

# THE WHEELER



**Summer 2018**



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Please send all articles (typed or hand written) and pictures for *The Wheeler* to one of the above contacts. Items will be returned promptly after copying if requested.

**Front cover photo:** Hereford Wheelers 90th Cake

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## PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Hello all

Riders welcomed the return of the Yazor 10 TT course this year. The safe parking area arranged in the local farm yard has made this a popular course with the regular riders. The unfortunate situation of unknown roadworks popping up and causing cancelled races have again bugged the Race Programme. Our Open 25 mile TT from Weobley was cancelled due to a pre-race recce of the course where severe flooding across the road between Eardisley and the Winforton turn made it impassable.

The Race Programme shows five '25' mile TT's this year but problems so far mean that only 3 races will count towards any trophies. I sincerely hope we have no further cancelled events to disrupt the remaining programme.

Whilst I am on the subject of Time Trials it is the responsibility of the individual rider to get to sign-on 10 minutes before the start of the event. The official form must be correctly filled out with full name, emergency number, 1<sup>st</sup> claim club, age and your signature. It is not acceptable to sign-on for another rider and the number will not be issued until the form is signed. This is your responsibility at each race to make sure you are covered for insurance.

**Also in this edition of the Wheeler I have written a few words asking for help to run the TT races. The official duties are not difficult but they are very important to make the events run smoothly. I have been looking to purchase a new Stop Clock/Printer which I hope will assist the finish timekeeper. If you are interested in taking an active role in the Time Trial events please let me know.**

Thank you to everyone who helped, supported or took part in the Come and Try It and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rides and Afternoon Tea. I personally rode the 90 mile ride down to Chepstow with Guy Evans and Sarah Lloyd-Stephens we had a great ride with a well earned coffee and sausage roll stop in Chepstow. *Full story of the Anniversary event later in the Wheeler.*

Sadly, long term club member Percy Hughes passed away on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the age of 80 years. Percy was an active member of the club officials that turn up week on week during the summer months. Percy was our 'Pusher-off' and would always have something to say to each rider on the start line. Thank you to those club members who attended his funeral on Friday, 15th June at St Martin's Church or sent condolences to his wife Valerie and their family.

It is also heartening to note that club members have also participated recently in group cycling holidays to Majorca, Cambrils in Spain, France and also to Pembrokeshire. The fabulous weather over the last few months has encouraged us all to get out and enjoy the road, so keep safe and enjoy your wheels.

Thank you also to all club members who have helped the club in any way during this

season, this is your club and your involvement in supporting the club makes it more vibrant and sociable.

If you have any items of interest you feel could be on our Club website please let us know.

[www.herefordwheelers.com](http://www.herefordwheelers.com)

*Chris Hughes,*  
**President and Time Trial Secretary**

## ARTICLES

### **Hereford Wheelers' 90th Anniversary Rides and Celebratory Tea**

The newly-refurbished Stretton Sugwas Village Hall was chosen as the HQ for the rides and celebratory tea on 17th June to mark the Wheelers' 90th Anniversary. Following two of the inaugural rides undertaken by the founders of the club, a 90 mile ride went to Chepstow and back and a 90 kilometre ride went to New Radnor and back. In keeping with the "90" theme, an Easy Ride of approximately 90 minutes duration was



led by Mark and Julie Montez, taking in Yazor, Norton Canon, Byford, Garnons and Bishopstone, arriving back at the hall in time for refreshments.

The route for the 90 mile ride was planned and ridden by Jon Tetley, the club's long-distance specialist. He was joined by eleven other riders. The route was extremely hilly and Jon relished employing his Audaxsuper-low gears, much to the discomfort of some of his fellow riders, who were struggling on higher ones. The group greatly enjoyed beans and toast at the turning point at Chepstow.



The 90 kilometre route formed the usual Brisk Clubrun and was led by Andy Hurrell, with an exceptionally large group totalling sixteen riders. The ride headed out on the Yazor Road to Kington. At the furthest point the Old Station Tea Room at the campsite in New Radnor provided swift, efficient service and delicious cakes. The ride returned via Presteigne on rolling, unfamiliar lanes beyond the usual range of clubruns, before heading back to Stretton Sugwas via Weobley and the hill leading to Wormsley Golf Course.

