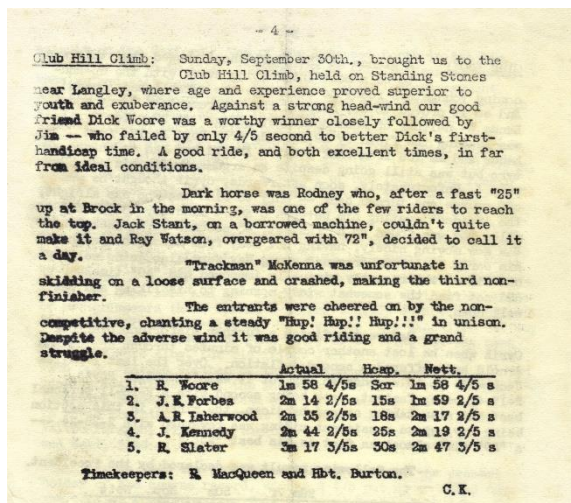


The Club Hill Climb as seen through the Withington Wheelers Club Journals



1951 ~ The first Club Hill Climb.

"Sunday September 30th, brought us to the Club Hill Climb, held on Standing Stones near Langley" reads page 4 of the October 1951 Journal (aside). Not surprisingly it was Dick Woore, who had finished second in the National Hill Climb only four years before, who put up best time, the only rider under two minutes with 1 minute 58⁴/₅ seconds. Jim Forbes came in second with 2 minutes 14²/₅ seconds and only ⁴/₅ seconds behind in the handicap. Various riders didn't make the top, finding themselves overgeared or skidding on the loose surface. One rider who did make the top was Rod Slater who had ridden a '25' up at Brock earlier in the day.

1952 ~ Cat & Fiddle

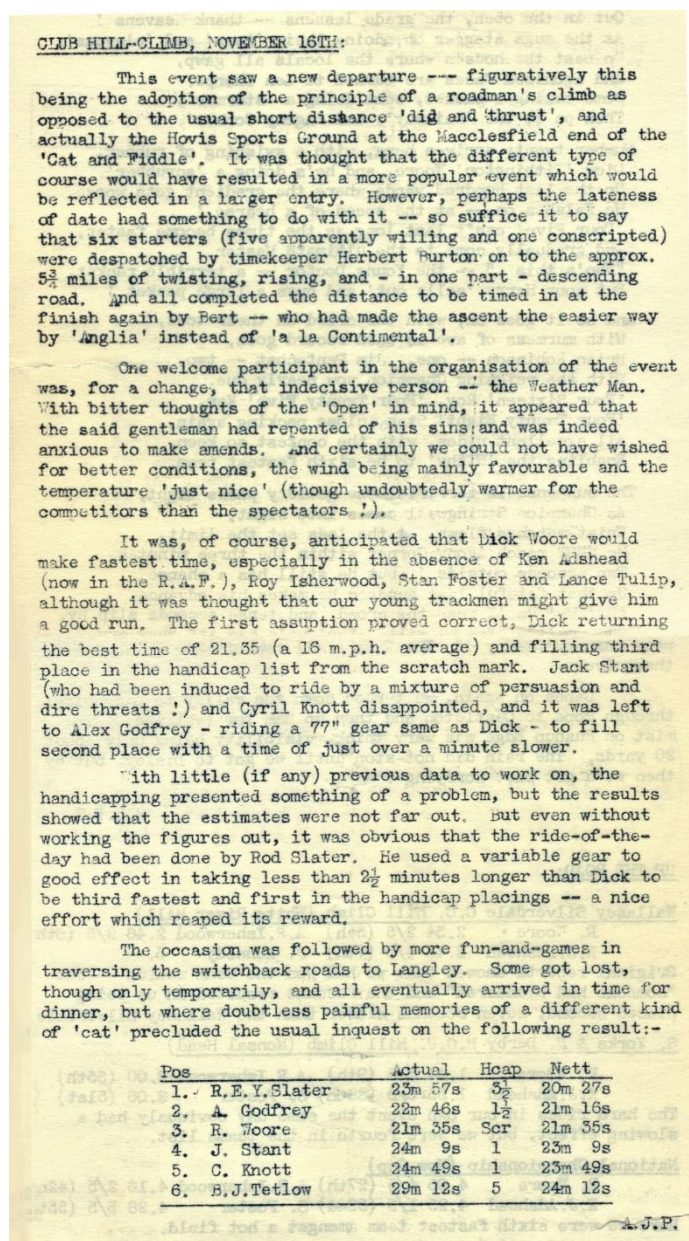
So the first Withington Wheelers Club Hill Climb on the Cat & Fiddle took place in 1952. As explained in the Journal of November 1952 (shown aside) it was a departure from the usual "dig and thrust" on Peaslows and was considered a roadmans climb.

Herbert Burton timed this inaugural event and made "the ascent the easier way by Anglia instead of a la Continental"

The Journal states that the climb was 5³/₄ miles whereas the current distance is accepted as 6.6 miles.

Only six riders entered the event, according to the journal the following were notable absentees; Ken Adshead, Roy Isherwood, Stan Foster and Lance Tulip. Once again it was Dick Worre who ran out a worthy winner riding a fixed gear of 77 inches. Alex Godfrey also riding 77" fixed came in second closely followed by Rod Slater riding "a variable gear". Handicapping was clearly a problem "with little (if any) previous data to work on" but in the end it was Rod Slater who won the handicap.

The other participants in the inaugural Cat & Fiddle Club Hill Climb were Jack Stant (24.09), Cyril Knott (24.49) and BJ Tetlow (29.12).



CLUB HILL CLIMB, SEPTEMBER 6TH:

For the second time, the Cat and Fiddle road on the Macclesfield side was the scene of the Hill Climb -- and six contested the event.

It could hardly be considered a social occasion, for the venue is hardly a spectator's ideal, and supporters were conspicuous by their absence. A.J.P. had to officiate as pusher-off and guardian of the bits-and-pieces, whilst the Ford did yeoman service in making fastest climb of the day -- seeing all off at the bottom and being at the top in time to greet the first man up.

Newcomer Coxon showed he could ride fast up a slope (for despite others' opinions, mine remains) to beat Isherwood by 22.6 seconds, with scratchman Knott in third place. For the occasion, Godfrey rode a special gear of 73" to make slowest time; presumably it was too low for him, or the hill was too high. Slater took a rise out of the handicapper to scoop the prize in the guess section.

	Gear	Actual	Hcp	Nett
1. R. E. Y. Slater	73"	24.13	3½	20.43
2. A. R. Isherwood	70"	22.29	1	21.29
3. R. Coxon	75"	22.06.4	½	21.36.4
4. R. Woore	77"	23.18.8	1	22.18.8
5. C. Knott	76"	22.52.2	Scr	22.52.2
6. A. Godfrey	73"	28.09.4	2	26.09.4

R. MacQ.

The following year, 1953, there were again 6 contestants but last year's winner, Dick Woore, could only manage fourth place behind R Coxon (22.06), Roy Isherwood (22.29), Cyril Knott (22.52). Once again it was Rod Slater who won fastest handicap

1954

Oh dear! Club Hill Climb, September 5th 1954. "Only one entrant -- Rod Slater -- turning up prepared to ride, there was no alternative but to abandon the event".

So there were no Club Hill Climbs during the years 1954 to 1958 but after a gap of five years the event resumed in the summer of 1959.

1959 ~ Cat & Fiddle

Dick Woore writes in the September Journal;

"If there was one thing obvious, it was that no new record would be set up under prevailing conditions, for the wind just blew and blew and in just the right direction to make the four riders really work for their living (for once!) Fastest both on actual time and handicap was our Editor who beat fellow scratchmen Lance by over a minute but had a narrow squeak in only having a six second advantage over Rod for handicap prize.

The following is the details result provided by the President;

	Actual	Handicap	Net
Dick Woore	26.36	scr	26.36
Rod Slater	30.12	3.30	26.42
Lance Tulip	27.50	scr	27.50
Harry Jackson	31.30	2.00	29.30"

CLUB HILL CLIMB. JUNE 19TH:

The Hill Climb was poorly supported, not only by competitors of which there were four, but more particularly by Club members; other than the riders only three were out -- Arnold (on bicycle), The President as Timekeeper and Mrs. Mac. Where were the rest of the Club, particularly the juniors? Perhaps the reason, and we hope it was the sole reason, was that no start sheet was sent out and we had relied on the notice in the Journal which, unfortunately, did not give the time of start or other details.

However, five entered, four rode and four finished. Ken, who had been working all night, was sick on the way up but finished; Dick went up in fastest time, about four minutes faster than last year as a nice breeze was blowing from the west; Peter rather shocked us and scooped the handicap; Robert thought it too hot for hard work, until he discovered that Peter was on his tail and arrived at the finish MUCH too hot and bothered, but Peter screwed him down. The non-starter was A.J.P -- there being no one left at the start to push him off he decided to give Dick a chance. The result was:-

		<u>Actual</u>	<u>H/cap</u>	<u>Nett</u>
1.	P. Jordan	23-23	8	15-23
2.	R. MacQueen	24-36	6	18-36
3.	R. Woore	21-10	Scr	21-10
4.	K. Smith	24-15	1½	23-00

R. MacQ.

1961

The Withington Journal from June 1961 states that the Club Hill Climb will be held on Peaslows (yes Peaslows!) on July 16th at noon. There is no further mention of this event in the Journals but in 1962 and 1963 the event did take place on Peaslows as follows;

1962 ~ Peaslows

Club Hill Climb.

