



Magazine December 2010
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GET IN TOUCH

If you have anything you would like to be included in the magazine or have ideas and suggestions for articles, you can contact me in the following ways.

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Deadline for next month's magazine

28.12.10

Memberships fees for 2011 become due on 1st January 2011.

These have not increased from 2010.

Seniors - Over 18 on 1st Jan - £15
Junior - Under 18 on 1st Jan - £6
Family – Up to 2 Seniors & 2 juniors at the same address - £20

You do not need to send in another membership form unless your contact or address details have changed.

Please forward your remittance to the following address (cheques payable to Kettering Cycling Club)

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Club Run

October 31st

The end of British Summertime arrived to find eight riders at Sainsbury's ready for a club run.

They were Shaun Bailey, Dave Robinson, Andrew Richards, (3 of the Desborough contingent)

Rob Barker from Corby; Darren Botterill from Northampton, Norbert Radvanski address unknown, Joe Mulholland from Artlenock, aka Irthlingborough and Tom Bailey from Kettering.

They rode out of town by way of Montagu St. Windmill Ave, Deeble Rd and Walkton Lane to Cranford, from where they crossed the A14 and turned left to Gt. Addington turning in the village to go to Ringstead then up the hill to the main road after negotiating the roundabout passing the Raunds football ground they turned to ride through the outskirts of the town and on to Hargrave.

From there they turned right along the B645 to Chelveston, then right again back to Raunds crossing the main road again to Ringstead and then on to Denford and continued alongside the river to Thrapston.

They then rode up the hill to cross the A 6116 back towards Slipton, at the junction with the Woodford road Joe turned for home, while the rest continued through Slipton and on to Grafton crossroads, where Shaun, Dave and Andy turned to go home via Geddington and Rushton.

Rob, Darren and Tom went back to Sainsbury's before going there respective ways home.

Tom reached home about ten minutes before twelve. His mileage was about 34 miles.

November 7th.

Five riders from the previous week were at Sainsbury's again, they were Shaun, Andy Richards, Dave Robinson, Joe Mulholland and Tom; they were joined this week by Dave Palmer, Eddie Clutton and Steve Colbert.

The morning was chilly and on the way out of town by way of Weekley and Geddington it also became wet. The rain continued as they rode to Grafton Underwood and then into Brigstock, after crossing the bridge over Harper Brook they turned right to the main road and then left for a short way before turning into Lyveden Lane the road becomes quite steep and narrow for a short way before levelling off again. The younger riders made light of it but Tom kept to his usual steady hill climbing pace and shortly after reaching the top he realised that Andy was missing, turning back he found Andy replacing his inner tube. Shaun also noticed that they were missing and turned back to join them.

The repair completed they continued to ride towards Oundle passing "Lyveden New Build" on the way. The other five riders then came into view heading back to rejoin them.

They all continued into Oundle turning in the centre to ride towards Glapthorn and then Southwick.

Dave Palmer at this point set off to choose his own route, while the remainder turned at the bottom of the hill in Southwick to ride to Bulwick, the weather had improved by now and the ride was enjoyable, 'though the road became gradually steeper as the got nearer to Bulwick.

Turning away from Bulwick they rode along the A43 towards Weldon for a short distance and then turned to ride past Deene Hall and then through the village of Deene and on to the outskirts of Corby passing Kirby Hall and the back of Rockingham speedway on the way.

From the top of Rockingham hill the continued until they reached Cottingham roundabout, where they turned along the A427 in the direction of Market Harborough then turning to ride to Pipewell, by this time the faster riders had gone on ahead, while Shaun, Andy and Tom rode a little slower.

At Pipewell Tom carried on to Kettering via Rushton and Shaun rode with Andy back to Desborough.

Tom reached home at 12:30 a ride of about 44 miles.

November 14th.

Remembrance Sunday.

Shaun Bailey, Joe Mulholland and Tom Bailey were joined by Evelyn Clawson to go on a shorter ride at least as far as Tom was concerned as he wished to be home by 11 o'clock to get ready to pick up Stu Walters and his wife Chris and take them to Arthingworth for the Club Lunch and prize giving.

They set off out of town to turn towards Rothwell, the weather was cool but dry.

From Rowell they went to Harrington and then past the Kelmarsh turn to ride along past Mawsley before turning to ride to Old and then turn to Walgrave, at this point Tom needed to set off for home via Pytchley. He reached home at one minute before 11 o'clock. A short ride of about 23 miles.

Frederick Thomas Bidlake

F.T. Bidlake, 1867-1933, was one of the most famous names in early British cycle racing. He was known as "Biddy", and was a talented cycle and tricycle rider, and later an outstanding administrator. He was probably best known for his tricycle exploits. In two 24-hour races he was the fastest tricyclist, finishing second to Frank Shortland who rode a bicycle. His record of 410 miles 1,110 yds, stood for 40 years up to his death. He broke countless road and track records, at one time holding all tricycle road records from 50 miles to 24 hours, and many place-to-place records. His administrative record was equally amazing. He was father of the Time Trial sport, being the first chairman of the Road Racing Council- the predecessor of the R.T.T.C. and C.T.T. He represented cyclists on the Advisory Body of the Ministry of Transport. At the time of his death he was President of the North Road C.C., Vice-President of the C.T.C., and President of the Road Records Association. He also instigated the Cyclist's War Memorial at Meriden.

