

# DE LAUNE CYCLING CLUB

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"WEE THREE"

# DE LAUNE NEWS

**September 2003**

No. 854 -74th Year

[www.delaunecc.org](http://www.delaunecc.org)

<b>OFFICIALS</b>			
<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>  <b>JOHN KAVANAGH</b>            40 Beverley Road            Barming Maidstone            Kent ME16 9JP            01622            726959          01622            726959</p>	<p><b>SECRETARY</b>  <b>PETE HARRIS</b>            91 Ashbourne Road            Ealing            London W5 3DH            020 8997            7852          020            8997 7852</p>	<p><b>TREASURER</b>  <b>JAMES LETT</b>            102 Park Road            Kingston            Surrey KT2 5JZ</p>	<p><b>CLUB NIGHT</b>            Third Thursday            of each month  <b>HERNE HILL</b>  <b>STADIUM</b>            Burbage Road            London            SE24 9HE</p>

## **THE PRESIDENTS REPORTS**

When I read last months DLN I came across an article about correspondence with the Queen. I thought this must be from Len Danby as he is the only one I know who mixes with royalty but, no, it was Peter Gunnell. Yes, knowing Peter, he could mix with royalty.

Not to be outdone, our editor goes on about getting telegrams from the Queen and sitting next to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Will this ever end I ask? (Not yet see this issue Ed.)

My only claim is that when I was away racing many years ago, and stopping in digs, at breakfast I passed the marmalade to the famous cyclist, Ken Joy, and I touched his finger doing it.

The Tour of France is over for another year. What a Tour it was. Never a dull day, David Duffield let it slip on the telly that the Tour next year would start from Liege, Belgium on the 3rd of July.

I thought I must book a few hotel rooms for the guys who want to go. Guess what? The Tour people have already blanket booked the accommodation in that area. So it could be plan B again, the telly.

I have reported in previous DLN's that we have many active members but we never see them. We had a clubroom that no one wanted to go to also. Not many years ago we had a similar problem, nobody wanted to stop out on the bikes for the day after the events and most wanted to go home and do other things. The reason? The Car. The motor vehicle had a lot to answer for. We lost a lot of the club spirit, but did we?

Now we have a new problem. We used to talk on the telephone but not now it is the e-mail and the web. Like it or hate it, we have got it. It is like having a .com bank; you do not go to a branch as we do not go to a clubroom.

If you do any transaction with your .com bank you do it over the web. If you want to ride a club event, you can e-mail Alan Rowe our TT Sec and say, put me down for

the old members 10. We have members who prefer to have the DLN sent to them over the web. Do you know what? - We are all doomed Mr Mannering! We are all doomed!

On Sunday 10th of August, we held the Fred Peachey open 25 on the Chilham course in Kent. It was a great day seeing old friends out marshalling and riding. I know Malcolm Adams will be giving you a full report in this issue so I will say no more but would like to thank Malcolm on behalf of the club for running this event over the last few years. I know it has not been easy with all the new rules and regulations. Thanks mate.

Val the Peach will be running the event next year so she will need all the support we can give her. Thanks Val.

We have two important club events coming up. On the 7th September, we have the old members 10 and on the 14th September we have the Autumn 25. If you want to ride, e-mail, - sorry contact Alan Rowe who will give you full details.

More for your diary. On the Friday the 31st October we will be combining the OMA supper with the Belgium night. If you remember it is good food and wine for about £10 plus roller racing. This is all down to your committee and the services of our club chefs Carol and Cliff Steel. The event will be held at the Blackheath clubroom at Hayes, Kent.

If you remember the last two Belgium nights have been sell outs, so it is first come first served. Ticket allocation. One ticket per member plus guest. Contact Dot or me.

On the 3rd August we held our club track championships. Again I will not say a lot about what happened at as I know Jeremy White will be giving you a full report (I hope) I must tell you about this! Poor old Ben Neville came down in the back straight and he was a mess. He was taken away in the ambulance to hospital.

Later a group of us had an Italian meal in Dulwich village. It was a very warm night so we sat outside. Walking down the road was a guy covered in bandages looking like an Egyptian mummy. Peter Jenn said jokingly I bet that is Ben Neville and it was.

