

# ROAD RECORDS ASSOCIATION

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2011

### AGM 2011

The AGM was held in the Disney Room, at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London, on Saturday 26th February 2011 at 11am. There were 9 club delegates, 3 Private Members, 2 Life Members. There were 14 apologies.

The meeting opened with apologies being passed on from the President, who is undergoing some complex eye treatment. The Annual Report was proposed by the General Secretary, with some discussion ensuing, and the Association's financial position was presented by the Treasurer. All the propositions were passed. One with a small amendment to the wording

Quite a large number of rules were modified, following a thorough review by a number of members of the committee. In recent years, a number of records have been attempted by riders who have not previously attempted this sort of ride, and it became apparent that some of the rules were unclear, and needed explanation or interpretation. The revised rules have taken into account the feedback received, and should make things easier for all concerned.

The Committee remained the same.

Under AOB, there was discussion regarding an RRA badge. This idea had been tried many years ago, with out much enthusiasm. Cost of a badge, that would follow the RRA logo, would be about £5. Could those members and clubs that may be interested please contact the Gen. Sec.

### OBITUARIES

Pat Kenny was tragically killed whilst out cycling on 21st January. Members of the RRA Committee were at his funeral. A full Obituary of Pat Kenny was sent out with AGM papers.

Ethel Brambleby passed away last September. She held 4 RRA records. J. Thorburn passed away, he was a Private Member.

### RECORD BREAKING

This is always a quiet time of year, but news is expected soon of an attempt by Team Wiggle on the tandem 25 record. Paris-Roubaix winner Magnus Backstedt and David Harmon, Eurosport commentator are the two riders. No schedule has yet been received, but as soon as one is it will be added to the website.

### OUTSTANDING SUBS

If your subs are outstanding, you will have received a reminder by e-mail or post - please be kind enough to send your subs to Tim.

Please note that if you pay 4 years subs, then the 5th year is free. This saves you money, and reduces the effort and costs for the RRA

### HANDBOOK UPDATES

Handbook updates covering all the new Rule changes, Officials, Timekeepers, Observers, Course Measurers, are enclosed for members.

Updates to Members lists and the E Index will be send out later.

### NEWSLETTER & AGM by E-MAIL

The RRA is keen to communicate with its membership by e-mail. Many thanks to all those who have already signed up to receive the newsletter electronically. You are all helping to make my job easier as Gen. Sec. If you would be prepared to receive communications in this way. which could also include items relating to the AGM, plus the added bonus of receiving record attempt updates as they take place, you are encouraged to contact the secretary at the e-mail address below. E-mail allows a quicker and more efficient service, but is quite optional, and the paper alternative is still available.

IF YOU WISH TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST WILL YOU PLEASE E-MAIL THE GENERAL SECRETARY AT:-

[brianedrupt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:brianedrupt@blueyonder.co.uk)

### ALL MEMBERS AND CLUBS

If you move, have a new phone number, change of club secretary or Treasurer, or new e-mail address, **please remember** to notify the Gen. Sec.

### RRA website.

The RRA website underwent a revamp and new look recently. The new site went live on 17th July. Please visit the website to get the latest info on any Record Attempts. Both Edinburgh RC and Mid Shropshire Whs now have the RRA newsletter on their websites.

### REGIONAL INFO.

The N&WHCRRRA now has a website. [www.nwhcrra.org.uk](http://www.nwhcrra.org.uk)  
Northern RRA has a new website, [www.nrra.org.uk](http://www.nrra.org.uk)  
I have received several requests for info re Welsh RRA records and attempts. These have been passed onwards.

