



## Keeping up with the Redmon Cycling Club

### Editor's Welcome

JA

Hello and welcome to the sixth edition of the Redmon Quarterly Newsletter.

It's Spring already, and the cycle racing season is here. Doesn't time fly! A few of our members have already started their racing, although I'm sad to say that I haven't joined them yet - it's been a little too cold for me. (wimp!).

The club evening 10s will start soon, which should hopefully get a few of us out on our bikes. I hope you're ready! Who's going to be Club Champion this year? I'm really looking forward to it, Thursdays last year seemed a bit empty. Hope to see you all at the usual place in Holmwood on 2 May, ready and keen, to race, or to help out.

It's also nearly time for our first Redmon open event for a while, the 10. I've just looked online and we have 12 entries already, but only one Redmon rider – that's me! It would be great if all members can participate either as a helper or rider, the more of us, the merrier. Let's try to make it a real success. Can you also note that the date for the Grand Prix has been changed?

We will not be having a formal prize presentation this year, and will probably present the trophies for 2018 at one of the evening 10 events. This is likely to be at the mid-summer event on 20 June, and this will be confirmed in due course.

We are planning to have a President's Run in the summer of around 50-60 miles, probably starting from and ending at the Parrot in Forest Green. This will probably be in June, and details will be announced on Facebook and at the evening 10s. Contact Richard Hoskin for more details.

My subtle prod for articles in the last newsletter doesn't seem to have worked very well, as there is a lot of empty space in this newsletter! And certainly at this time of year there should be plenty of news and announcements. I do know that some of you are reading it, so why not help write it too.

Please can you let me have something for the next issue? Without your contributions the newsletter is pretty pointless. I plan to publish the next Redmon Quarterly in July, so I will need any contributions by the 25<sup>th</sup> July. Please help me, and help your Club keep this publication going. Email is best, but for those with no access to the internet, please post your article to me.

### Club Evening 10s

The first Club Evening 10 will be on 2 May on the usual course G10/42, first rider off at 7:30 pm. Riders, marshals and helpers are needed, please contact Derek Wardle as soon as possible.

We are planning to run three 15 mile events this year, on 6-Jun, 20-Jun and 4-Jul.

To make running these events simpler, there will be no tea and cake this year, so if you need a drink please bring your own. However, if someone wishes to volunteer to take this on, then they would be most welcome. Let's have a good, well attended season with fast times.

### Redmon Open Events

JA

The dates of the open events were announced in the last newsletter, but note that since then the date for the Grand Prix has been changed. The dates are Saturday 11 May for the 10, and Sunday 17 Aug for the Grand Prix, and helpers will be needed for both.

The 10 is on usual G10/42 course with the HQ at St Johns' Primary School, which is by the North Holmwood roundabout, same HQ as the last time we ran the event.

The event secretary is Richard Hoskin, so please contact him as soon as possible with your offers to help. We need help with all of the usual jobs, and any little assistance that you can offer will be gratefully received.



**REDMONster** – Easter  
didn't quite manage the | Bunny-hop

## 2019 Trophy Competitions

**C B**

Remaining events for the main trophy competitions are:

### *Sporting Courses Trophy*

Sussex CA	10m	G10/45	24-Aug
Sussex CA	25m	G25/49	26-Aug

### *Club Events Championship*

East Sussex CA	G10/87	27-Apr
Charlottesville CC	H50/8	28-Apr
Redmon CC	G10/42	11-May
Newbury RC	H25/1	12-May
Farnham RC	H10/8	18-May
Horsham CC	G10/97	22-Jun
Reading CC	H25/1	07-Jul
Epsom	H10/8	13-Jul
Southern Counties	G100/61	21-Jul
Newbury RC	H15/1	21-Jul
Club Championship 10	G10/42	25-Jul
Club Hill Climb	GH/41	15 Aug

### *VETS Championship*

VTTA National 10	G10/41	28-Apr
VTTA Ldn+Home	H10/2	30-May
Lewes Wanders VTTA	G30/88	09-Jun
East Sussex CA VTTA Sry/Ssx	G50/90	16-Jun
Alton CC/Owens VTTA	H10/8	22-Jun
VTTA Ldn+Home	H10/2	08-Aug
Bec CC	G25/93	18-Aug
VTTA	G25/89	22-Sep
VTTA Ldn+Home	H25/2	06-Oct

A few clashes, so careful selection of events is needed.

## Redmon Racing Results

**J A**

There are not too many racing results to report in this newsletter, as our club racing season doesn't seem to have really started yet.

