



“The Stoker”
Autumn Issue
 October 2010

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Bazza’s Chat (inspired by Chris’s AGM report)

With another road season coming to a close we can normally look back over the season and reflect on all the great things that have happened for NHRC. This year however, we also need to reflect on some things that have happened that we hope are never repeated.

Firstly Andy Hibberd suffered a major injury after a crash in a road race and soon after Mandy was knocked off her bike in a time trial by a car at a roundabout. Then Alex Anderson was tragically killed whilst competing on the A419. Fortunately both the Hibberds have made good recoveries and we look forward to seeing them both back in top form next year. Alex’s death was a shock to us all and, as I said before, was a tragedy for cycling generally, NHRC as a club but most of all to his family. Many of you attended the funeral and this gave great comfort to his widow Jean. You also gave generously in donations. Over £600 was donated, split between RNLI and the John Ibbotson Cycling Fund. Jean has asked me to convey her personal thanks for the donations and the kind messages she has received from you. She has also confirmed that she would like to provide an award of some description in Alex’s name which the committee will be looking at soon.

Let us hope we will all have a safer season next year as well as over the coming winter months

On a more positive note, our first major event was the Cyclo-Cross in November at it’s (hopefully) now permanent home in the Memorial Park. With an even bigger field than the year before, Anthony put on another great event, helped by lots of club members. This year’s event is on 14 Nov and we will again be looking for assistance to ensure it continues to grow since Anthony would like to put in a bid to hold the Southern Championships in 2011.

Our Open time trials were well supported again with a cracking Rudy Project event being followed by a 10mile and two 25mile events, the second of which saw Euro U23 champ Alex Dowsett improve again on the Bentley course record. However, finding sufficient help for our events is always a struggle and we don’t want to have to stop club members entering but we do need enough people, and ideally not the same people every time, to help make these events run smoothly. Thank you all of the event organisers for their work and all those other people that helped on the day.

Our Monday night rides were again very well supported and several new members have come from it. The club also supported Ken Robson’s Newbury Sportive again by manning the feed station at Sparsholt. Thanks to all that helped at that, especially under the difficult circumstances having just found out about Alex’s death.

Club time-trials were even better attended than last year with 675 rides over the course of the season, this with a couple of cancelled events. Many thanks to all those helping with pushing, timing and dealing with numbers.

Club records tumbled all year with Mandy Hibberd posting new club bests at 10, 25 and 50 miles - and improving on some of them throughout the year. Adrian Lansley also set a new club 10 record of 19-52.

Our Cyclo-Cross riders performed well again in the Wessex League with the number of new riders continuing to grow. Meanwhile Sunday and Saturday rides have been well supported and both continue into the close season.

There are too many to individually mention but thank you to everyone that that contributed to the success of NHRC this year, whether that be acting on the committee, to standing in a windy lay-by collecting numbers, organising an event - cycling or otherwise - to baking a cake. Your help is greatly appreciated and the club would be much poorer without everyone's involvement.

Finally, three important items!!

1. If you are free anytime on Sunday 14th November to help with our Cyclo cross event in Memorial Park please call Anthony (01189 812465). Help will be needed all day, but even if you can only assist for a short time, please let Anthony know.

2. Return time trial/road results to John Hodgskin asap on 01189 816485 or email hodg2010@hotmail.co.uk - even if you consider that you haven't recorded any stunning results this season please let him know so you can be eliminated from his enquires ;-)

3. Return any club trophies you may have kicking around the house again to John or to Chris Mison.

Red Rice Andover Wheelers Interclub - 4th August

A compact but effective North Hampshire Road train rolled into Red Rice for the return leg of the Interclub. In a word, we kick their ass, by over 9 minutes.

With a nice stiff head wind on the 1st leg on a reasonable newly-laid road surface of boulders and pebbles, this didn't stop Billy 'Whizz' Girvan recording the fastest time of the evening.

The full results show now be on the Andover Wheels website, but here are the club times

Billy Girvan	36.52
Robert Watson	40.09
Julian McLaughlin	40.46
Tony Parker	41.10
Jonathan Hobby	42.39
Nigel Parker	42.59
Stu Carver	43.11
Doug Lawson	48.03
Mandy Hibberd	25.39 - 1 lap
Dave Welling	DNF Puncture

- Stu

Bentley 10 - 4th August

Warm, dry but tough evening with the wind up. Stu Carver could have ended up doing an impromptu reverse triathlon (had there been a deep enough puddle for him to swim in!). During his warm-up he punctured at the Farnham RAB and had to run back to get a spare front wheel before starting as last rider, so for once could be probably be excused for a below-par time.

