

Racing

The season is now properly under way with Merv and Barry featuring in several open events.

13th March - West Suffolk Wheelers Sporting 21

Merv rode this event on a course at at Risby. Conditions in Suffolk were cool and windy making the going hard in places. He managed to record 1.05.41 to win the second vet on standard award. MP

27th March – E. Counties 10

This event took place on the Six Mile Bottom (A11) course. Although three 'Wheelers' were entered only one, Merv, rode - Phil and Steve being non-starters.

It was a warmer afternoon than of late but with quite a strong cross-wind to the turn, which assisted on the return leg. Merv managed to record 25.50.

There were no vet awards in this event. MP

28th March - London & Home Counties VTTA 10

Merv rode this event at Great Misenden in Bucks. The slower course resulted in him recording only a 27:47 but this was sufficient to take first Vet on Standard award. MP

28th March - Chelmer Hardriders 25-5

This took place the E99/25 on a cool, dry, windy day. Barry Page managed a personal best for this competition of 1:13:23. This was 3:22 better than last year! First place went to Mark Arnold of www.tt-weekly.co with a 59:6 only 4 secs off the course record and the only rider under the hour. BP

30th March - First Club 10



Steve Watson in the first Club 10
(Photo Brian E)

There were four Wheelers braving the cold wind and rain to do the first Club 10 of the season. Steve Watson was a comfortable winner.

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Richard's Ride

Richard Henderson joined us this year and will be familiar to many of you through his regular participation in club runs and time-trials. Whilst we hope he is enjoying his membership for itself, he does have an ulterior motive for all this activity; between June 16th and 20th he is cycling 300 miles from London to Paris to try to raise £1000 for Cruse Bereavement (www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk).



Richard Henderson

Cruse is a charitable organisation that exists to promote the well-being of bereaved people. The charity was started by Richard's father, a retired GP, to help the many people he encountered in his professional life who needed help following bereavement.

If you would like to sponsor Richard you can do so online at <http://www.justgiving.co.uk/richard-henderson>

New Members

Welcome to Iain Boyd from Stevenage and Brian Hill and Steve McCollum from Ware – the latter joining us despite our losing him on his first club run!

Paul Fennell has extended his membership to family membership, which means we are able to welcome his partner, Jo Byrne.

We hope they all enjoy taking part in club activities.

Open Event Marshalling Duties

Volunteers required (especially from racing members)! Please contact secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk.

Time and Date	Event	No. Reqd.	Perf. by
07:30 25 th Apr	Norlond Comb. 10	3	JP + 2
14:30 3 rd May	ECCA Festival 10	2	TBD
14:00 22 nd May	ECCA 50	2	TBD
07:00 23 rd May	Herts Wheelers 30	8	TBD
18:30 26 th Jun	Herts Wheelers 10	6	TBD

(Racing – continued from p.1)

Peter and Graham went no faster than they did in the restricted gear event earlier in the year!

The ride of the day was Richard Henderson's who took a whooping 2:40 off his restricted gear time.

Results:

Steve Watson	27:47	
Peter Walton	30:29	
Graham Knight	31:30	
Richard Henderson	34:17	BE

3rd April - East Anglian Group VTTA 25

Merv rode this on a "sporting" circuit near Newmarket. It was quite a reasonable afternoon despite a bad weather forecast - a bit windy but not cold. Merv managed a 1.8.41, the same time as two years ago. He won the first vet. on standard award and the Stourvale Shield, a Group Trophy. MP

5th April - Bishops Stort. Hilly

This took place on the E15/27 (28-6m) on Easter Monday on a cool, dry, windy day. First place went to Mark Arnold in 1:10:16. Barry Page was 25th in 1:30:16 BP

6th April – Second Club 10

The sun from earlier in the day had gone but the breeze remained. Another win for Steve but some closer competition this time.

Results:

Steve Watson	25:37	
Barry Page	25:42	
Peter Walton	26:20	
Renato Davis	26:32	BE

Wiggle

On most pages on our website you will find a link to Wiggle, a well-known online purveyor of bike bits.



If you shop at Wiggle **using our link** then the Club will benefit with a bit of cash. The most recent cheque was for £37.68. It all helps cover club expenses; clearing the moat around the presidential duck house etc. GK

Club run reports

Sunday 14th March

A total of 18 riders took part in the two rides:

Medium-pace ride (48 Miles)

Tim D, John F, Brian E, Sarah W, Kathy P, Danny M, Bob B, Barry P, Alex P, Josh Tongue, Andy C, Richard H, Peter W and Ian Collins

Easy-pace ride (45 Miles)

Angela D, Jane P, Bill C and Bruno C

The two groups followed different routes to and from Thaxted where they all met up in Parrishes cafe.

