

AWheel

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOLIHULL CYCLING CLUB

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REGISTERED GO-RIDE CLUB



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Front Cover: Maureen Paveley and Brian Jones' Wedding Cake

Rear Cover: Solihull CC vets Wayne McKeown and Stuart Jameson on the circuit. (Jameson in yellow helmet).

Editor's Corner



Where did those winter months go to, spring is well and truly here and layers are starting to be shed. Circuit and Track leagues are in full swing and sportives are springing up all over the place.

At the end of February and after a couple of months of riding in dark and cold mornings came the clubs Reliability Trials held on a very windy day, an excellent event organised by Dave Stephenson. Then March was upon us and an early season run out on the Mad March Hare was called for. Now the MMH is not renowned for its good weather but this year had a particularly wet start, by the time we got to Ullenhall we couldn't have been any wetter if we had swam there! A request from Ed though is please go out prepared for your ride, on the aforementioned Reliability Ride one rider had no means of repairing a puncture.

I hope you enjoy this edition, you'll find highlights from the year so far, some great achievements by our Youth riders and an excellent article from Nathan Edensor on his first year on the track.

Summer will soon be here so don't forget to send in your stories of rides out and if you find yourself riding in strange or exotic locations, photos of you in club kit please.

Safe Riding!

Rocky



Send copy to:

editor@solihullcc.org.uk

P.s My apologies for the postage issues with the last edition, to be on the safe side I've reduced the page count for May..

Letters to the Editor

After a highly successful winter riding indoor tracks including the Berlin 6 Jakey Stewart's attentions moved to the road. Riding for Team GB he rode several Belgian classics and rounded off his great Spring with a big win at Sint Joris-Weert on Easter Sunday. Well done Jakey!



Club Clothing

Just in case anyone missed the announcement in the newsletter, club clothing is now on sale at Dynamic Rides in Hockley Heath. Currently this arrangement is on a trial basis so any feedback from members buying kit from Dynamic Rides will be welcomed.

All of the ordered on request items will still need to come through myself by email please. clothing@solihullcc.org.uk

Mick Edensor



2364 Stratford Road, Hockley Heath Solihull,
West Midlands, B94 6QT - 01564 783 332

Wednesday night adult circuit training at Tudor Grange

The club have a superb facility down at Tudor Grange Park in a 1km circuit which is great for training and racing. Currently there are coaching sessions for the youngsters on a Tuesday and Thursday and an adult training session on a Wednesday night from 6.30 to 8.30 weather permitting.

The Wednesday night format is usually along the lines of a 20 minute warm up followed by a very steady revolving line (chain) helping to develop riders group riding and bike handling skills. This may quicken up towards the end for the quicker riders so hang on in there for as long as you can!

This will be followed by specific skill training, for instance, cornering, hill climbing, sprinting, gear changing, riding in a Team Time Trial etc, all helping to develop your riding skills, improve your fitness and hopefully lead to you enjoying your cycling more.

The evening is finished off with either a short race or another steady chain ride and a warm down.

These training sessions having been taking place during April this year. There will be a break in May due to the No Frills BC races on the five Wednesdays throughout the month. The training sessions will then continue on 7 June through to the end of August, so if you have a free Wednesday, why not come down to the Circuit and give it a try.

Further details are on the club Forum.

Ed says: *Paul runs an excellent session so come along for an enjoyable couple of hours and improve your skills.*

West Midlands Youth Circuit Series

After three events Solihull are sitting fourth in the league, a great start to the series but we can do better with your help.

If you are interested in having a go there are six races remaining just sign up on British Cycling. So come on let's see if Solihull can take top spot.



West Midlands Youth Series 2017 LEAGUE TABLE - CLUB STANDINGS (After R3)		
POSITION	CLUB	POINTS TOTAL
1	Mid Shropshire Wheelers	3407
2	Halesowen A & CC	3143
3	Wyre Forest CRC	2543
4	Solihull CC	2309
5	Lichfield City CC	2294
6	Stratford CC	1967
7	Wolverhampton Whls	1850
8	Herefordshire Cycling Club	1310
9	Redditch Road & Path CC	954

