

Wheelers Open 10

Nino Piccoli (API Metrow/ Silverhook Chemicals) stormed to a course record of 18:46 in the Wheelers Open 10 Mile Scratch and Middlemarkers Time Trials held 27th June. For the Middlemarkers and other early starters the conditions were fair but as the event proceeded, thunderstorms rolled in dissuading some later entrants from competing. Of the 102 entrants, 62 completed the course with several riders recording personal best times.



Piccoli on a damp A10. (Photo AC)

In the scratch race three riders followed Piccoli under 20 minutes with Luke Clarke 2nd (19:31) and Alan Warbuton 3rd (19:34). Herts Wheelers' Phil Young finished in 21:38 and Peter Walton secured a PB with 22:34.



Peter Walton "enjoying" a PB ride. (Photo AC)

Twenty-five riders entered the Middlemarkers event with fifteen improving their best times eleven of whom are now too fast for this section of the event. The winner was Graham Brant (Chelmer CC) in a time of 22:17, followed by David Godden (22:30) and David

Barker (22:35). The best improvement came from Garry Barton (22:40) with a gain of 1:39.

Thanks to all who helped make the event a success, especially Steve W for his organisation together with his helpers at event HQ, Liz and Peter Walton plus Paul's better half Jo for the refreshments and the many hardy souls out on the course. Peter managed to get the event a prominent write-up in the Mercury from which this report is adapted. GK

Audax and Sportives

June and July were busy months for the enthusiasts. Most of the reports below were gleaned from Peter W's ride log on the website.

6th Jun - The Beautiful South

Steve Wh enjoyed a change of scenery taking part in this 110k ride from Beech Hill near Reading. He journeyed through Berkshire and Hampshire to Alresford and back via Fleet, starting damp and ending in light drizzle. The rest of the ride was dry. PW

7th Jun - Norwich 100m Charity Ride

Pat D and Peter W rode this event in atrocious weather conditions. Whoever it was said Norfolk is flat needs to cycle around it. However Pat did record his first 100 mile ride. PW

Congratulations Mervyn!



VTTA East Anglia Group 50 mile TT record (2.11.08) at age 76.

14th Jun - Dieppe Raid

Who says we don't travel far? Steve Wh enjoyed a day in Northern France sampling the food and wine and enjoying a 107k randonnée through French hills. PW

5th Jul - East Herts Loop

Steve Wh and Peter W spent a hot morning riding out from London Colney and looping 100k around Hertfordshire past both of their front doors before finishing back where they had begun. PW

7th Jul - Suburban Breakout

Peter W rode to Edmonton to meet Steve B. From there it was a ride to Fortis Hill in order to start a 100k ride back through Hertford and on to Cottered. The route then took them back to Fortis Hill from where they returned to Edmonton and Hertford. PW

Watch le Tour with the Wheelers

Our Clubroom at St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club will be open from 12:00 on Wed 22nd July for viewing Stage 17 to Le Grand Bornand. The Club is providing a buffet lunch.

Please let John Clark know if you are coming.

Also, the Saracen's Head pub in Ware will show stage 20 for us. This is the Mont Ventoux stage on Sat 25th July. Several members plan to be there from about 12:00 onwards – perhaps after a ride in the morning.



5th July - TORPLEX 200k

Graham K began this with a pleasant 30 km eastwards along the coast in pleasant sunshine. Heading back west across Dartmoor a strong, damp, cold headwind made for an unpleasant 40 km. However, the return to Newton Abbot benefited from a strong tail wind, which enabled the riders to keep pace with the cloudburst overhead. GK

Time Trials

6th June - Newark Castle 25

Pete Walton competed in this race, which was held on the A1 at Newark (A25/25). He completed the course in 1:08:56. BE

9th June – Club 10

Very still conditions for the 10th 10 although a little cold at 14°C. Phil Young won chipping a few seconds off last week's time, he is now 2 points ahead in the league. Graham Knight took chunks out of his PB in his first ride on the F20.

| | | |
|---------------|------------|----|
| Renato Davies | 22: 56 | |
| Doug Davies | 23:37 | |
| Peter Walton | 24:23 | |
| Graham Knight | 25:28 (PB) | BE |

13th June - Shaftesbury CC 50

Merv rode this on a course covering the A117 and A14 roads near Newmarket. The afternoon was warm but a strong wind caused trouble for most of the riders. Merv managed 2.11.08 to gain the 2nd Vet on Standard Prize also gaining a VTTA Group Record at 76 years old. MP

14th June - Finsbury Park 50

Merv entered this race as an alternative if he had not got in the Shaftesbury. He honoured his entry but after 25 miles (completed in 1.12.00) he decided not to continue. (*Surely any 76 year old should be able to manage a couple of 50-mile time-trials on consecutive days. Is Merv getting soft? Ed.*) MP

16th June – Club 10

On the E64 Phil increased his lead in the scratch league. Renato is closing the gap on his Dad and could move into 3rd place in the next event.

