

NEWSLETTER

Hours of leisure
Miles of pleasure

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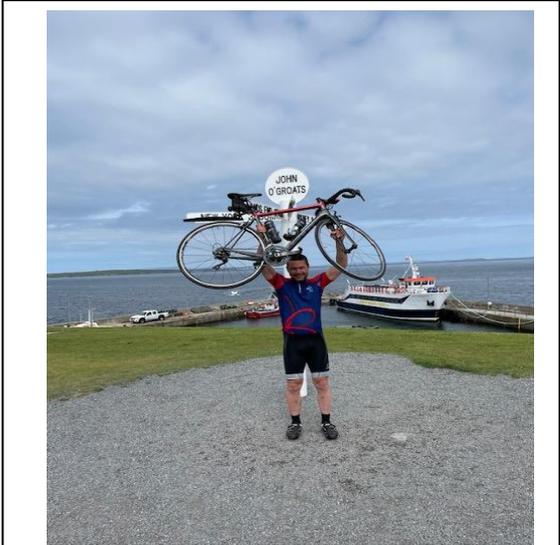
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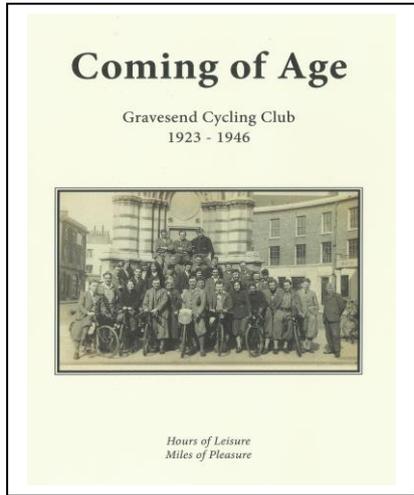
WE'RE BACK IN ACTION!



What has this badge to do with GCC and Tom Simpson? See Memories & Momentos article.



It's..? Dave French at John O'Groats. Why??



..don't forget our new Club history



The ever-reliable Mr 'Ramsay' Sangster!

Results

6/4/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

R Mills v	26.02
S Harrington	26.33
J Parker v	26.33
M Harrington v	31.47

13/4/12 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	23.57
R Mills v	24.18
J Parker v	25.18
S Harrington	25.57
R Turk v	26.58
M Harrington v	31.26
M Simms v	31.29

17/4/21 Farn & Camb CC H25/8

A Gibson v	1.02.10
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18/4/21 KCA '10' Q25/8

J Parker v	25.20
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(scheduled 25 but roadworks...!!)

20/4/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	23.40
R Millss v	24.25
S Harrington	25.30
R Turk v	26.42
M Harrington v	29.31

24/4/21 West Kent 10 Q10/24

J Parker	24.21
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24/4/21 Shaftsbury CC F2A/25

A Gibson v	59.25
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26/4/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	23.15
R Mills v	24.15
J Parker v	25.13
J Wade	25.13
I Navin v	26.05
J Milner v	26.20
E Spiridonov	27.14
M Harrington v	28.51
L Wade	30.20
K Ward v fxd	32.00

1/5/21 Leo CC F2/30

A Gibson v	1.11.54
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11/5/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	23.03
J Parker v	25.04
J Wade	25.58
J Milner v	26.53
M Harrington v	29.22
L Wade	31.2
K Ward v fxd	33.18

12/5/21 Bexley CC Q10/27

A Gibson v	25.43
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25/5/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	23.03
S Harrington	25.49
M Harrington v	29.19
K Ward v fxd	33.35

31/5/21 Brighton M G10/97

A Gibson v	24.12
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1/6/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	22.44
J Wade	25.25
S Harrington	25.43
J Milner v	25.59
M Harrington v	28.35
K Ward v fxd	30.03

2/6/21 Bexley CC Q10/27

A Gibson v	26.01
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8/6/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	22.45
J Parker v	24.03
J Milner v	25.34PB
M Harrington v	27.46PB
K Ward v fxd	30.00

13/6/21 VTTA Champs F2/50

A Gibson v	2.06.59 PB
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15/6/21 GCC 10 Q10/24

A Westwood v	22.34
J Parker v	24.17
R Turk v	26.42
I Navin v	27.01
S Harrington	27.05
K Ward v fxd	29.36

19/6/21 Bexley CC	Q10/24
A Westwood v	22.40
J Parker v	23.48
A Gibson v	24.39

22/6/21 GCC 10	Q10/24
A Westwood v	23.13
J Parker v	23.38
M Harrington v	27.36PB
K Ward v fxd	30.25

This & that.....

