

# AWheel

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOLIHULL CYCLING CLUB

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REGISTERED GO-RIDE CLUB



**BRITISH  
CYCLING**

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Front Cover: Roy Gordon

Rear Cover: SCC Juniors heading out on this year's AUDAX

## Editor's Corner



As your new editor, welcome to my 1st edition of our clubs magazine, I hope you enjoy.

As the latest custodian of a much loved part of Solihull Cycling Club I will maintain the tradition of bringing a mix of news, articles and success stories from the breadth of our membership that is, once I've figured out the complexity of Publisher!

My first edition does come with a tinge of sadness though as we report of the sad passing of Roy Gordon. As a new member of SCC I had the pleasure of meeting Roy at the recent CX event at and it was clear that he was a much loved member of our club and will be sadly missed.

In this edition you find a couple of "bonkers" challenges, one complete and one just starting, I think too much fresh air must affect some people and a report from the excellent SCC round of the WMCCCL held at the Heart of England Centre in Fillongley, what a superb CX event it was. (Ed stood on the car park chatting to the many happy riders as they left the event)

Numerous events are coming up over the next few months, all covered in this edition but a specific mention here that the AGM is approaching. Please attend if you can and if you would like to be part of the happy band of helpers, even for one event, let someone on the contact page know, or anyone who looks as though they know what's going on.

Safe Riding

Rocky

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

## ROY GORDON

I am sure that nearly all club members will by now have heard that Roy Gordon passed away recently after a long and debilitating illness, which he bore with characteristic cheerfulness, fortitude and dignity. It is no exaggeration to say that Roy was a club legend – a feat that is hard to achieve in such a fine club as ours.



We will all have our different memories of Roy but he will perhaps be best remembered for being a very fine time triallist. In the late 1960's and early 1970's Roy was racing at his peak and every week his name would be in Cycling Weekly, normally winning the team award, in very high quality national events but often winning individual honours including being Midlands BAR. In those days the team award was fiercely contested between the top clubs in the UK, and the Midlands in particular, and we had a devastating team of time trial specialists with Roy along with his pals Ian Dean, Tony Herraty, Chris Moseley, Rob Gill and Steve Tonry to name just a few – in fact when Mick Bennett started

racing it was Roy who took him under his wing from a time trial perspective with the two riding events 2Ups together where Roy gave the future Olympic medallist Mick a good grounding in how to grovel on a team mate's back wheel. And we should not forget that Roy also rode as a teammate of multiple national champion and Olympian Roy Cromack and World Amateur Road Race Champion Graham Webb who both knew how to turn a nifty pedal!

But look a little deeper and you will discover that Roy was far more than a successful time triallist – or tester as we called them in those days. The Solihull Cycling Club was his life and his “family”. It is through our club that Margaret met Roy and everything they did together over the past 50 years revolved around the club in some way. What a wonderful life they enjoyed together – when you hear all the stories it is like watching a Disney “feel good” movie! Along with Harry and Dulcie Reynolds, Trevor and Ann Bayliss, Dave and Anne Mountford, “Chinky” and Pauline Chambers, Pete and Jennie Janes, Kay and Brian Bishop – and others too numerous to mention (so please forgive me for those I have missed) – Roy and Margaret enjoyed a wonderful life which many of us today, with all our mod cons, material possessions and flashy bikes – would cherish. They travelled all over Europe together before motorways were even built, youth hostelled together, partied together, took their kids everywhere together, rode more miles together than most of us would ever dream of and drank vast quantities of disgusting fizzy beer (brewed by Ansell's – remember them?) and cheap red wine on French and Spanish campsites. No challenge seemed insurmountable for this “Crazy Gang” – they worked hard all week when the British economy was in free-fall but they lived life to the full. Always red, white and blue. Together.

So Roy lived life to the full but there is more. Above all else Roy was a giver – someone who always gave more than he asked for. Anyone who has organised any type of club event will tell you that Roy and Margaret would be the first to offer their help and support. Even as Roy's health deteriorated he could still be found down at the circuit helping out with equipment and advice to our younger members. He turned out to help at the club cyclo cross just a few days before he passed away. And he led the Solihull A and B Runs for many years, often riding legendary distances; I think he must have known every Midlands country lane almost as well as Dave Stephenson! Between them Roy and Margaret have been involved in every activity the club carries out and filled most of the club official appointments we depend on to make everything happen. We all owe Roy and Margaret so much it was a great pleasure to all of us when they both became Life Members a few years ago – an honour that is consciously very rarely awarded by the committee.

There is no doubt we are all going to desperately miss Roy and we are terribly sad that he is no longer with us. But his sheer zest for life, his enthusiasm for everything, his desire – driven by his time trialling – to make every single minute of every single day count should leave us instead with a feeling of euphoria to have all played just a slight part in his amazing life. What a character, what a man, what a club mate – what a legend. Roy we will miss you – we do already – but my word you really went for it big time didn't you and what a hell of a ride you had!

Farewell old friend. You legend.

**Guy Elliott**  
**Club President**

# A FEW TRIBUTES TO ROY

## My Memories of Roy

Roy was one of my best friends having known him since the early 50's I reckon on 60 years. We rode our bikes together, we raised our families together and we worked on our homes together, we camped all over the UK, France, driving in convoy down to Spain nearly always taking our bikes, riding the Abersoch 4-day, or a TT if there was one locally.

Roy was a fantastic rider he regularly beat the hour for 25 miles without any aerodynamic aids brake cables sticking up in the air! In the 80's we started riding Audax events one every month quite often doing the 120 miles in 6-1/2 hours, we then graduated to the continent where we rode the "Francais Diagonal" ( Brest to Menton) 800 miles in 5 days i.e. 160 miles a day, one day we were going down the Rhone valley, every 10 miles there was a hill like Fish Hill, we had a block head wind and Roy sat on the front for more than 50 miles with Dave Stephenson, Dave Lucas & myself sat on his wheel. He was so strong.

All good memories, Roy was a prolific worker on behalf of the club always helping marshalling at Cyclo Crosses RR's & TT's. He was very popular with all the youngsters at the circuit chatting to them encouraging helping with their bikes getting them positioned correctly, he seemed to have the knack of remembering all their names.

