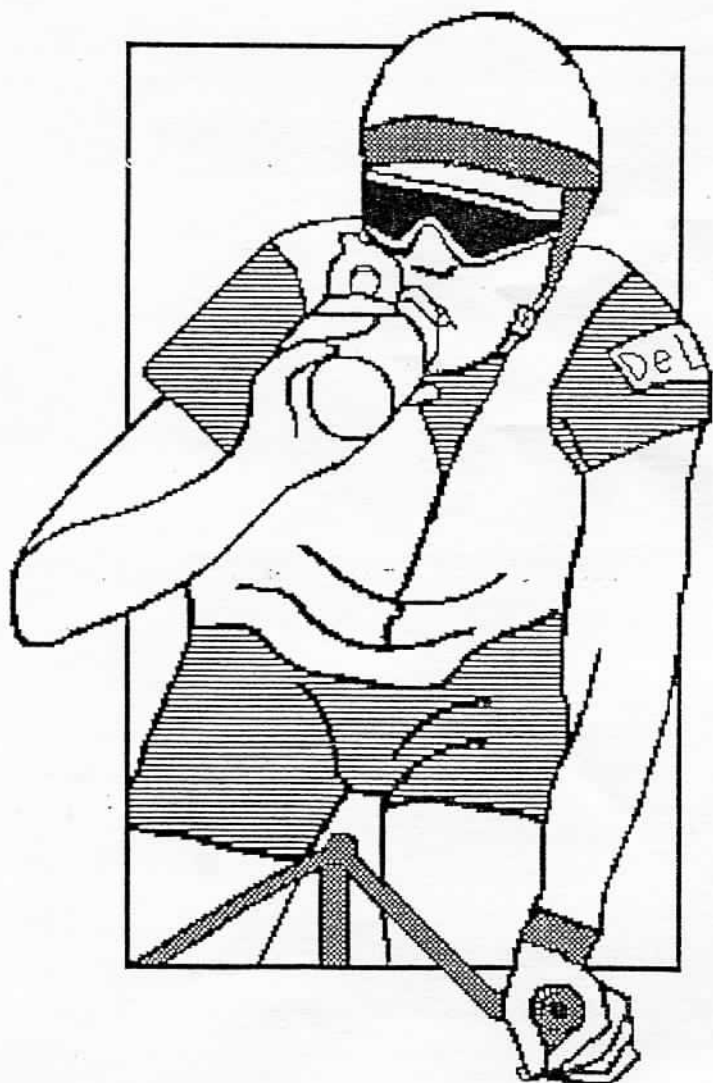


# DE LAUNE

## *News*



# DE LAUNE C.C.

FOUNDED 1889

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September 1999. No. 807 -70<sup>th</sup> Year

OFFICIALS		
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## Peel's Keyboard September 1999

I make no apologies for starting, yet again, with Nick Kinsey. Not content with the National title he has continued to dominate the Veterans section of the RAV4 sponsored MTB cross-country events winning both the penultimate and now the final round - making it a clean sweep - 5 out of 5 events.

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The Club 10, incorporating the OMA 10, took part on Sunday 5 September. A fine sunny day at Holmwood greeted the eight riders (seven from the club and a guest). A few of our regulars had other engagements (or more correctly marriage?) Emma Dods tied the knot up in Cambridge and was ably supported by several De Launites. I understand that it was a super day and very emotional. I am sure you would all wish the happy couple much happiness and good fortune for the future.

Getting back to the ten - as I drove down I passed Charlie just south of Purley, waved and carried on. I did not realise that he was getting cold! But, John O' did and kindly put his bike in the boot and ferried Charlie to the start. It was good to see Mark mange a PB and he didn't get lost this time.... Unlike his friend and chauffeur Carlo who couldn't remember which roundabout to turn off at. Roy Savery looking slim and almost athletic, having rebuilt his bike, purchased new clipless pedals and matching shoes, tore round the course and broke evens. Without exception we all retired for brekkie.

The results were:

Matt Goodes	22:20
Ben Neville	23:38
Pete Jenn	23:41
John O'Brien	25:03
Charlie Curtoys	25:59
Mark Nye	27:57
Dan Maskell (G)	29:10
Roy Savery	29:35

OMA result to come, but Pete Jenn is the winner!

