

## The Novices in the 1950s

1950

Arnold Pennill continued as Event secretary into the 1950s. Entries were picking up with 127 received. Fortunately the recent AGM had agreed to increase the field to 120 riders.

**Open Novices' "25":** The decision of the A.G.M. to accommodate 120 riders was fully justified when, after the first postal delivery on closing date day, Arnold counted just 127 entry forms.

The start card gave quite an impression, containing such illustrious road-racing names as Salt, Haslam, Ferris, Ellis and even a Harris, Hohnaysett and Thomas thrown in.

The day of the event dawned fine, but the bright sun and clear visibility gave little indication of the hard conditions to be encountered, and it was perhaps not surprising that the aforementioned did not all line up to the reputations of their namesakes, only one appearing in the final prize list ... he being R. Ferris of the M/cr Athletic & C.C. who filled fourth place with an excellent ride of 1.10.49.

Two other 1.10 rides occupied the second and third places, but it was D. McCreery of the M/cr Wms. to whom the laurels went for a grand winning ride of 1.8.58.

Times at the turn (12m 5f) showed McCreery to have already established a lead of more than half a minute over everybody except club-mate H. Whitehouse who was then only 12 seconds in arrears but who gradually faded to finish in fifth position.

Of the five leaders at the finish it is interesting to note that four of them were at the head of affairs at the turn, the exception being Ferris who was no higher than sixteenth, but who rode the second-fastest "return" of all. Worthy of mention, too, is the fact that these same four were riding in their first time-trial and again the exception, Ferris, had clocked a 1.22.

Of our own riders, Les Skells was the only one inside "evens", this being good enough to place him 34th. in the general classification. Next came Brian Purcell in 55th. position with 1.16.35, closely followed by Allan McKenna at 58th. in 1.16.51 --- good rides for the day without doubt. George Hardman just could not get moving and finished further still down the list.

A pleasing feature was the number of complete teams to finish (no less than 14) a figure which, I am sure, would put some of our Open event finishing sheets to shame. With riders in 2nd, 10th and 16th. places Leek C.C. were the winners in this keenly contested department. Manchester Wms., with an apparently commanding lead of 1st. and 5th. positions, had to go down to position 42 for their third man but, despite this, managed to take second-honours only 38 seconds behind Leek and exactly 2 minutes ahead of the Pyramid in 3rd. position. Withington were placed 10th.

There were absent faces among the Checkers and Marshals due to illnesses and other reasons, and although we cannot be blamed for two riders who ran off the course, such happenings are usually avoided by the posting of spare men to odd corners. Unfortunately, this year, no spare members turned up at the start.

Our thanks to President R. MacQueen, and to our friend Arthur Wood, for their services with the chronographs.

J.E.F.

1. D. McCreery	M/cr Wms.	1h 8m 58s
2. D. Ward	Leek C.C.	1 10 8
3. D. Birchall	Warrington RC	1 10 36
4. R. Ferris	M/cr A & C.C.	1 10 49
5. H. Whitehouse	M/cr Wms.	1 11 4

And below is the full finish sheet for the 1950 Novices

<b>Teams:</b>			
1. Leek C.C.	Ward, Moor, Hinks	h m s	3 34 22
2. Manchester Wm	McCreery, Whitehouse, Roberts	3 55 0	
3. Pyramid R.C.	Ducker, Haslam, Thomas	5 57 0	
4. Warrington RC	Birchall, Smith, Rylance	3 37 39	
5. Apollo Wm	Edge, Smith, Costello	3 39 51	
6. M/cr Athletic Ferris, Motterhead, Reymar		3 41 13	
Fourteen Clubs finished complete teams.			
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<b>Late Starters</b>			
60th J.S. Royle	8m 0s	DNP J Dackin	0m 5s
62nd W. Swilley	8m 30s	DNP H. Morgan	15s
70th P. Lawson	0m 0s		
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A pair of spectacles and a pair of gamutlet gloves were landed in at the finish.			
One competitor lost a sum of money at the headquarters.			
The Event Secretary will be pleased to receive any information in connection with the above matters.			
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D. Craft, having beaten the acceptance limit after closure of entries, was not eligible to compete for prizes.			
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W. Hall & Co. Printers & Dupliators, 15, Redley St. South, Rotherham.			

