

# AWheel

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOLIHULL CYCLING CLUB

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Special Anniversary Edition



929

Solihull Cycling Club  
Celebrating 90 Years

2019



# Inside this Edition

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**Front Cover:** Harry Reynolds at the opening of TG Circuit

**Rear Cover:** Images of the Hobo Run

## Editor's Corner



In the club's 90<sup>th</sup> year I am immensely pleased as the current custodian of A Wheels to have worked with the Paul Mann to bring you a special anniversary edition.

We bring you articles covering the highs and some lows of Solihull Cycling Club over the last ninety years as the club evolved, that story most eloquently delivered by Guy Elliot. There are also pieces by Club stalwarts, Margaret Gordon, Robin Fox, Pete James and Dave Stephenson to name just a few.

Paul not only came up with the idea for this edition and cajoled our writers but has also provided a focused look back over the last 20 years, a period which has seen significant change with Go-Ride accreditation and construction and development of Tudor Grange Circuit.

As is tradition February's A Wheels is also known as the dinner edition and this year the awards dinner is being held at Robin Hood Golf Club with prizes being presented by Club Life Member Mick Bennett. Mick's long racing career saw him winning Olympic medals in Munich and Montreal and Commonwealth Gold in Christchurch. A World Championship Silver Medallist he also won numerous national championships. After his professional career drew to a close he organised many international professional races, including the Tour de France's visit to UK, and is currently Race Director for The Tour of Britain, The Women's Tour and Ride London.

We hope you enjoy the read and stay safe during your winter training.

Safe Riding!

*Rocky*



*Send copy to: [editor@solihullcc.org.uk](mailto:editor@solihullcc.org.uk)*

# Chairman's Report 2018

The Club had another very successful year in 2018. Membership seems to have settled out at around the 480 level, which still makes us one of the biggest Clubs in the UK.

Racing achievements during the year were numerous. One of our newest members, David Fellows, won 4 Time Trial Cups plus the club Hill Climb Trophy. Penny Wilkin dominated the ladies scene with 5 wins including the 100 mile TT. The Committee was unable to find a Ladies 100 mile TT Cup amongst our store and so we have had to buy a new one. Many congratulations go to Penny for such an outstanding performance in 2018!

In July Jack Rootkin-Gray won both the under 16 National Madison Championship as well as the Indoor Pursuit Championship. Wayne Mc Keown won the LVRC Percy Stallard Series and our Youth Team came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the West Midlands Youth Circuit Series.

Lucy Shaw continues as a member of the DROPS Professional Cycling Team based on the Continent and brother Matt finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Kuurne-Brussels-Kuurne race, 7<sup>th</sup> in the Guido Reybrouck Classic and 13<sup>th</sup> in the Ghent Wevelgem event in March. Many congratulations go to Jake Stewart who has just signed his first Professional Road Contract with the FDJ Team.

Young and old continue to participate in the West Midlands Cyclo Cross League. This part of our sport has been an unparalleled success within the Club over many years. Parental support and encouragement has been a key element to this success.

Many congratulations to all concerned.

Our Club Run scene continues to flourish. Friendship and comradeship gained whilst taking part, as well as support in time of adversity, is another benefit of membership of the Club.

On a more sombre note former member Keith Vickery passed away in July and tragically Tony Satterthwaite was killed in a collision with a motor car just prior to Christmas. Our sympathies go to their families.

Finally, a big thank you to all our many helpers, organisers, marshals, club coaches and Committee members without whom we could not operate.

A Happy New Year to everyone and ride safely in 2019.

*Dick Law*

# Ninety Years - Who Would Have Believed It!

From our first club minutes: “Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1929 in the Public Hall Solihull – “The objects (sic) for which the meeting had been called was explained by the Convenor Mr Hawkes. It was proposed by Mr J Smith and seconded by Mr A Houlston that steps should be taken to form a cycling club in Solihull and this was unanimously carried”. I wonder whether they would have believed what the future held.....

As our club now moves into its 90<sup>th</sup> year of existence it seems impossible to believe what has been achieved over those years and how amazing that we have not only been one of the few traditional clubs in England to survive but are seen by British Cycling, and others, as one of the benchmark clubs to which others should aspire. We have had Olympic medallists, Paralympians, World Champions,

Commonwealth Champions and many, many National Champions but what sets us apart from all others is the way every single club member, regardless of athletic ability, is valued equally, and that we all just enjoy riding our bikes enjoying the camaraderie formed over those 90 years.



Eric Walker (founder member) with Bob Maitland

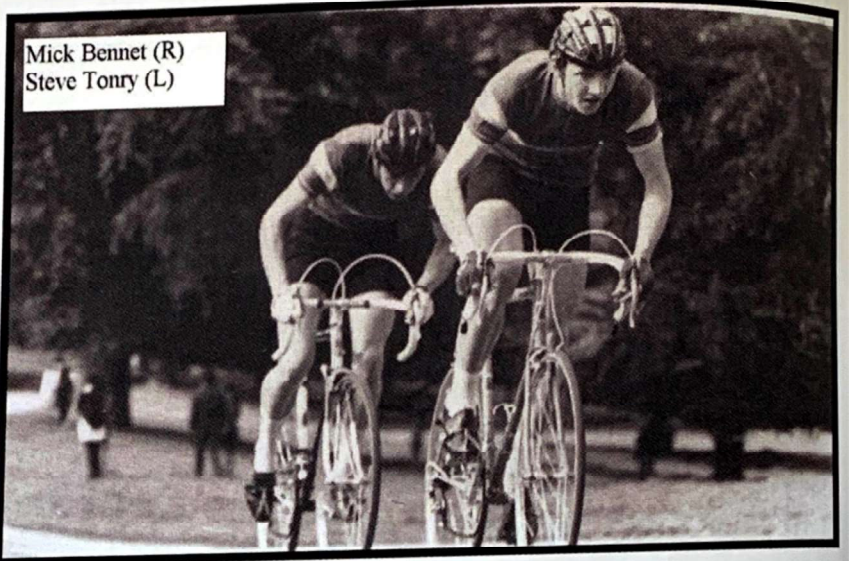


Keith Reynolds, 1978

For those interested in the club's long history, one of our legendary members, Stan Bray, wrote a wonderful book – A Wheel, A History of Cycling – which is still widely available within the club and we also hold copies of every single committee meeting's minutes and AGM's since that first day in 1929. Reading all the names and racing successes from the past, I asked myself who had perhaps been the best club member of all time. Could it have been Graham Webb becoming the World Amateur Road Race Champion in 1967? Or Olympic road medallist Harry Reynolds along with his Olympian and Commonwealth Gold

Medallist son, Keith? Double Olympic medallist and multiple race organiser Mick Bennett? Paralympian Dan Gordon? It's an impossible question to answer as our club gives as much credence to racing success as it does to contributing to club life in its widest context. So one would have to include Eric "Joe" Arthur for single-handedly manning our clubroom in Knowle Village Hall in the 1970's;

Ray Richards for organising the 1973 World Cyclo Cross Championships, John Cordwell for numerous roles over many years including organising many monthly (!) club dances in the 1940's, Margaret Towers and Margaret Gordon for their years of service to the club as Club Secretaries and indeed



Mick Bennet (R)  
Steve Tonry (L)

nowadays Steve and Alison Mountford for organising year after year our weekly club time trials – they are all equally special, every one of them And the list is endless and keeps getting topped up year after year. How lucky we are.

The club prospered during the 1930's. The Club HQ was at the legendary Oak Farm, Catherine de Barnes, where bicycle polo was very popular and was owned by Eric Walker, who was a powerhouse behind the club in those times. Membership continued to grow and as we moved into the tough war years the committee had to deal with such issues as competitors in the Club's

Open 25 mile time trial being stopped for identity checks! Yet the winner still did a 1 hour 2 minute time, which is what many of us are only capable of today with all our carbon and titanium! Think about that for a moment.

