

# NEWS



**Highcliff Castle is a Grade I listed building which was built between 1831 and 1835 by Lord Stuart de Rothesay. It has been described as "*the most important remaining example of the Romantic and Picturesque style of architecture.*"**

The Castle was built on the site previously occupied by High Cliff, a Georgian mansion designed for the 3rd Earl of Bute (a founder of Kew Gardens), with grounds laid out by Capability Brown. The Earl's fourth son, General Sir Charles Stuart who sold the estate apart from Bure Homage, a small house on its outskirts, inherited High Cliff. All that remains of High Cliff today are the two entrance lodges, presently being used as a restaurant and some of the garden walls and features on the present estate.

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**MARCH 2007**



**1889****DE LAUNE**  
CYCLING CLUB**2007****SPECIALIZED****PRESIDENT**[www.delaunecc.org](http://www.delaunecc.org)**ROY SAVERY**

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**CLUB NIGHT****FIRST THURSDAY  
OF EACH MONTH**

**British Legion,  
97 Barry Road,  
SE22**

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Hi everybody.

The racing season has started. On Saturday Roger Iddles rode a 10 mile time trial and did a 22 for fourth place in an Open event, only 8 sec's. behind the winner. Not bad for a 62 year old.

I have been decided that to do well in the World Masters' Time Trial aged 70 plus, I also will need to be able to get a lot closer to Roger's time, so Brian Dacey and myself have started early. On the 28<sup>th</sup> January we rode the Catford Reliability Trial. Jane and Marie from our Club also entered, and did very well. It really was a hard ride, with four hills – Groombridge, Fordcombe, Ide Hill and finally Star Hill. Brian got away from me up Star Hill, and I had to chase him all the way to the finish. We did the 100 km, including a stop for a puncture, in 3 hrs. 53 mins. Not bad for a couple of old fogies.

I went out with the VCL on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February. We were out for about 3 hours, and I had a good ride.

We had a Committee Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, which is reported elsewhere in this magazine.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> February I was the guest speaker at the Shaftesbury Cycling Club Dinner, which was held at Furze Hill Banqueting Suite, near Chelmsford. About 70 people sat down to dinner, and a good time was had by all.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February Sydenham Wheelers had a 108 km Reliability Trial, which went all round Ashdown Forest, Frant, Merriworth, Wrotham, and along the Pilgrims Way. On the latter stretch we saw Allen Rowe, who we thought had just come down the hill to see us, and then go straight back home, but he did say he went up Star Hill earlier to the HQ, but nobody was there. We did the distance in 4 hours 10 mins. Again we finished up Star Hill, but this time Brian chased me home.

Last week I was on my bike for over 17 and a half hours, doing turbo and roadwork. Got to get the speed up somehow!

Our new grandson is rapidly catching up on weight after his early arrival, although he is still giving his parents sleepless nights.

Brian Dacey and myself will be starting our racing season on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, when we will be doing the Glendean Road Race, Saffron

That's all for now. I'll leave you with the quote for the month:

"Life itself cannot give you joy unless you really will it. Life just gives you time and space – its up to you to fill it."

Source unknown.

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***THIS IS OUR SECRETARY - IS IT TIME FOR A  
CHANGE***

## The Chairman's Report



You will be glad to know the De Laune Ski team are back from France all in one piece. The team was depleted this year without Peel and Savery but we carried on regardless.

John Dods arrived this year with his entire luggage intact. Stax arrived with the flu. Titch kept quiet all week so we did not know what he had and I did my normal programme of going out on the slopes at about 11am and returning at about 2 pm. You must not over do it at my age!

With the San Fairy Ann, we had three groups: the fast group: the slow group: and the group that stopped in bed all day. Yes we had a few of them! These youngsters cannot hold their drinks.

Over all it was a good holiday with plenty of sun and snow. We had chalet accommodation with food and wine. The wine was a bit rough in fact it burned a hole in the tablecloth.

Did you read Nigel Scales short article in last months DLN? It was good. How he compressed it into a few short words I do not know! His tongue in cheek article about the different disciplines made me laugh but I think he will ruffle a few feathers in the club!

If I remember Nigel came down the 21 hairpin bends of Alp d'huez in style and then fell off at the bottom and broke his arm! Nigel was the only rider in last years hill climb to walk up and ask for a time! Bless him.

House Notes.

I hope when you read this months DLN you see that we have an AGM at our club room (British Legion Club) on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Please be there or be square!

Those of you planning to ride at Betteshanger, please contact the event organiser before you go. Due to the lack of electricity, water, toilets and

changing facilities on site, events have had to be cancelled. Betteshanger could be open at the end of April at the earliest.

