

ANFIELD CIRCULAR

JOURNAL OF THE ANFIELD BICYCLE CLUB
(Formed March 1879)

President : Ben Griffiths
Vice Presidents : Bill Gray and Harold Catling
Captain : Mike Twigg
Hon. Secretary : David Eaton, 29 Glenwood Dr.,
Irby, Wirral. Tel.051 648 3563

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1984

No.832

-
- Jan. 21 Kelsall (Morris Dancer) Bosley (Harrington Arms)
28 Crowton (Hare and Hounds) Weekend (Capel Curig)
Feb. 4 Mouldsworth (Goshawk) Committee
11 Hanmer (Hanmer Arms) Lower Peover (Crown Inn)
18 Huxley (Farmers Arms Bosley (Harrington Arms)
25 Faddiley (Tollemache Arms)
Mar. 3 Norley (Tigers Head)
10 Bangor on Dee (Royal Oak) Allostock (Drovers Arms)
17 Mouldsworth (Goshawk) Committee
24 Farndon (Nags Head) Lower Peover (Crown Inn)
31 Bodfari (Downing Arms) Holmes Chapel (Bistro Cafe)
Apr. 7 Kelsall (Morris Dancer) Bosley (Harrington Arms)
-

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

21 and over £7.00 Junior (Under 21) £4.00 Cadet £1.00

These and donations should be sent to: Hon.Treasurer:-
KEITH ORUM, 5 Brunstath Close, Barnston, Wirral.
Editor:- BEN GRIFFITHS, 17 The Highway, Hawarden, Deeside

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE - SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

GENTLEMEN:

Those of your who have purchased training tops and caps. I should be obliged if you would settle your account either in cash or cheque before the end of February.

May I remind Members that subscriptions are now due and it would be appreciated if these can be settled before the end of March. Perhaps some Members are unsure of the amount owing, in which case you may care to telephone me in an evening (051-342-4860) and I will gladly give details.

Thank you, KEITH ORUM

R.T.T.C. HANDBOOKS

The Club have ordered a supply of Handbooks for 1984.

If you would like one please let Dave Eaton know and the price is £1.55 each.

TRAINING WEEKEND

A training weekend has been booked at Cobden's Hotel, Capel Curig, on Saturday 28th January. Bed and Breakfast will be £9.50. Bar meals will be available on the Saturday evening.

A Y.H.A. Hostel is within walking distance for those who would prefer a cheaper weekend. Names for Cobden's to Mike Twigg 0244-26399. Names for Y.H.A. to John Thompson 051-426-4622.

COMMITTEE. No Earnie Davies is not getting two votes, as it appeared in Circular No.831 one E. Davies should have been E. Reeves.

JOAN DAVIES. Joan was knowcked off her bicycle by a car just before Christmas and fractured her leg. We are sure all will wish her a very speedy recovery.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

JEFFREY LEWIS, 3 TEWKESBURY CLOSE, UPTON, CHESTER

Proposed by Ben Griffiths

Seconded by John Futter

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nigel and Alison Fellows, 11 Trem Ofon, Mynydd Isa, Mold.

Harry Ashcroft, Marchoglwyn Fach, Llanfynedd, Carmarthen, Dyfed.

Dear Anfielders,

My return to cycling with the Anfield has been only too short, but a change of domestic circumstances coupled with 'the wife' selling my trusty steed while my back was turned has meant a rather quick exit into Anfield History once again.

My liking for muddy tracks and green rolling hills has finally overcome my better judgement so that I shall very shortly be up to the top of my wellies in the 'good life' in a remote but very beautiful part of Wales.

The purpose of this letter is to thank you all for making me so welcome during my brief return to club cycling.

I hope that should anyone find themselves in my part of Wales (between Llandeilo and Lampeter) that they will try to look me up. You'll have to be a fellow rough stuff fanatic though, as my new home is half a mile from the nearest road!

Thanks to you all once again, and all the best for the New Year.

HARRY THE FISH.

Dear Mr. President & All Members,

Thank you very much for the lovely plant and Good Wishes for me after my operation.

I hope to be back at the Eureka Cafe very soon and to see you all but let me wish you all Many Happy Cycling and Racing for 1984.

Yours very sincerely - HILDA

THE 1983 RACING SEASON

Eighteen Anfielders faced the timekeeper and (at least 190 man/events were completed. Many members achieved that time-trialling magic - a personal best : Keith Orum improved after more than a decade of retirement, Pete Colligan finally beat the hour and Dave Eaton missed it by four seconds.

John Whelan had another very successful season bringing the Club 25 record down to 55-13, frequently getting in the top places and leading Messers Shorter, Whitmarsh, Griffiths and/or Hallgarth to team victories. However, John did not get it all his own way failing to finish a 50, he lost the Club Championship to Chris Shorter.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Chris Shorter	25.138 mph
Pete Colligan	22.632 mph
John Thompson	22.288 mph (Erike)

Interestingly John would have had to do a 2-2-33 50 to beat Chris. Could he have done this in the Chester R.C. 50?

Chris Shorter did 19 personal bests up to A.G.M. - will anyone beat this? Well he did. A week before Christmas he made it 20 by beating the Club 10 record, the first Anfielder inside 22 minutes with an excellent fourth place behind - You Cammish!

JOHN THOMPSON

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

15.6.83. V.T.T.A. "10"

Pete Colligan 25-15

22.6.83. Rutland C.C.25

Chris Shorter 57-16

3.7.83. N.Lancs V.T.T.A. 50

Pete Colligan 2-14-31

31.7.83. Leeds Wellington 25

Chris Shorter 56-36 (P.B.)

7.8.83. East Liverpool Whls 50

Pete Colligan 2-10-14

13.8.83. Westward R.C. 30

Pete Colligan 1-16-18

14.8.83. Hull Thonsday 25

Chris Shorter 1-0-11

14.8.83. Y.C.F. 100

John Thompson 4-43-29 (Erike)

21.8.83. Wrexham R.C.25

Pete Colligan 1-2-57

Chris Shorter 58-52

21.8.83 Eastbourne Roans 25

Chris Edwards 1-6-02

28.8.83. Clifton 50

Chris Shorter 2-2-25

28.8.83 Cleverleys R.C.

Pete Colligan 1-3-57

30.8.83. City Club 10

Chris Shorter 22-21 P.B.

3.9.83 Clarence Wls. 10

Chris Edwards 26-04

3.9.83 Morley C.C.25

Chris Shorter 1-1-05

4.9.83 Fulham Whls. 25

Chris Edwards 1-3-20

4.9.83 Chester R.C. 50

Ben Griffiths 2-10-39

Keith Orum 2-14-57

18.9.83. V.T.T.A. 100

Pete Colligan 5-9-21 (First 100!)

18.9.83. W.C.T.T.A. 25

Ben Griffiths 1-1-20

Chris Edwards 1-2-03

Keith Orum 1-2-47

Mike Hallgarth 1-3-30

John Stirton 1-4-18

Tony Pickles 1-10-04 (First event)

Craig Clewley 1-11-06

24.9.83 Nova C.C.25

Pete Colligan 1-4-04

2.10.83. V.T.T.A.25

Pete Colligan 1-5-09

17.12.83. Chesterfield Spire C.C.10

Chris Shorter 21-57 4th P.B. Club Record

RACING NOTES

With a fresh racing season almost upon us, the early local events are:-

Sun Feb.26th Larkhill Wheelers, 2 UP.T.T.T. 25 miles, D25/2

Sun Mar.11th North Wirral Velo, 4 UP.T.T.T. 50 kms D50K/2

Sun Mar.18th Chester Road Club, 2 UP.T.T.T. 25 miles D25/11

Sat Mar.24th Merseyside Ladies 10 miles D10.1

Sun Apr. 8th West Cheshire T.T.A. 25 miles D25/2

Sun Apr.15th West Cheshire T.T.A. 30 miles D30/3

I have mentioned the West Cheshire events to give the Juniors a chance to prepare for the Association Junior Championship over 25 and 30 miles, there is a second 25 mile event later in the season. But the 30 is a 'must' as it is the only one.

CLUB HANDICAP EVENTS - Subject to confirmation; the 10 mile events will be held on Saturday mornings at Willaston, 12th May, 16th June and 14th July. The 25 mile event will use the Pearl Lane, Broxton, Curzon Course 25th August.

The Club is affiliating to the B.C.F. this year to accommodate the wishes of the younger members, and of course anyone else who would like to try their hand at Road Racing.

I would like to congratulate our senior riders, on some very fine team wins last season, and look forward to this policy of concentrating our efforts, being continued with equal success in 1984..

JOHN FUTTER, RACING SEC.

Don't forget to send your results to John Futter, 7 Ellesmere Avenue, Broughton, Nr. Chester Tel.0244 532865.

WAYFARER'S ROUTE or What not to do when kicked out of the house.

Bank Holiday Sunday evening and dozing in front of 'the box' dreaming of sun kissed hills with lanes running forever downhill. Daft cat is disturbed by my snores and decides on revenge by sharpening his claws on my right shin. Left foot accidentally catches Daft cat's posterior and the airborne moggy lands on number two daughter who just happened to be wandering past. Number two daughter screams for mum who, doing her Nora Batty impersonation decides that I'm going away on holiday after all.

Still dreaming of sun kissed hills I stumble off to the phone and ring Cynwyd Youth Hostel to see if there are any beds left. Sheet sleeping bag and spare clothes are hurled in the direction of my retreating shadow.

Jovial warden at other end of the line informs me that unless I'm a party of 35 he can just fit me in a corner somewhere.

7.45pm and the open road ahead. 8.15pm and I'm just 2 miles from home and lost in a maze of 1 in 6 hills near Brymbo Steelworks. More by luck than judgement I find Bwlchgwyn and slog my way over to Llandegla.