Stax said to him if you had paid your club subs we would have sent you a get-well card. Do you know what? He gave Stax a cheque for his subs. Bless him.

How is the sale of the clubroom going you ask? Well we have not as yet exchanged contracts with our new buyers but they have had their plans for building changes approved by the council. So fingers crossed.

I like to mention in my reports the good work carried out by our members, so I would like to mention Alaric Lester. This guy has been under the weather lately and has not rode his bike for ages but he still carries out his job as our club chairman. A lot of waffle is said at committee meetings and can go on for hours with no conclusion. If you have been on the committee you will know what I mean.

Alaric is a quite sort of guy but very positive. Alaric has devised an agenda for committee meetings with so much time allocated to each section. If you want to bring up a subject you put it on paper and not pick it out of the sky and waste time. Do you know we can go through so much more in one hour and be in the pub by 9.30? The only problem we have is that Alaric cannot join us as he has got to get the train back to Brighton where he now lives. Thank you Alaric, your work is appreciated.

Before I finish, I must tell you, if you think you qualify for one of the club frames, which are donated by our sponsor Evans Cycles, contact Peter Harris for an application form as soon as possible as the orders will be going in soon.

Kav.



The Winner - Paul Mill Receives the Fred Peachy Trophy from Tony Peachy (Son of Fred) at the open 25



President John Kavanagh presents Karl Strugnell with his trophy - for the 2nd year running he was top Junior

#### [Fred Peachey Memorial 25 mile Time Trial](#)

For the past few years the above event has been excellently promoted by Malc Adams. His persuasive skills of encouraging club members out to assist on the day have clearly been second to none, judging by the good response for 2003. I only hope that the same tradition continues for 2004 when I shall be in the driving seat once again. Clearly he had spent many hours preparing for the promotion on 10th August, as not a stone was left unturned on the day. Well done Malc and all the helpers on the day, the event was an admirable showpiece for the De Laune Cycling Club.

I was rather saddened at the Club AGM when no new promoter came forward from the ranks of first claim members, especially when Malc had broadcast his intention to stand down from promotion earlier in the year. However, I, with the assistance of Tony, will bridge the gap until a new promoter is forthcoming.

I shall be applying for the same weekend in 2004, which will be revealed as Sunday 8th August, so make a note now to keep just a few hours clear on that particular morning. Not sure that I can promise the same weather as this year but I will do my best.

You will be hearing from me again



Val Peachey.

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*It is always nice to hear how our members are performing in their chosen events, and it was great to receive the following report from a member who has only joined our club in the last few months together with his team mate. Well done Harry and thank you. Ed.*

### THE WATERLOOVILLE TRIATHLON July

The swim was due to start at 8.00 a.m, it started at 8.10am in an indoor pool 25 metres in length. I know that I am a slow swimmer and felt that despite the slow swim I felt strong. Rupert is a strong swimmer and gave it his all coming out of the pool in 52nd position.

It was great weather for a bike race in Hampshire and both Rupert and I had been looking forward to this leg of the event. Rupert felt that he gave it all his best and enjoyed the continual change of gradient. We both hit red lights and whilst I had an additional stop of a minute for a chain problem I was not disappointed with the course.

As I came to the end of the bike leg I prepared myself for the run. I rose out of the saddle to stretch my legs so when having gone through transition I felt I was able to find my running legs quickly.

When Rupert hit the run he had knee problems which had been a problem in the preparation for the event. For me it was the first time in the day that I was doing some overtaking and it was a good feeling. Whereas the bike route had been a circular route, the run was an out and back course.

We both had great fun and look forward to bringing other new members in to do Triathlon for the De Laune. Any club members that would like to know more call H. Corbett at home on 020 8947 6782      020 8947 6782      .