WITHINGTON WHEELERS			
OPEN SCRATCH NOVICES' 25-MILES TIME TRIAL			
Confined to riders who had not previously beaten 1-15-0 for 25-miles and 2-30-0 for 50-miles.			
Under R.T.T.C. Regulations			
Sunday, March 26th, 1950			
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PRIZE-WINNERS			
Fastest	D. McCreery, Manchester Wm	1 8 58	
2nd	D. Ward, Leek C.C.	1 10 8	
3rd	D. Birchall, Warrington RC	1 10 36	
4th	R. Ferris, M/cr Athletic & CC	1 10 49	
5th	H. Whitehouse, Manchester Wm	1 11 4	
Silver Medals			
Team	D. Ward, Leek C.C.	1 10 8	
	G. Moor	1 11 52	
	P. Hinks	1 12 22	
Silver Medals			
120 accepted; 104 started; 92 finished			
Timekeepers ..... Mr R. MacQueen			
Event Secretary ..... Mr A.C. Wood			
Phone: GATLEY 6331			

WITHINGTON WHEELERS			
OPEN SCRATCH NOVICES' 25-MILES TIME TRIAL			
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Under R.T.T.C. Regulations			
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-----			
FINISH AT			
Pos.	Name	Club	12-5-10S 25m
1.	D. McCreery	Manchester Wm	35 14 1 0 50
2.	D. Ward	Leek CC	35 37 1 10 8
3.	D. Birchall	Warrington RC	35 38 1 10 36
4.	R. Ferris	M/cr Athletic	35 39 1 10 49
5.	H. Whitehouse	Manchester Wm	35 42 1 11 4
6.	GP Dumb	Albion FC	35 7 1 11 20
7.	JG Green	M/cr Roads CC	35 7 1 11 20
8.	W. Rooker	Pyramid RC	35 8 1 11 32
9.	MA Bennett	Mercury RC	35 40 1 11 51
10.	G. Moor	Leek CC	35 36 1 11 52
11.	P. Hinks	Dury & Dist Wm	35 27 1 11 55
12.	W. Rooker	Mercury RC	35 49 1 11 55
13.	KL Lee	Burton Olympic	35 43 1 11 55
14.	O. Allen	Orion RC	35 46 1 12 3
15.	J. Haslam	Pyramid RC	35 18 1 12 6
16.	P. Hinks	Leek CC	35 38 1 12 22
17.	DP Foley	Altrincham R	35 17 1 12 23
18.	A. Hurrenham	M/cr Roads CC	35 53 1 12 33
19.	J. Holding	Leigh H & AC	35 14 1 12 36
20.	A. V. Riden	Orion RC	37 20 1 12 49
21.	S. Jameson	North Wm CC	36 57 1 13 3
22.	IS Smith	Warrington RC	37 8 1 13 10
23.	D. Smith	Apollo Wm	37 53 1 13 12
24.	JH Thomas	Pyramid RC	37 16 1 13 22
25.	J. Macdonald	Albion FC	37 27 1 13 56
26.	E. Motterhead	M/cr Athletic	37 33 1 13 45
27.	JJ Jackson	M/cr Clarion	38 22 1 13 47
28.	RD Birseman	Pyramid RC	37 50 1 13 40
29.	JV Rylance	Warrington RC	37 40 1 13 53
30.	W. Hughes	M/cr Clarion	37 51 1 14 10
31.	W. Costello	Apollo Wm	37 45 1 14 12
32.	Wm. Bayler	Saxon RC	37 51 1 14 14
33.	D. Clarion	Malbourne RC	37 9 1 14 20
34.	IL Skells	Withington Wm	37 45 1 14 23
35.	R. Gresham	Middleton CC	37 11 1 14 25
36.	J. Wright	Saxons CC	36 51 1 14 29
37.	A. Brooks	Pyramid RC	38 25 1 14 30
38.	MC Ball	Warrington RC	36 19 1 14 42
39.	FC Keeling	Burton Olympic	37 47 1 14 47
40.	C. Cooke	W. Fenimore RC	37 55 1 14 50
41.	W. Huxy	Middleton CC	38 24 1 14 55
42.	ER Roberts	Manchester Wm	36 42 1 14 59
43.	A. Hookinson	Pyramid RC	37 50 1 15 9
44.	JD Allard	Cheshire RC	38 11 1 15 15
45.	JG Currie	Altrincham R	38 4 1 15 25