* A **very warm welcome** to new member **Andrew Wheeler**. We all hope you enjoy your time with us and have many enjoyable social and cycling experiences. *(Unfortunately Andrew rode out to the 10 on 6 July, only for the race to be cancelled (again) owing to the weather – wind and rain....what a surprise! However he took it in good grace and even declined a lift part of the way back to Chatham, electing to ride back into the headwind!! A rouleur to the core!!*

* **Commiserations** and sympathies to **Bob Wilson** on his most recent accident but it is now good news that he is back home after surgery and a stay in hospital and plotting yet another comeback. Shades (or shadow?) of Froomy!!!

* **Diary Date** - maybe, for 2021!!!! Remember our annual Dinner and Awards Evening well I have booked the See Ho for **Sunday 5th December 6.30 for 7pm**. At least pencil it in!!

* A **big thank you and well done** to **Andy Sangster** for organising this year's Ramsay Cup 25. Sadly a much reduced field (only 32 entries and then only 25 started) to pre-Covid days and also lacking the good social atmosphere that usually ensues with the refreshments and chat after the event and with the presentations. At least we are getting some cycling events up and running again though. Andy did great work in ensuring a full complement of marshalls and officials. Thanks to timekeepers **Dave Abbotts & Mike Coulter**, recorder **Graeme Moir**, marshalls **Paul Fairman, Andy Gibson, Jeremy Parker, David Barnes, Anthony Westwood**. Also a special **thank you** to **Jacinta & Jack Sangster** who stood in to marshall at the last minute.

The Woolpack at Chilham did benefit from the social banter of a select clientele of the die hard GCC cycling fraternity – the conversation being kept in check by Jacinta & Jack!! That aspect of the event is certainly worth doing again.

* Gentle reminder about

Subs.....now due. £15, except for 1st year, life or 2nd claim members. You can pay electronically, cash or cheque. If you are going to ride the Evening 10s then payment can be made then. Contact: Treasurer David Barnes at david@barnes-woodfield.co.uk.

* **Congratulations to Mike Harrington & John Milner** who have set PBs in the Evening 10s and to **Andy Gibson** in a 50. Well done.

* **Congratulations & well done to Andy Gibson, Jeremy Parker & Anthony Westwood** who are upholding the GCC name in riding Open events. Keep an eye on the criteria and qualifying events for the awards too.

* **GCC Centenary** is coming in 2023. We need to start thinking about how we might celebrate and commemorate it. So could you give some thought to it please. Once Covid restrictions are finally eased I will try to hold a meeting to see what ideas there are.

* **Another thank you to David Hinds** who has kindly donated more historical information concerning former members and the Club from the 1930s.

KIT Anthony Westwood has been keen to buy a skinsuit but is having little success in generating orders from other members. There has to be a minimum order of 10 items. Now might be the time for members to be thinking of winter kit. Get the order in in time for the kit to arrive before the winter proper starts!!!!

Currently our kit is ordered through Champion Systems. The consensus is that the kit is of good quality. However the ordering system might seem a little involved. In order to place an order GCC has to have a 'GCC window' opened on the Champions website. Once opened it is either open for a set time or until the requisite number of items has amassed or both.

If you want to know what types of clothing are available then you can log onto the website and view them but they will not be in the GCC colours. That can only be accessed once the 'GCC window' is open.

If you see an item then sample sizes/types can be obtained or you can speak to Steve Harrington.

Once the 'GCC window' is open you then select the item you require and pay. The finalized order is then sent to Luke or Steve Harrington who then distribute.

So in the first instance can we do a survey as to who is interested in ordering any type of kit. Once we can generate at least the minimum order then we ask Champion to open a window for us. Please forward your initial requirements to Anthony Westwood at anthony.westwood1@btopenworld.com

Memories & Momentos.

