

VTTA North Midlands

The racing year: 2025

Thursday 27th February

Somewhat incredibly, racing has already begun.

Ady Dench (Team Sheffield) put in a strong opening performance in Saturday's Coalville Whs 10 on a proper sporting course near Breedon on the Hill, ACC10/41, finishing 8th overall. His time, 24:01, compared very favourably to Team PB Performance rider Cian Leveridge, who was fastest overall, in 21:56. It really is a tough course! Peggy Simpkins was quickest female, in 25:23.

Thursday 6th March

Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) rode to a fine 7th place, last Saturday afternoon, in Yorkshire VTTA's 'Ice Breaker' 10, on the V212 – which runs on the old A1 south of Boroughbridge. Andy recorded 21:44 to winner Marcel Schubert's 20:41 – noting that Marcel was BBAR in 2022. Junior female rider, Abigail Miller, topped her category in an impressive 22:48.

Thursday 13th March

Stolen from early Summer- that was the weather last weekend – and particularly kind for the Matlock CC Hilly 25 on Saturday afternoon, which started low down in the Wye Valley at Rowsley, before climbing through Youlgreave and then Monyash, followed by a particularly exposed leg along the A515 at high altitude, then turning east and downhill, with a short final kicker before the plunge down to the finish below Elton, at Alport. Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs.) was one of many who rode a road bike and enjoyed the warm, sunny conditions. Mayne came 12th overall on Actual and first vet over 60 (on Actual) with 1:14:31, and over 20 mph average speed for this very hilly course. The winner was James McKay (Team Sheffield) with 1:01:29 on a road bike, beating ex-national champion Matt Bottrill's 1:02:24 and who was on his TT bike. There were no female riders.

Wednesday 19th March

Steve Gibson (Peak RC) opened his time-trialling account last Saturday, on his road bike in the Yorkshire Cycling Federation 10 on the V212 south of Boroughbridge, with 23:40. There was a good field of 84 finishers, which is encouraging for the sport. Beth Grogan was fastest female, in 25:06, whilst Will Draper was the quickest rider on the day, with 20:22.

Thursday 27th March

Just one result from last weekend's racing – Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) rode the M&DTTA 10 on Saturday afternoon, kicking her season off with 31: 18. Rebecca Williams was quickest female, in 25:11. Joshua Williams pipped Alex Royle to record the fastest time of the day, with 20:36.

Friday 18th April

A round-up of some recent results:

Steve Gibson (Peak RC) ventured west of the Pennines to race the Ron Spencer Memorial 25 on the last Saturday in March, posting a time of 59:09 on his road bike, which is fast on the J2/9, and placing 2nd in that category of machine. Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) had a fine ride, being 2nd female, with 1:04:40, and beating 360cycling's Jo Cebrat into 3rd spot, whilst only being bested by the uber-rapid Emily Martin – who did 57:19 for the 8th fastest ride of the day. Alex Royle was quickest overall, in 53:35.

On the same day, in Coalville Whs' sporting 10 on the A10/34, Andy Newham (Lincoln Whs) did 24:21, whilst Mike Allen (Team MI Racing) was only just outside 20 mph, in 30:01.

Andy Newham had a fast ride in Melton Olympic CC's 10 on the A46-based A10/3, on Saturday just gone, with 21:02, in which Simon Abdy (Barton Whs) also posted a 21 minute ride, of 21:45, clubmate John Gadie did 23:00, and Mike Allen 24:19, whilst top spot overall was taken by Adam Duggleby, with 17:32!

Len Best (Matlock CC) has started his season, riding a time of 25:35 in the M&DTTA 10 on 22nd March.

Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) has continued her packed schedule of early season races, with 31:18 in the M&DTTA 10 on 22nd March, 1:24:14 in the Ron Spencer 25, 34:13 in the M&DTTA 10 on 5th April, 1:18:51 in the M&DTTA 25 last Saturday afternoon, and today riding the Buxton CC Mountain Time Trial to complete the two arduous 11 mile laps in 1:39:50. Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) also rode the Buxton event, recording 1:11:38.

Thursday 24th April

Here's a round-up of the Easter weekend's racing:

In City RC (Hull)'s 10 on the V714 (nearly wrote V718.....), last Friday, there was a good turnout of North Midlands Vets. Steve Gibson (Peak RC) swapped his road bike for time trial machine and placed 8th in 21:34, Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) did 22:37, Simon Abdy (Barton Whs) 23:30, Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) was 2nd quickest female, with 25:25, Andy Newham (Lincoln Whs) rode his trike to finish in 27:05, and Mike Allen (Team MI Racing) clocked 28:25. Thomas Lee was the only rider under 20 minutes, with 19:51, and Beth Grogan was fastest female, in 24:56.

On Sunday morning, Velo Club Long Eaton promoted their 10 on the A50-based A10/19, west of Etwall and Hilton. Mike Allen was a minute and half quicker than his ride two days earlier on the V714, recording 26:50, and Ben Hamilton (Rutland CC) did 29:47. Overall winner John Archibald was over two minutes quicker than the 2nd-placed rider, in an impressive 18:16.

Miles Haslam, Tracy Gregory, and Anne Haslam, all Buxton CC, rode Easter Monday's Manchester Bicycle Club 10 on the J10/1 Chapel-en-le-Frith bypass, in cold and damp conditions, finishing with 25:25, 29:52, and 31:15, respectively. Anna Morris rode superbly to win the female category and take 4th place overall, in 20:47, whilst Jacob Storey was fastest on the day, in 19:41.

Tuesday 29th April

Steve Gibson (Peak RC) recorded the season's first 30+ mph ride by a North Mids Vet last Saturday, in the VTTA E.Mids 10 on the A46-based A10/3 near Flintham. Steve did 19:57. Only just outside the 30 mph mark was Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC), in a similarly quick 20:08. Andy Newham (Lincoln Whs) forsook his trike for a TT bike and duly went under 21 minutes, with 20:45. There were a number of other fast rides: Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC) in 21:17 and clubmate John Gadie with 22:12, and Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) in 23:14. Super-vet Richard Oakes was quickest overall, in 18:35, whilst Lindsay Clarke was fastest female, in 23:01. When conditions are good, the A10/3 is fast!

On the slower single-carriageway roads that constitute the O25/11 near Hatfield Woodhouse, Ady Dench (Team Sheffield) was 5th overall in the Sheffrec CC 25, in 56:49. Clubmate Sarah Harrison was the only female rider, but her 1:03:01 would have been hard to beat. Len Best (Matlock CC) did 1:05:31 and, in a welcome return to competition after a pothole-induced accident, clubmate David

Hayward did 1:12:23 on his converted road bike whilst he awaits a new TT machine. Andrew Whiteley was fastest, in 53:03. In the 2-up competition, Dominic Watts (Rutland CC) paired up with clubmate Danny Lowthorpe on their road bikes and both were well-pleased with a near 25 mph ride, of 1:00:49. Top of the leaderboard however were Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) and Tobias Edwards, in a very rapid 52:20.