46.	D. Hambley	Middleton CC	38 33 1 15 32 (52)
47.	R. Albert	M/cr Clarion	38 19 1 15 37
48.	D. Haslam	Pyramid RC	37 54 1 15 40
49.	CS McNeil	Middleton CC	39 12 1 15 51
50.	G. Perry	Leek CC	39 10 1 15 51
51.	J. Forster	M/cr Victoria	37 53 1 15 32
52.	D. Grayfield	"	38 31 1 15 55
53.	D. Ingham	Pyramid RC	38 4 1 15 55
54.	D. Burton	Burton Olympic	38 23 1 16 10
55.	BE Purcell	Withington Wm	38 24 1 16 35
56.	RF Reymar	M/cr Athletic	37 55 1 16 39
57.	JD Davies	Bury & Dist Wm	38 52 1 16 47
58.	AP McKenna	Withington Wm	38 31 1 16 51
59.	TS Marshall	Highton Y C R C	38 32 1 17 4
60.	GS Royce	Pyramid RC	40 20 1 17 15
61.	GD Farrar	M/cr Roads CC	39 17 1 17 39
62.	W. Swilley	Fellsworth & Dist	42 22 1 18 3
63.	KL Lee	Hyde Roads CC	37 53 1 18 10
64.	WA Myers	North Wm CC	39 45 1 18 15
65.	A. Brown	M/cr Victoria	39 14 1 18 42
66.	H. Whithead	Malbourne RC	39 48 1 18 54
67.	A. Kipling	Middleton CC	39 23 1 19 6
68.	H. Hawkes	M/cr Clarion	40 0 1 19 12
69.	D. Lord	Bury & Dist Wm	40 25 1 19 27
70.	AP Roberts	M/cr Victoria	39 20 1 19 37
71.	B. Morley	Leek CC	38 0 1 19 55
72.	E. Bence	"	39 24 1 20 1
73.	G. Fletcher	Bury & Dist Wm	40 45 1 20 13
74.	RP Leo	M/cr Clarion	41 20 1 20 37
75.	H. Oraven	South Lanes RC	40 39 1 20 59
76.	P. Lawrence	Westwood RC	39 39 1 21 8
77.	D. Marsal	Saxon RC	40 48 1 22 5
78.	T. Burgess	Pyramid RC	39 24 1 22 30
79.	P. Lawson	Leek CC	39 52 1 23 24
80.	P. Vincent	Burton Olympic	40 36 1 23 31
81.	G. Macdonald	Middleton CC	40 42 1 24 9
82.	GP Wood	Saxon RC	41 35 1 24 10
83.	R. Braithwaite	"	39 0 1 24 20
84.	TS Edmundson	Hyde Roads CC	42 33 1 24 54
85.	DP Smith	Warrington RC	41 12 1 25 24
86.	A. Tate	Saxon RC	41 26 1 27 35
87.	O. Hurrenham	Withington Wm	43 40 1 28 4
88.	T. Read	Leek CC	43 0 1 30 5
89.	FJ Jackson	Highton YCRC	40 16 1 30 14
90.	P. Gibbons	Unattached	45 55 1 30 44
91.	G. Jay	Saxon RC	38 23 1 30 55
92.	D. Craft	Middleton CC	39 1 1 16 40
93.	J. Whiston	Leek CC	36 4 DNP
94.	W. Darlow	Hyde RC CC	39 40 DNP
95.	J. Salt	Leek CC	39 45 DNP
96.	"	"	41 40 DNP
97.	BA Morgan	M/cr Athletic	41 55 DNP
98.	J. Dackin	Leek CC	44 19 DNP

Open Novices 1951: April 6th. Exactly 180 riders signified their intention of appearing to the trial. honours and, of these, 54 kept their appointment with President Mr. MacQueen on a cold and windy morning, the first dozen or so starters being pushed off to a downfall of hail and sleet.

Times at the half way stage showed the ultimate winner, J.A.Deal of the Manchester Victoria Whs, to have already established a  $\frac{3}{4}$  minute lead, this margin being further increased in the second half to prove his clear superiority by finishing  $1\frac{1}{4}$  minutes ahead of his nearest rival. A mobile reporter, who saw Deal at various times throughout his winning ride, remarked upon a style and determination that showed the hall-mark of a likely winner.

