

# SPOKES

The newsletter for you, the cyclists of Leamington C & A C  
February 2001

## Features

Champ honoured

Family announcements

Road Race round-up – by Pete Taylor, see page 2

Nev Gregg, hospitalized – report by Jan Ford

Cyclo – cross, report by Dave Bennett

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## Pete Taylor – Life Member

The Club honoured our most regular champion at a special presentation during the Christmas dinner at Willoughby. Pete was presented with one of the Club's hallmarked silver medals as a tribute to his reign as undefeated Hillclimb Champion over the last twelve years, and was elected to the "Upper House" as a Life Member, an additional reward for his long service to the Club over 3 decades.

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## Year of the Grandparent!

After the trend started by Mike and Jan Ford, Pete and Eileen Chronicle have now joined the ranks of the happy grandparents, Julian and Debs presented them with a matched pair of little boys, Matthew and David, on 4<sup>th</sup> January. They were beaten by a few weeks by Dave and Sheila Suett who had to travel to California to be present at the birth of their grandchild in November. Congratulations to all families who have new members in the last year, perhaps one day they might become little cyclists!

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## Good News – Bad News

- January 2001 – **remember** to pay Club Subs!  
The good news? Subs are the same as last year. Cheques, cash, etc. to either Pete Chronicle or myself. See form on back page

## Road Racing report for 2000

It was a season of highs and lows on the road racing scene, though overall Leamington have continued to be well represented in both BCF and Veteran (LVRC) events.

Starting with some of the low points, it was disappointing that there has been a reduction in numbers of club members competing. With Phil Cooke, formerly one of our most consistent roadmen moving onto pastures new; myself not starting to race until the better weather came along in June (I'm getting soft); and with our star rider Tim Cadd, the current club road race champion, struggling badly at the start of the season with reoccurring injuries in his heel and calf. Even when things seemed to be getting better for Tim, as when away in a race winning break during the Rockingham Forest two-day race his cycle frame broke, putting paid to a top place in the overall result.

On the high points Gig Cooke had an improved season, gaining in experience and confidence as the season progressed and next year should start to get the top results his ability deserves.

Gig had some notable results including an 11<sup>th</sup> place, during May, at the Worcester St. John CC's 'Kempsey' RR, followed a few weeks later with a top 15 place in the Heather St. John RR at Leicester. This was a fast and furious race on narrow lanes with tight corners and it all ended up with a frantic bunch sprint, I also rode this race and managed to duck under the elbows, for a 5<sup>th</sup> place, in the rush for the line.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> September Gig and I closed our racing seasons off riding the circuit of the Wrekin RR, on what was a glorious hot and sunny day. It was a hard race that included four climbs of the infamous Hermitage hill. The race was won by a couple of breakaway groups, which went while we were back in the bunch working on our sun tans. We both finished though at the head of what remained of the bunch, with a lot of riders 'packing' due to the severity of the race – even though there was a prize of an inner tube for every finisher. (So that's why we carried on).

I also had some other results during the season, managing a 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 'Valley of the Cotswolds' race, which was an enjoyable and picturesque large circuit of the Cotswolds countryside to end with a climb of Cleeve hill – which definitely suited me. I also battled for a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a race at Naseby, getting into a small break away group within a mile of the finish and managing to keep clear of the chasing bunch.

Despite Tim's difficulties he also had some high points, though even these were dogged with bad luck, as in the West Gloucester RR, riding well and

getting a solo break looking like a race winning move, only to get caught by the 'steam train' of the bunch within yards of the chequered flag. To make things worse his top ten position was obscured in the mass of riders charging for the line.

In a sortie into Wales, to ride the difficult 'Tour of Snowdonia' (made worse by the continuous rain that Wales is famed for) Tim got a creditable 14<sup>th</sup> place in some strong company. Another good result came with 15<sup>th</sup> place in the 'Mike Green memorial' race organised by the Stratford club, which includes an ascent of Sunrising hill at the end of each lap.

Having gained some late season form Tim was poised to start notching up some top results and banking the BCF points needed to retain his 2<sup>nd</sup> category licence and the clubs road race title. Then the fuel strikes came resulting in the cancellation of two weeks of racing and with that no chance of gaining those much needed points and so relinquishing the club title to myself.

One of the greatest high points of the season though, must have been the club's own road race promotion. The event was ably organised by Tim with lots of support from many members of the club. On the day the event ran smoothly and had a full field of competitors riding a sporting course. Everyone seemed to enjoy the race and there were many words of praise from the riders afterwards.

All those involved should feel justifiably proud at the success of our first road race promotion for some years.