Thursday 8th May

Early Saturday morning and Tracy Gregory continued her season with 31:37 in the Manchester Whs 10 on the J10/1 Chapel-en-le-Frith course. There were particularly impressive rides from the top three females in this event – Anna Morris, Jessica Roberts and Emily Martin – who placed 5th to 7th overall, in 21:17, 22:05 and 22:06, respectively. Alex Royle was fastest of all, in 20:24.

On Saturday evening, John Gadie (Barton Whs CC) and Andrew Keenan (Rotherham Whs CC) rode the East Lancs RC 10 on the L1015 at Levens, which at one stage was the fastest course in the country. John clocked 22:41 and Andrew 25:22. Lewis Wake took top honours, in 18:39, with junior rider Liam Hewitt doing a notable 19:19. Emily Martin, in her 2nd 10 of the day, rode 20:36 as fastest female.

In a cold Matlock CC 10 (just 6C) on the A6 near Bakewell on Sunday morning, David Hayward (Matlock CC) sneaked under 30 minutes, with 29:47. Matthew Utley was fastest rider, with 21:13, whilst youth rider Isla Woolf was fastest female, in 26:28.

Wednesday 14th May

Just the one event on which to report from last weekend: the Dukinfield CC 50, incorporating the Brian Clayton Memorial, held Sunday morning. On the potholed and crumbling roads of Cheshire, but in glorious sunshine. Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) placed 5th overall, narrowly beaten by legendary roadman Mark Lovatt (on his road bike, naturally), with 1:55:50 and 1:55:44, respectively. That doesn't quite tell the whole story. Ivings had to dismount shortly after the start, to extract a stone stuck in his tyre, and the course was about ½ mile long due to a late alteration forced by roadworks and traffic signals. Stewart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs) rode on his trike, to a time of 2:30:01. Jenny Zwijnen was fastest female, in 2:10:12, and Bradley Murphy topped the leaderboard with 1:51:48.

Friday 23rd May

Melton Olympic CC's 25 last Saturday afternoon was held on a revised version of the A25/34: the lumpier A25/33, which climbs to the turn at Kinoulton on the A46, before returning to the start near Flintham. North Mids vets posted some very good times: Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) 52:33, Alan Cooke (Peak RC) 54:44, Matthew Goodwin (Barton Whs) 55:16 and clubmate Simon Abdy 57:08, Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) on his road bike doing 57:53 and winning that category, and David Hayward (Matlock CC) 1:10:06. Thomas Lee rode the fastest of three sub-50 times on the day – an impressive 47:41. Denise Burrows was quickest female, in 1:01:25.

Up at Levens, on Saturday evening, Andrew Keenan (Rotherham Whs CC) rode an average speed of exactly 24 mph, with 25:00 in West Pennine RC's 10. Simon Wilson did 17:45 (!), and George Peden was only 7 seconds behind. Rebecca Rimington was fastest female, in 22:12.

Early Sunday morning, Chris Lea (Buxton CC) finished his first event since crashing (broken road....) last July, recording 58:52 in Leek CC's 25 on the A50-based J5/8. Jo Cebrat was fastest female, in 1:00:58, whilst Alex Royle was the only rider under the 50 minute barrier, with 49:47.

Also on Sunday morning, Crewe Clarion Whs held a 'sporting 16' between Nantwich, Audlem and Woore, with Stuart Day of the promoting club piloting his trike to 47:31. Steve Fidler was quickest on the day, in 37:46, whilst Sue Satchithananda was the sole female competitor, recording 50:06.

A little later on Sunday, Ravensthorpe CC held a 10 on the V910, which mostly runs parallel to the A1(M), to the north east of Castleford. Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) did 25:11, just pipped by Beth Grogan as fastest female, with 25:10. David Meakin's 22:02 was quickest on the day.

Wednesday 28th May

Firstly, a week ago today, Rutland CC held their hilly 18 mile circuit time trial which starts in Stoney Middleton, goes up the dale and then left to Litton, down to Millar's Dale before climbing to the A6 followed by a long and fast descent towards Ashford in the Water, finishing with draggy climbs back towards Stoney. It's a brilliant circuit. Steven Howe of the promoting club was 10th overall, on his road bike, in 48:03; Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs), who reports that it was a mild, dry evening on the usual quiet roads of what is his favourite course, placed 13th overall and 6th vet with 52:52 on his road bike. Casper Von Folsach's rode a scarily fast 41-37, also on his road bike, even beating hill climber Andy Nichols into 2nd spot, and who was on his time trial machine. Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) was one of the 5 female riders, recording 1:12:22, of whom the fastest was Jo Brewis, in an impressive 46:37 which smashed the previous course record of 47:25 set by Lizzie Banks.

Last Saturday morning, Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) rode the East Bradford CC 15 on roads to the south of Boroughbridge, recording 38:56. Fast man Adam Duggleby did a 30+ mph ride, with 29:43, whilst Molly Savill was quickest female with 36:26.

On Bank Holiday Monday, Trevor Mayne, Tracy Gregory, and Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club), visited Darley Moor Sports circuit near Ashbourne to do the Crazy Legs Events 10 mile time trial on the old aerodrome site, in which riders complete 7 laps of an almost flat course (A10/C) without other traffic and on excellent tarmac with corners easier than expected. It was cool and windy, but luckily dry. Mayne rode his road bike again to record 25:15 on actual for 12th place, 3rd road bike and 4th vet on actual time. Tracy did 30:09 on her time trial machine and Yvonne 33:25 on her road bike. Rosie Weston was fastest female, in 24:50, whilst James Richard was fastest overall, in 20:43. There are no more open events on the course this year, but keep a lookout for events in 2026.

Thursday 5th June

Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs) is the first North Mids vet to ride a 100 this year, and on a trike. In the classic Anfield BC event on the early May Bank Holiday Monday, Stuart did 5:15:20, which is a new Group Age Record, at age 53 (as is his 50 time on a trike of a few weeks ago – 2:30:01). The Anfield is a tough course, made even harder on the day by a cold and fresh wind. Stuart also had to contend with a mechanical, losing 7 minutes in the process. Not a rider to give up, he battled round the demanding lumpy course of rough roads. Alex Royle won the open event in 3:43:06 in a close battle with former BBAR Marcel Schubert, adding his name to an illustrious list of winners. Also riding to a superb time, in winning the female race, Naomi de Pennington was 11th overall, in 3:58:58. Sub-4 on that course takes some doing. As a footnote, former top roadman Mark Lovatt blasted round on his road bike, in 3:59:25.

Fresh to strong winds characterized the racing last weekend too, albeit warm and dry. In Saturday afternoon's VTTA E.Mids 25 on the modified version of the A25/34 – the A25/33 which turns further south at Kinoulton (meaning an additional hill to be climbed) – the organiser reported a tough day with a strong south westerly blowing straight along the course making the outward leg very demanding. In-form Alan Cooke (Peak RC) was 5th overall in 55:48 – a really solid ride in the conditions. Stuart Wells (Lindsey Roads CC) was close behind, 6th in 56:00. John Gadie (Barton Whs

CC) did 1:02:30, whilst David Hayward (Matlock CC) worked hard on the outward leg but wasn't able to make up lost time on the tailwind-assisted turn, recording 1:12:42. Jen Clegg was fastest female, in 1:05:43, whilst ever-impressive Adam Duggleby was fastest of all, in 48:40 and four minutes faster than the next placed rider.