The good news is that I am of on holiday to Tunisia next Wednesday (another late booking), the bad news is I will miss the Hill Climb on the 3 October. I hope that you will be able to watch our intrepid anti-gravity men even if you can't join them in the ascent.

I have had some feed back from a few of you and you do not all agree with Johnny D (see last issue).

Keep em turning!

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Hi!

At last I've got the chance to e-mail and say hi - after all I've only been here six months!

My parents are faithfully sending me the DLN so I don't feel too far away. However, I thought it was about time that I let you know my e-mail address and in the process I thought I'd attach a copy of a short article I wrote for our club newsletter down here.

I'm riding with Club 100 - we've just negotiated a sponsorship deal with Lotus/IBM (shades of deja-vu from our De Laune sponsorship arrangements) - and not a bad bunch of riders they are. We have a very successful pro-team associated with us as well.

Cycling here as you can imagine is a real delight. The weather's great - dry winters, round about 20 degrees at midday - and the roads are tough. You get used to dodging the minibus taxis after a while... The early starts take a bit of getting used to - we're now into Spring, which means we meet up at 6am on the weekends! Riding at 6000 feet also took a bit of adjustment, but it's great when you go back to sea level.

Anyway, here's the article and make sure all you De Launies e-mail with all the exciting South London gossip. See you at Christmas.

Take care,

Chris Gordon-Coker

[cgordoncoker@debeers.co.za](mailto:cgordoncoker@debeers.co.za)

## MPUMALANGA MADNESS

I should have known better than to agree to anything that André Morse suggests over the phone. After all, last time he called me I ended up riding the 150km Vasbyt on a cold Saturday morning; and I thought he just wanted to meet up for a drink.

This time it began innocently enough with the idea of a few days cycle training in Sabie. As a newly arrived Brit, the thought of getting out of Jo'burg with the promise of some warm weather seemed too good to miss. By the time we'd got together to sort out the finer points of just exactly who was bringing which variety of Coco Krispies, I realised that this wasn't going to be a gentle ride in the park.

Friday June 11<sup>th</sup> saw us head off in a variety of modes of transport for the interestingly named Merry Pebbles. The place was freezing – even for us weather-hardened Poms – but I was assured that the morning would see sunshine and clear skies. Sam Saturday and it seemed even colder – the frost on the grass made me feel very much at home (even my muesli had frozen). However, an hour later and we were all struggling up a climb wishing it wasn't quite so warm.

The climbs. Did I tell you about the climbs? André certainly didn't tell me! Over the next five days André and Kirsten, Charmaine, Sandy, Ken, Saro, Nelson, Bruce, myself and our intrepid support driver Mark, covered several kilometres of seriously uphill riding. Kowyn's Pass, The Bonnet, Robbers' Pass – we did them all. Covering between 80 and 100 kms a day it was a hard, but thoroughly rewarding trip. Everyone rode exceptionally well and even the punctures were few and far between.

The food at Merry Pebbles was plentiful and ideal for famished riders. The heated pool helped ease the aching muscles but I found the salad dressing massage at Graskop to be equally effective – not to mention a few late night drinks in front of the log fire.

Of course all this training has a goal and the legendary Jock of the Bushveld was ours. Another four hour drive east – this time at a slightly

more civilised hour – and we were sitting in the bar of the Nelspruit Best Western. Club 100 riders were arriving thick and fast and we soon made light work of the hotel's buffet. Jim Rose had collected our race packs from Barberton – despite a small setback with his fan belt – and the introduction of a seeded start time, based on previous Jock experience, threw a few of our race tactics awry.

Time for a quick breakfast at Nelspruit before we began again at 9:45 – our numbers swelled with the addition of Charmaine, Janice and Jim. The low veld weather was at its best and by the time we turned off the main road to begin the 8km ascent of Boulders it was baking. The climb soon sorted out the peloton and it was here that eventual race winner Robert Hunter made his move. Down in Kaapmuiden the stage was dissected over lunch – Kirsten and Vikki nobly carrying assorted cooler boxes full of pasta, Energade and all manner of crisps and Pringles.

*(Chris this article seems to have come to an abrupt end, did we get all of you mail, Ed.)*

## RACING NEWS

(As reported in the minutes of August committee meeting).