A club hill climb on more conventional lines this year, using our old venue of Peaslows, was well supported by competitors but lamentably so by the elder brethren. A.J.P. was away and could not attend and but for the advent of the Whitbread family the timekeeper would probably have to start each competitor and then beat him to the top, all very well with half a dozen or so riders but it would have been a bit too much with the eleven that rode, and in any case he had no bike with him. Richard was, as expected, the fastest but quite a bit slower than on the previous week. In second place David Shutt with Peter Jordan on his heels. Baxter rode well but what was wrong with captain Jones? Eddie Butters nearly got him.

We welcomed, as visitors, three members of Crene Clarion who through a misunderstanding had failed to enter the open and had a club hill climb to settle; were very pleased to help and everyone was happy.

We welcomed, as visitors, three members of Crene Clarion who through a misunderstanding had failed to enter the open and had a club hill climb to settle; were very pleased to help and everyone was happy.

If only more could have joined the Wits. and the Macs. in to the Jelly Carter after the event it would have been a doubly successful day.

Results.

1) R.Langman 3-5.8	7) R.P.Jones. 4-20.4.
2) D.Shutt. 3-30.4.	8) E.Butters. 4-21.6.
3) P.Jordan. 3-31.4.	9) J.Rayner. 4-26.4.
4) T.Baxter 3-36.	10) J.Dickenson. 5-4.5.
5) A.Snelson. 3-52.2	11) J.Turner. 5-13.
6) P.Darson. 4-4.4.	

1963 ~ Peaslows. The Club Hill Climb took place on Peaslows again a fortnight before the Open Hill Climb in October. The reference to the Club Hill Climb in the Journal is in the 'piece' giving the result of the Open..... "timekeeper Arthur Wood sent off John Rayner of the Withy. His was a good time 3min 4.2 secs – 25 seconds improvement on the club event two weeks earlier".

1964; No Club Hill Climb planned probably due to the National Hill Climb being held on Peaslows.

1965; "Due to unforeseen circumstances the Club Hill Climb was cancelled at the last moment"

1966; 'forthcoming events' in the Journal states Club Hill Climb will take place on 30th October 1966 but no result to be found in the Journals. There were no further Club Hill Climbs until 1979.

1979 ~ Cat & Fiddle.

"It has been many years since the Withington Wheelers saw a Club Hill Climb on the Cat & Fiddle. To be exact, it is 19 years ago. In November 1960 Dick Woore won with a time of 21.20 on scratch"

CLUB HILL CLIMB: CAT & FIDDLE. NOVEMBER 4th 1979.

It has been many years since the Withington Wheelers saw a Club Hill Climb on the Cat & Fiddle. To be exact, it is 19 years ago. In November 1960 Dick Woore won with a time of 21-10 on scratch.

The day was not bad for the time of year with a favourable wind up the hill. To save any argument we put seven numbers into a hat and found out our starting order. Byrnie, who has been number 1, 2, or 3 in most of the events he has ridden, was hoping for a different number. He was the last person to pick out of the hat and ended up with number 1! I was number 2, followed by Mike, Scott, Dick, R.E.Y.S. and Phil on number 7. At the start there were plenty of Club members beside the riders as riders from the Abbotsford Park R.C. were to follow us up the hill. First on the line was Byrnie, ready to take off. Five - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 - go, he was off, closely followed by me. About a mile up the hill I caught Byrnie, who looked quite cheerful as if he was enjoying himself! (Laugh!) The next person I saw was John Gleave who had come out in his car. Ken and Flo then passed me and tooted to help me on. I did not see anybody else until just over a mile before the finish when Mac drove past to time us in at the Cat & Fiddle. Just after Mac had passed Eric Moore drove past and had to slow down when a lorry nearly pulled out in front of him. Eric just managed to get past but there was not enough room when I got there. My brakes went on and I was delayed for a couple of seconds while the lorry moved away. The last stretch of road was ahead and in the finishing straight I sprinted as hard as I could until I had passed Mac's car. When a couple of seconds had elapsed I was back at Mac's car to find out my time, which was 20-58. Next in was Scott, closely followed by Byrnie. R.E.Y.S. and Mike both sprinted it out together with R.E.Y.S. result 23-40.2 and Mike 25-46.4. Dick and Phil came in about a minute apart with Dick just beating Phil by a few seconds.

When all the riders were in, Mac opened up his boot and the riders were given a cup of tea to stimulate their taste buds until we reached the Setter Dog halfway down the hill. Dad had already arranged for the party to have dinner at the Setter Dog so when we arrived we were ready for food. The food was excellent and everybody got together to discuss the morning's hill climb and memories from the past. After some more chat over a drink five of us left on our bikes to get home before dark. All the riders were on gears for the hill climb so we had a nice long "free wheel" down the hill into Macclesfield before heading off towards home. The full results are as follows:

D. A. Slater	20-58.4
S. J. Newbery	23-19.8
R. E. Y. Slater	23-40.2
R. Woore	24-10.2
P. J. R. Day	24-28.6
M. G. Howarth	25-46.4
R. Byrne	26-39.0

Concluding part of May Whitbread's North American Tour.

Beautiful Lake Louise is an absolute gem, set in the heart of the mountains with their snow-covered peaks, rising all around her, on

1980 ~ Cat & Fiddle

2nd November 1980. A joint event with the Abbotsford Park, we often clashed with them on the same date so common sense was applied and the two clubs raced against each other. Four Withington Wheelers against the Abbotsford twelve, David Slater finished top of the rankings with 27.37 (although seven minutes slower than 1979), Scott Newbery sixth in 30.37, Rod Slater and Dick Woore, 34.33 and 36.21.

"Over 1600 feet above the sea stands the lonely inn which boasts that it is the highest licensed house in England, thought there are other public houses which dispute this honour. The limestone dust lies thick on the road in front of the inn, half a dozen wagonettes and char-a-bancs, their blown horses sweating and steaming after the long drag up from Buxton, stand by the roadside. Down below on the Buxton road, clouds of dust show where others are ascending"

The Journal continues.....

steaming after the long drag up from Buxton, stand by the roadside. Down below, on the new Buxton road, clouds of dust show where others are ascending.

In summer, 'The Cat' is the favourite drive from the great Derbyshire watering-place. One or two cyclists, white from head to foot, have pushed their machines up the final hill, and now mop their heated brows. Give me grit roads in preference to limestone paving."

That, let me hasten to explain, is not my picture of the current scene. It was, in fact, written in 1903 by a cyclist-cum-historian called T. A. Coward in his book "Picturesque Cheshire".

It is interesting to think that so many years ago cyclists were toiling laboriously up this hill and suffering from the ill-made dusty road. These days we have a good tarmac surface. But the Inn stands just where it did then, as high as ever, and added to this, the riders this year had to suffer a cold easterly wind which buffeted them all the way. At the top, although the sun was shining deceptively, conditions felt Arctic.

High praise, therefore, to all who braved the elements this day - to our own four riders and to the Abbotsford's twelve. David emerged as fastest of all, and some idea of the tough conditions can be gauged from his time - 27.37 - which was seven minutes slower than his last year's winning effort.

Nobody wanted to loiter at the top and all, riders and helpers, were soon sweeping down quickly to the 'Setter Dog', where we again enjoyed good eats and convivial company.

C.D.H.

Results of Club Hill Climb:

1.	D. A. Slater	Withington Wh	27-37.0
2.	P. Baker	Abbotsford Park R.C.	28-02.0
3.	B. Aston (Jun)	" " "	29-19.8
4.	A. Smyth	" " "	29-21.0
5.	G. Willows	" " "	29-31.4
6.	S. J. Newbery	Withington Wh	30-37.0
7.	T. Lyons	Abbotsford Park R.C.	30-50.2
8.	N. Holroyd	" " "	31-43.0
9.	V. Lyons	" " "	32-01.0
10.	G. Downes	" " "	32-26.0
11.	B. Aston (Sen)	" " "	32-58.8
12.	R.E.Y. Slater	Withington Wh	34-33.6
13.	N. O'Donnell	Abbotsford Park R.C.	35-56.2
14.	R. Moore	Withington Wh	36-21.2
15.	B. McArthur	Abbotsford Park R.C.	36-31.6
16.	S. Cohen	" " "	36-59.2

1981 ~ Cat & Fiddle

In 1981 we again ran the event with the Abbotsford Park, the Withington filling first three places and David Slater sets the club record at 20 minutes 32 seconds.

Club Hill Climb - "Cat and Fiddle", 1st November 1981.

What a set of Masochists we must all be! We run two "Opens" in April and October which frequently experience weather more appropriate to mid-winter and then to cap it all, we have our Club Hill Climb at the 1600ft top of a mountain in November. We must enjoy suffering! I'm speaking, of course, of the helpers, not the riders. They at least create some body heat with their exertions and also enjoy that warm, smug glow which comes to those who engage in such activities.