The Waterlooville Triathlon consisted of:-

600 metres SWIM

40 Km BIKE RACE

10 Km RUN

There were 189 starters

Rupert Walsh (De Laune) Finished in 140th place

Swim 11.17 (52nd)  
Bike 1.20 (95th)  
Run 1.06 (173rd)  
2.38.09

Harry Corbett (De Laune) Finished 142nd place

Swim 14.55 (162nd)  
Bike 1.33 (165th)  
Run 50.52 (74th)  
2.39.12

HARRY CORBETT

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## LONDON TRIATHLON (sprint)

2nd August

SWIM 750 Mts +++ Bike 20Km +++ Run 5Km

MIXED SPRINT RACE: Rupert Walsh - 105th from 340 - 1.27.01 (winning time 1.13.57)

MALE SPRINT RACE 2: Harry Corbett - 215th from 569 - 1.28.44 (winning time 1.12.50)

A warm day that was well organized with a great deal of first time tri-athletes. Rupert and I wished that we had lots of De Laune applications because so many people had a good day and want to do more events.

Rupert had a good swim and bike section and I had a good run. We both took too long to change between the swim and bike section.

We both had a few thoughts about things in general and they are:-

- 1) We will work on our weaker disciplines in the winter with Rupert having treatment for his knee so he can commit to proper winning training. I am in the right place for bike training advice (i.e. De Laune).
- 2) Next triathlon 25th August in Hampton.
- 3) We are looking forward we hope to having 10 De Laune competitors at the New Forest Duathlon on the 12th October.
- 4) We may be on the verge of gaining 3 or 4 experienced tri-athletes whom currently do not have a club to compete for.

We will keep you posted (they have done full iron man).

H.C.

*Editors Note Over 5,000 triathletes competed in The 2003 London Triathlon in glorious sunshine. A fantastic range of competitors participated in the event over*

both Saturday and Sunday, young, old, fit and not so fit, cheered on by over 15,000 spectators

See: [www.thelondontriathlon.com](http://www.thelondontriathlon.com) for the full details results and photos.  
Other sites [www.triathletes-uk.org](http://www.triathletes-uk.org) - [www.britishtriathlon.org](http://www.britishtriathlon.org)

## BEGINNERS TIPS

### Common Questions

#### *I have never competed in a triathlon before, what equipment do I need?*

When you add up all the accessories that go with triathlon training and racing, it can be a long and expensive list. However, to get you from the start line to the finish line, all you need are the following basic items:

- Swim Leg - swimsuit, goggles, cap, towel and lubricant gel (optional)
- Cycle Leg - any type of bike, helmet (this is a must) and water bottle
- Run Leg - runners and socks (optional)
- General items - sunglasses, sunscreen and hat

#### *What type of bike do I need?*

In the short term, any bike will get you through a triathlon. Many first timers use mountain bikes or touring bikes. However if you are thinking long term, buy a bike that fits you - comfort is everything after 20kms or more. See a bike specialist to be measured up and fitted onto the right bike.

#### *Should I follow a special diet?*

Triathletes do not require a special diet - just a healthy one! Low in fat and high in carbohydrates (breads, cereals, rice and pasta) for creating and maintaining energy levels. The more you train, and the longer the races that you compete in, the more carbohydrates you will require.

#### *What kind of warm ups are necessary before a race?*

As the transition area of a triathlon is very hectic, be well set up, so you allow enough time before your race to warm up and stretch. An easy 5 minute jog followed by gentle arm and leg stretches can help prevent injuries.

#### **Latest on the Clubroom 18-08-03**

The long standing offer on the Clubroom for £237,000 from Sally and Sandy Rendell today became unconditional. They have been seeking planning permission. Today they learned that permission has been granted.

### Pleasure and pain - the 2003 Tour de France

The President's Report in the previous edition of the DLN included a description of his experiences following the Tour de France for a week, and as I was mentioned I thought I might add more detail on my own experiences this month - good and bad.

The story starts back in November 2002 when the Tour de France Organisers announced the route for the Centenary edition of the race in 2003. I realised that there was a stage finish in Lyon on Friday 11th July, a stage start there the following day and the key stage to Alpe D'Huez on Sunday 13th. The combination of direct flights to Lyon, a finish and start there, a key alpine stage within relatively easy reach - all "do-able" in a long weekend - was almost too good to miss. Add the fact that my wife's sister lives in Lyon and insisted I stay with her and her husband and that they would sort out details on getting to the finish and start and the decision was made. (In line with Kav's report last month, I'll mention that Lyon is regarded as the food capital of France and the "Old Town" is quite touristic.)