Nick Onslow	22:38	Mark King	26:08
Jonathon Hobby	23:14	Gary Ford	26:32
Andre Posthuma	23:22	Dougie Lawson	28:02
Robert Watson	23:24	Ian Bowman	28:06
Hugh Griffiths (Tri Sport New)	23:54	Mark Wayt	28:52
Mandy Hibberd	24:07	Linda Worsfold	29:28
Nigel Parker	24:13	Richard Robinson	30:34
Steve Robinson	24:16	John Warner	30:59
Andrew Mccombe	24:18		
Stu Carver	24:49	<u>2UP</u>	
Brian Smith	25:13	Alison Hitchcock	29:18
Jane Morris	25:29	Tony Parker	

Velocity CC 10 - 7th August - New Club 10 record !!

Conditions must have been good down at Liss for this late Saturday afternoon open event on the P881 course with the top riders all beating the 20 minutes marker. One of these was our own Adrian Lansley who broke his own club 10 record taking it down to 19-52 (a beating of his old record by 6 seconds). Also riding were Tony and Les Parker who also put in good rides with Tony pleased to get back to his old form with a long 22.

Adrian Lansley	19-52 (4 th)
Tony Parker	22-56
Les Parker	25-21

Winner: Chris Ball (Sigma Sport) 19-15

Mortimer - 12th August

Well it had to happen soon - After a dry but windy summer this was the first really wet event since the cold early season races. A dry start to our penultimate evening event but with ominous clouds looming these quickly gave way to a (very) heavy rain shower so a very wet ride for everyone. Things had dried out a bit by the time everyone got back to the car park but it was a rather soggy ride home for many competitors.

For the second week in a Nick Onslow once more won the event with Mandy again 1st lady, but being pressed closer by Jane Morris. Good ride also by Jamie Fry one of our latest Junior members. Even those helping out got wet with timekeepers and marshals getting sprayed by car splashing through standing water.

	<u>Lap1</u>	<u>Finish</u>			
Nick Onslow	12.18	24.58	Chris Mison	14.28	28.56
Andre Posthuma	12.41	25.45	Mark King	14.25	29.17
Jonathan Hobby	13.21	26.52	Robert Watson	14.36	29.20
Nigel Parker	13.27	27.16	Les Parker	14.32	29.56
Julian McLaughlin	13.33	27.43	Dougie Lawson	14.43	30.03
Stu Carver	13.38	27.47	Susan Parker	15.16	30.40
Phil Watts	13.27	27.53	Jonny Elliott	15.07	30.42
Mandy Hibberd	13.40	28.03	James Rockhill (C&T)	15.29	30.59
Riche Bremner	14.04	28.30	John Warner	18.43	
Brian Smith	13.58	28.43	<u>2up</u>		
Jane Morris	14.17	28.44	Billy Girvan	15.18	31.11
Jamie Fry	14.02	28.50	Julie Wearing		

Bournemouth & District Womens CA 2up 10 - 14th August

Another wet afternoon in the New Forest for this event where ladies are traditionally paired with men in 2up teams - bumper entry from NHRC this year with 5 teams competing! Fastest of these were Mandy and Jonathan who secured second place overall behind Claire Newman and Ray Hughes. Julie Wearing and Billy improved greatly on their recent outing at Mortimer to clock a good 27-minute ride.

Mandy Hibberd & Jonathan Hobby	23:45
Julie Wearing & Billy Girvan	27:17
Alison Hitchcock & Tony Parker	29:15
Fiona Holdcroft & Les Parker	29:55
Peggy & Doug Hitchcock	36:21

Winners: Claire Newman & Ray Hughes (Crabwood CC/Clarence Wheelers) 23:22

Leo Gipson Handicap 10 Bentley - 18th August

A bumper crop of riders turned out for our last evening TT of the current season over 10miles on the Bentley course. This was a handicap event held in memory of Leo Gipson who was a prolific member of the club years ago. The handicap system rewards those improve on their previous best time at the distance. After some mathematical 'jiggery pokery' by the timekeeper it was determined the winning rider on handicap on the night was up and coming junior member Jamie Fry who claimed top prize by a slender 8 seconds from improving lady rider Julie Wearing. Third spot went to another newish member Jonnie Elliot with a handicap time of 18.24.

Not surprisingly the fastest rider on actual time was club record holder and 'scratch' rider Adrian Lansley with 20.17

	<u>Act. Time</u>	<u>H'cap time</u>			
Jamie Fry	23:47	16:54	Mandy Hibberd	24:18	20:38
Julie Wearing	28:53	17:02	Chis Mison	25:18	20:44
Jonny Elliott	26:19	18:24	Brian Smith	24:30	21:01
Adam Savage	29:26	18:39	Nigel Parker	24:09	21:02
John Warner	29:54	18:47	Andy Murphy	24:40	21:18
Alison Hitchcock	30:47	19:06	Phil Watts	24:22	21:28
Mark Wayt	27:23	19:13	Tony Parker	23:27	21:37
Jane Morris	24:56	19:15	Robert Watson	23:14	21:40
Andrew McCombe	23:50	19:24	Riche Bremner	25:02	21:44
Jemma Rowlandson	32:15	19:28	Doug Hitchcock	26:13	21:53
Susan Parker	26:39	20:00	Dave Welling	23:58	21:58
Linda Worsfold	29:21	20:00	Stu Carver	24:36	22:21
Jonathan Hobby	22:56	20:02	Peggy Hitchcock	37:50	22:26
Adrian Lansley	20:17	20:17	Les Parker	26:37	22:35
Fiona Holdcroft	30:44	20:35	Peter Graham (RCC)	22:09	N/A
Billy Girvan	21:03	20:36	Jason Bonnett (C&T)	26:39	N/A