J.E.Conway of the Cheshire R.C. who filled the 2nd. place also had established this same position at the half way mark. J. Stant, N.C.U., who although seconds down on other eventual prizewinners at this point found that little extra to turn this deficit into almost a half minute advantage to fill third place.

It is fitting to record that all the medal-winners were competing for the first time. Worthy of special note is the fact that the team award was won by the newly formed Adswood Road Club who were being represented as a Club for the first occasion in an open event.

Our thanks again to Arthur Wood (Cheshire R.C.) who combined with Mac to give us the following leading times:-

1.	J.A.Deal	M/or Victoria Whs	1. 9.28
2.	J.E.Conway	Cheshire Roads Club	1.11.15
3.	J. Stant	Manchester N.C.U.	1.11.28
4.	V.L.Lyons	Manchester A & C.C.	1.11.55
5.	B. Hussey	Seamons C.C.	1.11.58
Team. Adswood Road Club.			3.42.42
(J.B.Clayton, A. Brady, J. Devitt)			



# OPEN NOVICES "25", APRIL 6TH:

On the debit side of this year's promotion were the poor number of entries and the shocking weather conditions which had to be faced by riders and officials. The start sheet showed a total of ninety-eight names (of whom only sixteen had previously clocked an official time for the distance) and it was not surprising that only seventy-eight kept their appointment with the timekeepers on a morning made miserable by cold wind and a heavy rain which persisted until a few minutes before the last man finished.

Checking sheet for the 5 1/4 miles point shows that four starters had already decided to call it a day, but the remaining seventy-four continued to reach Bert Burton for the half-way time-check. From here to the 21 1/2 miles turn, however, no less than thirteen more had taken the necessary steps to be "D.N.F." and it must be assumed that the café at Chelford island proved more attractive than being greeted by the checkers at Ollerton! The last three miles, agony stretch of the 1951 event, produced no further packers.

Original indications had been that we would not be represented on the list of entrants, but an almost last-minute influx of new members happily rectified this state of affairs and our interest, naturally enough, centred on the team of Barry Tetlow, David Waterworth and Alex Godfrey. Barry, first man off, was disheartened by going off course in the first couple of miles, taking the wrong turning at a point where is marshal is not usually considered necessary, and his finishing time of 1.22.59 accounts for about two miles more than the official distance. Alex, it appears, was going great guns up to half-way, but slowed over the final miles to clock just one second outside 'evens'. David, nimbly pedalling a 77" gear and showing a very nice riding style, gave shocks by returning the fastest time at 12 1/2 miles and, moreover, held his advantage by being third best over the last half to register a clear win over the

other sixty finishers. His time of 1.8.0 was a sterling performance under the conditions and augers well for the future. This is the first time that a Withington Wheeler has won the event and our congratulations go to David on a fine effort.

Other interesting intermediate times were by Adswold riders Walker and Davitt, here third and fifth respectively, who were undoubtedly making an effort to repeat last year's team success. But both slowed badly and ended up well down the list of results.

D. Caldwell of Mercury Road Club takes the medal for second fastest, this being the same position he had held at half way, he being but one second faster than David over the second half. Speediest return was by J.H. Clayton, an unattached rider from Macclesfield, who made third-fastest finishing time after being an outsider at half-distance.

Heywood Wheelers, a recently formed Club, were successful in scoring an easy win in the team section, our trio being nine minutes behind in sixth position. Nine clubs finished complete teams. Hard luck story concerns Potteries C.C. whose aggregate would have been over two minutes better than the Heywood boys if one of their team had not started late!

Mac, assisted by Arnold and Bert, returned the following list of medal winners and it is of interest to note that all were competing in their first event:-

1.	D.E. Waterworth	Withington Wbs	33.50	1. 8. 0
2.	D. Caldwell	Mercury R.C.	35.34	1. 9. 43
3.	J.H. Clayton	Unattached	36.23	1. 9. 48
4.	J.F. Brown	Heywood Wbs	34.19	1. 9. 57
5.	C. Tonge	Mercury R.C.	36.01	1.10.56

Team: Heywood Wbs (Brown, Rhodes, Armstrong) 3.56.58

A.J.P.

