

Newbury Road Club and the History of Cycling in and around Newbury

“Newbury Road Club”

1990 – 1999

David E. Portwood and Brian Tate



“On Your Bike Sunday!”

The 1990's were a very busy time for Newbury Road Club. In particular there was a huge push to encourage members to road race. The Showground was used for much of the decade for criteriums during the summer months, indeed well into the next decade also. The club promoted a number of road races on local roads for senior and veteran cyclists and to cap it a number of riders obtained their first category licences for their efforts, a significant achievement. Bob Lyle deserves a huge vote of thanks for his work to facilitate these activities.

The club also saw the emergence of a new newsletter in 1992, edited by Bob, as well as the move to digitalisation later in the decade when “Chainmail” became electronic. Unfortunately, most of the early paper copies have been lost – please contact the club if you have any copy – but electronic copies started in late 1998 and provide a real insight into the club. A scanned copy from 1994 is attached in the Appendix. The club also had its first web

site in 1998!

The club was also busy time trialing – the club had a “reputation” as a time trialing club. However, road racing, audaxes, charity rides and youth hostel weekends filled the calendar as well as the regular Sunday runs over the winter.



New club jersey on display in the club room, Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall, 1993

Newbury “Cycling Sunday”

September 1996 club member and reporter Sara Bartlett gave an update, in the Newbury Weekly News, of the first annual “Cycling Sunday” in Newbury. The centre of Newbury was transformed into an “idyllic car-free zone for six hours”. It was estimated that more than 1,000 people turned up to the event. Newbury Mayor, Mr. Garry Poulson said he was delighted with the response and wanted to stage the event again in 1997. The event was tied into the council’s aims to encourage more people to use their bikes. People took part in obstacle races and a slow bicycle race, and a bike auction which raised over £800. Local cycle shops and clubs took part, as well as other organisations promoting cycle touring and cycle safety. Thames Valley Police spent the day post-coding bicycles and MP David Rendel turned up on a thirty-year-old three-speed bicycle. The event raised more than £1,000 for charity.



Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall, Friday evenings with Arthur Frost behind the counter making tea and Bob Lyle

The report the following year in the Newbury Weekly News, 25th September 1997, previewed the second event which would be taking place the next weekend. The “second” annual Cycling Sunday was once again an opportunity to transform the centre of Newbury into a car-free zone for four hours. The Market Place, Mansion House Street and Wharf Street were closed to traffic. The event, organised by Newbury District Council, helped further their efforts to encourage safer cycling and promote the benefits of using bicycles as a major form of transport.

However, by 1998 the club had “lost” contact with the local council and assumed that no Cycle Day would be happening that year. It was reported that this was a shame as the turnout in previous years had been good generating a lot of interest in cycling.

Campaigning for Cyclists Rights



Cyclists in Northbrook Street (Newbury Weekly News 3rd October 1996)

Around 60 campaigning cyclists set off from the Robin Hood pub, to make three circuits of the town, brought Newbury to a halt in October 1996, when on their first lap one of the demonstrators was involved in a collision with a car on the Sainsbury's roundabout! The rider was unhurt, but their rear wheel was damaged. The event was allowed to continue to the marketplace for a second time when Cycle-it coordinator, Laurie Lockwood, was confronted by four policemen who were worried about the safety of the participants. After assurance that all children had accompanying parents, the cyclists were allowed to finish their third lap.

Canal Charges Sunk? – Taken from “Chainmail” March 1999

“There is positive news for those wanting to cycle along the Kennet and Avon canal. A recent boost in Government funding for the canal may be enough for British Waterways to drop their controversial charges for cyclists using the towpath. An article in the CTC magazine alluded to this and the transport secretary John Prescott was recently seen on T.V. in Newbury as the funding was announced. At present the charges are still in place but watch out for further developments.”

Time Trial Reports

The first time trial of 1990, the hilly “17” mile event, was won by Brian Tate in 47:57, in far from ideal conditions, on the course starting from Cold Ash. Tate was also the quickest club rider in the Circuit of Poole Harbour time trial with a time of 1:17:56 beating Steve Oxley with 1:20:42. Tate, obviously on good early season form, recorded a time of 26:19 in the club's first 10-mile time trial of the season. He then recorded a time of 1:05:27 in the Oxonian C.C. “25” where again he was the quickest club rider. Tate was again quickest in the club “10” which started on the A4 and turned at a lay-by west of the “Klondike Transport Café” (which closed in 2004), with a time of 25:02; a total of fourteen riders took

part. The end of April '90 and once again Tate was showing his continuing form when in recorded 1:3:24 in Western TTA 25-mile time trial and won the club's 10 with a time of 25:13.



Steve Oxley in the Bath Hilly "50" (Photo Lynn Portwood)

Not to be outdone, Hazel Percival was fastest lady in the Harlequins C.C. 25-mile time trial on the A4 with a time of 1:11:43. However, by mid-June Percival broke the club ladies' record with a time of 1:04:19 in the Didcot Phoenix event on the A34.

Brain Tate was beaten into second place in the Wednesday evening "10" at the end of April when he was beaten by Leo Gipson with a time of 22:36, Tate recorded 24:41 for second place. A total of twenty-five riders took part in the evening ride.

It was a close call for the Jubilee Trophy, run in conjunction with the Bath Road Hilly "50" on the Bradfield-Wantage course, when Brain Tate recorded 2:29:28 beating Steve Oxley with 2:30:56 with eight club riders taking part.

Brian Tate and Mike Gaskin had a dead heat in the evening "10" on the Hungerford course in mid-May '90 with 25:20 and there was also a dead heat for third with Mark James and Richard Bevan recording 25:56.

Tate finished off his early season by winning the club 50 championship in 2:17:08, having captured the 25, 30 and 50-mile titles in a stunning start to 1990.

Mid-June and Tate was still flying, winning the Wednesday evening "25" by more than five minutes, recording a time of 1:03:06, with Steve Oxley second on 1:08:51. Hazel Percival also showed she was riding well recording 1:10:52 and followed that up with a "30" in the Bristol R.C. event recording a creditable time of 1:25:39.

Age is no boundary for Road Club riders, and at the start of July '90, super veteran and septuagenarian, Bill Battle recorded 1:10:08 in his first 25 mile time trial for 40 years in the Didcot Phoenix event on the A34, starting at West Ilsley, Steve Hawkes was the fastest Newbury rider with 59:32 and Brian Tate recorded a time of 59:36 including a slight delay to the ride when his chain came off!

By the end of July 1990, and Dave Martin was now in cracking form when he won the Wednesday evening "10" with a time of 22:32 from Richard Bevan in 24:09; Tate was not riding.

The traditional Boxing Day 10-mile time trial in 1990 had six brave souls. Brian Harper was the winner in 30:47 with youngster Mark Letters 10 seconds slower. One of the very few occasions when a rider would win a club 10-mile time trial in outside of 30 minutes!

The New Year and New Season started well for Brian Tate when he won the 17-mile hilly time trial starting in Cold Ash, in March 1991, the course passing through Bucklebury and Hermitage. Tate produced a time of 49:43 finishing 20s ahead of second placed Chris Hobson with youngster Mark Letters in third. Sometimes the best laid plans don't work, and Brian Hastings finished in 78:04 having gone off course and ending up in Pangbourne!

The first 10-mile time trial of the 1991 season was again won by Tate with a time of 26:19 but only a handful of seconds quicker than Mark James and Chris Hobson in second and third place respectively. A total of nineteen riders turned up at the start line, which bode well for the forthcoming season.

Close racing seems to be the order of the day in 1991, and in the second hilly 17-mile event Chris Hobson won in 48:54 beating Steve Oxley by a slim 5 seconds.

American cyclist Randy Keane, who was based at Greenham Common air base, was an accomplished cyclist and early 1991 was winning club time trials, by the start of April he had won his third 10-mile time trial and recorded a time of 24:29. Mark James was only 13 seconds behind in second spot.

Tate and Lyle out in front

April 1991 and the "Tate and Lyle Show" was in full swing. Bob Lyle was best Newbury finisher in the Swindon Road Club 10-mile time trial in 28 minutes, ahead of Bill Battle, Hazel Percival and Arthur Frost; Brian Tate was the club fastest finisher in the Bournemouth Jubilee 25-mile time trial with 1:05:32. (not quite sure how long the press secretary (Bob Lyle) had been waiting to post the headline!). Although it was not all good news for Bob Lyle as two weeks later in the Harlequin 25, he was pushed off his bike by the starter and struggled to get his legs to work after that.

The club evening 10-mile time trial seemed to show Dave Martin back to winning form with

a sub 24-minute ride to win from a field of 27 riders.

Mid-May 1991 and Tom Cox beat the hour in the club evening 25-mile time trial with a time of 58:57 ahead of Randy Keane who recorded 1:01:21. The ride of the day though belonged to seventy year old Bill Battle who completed the course in 1:08:51; not content he then improved with a time of 1:06:16 in the Hitchin Nomads 25-mile trial only two minutes off his personal best!

Time trialing was definitely king in road club's world of cycling, but the sport was genuinely very accessible, locally and financially. However, Brian Tate must have been ruining his chain coming off and getting jammed between the block and wheel although still recording a time of 1:00:08 in the Didcot Phoenix 25-mile event, which would almost certainly have been a sub-hour ride but for his misfortune!

Also, in June 1991, Leo Gipson was showing who was the quickest in the club time trials on the A4 in Aldermaston, recording a winning time of 23:06, beating Brian Tate by nearly a minute and the rest of the field by two minutes.

Veteran Bill Battle was clearly one of those fair-weather cyclists and recorded a time of 1:10:55 in the West London C.A. 25-mile event on the A34. The rain had not deterred him from starting, but whilst returning to Newbury the rain stopped and an about turn meant he was still on time at the start line avoiding a penalty. Due to the weather conditions, perhaps not surprisingly there were a large number of non-starters but not Battle on this occasion! Towards the end of June 1991 Battle decided to ride his first 50-time trial since 1948 recording a time of 2:29:06 on the A31 from Cadnam to Bournemouth.

Technology has always been at the forefront of the time triallists mind. So, it was at the start of July 1991 when Dave Martin raced in the evening 10-mile time trial on an imported wheel from America, recording a time of 22:13 on the A4 at Aldermaston. Although not specified presumably this was an early version of an "aerodynamic" wheel. Brian Tate on the other hand resorted to slightly more traditional methods of going quicker by racing on a silk tyre, normally used on velodromes, which backfired when it exploded, forcing him to retire from the Didcot Phoenix 25-mile time trial.

Super veteran Bill Battle put in another great ride in the Farnborough and Camberley C.C. 10-mile time trial in July and came a creditable fourth place in the veteran's section. Battle had a 30s late start but beat his standard time by nearly five minutes. Battle would also be third on standard in the Newbury Road Club Open 25-mile event with a massive beating of the standard time by 11minutes 32s, recording an actual time of 1:22:18. Nearly 120 riders took part in the event on the Bath Road. The winner was R.H. Thorne of the Polytechnic C.C, with 56:38, the fastest Newbury rider Mark James in 1:01:29.

At the end of July, Brian Tate had a trouble-free ride in the West London C.A. event recording a personal best time a time of 57:46.

Tate recorded a personal best time of 57 mins 46 secs. Other NRC times were Steve Oxley 1.01:10, S. Hawkes 1.02:12, Pete Collins 1.02:38, Ian May 1.03:50 (personal best), Bob Lyle 1.04:03, Yorry Morgan 1.06.06 and Brian Copas 1.11.30.

Bill Battle won the prize for fastest "Super Veteran" in the Archer Road Club 10-mile time trial in July on the A4 west of Maidenhead with a time of 27:03.

Tate was on great form in the Ben Owen Memorial 10-mile time trial, held at Didcot at the end of July 1991, when he recorded 22:51 and a personal best on yet another trouble-free ride. Tate was beaten earlier in the week in the club 10 by Mark James. James recorded 23:45 beating Tate by a handful of seconds, who recorded 24:08. However, Tate recorded another personal best in the Didcot Phoenix 10-mile time trial with 22:22 on a great evening which also saw, Bob Lyle, 24:05, Mark Letters, 24:51, and Bill Battle, 25:06, recording personal best times.

August 1991 and Steve Oxley obviously shrugged off the miles from his Lands' End to John O'Groats ride earlier in the month to take the bronze medal in the club "10" championship with 25.06 from Brian Tate who took the gold with 24.12 and Ray McConkey who took silver in 25.05 – so close again! In the junior championship Chris Hobson won with a time of 24.18 which would have won silver in the senior race. The mountain bike "10" was won by Rob Taylor in 26.34 which was quicker than many in the senior race.

The final evening "10" of the season in September was clearly an "alternative" event run in three sections. The "Tradesman's Bike Section" was won by Pete Close on a Post Office bicycle with front carrier in 28.05 with Dennis Hubbard on a 1957 BSA and Steve Chandler on a 1932 Hopper cycle with carrier and parcels, both rode wearing butchers' aprons as a two-up in 33.42. Lastly, S. McWilliams rode a recumbent in 28.09. The mountain bike section was won by Rob Taylor in 26.06, a best time. The main event was won by Mathew Harper with a time of 23.03.

Hill Climb Championships

In 1991 the club hill climb championship was held on Spring Hill (previously known as Elmdown Hill) near Ramsbury. The event was won in a time of 1:54.1 by Alistair Masson from Mark Stubbs, 1:56.6 and Randy Keane 1:57.2.



TOP of the hill: Alastair Maxson.



SECOND PLACED Mark Stubbs.



RANDY KEANE peddles uphill into third place.

Newbury Weekly News, 10th October 1991; Images©the owner

Jones has a Boxing Day Break!

Boxing Day 1991 and the traditional holiday 10-mile time trial was won by Tom Cox in 25.18 ahead of Randy Keane in second place, and Club Captain Dave Jones with a broken arm, from an incident two weeks previously, finishing in a creditable 32.32.

First Club "10" of 1992

The first club 10-mile time trial of 1992 was won by Mark James on the Marsh Benham-Hungerford course in a time of 26.01 on the second Saturday in March. Mark Letters put his cyclo-cross form to good use with a solid third place in 27.54. Club spirit came through when Les Bowman punctured before the start and rode Ian May's bike to a time of 28.25.

The early season Hilly "17" in March 1992 was won by Randy Keane in a time of 45.21. The course started in Cold Ash and covered the same course also used in road racing events going through Bradfield, Yattendon and Hermitage. There were sixteen competitors. Two weeks later in March the second Hilly was won by Chris Hobson in a time of 47.57.

The first club evening "10" in 1992 held in April was won by Tom Cox in 23.50; the field was limited to twenty riders.



Sunday 22nd March, Les Bowman and Dave Portwood rode the Border C. A. two-up 20-mile time trial near Farnham in a time of 1:00.45. (photo Lynn Portwood)

Forty Years for Frost!

Evening time trials were well underway in 1992, when at the end of April Arthur Frost hit a significant milestone. Frost rode the Bath Hilly 50-mile time trial for the 40th time! He first rode the event in 1952 and his best time, the following year, was 2:19.19 riding a bike with a fixed wheel as was customary in the day. The winner in 1952 was B. Weatherill in 2:10.04, nine minutes faster. In 1992 Frost recorded a time of 3:09.12 which was sixty minutes behind the winner Nick Gardner. Frost was joined by eight other intrepid club members the quickest of which was Randy Keane who recorded 2:26.01, slower than Frosts' ride in 1953 when he rode fixed!

Battle Breaks Age Records

In May 1992, Bill Battle won a couple of prizes in the Veteran Time Trials Association (VTTA) 10- and 25-mile time trials. Battle recorded a time of 1:10.41 and received a plaque for breaking the Age Records for a seventy-year-old at 10-miles, 25.03 and 25-miles at 1:06.16.

Boardman Breaks 25-mile Competition Record

When Arthur Frost rode the High Wycombe Wheelers 25-mile time trial on the H25/13B, he probably didn't realise that Chris Boardman, later to win gold in the pursuit at the Barcelona Olympics, broke competition record with a time of 47.19, over 31 m.p.h. Arthur Frost rode the same event finishing in a time of 1:13.29.

Tate Wins 25-Mile Championship – only just!

In 1992 Brian Tate had five seconds in hand over second placed Alistair Masson to win the club championship with a time of 1:02:54. Masson won the Junior title with 1:02:59. Mark Letters was third in 1:06.51 and Sue Burnay became the ladies champion in 1:25.06.

Hobson Sets New Junior 25 Record

Chris Hobson set a new club Junior 25-mile time trial record with a time of 59.15, his first time under the hour, in the West London C.A. 25 in June 1992.

Battle Battles to a New Record

Bill Battle recorded another new record for a 71-year-old in the V.T.T.A. West Region 30-mile time trial. Battle recorded a time of 1:23.08. The event held on the A34 from Didcot to South Hinksey also saw Brian Tate record 1:13.14, who was quickest of Newbury Road Club riders.

