

# AWheel

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOLIHULL CYCLING CLUB

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REGISTERED GO-RIDE CLUB



**BRITISH  
CYCLING**

# Inside this Edition

Page	Contents
3	Editor's Corner
4	Annual General Meeting
6	Dinner and Presentation Evening
7	Back 2 Basic—Reliability Ride
8	The Junior Tour of Wales
11	Club 5 Mile Scratch Race
12	Road Safety
14	Jack Rootkin-Gray
16	Percy Stallard National Series
18	Girls on Wheels
23	West Midlands Youth Circuit Series
24	Lands End to John O'Groats
27	Up Hill Top Ranking
31	Photo Corner—SCC Road Race
32	Club Runs
35	Main Club Contacts

**Front Cover:** Good clean fun at the Cyclocross National Trophy round 4 - York with **Jacob Jones, Conor Jones, William Ryan, Akhil Kolnaty & Max Saunders** playing in the mud

**Rear Cover:** **Wayne McKeown** wearing a most excellent kit!

## Editor's Corner



No excuses just my sincere apologies for the lack of editions during the year...

So as you'd expect we've quite a lot to cover in this edition, from the Youth Circuit Series, through individual club members performances to cracking adventures.

You will receive details about next year's AGM, Dinner & Presentation Evening and Subscriptions separately but an overview has also been included.

Since the last edition my cycling year has been quite literally topsy turvy. I started off 2018 preparing to ride the Tour of Flanders which stopped abruptly after a car pulled out on me whilst I was >20mph on Broad Lane. I bounce well and got away with cracked ribs which with the aid of some painkillers didn't in the end prevent me riding the event and with support of club member Keith Jones I got round, just not as fast as we anticipated.

Then came the summer with the most excellent cycling weather so in July Keith & I decided to take a day off work to ride the Tuesday "B" run but after 3 miles we encountered a mud strewn Tom Hill which saw me ending upside down in a ditch, Keith suffering concussion and both he and John the run leader with fractured clavicles....I don't think we'll be invited back!

So to be honest I lost my cycling mojo for a while but I've just signed up for the 2019 MadHare which with a new route looks rather good fun .

Enjoy your winter training.

Safe Riding!



*Rocky*

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

# Annual General Meeting 2019

The AGM is the opportunity for all members to find out how the club is progressing and to ask questions. It is also, of course, an opportunity for volunteers to offer their help with the organisation of all club promotions – racing, social, touring, club runs etc. There are many senior members who over the years have fulfilled most of these roles, and for the club to continue moving forward it needs new and enthusiastic input.

In 2019 there will be vacancies for:

**Social Secretary** – organise any social events which will bring club members (and their families) together socially. (This does not include the annual dinner and prize presentation). It is a committee position and requires attendance at monthly committee meetings, whenever possible.

**Equipment Officer(s)** (helping to maintain the children's club bikes which are hired out to our junior members as needed)

**Press Secretary** – promoting the club's achievements in the press – including racing results, touring events, and other news which informs the general public of our activities. This is a committee position and attendance at committee meetings is required when possible.

**Youth Races Organiser** (at TG circuit). Mick Edensor, the outgoing organiser of this year's event has promised his full support to whoever takes over this role

**Management Committee** – 1 vacancy. The Management is formed of up to 7 fully paid up members who are required, whenever possible, to attend monthly committee meetings to contribute to the discussions which take place and exercise their options on any vote that is requested by the Chairman, and occasionally undertake, on behalf of the committee, any work with which they may be charged.

**Audax organiser** – To organise and administer the annual Audax ride. This involves liaising with Audax UK as well as devising a suitable route and making these available to all participants in both GPS and typed formats.

**\*\*If anyone is interested in any of these but requires further information then please contact a committee member.**

*Margaret Gordon*

Club Secretary

# ANNUAL MEETING



# Dinner and Prize Presentation

**Saturday 2 February 2019**

Robin Hood Golf Club, St Bernards Road, Solihull B92 7DJ

The cost is £25 per adult, but is being subsidised by the Club so will cost £15 for an adult and £7.50 for a child under the age of 11. The children's menu is the same as the adults – but just smaller portions.