| | | |
|---------------|-------|----|
| Phil Young | 23:32 | |
| Barry Page | 23:59 | |
| Renato Davies | 25:05 | |
| Steve Watson | 25:06 | |
| Peter Walton | 25:08 | |
| Doug Davies | 25:17 | |
| Graham Knight | 26:52 | BE |

20th June - Maldon CC 10

Barry rode this on the E21 on a warm, dry day with a slight head wind on the return. Barry finished 21st in 24:56. The winner, Nick Green, finished in 22:21. BE

20th June - VTTA E. Anglia 25

Peter Walton rode this on the E2/25 in good weather apart from some light rain. Peter set a new PB of 1:00:51, that sub hour ride must be coming soon! BE

21st June - Century RC 10

A strong northerly on the F20/10 helped Peter W to the turn in under 11 min - but meant a slog back and an eventual time of 24:54. BE

21st June – E. District CA 100

Merv rode this on a course based on the A11 near Norwich. The morning began cool with little wind, warming up with a light breeze later. Despite a slow start, Merv produced his best time (4.52.25) at the distance for the past five years. MP

23rd June – N. Road Club 10

Peter W rode this Brickendon – based event and set a course PB of 24:52. BE

2nd July - Heron Series Circuit Race

An anonymous Wheeler rode this at the Dunton Technical Centre. He contested primes but managed only second, not yet able to compete with teamwork from

Southend Wheelers. Badly positioned at the finish he was unable to contest the final sprint. His name has been withheld as he is in secret training (!). BE

4th July – Shaftesbury MM 25

Three Wheelers rode on a warm sunny afternoon with a strong west wind. It was very hard to the turn but a “flyer” back. The result was a little hard on Barry, fastest on the day but just one second short of an hour!

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|----|
| Barry Page | 1.00.01!! | |
| Merv Player | 1.3.32 | |
| Peter Walton | 1.5.25 | MP |

Club 10 League

After the eleventh League 10 the scratch points position is:

| | | |
|---------------|----|----|
| Phil Young | 97 | |
| Barry Page | 94 | |
| Doug Davis | 75 | |
| Renato Davis | 74 | |
| Peter Walton | 44 | |
| Steve Watson | 33 | |
| Graham Knight | 19 | |
| Sam Wall | 8 | MP |

Club Runs

Sunday 7th June – Off Road

Cathy P, John F

The planned route was abandoned due to very heavy rain the preceding night and several days beforehand. Plan B took the riders over Ware Park, Rib Vale, Waterford Common, Bramfield Wood, Watton, Bennington, Walkern Park Farm, Haultwick, Whitehill, Standon Green End, Barwick, Youngsbury, Cold Christmas, Ashridge Common and back to Ware. (28m) JF

Wed 10th June – Evening Run

Andy C, Jane P, Cathy P, Valdis B, John F

The first of the new evening rides took a circular route from Ware via Thundridge, Cold Christmas, Much Hadham, Standon, Colliers End, Barwick Ford, Babbs Green and back to Ware. (25m). JF

Sunday 14th June

Andy C, Graham K, Bruno C, Patrick D, Barry P, Steve B, Valdis B, John F

A hilly route was taken to Wheathampsted through Great Munden, Ardeley, Halls Green, Little Wymondley, Preston, Bendish and Gustard Wood to T Potts Cafe. There Graham departed to be replaced by John P who had ridden from home. Well fed the group were treated by Bruno to a demonstration of his new 'Airnimal' folding bike.

Return was through Codicote, Rabley Heath, Woolmer Green, Datchworth Green, Watton, Whempsted, Dane End, Levens Green, Old Hall Green back to Puckeridge. (47 m). JF

Sunday 21st June

Alex P, Andy C, John F, Graham K, Barry P and Peter W

Seven met at Hertford but Bruno was only flexing his new folder and went off testing elsewhere. The rest took the route through Bramfield and Woolmer Green emerging in Codicote. They then headed for the end of Luton airport runway (saying goodbye to Graham).

Swooping down onto the Lilley Bottom road the group passed, not surprisingly, through Lilley and then down and down Gravel Hill to the Tea Room in Hexton. After Andy had got over the price of the cakes the Wheelers smugly took their luxury deckchairs just before 50 "Stevenage Circular Cyclist" participants arrived.

After fighting their way past all the bikes, the riders continued North to Shillington and back towards Hitchin taking in Wibbly Wobbly lane, 1km of scary dual carriage-way to Charlton and 1km of scary gravel to Gosmore. A nice hill up to Preston finally warmed their legs and rapid progress was made to Woolmer Green this time via Whitwell, Potters Heath (Robin Hood) the extreme north of Codicote (near the Goat), coming out near the Red Lion. Barry, Peter and Andy then felt the call of the

pint in Burham Green, whilst Alex and John felt the call of the wife and the need to grease his hub, respectively as reasons to head for home. AP

Sunday 21st June – Afternoon Ride

Bruno C, Graham and Sonia K

A chance for Bruno to test his Airnimal and for Graham and Sonia to practice assembling their tandem without losing the spanner. They rode to Much Hadham then back over the hill to Standon village hall. Return was through Barwick and Cold Christmas – a pleasant ride on a mainly warm, sunny afternoon. GK

Wednesday 24th June – Evening Run

Andy C, Jane P, Valdis B, Peter W, Steve B, Steve Wh, Patrick D, John F.