Roy along with Ray Batchelor and me to a lesser degree managed the container at the circuit, upgrading the security putting all the racking in for the bikes and the shelves for all the equipment and constantly keeping it tidy.

One good story which I must relate Trevor was in Australia when his water tank sprang a leak I received a frantic call from the neighbour who was keeping his eye on the property telling me about the leak, I dashed round water everywhere, so I rang Roy up at work, asked him to come round ASAP to turn the electrics off, he said I will give it a "job number" so he could leave work and he was round in no time to make the place safe.

A great character I will truly miss him.

**Harry Reynolds**

Roy was paramount in encouraging me when I was a junior in the club. We rode many 2 ups together and he was certainly one I would seek out on club nights for words of encouragement. He was a great source of advice to me on many occasions with never a bad word. I'm deeply saddened by his passing.

### **Mick Bennett**



I have many memories of Roy's racing and training bash input but the following slightly bizarre incident, stands out in my mind. Whilst out on a winter club run in the 70's, someone slipped on a muddy surface (Bob Jones, if I recall correctly!), resulting in the entire group hitting the deck. I landed in a ditch and looked up, to see Roy flying gracefully through the air towards me and having nowhere else to go, parted my legs, as Roy landed in the ditch between 'em, tandem style! Brother-in-law Trevor Bull, rode back with a tree branch as one half of his handlebars, having snapped them clean in half and one young lad, who was out with us for the first time, ended up with a broken collarbone!

### **Steve Tonry**



In 1986 together with Roy, Harry Reynolds and Dave Lucas I rode the long French diagonal, Brest to Menton: 800 miles or so in 5 days. We were all fit but Roy was in a class of his own: down the Rhone valley into a strong head wind he sat on the front, hands in his usual testing style draped over the levers, hour after hour tapping out the miles. And I remember particularly when we got to the big climbs, where it was impossible to hang on to him and survival was the only option. On the last climb of the last day, Col de Castillon, in the early evening, before we dropped into Menton, we stayed together for a change. Dave Lucas with me on the back, Roy and Harry on the front arguing who was half wheeling who. Great guy, great times.

### **Dave Stephenson**



# Annual General Meeting Jan 2017

The club AGM is on Thursday 19th January and some committee and non committee posts are being vacated. It is vital that these roles be filled to continue the smooth running of the club and its activities. Please consider how you can help.

## Management Committee vacancies

- Two positions.
- Welfare Officer

## Non Committee vacancies

- B runs leader
- Mountain bike secretary
- Auditor
- Equipment officers
- Representative on The Solihull Cycle Steering Committee

The current committee would welcome your support, and it would be good to have some new and young representatives. It is YOUR club and helping out needn't necessitate a great time commitment so please let us know if you are interested in helping. Any formal proposals for discussion at the AGM should be submitted to the Club Secretary ([secretary@solihullcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@solihullcc.org.uk)) in writing by 7th January 2017 for inclusion on the Agenda.





# IS THIS THE MOST BONKERS CHALLENGE EVER UNDERTAKEN BY SOLIHULL CC RIDERS?

One day last winter, book browsing on Solihull High Street, Richard Burt spotted Simon Warren's 100 Greatest Cycling Climbs tucked away on the sports shelf of Waterstones. Worth a tenner, he thought, and within minutes the idea of the 100 Climbs challenge supporting Dementia UK was born.

Inspired by his mum Peggy, who suffers with Alzheimer's, He's been fundraising for Dementia UK's Admiral Nurses (the equivalent of MacMillan Nurses for cancer care) all year and has so far raised £23,730.

The 100 Climbs challenge has been the centerpiece of his efforts and has been described by co-challenge rider, Mike Pridmore-Wood as a "completely bonkers challenge" which indeed it is!

Without the commitment of Mike, Sandra Turner and Ian Spencer, who each gave up twelve precious days of their own time, I wouldn't have got anywhere near it.

I completed 97 climbs within 12 days, and Mike, who took half a day off to collect his daughter's exam results, finished off all 100 the following weekend.



Here is Mike's pithy account of their extreme vertical challenge:

It didn't take long for Richard and I to realise that at least one of us was mad and the other one was stupid! What had we signed up to?? This challenge was going to be monstrously hard, we were going to have to work out a way of just surviving the climbs without burning ourselves out. A lot of the climbs are steep, as you would expect, and even the least challenging had a story to tell



but there quickly came a point where Richard and I resigned ourselves to using all the gears we had and twiddling our way up the steepest ones.

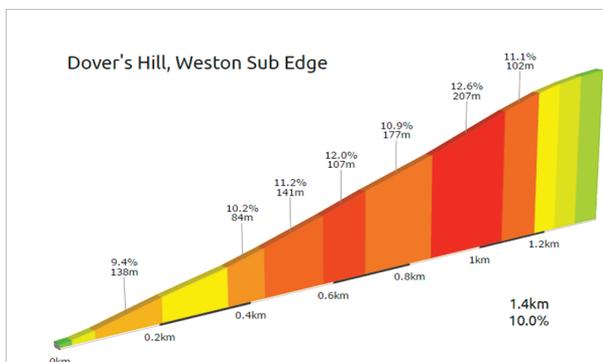
The secret to achieving the challenge wasn't really the riding itself, although that was pretty tough, it was the planning and the logistics. An excellent route put together by John Wright was the cornerstone and even though we'd not tried out the formula, it worked perfectly. Most days we were within an hour either way of the plan and actually finished nearly an hour early at the end of the 12 days!



The support we received from our 'crew' comprising: Driver, Sandra Turner; Soigneur/Motorhome Driver/Cook/Mechanic/hot water bottle, Ian Spencer and not least, stand-in Driver Lorely Burt was remarkable too. Never complaining, even with my little

rants (Chimp you say!) and all pulling the same direction was how a team should work. Even the simple things, like putting the bikes on the back of the car over 100 times worked like clockwork after a short while. We all had our own roles in the car too, Sandra driving, me navigating and Richard in his Tramps Kingdom surrounded by plastic bags full of variously wet or dry clothes and keeping us all fed and watered with copious amounts of Chicken Tarka sandwiches prepared by Ian who also had the onerous task of driving the Motorhome to meet us every night.