Before the War Sally Parkinson was the number one female cyclist with GCC, gaining national recognition for her track riding but also a very good local area short distance time triallist. There is a section on her cycling achievements in the Coming of Age publication, the history of GCC pre 1946.

Shortly after the War another GCC lady rider rose to national prominence, but far more decisively. Norma Jarvis. Like another renowned lady rider of the time Eileen Sheridan, Norma was small and slight – 5'3" and around 8 stone – but she still had the wherewithal to claim the Ladies National 10m record, aged 20, in 1954 of 25.10 secs, ridden on 71" fixed on the Longfield Rd course and then in 1956 the Ladies National 30m record of 1.17.44 on the Headcorn, Ashford, Tenterden, Headcorn course.



Norma regularly visits her daughter and son in the Medway Towns area and still has vivid memories of those rides. Of the 10 she remembers not liking descending the hill from New Barn on her 'fixie' and Dickie Faint (a member who has only recently passed away) being on the back of a motorcycle and coming past saying 'your on for a good time' and then later when Peter Baker checked the course measurement found that the it was

too long by the distance between one set of telegraph poles! So a possible long 24 then?

On a recent visit back to Kent Norma went back to see if she could rediscover the 30 mile route. Much of the road was the same and she even found one of the same markers by the side of the road, but could not locate the turns at the Ashford or Tenterden ends. U turns were made in the road in those days! A lasting memory of this ride was the Medway Wheelers member, erstwhile local Kent timekeeper and longtime GCC 'friend' doing his marshalling duties and leaping out of a hedge dressed in his all-yellow waterproofs shouting at her to 'slow down' as she was on 'a corker of a ride'. Indeed, a competition record time!

Her other lasting memory of this ride was that the day before, the Saturday, she had become the WRCA (Womens Cycle Racing Association) Champion at Herne Hill for the 880 yds. In order to ride the 30 the next day she had digs (B&B) in



Headcorn so had to travel down immediately after the Herne Hill race. Her partner at the time, later to become her husband, Len Hitch (Medway Wheelers) had bought her some new red racing tubulars from France which she had used on her racing wheels for the track racing. Len's proviso though was that if it was wet they had to be changed back to the standard road tyre. The race started dry but after 2 miles it rained and rained heavily for the rest of the race. It was a very very scary ride wondering where and when the slide and crash was going to occur. It never did and a competition record was set. She remembers vividly the 'canary-like' figure of Bill Underhill, all dressed in yellow waterproofs doing his marshalling, leaping out from behind a hedge shouting '*slow down, slow down, you're on a corker of a ride*'. Although with Medway Wheelers Bill was an erstwhile GCC friend and longstanding Kent timekeeper.

And now for her most prized, cherished and treasured memento and memory – a 1958 Commonwealth Games badge given to her, personally, by Tom Simpson. What a memento and memory! 1958 was the year that the Games changed from being the British Empires Commonwealth Games to the Commonwealth Games. Women were not allowed to ride in the race for women organised the day same course that use. Norma had take part, which Riders had to fund but as luck would an aunt that lived the Games were Gravesend Council towards her expenses.



Come the race Norma unfortunately punctured after 2 miles and with no support car there was little she could do. However as luck would have it one of the men's team cars following the race that had passed her came back and gave her a wheel, but although she now had a wheel she could only select one of the gears. She carried on though now adopting a time trial mode of riding and gradually picking off the stagglers and managed to get into a bunch of 10 riders within site of the main peleton.

Back at her aunt's in the evening there was a knock at the door and who should be there but Tom Simpson and John Ralph, both in the England team. They had met Norma at the end of the race and came to Auntie Elsie's for tea and then took Norma to the cinema which had been closed to the public for a special showing for all the Games' competitors. Tom then gave Norma the commemorative badge which, understandably, she duly cherishes.

Dave French's *Lands End to John o' Groats*



I've had an itch to do LE2JOG for the last 20 years. I decided this was the year - to celebrate turning 50! I wanted to raise money for a charity and with a personal connection to Alzheimer's, I decided to raise money for their charity. We started planning last year hiring a motor home and my wife agreeing to drive while I'm riding each leg. The 'Grand Depart' was Saturday 19th June.