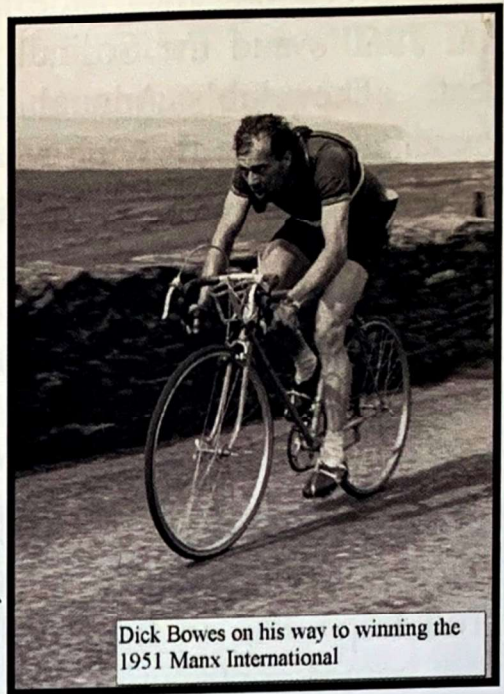
The war years were awful for everyone but it is fascinating to learn how the club looked after



Catherine  
de  
Barnes

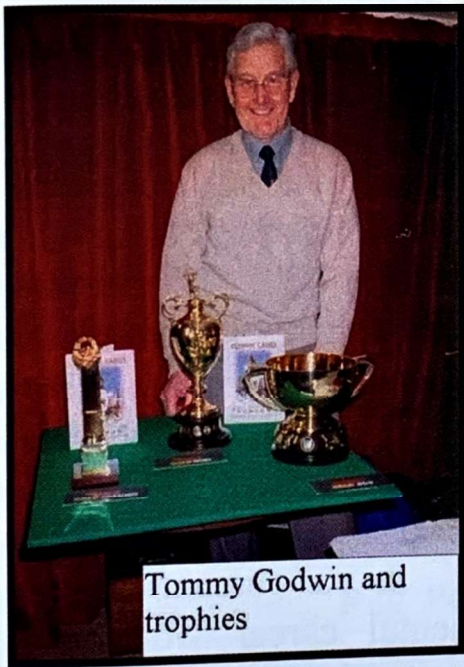
"bikes"

its members on active service across the world, sending them the club magazine, letters and parcels to keep their morale up. Imagine how it must have been, serving in the Far East under terrible conditions to have received a club magazine, parcel and letters from your clubmates back in Blighty. Things haven't changed so much though – even then the Membership Secretary was writing to members all over the world chastising them for late payment of their membership fees! It was in the late 1940's that Dick Bowes and Bas Francis are recorded as new members and of course it was in the 1948 London Olympics that Tommy Godwin won both his Olympic medals



Dick Bowes on his way to winning the 1951 Manx International

on the track - and after his racing career went on to have many successes as Great Britain Team Manager. They were all absolute beasts on the bike and it was Dick who inspired and nurtured a young Harry Reynolds when he started



Tommy Godwin and trophies

cycling. Dick, Bas, Tommy and many others, won numerous racing honours and inspired so many. The club magazine had to be cut to two pages due to paper rationing but it was determined that come what may the magazine would still go out. It is little quirks like this that make you appreciate why it is so important nowadays that we keep things like the Club Mag going when it would be quite easy to let it go – we are all now guardians of our club's history and traditions even though we are also one of the most forward thinking clubs in the country. And by the way, the club magazine became AWheel in May 1944 – have a look to see what edition

we are on now! And at about that time we see that much-loved Tommy Kempshall and Stan and Jean Bray joined the club – names and memories still well known to our older members. Bob Maitland also joined and went on to ride the Tour de France and achieve many international honours. The quality of our racing members was hard to believe – Bas Francis National 25 Mile Champion in 1946 doing a 1.0. Maitland and Bowes were winning just

about everything they rode in the late 1940's and 1950's and the Solihull was the club to beat. The club's Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was thriving – where every prize winner would be honoured to attend and not find themselves “otherwise engaged” as sometimes happens nowadays (ouch!) and the Hobo Run had been formed; both these institutions continue to play key roles on our calendar.

As we moved into the 1950's more racing success continued as though it was a production line of talent. But we also saw new names contributing to club life – Gladys



John Moore (L) Jim Smyth (R)

Weeks and John Moore (who is still an active member today) being mentioned many times in club minutes for their contributions to club life. Touring was massively popular – both local and far afield – with well supported club runs and numerous trips abroad which was quite an adventure in those days. And who could forget Airney Pairkins – one of the highest calibre club riders ever to ride a bike – it seemed as though every edition of the club mag was recording yet another of his unique achievements. Towards the end of the 1950's we saw Harry Reynolds starting to reach his

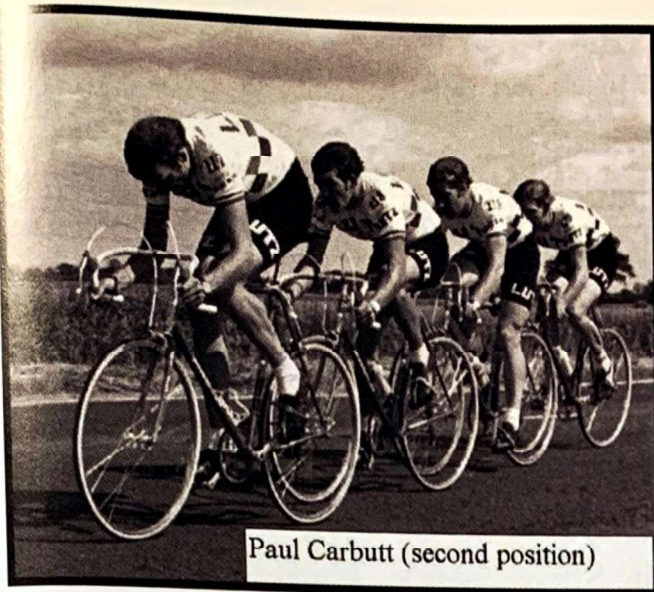
peak with numerous national and international successes, including Olympic Silver on the road in Melbourne. Riding professionally in the 1959 Tour de France, it has often been said that had he not crashed out whilst in a breakaway his continental career would have achieved even greater heights.



Denis Moreton, Bas Francis, Bob Maitland 1946 national 25 winners

As we moved into the 1960's we had the Taylor Brothers touring all over the world and giving many slide shows – it might sound a little tame now but their shows with the associated social events were often the highlights of social lives as well as frequent tops at many of the pubs and cafes we still ride past. The Cat in the Window





Paul Carbutt (second position)

still figures in many stories. We still had top racing men – Trevor Bull, Ant Taylor, just about every top cyclo cross rider in the country (outside Coventry!) and youngsters Mick Bennett, Steve Tonry, and Andy King to name a few. The highlight was of course Graham Webb winning the World Road Race Championship – who would bet against this honour being within reach of our own young Jake Stewart in a few years time

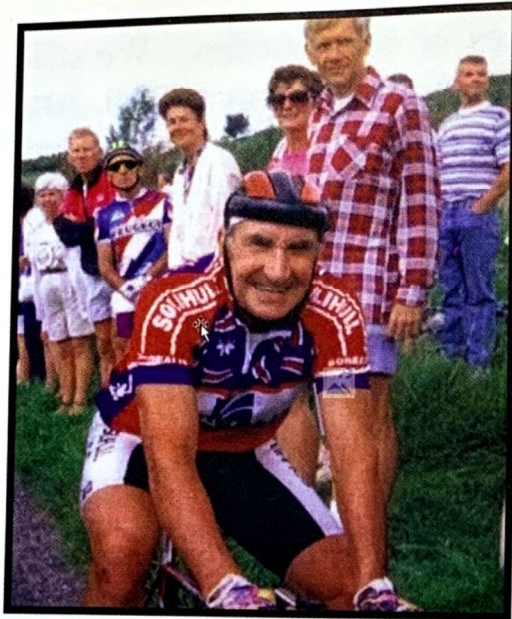
following the news that he has just signed his first pro road contract in Europe with FDJ? Roy Cromack was of course also becoming the Lands End to John O’Groats record holder (as did our very own Paul Carbutt some years later) and winning road races and time trials as well as being an Olympian; Roy was also the first man to beat 500 miles in the National 24 Hour Championships. We became National Team Pursuit Champions with Cromack, Bull, Webb and Andy King. Behind every successful winner there are unsung, loyal team mates and perhaps one of John Monk’s greatest achievements, along with winning one of the absolute top events in the country, the Beacon Mountain Time Trial, was guiding Les West to victory in the Milk Race against brutal East European opposition who were full time professionals whilst John and others had to “go back to work on Monday”.