Q. Why am I having to pedal downhill when there is hardly any wind?

A. Because there is hardly any wind in my front tyre. Fortunately it only proved to be a slow puncture and five minutes trying to find my dustcap in the pitch darkness saw me back on the road and thrashing onwards to Corwen. Trust my luck to meet 2,000 holiday motorists in 10 miles, and all with their headlights on full beam.

Over the Dee and right up the hill towards Cynwyd! Nothing can stop me now - says I. Oh! yes it can, I ran over a hedgehog and fell off.

Success at last, 9.40pm and I'm wheeling the bike into the hostel yard. The warden had waited for me and my luck had changed for an hour or so at least. Only two other guests in the place and the warden's parting words of 'don't worry about what time you lock up'.

All out to the pub and a threesome reel back again at midnight.

The dawn was beautiful (so I'm told) but by the time I'd washed away my glorious hangover and the sun was blazing in a cloudless sky. Repaired the puncture (a result of a bad repair after Saturdays club run to Norley) and round to the village shop for my 'snappin'. Funny looks and Welsh conversation changing to embarrassed looks and silence when I paid for my goods and bade them 'good morning' in Cymraeg. My Welsh is a bit sketchy but I'd love to know why the local people think that sweatbands and long shorts look funny.

Now comes the 'nitty gritty'. Just over a mile south of Cynwyd I turned left up the 'ministry road' towards my sun kissed hills. Half an hour later I was leaning exhausted over my bike cursing the sun and the hills but looking down over a glorious view of the Dee Valley from Bala to Corwen. The tarmac ends not long after the road levels out at the top of the first rise from the valley and the track remains rideable for a further couple of miles although gates make the going tedious.

The track ends for riding purposes at a signpost where the track from Llandrillo comes up from the right. The signpost is worth a mention because it would be more at home on the A5 trunk road than deep in the hills miles from the nearest road. I think I'd have trouble getting a Land Rover this far let alone an ordinary car.

The track that I was to take was signposted LLanarmon DC but it was impossible to ride any further. The road making materials have all been laid down on the track.... in heaps. Deep gravel, followed by tar, followed by 6 inch boulders made up the rest of the track to the bwlch and 'wayfarers Stone'.

Oh! the luxury, a cool breeze, a flat rock to sit on and a bottle of lucozade to quench the thirst. What more could a cyclist want? Answers must be delivered in person to the Wayfarer Memorial Stone, Bwlch Swch, Berwyns. Snappin eaten and visitors book signed I set off on the second part of this memorable trip.

The descent from the bwlch towards Llanarmon DC isn't as steep as the approach from Cynwyd which probably isn't a good thing as it inspires a false confidence.

Setting off downhill one soon discovers that brakes are useless on the loose/wet surface and the ruts make steering impossible. After catching pedals on the sides of the ruts, jumping boulders and falling into potholes,

all at speeds approaching 30mph I can certify that this activity is guaranteed to make the rider forget all about his everyday worries and return to the basics in life... like SURVIVAL.

A mile down the valley the track levels out before its final descent to Pentre Bach. This section of the track has been reinforced with railway sleepers across some of the most boggy bits but even so I was up to my wheel hubs in peat and water on several occasions. Life jackets should be worn in wet weather.

Road glorious road! I never miss it until I've been away from it. From Pentre Bach a pleasant narrow lane runs two miles into Llanarmon DC, a pretty place reminiscent of a Devon Village with two pubs facing onto the central crossroads. After making sure that the quality of the beer matched the excellent surroundings I set off along the B4500 in a rosy haze. Five minutes later I realised that I'd forgotten something and return to the village to collect my bike.

At Glyn Ceiriog I made an hours stop at the Slate Museum and joined a guided tour around the old underground workings. This place is well worth a visit for its own sake and is well within a days trip of 'Anfieldland'.

Wearing just a road jersey and shorts ensured that the cold soon found me so I was quite relieved to see the sunlight filtering through the trees above as we emerged from the caverns. It's no wonder that miners were religious people when one considers how glorious the world must have seemed after emerging from a shift underground.

Warmth restored, I set off for Chirk, but with the thought of a Bank Holiday A5 I made the silly mistake of returning to the rough stuff of the Canal towpath to Newbridge.

I say silly mistake because towpaths 'aint what they used to be'. Half an hour jungle warfare and two visits into 'the cut' saw me emerge soaking wet with sweat and smelly canal water onto the main Wrexham road.

On balance I probably did the right thing as the traffic on the A5 was crawling along nose to tail.

Thankfully the ride home to Wrexham proved uneventful and I returned to the bosom of my family scathed but unbowed by my ordeals to be greeted by a shout from Number One daughter 'Mum, Dads home, he must have run out of money'. (Not true, I still had six pence left.) - HARRY THE FISH

NORLEY - TIGERS HEAD - 27.8.83

A fine sunny morn greeted the hub of Anfielders gathered outside "The Mills". We were waiting for my brother, who conforming to the great traditions of our family, did not turn up. So we left without him (an Anfield tradition).

Progress was brisk with everyone on either stripped down bikes or flexing racing fitness, never both.

The route was onto the Runcorn road via Capenhurst then down past Stanlow. This road is now much quieter since the opening of the motorway extension and if only they could lose the oil refinery it would be quite pleasant. Once past Stanlow it was down the lanes to Stoak over the Chester Warrington road and onto the first prime of the day Manley Bank.

After which we rolled our way through Delamere Forest and finally into the Tigers Head, where already a goodly crowd had gathered. Those present were:- Mike Twigg, Harold and Mary Catling, Ernie and Joan Davies, Bob and Hagar Poole, Harry Ashcroft. The Two Mills bunch; Ben Griffiths, Roger Andrews, Dave Eaton and Chris Edwards. Later the numbers were further increased by a "RAKE" of new members (n.b. a rake is a John Moss unit of measurement), these were:- Tony Pickles, Craig Clavley, Ian Swift, Keith Hudson, Jonathan Edwards (Yes, I'm afraid so!) and his friend from Cumberland, Roger Earl.

John Thompson and Magie were as usual late, and loaded down for a weekend in the Berwyns, a very tempting idea.

This mighty throng left together and a very frisky pace was set back through the forest. John Thompson making the occasional break for glory whilst still pushing Magie and carrying camping gear, and Mike was doing his best to police an unruly bunch.

At Mouldsworth Jon, Roger and I turned up the hill the main bunch going through Ashton. We wound our way gently back to the Mills, where we waited for the rest of the Club. After some time the others joined us for tea on the lawn with news of a collision between two Club riders (the insurance premium will be going up!). No one was seriously injured, the major casualty being a pair of wheels.

And so another day in Anfield land drew to a close with us all going our separate ways home.

CHRIS EDWARDS

BODFARI - DOWNING ARMS - 19.11.83

It had been about 3 years since our last Club run to Bodfari, so for most of our younger members this was their first visit, we arranged an early meeting time at the Eureka, and at 10.30am with 7 present we left for Bodfari. Those at the Eureka were Ben Griffiths, John Thompson, Roger Andrews, Mike Day, Colin Jones, Brian Bird and Stuart Twigg. (The Captain having taken a weekend off for a trip to London). At Alltami we turned right up the lane for Soughton, then across the A5119 and down the lane to Rhyd-y-Golen, where a new bridge has been built over the River Alyn and the bends on the A541 straightened (its about time this road was improved through Rhydymwyn to Star Crossing. We then turned left for Meol Arthur, I was told John Thompson on 70in fixed was first at the top (only because Colin had waited for him). We then went down the lanes, crossing the River Wheeler, and rejoining the A541 for the short distance to Bodfari, arriving just after the Futter family, John, David and prospective member Paul (Johns nephew), they had also come via Meol Arthur at the inn were John France, Flo Hill and Ernie Davies by car; and Joan on her bicycle, also making a rare appearance Len Walls on his bike (yes, the same one 1950's vintage) next to arrive was Tony Pickles having chased the bunch from Soughton and being told that he was 2 minutes down by all he met. We were next joined by Pete Colligan who having missed the boat had come along the main road, last to arrive was Mike Hallgarth in his car (resting for the Sunday run). 18 for the club run. The food was very good I noticed John Thompson enjoying the Ploughmans, and the rest of us did alright. Ernie and Joan are on holiday for the next month but hope to be home for Christmas. Soon it was time for home, Mike, Ernie, John and Flo going the easy way (by car) Len and Joan going the short way up the A541 and the other 12 going back into the lanes, via Llandyrnog and Llanbeds, we then turned right on the A494 then left down the lane that leads to Graigfechan, we soon turned left again for the lane we cyclists call "THE SHELF" this is the lane that by passes Graigfechan, and climbs to 1138 feet before dropping down to Llandegla. For most of the group this was the first time over this road and some found the climb had to be walked; on the descent Paul punctured and when we reached the main A5104 we found all who had to go via the Eureka had gone on, leaving 6 of us

to ride the direct way home, at Pontblyddyn we parted from Tony and Paul who went up the main road to Mold, while we 4, John, David, Stuart and Ben went to Broughton for a cup of coffee at John's house before parting, a very enjoyable day out.

BEN GRIFFITHS

HANMER ARMS - 3.12.83

Saturday morning panic! There's a bright winter sun and the club run is to Hanmer. It's too good to miss but it's miles away and it's already nearly llam. The total lack of forethought becomes apparent as John rushes out cursing the fact that his racing bike is in pieces and that it will have to be the fixie.

I take the car and even in that it seems a long way. It's harder to navigate through little lanes in a car, constantly stopping to hold the map steady - left, then right, then left, then ignore all turns for about 2 miles (this is where you suddenly meet a T-junction and have to inspect the map again).