Our rides started with a familiar one, Dover's Hill, the scene of the British Hill climb Champs some years ago which formed the inspiration for the original 100 Greatest Cycling Climbs book by Simon Warren. Over many years he's competed over the length and breadth of the



country over some of the nastiest but nicest climbs we have to offer in the UK and with some notable additions he's come up with a sometimes controversial (we all know a better climb near us!) but always interesting set of climbs. Interestingly, I'd also bought his book as a present for Sandra, not knowing what would happen in time.

From our own patch and leaving Dave Back we took in an anticlockwise loop over the next couple of days down to and around Devon taking in some of the classics like Porlock and Haytor Vale although not at the pace the Tour of Britain went up there a few weeks later! From there it was on to South Wales to meet up with 'English' Phil Lovell for The Tumble followed by

some rather dark and wet climbs before an overnight in Neath. We'd missed a couple the previous day due to getting caught in Devon holiday traffic but with the adaptability built into the plan we could mop them up the next day.

This actually was a recurring theme where we also had to abandon on our first visit to Bwlch-y-Groes as it was so windy at the top we couldn't open the car door! We returned for it the next day with our second riding guests, Janet & Steve Davison who joined us for the North Wales leg and a few more the next weekend on a tough day from Lancaster down to Lincoln.

After loading the bikes onto the back of the car in the pouring rain and stood in a river at the top of Winnats Pass, we overnighted at my Mum's in Saddleworth and actually got to sleep in a bed that didn't sway in the wind. Whilst our rather excellent Tour Bus loaned to us by the very generous Simon George of 6<sup>th</sup> Gear Driving Experience was brilliant in many ways, stability, even when parked wasn't a key attribute and even a slight movement at one end would be felt at the other!



The next couple of days up through Yorkshire included the fearsome Rosedale Chimney. I know this area reasonably well and haven't even been up it in a car before but being the stubborn/stupid one I decided to

have a go at it. After rather many zig-zags, I did manage it but have to say that it's brutal. A few days later we met Simon Warren for a climb on his Manor, just inside the M25 and he told me he'd

done it recently for a Cycling Weekly video feature and had climbed it three times that day. On 39/27 gearing and I had 30/32 on my bike! Apparently somebody won the National Champs a few years up there with a 42/24.....

After a little more creative route planning we passed over the Pennines again and up into Scotland via Rest-and-be-Thankful to head towards the Spinal Tap version of a Cycling Climb. All the climbs in the book have a difficulty rating based on steepness and length and are scored out of 10. Bealach-Na-Ba is an 11 and fully deserving of it's score. The first part is relatively easy, to the point where we thought we'd get up with a gear to spare but then you round the shoulder of the mountain and are presented with a



vision of pain. Another mile or so at 20% topped off by a couple of hairpins and it's relentless. The view at the top though was worth every moment of the effort to get there. Absolutely stunning doesn't describe it adequately and we were blessed with perfect weather. What it would have been like in the wind and rain

doesn't bear thinking about.

What followed that day was our longest drive, all the way from Skye down to Solihull via Aviemore and the Cairgorms, roughly 750 miles in one day followed by over 200 the next. Here we suffered our only real mechanical where I managed to break my gear hanger after the steepest part of The Lecht. At this point I felt it was all over but after a few gentle words of encouragement I was on Sandra's bike wearing Richard's wet (and careworn!) spare Look shoes and off back down to the bottom to start again.

The ensuing adrenaline rush mean that the second ascent was faster than the first due to higher gearing and I managed a much quicker time than I thought possible. What followed though was



less pleasant, being feasted on by the infamous Scottish Midges whilst we loaded the bikes up again.

Lorely met Richard and Ian at Penrith the following morning and then proceeded gamely around the Lake District over some of the toughest climbs and

driving roads there are in the UK. Sections of 1:3 are terrifying to drive up so all credit to Lorely as she transported Richard to the Classic hills of the Lake District. We managed to get back up with enough time for me to take in 3 climbs that day and had a lovely evening afterwards at the pub in Kirkby Stephen.

The next day we were back on God’s own County taking in the iconic Buttertubs, The Stang, Tan Hill, Fleet Moss, Park Rash and the very beautiful Malham Tarn. Any one of those would be a challenge on its own but we managed a total of 10 that day and for good measure followed it up with 12 the next day including brutes like Shibden Wall. Richard had been dreading this as it’s steep and cobbled for most of its length but other than leaving the car park in the wrong direction, he excelled again with his new seated climbing technique. Double kudos for that one! Bank and Riber in Matlock finished that day off in the wet, tired legs meaning it was just survival again



but a great achievement with it putting us firmly back on track and actually in front of the plan.

Another long day followed from Lincoln taking in a few around London and the Home Counties and meeting Simon Warren for the obligatory selfie with a road sign. Overnight was at the hospitality of another of Richard's foreign climbing trip friends, Simon Kelly who very kindly fed us that night after joining us for a couple of climbs.



So, the last day dawned and we were nearly there, just some little bumps around the South Downs to complete. Except a few weren't! The well-known ones (to us) like Leith and Box Hill are a bit over-rated I think but they are nice and wide and therefore safer for Ride London etc but the nasty ones like York's Hill and White Downs were pretty challenging as both are used as competitive hill climbs. Box Hill however was a gentle spin and we were done! Richard had managed 97 in the 12 days, only

missing the ones he felt were dangerous for him like the 40% climb in Harlech that I still don't know how I got up!

I however hadn't finished as I was on 96 so the following Sunday we rushed off to the Lake District. All I had left to do was Newlands Hause, Honister, Hardknott & Wrynose. ALL!! After completing them though, I have to say that Richard put in an awesome effort on the day I missed as the cumulative effect of what had gone before would have made that lot absolutely brutal.

I am honoured to have been able to support Richard in his Bonkers Challenge, I never thought I'd do even half of the climbs but his encouragement and my stubbornness meant I actually did the lot. The cause that Richard is supporting is very important and dear to his heart as more and more of us are touched by Dementia and I would encourage as many people as possible to support him via his fundraising page at [virginmoneygiving.com/100GreatestCyclingClimbs](http://virginmoneygiving.com/100GreatestCyclingClimbs)



*Ed understands that within the story there is an “in” joke and the team has offered a bottle of wine to the first person to add the punch line to the joke as a comment on their donation?*

*If there's multiple correct replies on the same day, then it'll go to the person who donated the most.*

## 2017 Club Dinner

As everyone will know our club continues to thrive in almost every possible way. We now take it for granted when we read of new racing successes by our younger members, many of whom are now representing their country and winning honours at world level. Our club membership continues to thrive with many hundreds of riders out each week taking part in all the activities that are run so well by our club volunteers. But we are also a club that nurtures and thrives on our traditions and it is important that we do our best to support our heritage events and customs.

