

### Racing

Despite freezing temperatures and icy winds racing has begun.

#### 14th Feb - Ely & District Hardriders 25

Two members of the 'Wheelers' opened their racing seasons in this event. On a cold morning with occasional wintry squalls, Barry Page and Merv Player braved the elements, both recording times slower than last year.

Barry recorded 1.13.30 and Merv 1.18.35 to win the 3rd Vet on Standard award.

#### 7th March - 1st Club 10



*Brian Evans – OK, this is last year but he has hardly aged at all*

This took place on the Cole Green Course (F6A). A freezing easterly wind made the first leg of each lap hard work but did help propel the

### Next Clubroom Talk

#### 2000 km in search of Mount Cook on the land of the long white cloud

Jim Cann

Thursday 15th April 2010 at 8:45 pm  
St. Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club.

A slide-show presentation by Jim Cann who will describe his cycle tour of the south island of New Zealand.

Free to Members and Guests but please buy a drink at the bar to support our use of the Clubroom.

riders up the long drag on the second leg. It was good to see two new members, both time-trial novices, taking part. Let us hope they were not put off by the arctic temperatures!

Congratulations to Brian for pipping Paul for first place. All those turbo session paying off perhaps!

#### Results

##### 72" Restricted Gear Comp.

Brian Evans	28:07
Paul Fennel	28:12
Barry Page	28:33
Peter Walton	30:29
Graham Knight	31:18
Jason Thorpe	32:00
Richard Henderson	36:57

##### Unrestricted Comp.

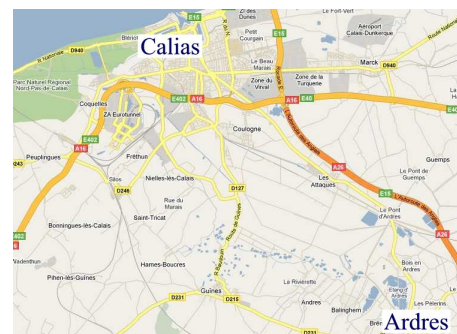
Phil Young	25:19
Renato Davis	28:00

MP/BE

### A weekend away?

Readers of the forum ( see <http://forum.errl.org.uk>) will have seen Peter W's posting about a possible Wheelers' weekend in France. The idea is to take part in the "Carre De Vallees" rides on Sun. May 16<sup>th</sup>. These start from Ardres, which is about 10 miles from Calais. There are rides of 25km, 60km, 100km or 150km to choose from. The terrain is nice rolling countryside with some spectacular coastal views.

Details of transport and accommodation are still being researched. One possibility is to travel to Dover by car on Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> then cross as foot passengers plus bikes.



If you are interested then please contact Peter ([webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk)). Don't worry if you don't want to commit yet. Peter would just like to get a feel for the potential numbers.

### Wheelers' Audax Change

Please note that the date of the club Audax has changed. The four events at 50km, 100km, 150km and 200km will now take place on **Sunday 4th July** starting from Bengoe, Hertford.

Go to the Audax website (<http://www.aukweb.net/cal/index.htm>) to obtain an entry form. Note that you do **not** need to be a member of Audax UK to enter.

How about making this your first Audax?

## Club run reports

### Sunday 14th Feb

Graham K, Peter W, John F, Danny M, Richard, Jason T, Brian E, Steve M, Alex P, Andy C, Lawrence U

The day dawned cold and wet but by 9:30 the rain had stopped. This meant that the first puncture of the day - in the car park - could be mended in the dry. The route followed a loop to the east and north of Stevenage through Datchworth, Aston and Walkern to Halls Green then along Dane End Lane and down to Graveley. Alex, probably yearning for more hills, went via Weston. The ride then headed to the south through Little Wymondley and over the St Paul's Walden hill to Whitwell. Andy and Lawrence, needing to return in time for the rugby and digitally enhanced via GPS, had pressed on whilst Richard dealt with a puncture near Aston. They arrived at Emily's a little ahead of the rest. In total 13 Wheelers made it to the café as Steve W and Paul F had called in on their training run.

Andy and Lawrence were first to head for home soon followed by the others who enjoyed a fairly direct and uneventful return via Codicote, Burnham Green and Tewin. (40 miles) GK

### Sunday 21st Feb

Andy C, Lawrence U, Peter W, Bob B, Steve McC, John F plus potential new member Brian Hill

Leaving Ware on a freezing and wet February morning the ride set out through Wareside, Widford, Green Tye, Bishops Stortford to Stansted Montfitchet. Here the rain turned to snow and by Burton End the snow had turned to sleet. The group continued through Elsenham, Molehill Green, Takeley and Hatfield Forest to The Village Tearoom at Hatfield Heath. Seldom had the riders arrived at a tea stop feeling so cold and wet! They were joined almost immediately by Tim & Angela D who had ridden out directly from home. The return leg, although still cold, was now

dry and took in Sawbridgeworth, Allens Green, Green Tye, Much Hadham, Babbs Green and back to Ware. JF

### Sunday 7th March

Cathy P, Danny M, Steve McC, John F, Brian Hill (plus Peter W, Jason T, Graham K and guest Josh after the TT).

