



H.R.C. NEWSLETTER

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Make sure items for the Editor arrive no later than 7 days before the end of the month

The President waits until the last club event of the year to take victory!

MUE	8	PETER	15	NICK	15
GILL	17	MARGARET	14	MARY	19 25
MICK	19	ROGER	20	RICHARD	19
JEN	17	JANET	(5)	AMANDA	19 25
SARNA	15	DEREK	15	CHRIS	22 24
YVIERE	15	MARGARET	12	JO	7
CAROLINE	18	SHELLEY	19 (3)	DAVE	(13)
MOLLY	19 23	JUSTIN	16	KATHIE	13
DEN	20	JACKIE	15		
LORNA	19 25	RAY	22 27		
JOHN	15	PETERC	22 (28)		
GWEN	14	SHEILA	13		

The scoreboard shows the story of the evening at a tense Barley Mow. A three way tie put Peter, the Editor and Ray on 22 points. Then Gill, the bowling Mistress of Ceremonies organised the three way play off, and the coolness of the President came through to victory. A play off for the women's scores was held between Molly, Lorna, Shelley, Mary, and Amanda. Shelley from Team Hayday took that victory quite comprehensively. See inside for more details of the evening.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and a productive 2010 to all our Readers

Selected highlights from Club events for December 2009

Monday November 30th Club night Harry Jackson slideshow

Twenty people listened to an interesting talk on the history of the Calshott Spit and Calshott area, and of course the cycling track. However, the equipment used to show the slides was very much 21st Century, with a laptop and digital Sony projector. The screen was traditional though. Interest was raised about going down to the track and that promised club visit is getting closer and closer to be organised. If we were lucky we could hire Harry too, for the visit! Many thanks Mr Jackson for the talk.

Sunday December 6th Annual Christmas Meal and Prize Presentation Dinner at the Brookfield Hotel

A good meal, good company, and the hard work put in by the club meal organisers ensured a smooth and enjoyable event. A fine afternoon was complimented by our Guest Speaker David Shepherd., who is a champion 24hr rider and he related some of his vast collection of amusing anecdotes collected over the years, constantly riding his bike. With an audience suffering split sides with laughter, the awards and prizes were then presented by XXX, David's better half. Finally, the raffle finished off the formal proceedings!



Paul 6 trophies & points comp!



The Dark Shadow 5 trophies!
Gary Ferrett



Den with 2 trophies!



Margaret with the Joe H trophy



Our Guests of Honour
David and



Valerie with a special presentation



The Editor filling newsletter space
with the Bert Bishop Salver



Keith and Brian GP de Gents



Andy and lots of points!

Wednesday December 9th Track night Mountbatten Centre

30 plus riders at the Portsmouth track. The Editor on his newly built fixed rode round the outside (it's a long story), and the Dark Shadow was in the middle of the pack, spinning at Lance Armstrong cadence.

Friday December 11th Track night Mountbatten Centre

Single file riding on road bikes first and fixed gear bikes later. The riders were working much harder this evening. Den T. flew the flag again this evening for HRC.

Monday December 14th Club night

Last one of the year. All the usual faces. I got there a bit earlier for a change and still wasn't in time for the free fish supper. Heard some stories from the Treasurer, including a good way to save a £1000 pounds.

Sunday December 20th Skittles Evening at the Barley Mow

A packed skittle alley was organised by Valerie, and Gill was organising the bowling. Various volunteers took their chances returning bowling balls and standing the pins up. Three rounds of bowling sorted everybody out. A buffet and lots of garlic bread fed the competitors.



Various views of the skittle alley. How many club members can you identify? The Sunday night was also the last night of freedom for Derek and Margaret before they tied the knot, so we were out on a Stag and Hen night too! Do I need to mention it again, yes 'The President' triumphed.

Club members spotted out on the road, news, and other rumours

Just one disturbing piece. He's ok, but Pete Dawson was knocked off his bike by a car coming out of a junction, while he was on his Wednesday ride to Bosham. He got an ambulance ride to hospital, but as reported he's ok.