An unexpected bonus as I rally down the last few lanes and realise this is Hanmer, its mere suddenly dazzling into view. I find a small company within Ira Thomas, Mike Twigg, Bill Gray, John Futter, Mike Hallgarth, Ben Griffiths(now come-of-age in theory at least) and Marc Rowlands who may well have carried on exploring the lanes and come 'direct' from last weeks run... I had apparently just missed Frank Fischer and Brian Bird. Pete Colligan arrived shortly after I did; we wondered if there had been a sudden rainstorm as his coat looked wet and he had to dry his gloves in front of the fire.....

The main party were itching to go and left a select group: latecomers Pete and myself and Bill and Ira who only live up the road. There was much reminiscing, mainly as to where stay-backs could be found (some of this information could be rather out of date though : Ira told of his initiation into all-night rides and of his surprise at finding that the promised refreshment could indeed be had, and in company too, at a particular hostelry near Nantwich, even though it was well past the witching hour. Pete recalled how former club runs were far longer than nowadays (Trough of Bowland, Snowdonia) and that they lately more resembled training runs. We agreed that extended excursions could be the answer all dog owners will know they're in for trouble (especially with the more athletic breeds) if they only take them out for a quick once round the block!

MAGGIE



JACK SALT
AN ANFIELD 'GREAT' FROM 50 YEARS AGO

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MARCH/APRIL 1984

No. 833

- Mar. 10 Bangor-on-Dee (Royal Oak) Allostock (Drovers Arms)
17 Mouldsworth (Goshawk) Committee
24 Farndon (Nags Head) Lower Peover (Crown Inn)
31 Bodfari (Downing Arms) Holmes Chapel (Bistro Cafe)
Apr. 7 Kelsall (Morris Dancer) Bosley (Harrington Arms)
14 Alpraham (Tollemache Arms)
21 Hanmer (Hanmer Arms) Allostock (Drovers Arms)
28 Mouldsworth (Goshawk) Committee
May 5 Faddiley (Tollemache Arms)
7 Club "25" (Broxton) Woodbank (The Yacht)
12 Club "10" Willaston
12 Norley (Tigers Head)
19 Alpraham (Tollemache Arms)
26 Hanmer (Hanmer Arms) Lower Peover (Crown Inn)
28 Club "100" Astley (Dog in the Lane)

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CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE - SATURDAY 21st APRIL

BILL GRAY 1916 - 1984

It is with a deep sense of sorrow that we have to record the passing of one of our most popular members - Bill Gray - who died in the early hours of Saturday March 3rd, after being taken into hospital on the previous Thursday. Although Bill hadn't been an Anfielder for very long (he joined in 1972 at the age of 56) he was a very enthusiastic member, serving on the committee for most of this time, for the last few years as Vice President. But most members will remember him best for his regular club run attendance and the recording of the other members club run attendance's.

Although his health had not been too good for the last few months we did not think it was anything to worry over, believing that his health would improve as the weather did, but alas it was not to be. Bill, who was a good friend to all will be sadly missed on the club runs each Saturday.

The following members attended the funeral service at Bangor-on-Dee and Pentrebychan Crematorium:

Ben Griffiths, Mike Twigg, Phil Mason, Ernie Davies, Keith Orum, John France, Ira Thomas and Peter Colligan.

To use Bills own words: Gentlemen - I give you Bill Gray.

We also publish Bills last contribution to the Circular, The Inns of Overton, although it is unfinished.

BEN GRIFFITHS

WE HAVE SINCE received the following letter from Gilbert Sutcliff in Chelmsford, Essex:

Dear Ben,

So Bill Gray has gone to join his wife. Jonny Williams gave me the unexpected news in a letter this morning. With the passing of so many years most of my contemporaries have taken the road we all must follow and the fairly recent death of Frank Marriott was a blow.

Bill was a friendly chap of infinite charm. During my stay in hospital last July and August he rang up my wife several times and last Christmas he spoke to us again to make sure that I was all right.

But I well remember during a conversation with him at Hanmer last year he said that his own diagnosis of what he was suffering from was "grief". So perhaps, although he will be greatly missed, we need not grieve too much.

Regards, Gilbert Sutcliff.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP (Cadet)

Brian Birch 60, Glenwood Dr, Irby Wirral.
Proposed by - Phil Mason
Seconded by - Dave Eaton

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Phil Mason - 6 Brookland Gardens, Parkgate, South Wirral
L64 6TA
Mike Hallgarth - c/o 35, King St, Bristol. 14 DZ

RESIGNATION

With regret the committee accepted Chris Shorters Resignation.

To All,

I'm afraid the time has come to end my short, but very happy, membership of the great Anfield B.C. For several months a group of us have trained and travelled to races together; we in effect became more of a "club" than many clubs. We have decided to formalise this arrangement and "Team Mirage" has been born. (I'm not to blame for the name!) Though basically a Hull club we have a few homeless individuals from other areas including one very well known name.

I would like to thank the Anfield for the flying start that you have given me in the sport and for your encouragement and advice. Though I had a good first year, I can't see a distance at which I cannot improve substantially and indeed I am ashamed at my performances in "50"s this year.

I see Tommo's finally got the Anfield's name into the RTTC list of competition Records: nice one John.

I hope to come over for the Mid-Shropshire weekend so I may see some of you then and I'd like to ride the "100" as I've a lot to live down in that one. I won't be racing on a touring bike next year as I've got a nice new one-all long cranks, concealed cables, aero brakes and the like. Finally I would like to thank you all once again and wish you all the best of luck for the coming season.

Yours, Chris.

P.S. I'll return the trophy to J.J. unless somebody else gets their finger out!

Rigby Band writes
from Chepshow in Gwent:

Dear Ben,
I had a surprise meeting with Mike Hallgarth a couple of weeks ago at one of our S.W.Region T.A.meetings. Being no longer one of the fast pack I do not think I shall be doing much riding with him but hope we shall meet up at some of the local cycling functions in the Bristol area.

Kind regards to all old friends,

Yours sincerely,
Rigby Band.

ARTHUR SMITH NORTH ROAD, ALSO WRITES

I was pleased and surprised to meet Mike Hallgarth at a recent C.T.C. function, and had a chat about touring in Scotland.

Arthur lives at Lemsford, Broad Oak, Hereford. HR2 80Z

HARRY AUSTIN

It is with sorrow that we have to report the death of one of our older members. We have just heard that Harry Austin died in mid-February, a full appreciation will appear in the next Circular.

RACING NOTES MARCH 84

In the first event of the season the Larkhill Wheelers 2 up at Flint, Ben Griffiths and Jeff Lewis (1st event) recorded a 1 hr 4 mins 3 secs for the 25 miles, in cold conditions and wind driven snow flurries that troubled the eyes. The two juniors Roger and Mark decided to call it a day after reaching the turn, having had a hard ride out to the event from home. (There will be better days, lads!).

Phil Mason was the first to spot that the R.T.T.C. have brought their records up to date by including John Thompson's competition (Trike) record 100 ride in the handbook. It's good to see the club name up there amongst the record holders, Congrats John on this belated recognition.

As announced elsewhere in the circular Chris Shorter our 1983 Club Champion has resigned, we are sad to lose him, but as Chris is resident in Beverly, Yorks., we understand his need for Club racing involvement nearer home. Chris has won two events already this season, and led his "Team Mirage" to wins on both occasions and we wish Chris and his new Club continued success throughout the year.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Fri. April 20th	Port Sunlight Wheelers Hilly 22	D22/1
Sun. April 22nd	North Wirral Velo 25 Miles	D25/11
	Mid Shropshire Wheelers 50 Miles	D50/3
	National Clarion CC 10 Miles	D10/7
Mon. April 23rd	Mid Shropshire Wheelers 25 Miles	D25/14
	Birkenhead Vics CC 25 Miles	D25/10
	Middle Markers	
	Rhyl RC Mountain TT 37 Miles	D37/10
Sat. April 28th	VC Halton 10 Miles	D10/1
Sun. April 29th	Rhyl RC 25 Miles	D25/2
	Wrekinsport CC Hilly 39 Miles	D39/1

LARKHILL WHLS 2 up T.T.T. 26 Feb. 84 (25 Miles)

It was approaching mid-day when a cyclist in baggy Derby tweed Plus Fours and white woolly socks returned to the Mills after a gentle potter around the Cheshire lanes. Perhaps, just a little sweat upon the brow to prove that conditions were not easy.

John Whelans immaculate sag wagon stood in majesty on the driveway, even the tyres were polished. Inside the cafe Ben Griffiths and Jeff Lewis advised that they had recorded 1-04-03 an encouraging ride, while Roger Andrews and Mark Rowlands failed to finish, probably due to bitterly cold conditions and the occasional flurry of snow and sleet which accompanied the easterly wind. A notable effort for their first ride at this distance.

The writer recalls similar conditions on 23.3.1969 in the Birkenhead Victoria 2 up T.T.T. on the same course, when he

partnered John Moss to a 1 - 03 - 24 about 25 secs. Slower than Whelan and Bettaney that morning. The pain suffered in those closing miles, the final climb before the duet carriageway, occasionally casting an eye over the shoulder to confirm that John was still on the back wheel. A few moments of nostalgia, but not dreams as some members of this club have written upon these pages. The Larkhill Wheelers event heralds the 1984 racing season and the very best of luck to all.

TOLLEMACHE ARMS ALPRAHAM 10 Dec.83

I was up that morning to find it was a surprisingly dry day (seeing as it was raining all the night before) I went round to Roger Andrews house to find him eager to get out on his new Dave Lloyd machine. When Roger and I arrived at the Eureka Cafe we met with Ben Griffiths and Jeff Lewis. We were soon under way. It was quite a quick pace until we met up with Tony Pickles, John Futter and Craig Clewby about half way there. Then Ben came to the front and slowed us down. We went over a few sharp bridges and steep hills and soon went past a sign which said Alpraha 1½ miles. This is when Roger dropped us all on the sprint I chased after him but could not catch up. In the pm we found that Brian Bird was already there. We were soon joined by Peter Colligan and Billy Barns. Dave Eaton Phil Mason, Mike Twigg, Ira Thomas and Hetty came in their cars. The return journey was harder than going out, because there was a head wind, Tony Pickles and Craig turned off and went through Chester. Ben was pushing us hard over the last 5 miles but we managed to hang on. When we came to Chester High road I had the pleasure of winning the final sprint to the Mills.