The riders returned to the hall by the appointed time for the food. A savoury buffet from Oakchurch was followed by a large selection of cakes provided by members. The centrepiece was a rich fruitcake made by Valerie Hurrell and decorated in club colours by Kay Spencer. Once again the club is indebted to Kay for her skills and artistry. Club

President Chris Hughes made a short speech highlighting the club's achievements and emphasising the importance of looking to the future of the club. Stuart Edinborough; 50-plus years a Wheelers member and young tandem-stoker Evie Tetley did the honours of cutting the anniversary cake. This was followed by a rendering of "Happy Birthday Hereford Wheelers" by all present.

We would like to thank Alvin and David of the Veteran Cycle Club, who brought along a selection of bikes dating back to the early days of the Wheelers. They even invited people to ride their precious machines! The club display boards had been updated by Andy and Valerie Hurrell to show club activities across the years. The hall was decorated with brightly coloured bicycle bunting.

Over fifty people supported the event, of which only two were non-members, and one of those joined the club on the day. Thanks to Mick Cumbes, Bill Berry and Stuart Edinborough for carrying out keyholder and



hall-minder duties. Thanks to all who provided cakes and helped in the kitchen, especially Katie Tetley, Sue Hughes and Liz Turner, and to everyone who helped to clear up afterwards. Most importantly, thanks to everyone who came along and helped to make the event a success, either by joining a ride or just coming along for food and drinks.

See you at the 100th anniversary in ten years' time!

*Valerie Hurrell*

## **A Postcard from Swansea**

My hope is that this short piece will encourage you to consider Swansea as an ideal base for a cycle tour of the beautiful Gower coast. If you are so inclined you may also choose to experience the majestic industrial landscape of Port Talbot, heading through its suburbs on your way to the beaches beyond (Porthcawl etc).

Wendy, in the way that only she can, organised a three night stay at an Air B&B flat just off the Marina and led four super, varied rides with perfectly arranged coffee and lunch stops.

(It was a disappointment that, on this occasion, Vivian was unable to join us, selflessly staying back at the Croft to deal with domestic matters, including the feeding and watering of all creatures great and small.)

After an early drive down from Hereford, Sunday was taken up by a thoroughly enjoyable ride out along the Loughor estuary, through Llanelli to Burry Port, using part of the Sustrans Millennium Coastal Path.

Bank Holiday Monday brought cloudless blue skies and warm sunshine for an undulating ride to Llangennith Bay. Although this time we needed to use main roads, even on such a busy day, we felt safe and drivers were, on the whole, well-behaved.

On Tuesday both the weather and the terrain were very different, as we headed for Margam Abbey via Sustrans route 4. Sections of this brought us more than close enough to Port Talbot to fully appreciate why it is such a hotspot of pollution, a stark contrast to yesterday's coastal beauty. Although we both enjoyed the day, including the rain, Wendy has decided not to revisit; good decision.

Our final short ride before heading for home was a delightful spin along the seafront



cycle path to the Mumble's lifeboat station. After coffee we were blown back to Swan-sea at 19mph with very little effort-great fun!



Wendy will give you details of accommodation, routes, 5-star Guinness pubs etc. I consider myself very fortunate that the source of all this knowledge allows me to accompany her on her marvellous adventures. Big thanks, not least for the cable tie memento.

Best wishes

*Linda*

## **DAVE UNSWORTH'S SURPRISE 80TH BIRTHDAY RIDE AND CELEBRATION**

The Wheelers' best-kept secret of 2018 was planned and executed by a small group of members, having been instigated by some Brisk Clubrun riders who wanted to give Dave a memorable 80th birthday. As Dave sees neither emails nor Facebook, this meant he was the only person who didn't know what was happening, and miraculously nobody gave the game away.

On the morning of 6th May thirteen riders, including Dave, set off on the Brisk Clubrun ride to Rowlestone Court for coffee, cakes and ice creams. Slightly later that morning, eight Easy Riders, led by Mark and Julie Montez set off to ride to Madley Plants for yet more drinks and cakes. The weather was perfect, as it was calm, warm and sunny. Both the rides returned to Northolme Community Centre, Belmont by 1pm with a mystified Dave, who was still none the wiser. More friends began to arrive and a delicious

and ample spread was laid out, all provided by members. The centrepiece was an 80th birthday cake which had been made by Valerie Hurrell and decorated by Kay Spencer.