And Battle Battles to the Top

Bill Battle showed good form in August 1992 when he once again won the top Veterans prize in the Alton C.C. 25-mile time trial. Battle's time of 1:09.52 beat his age standard by 13.15 to give him the second successive victory in the event. John Burbage also beat his standard by 8.04 with 1:08.33 and Arthur Frost was 10s better than his standard time with 1:16.27.

Battle Records a Personal Best!

It was probably only a matter of time, when in August 1992, 71-year-old Bill Battle would record a new personal best over 10-miles in the Didcot Phoenix evening event on the A34. Battle recorded a time of 24.47, also recording a best time was Bob Lyle with 22.52, while Mark Letters recorded a highly creditable time of 24.01.

May is Best-All rounder

Ian May recorded a new personal best in a 50-mile time trial promoted by the Metropolitan Police at Crowmarsh with 2.12:54 to clinch the club best all-rounder trophy of 1992 from Brian Tate.

First Rider Home...

The first 10-mile time trial of 1993 in March was won by Leo Gibson with a time of 24:39 from Ray Wilson with 25:42. Over twenty riders started which would bode well for the forthcoming time trial season.

Hilly Start for Some...

Mark James won the "Brian Tate 17-mile trophy" held on the hilly course at Bucklebury, the same circuit used by the road racing brigade. James finished in 46 minutes, ahead of Alan Ringrose and Stuart Towler in third.

Other times: Arthur Frost 57.35 - Brian Topas 57.13 - Luke Hastings 55.23 - Terry Baker 57.37 - Les Bowman 49.46 - Steve Oxley 48.38 - Peter Jarvis 50.57 - Chris Birch 48.06 - Bill Battle 55.19 - Dave Jones 53.38 - Dave Portwood 49.46 - Brian Tate 51.54 - Dave Gurnett 58.42 - A. Morris 53.13 - Dave Canning 55.25 - Fred Frankel 69.03.

Speedy Leo Wins Again...

Fifty-two-year-old Leo Gipson showed the younger riders how it was done when he recorded a time of 22:31 in the club evening 10-mile time trial in April 1993, once again beating Tom Cox who produced a time of 23:04. Time trialing was proving popular when nearly 40 riders turned up for the evening race.

Dangerous Sport this Time Trialing

There have been several reports over the years of incidents sadly affecting Newbury riders, and in the West London C.A. 50 it was Pete Collins who was blown off his bike from the draft of a passing lorry in May 1993. Brian Tate and Bill Battle both completed the course.

Battle Breaks Records Again!

Seventy-two-year-old Bill Battle broke the West of England record for 50-miles in June 1993 in the Sussex C.A. event at Bognor putting in a time of 2:22.57. Up the road, Bob Lyle, Ian May and Arthur Frost raced in the Oxford "50" and recorded times of 2:09.05, 2:15.25 and 2:33.09. Battle would record a time later in June of 2:22.33 in the Icknield "50", another age record. In July Battle would break the record for 100 miles in the Bath Road 100, with a time of 5:00.02, taking 28 minutes of the record for a 72-year-old.

Gipson Scores Memorable Double

In June 1993, Leo Gipson won the club 25-mile championship and then broke the club 10-mile record. Gipson was the only rider inside the hour in the "25" when he won with a time of 57.25 from Matt Jones with 1:1.39 and Lyn Taylor in 1:1.40. Gipson then recorded a fantastic time of 20.42 to set a new club record and in the same event Les Bowman and Bill Battle recorded times of 24.39 and 24.48 respectively.

And a Triple...

Leo Gipson picked up his third title of the year when he won the club's 30-mile time trial championship with a time of 1:08.41 from Lyn Taylor with 1:12.05 and Kevin Harvey in 1:13.59.

Gipson Breaks Hungerford Record

The Newbury to Hungerford and back record had previously been set in the 1960's when Pete Tanner had set a record time of 40.58. The record originally set back in 1926 by Eddie Bance with 48.03. The latest club member to break the record was Leo Gipson who attacked the 17-mile place-to-place record with a time of 38.47, taking over two minutes off the previous best and virtually 10 minutes faster than Eddie Bance.

Gipson takes Club 10 Championship

August 1993 and the club "10" championship was held on the Newbury-Hungerford course. A strong headwind saw riders struggle to beat 20 m.p.h. for the outward leg but fly back in excess of 30 m.p.h. on the return. Leo Gipson was quickest in 23.23 from Kevin Harvey and Mat Jones in 24.05 and 24.21 respectively. The quickest junior was Mark Letters getting the

edge over Martyn Harris with 25.49. Sue Burnay won the Ladies Trophy with 30.06.

Gipson Breaks Winchester Record

Gordon Haller had set the Newbury to Winchester and back record in 1968 with a time of 2:14.55. So it was in September 1993 that Leo Gipson continued his campaign of place-to-place records. Gipson started at the Robin Hood roundabout and raced south on the A34 to the Three Maids Roundabout and into central Winchester getting to the turn in 57.58. He returned in 1:02.48 for a total time of 2:00.46, an average speed of just under 25 m.p.h. for the fifty miles.

Frost Rides Bath Hilly "50" Once More

Arthur Frost competed in his 42nd Bath Hilly "50" race in 1994 held on the large circuit starting at Bradfield and taking in Wantage, Great Shefford and Hermitage before finishing in Bradfield. The circuit included the feared climb of Workhouse Hill. Frost had competed in every edition to date. Whilst he wasn't competitive, completing every edition was an achievement in itself. It was Stuart Towler who was the quickest club rider in 2:17.19 followed by Alan Ringrose in 2:27.00. Frost came in in 3:07.20.



Alan Ringrose and Stuart Towler Climb Workhouse Hill (Photo Lynn Portwood)



Arthur Frost Climbing Workhouse Hill for the 42nd time (Photo Lynn Portwood)

Club Promotes Border C.A. "25"

As well as promoting the club's own events, Newbury Road Club also promoted the Border C.A. open "25" on the Bath Road in May 1994. The race was won by Neil Coventry in 56.01. The quickest club rider was Pete Eles in 1:04.15.

The club also held the first "25" on a new course east of Thatcham, but the wind wasn't playing ball, so times were a little slow(!), Tom Cox winning in 59.29.

Gipson Retains 25-mile Championship and More

With a sub-hour ride, it was Leo Gipson who retained his club "25" title in 59.16 from Lyn Taylor and Pete Eeles in June 1994. Showing great form, he followed this up with a third place in the VTTA National Championship 10-mile event near Sevenoaks with a time of 22:06 and was also equal fourth on an age-related basis.

Gipson also broke the club "50" mile time trial record with 1:56.58 taking 21 seconds off the record previously set by Dave Martin in 1989 with 1:57.19.

Hastings and Voller Set Record Times

The Burn's Handicap 25-mile Championship was held mid-June 1994. Luke Hastings had been putting in some excellent rides in the Showground races when he turned his hand to time trialing and broke the Juvenile 25-mile record, setting an actual time of 1:06.28. Emily Voller set a Juvenile ladies record with 1:18.48 and she also lifted the Handicap Trophy with

an adjusted time of 50.58 from Pete Eeles in 52.20 and her father Cliff Voller third with 52.29 to make it a family affair.

Tough “30” Championships

Weather conditions made times slower than expected in the 1994 “30” mile championship. Lyn Taylor bucked the conditions and ended up winning the race by 2 ½ minutes with a time of 1:13.41. Kevin Harvey was second and Pete Eeles third in 1:16.09 and 1:17.04 respectively.

Open “10” and “25” Time Trial

In July 1994 the open time trial saw 120 riders competing. Neil Simpson from Banbury was quickest in 59 minutes exactly. The quickest Newbury rider was Pete Eeles in 1:03.39. The clubs last open event in August 1994 was a “10” on the Newbury to Hungerford course, which was won by Dave Redding, Leo R.C. in 20.17. Pete Eeles was again the quickest club rider in 22.46 from Cliff Voller in 24.29 and Brian Tate closely behind in third in 24.36.

Gipson has a Puncture!

Leo Gipson had all but sealed the 50-mile time trial championship when he punctured in the club title race in August 1994 on the A4 course between Newbury and Marlborough but was beaten by Kevin Harvey. Harvey recorded a personal best in 2:10.48 with Lyn Taylor second in 2:12.28 and Brian Tate third in 2:14.30. Including Gipson there were twelve club men and women competing for the titles.

Battle gets Another Age Record

Seventy-two-year-old Bill Battle never stops and in August 1994 set another record over 25-miles with 1:06.41 in the Western VTTA event.

Gipson Wins Again!

The Bank Holiday in August saw Road Club members compete for the club 10-mile Championships, and it was Leo Gipson and Sue Burnay who won the men’s and ladies 10 titles. Mark Brazendale and Emily Voller won the Junior and Juvenile races. Gipson recorded a time of 23.32 with Ray Wilson second and Pete Eeles third in 24.29 and 24.31 respectively – it couldn’t have been closer for the silver and bronze, medals. Burnay recorded 31.21, six seconds quicker than Emily Voller to win the women’s title.

Ringrose is King of the Hills!

The year 1994 will go down as the year when Alan Ringrose and Stewart Towler battled for the club road titles, and the Hill Climb Championship was no different. In October the title was decided on two climbs of Coombe Gibbet. The first climb from the Hungerford direction saw Ringrose beat Towler, the second climb from the Inkpen direction saw Ringrose quickest again, finally beating Towler by just 6 seconds! Third was Pete Eeles a minute behind.

Final Standings: 1 Alan Ringrose 5 mins 20.9 secs; 2 Stewart Towler 5: 26.7; 3 Peter Eales 6:21.7; 4 John Lafford 7:12.1; 5 Paul Dunk 7:39; 6 Luke Hastings 7:47.2; 7 Cliff Voller 8:09.1; 8 Dave Portwood 8:52.5.

Bucklebury Cup Starts Season

The 1995 season got off to a flying start mid-March with the Bucklebury Cup Hilly "17" which saw a victory for Stewart Towler, who retained the trophy, in a time of 43.43. Second place was Kevin Harvey 78 seconds behind, and Alan Ringrose claimed third with 45.03.

The second event of the series at the end of March saw Pete Eeles win with a time of 48.03. Eeles had crashed on the same course two weeks earlier but had clearly recovered. Second was Brian Tate in 50.20 and Steve Oxley was third in 51.32.

Bath Hilly "50" Race 1995

The Bath Hilly race at the end of April 1995, also incorporated Newbury Road Club's "Hilly-50" Championship. Club President was racing again for the 42nd time, according to the Newbury Weekly News, having only failed to start a couple of times since the war! Lyn Taylor was the quickest club member with 2:35.23, Arthur put in a solid performance with 3:09.49.

The evening "10" races were in full swing by the end of April and the latest event saw Alistair Masson put in a fine performance to win in 22.45, from Tom Cox and Lyn Taylor who recorded 23.07 and 24.23 respectively.

Club "50" Team Record Broken

Newbury Road Club team record for 50-miles was broken on three occasions in the West London C.A. event at Didcot on the A34 in July 1995. Firstly, the record fell to Ward, Tate and Jones, then Tate, Jones and Taylor and finally Taylor, Tate and Lyle with a combined time of 6:10.24. Individual times were Lyn Taylor 2:00.30, Bob Lyle 2:04.51, Brian Tate 2:05.03, Dave Jones 2:06.17, Phil Ward 2:10.48, Cliff Voller 2:11.07 and Arthur Frost 2:32.34.

Jones wins First Race in a Decade!

In May 1995 and Dave Jones, at a mere sixty-two, won his first club 10-mile time trial in more than a decade, when he produced a time of 25.20 pushing fifty-two-year-old Brian Tate into second place in 25.54. Many of the "younger" riders were off on their mountain bikes, but a phenomenal ride none-the-less. Gary Clarke was quickest on mountain bike in 26.08.

Club "25" Records Broken

Mid-June 1995 and the club 25-mile time trial on the Woolhampton course proved a happy hunting ground. The top three were all under the hour, Tom Cox 57.06, Lyn Taylor 58.43 and Kevin Harvey 59.15, the latter two recording personal bests. More significantly though, Jessica Harrison recorded a best time of 1:04.06 which set a new club record which would remain until 2011. Emily Voller recorded a time of 1:13.05 to also set an under 16 girls club record. Voller would break the record again in 1996 and this still stands as the club record

in 2025! It was a great evening with twelve members recording personal best times.

Jones Breaks the Hour!!!

It was June 1995, and Dave Jones had been racing for 47 years when he achieved a lifetime ambition of breaking the hour for 25 miles. His time of 58.55 beat his previous best by two minutes. In the same event on the A34 at Didcot Brian Copas also recorded a personal best of 1:01.16.



Dave Jones, taken in 2003 (image©the owner)

Personal Bests for all (Well Nearly!)

The Ben Owen "10", held at Didcot at the end of July 1995 provided an opportunity for riders to go above and beyond setting a new club team record as well as a number of club riders securing personal bests. Stewart Towler, 21.57, Pete Eeles, 22.14, Lyn Taylor, 22.27, and Alan Ringrose, 22.43 all secured personal bests, with Dave Jones and Brian Copas producing times of 22.59 and 26.24 respectively.

Again, at Didcot, club riders produced their best times in the SWLC 50-mile time trial, Pete Eeles, 2:02.29, Brian Tate 2:03.10, Ray Wilson 2:05.25, Cliff Voller, 2:07.04, Phil Ward 2:10.02 and Arthur Frost 2:32.34.

Early August 1995 and Lyn Taylor "smashes" the club's 100-mile record by more than three

minutes. Taylor broke his own record setting a new time of 4:15.31 in the Westerley R.C. 100, once again at Didcot. Together with Brian Tate, 4:28.37, Cliff Voller, 4:36.52 and Phil Ward 4:43.35, they set a new team record, which had stood since 1960, with a combined time for the top three counters of 13 hours 21 minutes.

Taylor Wins BAR

Lyn Taylor won his third club trophy in as many weeks in '95 sealing it with the 10-mile trophy, adding it to the 50- and 100-mile championships. In so doing he had virtually assured himself of the club best all-rounder title. In the 10-mile championship Taylor recorded a time of 22.42 with Stewart Towler second with 22.50 and Gary Clarke in third with 23.14.

Jacobs – A New Star in 1996

In 1996 Newbury Road Club had a new rider impressing with his times. At the end of April Road Club promoted the Border C.A. 25-mile time trial at Woolhampton. Excellent conditions lead to sub-hour times for Ian Jacobs and Alan Ringrose. This was only the second time trial at this distance for Jacobs who achieved what many would take years to do, recording 59.11 for the blue-ribbon distance. Ringrose was only a fraction slower and recorded 59.40.

Jacobs in his first season with the club, put in a storming ride at the end of May when he reduced his 25-mile time by 38s to record a time of 58.35 in a Reading C.C. event held on the A4 at Aldermaston. For this ride he used a bike called "The Arrow" which used small wheels and narrow tubing to reduce wind drag.

At the end of June 1996, the club 25-mile time trial had the top five riders breaking the hour, with Jacobs, going even faster, with a time of 57.34. Ian Lakey came in second with 57.38, Alan Ringrose 58.00, Tom Cox, 58.25 and Pete Eeles 59.36, the club star riders all getting under the hour.

There was a battle of the two "Ian's" in the club 30-mile time trial at the end of June. The course used to the west of Newbury produced several personal best rides, with Cliff Voller taking three minutes off his best time recording 1:14.24 probably the pick. But the battle between the two Ian's resulted in Ian Jacobs producing a great ride with a time of 1:11.02 beating Ian Lakey by 18s. (Lakey had beaten Jacobs by 2s the previous week!). Emily Voller produced a time of 1:12.44 to break the ladies' junior 25-mile record.

Ian's Fastest Again!

It was so close between Ian Jacobs and Ian Lakey in the club 10-mile time trial mid-July 1996. The largest field of the year saw 36 riders turn up to the timekeeper. Jacobs produced a time of 22.31 to beat Lakey by just a few seconds, recorded a time of 22.35.

Jacobs improved his personal best for 25-miles again at the end of June 1996, with another ride on the Woolhampton course recording a time of 57.13 in a Reading C.C. Tuesday evening event.

Club 50 Records Tumble

The end of June 1996 saw junior rider Matthew Melville take a huge 12 minutes off the club junior 50-mile record when he produced a time of 2:01.45. Dave Jones, at 65 years old, not to be out done took three minutes off his personal best with a time of 2:03.42. Together with Ian Jacobs, who improved by nine minutes to record a time 2:0.25, this gave them a new club team record of 6:05.52.