Please use the form included with the magazine to send the menu options with names and a cheque (made payable to Solihull Cycling club) to: Phil Rosenbloom, 19 Thornby Avenue, Solihull, B91 2BJ

Deadline for return of booking form is Sunday 13th January 2018

## Menu

### **Starters:**

- ◆ French onion soup (V)
- ◆ Feta cheese, Red kidney beans, spinach, black olives, & tomato salad (V)
- ◆ Rich smoked sausage, bacon and leek hot-pot with crispy bread roll

### **Main course:**

- ◆ Rosemary infused roasted leg of lamb with orange and red currant jus served with roast potatoes
- ◆ Pan fried fillet of sea bream over wilted rocket amid a lime butter sauce
- ◆ Served with boiled and buttered new potatoes
- ◆ Roasted Mediterranean vegetables with basmati rice and side salad (V)
- ◆ All served with a choice of seasonal vegetables

### **Dessert:**

- ◆ Black cherry and almond tart with ice cream
- ◆ Apple cake topped with walnut cream and chocolate glaze
- ◆ Selection of English cheeses and biscuits with grapes and celery
- ◆ Tea and coffee

# Back 2 Basics - Reliability Trials 2019

Sunday 24th February 2019

82 mile and 62 mile Reliability Trials

This year the trials will once again start and finish at the Blue Bell Pub in Earlswood, The routes will go south into the Vale of Evesham and return through the Lenches with the longer route adding a loop around Bredon Hill. A new refreshment halt at Fladbury will now be followed by challenging section climbing Badger's Hill, and Church Lench and then a rolling terrain before the concluding climbs of Forde Hall Lane and Tom Hill.

Inspired my memories of "100 in 8" in the 50s and 60s the event will require a minimum average speed of 12.5 mph to complete the course in order to qualify for a finisher's certificate.

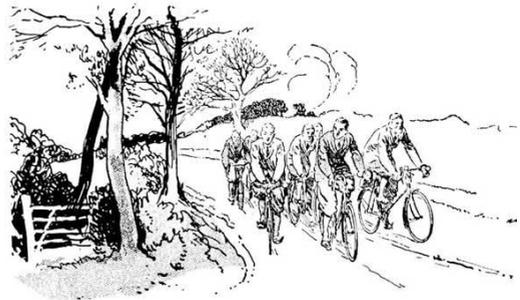
Entry Fee £5 with All Proceeds to the Midlands Air Ambulance

82 mile start 09.00 62 mile start 09.30

Contact:

Roger Cliffe.

- ◆ 01386 793791
- ◆ 07919551155
- ◆ [chat2rog@gmail.com](mailto:chat2rog@gmail.com)



# The Junior Tour of Wales

## Five Former Solihull CC Youth Members at The Junior Tour of Wales

At the end of August, five former Solihull CC young riders took to the start line of the biggest Junior Race of the UK Calendar. Ben Healy, Harrison Knight, Harry Gillett, Jacob Knight and Matt Shaw were selected from 200 applicants to ride the 38th Tour which is a 5 stage race over four days. 105 junior riders many of them in race teams, some in regional teams and a small number of individuals who had earned national racing points made it to the start line, including teams from New Zealand, Ireland and Wales.



Jacob (in blue) and Lewis Askey approach the finish line at the top of The Tumble.

Stage 1 was the 5.2 mile Individual Time Trial from Blaenavon up the top end of the Tumble which favoured the early riders with sunny dry weather. By the time the 40th rider had started, the Welsh weather had turned wet, windy, dark and very cold.

The second stage was a 74 mile hilly road race with a finish up The Rhigos Mountain. The Knight brothers both managed to finish in the first group and in the top 20 – it was certainly a climbers day! Ben Healy soloed off the front of the group early on but was caught at the bottom of the climb up the Rhigos.

Day 3 was the circuit race which I know Matt and Harry was looking forward to, but the weather was very wet and the

organisers made the decision to cancel the race due to so much water on the circuit. The afternoon was brighter for the start of the 58 mile flat road race with a sprint finish. However, some bad crashes occurred which took Harry out of the race with a crash on the first sprint and saw Matt and Harrison crash later in the race. Harrison was lucky and time trialled it back to the peloton with



Junior Tour of Wales – Stage 4 racing on the A40 where one of several crashes took place.

one of Matt's team mates and although Matt finished the race, an injury to his arm meant he could not start Stage 5 the next day. Ben had attacked early on in the race taking many of the primes and finished in the bunch with Jacob and Harrison.

Day 4 and stage 5 – a 59 mile rolling road race with a finish up The Tumble Mountain. Ben again attacked off the front of the race to pick up points but he was brought back on the moors. The ride across the moors tore the race apart which saw Jacob in the 3rd group and Harrison in the 2nd. Some frantic

chasing brought it all back together as they passed the feed station about 20 miles from the finish. 7 miles from the Tumble Harrison unluckily punctured and had to chase back up to and through the convoy, catching the early dropped riders as he hit the climb. He overtook 43 riders on the climb to salvage 28th on GC from what would have been a top 10. Meanwhile Jacob climbed fantastically well, but had hit the bottom of the Tumble after the first group had started their ascent so was always playing catch up. He came over the line at the top of The Tumble with Lewis Askey, Junior Paris Roubaix winner and GBR rider.