To be honest, this year the weather was nothing like so unpleasant as last. Down at the start things seemed fairly reasonable but, inevitably, the "Cat" did its usual trick of producing its own particular weather; not the sub-Arctic conditions of last year but, near the top, a cold, dank mist through which we had to peer for each rider.

As last year, the event was run with the Abbotsford but this time they were able to field only two solos and a tandem, while we had five riders. Fortunately, the wind was favourable (I've never known the "Cat" without a wind) so that times were much improved over last year.

Once again David was overall fastest; as far as I can gather, his time of 20.32.06 is a Club record for the hill. Next came new member Doug Pate with a very creditable 23.07.02, just 20 seconds faster than Scott.

It was no day for standing about at the finish so we were all quickly away - down to The Setter Dog for good eats and pleasant company to round off another fine day with the Club.

Here are the details:-

1.	D. A. Slater	Withington Wh	20.32.06
2.	D. Pate	Withington Wh	23.07.02
3.	S. J. Newbery	Withington Wh	23.27.02
4.	C. O'Connor	Abbotsford Pk	23.48.03
5.	T. Lyons	Abbotsford Pk	24.54.02
6.	R. E. Y. Slater	Withington Wh	25.41.06
7.	J. Gleave	Withington Wh	26.41.00

Tandem

G. Atkinson/J. Shepherd	Abbotsford/Moya	24.21.04
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1982 ~ Cat & Fiddle

Club Hill-Climb - "Cat and Fiddle" - 24th October, 1982.

As usual we coincided with the Abbotsford, who provided six riders to our four. The good weather of the previous day encouraged us all to hope for reasonably agreeable conditions for the event. Not so, however, by the time we were gathered at the foot of the climb a steady drizzle had set in, and this developed into miserably cold rain higher up with poor visibility and a nasty cross wind to harass the riders.

David, who is now at Trent Polytechnic, was unable to get along to defend his title. His Club record stands at 20-32, but in the prevailing conditions it was fairly obvious that this was in no danger. Of our four who gallantly braved the elements, Doug Pate returned a very creditable time of 24.29 - the fastest of the Withington and the second fastest overall on the day. Down then quickly to the "Setter Dog", for our customary post-event meal, to find that, at that level, the mist had cleared, and we were able to see far beyond Tegg's Nose. So once again the Cat had malevolently produced it's own particular kind of weather to frustrate us. I counted eighteen members out on the day, with Mac present in his new role of spectator while Arnold and Maurice did the honours with the watches. Here are the details:-

Doug. Pate	24.29.
Scott Newbery.	26.42.
Rod. Slater.	29.07.
Dick Woore.	31.34.

1983 ~ Cat & Fiddle

CLUB HILL-CLIMB

An Antipodean spectator at our Club Hill-Climb, run jointly with that of the Abbotsford Park R.C., up the Cat and Fiddle on 23rd October was Nan's niece, Heather Booth, from Adelaide. Heather was spending six weeks holiday visiting the home ground of her forebears in the U. K.

In sharp contrast with the previous year the event was held in sunny and warm weather. Maurice held the watch at both start and finish, and returned the following results :-

1. David Slater	Withington Wheelers	22-04
2. Jim Shepherd	Abbotsford Park R.C.	22-08
3. L. Guy	Do.	24-17
4. A. Huish	Do.	26-03
5. Geoff Shepherd	Do.	27-47
6. Eric Yuill	Do.	29-12
7. Rod Slater	Withington Wheelers	29-34

1984 ~ Cat & Fiddle

Not much details about the 1984 event but we know Alan Cooke ran out winner.

CLUB HILL CLIMB - SUNDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1984 - Eight stalwarts faced the starter at the bottom of the "Cat". No inter-club this year, just the gradient to do battle with. Seven out of eight finished. Alan Cook ran out the winner, beating Mike by less than half a minute. All retired to the Setter Dog for dissertation on the merits of Soup, Rolls, Beer, Gears and, of course, HILLS!

1985. "Sadly, there was more enthusiasm for spectating than riding in the traditional late season ride up the Cat & Fiddle. Only Richard (Stern) was ready to ride, undaunted by his record breaking Withington/Buxton ride a couple of months earlier. It was a lovely ride for him up to England's second highest inn Fortunately the weather was not too severe although cold as usual at this time of year".

1986 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Greg Armshaw was fastest in 26.25, other times were;

Mike Ruddy 26.33; Simon Pearson 28.50; John Lowe 29.01;

Rik Stern 30.37; Howard Tomlinson 33.09; Rod Slater 34.50

1987 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

A joint event with our old friends the Dukinfield CC

CLUB HILL-CLIMB SUNDAY OCTOBER 25th 1987

Inter-club competition with the Dukinfield CC.

Eight members met at the "Vine" and in cold and breezy conditions proceeded to ride out to the Cat & Fiddle hill (by the shortest route!)

There was quite a turnout at the start of both helpers and riders, and 12 faced up to timekeeper Maurice and pusher-off Mike (minus his bike ... yet again). Conditions weren't too bad for the climb, a slight headwind at the finish being the biggest problem.

As it turned out, pre-race favourite Greg was a worthy winner, just pipping Adrian Thorpe from the "Duks" by 5 seconds. A promising ride by Howard earned him eighth place, just getting the better of John. Bad luck for Kerry Malseed who had mechanical trouble more than once before eventually pushing his bike over the finishing line. We all adjourned to the "Shining Tor" Cafe for some excellent food and heart-warming cups of tea (beer, in Leon's case) and after posing in the cold for yet another Eric (David Bailey) masterpiece, we finished the day off in fine style with a ride through the Goyt Valley via the 1 in 5 slopes of Jenkin Chapel ... Greg showing no sign of his earlier efforts ... quite a day!

the result as follows;

Greg Armshaw	23.05
Simon Pearson	24.03
Russ Forbes	24.35
Leon Wilkins	25.36
Howard Tomlinson	26.54
John Lowe	27.03
Rik Stern	28.00
Rod Slater	31.03
Kerrie Malseed	36.35 (<i>mechanical trouble</i>)

1988 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

CLUB HILL-CLIMB, CAT & FIDDLE, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6th - This event, run as a sealed handicap, found 8 starters facing Maurice on what could only be described as a beautiful day. It would have been a nice day in Summer, but being November it really was a "one-off" day.

First Man to be despatched up the 6 miles climb was Mark Harrison, who finished with a very good ride of 23m22s. This time stood unchallenged until the last two riders came up ... Greg Armshaw, clocking 22mins. exactly, followed by Simon Pearson in 22m07s.

Unsealing Lance's handicap revealed that Greg, as well as putting up fastest time, had also won the handicap off Scratch, which mark it turned out he shared with Simon. Our thanks to Maurice who returned the following times and also presented a medal to Greg in recognition of his putting up fastest time :-

	Actual	H'cap	H'cap Time
1. G. Armshaw	22.00	Scratch	22.00
2. S. Pearson	22.07	Scratch	22.07
3. M. Harrison	23.22	0.44	22.38
4. R. Bealby	24.03	0.30	23.33
5. D. Phillipson	24.44	2.06	22.03
6. J. Lowe	25.08	1.10	23.58
7. L. Koch	25.38	1.32	24.06
8. R. Stern	25.55	2.06	23.49

After the event, 22 members enjoyed a pleasant snack-lunch at the Shining Tor Restaurant. A fixture to be repeated!

1989 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

THE CLUB HILL-CLIMB SUNDAY OCTOBER 29th, 1989

A wet and windy day, so bad that early morning phone calls were criss-crossing hoping there was a cancellation. All the more credit therefore to the nine undaunted riders who faced the Timekeeper. Rod volunteered to be No.1 (possibly to get it over as soon as possible!). Claire Holloway and her friend Susie Rossiter from London had journeyed up to Manchester on the Friday evening, but by the time No.8 had been despatched had not shown up. Tony Baxter travelling to the event via Buxton noticed them stood outside "The Shining Tor Cafe". It is understood they thought it was a downhill contest! They eventually reached the start five minutes late, Claire deciding NOT to ride although Susie faced the Timekeeper despite being No.13.

Rick Meadows was first to complete the climb in 21 mins. 18s. which time proved to be third fastest and gave him First Handicap prize...well done Rick!. Peter Howarth, second to finish, clocked 22 mins 39s placing him fourth. Simon Pearson (Scratch) returned 21min 05s to be followed seconds later by Russ Forbes whose excellent 20min 42s was to be the Fastest Time and also win him second handicap award, congratulations Russ! Rick Stern riding his last event before leaving to join his father in London clocked a respectable 24min 24s whilst John Lowe close on his heels recorded 22min 47s. Veteran Rod then arrived with 30min 04s to be followed in closely by son David with 23min 38s (David's first ride since winning in 1982 when he was fourth in the M & DTTA B.A.R.Competition). A long wait followed in wind-swept conditions for gallant Susie Rossiter who clocked a plucky 28min 08s to earn Third Handicap. We all appreciate the efforts of Claire and Susie in turning up for this weather-battered event.