Sean Taylor rode the Kingston Wheelers Sporting event on GS/292A on 10 Feb, and finished in 40:44, in what was probably very, very cold weather, so well done to him.

Our Chairman, Chris Brewer, rode the Southern Counties CU Sporting 10 on the G10/46 on 23 Mar, and finished in 36m which was a PB for that event, so congratulations Chris!

John McGlashan and Chris both rode the Kingston Phoenix 10 on the G10/42 (in practice for the Redmon Open?) on 6 Apr. John finished in 25:58 and Chris in 29:34.

And our man in the North, Paul Scaplehorn, raced the North Tyneside Riders CC 10 on the M102B on 13 Apr finishing in 26:57. Must be cold up there! ;-)

## The Old Days

**G G**

Before coming down South, "where the streets are paved with gold", I did seven years with the Royal Navy.

For the years before that, I rode with the Ely City Road Club from 1948 to 1951. Our club room was a shed at Witcham Hall, belonging to John Brown's father who was a local coal merchant. His father cleared the shed of coal, and the club members provided furniture to make it into a comfortable club room, which we enjoyed. Although, the club room was two to three miles outside Ely, we always had a good get together, sorting out club events and the odd open.

Several of us entered one open event, for which we had to cycle to Witcham Hall early in one Sunday morning. We all piled into one of John's father's lorries, and was taken to Wisbech for a 25 mile time trial. The course was fast and very flat being in the Fens - it was won in 1:01:27. None of us did anything special, so we didn't get the team prize.

Our club events mostly started at Ely High Bridge on the A142. The 25 course went along the A142 to Newmarket and returned. Our 50 was similar to the 25 course, but also went on the A11, with a dead turn in the middle of the road at the Elveden Memorial. We also used a 10 course from Witchford, and turned at Sutton, but not in Surrey, Cambs!.

Our club champion was Mac Wetstone, in those days we thought of him as very fast, always winning our club events.

Unfortunately, the club folded in 1951/52 as most of us were called up for National Service, and signed on, as I did.

However, many years later after I had settled in Sutton, this time in Surrey, I received an invitation to ride a sponsored 50 mile event up in the Fens, in the hope of restarting the Ely Club again.

After this the club took off again, and is still going strong now, with some very good riders. I've been back up again to ride with their early season 2 up event with Tony Fielding. The course for this event goes out towards Chateris on the causeways, and is usually run in March, when it's unfortunately very windy in the Fens. It was a case of riding to try and shelter each other, all good fun!!

We all have great memories, and I hope I haven't bored you all too much.

PS: A word of thanks to those club members that have helped Brenda and I since we have been without a car.

Also for those of you that knew Ned Walsh - he was 94 in November.

## Ron Allen

**J A**

For those of you that aren't aware, and I apologise for having not notified you, my father and long time member of the Redmon, Ron Allen, passed away on 18 February. His funeral took place on 27 March at Woking Crematorium. A big thank you to the many club members that came to pay their last respects.

It's quite amazing what you learn about someone at such a sad time, he was quite a rider. I have been looking back through his photos and the memorabilia of his time racing and the many years in the Redmon. He achieved some very fine results, much better than I have, or ever could.

He joined the Redmon in 1949, having previously only been a touring cyclist in the CTC, Sutton. His first race for the Club was the Kentish Wheelers Novices 25 in March 1950, on his new yellow Hetchins (curly stays). He was placed fourth and the first Redmon rider. Three months later set a new club 25 record at 1:01:05. He won many events during his racing 'career' in the 1950s, including a 100 mile event in his first attempt at the distance.

None of his times are particularly impressive compared with those of today. However, they need to be put into perspective –roads and bikes are so different today, and he mainly rode using fixed wheel. His results were undoubtedly exceptional.

I plan to ride the club event on 20<sup>th</sup> June on his bike. It was built by Ted Woodall of Leader Cycles in Croydon in the 1950s, the same shop that provided Eileen Sheriden with some bikes. So why not join me to race your classic bike that Thursday. Hopefully, I'll be ready, as there's quite a bit of work needed to get it road worthy! We could make it a Special Redmon Vintage TT.

## Some things never change!

**D E**

Don't you hate it when someone, on hearing that you ride a bike, immediately launches into a diatribe against cyclists who behave badly on the road? It makes you uncomfortable and defensive, doesn't it? Well, more than a century ago it was rather worse, with the addition of the prejudice of the Law, as the following illustrates:

The Hammersmith stipendiary Mr Paget, was most certainly intensely disliked by cyclists for his habit of imposing the maximum penalty for riding furiously. In a worthy piece of satire, the December issue of the Wheel World, 1881, described a typical court hearing, which they said, 'was certainly not more exaggerated than the evidence of the police'.