## UP THE ROAD:

Results in early season events indicate that some interesting times can be expected when things really get under way. Four took part in the Manchester Roads medium-

## 1953 Novices

### OPEN NOVICES "25", APRIL 12TH:

The Novices "25" became novices 157 in entry (despite fears of a short card) and after 120 were accepted it is a pity the Weather Man was not more understanding --- he dished out his poorest menu "Cold, wet and windy" as per .... This, as could be expected, reduced starters to 91, and as I rode out to my marshalling point against the wind, I had visions of the Ten Little Nigger Boys --- and then there were none --- but was confounded and delighted to find 80 finishing the course in conditions far from ideal.

Some interesting statistics furnished by A.J.P. shows the mettle of some very keen and promising novices:-

91 started:	80 reached 5m 2f	80 reached 21m 6f
88 "	9m 1f	80 finished
88 "	12m 5f	33 beat 'evens'.

Riding a good consistent race, D. Aiken of Stockport R.C., starting first, finished over ten minutes before the next man home to lay a good foundation for his Club to win the team prize with a 1-6-1. This was not to be, however, despite a 1-9-3 by another team mate, since their third man G. Ambler was penalised by an eight minutes late start (lesson or something, here). --- strikes a chord, too, for I won an event once, but only because my competitors were too chivalrous and gentlemanly to protest at my late start.

An amusing and original note was introduced by one competitor who, it later transpired, gate-crashed the time-keepers some five minutes before his time and tearing away before he could be stopped. "This same competitor, it is established, continued to race long after passing the 25-miles mark and had to be chased in a van and brought back (it is rumoured he reached Liverpool Docks before being caught, but I don't believe this).

Well, there it was gone. Another 'scrubbers' debut, and in two year's time they will no doubt be wearing that self-satisfied air of smug superiority that assails most veterans of three years standing!

Timekeeping was handled by Harry Duck, Bert Burton and A.J.P., whose results give the following leading times:-

		12m 5f	25m Of
1.	D. Aiken	Stockport R.C.	33.20 1. 6. 1
2.	A.E. Allen	Tunstall Wbs	34.10 1. 7. 57
3.	F. Humphreys	Seamons C.C.	34.14 1. 8. 21
4.	M. Collins	Hyde Roads C.C.	34.03 1. 8. 59
5.	J.G. Cadman	Stockport R.C.	34.27 1. 9. 3

Team: South Lincs R.C. (Scottie, Whittaker, Thomson) 3.32.11

C. K.

## 1954 Novices

### OPEN NOVICES' "25", APRIL 11TH:

Though a trifle understaffed in the Checking Department, we managed to cope and brought the event to its usual successful conclusion, helped this time by rather better weather than we have experienced on the last two occasions.

From an entry of exactly one hundred, fastest time was made by H. Gaskell of the Warrington Road Club, his 1h 6m 4s being only three seconds slower than the event record set up last year.

Mac and Arnold were Timekeepers, and their full result has already been circulated to all members.

Our thanks to all who co-operated in the organisation.

1956

OPEN NOVICES "25", APRIL 15TH:

Although we had altered the acceptance limits to make the event open to more riders we again had a poor entry, the names of only eighty six gracing the start sheet. However, we were blessed with a quite pleasant morning and a goodly turn-out of helpers, all of which helped to put on record yet another 'Novices'. How the years go by !!!

It will be probably several years before the 1955 event record by Ian Livingston is even approached, but this year's winner was by no means dawdling. Only sixteen years old a few days before the event, and riding a '77' gear with one 'sprint' and one 'pressure', J.A. Moore of Mercury Road Club recorded 1-6-26 to win by almost a minute.

Due to Jim Forbe's generosity, a second set of Team Medals was up for competition, these being won by Westwood R.C.C. whose trio were a couple of minutes behind the Seamons.

A.J.P.

In 1957 the winner was N Bailey of the Westwood RCC in a time 1.6.11.

1958

OPEN NOVICES "25", APRIL 15TH:

What an age we live in ! Despite traffic lights, traffic islands, halt-signs and even police attention, it is rather surprising that we find ourselves still able to run our Novices event on more or less the same roads we used twenty six years ago for the first of the series.

Could we have envisaged, though, the odd, bowl shaped piece of machinery in a field at Jodrell Bank, we might have been excused had we dismissed it as just 'something from Mars'.

and, if only by its connection, we would not have been very far from the truth ! Yet something like fifty or sixty of our kind stood around at the start of this year's event, almost under the shadow of the giant world-famous radar-telescope, and if one of the small crowd turned to even glance at the £ 600,000 wonder .. .. well, I didn't see him !