**Circuit Racing:** - M Goodes reported that he was 1st in a 4th category race at Eastway on Sunday and that I Cleverly was 5th. He also reported that Danny Rudd was 3rd and himself 4th in the Elite/2nds/3rds event at Maidstone Crits. Stuart Shand was 5th in the 3rds/4ths event.

**Track Racing:** - W Wright reported that Eddie Wingrave approached the Beastway team and asked them to promote track racing for mountain bikes on Wednesday evenings in August. Last night's event was attended by about 18 riders and was great fun.

I Cleverly reported that he has been winning lots of the B Category events at Monday Comp.

**Time Trials:** - M Goodes reported that he, I Cleverly and Ben rode the most recent Interclub event on Polhill. M Goodes has also been riding well in the Thamesmead evening 10s. He reported that the next Interclub event is the OMA 10 on 5 September. M Goodes also reported that the National Hill Climb this year is on 31 October at Ramsbottom. He, Tony Miller and Ben Neville will be riding. Other possibles are J O'Brien, J Lyon and D Rudd. It is important for the Club's hill climbers to ride this event as last year only 2 members rode (M Goodes and T Miller) and we were the only club to have 2 riders in the top 20. With more riders, a team prize is a distinct possibility.

K Chown reported that the Open 25 was a success with a 3rd place from M Goodes and the team prize going to De Laune (Matt, Pete Jenn and Stuart Shand). Thanks go out to everyone who helped with the event.

**Road Racing:** - I Cleverly reported that money from the Sponsorship Fund for entries to the South East Road Racing League has just run out. As the end of the season is so near (4 events left), it was decided to top the money up as required to cover the other events this year.

**Off-Road Racing:** - M Peel reported that Nick Kinsey won the Veterans section of the National cross-country MTB event. Nick is also still leading the Points Series having won all three events so far. He has been selected as an England representative for a triathlon on the Isle of Man. On 26 September he is entered in the Brighton Triathlon where he is hoping to qualify for the Worlds in 2000 in Australia. D Haynes suggested that we have a Club day out to support Nick and other Club members in the event.

W Wright also reported the Beastway Series has now finished and was very successful with full fields nearly every week.



## OMA 10

A cool still morning greeted riders for the 'OMA 10' on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, run on the Holmwood to Beare green course on the A24. A tired time trial secretary showed his face having just returned from holiday in Cornwall. Fortunately time keeping duties fell to president Peel, pushing off to the sprightly John Geoghan and marshalling the turn in his inimitable style was Brian Saxton AKA 'Stack,

Matt Goodes once again turned out fastest with a smooth pedalling 22.20. Shunning the use of an aero helmet to improve his aerodynamics, Goodes countered initial problems, the major one being the failure of his track pump! So Goodes once again fastest, and in my three years as club time trial secretary he remains unbeaten in club events, and I'm sure his record predates my time in the role.

Filling second place was the super slim Ben Nevile with a well-ridden 23.38, clearly dashing to his next Weight watchers class, I don't think.

Pete Jenn, that international man of mystery arrived and did his 'white van man' impressions before smooth pedalling a fixed wheel to 23.41, having not raced for 6 weeks.

John O'Brian got fourth with a 25.03, a time he was pleased with given his lack of racing. It was however revealed that he had been on a secret 'training camp' tandeming around Ireland with Tracey seems obvious to me that Tracey must've done all the work!

Next was Charlie Curthoy who took the old member's ethos to heart and cycled out to the start before riding. Well almost, president Peel passed him at Purley 20 minutes before the start and Charlie was pleased of a lift from John O' admitting the fog was a little chilly. Charlie shunned tri-bars and rode his 1982 standard road machine to a 25.59, possibly slowed by the thought of the impending attendance of Rachael and their 2 children, and the long drive home whilst Rachael cycled the return journey.

A man who uses every new technique and advancement except hard training 'mark nye' finished sixth with a personal best 27.57. Mark, a former body building champion, pushed the sort of gears usually reserved for the final 200 metres of a flat tour stage, but on this undulating course the effort told. A winter of training should produce improvement on this new personal best.