The medium-pace group rode out through Stocking Pelham, Manuden, Rickling Green, Ugley, and Dedham, returning through Broxted, Molehill Green, Smiths Green and Bush End. The easy-pace group went out via Upwick Green, Bentfield Green, Elsenham, Hamperden End and Cutlers Green returning through Broxted, Molehill Green, Smiths Green and Bush End. T&A D

Sunday 21st March

Andy C, Jane P, Cathy P, Sarah W, Danny M, Ian C, Richard H, Graham K, Alex P, Brian E, Steve McC, John F, plus potential new member Mario from Cheshunt.

The ride set out from Puckeridge through Great Munden, Ardeley, Cromer, Graveley, Little Wymondley, St Ippollytts, Gosmore, Preston and down towards Lilley Bottom where they had their first puncture. Setting off again they somehow managed to lose Steve and Brian. Mario set off to look for them, only for Steve and Brian to appear from another direction. Brian then set off to look for Mario only for Mario to re-appear. A quick phone call then brought Brian back into the fold. Having re-assembled they continued via Bendish and Whiteway Bottom to Kimpton where puncture number two occurred. Four of the group stayed back to fix this whilst the

others went on to a quite full T Potts cafe in Wheathampstead. The second group arrived just as the café was emptying out a bit.

The return leg was through Codi-cote, Rabley Heath, Woolmer Green, Watton-at-Stone, Whempsted, Dane End, Old Hall Green and back to Puckeridge - and fortunately proved uneventful. JF

Sunday 28th March

With nine HWCC members away riding the Stevenage SofS Audax, there were still nine others able to attend the two club runs to Great Bardfield. With six in one group and three in the slightly slower group, a good outward journey was enjoyed. However, due to the wind, they encountered the same problems on the return as the Audax riders. PW

Sunday 4th April am (Off Road)

Cathy P, Brian Hill, John F.

The ride took a circular route from Ware, on a rather cold and windy Easter Day, via Ware Park, Bengoe, Stonyhills, Sacombe Park, Sacombe Green, Trenchern Hills, Levens Green, Old Hall Green, Standon Lordship, Standon Lodge Farm, Much Hadham (short refreshment stop), Sidehill Wood, Nether Street, Actons Farm, Gilston, Hadham Mill, Widford, Babbs Green, Ashridge Common and back to Ware. (33 miles). JF

Sunday 4th March Invitation Ride

Valdis B, Andy C, Bruno C, Graham and Sonia K, Alex P, John P, Jane P, Jason T, Lawrence U, Peter W

Also with us were Roger, Gawain and Callum Akers with friend Emma and her Dad, Brian - all from Welwyn Wheelers and 4 new prospects; Peter Hall from Borehamwood, Nick Curtis from Hertford and Harry Buchanan and his Mum from Hoddesdon.

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(Club Runs continued from p.2)



Plenty of advice available as the ride leaves from Hopleys.

16 solos and 2 tandems left Ware for Much Hadham (Braughing not yet open). Three of the fitter riders, no doubt disturbed by the sedentary pace and the leader's creaking chain (now sorted), rode ahead at Perry Green and were not seen again. The rest had a pleasant saunter via Stanstead Abbots and Widford to Perry Green and through the Hadham ford to Hopleys garden centre.

Despite being Easter Sunday, this was open and remarkably free of customers. It was also mainly free of staff. It was a do-it-yourself set-up - cash in the honesty box, please. Home-made cakes in plastic bags were also to hand, all very civilised. The return ride went north from the village to Westland Green, then back to Ware via Standon, Barwick ford, Babbs Green, Fanhams Common. JP

Club Run Points

Points to the end of March.

Peter W	36
John F	30
Graham K	28
Alex P	24
Andy C	22
Barry P, Jason T	20
Danny M, Jane P, Cathy P	18
Sarah W	17
Tim D	13
Bob B	12
Angela D	11
Valdis B, Bruno C, Brian E, Lawrence U, Steve McC	10
Chris S, Patrick D, Richard H	8
Ian C	4
Steve Me, John P, Steve Ma, Simon E, Bill C	2
Steve Wh	1

Social Calendar

Several social events are planned or mooted. In most cases details have yet to be finalised so keep an eye on Mudflap and the website:

- Apr 11th Paris-Roubaix trip
- Apr 15th Jim Cann talk
- 15th16th Weekend trip to Ardres (near Calais)
- May
- 19th Jun Club outing to Smithfield Nocturne
- 22nd Jul Tour de France afternoon in club room

Website

Keep an eye on the Wheelers' [Forum](#) and [Calendar](#). See what members are discussing and what events they plan to ride – and stick your own oar in!

