

Time Trials

28th March – Eastern Counties 10

Three members of the Wheelers braved the elements on the 10 Mile course at Leaden Roding.

The event was blessed with a cold, strong North West wind and occasional heavy showers - decidedly unpleasant. Despite the conditions there were very few non-starters in the field of 51 solo riders.

As expected given the weather, the two riders from the Wheelers did not manage to record speedy rides. Steve Watson was fastest with a 29.54 followed closely by Merv Player with a 29.57. The winner was Richard O'Rourke, Fitch Crono, with a 22.41.

The third Wheeler, Clive Wellings, spent an enjoyable(?) one and a half hours assisting the timekeeper. Without his help our efforts would have been in vain. Thanks Clive. MP

31st March – Club 10

Five Wheelers reported to the timekeeper for the first of the club's league 10 which took place on the F6A at Cole Green.



Barry P on a recent Club TT

Decent weather conditions greeted the riders for a change, mild with a light north drift. Unfortunately Peter Walton did not complete the first of the three circuits before puncturing. The remaining four riders continued to record fast times for this time of the year.

Times were:-

Phil Young	23.11	
Barry Page	24.18	
Steve Watson	25.57	
Andy Crawley	28.48 (first time trial for over 10 years.	MP

4th April – E. Anglian VTTA 25

Merv rode this 25, promoted by East Anglian VTTA, at Six Mile Bottom Near Newmarket.

At last the 50 riders had reasonable riding conditions, although there was, once again, a strong North West wind blowing, but it was warm enough to dispense with the leg warmers.

Merv's time was not as fast as he had expected and was the slowest he has recorded on the two lap course. His 1.10.05 was only good enough for 4th on Standard. The winner, not surprisingly was 2008 National 25 mile Champion Michael Hutchinson with a 52.14!!

7th April – Club 10

This took place on the E64/10 on a windy evening which slowed things down a touch.

Wheelers' times were:-

Phil Young	24.51
Doug Davies	26.28
Sam Wall	26.47
Renato Davies	26.48
Steve Watson	26.53.

There were also three private entrants:-

James Sale	25.44	
J Lambert	26.36	
Gianni Altomare	29.26	MP

ECCA Festival

This takes place at High Easter on 2nd, 3rd and 4th May. I think we have three riders down for the 200k Audax, which should score the Wheelers 50 points in the team competition. Can we do the same for the 100k, for time trials and for the map-reading competition? Go on! Enter something and let's see how well the Wheelers can do. Entries for most events close on 14th April. See <http://tinyurl.com/b38sgg> for details.

Open Event Marshalling Duties

Volunteers required! We especially need help on the Club '30' to be held on F20/30 on Sunday 24th May. We shall need at least 8 marshals, a pusher off and time checker and some help with the signs. We also hope that some members will wish to ride the event. Please contact secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk.

Time and Date	Event	No. Reqd.	Perf. by
09:00 28 th March	ECCA 10	1	Clive W
08:00 4 th May	ECCA Fest. 2up 25	1	TBD
07:00 24 th May	Club Open 30	10	TBD
14:00 6 th June	ECCA 10	1	TBD
18:00 27 th June	Club Open 10	10	John Clark
06:30 23 rd Aug	NMHCA 25	3	TBD

Club Runs

Sunday 15th March

Alex P, John F, Graham K, Peter W, Andy C, Jane P, Bob B, Patrick D, Cathy P, Barry P

A group of ten set out from Hertford. They took the Bramfield, Bulls Green, Woolmer Green and Nup End route to the B656. In an attempt to make the route flatter they stuck to the B656 until close to Hitchin before by-passing it via Gosmore and Charlton (this, though, added a couple of extra miles).

At Charlton a false rumour that Andy had gone home sick lead to a deal of confusion. With the help of modern technology contact was remade at the start of Wibbly Wobbly lane and we all proceeded via Shillington to the Alpe de Pulloxhill which caused a large split in the group. The last couple of miles to Westoning and the garden centre were a bit busy(!). Very slow food service meant we

got best use of the lovely *al fresco* eating conditions. It also caused another split in the group as Bob, Peter and Graham had to get home, using the approved route, before Andy's lasagne had been grown. We followed them over the challenge of Sharpenhoe Clappers before heading down Lilley Bottom. An additional café stop was made at Whitwell before heading back to Hertford (the naughty leader diverted back to Stevenage as he was still in the doghouse after the previous day's 8am to 7pm ride). AP

Sunday 22nd March

Jane P, Cathy P, John Clark, Patrick D, Andy C, Alex P, Barry P, Graham K, John F.