It was a relief to retire to the warm and comfortable atmosphere of The Shining Tor Cafe to partake of a pleasant lunch. Our thanks to Lance for his sealed handicap, to Roger Godfrey and Tony Baxter whose assistance was invaluable. Thus ends a long racing season of Time-trials, Road races and climbs in which several of our Club riders distinguished themselves with highly creditable performances.

Herewith complete result:-

	Actual	Handicap	Handicap Time
1. R.J. Forbes	20.42	1.00	19.42
2. S. Pearson	21.05	Scr.	21.05
3. R. Meadows	21.18	2.05	19.13
4. P. Howarth	22.39	2.00	20.39
5. J. Lowe	22.47	2.10	20.37
6. D.A. Slater.	23.38	0.45	22.53
7. R. Stern	24.24	3.05	21.19
8. S. Rossiter	28.08	8.00	20.08
9. R.E.Y. Slater	30.04	5.00	25.04

First Handicap: R. Meadows (2.05) 19.13
2nd " R.J. Forbes (1.00) 19.42

C.M.L.

1990 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Rik Meadows	19.43	1.12	18.33 (Club Record)
Russ Forbes	20.49	1.27	19.22
Leo Koch	21.54	0.20	21.34
Neil Byrne	23.15	5.30	17.45 (h'cap winner)

Rod Slater 30.33 5.45 24.48

1991 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

The Club Hill Climb on the Cat and Fiddle saw Ric Meadows turn in an excellent ride to win not only the event and first handicap (off scratch) but also confirm him as the first SPOCO champion. In actual time he beat the second fastest rider Neil Byrne by over a minute, third fastest was Russ Forbes who won second handicap.

The conditions although mild were not ideal with a gentle breeze down the hill, unlike the last couple of years when the competitors were blown up the hill by gales!

Unfortunately the Shining Tor was closed so those requiring refreshment had to 'make do' with a bar snack in the Cat and Fiddle.

The full result was as follows, thanks once again to Maurice for timekeeping and all the helpers and spectators who turned out to offer encouragement.

		<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>HANDICAP</u>	<u>NET</u>
1	Ric Meadows	22.32	SCRATCH	22.32
2	Russ Forbes	24.36	1.15	23.21
3	Neil Byrne	23.58	SCRATCH	23.58
4	Phil Pearce	24.44	0.30	24.14
5	Ric Stern	28.24	3.00	25.24
6	Dave Slater	25.53	SCRATCH	25.53
7	Rod Slater	33.42	5.00	28.42

R.J.F.

1992 Club Hill Climb (Rushop Edge)

Club Hill-climb This took place on Sunday October 18th.

Extensive road-repairs on our usual Club course (The Cat & Fiddle) prevented our using it, and after much searching around we decided on a hitherto unused course 3¼ miles of Rushop Edge. This involved obtaining permission from the local course secretary, who, in turn only agreed on the understanding we had approval from the Police Authority. Having accomplished all this we were let down by our contact in the Weather Office when, as the first man faced the timekeeper the heavens opened and it proceeded to rain torrents. This coupled with the bitter cold resulted in the competitors having a very uncomfortable ride, Rod suffering a puncture at the half-distance mark. The stalwarts who braved the elements then had to free-wheel to the bottom where they all thawed out over lunch at our friendly pub "The Jolly Carter".

<u>This was the finishing order:-</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>H'cap</u>	<u>Allce</u>	<u>H'cap time</u>	
1.	R Stern	14.26	4 mins		10.26	medal
2.	R E Y Slater	20.14	9 mins		11.14	medal
3.	N Byrne	12.03	30 secs		11.33	
4.	Ric Meadows	11.39	Scratch		11.39	
5.	P Pearce	12.36	30 secs		12.06	

Fastest:- Ric Meadows (The Alan Bates Cup)

By some unfortunate means, Phil Pearce and his Dad (Ted) were unable to find the "Jolly" and so missed out on the convivial gathering which took place there.

We are sorry to report that at a much later date 'Ted' Pearce was unlucky to have his camper-van stolen.

1993 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Rik Meadows 21.57

Phil Pearce 22.22

Rik Stern 27.41

1994 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

The Journal records..... "Four starters turned up to face the timekeeper Maurice Laverick on a pleasant but windy October morning to contest the 1984 Club Hill Climb for the Alan Bates Trophy. Rod and David Slater rode out from home to loosen up their legs. David making his welcome return to competitive cycling, made an impassioned plea to the handicapper to bear in mind that he hadn't ridden his bike for three years (or perhaps I misheard!) and turned in a creditable ride of 28 minutes exactly. Rod found the going hard and finished ten minutes behind.

Phil Pearce was fastest in a time of just over 21 minutes with Russ Forbes two minutes behind. As second claim members do not qualify for WW club trophies the Alan Bates Trophy was presented to Russ Forbes as the fastest first claim Withington Wheeler. The morning concluded with an excellent meal at the Shining Tor. Thanks to everybody who turned out including John Lowe who brought Maurice out, Jim Forbes and son-in-law Barry, Tony Baxter, Ric Meadows and Ted Pearce who as usual was chauffeuring Phil".

Phil Pearce 21.20; Russ Forbes 23.29; Dave Slater 28.00; Rod Slater 38.55

1995 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle) (short course due to roadworks)

CLUB Hill-Climb Sunday October 22nd, 1996 "Cat & Fiddle". Once again the "climb" arrangements had to be altered at the last minute. The alteration due to road-works which shortened the course by approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. The finishing times bear out the "shortage" and here are the details:-

In Handicap order.....

	Actual	H'cap	
1. M Harrison	17.37	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ m	14.07
2. N. Byrne	15.21	1 m	14.27
3. P. Pearce	14.42	Scr	14.42
4. R. Meadows	15.24	$\frac{1}{2}$ m	14.54
5. L. Koch	17.39	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m	16.09
6. J. Lowe	20.55	4 m	16.55
7. D. Phillipson	19.49	2 m	17.49
8. A.J. Baxter	20.02	2 m	18.02
9. R.E.Y. Slater	23.58	4 m	19.58

A Bates Cup

The weather was simply "beautiful" and 14 sat down at the "Shining Tor" for lunch. The Timekeeper was Maurice Laverick, to whom the Club extends its thanks.

1996 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

20.10.96 Club Hill Climb - Cat and Fiddle

It was a great pity that the event should be spoiled by torrential rain, much needed though it might be, certainly all of those who rode or assisted deserved medals. Due to the weather timekeeper Maurice Laverick sent riders off when ready and consequently had some difficulty beating everyone to the summit, fortunately without "losing" any riders!

The handicap winner of the magnificent Alan Bates Cup was Rik Meadows to crown an excellent season's efforts which had already earned him the Club Champion's title. Congratulations!

In handicap order:-

1.	R Palmer	(2nd claim)	25.41	1m 30s	24.11
2.	R J Meadows		25.19	30s	24.49
3.	I Fleming	(2nd claim)	25.14	30s	24.44
4.	R J Forbes		27.00	2m 00s	25.00
5.	P Pearce	(2nd claim)	25.33	Scr	25.33
6.	L Koch		33.09	3m 00s	30.09
7.	R E Y Slater		46.52	5m 30s	41.22

Many thanks to all who rode/assisted on this dreadful day, especially to Barry Norton who acted as assistant timekeeper and who conveyed the President and Maurice Laverick to the start. In spite of the inclement weather a most enjoyable sit-down meal was partaken of at the "SHINING TOR" Restaurant.

J.E.F.

P.S. Thanks for the complimentary handicap but this didn't take into account the ride out from home, riding up the hill in full winter weather gear including cape and saddlebag containing, among other things, a copy of the South Manchester telephone directory, not to mention a heaping helping of anno Domini!

Ed.

1997 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Club Hill Climb - Sunday October 19th

Amazingly, we were again treated to good weather and with four riders sharing the Scratch Mark a lively contest was ensured. First, and winner of the Alan Bates Cup was Phil Pearce who clocked 22.37. Second was 2nd claim member Ian Fleming, who qualifies for a medal, supplied by timekeeper Maurice Laverick. 12 sat down to lunch at the 'Shining Tor' and the event resulted as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) P. Pearce SCR: 22.37 A. Bates Cup | 3) R. Meadows SCR: 23.59 |
| 2) I. Fleming SCR: 23.44 2nd Claim | 4) N. Byrne SCR: 24.31 |

Phil Pearce had re-joined the Withington first claim so his time of 22.37 won him the Alan Bates Cup. All the riders were given a scratch handicap.

1998 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Only one rider this year; Neil Byrne 24.00

1999 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Club Hill Climb 17/10/99

Three eager(?) competitors faced Maurice at the foot of the Cat and Fiddle on a lovely but windy sunny Sunday morning. With the wind straight down the hill the times were always going to be slow and Dave Slater's winning time of 29.54 was a full ten minutes slower than his fastest time up the hill a few years ago. Russ Forbes split the Slater family coming in second, 2 minutes and 11 seconds behind. Rod Slater had his own personal battle with the elements and finished with a creditable 49.40. Dave wins the Alan Bates Trophy on handicap, beating Russ by 41 seconds on handicap.