As most of you know, we are involved in the SERRL ROAD LEAGE and supply marshals (and a winner with Sam last year) for our allotted event. This year the event will be held at Sevenoaks Weald on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of April so we need a De Laune team entered and, most important, marshals.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May the SERRL will be running a Grand Prix event at Edenbridge Kent for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> categories. Again we will need a De Laune team and, again, marshals. It is a good day out and I know your President will buy you a pint after the event!

I know over the last few weeks we had our top team led by Jane, training in Tenerife, with high altitude training up Mount Tide. We hope to get a good article out of this for the DLN!

Kav.



## A DE LAUNE ABROAD

By Peter Jenn

It all started at the World Masters Cycling Championships at Manchester 2005. I was warming up in the centre of the Velodrome, this is an area where the riders warm up for their event by circling round and round slowly until a steward calls them to the start line. The event was a 10,000m points race, the rider next to me was Max Pendleton also riding for G.B. I turned to him and said “this is my last race I’m retiring”. About 20 min. after the race Max came over and gave me his telephone number and address in New Zealand and said “ you are welcome to come over and stay”. I thanked him and we both returned to packing up our equipment, some of my equipment I had already sold, I will tell you how it came about.

Two days previously on the same warm up ring I was circling round and the rider next to me happened to be Earl Henry from Trinidad, I asked him how things were and he said “not so good” his shoe plate had come loose as he was about to start the 500m and affected his concentration so he hadn’t performed up to his usual standard. He then asked about myself and I said my concentration had also been affected and this is how - I was sitting at the start waiting to be called to the starting gate for the World Pursuit qualifier when an official came over and said “you are wearing the wrong helmet” - I turned to Brian Dacey who was standing nearby and said “can you get me another helmet”, so off he went “ how are you Peter” said the starter who has been starting me at the Worlds for the last 10 years. I pulled a face and said “this is my last pursuit”.

A young rider overhearing this and said “ I’ll give you a £1000 for the back wheel and £100 for your handle bars”! Come on said the starter and I quickly went to the gate, the Danish rider on the other side of the track had been waiting for quite a while 5-4-3-2-1-GO! As I came out of the starting gate I was thinking that £1100 for handlebars and wheel and suddenly I hit the 48 degree banking on the first bend - the upshot was the slowest time I had ever done! This made Earl laugh so much he almost fell off, the next night at the farewell party in the hotel he was laughing and telling every one about the rider who sold his bike on the start line of the World Pursuit. I found that young rider and told him you mustn’t talk to a rider as he is about to start a pursuit, not only that but he had better pay up, he did.





When I got back to London I paid a visit to New Zealand House near Trafalgar Square and bought a ticket to NZ via Los Angeles, the route was suggested by Eric Lund, from Air New Zealand, only a two hour stop at LA but a 28 hour journey “where would you like to sit - are you a vegetarian” he asked me very helpful “how much said I” £960 inc taxes - I gave him my debit card, it was at this point I turned white, whether it was the realization that I had committed myself to such a long flight, or the cost I’m not sure.

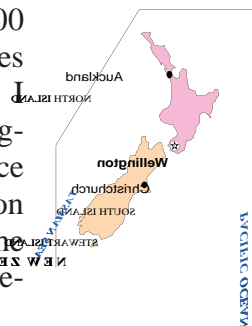
I remember my father telling me about his bike tours, how he had travelled light and posted his washing back home! Well I decided to do the same travel light that is, I purchased a fold up bike at the London Cycle Show, the lightest one, it came with a clip on bag at the front, a small ruck on my back and I was set. Anita and Clare drove me to the Airport and saw me off, the plane was huge 400 passengers, every one had their own TV.

## THE PESSIMIST

There wasn’t anyone next to me to LA but that was to change after a 2 hour stop at LA to clean the plane and refuel, we boarded again and picked up some new passengers “excuse me” I stood up and let this large chap squeeze into the seat next to me. You can choose your food, your seat the film you watch but you can’t choose who sits next to you, he turned out to be a pessimist totally opposite to myself. “Where are you going” he said “I’m a cyclist and I thought I’d ride around New Zealand “ride around NZ on a bike those Kiwi drivers will



run you over as soon as look at you” well I could ride on the pavement.....” ride on the pavement \$200 fine instant” he bellowed. Then after a few minutes in a quieter voice “where are you staying?” “London” I thought I would stay in Wellin....” “stay in Wellington no chance, the Rugby Sevens are on every place will be full”. This went on for an age, I won’t mention the plane crashes he told me about, eventually he said “of course you could stay with me” was I relieved when he went to sleep!