I am sure many of you might have attended our annual Club Dinner and Prize Presentation in the past and this event continues to be a success under the stewardship of Pauline Gunn and Paul Mann. However it is fair to say that the club committee recognises how hard it is for many members to find the cost of £25 per head so soon after Christmas and with so many other priorities. The committee also recognises that quite a large amount of club funds are used to help and support costs around coaching, racing and so on but little, if any, gets “back” to older members, many of whom are loyal club dinner attendees.

I am therefore pleased to announce that club funds will be used to subsidise the cost of the 2017 club dinner, reducing the price per head from £25 to £15 for the first 140 to sign up. We hope this will help rejuvenate the dinner and encourage many “possibles” to become firm



“definites”. You will find the application form for the Dinner elsewhere in this edition of AWheel but please may I ask for your support in making this event a success. It will be a great evening and for just £15 per head for a 3-course meal with great company it is an absolute bargain!

**Guy Elliott**  
Club President

## **Annual Dinner Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

The Club's premier winter social event

**St John's Hotel, Warwick Road, Solihull**

3 course sit down dinner

(please see separate Application Form included with the magazine)

Presentation of the Club's year and achievements Prize giving

Pre-dinner drink 6:30, meal is served at 7pm

**Contact – Pauline Gunn ([paulinegunn@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:paulinegunn@blueyonder.co.uk))**

## **Young Riders**

We need to hear from you! Whether you ride to win, for fun or to improve your skills, we would love to read about your experiences. Why not make your article part of a school assignment? Or write about how your friends are riding.

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

## Riders Support

At a recent committee meeting the decision was taken to support any rider competing in National Series events. The rider has to have represented the club and an award of up to £50 will be provided towards the cost of entry fees. If you feel that you are entitled to this please contact me via e mail providing receipts for entry fees together with your bank sort code and account number and I will make payment by BACS.

## Club Subscriptions and Direct Debits 2017

Club membership subscriptions will remain unchanged for 2017.

If you pay by direct debit you will still need to fill in the membership renewal form that will be sent out to you in November and this should be returned to Pete James. Indicate that payment is by Direct Debit.

### **Do not fill in another Direct Debit form.**

If you want to set up a new Direct Debit, for the first time, please fill in the direct debit form and the renewal form send both to Pete James. These must be received, by him, before December 31st 2016.

Direct Debits will be collected towards the end of January 2017.

If you have any queries I can be contacted via e mail

[phil.rosenbloom@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:phil.rosenbloom@blueyonder.co.uk)

Phil Rosenbloom - Treasurer.

With all the success of our younger racing members in particular it is easy to overlook the exploits of some of our longer standing members! One of these is Bob Richards. Although Bob lives over towards Northampton he has retained his strong links with our club over many years and is a popular figure at many LVRC events - including our own road race. Earlier in the year Bob won the 75+ age category in the Individual Pursuit at the British National Championships and to cap it all off has just been crowned World Champion in the Individual Pursuit in his age group at the UCI World Masters Track Championships. He is now planning his next challenges and' allegedly has Danni Khan, Lucy Shaw and Jake Stewart in his sights!

Well done Bob on a great series of performances and keep pedalling!



# Moving On

## Dear Richard

I wanted to write to let you know that I have been offered a place in a Junior Development race team for the 2017 season and will be joining them to race both in the UK and Europe. I hope that I will be able to progress and build on the strong base that my coaches at Solihull CC have given me and I want to thank you all. My development has been in a large part down to the hard work of my coaches and all the amazing volunteers at Solihull CC. I thank the committee and yourself for their great work. Specifically I thank Robin Fox who visited me at my house and laid the foundations for my season. Jane, Matt RG and Gary for their commitment to helping my cycling. For most of this season Richard Lodge has worked with me on a one to one basis and I really appreciate the time and wise words he offered me especially the advice about how to ride Scarborough. Lots of people have helped and I am grateful to you all.

As you know I am relatively new to cycling and started out for a brief time in Leamington at RLSCC. I had a couple of races on my own and then met the Solihull Youth squad at a race. My experiences with Solihull CC in the last 2 years has really helped shape me as a rider and it was here that I really began to train in May 2014. I came from Football where I played a high level. I thought I was fit. That was until Robin Fox put me through some tough sessions at Tudor Grange. Then I knew I needed to work harder! I have always enjoyed the Solihull atmosphere especially my fellow Youth riders who are a great bunch from my fellow U16/U14 riders to the young up and coming riders on a Tuesday night.

I will never forget some of my first club rides like when Big Kev looked after me and made sure I got to the café stop at Wellesbourne when my fingers were freezing, or the doctor on the ride who checked out my bruised face and rode back with me to my parents the day I went over my handle bars on a long Sunday A ride. Or French Chris and Ivor who kept me going with their banter. I love the station ride with its sprint and a Muffin at the stop. It was an honour to be awarded the most improved young rider award 2015 at last years dinner. It really inspired me to see such great names on the trophy. I have learnt so much in a short time and some of that has been from all the experienced riders I have met on club runs and rides, people like Paul Mann, it is the kind of help and inspiration you can not find easily and I have been lucky to get that at Solihull CC. I want to keep a strong link to the club that helped me begin my cycling journey and I hope that you will be happy if I continue as a member of the club and to be on many more club rides in the future.

In the 2016 Youth A season I was 20<sup>th</sup> in my first ever tour at the Isle of Man. I progressed steadily with 17<sup>th</sup> at the North West Tour and then 16<sup>th</sup> in the National Championships. I got 2<sup>nd</sup> at the last National Series race at Scarborough in August which was the highlight of my season and really helped push me on. I worked hard to develop this year but I know that it could not have happened without Solihull CC. The committee provided support for me to go to the Isle of Man and and I benefited at many races from the advice and knowledge of the parents and riders from Solihull who went with me. I am looking forward to 2017 and to the challenges it will bring but know that it was at Solihull CC that I really learnt how to ride.