Part 2 of 'A perfect ride with a silly flag! (or London Edinburgh London) **by Paul Whitehead**

Stage 7 (continued from November newsletter)

Alston to Eskdalemuir (94km)

We were up and away by 05:45 the following morning and soon we were crossing into Scotland heading towards the Eskdalemuir control and our bags. 633km done

Stage 8

Eskdalemuir to Edinburgh (83km)

This stage is very scenic; hilly in places but with roads in very bad shape from the logging lorries, who seem to be sharing the "B" road with us. With some big climbs and very heavy rains at times, the optional stop half way to Edinburgh was a welcome sight and the tea and cake was just what we needed. By this time we were being passed by riders heading Southwards on their way back to London which spurred us on. After a lengthy climb Edinburgh came into view. Following a long fast decent we arrived at the half way point at lunchtime on Tuesday having covered 716km in 47 hours.

Stage 9

Edinburgh to Eskdalemuir (83km)

Southbound on our way home the climb out of Edinburgh is a long 10.5 miles, luckily it was dry, well at least for the first half of the stage. The second half was very wet and all along the road we passed riders heading towards the turn. On reaching Eskdalemuir we raided our bags for fresh kit (which was needed) and enjoyed an evening meal. 799km done

Stage 10

Eskdalemuir to Alston (94km)

Four of us left the Control together and 15 minutes later the heavens opened, even as we passed the sign welcoming us to England the rain persisted. Finally as we approached Alston the rain stopped, but the skies were darkening and wind started picking up. The climb up to the Alston Control is up a steep hill on the Pennines, it was not only blowing a gale but the rain returned with a vengeance. I climbed into a dry bed with the rain and wind belting against the window for 6 hours sleep. 893km done, only 507km to go.

Stage 11

Alston to Middleton

On leaving the Control we were back out in the wind and rain with some low mist thrown in for good measure. As we dropped down to Barnard Castle the roads started to dry out and we had a nice ride down across the old bridge at Whorlton and on to a surprisingly quiet Middleton Control point for breakfast. 968km done

Stage 12

Middleton to Coxwold

This stage was fairly flat, being across the Vale of York. We stayed dry all the way to Coxwold where we had a great meal complete with homemade crumble. I was however approached by a fellow cyclist who had the audacity to ask me about the flag on "my bike". I politely pointed out that it was not in fact my bike and that that silly flag did not belong to me! 1021km done

Stage 13

Coxwold to Thorne (89km)

A steep climb out of Coxwold meant I had a struggle to keep all of my food down and the heavy rain didn't help our moods. One rider commented that the second half of the stage was very boring, I however disagreed, what with sights like the crossing of the river Ouse on the Boothferry Bridge (which despite still being an operational lifting bridge looks like it is on its last legs with all the rust). There was also the canal and river crossings and the views of Goole Docks in the distance. We reached Thorne at Tea Time on Wednesday which was incredibly quiet with only a few other riders milling about. 1110km done

Stage 14

Thorne to Washingborough (74km)

On leaving this control we joined a long, straight, bumpy road which cut through endless fields, we were so glad to get off this boring road and go into Gainsborough. We climbed onto the ridge near Lincoln which we rode along the top of before dropping down through Lincoln to the Control. Here we booked a camp bed, went off for a shower and change of clothes before laying down for 6 hours sleep. 1184km done

Stage 15

Washingborough to Thurlby (67km)

We left at 5am on the coldest morning so far, the skies however were clear and the sun was out. We got through Selford before rush hour and back in to the lands we enjoy; fine countryside, great lanes and pretty villages. Before we know it we are at the Thurlby Control sitting down to cereals and bacon sandwiches. We learn here that there are only about 120 riders in front of us. 1251km done

Stage 16

Thurlby to Gamlingay (85km)

This is a stage I don't remember much of though it was rural with lots to see. Apart from a few grey clouds floating about and finding wet roads we never actually saw any rain. 1336km done

Stage 17

Gamlingay to Finish (67km)

On leaving we had 20 hours in which to finish the final 67km... Happy Days!!! As there was no rush we were able to enjoy the views from the ridge, we cycled along for a while before dropping down through Hertford which was the busiest place we had ridden through in a while.