Club 10-Mile Championship Produces Close Result

Always a highly competitive event especially during the 1990's and the 1996 edition was no different. With just eight seconds covering the medals and the fourth and fifth placed riders only a little behind it was a fantastic race. It was Alan Ringrose who came out in top spot with a time of 22.13 from Leo Gipson with 22.16 and Ian Lakey in 22.21. Fourth and fifth places were taken by Peter Eeles and Tom Cox with 22.36 and 22.47 respectively. The junior championship was taken by Matthew Melville in 24.33 and Sue Burnay was the first lady home with 29.15.

Club 50 Records Tumble Again!

Ian Jacobs and Pete Eeles recorded personal best times of 1:57.53 and 1:59.30 respectively in the Middlesex Road Club's 50-mile time trial, and together with junior Matthew Melville who recorded 2:02:01 they set another club team record, getting inside 6 hours, with a cumulative time of 5:59.24.

Jacobs would later smash the club 100-mile record in September 1996, taking 10 minutes off the previous record, in the North Herts C.C. event in Bedfordshire, with a time of 4:05.02, which also gave him the lead in the club BBAR.

And the Club 25-Mile Championship was Closer

Poor weather led to the club 25-mile championships in 1996 being delayed until the start of September. Given the way of the time trial season, it was perhaps no surprise when the gold and silver medal riders were separated by just 2 seconds! Ian Jacobs won with a time of 58.12 with Alan Ringrose those 2 seconds behind. The final place on the podium was taken by Brain Tate with 1:02.53. The junior trophy was won by Matthew Melville in 1:02.33 with younger brother Tim, breaking the under-16 record for the distance with 1:04.11. The lady's prize was won by Emily Voller with a time of 1:17.19.

Tim Melville recorded 1:14.29 in the Border C.A. 30-mile time trial and so by September 1996 held club under 16 records at 10, 25 and 30 miles!

Club Time Trial Season Starts with a bang!

In 1997 the first Saturday 10-mile time trial began at the very start of March. As was typical the westerly wind kept the times in check with the fastest ride of the afternoon going to Tom Cox with 24.04. A dozen riders turned out.

Other early season events saw the Melville brothers, Mathew and Tim, riding the North Hants Hilly 10 and Andover Hilly 10, with a 53.40 in the Corsham Two Up 20-mile event. Not

too shabby this early in the year.

The first trophy event of the 1997 season was the hilly 17-mile time trial on the Bucklebury circuit where Junior Mathew Melville put in a stunning ride to win in a time of 45.10, the quickest time for three years. Garry Clark also put in a great time of 45.42 and must have wondered what he needed to do to win, while Mark Stares, a newcomer in the club came through in fourth place with 48.29.

Battling Bill Battle...

Bill Battle was a phenomenal bike rider (as well as devoting considerable time to running the Reading Track League), and at the age of 76 he broke the West of England 10-mile age record. Bill was returning to racing after two years off, his record-breaking ride was in the Sotonia event run on the Andover course, mid-March. Bill, a former accountant, held the records for the West of England at 10, 25, 50 and 100 miles, and was making a comeback after looking after his wife, Enid, who was recovering from a heart attack. Bill had been training an hour a day in his garage, and his time for 25-miles was only a few seconds slower than his time from 1947 when club champion racing with the Preston Wheelers., recording a time of 27.12. Matthew Melville was the fastest club rider in the event with 23.50.

Fast Man Writes off Bike

The Newbury Weekly News reported mid-March 1997 that Tom Cox, local fast man and club cyclist, had written off his £2000 racing bike when he swerved and hit a pothole on the B4000 at Shefford Woodlands. The Principal Engineer at Babbie, Mr. Mark Edwards, acknowledged that Mr. Cox was making a claim and added that "As soon as we receive his claim form, we will have a look at the hole, and if it is a pothole, we will get it repaired". "We only mark the holes that exceed the county intervention limits. If they are more than 200mm across and 50mm deep, they will be repaired".

Melville Brothers Break Club Records

Easter 1997 brought out the good weather, and Matthew and Tim Melville broke the club junior and juvenile records, setting times of 58.36 and 59.38 respectively. The fastest club rider in the Mid Oxon event was Pete Eeles who recorded 56.18 taking two minutes from his best time.

Mid-May and Matthew Melville recorded two personal best and one club record during one week of informal riding. In the North Hants 25-mile time trial he broke the junior club record with 58.13 on the Alton course, and his brother Tim clocked 59.17.

However, in the club 10-mile time trial, at the end of May, on the course to the west of Hungerford, it was Pete Eeles who set the pace with 23.14 ahead of Matthew Melville who recorded 24.01.

Matthew Melville also put up a super ride in his first 100 mile time trial when he recorded 4:19.34, beating club riders Cliff Voller, 4:37.12 and Iorrey Morgan with 4:56.58. Morgan also came first on handicap. However, they were a long way from the winning time of ex-Tour de France rider Sean Yates who produced a magnificent time of 3:40.18.

Clark Storms to 25-Mile Title

Garry Clark recorded a time of 59.09, a personal best, to win the club championship 25-mile event in June 1997. Clark finished over half a minute ahead of favourites Pete Eeles and Ian Lakey who both produced sub-hour rides with 59.42 and 59.50 respectively. The junior prize was won by Matthew Melville in 1:00.51 and Sue Burnay picked up the ladies' prize in 1:18.31.

More Records Fall

Brian Comber had held the club junior 10-mile record for 31 years when it was broken by Matthew Melville with a time of 22.07, taking 12 seconds off, on the Andover course mid-week in June 1997. Pete Eeles followed this up with taking half a minute off the club 50-mile record with a time of 1:56.14 in the Oxford University event on the A34. In the same event Cliff Voller recorded a best of 2:06.

September 1997 and Mathew Melville smashed the clubs 12-hour record which had stood for twenty years with 254.8 miles, an average speed of 21 mph. Lorry Morgan riding in the Welsh 12-hour race recorded 230 miles which was good enough to win the age-related prize for the "distance".

Not to be showed up by his brother, Tim Melville was putting up a great show in the national junior BBAR competition, whereby mid-September 1997 he was lying third overall. The competition is based on the average speed for 10 miles (x2) and 25 miles (x2), where he had an average speed of 25.9 mph.

At the end of the time trial season for 1997 the Melville brothers, Tim and Matthew, finished 10th and 11th in the Junior British Best All-Rounder Competition, with average speeds for the counting events of 25.92 and 25.86 respectively. At the other end of the age scale, it was Lorry Morgan who won the Western Veterans Best All-Rounder Competition.

Stares Leads Early Season Time Trials

After taking two second places in club time trials, it was Marc Stares who won his first ever club 10-mile race in March 1998 and then followed this up with a win in the last Saturday event, before racing moved to mid-week, on the first occasion winning with a time of 24.24 on the A4, and the second in 24.17, so some consistent racing.

The first evening event saw Stares put in another slightly quicker time of 24.06, but some of the established stars turned out and it was Tom Cox who was quickest in 23.24.

Sara Bartlett recorded a new personal best with 28.06, a 30s improvement, with the aid of an aerodynamic helmet, tri-bars and disc wheels – something commonly seen today. Jeff Garner was a little slower having decided to take a wrong turn and recorded, probably, his slowest ever time in a 10-mile time trial with 49.38!

Frost Completes 46th Bath Hilly 50

The notorious Bath Road Club Hilly 50 had been running for a great many years and in 1998 Arthur Frost completed his 46th event with a time of 3:12.56. An equally impressive ride

came from Mathew Melville, back from university, who came in sixth place with a time of 2:17.56. Phil Dunk also put up an impressive time of 2:23.12.

Border C.A. 25-Mile Time Trial

May 1998 and once again the club promoted a Border C.A. 25-mile time trial. Club rider Ian Lakey put in a great ride to finish in 57.34, placed second overall, Dave Jones was second veteran, Tim Ramsden was second on handicap and Newbury won the team award! Club second and third counters were Cliff Voller, 1:00.52 and Ramsden, 1:03.56.

MTB 10-Mile Time Trial

More than thirty riders took part in the evening 10-mile time trial mid-May 1998, which was combined with the annual multi-terrain bike 10-mile trophy race on a warm but breezy evening. Riders were helped by a northeast breeze on the way out and the hedges on the return sheltered them on the homeward leg. Martyn Harris was the fastest of the MTB'ers in 26.18 from Pete Eeles and Cliff Voller. On road bikes Tom Cox (22.41) was fastest from Ian Lakey (22.46) and Lyn Taylor (23.11). Five women contested the race with Sara Bartlett running out the quickest in 28.06.

Melville Breaks More Records

Whitsun 1998 saw records tumble for Tim Melville. In the Farnham R.C. 10-mile time trial at Bentley he set a new club junior record with 21.37 and then in the North Hants R.C. 25-mile time trial, at Bentley again, he set a club record for a junior of 57.07.

More records went at the start of June 1998 when the club 10-mile team record fell at the Border C.A. 10 event at Alton, with Tim Melville (22.03), Ian Lakey (22.27) and Cliff Voller (23.09) the three counters. They further broke the record again within a week when they took 23 seconds off the record. Melville, perhaps not surprisingly setting a new junior record in the process with 21.36 (well just!).

Weather Makes it Worse

June 1998 and the weather was making it difficult for club events. Only nine took part in the mid-week 10 and there were only two in the club 50-mile championship, a third rider, Cliff Voller unfortunately punctured on the start line and retired, the event was won by Pete Eeles in 2:08.29 with John Lafford second in 2:10.12.



Ian Lakey winning the midweek "25" in 58.30; Image©the owner

Burns Handicap "25" – July 1998

Early July 1998 and, with improving weather, twenty riders lined up for the Burns Handicap "25" time trial, named after former President and Mayor of Newbury C.W. Burns. Ride of the evening was Lyn Taylor, although second on handicap he produced the quickest actual time (59.40). Sara Bartlett (1:14.55), Pete Frost (1:06.29) and Bob Harrison (1:08.57) all produced personal bests.

The club also promoted its open "25", the winner was Greg Hyde from Westbury. Newbury rider John Lafford came in seventh and super veteran Dave Jones was fastest in that category.

More Records Fall

The club had some quick men, and this was obvious with the number of records falling during the '90s. So, it was on Thursday 16th July 1998 when the club team record was broken no fewer than three times on the fast P613 Andover course when seven members rode the Salisbury Road Club event. Finally, the record belonged to Tim and Mathew Melville and Ian Lakey with a total time of 1:04.02, taking a minute from the previous record with Lakey just 9 seconds from taking the club "10" record which had stood for five years.

Times: Ian Lakey 20.51pb; Mathew Melville 21.29pb; Tim Melville 21.42; Cliff Voller 22.10pb; Richard Cowen 22.28pb; Dave Jones 23.19; Brian Copas 24.22.

Newbury Weekly News 23rd July 1998

One year later in May 1999, an item in Chainmail, the club newsletter, detailed a problem with the P613 course. Unfortunately, it had come to light that the course did not comply with "Regulation 31", that the start and finish of a "10" may be no further than 1 mile apart.

Times would be allowed to stand for internal club records but could not be used for entries into open events. The course was adjusted and renumbered P610c and only for use as a club course, not open events.

Back to those Club Events!

The Wednesday evening "10" on the Woolhampton course Mid-July was under "better" conditions, but Lakey was nearly a minute slower, however, Sara Bartlett broke her personal best with 27.56 and Steve Oxley recorded his best time in many years with 25.52.

Ian Lakey would go on to win the club 10-mile championship in August 1998 with a time of 23.36 on a much "slower" evening due to a tough breeze on the outward leg. Sara Bartlett would win the women's race with 29 minutes exactly.

Lorry Breaks Record

In 1997 Road Club's Lorry Morgan won the Western Veterans Best All Rounder Competition, and in August 1998, once again was in championship winning form, breaking the age related 50-mile record in the Belle Vue race at Didcot with a time of 2:11.15. He would need to complete the 100- and 12-hour races to complete his BAR.

The Melville brothers were once again in good form when 19-year-old Mathew took seven seconds off his best for the 100-mile time trial in the Icknield event with 4:11.48, the second quickest time by a club rider. Younger brother Tim finished 19th in the National Junior 25-mile time trial recording 59.24 behind future Tour-de-France winner Bradley Wiggins.

Burch rides back to form

NEWBURY Road Club's 24 mile criterium race at Newbury showground on Thursday resulted in a clear win for Chris Burch.



Gary Clarke does his stint at the front.

He and Garry Clark broke away from the gun and fought fast and furious tactical race over the 30 laps before Burch finally put his foot down with just over three laps to go and pulled clear to win with 10 seconds to spare.

Behind them, Phil Dunk and Ian Lakey conducted their own private battle for third and fourth, with Dunk finally breaking away to claim third – both of them well over a lap behind the flying leaders.

Burch, who rides for Craven Cycles racing Team, has made significant progress in 1998, following a serious cycle crash last year.

He started the season as a fourth category rider and after a good third place at the 54 mile Candover Chase Road in North Hampshire recently, is now just three points away from rising to second category – something he hopes to achieve within the next month.

The full result of the Newbury RC Criterium was: 1. Chris Burch 24 miles in 1:06.51; 2. Garry Clark @ 10 sec; 3. Phil Dunk @ 1 lap; 4.

Ian Lakey @ 1 lap; 5. Cliff Voller @ 2.10ps; 6. Bob Lyle @ 2 laps; 7. John Lafford @ 3 laps; 8. Lee Snook @ 3 laps; 9. Mike Gray @ 4 laps; 10. John Knott @ 5 laps; 11. Sue Burnay @ 5 laps.

The criterium came in the middle of a busy week for Newbury Road Club, which had its best turnout of the year for an evening 10 race on Wednesday. Twenty-six riders took part, including Pete Colaluca and Fred Stonham riding for the first time in several years, and Frank Penhaligan and Lee Snook finishing in 28.37 and 28.55 respectively in their first race.

The results were: Ian Lakey 23.01; Tom Cox 23.59; Cliff Voller 24.09; Vincent Malachanne 24.19; John Lafford 24.22; Richard Cowan 24.38; Phil Dunk 25.07; Tim Ramsden 25.36; Dean Butler 25.53; Simon Harrison 26.10; Dave Jones 26.20; Steve Oxley 26.27; Pete Jarvis 27.12; Bob Lyle 27.16; Mike Gray 27.26; Brian Copas 27.35; Mark James 27.58; Pete Colaluca 28.07; Steve Morris 28.24; Rob Harrison 28.26; Frank



NEWBURY'S John Lafford on his way to third place in the Open 10 mile race.

Penhaligan 28.37; Fred Stonham 28.42; Lee Snook 28.55; Sara Bartlett 29.56; John Knott 30.06; Arthur Frost 32.11.

On Saturday the club promoted its Open 10 mile race on the A4 west of Newbury, which saw Mike Hutchinson from Cambridge University winning in 20.41. Dave Jones won the Vets first prize and Newbury took the team award with Messrs Lakey, Lafford and Voller.

Results: Ian Lakey 22.41; Cliff Voller 23.34; John Lafford 23.52; Richard Cowan 24.51; Dave Jones 25.02; Ray Wilson 25.21; John Burbage 26.14; Martin Ellis 26.25; Sara Bartlett 28.37; Arthur Frost 30.36.

On Sunday, Jeff Garner took second place in the bunch sprint and third overall in the circuit of Bredon 45 mile race near Tewkesbury. Bob Lyle finished 12th, a few metres back.

Club Hill Climb Championships 1998



Phil Dunk powering on to win the 1998 Hill Climb title

New Season – Slow Start

The start of March 1999 signaled the beginning of a new time trial season. Most of the riders had been putting in the miles over the winter and their speed was perhaps a little dented. However, Tom Cox put in a time of 23.32 to beat Ian Lakey by just over a minute with Pete Eeles just a little behind in the first club “10” and the following week it was Lakey with 23.36 beating Cox by 10 seconds. Few riders were getting under 25 minutes.

Also, in March the club saw the traditional Hilly “17” time trial in blustery and wet conditions on the road circuit around Cold Ash and Bucklebury in particularly cold conditions. A close contest ensued with Pete Eeles 47.59 only just getting the better of Phil Dunk in 48.05.

The “10” at the end of March once again saw Lakey getting the best of Cox, getting inside 23 minutes with 22.34. Lakey also put an excellent early season “25” in the Polytechnic C.C. event with 58.08 – on his new bike – Cliff Voller recording 1:04.35.

The Easter weekend saw healthy numbers turn out for the first club 25-mile time trial of the season held on the Aldermaston course. Ian Lakey once again was under the hour with 59.16 but it was Tim Melville who was the quickest with 58.39.

Bath Road Hilly “50”

April 1999 once again saw the West Berkshire countryside resound to the sound of cyclists in the Bath Road Hilly “50” event. The start was delayed due to mist and low cloud and a field of 40 riders including three from Newbury Road Club faced the timekeeper. Once the

sun had burnt through the mist it was a dry and sunny morning for the riders. The race started at Chapel Row and the hilly route took them through Bradfield, Compton, East and West Illsley, Wantage, Donnington and Hermitage, finally finishing at Southend village beyond Chapel Row. First to finish was Eammon Deane of Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers in 2 hours 2 minutes. Home riders were led by Phil Dunk in 2:23.01, Pete Eeles 2:29.49 and Arthur Frost 3:14.44 (Number 47!).