MARK ROWLANDS.

THE ROYAL OAK. Bangor-on-Dee 31 Dec 83

On this, the last day of 1983, the warm snug of the Royal Oak was the venue for the club run and the agreeable company of Frank Fischer, Colin Jones, Ernie and Williams Davies Ben Griffiths, Roger Andrews, Brian Bird, Jeff Lewis Mike and Stuart Twigg, John Stinton, Mike Hallgarth, Mike Day, Ira Thomas, Keith and Pip Orum, John Thompson and

Maggie, David Birchall and Mary and Bill Gray.

The Snug was definitely the place to be because outside the old year was being blown away by a fierce westerly gale. It swept across the Dee plain from the Welsh hills and made the going very hard for the cyclists heading back to the Wirral. Ira alone was in luck for the homeward journey and I should think he had a flier of a ride to Whitchurch!

Exploring a wood near Shocklach in which badgers once could be found was the focus for the Orum/Birchall party. In classic style wind and mud were braved and in addition to the badger sets the motte and bailey of Shocklach castle were inspected. The site of the "famous" suspension bridge across the Dee was revisited and theories expounded on new ox-bows, before returning to the Norman church in the fields where we started. A delightful end to 1983, despite the elements.

DAVE BIRCHALL.

THE YACHT WOODBANK 2 Jan 84

The first run of the year saw a small but select turnout. This was perhaps due to the heavy rain, In the case of John Whelan and Dave Bettaney work kept them dry! Through misreading my watch I arrived at noon thinking it was one. Keith and Pippa arrived by car, followed by a car bearing Mike Hallgarth who was to depart later that day to take up an appointment in Bristol. True to form he had no room booked for the night. He talked of staying at the Y.W.C.A. (No fool that lad!).

A dry Ben appeared having ridden via Ellesmere and Whitchurch claiming that he only had to cape up for a few minutes just outside Whitchurch. We were all pleased to see Phil, lets hope he will be on a bike next time now that his bungalow's refurbishment nears its completion. Our man from Slopers Island, Chris Edwards was the last to arrive, like me the rain had kept him company, as it was to be so on our respective journeys home.

Mike Twigg.

LOWER PEOVER 7 Jan 84

Travelling towards Nantwich was like a spring day, dry, warm and pleasant, but by the time we were at Minshall Veron it was winter again for we ran into a very violent storm, such is the delight (or otherwise) of our climate, but by Lach Denis the sun shone again and our annual at the Crown was on dry roads.

It was apparent on looking round that we would be on our own and after a pleasant meal in good surroundings we left about two-o'clock to wend our way home via Toft Corner, Byley, Winsford, over roads which brought back pleasant memories of the halogen days of the 30's.

IRA THOMAS.

MORRIS DANCER KELSALL 21 Jan 84

Is a broken leg an accepted excuse for arriving at the lunch stop by car? It happened when I was brought off my bike by a car forcing me into the curb, so motorists please give cyclists room!

Although bright and sunny, there were many icy patches on the roads, as we left Wrexham, calling at Bangor-on-Dee to pick up Bill Gray, who we were all glad to see recovering from a spell of ill health.

A group of riders arrived at the Morris Dancer without mishap, Mike and Stewart Twigg being the first to arrive soon joined by Ben Griffiths and his posse, namely Mike Day, Colin Jones, Jeff Lewis and Roger Andrews.

Arrangements for the Training weekend at Capel Curig 28th January were finalized and after a good lunch we parted company. I envied the lads their enjoyable ride home and look forward to being awheel myself very soon.

We were glad that Frank Fischer was able to be with us bringing our number to eleven.

JOAN DAVIES.

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NATIONAL CYCLO CROSS CHAMPIONSHIPS, SUTTON PARK,

BIRMINGHAM 5 Feb 84

Staying in the Midlands for the weekend I took the opportunity of having a look at Cyclo Cross live.

A quick trip down the Aston Expressway, past Villa Park, (where EVERTON subsequently played en-route to Wembley) finds you in Erdington and just as quickly Sutton Coldfield where the championships were taking place.

The park seemed to be full of dogs and non-participating cyclists until about twenty minutes before the start, the contestants arrived.

The tail enders of the preceding Junior championship were still staggering in as the Seniors came under orders. Included in this race was one Junior - David Baker who had elected to ride hopeful of being selected for the forthcoming Worlds.

I didn't actually see the start, but word came through of a massive pile-up that put Baker last of some 80 riders. The difference in quality of Cyclo Cross riders is quite marked and it soon became clear that out of the field the placings would be contested by no more than 6 riders, amongst whom I included, Chris Young, Steve Douce, Steve Barnes, Martin Springer and pro. Simon Burney.

As the race unwound to the well informed commentary of Phil Liggett the riders named were well to the fore with the exception of Baker who was valiantly battling his way through the field, on a course which was quite narrow in parts.

Chris Young eventually claimed the title finishing nearly a minute ahead of his nearest rival, Steve Douce with Barnes third.

Baker meanwhile finished 8th a superb effort which earned him a special prize from the sponsors plus selection for the World Championship and a place in the winning team.

All in all it was an enjoyable afternoon, cyclo cross is a much better spectator sport than Time Trialling - was one comment I heard from a non cyclist - and I have to agree it is.

Dave Eaton.

INNS OF OVERTON. BY BILL GRAY

In 1752 the Wrexham to Shrewsbury highway was placed under turnpike trusts. This meant a vast improvement in the condition of the road and consequently an increase in the volume of traffic, passing, as it did through Overton. The village became a convenient stopping place for the Stage and Mail coaches.

Overton, until 1843, was the only Post town in the Maelwys which brought a lot of people into the village for the collection and delivery of mail. This combined with the fact that the population of Overton throughout the 18th and 19th centuries was always between 1,200 and 1,800 usually meant a fairly good living for the inn-keeper, during this time there were seven inns existing in the Parish. Only three now exist.

There was the Bowling Green, which became the Co-op, furniture shop, and is now empty. This was the biggest one of its claims was that it was the H.Q. of the "Mayor of the Green". This was the title given to the heads of a drinking club, membership of which was gained by being able to drink, at a single go, a cup of beer or wine of a certain size. Those able to do so were called Freemen, the last record of this club was in 1884 when the Mayor's chair, the Qualification cup, and the membership book which contained the names of most of the prominent men in the neighbourhood, were all held by a Mr. Fletcher at Gwernhaylod, a house since, of course abolished.

The Plough, in Willow St., became a private house. Willow St. was always known as Plough Lane. The Blue Bell in Salop Rd., became a C.T.C. house run by Mr. and Mrs. Percival Reeves, and the "Cross Keys" was situated in Pen-y-llan St, somewhere between the village hall and the rectory. There was a malt kiln in operation at Pen-y-llan in 1800 belonging to a Miss Jones, this was probably connected with the "Cross Keys".

The following story from an old leaflet confirms the fact that the "Trotting Mare" (2 Miles out) and the "Bryn-rhys" were in existence in the seventeen hundreds, in the early 18th century there lived in Overton a certain Robert Lloyd commonly known as "Robin Rain" also, a certain Alexander Sadler proprietor of the "Trotting Mare" inn. Robert Lloyd intending to waylay and rob a local farmer returning from market who would have a pocket full of cash. Lloyd, however, mistook Mr. Sadler passing along the road at Overton cross

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for the farmer, beat him severely and thinking him dead placed him in the ditch behind the hedge, later in the evening passers-by heard groans and found Sadler. They brought him to the "Bryn-y-pys" inn and revived him. Lloyd was at the inn at the time and was promptly identified by Sadler. Lloyd was seized at once and found to have blood stains upon him. He was subsequently tried and condemned to be hanged. Bill Gray.

