

# Standard Times

Magazine

of the

Midland VTTA Group

Spring '18



# View from the Chair

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## Jeff Matthews

A look at the following pages will reveal an enticing array of competitions and events around which to plan your season. There continues to be an extraordinary range of challenges for members of the Midland VTTA. Can I encourage you, to encourage your club mates, ride buddies and anyone else you know who is over 40 and does a bit of time trialling to join?

The new national VTTA website has been launched and you can get full details of how to join on there, alternatively get them to contact Alan Colburn – details at the back of this magazine. By the way, the new site is well worth a visit, laid out very well and with lots of information on all aspects of the Association.

As ever, the recent AGM was modestly attended, but the good news is we have three new members who have volunteered to join the committee. David ‘Steelie’ Steel, who has kindly offered to edit Standard Times, Bob Franks and Norman Fenn – both of whom need little introduction as long standing members, have agreed, pro-tem, to cover the unoccupied role of Competitions Secretary for which we can all be grateful. Without that, it would have been necessary to cancel this year’s competitions, which would have been a great tragedy.

However, we could still do with a volunteer to cover that role (or a job share, if you’d like). Alan Colburn has announced his intention not to stand at the next AGM for re-election which will leave something of a hole. Alan has done all the roles at one time or another (except Treasurer he tells us). We may need another two people to cover the work he gets through on behalf of the Association.

With only one 25 in the District and it being on the same weekend as another VTTA event, we have decided to use a 23 mile sporting event as the “25” for awarding the various cups associated with that distance. Not ideal, indeed if you fancy promoting a 25 in 2019 in either May, June or July I think many Midland TT’ers would be eternally thankful.

Enjoy your 2018 season, and see you on the road.

**Front Cover:** 1943 photograph of a brave member of the “Volunteers To Terminate Adolf” (VTTA) platoon. He is on a very special machine for the era, having Mafac centre-pull brakes and one-piece bars and stem! (See editorial “75th Anniversary”). It was these people who would congregate out of nowhere at dawn (almost as if by prior arrangement!), and working alone at exactly minute intervals, proceed to create havoc with the enemy transport system over a very precise stretch of road!!

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## David Steel (Steelie)

Having fought off hordes of other candidates who had also not applied for the post of editor (“Quirk of Fate” article), the congratulation flooded in (thank you Mum!).

I am usually out of the country 6 to 8 months of the year, and will not now be back in the UK until May, so as no doubt you can already see, this first edition is something of a compromise in terms of how professional it looks, but in due course I intend to acquire sufficient expertise with MS Publisher to produce something approaching the standard which Jeff Matthews has been achieving.

### View From the Sun Lounger

We have a challenging year ahead with scant resources, as evidenced by my last-resort appointment as editor, and falling numbers generally, but I am confident it is not beyond our collective wit and wisdom to reverse that decline, so watch this space, or even better - **FILL THIS SPACE** - with tales of derring-do, or what you did in the war perhaps, or even something about your two-wheeled (or three-wheeled?) exploits – ALL contributions gratefully received (possibly).

With falling numbers, it can do no harm to have something of a recruitment drive, so as Jeff Matthews has already urged, please push the virtues of becoming a VTTA member amongst your friends and acquaintances, even including those who are over 39 and ride a bike.

In a more focused approach, if anyone in your club is organising an event this season, please actively try and persuade them to include the following message in both the start and results sheets:

**Age 40 or more? Ride a Bike? Above Average Intelligence?**

**Then surely you must already be a V.T.T.A. member!**

**To join contact Alan Colburn:**

[alan.colburn@martley.org](mailto:alan.colburn@martley.org)



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## Veterans Time Trial Association

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Founded in 1943 by E.H. Stevens  
National Association for the over 40 year old racing cyclist

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Back in 1943, when Hitler heard that a crack cycling platoon entitled Volunteers To Terminate Adolf (VTTA) was being formed in the UK, he was so concerned that he immediately diverted his war effort away from the Western Front and into a counter-offensive, the aptly named Deutsche Radsport Offensiv Soldaten (DROS).

That was a turning point in WWII, because riding alone dressed in black from head to foot, meant that VTTA members could infiltrate almost anywhere—including smuggling cyanide pills into the Berlin bunker - without being noticed by anyone (including car drivers unfortunately!), whereas the DROS, whom we see here trying to look inconspicuous whilst riding 2-up along the wrong side of the Old Kent Road, failed to get anywhere near Churchill before being apprehended!