Yours Sincerely

**Harry Gillett**

## Letters to the Editor

**Dear Ed,**

During the August Bank Holiday I was in a hot car on the M5 in a long traffic jam with my Dad. I felt as though the roles were being reversed. He was complaining ‘...are we there yet’ and I was trying to keep him entertained. I read him the latest AWHEEL (there are copies going back to the fifties in his loft!) and was really impressed by the range of articles. We especially enjoyed the Diary of a Teenage Race Team which was filled with suspense and enthusiasm by being written with such immediacy. When we had exhausted the mag I began to ask him about his love of cycling and the article below contains just a few memories from John Moore member of Solihull Cycling club since 1949.

**Alyson:** So when did you discover cycling?

**John:** I bought a bike at 25 years old, a Dawes, because I had a good job as a chartered mechanical engineer. I was looking for a good cycling club and on a ride near Stratford on Avon I met a cyclist called Charlie Brown who invited me to a lantern slide lecture at Moseley Road Institute, by Camp Hill. It was organised by the CTC. Charlie was into touring. I was amazed when he said that people rode their bikes EVERY Sunday.

I went along. We met at the Barley Mow at 9 a.m. It was early so we could have a pee in the bushes, no one was around. We did about 80 miles. I always enjoyed Broadway and the Cotswolds. We needed to get to a pub like The Bulls Head at Earlswood by 1 p.m. before it closed. I couldn't often go at any other time because I was studying at night school for my BSc in mechanical engineering at Aston Technical College, now the University.

I did a few races, a few 10s and then rode a 12hr but never a 24.

**Alyson:** And what kept you riding?

**John:** ...Girls. We used to go off youth hostelling but I don't know how much sex there was!

**Alyson:** Did you go abroad too?

**John:** To the Randonees, every year. I rode in France, Brittany, just after the war. The roads were pitted with craters. Brittany was in ruins. San Malo and St Brieuc were destroyed by so much shelling. One night when I was riding back from Brussels I ended up in a shell hole because it was so dark. I was taken in by a man who, when he discovered I was English, insisted in offering me his bed and food (horse meat - I think) because he was so grateful for the Liberation. There was so little food at that time and also no traffic but I had to ride on the wrong side of the road.

**Alyson:** What do you remember about Solihull Club nights?

**John:** The first Solihull clubroom was in the old poultry shed in Catherine-de-Barnes. It was a wooden shed with a wooden floor and benches and tables round the outside. Cyclists met on a Sunday night after the ride. We had food like beans on toast. Eric and Freida Walker encouraged us all to meet up and talk about racing and cycling and it was popular with cyclists from round and about. Thursday became a club night exclusively for members. I remember the Christmas Parties and Socials. We paid an entrance fee of 6d a week. Occasional money was put into a building fund for a brick clubroom. It was invested for a future building, specifically for the SCC.

**Letter from Alyson Phillips** - daughter of John Moore member of SCC 67 years - although he doesn't like anyone to go on about his age!

**Dear Ed,**

Will you please include this request in the next issue of the AWheel magazine.



Steersman Wanted: A male blind cyclist from Solihull would welcome the chance of getting out more often to ride his Dawes Galaxy Tandem. He has enjoyed cycling for many years completing LEJOG twice. If anyone can manage a much modest ride occasionally please contact: Arthur Salisbury on 01217055496 for further details. The tandem front frame size is 21"(53cm) centre/centre with around 31"(79cm) stand over height.



### **Letter from Margaret Gordon**

My family and I want to thank all of our club friends who have sent so many kind and thoughtful messages of sympathy and comfort after Roy passed away on 10 October, and for the incredible support we received at his funeral. Cycling had been Roy's lifelong passion and even after his lung disease took away his ability to cycle he remained passionate about the sport and keenly interested in club activities. He took particular pleasure in helping and encouraging the junior members of the club, and took pride in their accomplishments, however small. His spirit remained unbroken and he was able to drive to Wellesbourne for the coffee stop with club friends up until his final weekend.

I know Roy's spirit and determination (not to say his many extraordinary cycling experiences!!) will long be remembered and recounted.

Thank you all so very much.

# Who Said Cyclocross is Cold, Wet and Muddy?

Once again, the Solihull CC round of the West Midland Cyclo-Cross League (WMCCL) proved that this Autumn and Winter discipline can be dry, warm, exciting and fun – with only the tiniest bit of mud.

A big thank you from the event's organising committee to everyone who turned up to help over the weekend of 24th/25th September at Round 4 of the WMCCL. The event was held at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre in Fillongley, and it was a huge success. The racing was exciting; the weather was good, and everyone seemed to have a great time. 236 adults and 184 juniors competed in six separate races. The youngest competitor was on a toddler's balance bike and the oldest was over 70. Cyclocross really is one of the most inclusive cycling disciplines.

It was also a very successful day for riders from the club. In the main race of the day, Cameron Biddle won the Under -23 category. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall after a race-long dual with Harry Yates of Hargroves Cycles. Cameron got off to a bad start with a minor crash but recorded the fastest lap of the day in catching up again with the leader. However after sharing the lead throughout the race, Yates had the reserves to gap Cameron on the



last lap. In the same race, Harrison and Jacob Knight were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Junior category, and Ben Andrews rode to a very creditable 8<sup>th</sup> place in the V40+ category.

The full list of Solihull CC finishers in the Men's Senior and V40+ race was:

Solihull CC girls dominated the Under-10 race with Ella Tandy winning the category, Holly Saunders 2<sup>nd</sup> and Imogen McDonald 4<sup>th</sup>. Joe Andrews was 6<sup>th</sup> Under-12 boy; Daisy Khan was 6<sup>th</sup> Under-14 girl and Jack Rootkin-Gray was 7<sup>th</sup> Under-16

| Overall Placing |                       | Category |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 2               | Cameron Biddle        | U23      |
| 5               | Harrison Knight       | Junior   |
| 11              | Jacob Knight          | Junior   |
| 50              | Ben Andrews           | V40      |
| 60              | Xavier Sullivan-Touye | Junior   |
| 89              | Neil Taylor           | V45      |
| 99              | Michael Harrison      | V45      |
| 110             | David Green           | V45      |
| 116             | Daniel Reid           | V45      |
| 118             | Keith Jones           | V45      |

boy. All the Solihull CC finishers are listed below. Not everything went smoothly for our riders. Alex Harper was going well in the Under-16 race when a photographer stepped out in front of him and caused him to crash into a tree. He wasn't too

badly injured but was unable to finish the race.