Not Always Quick...But Fun...

At the end of April 1999 Newbury Road Club held the club "10" on the Newbury to Hungerford course. Although Ian Lakey made light of the conditions to record 22.49, Steve Oxley and Mike Gray were somewhat slower than normal recording 31.39 and 32.32 respectively. Sometimes the conditions are just against you! Both riders would go several minutes quicker in the following weeks "10" mile time trial when better weather brought 27 riders to the start line. Ian Lakey was quickest again with 22.31.

Lakey Misses Out on Burns Handicap

The first club "25" of 1999 incorporated the Burns handicap championships. Ian Lakey was on scratch, and the rest of the field were handicapped accordingly. Unfortunately, for some, Lakey put in a storming ride on the Wickham Heath course with a helpful easterly producing a great time of 56.54, "quicker than expected". He was only beaten on handicap by Eddie Pitman who started with a ten-minute benefit after returning to cycling after a long break from the sport, with a final handicap time of 55.25. The Alice Haller Trophy which was competed for by the women at the same time was won by Sue Burnay.

Lakey Rides National Ten Championship

The National 10-mile championships were held just outside Dorchester in 1999. The race always attracts some of the best short distance testers in the country. The course was on a single carriageway with a nagging southerly wind affecting the times riders produced. Only four competitors were under 21 minutes, and Ian Lakey produced a time of 23.01 to finish in the top half of the field.

Lakey and Cowen Re-Write their Personal Bests

With Ian Lakey's early season form, it was only a matter of time before he would produce a new personal best time over 25-miles with a time of 55.09 in the Andover Wheelers Open "25" also taking third place overall. Up the road at the Didcot Phoenix Open "25" Richard Cowen put in a time of 57.23 to set a personal best.

Voller Gets Just Rewards

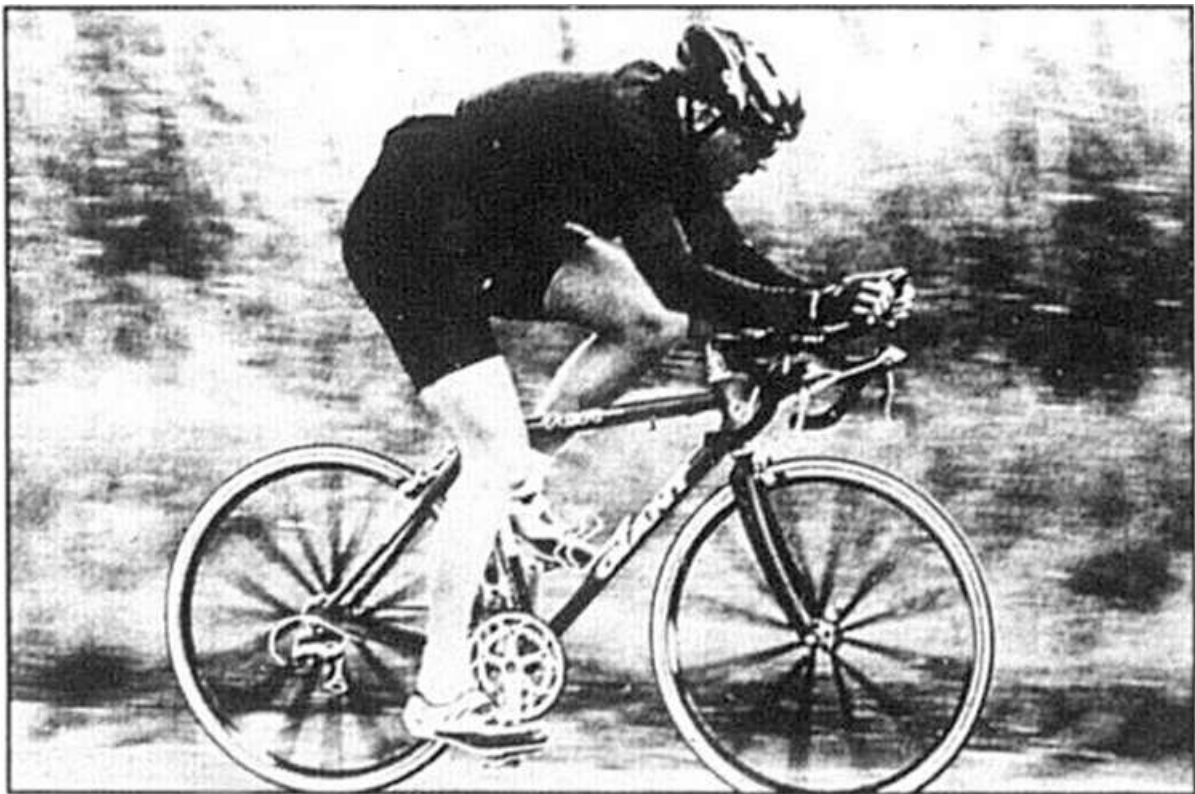
June 1999 and Cliff Voller had a spectacular week. In the Reading C.C. mid-week 10-mile time trial at Aldermaston, he was last off in the field and produced the fastest time with 23.22. He also rode the Salisbury R.C. 10-mile time trial recording a time of 23.31 and 1:02.32 in the Westerley R.C. "25" before then taking part in Reading Track League to-boot. He raced in the 4000m pursuit race, coming third, three seconds behind the winner and finally third in the 10km scratch race at the end of the evening.

Club "50" Championship

A fifty-mile time trial is pretty tough and the club championships in 1999 were no different, but with only six riders turning up to the timekeeper, the days of a standalone club event were probably numbered. Richard Cowen finished in two hours and six minutes four minutes ahead of Jahn Lafford in second and Cliff Voller another two minutes in arrears. But it was Simon Harrison who won on handicap and collected the Festival Trophy.

Open "25" Mile Time Trial

July 1999 and Road Club members promoted the annual 25-mile time trial. Numbers of riders were a little lower than in recent years with only 35 riders of the 56 entries coming to the line. The light wind only slowed riders a little on the westbound legs, and a number of riders recorded best times including Martin Ellis of the promoting club with 1:02.22. Lorry Morgan was second veteran on standard, although it was Cliff Voller who was quickest Newbury rider with 1:01.49.



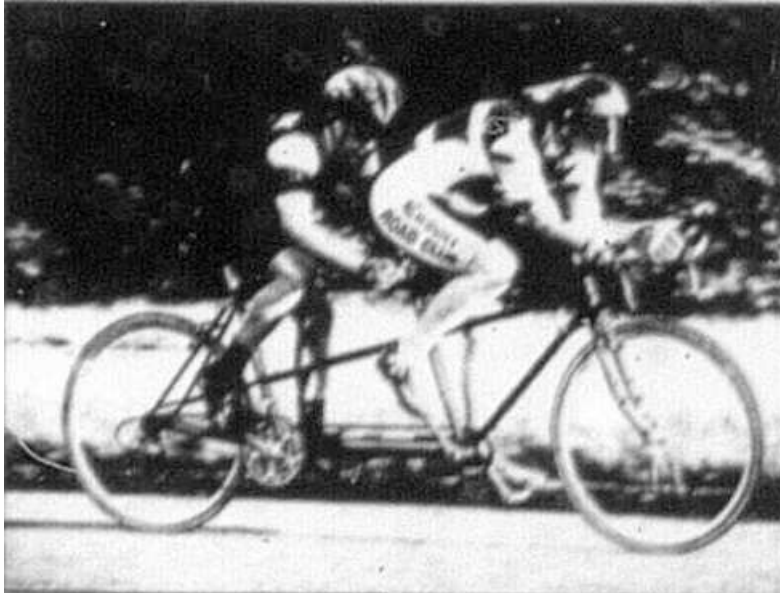
Cliff Voller pictured in a club mid-week "10" in July 1999 (Image© the owner)

Huge Field for Club "10"

The start of August 1999 saw 100 competitors face the timekeeper for Newbury Road Club's annual open 10-mile time trial at Aldermaston. Combined with a gusty wind this made for tough conditions for the cyclists as they set off. Fastest Newbury rider was Richard Cowen in 23.30, slower than his usual times, with the overall winner Dave Redding in 21.21. One notable ride was by local rider Peter Hare who recorded 28.34 a day before his 75th birthday. Joe Voller won the junior prize, and Dave Jones was third fastest veteran on

standard.

Mid-August 18 riders turned out for Newbury Road Club's 10-mile championship. On a chilly day, not suited to record breaking, it was Ian Lakey, who had been unbeatable for most of the year, who was the overall winner in 22.46, with Richard Cowen more than a minute behind. Fastest woman was Claire Hall with a time of 26.29 three minutes ahead of Sara Bartlett. Joe Voller took the junior title in 29.11.



Cliff (front) and Joe Voller racing on a tandem during a club-10 in August 1999
(image ©the owner)

Road Race (Mass Start) Reports

June 1991 and Richard Eyre won the silver medal in a hilly Thames Valley Divisional Road Race Championships over 60 miles at Great Milton near Oxford, an achievement that should not be understated on the tough Oxfordshire Hills.

Mid-June 1991 and juvenile Alastair Masson was second in a novice's race in the car park of John Lewis in High Wycombe, held over 8.3 miles. A little behind the leader but nearly lapping the other riders in the race. If not the first, certainly one of the first races of the budding road race specialist.

The start of the road racing season in 1992 saw Chris Burch come 36th in the senior race at Castle Combe, Alastair Masson was 20th in the junior race over 32 miles, in a field of 71 riders.

In June 1992, Alastair Mason won a prime on the third lap of the Aylesbury C.C. road race at Long Crendon and finished fifth overall. Dave Portwood suffered a major puncture on the first lap and retired, but it was Masson's turn to have a puncture in the mid-week race at Aldershot, and even though he lost two minutes, he still managed to finish fifth overall.

Masson rode the Otmoor Classic near Beckley, Oxfordshire over 45 miles in June 1992, finishing 17th overall in the main bunch. Dave Portwood and Richard Eyre also rode but

finished in the bunch after a tough finish.

Masson continued his run of good form, when in the Marlborough Centenary Road Race at Winchmore Hill, near Amersham, he attacked on the hill on the third lap and stayed away to win a special intermediary prize but was caught by the main bunch shortly after, finally finishing 11th.

Masson Scores Points

Alastair Mason was going great guns when he scored second place at the Four Wallops Road Race at Preston Candover over 57 miles in August 1992. With £20 in his pocket and five points on his licence he only needed another five points to get an upgrade to second category status. Masson and Donald Axford of Venta V.C. broke clear with 15 miles remaining but were caught with five miles to go by Richard Bruce of Wembley R.C., a National Squad rider, who ended up winning by 20s with the rest of the field some five minutes behind. Newbury rider Richard Ayres was in the bunch, but Andy Powers retired when his wheel seized.

And Masson Gets More Points!

A week after the ride in the Four Wallops race, and Alastair Masson's best finish to date in a road race, was when he came third in the Butler Cycles Junior Grand Prix picking up a £50 cheque and 10 points on his licence. Masson would now qualify for a second category status when he turns senior. The race was part of the Peter Buckley Series over 77-miles on the South Downs and attracted 80 riders from all over the UK. International Richard Druce won the race with Dani Benson second, Masson was two minutes ahead of the chasing pack.

Masson's Reward

Junior Masson had a great 1992 on the road, rewarded for his efforts when he was to represent the British Cycling Federation in a race in Belgium in October. Masson would finish in eighth place on his first outing in a Great Britain jersey.

New Road Racing Season Gets Underway

The start of the new road racing season in 1993 saw Dave Portwood and Chris Burch finish in the bunch in the Swindon Road Club event held at Aldbourne, including the tough climb from Aldbourne to Baydon covered three times. Burch also finished in 25th place at Castle Coombe in appalling conditions during their circuit races.

Lantern Rouge for Alan!

Alan Ringrose took part in the Westerley 40-mile road race at Long Crendon in May 1993, the tough course gradually whittled down the field with just 20 of the 60 starters finishing with Ringrose picking up the last spot in the race: certainly, no disgrace.

Excellent Masson!

Alastair Masson, previously a Newbury rider, and now racing for Winchester's VC Venta in 1993, won the Oakdene Junior two-day road race near Bournemouth. The race started on

Saturday with a stage over 57 miles, followed by a five-mile time trial. Sunday saw a 63-mile race over the hills of east Dorset with a field of 53, six of whom rode for Great Britain. Masson had already achieved top placings in Scotland, the New Forest, Wareham, Amersham and Winchester.

Towler Comes Third

Stuart Towler came third in the Land of Nod Road Race in Farnham Surrey in May 1994. A small group escaped at the start and stayed away from the main bunch containing Alan Ringrose who finished eighth.

Club Road Race Title

The club's road race title in 1993 was incorporated into the Didcot Phoenix Road Race at Harwell. The club trophy was won by Stuart Towler with Dave Portwood second and Lyn Taylor in third. A total of six riders were on the start sheet from the club, but Dave Canning and Alan Ringrose were DNF's, and Bob Lyle was a DNS. The Headquarters was the Harwell Sports Pavilion and the major obstacle on the course was Hagborne Hill, which had to be climbed on ten separate occasions.

Taylor Takes Victory

Lyn Taylor was first at Towcester in the Northampton Veterans Road Race in July 1993. He broke clear with another rider from Coventry early in the 60km race before going clear on the final hill to eventually pick up his first Open win by 30s.

Towler Eighth

Newbury Road Club promoted a Road Race on the Blowingstone circuit in May 1994. The race headquarters was in Letcombe Regis Village Hall; riders would process from there through Letcombe Bassett and then onto the circuit where the race started. Riders turned left at the Childrey crossroads before following the road alongside the Wantage Downs and taking the left up Blowingstone Hill. The route took the riders down towards Lambourn before a sharp turn and back on the road towards the Childrey Crossroads. After 3 ½ laps the riders "sprinted" it out up Blowingstone Hill, which made life easy for the judges at the top! The winner was Alan Nixon of Reading University C.C. with Stuart Towler coming in eighth after the fifty tough miles.

Road Race Title Hots Up

The road race title in 1994 was very competitive. In August, as the season was coming to an end Stewart Towler and Alan Ringrose were both in contention. Both were winning points in the Showground races and Ringrose led by one point collected in the Showground races. But with points also from road races, Towler scored in the Sheerspire road race in Portsmouth, and the Showground races contributing towards the final tally it was neck and neck. Later in August it was Ringrose who regained the lead in the title race with fourth place in the Holtham Heath series in Bournemouth.

By September 1994 Stuart Towler fought back, gaining enough points on his licence

following a third at Rushmore and a fifth in a road race in Milton Keynes (points went down to sixth place in 1994) to get his second category licence; a great achievement. Alan Ringrose, meanwhile at the start of September needed just two more points to get his second category licence following a fourth place at Milton Keynes.

At the end of September Ringrose put up a fine performance to win the CC Basingstoke's 50km criterium at Chineham and his second category licence was in the bag. This win meant he had overtaken Stewart Towler and sealed the title for 1994.

Solid Start to New Season

Stewart Towler started his 1995 season at the end of March finishing in the main bunch at the Castle Coombe circuit races, now riding as a second category rider. Bob Lyle, Dave Portwood and Phil Dunk also competed in the veteran's event. Lyle and Dunk raced in the LVRC (League of Veterans Racing Cyclist) race at Verwood coming in 16th and 33rd respectively.

Taylor Third...

Lyn Taylor proved how strong he was in the A5 Rangers LVRC race at Towcester finishing in third place after spending most of the day out on his own until he was caught by the bunch a mile from the finish.

Towler and Ringrose in Surrey

Since graduating into 2nd category status Stuart Towler and Alan Ringrose hadn't relaxed and at the end of May took to the Surrey Hills Road Race held over three days and five stages, a total of 160 miles. Towler finished in 19th and Ringrose 37th overall.

Towler and Ringrose Push for Promotion

Club star roadmen, Stuart Towler and Alan Ringrose were getting closer to first category status when they finished sixth and ninth respectively in the Showground "Open Criterium" held in June 1995. The race was won by Jimmy Jones from Chippenham who lapped the field twice!

Ringrose pushed even harder with fourth place in the Surrey League 72-mile race at Billingshurst. On the final circuit Ringrose escaped the bunch but was unable to join an earlier break which had gone up the road.

Recent new club member in 1995, Phil Dunk, finished 13th in the Rufus Wheelers 42-mile road race at Winchester, most likely his first road race for the club.