Before eating commenced, Valerie made a presentation to Dave of a new-design Wheelers' jersey (Dave's not too sure what to make of the new design – will he wear it or won't he?) and a £70 bike shop voucher, all from money generously given by club members in appreciation of Dave's services to the club over the years; as timekeeper, racing secretary and rides leader.



The hall was decorated with bicycle bunting and the club display board featured photos of Dave in his various club roles. Over forty people turned up, representing all aspects of club life and Dave was overwhelmed by the occasion, having not had a memorable birthday since his 21st(he said)!

Thanks to all who attended and provided food (Kay's wonderful cake decoration was a work of art), with special thanks to Carole Shallcross and all those who did sterling service in the kitchen on the day and helped to clear up.

*Valerie and Andy Hurrell*

### **Wheelers Trip Cambrils, Spain 2018**

After a successful trip to Cambrils last year it was decided to visit the area again, this time going three weeks later in the year in the hope of slightly better weather, we were not disappointed, the temperatures were generally higher, however slightly windy for the first two days, with no rain whatsoever.

Cambrils is a typically Spanish seaside resort, catering primarily for the Spanish. Approximately 1 hour south of Barcelona, it is served by Reus airport, approximately 20 minutes from Cambrils.

The main attraction from a cycling point of view are the rugged mountains beyond the resort, with fantastic road surfaces and being virtually traffic free it is a great location. Some great climbs and fabulous descents. The possibilities for road cycling in the area are endless, I tried wherever possible not to include any routes from last year, however occasionally these paths did cross. All the routes were created using Garmin Connect, in conjunction with Google maps streetview, this was essential in ensuring we stuck to tarmaced roads, on the whole this worked well, apart from the occasional hiccup.

Myself, Mick Cumbes, Dean Prosser, Nathan Perry, Sarah Lloyd Stephens, Jack Hughes, Jim Dicken and Guy Evans departed Birmingham on a bright and sunny Sunday morning, less than three hours after departure from Birmingham Airport we arrived in the hotel, unpacked and in time for dinner at 1930, to our surprise we found the hotel virtually empty, it remained this way for the rest of the week.



*Mick and Dean modelling the new kit*

Day one and we all headed off to the bike shop to pick up our rental bikes, the bikes were ready and waiting for us, we had Carbon Trek Emondas with 11 speed 105, the bikes were well presented, in great working order and were faultless throughout the week. Pedals fitted, Garmins/Wahoos mounted and we were ready to go.

The first days ride was a shortish 55miles with 1200metres climbing, a flat start followed by a long climb up the C44 into a strong headwind, we were then rewarded with a long descent into Pratedip for lunch,. A short climb to Colldejou, then onto Les Borges Del Camp and down to Cambrils via the coastal cycle path.

Day two we climbed the N420, again into a strong headwind, however once we reached the top we had a long descent to Mora la Nova for lunch, Bocadoillos, Patatas Bravas, coffees, cokes and beer were the menu of the day. After lunch we headed towards Marca, from here we had a long climb up to Colldejou, once we reached the top we then rewarded with a fabulous descent all the way to the coast. 67 miles completed with 1600metres of climbing.

