



THE

# PEDALLER

Yeovil Cycling Club

October 2008



## High ham in the fog

The annual hill climb took place a week late, to try and avoid the horrid weather that was forecast for it's scheduled date, instead it was foggy but at least it was dry. However a certain rider did go out and ride the hill that week, clearly riding against the flow of water as well as the gradient did him some good. Congratulations Hugo, the first Yeovil rider, in fourth place overall behind the Chard Wheelers trio.

Shaun continues to prove that it is not just 'a young riders game' with a second in the Yeovil CC placings. He too had some practice at the LVRC hill climb the previous week.

It was good to see so many riders 'enjoying' their ride and plenty of spectators to cheer them on their way. The Martin family also did battle on the hill with Ashley pipping dad for the honours by two seconds, obviously the power to weight ratio worked in his favour! Whilst Adele charged her way up the hill in a very creditable 5 minutes and is probably the youngest rider to compete.

If the look on Andy's face is anything to go by it was maximum effort all the way up the hill. Just think how fast you will be next year Andy if you continue to shed those pounds at the same rate you have this year!

'Thank you' to all the helpers and organisers this year, not just for the hill climb but for the open and evening TTs, and road races, without your support we would not be able to promote such well run events.



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## Feeling sporty?

Thought the sportive season was all over? Think again, as the Exmoor Beast rears into view on 2 November, presenting a 100km or 100 mile challenge.

The Exmoor Beast was held for the first time in 2007, and pitches riders across the tough and spectacular Exmoor Countryside, with closed roads where needed and plenty of marshals.



Chief organiser Marcus Di Vincenzo says: "this spectacular fixture is a fitting finale to the annual calendar and we will provide all the trimmings that will form the ideal climax to the season. We have the expertise and highly trained manpower to enable the Exmoor Beast to be safely and successfully tamed, providing you give it the respect it deserves and have prepared properly. If the awesome climbs don't take your breath away then the fantastic scenery certainly will and our aim is to make the journey from entry to post ride recovery smooth, enjoyable and truly memorable."

Full details at [www.exmoorbeast.org](http://www.exmoorbeast.org)



	Name	Club	Time
1	Tom Alliban	1st Chard Whs	3:19.3
2	Toby Gilmore	1st Chard Whs	3:21.6
3	Andrew Mapson	1st Chard Whs	3:24.8
4	Hugo Baldacchino	Yeovil CC	3:32.3
5	Simon Rouse	Severn RC	3:33.0
6	Shaun Walsh	Yeovil CC	3:45.7
7	Dale Robinson	1st Chard Whs	3:46.3
8	Mark Harris	Yeovil CC (Day)	3:54.5
9	Dean Ward	1st Chard Whs	3:56.7

	Name	Club	Time
10	John Williams	Yeovil CC	4:01.7
11	Chris Martin	Yeovil CC	4:02.9
12	Chris Woodman	1st Chard Whs	4:04.7
13	Ashley Martin	Yeovil CC	4:10.6
14	Rob Martin	Yeovil CC	4:12.3
15	Ivan Henry	1st Chard Whs	4:18.0
16	Andy Gaylard	Yeovil CC	4:23.4
17	Dave Moran	1st Chard Whs	4:23.6
18	Adele Martin	Yeovil CC	5:09.8

## IN THE NEWS

Cyclist David Edwards recently took a journey with South West Trains (SWT), he dutifully inserted his bike into one of the new on-board cycle racks which have wheel stands only. Sure enough, the train took a sharp bend fast, Edward's bike keeled over and the front wheel was bent so badly that he had to carry his cycle two miles to the nearest bike shop. Edwards complained to SWT, which declared that the stands were "fit for purpose". Edwards' fault, it seems, was in owning a racing bike. Most people, a spokeswoman for SWT explains, ride mountain bikes and these new cycle racks accommodate those thicker tyres perfectly ... they suit the majority of cycles we will not be changing them.

## Dave Pitman

Dave Pitman was air lifted to hospital Frenchay hospital back in August. He was in a comma following a collision with a badger which left him with serious head injuries.

