The Group had two riders competing: our Treasurer Jim Gresty finished in 4:18:49, whilst Andrew Barratt (40), Kidsgrove Wheelers, got round in 4:33:49.

The following week-end was the local 100: the M&DTTA event now run on a revised course using repeats of much of the 50 course and promoted this year by Peter Hayhurst. A whole range of abilities was on display, resulting in a gap of two hours between fastest and slowest. And, again, it was Charles Taylor demonstrating his ability this time by winning by ten minutes in 3:46:01. Fastest Group member was Paul Shallicker 4:03:02. Other finishers from the Group were Steve Hargreaves 4:17:58, Brian Camfield 4:19:12, David Wright 4:20:34, Phil Holden 4:57:38, Derek Hodgins 4:58:20, Edgar Reynolds (64), Congleton CC 5:20:27 and John (never give up) Baddeley (66), Stone Wheelers 5:59:51.

The week-end 21/22 July saw the Mersey Roads Club 24 hour. I was on the finishing circuit on a warm, sunny but breezy afternoon. The general opinion was that the weather overall had been favourable. Our National Secretary, Ann Butterworth, had a long wait but was eventually only able to present the actual VTTA winner with his awards. The runners-up were still in doubt, but Peter Moon, Eastbourne Rovers, was the clear Champion, having covered 471.18 miles (+131.36). Group members who ran out time were Andy Barratt 355.679 miles, Denise Hurst, Congleton CC, 338.789 and Phil Holden, Seamons CC, 329.336.

The next RTTC Championship was the 12 hour promoted by the Elmet CRC in Yorkshire on 29 July. Nick Bowdler and Andy Bason topped 300 miles and Group member Brian Camfield got into the top ten covering 263.86 miles. Tony Boardman's mileage was 245.46 and Congleton CC's Graham Barker did 226.47 miles.

On Saturday, 4 August in the Burton & District CA 50 Dave Fearon was one of 48 riders inside two hours on the course using the A50. I think his 1:52:19 would be a personal best. Barrie Whittaker (55), Lyme RC, in the same event was just outside in 2:00:02. Compared with the Manchester Wheelers' Club event on the same course on the following Saturday, a brisk east wind obviously affected the times. Our Warrington pair David Wright and Steve Hargreaves recorded 1:56:34 and 1:58:36 respectively. The Fearon family was

represented by mother Caroline 2:21:55 and son Jack 2:05:01, preparatory to feeding Dad next day in the 12Hr. Nev Ashman, Manchester Velo, was the Group's other finisher 2:19:25. Derek Hodgins was DNF.

In the WCTTA 12, Dave Fearon must have been very well looked after. He was placed third after covering 262.01 miles. The winner Mark Turnbull, Leigh Premier, with 286.89 miles had already ridden the Championship 12 a fortnight before when he covered 283.69 miles – well he did improve! Our man Jim Gresty was happy just to beat evens and his 242.69 miles for 12th place. Andrew Barratt did 220.34 miles. Sadly, Denise Hurst fell off on the finishing circuit with 30 minutes still remaining. She required hospital treatment for facial injuries and a fractured left wrist. It's possibly academic but she was credited with 187.56 miles. David Steele, Lyme RC, refused to pack even when reduced to walking for some distance and was finally credited with 164.11 miles.

The Levens 10 course is still a magnet when searching for fast times. In the Kent Valley 10 on 26 July Paul Robinson, Lyme RC, 20:03 and Paul Shallicker, coveryourcar, 20:07 were first and second. I'm sure Tracy Rowlinson (47) 25:45, Mike Wolstenholme (69), Macclesfield Wheelers, 25:21 and the Group's oldest regular competitor Cyril Wynne (82), Stretford Wheelers, 27:17 all went home satisfied.

Some had another opportunity in the Wigan Wheelers (Slowest 90 riders) event on 11 August. Without improving, Mike Wolstenholme 25:59, Cyril Wynne 27:55, were ahead of Wilf Lewis (76), Altrincham Ravens, 28:20.

Derek Hodgins feels that the changes in his Standard times at age 78 have taken away any incentive he previously had to go for the BAR distances. His best times this year are 1:02:54 (Stone Wheelers event), 2:07:48 (Pennine CC) and 4:58:20 (M&DTTA 100). His 50 time is a Group Age Record, beating Ken Biddulph's 2:12:55 which has stood for 15 years. Derek will, however, be riding the National TT Championships.

Jim Gresty is also winding down: he says the WCTTA 12 will be his last. His best rides this year are 58:42 (VTTA South Wales), 1:59:51 (+28:32) and Best on Standard in the Cardiff 100 Miles CC event, 4:18:49 in the RTTC Championship 100 and 242.69miles.

As far as the Group competitions are concerned I am sure Jim Gresty and Brian Camfield will be aware of Dave Fearon's counting rides: 54:44, 1:52:19, 4:08:40 and 262.01 miles. It looks like being close, unlike the RTTC BBAR. What are the odds on anyone beating Andy Wilkinson this year?

The Group's annual Lunch & Prize Presentation is on Sunday 25 November at Middlewich Masonic Hall as before and the price is held at £21 per person. Please apply for tickets from Helen Gresty on 01630 654943 or email mh.gresty@gmail.com. Barbara Wellings will also pass on ticket requests. Always a popular event – get your requests in early. Helen and Jim will be in Canada 11 – 26 October, but can access their email. Arthur Winstanley from the Merseyside Group is our Guest of Honour.

Apologies to anyone I've missed out. Just let me know what you have done – my access to the website may fail!

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## MERSEYSIDE

*Mo Cliff*



Congratulations to all group members who have competed and won Group trophies so far this season; Arthur Winstanley, Gareth Bowyer, Roy Sumner, Justin McIlveen and Helen Tudor. In the events run so far this year the award on standard and the award on actual have gone to the same rider. With only one nominated event left, the North

Shropshire Wheelers 25, it will be interesting to see if the trend continues.

This trend is quite interesting; the actual times are fast, so of course a good plus on standard is bound to follow. As a result of the comments on the new standards, and the trend of standard and actual awards going to the same rider, I decided to do a small analysis.

We have our "Super Vet", Dennis Milsom, who was riding last year in his early eighties. Dennis hasn't been riding this year (I might add nothing to do with the new standards putting him off). So I went back to last year's results when Dennis won on standard in our Group awards. Dennis won two trophies on standard, the Colin Rutter Cup and the Walvale Trophy.

When Dennis won the Colin Rutter Cup on standard, Gareth Bowyer won the WJ Smith Rose Bowl on actual. Their times were 1:06:46 (Dennis) and 53:26 (Gareth). If the new standards had been in place Dennis would have had a standard of +13:51 and Gareth a standard of +13:00. No change to the overall result.

When Dennis won the Walvale Trophy on standard, Justin McIlveen won the Brooke Cup on actual. Their times were 1:07:21 (Dennis) and 55:07 (Justin). If the new standards had been in place Dennis would have had a standard of +13.16 and Justin a standard of +10.53. No change to the overall result. . . . .

Like I said; interesting.

Three group members were brave enough to complete the recent 12 hour event on the Prees course; Arthur Winstanley (+61.56); Jenny York (+40.52) and Roger Squire (+5.34). Roger also rode the 24 hour and achieved a +28.46. I have a lot of admiration for anyone who does these long distance events.

There has been some strange weather this season. We had a heat wave in March - (unheard of). Riders and marshals were suffering from mild

hypothermia in a 50 in April; when only 18 riders finished the event. There has been mixed weather throughout the summer.

I was out for a ride with a club mate recently, and the forecast was sunny spells, risk of showers, with a possibility of thunder storms. Andy questioned if we should go in the morning, but we must have been in the middle of a "sunny spell" so we set out. Nice 20 mile ride through the lanes to Nantwich for lunch by the canal. We set out for home through Audlem and Ightfield, and all day the black clouds had swirled around us, but we had missed them all.....

...until we were a few miles from home; the heavens opened. We took shelter under a nearby tree, but were soon soaked, with hailstones the size of peas bouncing off us, and thunder and lightning all around.

We moved into someone's garden and huddled against their garage for a few minutes, and were worried when the householder appeared round the corner. We thought we were going to be ordered off his property, but couldn't have been more wrong.

We were invited inside, dripping wet, and were given tea and biscuits. As we chatted to this lovely couple, we learnt they have a tandem, but don't do many miles on it, only to the pub on a Friday night, when they can ride home without worrying about being breathalysed!

After about an hour, when the storm had passed over, we made our way home, in brilliant sunshine again. Whilst I wouldn't recommend being caught in a thunderstorm, it was really good to meet such friendly and helpful people.

Cycling does seem to be a sport of choice at the moment, not surprising given the fantastic results all year. I wish you all the best for the remainder of the season and look forward to seeing you at the prize presentation in January.

### *The Veteran by Email*

It has been said that some members might prefer to receive their copies of the magazine by email in PDF format  
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## NORTH LANCS AND LAKES

*Dave Brown*



What a disastrous season 2012 has been for our Group counting events! Both the 100 and the 12 hour were cancelled whilst weather and temporary traffic lights affected other events.

The only 100 mile event in the North DC of the CTT - the North Lancs Time Trial Association (NLTTA) promotion scheduled for Saturday 23rd June - was cancelled on the previous evening after torrential rain flooded the A66 road between Keswick and Cockermouth. The NLTTA committee decided to re-run the event provided sufficient interest was shown from the 30 entered. Event Organiser Phil Shaw contacted all entrants and 22 committed to ride on Saturday 28th July with Phil then submitting the required 28 days notice to the Police. All was set for the second attempt when temporary traffic lights sprouted on the same A66 a few days beforehand. With around 200 yards of bollards and traffic controls on the road to be used several times once again the decision was to cancel. At least riders and event helpers and officials could instead settle down in front of their televisions on that same afternoon to enjoy the anticipated win by Mark Cavendish in the Olympic Road Race — after the result of that one I guess most were still wishing they were up at the 100!