World Champion Wins Club Road Race

Newbury Road Club's second veteran's road race, held on the Leckhampstead, Brightwalton circuit, in the middle of July 1995, attracted an excellent field including veterans World Champion Dave Nie. Nie won the first of the three races, sponsored by Controlware of Thatcham, coming in 10 seconds clear of former international rider John Woodcock, going clear at the bottom of Buckham Hill near Great Shefford. The second race was won by

National Champion Sid Lovatt, Finsbury Park, ahead of Tom McCall by over a minute, with Lyn Taylor and Phil Duck, Newbury R.C., in 6th and 12th respectively. The third race was won by former National Champion Pete Sandy of the Somerset Road Club.

Group winners were 40-45 (age group), Dave Nie (Twickenham R.C.); 46-50, Tom Wollard (Antelope R.T.); 51-55, Sid Lovatt (Finsbury Park); 56-60, Eric King (Gillingham); 61-65, Pete Sandy (Somerset); 66+, John McKellow (South Wales).



(l to r) Pete Sandy, Eric King, Tom Woolard, Emma Larrard (Controlware), organiser Bob Lyle, Dave Nie, Sid Lovatt

Masson Signs for Team Energy

Former Newbury Road Club rider Alastair Masson was talent spotted by the prestigious Team Energy Squad and signed with them in early 1996. Team Energy Squad was formed in 1995 with sponsorship from Duracell, KP and Lucozade. During its first season in 1995 it was the UK's top amateur squad with 46 individual and seven team victories. The team had a busy schedule for the coming 1996 season racing at home and in Europe. 20-year-old racer Masson commented that "being part of Team Energy is a fantastic accolade" and "the team is recognised as the top, and this year we intend to prove it again".

Masson would later rejoin the Newbury Road Club again with a focus on encouraging youth engagement.

Garner So Close

Jeff Garner, known for his fantastic sprint, had to settle for second place when beaten by half a wheel at the Castle Combe circuit near Chippenham. Garner's group worked hard to keep a distance from the scratch group who started a minute behind in the one-hour race. There were several attacks in the last mile, but Garner judged his effort nearly to perfection when he started his final effort 200 meters from the finish but was pipped at the line as the scratch group finished 50 meters behind.

Oxley Completes Road Race

Usually thought of as an Audax rider, who also could put in an excellent time trial, at the end

of June 1996 Steve Oxley finished his first road race in many years when riding an event at Great Milton with experienced road man Lyn Taylor. Taylor established a break of five riders, which unfortunately was caught within five miles to go, but eventually finished in the middle of the field.

Veteran rider Phil Dunk continued to perform well when he finished in fifth place in the Circuit of Bredon at Tewkesbury, but less fortunate finishing in the field in the race at Great Milton.

Alan Ringrose and Stewart Towler continued to shine in road races. Ringrose came in fifth in the Somerset Road Club 100km road race winning a sprint in a small chasing group and Towler came in 10th spot in the same event.

Taylor First in Club Road Race

Once again, the club promoted a series of veteran's road races on the Brightwalton circuit in July 1996, again sponsored by Controlware Systems of Thatcham. Richard Abbot, Didcot Phoenix C.C., won the 50-54 age category and Lyn Taylor the 55-60 category.

Bob Lyle finished in eighth in the Bournemouth C.C. veterans race at Bovingdon despite two punctures, however, he received spares from spectators which kept him in contention.

Veterans Road Race Promotion – Lovatt wins again and again...

The club promoted a series of races for veterans on the Aldbourne, Baydon and Liddington circuit, including the feared climb out of Aldbourne, at the end of July 1997. The forty-two-mile race was sponsored by Thatcham based Controlware Systems and attracted 70 entries in the different age categories. The main race for over 50's was won for the fourth year in a row by ex-National champion Sid Lovatt, Finsbury Park C.C. The 40–50-year age group was won by Martin Hulbert from South West London and the 60 plus race was won by Pete Sandy, also a former National champion. Phil Dunk, Newbury Road Club, finished in the main field.

Phil Dunk also put up a great effort in the LVRC (League of Veteran Racing Cyclist) event at Hillingdon. A battle of attrition saw 15 riders in a bunch approach the finish line when with less than a mile to go Dunk took off only to be caught 300m from the line. However, as the bunch eased up Bob Lyle put up a long sprint but was just beaten into second place by Bert Waugh.

Garner Going Great Guns

Jeff Garner was unstoppable. In 1998 he was actively riding LVRC road races and In June he took two second places and a third. In a race in Chelmsford over 35 miles he was beaten by half a wheel ahead of 40 riders, where Bob Lyle finished 15th struggling to find his way through the bunch.

In April 1998 Garner had two excellent fifth places at Alford and Towcester winning bunch sprints after four man breaks won the day. Lyle was twelfth in Towcester.

Damp Circuit Race Championships

June 1998 and the weather had been affecting the racing. Time trial numbers were down at around half the expected number and so were the criterium championships held on the Showground. Thursday mid-June at a very wet Showground and unfortunately most of the riders did not finish due to punctures with grit having been washed over the course. Gary Clarke made a welcome return to racing having been previously badly injured, although firing on all cylinders he was unable to beat in-form Richard Abbot who crossed the line in first place.

Melville Gains Third-Cat Status

Just to complicate matters the British Cycling Federation adjusted the range of categories from three to four, so riders would now start as a fourth category and need points to achieve third category status. Once upon a time there was just third, second and first but by 1998 the additional lower fourth category appeared in principle to encourage interest in road racing.

Matthew Melville was concentrating on his road racing in 1998 and by the end of June had obtained his third category licence, and after taking seventh place in the Valley of the Cotswolds race at Cheltenham he was moving in the right direction to obtain his second cat licence.

Taylor Put in Top Ride

Lyn Taylor produced another top ride in the over 60's road race championships over 45 miles near Stratford-upon-Avon in July 1998, finishing fifth overall in a star studied field containing former professionals and international riders.

Lovatt Misses Out on Fourth Win – Just

At the end of July 1998 and once again Newbury Road Club promoted a Veterans Road Race, again sponsored by Controlware, on a new course in the Great Bedwyn-Wilton area over 49 miles.

Sid Lovatt had won the previous three editions in the 40-55 years category, but this time he was beaten by Mick McManus with Lovatt leading a group of four riders 25 seconds behind. In the 55+ age group Lawrie Hunt was first from Bob Richards. Newbury riders, Jeff Garner, Bob Lyle and Lyn Taylor all attempted to enliven the race with several attacks, but in the end, it was Garner who was best placed in fifth.

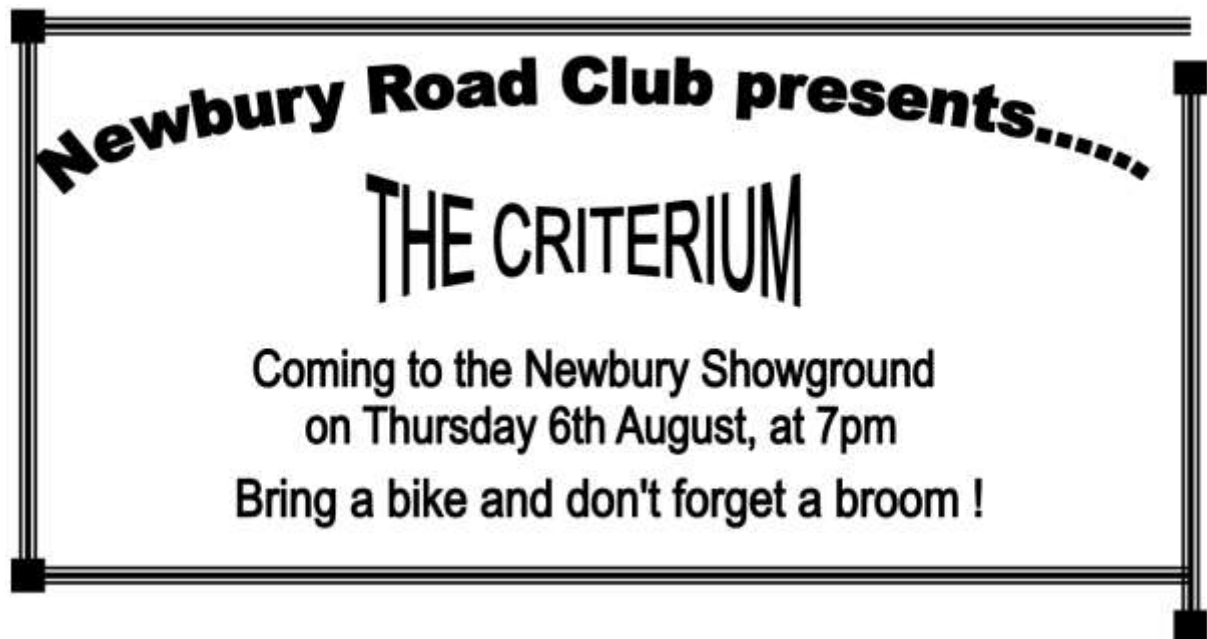
VETERANS, VIAGRA AND ALL THAT by Phil Dunk - Review of 1998 (Chainmail Nov 98)

“Newbury Road Club members have been active Road Racing throughout the season. Mathew Melville, now a student at Sheffield University, broke the ice (probably literally), started racing in February whilst those more sane amongst us came out of hibernation in March. As per previous years, VC Venta ran an early series of races at Thruxton. These are always a good reminder of what you have been missing for the last 4 or 5 months, i.e. pain. However, Gary Clark needed no reminder finishing 8th in two races and earned himself 6

points and a 3rd Cat licence. Tim Melville finished well at Castle Combe and picked up a point. Brother Mathew (not the monk) changed from a low pro to a road racing frame and enjoyed a successful season gaining his 3rd Cat licence and enough points (34) to take the club Senior Road Race Trophy. He informs me that his most memorable race was at Steventon when on the penultimate lap he punctured in a seven man break. Luckily there was a marshal at hand who, wishing to see wife and family again, donated his wheel. This enabled our hero to join the passing bunch and break away on the final climb to finish in the points. Meanwhile, in the Veterans league, youngsters, Bob Lyle, Jeff Garner, Lynn Taylor and I have been exercising our bus passes. Jeff Garner had swapped his golf clubs for an early supply of 'Viagra' and made steady progress picking up points in the sprint finishes. So much so that the golf clubs remained in the cupboard all summer and Jeff is this year's winner of the club Veterans Road Race Trophy. Lynn Taylor rode a good ride in his category's LVRC Nationals just missing (literally) 3rd place. The Criterium at Newbury showground, despite the weather, was well attended. Like most events this summer this was held on a wet and windy evening, and punctures were not uncommon. Gary Clark finished unscathed and took this seasons Criterium Trophy. To compensate for the inclement weather a further criterium evening at the showground was arranged in August and was again well attended. Next season it is intended to run a series of 3 evenings but on a handicap basis to make the racing more interesting. This year's LVRC road race, held in July, was on a new circuit based on Great Bedwyn. The circuit, approx. 11 miles in length took in Great Bedwyn, Burbage and Wilton. This was a varied course with the hills out of Wilton and Gt. Bedwyn favouring the climbers, bendy lanes for lone breaks and some fast stretches for the bunch to chase. The downside was the number of marshals (13) required to make the circuit safe. Gt. Bedwyn itself proved to be a bit of a bottleneck, and this was further exasperated on the final lap of the ABC cat. race when the church congregation made their exit. However, all of this was negotiated safely, and the event deemed a success. We even made enough profit to cover the 'flashing amber lights' purchased for the lead and following cars. So, if you'll pardon the pun; an eventful year."

First and Seventh at Goodwood!

Jeff Garner and Bob Lyle put in superb performances in the LVRC veteran's road races held at Goodwood in April 1999. Garner finished in first place as a result of his superb sprint and Lyle in seventh after an hour racing in glorious sunshine.



Newbury Showground Circuit Races

July 1992 and the Showground near Newbury was the venue for a circuit/training session on a sunny Friday evening. Twenty-one riders started covering 25 laps of the 0.8-mile circuit. Alastair Masson was first home in 52.27 with Randy Keane second. The peloton was 2 minutes back with Dave Portwood leading the small group home. The Showground Criteriums, promoted by Bob Lyle, would become a staple of racing in the club during the 90's.

Showground Criteriums Begin Again in 1993

From 1993 Bob Lyle would organise multiple races at the showground for club and guest riders.

The end of May 1993 saw Road Club riders start their 10 strong racing series at the Showground. A short circuit, less than a mile long, saw a 75-minute test for the riders. Two escaped the main bunch after five laps, and they held onto a 36 second lead when Alan Ringrose outsprinted Richard Abbot (Didcot Phoenix) who was tiring. The bunch was led home by Mark Letters, with Mark Lloyd (Didcot Phoenix), Simon Harrison, Leo Gipson, Lyn Taylor and Dave Portwood making up the numbers. Racing would take place on the following Tuesdays at 7pm during the season.

Showground Race for Under 16 Riders

In June 1993 the club promoted an open race at the Showground for under 16 riders. Didcot Phoenix's Mark Lloyd won the race with Sam Collins in second beating the promoting club's Luke Hastings into third. Twelve-year-old Adam Stange from Newbury Road Club came in fifth place. A supporting senior race was won by Alistair Masson from Steve Downes at 53s.

Mark Lloyd won the second race in the under 16s series in July with victory from Luke

Hastings in second with John Canning from Bristol in third, Darren Fox from Didcot fourth and Newbury's Adam Strange in fifth.

Showground Series Continues with Usual Pattern

The race at the end of June 1993 had a similar pattern to proceedings as riders sprint from the start and try to hang on till the finish. In this instance it was Stuart Downes who took advantage of the many bends and escaped from the field who lapped that little slower. Downes hung on to win in 1:03.24 clear of the pack with Stuart Towler, Richard Abbot, Mark Lloyd, Mark Letters, Gary Clark and Dave Portwood who were 52s behind.

Summer Showground Races Continue

It was Stuart Downes who won the next event in the series but with Julian Frankland as company for half the race before he dropped back into the bunch but still had enough strength to win the sprint for second place. Stuart Downes also won Newbury Road Club's criterium on the showground in mid-July, his second successive win. Julian Frankland kept him company and came in second from Chris Burch in third. The standing for the series so far saw Stuart Towler, 21 pts, Gary Clark, 20, Mark Letters 14, Chris Burch 13, Alan Ringrose 11, and Dave Portwood 8.

The weather didn't always play ball with the circuit races as the next event in July was run under miserable conditions with Stuart Towler slowly wearing down the opposition and winning from Gary Clarke, Alan Ringrose and Dave Portwood.

The final race in July 1993 saw the toughest race yet. Eight riders broke clear from the main bunch on lap three, setting a furious pace. Alan Ringrose was the first to lose contact then Andy Price, when misjudging a corner. Stuart Downes did most work, finally winning the sprint from Julian Frankland. The overall series was now being led by Stuart Towler with 41 points from Gary Clarke with 28 and Alan Ringrose, 19.

Final Race of the Season...

The last of the season long circuit races saw Alan Ringrose claim victory from Richard Abbot, Chris Birch came in third with Lyn Taylor fourth. The final ranking gave Stuart Towler victory from Alan Ringrose and Gary Clark.

Interclub Showground Races

At the end of August 1993 and the showground hosted an inter-club road race event with riders from Reading, Didcot and Newbury. The race was won when 12 riders contested the sprint, by Jon Airey (Reading) from Steve Clark (Reading) and Richard Abott (Didcot) with Alan Ringrose the first Newbury rider home. The remaining riders were between one and three laps behind.

Stewart Starts Again!

The 1994 showground series of races started in May, and it was Stuart Towler who started from where he left off in 1993 with victory over Chris Burch in a sprint finish after they escaped the field on lap 3.

Towler Beaten at Last!

Mid-July 1994 and the Showground circuit races were in full swing. Alan Ringrose beat Stuart Towler by a length in the sprint with Gary Clark in third spot again. Overall Ringrose was leading the series by three points from Towler.

Bray Shows his Class

The subsequent circuit race in July 1994 saw a guest rider show his potential with an easy win. Former National Road Champion and future Tour of Britain rider Simon Bray used the Showground race as a training ride, sitting in the bunch until with two laps to go he opened a gap of 15 seconds to win comfortably. Alan Ringrose once again beat Stuart Towler in the sprint for second to increase his lead in the series with Mark Lloyd a little further behind.

Ringrose showed he was clearly on good form by coming fourth in the Divisional Criterium Championships held at the Showground on Saturday July 16th. Ringrose instigated the break, but it was local star Joe Bayfield, Wycombe R.C., who made the winning move and clinched his second title of the year. Bayfield was sponsored by Thatcham's "Controlware Systems" and was enjoying his best season to date with over eight wins and a string of placings.

Towler Continues to Win

In June 1994 Stuart Towler continued winning the circuit races at the Showground beating Gary Clark and Mark Lloyd in the sprint. Several riders were forced out due to mechanical problems, which left Jeremy Brand, Adrian Canning and Bob Lyle to contest the minor placings.