Well done to all the riders. Top finisher on GC was Jacob in 11th place just 4 secs from 10th, Harrison 28th, Ben 35th and Matt and Harry DNF.

For a club to achieve 5 former riders of 17 and 18 years of age being selected for the Tour is testament to the Club's Youth Coaching. Since the JTOW, Ben has gone on to represent Ireland in the Junior World TT Race in Innsbruck finishing in a fantastic 14th place.

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Ben Healy racing his TT bike. Ben finished 14th in the Junior Men World TT Race representing Ireland.



Jacob, Harry, Matt and Harrison at the Isle of Man Nationals earlier this year.

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## Club 5 Mile Scratch Race

Stuart Jameson won the Club 5 mile Scratch Race which took place at Tudor Grange one fine evening at the beginning of September. Last year's winner and wearing Number 1, Wayne McKeown had to settle for 2nd in the sprint. Adrian Byrne took 3rd. Well done to everyone who raced.

Mike Harrison and Wayne then went on to win the team sprint in a time of 1:11:29. Joint 2nd with the same time of 1:12:39 was Julian & Stuart and Paul & Dave. Well done Paul for organising and club volunteers for helping on the evening. Next year, it would be great to see some more club members taking part.



From left to right – Mike Harrison, Wayne, Paul, Phil, Adrian, Dave, Mike Pridmore-Wood, Julian and Stuart

# Road Safety

*Ed Says, “ After being involved in two serious accidents in the last twelve months I was very interested to read the following letter from the Rt. Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman, MP for Meriden that Dave Stephenson passed onto to me.”*

Every road user has a responsibility to behave safely and with consideration for others as set out in the Highway Code. A cycle safety review is examining ways in which responsible cycling can be better encouraged, alongside other measures to ensure motorists are reliable road users. Whether addressing cyclists or motorists, policymakers need to keep in mind that cyclists are among our most vulnerable road users and that cycling is a mode of transport to be encouraged.

**Department for  
Transport**

While the UK has some of the safest roads in the world, the Department for Transport (DfT) is always looking at ways to make them safer and that is why the Transport Minister Jesse Norman announced a consultation on the recommendations produced by the cycle safety review.

This includes a proposal to introduce new offences of causing death or serious injury while cycling and other changes to some existing cycling offences, further work on guidance on cycling and walking infrastructure, and improvements to the Highway Code. This 12-week consultation will run until the 5 November 2018.

It is also important that all road users are responsible, including motorists. I am glad that the Transport Minister Jesse Norman recently put forward measures to combat close passing, improve

collision investigation, and provide £100 million in new investment through the Safer Roads Fund. The DfT also has plans for a £500,000 pilot scheme offering driving instructors training to put cyclists' safety at the forefront of their minds when teaching new drivers.

More broadly, the DfT is working hard to double cycling activity by 2025 and each year reduce the rate of cyclists killed or seriously injured on English roads. That is why the DfT published its first statutory Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy last year. It sets out a number of actions, alongside £1.2 billion of funding that may be invested in cycling and walking in England over the period to 2021. A major programme of technical support to help 44 local authorities in England to develop their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans has also begun. Furthermore, I am glad that £7 million of government funding has been made available for new schemes aimed at improving road safety and creating more bike-friendly areas.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me about this very important issue. I hope this provided you with further reassurances. If there is anything else I can assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours ever,

*Caroline*

Rt. Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman,

MP for Meriden



# Jack Rootkin-Gray

Jack has had a sensational year on both road and track, in what was his final year of Youth racing before moving up to the junior ranks.

Jack started off the year with some regular races at Manchester Track League, which he is leading at this stage after the summer break. Interspersed with regular training sessions as an apprentice on the GB cycling team, his track craft and speed continued to grow throughout the year. This culminated with a fantastic week at National Youth Track Championships in Newport, followed by the Omnium Final a couple of weeks later in Derby. The outcome was 2 National Titles and a new National Record as well as 3 further podiums as detailed below.

