

Speedwell Bicycle Club

Founded 1876

President: Mr. R. L. Male

Winged Arrow

Newsletter January 2006



Thanks for the positive feedback on our (slightly) more regular Winged Arrow, which attempts to keep the club in touch with what's happening. This edition is no exception with a new runs list attached.

Key dates are the Mountain 36, which will be run on Sunday 21st May and is based on Cleobury Mortimer, as previous years. The event is part of the Long Distance SPOCO series, which we have just heard has been taken over by the 24 Hour Fellowship, after a scare that the competition was about to fold. This is the one we have supported by lending the Memorial Trophy to.

Rightly or wrongly the sport of time trialling is becoming all about short, fast events. There are over 20 Saturday afternoon 10's in the Midland's calendar for 2006, only two 50-mile time trials and at 36 miles, the mountain TT is the 3rd longest event on the calendar (and probably the longest in terms of time taken, for some).



Motorised clubrun to Slimbridge – September 2005

I guess we can “tut” about that but it's a reflection of the profile of riders and the age we live in. Returning to racing (well sort of) as I have in the last two years, I know I, personally, just don't have the time to train to put the bulk miles in, but I can find time to do some quality work and at least get some speed for 10 miles. What it does mean is that the 100 is probably gone for good – there just isn't the demand.

Member News

It is with much sadness that I report the deaths of our two oldest members, Norman McEvoy and Gerry Cordes.

The passing of **Norman McEvoy** means that the club has lost its oldest member. A stalwart of the club in the late 40's and early 50's, Mac's riding was contemporary with John Matthews, John Darwent, Jimmy Hutton and a young Bert Baker.

Always renowned for being a hard rider his claim to fame was turning in good times on bad days. I believe he held the MRRA record for Birmingham to Holyhead and back, however I'm sure other members might correct me there.

His expression "uphill, downhill and round a b****y corner" entered our family's list of sayings as a description of those more challenging rides.

Recent years ill health dogged him, however his recovery from a fall off a ladder which required nearly 6 months lying flat, was nothing short of remarkable. He had planned to "beat Cap" by riding a bike further on his 90th birthday, but unfortunately that was not to be as his balance had failed him by then.

Gerry Cordes joined the club only two years ago, but was very proud to be part of the "oldest continuously active club". Gerry had come to live in Feckenham from his native North East to be nearer his daughter Barbara and son in law Mark Wheatley, following the death of his wife. Gerry had been very active before WWII in the flourishing North East scene and had been part of the huge pre-war cycling experience – vast club runs and weekends that would be banned today on the grounds of being dangerous. More recently, he had completed an arduous end-to-end ride, and although distracted by golf, family and work in his middle years had never lost his love of the bike. This was witnessed by his attendance at the track where he was a great supporter of myself and the youngsters who rode.

Always a man with a modest, modern, and forward looking approach to life (and bikes!), littered with great stories of his own colourful past he will be missed by those that had the privilege of meeting and getting to know him.

News has also reached us that **Mark Whitehouse** had an accident just before Christmas. Exact details are not known but we understand he's back on his bike now.

Clubruns and Tours

The Redditch and Bromsgrove "three" – Ed, Steve and Jeff continue to get out on regular Sunday morning rides and have largely (surprisingly!) followed the published runs list. Jeff has been going down to Newport velodrome some Sundays to attempt the mastering of the steep, indoor track. Great fun and a bit scary in equal measures he's only come off twice (fetched off by others!) only one of which required hospitalisation so that's a result.

A group of six went on a four-day tour day North Wales. Five of us were on bikes while Jim George drove sagwaggon, giving us the luxury of not having to carry luggage for the entire trip. Jim was somewhat amazed that the Speedwell lads would not give up their saddlebags and really travel light but you can't change the habits of a lifetime. An excellent route, planned by Andy Seabourne, took us from Bromsgrove to the tip of the LLeyn Peninsular and back, taking in the Wayfarer track over the Berwyns in the process. John Burridge, Ed and Jeff Matthews and Steve Lockwood made up the rest of the team.



At the Wayfarer memorial – August 2005

Several members went to Ghent in November to see the 6 day – Steve, Ed, Jim George, Jeff and daughter Thea, who is mad keen on watching track racing, along with Eddie and Mavis Smith. A great time was had despite the 3 inches of snow that fell while we were in the Restaurant on the Friday. Apparently, this caused the lighting to fail in the stadium – the thought of riding a Madison and then suddenly being plunged into the dark is just too scary to contemplate. Anyway, by the time we got in there on the Saturday it had settled down. Racing until 2:00am on Sunday morning and then a further, final, session on Sunday afternoon gave us the required fix of track racing to keep us going until the Revolution series which we've also been going to at Manchester.

Subs.

We were a little lax last year in collecting subs, so thanks to those people who are organised enough to pay without being asked. For those, like me who need a gentle reminder, there's one accompanying this News letter, you may find you owe two years, 2005 and 2006. Look forward to receiving those, as and when.



Jim George and John Burridge relaxing after a tough morning – Ironbridge, August 2005

Date	Time	Meet	Destination
Sunday 01 Jan 2006	11:00	F	Worcester
Sunday 08 Jan 2006	9:00	F	Stratford-upon-Avon
Sunday 15 Jan 2006	9:00	S	Kenilworth
Saturday 21 Jan 2006	17:30	M	Revolution 11
Sunday 22 Jan 2006	9:00	F	Evesham
Sunday 29 Jan 2006	9:00	J	Holt Heath
Sunday 05 Feb 2006	9:00	F	Broadway
Sunday 12 Feb 2006	9:00	F	Upton-on-Severn
Saturday 18 Feb 2006	17:30	M	Revolution 12
Sunday 19 Feb 2006	9:00	S	Warwick
Sunday 26 Feb 2006	9:00	F	Hillers - Alcester
Sunday 05 Mar 2006	9:00	J	Kinver
Sunday 12 Mar 2006	9:00	F	Malvern
Sunday 19 Mar 2006	9:00	F	Chipping Campden
Sunday 26 Mar 2006	9:00	S	Wellesbourne Watermill
Sunday 02 Apr 2006	8:00	F	http://www.laylocks.co.uk/restaurant.htm
Sunday 09 Apr 2006	8:00	F	Stratford-upon-Avon
Sunday 16 Apr 2006	8:00	J	All day run - Ankerdine
Sunday 23 Apr 2006	8:00	F	Mystery Run
Saturday 29 Apr 2006	14:00	F	Family Run
Sunday 30 Apr 2006	8:00	S	Kenilworth
Sunday 07 May 2006	8:00	F	Winchcombe
Sunday 14 May 2006	8:00	J	Bewdley
Sunday 21 May 2006	8:00	F	Tewkesbury
Saturday 27 May 2006	14:00	F	Family Run
Sunday 28 May 2006	8:00	F	Wellesbourne Airfield
Sunday 04 Jun 2006	8:00	S	Warwick
Sunday 11 Jun 2006	8:00	F	Evesham
Sunday 18 Jun 2006	8:00	J	Clee Hill
Saturday 24 Jun 2006	14:00	F	Family Run
Sunday 25 Jun 2006	8:00	F	Lavender Farm - Broadway



F Feckenham
 J Jinney Ring
 S Studley Island
 M Manchester Velodrome