Luke Hastings stormed away to win the Schoolboy race by well over a minute from John Canning and Adam Strange in third.

Club Criterium Championships 1996

Held at Newbury Showground in July and sponsored by Craven Cycles, the club championship in 1996 produced a close result with Alan Ringrose taking 63 minutes to complete the 24 miles. Ringrose outsprinted Alastair Masson by 1s with Richard Abbot, Didcot Phoenix, at 3s in third.

Criterium Championships 1997

Newbury Road Club held the club's criterium (circuit races) championships at Newbury Showground in June 1997, with the winner Steve Kendrick out sprinting the field to win comfortably. A small group of three escaped and kept this lead till the end. This included Gary Clarke, Newbury Road Club, Steve Kendrick, Pedal-on-Cycles, Tadley and Pete Close, Reading C.C. The rest of the field slowly whittled down leaving only Ian Lakey and Phil Dunk chasing before Lakey escaped to finish in fourth.



Showground Criterium, with Chris Burch, Gary Clarke and Alan Ringrose in the blue and gold, with Stuart Towler just visible in orange. Dave Canning in light blue to the rear.



Race organiser Bob Lyle keeps the riders in order before the start of the veterans criterium at the showground. (World Champion, Dave Nie to the right)

Thunderstorm Benefits Criterium

Mid-May thunderstorms had forced the cancellation of a mid-week time trial and had a positive impact on the turnout for the Thursday evening club handicap criterium event on Newbury Showground in May 1999. It proved a battle between Chris Burch and Gary Clark finally contesting a sprint at the finish with Burch proving the quicker. However, under the handicap, the overall winner was Rob Dentry from Andy Steele in second spot.

Chris Burch and Gary Clark were at the head of affairs in the criterium race in June, with Burch coming out top in the sprint for the line with Richard Cowen and Marc Stares in third and fourth spots.

Final Criterium of 1999

Mid-July 1999 the Road Club held its final criterium of the season at the Showground. Chris Burch had a successful season thus far, but it was Gary Clark who at last had an overdue win in another sprint finish. Third and fourth were Richard Cowen and Andy Steele at nearly two minutes in arrears.

Burch Gets the Point

Chris Burch, riding for V.C. Venta/Wessex Window Systems, a stalwart of the criterium races, celebrated retaining his second category licence when he picked up 12 points by finishing fifth in a sprint at the end of CCB 2000 Basingstoke circuit race in August 1999. After a tough start to the season, August had yielded 17 points, and with more racing to come in September would build into next year aiming for first category status.

Melville Brothers Put in Stunning Rides

The Melville brothers had started their cycling journey with Newbury Road Club, moved on to achieve some significant results. Matthew was riding for the JE James Racing Team in 1999 and in August he took part in the five-day Revolution Road Race competing against some of the top riders from the Linda McCartney and Men's Health Teams. The second longest race in the country comprised five road stages, from 70 to 113 miles, on the undulating roads around Surrey and West Sussex. Matthew finished the final day in 12th place and an overall place of 24th. He was also second in the second category riders' classification.

Brother Tim represented the West Thames Division in the three-day Junior Tour of Wales. Competing against the top junior riders from the country and teams from Belgium and the Netherlands he was placed 30th overall. The race included a hilly time trial, criterium and three challenging road stages, the last of which finished on the Tumble in South Wales.

Lakey Unlucky in Longland Classic

Ian Lakey had a baptism of fire when he competed in the Glenn Longland Classic two day, three event race at Downton, Wiltshire. The event comprised a prologue, a handicap road race and a time trial. The prologue was more of a hill climb over 2.4 miles which Lakey finished in 4.48, the quickest rider completed the course in 4.08. After an hour the 45km handicap road race – Lakey's first – included three laps of a 10km route in the New Forest but finishing near Downton.

Lakey was in the pack when he punctured on a downhill stretch. He replaced the inner tube and restarted, and although catching a few riders he punctured a second time which left him in last place.

The final day and Lakey was in his element in the hilly time trial on local bumpy roads, a little different to the "smooth" Bath Road. Lakey finished an overall 21st out of 23 riders, but for his punctures...

Track Racing

In May 1992 the inter-club track championships were held on May 29th at Palmer Park Stadium in Reading. Mark Letters won the club's track championship beating the field in the three and half lap race – approximately 1 mile. Other races during the evening were a 500-metre sprint won by Mark James and a six lap pursuit won by Alastair Masson in 4 minutes 3s ahead of James and Letters. The distance race over 17 laps was won by James ahead of Ian May and Dave Canning.

The club championship in 1993 was also held at Palmer Park a bright Friday evening in July. Mark Letters won all the events in the omnium series from Dave Portwood with Chris Burch in third.

August 1993 and Alan Ringrose showed his prowess on the track when in the Reading Track League, he gained the club its "first" success of the year winning the 10-mile scratch race with Chris Burch winning the 8 mile *courses des primes* race.

Good Friday Tumble

The Good Friday Track Meeting at Herne Hill had been running for a great many years and in 1994, Tim Johnson and Dave Portwood represented the club. Johnson won the 5-mile race, but Portwood was brought down in the neutralised section even before the whistle sounded when a rider fell from above him on the first bend. Portwood was carted off to Hammersmith A & E by his wife and required a couple of operations to repair the damage to his shoulder!

1995 Track Championships

August 1995 saw the club track championships held at Palmer Park again. In the sprint races Alan Ringrose beat Stewart Towler with the final 200m in 13.7s and Dave Canning beat Cliff Voller for third with 15.1s for the final. The six lap scratch, one mile scratch and 2000m pursuit were all won by Ringrose, cementing his title.



Dave Canning and Cliff Voller contesting the sprint

Rolling, Rolling, Rolling....

Many members would have grown up using training rollers, indeed warming up for races was where they were typically found and are often found being used today. In March 1996 Didcot Phoenix C.C. promoted an event for Oxford and Berkshire clubs. The rollers themselves were connected to a large dial with four "arrows" enabling four rollers to be connected and, therefore, four up winter racing. Coming off the rollers at 40 mph can be a little un-nerving and so usually at least one or two supporters will hold the bikes as they race along at brake neck speed. Riders would often reduce the friction in their drive train by replacing the grease in the wheels and bottom bracket with oil to allow the wheels to spin extremely smoothly. The team event was won by Newbury Road Club, with Pete Eeles setting the second fastest time for the kilometer race of 46.48s. Other club times recorded were as follows; Cliff Voller 49.89, Lyn Taylor 53.84, Alan Ringrose 54.78 and Brian Tate 70.42.

Cyclo-Cross and Mountain Bike Reports

The winter of 1990 saw Mark Letters, a pupil of Shaw House School, record his first success in cyclo-cross by winning the Oxonian C.C. juvenile event at Thame. Mark's time was 22 minutes over tough woodland conditions held in a blizzard! Letters then continued his run of good form winning the Didcot Phoenix cyclo-cross at the end of December. With a winning margin of over 2 minutes 30 seconds, he was well clear of a field of 18 riders despite falling on one section. Early January '91 and Letters finished fourth in the Oxonian C.C. cyclocross at Cowley, covering four two-mile laps, finishing two and a half minutes behind the winner.

Mark Letters also showed good form in a mountain bike event organised by the Forest of Dean C.C. finishing fourth again, three minutes behind the winner over a six-mile course. Letters put in a great ride at the start of July 1991 with 12th place in a mountain bike race at Rushmoor in a field of 137 other riders over a nine-mile course.

In September 1991, Letters was fifth in the Wessex cyclo-cross and mountain bike league at Cowley and was the second-best junior rider in the GS Europa Scramble at Twyford near Winchester in October. He rode a mountain bike over a hard, flat course to finish 14th overall over the ten one-mile laps. Road Club's Danny Lewington was close behind in 15th and third junior.

Club Bucklebury Mountain Bike Race

The first instance of the club promoting an event at Upper Bucklebury, organised on land owned by Bob Lyle, was in November 1991. Over the years several races were promoted at the back of Upper Bucklebury Village Hall over the woodland. There were five events each year for eight years with races for under 10s and veterans alike. This event was sponsored by Grayson Hire Services, who provided the resources to help promote the race. This invitation only event was won by Didcot Phoenix's Les Lloyd from Dave Lloyd over the 14½ mile course. David McWilliam won the club's senior Mountain Bike Championship and Danny Lewington the club's junior champion from Mark Letters.

Letters Races Against Super Stars

Mark Letters rode in the London Westminster Open Cyclo-cross Championship in Shirley Hills near Croydon at the end of November 1991. The field included riders from Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland and UK Professionals. Letters acquitted himself well over the 15 ½ miles course finishing in 50th place from 120 riders and finishing fifth junior. Letters avoided a crash involving 60 riders just after the start which affected several riders. Roger Hammond, who subsequently became junior world champion, broke his bike and had to run to the pits and collect a second bike, before finishing second junior and tenth overall.

Taking the Mud in their Stride

Heavy overnight rain led to a muddy Avon and Somerset Police cyclo-cross in Downton near Bristol. The one-mile course churned up very quickly, but the Newbury riders reveled in the conditions, with Graham Landau coming in second overall and Mark Letters third in the junior section and sixth overall.

Graham Landau continued to ride well and in the Viking Wheelers Mountain Bike races in Black Park Slough he finished in seventh place over a muddy course.

Danny Lewington was fourth junior and 16th overall in the “muddy” Oxonian C.C. cyclo-cross at Cowley in January 1992. Just behind was Letters who was fifth junior and 17th overall from 59 riders.

Newbury Road Club Mountain Bike Race

February 1992 and the club's mountain bike race was held in Bucklebury. Graham Landau beat Danny Lewington, who was fastest junior although 4 minutes 30s adrift in the hour-long race. Alistair Masson was third finisher and second junior. The race was held in rainy conditions, and several riders came off in the mud. The Juvenile race was won by Alistair Fisher.

Top 10 For Newbury Riders

Yet another muddy course over a 5½ miles circuit at Plump Hill in the Forest of Dean produced two top ten finishes for Road Club riders. The junior event on Saturday was over two laps and Danny Lewington finished eighth from 250 riders who had come from all over the country. Graham Landau was ninth out of 300 riders over three laps. On Sunday, Lewington rode the Novices race over two laps coming in tenth. Landau was fifth from 350 riders in his second race of the weekend.

Viking Wheelers Mountain Bike Races

In March 1992, Graham Landau was placed eighth in the Wheelers races despite a crash at the start delaying him. Danny Lewington was ninth in the junior race and James Lewington 10th in the juvenile race. Danny Lewington had recently picked up sponsorship from the Cycle Shop, Thatcham, impressed by his performances.

Graham Landau also won the Senior Mountain Bike Race at Bourne Wood near Peterborough on a muddy course on a three-lap course covered five times. Danny

Lewington was second junior and third overall. Landau did particularly well considering he crashed and rode two laps with his brakes rubbing on the rims.

Super Bunny Hop!

In April 1992 Mark Letters, just to be different, competed in the Rio Riva Challenge '92 at Blandford Forum and did creditably well in the race. The more interesting snippet, however, was that in the "Bunny Hop" competition he came third by jumping 26 inches into the air – it was suggested he would be getting a new bike specifically for these competitions!

MTB Best All-Rounder Competition

The final race of the club's mountain bike best all-rounder competition was a down-hill held over 1.9 miles which Richard Lewis won with 40 points taking both the Senior and Junior titles.

The final race of the Newbury club's MTB Best All-Rounder competition was run down hill for 1.9 miles and saw Richard Lewis win with 40 points to take both the Senior and Junior titles. Other results: Robert Taylor 36 points, Martyn Harris 36, (second Junior), Chris Tomlinson 33 (third Junior), Damian Lewis 30, Simon Harrison, 28, Steve Jennings 26, Derry Cookson 24, James Lewington 23, Giles Bishop 22, Andy Walker 21, David McWilliam 20 and Lewis Davies 19.

British Mountain Bike Championships

Mark Letters and brothers Daniel and James Lewington competed in the MTB Federation Championships in April 1992. Held in Wales in Margan Park, Letters, sponsored by Newbury Cycles, and James Lewington, came in 46th, in the Junior race, and 56th in the Juvenile race respectively. Daniel Lewington broke his chain and failed to finish.

Longleat MTB Challenge

In May 1992 Graham Landau finished third of 200 riders in the Sports class at the Longleat race. The event was held over a nine-mile circuit which was covered twice and included a dangerous descent in muddy conditions which lead to a couple of crashes. In the Junior race Daniel Lewington was 15th from 70 riders on the same course.

Winter Cross Season Starts Well

October 1992 ushered in the start of the cyclo-cross season for Mark Letters, riding an event in Southampton, on a course being used for the Nations Cup event, he was second Wessex Junior and 10th overall from 76 starters.

Masson Wins Mountain Bike Championships

Having had a fantastic road season in 1992, Alistair Masson won both the senior and junior mountain bike championships in November. Richard Sampson was second and Rob Taylor third, which was good enough to give him the club best all-rounder prize. Mark Letters and Daniel Lewington were second and third in the junior race. Martyn Harris won the junior best all-rounder competition having completed more races than his rivals.

Juniors Take it to the Woods!

The first round of the club's Mountain Bike BAR series began in March in 1993, with a race in Bucklebury Woods. On a hard and fast course, the juniors put the seniors to shame with some aggressive racing. Didcot Phoenix rider Paul Lloyd took the lead early on but was overhauled on the seventh of ten laps by Mark Letters who then maintained a good lead to finish ahead of Martin Harris with Lloyd in third. The juniors were lapping 40s faster than the seniors, the senior race finally won by Richard Sampson.

Salisbury Plain Challenge

Mid-July 1993 and the mountain bike brigade were racing in the Salisbury Plain Challenge where Martyn Harris won the 15-mile fun class in 44.18 with Giles Bishop 12th and Peter Frost 39th. In the peewee class over 4 ½ miles Emily Voller finished in first place in 11.29 and her brothers Jon and Tom came in 13th and 17th place in the boy's event.

Mountain Bike Time Trial

The club's 1993 mountain bike time trial championships were held on the Bucklebury circuit over 17 miles. The race was won by Leo Gipson in 47.41 with Andy Price second in 52.25 and Pete Frost third in 53.13.

The road bike race held at the same time was won by Alastair Masson with 42.21.

The 1993 Mountain Bike Cross-Country Championships held in Upper Bucklebury were won by Gary Clark from Simon Harrison and Pete Frost. First Junior was Martyn Harris, Under 12s John Letters and Juveniles Tim Buckingham.

Muddy Race for the Mountain Bikers!

The first event of the 1995 season for the mountain bike brigade in March saw a race on a wet and muddy circuit in Upper Bucklebury. The race was shortened due to the treacherous conditions with Mark Wichelo beating Cliff Voller and Pete Frost. Emily Voller won the juvenile girl's race and Adam Strange the juvenile boy's race.

Pete Frost was also 73rd in the Pedal Hounds Downhill race in 2:11.26 and in the MTB Race at Wokefield in the Fun Class Kevin Chalmers came in 3rd.

At the end of March Martyn Harris won the fun class at the Specialised Series race at Maidenhead with Kevin Chalmers in second place. They were also in good form in Basingstoke when Harris won the novice class and Chalmers continued his run of form winning the fun event.

Open Cyclo-Cross Races

At the end of October 1995, the club promoted an open cyclo-cross event at Upper Bucklebury, although most riders chose to ride mountain bikes rather than cross machines. The main race of the day was won by Jason Blann from Southampton. Newbury rider Mark Whichello finished in fourth three minutes behind with other club finishers, Alan Ringrose, Cliff Voller and Tim Strange some way behind. The club's top cross rider Gary Clarke had a

gear failure on the second lap whilst with the leaders and was forced to retire from the race.

Top veteran was Dave Lloyd, Didcot Phoenix, and first woman home was Loretta Kirwain, GA Cycles/KOMA.

In the under 16 races, Jason Carr, New Forest C.C. won with a large gap from Alan Cooper, Palmer Park Velo, with Newbury rider Adam Strange in third. Emily Voller came home in seventh with Amy Strange in eighth.

In the under-12s race Joe Voller finished in first place, securing a win for the promoting club, with Neil Cooper, Palmer Park Velo and Darren Dowling, Farnborough and Camberley in second and third respectively. Tom Voller and Jonathan Strange were in fourth and fifth place.

Mountain Bike Championships

Upper Bucklebury was the venue for the mountain bike championships in September 1996, held in good conditions which led to a fast race. The race was also the culmination of the season long club best all-rounder competition. The championship was won by Martyn Harris from Gary Clark and Alan Ringrose; Ringrose being caught and overtaken by Clark on the last lap. The season long competition required consistency throughout the year and was won by Pete Frost ahead of Gary Clark.

Best junior and juvenile were Matthew Melville and James Harris respectively.

