



East Anglian Newsletter

June 2021 — Issue 255

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Alternative reality

When an organisation created specifically for veteran athletes is able to say the last twelve months have been the strangest in living memory, it means something, because living memory can go back an awful long way.

For much of last year, there was too little news to justify a newsletter, which could have done little more than repeat what everyone could read in Mike Penrice's excellent editions of "The Veteran", with local group news amply covered by Mary Horsnell's comprehensive Group reports.

In the interim, the web site, and the Group Facebook page in particular, has done sterling work in keeping members up to date and the Facebook group now has a membership of 241.

At last, however, things are stirring and the 2021 season has restored a vague memory of what used to pass for normality. I'm aware that not all our members have access to the internet, and even if they do may not have a Facebook account, so now is probably time for a catch-up edition of the Newsletter.

Early spring treated us to freezing, wet and windy weather, as well as the news that the E2/25 and parts of the B courses further up the A11 would be out of action until at earliest late summer, because of

roadworks on the A11/14. This at least holds out the promise of immaculately-surfaced courses eventually, and, by next year, even the dreaded Spooner Row – Mulbarton stretch should be billiard-table smooth.

For the time being, the E2/10 is operational and, largely thanks to the ingenuity of Cambridge CC, a new suite of F2 courses up to 50 miles has been devised on the A428, proving a successful substitute.

East Anglia opened the scoring in the 2021 VTTA National Championships, with Mark Ellis, Mercedes AMG Petronas CC, carrying off the men's 15 championship on a freezing morning in April. Social distancing requirements prevented him donning the champion's jersey and hat.



The Group's programme of events got under way on Saturday 10th April with the E2/10 in wet, windy and cold mood for the first Group 10 of the year and the Charlie Clift Shield, last competed for in 2019.

As current holder, I was very happy to pass it on to anyone brave (crazy?) enough to ride in those conditions, which a surprising number were. My bike stayed in the car.

Andy Beaman made an excellent job of his debut as an event organiser and I have never seen marshals so mob-handed at Four Went Ways. You were all heroes and deserve our warmest gratitude - with the emphasis on warmth.

Winner on actual and standard with an indecently quick 19:45 was CC Islington's Ronnie Stone, seen below riding too fast for Davey Jones' shutter speed (or maybe Davey was just shivering uncontrollably).



The destination of the Charlie Clift Shield, for Best on Standard by an EA Group member in the first Group 10 of the year, was decided, with 44-year-old Louise

Robinson (Essex Roads CC) generating a plus of 6:43 from her time of 22:09, an outstanding ride in the conditions. Pity Full Moo Cycling's Mike Skillings, though, with a PB of 21:24 at 62 years of age, falling short of Best on Standard by just one second.

Thanks to Davey Jones for the photo.



John Golder, as he so often does, conjured up the best weather of the season so far for the East Anglia Group Circuit 25 on Saturday 17th April, with temperatures nudging double figures but a moderate NNE drift depriving the triangular Stetchworth-based E33/25 (euphemistically described as "sporting") of any true tailwind.

Nonetheless, times were swift, with actual fastest on the day going to precocious 20-year-old Sam Painter, (TBW23 Stuart Hall Cycling P/b Trainsharp) in 52:54. (picture, Davey Jones). It was a day for youth. Fastest woman was VC de Londres' 17-year-old Flora Perkins in 1:1:45.

Sam Painter



Victory in the road bike competition, part of the Aerocoach 2021 series, went to Matthew Sward, Athlon CC, in an impressive 57:12, whilst the fastest woman was Judy Brown of Newmarket Cycling & Tri club, who recorded 1:9:03.

The two-up competition was won in 55:45 by Barnabas Purbrook and Kenneth Henning of Nuun-Sigma Sport-London RT Les Filles Racing Team (aren't some club names a mouthful these days?)

Best on Standard and winner of the Stourvale Shield, was Cambridge CC's Andy Grant, (under pressure from his son, who'd earlier done a "58" in the road bike event) with 57:48 at 67 years of age, which gave him a plus of 15:15 and over two minutes' margin. He also led Martin Reynolds (2nd on standard) and Chris Dyason, to the team award.

John Golder's second 2021 promotion in a row, the fabled Leo 30, incorporating the East Anglian VTTA 30, was banished by roadworks from its regular record-breaking home on the E2. Not to be thwarted, and despite a cold and strong northerly crosswind, it proved the speed potential of the brand-new 30 mile variant of the F2, with a gift downhill start from the flyover above the A428 between Caldecote and Cambourne, before three laps of the fast F2A/10. *(all photos, thanks to Stuart Field)*

In the main event, 27 year-old George Fox, (below) doing a great advertising job for George Fox Cycling Solutions, edged out by just 2 seconds previous winner Matt Smith (Drag2Zero) who was giving him 16 years and was easily fastest veteran on actual.

Ian Greenstreet and Rachael Elliot suffered a rare tandem defeat by Glen Taylor and Mark Arnold, whose 58:28 gave them the win by 20 seconds.



Despite indifferent conditions, youth and age alike set new records.

Bethany Spencer of Kettering CC set a new junior women's record of 1:16:03 and rounding off the list of record-breakers was Chelmer's redoubtable Pete Horsnell, laying down a new mark of 1:37:26 for all the other 91-year-olds to aim at. Pete didn't, however, make it into the Chelmer CC's team of the Harding brothers and Ian Cardy which took team honours.



Fastest woman and fastest overall on standard was Angela Carpenter (A3crg) maintaining the Leo 30's habit of setting new records with 1:5:57 for a new 52 yrs VTTA age record. Close behind her was East Anglia's Jackie Field (CC Ashwell) (*below*) with a new 56yrs record of 1:08:59.