Arriving at Wellington Airport, I was in no hurry to leave \_ I took my time - coffee - obtain some dollars and get over the flight (which had been so turbulent over the Pacific that the hostesses couldn't serve drinks).

I was in the middle of assembling my Bromton when 'He' came by and just before getting into his taxi said "forget about cycling its too mountainous!"



So ignoring all the "Good" advice I ride out of the airport, 9 am and its a very pleasant day - the sense of anticipation in-

to the unknown.



**To be continued.**

### **NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**The date for the 2007 Brighton OMA Lunch  
is Sunday 17th June.**

**Usual Venue and more details to follow.**

**Kindly contact Dot on 01689 851241 or Trish on  
01273.546226 e.mail [triciab60@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:triciab60@hotmail.co.uk)**

## **I read with interest Nigel Scales "Beginners Guide to Cycle Racing" in the February edition of the DLN.**

I am sure that Nigel wrote his article with tongue in cheek, nevertheless I would like to respond:

If Nigel has ever ridden on the track, hard or grass, he will know that there is a great deal of skill, tactics plus experience involved if a rider is to win, brute force and ignorance is not enough.

Going "Balls all out" in a 5-mile scratch race will seldom get a rider placed, in fact he is quite likely to be lapped or drop out when he "blows-up"

Positioning in the field, doing your homework before an event, then marking likely winners during the race, will more likely achieve a good result.

Track racing demands a great deal of riding skill and experience, just look at the "road riders" who try their hand at track racing, often find it difficult to ride in a straight line, wobble all over the track only to touch the back wheel of the rider in front and fall off, (they forgot they had no brakes) I am dismayed sometimes at the skill level of some of the riders in Le Tour de France. They may be fast but some cannot ride their bikes smoothly and become involved in unnecessary accidents.

Nigel obviously knows zero about grass track racing since this branch of the sport is probably "extinct" today. This also leads me to believe he has never seen such an event?

Riding on a grass track involves the rider riding his bike smoothly, "all arms and legs" will surely cause your pedal to touch down hard at the first bend and down you go sliding along on the "soft" grass (as he states) The reality is that when you slide on grass you burn!

I slid once, had all the skin removed from my left thigh leaving a great red watering burn patch. This was extremely painful and

took something like two months to heal. Burns don't form a scab so continually weep.

Even now, almost fifty years later, I have no feeling in my left thigh, probably because the nerve tissue was damaged.

The most common injury for track riders is a broken collar bone, very painful I am told, fortunately I did not suffer this injury.

It was always very interesting to see even the experienced top class track riders riding on wet grass shortly after a rain shower. These conditions always sorted out the "men from the boys"

The best grass track rider I ever saw and occasionally raced against was Maurice Ward of the Polytechnic CC. He was a brilliant rider and I believe won five National Track Championships in one year, four of them at various distances on the grass, the others on the hard track.

Maurice was so good that he would tell all the riders in the field how he would ride and win the 5-mile event before the race started. Even with a top class field he would do exactly as he forecast and still win.

Two of his most spectacular wins were at the Littleport Wheelers Classic Five Mile event held annually at Littleport. Then the invitation Five Mile Scratch race held annually at the beautiful Cadbury Sports Ground at Bourneville, Birmingham.

In the Littleport Wheelers event Maurice won the 5-mile event three years in succession, making the "largest trophy in cycle racing, made in solid silver" his personal property. I believe this magnificent trophy was four to five feet tall and was very heavy!

In the Cadbury invitation event at Bourneville, Maurice again completed three successive wins in the 5-mile event making the solid gold "Brookes Bowl" his personal property. From memory the Brookes Gold Bowl was put up around 1900, many riders had two wins but never that vital third win, that was until Maurice came along.

People without knowledge of Grass Track racing think that this branch of the sport is slow. The fastest ever 5-mile scratch race I participated in at Herne Hill was 9-minutes 51 seconds, I finished in the bunch. The fastest five mile scratch race I ever competed in on grass was at the "Vickers Armstrong Gala Sports Day" at Weybridge, Surrey, I think I made third place about two lengths behind the winner who I think was Brian Sandy of the Somerset Road Club, also National Champion at several distances. The time on grass 10 minutes 25 seconds.

In both cases the events averaged around 30 mph, not exactly slow.

Sorry Nigel your statements on cycle racing are like saying "an International Soccer Match is twenty-two men chasing a bag of wind"

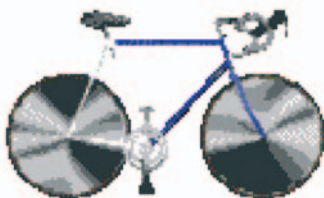
Take care,

John Darroch.