Here are some other names from the 1960’s and 1970’s to reflect on or find out more about:

Eric Arthur who did so much unsung work behind the scenes; Reg Pee, John Hanlin; Roy Gordon whose entire family have been the backbone of our club ranging from Paralympians to filling numerous committee posts to marshalling at all club events; Chris Moseley, Roger Storey, Pete King (all of whom were tough racing men but did their bit for the club with Pete



Steve Tonry



Alan Boden 1994

winning the prestigious Shaw Blakelock Trophy); Howard Bayley; Mal Lawton; Bill Massie; Mick Shakespeare; Barry Moss; Roger Page; Alan Winters; John Tall; Olympian Trevor Bull; Gladys Newton – the list just goes on and on.

The 1970's beckoned and with it came Ray Richards organising the World Cyclo Cross Championships, plenty of racing successes from Richard Travis, Ian McQuaig, Phil Bramwich, Steve Tonry, Janet Crowther, Tim Crumpton, Steve Burns, John Burridge, Roy Gordon, Chris Moseley, John Tall to name just a few with the icing on the cake being Mick Bennett's two Olympic medals in Munich and

Montreal, a Commonwealth Games Gold and so many national and international honours it is hard to keep track. It was at this time that as well as road and track racing the club continued to excel at cyclo cross with Roger Page and Barry Moss winning the Veterans National Championships, Richard Travis riding the World Amateur Championships at Crystal Palace, and along with Mick Shakespeare and Alan Winters all of these being in the news and in the "comic" literally every week. It was also a time of change in our sport with sponsored clubs appearing but the Solihull kept to its traditions by organising many open events yet still having many successful club events as well. Against the clock Rob Gill, Chris Moseley, Ian Dean, John Tall, Tony Herraty, Steve Tonry, Roy Gordon and many others were picking up team wins



Roy Gordon

on a regular basis against very tough opposition including much-loved Alan Boden who rode for the Oldbury at the time. Alan went on to win many national championships as a veteran in the Solihull CC colours. John Monk went on to manage several Great Britain road teams with considerable

Barry Moss, Kenilworth CycloCross



success in continental events especially in the Netherlands and Italy. But what a strong time this was – we had riders winning on road, track and “field” every week, Barry Moss organised the Skol Classic Professional Road Race (a highlight on the professional calendar) and we actually led the organisation of a World Championships! And behind the scenes Barbara Richards was not only supporting Ray but also playing a key part in club life. We didn’t have mail order in those days and part of our social life was standing outside Tommy Godwin’s, Tom Crowther’s or Priory Cycles and looking at a Campag rear mech in the window! And yes the Barley

Mow was still packed every Sunday morning. The fabric of the club was held together by many loyal officials such as Cyril Lovegrove, Stan and Jean Bray, Eric Arthur, Gladys Newton, Sid Wood, the Taylor Brothers, Frank Wells, Alex Wellum and John Moore to name just a few. Touring abroad continued with many holidays by “the gang” of the families Reynolds, Bayliss, Gordon, Mountford and Chambers. The records also show Jonny Holland and Ray Batchelor being very active and it was at about this time that Ray started to make the Aston Cantlow sign his own.



As we moved into the 1980’s and 1990’s we had one or two club sponsors, which perhaps on reflection never seemed to really fit in with our culture. One involved a financial scandal involving the sponsor himself and we also saw riders “imported in” to the club to bolster our racing success. But we had our own talents such as Mark Paveley, Tim Broadhead, Rob and Carol Langley all of whom had some great results. It is perhaps because of our difficult experiences with sponsorship that after a while a firm decision was taken to move back to being an unsponsored and “traditional” club. Who could forget the

contribution at this time made by Fred and Margaret Towers and of course the legendary Tommy Godwin who was our Club President for so many years?

It's been an incredible ninety years. Of course it is easy to look at everything with rose tinted spectacles but we should all be proud to be part of such a fantastic and thriving club with so many exciting things happening, but still be able to look back on our past with pride. There is something special about being "in the Solihull" and with our current membership the future for the next 90 years looks assured.

Next time you pull on your Solihull jersey, just take a few seconds to reflect on those who went before you and whisper to yourself "I'm proud to be in the Solihull!"



Club 20th Birthday photo 1949



*Guy Elliot*



# Solihull Cycling Club 1999 to 2019

The magazine produced to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club in 1999 highlighted some of the significant events that took place on a year by year basis over the previous 20 years (i.e. from 1979 to 1999). The following pages continue with the year by year events, some of which are significant and some of which are not so, but the idea is to give you a taste of what went on in the last 20 years and hopefully bring back some happy and some sad memories during that time.

## 1999

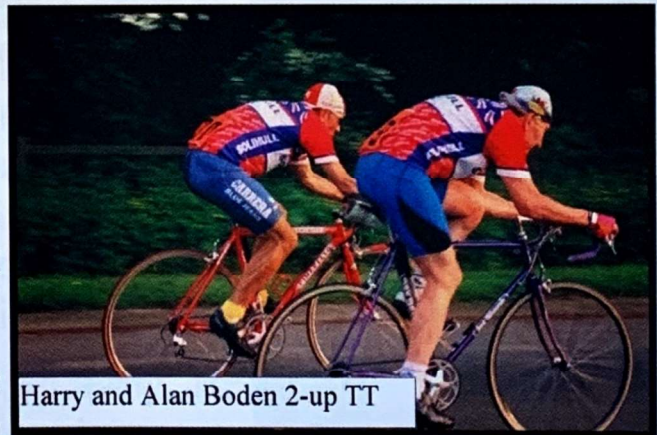
Was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club and the annual dinner and awards night was held on 6 February at the Solihull Moat House hotel where the guests of Honour were Mr and Mrs Hugh Porter. The club president was Mr T Godwin and the Chairman was Mr F Towers. An anniversary club magazine was produced and reported on the 70-year history of the club and in particular the previous 20 years from 1979 to 1999.

The clubroom at that time was the Earlswood Yacht club in Lady Lane and a new member that year was a Dr Roger Cliffe who was said to be already making his mark on the Saturday and Sunday club runs.

Friday night pub rides were popular in the club and an advert in the AWheel magazines promised *an easy 25-mile ride then on to the pub* – organiser was Phil Rosenbloom!

The Time Trial coordinator at the time was one Harry Reynolds who also won the club's inaugural Lottery two-up, riding with Alan Boden on the K36/10 course. (wouldn't it be great to get that up and running again in 2019!)

Fred Towers organised the Semane Federal to Rennes in Brittany and a £50 prize was offered for the best suggestion on how to spend the £35,000 in the club 'building fund'. The following months magazine reported that there had been no entries to the competition! (although there were later three entries, I believe we have still not spent it 20 years on!)



Harry and Alan Boden 2-up TT

Ray Batchelor was the club cyclo-cross secretary and the SCC promotion that year took place at Hatton Country park in November.

The arrival of new member Tim Wallis, a 14-year-old school boy from Alderbrook Road was approved by the committee and saw the club membership rise to 159.

## 2000

Saw the beginning of the club web-site courtesy of Dave Stanton.

The Club Saturday run had a regular advert in the AWheel magazine with the promise of *'Always home on time for the man of the house to undertake the Saturday afternoon chores'*

The National RR Champs were held in Solihull in June with 50 or so members giving up their time to marshal. A £3k bike being displayed in a shop in Knowle High Street to promote the event was stolen when thieves ram raided the store. Tommy Godwin raised £1,300 for the rotary club by selling programmes for the event. Dave Stanton marshalling on Kenilworth Road was responsible for holding up Lennox Lewis and lived to tell the tale.



The summer saw two veteran cyclists from Solihull win gold awards on the slopes of Mont Venteux in L'Etape – Harry Reynolds aged 64 and 50-year old Paul Carbutt. Tommy Godwin celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by inviting everyone to a Thursday club night in November.

October saw the club downhill champs taking place with the winner being Steve Mountford followed by Pete King and Brian Bishop in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Steve still goes downhill like a bomb – he just can't get up the things!) The uphill champs were hotly contested between Dave Rutherford and John Wright but in the absence of an adjudicator a winner was never officially identified.

## 2001

Guests of honour at the club dinner and awards night in January was Mr and Mrs Mick Bennett. The event was organised by Guy Elliott, again at the Solihull Moat House with 75 plus attendees.

May 2001 saw the sudden death of a well-respected member Roger Storey who had been a very active racer and club cyclist in the 1960s and 1970s. Roger died of a heart attack whilst taking part in a cycling event in Wales.