Plan "A" was to fly in on Thursday night, watch the Friday stage finish and on Saturday take in the atmosphere at the signing on/start then head to Grenoble by train, ride the 65 kms to Alpe D'Huez, savour the climb, then pick a good spot near one of the hairpin bends and get some sleep (partying Dutch fans permitting). After some consideration of the logistical disadvantages (lack of toilets, need to carry sleeping-bag, mat etc for a 130 km round-trip ride, baggage weight restrictions) Plan "B" replaced the overnight stay on Alpe D'Huez with a hotel in Grenoble!

On arrival my brother-in-law gave me with an official video of the 2002 Tour he'd borrowed in case I got bored between stages. As the main TV station covers the stages live there wasn't much chance of that, but it was a good start and filled some time in prior to the start of TV coverage next day, getting me in the right mood.

My sister-in-law took me to the stage finish. Having a couple of young kids in tow, and given the heat, we only arrived about an hour before the riders and could only get places with any kind of view about 250 metres from the finish line. Amazing atmosphere. For anyone who's never seen it, the audience interaction with the publicity caravan has to be seen to be believed. Adults compete aggressively for the sweets, and junk thrown from the trucks/cars, barging kids out of the way at times. I even saw one guy guarantee possession of a small slice of cake (an inch square, wrapped) by jumping on it to get to it first, squashing it in the process - he was still happy to "win" despite the state his prize was in. Interestingly, having won the sweets etc. so aggressively, many of the adults share out surplus winnings (once their own kids have their share) with any kids they can see that missed out so the overall atmosphere remains generally friendly.

Petacchi won the sprint and the riders passed at such high speed that Zabel, trailing after a crash, was the only one I could pick out. I decided to check out the finish area out of curiosity (everyone else seemed to be leaving, so access was possible). I decided to stake out the medical control caravan which was near the public area. Sure enough, Petacchi and Victor Hugo Pena, the yellow jersey, showed up for their tests passing within a metre of me, conducting TV interviews, then walking with bikes to their team cars which parked a few metres behind me. Atmosphere was even more energetic, especially the Colombian fans!

Bad information from officials at the finish meant we arrived just before the start next day - the police had already closed off and cleared the sign-on area and there was no chance of watching the riders sign-on or for the kids to chase autographs.

However they saw a processional start saw the yellow jersey and some other key riders and went home happy to watch the stage live on TV.

Next morning I woke up in Grenoble to find the alarm hadn't gone off and I was 3 hours behind schedule - great start. In the end I got to Alpe D'Huez around 1pm spending a big part of the ride on roads closed to traffic except for cyclists, Tour-accredited cars and, amazingly, the team coaches which of course have to be in place before the riders arrive. They all played tunes on their horns, flashed lights, waved and generally reacted positively to the groups of riders on the road - new experience for me! I had to walk up the climb due to the crowds, so stopped at hairpin 1, where I found a good spot in the shade. As arranged, I phoned Kav my location so we could meet up, only to find the closed roads I had so enjoyed had prevented him getting through. Well, he missed a great atmosphere and the opportunity to see all the riders, including the stars, moving slow enough to be visible but way faster than I could have managed, even though they'd already covered some big climbs. Very humbling. And even the stragglers got huge support (well-deserved) from the 650,000 people who lined the climb. (Hint for the next club hill-climb!)

Disappointingly, though I had allowed for the publicity possibilities of TV coverage (ITV and Eurosport) and was wearing De Laune kit and positioned where all the TV cameras seemed to be pointing, no footage seems to have resulted.