Further north, in the Yorkshire Road Club 25 on the V235 south of Boroughbridge, Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) did 1:03:08. Olivia French, riding for Stolen Goat Race Team, was fastest female in a rapid time of 58:38. Benjamin Williams was quickest in the open category, with 52:34.

On an even windier Sunday morning, Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) rode the Selby CC 10 on the exposed V511 at Bubwith, which is near pan-flat, but essentially offers only vegetables as shelter from gales. Mayne recorded 24:53 on his road bike, compared to Adam Duggleby's impressive 19:12 winning time (on a TT bike), and reports that outward speeds were below 20mph - however on the way back over 30mph was seen at times. The Birdwell rider came 2nd in the road bike category. Beth Grogan rode her time trial machine to the fastest ride by a female, of 24:46.

Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) rode the Manchester & District LCA 10 in Cheshire last Saturday, recording 30:07, whilst Emily Martin topped the leaderboard in 22:01.

Tracy also rode Sheffrec CC's 12 mile Spoco event yesterday evening, which starts in Barlow near Dronfield, climbs over the moor and descends to Baslow, before immediately turning and climbing back to Owl Bar before a descent to the finish in Holmesfield. A tough one! Tracy did 56:41 on her road bike. Trevor Mayne was also on his road bike, recording 40:44. Mayne tells us that conditions were cool, but thankfully dry. He was shocked to be overtaken at 3 miles by his 3-minute man, Paddy Clark, but at least Clark was kind enough to go on and win the event (on a road bike) in 32:02. Mayne placed 9th overall and 4th veteran on Actual in the road bike category. Jihanna Bonilla Allard was quickest female, in 39:32. On time trial bikes, Nick Latimer did a very rapid 34:07 to Archie Cross' winning time of 32:34.

Friday 13th June

Stuart Wells (Lindsey Roads CC) was 'on the podium' with INEOS Grenadiers pro Connor Swift in the City RC (Hull) 10 on Wednesday evening. The event took place on the V714 between Gilberdyke and Howden, and Stuart was 3rd overall with 21:21, to Swift's 18:36. Nice one. Several of the North Mids vets rode: Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) coming 8th in 22:40, Andrew Keenan (Rotherham Whs CC) with 27:04, Mike Allen (MI Racing) 27:17, and Alan Sides (Rotherham Whs CC) doing 36:34 in his first open event of the season. Junior rider Abigail Miller was well up the overall classification, 9th, in 22:57, and fastest female by a large margin.

The previous evening, Matlock CC organised their open 10 on the Darley Dale to Bakewell course – the A10/16. There were some apparently stunning times, with Junior rider, Harley Widdowson, going fastest, in 17:32.....although the course was shortened by 1.6 miles due to roadworks. Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) also had a 'podium position', with a 3rd place of 18:10. David Hayward of the promoting club rode 23:11. Elizabeth Bridgen was quickest female, in 21:12. What a shame those times weren't for the full 10 miles (if it had been the V718, they might have been.....) Full results are awaiting publication.

Friday 20th June

Norwood Paragon CC's Simon Warren and Birdwell Wheeler Trevor Mayne competed in Peak Road Club's hilly 17-mile TT 'Circuit of Longstone Edge' (O17C) on the evening of 11th June (last Wednesday). The event had good weather with temperatures in the low 20's but the south-easterly wind proved to cause slightly slower times than previously. Fastest overall was, incredibly, a 16-year

old Junior, Harley Widdowson with 42:36 on a time trial bike - course record for a Junior. Mayne did 53:11 on his road bike and was 1st vet over 60. Simon Warren was 3rd fastest vet on a road bike, in 48:57. Alison Scrivener of Macclesfield Whs was quickest female, in 56:13.

North Mids vets were competing in Yorkshire, Cheshire, and Hertfordshire, over last weekend. The shorter of the two distances raced last Saturday afternoon, was Hemel Hempstead CC's 10 on the renowned (for being quick) F11/10. Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) did a cracking 19:20, placing 12th overall. Clubmate Stuart Wells did a similarly impressive time, of 19:46, and Michael Weaver (Rockingham Forest Whs) also broke the 30mph barrier, with 19:50. Well done all. Emily Martin put in a superb performance to record 19:41 as fastest female, putting her 7th on the all-time list. Junior Leon Atkins was 20 seconds faster than 2nd placed rider James Jenkins, in a blisteringly-quick 17:47.

Over in Cheshire, in the wind-blasted M&DTTA 50, Buxton CC's Chris Lea and Tracy Gregory battled three times past the tawt flags at Mangoletsi to record 2:03:57 and 2:49:49, respectively. 'Fresh' from his 3rd place of a 300+ mile ride in the previous weekend's National 12, Alex Royle was quickest overall, in 1:50:40. Claire Harrison was fastest female, in 2:11:09.

Sowerby Sunday Club promoted an open 10 last Sunday (seems appropriate), on the V210. This course is potentially quick, mostly being based on the A168 between Topcliffe and Thirsk but, alas, it was windy and so times were somewhat slower than they otherwise could have been. INEOS Grenadiers pro, Connor Swift, could 'only' manage 18:30. Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) was 2nd fastest female, with 23:44 and comfortably over 25 mph, with top honours in this category going to junior rider Abigail Miller, in 22:27. These Junior riders are quick! Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) was only just outside 25 mph, with 24:05.

On Wednesday evening just gone, Mike Allen (Team MI Racing) rode the VTTA East Anglian 10 on the rapid E2/10, recording 24:39 at age 78. Eleven riders went sub-20, the fastest being James Jenkins in a superb 17:59. Anastasia Bowler did 28+ mph to finish as quickest female, in 21:08.

Thursday 26th June

The forecast was for hot weather last weekend, and so it proved, especially on Saturday afternoon. In Cheshire, the VTTA 15 mile Championship was cut down to 13.6 miles due to roadworks. Steve Gibson (Peak RC) was a fine 7th on actual time, with 28:53, to fastest rider David Williams' 27:20. Deborah Moss was quickest female on actual time, in 31:28.

On the other side of the Pennines, Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) was organiser for his club's open 10 on the O10/5, which runs on the A60 between Cuckney and Worksop. Temperatures were around the 30 Celsius mark – although fortunately it clouded over and the possible thunder storm did not materialise. Instead riders got some light rain to cool them down, a little. Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) was 8th, in 23:19. Len Best (Matlock CC) did a rapid 25:09 at age 74, one place ahead of Team MI Racings' Mike Allen – four years Len's senior - with 25:19. Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC) did 28:31. Winner of the open event and fastest vet on age-adjusted speed was Ian Guilor with 21:03. Gretchen Zoeller won the female event in 23:20, pushing last year's winner, Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) into second place with her 23:41, although with both riders well up the overall leaderboard, in 9th & 12th place, respectively.