Showground Cyclo-Cross Race

Newbury Showground was the venue for the Didcot Phoenix cyclo-cross in November 1996 where club members Matthew Melville and Phil Dunk came in 14th and 15th places riding in their first cyclo-cross races. Cliff Voller also came 12th in the Goric MTB cyclo-cross, and Pete Frost was 6th in the Reaper Mountain bike cross country event at Aberystwyth.

First Mountain Bike Race of the 1997 Season

Upper Bucklebury was the go-to place for mountain bikers for much of the 1990's, and at the start of March 1997 once again the club convened for the first race of the year. Martin Harris won the senior race, from Ashley Roles, Cliff Voller, Pete Frost and Dave Portwood. First junior was James Harris, and first juvenile Joe Voller was ahead of brother Tom.

Clarke wins in Salisbury

Gary Clarke had been winning many of the club's mountain bike races and showing great strength in all disciplines. So, it was at the end of June 1997 that he scored one of his best victories when he won the masters section, and fifth overall, in the Salisbury Challenge mountain bike race. The 55 km race took place on Salisbury Plains along the tank tracks. There was a field of 500 starters!

Mountain Bikes on Hackpen

At the start of April 1998, the club held a 14-mile mountain bike race at Hackpen, and it was Martyn Harris who came first in a time of 1:01.24 from Dean Butler, Cliff Voller, Pete Frost

and Ian Lakey. The quickest junior was Richard Cutler. The under 16s raced seven miles and Joe Voller finished ahead of his brother Tom. The under 12s raced over a mile and it was Justin Lakey finishing ahead of Rebecca Lakey and Sam Frost.

Muddy Upper Bucklebury

Cyclo-cross is usually synonymous with muddy conditions and summer mountain bike races with dry sunny days. But in the summer of 1998 the rain was affecting all aspects of the race, and so the MTB boys and girls had a difficult race in the mud on the circuit at Upper Bucklebury. Gary Clarke won the senior event comfortably from Martin Harris by over 4 minutes with Cliff Voller at one lap and Pete Frost at two. The junior race was won by Richard Cutler. The under-12 boys' event was won by Thomas Eeles ahead of Justin Lakey, Sam Frost and Philip Jones with Rebecca Lakey leading the under-12 girl's race.

Bank Holiday Mountain Bank Races

Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend weather can be particularly unreliable. So, it was in May 1999 when the muddy weather on the Ridgeway would have been more suited to a cold January afternoon. Leaving Newbury, the weather was dry but by the time riders reached the start of the race at Hackpen the weather gods had changed to a murky grey rainy afternoon with poor visibility. Many of the riders were ill-equipped as they were dressed for fairer conditions. The race started a little early to try to beat the worst of the conditions and before long riders found themselves strung out along the Ridgeway. The race was initially led by Dave and Mark Lloyd of the Didcot Phoenix, with Eddie Yarker from Didcot and Newbury Rider Martyn Harris following behind. By the time the race turned at Bishopstone, Mark Lloyd was in the lead and held on to the finish line ahead of Dave Lloyd. Meanwhile some distance behind Harris came in third spot with Pete Frost and Cliff Voller, both Newbury riders, in fifth and sixth. Harris came off his bike twice in dreadful conditions and most riders came off at least once!



Cliff Voller and Pete Frost on the Ridgeway

South of England Mountain Bike Races

The South of England MTB championships attracted 900 riders for the event held at Highclere. Gary Clark of Newbury R.C. came in 10th in the Master's Class with a time of 1:35.16 over the 18-mile course behind the overall winner Simon Cope (1:29.55). Pete Frost came home in 2:19.18 and in the under 10s class Sam Frost was 11th.

Boggy Cross in Wessex

Newbury cyclist Dean Butler began his winter 99/00 cyclocross campaign in October when he rode the first round of the Wessex Super Cross League at Oxford. The unrelenting rain had turned the course into a bog. However, sixty-nine competitors pedaled and carried their bikes around the testing technical course which included a 20ft bank which had to be negotiated several times each lap. Butler finished a lap behind the winner in 21st place and was third veteran. Meanwhile six-year-old Holly Letters took part in her first ever cyclo-cross race at Bletchingdon, promoted by the Oxonian C.C. and finished fourth.

Drier weather at the North Hants Road Club's cyclo-cross made for a faster event. The race took place on a mostly flat course with obstacles to navigate where riders had to dismount their bikes. Butler finished 19th overall and was fifth veteran.

In November Butler raced in the Bill Hickson Memorial Cyclo-Cross at Wokefield Common. He was one of 29 riders who rode the eight-lap course which comprised woods, obstacles including tree trunks and steep descents and ascents. Butler finished eighth overall in just over one hour of racing.

Club Runs and Audax



founded 1925 Club Runs Autumn/Winter 1998/99

	Date	Route	Elevenises
October	Monday 5 th		Café High St. Highworth
	Sunday 11 th	Nuffield	Riverside Café, Benson
	Sunday 18 th	Club Hill Climb	Tea Pot, Hungerford
	Monday 19 th		Chilton Garden Centre
	Sunday 25 th	Red Rice	Stockbridge
November	Sunday 1 st	Pewsey	Garden Centre, Woodborough
	Monday 2 nd		Chester's, Dorchester on Thames
	Sunday 8 th	Lockinge	Millets Farm, Frilford
	Sunday 15 th	Hannington	Little Chef, Heckfield
	Monday 16 th		Cornucopia, Wantage
	Sunday 22 nd	Aldbourne Chase	Tudor Tea Rooms, Marlborough
	Sunday 29 th	The Candovers	Whitchurch Silk Mill
	Monday 30 th		Café/Bakers, Lambourn
December	Sunday 6 th	Xmas Lunch	Sun in the Wood, Ashmore Green
	Sunday 13 th	Swallowfield	Dinton Pastures Country Park
	Monday 14 th		Church Tea Rooms, Marlborough
	Sunday 20 th	Micheldever	Little Chef, Barton Stacey
	Sunday 27 th	Boxing Day 10	
	Monday 28 th		Riverside Café, Benson
	Sunday 30 th	Vice President's Run (Meet at 10 am)	The Bell, Aldworth for Lunch
January	Sunday 1 st	New Years Day Walk	Pot Kiln Pub, Frilsham
	Sunday 3 rd	Ewelme	Chesters, Dorchester on Thames

All Sunday runs leave the Market Place, Newbury at 8:30 am unless otherwise stated
For information on Audax events and YHA weekend see Steve Oxley

Club Run list for Winter '98/'99.

Typically, in the 1990's club runs would only take place during the winter months. Some of the tea rooms are still present today, such as the Riverside Café, although significantly changed, whereas the Tudor Tea Rooms, once a stalwart has long disappeared, when the owners retired. Club Captain Dave Jones would lead rides usually over sixty miles with coffee spot on 11 o'clock!

MOORLAND RIDERS HIT THE HEIGHTS



RIDING HIGH: The long-distance cyclists leave Chudleigh Knighton yesterday.

MORE than 100 keen cyclists from all over Britain tackled the hills of Dartmoor yesterday for one of the country's most challenging events.

The AUDAX 100-kilometre ride was organised by the Cyclists Touring Club for serious long-distance riders.

The marathon event began at Bovey Tracey and followed a route through Chudleigh Knighton, Doddiscombsleigh, Drewsteignton, Chagford, Princetown, Dartmeet and Widecombe, finishing at the Moorlands Hotel at Haytor.

The cyclists reached a maximum altitude of 2,270 metres, for which they received points to add to special altitude cards issued by the French touring cyclists' organisation.

Kevin Presland, who helped organise the Dartmoor event, said the ride was not a race, although there was a maximum time limit of seven hours and a minimum of three-and-a-half hours.

To make sure that no-one cheated, control points were set up along the route marked by pumpkins in keeping with the spirit of Halloween.

Western Morning News ~ 1.11.93

Dave Portwood and Steve Oxley, leading the way, made the front page of the "local newspaper" in 1993 riding the Dartmoor Devil 100km Audax (Photo, Western Morning News, 1st Nov 1993)

BREVET POPULAIRE 14.5 kph to 30 kph

DARTMOOR DEVIL

100km SuperClimpeur

Organised by: **DEVON DA**
In emergency ring: **0392 75823**
Starting from: **BOVEY TRACEY**
Time: **09.30** Date: **31st October 1993**

START
09.30

Controllers -
in each box - Time,
Stamp & Signature

DREWSTEINGTON
45 km
11.00-12.57 11.57

PRINCETOWN
74 km
11.58-14.40

10 km
Q. What
animal is
on road sign?
Answer:
STAG

10.32
Secret

Secret

HAYTOR - Finish
100km
12.50-14.40

A
AA
2 points

THANKYOU
to all controllers from
Audax UK

Dartmoor Devil Brevet Card from October 1993 (Courtesy Dave Portwood)

Steve Oxley was starting to show his prowess in distance rides when at the end of May 1990, he rode a 200km Audax with 12,000ft of climbing over Fleet Moss and Park Rash Hills. Oxley and Mike Gaskin joined another 200 or so British riders invited by the Dieppe Cycling Club for another 200km ride in North Normandy, both finishing in the time limit allowed.

At the end of July 1990 and Steve Oxley was riding the CTC National 400km touring trial, which was held over a route from Chelmsford to Dunmow, in a field of 200 riders, the weather was good and the endurance expert from Newbury Road Club was well within the time. Oxley was using the ride as training for his upcoming 12-hour attempt at the club championship. He would subsequently ride 222.45 miles in the Farnborough and Camberley 12-hour event recording the fourth longest distance in the event, making it difficult for anyone in the club to beat him for the club BAR.

North Hampshire Audax

Three club riders, Charlie Jarrell, stalwart Steve Oxley and club junior star Mathew Melville rode the 208 kms North Hampshire Audax in appalling conditions – not unheard of in May! Melville was the first to complete the course in just over nine hours. Just to prove the ride hadn't dented his speed, he also took over a minute and a half off his 10-mile personal best by recording 23.51 in a Crabwood C.C. event the following week.

Super Grimpeur Oxley

April 1992 and Steve Oxley was putting in some more superb Audax rides. An Audax is a long-distance cycling event characterized by endurance and self-sufficiency, rather than speed or competition and is non-competitive. Steve Oxley, together with Mike Gaskin and Les Bowman rode the Elenith Audax 300km event from Kidderminster to the Cambrian Mountains and back climbing 1100 feet, completing the ride in under 16 hours. Steve Oxley then competed in the Minehead 200km Super Grimpeur which involved 1200 feet of climbing in 10 ½ hours. Several riders failed to finish due to the challenging conditions.

Oxley Rides Chepstow Audax

Oxley was becoming a highly accomplished Audax rider, and in June 1992 he rode the Chepstow Audax, which went through the Welsh mountains to Menai Bridge and back, a total distance of 385 miles, taking 32 hours! Oxley was first to reach the Menai Bridge but was passed by another rider on the return to finish second – although it's not a race!

One Hundred and Twenty-Four Ride Club Audax

The Newbury Road Clubs 100km Audax in February 1998 attracted a good field with well over a hundred riders taking part in the "annual" Audax through the lanes of West Berkshire and North Hampshire.

The ride started in Newbury with the first checkpoint at Lambourn followed by the stiff climb to Baydon. The quick descent to Aldbourne was followed by the muddy climb to Ramsbury and then Spring Hill, used for many years in the club hill climb championships, where they stopped on the disused airfield for the second check point and some sustenance. The section through Bedwyn, Oxenwood, Chute and Weyhill was a long slog in the north westerly. Riders turned into the headwind riding through the lanes to Upton, before turning to climb Coombe Gibbett from the Linkenholt direction. The final run home was downhill and slightly wind assisted. Everyone finished inside the eight-hour time window and few punctures or mechanical issues were reported.



Tea stop at the top of Spring Hill



Secret Control at Ramsbury



Spring Hill presented a particular challenge for some of the riders

<p>NEWBURY DOWNS 100</p>	<p>START 08.30 NEWBURY ROAD CLUB</p>	<p>Controllers - in each box - Time, Stamp & Signature.</p> <p>SPRING HILL 37 km - 09.44-11.35</p> <p>23 FEB 1992 10-14</p>	<p>ANDOVER 69 km 10.48-14.15</p> <p>NEWBURY ROAD CLUB</p> <p>S. H. D. 11-14.5</p>	<p>FINISH 102 km 11.54-17.00</p> <p>50 1-39 23 FEB 1992</p>
<p>Organised by: NEWBURY RC Starting from: NEWBURY Time: 08.30 Date: 23rd February 1992</p>	<p>LAMBOURN - Information Control</p> <p>Q: Name the church at Lambourn X-roads</p> <p>Answer: St Michael of All Angels</p>	<p>50</p>	<p>KINTBURY - Information Control</p> <p>Q: Give number on yellow hydrant at cemetery junction.</p> <p>Answer: 14</p>	<p>THANKYOU to all Controllers from ALDAX UK</p>

Newbury Downs Brevet Card from 1992

Weekends Away – YHA Weekends

September 1992 – Litton Cheney



Gang ready for the off to Litton Cheney; L to R; Brian Harper, Steve Oxley, Anthony Wood, Dave Portwood, Brian Tate, Dave Jones, Lyn Taylor, Alastair Masson, Les Bowman, Ian May, Brian Copas, Bob Lyle (Photo Lynn Portwood)



Mechanical Outside the Litton Cheney Youth Hostel (Morris Minor used to transport luggage, since restored!) (Photo Lynn Portwood)

Ludlow Autumn 1998

With thanks to Pete Frost for the snippet from Chainmail November 1998:

"More recently ten club members including myself went on a Youth Hostel weekend to Ludlow in Shropshire. Seven of us chose to stick to the roads [boring], and the other three of us including myself chose to leave the road and head for hills and tackle some interesting terrain. This included Richard Cutler finding it's not too comfortable to sit in a gorse bush. Martyn Harris decided it was all too much and tried hanging himself in a tree, and I found the only patch of stinging nettles on the Offa's Dyke Path whilst rolling down the hillside without my bike which followed shortly behind landing on my head. Luckily, I was wearing a crash helmet as I always do. We covered about 60 miles and two countries on this ride and were totally knackered when we returned to Ludlow. This was followed by a meal from the local chip shop and a meal at the Youth Hostel and then across the road for a beer or two and some more food in the form of a mars bar."

Charity Rides

Newbury Mountain Bike "Challenge 90"

July 1990 and the Newbury Mountain Bike Club – later to be integrated into the Road Club – held a ride in Goldwell Park to raise over £500 for local charities, an 11-mile event over a one-and-a-half-mile course presenting the funds raised to the Woodlands Trust and the St. Johns Ambulance.



Charity ride to John O'Groats

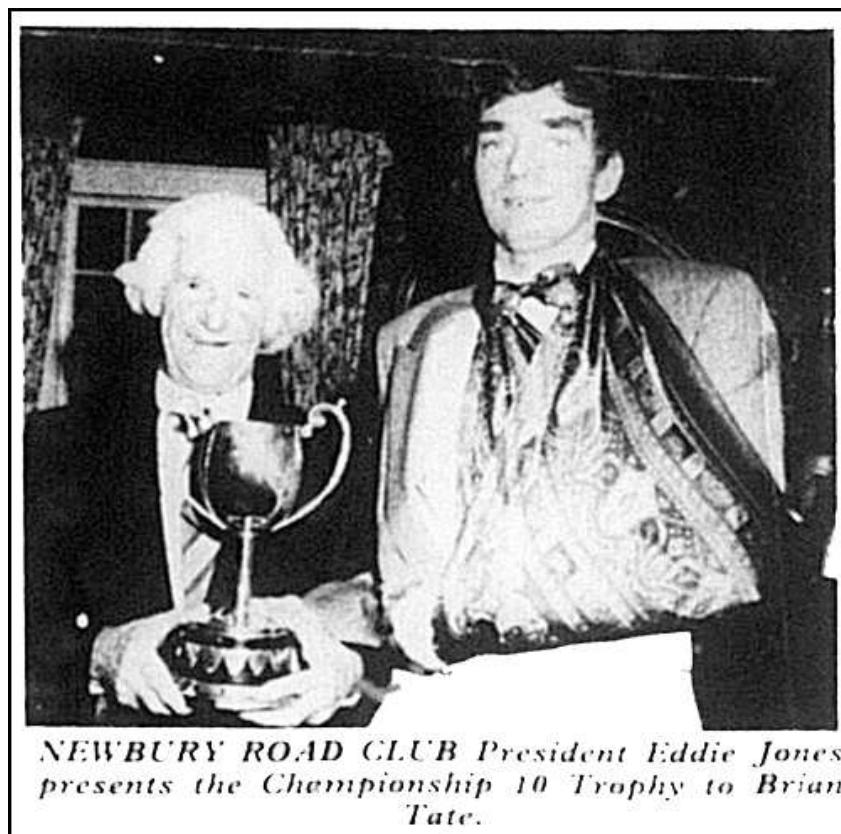
Riding from Lands' End to John O'Groats for many cyclists is the peak of many riders cycling endeavours. In 1991 Steve Oxley, Ian May and Bill Ratty embarked on the ride at the start of August, 7.00 am, August 1st, but it was only endurance rider Oxley who completed the

ride reaching the destination at exactly 6.30 on August 5th. His time was 107 hours 30 minutes for the 925-mile ride ridden mainly on "B" roads with some pretty challenging hills, as anyone who has tried to complete the challenge will testify. The schedule required 200 miles per day to be ridden. The weather was kind but there was no south westerly wind to aid the ride. Ian May climbed off his bike in Pebbles and Bill Ratty climbed into the support vehicle in Manchester.