**Fritz was always first to attack his „Kameraden“, as he liked to call them!**

NOTE: The more observant of you may notice that 3rd in line is VTTA member Alan Colburn, who managed to infiltrate the DROS because he fitted in so well!

It remains politically correct even today, to attribute our success in WWII primarily (and ironically!) to some German-American chap by the name of Eisen-something-or-other, but we of the VTTA know that the truth of the matter is very different!

Were it not for the VTTA drawing Adolf's attention away from the Western Front, that "Ike" fellow would not have had it so easy—and maybe even Tina would have met someone nicer?

But back to today, and **NOW** is the time for optimism folks – before our first encounter with the timekeeper brings us back to reality with a bump!

2018, our 76<sup>th</sup> year – bring it on!

# Prize Presentation Lunch

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## Jeff Matthews

The 2017 Prize lunch took place at the Kings Court Hotel, as it has for a number of years. Ably organised by Greta Spiers, supported by Margaret and Alan Colburn, some 40 diners sat down to share a meal. Welcomed by the Group Chair, Alan Colburn resumed his role as MC, having said last year he'd rather give it up and enjoy his lunch. He will be a tough act to follow in 2019.

Guest of Honour was coach and triathlete Dr. Garry Palmer, seen here on the right presenting Phil Brown with the Massie Plate for Season long Best on Standard in the over 65 age group.

Dr. Palmer had been asked to speak on "The Ageing Athlete" and judging by the queue of people wishing to speak with him one-to-one afterwards, he clearly struck a note that was appreciated.

The awards were presented, firstly by Jeff Matthews for the awards on Standard and for the Echelon Points Series, and then the event and season long BAR awards by the good Doctor. A highly enjoyable event.



### **IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Next Season's Prize Presentation Lunch**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (with Group AGM)**

**The King's Court Hotel, Kings Coughton, Alcester B49 5QQ**



**The evergreen Norman Fenn receives his Standard award**



**The Semples cleaning up the awards!**



**Lynne Biddulph receiving her BAR award**



**Jackie Hobson receives National 24 Hr Medal**



**Sue Kelly Receiving the Mary White Plate**



# A Challenge to Suit You!

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Jeff Matthews—plus a few others!

## **40 or Over and Want to Ride Time trials?**

The Veterans' Time Trial Association (VTTA) was established 75 years ago this year for the express purpose of promoting time trials for the 'mature' participant in the sport. Divided into groups across the country, the Midlands Group offers riders over 40 a set of challenges for their racing season.

Uniquely, the VTTA has created a set of age related standards that mean that competitions can be created for riders over 40 regardless of age or gender. For all distances, ages and gender there will be a standard time, from which your actual race time is subtracted. The resulting number (hopefully a 'plus'!) is then used in a variety of competitions to find winners and improvers. The result is that despite growing old gracefully, you can still compete against people of all different ages and gender. Revised extensively in 2012, the standards have proved remarkably successful at giving a level playing field with which to compare sporting performances.

## **The Challenges**

There are three different ways you can choose to compete, and this season guide shows you how you can take part in 2018.

- 1 Season long series
  - \* Best All Rounder Competitions
    - Best on standard over 25, 50 and 100 miles
    - Best on standard over two 10, and two 25 mile time trials
  - \* Echelon / VTTA Points series
    - Best 4 placings on Midlands' ('K' listed) courses during the season
  - \* Best placings in the 4 VTTA featured events.
- 2 Personal challenge to beat your 'standard time' over any standard distance
- 3 Set an age related record.

No matter what your age and ability, there is something to challenge yourself on with the VTTA. All you need to do is to join the Midland VTTA.

## Your Guide to the VTTA Midlands 2018 Racing Season

Below we set out a guide to the events, competitions, awards and trophies open to members of VTTA Midlands for 2018 to help you plan your season. There is something here for all riders so please read through and identify some events and awards you could use to target and motivate your cycling this year.

### Standard Times and Pluses

Our events, competitions and trophies are often based on 'standard times'. Experienced VTTA members will be familiar with Standards. For those who are new they can be something of a mystery! Very briefly, Standards are a carefully designed handicap system which provides a level playing field for male and female vets of all ages. Your actual time is compared to your 'standard time', which depends on your age and sex, to give you a 'plus' time. Results 'on standard' are then based on riders' pluses (or minuses, in some cases). The winner with the biggest plus will be 'Best on Standard' (BOS).