In Sunday morning's ECCA 100 – although with a 5am start slot, some would say night time event – Chris Lea (Buxton CC) did 4:09:09. Warm, becoming hot, and windy throughout, meant for arduous conditions, with a 5 mph difference in average speed between the outward and return legs. The race was stacked with endurance big hitters, led home by James Jenkins in 3:24:30 and Naomi de

Pennington with 3:46:37, in the open and female races. Honestly, you'd think it was a float day from the times of the big guns, although one in seven riders were DNF, including pre-race favourite Adam Duggleby.

Yesterday evening (warm and still) were two 10 mile events with vet's from the North Midlands. In Duggleby's club open event (ADDFORM Vive le Velo) there were a slew of fast times. 18:00 from Duggleby himself, as fastest rider. Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) continued his run of 30+mph rides, with 19:48 for 5th overall. Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle) did a rapid 20:34. Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC) rode 21:14, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC) recorded 22:19, and John Gadie (Barton Whs) did 22:37. Sarah Harrison was 2nd fastest female, in 22:49, and only beaten by senior rider Nicole Wells' 22:16. Over in Cheshire, in the Rick Green Memorial event on the J2/1, all proceeds were directed to Alzheimer's UK. Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) was under 30 minutes, with 29:39, whilst Chris Lea convinced tired legs to do 24:00. In-form Alex Royle was fastest overall, in 20:35 (after his 3:33 in the ECCA 100, no less) and Gillian Shaw was fastest female in 24:54.

Wednesday 9th July

Melting tar might be the theme of the coming weekend's events, but last weekend saw mixed weather, especially so for the West Cheshire TTCA 12hr, in which Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs) chose to ride tandem for this event along with his visually impaired stoker, Steve Bateman. Steve's usual riding is either social or Audax themed and this was his first 12hr time trial and, he told Stuart, he enjoyed the experience! The duo had no particular target other than putting miles into Stuart's legs ahead of the National 24 in three weeks, which he will be riding solo tricycle. The day started with a torrential downpour as they were heading to the start line, which quickly turned into persistent rain for the first 2 ½ to 3 hours. But temperatures were good. Setting out in relatively calm conditions, but which didn't last, so that from late morning the wind was troublesome. At the 6 hr mark they had clocked 124 miles and made a conscious decision to back off to save the legs for later. Provisionally, Stuart and Steve rode 230.849 miles, and were the only tandem out that day. Nice riding gents.

In Saturday's 10 on the V714, promoted by City RC (Hull), Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) did 23:31 and Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) just got inside a 25 mph ride, with 23:55. Nicole Wells was fastest female, in 23:12, and top of the overall leaderboard was James Scott-Farrington, in 20:32.

The previous weekend, on a windy Saturday in Cheshire, David Hayward (Matlock CC) and Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC), rode the M&DLCA 10 on the rough and potholed J4/20, recording 27:27 and 30:21, respectively. Nicholas Trbovic did the fastest ride in the event, with an impressive 20:03, whilst Claire Harrison was quickest female, in 24:21.

In similarly windy conditions, in the VTTA (Yorkshire) 25 on the V236/1, times were generally disappointing for what many would have hoped would be a really fast evening event on the dual carriageway course – based on the A168/A19 round Thirsk. Alas, strong winds on exposed dual carriageways don't make for fast times. Andy Thomas' and Stuart Wells' 53:37 and 53:58, for 3rd and 4th places, with both riding for Lindsey Roads CC, were thus very strong rides. Andy Whitehead just got under, with 59:49, and John Gadie (Barton Whs) was just over the hour, in 1:00:14. Hat's off though to Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield), who did 1:01:38, and was fastest female. Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) did 1:03:40 on his road bike. Quickest ride of the day was that of Chris Isats, in 53:01.

Hill climbs have started early this year, with Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club), Tracy Gregory, and David Hayward tackling Matlock CC's Winster hill climb on 30th June, and Yvonne and Tracy going again on Friday 4th, in 7 Hills CC's event on Whitelow Lane on the outskirts of Sheffield.

This coming Saturday, temperatures are forecast to peak at about 30 C for Yorkshire Cycling Federation's 50, and perhaps a few degrees cooler for Lindsey Roads CC's 10, near Grimsby. Good luck to North Mids vets.....a thorough dousing with cold water immediately before the start would at least make the first few miles go a little easier. The following morning, Miles Haslam (Buxton CC), and Stuart Day ('fresh' from last Sunday's 12 hr), ride the North Lancs TTA 100 near Keswick, with both starting about 7am, but with temperatures forecast to be 24 C by 10 am, and only rising further, this provides a strong incentive to reach the finish quickly! Again, good luck!

Thursday 17th July

Last Saturday was a scorcher, and in Yorkshire Cycling Federation's 50 on the gnarly V151 at Boroughbridge temperatures peaked at about 29C, whilst brisk crosswinds blew throughout the event. Akin to racing in the blast of a giant hairdryer. Consequently, 22 of the 55 entrants were either DNF or DNS. Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) is made of sterner stuff, and finished as 2nd female, in 2:10:45, not far behind Samantha Bissell's 2:09:29. Jack Levick was miles in front of the next fastest rider, winning the open class in 1:44:26.

Closer to the east coast, temperatures were a tad lower in Lindsey Roads CC 10 on the C10/4, near Grimsby. New North Mids member, Chris Dyke (Team Lifting Gear Products) won in 20:14. Chapeau! Andy Thomas of the promoting club was 2nd, in 20:36, whilst Stuart Wells, also Lindsey Roads CC, was 4th in 21:06. Matt Goodwin (Barton Whs CC) did 21:20 for 6th spot, Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) also made the top 10, with 21:44. Anthony Nash (Lindsey Roads CC) rode 22:45, and Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) finished with 23:37. Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) was just a few seconds slower, in 23:41. Those are all impressive times on a course which is little-used, except for club events – it being Lindsey Roads CC's evening 10 course. Tracie McGuire was the sole female competitor, finishing in 24:26.

Unfortunately, Sunday morning's North Lancs TTA 100, near Keswick, was cancelled due to roadworks. Miles Haslam (Buxton CC), who was down to ride (as was Stuart Day, Crewe Clarion Whs), and had recced the roads in the previous weekend's Border City Whs 25, finishing in 1:02:03, whilst Matt Morris was quickest overall in 51:18, and Anna Weaver did 59:05, showing that these are not slow roads.

Thursday 24th July

A quite weekend just gone, it seems, with the exception of some race or other in the Pyrenees. Anyway.....just the Manchester & District LCA 25 on Saturday afternoon on which to report. Chopped to 9.75 miles due to planned roadworks that didn't actually materialise – but by which time marshals had been stood down. So, 9.75 miles it was. At least it stayed dry. Tracy Gregory and Chris Lea, both Buxton CC, rode, finishing with 28:29 and 23:09, whilst the impressive Emily Martin was fastest female in 21:27, and Sam Taylor of the Weaver Valley CC was the only rider under 20 minutes, with 19:49.