I left the campsite a few miles from Lands End at 06.30 in the morning with a great cycling mate Jared, lovely weather other than the headwind! A massive day on the bike, 130+ miles with 3400+ metres of climbing, finished at 7pm - it was a really long day.

The next day was another big day, 120 miles; we finished at 7pm! I'm now thinking what have I done I'll never make it!

Day 3 – Jared was leaving me at Hereford and I'm still thinking I'll never make it, but, after a stern talking to from Jared, I continue on my own until I meet Di at Shrewsbury for lunch, then on to Warrington. I'm feeling more positive now and decided to take each day as it comes.

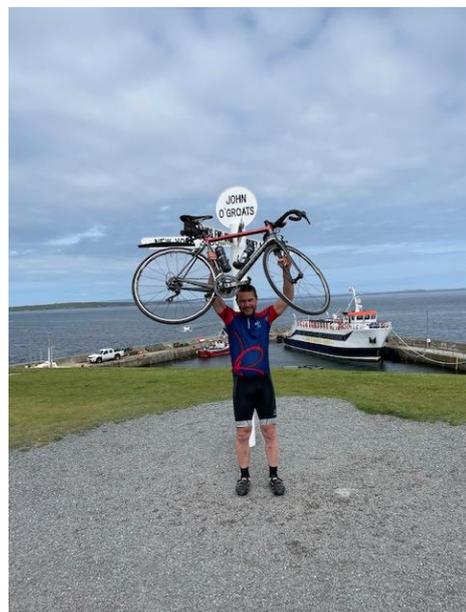
Day 4 - finishing near Ullswater after conquering the Kirkstone Pass - what a great day!

Day 5 - arrived in Scotland and finished near Edinburgh. A lonely day on the road as I didn't see many cars or cyclists.

Day 6 - heading to Aviemore and meeting family there to accompany me until the finish. Bit of rain, but that's to be expected in the Highlands.

Day 7 - I originally planned to finish this day with 156 miles, but as it was cold, wet and the usual headwind I decided to get as far as I could then leave a short ride for the last day, to soak it all up and enjoy the day so stopped at 126 miles in Lybster.

Day 7.5 - 31 miles on the NC500 about 2 hours, great to finish seeing my wife Di at the end, very emotional but super pleased at finishing within 7.5 days.



Would totally recommend doing it at any speed, it's such a fabulous adventure and achievement.

Dave has raised over £4000 so far and is still collecting! There is still time to donate at ... see the Just Giving link below . (The club has made a donation)



Behind, or in this case beside, ever great man and his achievement is an equally great lady – in this case the ‘better arf’, young Di!! Well done both.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Dave-French50?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=Dave-French50&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=4f7a36d855974e47a900224d74c7a558&fbclid=IwAR3sJsgAnPWSIJTmAhE0uRbLE7gPKejlZ-xGpD8TWLmyliURRevfwC9rh0

Coming of Age review by Nigel Land, Editor Boneshaker magazine of Veteran-Cycle club

With comprehensive records kept by the Club from 1923 to 1956, there was plenty of delving to be done. More material was supplied by our David Hinds, whose family records contained information relating to their early involvement with GCC.

The first chapter records the early history of cycling in the area – for example, North Kent Bicycle Club started in 1877 and also describes Gravesend in the 1920s and 30s, nicely setting the historical scene – especially good for those of us unfamiliar with North Kent. The formation and progress of GCC through to 1946 is covered in the final three chapters in detail and I was struck by how large a part of members’ lives the Club became. The racing, the Club runs and the social side must have been enough to fill up every hour not taken up by work and sleep! From my personal experience, apart from a couple or so annual social gatherings, town club life now revolves around racing and a weekend ride, or perhaps I am being unfair. It was also good to discover that women were actively encouraged to join from the early days and to participate in the management of the Club. This was down to one of the original 12 members being an active and enthusiastic woman. The early emphasis was on the social side, hence the motto ‘Hours of Leisure Miles of Pleasure’. There were regular Club runs and growth in membership came quite quickly – also the development of competitive

riding. Indeed, racing is covered in detail as GCC enjoyed success on track and road – there are six appendices recording results etc.

It was interesting to read about road safety in the 30s and the need for lights at night as such aspects are just as relevant today – also the tendency for slower riders to get left behind on Club runs, leading to the formation of a ‘Loiterers’ section with the motto ‘not so far, not so fast and not so serious’, something I can identify with at my age!