Determined to benefit from my (short) stay at altitude I obeyed Police orders to walk down the climb, then as the crowds thinned a little, activated the heart rate monitor and started my planned 65 km training ride back to Grenoble and the train to Lyon. All went well at first, until at around the half-way point I stopped to fill my bottles from a village fountain. I decided to replace my racing cap with my crash hat as I knew there was a descent with a series of fast bends coming up and, later on, some roads where some of the traffic had been volubly unfriendly earlier in the day. Good decision - about 5 minutes later while descending through a left-hand bend, according to the only witness, I lost control of the bike and slammed into a wall on the right. Current suspicion is that the cassette lockring unscrewed and the rear wheel jammed up. (I was riding a 10-15 year old "hack" bike, not the Specialized.) As I still have amnesia and the bikes still in France, confirmation will have to wait. I do remember ringing my wife from the ambulance because I knew my 8-month pregnant sister-in-law was waiting up for me and it was clear I wasn't going to get my train, so I thought it best my wife call her as I couldn't find her number. Apart from that, my memory from before the crash on Sunday until the following Friday is very patchy. Crashing the weekend of France's national holiday, Bastille Day, is not recommended, but the surgeon apparently made a good job of re-constructing my shattered elbow. The (2nd) plaster should come off in September, ready for 2-3 months of re-habilitation. The 6 fractured ribs will sort themselves out and it looks like the crash hat prevented any serious head injuries, though according to people I spoke to during the 2 weeks after the accident, I wasn't always too coherent and I still have gaps in my memory. My wife's family rallied round, sprung me from hospital and I stayed with them for a few weeks convalescing, diverting myself by watching the Tour live on (every cloud has a silver lining...).

(Note for the superstitious: the day of the accident, July 13th, was the anniversary of Tom Simpson's death on Mont Ventoux in the 1967 Tour. Tom was the reason for me taking up cycling the first time round. The bike I was riding was an impulse buy a few years back from a second-hand shop at the base of Mont Ventoux, after a visit to the mountain and the Tom Simpson memorial earlier in the day. The bike was originally sold in Carpentras, the town hosting the hospital to which Tom was helicoptered from Ventoux. I only took the crash hat with me as a last minute decision and only put it on just before the crash.)

As the prognosis is that I should be OK to drive by November (!), it's safe to assume my 2003 season is over and I guess it's going to be turbo-trainer time. But it was still a great experience (the accident aside) to see the Tour, in particular on Alpe D'Huez. The route for 2004 should be out in a few months...

Nigel Scales

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### The SERRL championship

The SERRL championship was run off in very hot conditions this weekend around the Tenterden circuit in Kent over 125 km on August 3.

As the lead cars prepared the way for the riders it was Daly on his own who took the league championship. Despite the distance and the finish at the top of the climb it was down to a photo finish to get the other places with Smith leading the bunch followed by Meilak. Forth was James Lett (De Laune CC) and fifth was taken by the promising junior Ian Field (San Fairy Ann CC).

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### BEASTWAY MTB

#### OVERALL SERIES POSTIONS BY CATEGORY AFTER 7 ROUNDS

##### MASTER MEN

1	<a href="#">Gavin Rumbles</a>	CC Luton	206
2	<a href="#">James Lett</a>	Delaune/Evans/ Spealized	202
3	<a href="#">Julian Chamberlayne</a>	N/A	202
4	<a href="#">Paul Douglas</a>	CC Luton	192
5	<a href="#">Antonius Wubben</a>	N/A	169
6	<a href="#">Jay Pinsent</a>	London Phoenix	153
14	<b>Cliffe Steel</b>	Delaune	106
18	<b>Ross Fryer</b>	Delaune	99
	<b>Steven Price</b>	Delaune	58

Club night - third Thursday of each month - Herne Hill Stadium, Burbage Road,  
London, SE24 9HE

### A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL FRIENDS OF THE VELODROME & ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR PLANNING APPLICATION.

I'm delighted to report that on Monday 30th June, Southwark's Planning Committee approved the outline planning application to regenerate Herne Hill Velodrome, in the face of stiff "not in my back yard" opposition.

At the end of a long debate at which all points of view were aired, common sense and reason prevailed and the application was approved with four in favour and one against.

The obvious good sense, reasonableness and innovation of the plans were recognised by Southwark's Planning Committee, as well as the fact the plans would not - as detractors maintained - decrease local amenity but on the contrary, would improve and add value to Dulwich and Herne Hill's facilities, as well as securing the cycling future of London's only remaining Velodrome.