- ◆ National Champion 2000m Individual pursuit, and a new National record time of 2m14.383.
- ◆ National Champion Madison
- ◆ Silver medal National
- ◆ Bronze Medal National 500m TT



On the road, the season was a long one, with National Series Races extending all the way from March in Torquay, up to mid-September at Brand's Hatch, including stage races in the Isle of Man, North West and London. Jack showed phenomenal consistency, and managed to bag himself a handful of podiums as well as individual stage wins along the



way. The highlight of his road year had to be winning the Queen stage at the North West youth tour in conditions which could only be described as biblical. After nearly 80 minutes of racing with over 1000m of climbing, with the initial start numbers of 110 riders whittled down to a group of 12, he triumphed on a hill top finish.

The highlights of his road palmares for the year overall finished as follows:

- ◆ Isle of Man Youth Tour - 2nd overall
- ◆ North West Youth Tour - 2nd Overall (winner stage 2)
- ◆ National Youth Circuit Championships - 4th
- ◆ National Youth Circuit Series - 2nd overall
- ◆ European Youth Tour of Assen - 3rd overall

Jack's quote for his year was

***“ My best season yet. Lost a lot. Learnt a lot. Won the ones I really wanted.”***



# Percy Stallard National Series

Wayne McKeown took Gold in the Percy Stallard National Series in the B Category. The Percy Stallard Series is the only national road racing series for veteran riders of 40 and over and bears the name of the legendary Percy Stallard, a founder member of the British League of Racing Cyclist and champion of mass start road racing during the 1940s.



The final round took place near Peterborough where Wayne secured the title. He came in 5<sup>th</sup> at La Flèche Waltonne RR, 1<sup>st</sup> at Luton, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Enville RR, 4<sup>th</sup> at Bridlington RR and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Tour of the Wolds RR.

Wayne's goal at the start of the season was to do well in the Percy Stallard Series. His good results in the first three rounds and taking the lead in the series made up his mind to travel to the two Yorkshire events where he was able to take on the tough northerners and get some more points on the board.

This is in stark contrast to previous years where points have been difficult to come by as the quality of entries has always been high.



Wayne said "I'm dedicating my success to the quality of the training group we are lucky to have in and around the

club especially the talented up and coming teenagers which I've seen grow from young children that push me to another level". Wayne went on to say "I have really enjoyed racing in the LVRC Percy Stallard National Series this year as it's considered the most competitive series of events for cyclists over 40. I encourage anyone in this age range to give it a go as the racing is competitive, safe, well organised and usually between 45/60 miles in length.

Congratulations Wayne on your success.



## Girls on Wheels

Imogen 10 and my mum Esther, one of the youth coaches for Solihull, went off on tour for a summer cycling challenge during the school holidays.

The plan was to conquer another coast to coast. Last year we did the Devon Coast to Coast, this year we decided to head up North and take on Hadrian's Cycleway.



Staying in B&Bs and with family in the North East we packed our bags and headed off to our starting point in Bowness on Solway on the August Bank Holiday Monday.

Tuesday morning came quick and it was time to make sure the bikes were packed up and ready with all we needed to carry for the trip.

### **Day 1 Bowness on Solway to Warwick Bridge - 26 miles**

On our way over the marsh last night in the car the cows were all over the road and we were not looking forward to meeting a massive herd first thing. Lucky for us they were far away so we didn't have the scary cow problem to deal with. The day was dry but overcast which meant we made great time getting into Carlisle where we stopped in a park just near the castle to play before heading to lunch at the Tullie Museum. After lunch we popped into Carlisle for a look around and found the most incredible second hand book shop which we just had to dive into. Imogen had already read a book in the car on the journey up and felt she

needed something else for the cycling trip and walked away with another 3 books to add to her bag to carry each day! On our way back to the bikes we popped into Carlisle Cathedral which was peaceful and tranquil - until you try walking around it in cycling shoes and a giggly 10 year old. From Carlisle we rode to Warwick Bridge and stopped for the day. Deborah at the B&B was so lovely and we both fell in love with her beautiful Rottweiler Meg too.

## Day 2 Warwick Bridge to Haydon Bridge - 38 miles

Yesterday was the warm up to today's main event. The longest day in the saddle with pretty much all the climbs. We had a lovely breakfast to start the day and the sun shone as we left Warwick Bridge and headed out for day two of the adventure. First stop was coffee and snacks at Brampton where Imogen tucked into one of her new old books. Leaving Brampton it wasn't long before we stopped again at Lanercost Priory where again we tried to creep



around in cycling shoes with little success. After Lanercost the climbs started and it wasn't long until we reached our first bit of Hadrian's Wall. The views were lovely with blue skies and fluffy clouds as a backdrop. We finally crossed the border into Northumberland but the climbing and hills kept on coming and we

