

# THE WHEELER



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EDITOR RON ASPEY

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## Winter 04/5

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JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE	OLIVER KYTE		
UNDER FIFTEENS	JESSICA POTTS		

MEETINGS EVERY 2<sup>nd</sup> MONDAY IN MONTH. VENUE T.B.A.

## NEWS ROUND UP

Another good year for the club, we now have over **140 members** and if the family members are included, it amounts to **just over 200**.

There are new members, old members and “**old young**” members and in the latter category is **Life Member Fred Nicholds** who is **91** and still riding many miles every week.

**Robin, Gordon and Rob** have been working hard, and have **successfully recruited** many new youngsters and their families into the club. It is up to us to **encourage** them into the sport and make them feel at home. Especially on **Wednesday evenings** when we now have permission to open the **clubroom** at **7.30 pm** and will be starting to have the **rollers** out for the first hour and also various **lectures** during the winter. If anyone has ideas to fill the programme, I am sure our **social secretary** will be pleased to hear from them.

**THE ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE** proved a very enjoyable evening, with our chief guest **Roger Hammond** giving out some useful information on how to become a **professional bike rider**. Next morning he led a short training run wearing his **Wheeler's jersey**, as he is now a **Honorary member**.

**Unfortunately** we are not seeing a lot of **Alan Cooper's** smiling face on club nights lately, as he is working out of town

temporarily. Nevertheless his **charming wife Alison** makes up by calling in to see us regularly and also goes out with the **Thursday crowd**. She is also an **enthusiastic dancer**.

### Etape du Tour

Congratulations to **Richard Allen** and **Andy Whitehouse** who successfully completed this event in the Alps, which is a tough stage of the Tour De France. Though exhausting it must have been a wonderful experience and quite an achievement. Both received bronze medals, **Richard** for the third time and **Andy** the second.

### Sport England

*An open day was held recently at Aldersley Stadium for all local sports to be displayed. A very boisterous and enjoyable time was had by all ages. The Wheelers put on a good show on the newly refurbished track with a demonstration of handicap, team pursuit and four up sprint races, following up with Roller racing in the arena.*

### Not many cyclists achieve an obituary in The Times as did our BOB.

**Past president** and longest serving member of the club, **Bob Thom** died on August 1<sup>st</sup> aged 87 and had been ill since January, when he suffered a stroke. Bob was well loved by all and left an impression of good will wherever he went. He was well known **internationally** in the cycling world, both as a **team manager, mechanic** and in competition, where he won many classic races including **The Severn Vally R.R, Tour of the Peaks** and **The National Independent R.R. Championships**.

He regularly attended the Tuesday and Thursday runs, always immaculately turned out. We could go on forever about his achievements but suffice to say, he was the complete cyclist and a great loss to **his wife Jean, his family and The Club**.

### CHRISTMAS DAY 2004

The traditional Christmas morning Fun Run will be led by our Chairman. He usually calls in Perton for coffee and mincepies before arriving at The Hollybush at Epstree. After an appetizing drink with the lads and lasses home in time for lunch. Fancy dress optional.

### NEW YEARS DAY 2005

If you feel like walking, there is short walk organized by me. Meet at The Seven Stars, Beckbury at 10.30 am and move off at 10.45. Please park as far back on the grass as possible. Having used the landlords car park it is only polite that we use his pub. Soup and rolls will be available at the finish in the Ramblers Bar. Order at the counter.

THE CYCLE TRACK is now open for training on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 8pm. All reports say what a first class job of refurbishment has been made of the surface. So let's see all you budding trackmen out there preparing for next seasons track league. Club track bikes are available for your use.

Unfortunately Manchester Track is booked up for several months, so Dave Cuninghame has arranged for two trips to Newport Gwent Velo. I understand the tracks are identical and visits will be on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11am till 2pm and 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 11 till 2pm.

### THE ANNUAL FREE WHEEL CONTEST.

Organised by our old friend Dave Hill "The Boot" It attracted 33 members and was won by Tony Kilcoyne. I understand he went further than previous winners - perhaps he had some bricks in his saddle bag!

### Recruit them young.

Kasia and Andreas Greiner recently held a house warming at their place in Tettenhall. No doubt they will need the extra room as Kasia is expecting a baby shortly who will be the youngest member of the Wheelers.

**Jack Mattox** an older member of the club died recently he was 75. We shall always remember him for his very dry sense of humour which used to leave us all in stitches. He was great companion to ride with.

If you want a weekly news round -up and you are on line, please give Oliver Kyte your E mail number.

CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE SPRING EDITION

RON/ED

### MUCK & BULLETS (Thursday Club)

The other Thursday, four of us had just had coffee at the "Spiders" and were heading for Bishops Wood, when someone said well why not go via Tong and up Hubbal Lane it was quite good last time I walked the dog along it. We started by going up the lane at the back of the RAF living quarters, by the farm and under the M54 into Tong. Then turned right up Hubbal Lane and hit the mud. Every bit of the way was deeply rutted and full of muddy water, worse than I have experienced in many years and we were all on road bikes. Near the top we also encountered a shooting party. Quite an experience when you consider it, George 81 who fell in and Don 85 did not give up and we finally arrived a little late for lunch at the Bradford Arms. You might try it sometime on your off road bikes.

### Youth Events

The youth series is now back at the West Park on various Saturdays after a first class refurbishing of the paths by Wolverhampton Council. Run on Saturdays from 9am, the dates are as follows.  
March 12, April 16, May 14, June 25, July 16, August 6.

The Midland Area Youth Tour will be held again next year during August and will include the bank holiday Monday at RAF Cosford. Further info from Rob Murphy who is doing a first class job organising youth events.

### CLUB RUNS

The past year has been very succesful for Sunday club runs. These will continue starting at 9.30 am for the fast men and 10 pm for the novices and juniors. See notice board for list of runs leaders.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM went off quite smoothly, no punch ups or threats. Most officials were returned en bloc. Tim Arkle took over from Pete Escrit as Time Trial secretary and Handicapper. Oliver Kyte is now Junior Representative and Jessica Potts is rep. for the under fifteens. Andy Whitehouse has offered to help organise events on club nights and also assist the Trophy Secretary who has done a first class job for many years and wishes to stand down next year. It was decided to raise subscriptions, the first for many years, as follows:- Family £20. Senior £15. Retired members and other concessions unchanged. No enrolment fee is now required.