The H F Neville 30 mile Cup went to fastest man on standard and fastest East Anglia Group rider on standard, Cambridge CC's Andy Grant, who took his second group trophy in a row with 1:04:38 and, with Martin Reynolds and Chris Dyason, secured a second successive team win on standard for Cambridge CC.

More National Age records fell to East Anglia Group members in the ECCA 50 on the brand-new F2/50 with Andy Grant (*below*, photo Davey Jones) setting a new mark for 68-year-olds in 1:48:45.



In the same event, Jackie set a new 56 yrs record of 1:55:33 and Peter established a first-ever 91-year-olds' time of 2:49:26.

Competition returned yet again to the F2 for the Cambridge CC 15 on 30th May and brought yet another clutch of age records.

Matt Smith got his revenge over George Fox over half the distance at which George had beaten him and set the third

fastest time ever at the distance with an astonishing 27:44, a record for 43-yr-olds.



Matt Smith; photo Stuart Field

It was the fastest of many, with VTTA National records set by Tim Hood (60) 30:40; Andy Grant (68) 31:36, Jackie Field (56) 33:21, Jennifer Clegg (67) 36:59, tandemists Glen Taylor/Mark Arnold (99) 28:18, Andrew & Catherine Hutchinson (114) 33:02 and John Swanbury/Kate Churchill (136) 35:34 (all subject to checking).

Departures and Farewells

Sadly, over the last 18 months, we have lost some old friends.

Ted Wells 1927 - 2020. It was with great sadness that we learned in mid-September of the death of Ted Wells, who passed away aged 93. Ted was a stalwart of Cambridge CC and local cycling and was turning out, well into his nineties, to help and time keep for club tens as late as last year.

Many club members wrote in with memories of how welcoming and supportive he was of new riders to the club. He was a formidable cyclist himself and still holds an East Anglia age record

for the 12 hours (set in 1993 when he was 66).



In December, we were shocked to hear of the death of **Ian Mackenzie, 1946 – 2020** Southend Wheeler and committed trike exponent, who was a longstanding committee member and had only recently stood down as the very capable organiser of our annual luncheon and prize presentation. A full obituary and appreciation of Ian appeared in the March 2021 edition of "The Veteran".



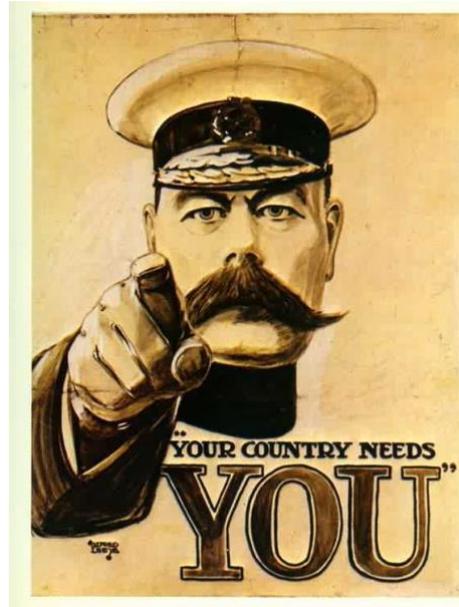
At the time of writing, news has just come in of the passing of Honorary Life Member **Eddie Fone** at the age of 93. Eddie was Records Secretary of our group for many years.

A member of Norwich ABC, in the early 1950s he was a regular top-ten finisher riding in Marlboro' AC colours.

Resident in East Norfolk by the 1980s, he was a frequent breaker of age-records. In an Essex Roads event in September 1997 he set a VTTA National Age Record for 70 yrs at 25 miles of 58:46 and the following year, defied increasing age to set the 71 yrs mark at the lower figure of 57:35.



EAST ANGLIAN VTTA ORGANISERS NEED YOU!



Below is a list of the remaining Group events for 2021. Please choose at least one Group event of at which you are able to help in 2021– more than one if you possibly can and email the organiser directly, to volunteer, with a copy to John Golder.

Please note that this is an obligation which may be delegated if you are sufficiently duplicitous/ manipulative/ devious/ persuasive, so feel free to nominate spouses, sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, significant others, having first explained to them what delightful fun there is to be had standing next to a dual carriageway for two and a half hours.

Please remember: Any member who has not helped with the running of East Anglian VTTA events during the preceding three years may be rejected from entry in VTTA East Anglian events on E2 courses.

New members of the Group have an exemption to the end of their first calendar year.

Here are the remaining Group events for 2021

Wed 9th June	Group 10 *	E2/10	Harry Moore	harry_louise@btinternet.com
Sun 13th June	Nat VTTA 50 (inc Group 50)	F2/50	Chris Dyason	cdyason@hotmail.com
Wed 16th June	Group 10 *	E2/10	Keith Dorling	krd51@icloud.com
Wed 23rd June	Group 10 *	E2/10	Michael Martin	mwmartin_actuary@hotmail.co.uk
Sun 11 th July	Breckland 100 (inc Group 100)	B100/4	Mark Fairhead	markfairhead@btinternet.com
Sun 1 st Aug	Breckland 12hr (inc Group 12hr)	B12hr	Mark Fairhead	markfairhead@btinternet.com
Sat 7th Aug	Group 25*	F2a/25	Gary Boyd	gary@hub-velo.co.uk
Sat 4 th Sept	Group 10 *	E2/10	Dominic Whitehead	beryldom@yahoo.co.uk
Sat 25th Sept	Group 25*	E2/25	Michael Martin	mwmartin_actuary@hotmail.co.uk

* Preference to East Anglian VTTA members

The 10 league consists of all 6 group 10s, best 4 to count

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