Annual Prize Giving

The club's annual dinner in 1990 was held in November. There was no surprise with Brian Tate and Hazel Percival winning most of the club trophies for the year. Tate won the Men's BAR with an average speed of 23.80 m.p.h. as well as other awards. Percival won the ladies' BAR with 22.388 m.p.h. and several other trophies as well.

In 1991 the annual presentation was held at Aldermaston's Old Mill in November. Brian Tate picked up a multitude of trophies despite a broken arm making it slightly tricky. Other prize winners included Mark James, Chris Hobson, Iorry Morgan, Ian May, Steve Oxley, Danny Lewington and Hazel Percival.



The 1998 annual prize giving was held at Newbury Racecourse Golf Club on 7th November. This was a new venue for the club as the previous venue was proving too expensive.

Back in 1998 the club also held Christmas Lunches at the end of a club ride, at a local pub, and for 1998 this was held on December 6th at the Sun-in-the-Wood, Ashmore Green. Meals cost £15.50 and deposits of £5 needed to be given to organiser Chris Treacher.

CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU

*Mushrooms in a creamy
white wine & garlic sauce*

*Parcel of smoked Salmon & Prawns
in a chive & lemon mayonnaise*

Cream of Broccoli & Stilton soup

*Crispy fried Camembert on a mixed
leaf salad with redcurrant dressing*

*Fillet of Scottish Salmon in
a Lobster, Crab & dill sauce*

*Roast Seasonal Pheasant in a Red
wine Casserole with bacon & leeks*

*Traditional Roast Turkey, stuffing
chipolatas & Cranberry sauce*

*Grilled Sirloin Steak with a
rich Madeira & onion Sauce*

*Steamed ratatouille, cheese pudding
with a tomato Provencale sauce*

*"all main courses are served with
fresh vegetables & Roast potatoes"*

Christmas Pudding & Brandy sauce

*Spirals of Meringue filled with
fresh cream & sticky toffee sauce*

Chocolate & Tia Maria mousse

*Creamy Lemon Tart with vanilla
ice cream & Raspberry sauce*

*Coffee, Hot mince pies
& homemade Chocolate truffles*

After dinner prize WINNERS

Pictured left are prize winners who attended the club's annual dinner and prize presentation. A full list of club prize winners appears later in this news letter.

Back Row: Pete Frost, Arthur Frost, Dave Jones, Martyn Harris, Ian Lakey, Phil Dunk, John Lafford, Jeff Garner.

Front Row: Sara Bartlett, Sam Frost, Philip Jones, Cliff Voller, Sue Provis, Simon Harrison

Prize winners at the 1998 annual dinner

75th Anniversary Dinner

At the end of 1999 invitations were sent out for the 75th anniversary dinner. Guest of honour would be Newbury MP David Rendel who accepted the invitation and would be presenting the prizes. The dinner took place at the Pinnacle Club next to Newbury Racecourse. The evening would include a six-piece live band and the annual presentation of trophies.

Annual General Meeting

The first AGM of the new decade, in 1990, saw several changes on the committee as reported in the Newbury Weekly News. Dave Smith was elected as a Vice-president and Bob Lyle as secretary. Dave Smith continued as chief timekeeper, a role he had had for the previous 20 years. Bob Lyle had recently restarted cycling after a break but had raced with Hainault R.C. and had a best of 58:08 in a 25 TT recorded in 1963! Les Bowman was elected chairman and Arthur Frost continued as treasurer. Steve Oxley was time trial secretary, Brian Tate, club captain, Bill Battle as press secretary and Ian May, social secretary. Bryan Harper and Dave Jones were elected to the committee, and it was decided to invite a junior member to join the committee to include their views.

Cycle Clubs Merge

The Newbury Weekly News reported on May 9th, 1991, the mergers of Newbury Road Club and Newbury Mountain Bike Club to form a new club catering for all forms of road and off-road racing, track racing and touring. Mountain bikes were a “colourful” addition to cycle sport in recent years and help develop bike handling skills. Many riders would participate in both sides of the sport, but the hope was that mountain biking would attract more younger riders to the sport. The club would continue to promote the Sunday club rides at 8.30 am and Youth Hostel weekends in the autumn (usually organised by Dave Jones). Club meetings would continue to take place at Turnpike School on Fridays at 8 pm.

“Road Club in Good Shape”

The club AGM of November 1991 reported on the healthy status of the club and therefore, club subscriptions and racing fees were not being increased. The Racing Secretary reported on the success in the open 10-mile and 25-mile races promoted during the year. Arthur Frost was elected as club president succeeding Eddy Jones who stood down after 33 years in the office. Eddy had joined the club shortly after the restart after the second war. Dave Jones was once again elected club captain.

1998 AGM

The AGM of 1998 was held in the club room at Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall in Love Lane 30th October 1998. The club struggled to have a quorum at the AGM but just managed! Bob Lyle, who had been press secretary for many years, had decided to step down from his role. Bob was very active in organising the club time trials and LVRC road

paces for many years previously. Sara Bartlet took over the role of press secretary.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all the secretaries and press secretaries of Newbury Road Club who have submitted copy to the Newbury Weekly News, which has been abstracted from microfilm copy held at the Newbury Library to provide many of the stories in this chapter. Time trial results and other information have been abstracted from club records, and a debt is owed to the secretaries who have maintained these records which are held in the club archive. Other material has been donated by members of Newbury Road Club. The authors would also like to express gratitude to Gordon Fry for reviewing and proofing the content.

Read more Newbury Road Club history chapters here:

<https://www.newburyroadclub.co.uk/100>

Appendix – Club Newsletter February 1994

NEWBURY ROAD CLUB

NEWBURY MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

Affiliated to: RTTC, BCF, BMBF, RCTL, BCCA, WLCA, BCA

President: A Frost

NEWSLETTER Feb 1994

By now every one should have received their 1994 Club Calendar and those racing members should have plenty of miles in their legs ready for the onslaught again.

The first club event the 100km Audax, went very well considering the freezing conditions on Sunday February 13th. Steve Oxley had 155 entries, 139 starters and 137 finishers. One of the non finishers was Jeff Garnham, he's the old one just in case you don't know. He rode all the way round in my little group but didn't fancy going passed his own front door into Newbury and back out again. It's tough when you get to his age. Some of us have to ride home up Harts Hill!!

The first major club event is The Hilly 17 around Bucklebury on March 12th. Rumour has it that Stuart Towler is going all out to win the first trophy of the year. It will be interesting to see whether his week's training camp in the Canaries has any beneficial effect.

A WORD OF WARNING AT THIS STAGE. THE RTTC HAVE DECREED THAT THERE ARE TO BE NO 'U' TURNS ON THE ROAD WITHIN SIGHT OF THE START OR FINISH OF EVENTS. THIS ALSO INCLUDES CLUB RACES. DISQUALIFICATION OR NO RIDE IS THE PENALTY. BE WARNED.

On the road racing front we are promoting an Open Veterans race on the Showground on March 27th. Please come up and give the old ones your support. This is an LVRC event so you do need to join this before you can ride.

If you want to marshal in the Tour de France, Portsmouth loop, as per my previous letter please contact me straight away as I want to get the final list off to the organisers as soon as possible.

The club mountain bike season gets underway on March 13th at Upper Bucklebury. All you young riders that have joined the club recently now is your opportunity to shine through the mud. The races count towards the Best All Rounder competition with separate awards for seniors, juniors and juveniles.

By the time you read this the Spring Youth Hostel Trip to Cheddar will have happened but for your delight the write up for last year's Ludlow trip is attached. Basically the Saturday was a hard slog with the Sunday shorter, but still hard, climbing over Wenlock Edge and The Long Mynd.

some of us went up to take a look at Greenham Common Airbase recently to see whether we could get a road and off-road racing circuit up there. It is possible, but at the moment it is just too dangerous with so much razor wire around. I would think that we could get a good road circuit sometime in the future, providing of course it does not cost too much. The BCF Thames Valley Division are still trying to find out whether they can build an indoor track inside one of the huge hangers. Watch this space for future details.

Some club members have invested in brand new bikes in the winter including period Cliff Voller, Pete Frost, Dave Portwood and myself. Others have had resprays and new components. We expect great things from all these riders in 1994.

The new track season starts shortly at Palmer Park, Reading. Any one interested in this unique form of racing should contact Dave Portwood, alternatively why not go there and support them.

Finally don't forget if you haven't paid your 1994 subs you will not be eligible for any awards. The awards will not be backdated. The Hilly 17 and the mountain bike race are award counting events and are coming along shortly.

FOR SALE 21½" IAN WHITE LOW PRO
753 OVAL TUBING £475 ONO

Ring TIM JOHNSON - 0737 551373

Bob Lyle
The Heath
Upper Bucklebury

0635 865637

TOUR OF THE WELSH MARCHES

A Story of Two halves part one "The Romantic Fiction" by Dave Jones

It was time for Newbury Road Club's annual Y.H.A. trip. This year we decided on Ludlow in Shropshire with a two night stay. We drove from Newbury on Friday by various routes and times intending to make our first foray into the hills in the afternoon. On reaching Ludlow Hostel the rain came down in torrents, forcing a change in plans. We unloaded the bikes into the bike shed and tramped round the town visiting the market, museum and castle. Back at the hostel our party was nearly complete for the evening meal, Mark Letters and Ian May were expected to arrive for breakfast.

Saturday arrived with the rain still tipping down, this time we would have to ride in it, we couldn't chicken out again. Miraculously as we prepared to leave the rain stopped. Mark had joined us after arriving at 3 am and sleeping in his car until the hostel opened. Ian arrived too late to join us.

We began with a long climb under the dripping foliage of Bringewood followed by a fast descent through Burrington and to Leintwardine. We passed through Purslow, Clunton and Clun; by now the sun had broken through revealing the superb scenery on both sides of the valley as we followed the River Clun westwards. We began to climb steadily after Newcastle and were unchallenged as we crossed the border into Powys.

We passed over the Kerry Ridgeway (one of the better known hill top routes in Britain) and began the exhilarating descent down to Kerry. This was a two mile drop with several hair-pin bends, on these Mark Letters demonstrated his mountain bike skills, cornering with the inside leg out straight to form a pivot. It seemed to work but I would not recommend trying it! We became well spaced out on this descent, but all regrouped at Newtown for lunch.

After lunch we continued westward following the Severn valley to Caersws, then the going became tougher as we headed into the hills north on Llanidloes which was to be our turning point before heading back to Ludlow.

On the last long climb before Llanidloes the sky darkened and the heavens opened up. We sprinted for the shelter of a hill top barn and stood under its eaves with the water dripping down our necks. After 10 minutes the sun reappeared and we were on our way again, sweeping down into the town with over 50 miles covered. After stocking up with bonk rations we headed into the mountains.

As we climbed steadily upward, on the mountain side ahead could be seen row upon row of windmills their blades turning in the afternoon sun. At least they posed no threat to the environment, unlike the power stations of old. After reaching the summit we crossed open moorland before beginning a series of fast twisting descents. On one of these Mark Brazendale and "Yours Truly" failed to take the bend at the bottom. We both left the tarmac and disappeared into the undergrowth. Luck was with us and we both remounted unscathed, much to the amusement of the peloton. Eventually we began a long descent into the Ithon valley where we "raced" into Llanbister in an attempt to beat the rain which had just started again.

After half an hour in a pub where we had coffee and sandwiches we began the steep climb out of the valley, the rain had stopped and the view over the mountains was superb. The going became easier as we dropped into the Lugg Valley and headed downstream through the villages of Llangunllo and Monaughty. Here we left the valley road and climbed over the hills to Knighton. After Knighton the pace picked up as we followed the flatter A4113 to Leintwardine. Leaving Leintwardine we tackled Mocktree Hill, the final climb of the day. Much to my surprise I went over the top first closely followed by Dave Portwood. The peloton were out of sight so we decided to press on for Ludlow.

A long descent took us down to Bromfield and the A49 to Ludlow. Here we were brought to a halt by traffic lights and reeled in by the chasing group. We all entered Ludlow more or less together, the time was 6.15 pm. I think everybody enjoyed their 102 miles in the Welsh Marches?

(Unlike last year's tour, punctures were non-existent. This is a club record for a ride of this distance over wet gritty roads!)

Part Two

The Sordid Truth by Bob Lyle

It's funny writing this nearly two months after the event, the first day of this year's YHA trip still brings back the feeling of agony with no ecstasy. What Mr Jones forgot to say was the original trip was scheduled for 64 hilly miles, by early lunch it had moved on to 84 and by the close of play, 102 sodding mountainous miles. What he forgot of course was Pythagorus' theorem that 1½ inches up a 1 in 10 hill as shown on a map is more likely to be two miles than one. But delusions and illusions had already set in anyway when he and Mr Portwood felt that they could have stayed away at the end. Messrs Lyle, Oxley and Towler were only 50 yards behind and closing rapidly. There was no chance that they could have stayed away.

Sunday began in the morning. Over breakfast it was decided to reduce today's mileage from 60 to about 35 though most wanted to do only 10. The aim was to go over The Long Mynd, a brute of a hill in Shropshire. We set out in bright sunlight even though the roads were soaking wet from early rain. Ian May was out on his brand new bike, it was geared to win a downhill race, 94" bottom and no mudguards. He was soon struggling at the first major climb across Wenlock Edge via Diddlesbury. However the first half of the trip was mainly uneventful and we all rode steadily into Church Stretton for elevenses. Fortunately we arrived at the small cafe early. Having forced out the normal punters by the smell of sweaty bodies and Dave Portwood's feet we were left on our own for a short period. All of a sudden two "chain gangs" swept in. One from the "Black Country" the other from Telford. Unfortunately for them we had eaten all the bread, scones, beans, butter, etc. We left as the temperature began to rise and tempers were fraying.

Once in the cool outside we had our first puncture of the day and Mr Copas set about changing the tube as some set about walking up the 1 in 4 side of Long Mynd. Some managed to ride it. There were cyclists all over the place riding up and riding down. A Mid Shrop Whlrs hill climb had just finished and mountain bikers were cluttering up the place, walkers everywhere and a few motorists. The top of the climb was a hive of activity. We waited, waited and waited at the top only to discover that Brian hadn't got the right connector for his pump to match his tube. "Mad Max" Letters went back down the hill to assist. When we eventually set off again it was coming on for rain and turning cold. We rode the mile or so along the exposed flat top of the hill to face the 1 in 3 down hill ride. It was scary to say the least with one or two riders opting to walk, whilst "Mad Max" did his thing. In the space of the half mile descent we had 3 punctures and 1 broken spoke, all no doubt caused by red hot rims.

After another 1/2 hour or so we were on our way again through the mud splattered lanes towards Craven Arms. The pace was moving quite fast with Mr Copas stretching his legs off the front for a few miles. Then the May, Lyle duo shared the lead for the next ten miles into Ludlow with the pace moving up to 23/24 mph as I led them out for the Ludlow sign which was duly won by Stuart Towler with Mad Max second. A total mileage of 42.

The final long grind up the high street spread us out and we came in by ones and twos to the Youth Hostel where the cars were parked. The bikes were dismantled, the bodies cleaned and we headed for home or the knackers yard.

The hero of the weekend was 16 year old Mark Brazendale who had not ridden more than 30 miles before. He did the 102 miles without moaning and groaning. Indeed the only noise we had from him was when his buckled back wheel constantly rubbed against his brake block.

The moral of this weekend. Always add 25% to Dave Jones' estimated mileage (remember Lytton Cheyney). And don't let him near your half completed meal, otherwise he will help you finish it.

The next trip is March to Swanage. Don't ring us we'll ring you.

The Cast

Dave Jones - The Navigator	Dave Portwood - Crinkly Bottom
Bob Lyle - Mr Blobby	Mark Letters - Mad Max
Stuart Towler - Twiggy	Mark Brazendale - The Hero
Bryan Harper - Who!	Brian Hastings - The Snorer
Brian Copas - The Mechanic	Ian May - R202
Luke Hastings - Cool hand Luke	Steve Oxley - Mr Sheen

Accompanied by Lyn Portwood and the traveller