Finally a man making a bid for OMA glory, Roy Savery. Having arrived for an 8 o'clock start (the start was at 7.30) he had the luxury of a 150-yard warm up before joining the white heat of battle. Jokes from 'El Presidente' about making evens were quashed with Savery's 29.35, buoyed by encouragement from Stack at the turn in the form of "keep pedalling Roy, I've got money on you" Roy continued turning the sort of gears that mountain bikers reserve for mile long climbs up 1 in 3's on loose gravel. His cadence clearly gave the right result, passing the timekeeper with 25 seconds to spare.

All then retired to the 'Little Chef' where your time trial secretary prepared for Sydney 200 by eating an Olympic breakfast. John Geoghan revealed some of his old time trialling techniques, unmentionable in a family magazine and Charlie Curthoys put himself in danger of having his collar felt by the 'Rozzers' when he goes to work in Victoria, if he should step on the cracks in the pavement.

Next event, The hill Climb, is on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 11am on Titsey, retire to 'The Ship' in Tatsfield for lunch afterwards. Details from Jeremy Briggs, 0181-771-8179 / 0181-302-7558.

I like many was initially angered by the words of John Darrock in the July edition of the DLN. Only on re-reading the offending article did I realise that some of what John said was true (he is right about there being only 13 members at the AGM) however I feel he hasn't portrayed the whole story of today's De Laune C.C.

In my role as Time Trial Secretary, I organise 4 club events, 1 open event (Fred Peachey 25 mile), organise engraving, cleaning and presentation of trophies, organise marshalls for our E.C.C.A. and S.C.C.A. affiliations (this year due to shortage of help it's been me, at the national '50' in Cambridge and National '24Hrs' in E. Sussex). All against a back drop of a shift work job, which is never 40hrs and two small children.

What I give this club is NOTHING in comparison to the endless toil of Bill Wright, who opens the Club room, encourages new members and very much has the "Ken Hill" ethos that I so admired of that great man when I joined this Club in 1993. Another stalwart is Katie Chown who's efforts are often unseen and unrewarded but without whom this Club would surely struggle. It is our ever present Chairman who cements this Club through his efforts.

Now of the people I've mentioned and myself only Mike is an 'OMA' member and regularly attends meetings. I am inelligible (too little service) as for Katie, Bill, Matt Goodes, and John O'Brian, They have all supported my view that the OMA is a Club within this Club and at times to the outsider looking in is like a secret society. One thing it is not is the backbone of this Club. For although I acknowledge the efforts of some OMA members (the same ones again and again) to support racing, I have also received the "we only support OMA functions" when requesting marshalling duties of OMA members, and not just on one occasion.

This Club is a racing Club and my reward for my efforts is to see our Club member's race and succeed. Be it Club Captain Matt Goodes, winning at The Palace, Malc Adams breaking the hour, Danny Rudd kicking things at the track, Tony Millar riding 25's in the low 50's, Alan Rowe winning vet standards or Bill and the mountainbike fraternity hammering out a creditable finish in the Red Bull 24hrs endurance race. Whilst I also love the social side of things it has to go hand in hand with the business of racing, clearly something it is not at the moment.

So when Ian Cleverly promotes our Surrey / Kent League race next year how about an OMA function afterwards? Or an OMA function after marshalling the "Fred Peachey 25"? And at the very least an OMA do for

the OMA 10. It really would make sense, and I'll do my bit with dates if an OMA member makes representation to me.

As for the Clubroom, I'm unsure. We aren't just here in Peckham to represent today's members, but to encourage new and future ones. In an urban environment like Peckham there's plenty of it, and a wonderful track at the Hill just up the road. Maybe some day we'll find a way of encouraging more of it through the portals of Choumert Road, or indeed it will be time to move on.

Of John Darrock's "harebrained schemes" I know nothing. I will however mention that I heard many disgruntled voices at the small loss incurred from Bill Wright's cyclo-cross. This I understand from all who were there (all police leave is cancelled at that time of year so I could not attend) was a great event and I'm sure that from small acorns mighty oak trees grow.

Finally John, when you are next at Choumert Road, look at the activity around you, it's not a dying club. I love the fell of Ken Hill the great organiser and the picture of the late Adrian (whom I never knew) the great rider. Yes John the De Laune will be here long after I've nicked my last villain and you've attended your last OMA function. Come down the club John, have a massage, come for a beer, help us win the pub quiz, it's all here and at the centre of it all "BIKE RACING IN THE COLOURS OF THE DE LAUNE C.C." a hundred years a wheel and still going strong.