The initial prognosis was very pessimistic but I am glad to report that Dave is progressing. He is out of the comma and talking with friends and family, albeit with some difficulty over details. He is not able to get around much but is now out of the high dependency ward.

There is a blog which is run by his brother and sister giving an update on his situation, [dпитman.blogspot.com](http://dпитman.blogspot.com). We hope to hear he is continuing to make good progress and ultimately to make a full recovery.

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## A man in his prime.

Recognise this likely lad sprinting across the prime line? He is better known for his time trials these days clocking up some amazing pluses in the veterans standard competitions.

Note the relaxed style of the rider following our man and the scant attention the spectator is paying to the riders – a little distracted by a better pair of calves!



Answer on page 7.

# The British Cyclo-Cross Association *By Tony Taylor*

During the late 1940's and early 1950's, when cycle racing in its various forms was flourishing, there was a long gap between the end of one season and the start of the next. In order to try and fill this void during the winter months, some clubs started to run 'rough stuff' races as they were called, over common land, initially as club events. These soon developed into open events, and as Cyclo-Cross was already practised on the Continent, they took on a similar pattern. Cyclo-Cross was the brainchild of Frenchman Daniel Gousseau, who in the early 1900's sold his idea to the French army, who incorporated events for the troops as part of their battle training.

Due to the nature of our weather, most events took place in the south of the country, and three area associations - North London, South London and the Midlands came into being. In 1954 these three associations held a meeting in London, and the British Cyclo-Cross Association (B.e.e.A.) was formed. Events were open to all racing cyclists, irrespective of whether members or their clubs belonged to the already existing bodies - National Cyclists Union (N.e.U.), Road Time Trials Council (RT.T.C.) and British League of Racing Cyclists (B.L.R.C.). It was not until 1960 that the British Cycling Federation

(B.C.F.), which had come into being the previous year, recognised the B.C.C.A. as an official body. Rules and regulations were kept



to a minimum because of the varying terrain on which they were held, and the weather conditions at the time.

In February 1955 the first National Cyclo-Cross Championship was held at Welwyn, Hertfordshire, and was won by Alan Jackson (De Laune C.e.). Jackson retained his title the following year, but was beaten into second place in 1957 by Don Stone (34th Nomads C.C.). Stone also took the title in 1958.

The top riders in this fairly specialised branch of cycle racing were always few in number, and had a tendency to dominate events, as there was no way to have an easier ride. Three riders from the Midlands were outstanding - Roger Page, Mick Stallard, son of B.L.Re. founder Percy Stallard, and John Atkins, son of leading women rider Edie Atkins, who broke the women's Lands End to John O'Groats record in 1953. Atkins was National Champion 9 times between 1961 and 1972, and Stallard was National Champion in 1963, 1964 and 1965. The top London riders in the 1960's and 1970's were Keith Mernickle and Dave Nie. Steve Douce took over in the 1980s and early 1990s winning 7 National Championships in all. In more recent times Roger Hammond has been the top man. He won the World Junior Cyclo-Cross Championship in 1992 when it was held at Leeds, and won no less than 8 National titles, the first in 1994 and seven



between 2000 and 2008.

In the North it was Harry Bond and Eric Stone. In 1960 John Rawnsley promoted the very first Three Peaks event, crossing the three Pennine peaks, Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, for what is arguably the toughest cyclo-cross in the world, and he won it as well! The 25 mile course involves nearly 2,000 meters of climbing, and the first winner in under 3hr was Harry Bond in 1966. This, 'classic', held in September to avoid harsh winter conditions, is still being run. In the 1980s Chris Young was consistently the top Cross rider in the North.

An interesting event held for a number of years in the 1960s was the annual Cyclists V Harriers event held on the South Downs in Sussex. The outcome of this event was dictated by the weather conditions that prevailed. If it was dry and the ground was generally hard, it favoured the cyclists, and if wet and there was heavy mud, the runners could adapt to these conditions better.

Despite the emergence of the off-road Mountain Bike in the 1980s, and the M.T.B. events promoted for them, Cyclo-Cross in its traditional form is still alive and well. A few years ago the B.C.e.A. merged with the B.e.F., but its rules and personnel remained intact, and is now the Cyclo-Cross commission within British Cycling.