In 1933 he intimated he would retire at the end of that year. But in August he was returning home after a ride on his beloved North Road, when he was knocked down by a motorist on Barnet Hill. His bicycle was smashed, and although his injuries seemed minor, the shock resulted in his going into semi-consciousness, and he eventually died on September 17th 1933. Just before his death a Testimonial Fund had been set up to recognise his contribution to cycle sport, this became a Memorial Fund. A triangular plot of land was purchased at Poplar Fork, near Girtford Bridge, the scene of many epic battles on the Great North Road. There is a stone wall, with a stone inscribed, "This garden is dedicated to Frederick Thomas Bidlake, a great cyclist, a man of singular charm and character, an untiring worker for cyclists. 1867-1933". In the centre of the plot is a sundial, on the base it says, "He measured time". At the apex of the plot is a milestone inscribed, "F.T.B. Few have known this road as he. London 48. York 148".

Poplar Fork was at the junction of the A1 and the roads to Shefford and Bedford. The poplar trees are still much in evidence. In my first few years of time-trialling, we used to turn right here across the A1! Dualling and re-alignment of the A1 took the main road to the East of the junction, and is now reached via a slip road. The unveiling ceremony took place after the North Road 24 in September 1934, where 4,000 people attended. The balance of the Fund was invested to provide a plaque to be awarded annually for the most outstanding performance or contribution to the betterment of cycling in any sphere. The Fund also maintains the garden. The first recipient of the plaque in 1934 was Hubert Opperman. Over the 76 years famous names have adorned this plaque, from Reg Harris, Tommy Simpson, Beryl Burton through to Chris Boardman. The winner in 2009 was Julia Shaw, the seventh woman recipient.

Many requests are made from time triallists to have their ashes scattered in this garden.

Have a look if you're in the area. A worthy tribute to great cyclist.

B.S.

Appearing in the September issue of The Veteran, was this poem from the late David Hickford, Oval C.C. and Unity C.C. Obviously a lifelong time triallist:-

Bury me next to Bidlake, the Grand Old Man of A1
Bury me next to Bidlake, for I am old Biddy's true son.
Let me lie near the bridge at Girtford, close to the Great North Road,
And let me be there on Sunday, when they race to the unpaced code.

Let me be there as dawn is breaking
And the mist hangs low in the gloom
Let me hear the loud whirr of tubulars
And the curse of those with the doom.
Let me travel that road in the morning,
Chicken, Alconbury, Stangate and all
Let me be at the 83rd milestone,
Let me see them come through at Crosshall.

For this is the greatest game on earth
And ne'er shall corruption attack it
The real British spirit is there in each man,
'Neath his tights and alpaca jacket.
So the race must go on to the T T code
And great it forever will be
Then give three cheers for the Great North Road
And three more for the R.T.T.C.

Yes bury me next to Bidlake, at milestone 48,
Where I may lie forever, close to the truly great,
And let this be my epitaph you carve on my tombstone,
"He was private and confidential, and worshipped the R.T.T.C.

Club New Years Day Walk

Walk off the festive excesses with a nice walk, in good company, on the K.C.C. New Years Day Walk. Same format as previous years. Meet at The Bull's Head, Arthingworth at 10.30. Book your meal at the pub, to leave at 11.00. for a choice of distances. Arriving back at 1.00.p.m. for lunch. Pay when ordering food, but book with me by Friday 24th December.

Bernard Smith. Telephone 01536 500942

Christmas Greetings

Bernard and Lyn want you to know that although we love you all very much, we will not be sending individual Christmas cards this year. Instead, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable Yuletide, and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

We will instead, be making a donation to Road Peace, the organisation that supports victims and families of road crimes.

Happy Cycling, Bernard and Lyn

What's On December 2010

Thurs	2nd	K.C.C. Turbo Training Session. North Park Pavilion .	19.30
Sun	5th	K.C.C. Clubrun. Sainsbury's	09.30
Thurs	9th	K.C.C. Turbo Training Session. North Park Pavilion	19.30
Sun	12 th	K.C.C. Clubrun. Sainsbury's	09.30
Mon	13 th	N.& D.C.A. A.G.M. Towcester Clubroom	19.30
Thurs	16 th	K.C.C. Turbo Training. North Park Pavilion	19.30
Sun	19 th	K.C.C. Clubrun. Sainsbury's	09.30
Thurs	23 rd	K.C.C. Turbo Training Session. North Park Pavilion	19.30
Sun	26 th	K.C.C. Boxing Day Clubrun. Sainsbury's	10.00
Thurs	30 th	K.C.C. Turbo Training Session. North Park Pavilion	19.30

January 2011

Sat	1 st	K.C.C. New Years Day Walk. Arthingworth	10.30
Sun	2 nd	K.C.C. Clubrun. Sainsbury's	09.30
Thur	6 th	K.C.C. Turbo Training Session. North Park Pavilion	19.30
Sun	9 th	K.C.C. Clubrun. Sainsbury's	09.30