Ratification of the decision by the Government Office for London is now awaited, as is an in principle agreement with the Dulwich Estate for a long lease.

In addition to successfully achieving a fundamental pre-condition for successfully raising funding, the Friends of Herne Hill Velodrome have brought together very many local people who are committed to the future of the Velodrome. We hope to bring you all together in a future e-group as well as keeping you up to date on progress towards achieving our regeneration objectives.

Thanks to all of you for your invaluable help to date.

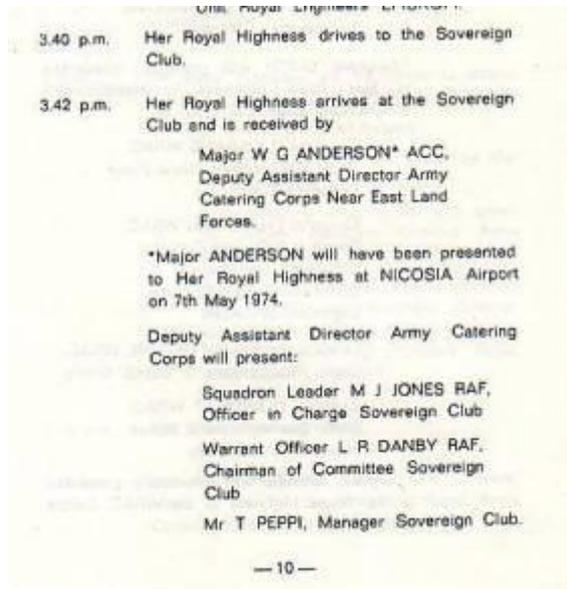
Our efforts will be continued on both a local and London wide basis until we have implemented our objective of a financially sustainable future for track cycling at a regenerated Herne Hill Velodrome.

Neville Webb  
Chair of Friends of HHV

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## O.M.A.NEWS

Nice to read our President's Report. Glad to hear the news and also to see he still has a sense of humour. I watched the 'Tour' in my study via TV. No expensive alcohol just 2 Litres (circa 3 and half pints) 3.4% for £2.55. And plenty more where that came from, under my desk!



I was very interested in Peter Gunnell's Report and the Editor's rider. Made me think! Being a bit older than Mark, I have to think very hard.

In 1952 I lined the route when Princess Elizabeth (she gave me a wave?) presented a 'colour' to No. 1 School of Technical Training(RAF). Then we had free beer and the rest of the day off. Later more beer in the local village.

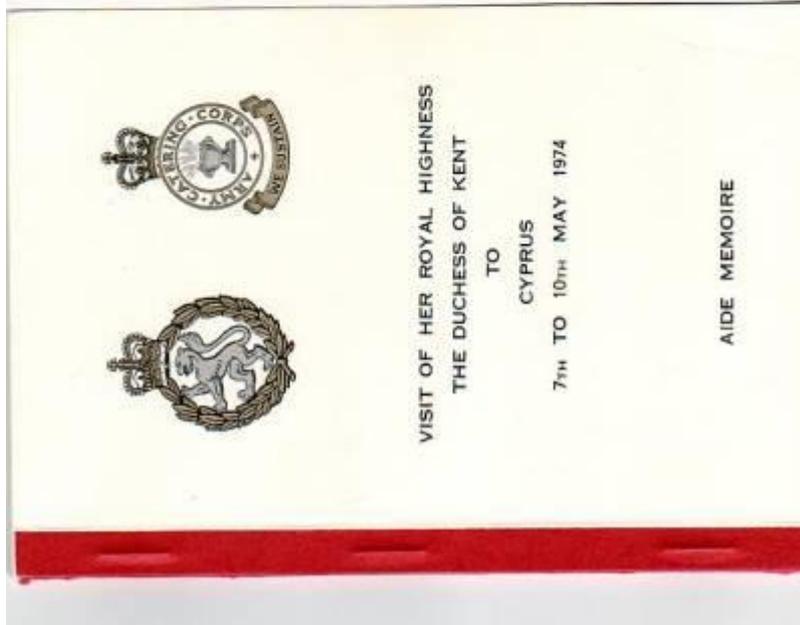
In 1974 (before the Turkish invasion of the north of Cyprus) Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent visited the HQ British Forces Near East. I was presented!!!!!!!!!!!!