Well done to all of our riders. Why not give cyclocross a go yourself? As you can see, it is enjoyed at all ages, and it is one branch of the sport where every rider gets a cheer. Floodlit coaching sessions are held on a



Tuesday evening from 6:30pm at Tudor Grange from September to January.

We received lots of positive feedback about the event from other clubs. Once again, Solihull CC members proved that they are among the best when it comes to putting on a great cycling event. Thanks to all the volunteers. We look forward to seeing you all there again next year.



#### Under-10s

| Overall Placing |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 10              | Ella Tandy        |
| 19              | Holly Saunders    |
| 23              | Samuel Brownsword |
| 25              | Imogen McDonald   |

#### Under-12s

| Overall Placing |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 6               | Joe Andrews     |
| 14              | Max Saunders    |
| 24              | Ben Woodhouse   |
| 27              | Jack Alexander  |
| 42              | Amelia Doudican |

#### Under-14s and 16s

| Overall Placing | Category          |     |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----|
| 7               | Jack Rootkin-Gray | U16 |
| 25              | Christian Stevens | U14 |
| 27              | James Ralph       | U16 |
| 32              | William Ryan      | U14 |
| 37              | Conor Jones       | U14 |
| 42              | Thomas Green      | U16 |
| 46              | Oliver Tandy      | U14 |
| 56              | Daisy Khan        | U14 |

#### Men V50+

| Overall Placing |                 |     |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| 34              | Neville Gunn    | V50 |
| 60              | Bernard Wareing | V60 |
| 80              | Peter Ward      | V60 |
| 83              | Andrew McGowan  | V55 |

By Gary Rowing-Parker

# 92 County Cycling Challenge



SCC member Keith Jones has finally decided to press the GO button on his latest hair brained scheme. For a couple of months now a blog has been sitting on his laptop just waiting for him to post it on social media thus crossing the point of no return and committing himself to a 4 year challenge to pedal his way around the 92 Counties of the British Isles.

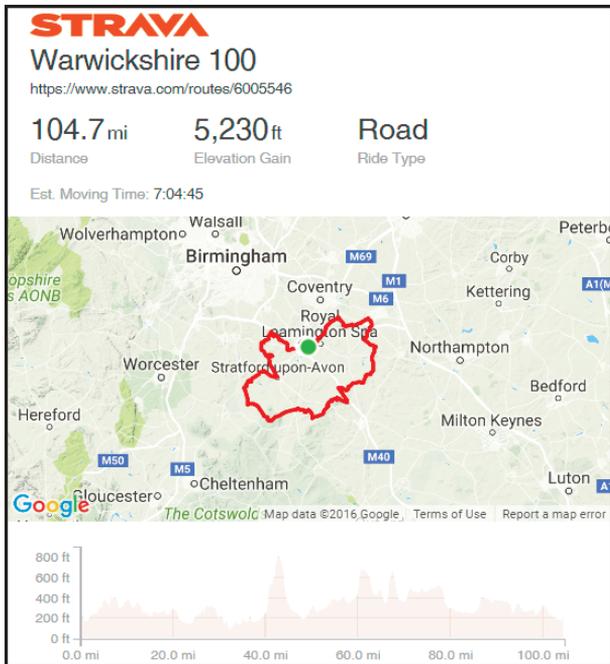
**“I fancy visiting every county in Britain before I’m 50, better still I’m going to ride a 100 miles in every county before I’m 50.”**

He made the statement above in good faith to a friend without checking his facts, imagine his surprise when he discovered that there are 92 traditional British counties with 34 of them in Scotland and with just 24 months until his 50th birthday a dose of realism was required.

Unless he was to quit his job and leave his wife and kids he had to accept it wasn’t going to succeed. Rather than ditching the plan though he still intends to ride 100 miles in every county in Britain, completing the challenge before his 52nd birthday.

Keith’s travels will begin close to home with a 104 mile ride around our “home” county of Warwickshire, the planned departure date for this first foray is Friday 28th October accompanied by his good friend Rocky Pearson.

Although the primary purpose of this challenge is just to get out and ride through Britain's best country lanes, climb its most challenging hills, and eat the best cake in the land he has also set up a fundraising page with the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and hopes that his challenge will make people aware of the marvellous job the volunteers do and also raise a few quid to help keep the service flying.



If anybody fancies joining Keith on any of the upcoming routes just let him know, his plan is to make each route a leisurely affair taking in the sights and sounds, taking a few snaps, indulging in a couple of cake stops and a bit of local history rather than a head down TT effort to get round each County in under 6 hours!

Go have a look and follow his exploits on his blog <https://92ccc.wordpress.com/92-county-challenge/> Keith's new to this blogging lark so he'd welcome any (constructive) criticism.





## **Volunteer as a British Cycling accredited marshal**

Hi All,

As most of you will know we are going to start using Accredited Marshals for Road Racing in the West Midlands from 2017. This means that we will have fully qualified marshals in the region who are legally allowed to stop the traffic at a junction using a "Stop! Cycle Race" sign making Road Racing much safer for our riders.

The plan is to target a handful of events in 2017 and then look to expand the scheme year on year depending on the number of Marshals we can recruit each year, until we cover all of the Road Races across the West Midlands. Each Marshal will have to do an online module and go through a day's training course to gain the accreditation, It is looking like we will be hosting the training courses in the West Midlands in February and March 2017 but the exact dates will be confirmed in the next few months. Once qualified we ask marshals to do 5 events per year to keep the accreditation. The Accredited Marshals will receive a 20p per mile travel expense to all events they attend, Accredited Marshal Uniform and a free British Cycling Bronze Membership.

For more information please see the Accredited Marshal Section of the British Cycling Website. If you have a question or are interested please contact me.

Just in case you have any queries, I will also be hosting a workshop at the end of November for all Event Organisers and

Commissaries where I will explain how the Accredited Marshals will change the way we run events. The date for this will be confirmed in the next 2 weeks.