Richard Eason won the club 10-mile TT champs with a PB (23.03) on the K36/10 course having also won the 25-mile TT club champs. Other prominent time trialists at the time were Harry Reynolds, Steve Mountford and Alistair McChesney.

Under the guidance of Robin Fox and Guy Elliott a club racing squad was formed with some 30 or so racers which were evenly split between Seniors (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Cats) and Veterans (40 years and over). As well as the Saturday run, the squad could train on the Tuesday night chain gang/bash which ran from Honiley.

The end of 2001 saw 180 members in the club including new member Bob Richards from Northamptonshire.

## 2002

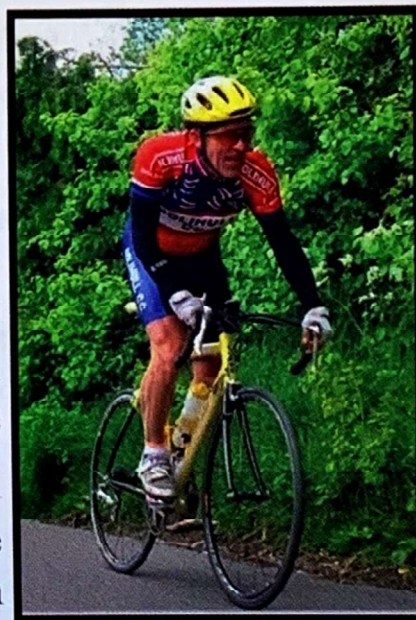
Brian Cookson, together with Mr and Mrs Tommy Godwin were guests of honour at this year's club dinner. Mr Cookson presented Tommy with British Cycling's highest award of a Gold medal in recognition of 60 years of service to cycling.

The new joint editors for the AWheel magazine were Tim Wallis and Roger Cliffe and they paid tribute to John Hall who passed away on 29/12/2001 aged 91. John joined SCC in 1929 just a few months after its foundation.

Some hot news early in the year was that Steve Mountford confirmed that he will race this year but will confine himself to TTs hoping to go under one hour for a 25 for the first time.

Sadly, also this year, Frank Wells passed away. He had been a very active club member since joining in 1931.

Tim Wallis (17) and Mark Jackson (16) were selected by BC to be developed for the Olympic disciplines of TT, road racing, mountain and track racing.



Ivor Thomas

Ivor Thomas won his age group in the National Championships of Wales and Roger Smith came 5<sup>th</sup> in the world masters track champs in the Individual Pursuit. Ivor also came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Lanzarote Ironman Triathlon.

Andy Peat was awarded his 2<sup>nd</sup> Cat licence after gaining 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the High Wycombe RR. Mark Pavely and Richard Lewis were also awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> cat licenses this year. Plenty of other successes for the club racing squad in particular for Stephen Proud, Mark Jackson and Euan Adams to name a few.

Bill Groom came 7<sup>th</sup> and won his age category in an LVRC RR.

The Sunday non-stop training run was becoming popular with Dave Elliot as the run leader.

The hobo run this year also included a sleep over! (They were tough in those days - Can't imagine them doing that now!)

### 2003

The club room moved to the Glades football club in Lugtrout Lane

The racing squad continued with some great successes including Fabciso Bessa winning at Curdborough.

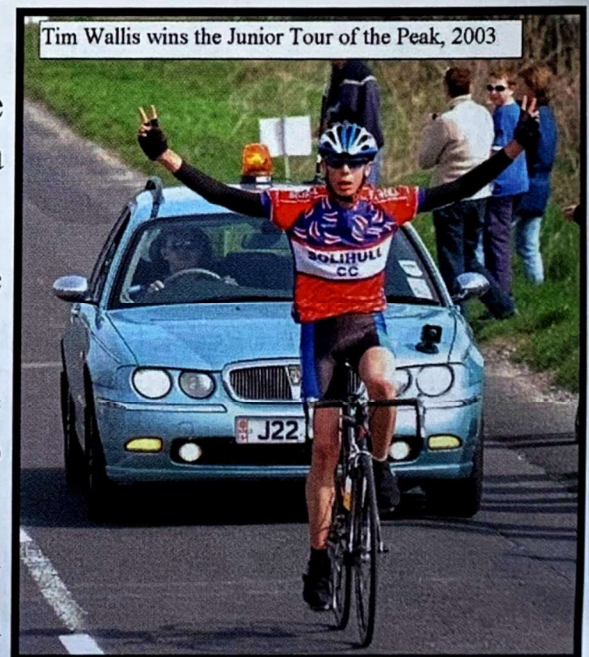
The new Editors for the club magazine were Liz, Anne-Marie and Anne.

The new face in Time Trialling was Eddie Priddy who won the 5 and the 10-miler club champs this year.

Dan Gordon with pilot Barney Storey gained 2 gold medals in the IPC open European cycling track champs in Prague.

### 2004

Dave Rutherford took over as chair of the club in a year in which we sadly lost Paul Carbutt. Paul was one of the Midlands and GBs best cyclists in the 70s and 80s. He was a great professional, winning many races against tough opposition and was a much-loved character in the club who always had time for other club riders no matter what their cycling ability was.





This year also saw the club host an international Junior Road Race in which Ian Stannard won and Geraint Thomas came second. (I wonder whatever happened to them?!)

## 2005

Majorcan training trips became more popular with Dave Rutherford encouraging club members to go to the Porte Pollenca camps.

Solihull CC held their first Track Champs at Halesowen in September 2005 and Paul Carbutt was honoured in the best way we knew how by purchasing track bikes that bore his name.

The club was saddened by the death of Barrie Goodyear who had been the Editor of AWheel from 1995 to 2001 including the 70-year anniversary magazine in 1999.

## 2006

Steve Barlow rode the Paris Roubaix sportive in May of this year and the club again hosted the Junior International RR champs again. The club did itself proud with the support from club members being unbelievable. Two Norwegians got the better of Luke Rowe in the final stages of the race.

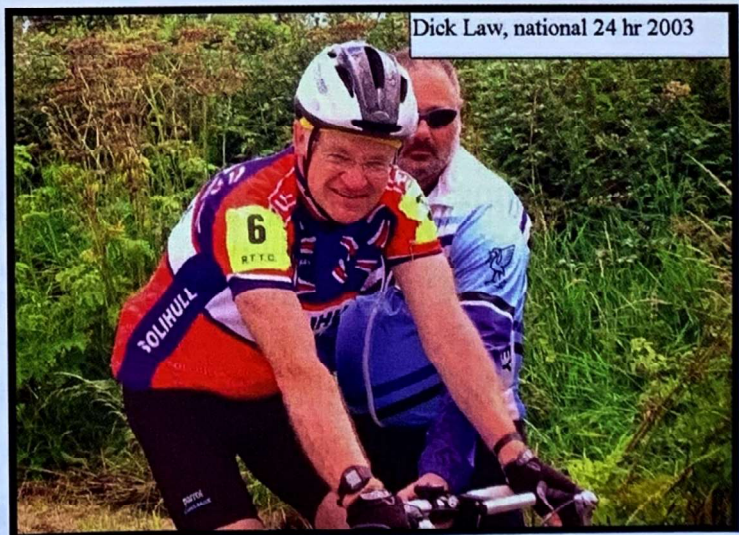
Gorcutt Hill was the new venue for the Hill Climb champs which was won this year by Alan Cox in a time of 1:20 with James Cowan coming second in 1:22.

Ben Hopkins had regular magazine articles this year with his cycling travels through Asia.

## 2007

Dick Law rode the LE to JO between 8-19 May this year. He'd underestimated how hard Devon and Cornwall would be. The pace of his epic journey rarely went above 12mph each day due to the weight carried on his bike. He was pleased that he only had one puncture in 1050 miles.

Mark Wevill rode the Cape Epic mountain race in South Africa.



Sport England granted our request for funding to build a cycle circuit in Tudor Grange Park and Robin Fox won a coaching 'Achievement' award at this year's Solihull Sports Personality of the year having been nominated by Ben Mountford who wished to see Robin rewarded for his commitment to coaching in the club. One of the coaching locations I believe was Lighthall school.

The Semane Federal took place in Perigueux in the Dordoyne.

## 2008

The Tudor Grange circuit was constructed and opened this year and training officially started on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The official opening took place on the August Bank Holiday where the club promoted a full day of cycling.