With the closing date for entries for our famous Lancashire Road Club 12 coming shortly after the cancelled 100 it certainly was not looking

good in encouraging those riders aiming for local BARs to go for the 12. Organiser Mike Smith received less than 20 entries - and for the second year in succession our 12 was cancelled. The Lancashire Road Club was planning to host the CTT National 12 in 2014 - the 90th anniversary of the first running in 1924 but at the time of writing that must be in doubt.

The problems with the 100 and 12 resulted in our Group Committee agreeing that, for this season only, any 100s and 12s ridden elsewhere in the country will count for both the North Lancs and Lakes Group BAR and all related Trophies to be awarded this year. Events outside of our local 'L' courses will not however, count for Group Age Records.

With no promoter for a Group 50 we again relied on using the Preston Wheelers promotion on the Garstang based course and organised by Gethin Butler. The morning of 1st July dawned with high winds and pouring rain and not content with that a new set of temporary traffic lights had been set up on the scheduled course. A chat between Gethin and the ever present Terry Kay resulted in using an alternative course with marshals being moved into position at the last minute. Conditions were so bad that only a very tough 16 plus a tandem actually arrived back at timekeeper Terry with a spread of times from the winning 1-56-48 of non-vet John Morgan to the 3:12:26 of Group member John Draper. At least John (the Draper one) had the pleasure of being part of the only team of three to finish and backing Fraser Snape (2:11:15) and Harry Haseley (2:28:53) (all North Lancs. Road Club) to a winning aggregate of 7:52:34. As Gethin says in his result sheet report: the slowest team time he can remember!

The tandem of Gil Craske and James Prossor (NLRC) returned a very creditable 2:13:34. All credit to the riders and the helpers who braved the terrible conditions on that Sunday morning.

As I reported in the previous *Veteran*, *Richard Taylor had also found traffic lights on his planned 25 course back in April with the decision taken there and then to use just 10 miles - or thereabouts!- of the circuit and call it a 10. At least Richard had good weather for his second promotion which used a brand new 25 mile course on the A59 Clitheroe by-pass. Most of his road had*

not been used for time trials this century but with the ability nowadays to use a road four times in CTT regulations has enabled a new version to be tested.

Everything went well with the 7pm start and almost 50 entries until Gary Sedgwick of the North Lancs. Road Club was highly unfortunate to be hit from the side on a straight section of road by a crossing motorist. Thankfully Gary - if not his TT bike- has now recovered and police action is being taken against the motorist.

On Standard the very much on-form 60 year old Peter Greenwood of the Clayton Velo was winner with his actual of 56:22 giving a plus of 13:32 with Frank Kerry, Lancashire Road Club second (actual 1:02:50 +12:52) and third Ged Millward of Ilkley CC (actual 55:40 +11:44). Sue Cheetham (North Lancs Road Club) was fastest lady with 1:06:41 and also BOS lady with +6:29. The Team on Standard was won also by the NLRC with Ian Cox (55:29 +10:57), Dave Hargreaves (1:01:13 +10.00) and Sue Cheetham giving a total plus of 27:2s.

The 10 organised by Peter Knott on the fast Levens course on Wednesday 4th July turned out to be a good night for some of the field but a short sharp storm passed down the A590 road for the early starters. Neil Fort of Preston Wheelers was off number one but was back at the start within 15 minutes absolutely sodden and frozen to the bone. There were three 30mph rides with the fastest going to Metaltek-Scott pro James Gullen in 19:13 with the fastest Vet our own Mick Ellerton with 19:48 who at the age of 51 also won on Standard with +6:59 just beating the excellent 22:01 +6:54 from Christine McLean of Shetland Wheelers who is the same age. Peter Yates of Otley CC did a super ride at age 79 with his 23:43 +6:37 giving him 3rd on Standard followed by Frank Kerry 23:10 +6:29, Carlos Rijse Shetland Wheelers 20:04 +6:27 and Jocky Johnstone Icarus Racing 22:23 +6:13. The team on Standard went to North Lancs Road Club thanks to Ian Cox 20:10 +5:59, Dave Hargreaves 22:06 +5:52 and Mark Goodchild 21:28 +5:03.

The Lancashire Road Club 25 on the 22 July with event secretary Glenn Bower went to plan on the Garstang/Brock course based mainly on the A6 road with third in the 2011 BBAR Derek Parkinson turning out a superb ride of 52:49 putting a minute and a half into John Morgan. When it came to Standards, Frank Kerry was back in his usual top spot with a 1:03:41 ride to give him a winning plus of 12:01 to beat visitor Rod Brooks of Warrington Road Club who clocked 1:00:37 for a plus of 11:13.

Two Group members - both Burnley residents where the air must be good this year - will be submitting claims for National Age Records with Peter Greenwood recording an incredible 1:45:36 at age 60 for 50 miles and Mick Ellerton a 19:26 10 at age 51.

Offers of Event Secretaries are desperately requested to promote events both next year and into the future. The Group have promoted up to ten time trials in the past but at the time of writing only Richard Taylor has committed to run his two established events in 2013.

Our recently retired Group Secretary Roy Gibson is presently making good progress after joining the 'New Hip' brigade after several last minute cancellations.

The Group AGM will be held on Sunday November 4th at Kirkland Village Hall with a 10-30am start but with the usual tea and coffee available prior to that.

The Annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation will again be held at The Crofters Hotel on the A6 Garstang by-pass on Sunday 6th January with tickets available at the AGM or from organiser Terry Kay and Keith Tattersall.

We welcome new VTTA Group members Fraser Snape of the North Lancashire Road Club and Jamie Carson of the Chorley Cycling Club with Fred Hampson of Barrow Central Wheelers returning to us after a five year break. Hope you enjoy your time with us.

25% of men ask their partner to buy their clothes for them,  
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50% rely on their partner to try out their clothes for the next day  
*Jacamo/The Daily Telegraph*

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## NOTTS AND EAST MIDLANDS

David Herd



Newark Castle CC 25 (Carlton on Trent/Long Bennington) 26 May proved a fast event with the first 53 of the 102 entrants going under the hour. The East Midlands Veteran with the fastest time was Chris Pike, Coalville Wheelers, 53.29 coming second overall to the winner Adam Gascoigne, Pedal Power, 53.00. Paul Mapletoft, Kiveton Park, had a good ride coming in 22nd with a time of 56:48. Melton Olympic CC rider Russell Gent was just outside the hour 01:00:59 with his team mates Malcolm Mann on 01:03:33 and Bryan Fenwick 01:05:41. Dave Ashley, Sleaford Wheelers, 01:04:01 CC, David York, Ratae RC, 01:08:24 and finally Gill Henshaw, VC Long Eaton, 01:14:12

Notts and East Midlands, Hinkley CRC tandem pair Paul and Kellie Sidwell were fastest team in VTTA (Merseyside) National Championships on the 27 May, setting a time of 20:58 +03:10 one minute faster than Phil Guy and Nigel North, the Shropshire Wheelers pair on 21:58 +02:46.

Lincolnshire Road Riding Association Centenary 25 mile Championship promoted by Theresa Brewer on the 27 May proved a very successful event, not least because of the glorious weather on a new course based Tattershall/Coningsby to the outskirts of Boston and the efforts of LRRR members to celebrate a Century Time Trialling in Lincolnshire.

This event was run under the old standards,

but I need to first congratulate my club mate James Coleman, Witham Wheelers CC, for setting the fastest time for the event of 53:15. Second fastest was Julian Ramsbottom, Scunthorpe Poly CC, 54:40; third was Anthony Nash, Scunthorpe Poly CC, 55:21 with Ian Dalton 4th in 57:04. Other times: Ian Pike, Sleaford Wheelers CC, 59:00, Francis Grafton, Nottingham Clarion CC, 1:04:47, David Smith, Sleaford Wheelers CC, 1:07:51. First Lady was Karen Brooks, Lincoln Wheelers CC, 1:07:51; David Herd, Witham Wheelers CC, 1:07:01; David Grayson, Boston Wheelers CC, 1:08:22; Dave Pike, Sleaford Wheelers CC, 1:09:05 and Dave Ashley, Sleaford Wheelers CC, 1:09:05.

Mat Richardson promoted Leicester Forest CC Open 25 on the 09 June which just about kept fine. David Warren of Keepthebeat Cycling was fastest on standard, 3rd overall with a +9:47 from an actual of 57:26 on a blustery day but thankfully dry. Nick Cave, Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT, was second on standard with a +9:19, 5th overall with 57:54 and Ian King was 3rd on standard with a +9:07, 6th overall with an actual 58:06.

Jim Boyle, Sleaford Wheelers, was fastest in his own club's 50 with a 1:52:24. Prestige point contenders Ian Dalton, Cherry Valley, was 4th, 1:56:50, just outside the two hour mark was Steven Howgill, Leicestershire RC, 2:01:29 and Ian Pike Sleaford Wheelers CC 2:01:43. Norman Portess, Melton Olympic CC, 2:12:25 and just behind the fastest Lady on the day was Helen Eborall, Velo Club Rutland, 2:13:20.

Not strictly a Vet orientated event but very well supported was Sleaford Wheelers CC Nev Crane Memorial on the 8 July. First Vet was Ian Dalton, Cherry Valley RT, 55.31, second Simon Dale, Nottingham Clarion CC, 55:46 and third was Jim Boyle, Sleaford Wheelers CC, 55:58. Ian Pike, Sleaford Wheelers CC, 59:08 with his father, Dave Pike 1:09:16. Despite a coach shedding a wheel on the A52 this was an excellent event and I am sure Nev would have been proud of his club's efforts on making the day a success. Nev's widow, Jean Crane presenting the prizes.

North Notts Olympic 25 on the 14 July also generated some fast times, not least an excellent actual 58:26 by Jo Corbett of Team Swift with a +16:09 which gave her first place on standard, Ian Dalton, Cherry Valley RC, was placed 7th overall with an actual of 51:46 and second place on

standard of +15:27 and finally the ride of the day came from Gill Henshaw (78) VC Long Eaton, 1:07:54 actual with a +15:18 which gains her an age record set by Mary Dawson 1:12:59 in 2007. Graham Green, MG Décor, complemented the NEM success with an actual of 58:47 and a +13:45. Well done to all of you.