The group's outward progress from Much Hadham was slightly delayed by Andy taking an early bath in the ford, resulting in a bruised hip and slightly bent bike. Thereafter they rode through Green Tye, Sawbridgeworth, Churchgate Street, Tilegate

Green, Bovinger (Alex turning for home), Greensted Green, Marden Ash (Graham turning for home) and Stondon Massey to Megarry's Antiques at Blackmore (Very cycle friendly although the menu is limited to Teas, Coffees & Cakes).

The return leg was through Norton Heath, Willingale, Birds Green, Little Laver and Matching Church where a brief stop resulted in Patrick making a close inspection of the tarmac having been caught out by his new clipless pedals. They then returned to Much Hadham through Sheering, Sawbridgeworth and Green Tye. (51 miles) JF

Sunday 29th March

Steve B, Bob B, Patrick D, John F, Alex P

With a number of members involved in other rides and activities only a quartet rolled out of Ware through Thundridge, Cold Christmas, Much Hadham, Upwick

/Continued over

Audax

Alex P, Peter W and Andy C rode the "Up the Uts" 100k audax from Ugley on 14th March. All added to the distance by riding to and from the start. Various aches afflicted Peter whilst Andy was struck down by a bacon sandwich, so progress was slower than expected. All eventually made a safe return, however.

The same group, plus Graham, attempted the 200k "Start of Summertime Special" ride from Stevenage. This is one of the larger audax rides; many years of diligent promotion have resulted in several hundred riders and mayoral participation at the start.

Andy, having ridden to the start, realised that he was still suffering from his aquatic activities and, sensibly, decided to return home via Walkern. Alex, despite living in Stevenage, managed to miss the start and joined the ride in Walkern. Finding no Wheelers in

the first group he decided none were participating and set off on his own (touching faith in Graham's and Peter's ability - they were doing the best they could at the back of the field!)

Alex then charged through the leaders witnessing Barry doing a time trial in the opposite direction at Steeple Bumstead. Finding his riding companions "distinctly odd" (heads down, refusing to speak, mumbling about next turn) he

decided to make up his own route and eventually headed down to meet the club rone at Great Dunmow.

Graham and Peter, meanwhile, enjoyed a pleasant ride to Lavenham where Andy joined them (motorised) for lunch. The return was more difficult being both more hilly and windy. Despite various aches and fatigue they made it back to Stevenage before dark. GK



Riders set off from Stevenage

Club Run Schedule						
Date	Time	Start	Destination	Dist.	Pace	Lead
April						
12th	9:30	Puck.	<i>Mocha Café, Saffron Walden</i>	50m	Med	JF
19th	9:30	Hert.	<i>Hitchin - tea stop to be advised</i>	45m	Med	AC
26th	9.30	Much H.	<i>Parrishs Café, Thaxted</i>	45m	Med	JF
May						
3rd	9:30	Ware.	<i>3 - 4 hours Off Road, take own food</i>	50m	Med	JF
	14.30	Ware	<i>Tea Shop Ride to Braughing</i>	25m	Easy	BC
* This ride will include the speed-judging competition						
Leaders: Bruno Cartwright (BC), Andy Crawley (AC), Tim & Angela Dobson (TD, AD), John Farnham (JF), Paul Fennell (PF), Barry Page (BP), John Pearson (JP), Alex Powell (AP), Peter Walton (PW), Sarah Wren (SW).						
Start Locations:						
<i>Much Hadham: bus shelter north end of High Street</i>						
<i>Puckeridge: outside White Hart pub in High Street</i>						
<i>Ware: Broadmeads car park near level crossing</i>						
<i>Hertford: Hartham Common, recycling point</i>						
<i>Sawbridgeworth: Bell Street car park</i>						
<i>Harmer Green: Top of New Road at junction with Harmer Green Lane</i>						

/Club runs – continued

Green, Stansted, Ugley Green, Elsenham and Little Easton to the Tea Tree Café, Dunmow.

Alex, having completed part of the “Start of Summertime Special” Audax from Stevenage, arrived at the café just in time for the return leg via Great Canfield, Hatfield Forest, Spellbrook, Wareside and back to Ware. (56 miles) JF

Sunday 5th April

John F, Andy C, Pete W, Bob B, Alex P, Steve B, Sam W

Due to a diary malfunction, Tim and Angela were unable to lead the club ride. Therefore John F led the group, including new rider Sam, on an uneventful journey to Writtle where they had a refreshment break.

On returning to the bikes Bob realised that he had punctured which was quickly repaired. After a few miles the front wheel of Peter’s bike tangled with Steve’s rear wheel and mech. Peter ended up grounded (the Richter Scale was mentioned). Fortunately he was not run over by the following Land Rover whilst sitting in the middle of the lane. Thankfully Andy’s TLC skills

enabled him to make both bikes roadworthy enough to ride home. However Peter’s journey was further complicated having torn a ligament in his hand plus a new selection of cuts and bruises superimposed on a previous set.

