

Club Run Reports

Sun 18th Apr - Stradishall

Andy C, Peter W, Steve McC, Jane P, Alex P, Graham K, John F.



Waiting in the sunshine for the start in Thaxted

A perfect cycling day for the Wheelers' tour of East Essex and West Suffolk from the unusual start-point of Thaxted. The wind, what there was of it, even managed to help both out and back!

It was just warm enough for shorts with lots of sun, high cloud and light winds. Starting outside Parrishes at Thaxted the outward route was through Little Sampford, Cornish Hall End, Finkle Green, Birdbrook, Wixoe, Kedington, Hundon, Stradishall village and on to Tubby T's cafe. This was very busy but efficient and with generous 'cyclist' portions.

The return was via Hobbles Green, Great Bradley, Carlton, West Wickham, Horseheath, Shudy Camps, Ashton, Radwinter, Wimbish Green to Howlett End where Peter, Steve, Alex & Graham peeled off for a 'short cut' home. The remaining three then rode back to Thaxted and afternoon refreshments at Parrishes (54 miles). JF

(... and I think all agreed the novel starting point was a success and an experiment worth repeating.) GK

Wheelers Clubroom Event

The Paris-Brest-Paris Randonneurs

A talk by Jim Brown

Thursday 20th May at 8:45 pm at the Wheelers clubroom.
(Bar open from 8:30 pm)

Every four years amateur riders attempt this 1200 Km ride - which must be completed in 90 Hours. It is the oldest cycling event run regularly on open roads. Jim Brown of Stevenage CTC finished it three times in the 1990s and lived to tell the tale. He will be doing just that in this talk, which will be illustrated by slides of the event.

Sun 18th Apr (Invitation Ride)

John P, Brian & Kyle E, Josh T plus guests Dennis and Sandra

A fine, even warm, afternoon at last for just 6 riders on a "double-easy" ride at the special request of Dennis B who took part after many moons of non-cycling.

A gentle route from Hertford took the ride through Bramfield to Datchworth Green. JP then surprised the group by taking to the narrow Rectory Lane and in the back way to Woolmer Green. The route then crossed the A1 to Rabley and Codicote, then on to Emily's Tea Room. The room was empty but the garden was packed, mostly with cyclists, including a large CTC group from mid Herts. who were returning from their "short" day's ride to Leighton

Buzzard! The return was a little more ambitious taking in St Pauls Walden, Nup End, Rabley and Woolmer Green then the drag up to Bulls Green and the "sprint" home via Bramfield. Special mention of young Kyle who resolutely pushed his dad up the hills without complaint ... he's going to be a junior hill climb champ. pretty soon. (30 miles) JP

Wed 28th April – Round the Lanes

Brian E, Andy C

On a lovely evening of perfect weather, warm with a light southerly. Brian rode out with all the Wheelers that turned up i.e. Andy C. They headed via Stansted Abbots up to Much

(Continued over)

Open Event Marshalling Duties

Volunteers required (especially from racing members)! Please contact secretary@herts-wheelers.org.uk. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered.

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

(Club Runs, continued)

Hadham on to Standon and then back through to Colliers End along the old A10 to Ware. At the finish they had covered 22 miles and, as Andy's Garmin informed them, at a 15 mph average. BE.

Sun 2nd May (am) Off Road

In the absence of any other takers JF lead himself from Ware in light rain down the Lea towpath to Rye House and then up the Stort towpath to Eastwick (rain now heavy and horizontal) and Gilston where a rear-wheel puncture prompted a sizeable contribution to the swearbox. Finally onward through Nether Street, Widford, Helham Green, Babbs Green and back to Ware. A ride which really tested John's commitment to cycling. JF

2nd May - Invitation Ride

John P, Graham and Sonia K, Valdis B, Jane P, Bruno C, Peter H, Andy C, Peter W, Richard H, Josh T

This ride was a bit of a washout for JP who was a victim of the fierce north-easterly and had to bale out at Fanhams Common. The rest (8 solos plus Graham and Sonia on tandem) continued to Wareside and through to Much Hadham. The ride then split with most travelling direct to Standon, Puckeridge then up to Braughing. The rest (Peter, Richard and Josh) went via Little Hadham and Furneux Pelham. All returned through Puckeridge, Barwick and Cold Christmas. John, through a combination of bike and car, joined us for tea in the Church Hall. JP, GK

Social Calendar

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

20 th May	Clubroom Talk – Jim Brown
19 th Jun	Club outing to Smithfield Nocturne
20 th Jul	Tour de France afternoon

Wheelers Hit the Pavé

After an early train from Broxbourne six Wheelers (Bruno C, Jane P, Valdis B, Angelo D, Barry P and John Cl) caught the 9:05 Eurostar to Lille then, after suitable refreshment (and some confusion about tickets), on to Orchies. From there a walk of a mile took them to the pavé where there were big marquees with wide screen TV installed. There they spent a happy hour enjoying yet more refreshment and watching the approaching race.