Contact webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk for any assistance.

GK

Thaxted Club Run

Don't forget that the morning club run on 18th April will start from Parrishes Café in Thaxted.



Parrishes Café



If you need or can offer a lift to Thaxted please contact John F (clubruns@herts-wheelers.org.uk). Note also that Thaxted is 7 miles from Elsenham which is on the Liverpool St. to Cambridge line.

Club Run Schedule

Date	Time	Start	Destination	Dist.	Pace	Lead
April						
11th	09.30	Hert.	Four Leaf Clover, Hitchin	45m	Med.	AC
18 th	09:30	Thax.	Tubby T's Café, Stradishall	55m	Med.	JF
	14:30	Hert.	Emily's Tea Shop, Whitwell	30m	Easy	JP
25 th	09:30	Much H.	Booking Hall, Rayne	50m	Med.	TD
	09:15				Easy	AD

May

2 nd	09:30	Ware	Off Road, bring own food	4hr	Med.	JF
	14:30	Ware	Tea Shop Ride, Braughing	25m	Easy	JP
9 th	09:30	Puck.	Wimpole Hall	50m	Med.	SW
16 th	09:30	Much H	Comfort Café, Babraham	70m	Med.	A&TD
	14:30	Hert.	Emily's Tea Shop, Whitwell	30m	Easy	JP

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:

- Hertford: Hartham Common, recycling point
- 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.

Audaxes

March 14th Chiltern-Cotswold Brevet

Graham K rode this 200k event, which started in Great Kingshill. The weather was mostly sunny and the scenery was beautiful throughout. The outward ride to Chipping Norton was into a strong headwind, which gave some assistance on the return. However, it did not help much with the climb up to Loosely Row near the end. GK

March 21st - End of Snooze Audax

Jason T and Peter W rode this 100k event from Haslingfield near Cambridge. In warm and sunny conditions the journey via Haslingfield, Stradishall, Finchinfield, Saffron Walden and Haslingfield was a good workout - and Jason T completed his first Audax. PW

March 28th - Start of Summertime Special

The change to BST means (for some) The Stevenage Audaxes. With Andy C, Graham K and Lawrence U taking part in the 200k, and six others in the 115k a good day's cycling was hoped for. This was achieved on the route east, but the return was an absolute pig for all. Still, Lawrence completed his first 200k (and his last, he claims!), whilst Richard H completed his first 100k and got in some valuable experience for his up-and-coming London to Paris ride. PW

Forthcoming Club 10s

(Please see the website for the full list of club time-trials and the results of Club and Open events)

Day	Date	Start	Course
Tue	13 th Apr	7.15pm	E64
Tue	20 th Apr	7.15pm	E64
Tue	4 th May	7.30pm	E64
Tue	11 th May	7.30pm	F20

All these events are open to club members for free. Non-members must pay – so taking part is one of the benefits of membership. You simply turn up at the start and ride. There is no need for special equipment – unless you get the bug that is.

The courses are E64 (Stanstead St. Margarets and along the A414), F20 (On the A10. Meet on the B1502 near the round-a-bout where the A414 from Hertford joins the A10).

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

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
St. Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club.

Andy Hint

Andy C – a former club tyre-changing competition winner - impressed on a recent club run with a reported sub-five-minute puncture fix. In this he was assisted by the CO₂ powered gadget on the right (available from Wiggle – don't forget to go there via the link on the Wheelers' home page!!).



Name the Village

The Wheelers' "Name the Village" Rules Board met to discuss a motion that the bonus point for first correct answer should be discontinued. It was felt that the present scheme disadvantaged members who received Mudflap by post, pigeon etc. Further, there had been an allegation that an anonymous member may have an unfair advantage in that he can read the new Mudflap before emailing it out. After some discussion the Board passed the motion with retrospective effect.

This means that the five members who correctly identified Newgate

Street last month (AC, BE, JP, GG, and JH) each received one point. JP, with four points, now has a two-point lead.

This month's photo will suit all who occasionally look up as they ride.



Club Contacts

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