The weather was still freezing cold but at least this was a dry Sunday for the first time in three weeks. Two rides took place: a medium pace 45 miles starting from Hertford at 9:30 and a 35 mile easy pace ride which started from Cole Green after the time-trial. The 9:30 riders set off through Bengeo, Waterford Common, Bramfield, Datchworth Green, Knebworth, Hitch Wood, Preston, Great Offley and Lilley Bottom to Wandon End. There they were joined by Peter plus his gang of four who had taken a more direct route through Welwyn and Codicote. All ten returned through Peters Green, Kimpton, Codicote, Rabley Heath, Bulls Green and Bramfield then back to Hertford. JF

## Audaxes

The Audax season is underway with several Wheelers tackling the early events based around Ugley and Henham.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Peter W, Alex P, Graham K, Andy C and Lawrence U did the "Brazier's Run" organised by the Victoria CC. They supplemented the 100k route with rides to and from the event. Judged by recent standards the weather was quite good in the morning but the afternoon session was blessed with a heavy downpour of freezing rain.

A week later Andy C, Alex P, Lawrence U and Peter W tackled the Shaftesbury CC's "Spring 100" audax. The weather was good and the only hiccup was Peter's chain breaking twice within the space of about ten yards. Fortunately another rider with the required tools passed by and gave breakdown assistance.

## Pastures New

John F is trying something different for his club run on the 18th April. This will start in Thaxted and head for Tubby T's cafe in Stadishall, about 55 miles medium pace. No doubt some sort of car sharing will be possible to get to and from Thaxted. So if you are planning to take part and either need or can offer a lift then please contact John ([clubruns@herts-wheelers.org.uk](mailto:clubruns@herts-wheelers.org.uk)).



*Thaxted. Warm and sunny maybe*

Alternatively you may like to go for a really long day by riding to and from Thaxted or if you are prepared to brave the vagaries of the Sunday rail service the Thaxted is just 7 miles from Elsenham which is on the Liverpool Street to Cambridge line.

## Club Run Points

Club run points up to the end of February.

Peter W	32
Graham K	24
Alex P, John F	22
Jason T, Barry P	18
Andy C	16
Danny M, Jane P	12
Sarah W	11
Cathy P, Valdis B, Lawrence U, Bob B	10
Tim D	9
Chris S, Bruno C, Brian E, Patrick D	8
Angela D	7
Richard Henderson, Steve McCollum	4
Steve Mendrys, John P, Steve Ma, Simon E	2
Steve Wh	1

## Calendar

As an experiment we have added a Wheelers' calendar to the website. You can find this at [www.herts-wheelers.org.uk/members/calendar.htm](http://www.herts-wheelers.org.uk/members/calendar.htm). The idea is to show which events members are planning to ride in case other members might feel tempted to join them (or avoid them as the case may be). At present a number of Audax and Sportive events are listed.

The calendar is in the "members only" area of the website - see the article below for how to access this. Technically it is a "Google Calendar" - one of the many things Google provide for free in return for spying on you.

The calendar will only be useful if people feed it with information. So, if you are thinking of doing a ride then either email [webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk) or update the calendar directly by clicking on the "Login to Google Calendar" button. (If you do the latter I'm afraid you will have to login a second time. This time the username is [webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk) but the password is the normal "members only" one.

GK

## Members Only

[www.herts-wheelers.org.uk/members](http://www.herts-wheelers.org.uk/members) takes you to the members-only area of the website. Here you can find committee contact details, minutes and instructions on how to use the forum and the calendar. There is also a "sales and wants" area - little used at present but potentially useful, I feel. If you have anything you want listed then please email [webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk).

To access the members area you will be prompted for a username and password. The username is "wheelers". If you have forgotten the password then please email the address above.

GK

## Forthcoming Club 10s

(Please see the website for the full list of club time-trials)

Day	Date	Start	Course
Tue	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6.30pm	F6A
Tue	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7.00pm	E64
Tue	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7.15pm	E64
Tue	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7.15pm	E64

All these events are open to club members for free. You simply turn up at the start and ride. The courses are F6A (Cole Green) and E64 (Stanstead St. Margarets and along the A414). Full details are in the Club Handbook.