Many Thanks,

**Joe Wilks**

Regional Events Officer, West Midlands

British Cycling, National Cycling Centre, Stuart Street,  
Manchester, M11 4DQ

Telephone: +44 (0)161 274 2000 | Mobile: 07940302073 |  
britishcycling.org.uk



Following his performances and results this year as a final year U14, I am pleased to let you all know that Jack has been offered a place as an Great Britain Cycling Team Olympic Development Apprentice, starting in October this year.

He will receive regular training and coaching under the guidance of the GBCT coaches, and follows in the footsteps of Danni Khan, Lucy Shaw, Jake Stewart and Matt Shaw down this pathway. Naturally, he is very excited about the experience and opportunities this will afford him, and has generally been floating around on cloud 9 since he found out!

**From Matt Rootkin-Gray**

# Bring & Buy Sale

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**From 8:00pm**

**Upstairs at the Red Lion**

This is a great social occasion with the opportunity to bag a bargain. Get your Christmas presents and get rid of all that stuff in the garage, somebody will want it. Or just come for a chat and drink.

From bikes to socks, Garmins to tyres, Club Clothing will be available.

Local shops will also be invited and have had some great bargains in the past.

If you have a lot to sell you can have a table or half a table. If you have a little to sell just walk around with it.

There is not entry charge or a charge for selling.

Any unwanted items you have, but do not want to sell bring along and put them on the club table proceeds go into club funds.

Please bring large items up the stairs near the smokers.

If you need any further information contact

Ivor Thomas [ivorandjen@hotmail.com](mailto:ivorandjen@hotmail.com)

01789-731451 07972-058342

# 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             |
|---|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
|   |              | Led by Dick Law  |                   |
| 24-Nov  | Dunnington   | Wellesbourne Tn  | Blackhills        |
| 01-Dec  | Wellesbourne | Mappleboro Green | Kenilworth        |
| 08-Dec  | Dunnington   | Briar Croft      | Wooten Wawen      |
| 15-Dec  | Xmas Lunch   |                  |                   |
| 22-Dec  | Dunnington   | Kenilworth       | Hatton Craft      |
| 29-Dec  | Wellesbourne | Charlecote       | Alcester          |
| 05-Jan  | Dunnington   | Long Itchington  | Blackhills        |
| 12-Jan  | Wellesbourne | Wellesbourne Af  | Stratford         |
| 19-Jan  | Dunnington   | Bidford          | Middleton         |
| 26-Jan  | Wellesbourne | Hoar Park        | Charlecote        |
| 02-Feb  | Dunnington   | Blackhills       | Astwood Bank      |
| 09-Feb  | Wellesbourne | Wellesbourne Tn  | Hatton Craft      |
| 16-Feb  | Dunnington   | Long Itchington  | Kenilworth        |
| 23-Feb  | Wellesbourne | Hunningham Hill  | Astley            |
| 02-Mar  | Dunnington   | Stoneleigh       | Alcester          |
| 09-Mar  | Wellesbourne | Alcester         | Wellesbourne      |
| Runs Co-Ordinator Dick Law 01926 427200             |              |                  | Run Leader Trevor |
| A Run starts Dynamic Rides Hockley Heath at 9:15 am |              |                  | Bayliss           |
| B and C run start from Punchbowl at 10:00 am        |              |                  | Deputy Run Leads  |

Tuesday

| B Run   |                   |                 |                   |                     | C Run  |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| DATE  | A Run Coffee Stop | Coffee Stop     | (*) Leader        | Pub Stop            | C Run  |
| 22-Nov  | Ilmington         | Ilmington       | Pete James        | Cottage of C Barton | Hatton Locks   |
| 29-Nov  | Wickhamford       | Dunnington      | Dave Thomas       | Tavern Broom        | Shottery   |
| 06-Dec  | Xmas Lunch        | Arrow Mill      | Dick Law          | Xmas Lunch          | Xmas Lunch   |
| 13-Dec  | Pershore          | Fladbury        | Geoff Sales       | Fleec Bretforton    | Wellesbourne   |
| 20-Dec  | Evesham           | Pershore        | Harry Reynolds    | Gold X Ardens Graf  | Kenilworth   |
| 27-Dec  | M Hussingtree     | Jinny Ring      | Pete James        | Cottage of C Barton | Oakes Farm   |
| 03-Jan  | Draycote water    | Blooms          | P Tony Baker      | Red L Hunningham    | Mappleboro Green   |
| 10-Jan  | Ilmington         | Chipping Cam    | Dave Stephenson   | Tavern Broom        | Hatton Craft   |
| 17-Jan  | Craycombe Farm    | Wickhamford     | Cliff Dobson      | Gold X Ardens Graf  | Blackhills   |
| 24-Jan  | Kenilworth        | Long Itchington | Dave Thomas       | Boars Head H Lucy   | Hunningham Hill  |
| 31-Jan  | Chipping Campden  | Evesham TC      | Dick Law          | Kings H Aston Cantl | Stratford  |
| 07-Feb  | Whitlenge         | Dunnington      | Pete James        | Tavern Broom        | Mappleboro Green   |
| 14-Feb  | Charlcote         | Clifford C      | Ailsa Neely       | Boars Head H Lucy   | Astwood Bank   |
| 21-Feb  | Hoar Park         | Battlefields    | E Dave Stephenson | Plough Shusstoke    | Charlcote  |
| 28-Feb  | Long Itchington   | Ilmington       | Harry Reynolds    | Cottage of C Barton | Shottery   |
| 07-Mar  | Blakedown         | Fladbury        | Mary James        | Fleec Bretforton    | Hunningham Hill  |
| Runs info Dave Stephenson 01564 776064, david@djks.co.uk                                      |                   |                 |                   |                     | Run Leader Trevor Bayliss  |
| B Run is an all day ride with coffee & lunch stop. Leaves Reservoir pub at 9:15 am            |                   |                 |                   |                     | Starts Punchbowl 10:00   |
| A Run is faster with coffee stop, starts from Reservoir pub at 9:15. Leader agreed on day     |                   |                 |                   |                     | Deputy Run Leades required for above run - Contact annntrev@talktalk.net |
| (*) Runs marked P start from Punchbowl, Runs marked E start from Eastcote X roads. 9:15 start |                   |                 |                   |                     |  |