Jo Corbett, Team Swift, also had a good result in Team Swift's mid-week event on the 11 July on the V718 clocking a time of 22:51. On the same course on the 27 June, Gill Henshaw clocked a 26:48 setting another age record again beating Mary Dawson's record 27:28 set in 2007.

In the VTTA Prestige points standings (09 August):

Steve Howgill	30
Ian Dalton	26
Norman Portess	26
Colin Parkinson	26
John Needham	22
Dave Bates	21
Ian Pike	20

So at this stage it remains quite close with only the BDCA 100 and Lincs RRA remaining.

Finally the weather has settled down so let us hope the latter end of the season produces some good times.

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## SOUTH WALES

*Barry Williams*



**Since the submission of the South Wales news, we regret to report that Gordon Butler was killed whilst out on his bike on the 5th of September. Gordon is mentioned frequently in the report as is his wife Pam. The Editor has decided to retain references to both, poignant though they are.**

I find myself researching this newsletter amid awesome excitement generated by Team GB's Olympic results. A golden summer for cycling Brits, huge successes on the world stage, first ever Tour de France victory followed by glittering Olympic success. However, for us in South Wales, there has been some grim weather, casting a shadow over most of this May to July report.

First I would welcome a new member, Marcus Richardson from Swansea. Marcus has been selected by Triathlon Team GB to ride in the World Championships in Auckland, New Zealand this October and needed to ride no drafting time trials to complete his training programme. One thing puzzled me here, how can you avoid drafting in a massed start race such as a triathlon? Good luck in the race Marcus, let us know how you got on.

Wherever possible, I ride VTTA South Wales events. We have over 60 active members and as many as 30 have recently presented themselves to a time keeper. From my own recollection, conditions have been almost universally cold and wet. I missed the Bynea 25, Monday 4th June, nevertheless 40 hardy members representing 75% of the field made it to Llandovery. Kevin Jones 1.02.12 and David Evans 1.02.54 finished in 8th and 10th places respectively. These were commendable results on the day. Looking further down the list it's soon apparent that good times were hard to achieve. John Shehan posted 1.05.53 and enjoyed the training ride, while Bob Jones, Nic Forbes, Les Thomas, Gordon Butler, Sally Harmer and Norman James probably found solace and comfort pedalling around a course with scenic views of the Black Mountains. A golfing commitment at St Andre des Eaux, France, excused me from the Port Talbot 50 on June 10th - this appears to have been another testing event, with only four members inside 2.10.00 - David Evans, Mike Broadbent, Kevin Jones and Paul Coleman. I am told that the east wind was hard against on the dual carriageway with little benefit received on the tree lined westerly return leg. John Shehan and Pete Murrieri posted

respectable times while five other members, no names mentioned, opting for scenic training rides.

I was pleased that I was able to ride the Welsh championship 25 on 24th June, supposedly mid-summer, conditions were cold and windy, however, most of our regulars made it to the timekeeper. Revin Kevin Jones clocked 55.17; Cliff Jackson from Pembroke recorded 56.11, David Evans from Worcester 57.42 and Mike Broadbent, Bynea CC 59.26. Three other members featured in the main event, your correspondent 1.02.29, Pete Murrieri 1.03.02 and Gordon Butler 1.05.12. Gordon's ride, I am told, was affected by his taking the wrong type of pill which was prescribed by his doctor. My thoughts on the matter: this was a typical example of the medical profession's failure to understand the needs of us 76 year old racing cyclists. They should know that we need pills to go faster, not slower, not forgetting we would never dope!

I would commend Bob Jones and the Cardiff 100 miles RCC for promoting their open 25 at Usk on 7th July, lots of hard work to set up this marvellous event. Sadly, they selected a day with the most diabolical weather, gale force winds and rain storms. I drove out to Usk, not intending to ride, but did, due to an unexpected weather window. Seventy-four of the 130 entries had a go, including nine of our members. Good performances came from Gordon Butler 1.04.06, no pill problem this time. Windsor Jones, Cardiff 100 MRCC, 1.04.01 and Dave Unsworth, Hereford & District CC 1.09.06 also contributed. Your correspondent, a late starter, ran out of the weather window and into a rain storm on the return leg from Raglan, another soaking!

The Ross on Wye 10 on 14th July brought good fortune for two of our members when John Shehan and Dennis Beard won £25 spot prizes. In the actual event, David Evans posted a fast 22.01 and Mike Broadbent an acceptable 22.46, a dozen other members rode, among them Ken Squibb, Cardiff Ajax CC recorded 27.43 which is really fantastic considering he spent the previous six months on chemo therapy: congratulations Ken on a great recovery. The following morning, the Ross Club promoted an Open 25 on Usk – Monmouth R25/7 course which produced some good performances. David Evans 57.05, Kevin Jones 57.39, Hugh Davies 1.00.22, Mike Broadbent 1.00.27, John Shehan 1.01.17. However, ride of the day went to 76 year old Gordon Butler posting

1.03.15, +12.27 on standard, to win SW VTTA 25 Cambridge Cup. After his trials with the doctors, this was good news not only for Gordon but for all us old competitors struggling with the new standards.

The Port Talbot Wheelers 10 on 17th July was yet another wash-out, a few braved the wind and rain and I would commend Mike Broadbent 22.37, Davis Evans Worcester St Johns 23.31, also Ron Boast 26.30, David Triggs 28.38 and Norman James 29.44. Your correspondent was one of the 30 DNS including many who drove down to Resolven, looked at the wind and rain and decided against risking life and limb on a dual carriageway with spray causing poor visibility for fast passing vehicles.

My club, Cardiff 100 Miles RCC, punches well above size when it comes to promoting open events. The oldest club in Wales, formed in 1891, with less than a dozen active members this year, we are still involved in organising four time trials and a two day road race. I cannot speak highly enough of Bill Pring and Bob Jones for running these events for the benefit of everyone in our sport. Which brings me to the Club's Open 50; run on Sunday 5th August. Conditions were typical for this summer, heavy rain in the start finish area near Abergavenny, but surprisingly warm and dry at east end of the course around Raglan and Mitchell Troy. Eight of our members were among the 54 finishers and I would commend Paul Coleman, Pembrokeshire Velo for 10th place, squeezing under 2 hours with 1.59.56. Other notable performances were David Evans 2.04.49, John Shehan 2.10.00, Pete Murrieri 2.14.12; your correspondent 2.14.48 including +22.11 for standard; good enough to pick up the SW VTTA 50 Cup. Other finishers were:- Clive Chappe 2.21.45, Ed Hadley 2.22.13 and Paul Griffiths 2.26.30. There was one hard luck story when Gordon Butler retired with a jammed cassette on the back road to Mitchell Troy, Gordon will have another chance at the distance in the WCA event later this month.

Pam Butler has done an excellent job as secretary. Our numbers have grown during her period of tenure. We would offer her many thanks for the enthusiasm and tenacity she brought to the job. However, Pam will stand down at the next AGM and we are therefore looking for a replacement. I will continue as Treasurer and support anyone willing to take over the post. Preferably, it should

be a member who attends races and therefore able to approach potential recruits to VTTA. Anybody prepared to help apply to me at bazlink@btinternet.com

Finally amidst that July monsoon, my wife and I spent a hot sunny week near Gerona, Costa Brava. As usual I had my bike and I was able to find some brilliant quiet roads, tree lined with climbs and hairpin bends, great for an early morning pre-breakfast ride. Other cyclists were on the route looking for a challenge on climbing or descending. To round it off, there were plenty of nice beaches for an afternoon swim – recommended for an active holiday break. – best wishes to all.

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## WESSEX

### *Ken Blowe*

Team Axiom CC had agreed to incorporate the Group's 10 mile Championship in their promotion on Saturday afternoon 9th June. Entries for the event (71 solos + 1 Tandem pair) were down on last year probably due to the recent bad weather. Twenty of the entrants were members of Wessex Group and Terry Icke, as expected, continued his run of good form to record a fine time in dull and slightly windy conditions of 20.56 (BOS + 7.03) for ninth place in the event - his time is a new VTTA National Record at age 68 years replacing the time of 21.03 set by John Woodburn in 2005. Steve Walking was 2nd BOS + 6.07 (his time of 20.11 good enough for 3rd place in the event) with Graeme Stirzaker 3rd BOS + 5.41 (20.41 in 6th place). Graeme led his a3crg club to the team championship with Jack Brown and Graham Fielder being the other counters. The Chalky White "Lanterne Rouge" Trophy goes this year to 80 year old John Maule.

Terry Icke improved the above time by nine seconds to 20.47 in his own Poole Wheelers 10 miles event on 17th June in which Jack Brown (age 78) also set a new Group age record. Terry had earlier beaten another one of John Woodburn's VTTA National records at the longer distance of 25 miles in the RAF CC race in South Wales on 6th May when his time was 52.18 for the distance. Terry subsequently improved this time by four seconds when he rode the a3crg Open Summer Evening event and recorded 52.14 for 13th place on a night when 65 riders beat the hour (I was

subsequently advised he did 20.14 in a Poole Wheelers' Club 10 mile club event so there looks to be a good chance he can reduce the aforementioned records later this season).

Other Wessex Group riders' times in Wales were Steve Walking 50.50 (4th fastest), Graeme Stirzaker one place behind Terry with 52.30, Andy Langdown (Hampshire RC) 53.59, Lesley Walking 55.01 (new Ladies Group record at age 46 beating the previous record at that age set by Carolan Smerdon in 2009 as well as her own record of 55.27 at age 45 set in 2011 and was only two seconds slower than her fastest on record set in 2009 at age 43 years), Graham Fielder 56.57, Alan Emmott 57.26 and Dave England 59.43.