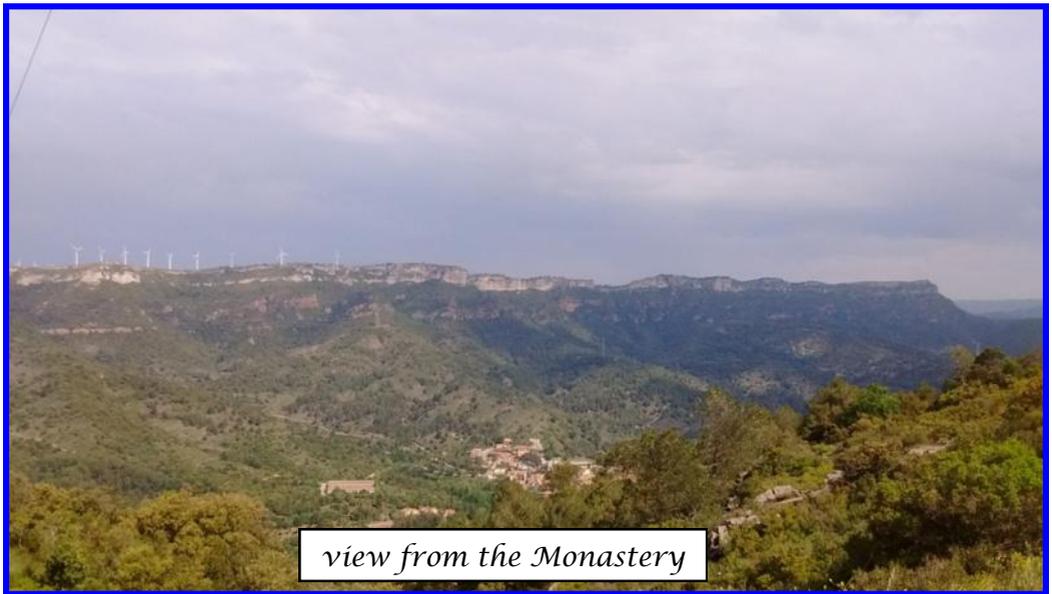


*The road to Colldejou L-R , Nathan, Mick, Jim, Ray, Jack, Sarah and Guy*

Day three was intended to be the long ride for the week and it turned out just that, 104 miles with 2470 metres of climbing, in very hot conditions. We set off on the T310, turning for the climb through Prasdip and onto the C44, from here on to El Perello where we came across a cake shop selling a fabulous selection of cakes, suitably stuffed we headed on over to Mora la Nova again for lunch, again excellent Bocadillos and cold drinks. By this time it was mid afternoon and the temperature was soaring, we headed to Gratallops and onto Falset, and with little or no shade we all started feeling the heat, our drink bottles were almost empty and Falset couldn't come soon enough, then there it was like an oasis, we managed to find a cafe and raided the fridge of water, which we drank and doused ourselves with. From here on to Marca, the climb to Colldejou and then the long descent to Cambrils.

A long but thoroughly enjoyable day with some fabulous scenery

Day four was a relatively short ride, but with a sting in the tail. The route took us to Riudecanyes, past the reservoir and the aquaduct and up to the Monastery at Vilanova d'Escornalbou, this entailed a long climb with a steep 20% section at the top, however the views from the top were spectacular, we spent some time there just taking it all in.



From here we descended to Cambrils and after lunch headed for a dip in the ice cold Med.

Day five was 67 mile route with 1800m of climbing, from Cambrils we headed north to Vilaplana then descended to La Selva Del Camp, where we stopped for coffee and

drinks. From here we began a 12.5mile climb up to La Mussara, climbing over 800m in the process, at the top we were rewarded with some amazing views again



*top of La Mussara L-R, Ray, Mick, Jack, Nathan, Guy, Dean, Jim*

After a short stop to take in the views we descended to Arboli for lunch, we found a small hostel in the village where they served us excellent bocadillos and a good selection of drinks. From here there was a short descent followed by another short climb then a fabulous descent into Cambrils, we followed the coastal cycle path running alongside the beach and back to the hotel.



*stunning view from the top of La Mussara*



*lunch stop in Arboli (who said cycling was a tough sport)*



Before we knew it day 6 had arrived and our last day cycling, we headed north again up to Vilaplana, from here we headed up to La Mussara via a different road from the previous day, the climb was fantastic, 6.37 miles and 607m of climbing, the road consisted of a series of hairpins all the way to the top, the surface was fabulous with virtually no traffic, there were lots of other cyclists on the climb from local clubs in the area. The climb is very similar to Sa Calobra in Majorca, just a little shorter, however the big difference is the complete lack of traffic. We again stopped at the top to take in the fabulous views.



*Guy and Sarah at the summit of La Mussara*

From here we descended to Montbrío del Camp where we stopped for refreshments and met up with the cyclists we had earlier seen on the La Mussara climb. After a long leisurely stop we headed back into Cambrils, 52 miles and 1245 metres of climbing completed.

After lunch we headed to the bike shop to return the bikes, they had been faultless throughout the week, one member of the group accidentally bent their rear derailleur on the first day, the following morning the mechanic replaced this, along with the chain and shifter cable, all in about 10 minutes, no questions asked, the service they provided was first class.