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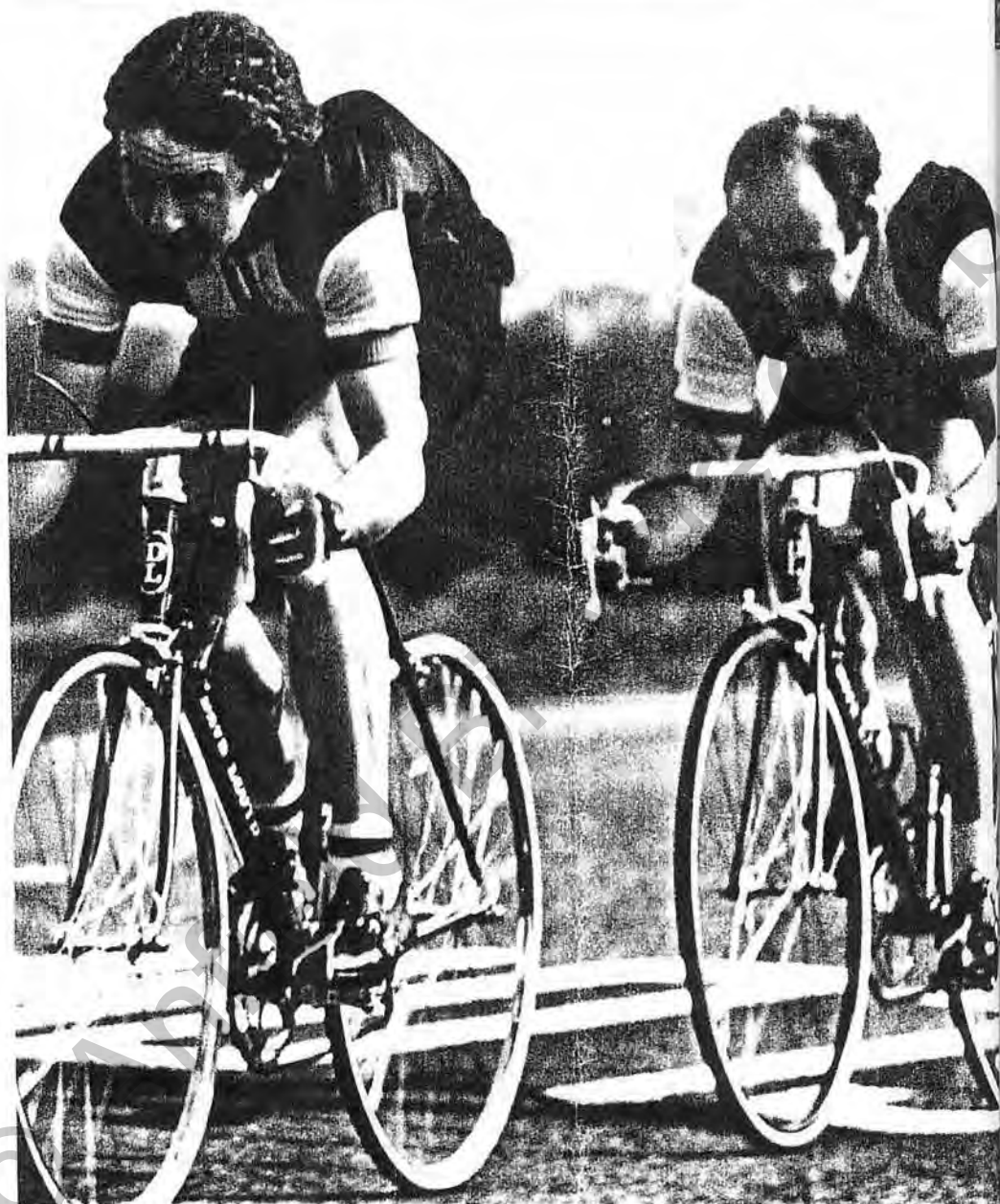
WONDERFUL BICYCLE RIDES

Mr.G.B.Mercer, the President of the Anfield Bicycle Club accomplished a twenty-four hours road ride last Saturday on a Bicycle, and succeeded in doing a remarkable journey, The route taken was from Liverpool through Warrington, Knutsford, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Lichfield, Burton-on-Trent, and Tamworth, and back again by way of Stafford, Newport, Whitchurch, Nantwich and Middlewich, finishing at Warrington, after having covered a total distance of 227 miles. The actual riding time was 21½ hours, the remaining 2½ hours being taken up with stoppages for refreshments, & etc. Considering that from a cycling point of view, the roads in many parts of the route are exceedingly rough and heavy, this is a splendid feat of strength and endurance, and brings great credit to our leading local cycling club, which numbers amongst its members some of the best riders in the Kingdom.

The machine used by Mr.Mercer on this journey as well as on several others was a 53 inch bicycle, weighing 36 pounds, built by messrs. Robinson and Price, of 65, Pembroke Place Liverpool, who have also turned out machines upon which some other wonderful rides have been done. Among others may be mentioned a ride from London to York, a distance of 212 miles by Mr.Lawrence Fletcher, whilst Mr.D.R.Fell, of the Anfield B.C. recently on one of these machines accomplished the task of riding from Liverpool to London and vice versa, the time occupied on each occasion being inside 24 hours.

Mr.Fell is the only rider who has accomplished this feat. Mr.C.P.Mills who accompanied Mr.Lawrence Fletcher of the Anfield B.C. on his recent journey from Land's End to John o' Groats when the record for that journey was broken by 6½ hours, also rode a machine manufactured by Messrs. Robinson and Price.

LIVERPOOL COURIER & EXPRESS 6.6.1885



BRIAN WHITMARSH LEADING JOHN WHELAN IN A RECENT '2 up'
TWO OF THE MODERN ANFIELD GREATS.

ANFIELD CIRCULAR

JOURNAL OF THE ANFIELD BICYCLE CLUB
(Formed March 1879)

President : Ben Griffiths
Vice President : Harold Catling
Captain : Mike Twigg
Hon. Secretary : David Eaton, 29 Glenwood Dr.,
Irby, Wirral. Tel. 051-648-3563

MAY/JUNE/JULY 1984

No. 834

- Sept. 22. Crowton (Hare and Hounds)
29 Hammer (Hammer Arms) Holmes Chapel (Bistro Cafe)
- Oct. 6 Graianrhydd (Rose and Crown) Stretton (Appleton Thorn)
13 Mouldsworth (Goshawk) A.G.M.
20 Bangor-on-Dee (Royal Oak) Lower Peover (Crown Inn)
26/27 Autumn Tints Sedburgh (The Bull) Kelsall (Morris
Dancer)
- Nov. 3 Huxley (Farmers Arms) Stretton (Appleton Thorn)
10 Hammer (Hammer Arms) Holmes Chapel (Bistro Cafe)
17 Duddon (Headless Woman)
24 Mouldsworth (Goshawk) Committee
- Dec. 1 Faddiley (Tollemache Arms)

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

21 and over £7.00 Junior (Under 21) £4.00 Cadet £1.00

These and donations should be sent to: Hon. Treasurer:-
Keith Orum, 5 Brunstath Close, Barnston, Wirral.
Editor:- Ben Griffiths, 17 The Highway, Hawarden, Deeside

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE - SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

THE CIRCULAR

If members want a circular they must make the effort and send some items for the next Editor to edit,

A.G.M.

The 1984 A.G.M. will be held on October 13th at the Goshawk, Mouldsworth commencing at 1.30p.m. Items for the agenda must be in Dave Eaton's hands by September 30th.

AUTUMN TINTS

The 1984 Tints has been booked for the weekend 26/27 October at the Bull, Sedbergh, Cumbria. Price is £40 per night for bed and breakfast. Mike Twigg is taking bookings before the 10th October. Ring Chester (0244) 26399.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Nigel Fellows 11 Trem Afon, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Clwyd.
Proposed by - Ben Griffiths
Seconded by - Mike Twigg
Members may recognize Nigel as the late Frank Marriotts son-in-law.

Justin Rawsthorne 151 Kylemore Drive, Heswall, Wirral.
Proposed by - Dave Eaton
Seconded by - Phil Mason (Cadet)

Christopher Shorter 10 Cross St., Beverly.
The Committee are very pleased to have Chris return as a second claim member. As most members will know he is now going very fast for the "Team Mirage" club. At the time of writing he is in 6th place in the B.B.A.R. with times of -
"50" 1-49-47. "100" 3-53-47 and 12hrs 263-717 average.
24.989 mph but hopes to better 25mph.

Wayne Walker Dell Cottage, Pentre Bach, Nercwys, Mold.
Proposed by - Dave Eaton (Cadet)
Seconded by - Mike Twigg

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

David Birchall (From No.19) .5 Alnwickhill Crescent,
Edinburgh EH16 6XY 031-664-9084

Jeff Lewis 9 Mortlake Crescent, Boughton, Chester
CH3 5UR 0244-28217

M. Hallgarth 14 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BSB 3AX
0272-744199

RACING NOTES

We had early successes, in the Altrincham Ravens 25, with Dave Bassett, John Stinton, Jeff Lewis, with 3rd and 4th places and the team award. Jeff in his first has already got his time down to 1-4-16. The west Cheshire 25 saw a good turn out of club members, headed by John Whelan who came 3rd, John, who has since retired from the racing scene, has certainly set a high standard for the rest of us to follow. Brian Whitmarsh has already got the qualifying distances in for the club championship with a 58-12, 2-0-16, 4-25-18. John Thompson recorded the fastest time by a trike rider, in the Birkenhead N.E. Mountain T.T., this was achieved with a seriously buckled front wheel.

If there are any of your rides missed out of the following list, please let me know on 0244-532865.

RACING RESULTS18-3-84 Chester R.C. 2up T.T.

D. Bassett 1-2-51
J. Stinton 1-2-51
C.R. Griffiths 1-2-53
J. Lewis 1-2-53

25-3-84 Altrincham M.M. 25

D. Bassett 3rd 1-5-36
J. Stinton 4th 1-6-57
J. Lewis 1-8-40
1st Team

22-4-84 Birkenhead Vic M.M. 25

J. Lewis 5th 1-5-19

2-3-84 Dursley R.C. 10

M. Hallgarth 25-47

24-3-84 Merseyside Ladies 10

R. Andrews 27-
C. Jones 28-

1-4-84 Withington W.H. 25

J. Stinton 1st 1-6-09

23-4-84 Mid Shropshire 25

B. Whitmarsh	59-15
B. Griffiths	1-2-31
J. Stinton	1-3-18

20-4-84 Fort Sunlight 22

B. Griffiths	57-37
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22-4-84 North Wirral Velo 25

J. Stinton	1-1-15
B. Griffiths	1-2-33
J. Lewis P.B.	1-4-16
P. Colligan	1-4-

14-4-84 New Brighton C.C. 25

J. Thompson Trike	1-6-32
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6-5-84 Birkenhead M.T.T. 48

B. Whitmarsh	2-10-55
D. Bassett	2-20-01
J. Thompson (Fastest Trike)	2-22-38
K. Orum	2-28-28

23-4-84 Rhyl R.C. M.T.T. 37

E. Bettaney	1-48-08
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29-4-84 Middleton R.C. 25

J. Thompson Trike	1-3-26
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1-4-84 Merseyside Vets 25

B. Griffiths	1-5-41
P. Colligan	1-8-15

22-4-84 Mid Shropshire 50

B. Whitmarsh	2-0-15
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31-3-84 South Lincs R.C. 25

P. Colligan	28-08
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8-4-84 W.C.T.T.A. 25

J. Whelan 1st	58-58
B. Whitmarsh	59-25
B. Griffiths	1-2-29
D. Bassett	1-3-01
J. Stinton	1-4-01
D. Bettaney	1-4-07
J. Lewis	1-5-23
E. Wooton	1-6-21
M. Day	1-9-54
R. Andrews	1-10-27
B. Bird	1-14-15

13-5-84 Cheshire R.C. 50

B. Whitmarsh	2-1-53
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20-5-84 Phoenix C.C. 25

B. Whitmarsh	58-12
J. Stinton	1-2-18
B. Griffiths	1-2-28
J. Thompson Trike	1-7-16

ARTHUR BIRKEY writes from :

41 Brooke Road East, Waterloo, Merseyside, L22 2AN

Dear Ben,

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a small donation towards club funds and at the same time express my appreciation for the kind words of sympathy in the Nov/Dec circular. Then I read of the sad loss to the ABC of Bill Gray.

