



The Dark Side

Doncaster Wheelers Newsletter — January 2011

Inside this issue:

Take Care Out There!

Premier Handicap League

RR Roundup

Important AGM News

Weddings Galore

At the moment as I sit here and compile this newsletter review of 2010, its freezing cold outside and it does not look like its going to end soon! At least the snow has gone (for the moment) but it can still be slippery under foot or wheel for that matter. A group of around 20 made it to the clubs annual Christmas lunch at the Pickburn Arms, with some brave souls managing to ride there (part road part mountain bike). I took the easy option and walked. An enjoyable time was had my all and it's a nice relaxed way to end the 2010 season. For those that didn't make it, try next year. On an upbeat note, we had a record turn out (OK not massive but an improvement) for the AGM (see later notes). Here's hoping that you all have a restful and safe winter and as soon as the weather is more favourable you are back out there showing everyone what a wonderful sport this is, all the best for 2011,

The Editor



Weddings Galore

Well the bells have certainly been ringing this year with two weddings taking place. We had firstly Michael and Liza and then the wedding of Bob and Bash. We hope 2011 goes as well for them as 2010 has obviously done from the smiles in the photos.



Take Care out There!

This year for what ever reason its been one of those crash bang unfortunate ones. It has also seen the passing away of two cyclists at either end of the age range. Out past president Bob Waddington passed away this year at 89 and Pete Hinchcliffe (previous member) passed away suddenly at the young age of 33, all will be missed. On the accident front, well what a year! Myself, I came off on a club run and ended up with a snapped collar bone and now cause things to beep when I go near an airport, Andy Stoakes with "just a broken left collar bone, right wrist and cheek bone to get over", Alan Mattinson (broken collar bone), Kevin Avery with a couple of weeks board and lodge in hospital with a head injury, 'Sid' Flasby and Paul 'Gobber' Webster (both from Dinnington RC) with various broken bones etc, Simon 'Sly' England..I'm going to stop there, its getting depressing!

Premier Handicap League Kicks Off!

The Wheelers Premier Handicap League was again a success with last years Champion Andy Gurnhill chomping at the bit to try and retain his title. Early indicators showed that John Ensor could be a main contender along with Gary Ward and Alex Perkin. It was a long for someone to keep their form for the whole league. As someone once said, 'form is temporary, class is forever!', So who had the class and who has the form only time and the timekeepers watch would tell. Some of the younger riders were now starting to show their talents as muscles (and height it seems) increase. Worthy of a mention are Bradley Burleigh and David 'Big Dog' Ward. Also worthy of a mention is Beth Perkin, who is coming along in leaps and bounds. However it ended up being a nail biter right to the very end with Alex Perkin being the Leagues final champion. Many thanks go

to Trevor Siddons, Maurice Hart and 'Charlie' Hindley for turning out nearly every week to help run the event.

Handicap League Table - Final Positions 2010

Position	Points	Name
1st	126	A.Perkin
2nd	125	A.Gurnhill
3rd	115	J.Ensor



Views of Summer 2010



Annual General Meeting - 15th December 2010

It was pleasing to see that this year we had a record turnout for the AGM. Remember that its your Club so its up to you to take part in the decision making process. There were some important issues discussed and the following is a round up of the main points raised, discussed and duly voted on.

Club Subscriptions—It was discussed and agreed that for 2011 Club subs would increase to £15 for senior members and £10 for juniors/concession. In 2012 the club subs to be raised to £25 and £15 with the opportunity to save £5 for marshalling/helping at events promoted by the club up to a maximum of £10 per year. This model of Club subscription has been used with success in other clubs in the UK and for those willing to help the club and be part of it they will in some way be rewarded.

Sponsorship—After many years Dave Wheatley has withdrawn from the club as a sponsor. Currently we have Martin Maltby and Zenis Restaurant as sponsors, however two other sponsors have shown interest in coming on board. A meeting is to be called with the sponsors (committee members only) to discuss their sponsorship options and length of commitment etc.

Club Social Events—This year (2010) the main social event was cancelled due to member's lack of commitment (many said they would like to go but still had not committed right up to the deadline). The event is to be reorganised for March but on a smaller scale, on a first come first served basis. A committee meeting is to be called to arrange further details and options/venues available.

Club Promotions— A varied list of club promotions are planned for 2011 and all will require Club membership help to run and or support. We will have the Summer, Autumn and LVRC road races, the Rudy Project National Sporting Course Time Trial Series Event, two open 25 mile Time Trials, a 10 mile Time Trial, the club Tuesday Evening Premier 10 mile Handicap League events and if that's not enough, there are the usual Youth Hostel weekends away that are usually well supported. Although this sounds like a lot of events, remember we have 117 members at the moment. Being a member does not only mean cheap good quality club clothing but a requirement that you will become a part of the club. Keep an eye on the club Internet Forum for requests for help with these events in 2010.

Road Race Round Up

Pete Gannin Memorial Road Race (Rob Watkinson)

The race of 55 miles rolled out on the excellent kippax circuit, which Mr Wheeldon won last year when the race was held in April. After 2 laps of 12 a group of 9 of us formed at the front. On lap 4 there was a prime which I thought I would stretch my legs for. Having got the prime 2 of us were away and I encouraged the other fella to continue. A lap later he had dropped off my wheel on the climb so I decided to persist on what would be the hardest way of winning a bike race I've personally had. 30 miles later I hung onto to the 30 seconds gap which had been pretty constant the whole way. I would have been gutted if caught on the last climb as by then there was certainly no sprint left in me.

Doncaster Wheelers Summer Road Race—Pickburn Circuit

A big thanks to all who turned out to support the club, it was an excellent race with fantastic support from club members . The British Cycling representative was very impressed with the number of helpers so give yourselves a big pat on the back.

Thanks Again, Mojo

Doncaster Wheelers Autumn Road Race

I would like to thank everyone who turned up today to help out at our Autumn RR. The weather wasn't the best & with only 37 riders riding we almost had more marshals than riders.

Drew

The Wheels Just Stopped Turning — Bob Waddington

I have known Bob for 45 years and considered him one of the best friends anyone could wish to have. In all this time he never spoke a bad word about anyone and always showed encouragement to me and all others in the club. He was so laid back he would almost fall over, I never remember him losing his temper even in extreme provocation like the time he had punctured for the umpteenth time of the day bearing in mind it was winter and it was snowing when Terry Hibbitt threw Bobs wheel into a field and Bobs response as he went to retrieve it was simply, "What have you done that for?"

I don't think Bob had any religious thoughts but he was a humanist that thought all life was sacred even animal life and often when we were on a club run and I would be on the front with Bob and suddenly he would call a halt to pick up a dead animal in the road and place it safely in the grass verge.

Bob was the type of rider that would ride all day at an even pace and never tire, when others started to weaken he would start to whistle then you new he had got you. This ability at long distances proved an asset in longer time trials which Bob loved mainly 12 and 24 hour events and indeed held the club 24hour record for many years with 432miles and the 12 hour with 242miles these rides were done in the 50s on conventional heavy steel bikes.

Bob got me into riding 24hour events in 1979 when we entered a team in the national 24 hour event which was held on local road and we finished the second fastest team. But what I found more enjoyable was the many happy hours we spent preparing for the event with Bob and Terry Hibbitt.

Bob enjoyed all aspects of cycling and toured extensively in the 50s and 60s sometimes with Nancy and Dianne.

He was the club secretary for 28 years and held the club together through some very lean years. Bob was Doncaster Wheelers through and through and had never belonged to any other club. The older members will remember his very amusing news letters which always finished with, '*Bye for now gentle readers*'. Bob always responded to a request to marshal at club and open events along with Geoff Watson and he was a regular at the Blaxton turn for many years.

Bob served in the RAF during the war which I new about but he never spoke about his time in the RAF until a few years ago when he was in his early eighties. He was part of a bomber crew that were shot down in North Africa and Bob was the only survivor he was 20 at the time and the oldest crew member was 23. Bob managed to bale out but landed behind enemy lines. They must have had enough of him because he was repatriated soon after.

Bob had many other interest including music and politics and he read extensively, he attended many classical concerts along with Geoff Watson.

During his working life Bob worked at the Doncaster Evening Post news paper and took in news reports from Reuters.

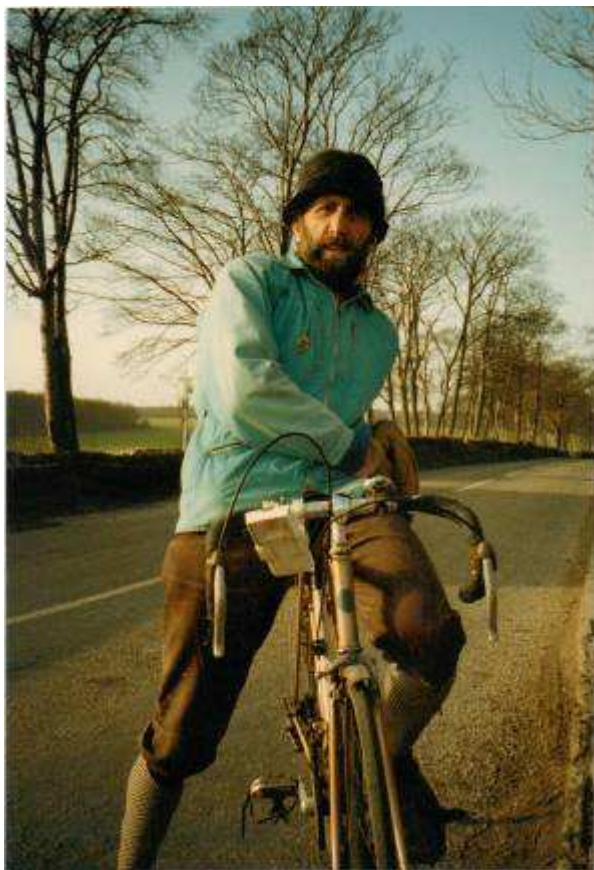
Bob may not be known personally by some of the younger members but was respected by all who met him.

Not many can say that they have lost a true friend, but I can.

Trevor Siddons

Chairman

Doncaster Wheelers Cycling Club



In a very fitting tribute to Bob, he made his last club run by bike, aided by Trevor, and followed by many Club member and fellow cyclists alike.

The Final Word.....

'Nothing ever happens in the Wheelers!'

Remember When...Part 1

Maybe the start of a new feature, Remember When..., not just being able to look forward to new events, lets bring back a flood of memories for some from years past. This months photos courtesy of Alan Wardmans photo archive from 1983



Remember When...Part 2



Memories of not so long ago...2010