Yours in sport

Jeremy Briggs (Time Trial Secretary)

**Club hill climb- Sunday  
3rd October Titsey Hill**

**CLUB RUNS** Sunday club runs start again on Sunday 3rd October with a ride out to the Hill Climb at Titsey Hill, no doubt followed by a pint or two at the local. The meeting point is the usual Crystal Palace Parade at 9.30.

Succeeding runs depend on people turning up! Enough people show interest in going out on a Sunday but uncertainty as to whether anyone will be there seems to lead to nothing happening. Phone round to get people out and it will happen.

It has been suggested that we try a Saturday run for those who like to be hung over of a Sunday morning or prefer to 'spend more time with the family'. Let us know what you think.

**BRIGHTON TRIATHLON** Several De Laune people are doing the Brighton Triathlon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September, which seems like an excellent opportunity for a club day by the seaside. Bring the family, the dog and some sunscreen (fat chancel) and cheer on those foolish enough to want to swim in the sea at Brighton, including (it is rumoured), Dan (The Rhino Man) Haynes and Ian (The Damp Squib) Cleverly.

At the time of going to press, I am not sure what time the races start, but it may be possible to organise a ride down to the coast. Phone Ian on 0171 652 7060 if you fancy it.

## **We welcome a new member:**

**Stephen Planincic**, 23 Gwydyr Mansions, Holland Road, Hove,  
East Sussex, BN3 1JW. Telephone number 01273 747556.

Date of birth 07/07/71.

## LOOK NO STICHES

Further to Les Pyne's article "a stitch in time" in last month's issue of the DLN in which he offers hints on how to repair a tub. That one piece tyre and tube that is supposed to knock seconds off your personal best. You have three options with this particular bogey.

1. Do the job yourself. Which can often end up being a messy job if you are not a D.I.Y. type
2. Send it away for repair hoping it will come back in time for your next event.
3. Throw it away and buy a new one.

There used to be one further option back in the old days, and that was buy a tyre that was easy to repair.

The *CONSTRUCTOR TYRE COMPANY* made tyres that were child's play to repair. Sadly like most good things they are no longer available.

They were beautiful pieces of workmanship. The tape underneath the tyre was split into two, making it into an open flap. Underneath the flap were closely woven threads, all you had to do was separate these threads with the hook supplied with the tyre, and pull out the tube.

No stitching, no sticking it could not have been easier, the harder you pumped these tyres up the more they constricted to the rim, hence the name. Their silk tyres were a joy to handle; you could almost fold them up like a pocket-handkerchief.

The company also made alloy rims which made a perfect combination.

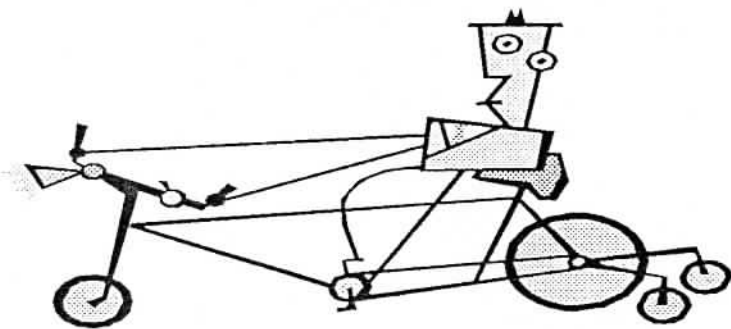
**BILL MILES**

## O.M.A. NEWS

Bill Miles organised a lunch for seven of us De Laune members for Friday August the 13th at the Green Man Pub Southend Pond. The party included Don and Beryl White, Bill and Doreen Miles, Beryl Williamson, Tibbs and myself, this lunch was first planed for about three months ago and was put back because Beryl Williamson was about to skive off to Australia to see her family down under. Bill thought we should leave it until she arrived back home, so this we did. Then I had to go in Hospital for 22 days. While I was at home lolling about after the Op. for stones, I got a call from Bill to say that he had been in dock also for a few days with a rupture and then we got around to fixing the belated lunch date and to get Don and Beryl along. Don had also been in with the same trouble as Bill, apparently he got his hernia, trying to ride a piano around his new house. He must have gone very heavy on the pedals and crashed on to the keyboard and ruptured his middle "C". I don't know what this lot is coming to these days, what with Bill flying around South London on his bike loaded up with bags of shopping and Chalky doing the piano sprint, it is a wonder we ever made The Green Man.