Cycle-Cross at Elmdon Park

Solihull CC organised a double hill climb open competition taking on Dovers and Sainsbury Hills in one day. Organiser Alex Zeberdee was pleased that the National Champion James Dobben attended as well a local pro Matt Clinton.

The club hosted a round of the cyclo-cross league at Elmdon Park in November of this year and attracted 250 riders. One particular rider caused some excitement in the crowd – Roger Hammond the then National champion turned up and raced.

Membership in the club rose 330.

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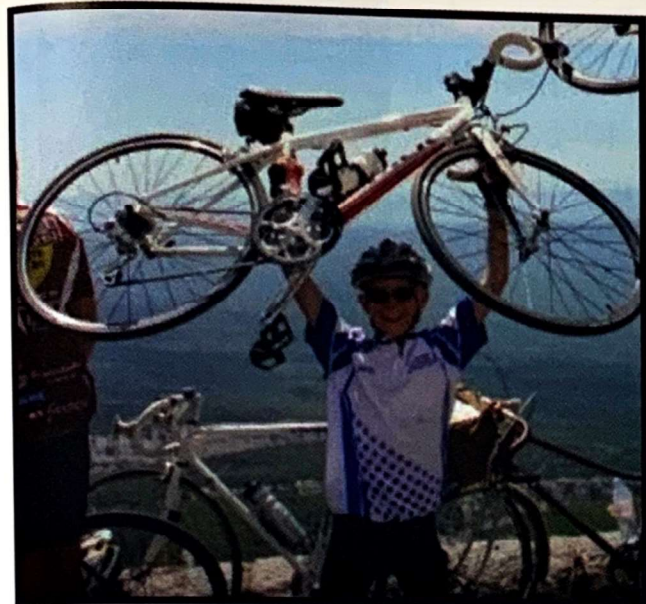
## 2009

Solihull cycling club celebrated being 80 years old with a party that summer at the Earlswood Yacht club which was now our club room again. At the party the club Chair, Dave Rutherford was presented with two important certificates by British Cycling, namely our Go Ride accreditation for the first time and our Sport England Clubmark award. The awards were important for the club as they identified us as a premier sports club within the UK.

October saw Ben Wilson win Gold at the World Master's games in Sydney.

Brian Smith was our guest of honour at our awards night in January of this year.

The year also saw the emergence of some strong youth riders who were starting to do well and win events including Matt Shaw, Jack Rootkin-Gray, Jack Ravenscroft, Joe and Danny Fox, Lucy Shaw and Danielle Khan. That



Jake Stewart on conquering Mont Ventoux

summer also saw a certain Jake Stewart conquer Mont Ventoux at 10 years of age.

The front cover of the summer magazine had a picture of Cath Ward on her time trial bike and she was tragically killed whilst racing in a time trial a few weeks later. We also lost Bob Maitland this year who passed away aged 86 years after suffering a heart attack on the semane federal in France with other club members.

The summer also saw Ian Baulch-Jones taking on Alpe d'huez and other climbs

in the alps. Other club members including Roger and Anne, Mike O'Reilly David Stephenson and Harry Reynolds on a cycling tour to the Romagna part of Italy.

Matt Faulkner won the club Hill Climb competition.

All male hearts and some female hearts were broken when the wedding of the year took place between Liz Tennant and Will in Wixford.

## 2011

Robin Fox received an award from British Cycling President, Brian Cookson for outstanding contribution recognising the youth development programme at SCC in which Robin is the lead coach.

The world Championships took place in Copenhagen and Fred Towers organised a group trip to the Danish capital to witness Mark Cavendish become world champ.

Danielle Khan won two National titles at the Manchester velodrome.

Roger Cliffe was 'forced' into organising the club summer charity bike ride. 166 riders raised £1400 for the British Heart Foundation. It was advertised as the 100-mile Bob Maitland memorial sportive, the 65-mile Harry Reynolds sportive, a 50-mile CTC ride and a 12-mile leisure ride.

## 2012

The club magazine did an interview with Tommy Godwin who was enjoying a whirlwind of engagements and public appearances in the build up to the London Olympics. Tommy went on to carry the Olympic torch through one mile of its travels along Streetsbrook Road in Solihull. Sadly, he passed away in November this year after a short illness.

Lucy Shaw, Natalie Clements and Sophie Faulkner took part in the school games with Lucy coming away with two gold medals.

In June of this year, Dave Elliott became the LVRC National Champion in the H category (Over 75). The race took place in Henley on Thames and this was only his second race of the season.

This years Hobo run attracted 21 members and the club membership reached 500.

## 2013

Guy Elliott took over as club president.

The Solihull Vets early season race only got underway because of the club spirit in the teamwork required to remove the snow and ice from the circuit beforehand.

Pete Ward completed the 3 peaks challenge for the second time in gruelling conditions. He came 8<sup>th</sup> in his age category with 504 finishers out of the 600 starters.

The sizes of some of the club group rides leaving Solihull was causing concern and it was considered that if groups exceeded 16 riders the group should split.



Tommy Godwin &  
the Olympic Torch

Tim Gordon and Gary Rowing- Parker were leading the cyclo-cross charge in particular the training which was advertised as Mud, Sweat and Gears. The Club held our own league race at Elmdon Park in October of this year.

BC No Frills racing also took off in May, organised by our club President. These included two female only races and all the races proved very successful with the May series of BC races continuing each year since.

The Solihull LVRC road race at Bearley was organised by Russ Perry and was named for the first time as the 'Tommy Godwin Memorial Race' in honour of our former club president.

Paul Stewart won the club Hill climb in a time of 1.31, beating Wayne McKeown by 2 seconds.

The Gentlemen's Autumn Tour to the cycling museum in Llandridnod Wells was arranged by Harry Reynolds and took in a tour of the museum and some hilly damp rides. Harry even found a photo of himself in the exhibition.

Danielle Khan became the Junior world 500TT sprint champ and the Individual Sprint champ and narrowly missed out on a third title when she got a silver in the Kieran. Two days later Danielle was competing in the National Junior Champs and despite being a target for all other riders in her world champion stripes she still went on to win the 500TT and Ind sprint titles.



Danielle Khan

Simon Martin was tragically killed in a road traffic collision on Christmas Eve. Simon was a former editor of the club magazine along with his wife Val and was a regular organiser of club events.

## 2014

Our club chair took on the Clee and Hereford hills Audax 200 in July of this year. With 3000 metres of climbing he managed it in 11 ½ hours and was the 5<sup>th</sup> person back at the HQ out of the 11 that started.

Oliver and Neville Gunn received a VIP trip to witness the Tour of Britain where they rubbed shoulders with the business end of the race in the VIP areas and in the following car.

Over 120 riders enjoyed the two routes making up the 'back to basics' reliability trial in March where over £700 was raised for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

May 2014 saw Richard Burt take over as temporary editor of A Wheel for one edition.

## 2015

Robin Fox, Margaret and Roy Gordon were made life members of the club.

The club hosted a late summer garden party at the Purity Ales Brewery near Great Alne where all club runs visited on their return to Solihull. We raised 137 for the Marie Curie charity.

The cream Tea run in July to Dormston village Hall was a success and has now become an annual event in the club calendar. The event raised exactly £1000 with 90 riders attending



from a number of Midland clubs and was organised by Sue Hearn and Steve Tonry, raising money on behalf of their charity, Manisha UK.

This year also saw the tragic death of Reg Elliott who was killed whilst out on his bike near Honily.

The club had over 500 members.

Our June Audax from the Silihillians sports club was also a success with over 170 riders.

The cyclo-cross section seemed to be getting bigger and better with weekly training at Tudor Grange in the late summer and autumn and a large number of riders (40), juniors, seniors and vets taking place in races across the midlands.

Jake Stewart was also going from strength to strength winning no less than eight National level awards. Jake was also the club Hill Climb champion this year in a time of 1.21 on Old Gorcott hill. He was ten seconds quicker than his dad who had won it two years before.

Richard Burt, together with Mike Pridmore-Wood and Sandra Turner completed 'Simon Warren's' 100 greatest UK climbs raising over £20,000 for Dementia UK.