Unfortunately I did not have the satisfaction of knowing him well but I can certainly understand that "grief" could very well be responsible for his untimely death as mentioned by Gilbert Sutcliffe.

Then further on I read of the passing of Harry Austin. I don't suppose I have spoken to him more than once within the last fifty years! I remember him so well in the company of Wayfarer as his "Private Secretary, unpaid". I don't recollect the actual date that Harry, Wayfarer, possibly Dickman and another were having supper at the "Crown" when I barged in. It was before I became an Anfielder so I respectfully asked if I could accompany the mighty ones on their return journey. It was almost midnight as we drifted down the Nant-y-Garth, gas lamps blazing, then up the Bwlch followed by the exhilarating drop to Mold and Queensferry, nimbly twiddling our 65 (or thereabouts) single fixed.

The thoughts of this and the present beautiful weather sparked off a sudden desire for a "sentimental journey". A 'phone call to George Connor and he arrived with his car just after 9 a.m. How we nattered about the old days as we sped past more familiar places. As pilot I tried to lose him in the lanes around Henllan and Llansannan but they only evoked memories of the YHA days as did dear old Betws. Along the old Pentrevoelas-Colwyn Bay ridge road so closely associated with the Elder Brethren en route for the Glan Aber. Then Cwm Penmachno, Eidda Wells, he remembered the lot!

The speedy Ffestiniog-Bala road was busy with cars, but the lake and surrounding mountains were as lovely as ever, encouraging frequent stops. Past the "Druid" and along the

road to Llandegla, the scene of great suffering in our day!

What a day, thanks George!

Its great to know that the Anfield is still flourishing thanks to the enthusiasm of the officers and members. Maybe one of these days our paths will cross, Ben, and we'll rake up the past.

All the best,
Arthur Birkby.

TREASURERS NOTES

The club has received a very generous donation from John Austin, the son of Harry Austin who passed away earlier this year.

Harry was an Anfielder from 1921, a very keen cyclist and active member of the club until he moved from Sale to Bradford in 1954. I first met him in 1960 at the 100. Since that time he made every effort to attend the Whit Monday event with his son John, and the festivities of the Birthday Dinners.

John Austin also forwarded to me for safekeeping several historic club dinner menus which date to 24th January 1901 postponed until February 21st on account of the Queens death. On that occasion Boiled Cod in Oyster Sauce followed by Jugged Hare and Jelly with Roast Sirloin being the main course and Anfield Pudding to conclude were the order of the day.

To John and his family our grateful thanks and very best wishes.

CLUB 10 THORNTON HOUGH CIRCUIT

It is the first time in a number of years that the club has held a time trial for Cadet and Junior members. There were 8 riders. The order of start and times are as follows.

J. Rawsthorne	31-37	27-37
R. F. Andrews	27-15	26-45
B.B. Birch	32-05	28-05
C.R. Jones	27-32	26-32
M.I. Rowlands	DNF	
M.D. Day	27-31	26-46
J. Stinton	25-17	(Private trial off course)
S.J. Twigg	33-53	

With the event being held early morning, the clubs Marshalls were few in number, which resulted in Mark Rowlands being the first man to finish, unfortunately he crossed the line in the wrong direction as a result of going off course. Stuart Twigg had a similar experience, however he did not appear from over the fields and we established he covered the course (and a bit more) and was given a time.

The timekeeper would like to thank Messrs. Mike Twigg, Phil Mason, Dave Eaton, John Thompson and Maggie for attending to Marshalling duties. While Jeff and Jonathan Sharp, John Futter and Pippa Orum attended the finish.

In conclusion - two more club events are to be held on this course, more marshalls would be appreciated. Volunteers should phone Keith Orum.

HANMER ARMS. HANMER 11-2-84

Knowing that we had quite a way to go from the Two Mills, Ben, Roger, Colin, Bryan Birch and myself left at 11a.m. and headed down the road to Christleton via Backford Hill and Littleton.

Once we were past Waverton we stuck to the lanes for the rest of the ride. We were going quite well until I had to stop, thinking something had come of my bike. Meanwhile Ben, who was keen to carry on, lead the group on while I checked out my bike.

Two miles on, I'd caught them up and very soon after, I punctured. Again the lads carried on. Tube replaced, next stop, Hanmer.

Inside the pub, as well as the cyclists I'd ridden out with, were Ern and Joan Davies, Bill Gray, Ira Thomas, Frank Fisher, John Futter and Tony Pickles. Shortly after, Mike Twigg and then Peter Colligan arrived, each having reached Hammer by a different route.

After having eaten, downed a few drinks and talked about forthcoming time trials, the time came for the cyclists to leave. There were nine of us now and we made good time taking the same route as we came until we reached Aldford, and then took the road into Chester, where we met Gerry Robinson on the road, a fellow Anfielder and kept company for the next mile or so before he turned off for home.

Once through Chester, the race was on to reach the Eureka cafe. Ben staying with Brian, and others who wanted to take their time, left the race to John Futter, Colin Jones and myself.

John tired, leaving Colin and myself to fight it out. Colin went too soon and yours truly got to the cafe first. The rest arriving about five mins. later we rounded off the ride with a welcome mug of tea or two.

A very enjoyable day was had by all, the club run being about 55 miles and the weather on our side.

Jeff Lewis.

WARRINGTON NAGS HEAD 25-3-84

Saturday morning back in Anfieldland, the weather fine and my enthusiasm high. After a hurried breakfast, I trundled my bicycle to the front of the house only to find my freewheel falling to bits. I calmly changed my touring wheels for my best sprints and tubs. (I feel safer on club runs if prepared for speed) but the sight of the 12-17 time trialling block worried me to say the least and, being a little less than fit, I decided it was prudent to put on a more sensible block (with a 13 sprocket just in case) with my brakes adjusted and my tyres not rubbing too much against the mudguards I was ready to go. However, a quick calculation told me that even Ben could not get from Heswall to Two Mills in ten minutes so I hastily put the bike on my roofrack and drove down; I still

missed the club by a few minutes.

Engaging a "monster gear" I sped to Chester and then took the Churton road to Farndon with my speed gradually lessening as I approached the Nag's Head, I must look fresh and fit on my arrival to be assured of a leisurely return journey (tiredness only encourages everybody else to go faster). Arriving seconds after me was Ben and the gang. I am not certain of the exact order of arrival but I distinctly remember that Mike Hallgarth arrived just as we were about to leave. Others present were Pat O'Leary, Brian Bird, Jeff Lewis, Tony Pickles, Peter Colligan, Brian Birch, John, David and Paul Futter, Ernie Davies and of course Mike Twigg. The usual club run chatter got underway; races, gears, training, touring, the tints and beer; the latter being appreciated by all along with the pub lunch. Eventually the Mold contingent departed, followed shortly by the Two Mills group. The ride back was not too painful and we were back soon after three, where we found Phil Mason hiding behind a mountain of club circulars.

After a "medium without", I returned home. Another club run completed made all the more enjoyable by the fact I have been away at university and hence rather out of touch with Anfield activities. I hope to put that right this summer.

Rod Anderson.

CLUB 10 16-6-84 THORNTON HOUGH

Eight riders faced the timekeeper this dry crisp morning. The order of start and times are detailed below.

	H/CAP	Actual	H/CAP
B.B. Birch	4 mins	30-41	26-41
M.D. Jay	45 secs	28-23	28-38
S.J. Twigg	1 min	27-25	26-25
R.P. Andrews	30 sec	26-51	26-21
C.R. Jones	45 sec	27-57	27-17
A. Pickles	-	D.N.F.	
J. Rawsthorne	4 min	29-34	25-34
B. Bird	-	D.N.F.	

Mike Twigg and Phil Mason gave their usual support and Pippa dispensed tea at the finish. The writer would like to point out that again 25 % of the field failed to finish. The debrief confirmed that Brian Bird and Tony Pickles did a short tour around the grounds of Clatterbridge Hospital - there was no question of pacing!

CLUB 10 14-7-84 Thornton Hough

Through lack of communication there were no riders, only the timekeeper and Dave Eaton attended.

HUXLEY 7-7-84 FARMERS ARMS

Parking the car at Bruera and assembling the bicycles, we made our way through the lanes towards Huxley and the Farmers Arms. Where Mike Twigg, Joan and Ernie Davies, Frank Fisher, Harold and Mary Catling, Bob and Mager Poole, and Liz Bird with daughter Charlotte, gathered on this pleasant summers afternoon, with Charlotte providing additional entertainment with her perforce for the ladies loo, not I hasten to add because of leaky plumbing, just an abundance of childs curiosity and adventure.