### *Grass Track Racing*

*Track racing on grass. Occasionally the track is on a slight slope, making gear choice even more important. If you fall off, the landing is a bit softer than a normal track.*

*Allegedly. At least there are no splinters, though the grass stains on your knees may take a little explaining to your partner. On the other hand, it has also been described as "like stock-car racing, with blood"...*



## MEMBERSHIP

We must congratulate Bill Miles, who will have completed 70 years' membership of the club on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007: Bill was proposed by Ken Hill and seconded by Ken Fletcher and at that time was living at 41 Balaclava Road, London SE1. Incidentally, Bill mentioned in a recent letter what a good idea it was to revive the Richmond Park Run – “an inspired idea, judging by the photograph on the front of the mag” (January 2007). Bill remarked that perhaps it was the mulled wine and mince pies that was the attraction!

If you've paid your subs for 2007 you will by now have received your membership card (courtesy of Mike Peel). Amongst those who have paid up and made donations are: Malcolm Adams (who requested that his donation be made available for postage of the DLN), Len Danby, David Dulake, Peter Gunnell, Arthur How, John Kavanagh, Geoff Margetts, Michael Moore, Clif Pendleton, Alan Rowe, Roy Savery, Nigel Scales, Brian Shambrook, Peter Shepherd, John Starsmeare, Dave Tweddell, Monty Watkins, Don White, Jeremy White and George Wood.

John O'Brien has changed to Associate membership as he has joined Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers as first claim. He arrived at this decision after a great deal of consideration, mainly so that he can ride in the local inter-club events in Dorset; he says he does quite well in the hilly events there but never gains any points as he has to ride as a private or second claim member.

Roy Chittleborough (who has reached the ripe old age of 70 – I can't believe this as I knew him when he was a boy!) was recently down in John's part of the world for his birthday bash. Amongst the group celebrating this event was Paddy Hoban (34<sup>th</sup> Nomads) who arranged a visit to Highcliffe Castle. The guide who took them round the castle turned out to be a member of the De Laune in the early fifties – Ron Kirby. Derek Boon, who was with the group, arranged for a copy of the Club History to be sent to Ron and we have received an e-mail from Ron in which he states:

“Isn’t life strange and aren’t people generally nice. I am a guide at Highcliffe Castle and recently I did a tour for 20-plus visitors from around the country who just happened to be from the club I used to ride for 50 years ago. The tour was arranged by Mr Hoban who is a local resident but I didn’t know him and I was amazed when I discovered who they were. One of them, Derek Boon, said that he would send me a copy of the Club History and I must admit that I thought that would be the last I would hear. Please thank him very much for me. My thanks to all the others that I met that day. I don’t ride any more but I still run – some would say stagger, and I ran the New Forest Half Marathon last September, which is very hilly and probably the hardest thing I have ever done physically. Once again, many thanks for a pleasant blast from the past.”

I’ve had a quick look through the records and sure enough, Ron was a member of the club, having joined on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1956. His date of birth is shown as the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1940. Incidentally, the subscription in 1956 for an Ordinary member was 2/6d. There is no record of when he left the club.

To bring us right up to date we have received apologies from Chris Gordon-Coker for not being present at the AGM because he flies off to Cape Town on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> March to ride in the Cape Argus on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. I’m sure he’ll let us know how he gets on!

Brian Saxton







# **DATES TO REMEMBER**

## **Diary Social/Club for 2007**

Thursday	20.00	1-Mar	Annual General Meeting	Clubroom
Sunday	12.45	17-Jun	OMA Lunch	Brighton
Friday		?-Nov	Belgium Night	Blackheath Harriers
Sunday	10.30	18-Nov	Remembrance Service	Newnham

## **Club & Inter-Club Events for 2007**

Sunday	09.30	1-Apr	SERRL Road Race	Sevenoaks Weald
Wednes	19.00	16-May	Interclub 9.5mls	OS/30
Sunday	07.15	10-Jun	Mid-Summer 25	G25/53
Tuesday	18.00	?-Jun	Circuit Race	Cyrstal Palace
Thursda	19.00	21-Jun	Interclub 21 mls.	GS/311
Sunday	07.00	29-Jul	Fred Peachey 25	Chilham
Saturday	07.30	18-Aug	OMA 10	Q10/20
Sunday	07.45	16-Sep	Autumn 25	G25/53
Saturday	07.15	22-Sep	Interclub 10	Q10/19
Sunday	11.00	?- Sep	Down Hill	Tilburstow Hill
Sunday	11.00	14-Oct	Hill Climb	Titsey Hill Gh/31

**SEE MESSAGE BOARD to keep UP TO DATE**

**<http://mikepeel.proboards67.com>**

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE 28th MARCH**

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