## AGM and Date Fixing

Membership subs remain unchanged for 2009, £15 for those rejoining before 1 April 2009, £18 for new members, but don't forget anyone who joins now will be covered for the remainder of this year and next. Juniors, Juveniles and full time students (£5.00). Family membership (covers two adults and any number of children at the same address, this includes full time students still living at home out of term time) £35.00. Subs are due on 1 January. You can pay Mike Loader (3, Poppy Close, Brympton, Yeovil, BA22 8US) as soon as you like, cheques made payable to Yeovil CC please! There will be a reminder in the January issue.

We will be promoting the same events in 2009 as we did this year. The Pittards and Ham Hill road races in April, The John Andrews Memorial road race in July. Time trials in April, June and September.

Officers are unchanged too, except that we are pleased to welcome John Williams onto the committee as our General Secretary.

We are still short of a TT Sec so please give it some consideration and if you would like to take up the post speak to any of the committee members.

### Officers

President	Garry Mitchener
Hon Vice President	Derek Todd

### Executive Committee

Chairman	Garry Mitchener
General Secretary	John Williams
Treasurer	Derek Todd
Time Trial Secretary	still vacant
Road Race Secretary	S Walsh
Records Secretary	M Northcott
Membership Secretary	M Loader
Runs Secretary	N Armstrong
Press Secretary	G Mitchener
TVCRA Representative	M Plummer
Newsletter Editor	D Notley
Timekeeper	None official (CTT)

### Club Clothing

If you need some new clothing please let me know (see page 7). We have a limited selection of road vests, bibshort, skinsuit - short and long sleeve and training tops. We will be placing a clothing order soon.

The committee meets on the second Monday of every month at the Sports Club.

Minutes from the Committee meetings:

## August

**General Secretary** No correspondence, Andy still to be contacted.

**Treasurer Report.** Income: Clothing £67.00, Membership £18.00. Expenditure: Donation to St Margaret's Hospice in memory of Tony White £30.00, Web hosting £34.08, August Newsletter printing and Post £32.80. DT gave update on missing 10 cheques from HH/Pittards RR. A second e-mail had been sent out and some more responses received. These confirm that the cheques appear to have been lost rather than credited to the wrong account. Self addressed envelopes have been sent to those identified as not having had their cheques cashed. It is hoped some money can be recovered and the remainder will have to be written off (8 cheques).

**Time Trial Secretary** ML reported on the Open 25. A profit of £66.00 recorded, which includes the catering profit. DN reported that the evening series has continued with a steady turn out each week despite the poor weather. DN will not be

available to open the HQ on 21 August, alternative arrangements to be made.

**Road Race Secretary,** Not present.

**Membership Secretary** Fifty (50) members, more in the pipeline, some existing members have yet to rejoin.

**Runs Secretary** The two runs have continued each week and NA commented that this was a positive move, new riders are coming into the slower group and are being retained.

**Records Secretary** None.

**TVCRA Representative** MP welcomed back, he will make contact with the TVCRA organisers a.s.a.p. It is understood there are a small number of YCC riders participating each week. It will also be the turn of YCC to organise the events in September. The committee asked MP to mention that the late availability of entry forms for the 4-up TTT had led to a reduced entry from our club, and it is hoped this will be addressed next year.

**Press Secretary** Nothing much to report, coverage is still erratic with some reports appearing on time whilst others are delayed for a week or two.

**Newsletter Editor** (Website) August edition printed and distributed.

**Any Other Business** DN reported that some sizes of Road Vest were now out of stock. An alternative

### INCOME and EXPENDITURE 2007 - 2008

#### INCOME

Opening Balance	5513.50
Membership Subs	786.00
Race Promotions:	
Evening TTs (2007)	312.54
10 mi TT (Sep 07)	172.10
10 mi TT (Apr 08)	114.44
25 mi TT (Jul 08)	61.44
Ham Hill / Pittards	579.87
John Andrews	83.34
Race Catering	46.60
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	1370.33
Clothing Sales	372.00
Deposit a/c Interest	69.45
Cheques not presented by payees 2007	7.60
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	8118.91

Income for Year £2605.38

Excess of Income over Expenditure £953.45

NB 2008 evening TT income & expenditure will be included in 2008-09 accounts, but income received by the treasurer to date is shown in the summary on the right.