Nearing the finish we climbed a very short, steep hill that nearly caught us out. We started the decent into Cheshunt and finally after 97 hours & 55 minutes we had reached the end of our long journey having covered 1401km.



Getting home was fun; after collecting all of our stuff we had to ride across London due to the train strikes. We were however lucky enough to get a train from Waterloo to Havant, returning home for a meal, hot soak in the bath and then bed.

Mark, his silly flag and I, had rode the entire event together. We had 3 nights sleep, with only the first night on the road.

All in all I would say it was the perfect ride!

New Year a chance to look forward and also to look back. Sandra our newspaper spotter has brought this one out of the archives from 'The News' August 1984. Bert N. also has been talking about Bill Harvell in his recent articles.

As Lewis and Thompson sit back and wait for the millions to roll in, meet . . .

The cut-price athlete!

WORDS
Tony Uptold

PICTURES
Bill Shimmin

ASK BILL HARVELL what recognition he got for winning a bronze medal in the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles and the answer will always be the same.

"Not a lot really . . . until now," he says with a bemused smile.

Olympic success today guarantees superstar status in front of a world audience of two-and-a-half billion.

In Bill's day, it led to a few pats on the back and invitations to speak at boys' clubs. Only now is he getting the attention he deserves, 52 years after the world's

greatest sporting spectacle was first held in Los Angeles.

One thing which has never changed is Bill's all-consuming passion for cycling. A fortnight away from his 77th birthday, he still goes out for the occasional ride along the sea front from his home in Southsea.

Bill was one of seven British cyclists at the 1932 Olympics, and six of them returned home with medals. His was a bronze, won after finishing third in the 4,000 metre team pursuit with Frank Southall, Ernie Johnson and Charles Holland.

He also competed in the 100 kilometre road race and the 1,000 metre time trial. "Three for the price of one," he laughed.

Taking the bronze was one of the highlights of a memorable career which all began when he watched his first football match and decided to make his name in the world of sport.

"I was inspired by the Southampton footballers when I saw my first ever match at The Dell in 1921," he recalled. "I saw these people doing something they enjoyed and I decided I would like to excel at sport."

Excel he did after buying his first bicycle for £6 19s. 6d. — and he hasn't been to The Dell since!

Success followed success in competitions and then, at Alexandra Park in 1928, it was suggested during a quiet moment that if he trained hard enough he could make the Olympic team four years later.

He did just that and left London in July, 1932, bound for Los Angeles. The trip, which was by sea and included a stop in Canada, took three weeks.

It was not long before he was standing on the winners' rostrum at the Pasadena Bowl, and he remembers the moment vividly.

"I was pleased with a bronze medal but I cannot say I was anywhere near to tears. I had experienced success quite often in national competitions and coming



● OLYMPIC HEROES . . . Bill Harvell, right, and Charles Holland as they were at L.A. in 1932.

third is really the consolation prize," he said.

Times might be quicker and distances greater in sport these days, but the will to win is still the same.

It was that which helped Bill through probably the most punishing cycling test of his life on May Day last year.

Most cherished

He was cycling at Clarence Pier and fancied going to Bognor for breakfast. He decided to carry on to Brighton, and then spent six hours riding all the way back to Portsmouth into the teeth of a force nine gale.

"I forced myself and suffered agonies in silence afterwards," he said.

Bill lives in a flat surrounded by mementos of his glittering career. Among the most cherished are his Olympic bronze and a British Empire Games medal, saved from the 1974 blaze which destroyed the Hilssea bicycle shop he had run for 37 years.