Mary and David Birchall with little Man Adam made their entrance and we settled down to good food and a chat. In time we said our farewells. Mike Twigg and David Birchall cycled towards Christleton, with Mary and Adam following by car. While I left with Keith mumbling "just a little potter through the lanes." Bearing in mind I had only recently returned to riding a bicycle. We made our way through Beeston, intent upon descending into Tattenhall. I was thoroughly enjoying myself, when we came upon a picturesque cottage which I thought would make a subject for a photograph only to find Keith had vanished down the lane taking the camera. When I finally caught up with him, I was peeved and there was silence until we came to the Newtown junction. Keith, knowing I was still fuming took the wrong turning (or did he!) saying "This will be easy." Burwardsley, Higher Burwardsley and some five mountains later there was

a descent into Tattenhall somewhere from the Harthill direction. I had already forgiven him although the stop for ice cream did help but was not a cure for my rubber legs.

The moral of the story, never become petulant with your companion when on Bicycles, especially if you are not in command of the map. I have it on good authority that during the 1960's these tactics were known as the "Birchallian Torture."

PIPPA.

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ANFIELD CIRCULAR

JOURNAL OF THE ANFIELD BICYCLE CLUB (Formed March 1879)

President : Ben Griffiths
Vice Presidents : Harold Catling
Ira Thomas
Captain : John Futter
Hon. Secretary : David Eaton, 29 Glenwood Drive
Irby, Wirral. 051 648 3563

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1984

No 835

Dec 1 Faddiley (Tollemache Arms)
8 Graianrhyd (Rose and Crown) Lower Peover (Crown)
15 Norley (Tiger's Head)
22 Kelsall (Morris Dancer)
26 Mouldsworth (Goshawk)
29 Alpraham (Tollemache Arms)
Jan 1 Woodbank (The Yacht)
5 Mouldsworth (Goshawk) Committee
12 Farndon (Nag's Head) Holmes Chapel (Bistro Cafe)
19 Crowton (Hare and Hounds)
26 Bangor on Dee (Royal Oak) Lower Peover (Crown)
Feb 2 Christleton (Plough) Stretton (Appleton Thorn)
9 Huxley (Farmers Arms) Bosley (Harrington Arms)

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

21 and over £7.00 Junior (Under 21) £4.00 Cadet £1.00

These and donations should be sent to:

Hon. Treasurer - Keith Orum, 5 Brunstath Close,
Barnston, Wirral

Editor - David Birchall, 5 Alnwickhill Crescent,
Edinburgh EH16 6XY. 031 664 9084

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE 12 JANUARY 1985

EDITOR'S NOTE

My first duty as Editor is to thank Ben Griffiths for successfully keeping the Circular appearing over the past two years while pursuing an extensive racing programme.

At the AGM John Thompson observed that the Circular has remained consistently the publication he most looks forward to in the post, and it is appreciated by all his family. John's words, I feel sure, apply to every Anfielder, but remember that the future of the Circular is the responsibility of us all.

The countryside of Cheshire and the Welsh border lies at the heart of Anfield cycling territory but there are many Anfielders who live and cycle in distant places. A report appears in this issue from Rod Anderson about cycling in the Lake District, and future issues will contain reports from other Anfielders separated by geography.

In the meantime, news and reports are needed for the next issue. Please let us have them (no matter how modest): the Circular is the means by which we keep in touch.

With seasonal greetings for Christmas and the New Year, and good cycling in 1985.

DDB

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Rod Anderson - Swarthmoor Hall Cottage, Swarthmoor,
ULVERSTON, Cumbria.

PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Russell Barker has written to remind us that the new membership list should show that he became an Anfielder in 1938, not 1958! He adds: "I am looking forward to becoming a life member in 1988 after 50 years, but, with the greatest optimism, cannot see this ever happening if my joining date had been 1958". Russell's correct address is: "Chyrondi", 18 Inglewood Drive, Aldwick, Nr Bognor Regis, Sussex PO21 4JX, Tel: Pagham 2972.

NORMAN HEATH

As this issue goes to press, we have learned with sadness of the death of Norman Heath. An obituary will be included in the next issue.

1985 RTTC HANDBOOKS ...

... are available, and Dave Eaton is the man to see if you want a copy for £1.75.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Apologies for absence were read, and the minutes of the last AGM were confirmed: there were no matters arising. Reports from Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, Racing Secretary and Open 100 Secretary were received and confirmed.

Club officials were elected as follows:

President: B Griffiths; Vice Presidents: I Thomas, H Catling; Hon. Secretary: D Eaton; Hon. Treasurer: K Orum; Captain: J Futter; Editor (ex officio): D Birchall; Racing Secretary: J Lewis; '100' Secretary: P Mason; '25' Secretary: B Griffiths; Social Secretary: P Mason; BCF Delegates: P Colligan, J Thompson; WCTTCA: J Hawkins, J Futter; BCCA: Agreed we should resign; RRA: left open; NRRRA: H Catling; RTTC: J Thompson, P Colligan. Vice Captains: R Andrews, J Lewis. Committee: S Twigg, B Bird, M Day, C Jones, T Pickles.

Discussion about the need to update the Club Handbook, last published twelve years ago, resulted in delegation of the task to John Thompson (who will also be looking into computerising the list of members).

The final item reflected concern about the future of the Circular. Not surprisingly, the crucial importance of the Circular to the Club's well-being was recognised to a voice. (But do remember - and I will take every opportunity to remind - that the interest and participation of us all is imperative - Ed.)

RACING ROUND-UP

Twenty five members have competed this year. Of these Brian Whitmarsh, John Whelan, Dave Bassett, John Stinton, Ben Griffiths, and Jeff Lewis have bettered 60 minutes for 25 miles, with Keith Orum recording a personal best just outside the hour.

Brian Whitmarsh is the club champion recording an average speed of 25.83 mph over 25-50-100 miles. Peter Colligan and John Thompson also completed the qualifying distances.

John Thompson followed his 4 hrs 31 mins ride earlier in the season by finishing a clear 22 mins ahead of second man to take first place in the Tricycle Association (NW) 100: his time - 4 hrs 46 mins 22 secs.

In his first season Jeff Lewis has recorded 4 personal bests to finish with 59 mins 50 secs: a very fine performance.

Congratulations to Chris Shorter who finished 9th in the Best All Rounder Competition with rides of 1 hr 47 mins 58 secs (50 miles), 3 hrs 53 mins 47 secs (100 miles), 263.717 miles (12 hour).

Chris who rides under the team Mirage colours since his move to Yorkshire, has kept up his membership of the Anfield as a 2nd-claim member.

We look forward to the 1985 season when the Committee are intending to run an extra 25 sometime between the end of August and the middle of September, to fill a blank spot in the local calendar.

JCF

RACING RESULTS: APRIL-OCTOBER 1984

14.4.84 New Brighton 25

B Whitmarsh 57.43
J Whelan 58.38
C Griffiths 1.2.46
J Thompson (T) 1.6.32

15.4.84 WCTTA 30

B Whitmarsh 1.11.48 2nd
C Griffiths 1.16.40
J Stinton 1.17.41 3rd
H'cap

22.4.84 Mid Shrop Whlrs

C Griffiths 1.2.31
1st Vet
on Std

22.4.84 North Wirral 25

J Stinton 1.1.15
C Griffiths 1.2.33
J Lewis 1.4.16 PB
P Colligan 1.4.30

29.4.84 Rhyl RC 25

J Lewis 1.4.16 Eq PB
P Colligan 1.4.24
C Griffiths 1.6.05

5.5.84 Manchester Vets 25

C Griffiths 1.5.13

5.5.84 Kirby 10

J Lewis 25.11

6.5.84 Merseyside Vets 30

C Griffiths 1.19.52

13.5.84 Cheshire RC 50

B Whitmarsh 2.1.53
P Colligan 2.10.4
J Thompson (T) 2.21.22

20.5.84 Manchester VTTA 30

P Colligan 1.16.36

26.5.84 N Shrop Whlrs 25

B Whitmarsh 1.0.10
J Stinton 1.2.34
C Griffiths 1.4.02

27.5.84 Rhos on Sea CC 25

J Lewis 1.4.33
C Griffiths 1.5.35
A Pickles 1.10.49

2.6.84 Merseyside VTTA 25

P Colligan 1.2.40

9.6.84 Hyde Olympic 25

P Colligan 1.5.23

10.6.84 WCTTA 100

B Whitmarsh 4.13.59 1st

13.6.84 Merseyside VTTA 10

P Colligan 25.23

16.6.84 Chester RC 25

D Bassett 1.0.47
J Lewis 1.2.27
W Page 1.4.25
J Futter 1.4.52

17.6.84 VC Halton 25

J Stinton	1.1.17
C Griffiths	1.2.07
K Orum	1.3.04
J Lewis	1.3.07

20.6.84 Port Sunlight Whlrs

C Griffiths	1.2.04
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24.6.84 Merseyside Whlrs 25

J Lewis	1.4.40
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24.6.84 Nunbrook Whlrs 50

B Whitmarsh	1.55.9
C Griffiths	2.8.05

30.6.84 Brighton Whlrs

J Lewis	59.50 PB
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30.6.84 A'ham Ravens 10

B Whitmarsh	22.54
C Griffiths	24.23
S Twigg	26.10
J Middleton	30.12

4.7.84 Chester RC 25

B Whitmarsh	58.44
J Stinton	1.038
K Orum	1.1.13
D Bassett	1.2.34
J Lewis	1.2.53
C Griffiths	1.3.20

8.7.84 Birkenhead Vics 25

B Whitmarsh	59.08
K Orum	1.1.22
J Lewis	1.2.50
D Bassett	1.4.03
M Day	1.9.08
C Jones	1.10.14
R Andrews	1.10.28

15. 7.84 Merseyside Whlrs 25

J Stinton	1.2.59
C Griffiths	1.4.13
K Orum	1.4.40
D Bassett	1.5.05
P Colligan	1.6.13

29.7.84 Merseyside VTTA 50

P Colligan	2.10.35
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4.8.84 Kirby CC 25

B Whitmarsh	58.10
J Stinton	59.45
C Griffiths	1.3.15
J Thompson (T)	1.6.20

4.8.84 Stockport Clarion 10

P Colligan	24.38
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5.8.84 N Lancs VTTA 30