Open 25 - 21st August

The first of our two Open 25 mile events down at Bentley attracted a full field which included four NHRC riders. Billy Girvan was the fastest of the bunch and claimed equal 7th overall with Jonathan and Robert putting in sub-hour rides and Dave Welling not far from it. The winning rider was Jerome Walters of Sigma Sport with a 'short' 51minutes ride who beat Richard Simmons (London Dynamo) by 6 seconds.

Billy Girvan	53.56
Jonathan Hobby	58.55
Robert Watson	59.20
Dave Welling	1.01.36

Winner: Jerome Walters (Sigma Sport) 51.03

Ashford Hill - 28th August

After some bad weather for recent club events conditions were pleasantly bright and sunny. Winner on the day was Adrian Lansley by an impressive 5 minute margin over Robert Watson who clocked 48:14. Third spot went to Andre Posthuma another 2mins 15seconds back. Good to see three Junior/Juvenile riders in action - the first time this has happened for some time(?)

		<u>Lap1</u>	<u>Finish</u>
Adrian Lansley	NHRC	21:19	43:14
Robert Watson	NHRC	24:02	48:14
Andre Posthuma	NHRC	24:56	50:29
Steve Robinson	NHRC	25:27	51:46
Jonathan Hobby	NHRC	26:16	52:31
Jamie Fry (Juv)	NHRC	25:43	53:15
Stu Carver	NHRC	26:46	54:57
Nigel Parker	NHRC	27:15	55:00
Sarah Barber	Bad Tri	28:08	56:46
Anthony Dymont	NHRC	27:49	56:48
Brian Smith	NHRC	28:04	57:14
Mark King	NHRC	29:28	1:00:45
John Warner	NHRC	31:39	1:04:49
Tim Conn (Juv)	Come&Try	33:20	1:06:54

1 Lap

Dave Edwards	B'stoke Tri	31:17
John Hobby (Juv)	NHRC	35:46

Alton 25 - 29th August

Dave Welling, Jane Morris and I got up early for the Alton Open H8/25 early this morning. There was a strong headwind and times were about 4 minutes down on our event last weekend. However with the smoother road surface, I did at least finish with a full set of handlebars (unlike yesterday, on Ashford Hill, when my tri-bars failed 2/3rds of the way around the first lap).

I rode 1.02.59, Dave was a 1.05 and Jane a 1.06. I left before the final results but can let you have them in due course if they are of interest.

- Jonathan Hobby

Dummer - 4th September

As ever a good turn on the Dummer circuit for this 18.2 mile TT drawn out no doubt by the good weather. Pedla-On cycle mechanic Nick Onslow took the winning slot with 45.15 with second place falling to Julian McLaughlin who was just under a minute adrift with 46.12 whilst, for the second week running, third spot was claimed by Andre Posthuma this time with a 46.39 minute ride. Recently joined lady member Jane Morris put in a cracking ride to beat reigning club 'fast lady' Mandy Hibberd by 3 seconds.

Nick Onslow	45:15	Tony Parker	50:10
Julian McLaughlin	46:12	Doug Hitchcock	52:33
Andre Posthuma	46:39	Mark King	53:09
Jonathan Hobby	47:36	Jill Bartlett (Hounslow)	53:21
Anthony Dymont	47:57	Dougie Lawson	54:25
Dave Welling	48:34	Karl Smith	56:01
Andrew McCombe	48:51	Paul Haddock	56:56
Steve Robinson	49:00	Sandra Smith	1:02:16
Stu Carver	49:35	Tim Conn	1:02:31
Jane Morris	49:46	Julie Wearing	1:03:05
Mandy Hibberd	49:49		

Beech Hill - 11th September

With just 12 riders arriving to brave the Sunday morning the first problem was the back lane was still closed. Of course this wasn't discovered until everyone was on the way to the start, so a quick decision was made to start at the pub as soon as we had collected together all the riders who had gone to the start in various directions. With the course shortened to 13.4 miles, riders then had to contend with triathletes from another event on the course as well as associated marshalls trying to stop them, and of course the inconsiderate drivers at the shop in Mortimer. However all riders seem to enjoy the ride especially chasing down and passing all those triathletes. The winner was 2nd claim rider Pete Graham followed closely by Nick Onslow and Julian McLaughlin with winning lady being Jane Morris.