'At the Sledgehammersmith Police Court, on 31 November, 1881, John Smith, William Robinson, Thomas Brown, and James Jones appeared to answer summonses charging them with furiously riding bicycles

the previous evening. Police constable ZYX 4002 deposed that he was on duty the previous evening, and saw the defendants riding at a rate of forty miles an hour; he walked after them and overtook them in Low Street, taking them to the station handcuffed. Cross-examined by the defendants the constable said he was quite sure that they were riding at a rate of eighty miles an hour, and he almost shook the creases out of his trousers in an effort to catch up with them; he could swear they were travelling at a speed of three hundred miles an hour. Police constable ZYX 4003, corroborated this evidence, saying that he was in the London Dock area at the time, and distinctly saw the defendants travelling in Low Street, Sledgehammersmith, at a rate of five hundred miles an hour. For the defence, a number of independent witnesses were called. They claimed that the bicyclists were travelling at the slowest rate compatible with keeping the bicycles upright – viz., about four miles an hour. The defendants also said that it was impossible to ride a bicycle at the rate alleged, but Mr Paget interrupted, and said that that had nothing to do with the case, and that he should refuse to hear any more evidence for the defence. He was heartily sorry the law did not allow him to send the defendants to penal servitude for life; as it was, he should fine them the highest amount in his power, namely, forty shillings and costs each, or, in default, a month on the treadmill'.

## Members

**J A**

Sorry folks, in the last newsletter, I overlooked publishing a new members section, so a late welcome to new member of the Redmon, René Peters, a friend of Alistair Lang.

Also, a very warm welcome back to Ken Izzard, who has rejoined the club after an absence of a couple of years.

The Committee's official list of Honorary Life Members (HLM) and Vice Presidents (VP) are currently:

HLM: Brian Beckwith, Ken Gadd, Geoff Goat, Richard Hoskin, Jean Walsh.

VP: David Boyd, Doug Conroy, Jack Jackson, Mick Deen, Derek Wardle.

Sadly Joyce Martin (HLM) and Joyce Shiret (VP) dropped off the list as they didn't renew their membership.

David Boyd will join them if he doesn't renew this year, and unfortunately Ron Allen is no longer on the list.

Note: to maintain status: HLMs must complete a membership form, and VPs pay first claim subs.

## Club Rides

**J A**

John Chatterton and other club members meet on Wednesdays for a gentle ride of 20 miles, meeting at 11am by the junction of Blundel Lane / Stoke Road, in Stoke D'Abernon (opposite the pub). Ring John on 07767 811701, before 9.30 on the day.

## Diary Dates

02-May-19	First evening 10 on G10/42
11-May-19	Club Open 10 on G10/42
25-Jul-19	Club Championships
15-Aug-19	Hill Climb
17-Aug-19	Grand Prix des Gentlemen

## Contributions and Views to the Editor? **JA**

Please email your articles, letters or news items to [news.letter@redmoncc.co.uk](mailto:news.letter@redmoncc.co.uk), or post to: 15 Ellis Avenue, Onslow Village, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7SR. Email is preferable, to avoid retyping, and they may not get published immediately.

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## Committee Members

Chris Brewer (CB)	<a href="mailto:chris.brewer@redmoncc.co.uk">chris.brewer@redmoncc.co.uk</a>
Eddie Allen (EA)	<a href="mailto:eddie.allen@redmoncc.co.uk">eddie.allen@redmoncc.co.uk</a>
John Allen (JA)	<a href="mailto:treasurer@redmoncc.co.uk">treasurer@redmoncc.co.uk</a>
Richard Hoskin (RH)	<a href="mailto:richard.hoskin@redmoncc.co.uk">richard.hoskin@redmoncc.co.uk</a> (020 8642 4778/07748 835907)
Alistair Lang (AL)	<a href="mailto:coach@redmoncc.co.uk">coach@redmoncc.co.uk</a>
M Wakely (MW); D Wardle (DW), J Chatterton (JC)	

## Other Newsletter Contributors

David Eccles (DE), Geoff Goat (GG)

My apologies to Geoff for omitting his article from the last newsletter, but better late than never. And many thanks to 'Mrs A' for her proof reading; and making corrections to my 'typos' as usual.

***Look at all of this empty space, waiting for your letters, news and articles!***

***Let's try to fill it all for the July edition.***

**Data Protection:** the presumption for GDPR is being as a paid up member, you consent to receiving communications from the Redmon Cycling Club relevant to your membership. To opt out you must contact one of the committee members in writing.