● STILL KEEN . . . after years in the saddle Bill Harvell keeps the wheels turning.



● THEY'RE MINE . . . proof of Bill Harvell's triumphs.

Things to make you smile!!!!

By Anonymous

Customer: "I've been ringing 0800 2100 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?"
Operator: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"
Customer: "It was on the door to the Travel Centre".
Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours".

Samsung Electronics

Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"
Operator: "I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about".
Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"
Operator: "I think you mean the telephone point on the wall".

RAC Motoring Services

Caller "Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?"
Operator: "Doesn't the product name give you a clue?"

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven,

Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?"
Caller: "Yes. That's what it says on the label "Woven in Scotland".

Tech Support: "OK, In the bottom left hand side of the screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?"
Customer: "Wow, How can you see my screen from there?"

POSTBAG

A quiet one this month, but there were lots of Christmas cards.
Did you sing the Hampshire Road Club 12 days of Christmas? (more than once?)

One correction needed for an article last month. Bert's frame that he once owned was a Hetchins. He correctly put it in his article, but between his article, my fingers and the spell checker on the computer, it read Hutchins. Sorry Bert.

Valerie reminds us that the 2010 CTT Handbook is now available for people interested in riding Open Events locally and around the country. The details are as follows:

- a) Handbook cost is £8 including postage and packing.
- b) If you buy 10 or more it could be ordered for £7.50 per book, but we don't generally get 10 or more requested often. This saving closes on 31st Jan 2010
- c) A handbook and DVD of the 2009 Championship /TT Series is £11 including postage and packing. Make your cheques payable to "Cycling Time Trials"

Send your order to:- Cycling Time Trials Handbooks, 1 Pinfold Court, Sherburn in Elmet. LS25 6LD.
Also write your name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS on a piece of paper and enclose it with your cheque.

A reminder again from Valerie, Club subs for 2010 are held at last years prices (p5 of the 2009 handbook). In summary: Racing Senior (over 18) first claim £15, Senior second claim £10, Junior £8.50, Non racing £10, Family Membership £17. For a posted newsletter add £3 to your subs. Get the cash into Valerie asap

Editors Ramblings

There was a lot of competition in the club for 2009. Lets hope the competition is even stiffer in 2010. Club nights turning into Pub nights kept local businesses going too. We have some scores to settle in the PTTL finishing at the bottom last year, we must be able to better that, surely! We do have some members coming out of retirement to compete this year so lots to look out for in the results sheets. Above all, we all need to keep our eyes open when out on the road, and always expect the unexpected. Make a resolution and send me an article or photograph. for 2010.

The Editor

Newsletter Part 2

EVENTS TO ENTER

If you hear of races and events where other HRC riders are going to be, then do let me know and I'll feature it here. You may find you will have others interested to participate as well.

The IOW Randonee is to be held in 2010 on Sunday May 2nd (the Bank Holiday Weekend)

The Tuesday evening club rides to get you ready for the Time Trial Season, will be starting again when there is a bit of evening light. Look out for more messages around the time the clocks go forward! The Famous Five would like a bit more company too.....

Track riding on Wednesday nights using Road Bikes: 7.30pm to 8.30pm £2.50

Mountbatten Centre floodlit outdoor track, Portsmouth. Winter training ride with the main group or ride laps on your own above the 'blue line' on the outside. Run by Tim Knight.

Track riding on Friday nights using Road Bikes: 6.30pm to 7.30pm, £3 adults, childrens prices much less! Mountbatten Centre floodlit outdoor track, Portsmouth.

All abilities welcome. Group cycling single file echelon practise, with sprinting, pacing, etc. and lots of activities to mix it up and make it fun. Run by Guy Watson of the iteam.

Then **Track riding on Friday nights using Fixed gear Bikes: 7.30pm to 8.30pm**, (using either your own or ones for hire at the track). You may even see the moped pacing the riders!



No more publicity!, Paparazzi hassle a HRC prize winner