Peter Graham (Reading CC)	33:16	Jamie Fry	36:20
Nick Onslow	33:25	Jane Morris	36:51
Julian McLaughlin	33:36	Mandy Hibberd	37:13
Andre Posthuma	34:20	Stu Carver	37:58
Jonathan Hobby	34:49	Mark King	38:59
Phil Watts	35:27	Dougie Lawson	39:41

DIY London to Paris - September

Just finished a three day, do it yourself, lug your own gear London to Paris bike ride with a couple of friends and would just like to share a few observations,

France is mainly uphill, Paris must be sitting on top of a pyramid,
It will hurt,
Pack your panniers then empty them and throw away half the contents,
Take a GPS, we didn't so there was a lot of stop/starting as we navigated from maps,
You will get lost,
The French love cyclists,
The French roads are awesome, smooth, empty and weirdly dead straight,
There is a perfect TT course between Forges Les Eaux and Gournay en Bray, the D915 10 miles of dead straight smoothness, you can literally see for miles.
You will underestimate the time needed,
Watch out for the cobbles in Paris,
Eurostar will break your bike,
It is worth it - the sense of achievement is massive,

Followed this route on the French side, <http://www.donaldhirsch.com/dieppeparis.html> and stayed at a B&B at St Germain de Fly <http://www.chambres-abbaye.com> which I can recommend.

Roll on Lands End to John O Groats...

- Mark Wayt

NHRC Open 25 - 18th September

A very pleasant Saturday afternoon for this event with star attraction Alex Dowsett living to his reputation. A current course record holder with a 47 min ride set earlier this year, Alex pulled out the stops to record 46-58, around 5 minutes quicker than the second placed rider. Jonathan and Nigel rode from the club with the former clocking exactly the same time as he did in our previous Open 25 and the latter receiving a late start penalty.

Jonathan Hobby	58:55
Nigel Parker	1:05:30 (inc. late start)

In the ladies race we had strong representation with Mandy and Jane tussling for position and ultimately claiming second and third slot overall

Mandy Hibberd	1:01:12 2 nd overall
Jane Morris	1:02:05 3 rd (overall)
Julie Wearing	1:18:06
Winner: Elisabeth Brama (Brighton Phoenix)	59:57

Oxonian Cyclocross - 18th September

Apologies, but couldn't seem to track down any details about this event apart from the bare bones results of those who rode...

Billy Girvan	13 th	Phil Siebert	64th
Anthony	38th	Chris Mison	82th
Andy Murphy	55th		

Hounslow 25 - 19th September

Yet another windy day down at Bentley - a stiff SW breeze a cross headwind on the way out. Unfortunately I had left my best legs at home so it was quite a grovel going out to Holybourne, didn't seem that fast coming back. The wind seemed to have picked up for the second lap so even slower than first time - I was almost tempted to go up the slip road back to the HQ but that would be the first step on a slippery slope - continued slowly to Holybourne but then it did seem faster coming back to the finish. A day to forget.

Robert Watson	1:02:00
Dave Welling	1:04:13

Richard Legge - London Dynamo 53-59

- Robert

Streatley Hillclimb / Swindon Cyclocross - 26th September

Entering this event always seems like a good idea at the time, but none of the anticipated training happened. Riding the Micheldever TT yesterday probably didn't help and could explain why my thighs were burning shortly after the start. I probably went into a gear too low, I seemed to be spinning too much for riding out of the saddle. Tony started immediately before me and disappeared very quickly. Tony and Trevor were also riding so we won the non-existent team prize. A good ride from Tony finishing in the top half of the field.

Tony 3:12.58	7th
Robert 3:35.92	11th
Trevor 3:57.45	13th

The event was won again by Robert Gough in 2:19.61 a fraction of a second outside his course record of last year.

Tony was talking of going to ride the cross afterwards - well he had a good warm up. Hope you had a good ride.

- Robert

...and over to young Mr Parker

I can tell you that I did not have the same problem as Rob of too smaller gear climbing Streatley....39x23 was all I had, the legs burnt, but the lungs burnt more ;)!

Once complete at the Streatley hill climb I went on to Swindon and the cyclo-cross. Where firstly it was brilliant to see the junior Onslow and junior'ette Posthuma in the young gun races, and Jamie the more senior young gun taking stock to have a stab in the future we hope :)!

Anthony, Richie, Andre, Phil Siebert, and Jon Warner were all flying the flag in the vets, junior and ladies race (I will let you categorise them accordingly ;)!) all looked good but Anthony struggled slightly with Richie's curse of last year - a bad back! This one was down to too much shovelling of gravel at home we hear!

Chris Mison (vet in hiding as the other race was full) and myself (feeling more senior by the year ;-)) were in the seniors race which was run separately after the above. Chris did well and rode hard for the hour. As for me, my legs felt a bit weak in my warm up but to prove my head wrong I snapped my chain on the first

lap which let me use other muscles....running ones ;)! Having run back to the pits and picked up my spare bike all resolved itself and after this mishap I managed to catch a few riders and feel reasonably strong.....I might not do a double headed again for a long time though ;)!