We cycled approximately 374 miles and climbed about 9000 metres, the roads were absolutely first class, with little or no traffic, any traffic we encountered we found the motorists to be very cycle friendly, the main roads have signs at regular intervals reminding motorists to give cyclists 1.5m space. The hospitality we encountered in the cafes we visited en-route was first class, food and drink in the local cafes was always very good and cheap, and they were always more than happy to top up water bottles



*on the road to Montbrío del Camp*

free of charge. The Hotel was again excellent, the rooms were cleaned daily and clean towels provided. The food was plentiful and varied, with some delicious fresh fruit. The hotel is ideally situated for our purpose, being a 10 minute walk to the bike shop and about 5 minutes to the sea front, cafes and supermarkets are all within a couple of minutes walk, there are some excellent cafes and bars in the town, also some award winning ice cream parlours (just ask Jack and Nathan, and me). It takes about 10 minutes to cycle out of the town to the main highway, from there on it is virtually traffic free.

Sunday morning we vacated our accommodation, spent the morning in Cambrils and generally relaxed, we had lunch in the hotel and were picked up by the minibus for our return journey. After a short flight we all arrived safely back in the UK, already thinking of a return trip next year.

*Ray Mobbs*

### MEMBER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

This edition's questionnaire is by long time Wheeler Gerry Bradley who has just joined a very exclusive club of being a Wheeler member for 50 years..

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?: **Bishopston Herefordshire**

WHEN DID YOU START CYCLING AND WHY? **1954 for transport**

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST BIKE? **Hercules**

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE WHEELERS? **1956 but did not continue and rejoined in 1968**

WHAT IS YOUR BEST CYCLING MEMORY? **Watching Mark Cavendish climb The Tumble in 2009**

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST CYCLING PERFORMANCE / RIDE ?  
**Yet to come**

WHY DO YOU ENJOY CYCLING?  
**Good exercise**

HOW OFTEN DO YOU RIDE?  
**Seldom now**

WHAT BIKE (S) DO YOU CURRENTLY OWN? **Holdsworth and Bob Griffin**

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE BIKE AND WHY ? **Bob Griffin because it is handbuilt**



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE RIDE? **Mordiford to Fownhope and on to Upton Bishop**

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE POST RIDE MEAL? **Cereals**

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE BEST CYCLING INNOVATION IN THE LAST 30 YEARS? **Carbon Frames**

WHO IS YOUR CYCLING HERO? **Mark Cavendish and Nicole Cooke**

WHAT KIND OF BOOKS DO YOU READ? **Cycling and autobiographies**

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE? **Folk**

DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES? **Golf and walking**

HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE HEREFORD WHEELERS AS A CLUB? **How could you ?**

## NOTICES

### PERCY HUGHES 1938 – 2018

Many of you will already be aware of the recent death of club stalwart Percy Hughes. Percy had supported the club for many years and in recognition of this was made an Honorary Life Member several years ago.

A lifelong cyclist Percy first became involved with the Club many years ago as the supportive parent of one of the club's star riders Peter Hughes who set many club records. In later years Percy was best known as the club "Pusher Off" at time trials. He always had a word to each rider especially for nervous first timers.

He will be sadly missed.

The club has made a donation, in lieu of flowers, to Macmillan Nurses.

### Officials letter to riders

We, as a club, have enjoyed the dependable assurance that each and every Club TT race will be timed/officiated/marshalled and organised by a team of competent helpful efficient people. It has now come to a time when the club needs more assistance and I would be very grateful if you, or anyone you know, who could to help would come forward.

Recently two volunteers, Barbara Alsford and Phil Windall have pledged their support and their help is invaluable, but as you know they would also like to race sometimes!

I would like to suggest that if no further volunteers come forward soon, that as a club, we ask two riders per race to take some part in the organisation of an event on the night.

Riders/racers are disappointed when, as just this season alone, we have had 4 races cancelled due to weather and road-works. I think everyone would be devastated if the race did not go ahead because of a shortage of dedicated officials. The jobs are not difficult but they all bring the race to a smooth conclusion.

Helpers can assist in any of the positions in the list below:-

- Signing-on
- Start timekeeper
- Finish timekeeper
- Pusher off
- Number spotter

If you feel that you would be interested in finding out more or are able to take part in sharing the workload for everyone to take part, please let me know and we can organise a chance for you to shadow one of these important jobs. We are currently looking at new time clocks that will help with the finish time recording.

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation and support for Hereford Wheelers.

*Chris Hughes*

**Race Secretary & President.**



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