November AWheel magazine gave some fitting tributes to Roy Gordon who had sadly passed away. Although a great cyclist in his time Roy was a prolific worker on behalf of the club in his later years, always volunteering and taking responsibilities for marshalling at events, looking after the equipment in the container and giving out advice to everyone from the youngsters in the club to us Vets. He was very popular and is still missed by many.

## 2017

Stan Brittan and Harry Reynolds were the guests of honour at the club dinner and awards night at the St John's hotel in Solihull. Stan and Harry did a double act taking questions about their racing days in the late 50s and 60s in particular the Tour de France races they took part in.

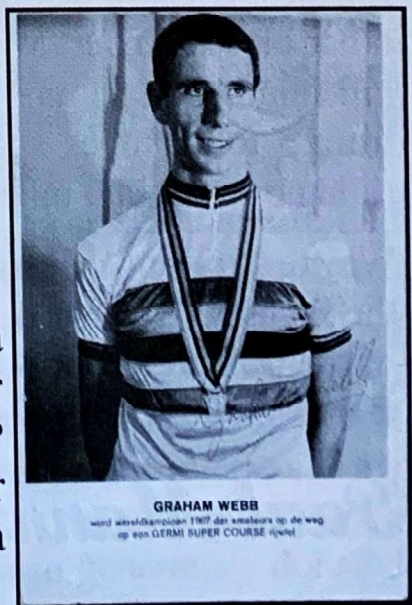
Maureen Paveley and Brian Jones tied the knot on Wednesday 15 February at Solihull Registry Office.

Lucy Shaw was selected to be part of the Dave Rayner funding programme whilst also racing for Trek Drops cycling team.

The concept of 'Crash buddies' was introduced to the club. No matter the age or ability or protests from a rider who'd had a crash, at no time should he or she be left to fend for themselves, no immediately after or later in the ride.

Matt Shaw was presented with the Tommy Godwin Award by Solihull Schools Sports Federation 10 years after receiving his first ever cycling award from Tommy himself. It was presented to Matt for winning the BC Youth National Series in 2016 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the National track Omnium championships.

This year we lost Graham Webb who had been a Birmingham born racer and Solihull CC member before turning professional with Mercier BP Hutchinson in 1968 after becoming the Amateur World Champion in 1968, going on to have a



glittering cycling career. John Paling, Dave Kirby and Alan Boden also passed away this year.

Fred Towers, a club stalwart also sadly lost his battle with cancer at Christmas.

## 2018

Club dinner and awards night was held at Robin Hood Golf club for the first time with over 140 people in attendance. The guest of honour was the author and journalist Will Fotheringham.

The Junior Tour of Wales saw five former Solihull CC youth members taking part. Ben Healy, Harrison and Jacob Knight, Harry Gillet and Matt Shaw were selected to race the 5-stage race over 4 days. Jacob finished 11<sup>th</sup>, Harrison 28<sup>th</sup>, Ben 35<sup>th</sup> with Matt and Harry not finishing.

Jack Rootkin-Gray had a sensational year on both the road and the track in what is his final year of youth racing before moving up to the junior ranks.

Solihull CC hosted the final round of the West Midlands Youth Circuit series at Tudor Grange in July. It was a great turnout by our fantastic team of young racers and club volunteers lead by Mick Edensor. The team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the series behind Halesowen from 24 teams.

David Fellows and Richard Burt became regulars on the national hill climb circuit travelling far and wide to take part in events across the country. This included them both taking part in this year's National Hill Climb at Pea Royd Lane near Sheffield. David came 61<sup>st</sup>, a result he was disappointed with having had a very good season in the run up which included 3 podium finishes. Richard also rode well in his age category and they are hoping that other club members will join them in years to come. David did win the club hill climb in 1.21 and won all the club championship Time Trial trophies from 5 to 25 miles and has also set new standards on club runs as well as riding over 10,000 miles this year.

Wayne McKeown took Gold in the Percy Stallard National LVRC series in the B category (45-50). Wayne said 'I'm dedicating my success to the quality of the training group we are lucky to have in and around the club especially the talented up and coming teenagers....'

*Paul Mann*



# Into The 21st Century

## A Bright New World Begins

The new millennium heralded the start of many changes for Solihull CC. Our Chairman at the turn of the century was Fred Towers, to be replaced by Dave Rutherford, and then Dick Law in 2008. Some things at that time remained unchanged – application for membership needed approval from the Committee, membership numbers were fairly static at around 120 and the insurance status of members was still often questioned.



With Dave Rutherford's tenancy in the Chair the application for Go-Ride status was initiated – a major landmark in the club's history, and Dave spent many hours attending meetings, dealing with reams of paperwork until SCC finally received accreditation in January 2008 and discussions at committee meetings moved on to a new level. Coaches needed to be identified and trained, a new Club

Constitution was proposed, planned and drawn up, and we began to see youngsters applying for membership which necessitated discussions on parental consents, insurances, child protection and other matters. A Friday night track league was enthusiastically established at the Halesowen track with many of the youngsters learning their first skills at bike handling and senior riders finding a new (for many) way of riding. Tommy Godwin found a new lease of life in watching and encouraging the children, and presenting their prizes at the annual Track Championship. Meanwhile Harry Reynolds and John Monk were having talks with BC to establish our own Circuit, requiring many discussions regarding funding, finding a suitable site and after many meetings with BC and Solihull Council, Tudor Grange Park was identified as the most suitable place locally. It was officially opened in August 2008. With the enthusiastic input from the new club coaches led by Robin Fox the circuit training sessions commenced, with the resulting dramatic increase in club membership, particularly from youngsters, and by 2009 20% of the club membership was aged under 16. The club purchased a number of junior bikes for loan and equipment was also generously donated

by members, necessitating acquiring a container for storage and put in place at the side of the circuit. Sadly in 2009 the container was breached and the bikes stolen, but again generous members rallied round helping with replacement equipment.

A new event appeared – the annual expedition to France for the Semaine Federale touring week and training weeks in Mallorca became popular. Olympian Tommy Godwin's Torch Run in Solihull heralding the London Olympics was supported by dozens of club members – a memorable morning.

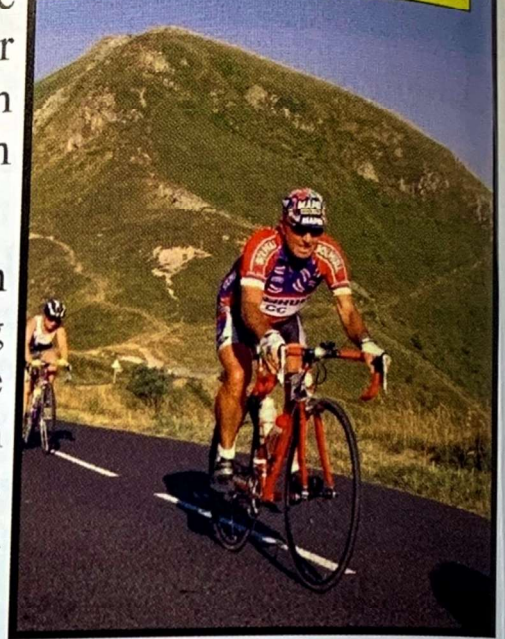
At the start of the millennium there were 3 club runs from the Barley Mow on Sundays, but with membership shooting upwards (to over 500) these were increased to the current 6 and the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday runs also increased.