Along with so many club mates racing, an old club mate namely Clive Hayter marshalling and wishing us all well, and other NHRC road riders in the guise of Pedal On for this one it was a good day of racing.

- Tired Tony :)!

Swindon 'Cross placings...

<u>Seniors</u>		Andre Posthuma	37 th
Tony Parker	37 th	Phil Siebert	42 nd
Chris Mison	?? th - ('guest' senior!)	John Warner	63 rd
<u>Vets</u>		<u>U12</u>	
Anthony Dymont	25 th	Kirsty Posthuma	21 st /35
Richie Bremner	36 th		

Heckfield 2-lapper - 2nd October

We were blessed with good conditions for this the final TT of the year (aside from the Hillclimb) albeit with a bit of drizzle and wind but at least it was mild for the 9 riders who assembled. With Maggie taking a well earned rest for the day from timekeeping , Carol Ayling stepped into the breach to lead Gillie, Richie and Conrad Lawson, the latter who saved the day by keeping his watch running when Gillie's had packed up. Nick Onslow continued his domination of the most recent circuit series events but needed one more to clinch the overall title. Given he was riding a hefty MCR bike he clocked an impressive 53.18 for the 21.8 mile race. Andre also showed is consistency taking yet another runner up in 55.07, with Julian completed the winning trio a further 22 seconds back.

	<u>Lap1</u>	<u>Finish</u>	Nigel Parker	29.52	59.53
Nick Onslow	26.38	53.18	Brian Smith	30.54	63.03
Andre Posthuma	27.38	55.07	Stu Carver	31.01	63.13
Julian McLaughlin	27.08	55.29	Dougie Lawson	31.57	65.10
Robert Watson	28.15	57.12	Mark King	32.47	65.16

Club Hillclimb Championships - Sydmonton Hill - 3rd October

A very wet and windy day, congratulations to all those that turned up to ride, the rain did let up but lots of surface water for those warming up. Winner was Tony Parker with an impressive 2:20:44 and congratulations to Mandy overall 4th. Thanks to Doug, Peggy and Alison for helping with the time keeping and Chris for assisting at the start.

A big thank you to Jonathan Hobby and his family for opening up their house to the very wet riders and providing such wonderful refreshments which were greatly appreciated by everyone.

Tony Parker	2:20:44	Nigel Parker	3:03:92
Nick Onslow	2:26:35	Jonny Elliott	3:15:00
Andre Psothuma	2:44:98	Stu Carver	3:17:78
Mandy Hibberd	2:52:38	Phil Siebert	3:27:69
Phil Watts	2:55:67	Dougie Lawson	4:11:93
Jonathan Hobby	2:55:83		

Meanwhile elsewhere....LVRC - Reading CC Road Race

Not sure where to start with this one, Billy and myself entered this one as it is a great opportunity to race on the open road locally, however the weather was so bad we figured it would be cancelled and so we could zip over to the hill climb and join in the fun there!

We were greeted at Woodcote village hall by a smiling Peter Graham who couldn't understand our concerns saying "it was classic road race weather", strong wind and potentially lashing rain which was on it's way. It was clear a lot of riders had seen the weather forecast but a group of hardy souls rolled over to Stoke Row for the start, sadly Billy punctured so never started.

The race started with an attack which was brought back quickly followed by another, Peter Graham headed off which coincided with me being on the front of the bunch. I wasn't going to chase so I set a steady pace and watched Peter go up the road, I waited for the chase, it didn't happen till the end of the first lap when all hell broke loose. A mad descent down from Stoke Row in torrents of water did nothing for the nerves, I span out 50x12 in the process, the climb which came after broke up the bunch, and I spent most of the rest of the race doing a 2-up with an Oxonian rider. Eventually in a group of 3, Peter was caught and ended up 3rd, I think I got 5th which sounds good but there were not many left at the end, it was very, very wet and windy day.

All in all as Peter said "a real classic road race".

- *Richie*

And also...Bike Blenheim

A few brave souls made their way up to Woodstock Oxfordshire for this event which had something for everyone cyclingwise... apart for good weather! On offer were 100mile/100km Sportive, a 20km timetrial, Cyclocross and the World Brompton championships (which attracted around 750 entrants.)

All events apart from the Sportives were contained within the sizeable grounds of the palace with the TT and Brompton events run on the smooth damp paths covered in leaves, and luckily there didn't seem to be too many reports of anyone coming a cropper! Father/son Glen and Raymond Redman where early starters and both completed the 20km TT course clocking 40:32 and 36:01 respectively. Dave Wellings was the other NHRC representative starting further back in the field recording 35:00. Fastest rider on the day, as expected, was last man off Matt Bottrill (i-ride.co.uk) in 27:14.