A circular route from Ware through Thundridge, Cold Christmas, Barwick Ford, Dane End, Levens Green, Standon, Wellpond Green, Much Hadham, Babbs Green and back to Ware. (28m). JF

Sunday 28th Jun

Tim and Angela D, Kathy P, John F, Barry P, Philip, Andy C, Pete W, Bob B, Graham and Steve B.

On a beautiful sunny day, perhaps a little too warm even, the group

rode out through Spellbrook, Hatfield Forest, Bambers Green and Great Eastern, from where Graham and Bob headed for home. The rest continued through Lindsell to Finchingfield. The café, now under new ownership, was voted a success.

The return route was via Little Sampford, Thaxted, Henham, Manuden, Little Hadham and The Crown, Much Hadham for a well-earned drink. A&TD

Sunday 5th July – Invitation Ride

Steve B, Valdis B, John Pk, John P, Peter W.

On a very warm, humid but cloudy day numbers were down but included a welcome pair of possible recruits; Steve Rolfe from Ware and his son Dave.

John P led the ride out from Ware via Fanhams Common, Babbs Green and Much Hadham - which seemed strangely quiet – no traffic. Peter and Steve opted for a few extra miles before tea and headed for Furneux Pelham while the rest turned after Hadham golf course for Westland Green and Broken Green to Braughing village Hall. Here they found where the traffic had gone; a Red Cross Open Gardens Day meant the hall was packed. Still, the tea and cake were fine as usual and they met Dave and Sue Pohl and Johnny White with Kath for some recollec-

| Club Run Schedule | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|--|-------|------|------|
| Date | Time | Start | Destination | Dist. | Pace | Lead |
| July | | | | | | |
| 19 th | | <i>Wheeler's Audax rides: 50k, 100k, 150k, 200k (See website)</i> | | | | JC |
| 22 nd | 19:00 | Ware | <i>Around the Lanes</i> | 25m | Med | JF |
| 26 th | 9.30 | Much H. | <i>The Booking Hall, Rayne</i> | 50m | Med | A&TD |
| August | | | | | | |
| 2 nd | 9:30 | Hertf. | <i>3 - 4 hours Off Road, take own food</i> | 35m | Med | JF |
| | 14.30 | Ware | <i>Tea Shop Ride to Standon</i> | 25m | Easy | JP |
| <i>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).</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Start Locations:</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Much Hadham: bus shelter north end of High Street</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Ware: Broadmeads car park near level crossing</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Hertford: Hartham Common, recycling point</i> | | | | | | |

tions of '60s and '70s Wheelers.

All seven returned via Puckeridge, Barwick Ford, Cold Christmas and Thundridge. (25 m) JP

Club Run Points

Club run points to the end of June.

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Andy C | 60 |
| John F | 50 |
| Peter W | 44 |
| Bob B | 40 |
| Graham K | 37 |
| Alex P | 36 |
| Barry P, Cathy P | 32 |
| Patrick D, Jane P | 24 |
| Angela D | 16 |
| Tim D, Bruno C, Steve B | 14 |
| John P | 12 |
| Steve Wh | 10 |
| Sarah W | 7 |
| Valdis B | 6 |
| Steve Wa, Paul F, John Cl | 4 |
| Bill C, Steve M | 2 |
| Danny M | 1 |

Xmas Dinner

Still no takers, I think, for organiser of the social occasion of the year. Please contact John Clark if you can assist.

Name the village

No takers for last week's admittedly rather hazy image, which was of Whitwell taken on the descent from Bendish.

This month's is another slightly elevated view but probably a more familiar one. GK



A Message from Oz

Former member Chris Hill, who emigrated to New Zealand and then Australia, has been in touch to say how impressed he is with Phil Young's 10m TT times. "I reckon 21 minutes for a ten is very fast, because I know how old Phil is!" He has sent some recollections of club activities in the 60s and 70s. No space this month but they will be in the August Mudflap.

Wheelers' Posters



Have you managed to post a poster yet (available from the website members area)? John Clark has

offered to provide laminated versions. Please contact him if you require one of these.

Open Event Marshalling Duties

Thanks to all who have helped so far. More help will be needed - contact secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk.

| Time and Date | Event | No. | Perf. by |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----|--|
| 09:00 28 th March | ECCA 10 | 1 | Clive W |
| 08:00 4th May | ECCA Fest. 2up 25 | 1 | Bruno C |
| 07:00 24th May | Club Open 30 | 10 | (See website) |
| 14:00 6th June | | 1 | TBD |
| 18:00 27th June | Club Open 10 | 10 | SWa, BE, PF, SWH, JCl, GK, SB, AD, JCa, PY, PW, LW |
| 06:30 23 rd Aug | NMHCA 25 | 3 | TBD |

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Clubroom:

Every Thursday from 8pm,
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