There is a helpful guide on the national site at:

<http://www.vtta.org.uk/information/Standard-Awards.php>

The Standard Tables can be found at:

<http://www.vtta.org.uk/information/standardstables.php>

## VTTA MIDLANDS EVENTS AND CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

### VTTA Midlands Trophies for 2018

Here is the list of trophies being awarded for 2018 in our championship events:

<b>Trophy</b>	<b>Awarded for</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Date</b>
Williams Rose Bowl	BOS men	VTTA 10	K48/10	21 <sup>st</sup> April
Bart Cup	BOS women	VTTA 10	K48/10	21 <sup>st</sup> April
Billy Steer Cup	BOS men	Walsall RCC	K48/23	20 <sup>th</sup> May
Bricknell Cup	BOS women	Walsall RCC	K48/23	20 <sup>th</sup> May
Wells Cup	BOS men	Mids CTT	K33/50	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Victory Cup	BOS women	Mids CTT	K33/50	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Stokes Cup	Actual fastest	Mids CTT	K33/50	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Birks Cup	BOS	Coventry CC	K11/10T	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug

**Note:** BOS = Best on Standard

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## VTTA Midlands Open Events

Please support the two open events we are organising this year:

Joint VTTA/LVRC            K47/16            7<sup>th</sup> April

Our annual 'match' with the LVRC for the Welland trophy.

VTTA Midlands 10            K48/10            21<sup>st</sup> April

As there is no VTTA Open 25 event this year, the counting event for the trophies associated with that will be awarded in Walsall RCC 23, on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

## SEASON LONG SERIES

### VTTA Midlands Points Series

The Points Series is sponsored by Echelon Cycles – with our thanks to Tim Wood.

To qualify for the series you have to ride **a minimum of 4 open events on Midlands 'K' courses**. Points are awarded according to your placing 'on standard' in each event adjusted by the number of riders in the event, so riders of all ages (both men and women) are competing on a level playing field in the Points Series. Your **best 4** results count towards your total for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for:

- \* **The top 10 riders** – in the series on classification
- \* **The best improver** - in terms of increased points scored over their total for their 4 best events in the 2018 season
- \* **The Team prize** – best club team calculated by adding the points for each of their 4 best riders.
- \* **The Les Lowe Trophy** - Furthest distance ridden in open events on 'K' courses based on events recorded on the CTT Midlands Points System.

Steve Lockwood kindly compiles the Points Series results for us and these will be published regularly on the CTT Midlands site and on our own VTTA Midlands site.

## Featured Midland VTTA Events

We have 4 events which are featured in this year's VTTA racing calendar: VTTA Midlands 16 (7<sup>th</sup> April), VTTA 10 (21<sup>st</sup> April), Walsall RCC 23 (20<sup>th</sup> May), and Midlands CTT 50 (15<sup>th</sup> July).

Ride all 4 events and your cumulative standard times will entitle you to enter these competitions, depending on your age.

- Massie Cup**            Awarded to the rider BOS aged 65 and over
- Jones Cup**            Awarded to the rider BOS aged 50 to 64
- Nomads Cup**        **Awarded** to the rider BOS aged under 50

## VTTA MIDLAND BEST ALL ROUNDER TROPHIES

The following trophies are based on performances over the season:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Cyclo Shield</b> | Best <b>All Rounder</b> – men and women Best All Rounder (BAR) – BOS performance across any open 25, 50 and 100 miles |
| <b>Bayliss Cup</b>  | <b>Women's Short Distance BAR</b> – BOS performance across any two open 10 mile and any two open 25 mile time trials  |
| <b>Godiva Cup</b>   | <b>Men's Short distance BAR</b> – BOS performance across any two open 10 mile and any two open 25 mile time trials    |

Claims for the Cyclo Shield, Bayliss Cup and Godiva Cup must be made at the end of the season and submitted to the Competitions Secretary. There will a claim form on the website and in the Standard Times.

## NATIONAL AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

### 1. Have a go at achieving Standards Awards.

A brief introduction to the standards system was given above.

**First time claim:** If it is your first attempt at a Standards award you WILL get it! All you have to do is:

Fill in an **application form** at the start of the season before your race(s) and send it with your fee to **Alan Colburn** (address at the back of this Standard Times).