Nik Bowdler finished second (3.42.25) in the EDCA 100 miles event on the 15th July in which other Wessex Group members Barry Quick (4.33.16) and Dave England (4.28.55 at age 69 a new group record) also rode. Nik rode the RTTC Championship 12 Hour a fortnight later and won the event covering a distance of 301.71 miles (another Group record at age 43 which replaces his own ride a year ago as well as beating Julian Jenkinson's ride in 2010 at the same age of 43 years).

Owing to a very wet July when a number of Open and many club events were cancelled. I can only report from events listed in the CTT National and South DC websites - if I have missed some riders who rode in other DC events, I apologise.

a3crg 3 Up TTT team winners were Poole Whs (including T.Icke) 51.43 with a3crg (including Graeme Stirzaker) in 2nd place 51.55 and Antelope RT (including Glenn Longland) third with 55.56 whilst Steve Walking did a creditable 55.07 with wife Lesley for 5th place in the separate 2Up TTT the same day. Dave England was fastest Group member in the Sotonia CC 25 with 1.3.44 whilst Terry Icke was fifth in the Wessex RC 50 with 1.55.53, 8th (1.17.09) in the New Forest CC 32 mile event Round the Forest (in which event Steve Walking came third in 1.14.33) and sixth with 21.47 in the Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers' 10. Hampshire RC's 10 (postponed from 28th April) was eventually held on 16th June but only about a quarter of the original entry were able to make that date - however Andrew Langdown of the promoting club was third fastest with 21.12. Another 10 promoted by Sotonia on a course not known for ultra fast times, only had a small field but

nevertheless Bournemouth Jubilee riders Cliff Rowe (24.00) took 2nd place with Phil Evans 5th (24.41) and Kevin Ridge 6th (24.58). The a3crg evening open 10 held on 25th July saw 80% of the riders who finished beat 24 minutes (indeed four were inside 20 minutes including Steve Walking with 19.55. John Woodburn was BOS (standards worked on the old system as the club's massive database of riders still not completely updated). Finally Dave England advises that he picked up BOS award (+22.20) having recorded 2.7.35 in the Oxonian CC 50 the weekend before these notes were finalised.

Only new member this time round is Dave Pitt (Charlotteville CC) who rejoined the Group in June.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**  
**2012 Annual General Meeting**  
**This will take place at**  
**Valley Park Community Centre,**  
**Chandlers Ford SO53 4ST**  
**at 10.30am on Sunday morning**  
**4th November**  
**and should finish at about noon.**

**It is vitally important that as many members as possible attend the meeting since you will know that my recent health problems have meant that I am giving up all those posts in the Group that I currently hold. Wessex Group urgently require the posts of Secretary, Treasurer, Press Secretary and Annual Lunch Co-ordinator to be filled at or before this meeting or it could mean the demise of the association here in the south which would be a real shame. An awful lot of information is held on my computer and this can easily be passed on to willing volunteers so, if any one out there requires more information, feel free to e-mail or telephone me sooner rather than later.**

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## **YORKSHIRE**

*Malcolm Cowgill*

Another season almost gone and what a Summer! March, I'm told, was the summer this year – and I missed it. My sympathies go to the riders who have trained and raced over the last few months.

As far as the National Championships go, from what I have seen so far our old men are now out of

the hunt. Amazingly, in the light of what had gone before in the previous couple of weeks, the Andy Wilson 50, run for the 81st time, got a reasonable afternoon. Fittingly, it was won by a great champion, Andy Wilkinson, Port Sunlight Wheelers, with 1:41:51, but was well short of the 8-year-old event record of 1:41:00 set by Mark Atkinson. In third place was a Yorkshire Group rider, Ian Fairweather, Yorkshire RC, with 1:50:21. Another fine ride by a group member was that of Mike Shacklock (67), Yorkshire RC. 1:59:20 for 24th place. There were just 69 finishers, a far cry from the fields that this event attracted in years gone by.

Now a reminder for our Rideout Lunch, which will be held once again at Old Otlisians RUFC Clubhouse at Otley on Sunday 21 October, 12 noon to 3 pm. Tickets £11 (pay on the day). Book with John Churchman (Tel: 01274 564234. Last year at the Lunch, a vote was taken to carry on for another year despite the falling numbers, so you are urged to support John or this year could be the last Rideout Lunch.

Staying with social matters, our Annual Lunch will be on Sunday 27 January 2013 at "The Bridge", Walshford. Tickets will be available from Mickie Hornby in due course. Our Guest of Honour will be Keith Lawton, Elmet CRC, who is the CTT National Secretary (Competitions and Development). Keith has been a tireless worker for time trialling over the years. He was the Secretary of the RTTC Yorkshire District for more years than I care to remember. He has organised the National 12 hour this year; without people like Keith, our sport would cease to function and he deserves our appreciation.

Our 25 July, promoted by Andrew Vaughan, was blessed with a good day considering the weather in the preceding week. Defying the new standards, the winner was Len Grayson (75), Team Swift, who did a fine 1:00:46 +14:24. In second place was Mike Shacklock (68), Yorkshire RC, with 58:15 +13:56. Third place was taken by Ged Millward (47), Ilkley CC, 54:01 +13:23. The team prize went to Otley CC, Peter Yates (79) 1:05:12 +12:20 leading Nigel Austin (63) 59:12 +11:27 and Tim Howcroft (44) 55:26 +11:24; so a good day for our group riders. The best lady was Heather Greening (49), Keswick Bikes, who was both fastest and best on standard with 1:00:50 +12 20. Fastest Vet on the day was Ian Cox (42), North Lancs RC, with a rapid 53:22. The fastest ride on the day was

an eye-watering 50:26 recorded by non-Vet Keith Murray. There were 83 finishers from a field of 103. Our thanks to Andrew for organising what is now our only 25.

As I mentioned in the last issue, the RTTC National Championship 12 was held in our District. It was run on a windy rag-bag of a day about par for the course in this awful Summer; Nik Bowdler, Team Pedal Revolution, ran out the winner with 301.71 miles, also winning the VTTA National Championship which was incorporated in the event with +93:20.

Yorkshire riders finished fifth and sixth in the RTTC Championship, Joel Wainmann, Team Swift, 277.40 miles, and Ian Fairweather, Yorkshire RC, 274.72 miles, which was a new Yorkshire RC club record. This was a record which has stood for over 50 years to a Yorkshire star of the fifties, Geoff Salter, who did 264.51 miles way back then. The best lady on the day was Jill Wilkinson, Port Sunlight Wheelers, 253.80, good enough for 14th place in the Championship. In the Vets Championship, Mike Shacklock (68), Yorkshire RC, 237.94 miles +61.59, was fifth. Of our other group riders, Cliff Beldon (65), Team Swift, 220.42 miles +39.00 eleventh, Peter Yates (79), Otley CC, 190.03 miles + 38.86 twelfth, Alan Bell (66), Yorkshire RC, 217.73 miles thirteenth and John Hatfield (64), Ravensthorpe CC, 219.21 miles +37.79 fourteenth. There were just 47 finishers, 25 of whom were Vets.

On now to our August meeting: Numbers were up from 11 last year to 17 being present this year. Arising from last year's Minutes, Bob reported on the issue of road signs at events. It now seems that we cannot put signs on trunk roads, but we can put them on slip-roads leading onto them. Racing Secretary Cliff Ralphs reported that our group had put £100 into the prize fund at the recent VTTA national 12 hour Championship and the North Mids Group £50. Our membership has remained almost the same at 177. Entry fees for our events next season were raised to £9, increases in postage being one of the reasons. The move to enter on-line helps counter the postage increases. The good news is that we will again have four events next season. Mike Williams will continue with the 10 on a date to be fixed in April; Steve Gaunt will run his 10 on 7 September (date to be confirmed). Tony Stott will run the 25 on 20 July (again date to be

confirmed) and Bob Tate will run the 30 on a date in May. Our thanks go to these four; they deserve your support.

The change to the RTTC entry form has now made handicapping an event almost impossible. There was a lengthy debate on the vexed question of the new standard tables. It is obvious that a number of riders aren't happy and, after much discussion, it was decided to bring forward the date of our AGM to Saturday 10 November. This move will enable us to discuss what the impact has been this season and we will have the opportunity, if necessary, to put a motion on the agenda for the National VTTA AGM; so if you are unhappy with the new standards, come along to the AGM and have your say. Otherwise you have no excuse if things are decided that you don't agree with. Once again, the revised date of the AGM is 10 November, Collingham Memorial Hall.

Now to somebody who has had a really lucky season! Arthur Thackray, Team Swift, was putting the bins out in February when he slipped on some ice, tearing the rotator cuff in his right shoulder. He couldn't hold the bars properly for weeks and, when he returned to racing, had to ride sat up, slowly improving by June. Then in July, he had a mini-stroke; at 80, you put the footballers to shame, Arthur. We wish you a speedy recovery!

Congratulations to Bradley Wiggins, becoming the first British rider to win the Tour de France. When the stock market opened on Monday 23 July, shares in companies making black socks soared! How are the BBC going to wriggle out of giving him the Sports Personality award? Please not Andy Murray!

In the Olympics, our haul of cycling gold was amazing considering the goal posts had been moved. Is there going to be a scrabble at the village halls up and down the country for power points, with riders waiting to plug in electric blankets to put over their thighs until the hot pants the British used become available at £850 a go?

Despite all this euphoria, don't be lulled into a false sense of security; we're still hedgehogs as far as the British motorist is concerned

See you up the road.

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## VTTA KIT

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## EAST ANGLIA

Mary Horsnell



Pride of place this month must go to the senior members; as has been mentioned in this column before, “we are now in the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between generations, EY2012. It’s a chance to reflect on how Europeans are living longer and staying healthier than ever before and to realise the opportunities that represents. It is also key to maintaining solidarity between generations in societies with rapidly increasing numbers of older people”.

Now it could be said that this was the policy of the VTTA for many years – were we before our time? One particularly unkind remark overheard recently was, “it is only a few old timers moaning (about the standards) and they won’t be around much longer”. Maybe not around to do all those admin jobs, let alone marshalling, of which our over-80’s do more than their share?