The race topics were just as they were twenty-odd years ago: 'What gear d'you think ?' 'This so-and-so saddle's hard' 'Gonn'a be a hard finish' Even a rider on a pair of 'woods' --- "long time since we saw a pair of those, Mr. Haines !" "Hm, might even have belonged to me at one time" mused Chas. One thing different, though --- no tights, but how in keeping with the Mars theory they would have been at that particular moment.

One lad was overheard to remark - "Didn't sleep a wink last night, someone's ----- dog barking half the night, I'll be lucky if a do 1-15 !" At the back of me the highly sensitive and costly piece of radar equipment was busy making history by tracking the dying trail of a small space-ship containing a dog no longer able to bark and which, by the time the lad so short of sleep had completed his twenty five miles ride, would some 130 miles high have encircled the earth in another 10,000 m.p.h. surge.

Over twenty years ago an Irishman, one Alo Donegan, was reported to have ridden 25-miles in 59mins 59secs, "but (said most of us) that couldn't be --- he would have disintegrated; and, anyway, they would be Irish miles, so what !"

"Extraordinary, wonderful, fascinating, queer, Marvellous, incredible, Oh ! dear, dear !"

Mao's repeated chanting of the time-honoured formula --- "Five, Four, Three, Two, One, GO !" brought me back to terra firma - from realms afar - to find myself staring at a flamboyant pea-green (merging to bile-green) bike on the 'starting grid'. Mr. Haines confirmed that he also had never before seen one of such insipid hue. Although we would not have guessed we were, in actual fact, looking at the machine of the eventual winner.

The weather man deigned to smile and favoured us with an excellent morning for the event. He of the 'vile green' machine, N.J. Welch of the Seamons C.C. took the premier award with 1-4-27 (the 1st best of the whole series), winning by almost a clear two minutes from R. Murray of Apollo Wheelers who did 1-8-00. Third was L.J. Green, South Lanes R.C., in 1-8-21. Other award winners were R. Johnson, Westwood R.C.C. 1-7-20; B. Taminson, Stone Wheelers, 1-7-46; G.J. Dudley, Marple Wheelers, 1-7-50. The Seamons C.C. took the team medals with a very good aggregate of 3-35-23, and altogether sixteen clubs finished complete teams.

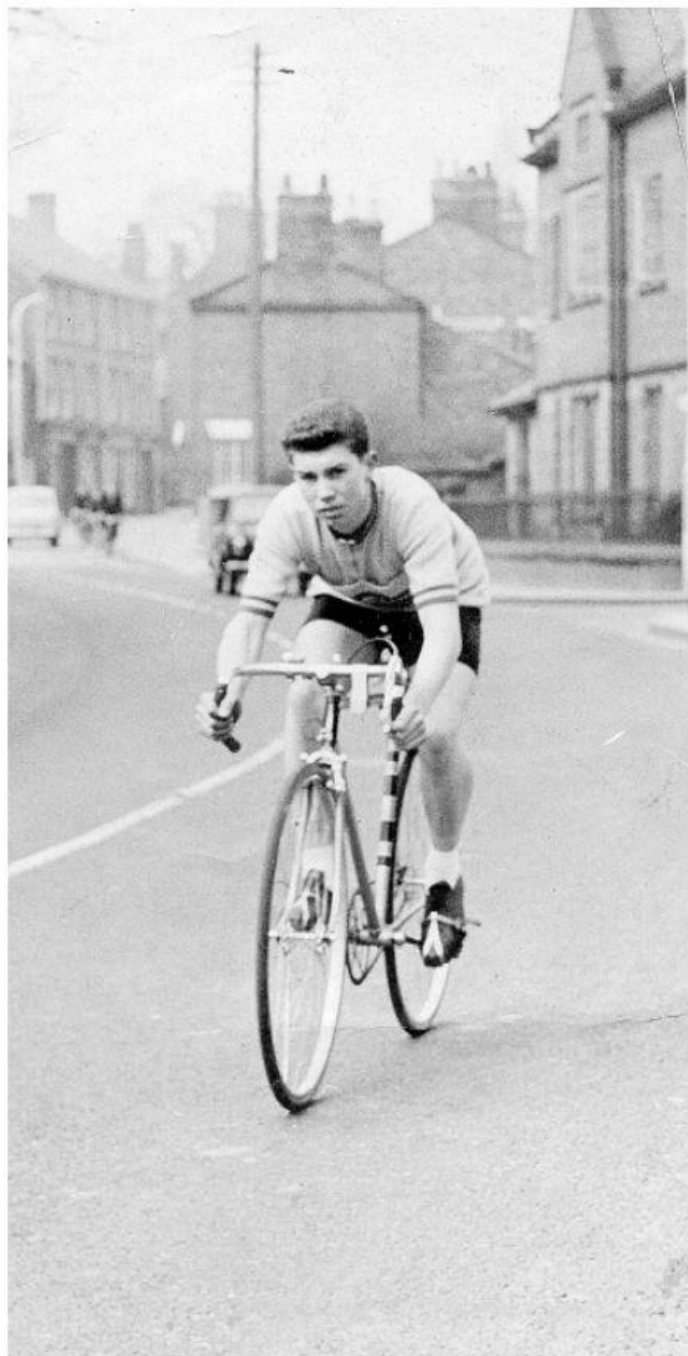
There were fifteen late starters and a surprising feature was that in almost all these instances the rider concerned was positively ALAZED that the time lost through lateness had to be forfeited.