- \* For £10 you can claim for as many distances as you want from 10, 15, 25, 30, 50, 100, 12hr, and 24hr. If you are planning to make standards a goal for your season, and coming seasons, this is the one to go for.
- \* A single standard attempt is £3, or any number of attempts at one distance is £4, or any number of attempts at 2 distances is £7. So, if Standards are your thing for this and coming seasons, it makes sense to go for all distances and then claim for all those you set, particularly if you are planning on riding all types of events.
- \* You can enter and ride as many open events as you wish at the standard distances you are going for.

You can then claim your Standard(s) by sending your **result sheet(s)** for the events ridden to **Steve Jenks**, ensuring he gets them before the last week of October. There is a claim form with which to do that, available on the website.

**What awards do I get?** A medal with your name and club on with the distance and a plus or minus compared to standard for each distance you have claimed for. If you claim four or more awards you can have them engraved on a plaque.

Good value or what?

**Second year and after claims:** As for first time claim, but you will need to improve on your plus or minus for any distance you have claimed for previously, and there's the challenge. Each year you can aim to maintain your standard.

The standards claim form can be found on the National VTTA website.

## **2. Have a go at a National Competition – be part of a Group team.**

There are three national competitions and they are all based on your total plus against standard for the distance. They don't cost you anything and you are given a National position at the end of the year!

- \* **Short Distance Competition:** Your best results for the season in two open 10s and in two open 25s.
- \* **Three Distance Competition:** Your best times in open events at 25, 50 and 100 miles.
- \* **BAR (Best All Rounder):** Your best results in an open 25, 50, 100 miles and a twelve hour.

For each of the three National competitions the **best 3** Midlands performances are totalled and each VTTA group is awarded a position. **The best three in the Midlands VTTA are also awarded a plaque in each of the three competitions.**

For these three competitions, at the end of the season you send your best results for each competition on a claim form with the results sheets to Steve Jenks - closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> October. (If claimants want their results sheets returned, they should include a stamped addressed envelope) The claim forms are found on the National site at <http://www.vtta.org.uk/information/forms.php>

Even if you do not get the results you wanted, if you enter any of the three competitions above, you may well make up the three that we need to be recognised and given a position as a Group nationally.

### **A Very Difficult Year!**

**For the last 20 years, without fail, I have received a Valentine's day Card from a secret admirer, but this year—nothing!**

**First my Nan dies, and now this!**

## Midlands VTTA Age Records

There are men's and women's records for all ages from 40 upwards for 10, 25, and 50 miles (and 100 and 12 hour if any are run on K courses).

The criteria for an age record claim are:

- \* They must be set on a K course
- \* Time must be set in an open, not a club, event
- \* There will be records for bicycles only at first
- \* The applicant must be a member of the Midlands VTTA on the day the time was set
- \* Age will be taken as the rider's age on the day of the event, including if the event is on their birthday
- \* Applications can be made at any time in the year.

Members putting in applications for Standards, BAR, Short Distance or Three Distance competition will automatically have their times compared to existing records and the record updated as appropriate.

This means that they may achieve a record mid-season but it may be superseded before these applications are sent to me at the end of the season. To avoid this, if any member wants a record considered DURING the season, they need to send a record claim form to Steve Jenks together with a result sheet. This can be done by post or by email with results attached. The claim forms are on the Midlands VTTA site. The updated records will be on an excel spreadsheet and, again, ***will be on our site in the near future.***

See further updates on these competitions and records on the VTTA Group Midlands facebook page.



**You Don't Have to Go Fast . . . . You Just Have to Go!**

# The Welland Trophy

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Alan Colburn

## **Don't Miss The Welland Trophy – 7 April 2018.**

This Time Trial will be held on Saturday afternoon, 7<sup>th</sup> April, on the K47/16 and is a joint venture between the VTTA and LVRC. The 16 mile course is on quiet roads and is used for time trials and road races – fairly described as sporting. This is an Open event with preference to VTTA/LVRC members with solo and two-up classes using VTTA Standards to determine the Welland Trophy winners and other prizes.

Please note that this year the Welland Trophy is a counting event towards the VTTA Midlands season-long competitions.

If you haven't ridden this course before it's situated to the east of Malvern with the rolling Malvern Hills as a pleasing backdrop – it's pleasing because the course goes in the other direction!

Race HQ is at the Welland Village Hall only 3 minutes away from the start with the first rider away at 14.00hr.

Internet and Postal entries accepted but postal go to Mike Amery at 18, Giffard Drive, Welland, WR13 6SE.

Tel: 01684 310168

e-mail: [mikeamery58@gmail.com](mailto:mikeamery58@gmail.com)

Entry fee is £10 for solos and £20 for two-ups and online entry is via the CTT website in the usual way.

The Welland Trophy was first run in 2015 as a joint event between the LVRC and VTTA. This is promoted in order to bring members together in a competitive event and to understand better each others' organisations and activities.

**Last year the winners of the team trophy were LVRC  
so can the VTTA turn the tables this year – get your  
entry in and be part of a winning team!**

# A Quirk of Fate

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## Steele

I recall seeing a film in 1956 called “A Town Like Alice”. As the last allied evacuation planes left Singapore, “moments” before the Japanese invaded, Virginia McKenna stopped to answer the phone, with the result that she and Peter Finch missed the last flight, were captured, imprisoned, and had a jolly tough time of it all!

To me, they had seemed such sensible people, Finch and McKenna, and I resolved there and then, clutching my teddy even closer to my chest, that I would never be so silly as to let something so catastrophic like that happen to me. I am therefore still rather bemused by how I allowed the following events to unfold.

It all started to go wrong when I nodded politely to this chap in a pub one day and somehow we ended up sitting at the same table for lunch. Jeff Matthews I think he said his name was, quite a pleasant chap really as it turned out, despite first impressions! He said something about being a Vet, but maybe I misheard, because he made no further reference to any kind of animal I have ever heard of – unless a Cervello is an animal of course, like a sort of Italian Gerbil maybe?

Clearly mistaking me for someone else, he thanked me for volunteering to take on the job as editor of something he airily referred to as “Standard Times”, and warmly congratulated me for being chosen against stiff competition for the role. Somewhat taken aback, I pretended I was choking on a breadcrumb to hide my dismay at the prospect, and thought it best not to mention that I was only there to clean the pub’s windows in payment for my lunch (what with being a pensioner and all).

He chatted easily whilst I focused intently on my balanced Paleo diet of vegetable Soup into which I had liberally sprinkled pork scratchings. Whenever he uttered a few words I vaguely understood, I grunted encouragingly to hide my total bewilderment, sensing it was prudent to avoid alarming this total stranger, whom I had at first mistakenly thought to be quite a kindly inoffensive soul, albeit slightly odd.

Factoids washed over me. The number of pages had to be a multiple of 4 allegedly, 4, 8, 12, he explained gently, brows furrowing in dawning realisation as he studied my vacant expression intently, and something like 150 copies had to be printed.



I opened my mouth to protest that my 30 year old Dot Matrix printer would have its work cut out, but he had already moved on to boast about having a “Publishing Package” and a “Drop Box”.

I raised my eyebrows in a manner intended to convey a look of knowledgeable appreciation, but what was instead probably a fairly realistic impression of a startled rabbit in the headlights. Retrieving the napkin I had “accidentally” knocked onto the floor I ascertained there were no packages or boxes underneath his chair, so clearly he had not brought either of these impressive sounding artefacts with him.

A “Drop Box”? Where could I acquire such a thing - possibly on eBay I mused as he continued chatting with an air of barely suppressed enthusiasm, in the DIY section perhaps, but what about the postage? – the word “drop” made it sound like it could be quite heavy – probably why he had not brought it with him, I decided!

But he was clever this Jeff Matthews fellow, for as I cleared my throat to point out that this was obviously a case of mistaken identity, his expression changed subtly, and despite his suave well groomed appearance, the soft manicured hands, gold watch and glittering monogrammed cuff-links, I was reminded of the lepers with pleading eyes and outstretched stumps I had recently encountered in Kathmandu. OK, he didn’t quite go so far as to say how many hungry mouths he had to feed, or how difficult it was to make ends meet living in his sumptuous Grade II listed Georgian Town House, nor even that he was saving up for a new Dura Ace Cervello S7, Di2/disc/etc., (whatever that is!), but you get the idea – his confident and subliminally cunning eloquence made it very difficult for me to refuse his subtle advances!