After my work colleagues had entered and then decided not ride with me on the 100km sportive I headed off on some of the treacherous paths on our exit from the palace grounds out onto the wet leave/twig/conker/branch littered roads of the Cotwolds. Had to ride through flooded sections of roads on two occasions, but completed the circuit without too much issue in 3hrs49mins ride time good enough for 62nd place out of over 800 finishers.

- *Bazza*

"The Lone Rider"

It was blowing a gale
of wind and hale (poetic license)
& rain a lashing.
Her rear light flashing,
blinded by spray,
she battled her way
to Monk Sherborne village hall
where there was no-one there at all...

(because they had all taken note of the weather forecast and opted to go to the Hobbys' for soup and sausages and cake.)

by NHRC Poet Nigel Parker (in honour of Sandra Smith's epic solo ride to the club house on the day of the hill-climb)

Didcot Phoenix Cyclocross - 10th October

Newbury Showgrounds was the venue for yesterday's Didcot Phoenix cyclocross races. NHRC riders turned out in large numbers, with representation in almost all races. First off was Andre's daughter Kirsty, in the first race of the day. Kirsty rode strongly and (we think) ended in 3rd for her category, in what was a large field of riders. Next off were the vets/ladies/juniors in easily the largest field of the day, with around (again, we think) 70 riders. NHRC had no less than 9 riders in this race: Anthony Dymont, Andy Murphy, Richie Bremner, Andre Posthuma, Phil Siebert, Chris Mison, John Warner, young Matt and me. A great turn out guys.

The race was fast and furious from the gun. Ant performed one of his ballistic starts and lead for the first 300 yards. A break of around 10 riders soon developed. On the second lap, the lead group started to fracture, with Bee Line cycles rider Lewis King having established a gap of around 20 yards. Realising the gap was going out, I gave chase, dropping the rest of the chasing bunch in the process. Catching King on the following lap, we proceeded to increase the gap on the chasers. Passing King with around 4 laps to go, I attempted to drop him on the smallish hill on the course, but was unable to get him off of my wheel. It ultimately came to a sprint finish which he easily won, so yet another 2nd place... Anthony had a strong race and ended up in 9th position (I think).

Andy and Richie brought their season-long time trial battle onto the cyclocross track. Having spent most of the race together, Andy "stalled" at the top of the steep, sandy incline, causing Richie to collide with him! A bit Machiavellian you might think, but a sporting incident according to Andy? J

The net result was that Andy gained around 100 yards and sealed the win. Richie was philosophical after the race, although he did request that I hold Andy to allow him to apply a thumbscrew! Andre continued to improve, and will no doubt be challenging Andy & Richie as he develops his cyclocross techniques. Chris finally managed to compete in his first vet's race of the year and seemed to enjoy it. Young Matt looked shattered at the end, but also seemed to enjoy it. Phil punctured and ended up retiring. There was no sign of John at the end, so no idea how he got on.

Tony was the sole NHRC representative in the senior's race. Tony rode strongly and had an incident-free race until the final lap when he ended up with tape jammed into cassette. A bike change allowed Tony to complete the race in around 20th position. Nick Onslow had another strong race and finished 5th. Hargrove's Cycles rider Matt McDonald won the race.

- *Billy Girvan*

Supermarine RFC GWR/Swindon Cross - 22nd October

A planned trip out to visit my Dad in Crickleade on Wednesday afternoon provided me with the excuse to ride my first night-time cross race. A very cold crisp evening greeted the 30+ riders, all the usual suspects there, ranging from the very quick to the not and a few in-between who really are not sure about any of it and spent as much time off the bike as on it (myself included). From NHRC there was Anthony and myself and Pedal On had Nick, and Karl Norfolk.

A quick warm up lap had me reassured that there were no particularly dangerous bits, just a mixture of man made technical bits using tape, 2 woodland bits with drop offs, one section of permafrost tyre tracks, like a Jurassic footprint of criss-cross tyre prints. When ridden fast was ok but take it slow and your wheels went everywhere except forward, and super fast sprint sections around the rugby pitches interspersed with chicanes to slow progress.

As in all cross races the start is crucial and Nick had a great start and from what I could see the race strung out around the course quickly, a procession of lights blinking here and there in the distance as they weaved around obstacles. A few laps in I crashed quite heavily over cooking it into a corner, losing around 4 places in the process, the only damage being clothing which I had to ditch at the pits losing more places. The next lap I was lapped with Nick and Crispen Doyle battling out together coming past me only for Crispen to go down with Nick landing on top of him, highly amusing and I wish there had been a camera/video running.

In the end Nick beat Crispen getting 4th, a great effort by Nick, Karl a few places behind that and Anthony a place behind Karl, a long long way back to me, but a great event

- *Richie*

Bill Higson Memorial Cyclocross (Palmer Park, Reading) - 24th October

Stuart Bowers (Hargroves Cycles) proved too powerful for the chasing riders in the wonderful late autumn sunshine in Reading for the 2010 Bill Higson Memorial Cyclo-Cross. Reading Cycling Club's event held in parkland to the west of the city was dry and mainly dry. The clubs organisers, Steve Bale and Colin Bates, had provided a very demanding technical course which was highly praised by all the riders. The course, set in a park, used the orchard to the north to provide a varied course.