Calling All Youth Riders



Event Name	Date	Type	Location
Mid Shropshire Wheelers Sunday Circuit Race No.3 ▾ Part of Series: West Midlands Youth Circuit Series	Sun 30/04/17	Closed Circuit	Shrewsbury Sports Village, Shropshire
Stratford CC Youth Circuit Races ▾ Part of Series: West Midlands Youth Circuit Series	Sun 07/05/17	Closed Circuit	Stourport Sports Club, Worcestershire
Wolverhampton Wheeler CC West Midlands Youth Circuit Series - Round 6 ▾ Part of Series: West Midlands Youth Circuit Series	Sat 20/05/17	Closed Circuit	Stourport Sports Club, Worcestershire
ZipVit / Lichfield CCC Youth Races #4 & Adult Spring Meeting at Curborough ▾	Sat 17/06/17	Closed Circuit	Curborough Sprint Course, Lichfield
Wyre Forest CRC Youth Circuit Races ▾ Part of Series: West Midlands Youth Circuit Series	Sat 01/07/17	Closed Circuit	Stourport Sports Club, Worcestershire
Solihull CC Youth Circuit Races ▾ Part of Series: West Midlands Youth Circuit Series	Sat 15/07/17	Closed Circuit	Tudor Grange Park, West Midlands

Solihull CC Youth Circuit Races

Closed Circuit, Solihull — Saturday 15 Jul 2017



This year's event will be the last in the 2017 series, so, following the final race, the league presentations will be taking place. Our very own Olympic medallist, Harry Reynolds has very kindly agreed to come along to the event to present the prizes, not only for the league,, but also for the individual races on the day.

Last year's event was very successful, this was only made possible due to the support of all the volunteers who helped out during the event, and as I'd like this years event to be even better, I'm going to need another great team behind me! So, come on all you Solihull CC members, please give a little of your time to help out on Saturday 15th July!!

We'll need a team of marshals (the circuit needs five for each race), gear checkers, signers-on, cake sellers, and finish line officials. We also need help to set everything up in the morning and pack everything away at the end!

It'd be great to see parents of our youth riders putting themselves forward too!!

Whether you can come along and support for the entire event (07:30 until 14:30), or can just help out maybe with marshalling for only one race, your support will be gratefully received and you'll be able to go away knowing that you have helped to make our club's event one of the best in the calendar!!

We also need donations for the cake stall. Either home made or bought, whichever you prefer!

Please feel free to contact me directly, or give your details to one of the youth coaches.

Mick Edensor

WMCCL Final League Standings 2016-17

The highlights for the club of the 2016-17 cyclocross season were two dominant displays by a brace of riders in their age categories. Ella Tandy and Holly Saunders won Gold and Silver in the Under-10 Girls and Jacob and Harrison Knight won Gold and Silver in the Junior Men.

In other categories, there were top-10 finishes for Dan Brownsword in the Under-8 Boys; Imogen McDonald in the Under-10 Girls; Max Saunders in the Under-12 Boys, and Xavier Sullivan-Touye in the Junior Men. A full list of the finishing position of our riders in their respective leagues is shown below.

Unfortunately, in spite of this success, Solihull CC finished well down in the team competition because the point scoring system for that favours clubs with riders in every category. Although we do very well in certain categories, we have few senior men and no women competing on a regular basis. So, if you fancy filling that gap, you will be very welcome to join us for the start of the new season in September.

Under-12 Categories

U8 Boys		22 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Events	Points
10	Dan Brownsword	10	667

U10 Boys		37 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Events	Points
16	Sam Brownsword	15	679

U10 Girls		13 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Events	Points
1	Ella Tandy	12	804
2	Holly Saunders	12	699
8	Imogen McDonald	7	406

U12 Boys			61 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	M/F	Events	Points
8	Max Saunders	M	15	809
21	Ben Woodhouse	M	12	637
37	Joe Andrews	M	4	338
42	Jack Alexander	M	5	272



Under-16 Categories

U14 Boys		47 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Events	Points
11	Conor Jones	12	804
12	Jacob Jones	12	778
14	William Ryan	13	751
19	Oliver Tandy	12	686
30	Christian Stevens	6	404

U14 Girls		17 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Events	Points
16	Daisy Khan	2	158

U16 Boys		33 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Events	Points
13	James Ralph	11	757
17	Thomas Green	11	716
24	Alexander Harper	6	408



Junior & Adult Categories

Junior Men		19 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Events	Points
1	Jacob Knight	11	1028
2	Harrison Knight	11	997
6	Xavier Sullivan-Touye	14	892

Men (Senior/U23)			94 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Cat.	Events	Points
15	Cameron Biddle	U23	7	646