fought our way up Greenhead Bank to some spectacular views at the top. We stopped for a late lunch in Haltwhistle where everywhere is closed on Wednesday we found out. Well everywhere apart from the butchers, where we managed to buy the very last sandwich which we shared between us, and the pub,

where asking for hot chocolates was not the usual order judging by the response we got. We got chatting to some kind locals who were interested in knowing about our challenge and they wished us luck for the rest of our journey. From Haltwhistle we had more climbs to take us to some of the best views of the whole trip. We rode up towards Vindolanda Roman Fort where we spotted the



the iconic sycamore tree on Hadrian's wall. From here climbed further up in the early evening when the sun dropped lower and left us with some breathtaking views. Our next top was with family in Haydon Bridge so we just needed to leave the marked route and head down towards our stop for the night.

### **Day 3 Haydon Bridge to Riding Mill - 18 miles**

Thursday was a short and easy recovery day after the epic efforts of yesterday. We started with a climb back up from Haydon Bridge to the marked route and it wasn't long before we had a lot of down hill to enjoy. The road surface wasn't great for high speed descents and we weren't in a rush so we took it nice and steady. It wasn't long before we were in Hexham where we stumbled across a great park. Parks and cleats are not the best combination but Imogen still managed to enjoy herself and not break any bones thankfully. Next we had heard there was a great cycle cafe in Corbridge and it seemed only right the head there for lunch. After a lovely lunch and refuel we popped in to see Imogen's Great Grandfather who's 92nd birthday was only a few days away. From Corbridge to Riding Mill was the last stretch of the day before spending a night with Grandma and Grandpa.

## **Day 4 Riding Mill to South Shields - 32 miles**

Today we knew we would arrive at the East Coast and be proud to have made it. The weather was stunning today with blue skies for miles and miles. We inspired Imogen's Grandpa to join us for a



few miles on today which meant a lot to us and all three of us set off in the sunshine heading East. We crossed or saw so many bridges over the Tyne and cycling into Newcastle along the Quayside with the city and river buzzing around us in the sunshine was lovely. We stopped for lunch

the The Hub which seemed the only right place to stop on a cycling adventure. We had a choice of finish at Tynemouth or South Shields but we decided to add the excitement of the ferry across the Tyne to the trip and finish at the Roman Fort on the South of the river. After we got to the finish point we went to find the beach which looked tropical in the evening sun - however the North sea certainly didn't feel tropical but we made sure we dipped our toes in before sitting on the beach watching the black headed gulls diving into the water for fish.

## **Day 5 Return from South Shields to Bowness on Solway - 27 miles, 1 mini bus and 1 train.**

Saturday we woke up feeling accomplished already but a fair distance from the the car on the West coast. So all we needed to do was cross the country again! We went under the Tyne in the Tyne tunnel this time, the pedestrian tunnel is closed but luckily there is replacement mini bus which has a trailer for bikes. Then we cycled back into Newcastle to catch a train to Carlisle - luckily the

industrial action on the line that day didn't affect us and we were in Carlisle for the last stretch of cycling in no time. We pedaled in to Port Carlisle 1 mile from Bowness on Solway looking for a guy and a sign post we'd been told about 85 miles away just before Newcastle. Friday we were chatting with a bunch of local riders who had walked Hadrian's Wall but not cycled the cycleway and they told us about Roger who lived right by the sign post and he would take a photo and put where you came from on the sign post. So it was our mission to find Roger on our way back into Bowness. Mission accomplished and we are proud of our photo. Then it was one more mile, in the only drizzle of the week, back to the starting point. We felt absolutely elated to have completed the adventure. Imogen enjoyed every day and loved the views she worked so hard climbing the hills to find. I wonder what next year's summer cycling adventure will be?



# West Midlands Youth Circuit Series

Solihull CC hosted the final round of the West Midlands Youth Circuit Series at Tudor Grange back in July. It was a great turnout by our fantastic team of young racers and the Club volunteers lead by Mick Edensor. Congratulations to the whole team who finished 2nd in the series behind Halesowen from 24 teams, with final series results for our 24 racers as follows:

- ◆ U16s Nathan Edensor 4th, Conor Jones 7th, Jack Fothergill 10th, Benjamin Shuttlewood 13th, Jacob Jones 17th and Jack Rootkin-Gray 21st (completed 2 races 1st & 2nd).
- ◆ U14s Oliver Tandy 2nd, William Ryan 3rd, Akhil Kolnaty 24th and William Menzies 25th.
- ◆ U12s Ben Woodhouse 4th, Max Saunders 5th, Patrick Neely 15th, Samuel Brownsword 19th. U12F Ella Tandy 2nd
- ◆ U10s Daniel Brownsword 9th, Matthew Hitchmough 16th, Teddy Wright 18th.
- ◆ U10F Holly Saunders 2nd Teah Webb 5th
- ◆ U8s Seb Rogers 6th, William Garner 7th, Jack Larkin 13th ,
- ◆ U8F Rose Neely 2nd

Well done to all our Solihull youngsters, and good luck to them all in the cyclocross season.