Wheelers on the pavé

They took up their positions on the pavé as helicopters approached and saw the lead bunch with Boonen and Cancellara followed by many other bunches, stragglers and, finally, the team cars loaded with bikes. Certainly a close view of the race; even to the extent of having to jump clear of the riders when they came speeding by on the grass verge! All over in a few minutes so into the marquee again to watch the final stages - the Belgians subdued as Boonen's chance faded.



Boonen leads Cancellara and Hammond (possibly)

Time still to visit another bar to refresh the parts the previous refreshments had not reached, then back to Lille for a meal and Eurostar. They were back in Broxbourne by 11:00 pm. A full day and thanks all round to Bruno for organising the trip!

Consultation

Complaining about the state of the roads, un-cycle-friendly layouts and so on is a staple topic on club runs and in the clubroom.

Probably we should all do more to complain to people who can, in principle, make things better.

This month Valdis reminded us that we could take part in the consultation on the Hertford and Ware Urban Transport Plan (now closed). Also, John P would like to remind us that, for a few years now, he and Dave Rudkin have regularly attended meetings of the Hertford Cycle Strategy Group. This group has contributed several constructive ideas to improve cycling safety in the Hertford area to the local authorities. Several have already been implemented and some other proposals have been incorporated in the Urban Transport Plan. If anyone has any particular view on the cycle facilities (or lack of them) in the area John would be pleased to hear from you.

The club has also provided members in the past who contributed to the Ware Cycle Action group. If there is anyone in the area who still takes an interest in cycling issues in Ware, please let John know.

Club Run Points

Peter W	44
John F	38
Graham K	34
Alex P, Andy C	28
Jason T	26
Jane P	24
Cathy P	22
Danny M, Barry P	20
Sarah W	19
Steve McC	16
Tim D	15
Lawrence U	14
Angela D	13
Valdis B, Brian E,	
Bob B, Bruno C	12
Richard H	10
Chris S, Patrick D	8
John P	6
Bill C, Brian H	4
Steve Me, Steve Ma, Sonia K,	
Simon E, Peter H	2
Steve Whipp	1

Racing

17th Apr - Elite CC 10

Merv rode this on a course at Leaden Roding, Near Chelmsford. It was a warm afternoon with a light southerly breeze, making the racing 'enjoyable'. Although it is reputedly a slow course Merv managed to improve on his time on our local 'fast' course recording a 26:25. The winner was Richard O'Rourke, Flitch Crono, with a 21.46! Still, he's only a lad. MP

18th Apr - Bedfordshire Road CC 25

Two wheelers rode this event, Phil Young finishing in 1:01:16 and Dominic Whitehead in 1:08:31. BE

20th Apr - 4th Club 10

Five Wheelers and one guest rode in the fourth event of the 10 mile league. There was very close racing with Peter Walton continuing his excellent form and pushing Phil Young.

Phil was fastest once again. Peter moved up the standings finishing second ahead of league leader Steve Watson and last year's league winner Barry Page.

The result was:-

Phil Young	25:28	
Peter Walton	25:53	
Steve Watson	26:13	
Barry Page	26:30	
Andy Crawley	29:46	MP

25th Apr - Norlond TT Combine 10

Three Wheelers (one second claim) rode this event at Tempsford. The morning was very wet, but with little wind. Phil Young and Merv both did their best times this year and Merv won the first vet on standard award.

Times were:

Phil Young	22:52
Merv Player	25:13
Dominic Whitehead	25:25

Many thanks to Bruno, John and Peter for giving up their Sunday morning to marshal. MP

30th Apr - Cambridge CC 10

Two 'Wheelers' rode this on the new course between Caxton Gibbet and Cambridge. It was a bright sunny afternoon, but with a cross-wind making for difficult riding both out and home.

Phil Young recorded 23:04 and Merv improved slightly - 4 seconds - to record 25:09.

4th May - 5th Club 10

These were the best conditions of the year even though still a little chilly. Times improved on last week because of this. Phil still lead the field, which was slightly diminished.