Men (V40-49)			125 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Cat.	Events	Points
31	Michael Harrison	V45	15	514
46	David Green	V45	11	394
50	Keith Jones	V45	12	363
66	Neil Taylor	V45	7	261
75	Dan Reid	V45	7	229
89	Ben Andrews	V40	2	129
101	Tim Gordon	V45	4	58
103	Phil Hitchmough	V45	2	56

Men (V50+)			139 Competitors	
Pos.	Name	Cat.	Events	Points
21	Gary Rowing-Parker	V55	12	642
52	Bernard Wareing	V60	11	378
54	Neville Gunn	V50	7	327
74	Pete Ward	V60	10	242



-No brakes, fixed gear and Bulging thighs-

I started out track cycling when I was only 12 with a single cluster session on Derby velodrome in mid-April, to which I'd take only my helmet, some gloves and enough food to satisfy me for a couple of hours, making me one of the first Solihull CC youth cyclists to ride on the boards of Derby.



These cluster sessions were every six weeks, a wait which felt like an eternity as I would always be raring to go for my next two hours on the track. It would be a couple of months shy of a year until I'd take part in my first big event: The 2nd round of the icebreaker series at Newport velodrome, in late February of 2016; I also raced the 3rd round in late March.

My experience in these races, in track-centre, alongside the likes of Jack Rootkin-Gray, Matt Shaw, Harry Gillet and James Alexander, really brought me out of my shell; at first I felt very much like a fish out of water, they also made me feel part of the team, having not yet experienced the camaraderie so early in to my track racing days. The assistance from Jane Shaw also helped me through, with her helpful and encouraging post/pre-race analysis. By no means did I perform well in the two icebreaker rounds that I raced, but I was more “almost last, but certainly not least”.

April was up there with one of my most eventful months of the year; Firstly, because of my participation in the first west mid's youth omnium at Halesowen, secondly because of receiving a new track bike, thirdly because of me starting to attend Monday evening CCT sessions and finally because of a nasty crash that occurred on my 3rd accreditation session, sending me to Derby Royal hospital for a few hours and of course allowing me to show off my scars to mates at school. But of course the black cloud always has a silver lining, in this case the silver lining was a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich in the back of the editors' car.

However, this didn't deter me and I couldn't abandon a discipline of our beloved sport that I had grown so attached to throughout the course of one year. Shortly after, I passed the final stage of my accreditation coached by a brilliant Graeme Waters, meaning that I was now an accredited track cyclist.

As the year went on, I competed in the final three rounds of the west mid's youth omnium series in Wolverhampton, Newcastle-under-Lyme and the well-trodden Derby velodrome, all of which gave me great amounts of track time, experience and of course the banter in track side/centre. I would like to add that the greatest experience was to see Matt Shaw, dominating his races in U16's and Jack-RG having a clean sweep across each event of each omnium.



During the summer months, I also entered the Friday night track league at Halesowen outdoor velodrome, though I didn't compete regularly (not least due to the weather) it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience fast and furious action both in and between the races. This league is for people of all ages and abilities; from the very young to those who have had years of track experience. I would recommend these evening races to anyone as it closely resembles road/circuit racing with shallow bankings and a 400m (ish) concrete circuit. Kudos to Jacob Jones for joining me as the only two Solihull lads to compete in these mini-omniums.



Until November, the track cycling world was quiet with prime-time summer road cycling in full swing between June and September. I kicked back into a small omnium at Derby in early November (Dad could probably drive there with his eyes closed as he's done the journey so many times!) with 4th Place behind some great riders such as Dylan Snoek from Bourne Wheelers and Alfie Lofthouse of Nottingham Clarion.

In December I received an invitation to start on the 2016/17 track RSR program a goal of which I was looking to achieve by Mid-2017; of course, filling me with hope for the coming year. This all goes to show that the long struggle always offers reward at the end.

Of course, the purpose of this longish piece is not to go on and on about *my* year but instead to encourage more Solihull CC youth to take up track cycling and increase the turn out for Solihull CC at races, especially the coming season of regional and national omniums. However, don't let the word "national" put you off! There will always be big crowds to cheer you on from the side-lines and of course plenty of us fellow racers in track centre to encourage, assist and advise on the events ahead. Whether you're new to track cycling or relatively experienced, be sure to give racing a go! Who knows? You may be a natural and win all your races, you won't know unless try!



We've got a growing crowd with riders Jacob Reid, Jacob Jones, James Ralph and Conor Jones all beginning to become addicted to the discipline in the same way I did almost two years ago.