Looking forward to next year there has already been some positive ideas put forward, from Mike Mudd and others, as to how we can build a more cohesive and enthusiastic club team, also with all the potential riders having 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> category BCF licences then we should be competing in the same events and so having the advantage of team support and encouragement.

Peter Taylor

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## Reliability Rides

Stratford CC promotes their regular jaunt in the Cotswolds on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February. HQ is Clifford Chambers village hall, distance is 50 miles, first group away at 10am. Entry fee is £2. Promoter is Charlie Barnett, tel: 01789 292081.

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### Question

Where will the next generation of young cyclists be coming from?

Answer  
BMX  
Watch this space!

## Cyclo – cross, a wet season

Dave Bennett brings the reports up to date with a résumé of the winter sport.

The season is now drawing to a close, and it's probably been the wettest season I can remember. The Club participation is the highest I've known it to be since rejoining, 5 in all; myself, Tim Cadd, Roger (I'll see you Tuesday) Gardner, Phil Galpin and Mike Mudd. The training sessions went well (Tuesday evenings at Edmondscote Track) with a handful of Kenilworth Wheelers also adding to the numbers.

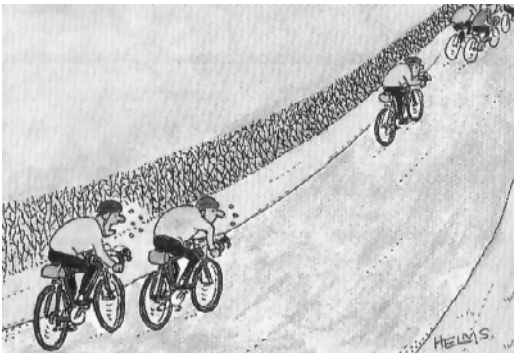
The first races at Rugby (St Andrews rugby club evening series) gave us some good results, we then struggled with punctures and wet conditions. Phil Galpin enjoyed the running and eventually gained enough points to win the Club Championship. Tim and Roger showed a lot of promise and Mike preferred riding in the dry (sic).

I'd like to thank all the supporters who came to the local races and cheered us on. Hopefully we will see a lot more of you training with us and racing next season. For more information please ring me on 01926 431202.

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## Winter road training

Mike Mudd is coordinating the Tuesday evening training this season as a precursor to a new improved Road – racing strategy. The training commences on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, meeting at 7 pm near the Rover offices, at the layby in



Warwick Technology Park, off Gallows Hill (entry nearer to Europa Way). Each ride is intended to be structured, with specific themes, e.g. sprints, line-outs. The circuit is street-lit, and about half a mile around. Further details from Mike on 01926 497484, or e-mail him,

[mudd\\_michael@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:mudd_michael@connectfree.co.uk)

*“Close that gap, Mike says it’s your turn on the front!”*

## Nev Gregg – get well soon

Nev is currently in Evesham Hospital, Bredon Ward, awaiting transfer to a local nursing home. He broke his leg last August, and has been in hospital since then. I saw him at the beginning of January, and once we'd established who I was (something I'm not always sure of!) he was happily recounting past times and events, in great detail, as is his forte! He's fairly resigned to the situation, but communications or visits from fellow cyclists would be greatly welcomed.

Jan Ford

*Editor's note – Nev was an active Club member until the last few years. Now in his late seventies, his last "appearance" was in a feature for "Heart of the Country" (Central TV), where he joined our other stalwart veterans, Fred Dale and Norm Sargisson on a typical bike ride, for an interview with one of the reporters from that programme. The feature was affectionately referred to as "Last of the Summer Wine". He has been a Club Champion quite recently, winning the Club's BAR trophy because he was the only rider to complete a 12-hour TT in the season!*

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## Marathon woman

The mid-life crisis has finally had an effect on my life – I've got a place in the London Marathon. (pause for gasps of amazement and tears of pity!)

It's true – although I've had to bribe my way in, by promising to raise £1500 for the charity "Whizz-kidz" who provide wheelchairs for children. My target is 6 hours at scouts' pace – 50 paces running, 50 paces walking. Currently I have progressed to 4½ miles and yes, I do know I have to finish on the same day as everyone else! A sprained ankle was a bit of a set-back, however once I'm over this cold I feel sure the training will run smoothly (*just like you will, Jan. Ed*)

You may have guessed what comes next. I'm offering you all the opportunity to sponsor me! Now isn't that a treat? Please do phone me on 01926 813373, if you are willing to be added to my list. If I don't reach my target, the price of tea may have to go up! (*Which target, the 6-hours or the £1500?*)

Jan Ford

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## Phone numbers

Last Autumn, I asked if there were any objections to circulating the members' phone numbers. As objections totalled nil, I am including a separate list for your information.