I had become Mowgli to his Kaa, but shaking off the hypnotic effects of his beguilingly seductive “Trussst in Meeee” advances, I determined to have none of it, so stiffening my resolve I heard myself resolutely brush him off with the stern words:

**“Great, no problem Jeff, I’ll get onto it right away!”**

So here we now are. Me sat at my Word Processor (I believe that is what they call them these days?), the acrid smell of the smoke rising from my trusty Dot Matrix in my nostrils, feeling decidedly euphoric on the fumes from the Snopake correcting fluid all over my hands (and screen), with you sat there no doubt lamenting the passing of cogent, professionally produced magazines – at least until I get my act in gear and learn how to cut and paste!

Errrrr . . . . on that last point, probably better not to hold your breath?

# Spinning Classes

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## Alan Colburn

Judy Wallman Trump, a professional genealogical researcher, was working on her own family tree and discovered that President Donald Trump's great-great-uncle, Remus Trump, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows in Montana. On the back of the picture was this inscription: "Remus Trump, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1883, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."



### **Remus Trump: Horse Thief and Train Robber (Allegedly!)**

So Judy e-mailed the President for information about their great-great-uncle Remus, and recently received the following response from the White House:

**"Remus Trump was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include the acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."**

# On-Line Membership

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## Andrew Simpkins

As readers of Standard Times will know, at the beginning of last year I stood down as Midlands Group chairman to become the VTTA National Chairman. The job was originally sold to me as requiring attendance at four meetings, running the National AGM, handling occasional items of correspondence, and making an appearance at a national championship or two. It sounded relatively modest in terms of time. At my first National Executive Committee meeting, however, it became clear that the Association had a major problem with its website and had made no progress on delivering a promised online membership system.

My professional background is in IT and delivering IT projects, so these were issues I was familiar with. It was clear that we needed to find an IT supplier, redevelop the website, and get on and deliver an online membership system. I also realised that this involved a lot of work and that my state of semi-retirement would not be very 'semi' if these issues were to be tackled promptly.

So, my first year as National Chairman got under way with running a competitive tender exercise to select a website supplier. We chose Xncreations who also developed and support the CTT site. They built the new website and I was involved in testing it and loading the various types of information required – BAR results, age records, standard tables, officials' details, and so on plus the action photos! This all worked well, and the new website was up and running by early October. Feedback has been very positive from members and we have had no problems with the site.

The next challenge was the online membership system and here we realised just how complicated is VTTA membership. We have individual and joint memberships, we have honorary and distinguished life members, plus applications for standards, and membership administration and the pricing of membership and standards is done separately by each of the sixteen regional groups. Simple it isn't! We therefore decided to take on groups in stages beginning with a trial in three of the groups. I was grateful that Midlands Group agreed to be part of this trial. With Alan and Margaret Colburn's help we got the up-to-date Midlands membership information onto the website and Alan recruited twenty or so of our members to agree to be the first to try using the system for their 2018 renewal.

The trial went live at the end of February and will give us valuable experience before we roll out online membership to the other groups.

You can therefore now join the Midland Group online and use the website to renew your membership from the comfort of your armchair. I trust you find it a benefit and may it encourage you to invite others to join the VTTA by going online and completing the process in just a couple of minutes without needing a trip to the post box!

Andrew Simpkins

## A Blast From The Past - Gone But Not Forgotten



# YOUR Standard Times

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## Steele

Different people will almost certainly have different perceptions of what a magazine should contain, with some subscribing to the view, as one individual said to me very recently that:

**“Anything which makes a reader open the magazine has got to be a plus”**

Some others probably feel that Standard Times needs to be a serious publication with the sole purpose of advising and informing members about activities, events, achievements and the general happenings associated with Veterans Time Trialling, like it says on the tin in fact!

As we are now on page 19, you may already have gathered that I tend to be slightly more inclined to the former view, on the basis that for a magazine to have any value at all, it first needs to be opened by a reader.

However, this is **YOUR** magazine, so as its fledgling editor, I am happy to produce the sort of publication you want to see, and look forward to receiving.

By definition, we have all been around the block a few times (the clue is in the “V”!), so will have come across all manner of publications in our time, and have no doubt formed opinions of what we like and what we don’t like.

Please therefore drop me an email with your views on what kind of articles, apart from the standard everyday business matters referred to above of course, you would like to see as regular features in Standard Times.