The weary riders and wind-swept spectators repaired to the Shining Tor after the event for a sociable get-together by the open fire.

2000 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

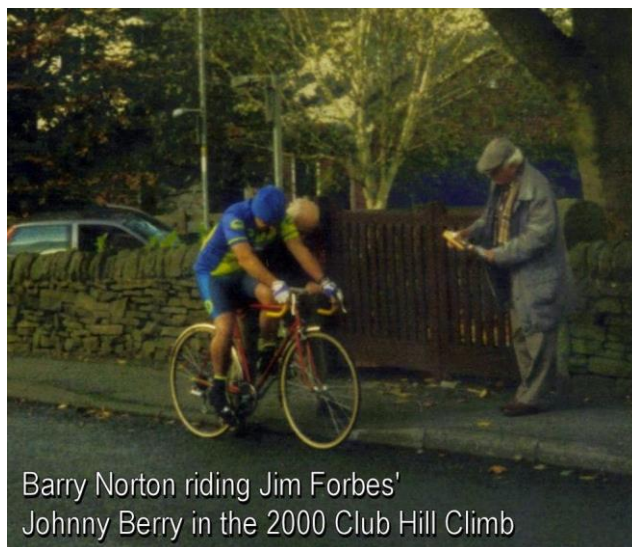
Dave Slater	25.44	scr	25.44
Russ Forbes	26.03	1.30	24.33
Simon Pearson	28.16	1.30	26.46
Leo Koch	28.36	5.00	23.36
Dave Phillipson	28.48	3.00	25.48
Howard Newhall	28.49	4.00	24.49
Rod Slater	37.13	12.00	25.13
Barry Norton	37.28	14.00	23.28

(h'cap winner)

2001 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

"Don't miss this" exclaims the Journal, "Will David Slater come out retirement to win the Alan Bates Cup for the third consecutive year? He'll certainly

have his work cut out with Steve Pennington firing on all cylinders and Rik Meadows on his favourite territory desperate to get his name back on a Withy trophy after his Stretford sojourn last year. Simon Pearson, slowly getting back to his best, could surprise everyone and Leo won't be able to resist going for just one more trophy. Fastest rider last year (although he didn't join the club until after the event) was Chris



Barry Norton riding Jim Forbes' Johnny Berry in the 2000 Club Hill Climb

Bloomfield. Dave Phillipson has promised to return from France and then there's Russ Forbes and Howard Newhall with an outside chance. Barry Norton will be coming up from Peterborough to hopefully better his excellent ride last year and Tony Baxter is threatening to make an appearance in the event"

As it turned out only six riders competed in the 2001 Club Hill Climb with Steve Pennington the first of his two victories on the Cat & Fiddle.

Steve Pennington	21.35	scr	21.35
Rik Meadows	22.18	0.30	21.48
Howard Newhall	22.56	3.00	19.56(<i>h'cap winner</i>)
Dave Phillipson	25.41	4.30	21.11
Leo Koch	25.49	4.30	21.19
Barry Norton	35.48	14.00	21.48



Dave Phillipson



Howard Newhall

2002 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Steve Pennington	25.21	scr	25.21
Rik Meadows	26.31	0.45	25.46
Howard Newhall	26.32	1.20	25.12
Colin Pritchard	28.45	3.00	25.45
Simon Pearson	28.47	3.30	25.17
Leo Koch	31.09	4.15	26.54
Barry Norton	37.06	14.10	22.56

2003 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Rik Meadows	28.14	scr	28.14
Howard Newhall	29.14	0.01	29.13
Colin Pritchard	35.11	2.14	32.57
Scott Newbery	33.35	scr	33.35
Dave Phillipson	38.05	3.23	34.42
Rod Slater	47.22	12.00	35.22
<i>Nik Wilshaw</i>			<i>(ABC Centreville 32.33)</i>



The photo (above right) shows Maurice Laverick, in typical pose, timing the Withington Wheelers Club Hill Climb outside the Cat & Fiddle on 12th October 2003. Maurice timed every WW Club Hill Climb from 1982 to 2003.

2004 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle) (short course)

17th October ~ Club Hill Climb.

Infamy, Infamy!! They've all got it in for me!!

The weeks leading up to the club hill climb were full of surprises. Not only had there been roadwork's warning signs at the bottom of the Cat & Fiddle since mid-September but 400+ competitors in the Sean Kelly Ride were scheduled to arrive on the Cat & Fiddle at just about the time of our race. The road was still clear as we went into the weekend and we had no reason to suspect that they would start digging up the road on Sunday morning. However, that's exactly what they did and by 9am on the morning of the race, the traffic lights were up, the cones had reduced the road to one lane, the workmen were sat by their brazier with their mugs of tea and the traffic queues were starting to build up.

Meanwhile down at the start, the assembled Withy Wheelers were blissfully unaware of the impending problems further up the hill, the Sean Kelly riders were nicely thinned out, coming past in dribs and drabs, and the decision was made to start the race.

Once the timekeepers watches had been synchronised, n^o one, Barry Norton, was dispatched on his way and Russ, the finish timekeeper set off up the hill to get to the Cat and Fiddle before the first rider. The riders followed at minute intervals and it soon became clear that new member, Conrad Haskins was on for a storming ride as he worked his way through the straggling groups of participants in the Sean Kelly Ride as well as the Withy competitors. The club record was in imminent danger of being broken but sadly it wasn't to be as meanwhile up the hill, Russ had discovered the traffic lights and erected the finish board at about 5½ miles. The climb to the top of the 'Cat' is 6.6 miles,

we'll never know whether the club record would have been broken but if pushed, you would have to say that Conrad's ride was certainly the fastest ride ever in the Withy Wheelers club hill climb. Perhaps next year we'll have a new club record?

Conrad's ride had certainly caught everyone by surprise, apart from perhaps Simon who's regularly training with him. Further down the pecking order, Howard, Rik, Simon and Scott were tightly grouped and were separated by little over a minute. Barry turned in an excellent ride to take the handicap by four seconds. So large was Conrad's winning margin that no one had bothered to check the handicap times, many thanks to Mitch's wife Dawn, for her quick calculation of the handicap award and for bringing the oversight to our attention. Dave's recent time off the bike was reflected in his time of 26.29. A huge well done to Mitch who by his own admission is not built for hill-climbing, Mitch battled gamely up the hill but couldn't quite get under the 30 minute mark. If nothing else, he's earned himself a good handicap for next years hill climb!!

Many thanks to the Stretford Wheelers riders, Phil, James and Daniel, plus Bill Prout of the ABC Centreville, who turned up and boosted the total number of competitors to thirteen.

Conrad Haskins	16.44	2.00	14.44
Howard Newhall	19.02	scr	19.02
Rik Meadows	19.31	scr	19.31
Simon Pearson	20.00	2.16	17.44
Scott Newbery	20.12	scr	20.12
Barry Norton	25.15	10.35	14.40 (<i>h'cap winner</i>)
Dave Phillipson	26.29	9.51	16.38
Mitch Roberts	30.06	10.00	20.06

2005 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Club Hill Climb ~ 16 October 2005

After the advert on Eurosport during the Tour of Lombardy, the Sean Kelly Ride has suddenly become very popular and at 10am the Cat & Fiddle was choked with 1,000 riders. By 11am however, the stragglers were down to a trickle and the Club Hill Climb kicked off about 11.20. As is often the case, it was a different day up at the finish and various items were blown out of car boots and whisked away down the hill. Clearly this wasn't going to be a fast day. First to finish was the Comeback King, David Slater in 31.18. Rik Meadows bettered that time with 28.22 and in Conrad's absence the only rider likely to beat that was Howard. The strong wind wasn't to Howard's liking however and he was disappointed to finish 30 seconds down in a time of 28.56. In 3rd and 4th places were our two new road-racing members, Mike Palmer and Steve Baillie, separated by a couple of seconds with 30.19 and 30.21. Paul Ekgren, in his first ride up the 'Cat' finished in an excellent 32.49 and Barry Norton and Mitch Roberts both continue their steady improvements. Mitch beat Barry in the handicap by just over a minute. Colin didn't

enjoy his ride at all and deserves credit for finishing. Dave and Amanda bravely decided to ride the tandem and set a new Club Record for a tandem of 44.29. It's not easy to ride a tandem uphill in such windy conditions and they had a couple of hairy moments with crosswinds. This ride sets a new standard which Dave and Amanda will be looking to lower next year. Any out there brave enough to take them on??

Thanks to the helpers and spectators who turned up to support the competitors. Due to the Sean Kelly ride, the Shining Tor couldn't accommodate us so we moved down into Macc where Wetherspoons kindly set aside a nice area in a secluded corner for us. About 30 Withy Wheelers and friends sat down to a roast dinner and saw Rik Meadows presented with the Alan Bates Cup. For full result see the back page.

We'll be moving back a week next year so the dates should be Open Hill Climb 8th October 2006; LDE 14th & 15th October 2006 and Club Hill Climb 22nd October 2006. Subject to ratification.