## Lands End to John O'Groats

Lee Forrest celebrates his birthday on the road, on Sunday 9th July, Club member Lee set off from his house in Solihull to travel by train to Penzance to begin a 12 day adventure – cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats on his own and unsupported and raising money for the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. His journey had been planned since December 2017 as he wanted to do something memorable to celebrate his 50th birthday and to see certain sites.

Lee arrived in Penzance for 7.30pm and cycled the 10 miles to his B&B in readiness to start his journey early the next morning from Lands End.

Day 1 from Lands End to Callington, Cornwall (85 mile) – very hilly and hot at 24 degrees, 1 puncture.





Day 2 Callington to Taunton (85 mile) – very hilly and hot again!

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Day 3 Taunton to Monmouth, (85 mile) – Cycling over the Severn Bridge

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Day 4 Monmouth to Shrewsbury, (85 mile)

Day 5 Shrewsbury to Bolton, (85 mile)

Day 6 Bolton to Penrith , (85 mile)



Day 7 Penrith to Crawford, Biggar , (85 mile) – raining for the whole journey and finally crossed the border & into Scotland.



Day 8 Crawford, Biggar to Loch Lomond (85 mile)

Day 9 Loch Lomond to Fort William (85 mile) and cycling through Glencoe



Day 10 Fort William to Dingwall (85 mile)

Day 11 Dingwall to Tongue (85 mile)

Day 12 Dingwall to John O'Groats (56 mile)



So, after 12 days and over 900 miles covered, Lee cycled to Wick Station and spent 15 hours on a train back to Birmingham New Street.

Well done Lee – great job!

# Up Hill Top Ranking

After months of bike, leg and lung tuning, the 2018 hill climb season started for Dave Fellows and me on Sunday 2nd September at Long Hill in Derbyshire.

I'd shared Saturday evening with Lady Lorely, basking in late summer sunshine at cycling friends' silver wedding anniversary celebrations near Wilmslow.

By the time we got to Long Hill, a short drive away for us, Dave had already been up the hill twice and was champing at the bit waiting for the HQ to open.

Dave sailed up the course on his time trial bike and took his best position, 2nd to reigning National Hill Climb Champion Dan Evans.

I defeated my nemesis in the V60 age category, losing last year by 0.3secs but winning this time round by nearly a minute.

Lorely sat in the car park and read her book. "Yes, well done darling," was her only comment when I told her of my triumph. She has not been to a hill climb since...



2018 SCC Hill Climb Champion, Dave Fellows going full chat.

The weekends rolled on through fair weather and foul. Foulest of all was the classic 'Cat and Fiddle' in Cheshire, blowing a gale and lashing rain across the top of this 6.5 mile tester.

Dave had a stormer, finishing third but freezing on the way back

down. I was having a relative squall myself until I slid off around 4.5 miles, smashing my rear derailleur and slicing some hip skin.

Why, oh why did I leave my tubs pumped to 120psi? I was more concerned about keeping warm on the climb and just didn't think laterally. Lesson learned.

Next weekend Leith Hill in Surrey was bathed in glorious sunshine. A bit too short for both of us, but a beautiful climb regardless.

Dave then went to Reading for a two-stage climb while I took the M5 to Chew Valley in the Mendips.

Rain and more rain for Dave. He got soaked through and chilled



Richard demonstrates his unique rapid ageing technique on Pea Royd Lane (Do I really look that old?)

after the first climb, suffering badly on the second.

I got a window between rain clouds and managed to keep my back wheel from spinning to take the V60 cat.

Dave continued his buildup to the National by taking his

partner on a romantic weekend to Bath for his 26th birthday. As well as visiting a Vegan restaurant, our man squeezed in two hill climbs at Bristol and Bath – he really knows how to charm a girl!

We travelled together again for a double header in West Yorkshire the weekend before the big N. Fish and chips and free beer afterwards was not the ideal preparation, but this was Yorkshire

For those who are never likely to do it, the short steep National course on Pea Royd Lane near Sheffield was the equivalent of using a self-nutting mallet kit. It hurt that much.