#### EXPENDITURE

Affiliations:

CTT (08)	35.00
WTTA (08)	15.00
British Cycling (08)	57.50
TVCRA (08)	20.00
C.T.C.(07-08)	50.00
Road Peace (08)	20.00
Nuffield Centre RNAS (08)	317.50
Sports & Social Club (07-08)	364.50
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	879.50
Engraving / Trophies	149.59
Newsletter Postage / Printing	116.86
Web Hosting	34.08
Donations(Ivy Andrews, Tony White-Deaths)	
80.00	
Buffet (Subsidy)	30.00
Race Numbers	361.90
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Total Expenditure for Year	1651.93
Alliance & Leicester (Current A/c)	3224.00
Alliance & Leicester (Deposit A/c)	3547.88
Cash in Hand	31.15
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Total	6803.03
Less current year's eve TT income	336.05
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	6466.98

Sep 2007 Balance + 953.45 = 6466.98

supplier is to be investigated for a 2009 delivery. ML reported that not all of the small Cycle Event signs were in the garage. No one knew why they were not there nor where they might be. Club Buffet. A decision was made to make the Buffet an evening event, nearer to the end of the season and a date of Friday 21 November was agreed. Start time 19:30. MP raised the idea of having a Christmas club run, the intention being to have a ride followed by a lunchtime meal and then ride home. To be discussed further, club run riders to be canvassed for their opinion.

## September AGM

**Apologies.** Derek Todd

Minutes of the 2007 AGM. The minutes were not available. A summary from the Pedaller was read out.

**Treasurer Report** Derek Todd could not be present and accordingly submitted a copy of the Club Accounts for 2008. The September balance stands at £6466.98, there was an excess of income over expenditure of 953.45.

There were no questions on the accounts. It was noted that the income from subs alone as insufficient to cover the expenses but the profit from other activities more than exceeded the difference, and with the current balance there was no need for an increase in subs for 2009.

**Road Race Secretary** Shaun Walsh reported that it had been a good year with three very successful races. All the races had been well received by the riders and each had a good report from the Commissaire. The events had been well supported by the membership in terms of marshals and helpers, sadly there were no Yeovil riders participating. Each of the races had made a profit.

**Records Secretary** No records claimed, although Mike Northcott speculated that there may be some new records relating to the 5 mile TT course and that Dave Driver may have broken some of the 'Vets Standard' records.

**Runs Secretary** Nick Armstrong was pleased to report that we now had two rides every Sunday, which all agreed was a good thing. The speed and mileage difference is not great but enough to ensure new riders can get used to bunch riding and then make the transition to a faster group if they wish. A number of new members had come through the Club Run route, and the numbers each Sunday are steadily increasing. A total of 20 riders each week is the aim, which would ensure a suitable number in each group.

**Press Secretary** Garry Mitchener reported that there was not a lot of coverage this year but then again there was not a lot to report on each week. The change of style in the Western Gazette has meant that those articles that do appear are less prominent.

**Membership Secretary** Mike Loader informed the meeting that the total membership for 2008 was

57. This is slightly up on last year. Enquiries have increased lately and there are a number of potential members that are waiting for the 1st October before joining.

**Newsletter Editor** (Website) David Notley reported that a Newsletter had published every three months, with a mixture of articles and information that he hoped the membership found useful and entertaining. He thanked the regular contributors and those that had sent in articles throughout the year. The Chairman on the quality and value of the Pedaller.