The senior's race was always going to be a hard event as many of the Wessex League's top riders came out to play. The first lap saw a break with five riders already pulling out a gap over the rest of the field. First up the climb was Jamie Newall (Corley Cycles) followed by Adrian Lansley (Pedal On), Crispin Doyle (Swindon RC), Stuart Bowers (Hargroves Cycles) and Rob McCarthy (VC Meudon). This was to be the break that would decide the result.

The next few laps saw these riders almost together with only small gaps between them. Some were able to stay seated up the climb whilst others ran up the climb and it was these riders who seemed to be dropping back. At half distance, Stuart made his move and opened up a gap of about 20 seconds over the chasing group. Adrian and Jamie were close together with Crispin not too far behind and Rob was beginning to lose ground, although he was riding strongly and enjoying the course.

When Stuart took the bell on the last lap, he was well clear of Jamie and Adrian with Crispin now losing ground. Stuart took the win on his own with Jamie almost a minute down with Adrian a further 14 seconds behind him. Crispin was a further 17secs down whilst Rob came in 2 minute 20 seconds down on the winner.

Seniors

1. Stuart Bowers Hargroves Cycles 58 mins
2. Jamie Newall Corley Cycles @ 59secs
3. **Adrian Lansley Pedal On @ 1min12secs**
4. Crispin Doyle Swindon RC @1min29secs
5. Rob McCarthy VC Meudon @2min20secs

Juniors/Vets

1. Luke Cowley Swindon RC and 1st Junior
2. Keith Sheridan Corinium CC and 1st Vet @18secs
3. Dave McMullen Evans Cycles @37secs
4. **Bill Girvan North Hants RC @1min30secs**
5. Lewis King Beeline Cycle's @1min49secs

Women

1. Hannah Bowers Mulebar Girls
2. Claire Smith Swindon RC @1min30secs
3. **Mandy Hibberd North Hants RC @3min51secs**
4. Melissa Wadhams Swindon RC @4min1sec
5. Sharron Doleman Swindon RC @6min41secs

Youth

1. Jason Pitt Palmer Park Velo
2. Harvey Lowe Hargroves Cycles @11 secs
3. Leon Mander Chapel Tri Stars @53 secs
4. Jack Netherwood 1st gear Cycles @1 min 1sec
5. **Daniel Monger North Hants RC @3 min 27secs**

<Apologies to other NHRC members that rode - I couldn't appear to access full results for this event from the Wessex League website>

- *Graham Robins (BC Cross website)*

Wessex league standings -

(Up to and including the Reading event on 24th Oct)

NHRC members riding high in the team and solo standings!

Team: Jun/Vet/Woman

1st	North Hants RC A	576	9th	Hargroves Cycles A	266
2nd	Swindon RC A	563	10th	North Hants RC B	259
3rd	GA Cycles	400	11th	Team Wight Mountain	250
4th	Oxonian CC	399	12th	Swindon RC C	242
5th	Didcott Phoenix A	374	13th	Swindon RC D	164
6th	Beeline Cycles	359	14th	Hargroves Cycles B	146
7th	Swindon RC B	335	15th	North Hants RC C	145
8th	Poole Wheelers A	308	<placings down to 19 th >		

Seniors Top 10	
Peter Kench	322
Nick Onslow	251
James Cotty	248
Andy Powell	233
Dan Smith	230
Pete Scott	229
Mike Cotty	227
Jason Blann	224
Crispin Doyle	222
Paul Lloyd	213

Vet/Jun/Wom Top 10	
Pete Hutchinson	305
Anthony Dymont V45	286
Kevin Blann V45	280
Nigel Page	267
Ray Claridge	234
Luke Cowley	229
Lewis King	227
Will Girvan	215
Pete Warwick	215
Gary Allen V45	214

Oxonian Cyclocross - 30th October

Matt MacDonald (Hargroves Cycles) took the win in the senior race and then promptly dedicated the win to Paul Coates the chairman of the Wessex League who passed away on Friday. The race was at the Community school grounds in Cowley Oxford. The course was laid out on the two level terraced course; it was dry and was a sunny morning. From the start Matt took off and soon opened a gap over the chasing field. Matt was able to ride the banks and this is where he made his time on the early laps. Matt was being chased by Peter Kench (GWR Team), Nick Onslow (Pedalon), Paul Lloyd (Banjo Cycles) and Sam Allen (AW Cycles), there was a small gap and then came Robin Wilmott (GA Cycles).