As a side note I'd also like to put in a huge thank you for our club coaches across the 2016 road season: Jane Shaw and Matt Rootkin-Gray. Of course, not to forget the best makeshift derny riders ever: The legend that is Keith Jones and of course, Gary Khan himself.

Nathan Edensor



Lucy Shaw



Lucy is now riding many elite international races against the very best riders in the world including Lizzie Deignan (nee Armitstead) and Marianne Vos. Like many riders who have gone before she currently rides as a domestique sacrificing her chances whilst riding and protecting her team leader. Here is Lucy riding in the Belgian Classic Dwars door Vlanderen which features all the famous cobbled climbs of Flanders.



Lucy riding the GP Dottignies as part of her early season Classics campaign in Belgium riding for her pro team Drops. Her team is now starting to pick up regular top 10 places in the toughest UCI Elite races for women



Well done Lucy!

Matt Shaw

Solihull Cyclist Matt Shaw presented with the Tommy Godwin Award

Solihull CC's Matt Shaw has been presented the Tommy Godwin Award by the Solihull School Sports Federation 10 years after receiving his first ever cycling award from the double Olympic medallist himself. It was presented to Matt by Tommy's Grandson and has been awarded for winning the British Cycling Youth National Series in 2016 and third place in the National Track Omnium Championships.



The Youth National Series consists of seven gruelling races with about 100 riders competing in each race. Matt won three out of the seven national events, including Cardiff National Race - a town centre criterium, Hetton National series - a hilly circuit race and The Screentek North West Tour - a three-day stage race covering over 100 miles. Matt continued to achieve top ten positions throughout the series and was joined by his Solihull team mates, James Alexander and Harry Gillet with James taking two top ten positions and Harry a second place in the last race of the season in Scarborough.

16 year old Matt, who attends Tudor Grange Academy says “It means a lot to me being awarded the Tommy Godwin Award. Tommy and Harry Reynolds (Olympic Silver Medallist and Tour de France rider) used to come and watch all the Solihull youth riders racing at Halesowen's Track League on a Friday night and I used to enjoy listening to his stories of the Olympics and his cycling days”. Matt went on to say “I was really pleased to win the National series. I train for about 20 hours a week, either on road rides of up to 5 hours or indoors on a turbo trainer or rollers and do strength and conditioning work most days. It’s hard fitting school work in especially with GCSE exams coming up soon but my school, Tudor Grange Academy, is very supportive and I have learnt to be much more organised”.

Matt has been invited to race for Wheelbase Cabtech Junior Elite Development team for the 2017 season and will be stepping up to the junior ranks where races are contested on the open road over distances of around 70 miles. Everyone at Solihull CC is proud of Matt and his achievements and wish him the very best of luck for the future.

Well done Matt!



Matt Shaw and James Alexander

Solihull Cycling Club Audax Rides



Audax UK - The Long Distance Cyclists' Association

June 11th sees the continuation of the hugely popular Solihull Cycling Club Audax rides.

All rides start and finish with food at the Hampton in Arden Scout & Guide Hut, Shadowbrook Lane, B92 0DQ. See the website. <http://www.saudax.com>.

There are 3 rides of 200 Km, 155 Km, & 100 Km. The rides start at 8:00, 8:30, & 9:00 respectively.

Note: All riders wishing to do the ride as an Audax MUST pre-enter using the [Enter event] button on the



web site. (Not later than 27th May) This will pass you to the Audax UK website where you can enter & pay with paypal (£7, £6 & £5 + £1 Paypal fee for the 200,155 & 100k resp).

Note: There will be NO AUK registration on the line.

The fees include, hire of HQ, Halls, Free food at start & 1 check point hall.

SCC members wishing to do the rides as club run (no AUK card) can pay on the line. As there is no AUK fee the cost of halls, food to club members will be £5.00.

To help the organisers estimate food quantities please will club members

EITHER

Register as an AUK ride on the website

OR

If riding as a club run just drop me a note to audaxtrevor@gmail.com saying which ride you wish to do.

This will be a great day for all club members and we look forward to seeing you all on June 11th

Many thanks

Trevor Wale



Solihull Cycling Club Vets

LVRC Race report - Pinvin - Sat 25th ABC & Sun 26th DEF - March 2017

The second road race of the LVRC season was a flat course, on roads familiar to SCC Sunday riders, in Pinvin Worcestershire. The weather was glorious with a steady north easterly.