### PRESIDENT

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### CHAIRMAN

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### GENERAL AND RECORD SECRETARY

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### TREASURER

Tim Dadswell tel: 01483 283275

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### COMMITTEE

Ralph Dadswell, Alan Davie, Jean Edrupt, Audrey Hughes, Den Mills, Keith Robins, John Taylor, Bob Williams,

## Bidlake Memorial Trust



Photo taken September 2009

The Trust may mean very little to many new cyclists but the older generation may remember the annual plaque awarded to riders and others in cycling and the memorial garden on the old Great North Road near Sandy in Bedfordshire. It is now very difficult to get any mention in the press especially as the weekly cycling magazine appears to be mainly interested in sportives, cycle reviews, fitness and diets and overseas road racing: it has turned a blind eye to any home news of interest to the real cyclist. Hello! The Trust is still alive and kicking so how is it doing?

History tells us that F T Bidlake told his friends that plans were well advanced for retirement to the land west of Dartmoor in Devon from whence his ancestors hailed. Friends started a testimonial fund as he was held in very high regard but his untimely death in late 1933 resulted in it becoming a memorial fund. The funds were used to design and build the memorial garden near Sandy with the balance being used to start an annual award for a cycling achievement ranging from racing through to persons working for the betterment and advancement of cycling. The trust still has some funds but over the passing of seventy five years increasing costs and inflation have taken their toll. The memorial garden is still there maintained by a member of the trust committee with some help and the plaque is awarded each year. Although the cost of the plaque is now extremely high, it is still produced to the same design and pattern as the first one awarded in 1934 to Hubert Opperman. 76 years have passed since then to the 2009 recipient, Julia Shaw.

All branches of the sport and pastime of cycling are represented. Naturally world and national champions are to the fore taking over half of the number of plaques awarded. World champions vie with time trial champions for the most honours. Those who have served the sport are almost equal with these two categories. RRA record breakers especially those on the End to End trail are well represented, but surprisingly domestic road racing is hardly represented. Artistic and literary achievements along with cycle innovations have merited the award of the plaque from time to time. On seven occasions the trust was unable to find anyone to merit the award. The way to be worthy of a plaque appears rightly to be a champion, serve the sport unselfishly or ride from Lands End to John o'Groats.

The ladies grace the list with Beryl Burton awarded three plaques for multiple achievements from world championships, national championships at various disciplines including the rare distinction of a national record by man or woman! Marguerite Wilson was the first lady in 1939 and Eileen Sheridan, Nicole Cooke, Mandy Jones, Yvonne McGregor and Eileen Gray precede Julia Shaw.

Reg Harris, two awards for world sprint titles, and Ray Booty, first 100 miles in less than four hours, to the thinking of many cyclists head the list of men awarded the plaque. But what of the shorter distances? Names such as Peacock, Porter, Doyle, Sturgess, Boardman and Obree lead the way at the short distances but do not forget the long distance experts such as Ferris, Arnold, Crimes, Cromack, Tremaine, Carbutt, Woodburn, Longland, Wilkinson and Butler who have all won the plaque. Remember such heroes as Southall, Derbyshire, Joy, Colden, Simpson, Metcalfe, Griffiths, Cammish and Dawson, all who did rides most can only dream about. And who in the background planned, administered, directed, managed and encouraged to help put these riders at the top? Among many we should remember Stancer, Shaw, Moulton, Foster, Townsend, White, Campbell, Warner, Kitching, Webb, King and Brailsford. Not every name on the roll call of honour is mentioned above but add in the other plaque recipients and you have a list of names of all that is best in our cycling world. We should not forget Frank Patterson and John Helms whose work with pen and ink have graced the pages of our cycling magazines, and what would Patterson have made of Jeremy Isaacs of Channel 4 for the Tour de France pictures!

The reader of these words may be tempted to seek the full story and perhaps make a contribution to the funds of the Trust if so please get in touch with:

Graham Thompson, 19 Hitchin Road, Stevenage SG1 3BJ (Tel: 01438 369588) or switch on your computer and look at **[www.bidlakememorial.org.uk](http://www.bidlakememorial.org.uk)**

The RRA Committee have proposed a donation to the Bidlake Memorial Trust, from the bequest left by Will Townsend .