With the massively increased membership and Robin's enthusiastic guidance the youngsters became involved in riding cyclocross, which in turn encouraged some of their parents and other senior members to participate. The West Midlands League now has hundreds of participants each year, with the inevitable issue of finding sites large enough to hold events. Our own club's promotion moved from Hatton Craft Centre, to Elmdon Park, and subsequently to the Heart of England Events and Business Centre at



Youth training at Tudor Grange Circuit

Harry Reynolds, Semaine Federale 2003



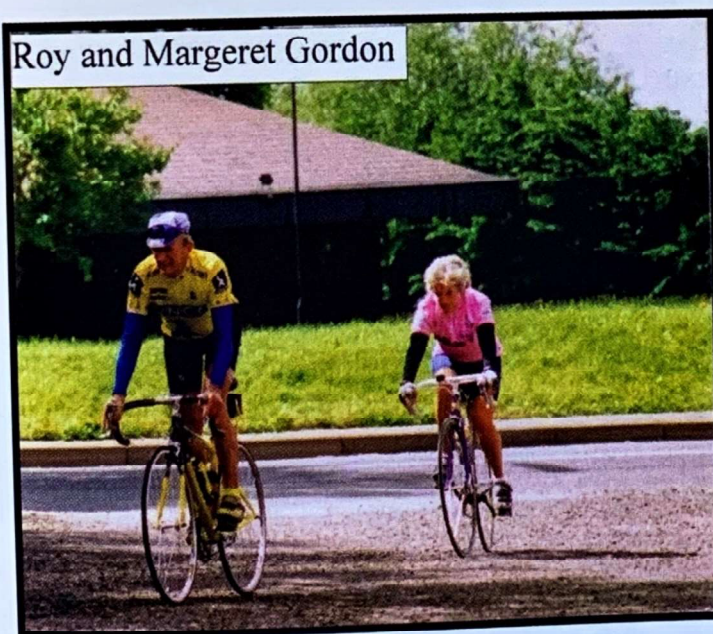
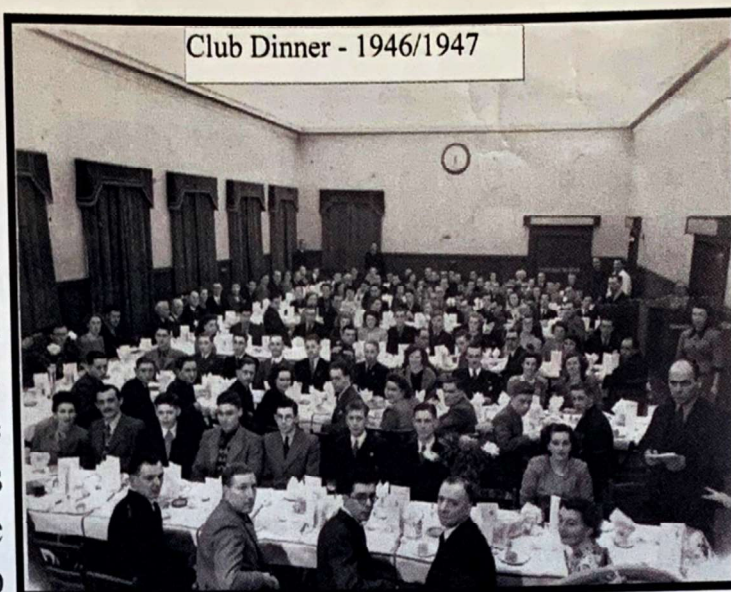
Fillongley in order to accommodate the large numbers.

Some of the club's youngsters were starting to benefit from the Go-Ride accreditation and the coaching programme and were making their name on a wider plane – the Olympic Development Programme, BC's Talent Programme, and others to sponsored clubs.

The acquisition of transponder timing chips (more committee discussions for this as they are phenomenally expensive) transformed the previous, often very difficult, problem of accurate race recording.

However, some things have remained relatively unchanged over the years. The Annual Club Dinner and Prize Presentation still remains a highlight (the success of our club youngsters has necessitated an increase in the silverware!!). Club runs remain the backbone of club life and annual events such as the Mince Pie run and the Hill Climb Championship continue. However, it is sad that modern technology has negated the interest for a club room which traditionally had been the social hub of the club, members now preferring to chat on-line.

So, 90 years from its inception the club thrives and cycling Nationally is now more popular than ever. One wonders what changes the next 90 years will bring.



*Margaret  
Gordon*

# Obituary - Anthony Satterthwaite

Chris and I started cycling after retiring from playing rugby, we met Tony (Big Tone, Saff) through his father (Lou) who also used the same gym as us. Lou knew we had started cycling and mentioned that his son had just bought a bike and was looking for someone to go out with. Lou passed on Tony's number and we arranged to meet which sparked a great friendship and camaraderie. We'd cycle every weekend around 70 miles on a Saturday and a 30-40 mile ride on Sunday. We used to ride the Solihull CC Saturday ride some weekends and Tony joined the club and over the last few years was a regular on the Sunday club runs and Thursday TT's.

Other friends joined the group Raise / Big Phil and Tony also asked Al to join after meeting him on Strava, Diko joined through a mutual friend of his & Tony's, there were other that came out but these were the main stay of the Jolly Boys.

One thing about Tony was his love of a bargain or as the lads referred to it a monthly purchase of a new bike, I have literally no



idea how many bikes he purchased but it seemed like he was buying a new bike every month. He'd strip them down sell all the components on e-bay and then rebuild the frame with new components and then be selling it after a few weeks saying he couldn't get on with the bike and that he was buying no more, sure enough he was never true to that intent.

Invariably Tony would decide on which routes we would take as we couldn't trust Duff or Diko with the navigation responsibility. Tony booked our first Jolly Boys outing to Exmoor where the cycling was excellent but the shower in the cottage ran with a trickle and so it took an age to have a shower. The following year along with Big AL he decided that Ireland would be the destination of the Jolly Boys outing and that we would take on the Wicklow 200 challenge. Well we arrived in glorious weather pitched our tent and had two fantastic days cycling the local area, the night before the event we

popped to the local hostelry to rehydrate. As we left the pub it started to rain, at about 4 o'clock in the morning we were all floating along with our kit in a couple of inches of water, getting up later and putting on wet kit to cycle 200k was not what any of us planned, Tony ended up booking in to a local hotel that night so that he didn't have to risk another night on a floating air bed or put up with Raise snoring. We all came to an



agreement following that trip that Majorca was the place where we needed to go for our annual cycling break and that's where we've been going for the last five years, we have had some fantastic times during our visits both on and off the bike (some nights more like a stag party than a cycling break).

Tony was someone who would always offer some advice and be there to lend a helping hand with any mechanical issues. He wasn't just another fellow cyclist he was a key member of the group and a good friend to all, he possessed a great sense of humour and was always smiling the banter was always fierce but friendly. We shared some fantastic times and all the Jolly boys will treasure the fantastic memories we shared whether they be from cycling, holidays, nights out with the boys or with our wives & families.

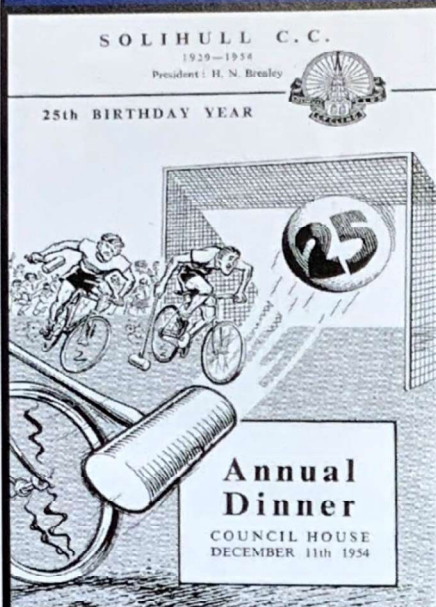


The loss of Tony was / is an horrendous shock that leaves a hole that cannot be filled in the Jolly boys, cycling will never be the same without him. Our Thoughts and prayers are with Tony's wife Wendy, children George & Emma and all family & friends at this sad & difficult time.

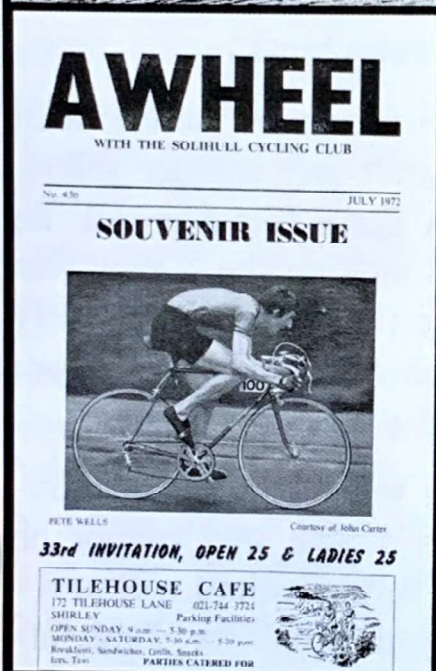
Until we meet again Big Man Rest in Peace.