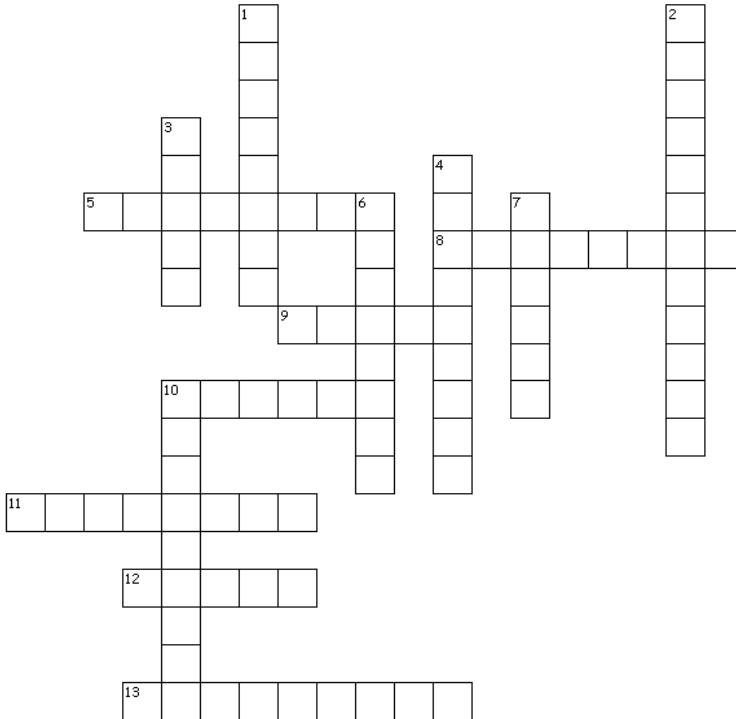
**radfordmill@aol.com**

We’ve all seen them, hanging about just killing time, shuffling along aimlessly, with vacant eyes and ill-fitting charity shop clothes, most of them on drugs, strangers to the Job Centre, but quick enough to queue up for their State Handouts . . . . Pensions as they call them!

# Crosswords

Steve Jenks

VTTA Cryptic and Easy Crossword number 8



## Cryptic Clues

### Across

5. see 7 down
8. Marksman ? (8)
9. one sleepy note with half a foot makes riding indoors easier (5)
10. bike brand seen floating over the Andes (6)
11. Nick completed short event in six days (3, 5)
12. energy provider found back in grass, bracken and reeds (5)
13. I hairless curved body first for champion siblings (9)



### Down

1. loud fiancée about to boost performance (8)
2. whee that is frowned upon on a ride (4,8)
3. accident found back in his fabric alternately ... (5)
4. type of fork you wouldn't want on your bike in a storm (9)
6. ... or caused by a r\_\_\_\_\_im (5, 3)
7. and 5 across confiscated NE and SE to cause this mechanical (6, 8)
10. a good place to ride, but not indoors (4,5)

### Easy clues

#### Across

5. see 7 down.
8. German sprinter (8)
9. makes indoor riding less boring (5)
10. British bike manufacturer (6)
11. shortened name for a six day event (3, 5)
12. one of the main food groups needed for cycling (5)
13. indoor champion siblings (9)

#### Down

1. gives a boost on a long ride (8)
2. activity frowned upon on a group ride (4, 8)
3. accident (5)
4. type of electrical activity in a storm (9)
6. cause of collapse in wheels (5,3)
7. and 5 across what happens to dry axles and headsets (6, 8)
10. part of an indoor track where you shouldn't ride (4, 5)

### Answers to VTTA Cryptic and Easy Crossword number 7

#### Across

4. and 9 across. Ford Prefect – type of vintage car and the name of the hitchhiker in Hitchhiker's guide to the Galaxy
12. moped – leads the keirin and moped means sulked
13. motor – illegal cycling aid and found as the alternate letters inside Dimitry out to omniums in reverse
14. catseye - reflects light off the road and Tom as in Tomcat

#### Down

1. puncture – pun on flat
2. and 10 and 8 across - lose your garmin history – happens if you press the wrong button and mixed-up (anagram) of rigorously name with politician (tory) following his
3. teaspoons – anagram (scrambled) of soapstone
6. broken spoke – broken (anagram) of keosp
7. sees – reads the same left to right as right to left
8. and 5 ac. Hit black ice – broke (anagram) of 1 thick cable
11. anagram – an anagram of rider is drier

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## 2018 Committee Meetings

Kings Court Hotel, Kings Coughton, Alcester B49 5QQ

19:30 hrs on 10 May, 9 August, 8 November

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