Neutralized for a mile the race rolled out of Bishampton for 6.5 laps of an 8-mile circuit. There was action from the commissaire's whistle as CC Giro sent a rider up the road, but the bunch seemed relaxed to let him go. The pace wound up gradually through the first lap and a couple more riders (Stourbridge Jason Meyer & Worcester St Johns Adrian Bird) sprang away. Those two clearly considered more of a threat by home turf riders, the brothers Dring, gave them itchy cleats and put in some hard efforts. Solihull rider Wayne McKeowen, knowing the course and riders attacking, jumped on to the break, followed by teammate Stuart Jameson. The five swept passed the Giro rider and joined up with the two up the road. For a lap, the gap at 15 seconds was in the balance. Over the only ramp of any note, Velofow rider Paul Doody bridged to make a break of seven. Settling into a strong through and off the seven smashed the Strava lap record by 30s - averaging +26mph to pull clear.

The peloton faded to a race for 8th as the leading group continued working to open a safe 90s gap for the final lap shenanigans.



Paul Dring launched an attack on the final ramp. He came closest to getting away but the six-strong group closed him. A few more efforts from Worcester St John and Stourbridge were countered quickly. It was going down to the final sprint.

2km to go, jockeying for position, the pace see-sawed. 1km to go a nervy pace was letting sprinting legs clear of lactate. Paul Dring looked favourite positioned 6th,



Jameson was last man. 500m to go - one long curve and a 400m straight. Still no sign of a move. Unseen, Jameson, a bike-length off the back, launched. Catching the group off guard, head down and all-out he jumped to a convincing gap. 50m to go it was clear he wasn't going to be caught and Jameson rolled in to give Solihull CC the victory. In the group sprint, it was Doody, Dring P, Meyer, SCC's Wayne McKeowen, Dring S and Bird 7th.

A great Saturday for Solihull was followed up with a solid Sunday. Paul Mann and Richard Blackman taking 6th & 7th respectively in the CDE race.

On the circuit, Wayne McKeown reversed the road result and won the first circuit race of the season in a sprint which started some 300m from the finish line. Jameson finished 4th.

A great start to the season for our Solihull CC racers.

By popular demand, we announce the return of the

CREAM TEA RUN

Come along and join us for some delicious homemade scones!

10am - 3.30pm

Sunday 9th July 2017

Kington & Dormston Village Hall,
Cockshot Lane, Dormston WR7 4LB.

The hall is located between Dormston Lane and
Park Crescent on Cockshot Lane

Please come along and support Manisha UK, a children's
charity in Nepal and let's see if we can beat last years total!

Sue 01564 770428 or Steve 01386 793674

THE CTC WINGED WHEEL – AGAIN!

Malcolm Smith has another try at discussing this icon of early cycle touring



Right, here we go again. Regular readers of *AWheel* will perhaps recall that my first attempt at writing about the various signs and plaques depicting the CTC's famous 'winged wheel' symbol was ambushed by a severe attack of nostalgia and occasional outbreaks of irrelevance.

For the sake of new Club members and readers I should explain that my interest was piqued by an article in *Cycling Weekly* magazine towards the end of 2016. My plan was to try to identify some remaining signs in our locality, then plan a ride to link them all together. Again, my ambition faltered, as there don't seem to be as many as I thought there would be. Nevertheless, there are plenty of local references in this tale, so please do read on.

I'll start with some background. The Cyclists' Touring Club (The CTC) is the first and oldest cycling club in the world. It was founded by a gentleman called Stanley Cotterell in 1878 as the Bicycle Touring Club, but after five years changed its name to the Cyclists' Touring Club. Legend has it – personally I don't believe it – that the change came about in order to grow the Club's membership by admitting tricyclists. Presumably it also opened the doors to unicyclists as well, but I don't suppose this was uppermost in the minds of the Membership Committee at the time.

The CTC then remained the CTC until April 2016 when it re-branded as "Cycling UK". This was done to more accurately reflect the scope and membership of the Club and its work to

champion and campaign on behalf of all the country's cyclists, whether or not they do any touring. The exception is competitive cyclists, who have their own organisation - British Cycling. However, I see from the Cycling UK website that this is a trading name of the Cyclists Touring Club Ltd. The CTC lives on!

Stanley Cotterell was by all accounts an energetic and enterprising person. As well as founding the Club and designing its winged wheel symbol (a depiction of a bicycle wheel with three equally spaced wings sprouting from the hub) he also instigated a rating system for commercial establishments seeking official endorsement from the Club. These were mainly hotels, inns and other catering establishments; a few cycle shops and repairers were also included in the scheme. A CTC members' Handbook was published in which the approved establishments were able to promote themselves – for a fee, of course!