*If you have never tried anything like this, why not have a go in 2010?*

## The Club Handbook

The handbook is published each year and includes club rules, records and results. We have John Cannon to thank for its production and he reports that "*The ink was hardly dry on the new club handbook before someone discovered an omission. On page 30, the name of the winner of the Evening 10mile League in 2008 was Phil Young. Sorry Phil.*" GK

## CTC Debate



I guess many of us will be members of the CTC and will have noted that its Council is proposing conversion to full charitable status. At present the CTC "Trust" - the CTC's campaigning arm - has that status but the main club does not. Becoming a charity has tax benefits, gift-aid etc, but brings legal restrictions - no "political" campaigning for example. I started out thinking that the change must be a good idea, largely because the CTC seems to me to be run by sensible people. Now I have read some of the arguments I am not so sure. Discussion is ongoing on the web. For example:

### Against Conversion

<http://bit.ly/saveCTC>  
<http://savethectc.blogspot.com/>

### For Conversion

<http://bit.ly/CTCChar>

### CTC Forums

<http://bit.ly/ForumCTC>

Voting forms will be issued with the next CTC magazine. GK

## Club Run Schedule

Date	Time	Start	Destination	Dist.	Pace	Lead
<b>March</b>						
14 <sup>th</sup>	09.30	Much H.	Parrishes Cafe, Thaxted	45m	Med.	TD
				35m	Easy	AD
21 <sup>st</sup>	09:30	Puck.	T Pott Cafe, Wheathampstead	45m	Med.	JF
28 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Much H.	Blue Egg, Great Bardfield	55m	Med.	T&AD
<b>April</b>						
4 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Ware	Off Road, bring own food	30m	Med.	JF
	14:30	Ware	Tea Shop Ride, Braughing	25m	Easy	JP
11 <sup>th</sup>			TBA			
18 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Thax.	Tubby T's Cafe, Stradishall	55m	Med.	JF

Leaders: Valdis Bellines (VB), Bruno Cartwright (BC), Andy Crawley (AC), Tim & Angela Dobson (TD, AD), John Farnham (JF), Paul Fennell (PF), Graham Knight (GK), Barry Page (BP), John Pearson (JP), Alex Powell (AP), Peter Walton (PW), Sarah Wren (SW).

### Start Locations:

Much Hadham: bus shelter north end of High Street  
Puckeridge: outside White Hart pub in High Street  
Thaxted: outside Parrishes café  
Ware: Broadmeads car park near level crossing

*Note that details are occasionally subject to change. See the website for the most up-to-date information.*

## Map Reading Competition

This takes place each year as part of the Eastern Counties Cycling Association festival which is organised in High Easter over the May Day weekend. (At present the 2010 details do not seem to be on the web but if last years pattern is followed it will be on Sunday 2nd May). You enter as a team of two and receive a sheet of clues that enable you to locate points on a map. You then plot a route through these points and set off to ride - round about 25 miles if you do it right. Along the way you collect answers to further clues (names on gates etc.) to prove you have done it. All good fun and makes a change from the normal sort of club runs or time trials in which we indulge. Recommended!

GK

## Turbo training

Brian has plugged away with training sessions on Thursday nights though attendance has been a little disappointing given the initial enthusiasm. If you have been thinking that maybe you would attend at some point then please convert this into concrete action. It is a case of use it or lose it I'm afraid.

GK

## Name the Village

No one got last month's village, which was contributed by John Cannon. It was, he says, Fyfield; taken from the bridge over the river Roding going towards Willingale. Well, it is in Essex so he can hardly blame us for not getting it! Anyway, in consequence the position remains as before with JP one point ahead of the field.

This month's should be easy for all those members who are familiar with the "Hertfordshire Alps".



## Bike Maintenance evening

Rob Godfrey, manager of Marshall's Cycles (Hertford) came to the Club Room on 25th Feb and gave a talk on preventative maintenance and cycle care. Showing great enthusiasm and knowledge he demonstrated some of the basic concepts regarding tyre changing, cable adjusting and how to set up brakes and gears. Much of the evening was devoted to a Q&A session where he excelled not only with the simple questions but also the highly technical ones.

This talk was very well received with most of those present coming away feeling they had learned much useful stuff and resolved to keep their chains clean and practise their tyre changing techniques. Rob also reminded us that he is normally able to offer a discount to members.

GK

## Morocco Walk evening

On the 18th Feb. John Butcher came to the Club Room to present an illustrated talk entitled "Mgoun Massif - Another Moroccan Trek". This described his journey with the "Ware Joggers" through the Atlas mountains last summer. The daily distances and the very rugged nature of the terrain meant that this was no mean achievement. The accompanying slides amply illustrated the impressive scenery, which looked, in the main, to be very dry and very hot.

GK



*John leading the way*

### Club Contacts

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**Clubroom:**

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