In my capacity of trying to keep

soldiers/marines (sometimes sailors) and airmen under some sort of control!

As you look at the attachment Len, RAF Squadron Leader, HRH, Major British Army. Names as attachment.

It was not all rosy. After the invasion we had 12 living in our 2 bedroom married quarter, terribly hot (August), water was rationed and running out of beer!!!!!! Plenty of local spirit.



HAVE WE ANY ONE ELSE WITH ROYAL CONNECTIONS?

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[O.M.A. cont.](#)

After a few months of silence from me I expect most of you have had your summer holidays, and now we are not looking forward to the winter months when most of us hibernate, so before that happens we have a date for your Diary - 31st October a Friday evening at the Blackheath Clubhouse.

So sorry I was not able to organize our usual O.M. 'Do' in March, as Ken I were on holiday in Adelaide with Suzanne & Mike for 5 weeks (what a shame !!), then we had the Brighton Lunch in May, then a holiday in Greece in June, so time flies when you are having fun.

When I came to try to arrange a Supper in September, I then found out that Kav's Belgian night was organized for the 31st October, so we are now joining up the 2 events for this year, we hope to get our usual good turn-out for this great evening, as we have our Celebrity Chef-Cliff, and his Chefess wife Carole cooking for us, as most of us know by now this will be a 'Gourmet' Supper. Numbers are limited as we don't want to wreck the Blackheath Clubhouse as we almost did a few years ago, due to the vast numbers who sat down for supper - the floorboards were bending! So phone Kav - your President, or myself - Dot to book your place for this very popular event.

Kav- 01622 726959

01622 726959  
851241

Dot- 01689 851241

01689

On a sad note - many of you will no doubt remember Len Brown - active in the 50's along with John Geoghegan, Stack, Roy Chittleborough, Charlie Gosling, Dave Burfoot etc., can't remember all the names. Sadly Len's wife Claire passed away on the 10th June after a short illness of only 8 weeks, a great shock to all who knew her as she was a very fit lady, the awful sadness is that they had both retired and were looking forward to some long planned holidays. Many of you may have met her when they attended Club Functions, mainly the Blackheath Suppers. Clair's funeral took place whilst Ken & I were on holiday so we were unable to attend. A few of Lens' old club mates were there to support him at this very sad time, Eileen & John Geoghegan, Dave & Moire Burfoot & Derek & Jan Mundy 'of the 34th Nomads, and many friends from his 1st claim Club The Gravesend. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Len & his family on their great loss.

Have just had a phone call from Len he and Dave Burfoot will be coming along to the Blackheath 'Do', so do come along, especially if you haven't seen either of them for years! Make it a great evening.

DOT

[O.M.A. cont.](#)

We have received the following letter from Monty Watkins, who, of course, lives out in Australia.

"I was sorry to hear that Fred Hooper died - he was known as Tich in our day and he was a great rider and personality. I recall when he did a 1.3 for a 25 and a 4.38 for 100, unbelievable for a DL rider in those days. Having written this I realise how odd it is that I recall these events of about 65 years ago yet I don't remember what I did yesterday (I wonder if the times above are anywhere near the mark?).

It was with pleasure that I noted (DLN June 03 No 851) that the president had placed me No 1 in length of unbroken service - I'm afraid that the only service I've given the club since 1945 is my membership subs each year; however, thanks Kav for the compliment, it's the first time I've been 1st in anything!

I've inherited an old computer\* from one of my grandchildren and he showed me how to get the DL website - I must say I was most impressed - as I was with your new letterhead.

Good luck to the club and thanks to all for the DLN.

Kindest regards.