**General Secretary** Andy Newbury resigned as Secretary during the course of 2008, and was not present at the meeting, so no report was available  
**Time Trial Secretary** The position of TT sec still remains vacant. David Notley thanked the members of the committee that have made up a regular in order to ensure the events continue each week, namely Derek Todd and Garry Mitchener. He also thanked those members that fulfilled their duties as part of the rota system. It was noted that the 5 mile TT course is very popular with members, especially the Juniors and novice riders. Discussion followed on increasing the number of these during the year, and/or the possibility of finding an equally popular and safe longer course, even if it was a non-standard distance. It was agreed that the committee will review this at the next meeting. The 10 course remains popular with more non YCC riders, the traffic counts have been lower this year than in 2007.

**TVCRA Representative** Mark Plummer reported that the Merryfield facility has been used this year but that not many YCC riders have participated. There has been a novice riders section in the middle of the course, run by Mike Ellington, and Mark offered to provide transport to any Juniors that would like to attend but were unable to do so because their parents/guardians could not take them.

## Agreement of dates for 2009

Ham Hill and Pittards Road Races  
Sunday 5 April 10:00 and 10:45 Entry Fee £15.00  
John Andrews Memorial Road Race  
Sunday 14 June 10:00 Entry Fee £15.00  
YCC Time Trials for 2009  
10. Saturday 18 April, 15:00. Entry Fee £7.00  
25. Sunday 5 July 08:00 (90 max) Entry Fee £7.00  
10. Saturday 19 September (optional move to 26 Sept if needed to avoid clash) 16:00. Entry Fee £7.00

## Affiliations

These are to remain the same as 2008.  
CTC, BC, CTT, WTTA, Yeovil Sports Club, Road Peace, TVCRA and Nuffield Sports Pavilion (RNAS Yeovilton).

# A testing time

Wet and windy, that just about sums up our TT Season. The new HQ for our evening events has made it a far more socialable and safer meeting place, not to mention drier. Thanks to all of the team that helped to run the events, especially Derek and Garry for timekeeping and signing.

The events have been well attended with 388 rides talking place between April and the extended end of season 5s in September. The five course continues to grow in popularity, and we will review the number of events for 2009 as well as look at trying to find a longer course on equally quiet roads.

## The Points Competition

In a very closely fought battle, which saw the leader change on an almost weekly basis, Hugo and Mike battled for the points trophy, with Hugo taking the top spot by just three points ahead of Mike. Chris Martin was third, as he improves with each event.

## Club Handicap

Ricky Gibbs won the 10 handicap whilst Christine Vince took the honours for the new 5 mile handicap.

## A special mention

The award for the most enthusiastic rider has to go to Andy Gaylard, who, despite his disappointment when we incorrectly awarded him the 10 handicap prize, has constantly enjoyed his riding all season.

## SECRETARY JOHN WILLIAMS

18 Forde Park, Yeovil BA21 3QR  
secretary@yeovilcc.com 0777 573 4134  
MEMBERSHIP Mike Loader 01935 410790  
3 Poppy Close, Brympton, Yeovil, BA22 8US  
RECORDS Mike Northcott 01458 273576  
TVCRA Mark Plummer 01935 824556  
TIME TRIALS Vacant  
ROAD RACE Shaun Walsh 01749 812298  
NEWSLETTER & CLOTHING  
David Notley 01963 440291

## Grub up

We have changed the date of the Club Buffet and Annual prize giving to Friday 21 November at 7:30pm. It will remain the same format, a mixed hot and cold buffet at the Yeovil Sports Club, followed by the presentation of the Club trophies. Please complete the booking form below and return it by 16 November to reserve your places, friends, family and other cycling enthusiasts are welcome too.

## Return of trophies

If you were awarded one of the club trophies last year please can you arrange to return it to Garry Mitchener as soon as possible – 01935 428258. Likewise if you think that you have won a trophy this year can you let Mike Northcott have the details, preferably with a copy of the results sheet(s) if you have them.

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Please reserve me the following places:

\_\_\_\_\_ @ £8.50    \_\_\_\_\_ @ £4.00 (under 16)    \_\_\_\_\_ free places (under 5)

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to Yeovil CC for £

Vegetarian Yes/No    Total number of vegetarians

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: David Notley, Oakley, Church Road, Sparkford, Yeovil BA22 7JN

Tel 01963 440291. **By 16th November 2008 – at the very latest!!**