The book contains a lot of illustrations with colour used throughout – remarkable, given the price, though I understand it is based on actual production cost only. I do hope there will be sufficient energy within the Club to complete the history up to more recent times.

2021 RACING PROGRAMME - remainder

(Incorporating the Evening 10, Road and Hill Climb championships)

June	1	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	8	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	13	VTTA 25 (Eldridge Mem 25)		06.30	Q25/8
	15	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	22	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	29	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
July	6	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	11	VTTA 50		06.30	Q50/11
	13	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	18	KCA 25		07.00	Q25/10
	20	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
	27	GCC	10	19.15	Q10/24
August	3	GCC	10(max 25)	19.00	Q10/24
	8	Medway Velo 50		06.30	Q50/11
	10	GCC	10(max 25)	19.00	Q10/24
	17	GCC	10(max 20)	18.45	Q10/24
	22	Catford 25		07.00	Q25/12
	24	GCC	10(max 20)	18.45	Q10/24
31	GCC	10(max 20)	18.45	Q10/24	
Septmbr	5	GCC	H/Climb (Exedown)	11.00	QHC/1
	12	VTTA 25		07.30	Q25/12

(Vets & Senior Championship qualifying events are in bold type)

2021 Awards – it could be you!!!!!!

Gravesend BAR (Best All Rounder)

This is the lowest aggregated time for a 10*, 25, and 50 mile rides in Kent based events. (* from a GCC Club 10)

Senior Men's Championship

The lowest aggregated time from 3 Gravesend Championship nominated events from 2 x 25m and 1 x 50

Veterans' Championship

The highest aggregated plus time from 3 Gravesend Championship nominated events –from 2 x 25m and 1 x 50.

Evening 10 Championships – Seniors, Veterans, Juniors & Juveniles

The lowest total time from 5 events. (Times adjusted pro rata if non 10m course)

Pym Hill Trophy

For outstanding contribution(s) to the Club during the season.

The Eldridge Memorial Trophy

The fastest Gravesend rider in the designated Eldridge 25 mile time trial

Bearsby Challenge Shield

This is a track award. The fastest flying lap of Cyclopark full circuit. Unlimited attempts, but officially timed.

Handicap Championship

Calculated from the difference between the two combined fastest times minus the two combined slowest times.

The Tom Taylor Trophy

The best improvement in a 10 mile time from the previous to the current season.

The Tom Medley Trophy

The time nearest to the hour in any event 25m time trial without breaking the hour.

Hill Climb Championship

The rider with the fastest time in the Gravesend Hill Climb event.

Attendance Trophy

For the Gravesend member who has accumulated the most points by attending the most Club activities. Attending any one activity gains 1 point. All activities carry equal points – riding, Club night, marshalling, time keeping etc

Fixed Wheel Trophy (Evening 10s)

Lowest total time from 3 Evening 10 events.

Half Wheel Trophy

Awarded by the Runs' Captain at his/her discretion for half wheeling or other generally provocative tendencies with the bunch!

The Sydney William Goldsmith Trophy

Awarded at the discretion of the Club for any special achievement.

The Hinds Road Race Award

Awarded by the Club to recognise achievement(s) by a Gravesend rider in road racing.

The Touring Award

Awarded by the Club to recognise achievement(s) by a Gravesend rider in cycle touring.

The Mountain Bike Award

Awarded by the Club to recognise achievement(s) by a Gravesend rider in mountain biking.

Ramsay Cup

A team award, awarded to the fastest team of 3 riders in the Ramsay Cup 25.

Wooden Spoon

Awarded, at the Club's discretion, for an event or action which has caused a 'stir'!

Ground Rules for Competitions

1. In riding in these competitions it is expected that, if a winner, you will receive your award at the annual Club Dinner and Presentation. (This is just showing respect to those that have competed but have not been successful)
2. It is ***your responsibility*** to send **any** event results, GCC, Open or otherwise to the Race Secretary. GCC will not trawl around to find your results. You need to provide (i) the promoting club (ii) course code (iii) date (iv) your time. If you are submitting road race, mountain bike or touring results or information then the corresponding information is required.

so don't say you haven't been told!