If this sounds similar to today's AA and RAC ratings system - it is, because they copied the very successful CTC model. Where cyclists lead, motorists can only follow!

Cotterell himself set up the first network of hotels etc in 1879. He then recruited interested members to help, whilst also appointing regional officials known as 'Consuls'. Remarkably, only two years later in 1881 he had 785 establishments on the books, offering fixed tariffs, reserved rooms and exclusive cyclists' lounges. These facilities were provided under contract with the CTC. The ratings system denoted the top tier establishments as "Headquarters" and the secondary level as "Quarters". These ratings were denoted by the appropriate tab on the top of the winged wheel. Approved shops had a "Repairers" tab. At this time, bicycles were based on the famous Ordinary, or Penny-Farthing, and it is the large front wheel that the CTC emblem

depicted. The first bicycle as we know it – chain driven and featuring a double triangle design – was not invented until 1885, by John Starley of Coventry.

At first the hoteliers and other outlets could advertise their status as CTC appointees by incorporating the winged wheel logo into their own literature. However, such was the commercial advantage to undertakings in the hospitality sector that many proprietors jumped on the bandwagon by fraudulently claiming to be CTC approved when they were not.

And so, in 1888, was born the famous disc – a heavy and robust 24inch - diameter cast iron plaque designed to be firmly bolted to the walls of the businesses to which they were awarded. The plaques were painted black, with white wings and lettering. Hoteliers were charged a substantial deposit for the plaques, which remained the property of the CTC, and they still are to this day.

But times changed, and by 1895 the contracts and the tariffs that went with them had gone, replaced by simple discounts for CTC



members, available on production of proof of membership. Outlets offering discounts were given an unadorned winged wheel disc. By 1902 even these discounts were on the way out and had disappeared entirely by the end of 1908. These changes were not unconnected with the introduction of the motor car.

No cast-iron plaques were issued after this date, although after the 1st World War demand grew for some means of identifying ‘cyclist-friendly’ cafes, pubs and hotels. This demand was met by the issue of square embossed copper badges, followed by black-and-

yellow square enamel signs and finally similar round signs. These were available until the 1950s and quite a few of them are still around.



But the story doesn't end there. In 1993 the CTC gave permission for reproduction plaques to be made. As there were no records remaining of which foundry had made the original cast-iron winged wheels, an impression was taken of an original plaque owned by a CTC member in Birmingham. The reproductions are made from glass-filled resin and self-coloured to last. The colour is how the reproductions can be distinguished from the originals.

Reproductions have a grey background, black spokes and lettering, with gold wings and a gold rim. One such is affixed to the wall of the Plough Inn at Shustoke and will be familiar to many SCC members, as the Plough is a popular watering hole on several Tuesday rides.

In addition, about 20 plaster wall plaques for indoor use were made, which needed painting by the purchaser, and these were sold through the CTC shop.

In addition to the Plough at Shustoke, examples of CTC signs can be seen (fairly) locally on The White Hart at Winchcombe, The Black Bear at Moreton-in-Marsh, The Coach & Horses at Longborough and (as an exhibit) at the Black Country Living

Museum in Dudley. There is also an example of an enamel sign on a private house in Walton Pool, near Clent, Stourbridge, which is very interesting because it is one of trio, the other two being signs by the National Cyclists Union (NCU) and the Clarion Cycling Club. It is said that the house used to be a café, although this seems unlikely given the remote and dead-end location; I prefer to believe the signs were erected by a collector.

And there's more! The winged wheel plaques and signs were not the only ones to be issued and erected by the CTC: there were also road signs. Bear in mind that the CTC was established in 1878 and the motor car was not generally available in this country until the late 19th/early 20th century. Road travel was either on foot, on horseback or in horse-drawn carriages. Although milestones and directional signposts were well established, there was no real need for road signs warning of hazards such as steep hills, sharp corners and so on. Then the bicycle came along, which was at the time the fastest form of road transport available, and pitfalls like this became a significant danger. So the CTC stepped into the breach once more and supplied and emplaced suitable warning signs at appropriate locations. Unfortunately there are no longer any existing records of where these were and I have never actually seen one. There are a few photos, though, and these seem to be non-specific, just saying "Danger" or "Caution". The exception is the "Steep Hill" sign.