Andrew Feather was in peerless form, having won five open climbs on the bounce, and smashed the course record to win in 2.18.

One-minute missile Callum Brown, who has got muscles welded on muscles, somehow kept going to take second place in 2.20. Former National Champion, Adam Kenway settled for third in 2.21 having been caught in a hailstorm half way up.

Ex Solihull CC boy rider Cameron Biddle, now 20yrs old, glided up with stunning efficiency to take seventh place in 2.22.5. Yes, it really was that close at the sharp end in the men's and women's race.

Fiona Burnie won the Women's title by a breath from Mary Wilkinson. I watched Mary's face on the podium and the anguish behind her smile was clearly visible. She would feel like she could rip her skin off in frustration for days to come.

Dave clocked 7 seconds slower than when he did the open on the same course a few weeks earlier, so was disappointed to finish 61st. At the bottom of the pile, I missed the V60 age category win by five seconds, which was closer than I thought I'd get, so I have to be pleased with that.

4th November was my final hill climb, Cambridge, un-seasonally warm, dry, almost Spring-like, but the clocks had gone back and the road darkened on the journey home. Ten weekends of climbing at an end and just 42 weeks before the season starter, Long Hill beckons again.

CTT's season-long ranking competition placed Dave 7th overall

on hill climbs (slipping a couple of places at the National) and me 375 (top ranking V60 climber) both out of around 2,200.

Dave did 15 open hill climbs and I did 11.

Dave got three overall podium finishes and I picked up 3 wins at V60 and a couple of second places in the V50 age category.

Next year's National is on Haytor Vale in Devon, a long course much better suited to both of us. The stars have aligned for me. I bump up an age category too.

We'll be back.

*Richard Burt*

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Happier times at Long Hill – the clue is in the name – Dave was runner-up to last year's National Champion and I won the V60 by nearly a minute.



# Photo Corner—SCC Road Race



Guy with his  
impromptu birthday  
cake



Riders ready to roll out for SCCs Road  
Race on the Inkberrow course



Ian and Margaret on Finish Line duty

# Club Runs

## Saturday

A run from Dorridge Station at 9:00am

B run from The Railway Inn Dorridge 9:00am

Apple pie run from Dorridge Village Hall at 9:00am

All these rides have a coffee stop at Studley Garden Centre Mappleborough Green

### Station Run

A very brisk run starting at Dorridge Station at 9:00am, with a coffee stop at Mappleborough Green GC.

Distance Approx 43miles

This is not a led ride, riders do not always stop for puncture and such like, and every rider is responsible for the own navigation and safety.

**Solihull Cycling Club** accepts no responsibility for any person on this ride.

**Riders ride at their own risk!**

## Sunday

DATE	A RUN	B RUN	C RUN	D RUN	E RUN
11-Nov	Napton	Newton Regis	Jinny Ring	Alcester	Astwood Bank
18-Nov	Evesham	Blakedown	Wickhamford	Battlefields	Alcester
25-Nov	Hartlebury	Long Itchington	Clifford Chambers	Dunnington	Charlcote
02-Dec	Newton Regis	Long Marston	Craycombe Farm	Wellesbourne	Shottery
09-Dec	Mince Pie Run				
16-Dec	Blooms	Battlefields	M Hussingtree	Stratford B Croft	Stratford Armor
23-Dec	M Hussingtree	Draycote	Ilmington	Blackhills	Wootten Wawen
30-Dec	Clifford Chambers	Mickleton	Blackhills	Kenilworth	Stoneleigh
06-Jan	Craycombe Farm	M Hussingtree	Dunnington	Alcester	Blackhills
13-Jan	Draycote	Evesham Ferry	Clifford Chambers	Charlcote	Astwood Bank
20-Jan	Wellesbourne	Twycross	Jinny Ring	Middleton Hall	Alcester
27-Jan	Kinver	Barby	Battlefields	Stratford Armor	Dunnington
03-Feb	Battlefields	Wickhamford	Wellesbourne	Clifford Chambers	Middleton Hall

Rides start from Clock Tower Solihull

All runs start at 9:00. Throughout the year

Beginners F Run also available - Contact Alan Thomson 01216808322 or alt492@hotmail.com