*Simon, Chris, Andy, Malcolm, Alan & Phil.*

# Photos from the Archive



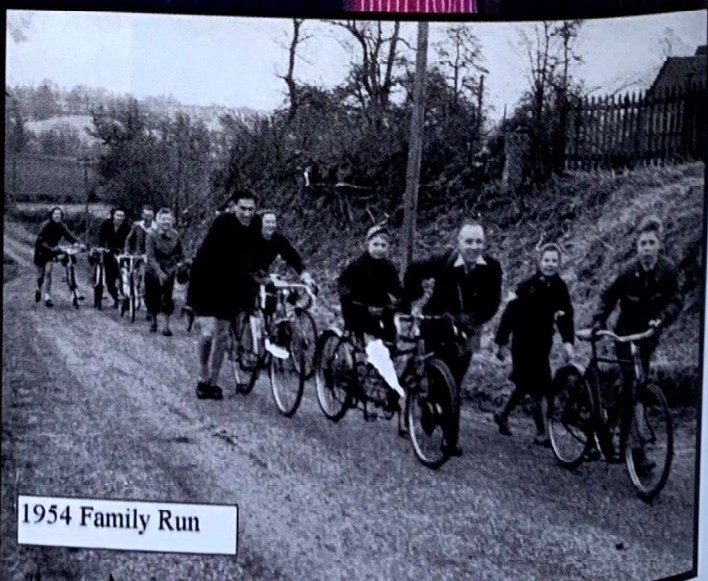
Club 20th Birthday photo 1949



Wellesbourne Mill 2003



Two pictures of Bob Maitland taken almost 40 years apart, in action (top left) (above) winning his second national hill-climb championship on Winnats Pass



1954 Family Run



Majorca 2004



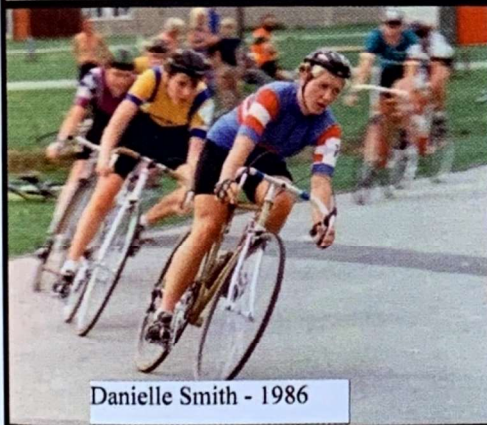
Fleur de Lys, Lowsonford



Denis Moreton, Bas Francis, Bob Maitland 1946 national 25 winners



Bob Maitland World Champion 1989



Danielle Smith - 1986



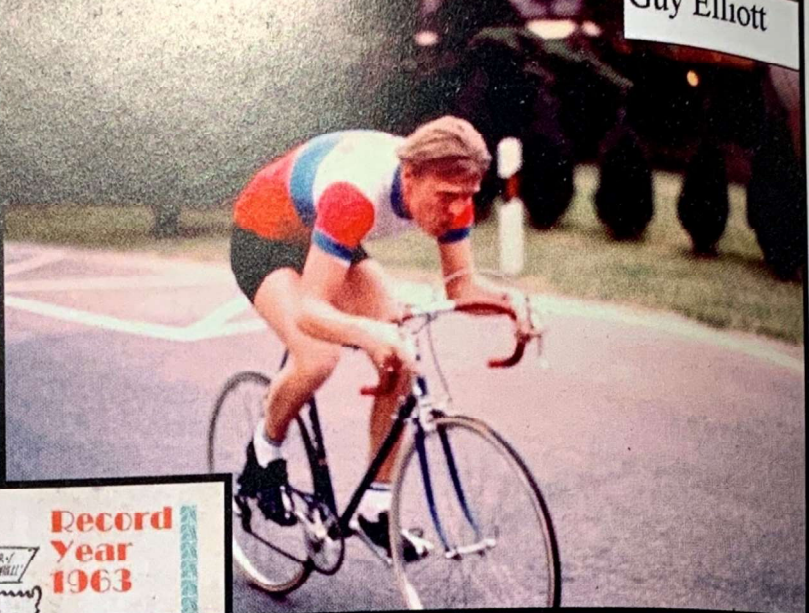
Jim Smyth 1981



Jim Smyth 1980



Tommy Godwin with the Solihull Track Squad 2003



79-7 Wells

**SOLIHULL CYCLING CLUB**

**Record Year 1963**

**34th ANNUAL**

THE QUEEN  
The President

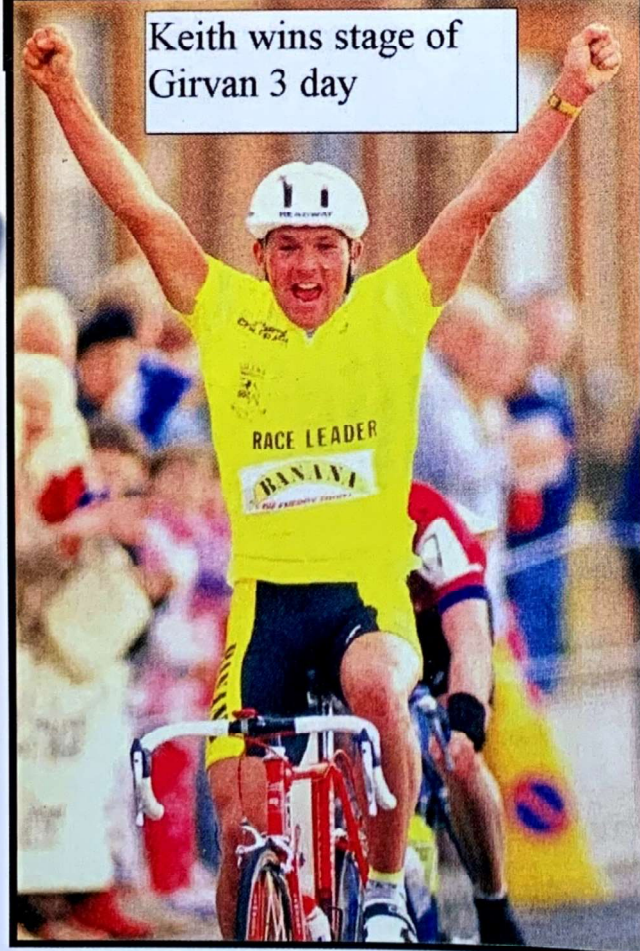
THE BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL  
Clubmember John Monk  
Response  
The Mayor of Solihull  
Councillor H. B. Shaw

THE CLUB AND PRESIDENT  
Mr T. C. Godwin  
Response  
Mr H. N. Bentley

THE CLUB'S 34th ANNUAL MEETING WAS HELD AT THE CLUB HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, 27th MARCH, 1963. THE MEETING WAS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR OF SOLIHULL, COUNCILLOR H. B. SHAW, AND WAS OPENED BY THE PRESIDENT, MR T. C. GODWIN. THE MEETING WAS A SUCCESSFUL ONE AND WAS WELL ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT WAS WELL RECEIVED AND WAS FULLY APPROVED. THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT WAS ALSO APPROVED. THE MEETING WAS CLOSED BY THE MAYOR'S WELCOME TO THE CLUB AND HIS WISHES FOR THE CLUB'S SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.



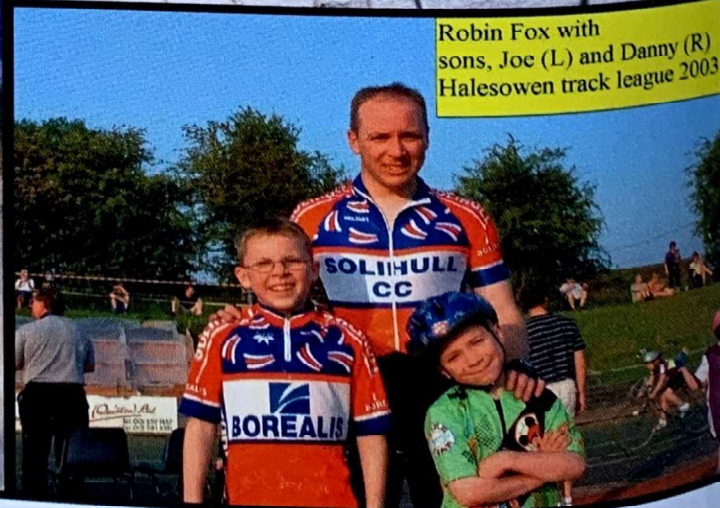
Richard Burden and Paul Pugh listen attentively to Tommy Godwin and John Monk coaching them!



Keith wins stage of Girvan 3 day



Pete King



Robin Fox with sons, Joe (L) and Danny (R) Halesowen track league 2003