It is interesting to note that the CTC is today one of just three non-governmental bodies licensed to erect both permanent and

temporary advisory signs on UK highways. The other two are the AA and the RAC. Although the CTC rarely makes use of this entitlement, apart from special events, the licence is always kept up to date and is there to be used if necessary.

Until May 1973 there was a CTC Steep Hill sign at the top of Tattle Bank, between the Warwickshire villages of Claverdon and Langley. We usually refer to it on our rides as Langley Hill. Apparently it was removed – without notifying or seeking the permission of the owners – by Warwickshire County Council. In other words, the Council stole it!

Fortunately, its absence was immediately noticed by a local cyclist, identified only as ‘a CTC member’, who made enquiries with the Council and eventually located the sign on the Council dump at Henley-in-Arden. He or she, incredibly, managed to find it, rescued it and took it home wrapped in their cape, secured to the top of their saddlebag. As far as is known, it is still in his or her possession.

So there you have it, a little history of the Winged Wheel signs, which I hope I have managed to bring to you without straying too far from the subject!

Malcolm Smith

Sources and Acknowledgements

In compiling this article I have made much use of an article by Chris Sidwells in the 1 December 2016 issue of *Cycling Weekly*. The CTC/Cycling UK website contains much information and many illustrations. Also thanks to SCC member John Holland for telling me about the signs in Walton Pool.

Young Achievers

At the recent British Schools Cycling Association (BSCA) National Cyclo Cross Championships Solihull CCs Holly Saunders took part in the Under 9s event and her brother Max in the Under 11s.

Both Holly and Max performed strongly on the day to podium. It was a long, technical course, 90% of which was over undulating grass with lots of off-camber switch-backs and a couple of big climbs thrown in. After a good start, Holly got herself well placed and managed to hold onto 3rd place.

After a good showing in the West Midlands Cyclo Cross League, Max was gridded on the front row of the start line. He got a great start and was nicely tucked into a trio that blasted away from the field. Racing in the U11's, the course was slightly extended with some logs added that needed hurdling and the race time was up to 20mins.

After a clean first lap and with Max looking calm in the small group, unfortunately he hit a course marker and was thrown off his bike. Max was forced to chase, catching the 3rd place rider before the last lap but couldn't quite catch the winner. A fine and very entertaining second place all the same.



Well done Max and Holly!

President's Awards

Solihull Cycling club celebrated the club's annual achievements at the end of January with its Annual Awards Presentation. Many of the Club's 500 members attended the evening at St Johns Hotel.

Amongst the Award winners were six members: who received the President Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Bob Richards won the National and World Championships in the Individual Pursuit

Richard Burt and his team who raised £25,000 for the Dementia UK charity

Paul Mann became the National Track Champion of the LVRC for over 55's

Matt Shaw won the National Youth (U16) Circuit Series

Jake Stewart and **Danielle Khan** for National and International success



*Just a
few of
the
winners*



Dates for your Diary – from Paul Mann

New event - Club 5 mile Scratch Race

7pm Wednesday 6 September 2017

Tudor Grange cycle track

Solihull Cycling club has a very handsome trophy which I was lucky enough to win at the club awards night back in January. The trophy is for the 5 mile Scratch race winner and I won it as a result of an LVRC race I won at the LVRC track champs back in October last year.

The trophy itself dates back to 1936 and I think our Club President Guy Elliott was one of the first winners!!!

I am therefore organising a Solihull Cycling club 5 mile scratch race on the Tudor Grange circuit at 7 pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017. The event is for Solihull Cycling club members, and I would suggest that the race would be suitable for the club racers, A/B club run riders, or riders who have been regularly training on the circuit in the months leading up to the race.

This race could then be followed by a TTT with 3-4 club members getting together to form a team for a 5 mile TTT and or maybe we could arrange an elimination race.

Further details to follow on club Forum and Club newsletter.

Solihull Cycling Club Hill Climb Race

10am Saturday 7 October 2017

Old Gorcott Hill

Our Hill Climb Championships will be taking place on the usual Hill climb (KH11) at the above time and date. There will be prizes on the day for individual age categories and the overall winner will receive the champions trophy at our Annual awards and dinner night in January 2018.

Further details to follow on the club forum and Club Newsletter.



Gary Blackman – current Club Hill Climb champion, crosses the finish line on Old Gorcott Hill.