With Matt now in a commanding lead, the trailing four riders were racing together for the minor places. Both Paul and Peter were together for a couple of laps until Peter open up a gap and got away. The race now spread the entire course, with riders in their own little battles with the riders around them. There was now a gap of 30secs between Matt and Peter with Paul a further 20secs down. Sam and Nick were together for a couple of laps and they were 1min 30secs behind them. Matt rode home to a comfortable win 32secs clear of a hard charging Peter who said that if he "could start better" he might have given Matt a run for his money. Paul Lloyd was third saying that he just run out of speed on the last couple of laps:

1st Matt MacDonald Hargroves Cycles 59min 35secs
2nd Peter Kench GWR Team @32secs
3rd Paul Lloyd Banjo Cycles @1min 22secs
4th Nick Onslow PedalOn @ 1min 59secs
5th Sam Allen AW Cycles @2min 21secs

The vet race was won by Sean Williams Wightlink/Offshore, making up the disappointment of last week when while leading he broke his rear mech. So with a new rear mech fitted along with a new chain Shaun set of like a man on a mission. He said he had decided to go hard from the start and see where it took him. Well it took him into a commanding lead on the first lap, a lead he never looked like losing again even managing to ease up a little on the last two laps.

The story of the race was happening behind Shaun, Gary Allen (GA Cycles) was second but he had Lewis King (Beeline Cycles) and Pete Smith (MI Endura Racing) for company for a couple of laps. Behind the race for second were Anthony Dymont (North Hants RC) and Pete Hutchinson (Swindon RC) having a tussle to until the end of the race. With Sean away and winning the attention of the friends and spectators massed on the finish line turned down the field looking for second. Gary was the first to appear but Lewis was charging fast, he caught Gary at the very last turn 100 meters from the line. Gary knew Lewis was there but was unable to stop the charge and messed up the sprint allowing Lewis through.

1st Sean Williams Wightlink/Offshore 41min4secs
2nd Lewis King Beeline Cycles @1min 11secs
3rd Gary Allen GA Cycles @1sec
4th Pete Smith MI Endura @43secs
5th Anthony Dymont North Hants RC @37secs



Is it a bird, is it a plane..... ?
<Photo courtesy of Andy Hibberd>

Women

1st Claire Smith Swindon RC
2nd Melissa Wadham Swindon RC @1lap
3rd Mandy Hibberd North Hants RC @1lap

<Again, apologies to other NHRC members that rode - I couldn't appear to access full results for this event from the Wessex League website>

- *Graham Robins (BC Cross website)*

National Hillclimb Championships - Dovers, Hill - 31st October

Despite suffering severe nerves the night before and overdoing the mountain biking in the days before, club champion Tony Parker managed to almost finish in the same position as his start number - he'll have to ask for a lower one next year ;-)

Off no. 93 and finishing 94th he even managed to feature in the promoting club's YouTube video! Glad of some company this year Trevor Pain also made his annual pilgrimage to this event (which he has been doing for more than 20yrs) although he felt his 600miles for the year wasn't enough to give in his eyes an acceptable time, although his entry time couldn't have been that shabby since the event was over subscribed with the organizer receiving 174 entries

Tony Parker - 5mins 10secs
Trevor Pain - 6mins 14secs

Winner: Dan Fleeman 3mins 41secs

Others:

Tejvan Pettinger 3mins 56secs (4th)
Adam Roud (CCB) 5mins 23secs

There were a few non starters but oddly enough one DNF this being Nik Bowdler - not sure if his trade mark monster gearing meant that he lost balance and keeled over ! ;-)

Hilly Circuit Series 2010

Results at the top were as tight as they could be in this season long competition based on 16 circuits, with last year's winner Rob Watson again nudging out Andre Posthuma for the title.

Rob scored well in the early rounds but a strong late surge by Andre meant that in the end they tied on points based on their best 6 rides - the deciding factor was the Rob had won one more event. Julian also finished strongly to claim third spot ahead of Bazza who just scrapped enough early season points to qualify but at a high (but not high enough!) average ;-)

	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rides</u>	<u>Best6</u>	<u>Av</u>	
Rob Watson	87	10	57	8.70	(3 wins)
Andre Posthuma	96	12	57	8.00	(2 wins)
Julian McLaughlin	72	9	53	8.00	
Barry Tooke	50	6	50	8.33	
Steve Robinson	51	7	47	7.29	
Jonathan Hobby	51	8	41	6.38	
Nigel Parker	59	12	39	4.92	
Richard Bremner	46	8	39	5.75	
Stuart Carver	34	9	25	3.78	
Mandy Hibberd	34	11	24	3.09	
Brian Smith	17	8	10	2.13	
Mark King	19	14	10	1.36	
Dougie Lawson	14	10	8	1.40	

Unlike last year no-one completed all 16 events but the unofficial 'attendance' award this year goes to Mark King who showed perseverance by showing up for 14 events.

Many thanks to all this quarters contributors - its been a mixed bag this time with some non-racing reports included so please continue to share your tales of joy/woe/success/disappointment with the rest of the club!

The next **Stoker** is due for publication in January so in the meantime may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy (and safe) New Year!!