Geoff Keeble HLM, timekeeper par excellence, was feted by Colchester Rovers back in May when timing his 1000th club event (and goodness knows how many Opens) with typical understatement as, in the lay-by at the finish, a fine cake bearing the badge of this historic club was cut. Those who rode his very first event were present, namely Dickie Woods, Derek Snowling and Robin Thomas (son of Cllr Thomas, who often presented the prizes at club dinners back in the 50s.

Another Essex personality, Stan Broom, deserves congratulations for being nominated by the local council to carry the Olympic torch through the Borough of Dagenham, where he has lived all his life, preceded by the famous Dagenham Girl Pipers; his nomination being for a lifetime’s dedication to this sport. In 2011, he was awarded the Gordon Irons Trophy for service to the Group. Hardly had the euphoria died down, when Stan fell down some steps up at ‘the Huts’ and broke his arm, so he now deserves commiserations – get well soon, Stan.

Ken and Maureen Nichols, surely ‘Mr and Mrs Cycling’ in Ipswich, celebrated their Golden Wedding in some style at a stately home, Bruisyard Hall, near Framlingham, with a large party of friends and family staying from Friday till Sunday, when three clubruns made this the destination. Congratulations to them and many more happy years together!

Latest to join the exclusive circle of HLMs is Barry Freeman who, during his residence at Great Tey and membership of the RTTC National Committee, was known as ‘Mr RTTC in Essex’. He is also a top class photographer, winning many competitions over the years; his pictures often appeared in the papers and on calendars which raised thousands of pounds for charity.

Bill Thorncroft, an HLM has now added 10 years to his HLM qualification, to make him the ‘Father of the ECCA’. Has written the following:

### Birthday Boy

“I have known Barry Freeman for many years. He started competitive cycling in the Ray Booty era and was a close competitor of his in the Midlands, but I came into closer contact with him when I was asked to time the RTTC Ladies 25 miles Championship in 1987 on the E72 course. His wife Diana was the very capable promoter.

In due course he became London East RTTC Secretary and made an excellent job of it.

Barry and I spent much time developing and measuring the courses, 10 miles to 12 hours, in the A11/A14 Stetchworth area, now known as the E2 and E33 etc. They have remained much the same to the present day, except for slight variations at the finishes.

Barry, now living near Eye, is still very active in Norfolk/Suffolk cycling and regularly promotes for



his club, Unity CC, and for the VTTA, as far south at the Rodings. He keeps in regular contact with all his old cycling pals and, as far as I know, will carry on until the year DOT. After all, he is still only 80!"

It has been pleasing to see back in action several members who had been accident victims, namely John Iszatt, Chris Worsfold, Terry Law and his wife Barbara, a World age group winner in Triathlon, as is Elspeth Knott, the sister of Rovers top vet Jim Reed; also from their club, Debra Peck, who came over from Glendene, has tackled both 100 and 12 hours showing great promise. Tony and Sue Clarke, who spoke of a year out, are back on the start sheets, as well as their usual marshalling – luckily for the group, they just can't stay away!

The racing programme has taken a severe knock this season, with many events being cancelled in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, the reason being 'Safety First' due to torrential rainstorms. No sensible person would dispute that and there is no need to email abuse to the event secretary! In the past, two first class organisers have been lost through this, saying "no more", and you cannot blame them. The same applies to persons whose entries are returned.

The biggest loss was that of the ECCA 100, meaning that the group event was held in conjunction with the East District Championship. Here Nik Bowdler did another fantastic ride to take both Fastest and BoS; local man Chris Nudds was second on standard, whilst Chris Baldwin, an East Eagle flying far from home, was third.

Laura Gambling, queen of the local tribe, was best lady on standard. Her ride earned a place in the winning team, where Breckland caused something of a surprise by beating Chelmer by a narrow margin. However, Ann Shuttleworth managed to keep the flag flying as best lady in the ECCA event. With three events running in tandem, the whole thing became rather complicated.

The Zak Carr Memorial is one of the events to be re-run. The API 25 was held in very bad conditions. Many elected not to start, but those who took a chance were rewarded with very fast times, such as 53:59 by Tim Wood which took the Chelmer's 50-60 age record. His wife Cathy, who earlier won the Florence Ranson Rose Bowl for the second year in the club open, also made a startling improvement. Not bad for relative newcomers.

On now to the big event of the year in Essex, the Eastern Counties 12 hour, and another amazing performance from Nik Bowdler, his 300.40m just beating his 2011 ride. In second place and best ECCA rider was Antony Stapleton with 278.4m (+73.7), a new Chelmer club record. He also led the winning team, also the ECCA club team. Ken Platts was well pleased with his 269.20m (+79.3), as was John Golder, 250.90 (+61.0), his best for many years. The old firm, Antony, John and group chairman Pete Horsnell, took the Vets team award on age standard, the latter covering 206.60m (+64.5), hopefully for a National 82 year old record, as is Ken, now over 60. This event, which incorporates the group Championship, will be the CTT National in 2013, and probably the VTTA Championship, and will be the swansong of organiser John Cottee, after 20 years of loyal service for which thanks are due. It was not well supported by the group as regards entries, although many members were out assisting on the day – the average age of five marshals, who did several stints on one roundabout, was 82 years, one being over 90, and this from a single club – well done! Not to mention the combined age of the venerable timekeepers! Furthest travelled on the day was Ian Wilson from Aberdeen, a club-mate of Derek Stewart, who needs no introduction; once a member of Southend Wheelers and friend of Matt Illingworth in their younger days, he wishes to be remembered to all old friends.

That reminds me to report that Dougie Yareham continues his slow progress to recovery after his shocking accident – good wishes to him. Somehow Christine has managed to carry on with the series of 10s, with the full backing of their club, the old established Victoria CC, for which she deserves high praise.

There has to be a sad note – Llewellyn Ranson, our oldest member at 95, deserves our sympathy following the death of his wife Winnie; they had been married for 67 years. He had to cut down cycling (tri-cycling) activities a few years back as Winnie became increasingly infirm, but was especially missed on 12 hour days as he and Bill Thorncroft would always risk life and limb for many years, putting out the signs.

On a brighter note, it only remains to welcome the new members; they are:

Neil Dowie	45	API – Metrow
Jane Swain	45	Willesden CC
Trevor Burke	49	Finchley RT
Graham Hurst	58	Norwich ABC
Arabella Maude	44	Willesden CC

See you up the road – or is it down memory lane?

## WEST

*Brian Griffiths*



With the success of Bradley Wiggins's Tour de France win and then the Olympic Games still ringing in my ears, I sit down to write this report in a most elated and happy mood. After the very first few days of the Tour, it was pretty obvious that the Sky team were going to break new ground as far as British history in this event was concerned. We really have moved into a new era with pretty foolproof drugs testing, scientific training and proper financial backing.

Subsequent to the Tour and then his magnificent Olympic Time Trial win, we begin to find out that 'Wiggo' really is quite an ambassador for our sport and everyone has at last begun to take to liking him for what he is, a pretty extraordinary boy from London's streets. Pity he brought up the controversial issue of compulsory safety helmets at such an inappropriate time and place.

The Velodrome too was quite an inspiration;

very few of us would have forecast such spectacular results, with a basket full of new world records to really put a shine on things. My view is that we should have ended up with two more gold medals, but for some pretty basic errors, but that's life I suppose.

There is much controversy about the legacy of the games; will the new enthusiasm for all sports develop into anything at all? My view is that it won't but we can at least do our best to help anyone who does show an interest in our sport and pastime.

As far as youngsters coming into cycling are concerned, my view and my experience is that they have quite a shock when they find out just how much a new carbon fibre bike costs these days. Then they soon find out that they need two, one to train on and one to race on and that they go out of date very quickly. Just imagine a 16 year old in his first job affording that sort of money without parental help, as well as paying for his Broadband, his Blackberry and a car to take him to events.

When I started racing, I somehow managed to scrape together £17.19s.6d to buy a Dayton 'Flyer', which had to get me to work, be stripped down for time trials and road races and then be kitted out for touring.

The weather is slowly improving, if somewhat erratically and I wonder if we will get an Indian summer this year, which would be rather nice for us all.

I haven't been presented with any reports or news from our members so I have not been able to come up with any information to pass on to you.

I organised the TA South West 25 a couple of weeks ago which was run in conjunction with the Severn Road Club event. There were three entries for the trike event and 28 entries for the open event, which I thought was pretty poor. The U18 isn't the fastest or the most popular course by any means, so what else was keeping everyone away. Was it the Olympics or are a lot of people away on holiday?

Mary Jane Hutchinson somehow managed to salvage the result of the WTTA 100 after it was disrupted by a thirty eight wheeled truck. I

was marshalling at about the 60 mile point when a police convoy arrived to close off the road. Shortly afterwards an enormous vehicle arrived with an airliner fuselage on board taking up the total width of the road and some more. Unfortunately some riders decided to abandon; however, many of them were held and timed and then released later so that they could finish the event without ruining the whole of their day. In the end they went away with a result, all cleverly worked out. I have to say they were very understanding of the circumstances and in my opinion Mary Jane deserves a medal for keeping her calm and being able to satisfy everyone in such trying circumstances. By the way, I should also mention that she provided an ample supply of the most mouth-watering cake anyone can imagine for those around at the finish.

As for the police, they were very philosophical about it all, they showed no concern that some riders had trained for many months, travelled many miles to the start and were deprived of a genuine result to take back for their efforts.

They knew the event was being run and at what time, but the transporter had to have preference as far as they were concerned. They could at least have informed us beforehand and it might have been possible to change the course.

Don't forget that I need your news and information to make a real job of this column, so if you know anything of interest, pass it on.

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## SCOTLAND

*Steve Nuttley*

In Scotland the revised standards have led to close racing with a variety of different winners at each of our championship events so far this season, with only one rider having won a second trophy. At the time of writing only the Bill Lennon Trophy (Tour de Trossachs) remains to be contested and it will be interesting to see the result of this hilly event under the new standards.