Rik Meadows	28.22	3.28	24.54
Howard Newhall	28.56	2.52	26.04
David Slater	31.18	6.00	25.18
Mike Palmer	30.19	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Steve Baillie	30.21	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Paul Ekgren	32.49	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Barry Norton	35.15	10.31	24.44 (<i>h'cap winner</i>)
Mitch Roberts	40.09	16.43	23.36
Colin Pritchard	43.56	4.24	39.32
David & Amanda (Tandem)	44.29		

2006 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

"The weather has certainly been kind to us this year, although a bit on the chilly side, the rain held off until early afternoon by which time it was all over and we had a new Club Hill Climb Champion. All the competitors were approximately 5 minutes faster than last year but the ride that impressed the most was Steve Baillie's 8 minute improvement to win the Alan Bates Trophy. It's good to see a new name on the Alan Bates, one of the most impressive trophies in the club. Last year Steve finished second behind Rik by 2 minutes but this year he turned it round to beat Rik by 38 seconds. Leo Koch finished an impressive third with a storming ride. Fourth was new member Tony Scallan riding his first ever race. It will be interesting to watch Tony's improvement next year when he has some experience of riding with a number on his back. As they say, those numbers weigh very heavy! Barry Norton, who once again came all the way from Peterborough to ride the event pipped Paul Ekgren to fifth place. The largest improvement over last years time was recorded by Colin Pritchard who improved by 11 minutes to win the handicap award. Joint second in the handicap, along with Steve Baillie were Dave and Amanda on the tandem. A new tandem is ordered for next year so we should see further improvement.

The Alan Bates Trophy and the handicap award will be presented at the club dinner. After the race, the riders and spectators retired into the welcoming atmosphere of the Shining Tor (now Peak View) Café. Apologies to anyone who went to last year's venue, Wetherspoons, but in the end we decided to stick with tradition and the warm welcome at the Shining Tor".

Full result as follows;

Steve Baillie	22.38	1.59	20.39
Rik Meadows	23.16	scr	23.16
Leo Koch	26.36	4.30	22.06
Tony Scallan	27.09	2.30	24.39
Barry Norton	30.27	6.53	23.34
Paul Ekgren	30.32	4.27	26.05
Colin Pritchard	32.19	15.34	16.45 (<i>h'cap winner</i>)
Dave & Amanda (Tandem)	36.46	16.07	20.39

2007 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

"Congratulations to Steve Baillie on retaining the Alan Bates Cup. In an enthralling race on the Cat & Fiddle Steve beat Rik Meadows into second place by a mere two seconds In third place, two minutes back was new member Mike Irvine who may well give Steve and Rik a run for their money next year. Howard Newhall making slow progress in his comeback from last year's accident rode his training bike into fourth place closely followed by Tony Scallan. Leo Koch, Barry Norton and new member Andy Hewitt were close together around 30 minutes but Barry has the consolation of winning the handicap. Barry improves year on year as evidenced by the fact that he has won the handicap award 5 times in the last 8 years! David Phillipson riding solo for a change, Colin Pritchard and Mitch Roberts, over from Rhyl for the event, completed a field of 12 riders. The Alan Bates Cup is probably the most coveted trophy in the club and always provides a fascinating climax to the racing season – almost half the club turned out to watch proceedings and more than thirty Withy Wheelers and friends sat down to a pleasant lunch in the Shining Tor afterwards."

Full result;

Steve Baillie	24.06	scr	24.06
Rik Meadows	24.08	0.38	23.30
Mike Irvine	26.51	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Howard Newhall	27.24	0.34	26.50
Tony Scallan	28.13	4.31	23.42
Barry Norton	30.09	7.49	22.20 (<i>h'cap winner</i>)
Leo Koch	30.46	3.58	26.48
Andy Hewitt	33.39	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
David Phillipson	34.42	7.15	27.27
Colin Pritchard	34.51	9.41	25.10
Mitch Roberts	36.07	11.41	24.26

2008 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Steve Baillie	23.19	scratch	23.19
Rik Meadows	23.37	0.02	23.35
Mike Irvine	25.51	2.45	23.06
Tony Scallan	26.02	4.07	21.55
Howard Newhall	26.14	3.18	22.56
Phil Pearce	27.50	6.00	21.50
Kristian Spreckley	29.24	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Rod Slater	42.08	9.08	33.00

2009 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Rik Meadows	23.33	0.18	23.15
Darren Maironis	24.08	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Mike Irvine	24.21	2.32	21.49
Howard Newhall	25.21	2.55	22.26
Tony Scallan	27.54	2.43	25.11
Kristian Spreckley	30.27	6.05	24.22
Barry Norton	32.05	6.03	26.02
Mitch Roberts	34.37	12.01	22.36
David&Amanda(tandem)	37.25	16.08	21.17

2010 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

“A total of 14 riders (8 Withys and 6 Stretford Wheelers) faced the timekeeper on a cold and blustery morning on the Cat and Fiddle. Times were slow but to their credit all the starters finished and once the handicap times were calculated we found that David & Amanda had once again won the handicap prize for the second year running. As you know, the club hill climb handicaps are always calculated using the winners time of the previous two or three years as scratch (for the 2007 to 2010 handicaps Steve Baillie was scratch rider but from 2011 Rik Meadows is scratch). As an indication of the improvement that these two have made on the tandem it is worth noting their handicap in 2009 was 16.08, for 2011 it will be 7.43.”

Result of the Withy riders;

Rik Meadows	27.02	0.18	26.44
Phil Pearce	29.22	4.31	24.51
Andy Harrison	29.51	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Pete Howarth	30.51	<i>no qualifying time</i>	
Kristian Spreckley	31.03	7.12	23.51
Tony Scallan	33.23	4.39	28.44
David & Amanda (Tandem)	34.45	14.10	20.35
Norman Bradbury	44.01	<i>no qualifying time</i>	



Steve Baillie, winner of the Club Hill Climb in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Photo below, the 2010 Club Hill Climb. David and Amanda, Andy Harrison and Kris Spreckley.



2011 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Darren Maironis	21.30
Howard Newhall	24.50
Rik Meadows	25.12

2012 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

“Sunshine on the Cat & Fiddle. And no wind. When was the last time that happened?

Five Withys and one Stretford faced the timekeeper at the bottom of the hill and set off into the stragglers of the Sean Kelly ride, 2,000 cyclists taking part. Darren stormed through the unusually large peleton on the Cat and retained the Alan Bates Cup in an impressive 21.22. Tony Scallan won the handicap with a net time of 19.37 (no complaints about the handicap for once, these are based on the riders last time on the Cat & Fiddle. Great to see a new slim-line John Lowe competing again – his ride of 36.50 on mountain bike was no mean feat. About a dozen retired to the Shining Tor for lunch.”

Full result;

Darren Maironis	21.22	<i>scr</i>	21.22
Rik Meadows	24.52	3.42	21.10
Mike Irvine	25.03	4.30	21.33
Tony Scallan	29.40	10.03	19.37
John Lowe	36.50	12.00	24.50
Steve Longden	28.34	<i>Stretford Wheelers</i>	

2013 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

“Well done Darren, another win in the Club Hill Climb on the Cat and Fiddle, third year in succession. A storming ride by Andy won him first handicap and second overall. Mike’s third place was good enough to win him the 2013 SPOCO series (see SPOCO below). Howard was too close for comfort, 45 seconds behind in fourth place.

It was good to see Scott turn up and give it a go, if he rides next year I'm putting my money on him to win the handicap! (The handicap in this event is based on the previous year's times).

David Phillipson, riding solo for a change and John Lowe made up the three riders with handicap times under 20 minutes. Jonathan Lowe was only just over a minute behind his namesake. David Shanahan and Phil Butter both put in excellent rides for their first ride up the 'Cat' and they'll both be in with a shout in next year's handicap.

Ride of the day has to be Brid's. Off number one and first on the road, she was chased up the hill by all ten men but not one of them caught her. Brid won the Lady's Award and her name will be the first on the Ladies Club Hill Climb Trophy which will be presented next year.

The number of ladies now joining the Withy may give you some stiff opposition next year Brid!"

Full result;

Darren Maironis	22.38	<i>scr</i>	22.38
Andy Harrison	24.45	5.50	18.55
Mike Irvine	25.11	3.41	21.30
Howard Newhall	25.56	3.20	22.36
Scott Newbery	30.15	5.00	25.25
David Phillipson	32.45	13.34	19.11
John Lowe	32.54	13.28	19.26
Jonathan Lowe	34.04	12.40	21.24
Brid McMahon	34.17	Lady	-----.
David Shanahan	35.58	10.30	25.28
Phil Butter	39.55	15.00	24.55



Winner of the Alan Bates Cup - Darren Maironis

Fastest on Handicap - Andy Harrison

Winner of the Ladies Nan Forbes Cup - Brid McMahon (Photo right)

2014 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

"It was a beautiful day for the annual race up the Cat and Fiddle and eight Withys tackled the climb with gusto. Fastest on the day, and achieving a lifetime's ambition of winning the Alan Bates Cup, was Howard Newhall with 25.07 beating Andy Harrison into second place by nearly a minute. Ben Davies won the handicap by over four minutes - good going for someone who had said he wasn't going to race, just "ride up"!