## Tuesday

		B Run			
DATE	A Run Coffee Stop	Coffee Stop	(* )	Pub Stop	C Run
13-Nov	Wickhamford	Broadway		Barton Cott of C	Wellesbourne
20-Nov	M Hussingtree	Clifford Chambers		Ardens Grafton	Hatton Craft
27-Nov	Craycombe Farm	Mickleton		Aston Cantlow	Mappi;eboro Green
04-Dec	Charlcote	Ilmington		Wellesbourne	Blackhills
11-Dec	Long Itchington	TBA		Xmas Lunch	Buttercup
18-Dec	Wickhamford	Evesham TC		Barton Cott of C	Kenilworth
01-Jan	Dunnington	Dunsmore GC	PB	Hampton Lucy	Stratford Armor
08-Jan	Kenilworth	Battlefields	E	Shustoke	Alcester
15-Jan	Whitlenge	Lighthorne	PB	Norton Lindsey	Hatton Locks
22-Jan	Ilmington	Wickhamford		Tavern Broom	Stratford
29-Jan	Decades	Lighthorne	PB	Hampton Lucy	Blackhills
05-Feb	Blakedown	Shipston On Stour		Ardens Grafton	Hoar Park
Runs info Dave Stephenson 01564 776064, davidjks@icloud.com					
B Run is an all day ride with coffee & lunch, starts Reservoir pub at 9:15 am					
A Run is faster with coffee stop, starts from Reservoir pub at 9:15					
(*) Runs marked P start Punchbowl, E start from Eastcote X roads @ 9:15					
Run Leader					
Trevor Bayliss					
Starts Punchbowl					
10:00					

Thursday

DATE	A RUN	B RUN	C RUN	D RUN
08-Nov	Dunnington	Led by Pete James Astwood Bank	Led by Dick Law Clifford Chambers	Led by Trevor Bayliss Briar Croft
15-Nov	Wellesbourne	Stratford Amouries Charlcote	Alcester	Kenilworth
22-Nov	Dunnington	Clifford Chambers Blackhills	Stoneleigh	Blackhills
29-Nov	Wellesbourne	Clifford Chambers Blackhills	Mappleboro Green	Astwood Bank
06-Dec	Dunnington	Blackhills	Wellesbourne	Alcester
13-Dec	Wellesbourne	Lighthorne Heath	Briar Croft	Mappleboro Green
20-Dec	Xmas Lunch			
27-Dec	Wellesbourne	Dunnington	Long Itchington	Charlcote
03-Jan	Dunnington	Wellesbourne	Charlcote	Shottery
10-Jan	Wellesbourne	Stratford Amouries	Wellesbourne AF	Wellesbourne
17-Jan	Dunnington	Wellesbourne	Dunnington	Blackhills
24-Jan	Wellesbourne	Blackhills	Hoar Park	Hunningham Hill
31-Jan	Dunnington	Astwood Bank	Blackhills	Alcester
07-Feb	Wellesbourne	Clifford Chambers	Kingsbury	Astwood Bank

Runs Co-Ordinator Dick Law 01926 427200

A Run starts Dynamic Rides Hockley Heath at 9:15

am

B,C and D run start from Punchbowl at 10:00 am

# Main Club Contact Details

<b>President</b>	<b>Roger Cliffe</b> <a href="mailto:chat2rog@gmail.com">chat2rog@gmail.com</a>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Dick Law - 01926 427200</b> <a href="mailto:chair@solihullcc.org.uk">chair@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Margaret Gordon - 0121 778 1884</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@solihullcc.org.uk">secretary@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Pete James - 0121 444 3537</b> <a href="mailto:membership@solihullcc.org.uk">membership@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer &amp; Youth Development Committee</b>	<b>Phil Rosenbloom - 07939 067367</b> <a href="mailto:phil.rosenbloom@blueyonder.co.uk">phil.rosenbloom@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
<b>Press Secretary</b>	<b>Pauline Knight</b> <a href="mailto:press@solihullcc.org.uk">press@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	<b>Ailsa Neely</b> <a href="mailto:welfare@solihullcc.org.uk">welfare@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Coaching</b>	<b>Robin Fox</b> <a href="mailto:coaching@solihullcc.org.uk">coaching@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Club Runs Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Tony Baker</b> <a href="mailto:clubruns@solihullcc.org.uk">clubruns@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Time Trials Secretary</b>	<b>Steve Mountford - 0121 745 4758</b> <a href="mailto:timetrials@solihullcc.org.uk">timetrials@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Track Secretary</b>	<b>Robin Fox</b> <a href="mailto:track@solihullcc.org.uk">track@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
<b>Cyclocross Organiser(s)</b>	<b>Gary Rowing-Parker</b> <a href="mailto:gary.rowingparker@gmail.com">gary.rowingparker@gmail.com</a>
<b>Clothing Officer</b>	<b>Mick Edensor</b> <a href="mailto:clothing@solihullcc.org.uk">clothing@solihullcc.org.uk</a>
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