Sadly our 100 mile championship for the Reilly and Jim Sharpe trophies had to be cancelled. Organiser Norman Skene was left with no alternative having received only 14 entries in total for both the SVTTA and open events. Scottish 100s have not been well supported this year with a scant

34 entries for the SC Championship at Invergordon, although happily the first event of the season on the A90 did attract a good field.

After two years writing these reports I will be standing down and it's time for somebody else to take a turn. If you are willing to have a go then please make yourself known or come along to the forthcoming SVTTA AGM at McQ's Tartan Arms in Bannockburn on Sunday 4th November.

### National events

Derek Stewart, defending his championship gold medal of last year, came home with the silver in this year's VTTA 25 held on the same Newmarket course on 9th June, recording a '58'.

2nd. on standard Derek Stewart from Deeside Thistle CC with 58.26 (standard. +17.24).

Other SVTTA:

Iain McLeod, Denny Road Club, 1.03.28 (+11.12).

Race HQ was a modern leisure centre on outskirts of Newmarket with plenty of car park/turbo trainer spaces. The course uses mixture of 2 and 3 lane dual carriageways: Long straight sections with mixture of flat and slight but noticeable climbs and descents. The turn involves going up a slip road, roundabout, then down slip road. This is at almost exactly half distance. Iain McLeod's splits of 35 minutes out and 28 minutes return give an idea of the effects of wind and gradient.

At the Mersey Roads 24 hour/CTT National Championship on 21/22 July, George Berwick (Edinburgh Road Club) and Phillip Jurczyk (West Lothian Clarion) rode the and covered 262 miles, some 21 miles further than last year. They established a new British Vets Record for average age 69. Their ride was pretty uneventful apart from one broken spoke and buckled wheel which George soon trued up. They admit also to having set off too fast so would hope to do even better next year. The weather was good, dry and mild overnight, though it became a bit too hot for George on the Sunday.

### Scottish championship events

#### SVTTA 50 mile championship

The 3rd of June dawned to yet another cold and windy day as the riders converged on Fordoun hall alongside the A90, where the stiff and increasing north-easterly wind was going to make it a tough day out on this windswept and rolling course. The open event was won by Carlos Riise who gave a master class in 50 pacing, holding enough back to

gain two minutes over the last upwind (and mostly uphill) 12 mile leg back from the turn at Stracathro. The SVTTA trophy was won by Steve Nutley with +26.42. (Full result on [vtta.org.uk](http://vtta.org.uk)).

### **SVTTA 25 mile handicap**

Robert Ivell of Perth United won the John Cramb trophy on handicap on 16th June, on yet another cool, wet and windy summer's day. The event, run by Law Wheelers, was held on the Striling-Buchlyvie out-and-return course which thankfully this year has seen some resurfacing of one of the roughest sections through Arnprior. (Full result on [vtta.org.uk](http://vtta.org.uk))

### **SVTTA 25 mile championship**

On a cool, sometimes misty and mostly still day it was Glasgow Couriers' Davie Millar who took the Ben Smith Trophy with an impressive '56'. Derek Stewart and Christine McLean filled the remaining the podium places. The event on 1st July was run over the 2 lap Stirling course which passes through many roundabouts and thanks must go to Stirling Bike Club for a well-marshalled race. SVTTA member Iain Grant rode fastest overall to win the Scottish Cycling championship, run concurrently, his second of the year.

The committee would like to apologise to those SVTTA members who were unable to get a start in the event. It transpires that, due to the event being run in conjunction with the SC championship, the entry was over-subscribed and the field was selected on outright merit without due regard to performance against age standards. Please rest assured that this matter has been addressed and there should be no such problem in next year's event. (Full result at [vtta.org.co.uk](http://vtta.org.co.uk))

### **SVTTA 30 mile championship**

The 15th July saw our 30 mile championship being run on the Blairdrummond course on a fair day although with a strongish wind. Derek Stewart took the Pinky Williams trophy on standard, making it five individual riders who have won an SVTTA championship this year.

(Full result at [vtta.org.co.uk](http://vtta.org.co.uk))

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## **KENT**

*Ian Turner*

A mixed bag of weather since reporting in the Summer Veteran - the worst being that our third event of the season, the 25 scheduled for Q25/8 for the Aubrey Sheather Shield, had to be cancelled. Ian Soper, the event secretary, was greeted at the HQ in Challock Village Hall by torrential rain; that and the standing water on the course rendered the event a non-starter on safety grounds.

The 10 mile championship event on Q10/30 on 8 July, organised by Colin Inett, fared better, although a wet start on the Thanet Way resulted in an initially disappointing turnout of 59 riders, further reduced by 20 DNSs partly due to appalling weather conditions in North Kent which convinced several entrants not to travel. The rain eased off as the event progressed and five riders managed to improve on their three year PBs, so well done to Lee Buckman, Nick Malins, Louise Mason, Mark Hill and Rory Hopcraft. Kevin Tye (Datateam Allstars) was first on age standard with +6.20 followed by Andrew Meilak (same team) on +5.08. Kevin and Andrew also took the honours for first team winning the McMillan Shield for their trouble.

The Group's 50 mile Championship event organised by Mark Gidney on 22 July saw a brilliant turn around in the weather. Wrote Mark: "We could not have hoped for a better day weather wise; after the last couple of weeks the sun finally came out and I even heard some riders saying it was not windy enough! That has got to be a first for this course". Andy Miles (VC Elan) was first on age standard with +25.58 and won the Peter Phillpot cup for his efforts. Second was Simon Henderson (Thanet RC) with +21.19 and third was Nick Wilson with +20.59. First Lady, and fourth overall on age standard, was Deborah Percival (34 Nomads) with +20.43.

For the 10 organised by Mick Walker on 4 August, the weather had again turned very wet. This event was for the Morris Crowe Trophy, and was held on Q10/22. Kevin Tye maintained his form with +6.13, followed by Andy Miles in second with +4.26 and Nick Malins (4t+VC) in third with +4.10.

The Wednesday Ten series run by Duncan Leith suffered one cancellation due to road works

in May. Top of the table after five events are: Carole Gandy (four rides and +16.54); Bob Giles (three rides and +7.48) and Carl Bradford (three rides and +5.32).

Finally, some bad news and good news. Our 'wobblers' run on 22 August was marred by a serious accident involving three riders - but no motor vehicles thankfully - which resulted in Les Hayman, our leader, sustaining a broken collar bone, three broken ribs and a gashed head. Your

reporter witnessed the crash from behind, and I have to say it was spectacular, and something I'd rather not experience again! Les was treated at Pembury Hospital and discharged that afternoon. The good news is that Les is recovering well and hopes to be back on the bike very soon.

Take care out there, and remember to get those claims in nice and early as soon as you have finished your competitive season.

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## ***IN MY TIME***

Mick Coward's Book of Memoirs Reviewed

Footballers and Pop Stars, barely out of their teens, 'write' Autobiographies regardless of whether their early years and exploits are of interest but do so based purely as a result of their fame, however desultory that fame might be. Such books, written for most of them by ghost writers, are presumably another source of income to add to the sometimes obscene riches they receive. It is possible, even likely, that there are many whose life stories are of interest but, without the fame, such records are not made public.

The advent of the home computer and home publishing provides the opportunity for this to be changed. There are now many books available written by 'unknowns'; memoirs, autobiographies and novels: witness the much publicised but badly written trio of books which have provided unexpected riches for one 'writer'.

It is a well-known cliché that 'Everyone has a book waiting to be written' and in the cycling world there have been many - all of them by famous riders. Mick Coward's book sets a possible trend by introducing readers to the life and times of the not-so-famous and it illustrates the obvious - you don't have to be famous to have had an interesting life.

Mick describes his discovery of cycling and cycle racing. He introduces the reader to the upheaval created by the formation of the BLRC; the early days of 'Massed Start' using disused airfields and closed circuits. We learn of the inception of 'Independents' and then the early days of the professional riders. For those who know little of the conscription into the Services which blighted the lives of so many eighteen year-olds in the 50s and 60s, Mick describes army life for the reluctant recruit.

Among the race descriptions which include historic events and famous names, he describes the difficulties of travelling to take part when one does not have the benefits of a motor car and had very little money; just the commitment to cycling and racing in particular.

The book provides details of the trials and setbacks of running a business and gives some small insight into his personal life.

I found the book interesting, once into early chapters and overcoming quibbles at the errors in punctuation and grammar (the book could have benefited from a proof reader) and I recommend it to those who like to read tales of derring-do involving bikes and racing, albeit a bit short of time trialling and the VTTA!

JAB



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NATIONAL 30 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP  
NATIONAL 12 HOUR CHAMPIONSHIP  
NATIONAL 100 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP  
NATIONAL 24 HOUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 30

The event was held on the popular J4/11 course with the HQ at Goostrey Village Hall in Cheshire. The first man away at 14.00 rode off into sunshine with just the occasional few spots of rain although the wind was a bit breezy.

There was a disturbing moment before the event when a drain crew with a small tanker were spotted on the course but they were finished before the start.

Organiser, Mike Cotgreave, had invited Alan Geldard to help in presenting awards. Most of us will remember Alan as a member of the Bronze medal winning pursuit team at the 1948 London Olympics so it was a nice thought to include him in our event especially as he was also involved in this year's Torch relay. Alan, looking extremely dashing in his white and gold Olympic tracksuit also bought along his Torch and his original 1948 track jersey. (The other members of the team? O.K! Tommy Godwin, Dave Ricketts and Wilf Waters).

A rear projection result board proved a great success and the Group should be congratulated in taking advantage of modern technology. The results were clear and easy to read and the screen was able to switch from current scratch times to current placings on Standard.

Early times seemed to indicate a fast event but it was left to the last man off to set the seal on a very good Championship as Rob Pears from Bath CC stormed round to achieve a +17.45 with a 1.04.01 ride taking the Gold medals for Best on Standard and also Fastest Time.

All results were determined within about 20 minutes of the last man finishing and before the presentation a free raffle was conducted for the marshals and other helpers. Alan Colburn and Alan Geldard then combined to hand out medals to the winners with Brian Jones of Kimroy on hand to record the proceedings.