Well done Paul Campbell on his first ride up the 'Cat'. Barry Norton, up from Peterborough to compete, found the going tough. Brid McMahon wins the new Nan Forbes Cup for the fastest woman in the event with another excellent ride. Phil, smiling all the way up, is a shining example to us all, just enjoying taking part. It's what cycling is all about. Well done Phil.

Andy Harrison's second place secures him the SPOCO trophy for 2014.

Tyler Koch continues to improve every year and was less than a minute behind the winner! Unfortunately Tyler can't be included in the handicap as he is second-claim with the Withy and therefore can't win club trophies"

Howard Newhall	25.07	1.11	23.56 (<i>Howard Newhall shown right</i>)
Andy Harrison	26.05	<i>scr</i>	26.05
Tyler Koch (<i>2nd claim</i>)	26.11	n/a	
Ben Davies	29.53	10.00	19.53
Brid McMahon	34.24	9.32	24.52
Barry Norton	35.56	8.10	27.46
Paul Campbell	36.54	10.00	26.54
Phil Butter	42.27	15.10	27.17





The 2014 Club Hill Climb; Russ Forbes timing Paul Campbell finishing watched by Leo Koch, Tony Baxter, Brid McMahon and Ben Davies.

Winner of the Alan Bates Cup – Howard Newhall

Fastest on Handicap - Ben Davies

Winner of the Ladies Nan Forbes Cup - Brid McMahon (right)



2015 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

Here's the full result of the Club Hill Climb held on the cat & Fiddle on Sunday 18th October.

Fastest on the day was young Tyler Koch, now racing for Mossley CRT (he's second claim to Withy Wheelers). Tyler improves every year, last year on a much better day he recorded 26.11, this year with the wind down the hill and everyone struggling to get anywhere near last year's times, Tyler went 23 seconds faster. Way to go Tyler!

So, trying to ignore the young prodigy (difficult I know to be soundly beaten by a 12 year old!), let's take a look at the Withy's, make no mistake this was a tough day even by Cat & Fiddle standards, wind against for all but a short section past the Shining Tor and a cold damp hill fog to greet the riders at the top. Everyone (apart from Tyler) went back about two minutes on last year's times.

Andy Harrison took his revenge on Howard (last year's winner) beating him into second place by 33 seconds. Interestingly Andy opted to ride on tri-bars. The faster riders often say that on the Cat & Fiddle, especially with the wind against, you gain more time going for a heavier aerodynamic bike than a lighter hill climb bike and Andy certainly proved this theory to be correct.

John Lowe surprised no one by running away with the handicap as his year by year improvement continues apace. Rob Kirk, in his first race up the Cat was unlucky not to get under 30 minutes but a great first ride none the less!

Behind Rob were a group of five riders only separated by 1 and a half minutes; John Newton, Alan Finney (both putting in great inaugural rides on the Cat), Tony Scallan, Brid McMahon and Russ Forbes making his comeback ride 15 years after his last ride up this hill.

Barry Norton, up from Peterborough for his final ride up the Cat & Fiddle (so he says, but I bet he can't resist it again next year!), Phil Butter and Norman Bradbury were closely grouped and separated by less than two minutes.

Brid wins the Nan Forbes Cup for the third consecutive year (sorry Brid you don't get to keep it) and Russ Forbes wins the new Over 60s prize, the Sexagenarian Award.

Other riders (non-Withys) were Steve Longdon and Warren Jackson (Stretford Wheelers) and Andy's girlfriend, Annia Modlinksy riding in the famous Manchester Wheelers top.

2015 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle ~ 18/10/2015)

	<u>actual time</u>	<u>handicap</u>	<u>net time</u>
Andy Harrison	27.31	0:58	26.33
Howard Newhall	28.04	<i>scratch</i>	28.04
John Lowe	29.42	6:58	22.44
Rob Kirk	30.53	NQT	
John Newton	35.12	NQT	
Alan Finney	35.32	NQT	
Tony Scallan	35.52	4.37	31.15
Brid McMahon	36.15	9:17	26.58
Russ Forbes (*)	36.43	NQT	
Barry Norton (*)	42.17	10:49	29.28
Phil Butter	44.15	17:20	26.55
Norman Bradbury (*)	44.44	14:10	30.34
Tyler Koch	25.48	second claim	
Steve Longdon	31.56	Stretford Wheelers	
Annia Modlinksy	33.42	Manchester Wheelers	
Warren Jackson	32.10	Stretford Wheelers	

Winner (Alan Bates Cup):	Andy Harrison
Ladies Winner (Nan Forbes Cup):	Brid McMahon
Fastest on Handicap (Engraved Plaque):	John Lowe
*Fastest Rider Over 60 (Engraved Plaque):	Russ Forbes

2016 Club Hill Climb

Cat & Fiddle ~ 9th October 2016

Two hill climbs, two sunny days, in October, in the Peak District. Well I never.

Last week's Open Hill Climb on Peaslows Hill was blessed with fine sunny weather and once again the weather man did not let us down and today's Club Hill Climb on the Cat & Fiddle was run in pleasant Autumn sunshine.

13 riders (10 Withy Wheelers and three guests) faced the timekeepers. Unfortunately the three guests were the three fastest. Well we always expect great things from Darren and Tyler but who foresaw Pete Howarth recording 23.59?

Anyway, let's ignore that for the moment and concentrate on a fantastic ride by John Lowe. Since his comeback ride in 2011 John has recorded 36.50, 32.54, 29.42 and today 26.23. On that schedule of improvement I calculate he should be breaking the club record by 2018. John wins the **Alan Bates Trophy** for the fastest Withington Wheeler. John first rode the club hill climb in 1986 and this is the first time he has got his name on this coveted trophy. Well done John. John also won the handicap award. Andy Harrison and Howard Newhall filled second and third places while Rob Kirk in his second ride in this event knocked one and a half minutes off his 2015 time. Chris Yianni put in an excellent first ride to record 30.50.

The **Nan Forbes Cup** is awarded to the fastest lady in the race and Jane Yianni (*right*) put in a great ride to pip the other lady rider, Brid McMahon. Well done Jane.

Phil Butter looked serene in his progress up the hill and rode his usual steady race but was a couple of minutes down on his best. The fastest Over 60 rider was Tony Baxter who stormed up the hill to record 35.53. Excellent ride Tony.



Full result shown in photo but an honourable mention must go to Octogenarian Rod Slater who put rode his brand new, just out of the wrapper, gravel bike to finish in 51.24.

With the Cat & Fiddle pub shut, all the Withys gathered for a post-race chat in Wetherspoons in Macclesfield. Great to see Valerie, Jan, Heather & Lydia out to help and John Newton and Annia Modlinsky brought their respective kids out to sample the big race atmosphere.

Thanks to Leo Kosh for pushing off and well done Paul Ekgren on another fine piece of organising for Withington Wheelers.

	<u>actual time</u>	<u>handicap</u>	<u>net time</u>
John Lowe	26.23	2.11	24.12
Andy Harrison	26.30	scratch	26.30
Howard Newhall	27.22	0.33	26.49
Rob Kirk	29.38	3.22	26.16
Chris Yianni	30.50	NQT	
Jane Yianni	34.36	NQT	
Tony Baxter	35.52	NQT	
Brid McMahon	36.13	8.44	27.29
Phil Butter	44.41	16.44	27.57
Rod Slater	51.24	20.00	31.24
Darren Maironis	22.03		
Pete Howarth	23.59		
Tyler Kosh	24.20		



above - John Lowe

Winner (Alan Bates Cup):	John Lowe
Ladies Winner (Nan Forbes Cup):	Jane Yianni
Fastest on Handicap (Engraved Plaque):	John Lowe
Fastest Rider Over 60 (Engraved Plaque):	Tony Baxter

Here's a surprisingly happy group at the finish on top of the hill;

L to R; Brid McMahon, Chris Yianni, Howard Newhall, Andy Harrison, Jane Yianni, John Lowe, Phil Butter, Paul Ekgren, John Newton and son, Russ Forbes and Rob Kirk.



2017 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle ~ 22/10/2017)

The final club event of the season the Cat and Fiddle hill climb was (un?)fortunately reduced to 5 miles with road works near the top of the course before the Peak view Café. Janice Forbes and Valerie Baxter started the riders, Phil Lawton (Stretford Wheelers) pushed off assisted by Rod Slater and Graeme McCulloch (SW).

A good turnout on a cold but sunny morning. Rik Meadows, now riding for Liverpool Century, returned the fastest time of 18.04. A great ride by Ben to take the win for the Alan Bates Cup and to take the handicap award. Wai stormed up the climb to take the women's prize and the Nan Forbes Cup. Russ wins the Over 60's award, Tony second.

A good ride by John for second place. Nice to see David Slater return to the scene of previous triumphs and be pushed off by his dad. Good ride by first timer Simon Lever. It must have seemed a sprint to Rob after his 155 mile Audax on Friday with Steve. Great to see Mike and Brid and Phil out again.

Paul Ekgren did a fantastic job organising the event and quietly handling the problem of road works and moving the finish. The riders appreciated the support from Rod and Janice, Valerie, Andy and Annia, Jill, Heather and Howard and the Stretford Wheelers gang.