## Sunday

| DATE  | A RUN         | B + RUN      | B RUN         | C RUN        | D RUN        |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 27-Nov  | Draycote W    | Honeybourne  | Clifford C    | Wellesbourne | Charlcote    |
| 04-Dec  | Mince Pie Run |              |               |              |              |
| 11-Dec  | M Hussingtree | Heather      | Kineton       | Briar Croft  | Alcester     |
| 18-Dec  | Evesham       | Jinny Ring   | Clifford C    | Astwood Bank | Blackhills   |
| 08-Jan  | Kineton       | Honeybourne  | M Hussingtree | Wellesbourne | Kenilworth   |
| 15-Jan  | Draycote W    | Blooms       | Wellesbourne  | Blackhills   | Astwood Bank |
| 22-Jan  | Blakedown     | Stourport    | Honeybourne   | Charlcote    | Wellesbourne |
| 29-Jan  | Hartlebury    | Newton Regis | Blooms        | Middleton    | Alcester     |
| 05-Feb  | Willoughby    | Honeybourne  | Craycombe Fm  | Dunnington   | Kingsbury    |
| 12-Feb  | Honeybourne   | Draycote W   | Wellesbourne  | Clifford C   | Charlcote    |
| 19-Feb  | Newton Regis  | Kineton      | Jinny Ring    | Hunningham H | Stratford    |
| 26-Feb  | Kinver        | Chipping Cam | Dunnington    | Battlefields | Blackhills   |
| 05-Mar  | Chipping Cam  | Blooms       | Evesham       | Kineton      | Alcester     |
| Rides start from Clock Tower Solihull   |               |              |               |              |              |
| Start time 9:00 until 30 October when start moves to 9:15 - A Run remains at 9:00       |               |              |               |              |              |
| Deputy Run Leaders required for D Run - Contact Trevor Bayliss annntrev@talktalk.net    |               |              |               |              |              |
| Beginners E Run also available - Contact Alan Thomson 01216808322 or alt492@hotmail.com |               |              |               |              |              |

## Club Hill Climb

Club Hill climb results 1/10/16 Gorcott Hill - KH11 Course

- |     |                    |                                   |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.  | Gary Blackman      | 1.41                              |
| 2.  | Stuart Jameson     | 1.42 (1st Vet)                    |
| 3.  | Christian Bodremon | 1.45                              |
| 4.  | James Alexander    | 1.50 (1st youth A)                |
| 5.  | Ian Cowan          | 1.54                              |
| 6.  | Mark Eaton         | 1.59                              |
| 7.  | Andy Shaw          | 2.08                              |
| 8.  | Loz Breakwell      | 2.13                              |
| 9.  | Richard Burt       | 2.17                              |
| 10. | David Green        | 2.18                              |
| 11. | Connor Jones       | 2.19 (1st youth B)                |
| 12. | Gary Rowing-Parker | 2.23                              |
| 13. | Keith Jones        | 2.24                              |
| 14. | Tom Green          | 2.33                              |
| 15. | Jack Alexander     | 2.55 (1st youth C)                |
| 16. | Rocky Pearson      | 3.36 ( <i>Even Ed had a go!</i> ) |

Thanks everyone for turning out. Poor weather no doubt led to a poor turnout. Thanks also to Harry, Guy, Ivor, Russ and Christian Bodremon for helping me out on the day. **Paul Mann**

## 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](mailto:membership@solihullcc.org.uk)

# Main Club Contact Details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Website</b>   | <a href="http://www.solihullcc.org.uk">www.solihullcc.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Web Administrator</b>                                 | <b>Gareth Lewis</b><br><a href="mailto:admin@solihullcc.org.uk">admin@solihullcc.org.uk</a>                                     |
| <b>Chairman</b>  | <b>Dick Law - 01926 427200</b><br><a href="mailto:chair@solihullcc.org.uk">chair@solihullcc.org.uk</a>                          |
| <b>President</b>   | <b>Guy Elliott</b><br><a href="mailto:gielliott@btinternet.com">gielliott@btinternet.com</a>                                    |
| <b>Secretary</b>   | <b>Margaret Gordon - 0121 778 1884</b><br><a href="mailto:secretary@solihullcc.org.uk">secretary@solihullcc.org.uk</a>          |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>                              | <b>Pete James - 0121 444 3537</b><br><a href="mailto:membership@solihullcc.org.uk">membership@solihullcc.org.uk</a>             |
| <b>Treasurer</b>   | <b>Phil Rosenbloom - 07939 067367</b><br><a href="mailto:phil.rosenbloom@blueyonder.co.uk">phil.rosenbloom@blueyonder.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Press Secretary &amp; Youth Development Committee</b> | <b>Robin Fox</b><br><a href="mailto:press@solihullcc.org.uk">press@solihullcc.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Welfare Officers</b>                                  | <b>Pauline Knight - 0121 447 7082</b><br><a href="mailto:welfare@solihullcc.org.uk">welfare@solihullcc.org.uk</a>               |
| <b>Coaching</b>  | <b>Robin Fox</b><br><a href="mailto:coaching@solihullcc.org.uk">coaching@solihullcc.org.uk</a>                                  |
| <b>Club Runs Co-ordinator</b>                            | <b>Tony Baker</b><br><a href="mailto:clubruns@solihullcc.org.uk">clubruns@solihullcc.org.uk</a>                                 |
| <b>Time Trials Secretary</b>                             | <b>Steve Mountford - 0121 745 4758</b><br><a href="mailto:timetrials@solihullcc.org.uk">timetrials@solihullcc.org.uk</a>        |
| <b>Track Secretary</b>                                   | <b>Robin Fox</b><br><a href="mailto:track@solihullcc.org.uk">track@solihullcc.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Cyclocross Organiser(s)</b>                           | <b>Gary Rowing-Parker - 01564 8292990</b><br><a href="mailto:garyrp@neoproducts.co.uk">garyrp@neoproducts.co.uk</a>             |
| <b>Clothing Officer</b>                                  | <b>Mick Edensor</b><br><a href="mailto:clothing@solihullcc.org.uk">clothing@solihullcc.org.uk</a>                               |
| <b>AWheel Editor</b>                                     | <b>Rocheford Pearson</b><br><a href="mailto:editor@solihullcc.org.uk">editor@solihullcc.org.uk</a>                              |