If you look at the first ten placings the age spread is:

49 / 60 / 69 / 64 / 68 / 76 / 41 / 67 / 53 / 65 so we are looking at youngest 41 to oldest 76.

Many thanks to Mike Cotgreave and his Manchester & N.W. team for promoting this first class Championship event on behalf of the VTTA.

### The Winners

Tandem	Nigel Farr & Phil Guy	North Shropshire Wheelers	+4.30
Fastest	Rob Pears	Bath CC	1.04.01
Team	Seamons CC	Paul McAllister/Nigel Harrop/Alan Chorley	+26.26
Bronze	Brian Sunter	Condor RC	+16.12
Silver	Peter Greenwood	Clayton Velo	+17.16
Gold	Rob Pears	Bath CC	+17.45

*For the full result please see the website : [vta.org.uk](http://vta.org.uk)*

*Alan Colburn*

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## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 24 HOUR

After weeks of rain, the sun shone on Merseyside's 24 hour event; an RTTC and VTTA Championship. Conditions were near enough perfect; warm with very little wind all Saturday, a mild night and a breeze getting up at around 10.00am on Sunday.

I arrived at the headquarters, Farndon Sports and Social Club, a couple of hours before the last riders finished and eased my way through the throngs of spectators, parked my car and walked with others for a short distance along the finishing circuit to watch the riders nearing the end of what is a very long race. It was amazing to see that some competitors showed no signs of fatigue as they sprinted past as if just finishing a 25 mile event, cheered on by the crowd.

Back at the headquarters, there was a long wait for the provisional results to be calculated.



Unfortunately, the VTTA results were unclear (some riders said that their provisional results were up to ten miles different than those shown on their mileometers) and I could only declare the winner on Standard who was also the winner on actual mileage. But by the time you read this you will know the final result. There was no team of three and no tandem was eligible for VTTA awards.

A very interesting incident ended my day. On going back to my car a rider was asking if anyone was going near Chester. He had a holdall, a rucksack and of course his bike and helmet. I offered to take him and we loaded the bike and the rest of the gear into the car and headed for Chester. As there were roadworks on the route and a diversion, we were able to have quite a long conversation.

My passenger was Ishmael Burdeau (GS Gazzetta) who finished third in the RTTC Championship. He had come by train from Brighton and was staying in a hostel in Chester. On Saturday morning he had ridden from the hostel to Farndon, complete with all the gear mentioned above, ridden the event entirely unassisted (leaving a cache of food at Prees, knowing that the course passed there several times) and then had to get back to the hostel. Ishmael is 44 but seems to have no trouble, and even enjoy, competing in events as cyclists used to do many years ago. A bonus for me is that, as he left, he said he was interested in joining the VTTA!

### **The Winners**

Gold	Peter Moon	Eastbourne Rovers CC	+131.360
Silver	David Parkes	Coventry RC	+87.185
Bronze	Fred Newton	Wessex Road Club	+86.608
Fastest	Peter Moon	Eastbourne Rovers CC	471.18

***For the full result please see the website : vtta.org.uk***

*Ann Butterworth*

## **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 12 HOUR**

The Elmet 12 was chosen by Cycling Time Trials to be the promoters of their Championship this year and the VTTA's Championship had the good fortune to be included within the event.

With Keith Lawton as the Event Secretary, a first class event was assured for Keith, as CTT National Secretary (Competitions and Development) is involved in each of the National Championships.

The audience at the Prize Presentation learned that it was to be the last Elmet 12 Hour: it came as a surprise to many that the Elmet is a club with but three members and the fact that they could promote an event like a 12 was and is astonishing.

The start card contained 69 entrants of whom 55 were veterans. Of that number, 41 were (and still are!) members of the VTTA.

An absolutely brilliant performance by 43 year old Nik Bowdler earned him the Champion's medal and the fastest award. Second was Brian Camfield, at age 64 ensuring that the much vaunted 'Level Playing Field' was evident whilst Carlos Riise (47) took the bronze medal for Scotland.

There was no qualifying team.

### **The Winners**

Gold	Nik Bowdler	Team PedalRevolution.co.uk	93.30
Silver	Brian Camfield	Stone Wheelers CC	80.88
Bronze	Carlos Riise	Shetland Wheelers	63.46
Fastest	Nik Bowdler	Team PedalRevolution.co.uk	301.71

***For the full result please see the website : vtta.org.uk***

*Jim Burgin*

## VTTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 100

A sterling performance in the VTTA National 100 Mile Championship, incorporated within the ESCA 100 promoted by Bob Harber, gives us a new 100 Mile Champion. Brian Camfield, Stone Wheelers CC, winner with a plus of 61:56.

### The Winners

Gold	Brian Camfield	Stone Wheelers CC	+61:56
Silver	Andy Miles	VC Elan	+53:29
Bronze	Shay Giles	VC Elan	+50:25
Fastest	Andy Miles	VC Elan	3:55:55
Team	Lewes Wanderers		
	Alan Lloyd		+34:45
	Peter Baker		+20:29
	John Mankelow		+16:26
			+71:40

*Jim Gibb*

***For the full result please see the website : [vtta.org.uk](http://vtta.org.uk)***

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**Rob Pears - Champion at 10 and 30 Miles**

*Photo by Kimroy*

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## ALAN COLBURN

*A profile by Miranda Harris*

It's not that long ago that we were celebrating Alan's 80th birthday after a 10 in Salford Priors village hall and it is one of those things that people who don't ride can only marvel at, that time trialling is something you can do competitively well into your 3rd age. Like a lot of riders of Alan's vintage, cycling was a life style decision from an early age – it was the only way to get about. In his native Coventry, he joined the Godiva club at 15 years old and rode anything and everything, including racing for 'The League'.

A stint in the RAF in the Middle East in the Canal Zone put paid to any further ideas of competing, until discovering the likes of Jim Ogden and Jimmy Pike who were over there serving Queen and Country and racing bikes, too. Finding a scrap steed in a shed, meant at least having something to compete on and he soon found himself representing the RAF in competitions.

On returning from National Service, life took over and family and a scientific career saw him not race for some 20 years. By this stage he was in London, keeping fit playing Badminton. However, for anyone who has played a racquet sport, you'll know it needs others, and when they don't turn up it gets deeply frustrating. And of course as we all know, that's not a bike. So he got another one paragon. Soon he was getting a time before discs and all the are some rides we are starting to mates at the time with a 57 tooth them hard in Coventry. A job as a know that life, it's very possible to 4:00 in the afternoon. A bit of for a ride from wherever you are: work well – as long as you can the car.

By this time (early 80s) the Midlands – Pershore to be Evesham and District. This was Taylor, so they were picking up He promoted the '82 National Hill to employ the technology of CB

He drifted away again in the entrapped again by an invitation TT, that's the annual Autumn service in the Middle East. With pleased with the result and involved racing again. A long 23 for a 10 and a 1.1 for a 25 at 72 saw him beginning to get placed at National level. There was a bronze in the 10 Champs and 3 team medals to come. Spells with the Stourbridge, MI Racing and more recently Team Echelon confirm Alan as a racing man, belonging to racing teams rather than harking after some olden golden days of all day Sunday club runs. He continues to be forward thinking in his outlook and approach to life.

In deciding to stop, Alan says "I had a good winter, riding, but then I got ill earlier in the year, and I never seemed to quite get back from it". Uncharacteristically, there were a string of DNSs against his name, early season, which told us that something wasn't quite right. "I rode the National 10, and got round it, but not with a time I was that pleased with, and I just found myself questioning why I was doing it. I've always really enjoyed my racing, but it suddenly didn't seem to have quite the attraction". However, he's not stopping riding his bike. "No, never, I've got Tim at Echelon to order me up a titanium frame and I'll be putting some flat bars on for comfort. There's a short list of garden centres with cafes and that will suit me just fine." He aims to stay involved with both club and the VTTA, so we won't be losing him yet, you just won't see him in a skinsuit with a number pinned on. Or are we going to see come back number four?



a real sport once you've ridden and joined the Norwood under the hour regularly – this is current jazz we have, so these turn out. He recalls horrifying his chainring, they clearly breed sales rep helped. For those who arrange your day to finish by organisation means you can go Different routes, varied scenery, remember where you parked

family had moved back to the precise – where Alan joined the the time of Bill Gray and Gordon more than the odd team award. Climb up Dovers, being the first radio.

early 90s, but found himself to ride the Buckshee Wheelers' event for those who have seen just four weeks to get fit, he was before much longer was fully

## NEWS FROM THE NEC

At its quarterly meeting, held at Alcester on the 1st of September, the National Committee were informed that nearly a third of the membership had responded to the questionnaire distributed with the June edition of *The Veteran* and that 86% had recorded their view that there should no longer be a National prize presentation. No less than 58% believe that the awards should be passed to delegates at the AGM for subsequent distribution to the winners from their Group.

The meeting thought that, although reducing costs, to retain the system of distributing the trophies to delegates instead of prizewinners, would do nothing to reduce the burden of collection, preparation and distribution; to be followed by re-collection and storage which, in the absence of an Awards Secretary, had been carried out by a volunteer. Should there be no such volunteer there would be no presentation whatever the wishes of the membership. Thus it was decided that photographs of the trophies would be presented to the delegates at the AGM, along with the medals. These to be passed on to the respective Group members. The exceptions to be the awarding of the Bricknell and the Meritorious awards; the winners of those to be invited to the AGM and to be presented with the trophies. The problem of storage is under consideration for a decision at the next meeting: .

From north to south, east to west, applications for events in 2013 are being submitted to each of the 21 CTT District Councils, not forgetting the SCU. Among those applications are the VTTA Championships. The meeting approved an application from London and Home Counties to run the 25 on the 2nd of June, it being its 70th (platinum) anniversary. Also approved was the inclusion of the 12 hour within the ECCA event on the 18th of August under the auspices of the East Anglian Group and the 24 hour in the Mersey Roads Club's event on the 20/21 July. That leaves the 10, the 30, 50 and the 100: applications/offers are being sought as the magazine goes to print.