Monty"

\* - [monty.watkins@bigpond.com](mailto:monty.watkins@bigpond.com)

*In his letter Monty thanks us for the obituary on his brother Mick and said that copies have been sent on to the Watkins clan; he added that they, and he, were most appreciative.*

*I must say that Monty has been most generous in his donations to club funds over the years.*

*Brian Saxton*

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## Housing 125 years



If you conjure up an image of the CTC's archives, do you see crumbling cardboard boxes full of yellowing papers and sagging shelves stacked with dusty books? Some archives have to endure this, but not so the history of cycling! Thanks to a legacy left to CTC, a National Cycle Archive was established in 1990 with the specific aim of preserving materials relating to cycles and cycling, and of making them available for research. And thanks to the University of Warwick, the archive is now housed in a suitable home in their Modern Records Centre. Papers, books, photographs and magazines reside bound in non-deteriorating paper under climate-controlled conditions where dust, dampness and

What are these precious items being kept for posterity? A complete list would run to more pages than this magazine. The books, listed on the University's online catalogue (available at <http://opac.warwick.ac.uk/>), include not only the histories of CTC by such worthies as Stanley

Cotterell, Reg Shaw and Bill Oakley, and of more local groups such as the De Laune Cycling Club, founded only a year after the CTC, and the Pickwick Bicycle Club, but also many very old books about cycling itself. One intriguing title dates from 1898:

The Art of Ease in Cycling - A Treatise on Ankle Action and Position. An even earlier volume (1868) describes The Velocipede: and How to Use It. Other categories include engineering, sport, the industry, transport, safety and even a mention of cycling poetry. Then there are complete sets of cycling magazines published over many years, listed on the same website, filling even more shelves. Numerous manuscripts tell the history of cycling in a different way. Records of such bodies as CTC, the NCU, the BCF and the Amateur Bicycle Club sit alongside cycle manufacturers' drawings, letters from John Boyd Dunlop, press cuttings, and hand-lettered dinner invitations.

There are letters to foreign hotels seeking accommodation for travelling cyclists, correspondence from the Runwell Cycle Company dating back to 1911, and lists of club runs of the North Shropshire Wheelers from the 1940s. There are papers from Eric Claxton, Chief Engineer of Stevenage in the 1950s and 1960s and largely responsible for the concept of separate cycle and road networks. More modern groups such as the London Rights Network and the Cyclists' Public Affairs Group also have their papers held in safe store. Again, a web site visit could keep one entertained for hours.

(<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/ead/328umb.htm> )

A small exhibition, celebrating The cataloguing of the archive, opens in September

Compiling all of this into one secure location was a major step forward. Now the big news from the Cycle Touring and Countryside Trust, whose trustees administer this vast collection, is that thanks to a substantial grant of £3000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, much of the cycling material in the NCA will be properly catalogued and indexed. This will not only help researchers wade through the enormous amount held at Warwick but also aid searchers who didn't know of the existence of the archive to find it. Some of the funds will go towards conservation work.

Anyone wanting to read either the books, periodicals or archives in the National Cycle Archive should contact the Modern Records Centre, University Library, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL tel: 024 7652 4219 024 7652 4219 , email [archives@Warwick.ac.uk](mailto:archives@Warwick.ac.uk) Opening hours and a location map are also available on its website <http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk> The archives and books are available for viewing and study only at the centre; they cannot be borrowed.

If you would like to find out more about the National Cycle Archive or the CT&C Trust, or ways of assisting their work, contact Andrew Millward, 20 Reddings Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 81N, tel: 0121 449 9241.

### Sponsorship Frames

Do you want to apply for a fantastic Specialized frame from Evans for the 2004 season? Application forms will be available on the website shortly (or from me, see new contact details below). We will judge applications based on team commitment,

enthusiasm, ability, potential and need.

Please check the forms for the closing date.

Alaric

**New contact details are:**

Alaric Lester  
7 Terminus Place  
Brighton  
BN1 3PR  
01273 329 008      01273 329 008

I'll be moving to London for a year starting this September. In the meantime, I'm looking for a room to rent in a cycling friendly house near central London. Do you have any leads?

Thanks!

Tyler [Ofstad](#)

[tofstad@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:tofstad@stanfordalumni.org) **Can anyone help?**

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INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE IS  
WEDNESDAY 24 September 2003

THIS SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
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