Originally Sam may have had reservations about cycling with a bunch of old fogeys. However, after seeing all the blood, gore and excitement he couldn't sign up for his membership quickly enough and attended Tuesday's club TT where he rode a very creditable time for his first TT.

Peter's bike is a write off - broken frame and forks. PW

Sunday 5th April (14:30) Invitation Ride

There was a fine afternoon for the first of this year's Tea Shop (Invitation) Rides - but no other member from our club showed up to join JP. The weather being so good, several of those who were not racing but keen to ride a club run had joined John F for his ride in the morning.

However, JP was not alone, as four members of the Welwyn Wheelers showed up - Roger Akers and son Callum, Emma as

stoker to Roger on tandem and Emma's boyfriend on a mountain bike borrowed from Callum.

The ride took a fairly direct route out via Chapmore End, Sacombe Park, Potters Green, White Hill, Nasty and Cherry Green to tea at Westmill. The return ride took in Nasty, Gt Munden, Dane End and Sacombe Park. At that point JP turned for Ware via Tonwell whilst the others followed the route through Stonyhills to Hertford. JP

Club Run Points

Points to the end of March

Andy C	38
John F	32
Peter W	28
Bob B, Alex P	25
Graham K	23
Barry P	18
Cathy P	16
Patrick D	12
Jane P	10
Angela D, Steve Whipp, John P	6
Sarah W	5
Tim D, Paul F, Steve Watson, Steve B	4
Bill C, Bruno C, John Clark	2
Danny M	1

The Rond Van Vlaanderen

(Report from GK)

I spent an enjoyable weekend riding the 140k Rond Van Vlaanderen voor Wielertoeristen and MTBers on the 4th April and watching the professional race on the 5th.

There were several sportive rides of varying lengths both on and off-road – more than 19,000 riders took part. The 140k route took in all the “bergs” of the professional race and included several cobbled sections. The atmosphere was quite informal; no set start time and no timings recorded. Some riders were just out to enjoy the day, incorporating beer, chip and picnic stops. Others were trying extremely hard for a fast time.



Riders on the RvV sportive

The bergs were "interesting". Most were narrow, cobbled and steep (up to 22%). I had low enough gears but found control difficult with the front wheel tending to lift while the rear one tended to slip – and this was in the dry. With large numbers of riders wobbling along at low speed it was easy to be baulked and be forced to stop, at which point starting again is impossible. That, at any rate is my excuse for walking up parts of two climbs. I did make it almost to the top of the Muur-Kappelmuur, which is the decisive climb in the professional race, but someone then pushed me off my bike. Not much damage, fortunately, and I finished the ride in about 6¼ hours riding time, helped by much fast group-riding between the bergs.

I went with a Baxters' coach tour which also took us to watch the professional race at four points including the start and the Muur-Kappelmuur. I did notice that the pros seemed to be going a bit faster I had. I put this down to the fact that they had missed out two of the bergs I had done. GK

Website and email

The website is being re-vamped. Keep an eye on <http://www.herts-wheelers.org.uk/>.

Some email addresses have been set up for use when contacting Wheelers' officers. These are:

membership@herts-wheelers.org.uk
 secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk
 treasurer@herts-wheelers.org.uk
 racing@herts-wheelers.org.uk
 clubruns@herts-wheelers.org.uk
 mudflap@herts-wheelers.org.uk
 clubkit@herts-wheelers.org.uk

The names should be self-explanatory

New Members

Welcome to Renato Davies (a future junior time-trial star) and Sonia Knight (who is the power behind the editorial tandem).

Another Valuable Bike



Nice to have your own name on your bike. (If your eyes are like mine you will need to know that it reads Eddy Merckx.) Seen at the

Ronde van Vlaanderen Museum at Oudenarde (not by me unfortunately – maybe next time).

Certainly worth more than last month's Colnago-Ferrari!

Name the Village

Here are the villages shown so far plus the names of those who were first with the correct answers;

Jan: Birch Green Geoff G
 Feb: Westmill John P
 Mar: Weston Alex P

(John denies entering on the grounds that it was too easy).

Here is one for April.



For Sale

Steve Booth has two tubulars surplus to requirements. They are marked BIS eWiva are unused (still in the packaging). Offers to Steve at

stevebooth@blueyonder.co.uk

Club Contacts

President: John Pearson

Treasurer: John Clark

treasurer@herts-wheelers.org.uk

General Secretary: Steve Watson

secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk

website: www.herts-wheelers.org.uk

Racing Secretary: Pat Player

racing@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

membership@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Clubruns Organiser: John Farnham

clubruns@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Club Coach: Ian Hayter

Mudflap Editor: Graham Knight

mudflap@herts-wheelers.org.uk
 Tel. 01992 626619

Clubroom:

Every Thursday from 8pm,
 St Margaretsbury Sports & Social
 Club, Stanstead Abbots, Herts.

Email: secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk