



The Dark Side

Doncaster Wheelers - October 2006 Edition



'Go Large in the USA'

Well, no expense was spared by the Wheelers reporting team to find out how our cousins across the pond thought of our quaint sport. As you can see our chairman's reputation has preceded him as they have built a monument to him already. As well as one to their past presidents at Mount Rushmore, they have erected this one at Yucca Valley, California. Thanks to our roving reporter Sid Scoop for the picture.



John Hadley Crowned Evening 10' Series Champion at last

The Club Evening 10' Handicap Series Champion has finally been crowned and its a well deserved crown for John Hadley. He has not missed a single event for the last two years. He was pipped at the post by defending champion Steve Cowlbeck in 2005, but this year he reversed the tables. Due to the final event being cancelled he just failed to overhaul Steves total points tally for 2005. Dale Coan, after a close tussle for the top position over the mid season was overtaken by the defending champion and finished in third place. The series was again well attended this year and thanks go to the marshalls, Charlie for all the handicapping and Sizzler Siddons for timekeeping.

Important Notice of AGM!!!

The Club AGM is set for **Weds 18th October 7:30 at the Dome**, meet in sports bar at 7:15. Any items for the agenda need to be sent to Trevor 'Sizzler' Siddons at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

My First Race – Don Silverwood

Club 5 miles Time Trial 4th April 1982

The club used to hold a 5 miles time trial to open the season. It ran from Hawk's Nest just outside Bawtry through Scrooby and did a U turn in the road just short of Ranskill. It was a dry day but windy. The timekeeper was Bill Smedley and the turn marshal was the ever present Bob Waddington. All I can remember about it was as I turned, my minute man Paul Taylor had almost caught me. On the way back I was just waiting for him to pass me but he never did. He fell off at the turn! I did a time of 14mins 25secs.

Note from the Editor:

The event was contested by 34 riders with four different categories. The winners on that day were:

<i>Schoolboy and Girl:</i>	<i>M Walker</i>	<i>14:34</i>
<i>Juniors:</i>	<i>P. Cutts\S. Mitchell (Tie)</i>	<i>12:36</i>
<i>Vets:</i>	<i>L. Jones</i>	<i>12:29</i>
<i>Seniors:</i>	<i>G. Mottram</i>	<i>12:43</i>

Don finished a creditable 3rd fastest Vet winning the sum of £1:00 and Paul finished 10th. Looking at the other riders, a certain P. Bell was 3rd Schoolboy in 14:49 and a small lad who was to reach a certain level of fame in the sport J. Ward (now Tanner) was 2nd Schoolboy with 14:42. Of those still in the club, D. Coan finished 4th Senior with a time of 12:59.

Got a Dinner Date?

Have you got the dinner date for the Clubs Spectacular 2006 Prize Award Ceremony and Dinner? Then mark it in your diaries now and get those taxis booked. It's Saturday 2nd of December at the Earl of Doncaster. There will be live music and much frivolity. Book your tickets at Don Valley Cycles (prices yet to be announced) and sit back and wait for the date to arrive.

Remember this is a special event as it marks the 80th Anniversary of the Clubs founding. Lets make it a big event and something to remember.



North Midlands Best All Rounder Time Trial Competition

Claim forms need to be filled in to enter. There are various categories, as listed below:

Category	Events Required	Notes
Short Distance	10, 25, 50	
Vets	25, 50, 100	
Junior	2x10, 1x25	
Women	10, 25	
Middlemarkers	25, 50, 100	Must not have beaten 1:2:0, 2:10:0 and 4:40:0 for the relative events in 2003, 4, 5
Senior	25, 50, 100, 12hr	

Times must have been set in Open or Association events and have been done in the 2006 season. Last date for entry is 31st October 2006. Send your times and event details etc to Trevor Siddons ASAP.

"The secret to mountain biking is pretty simple. The slower you go the more likely it is you'll crash". - Julie Furtado

Calling the Anti-Gravity Brigade!

An event that was held for many years by the wheelers has been reinstated this year in the form of the Club Hill Climb, to be run at Gringly on the Hill, Sunday 22nd Oct 1.5 miles from Misterton road, between Gainborough and Bawtry. Following this will be a more recent re-introduction of the Freewheel Competition. Watch the Forum on www.doncasterwheelers.info for more details.

'Oliver!' is a Smash Hit!

Martin Oliver smashed the Doncaster Wheelers 100 miles club record with a magnificent 3.49.47 in the BDCA 100 near Uttoxeter.

Got One of These?

I you have one or more of these items pictured below then Trevor would like them back as soon as possible so that they can be engraved and a) be given back to you or b) be given to a rider who has ridden much faster than you this year!



Doncaster Wheelers Autumn Road Race, 23 September

Experienced Martin Pitchford (Scunthorpe Poly CC) led home a group of 3 riders to win Doncaster Wheelers - Don Valley Cycles Autumn Road Race.

A 60 strong field left Ziniz Restaurant in Bawtry to embark upon 7 laps of a 6 miles circuit based on Harworth. Several attempts to break clear were nullified by the pack until the sound of the bell sparked the decisive move. On the final drag up Wright's Hill to the finish, Pitchford proved too strong for his rivals crossing the line with meters to spare over in form Ian Cooper (Thurcroft CC), winner of his own club's promotion the previous week. Richard Robinson (Cherry Valley RT) completed the leading trio.

30 seconds later, Michael Collins VS Cycles Brighouse led a 30 strong group over the line to claim 4th place. Best placed local riders were Steve Maltby (Doncaster Whs) in 9th place and Rotherham's Chris Last (Team Stealth) in 10th place. Also in the main bunch were Doncaster Whs riders Dave Furniss, Wayne Endledow, Steve Cowlbeck, John Hadley & Fred Easton.

A post race presentation was held at Ziniz where club sponsor Dave Wheatley, Pacy & Wheatley Construction presented prizes to the leading 6 riders.

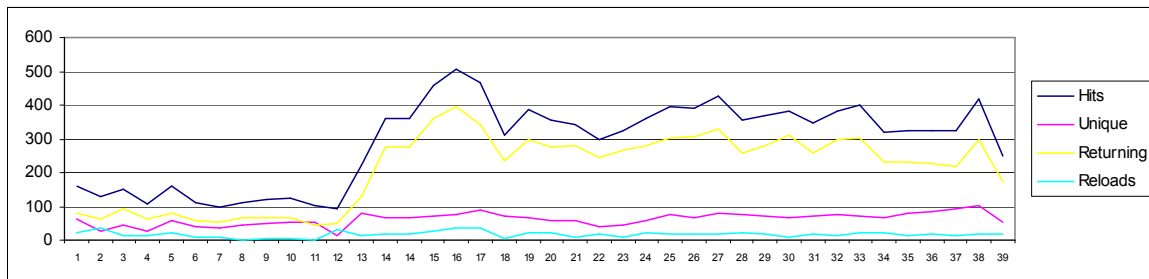
Official Result

1 Martin Pitchford	Scunthorpe Poly CC
2 Ian Cooper	Thurcroft CC
3 Richard Robinson	Cherry Valley RT
4 Michael Collins	VS Cycles
5 John Hopper	Cottingham Cour
6 James Mather	Cycling 4 Life
7 Paul Musgrove	Clifton CC
8 Jason Shipton	Unatt
9 Steve Maltby	Doncaster Wheelers
10 Chris Last	Team Stealth



The Winners being presented with their prizes

Wheelers in the Wires



The website is currently coming up to gaining 22,000 hits which must go some way to showing the popularity of the Wheelers. The graph above show the hits the site has been getting since January 1st. The big rise in popularity came just as we started to promote the Rudy project event and we have not looked back since, although the rate of hits per week may decrease over the winter months. We are currently averaging over 1000 unique (that's new!) visitors every month. Here are just a few of the interesting facts collected by the site:

- Google (68.66%) is the most common search engine used to find the site with the term 'doncaster wheelers' being the most popular search request.
- 'doncaster' (45.36%) is the most popular search term used to find our website.
- British Cycling club finder is the most common site to refer visitors to visit our site (25.22%)
- Most popular countries users are based are UK (98.56%), Canada (0.35%) USA (0.35%)
- Highest week for hits was week 26 with 327
- Highest month for hits was April with 1236
- Time most users are on the site 20:00 - 21:00, with Monday being the most popular day

You never have the wind with you - either it is against you or you're having a good day. - Daniel Behrman, The Man Who Loved Bicycles

Wheelers Open 10' Mile Time Trial

The Clubs latest promotion was the Open 10 mile time trail on the Hatfield Woodhouse to Blaxton course. This was a new venture due to falling numbers of riders entering the Open 25' event and the amount of marshals required for a small number of entrants. The event went well, with no problems. It was disappointing that there was a low turn out from more local riders as this may have forced our hand to make it the last late season event we may promote (due to the time and costs involved) to make it worth while. Glorious sunshine welcomed the event but a nagging breeze left some riders feeling the conditions were harder than they looked. The event was won by Julian Ramsbottom, but congratulations also go to Kevin Avery and Ian Furniss who made toe prize list from our own club. Many thanks go to all who made the effort to enter and ride and also to the many helpers who gave up their time to help.

Official Result:

Final Pos'n	Name	Club	Actual Time
1	Julian Ramsbottom	Scunthorpe Poly CC	21:06
2	Nige Wood	Wills Wheels/Astra Signs	22:25
3	Ian Furniss	Doncaster Wheelers	22:49



Steve Cowbeck

Awards: Fastest on Target Time

Final Pos'n	Name	Club	Actual Time	Target Time	+ OR -
1	Nev Atkinson	Scunthorpe RC	26:13	31:22	+05:09
2	Tony Foulds	Rutland CC	29:22	33:31	+04:09
3	Kevin Avery	Doncaster Wheelers	25:23	29:09	+03:46



Maurice Hart at 72!

Awards: Fastest Team of Two Riders

Name	Club	Actual Time
Julian Ramsbottom	Scunthorpe Poly CC	21:06
Anthony Nash	Scunthorpe Poly CC	23:08
		44:14



Julian Ramsbottom, So fast I nearly missed him!

Alan Mattinson Lost!



Just as we thought Alan Mattinson could come up with no more surprises, the reporting team has just heard that on the recent Wheelers raiding trip to Majorca he was reportedly lost for words or technically 'Speechless' going up one of the climbs. This is as yet, an unconfirmed episode and the Vatican is investigating to see if it can be said to be a miracle!

Toughest 'Hill' in the UK



Gaz Hill, once again has proven that he is one of the toughest riders by getting the Silver medal in British Cyclings Vets National 50+ Road Race. Well done Gaz from all at the Wheelers.

In Remembrance of Jim Outram

I became a member of Doncaster Wheelers in 1969 and Jim had been a member of the club for some years before, so I had known him for at least 37 years and from those early Years Jim was always a willing helper within the club. He spent many years performing clerking duties at the clubs open time trials first for Bill Smedley and later for me, in addition to clerking for the North Midlands 12 Hour Time Trial. I have always admired Jim (and Mary) for their willingness to assist in any capacity, later years turning out in all weathers to marshall events and in the last 26 years that I have been promoting events only missed when they were on holiday, the last time in May this year. Jim's own racing career was put on hold in his 30s when he became seriously ill and told he had a 1 in 25 chance of recovery but Jim battled on as usual to beat the illness. He eventually overcame illness and resumed his cycling, something he loved. He gave up racing at this point and decided to just enjoy his cycling and gradually built his strength up week by week until he was fit enough to go touring with Mary and other friends.

The early 80s we had a mini revival within the club with more younger riders joining which led to holidays in the Yorkshire Dales with Jim and Mary always there to help out with feeding and watering and generally taking care of them. Jim eventually retired from full time work at the steel works at the age of 61 years and this gave him another lease of life. He became involved in AUDAX riding, which for those who don't know is long distance endurance cycling and along with Mary rode all distances from 100 to 400 Kilometres and when they were not riding themselves they would be helping out at the control points. In his 70s Jim made the trip to Majorca on a cycling holiday with Mary and rode many miles over there. A story that keeps in my mind was the day they were climbing one of the famous mountains over there, a group of younger riders passed them and Jim immediately latched onto the back of them and to the amazement of the younger group he stayed with them to the top. At the age of 78 Jim made the trip with friends to the Pyrenees and rode up The Tourmalet Mountain which is a climb 2115 metres. A remarkable achievement for someone of his age. I have rode along side Jim and have suffered many times with his relentless pace pushing his usual low gears with his legs spinning like bees wings. In more recent years we met up regularly at the York rally where we were always greeted with a smile and tea and cakes, not just for me but anyone who turned up, everyone was made welcome. It's difficult to know where to stop; all I can say is that Jim was one of the nicest people I have ever met and thought the world of him. In all the years that I have known him I don't ever recall him having a bad word to say about anyone. Jim enjoyed 22 years of active retirement and together with Mary they made a great team. Jim will be a great loss to us all but I am sure he would want us to carry on and enjoy our cycling in the way he certainly did. As my wife often said Jim was a true gentleman in every way.

Trevor Siddons, Chairman, Doncaster Wheelers

The Big Interview – John Hadley 2006 10' Series Winner

You have a remarkable record of not missing a club evening 10 for the last 2 years. Have you nothing better to do on a Tuesday or Wednesday? *I try to keep out of the house as much as possible on mid week evenings due to the frequency of Emmerdale etc.*

On Mondays I do brass rubbing, Thursdays is O-level esperanto and Fridays I do ice sculpture.

Steve Cowlbeck is in favour of a Wednesday evening 10. Which day will you vote for and why? *Tuesdays are better for me, it fits in better with the Sunday club run and TLI race on a Thursday.*

How disappointed were you that the final event was cancelled due to heavy rain thus denying you the chance to topple Kevin Dawson? *It was a bit disappointing but at least Steve was smiling as he kept his record for the number of points.*

Last year you lost the series on the final night, does that make this years victory more satisfying? *Yes, I seemed to have timed things better this year.*

How much more can you improve? *I had planned to get into the 24m range this year, if I can get into the low 23's next year that'll do.*

Describe a typical training week in August when your form peaked. *Sunday club run, Tuesday bike to work and Chain gang to Bawtry, Wednesday evening 10, Thursday TLI race, Friday bike to work + 1hr after work. Sat and Mon rest days. About 150 to 200 miles.*

What is your usual pre-race meal and at what time do you eat it? *3 Weetabix with honey about one and a half hours before.*

What are your racing plans for 2007? *Same as this year. Evening 10's, TLI league. Not sure about BCF or Vets league as I am 40 in Aug 2007.*

Are you going to defend your title? *I hope to - I planned to do more chain gang this year instead but can't seem to give up the 10's.*

How has winning the League changed your life? Have you got bored yet with opening supermarkets, village fetes and kissing babies yet? *Not sure it's changed my life other than I now have to watch Emmerdale on Wednesday evenings!*

The Boys Done Good!

Report on the National 12Hr Time Trial

The Doncaster Wheelers - Don Valley Cycles team of Martin Oliver, Gaz Hill & Dave Furniss all distinguished themselves in Sunday's National 12 hours time trial championship in Norfolk. The defending champions though were unable to hold on to their title despite amassing a team total of 793.31 miles, which was 43 miles more than last years winning total. However, they added almost 3 miles to the club record which has stood since 1975 when Graham Huck, Allan Robson & Bob Bickerstaffe were the National 12 hours team champions and British Best All Rounder team winners.

Martin Oliver, who was 4th in the 2005 race, led the team with an awesome 270.36 miles which gave him 10th place overall. This erased Graham Huck's 1975 effort of 270.042 miles from the club record's book. Martin was also 4th overall in the Veteran's age related competition and 2nd in the 45 - 49 years category. Debutant Gaz Hill, the 2000 National Veteran's Road Race Champion, produced a sterling effort to clock 266.84 miles. Gaz was 2nd overall in the Veteran's age related competition and 1st in the over 50 years category. Completing the team was Dave Furniss, who added 40 miles to his 2005 distance with a remarkable 256.11 miles, which gave him a well deserved 1st handicap award.

Next years championship will be held in East Yorkshire, where the club will be looking to regain their crown.



The crew needed feeding as well!



New member Gaz Hill



The support Crew and Rider



Adam Weaver at this years Lincoln Grand Prix

Sid Scoop's Who's Hot & Who's Hotter

2000 National Veterans Road Race Champ Gaz Hill came within a whisker of repeating his success in the Over 50's category in the National Vets Road Races at Oakley Bucks. After 93km of racing Gaz was just beaten to the line by former pro Dave Cuming.

North Mids Champs Alex & Beth Wallis competed in the GHS Final on 9 September. Alex clocked 25.28 for 43rd place, 3 places lower than last year. Beth finished 104th with 32.56. The final is on local roads next year, so young Master Oliver if you don't mind, make a note in your diary when the North Midlands heat is as we would like to cheer on a winning team!

"If you brake, you don't win." - Mario Cipollini

The Final Word.....

'Nothing ever happens in the Wheelers'