Phil Young

Phil Young	24:33
Peter Walton	24:50
Steve Watson	25:15

9th May - Norlond TT Combine 30

This took place on a cold windy morning on the A1 at Tempsford. The weather was not conducive to speed. Two Wheelers took part and recorded time as follows:-

Phil Young	1:14:17
Merv Player	1:20:41

Merv won the First Vet on Standard Award. MP

Scratch League

Position after 5 events:

Steve Watson	45
Peter Walton	43
Phil Young	30
Barry Page	16
Graham Knight	15
Renato Davis	7
Richard Henderson	7
Chris Walker	6
Andy Crawley	6

Audax and Sportives

18th Apr - Whitham Wander 104k

Steve Wh enjoyed good weather for this event - for the third time out of the three he has done it. Starting from Woodham Mortimer the route went to the outskirts of Ipswich, then up the Blackwater valley to the cafe in Stisted before looping around Braintree and back. As always the Specialities Tea Rooms in Stisted provided a good control and feed. Steve managed to tag on the back of a small group including a tandem trike and a recumbent for a tow around most of the course (a fair exchange, he felt, for lending them his pencil at the info. controls). He then dropped back for the final 25k to avoid blowing up and save energy for the climb up from Paper Mill Bridge through Little Bad-dow. He still finished in under 6 hours so was more than happy with his day. SWH

25th Apr - Princes Risborough Sportive 133k

The forecast "light showers" manifested themselves as a continuous downpour for the first two hours. Andy C, Lawrence U and Graham K suffered reductions both in morale and temperature as a result - especially Andy who's feet were apparently 10°C below ambient temperature. Thereafter the clouds and mists cleared and snatches of glorious Chiltern scenery appeared. There were plenty of hills to climb and some exhilarating descents. Andy and Graham managed silver awards, Lawrence managed a bronze after making the supreme sacrifice and spending ages helping a pum-pleless fellow participant. GK

3rd May ECCA 100k Audax

Despite the best efforts of Mr Sat-Nav all the riders got to the finish - albeit in different circumstances. Danny M, Jason T, Peter W, Richard H and Steve Wh were all making good time until

(Continued over)

(Audax continued)

Peter's rear derailleur snapped (yet again). Despite attempts to convert the bike into a fixie, the back wheel was too buckled for him to safely continue and he was offered (and gratefully accepted) a lift back to base by one of the organisers. Having been assured that the drive would be along the route of the Audax it was no surprise that he did not see the others (except for Steve) until the finish as they had got lost yet again.

PW

ECCA Map Reading

Having promoted this last month GK has to confess to chickening out in the face of the weather. Geoff Green and John Cannon were made of sterner stuff. Even they admit that it was not an ideal day for continually referring to a map and trying to write answers on a sheet of paper.

Geoff and John managed to get 18 of the 24 questions correct but lost a lot of points for finishing outside the set time, relegating them from fourth to eight position (not last).

The winners were Janice and Ken McDonald now riding with the Eagle RC. Despite their combined age now being almost 140 they vowed to try and improve next year.

JCa

New Members

Welcome to Peter Hall (who has been very active on the forum), Iain Collins and Nick Curtis.

We hope they enjoy all their club activities!

Club Run Schedule

Note that Wednesday evening rides have resumed!

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time Start</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Dist.</i>	<i>Pace</i>	<i>Lead</i>
May						
16 th	09:30	Much H.	Comfort Cafe, Babraham	70m	Med.	T&AD
	14:30	Hert.	Emily's Tea Shop, Whitwell	30m	Easy	JP
19 th	19:00	Ware	Around the Lanes	20m	Med.	PH
23 rd	TBA	Tempsford	Grafham Water	40m	Med.	PW
26 th	19:00	Ware	Around the Lanes	20m	Med.	JF
30 th	09:30	Much H.	Mocha Café, Saffron Walden	50m	Med.	GK
June						
2 nd	19:00	Ware	Around the Lanes	20m	Med.	JF
6 th	09:30	Ware	Off Road, Bring own food	30m	Med.	JF
6 th	14:30	Ware	"Come and Try" Ride, Westmill	25m	Easy	JP

Leaders: Valdis Bellines (VB), Bruno Cartwright (BC), Andy Crawley (AC), Tim & Angela Dobson (TD, AD), John Farnham (JF), Paul Fennell (PF), Peter Hill, 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

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.

Name the Village

Brian E, John P and Geoff G all successfully identified Furneux Pelham as the village with the Church bearing the gloomy motto. John therefore maintains his 2-point lead.

This month's is another for ecclesiastical enthusiasts.

GK



Website and Forum

Recent forum discussions have featured clubroom talks, logging rides and routes on the web and items wanted or for sale.

Incidentally, I have just posted a number of dubious items for sale at:

<http://www.herts-wheelers.org.uk/members/salesAndWants.htm>

Naturally this area is not for my sole use (despite appearances). Please email webmaster@herts-wheelers.org.uk if you would like to place an advert.

GK

Club Contacts

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Clubroom:

Every Thursday, normally from 9pm, St Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club, Stanstead Abbots, Herts.

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