Email Update

Are you receiving our occasional newsletters? If not, we may not have your correct email address. Please let the membership secretary know if you have changed your email. membership@solihullcc.org.uk

Club Runs

Saturday

All runs commence at 9:00am

A run starts Dorridge Station

B Run starts Railway Inn Dorridge

Apple Pie Run starts Dorridge Village Hall

All rides have a coffee stop at :-

Studley Garden Centre,

Mappleborough Green

Thursday

DATE	A RUN	B RUN	C RUN	D RUN
		Led by Pete James	Led by Dick Law	Led by Trevor Bayliss
25-May	Dunnington	Astwood Bank	Kenilworth	Shottery
01-Jun	Wellesbourne	Dunnington	Bidford	Charlecote
08-Jun	Dunnington	Bidford	Briar Croft	Astwood Bank
15-Jun	Wellesbourne	Lighthorne Heath	Dunnington	Stoneleigh
22-Jun	Dunnington	Clifford Chambers	Stoneleigh	Hatton Locks
29-Jun	Wellesbourne	Bidford	Clifford Chambers	Dunnington
06-Jul	Dunnington	Hampton Lucy	Briar Croft	Hoar Park
13-Jul	Wellesbourne	Astwood Bank	Hoar Park	Blackhills
20-Jul	Dunnington	Clifford Chambers	Kingsbury	Alcester
27-Jul	Wellesbourne	Dunnington	Wellesbourne TC	Charlecote
03-Aug	Dunnington	Lighthorne Heath	Blackhills	Stratford
Runs Co-Ordinator Dick Law 01926 427200				
A Run starts Dynamic Rides Hockley Heath at 9:15 am				
B and C run start from Punchbowl at 10:00 am				

Sunday

DATE	A RUN	B RUN	C RUN	D RUN	E RUN
14-May	Kineton	Warrington	Napton	Battlefields	Astwood Bank
21-May	Martin Hussingtree	Broadway Tower	Craycombe Farm	Blooms GC	Dunnington
28-May	Rosliston	Barby	Jinny Ring	Whickhamford	Wellesbourne
04-Jun	Tommy Godwin Memorial Vets Road Race				
11-Jun	Club Audax Ride				
18-Jun	Cannock Chase	Wyre Forest VC	Martin Hussingtree	Lighthorne Heath	Battlefields
25-Jun	Long Compton	Wardington	Napton	Battlefields	Jinny Ring
02-Jul	Willoughby	Rosliston	Cream Tea Newbold Village Hall		
09-Jul	Cream Tea Dormston Village Hall				
16-Jul	Malvern	Moreton in Marsh	Clifford Chambers	Warrington Herb Centre	Broadway
23-Jul	Kinver	Malvern	Upton Snodsbury	Chipping Campden	Middleton
30-Jul	Rosliston	Hook Norton	Lighthorne Heath	Draycote Water	Clifford Chambers
06-Aug	Chipping Campden	Toddington	Ilmington	Chaddesley Corbett	Dunnington
Rides start from Clock Tower, Warwick Road, Solihull					
All runs start at 9:00am					
Beginners E Run also available - Contact Alan Thomson 01216-808322 or alt492@hotmail.com					

Tuesday

B Run			
DATE	A Run Coffee Stop	Coffee Stop	Pub Stop
23-May	Whitlenge	Stourport	Feckenham
30-May	Draycote Water	Willoughby (PB)	Hunningham
06-Jun	Hoar Park	Heather (E)	Shustoke
13-Jun	Shipston	Warmington	HamptonLucy
20-Jun	Stourport	Chaddesley Corbett	Feckenham
27-Jun	Evesham	Drive & Ride, Leicester	Alcester
04-Jul	Croome Pk	Norton GC	Broom
11-Jul	Whickhamford	Chipping Campden	Ardens Grafton
18-Jul	Martin Hussingtree	Churchfields	Broom
25-Jul	Pershore	Drive & Ride, Shipston on Stour	Stoneleigh
01-Aug	Blooms GC	Draycote Water (PB)	Hampton Lucy
Runs info Dave Stephenson 01564 776064, david@djks.co.uk			
A Run is faster with coffee stop, starts from Reservoir pub at 9:15. Leader agreed on day			
B Run is an all day ride with coffee & lunch stop. Leaves Reservoir pub at 9:15 am			
(*) Runs marked PB start from Punchbowl, Runs marked E start from Eastcote X roads. 9:15 start			
			C Run Coffee Stop
			Hatton Locks
			Alcester
			Kenilworth
			Blackhills
			Mappleborough Green
			Alcester
			Shottery
			Astwood Bank
			Charlecote
			Alcester
			Run Leader Trevor Bayliss
			Starts Punchbowl 10:00

Main Club Contact Details

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