## Right to reply

Tim Cadd writes:

To the editor

I write in response to your article "It's just not Cricket!" (Spokes, November 2000). As someone who was out on the fateful day, a particularly windy day if I recall correctly, I feel that the article unfairly misrepresents the spirit and attitude of the club riders. I would like to offer up a few friendly comments. Firstly, I and most others have probably learnt that you don't start climbing off the bike until at least one other person knows you are having difficulties, a positive response is usually required to ensure the message has got through, and that may mean either riding on the flat for a short distance or shouting very loudly! I favour the latter. Secondly, the onus is always on the individual to be able to sort out whatever problems they may encounter, we have all learnt from experience. I have ridden some distance on a single crank and on one or two flat tyres, and there is nothing but pride to prevent one knocking on a friendly looking door, most households have puncture repair kits or tool boxes.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to reassure any club member or other, that has any concerns about the "attitude" within the club, that we will do the utmost to ensure that everyone has a pleasant day out, and gets home safely.

Mike Ford adds:

On a Club run I feel I have a duty of care to other riders and road users and should do nothing to endanger them. But I do not feel that this care is extended to carrying spare tubes, tyres etc for other riders – each rider's bike and equipment is his (or her) own responsibility....

Also, might it be wise for riders to carry on their frame their name and a contact phone number; we might know the rider's name but do we know their phone number if we need to contact anyone on the event of an accident.

## 2001 Season – major events

BCF - Tim Cadd is again running a road race on the Bearley circuit, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Marshals will be required so volunteer early, please. Last year's event went very well, I hope we can provide a few more riders this time round.

VTTA – I am promoting another TT on the Offchurch 10 course on behalf of the Birmingham & Midlands VTTA, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2 pm. I ran this early event in 1999 and it was the coldest snowiest March day in years! Event is open to all, not just VTTA members.

RTTC – two events in July and September. The July event is for solos and tandems, on Offchurch; the one in September, on the Princethorpe circuit, will have a two-up with a difference, ladies paced by gents (or ladies riding bit'n'bit, if you prefer). There will also be an accompanying solo event.

## Annual General Meeting

The section AGM will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, at Edmondscote Track, 8pm. Come along and see what makes the Club tick, or who creates the most steam!

## Social evenings

Join a few of the other members for a bit of a chat and a few drinks, first and third Wednesday of each month, at the Millwrights Arms, Emscote Road, Warwick, from about 8.30pm. Dates are 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March, then 4<sup>th</sup> April. Evening TTs interrupt the proceedings from then until September!

## Winter Runs list

Date	Leader	Fast Group Destination	Social Group Destination (If different)
11/02/01	????????	Stratford reliability trial	
18/02/01	Martyn Pavier	Evesham, riverside cafe	Channings, Halford
25/02/01	Tim Cadd	Banbury, Bus Station	
04/03/01	Gig Cooke	Broadway, TBA	Shire Horse Centre
11/03/01	Chris Blomfield	Shennington, coach	
18/03/01	Pete Taylor	Chipping Norton, Little Chef	Earlswood Lakes
25/03/01	Tim Hawkes	Evesham, riverside cafe	

## Members Adverts

### For Sale

- Tony Smith has a computer for sale-  
Details: Vetra 486 DX2, 66Mhz, 640 KB memory + 15616KB external memory, 3½" floppy drive, keyboard, Microsoft mouse  
Software: MS Windows 3.11, MS Office V 6, AutoCAD V 10, MS Auto Route Express  
Monitor: 14" VGA  
Printer: Epson LX 800 with A4 sheet feeder and paper  
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED  
Office Desk: 48" x 26" tubular steel frame, mahogany veneer top, with 2 lockable drawers. Also two typists chairs, adjustable. £25 the lot  
Tony Smith – 02476 415291
- Steve Walker has an old set of training rollers, will exchange for a couple of bottles of Australian wine. Train in the comfort of your own home and learn a new skill (falling off gracefully in front of the telly!)

### Wanted

Peter Glanfield asks if any one is selling or planning to sell a touring bike this spring. His current machine is a rather heavy hybrid, he will need a bike about 23" with touring gears. Contact me, or e-mail Peter on [glanfieldp@aol.com](mailto:glanfieldp@aol.com)

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### Subscription Renewal Form

Please renew my membership of Leamington Cycling and Athletic Club for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000. I enclose a cheque (made out to the Club) or cash for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Member £21. Social (non-racing) Member £5. Second claim £10.50.

Family Member – half the appropriate rate for second and subsequent members

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth (Full Members only) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ (for SPOKES on-line)

Please return form to Steve Walker, 34 The Greswoldes, Radford Semele CV31 1TP

Any queries, contact either myself or Peter Chronicle (01926 426778)

NB Date of Birth is required for my TT records.