	<u>Short Course</u>		
	<i>actual time</i>	<i>handicap</i>	<i>net time</i>
Ben Davies	18.29	2:52	15.37
John Lowe	19.23	scratch	19.23
Mike Irvine	20.24	0:20	20.04
Simon Lever	21.01	<i>n/a first ride this event</i>	
David Slater	21.08	<i>not included in hcap, not ridden since 2000</i>	
Rob Kirk	21.48	2:28	19.20
Russ Forbes	24.07	6:58	17.09
Tony Baxter	25.14	7:11	18.03

Wai Hong Shek	25.01	n/a <i>first ride this event</i>	
Brid McMahon	29.08	7:27	21.41
Phil Butter	33.40	13:50	19.50
Rik Meadows	18.04	(Liverpool Century)	
Winner (Alan Bates Cup):	Ben Davies		
Ladies Winner (Nan Forbes Cup):	Wai Hong Shek		
Fastest on Handicap (Engraved Plaque):	Ben Davies		
Fastest Rider Over 60 (Engraved Plaque):	Russ Forbes		



L to R; Rik Meadows, Brid McMahon, Dave Slater, Phil Butter, Russ Forbes, John Lowe, Wai Hong Shek, Ben Davies, Tony Baxter, Rob Kirk, Dave Slater, Mike Irvine, Withy Wheelers and Stretford Wheelers making their way to the top.

Wai Hong Shek



Ben Davies



2018 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle ~ 7/10/2018)

The Club hill climb on the Cat and Fiddle was held on a cold but fine day with light winds. There were 22 riders with a welcome contingent from Rik's new club the Liverpool Century. Riders' ages ranged from teenage to octogenarian and the event was organised by Paul Ekgren assisted by helpers from the Club and Stretford Wheelers.

A brilliant first ride by Steve Wykes saw him tie for first place with junior grimpeur Tyler. Steve wins the Alan Bates Cup as the fastest Withington Wheeler. The first woman was Jane Yianni who wins the Nan Forbes Cup. Jane also won the handicap (engraved plaque). The over 60's prize (engraved plaque) goes to Russ Forbes.

Withington Wheelers:

Steve Wykes	21.54
Matt Larkins	23.55 (2 nd claim)
Phil Wilkins	26.06
Rob Kirk	26.08 (4.20) 21.48
John Lowe	26.54 (1.10) 25.44
Chris Yianni	27.01 (4.25) 22.36
Howard Newhall	27.09 (2.00) 25.09
Jane Yianni	29.24 (9.00) 20.24
Simon Tiller	29.45
Russ Forbes	31.30 (6.45) 24.45
Tony Baxter	32.04 (9.00) 23.04
Wai Hong Shek	32.56 (8.30) 24.26
Brid McMahon	35.34 (14.00) 21.34
Will Kirk	37.45
Phil Butter	43.07 (20.00) 23.07
Rod Slater	52.45 (26.00) 26.45

Guests:

Tyler Koch	21.54 Mossley CRT
Pete Howarth	22.48 Stretford Wh
Dave Hamilton	24.58 Liverpool Century
Andy Brookfield	25.40
Rik Meadows	25.59
Steven Stuart	26.17
Ian Stephens	30.17



Jan Forbes, Phil Lawton and Jane Yianni at the start.



The finish at the Cat & Fiddle Inn

2019 Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle ~ 6/10/2019)

Torrential rain nearly caused the race to be cancelled but after a bit of hesitation on the part of the members who rode out, who were trying to get warm in a café at the bottom of the hill, we eventually managed to persuade them out of the café with a promise of a tailwind up the hill. What wasn't mentioned were the rivers of brown muddy water filled with debris running down the hill after the latest down pour.

Anyway the race went ahead and some good times were recorded. Fastest on the day was Tyler Koch who just gets



faster every year but unfortunately he rides for Mossley CRT so can't win WW awards.

So, nine Withy Wheelers face the timekeeper and it was Rob Kirk who recorded fastest time in 23.53. Rob gets his name on the Alan Bates Trophy for the first time. Phil Wilkins recorded 24.18 in second place and Andy Harrison third with 27.42. Jane Yianni retains the Nan Forbes Cup with an excellent ride of 28.43. Brid, looking resplendent on her new bike, finished in 33.19.

Simon Tiller, Russ Forbes and Chris Manning were only separated by nine seconds and well done Phil Butter who struggled up the hill but deserves great credit for finishing. Rob also won first handicap beating Russ Forbes' handicap time by one second.

See aside for full handicap result.

Rob Kirk	23.53
Phil Wilkins	24.18
Andy Harrison	27.42
Jane Yianni	28.43
Simon Tiller	29.09
Russ Forbes	29.10
Chris Manning	29.18
Brid McMahon	33.19
Phil Butter	42.09

Tyler Koch 21.08 (Mossley CRT)

In 2019 the handicap rules for the Club Hill Climb were changed. Previously handicaps had been based solely on rides in the Club Hill Climb but from 2019 the handicap was calculated as for other club races.



Simon Tiller

2019 Club Hill Climb Handicap Result (Car & Fiddle - 6/10/2019)			
	<u>Actual time</u>	<u>handicap</u>	<u>Net</u>
Rob Kirk	23.53	4.20	19.33
Phil Wilkins	24.18	4.12	20.06
Andy Harrison	27.42	5.00	22.42
Jane Yianni	28.43	7.30	21.13
Simon Tiller	29.09	7.51	21.18
Russ Forbes	29.10	9.36	19.34
Chris Manning	29.18	9.00	20.18
Brid McMahon	33.19	13.40	19.39
Phil Butter	42.09	21.13	20.56
<i>Tyler Koch</i>	<i>21.08</i>	<i>Mossley CRT</i>	
Winner (Alan Bates Cup):			
	<u>Rob Kirk</u>	<u>23.53</u>	<i>(actual time)</i>
Ladies Winner (Nan Forbes Cup):			
	<u>Jane Yianni</u>	<u>28.43</u>	<i>(actual time)</i>
Fastest on Handicap (Engraved Plaque):			
	<u>Rob Kirk</u>	<u>19.33</u>	<i>(handicap time)</i>
	<i>2nd Russ Forbes</i>	<i>19.34</i>	<i>(just thought I'd mention that!)</i>
Fastest Rider Over 60 (Engraved Plaque):			
	<u>Russ Forbes</u>	<u>29.10</u>	<i>(actual time)</i>
<small>all prizes will be presented at the Club Dinner</small>			

The Alan Bates Trophy

In the 1930s Alan Bates was one of the Withington Wheelers Grimpeurs who took the hill climb world by storm before their careers were cut short by the outbreak of war in 1939. Alan was unfortunate in that he only started competing in hill climbs in 1937 and hence only had two years before the war.

Alan was one of the victorious Withington team that won the team award in the Eagle RC hill climb on Bearda Hill in 1937. The other Withys were Alan Grant and Tom Frith.

This excerpt is taken from the chapter 'The Open Hill Climb and the Withington Grimpeurs' in the Withington Wheelers History.....

"1938 was the year that it all came together for the Withington Grimpeurs, we contested, in all, eight climbs including a memorable trip to the Catford, in those days recognised as the National Hill Climb. Taking our Open event on Peaslows event first, a point most worthy of note was the full start card of 100 names. Harry Batty of the Dukinfield was fastest in 2mins 47secs, Alan Grant in second place only $\frac{2}{5}$ of a second slower and Jim



Forbes fourth in 2mins 50secs. Alan Bates now improving steadily recorded 3mins 02²/₅ secs and these three easily took first place in the team race. In the Potteries event Alan Grant was fourth, Frank Stanfield fifth and Jim, riding all the way with a flat back tyre, was sixth. At Monsall, in the Derby Ivanhoe, Alan Bates also rode the whole distance on a flat.

And then came the mass assault on the Catford. Ten of our lads set fourth in two big Austins – seven to ride, accompanied by Charlie Haines, Freddy Wheeler and Walt Massey who went along to hurl encouragement. Admittedly we took no premier awards, But Alan Grant was seventh with 2mins 24²/₅ secs; Jim Forbes 2mins 36¹/₅ secs (18th) and Bertie Burton 2mins 38⁴/₅ secs (24th) taking third team place. Alan Bates did 2mins 40s, Ken Perrins 2mins 51s, Maurice Laverick 3mins 06s and Tommy Frith 3mins 19s. Only the two Alans stayed with their machines in the Saddleworth and in the Eagle, Alan Bates was the best of our lads being fourth and with Alan Grant and Jim Forbes, took second team. In the Rossendale, another freak hill, we were again second team, Alan Grant also tying for second place. Noteworthy, was the Walton climb with five of the club in the first nine. Grant tied for third place, Alan Bates fifth and Bert Burton (6th) at last achieved his aim of earning a first team medal.”

Alan presented the Alan Bates trophy to the club in the early 1990s.

Sadly Alan passed away in 2003.

Club Records;

Male – Rik Meadows 19.43 (1990)

Lady – Susie Rossiter 28.08 (1989)

Mixed Tandem - David & Amanda Phillipson 34.45 (2010)