Best of luck to Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs) and Miles Haslam (Buxton CC), who are riding this weekend's National 24; Stuart making things that bit harder by tackling it on his trike. Looking forward to hearing all about it on the other side.

Thursday 31st July

The big race last weekend was the RTTC National 24 Hour Championships, mostly taking place on rolling if not sporting roads in Shropshire and Cheshire, but with the finishing circuit on the quiet if unlovely Wrexham industrial estate. Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs) and Miles Haslam (Buxton CC) both started and, more importantly, finished! Stuart riding his trike (the only one of the event) to 11th place overall with 417.25 miles, just 88 yards short of a new national age group record, but

setting the first such record for the North Midlands Group. Miles finished in 21st place and winning his 65 to 69 age group category, with 378.67 miles. Well done both, superb riding. Stuart reports that weather conditions were near perfect, and that his ride went well with the exception of having to take an unplanned 30 minute time out to recoup after bonking at 19hrs. He tells us that his trike suffered a broken spoke on the horrendous surface of the A525 Whitchurch to Finishing circuit. Also, he rode 5 miles more than he did last year on fixed. Miles was also content with the weather conditions, but too lost a similar amount of time due to a feeding blip in the early hours of the morning. Hat's off gents. Open and female champions were Lee Williams and Naomi de Pennington, with 536.37 and 414.29 miles.

In Sunday morning's Seacroft Whs 10 on the flat if exposed V511 between Bubwith and Barlby, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC) did 22:49, Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) 24:45, and Alan Sides (Rotherham Whs CC) 37:25. Ben Pease was a minute and a half faster than the next fastest rider, with 19:49, whilst Angela Hannon-Flaherty won the female category with 24:42.

The previous evening, in Pendle Forest CC's 10 on the L1015 at Levens, Andy Newham (Lincoln Whs) finished in 21:15 and Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) did 22:37. Deborah Moss was fastest female, in 21:49; Basil Monks was quickest of the eight riders to dip under 20 minutes, with 19:33.

Thursday 7th August

VTTA North Midlands riders performed well in last Saturday's Tickhill VC's 10 on the O10/1, in which the weather was kind – dry with light winds. Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) was 3rd overall in 21:05, clubmate Stuart Wells was 5th in 21:25, and Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC) also made the top 10, finishing in 22:03 for 9th spot, whilst Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) was 2nd female, in 24:56. Also putting in strong rides were Ady Dench (Team Sheffield) with 22:11 and Alan Cooke (Peak RC) in 22:34. Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) did 24:03, Gordon Wordsworth (Rutland CC) 26:08, Mike Allen (Team MI Racing) 26:23, Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC) 29:07 - and clubmate Alan Sides doing 36:14. Jack Levick broke the 20 minute barrier for the first time on this course to win the open event in 19:48. Ruth Anness was fastest female, in 24:24.

Later that day, in the Lancashire RC 10 on Levens (L1015), Simon Warren Norwood Paragon CC) continues to impress on his road bike, with 21:57. Former BBAR Marcel Schubert was fastest overall, in 18:53, and Deborah Moss was quickest female, in 21:35.

We await the full results of Sunday morning's 50 in the drizzle on the rough roads of Cheshire, in Congleton CC's event on the J4/9, but Mat Ivings (Buxton CC) was 5th overall in 1:54:14, whilst some ten minutes slower was Chris Lea in 2:04:19, and Trevor Mayne powered his road bike to 2:15:37.

Thursday 14th August

The V718 is back! Not the 'Big V' that was, but, let's say, the 'Little V'. Early Sunday morning, Vive le Velo's event on the current incarnation of the V718 started in a layby on the A63, halfway between the Travelodge and the rise up to the South Cave junction, as usual turned at North Ferriby, but then finished just off the A63 near the BP garage at the South Cave junction and after turning sharp left at the roundabout. So, no fast downhill start, with the drag at South Cave to be powered-over after a mile or so, and no downhill finish. How does it compare? It's still quick! But not Big V quick. On Sunday, conditions were slightly cool but with little wind; very good for the time of day, essentially. Chris Dyke (Team Lifting Gear Products) was 9th in 19:47, whilst Stuart Wells (Lindsey Roads CC) and clubmate Andy Thomas were 10th and 12th, with 20:09 and 20:16. Andy Newham (Lincoln Whs) did 21:25, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC) 21:49, Simon Abdy and John Gadie of Barton Whs CC rode 22:09 and 22:59, Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) did 24:00, and Alan Sides 34:35. Thomas Lee

pipped Adam Duggleby to the fastest ride, with 18:03 to Duggleby's 18:15. Caspar Von Folsach rode an impressive 19:28 on his road bike. Vanessa Barker was quickest female, in 22:58.

Interestingly, Duggleby rode exactly the same time, 18:15, in last Wednesday evening's Vive Le Velo 10 on the V7113/1, at Market Weighton. This does have a gift hill at the start, but after that is on flat although rather exposed single-carriageway roads, albeit with a short upwards drag at the finish. Chris Dyke was a smidgeon quicker than on the v718, in 19:44, for 5th spot, and Andy Thomas was also a shade faster, in 20:02. Andrew Keenan (Rotherham Whs) rode too and did 24:54. Nicole Wells was fastest female, in 22:22. I'd be interested to hear what speeds were reached on that downhill start.....!

In last Thursday evening's 10 promoted by Team Wheelguru on the Chapel-en-le-Frith bypass, J10/1, Alan Cooke (Peak RC) continued his run of strong rides, with 21:47 for 10th place, whilst Chris Lea did 23:07. Conditions were very pleasant, but after some post-race chat the consensus was that if there is any wind on that course - just a dropping westerly breeze during the event - then an easterly is probably a bit quicker. David Williams was well ahead of Alex Royle in posting the fastest ride of the night, in 19:37, and Jo Cebrat was quickest female, in 24:02.

This coming Saturday it's the VTTA North Midlands Group 10 on the O10/1. There's a good turnout of North Mids riders, 15 in total, racing for the following awards: Ron Blythe Trophy, Best rider age 70 and over, on Age-Adjusted Time; Sheffield Central Cup, Best female, on Age-Adjusted Time; and Cleethorpes Shield, any rider's Best on Age-Adjusted Time.

Thursday 21st August

The VTTA North Midlands Group 10 was closely contested on Saturday afternoon. Conditions on the O10/1 were warm and dry, but with a troublesome headwind on the return leg. Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) was just 2 seconds short of the fastest time, this being Aaron Cocker's (Team Bottrill) 20:54. Aaron is a first year junior, so a talent to watch for the future. Andy did a great ride though, being almost four times older than Aaron....at age 56. Josie Smith was three minutes ahead of 2nd placed Paula Fisher, recording 24:16. The age-adjusted times (AAT) are of most interest for the Group 10. Here are the North Mids' results, age adjusted.

1. 19:43, Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC)
2. 20:05, Steve Gibson (Peak RC)
3. 20:57, Mike Allen (Team MI Racing) – road bike
4. 21:06, Len Best (Matlock CC)
5. 21:31, David Hayward (Matlock CC)
6. 21:42, Gordon Wordsworth (Rutland CC)
7. 21:46, Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC)
8. 22:05, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC)
9. 22:12, Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC)
10. 22:14 Scott Walker (Team Bottrill)
11. 22:53 Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) – road bike
12. 23:56 Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) – road bike
13. 24:38 John Smith (VTTA North Midlands) – road bike
14. 25:18, Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC)

Andy Thomas retains the Cleethorpes Shield as fastest on AAT. Mike Allen wins the Ron Blythe Trophy as fastest rider on AAT age 70 or over. Yvonne Twelvetree wins the Sheffield Central Cup as fastest female on AAT. These Group trophies will be awarded at the Annual Luncheon and Prize

Presentation, February 22nd, 2026. Congratulations to all the winners, and well done to all North Mid riders.

On actual time, we have:

1. 20:56, Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC)
2. 21:33, Steve Gibson (Peak RC)
3. 22:32, Scott Walker (Team Bottrill)
4. 22:36, Shaun Robinson (Lindsey Roads CC)
5. 22:39, Martin Nelson (Out of the Saddle CC)
6. 23:48, Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC)
7. 25:25, Len Best (Matlock CC)
8. 25:33, Gordon Wordsworth (Rutland CC)
9. 25:48, Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) – road bike
10. 26:36, Mike Allen (Team MI Racing) – road bike
11. 27:28, David Hayward (Matlock CC)
12. 30:07, Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC)
13. 30:40, Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) – road bike
14. 23:06, John Smith (VTTA North Midlands) – road bike

In other results, Alan Cooke (Peak RC) was 5th in the VTTA E.Mids 25 on the A25/33 on Saturday afternoon, in 55:01; an event won overall by Richard Oakes in 49:21, with Pamela Moore setting the fastest time in the female field, of 1:10:10.

In the early Sunday morning ECCA 50 on the rapid E2, Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) and Chris Lea (Buxton CC) felt somewhat stymied by the cold start (9 Celsius) and weren't able to make the best of what eventually became a warm morning with only light winds, but which favoured the later starters. But the later starters were rather impressive.....Thomas Lee (Team Bottrill) going fastest and over a minute quicker than his 3rd placed 3:33 in the National 50 Championships, recording an uber-rapid 1:32:32.....! Overheard at the HQ, post-event, his average power was 380W (don't quote me on that). Crikey. Louise Robinson (Shaftesbury CC) was well ahead of the majority of the entire field, and comfortably winning the female category in 1:49:38. Harrison and Lea did 2:03:06 and 1:57:30, respectively.

Friday 29th August

No racing news from last weekend it seems, so instead a quick update on the leading positions in the Group's season long 10 & 25 BAR competitions, for road and time trial bikes, for the female and open categories. The competitions are all based on age-adjusted times (AAT), with your best times at 10 & 25 miles used to calculate an age-adjusted time and hence speed for each distance, which are then averaged (i.e. added together and divided by two). Back of the envelope (A4 size, mind) calculations indicate that:

Barbara and Gordon Scott Trophy - Group 10 & 25 BAR, any machine – Female

Sarah Harrison (Trek Sheffield) leads the way, with actual times of 22:49 and 1:01:38, giving AAT's of 20:00 and 54:27, and a BAR speed of 28.8 mph. Tracy Gregory (Buxton CC) is currently in 2nd spot, with 29:39 and 1:18:51 on actual, for AAT's of 25:57 and 1:09:21 – an average speed of 22.4 mph.

Margaret Allen Trophy - Group 10 & 25 BAR, Road bike only – Female

Currently, only Yvonne Twelvetree (Team Sheffield) has registered a ride on a road bike, with 30:43 at 10 miles, for an AAT of 22:56 – a speed of 26.2 mph. So this competition is still very much up for grabs.

Mike McNamara Trophy - Group 10 & 25 BAR, Road bike only – Open

This competition is currently led by Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) from Steve Gibson (Peak RC), but not by much. Simon has actual times of 21:57 and 57:53, for AATs of 21:10 and 55:51, giving an average speed of 27.6 mph. Steve has actuals of 23:40 and 59:09, for AATs of 22:12 and 55:21 – an average speed of 27.1 mph.

John and Eileen Reaney Trophy - Group 10 & 25 BAR, any machine – Open

Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) is putting up a very strong defence of his 2024 title, with actuals of 19:20 and 52:33, for AATs of 18:07 and 49:24 – an average speed of 31.7 mph. However, clubmate Stuart Wells is also riding strongly, with actuals of 19:46 and 53:58, AATs of 18:53 and 51:40, for an average speed of 30.4 mph. Also, Chris Dyke (Team Lifting Gear Products) has a fast 10 time, of 19:44 (AAT 19:42) and only needs a fast 25 time to be in the competition; likewise for Steve Gibson, who has a 10 time of 19:57 (AAT 18:29), which could challenge for the top spot in the competition if paired with a fast 25 time.

And the season is not over, with some potentially very fast 10 and 25 events still available to enter.

Thursday 4th September

Stuart Day (Crewe Clarion Whs) smashed his 100 mile trike age record of earlier this year, and Andy Newham's (Lincoln Whs) 4:51 set at age 42, with 4:31:47 at age 54 in the North Lancs TTA event last Sunday morning. Conditions were tough, too, with a brute of a southerly wind, and cold and wet at times, such that over half the field were DNS or DNF. In addition, we think this could be a new course record on a trike. Well ridden Stuart! Deborah Moss was fastest female, in 4:22:32, whilst Chris Smart – having warmed-up on the course by winning the VC Cumbria 10 the previous afternoon – recorded 3:33:01 as fastest overall and over 13 minutes clear of the next rider.

The VTTA (Yorkshire) 25 on the V236/1 was also affected by the brisk southerly wind on Sunday morning. This course, which uses the A168 and A19 past Thirsk, can be quite fast on its day, but Sunday wasn't one of them. Nevertheless, Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) did 1:01:04 and Trevor Mayne (Birdwell Whs) did a very creditable 1:02:51 on his road bike. Kamil Waligora was quickest in the open category, with 50:52, and Samantha Bissell was fastest female and just under the hour in 59:52.

Saturday afternoon's 10 on the O10/1, promoted by the Rutland CC, didn't escape the weekend's wind, with pretty much a block headwind to the turn, then a rapid final 5 miles for those who still had the legs. Fortunately, it stayed dry, and was warm. Matt Goodwin (ADDFORM Vive Le Velo) was 4th in 21:51, two places ahead of Scott Walker (Team Bottrill) in 22:24, whilst Steve Gibson (Peak RC) was 7th in 22:33 and first road bike. Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) did 24:03, Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC) 30:08, Ben Hamilton of the promoting club rode 30:27, and Alan Sides (Rotherham Whs CC) recorded 37:03. Alison Lea (Buxton CC), in her first ever time trial, stoked the Lea's Dawes road tandem to 28:15, Chris reporting a 5mph difference in average speed, out and back. The evergreen Julian Ramsbottom posted the fastest ride of the day, with 21:02, and Josie Smith was quickest female, in 24:06.