Another successful event, thanks chiefly to Arnold's first-class organising of it and to those who assisted in every way. A special word of thanks to those who voluntarily forsook their beds (although not required until much later in the event) to ensure that spare checkers were available for unmanned corners ..... and how useful they proved to be !

J.B.F.

And here's a press cutting about the 1958 winner, Nick Welsh.....

## *Bike riders born as Sputnik dies*



A posed photograph, copied from a newspaper, taken in Tarporley, later in the morning after the Withington Wheelers '25', April 1958.

UNDER the shadow of the giant Jodrell Bank radio telescope, recording the death of Sputnik II, the Withington Wheelers Novices' "25" saw the birth of a new generation of racing men. First place was decided very quickly. N. J. Welch. Seamons CC number 11 on the card and first finisher, recorded 1h. 4m 27s for his first competitive ride, beating second man, R. W. Murray, Apollo Wh. by 1m. 42s.

Welch's time was a record for the event which has been promoted since 1932, except for the war years.

Entries totalled 142 and, of the 120 acceptances, 90 were riding in their first race, a welcome sign for the future of the game.

At least three were sons of fathers who had competed (and suffered!) more than 20 years ago.

The morning was bright, but cold for the earlier starters. There were no less than 14 who started late. None, however, would have been in the prize list.

Their lateness was due generally to their lack of knowledge of Cheshire lanes, the new starting point and some course alteration made necessary owing to work on the Manchester-Crewe railway line.

Competition for the team award was very keen, but Seamons CC trio had a clear cut lead over Westwood RCC, their 3-25-20 being a very creditable performance.

Nick, tenth in our Seamons series, graduated to Seamons through the C.T.C. about 18 months ago. On current form he is one of the fastest 10 milers in the club, his best time at that distance being 23min. 50sec.

Nick's 1958 ambition is to win the Junior Championship; we wonder who can stop him!

1959 saw an unattached rider win the event, MP Francis in a time 1.6.30.

In 1960 the winner was J Jepson of Littleborough CC who recorded 1.6.04.

Club President, Ron McQueen wrote in the Withington Wheelers Journal about the future of racing with the implementation of the Road Traffic Act of 1956 and the new Police Permission. This was not welcomed the blame fell squarely at the feet of the 'massed start' races in Mr McQueen's opinion.

Racing Of Tomorrow: With the implimentation of Section 13 of the Road Traffic Act of 1956 out Time Trials are now under Police supervision. We are now bound by Law to gibe twenty eight days notice of all events, together with full details of course, details of marshalling arrangements and the time of start. Fortunately there is no limit on the time of finish.

No doubt a new generation of racing men now on the way up will eventually think little of the Regulations; but those of us who have lived, raced and checked through the years gone by will find it a hardship. Maybe the sport, especially the club event, will be killed one day by regulation and regimentation but - let us hope - not yet awhile. We will have to see that the new way of life if faithfully carried out so that officialdom's interference will be reduced to a minimum.

Had it not been for the upsurge of massed-start racing on the highway, which the R.T.T.C. opposed for so many years, we would not now be faced with these Regulations. Those who encouraged this form of racing have done the Sport a disservice from which it can never recover.

Mac.