Well to get back on course we had a very nice lunch served on a long table with all the usual goodies bottles of wine, nice tasty sweets and coffee. All served by a very pleasant waitress, and to top it up we got Bill to agree to fix another lunch in a few weeks time so if you want to be included give Bill a buzzzzz and get your name down for it.

LES PYNE.





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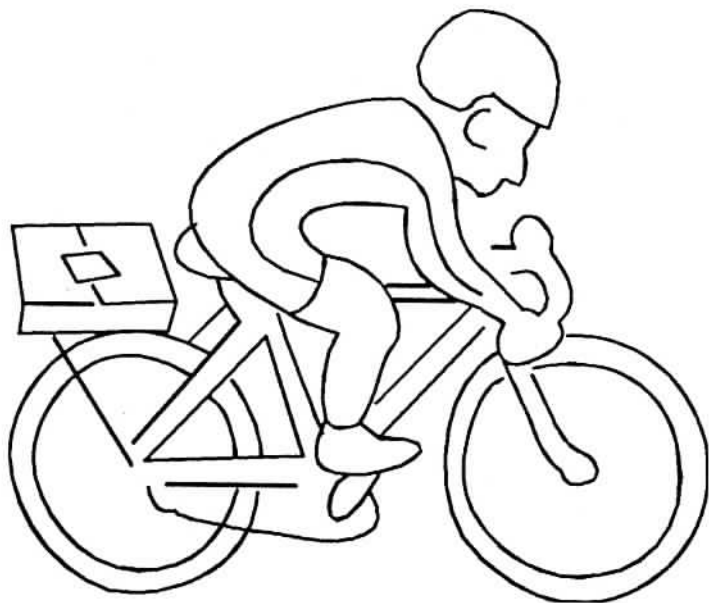
*Work*

Rolfe & Nolan tel. 0171 374 4841

As of 15 September my address is :

KATIE CHOWN  
28 Ewhurst Road  
Crofton Park  
London  
SE4 1AQ

Telephone number: 0181 690 3874



*(I have now found the page that went missing)*

As expected the final stage back to Barberton proved hard work and very hot. Little hills turned into climbs of Alpe D'Huez proportions and seeing the 'Barberton 10km' sign only to be diverted, was absolutely demoralising. Undeterred, the Club 100 bus looked thoroughly impressive, riding in formation up the final hill to the finish. Trophies were collected, stories compared and then the partying began. The temptation of a white stretched limo was too strong for some (no names Anton) and some quite dedicated re-hydration took place.

Of course some people just don't know when to stop – and I'm not referring to their drinking habits. Consequently, Sunday morning 8:30am , and André, Neil and I are gathered outside the ominous looking Eureka hospital at the foot of the 7km Havelock hill-climb, Thirty minutes later and about 80 brave souls participated in the mass start ascent – won in record-breaking time by Lotus' Ryan Cox. The crowd were magnificent, particularly Charmaine, Kirsten and Jim who'd got up early to cheer us on. Breakfast back at the hotel never tasted so good – the poor chef didn't quite know what had hit him as we managed to clear most of his supply of eggs, sausages and French toast.

What next? Well the inter-club beckons on the 24<sup>th</sup>, but just don't expect me to answer your phone calls in future André!

CHRIS GORDON-COKER

STOP PRESS

WE HAVE ANOTHER NATIONAL CHAMPION

*PETER JENN*

More on this next time.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

O.M.A. LUNCH, CHARTHAM PARK GOLF CLUB

3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER

CLUB HILL CLIMB, TITSEY HILL, 11o/c

**SEE INSIDE FOR TT & MTB DATES**

Please let us have your dates for 1999/2000

**THE LAST DAY FOR COPY TO BE INCLUDED IN  
THE NEXT ISSUE IS WEDNESDAY**

**13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 1999**

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