Andy Thomas (Lindsey Roads CC) rode his 3rd sub-20 10 of the season, in the VTTA (East Anglian) 10 on the E2/10, also on Saturday afternoon, placing 10th overall. Hannah O'Brien was fastest female, in 21:27, whilst Paul Burton, in his first ride on the course this season, topped the overall leaderboard, with 18:28.

Thursday 18th September

North Mids vets were in action in Saturday's time trials at 10 and 25 miles; the 'Yorkshire Last Chance Saloon 10' on the V714 and the VTTA East Anglian 25 on a new course in Cambridgeshire. In the former, Matt Goodwin (ADDFORM Vive le Velo) was 5th overall, in a rapid 21:20, Simon Abdy (Barton Whs CC) did 22:55, and Michael Weaver (Rotherham Whs CC) 28:22. The only rider under 20 minutes was over a minute quicker than the next fastest competitor, in 19:35. On the new Cambridgeshire course, the F8/25A, unfortunately blasted by vicious crosswinds on the day, and wet too, but with great potential, David Hayward (Matlock CC) did 1:11:59, whilst Kevin Tye and Sarah Kelman set the first course records, of 50:52 and 1:03:26.

In Sunday morning's chilly Icknield RC 10, on the F11/10 (the one with a gift hill), Chris Lea (Buxton CC) did 22:12, which proved slow in comparison to the majority of the field: 23 riders posted 30+ mph rides, of which the fastest was former Olympic rower and recent Americas Cup 'cyclor', Matt Rossiter (a beast of a rider), who was over a minute ahead of the 2nd finisher, with 17:15 – an average speed of almost 35 mph and the fourth fastest of all time. Laura Davies excelled as quickest female, in 20:11.

Also on Sunday morning, Richard Napper (Sitwell CC) rode 24:02 in Darlington CC's event on the T104/R on the old road between Leeming and Catterick, whilst Alan Sides (Rotherham Whs CC) did 37:48. Jo Cebrat was quickest female, in 25:02, and fastest overall was Mikey Steele in 21:06.

Hill climb season is upon us. Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) and Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) rode Saturday's event up Sir William Hill, Grindleford, which starts steep, continues steep, and eases only fractionally as the finish is approached some 650 ft higher up this 1.3 mile climb: it's a tough one. Sarah did 9:30.7 and Yvonne 12:16. Senior rider Rosie Simmons was fastest female, in 8:33.7. The appropriately named Andrew Feather was quickest overall, in 5:34.1.

Yvonne rode again the following day in Birdwell Whs event up Green Moor Hill, recording 5:13.8 to fastest female and senior rider Bronwen Jenkinson's 3:27.6. I think I should mention that Yvonne is remarkable in tackling hill climbs at age 75. Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) and Trevor Mayne of the promoting club rode too, Nick finishing 4th in 2:31.6, and Trev in 4:12.9 following a late start as his strategy of descending the hill to the timekeeper in plenty of kit to stay warm, unravelled, as said kit couldn't be ditched quick enough. Kieran Wynne-Cattanach, 2nd on Sir William Hill, was 1st overall in 2:13.3.

Nick Latimer and Yvonne Twelvetree were also racing uphill the previous weekend, in Sitwell CC's event up the Reservoir Rd, Ulley Hill, recording 2:51.9 and 1:22.4. Josh Koyne topped the open category leaderboard with 1:14.9 and Jude Daly did likewise for females, in 2:21.7.

In the previous weekend's 10 and 25, Andy Whitehead (Rockingham CC) and David Hayward clocked 24:08 and 28:01, respectively, in Harrogate Nova CC's event on the somewhat sporting V212 – with Marcel Schubert's 19:48 and Angela Hannon-Flaherty's 24:24 being the fastest rides in the open and female categories, whilst in the Port Talbot Whs 25 on the uber-quick R25/3H (now we're really talking gift hills), Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC) did 1:03:32, with impressive junior Dylan Sage finishing almost before he started....in 44:47.... and recording the fastest ride of the day. Emily Martin did a similarly impressive 50:23 as quickest female.

Thursday 25th September

Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield), Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) and Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) are leading the charge in open hill climbs this season. In Saturday's Team Lifting Gear Products event on the classic Pea Royd Lane, Nick was 6th overall, in 2:50.9, to fastest

rider Kieran Wynne-Cattanach's 2:21.3, whilst Sarah did 4:14.7 to senior rider Ellen Reynolds' 3:37.0 as fastest female. In Sunday's shorter race up the dishearteningly straight Mill Lee Road, immediately south of Low Bradfield (take a look on Streetview), Sarah did 1:42.9, and Yvonne 2:36.9, whilst the quickest ride in the female category was 1:26.0 by Gemma Mitchell. In the open category, Ryan Oldam was less than a second ahead of Andy Nichols, posting the fastest ride of the event, of 0:57.1.

Wednesday 1st October

The V236/1 showed its true potential on Sunday morning in Bramley Whs CC 25. The course is two laps of the A168/A19 dual carriageway around Thirsk, between Topcliffe and South Kilvington, and is largely flat – the main obstacles being a couple of bridges on each leg and, usually, the wind, on what is a fairly exposed course. However, winds were light on Sunday morning, although it was somewhat chilly. Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) went under the hour for the first since late 2023, clocking 59:41, whilst in the open category, Matt Goodwin (ADDFORM Vive Le Velo) was a fine 8th in 52:43. Man in form, Thomas Lee, rode a scintillatingly fast 45:41; one of three sub-50 times on the day, with the others being 47's. Cara Rawlinson was just in front of Jo Cebrat, as fastest female in 57:59.

Featuring as the RTTC National Hill Climb Championship course in 1989 – an event won by Chris Boardman – The Burway is a 9/10 climb heading west out of Church Stretton over the Long Mynd. The scenery is spectacular, as are the drops off the side of the road to the valley way below. In Paramount CRT's Sunday event, Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) was 3rd veteran, in 7:04.1, with Espoir James Saltoor posting the fastest time of the day, with 5:13.0 (but slower than Boardman's 5:01.8 which was ridden against a gale-force block headwind). Francesca Leveton was fastest female, in 8:49.3, riding for the club with a fine hill climbing pedigree – Huddersfield Star Whs (whose Granville Sydney was the RTTC Champion six times in the decade from 1963).

We await the full results, but on Saturday afternoon Miles Haslam (Buxton CC) did a 2:08 in the Welsh Championship 50 on the R50/1B near Abergavenny, reporting good conditions. Some big hitters were down to ride, with the result potentially affecting the new four distance BBAR standings.

This weekend, Monsal, with North Mids' Sarah Harrison, Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club), Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products), Simon Warren, and Chris Lea (Buxton CC) riding.

Wednesday 8th October

I think it's fair to say that Sheffrec CC's Monsal Head hill climb is a uniquely brilliant event. In last Sunday's 95th edition my 'minute man' was Mieke Van Schelven. She put up strong resistance but fortunately I was able to catch her before the line. Not yet a World Tour rider.....but then she is just eight years old: one of 29 under 16s in this closed-road race. Setting off immediately behind me was the oldest rider, VTTA North Midlands' prolific hill climber Yvonne Twelvetree, riding for Sheffield Tri Club, at age 75, yet finishing in front of eleven other competitors - including four younger Vets and an Espoir. Every one of the 186 finishers was cheered to the line by what became an increasingly large and vocal crowd, encouraged by Vin and Rapid Rich's ace commentary over a big PA system. If you haven't ridden it yet, then next year you really must.

Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products), only just home from the Far East and so riding at the equivalent of 11 o'clock at night, was towards the very sharp end of the leaderboard, placing 17th in 1:31.0, in the winning team, and 2nd vet to Andrew Feather - who has been RTTC National Champion twice in the last three years. Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) did 2:27.1 and was beaten by no female older than her 52 years. Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) rode a big fixed gear to

break the two minute barrier, with 1:58.7. Yvonne's time was 3:29.0. Your correspondent did 2:18.1, exactly equaling clubmate, and fellow North Mids Vet, Mat Iving's time from 2024 (next year, the decider...!?).

Hat's off to Marc Etches and his team of helpers in organising such a superb event.

This coming weekend Sarah, Yvonne, Simon, and Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC), ride Mam Nick on Saturday, with Sarah and Martin also down to ride The Snake on Sunday. Good luck all!

Thursday 16th October

Glorious weather for hill climbing last weekend, although no doubt chilly when waiting to start. Saturday morning and Mam Nick. A long climb with many changes in gradient, and the steepest pitches persisting for longer than would be thought reasonable. Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) did 8:11.2 and was 3rd fastest Open Vet; Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) was 2nd fastest female Vet and just a fraction outside a nine minute ride, with 10:00.8. Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC) rode 10:42.8 and Yvonne Twelvetree (Sheffield Tri Club) finished in 13:49.9; at ages 73 and 75. Respect! Reigning RTTC National Hill Climb Champion Harry McFarlane topped the leaderboard with 6:14.1, just a smidgeon ahead of veteran Dan Evans' 6:15.4 – National Champion in 2017. Isabel Rodriguez was fastest female, in 8:16.6.

Not satisfied with one climb a day, Simon Warren rode Jackson Bridge on the Saturday afternoon, finishing in 5:39.1, to Championship contender Kieran Wynne-Cattanach's time of 4:01.7, with Gemma Mitchell fastest female in 5:58.2.

Sunday and The Snake, again in lovely weather. Sarah Harrison and Martin Bullen, in their 2nd long climb of the weekend, finished in 18:56.7 and 20:34.6, respectively; Sarah again being 2nd female Vet. Dan Evans claimed the top spot with 12:29.5 - faster than a brace of senior, espoir and junior riders. Anna Watkinson-Powell rode 16:53.3 as fastest of 14 female competitors.

The build-up to the Nationals on Bank Road in Matlock continues this coming weekend. Sarah Harrison rides Riber on Saturday and the Bank Road 'preview' on Sunday, in which she is joined by Simon Warren, and both no doubt testing and refining gear choices for the big event a week Sunday.

Thursday 23rd October

Just a few days to go before the final event of the season – the RTTC National Hill Climb Championships - up Bank Road in Matlock, on Sunday.

In preparation, Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC) and Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield) rode last Sunday afternoon's 'test event' on Bank Road, which finished somewhat short of the Championship summit, recording 2:43.2 and 3:23.8, respectively. Monsal winner Andy Nichols again went head to head with the reigning Open Champion, Harry MacFarlane, only to find an interloper in the form of junior rider Harry Toms, who tied for 1st place with Nichols, in 1:49.8, with MacFarlane finishing 3rd. Hannah Clough, clubmate to Toms, won the female event, in 2:42.8.

Neither Sarah nor Simon rode with fresh legs. Sarah having ridden Riber only that morning, with its brutal 1:4 pitch at the very top, and crossing the line in 5:52.4. Although time is relative and I can well imagine that it seemed to slow to a near-standstill in the final metres before the finish. MacFarlane rode Riber too, as did Nichols and Andrew Feather, with MacFarlane taking top spot, in 3:22.1. Hannah Clough was fastest female, in 4:37.4, taking two wins in a single day.

Simon Warren's warm-up was the mad choice of Rosedale Chimney. Simon, what were you thinking?! Surely one of the hardest, if not the hardest, hill climb course in the land, in which the gradient peaks at 33%. A true 10/10 climb. Back in the day, Chris Boardman was beaten, just, by road man Paul Curran in the 1987 Championships up this hill, by a mere 0.2 seconds, with Curran recording 5:22.8, although Boardman did go on to win the next four consecutive Championships. Simon didn't trouble those two aces' times, but finished very creditably in a high 6th place overall with 7:11.3, to winner Mark Jagger's 6:04.9. Anna Jones was the sole female competitor, in 11:51.4.

Just Sunday's Championships to come, then. Sarah rides at 11:54:00, Simon at 11:34:30, and joined by Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC) at 10:45:30, whilst Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) will again challenge with club mates for the Open team prize. Nick starts at 14:09. Triple National Champion Illi Gardner is the final female rider to start, at 15:02, with defending Champion Harry MacFarlane last off at 15:12. Kieran Wynne-Cattanach sets off immediately behind MacFarlane and I notice that in last Sunday's race up Nick O'Pendle he was 7 seconds faster than Boardman's Championship winning time of 1988, and 13 seconds faster than Malcom Elliott's 1980 winning time, so definitely one to watch.

Tuesday 28th October

That's the 2025 season done, culminating in the RTTC National Hill Climb Championships up Bank Road, Matlock, last Sunday. With an entry of 460 riders. Wow.

Simon Warren (Norwood Paragon CC), Sarah Harrison (Team Sheffield), Nick Latimer (Team Lifting Gear Products) and Martin Bullen (Peterborough CC) all started and finished and, from past experience, just being fit and healthy enough to be on the start line at this time of year is an achievement in itself. Also, riding the Nationals can be a daunting prospect, what with the huge numbers of spectators, although any such thoughts soon disappear once you're underway and the crowd support is genuinely uplifting.

Nick did 2:43.6 and was 5th Vet in the open field, only narrowly missing out on a place in the winning team. Simon rode 3:31.8 to bring yet another hill climb season to a successful close. Sarah did 4:05.3, placing 7th of 22 female Vets. Martin, at age 73, finished in 4:48.3, ahead of 12 other Vets.

Former triple National Champion Illi Gardner's 3:01.8 was beaten by Rachel Galler's 2:59.8, with Rachel taking the coveted jersey for the first time. She showed that she was in form when she won on Monsal in a very rapid 1:39.8. Beaten on Monsal by Andy Nichols, reigning National Champion Harry MacFarlane rode an exceptional time of 2:14.7, a full five seconds ahead of 2nd placed Kieran Wynne-Cattanach, with Nichols placing 3rd just 0.6 seconds slower. MacFarlane thus retaining his title in impressive style. 2:14.7 is almost 14 mph average for this 834m climb, which is insanely fast, and suggesting an average power output well over 600W.

Here's to 2026!

Chris (Lea), Buxton CC

Membership and Communications and Recording, VTTA North Midlands