P Colligan	1.16.16
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12.8.84 E Liverpool Whlrs 50

P Colligan	2.8.42
J Lewis	2.11.35

19.8.84 Wrexham RC 25

P Colligan	1.4.05
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22.8.84 Club 25

J Lewis	1.01.41
K Orum	1. 2.45
M Day	1.5.13
R Andrews	1.8.03

26.8.84 Doncaster Whlrs 25

B Whitmarsh	55.03
	(Club record)
J Stinton	57.16 PB
C Griffiths	58.19

Tricycle Association 100

J Thompson 4.46.31
(First)

2.9.84 Chester RC 50

B Whitmarsh 2.02.00
C Griffiths 2.8.08
P Colligan 2.11.02
J Lewis 2.15.00

8.9.84 Rhyl RC 10

C Griffiths 24.36
J Middleton 28.47
W Walker 29.06

9.9.84 South Elmsall CC 25

B Whitmarsh 59.08
J Stinton 1.0.08
D Bassett 1.1.15
C Griffiths 1.2.09
J Lewis 1.3.39
(First Team)

16.9.84 WCTTA 25

B Whitmarsh 58.20
J Stinton 59.57
D Bassett 1.0.02
C Griffiths 1.1.21
J Lewis 1.1.54
K Orum 1.2.16
A Pickles 1.6.54 PB
C Clewley 1.6.58 PB

23.9.84 Birkenhead Vic 25Grand Prix des Gentlemen

B Whitmarsh
B Buckner 57.46 2nd

J Lewis
C Griffiths 1.0.43

A Pickles
J Futter 1.7.04

J Thompson
S Cave 1.13.37
(Fastest on Std)

29.9.84 E Lancs RC 10

P Colligan 24.55

30.9.84 Cheshire RC 25

A Pickles 1.10.04

6.10.84 Apollo 25

A Pickles 1.08.54

7.10.84 Merseyside VTTA 25

P Colligan 1.4.0

CYCLING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

As I ride home from work, the craggy outline of Coniston Old Man appears over the Furness hills. Behind me stretch the vast and treacherous sands of Morecambe Bay bordered on the far side by the looming monstrosity of Heysham power station and, more elegant, Blackpool Tower.

Where shall I wander tonight? One of my favourite rides takes me through Grisedale Forest past Rusland Hall. The oak, elm, chestnut and birch woodland displays a myriad of autumn colours. Crisp orange brown leaves crunch under my wheels as I speed down the narrow lanes. On my return journey I follow the River Crake which empties Coniston Water into the sea at Greenodd.

Another pleasant after-work ride is along the east side of Coniston Water, a very quiet road now that the summer tourists have left. Unfortunately my return home from Coniston is usually hurried by the coming of dusk so the main road is necessary for a top gear "bash" for the remaining miles.

Of course the area is well noted for some of its less easy roads - namely the Hardnott and Wrynose passes which I managed to climb (both passes, both directions) with the help of much heavy breathing the other day. The famous quote of John Moss "Its only Pain" was foremost in my mind as I weaved my way up the hairpin bends - I am sure the road actually overhangs in places!! The view from the Three Shires Stone at the top of Wrynose was breathtaking even though Westmorland, Cumberland and Lancashire were no longer there. The sweeping (or should I say plummeting) descent to Little Langdale makes the perspiration of the climb all worthwhile - BANG, my front tyre explodes with the heat from the brakes, a nearby hiker thinks he has been shot and I start worrying about a rapidly approaching dry stone wall. (Dry stone walls are very quaint until one is attacked by one.) Fortunately little personal damage done but the Wrynose valley is now strewn with shreds of inner tube.

At the time of writing I imagine that training for the Tints will be reaching fever-pitch in Anfieldland: believe me you will need it.

Rod Anderson

CROWTON: Hare and Hounds - 22 September

Arriving early at the Eureka on a windy, showery day, I soon realised that the outward run would be a quick dash with the wind, and I would be on my own. As I climbed Manley Bank I was optimistic of having a few wheels to follow on the return run. The landlord of the Hare and Hounds was opening as I arrived just ahead of a heavy shower.

Brian Bird with daughter, Charlotte, on the ex John Moss tandem, and Stuart Twigg on his best racing machine were waiting. We were soon joined by a car-borne Mike Twigg. Next we were very pleased to welcome Hugh Dauncey home from France and about to spend a year at Norwich University studying even more French. (Is Norwich nearer than France?) We hope to see him more often now. The very select party was completed by Jeff Lewis with whom I was to ride the Birkenhead Vics "Grand Prix des Gentlemen" the next morning.

For the return to the Eureka I was able to practise getting on Jeff's wheel. We had Stuart on the front to Chester, then it was a two-up to the cafe where we were again joined by Hugh and Brian Whitmarsh. Brian was also riding next day. I reminisced with Hugh on the "Grand Prix des Gentlemen" we rode in '77 and '78, 1.2.06 in '77 and 1.0.13 in '78. He is a very good rider and we hope to have him racing again soon.

Ben

HANMER: Hanmer Arms - 29 September

Contrary to the weather forecast, the rain had stopped at 10 o'clock so the cape was packed and the cycle checked. Met Mike at Pearl Lane, where we waited for Stuart who had forgotten his cape. Eleven "O" five - away through the lanes with ominous noises coming apparently from my front wheel. Mike helped my confidence by discussing an article in Cycling about fracturing in Hiram forks! Turning towards Hargrave the clouds began to gather. I noticed that the fields were unusually full of mushrooms and planned to return the following morning. At Huxley we rode through thorns, fortunately no-one punctured. On to Tattenhall, across the A41, no problems, the clouds clearing, blue skies and sunshine. Approaching Clutton I punctured, and after replacing the tube we checked the handlebars and lowered the stem by half an inch, curing the creaks and groans. After passing the Mill at Taffarn Green we slowed, feeling tired in the legs. At twelve thirty we were in the Hanmer Arms replacing all the lost fluid. One hour later, Jeff, Ben and company departed for the Mills. Stuart, I think bored by our slowness, joined them. Mike and I, at tourist pace, made our way to Taffarn Green where the locals keep continental hours.

After a short break we made our way to Chester via Shocklach and Farndon at a much faster pace. Those present at the Hanmer Arms were Frank Fisher, Ernie and Joan Davies, Harold and Mary Catling, Brian Birch, John Thompson, Ben Griffiths, Roger Andrews, Jeff Lewis, Brian Bird, Stuart and Mike Twigg.

Brian Bird

MOULDSWORTH: The Goshawk - 13 October

At the Eureka I was pleased to see six of our younger members waiting to work me over on the run to Mouldsworth. They were all on super racing machines; Mark Rowlands had only bought his the day before. The others were Colin Jones, Roger Andrews, Justin Rawsthorne, Mike Day and Brian Birch. Just as we were about to leave, Eric Wootton arrived, so we were eight strong for the run. Eric and I controlled the pace from the front until Manley Bank where the President was immediately dropped so I have no idea who won the sprint. I was then caught and dropped again by four flying Anfielders, Mike and Stuart Twigg, Brian Bird, and Wayne Walker. Is this really the social season? Maybe it's just the mild weather that's affecting everyone.

At the Goshawk we had a good turn out; in no particular order I noted Harold Catling, Peter Colligan, Ernie Davies, John France, Bob Poole, George Connor, Arthur Birkby, John Williamson, Jack Hawkins, John Futter, Tony Pickles, Jim Cranshaw, Phil Mason, Keith Orum, David Birchall and late as usual John Thompson making 29 in all. After the food, we moved the tables round and settled down to a very good AGM meeting while in another room seven members' wives met for a drink and chat. The ladies present were Mrs Flo Hill, Mrs Orum, Mrs Birchall, Mrs Cranshaw, Mrs Catling, Mrs Poole and Mrs Williamson.

I do believe that having the meeting immediately after the club run is a very good idea: we even managed to finish in time for another pint. I was pleased about this as all the youngsters dashed away and left just five to make the ride home. So with Mike Twigg, Brian Bird, John Futter and Ernie Wootton for company I had a pleasant ride back to the Eureka; another very enjoyable run.

Ben

GRAND PRIX DES GENTLEMEN

I will quickly explain that the "Gentlemen" have to be over 40 (most are not Gentlemen at all). The race is really a two-up with teams starting at two minute intervals.

As I loaded up my car it was dark, blowing and raining. I thought of the early starters as I drove out. John Futter (a Gentleman) and Tony Pickles (Domestic) were nos 3 and 4 and making good headway into the wind. Next of ours was the pre-race favourites nos 19 and 20, John Thompson pacing 73 year old Stan Cave (Walton C and AC) both on trikes and going well. Jeff and I were nos 89 and 90.

From Ian Shaw, the timekeeper, we made a good start (down-hill); the A41 was very hard and we took 25 minutes for the 8½ miles to Christleton Island. The bypass was fast going out and we reached the turn in 34 minutes. We struggled back to Christleton and at the island we had only 15 minutes for the hour and 8½ miles to ride. Fortunately there was a full gale behind and I suggested we might manage a "one". Despite a gear of 128 (57 x 12) turning well we reached Ian in 1.0.43.

Jeff has had a very good first season starting in February with 1.4.03 in the Larkhill, beating the hour during the season and ending with 1.04.3. I'm sure he will go on to be a very good Anfielder for many years.

The other Anfielder to ride was Brian Whitmarsh pacing Warrington RC fast-man Bas Bucknell. They started nos 119 and 120 and did 57.46 for actual second place. Tony and John did 1.7.04, but the ride of the day was Stan Caves - 1.13.33. (Brian and Bas needed 48.07 to beat him.) That is not the end of the story, for John Thompson punctured during the event and Stan rode about 10 miles alone until John caught him again.

Ben