The recently bereaved Jim Ogden has been a welcome guest at two meetings this year and was persuaded to allow his co-option as a Committee Member. This follows the resignation of Greg Lewis whose domestic circumstances have prevented his attendance

## THE ECHELON POINTS SERIES

### *Midlands Group*

*by Miranda Harris*

Conditions were perfect of the fifth event of the Points Series. It was warm, sunny and still. There are some people who like a bit of westerly wind on this course, as it does provide some assistance for the final stretch on the A46, however for the Echelon K33/10D, organised by Pete Ward and his team, the riders had to do all the work. It was nice to see a Vet, and a Points Series contender, win the event. Scott Westwood took another 20 points in group 40-49 with 20.44. He stands in fourth place behind the Semples and Phil Clark.

Clark has now ridden five events to maintain his commanding role at the top of his age category. He finished in 22.21, 13 seconds behind Semple, who lies eight points behind Clark, after four events. Sue Semple finished third female overall in 24.24 and is another rider who has ridden four events - Sue has 64 points, just two points behind her husband!

Three other riders have 'Best of Four' points, Simon Dighton, Adrian Manning and Richard Hill, and they are packed tightly together with 58, 57 and 55 points respectively. Manning went under 23 minutes, by eight seconds and Dighton over, by three seconds! Hill recorded exactly 24 minutes.



Jon Sadler was the rider to take home 19 points with his time of 21.57 and there was another excellent time from local rider Simon Wix in 22.28, which gave him 17 points. They are close on points with 39 and 35 points respectively. The last rider in this category to compete was Mark Carter, who finished in a time of 24.26 in his third event and has 37 points overall.

Unlike the youngest age group, in the 50-58 category, we welcomed two new competitors: Jeff Matthews and Robert Frowen who took 15 and 14 points after finishing 22.54 and 23.42 respectively. Sitting reasonably comfortably at the top is Rob Weare who scored his third successive maximum points of 20 after finishing fifth overall in a time of 21.38. He recorded the third highest plus time of 5.13 behind Phil Brown and Westwood. Both Weare and Terry Shough, 23.14 have

ridden five events so far which has given them 79 and 64 points respectively. Neil Coventry was another rider to gain a big plus (5.07) in his group with his time of 21.52. He lies joint eighth with Karl Davies, who was exactly two minutes behind.

Three riders have ridden four events so far – Steve Wilkins, 22.19 and Michael Dalton, 23.52. Wilkins sits in second place with 67 points and Dalton, sixth place with 53. Just four points ahead of him is Mark Mullender, 21.52 who was joint tenth with Coventry in the overall race. Richard Coleman, 22.22 had a good race to clock up 18 points, which means he is joint tenth in his category with Mark Shore, 24.10. Both riders have 34 points. 'Chairman' Simpkins has now completed his third race for the Series and has totalled 40 points after his time of 24.33. The final rider in this group was Stephen Cooke, also finishing his third race in 26.07.

For Phil Brown in the 59 – 66 age group, it's a full house in the Best of Four points. Brown's time of 22.04 gave him a plus of 5.24, and 17th overall. The only other contender to ride in this group was Moira Goodway, who finished fifth female with a time of 26.13.

In the final age category, there were twelve riders who competed in the fifth race of the Series, with only one rider, Murray Kirton who has completed four races so far, and he now tops the category with 76 points, clear of his next rival, Phil Gambles who has 67 points after four events and Bob Franks, 62 points after five. Their times were 25.46, 26.36 and 27.52.

Mowat has ridden three events so far as has Harry Morgan. Mowat finished in 27.39 and Morgan in 30.07, and they now sit with 51 and 39 points respectively. Just behind Morgan is John Grumbley who had a great ride of 24.39 to gain 19 points. The rider who claimed maximum points at the race was John Dixon, riding the first event in the Series in 24.53. For three other riders, it was their debut event too: Derek Foot, 26.02, Brian Taylor, 29.34 and John Griffin, 29.55, now sit with 17, 12 and 11 points respectively. For Pete Rose, 31.17 it was his third event and he now has accumulated 37 points, five points ahead of Bob Awcock, 27.19, who sits in ninth position.

So at the end of the five events, things look very close and exciting in all categories except the 59-66 age group, where Phil Brown is the clear favourite. Don't forget for the first time this season, riders will be able to gain extra points by riding more than four events.

## OBITUARIES

### **Charles Robson – Surrey/Sussex Group 21.07.1929 – 9.06.2012**

It came as a shock to his friends and fellow members of the Group when Charles Robson's death on June 9th was announced. He had been suffering from Parkinson's for several years but he died, about a month after being admitted to hospital, from an unrelated illness.

Charles returned to cycling after a lengthy interval away from the sport and stated that his main ambitions were to beat his youthful personal bests and to join the VTTA. The first he accomplished many times over but the second proved a much greater challenge. He was told when approaching the Secretary of the Kent group "I don't take money mate" and from the Treasurer "Sorry, you need to see the Secretary for a form". Eventually he became a member and attended his first A.G.M. , volunteering for the committee vacancy that was up for grabs. The following year he offered his services as Recorder when the then incumbent resigned. That was the first of many positions he held in the cycling world subsequently.

A move to the Surrey/Sussex group coincided with a vacancy for Group Recorder and he stayed in office until two years before he died, handing over a meticulous set of records and competition winners to his successor. He considered it his duty to cajole and even bully, when necessary, the racing members to improve their 'plusses' and for five years produced the champion Group team for the National VTTA B.A.R.

It is easy to forget that he was also a past VTTA Champion in spite of his workload. His special love was for long distance racing and he became VTTA 12 Hour Champion in 1981 and 24 Hour Champion in 1982 and 1984. He broke records at all distances and his name is still in the record books of both Kent and Surrey/Sussex Groups.

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### **'Jack' Glenn (John Walter)**

Jack Glenn, former keen time trialist from Nottingham, died peacefully at the age of 88 on July 3rd 2012. Jack kept on cycling into his eighties until unable to physically do so but was an avid reader of 'The Veteran' until the end.

*Neil Glenn, youngest son*

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## ABANDON THE STANDARDS!

I have been a member of the VTTA for many years and throughout this period there appears to have been arguments that the VTTA Age Group Standards favour one age group or the other. The most recent appear to favour the younger veteran from what I read or hear at events. Whilst I am a member of the VTTA I also compete in Triathlons, Athletics, and Swimming so I have some knowledge of how other sports bodies operate. I see the VTTA Age Standards as a glorified handicap system which fails to produce a level playing field. Why not simply abandon the Age Group Standards and do as other sports do and have five year age banding. What could be fairer when the fastest in an Age Group wins instead of a subjective set of standards? This is how age grouping is dealt with in Triathlon, Swimming and Athletics. Radical but makes sense. Why not go further and drop Veterans and let's become Masters, might even attract more members.



awesome and while they are probably in large part down to more effective training, better natural ability or ability to focus and produce the goods on the day, it could also be because they had a better bike, better conditions or they have less other commitments to juggle. Let's face it; Olympic standards are out of the reach of most mere mortals.

It is not more satisfying to improve our own PB? To me, a good race is one where I can come back to race HQ knowing I have prepared to the best of my ability and given it my best shot on the day. Yes, I do compare myself to others, but I try to set realistic targets. For years, I've been trying to beat Pete Wilson who I admit is old enough to be my father but he is within reach and my benchmark. I was ecstatic jumping around like a five year only on the two occasions I have succeeded this year.

In the results, I'm always at the bottom of the pile, looking to see if I have managed to beat anybody.

Having come from a sport where I was at the opposite end of the spectrum, frequently cleaning up the prize money, I can honestly say that I get just as much satisfaction from achieving a PB in cycling, even if I have been almost last. It's all about participation and being the best we can be.

Let's forget standards. They only consider age and gender but not all the other variables which national officials can't possibly take account of. Let's focus handicaps which are based on best times in the last three years, so not only allow for the aging process but also for all the other factors known only to the riders themselves.

Focusing on PBs and awarding more prizes for LTS times is not only being true to ourselves but also is a great incentive to encourage new comers to our sport.

*Aileen Brown  
Bath CC/West Vets*

*Les Humphrey*

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## THE OLD 'UNS CAN WIN!

Regarding the letter from Gerry Ashley in *The Veteran* claiming that riders over 68 can no longer win on standard. I just wanted to point out that Dave Jones won the Newbury RC open 10 at age 81 in a competitive field of riders including those in their 40s.

*Ian Greenstreet*

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## WHY DO WE RIDE TIME TRIALS?

One of the benefits compared to mass start events is that they are accessible to every ability, age and gender. It doesn't really matter what time anyone else has done. It's what each of us personally have achieved compared to our own targets, perhaps our season's best or our best for that course. The results from Ken Platts, Derek Stewart or Rob Pears are



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## TIME TRIALLIST'S LAMENT

Now is the season of our discontent.  
The Summer's gone, the sunshine slowly came and quickly went,  
and now the Autumn mist hangs damply on the air,  
each breath a cloud and dewdrops grey our hair.

In that short time some talked of our prowess, of our potential,  
of training, diet, exercise - all were essential.  
We followed such advice (well almost) to the letter,  
throughout the weeks convinced our times we'd better.

Oh how we tried as through each time trial course we slogged,  
with aching limbs and gritting teeth, determination dogged.  
But with each mile we covered, all that mattered  
was where would it end? Long after we were shattered.

We'd homeward wend our way, the mind distraught.  
What became of that fast time for which we'd fought?  
Awards we were to win eluded us it seems,  
the Summer's gone and with it hopes and dreams.

Through these past months of suffering self-derision,  
this does not dash our hopes or alter our decision.  
However slow our times this year or for what reason  
we'll try again, of course, next Racing Season.

*That was written 40 years ago (before a wrinkle):  
well before Cav and Wiggo were, as they say, 'a twinkle'.  
The Standards now are changed, perhaps enhanced,  
so next year will we stand a better chance?*

D.M.B. October 1972 and updated 2012



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