

# DE LAUNE CYCLING CLUB

*Founded 1889*

**OUR ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH FIRST YEAR**

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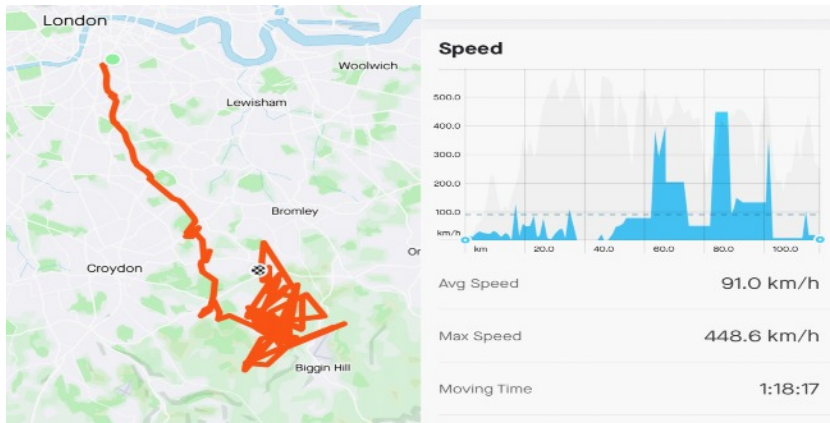
**BRIAN "TITCH" SHAMBROOK**

**27 September 1934 - 5 April 2020**

**MAY 2020**



**SEE PRESIDENT BILL PEN about these images below**



Club Rides (Sunday): Meet 9am,  
Cadence Performance  
2A Anerley Hill, Crystal Palace,  
London SE19 2AA

**CLUB NIGHT  
SECOND MONDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
HERNE HILL VELODROME  
104 BURBAGE ROAD  
LONDON SE24 9HE**



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### **Presidents Pen**

Well we're about six weeks into 'Lockdown' and it seems that rates of infection - and without wanting to be overly morbid, of death too - are beginning to slow down. Other countries are starting to emerge from their lockdowns and cautiously starting to go back to normal. It's by no means certain whether ours will come to an end this month, but even when it does, we are told to expect some restrictions for some months yet.

Our thoughts go out to any friends and family of yours who might have been affected. I was very sad to hear that Brian 'Titch' Shambrook passed away earlier this month in hospital in Colchester. I'm not aware whether Covid-19 was a cause, but I'd like to pay tribute to a loyal clubman for over 60 years. To me he was also a helpful and knowledgeable Memorial Fund Trustee and we'll miss him. There's a report later in this DLN.

I've been able to use some of my spare time to get out on my bike, and I've found lots of self-isolating cyclists in the lanes around Layham's Road, Addington and Beddlestead. I've been using Strava and clocked up lots of kilometers, including a couple of rides I had to delete because my GPS was playing up. I think it lost its signal and couldn't work out where I was, so it chased me around for a bit. The best bit was my fake top speed of 448.6 km/h! I've bought a new phone now and it works a lot better.

Another effect has been the drop in pollution. Here are two views of Bromley, taken from Layham's Road. The one on the right is from February last year with very distinct levels of brown haze caused by nitrogen dioxide, and the one on the left is from early April this year. It would be interesting to see whether it returns back to normal smog once the lockdown ends, or if we continue with working from home and teleconferencing and find ourselves travelling a lot less.

Talking of video conferencing, we're planning to have our AGM by Zoom call. It was to have been 11. May, but if we put this back by a month to 15. June, this should hopefully give everyone a bit of time to practice using it. If anyone has any major reservations about holding the meeting in this way, please say so now. Otherwise our plan will be to:

Have our committee meeting on 11. May via Zoom (so the committee can get used to it)

Have a practice call in advance of the AGM, so people can get any connection issues sorted and get used to using the software.

I'll circulate instructions to all sessions via email in advance.

We intend that this is just for this year and we'd go back to normal in future – UNLESS we find it's a great success as it may well mean that people can attend who otherwise couldn't.

We have a rule that the AGM needs to be held before the end of June, so if people are against having a Zoom meeting, the committee will need to suspend this rule for this year.

In the meantime, stay safe and keep washing your hands!

**Bill**

# **BRIAN (TITCH) SHAMBROOK**

By Brian Saxton

Brian died on Sunday, 5. April at the age of 85 in Colchester General Hospital, Essex. He was initially admitted to hospital on the 20. March with a suspected blood clot on the lungs but was subsequently diagnosed with Corona virus; whether he was diagnosed as having the infection on arrival in hospital or whether he was infected whilst in hospital has not been verified.

His cycling career began with the Rodney CC. He subsequently transferred to the Sydenham Wheelers and then to the De Laune Cycling Club, which he joined on the 22. April 1960, having been proposed by Harry Thomas and seconded by John Barber (incidentally, Len Brown also joined at that time and was elected at the same committee meeting). His address at the time was 18 Hornshay Place, SE15, off of Ilderton Road in the Old Kent Road area, which was very close to the Millwall Football Club Stadium (in fact his father would charge Millwall supporters 1/3d to look after their cycles whilst they went to the stadium to watch the matches; however, that did not stop the supporters throwing stones through the rear windows of the house - the windows were subsequently protected by chicken wire).

Brian was born on the 27. September 1934; his parents were Ernest and Elsie Shambrook and he had one brother, Dennis who was born in 1929. His father was employed as a sign-writer for a well-known company by the name of Pearce Signs at New Cross (as was Dennis, but Dennis was an electrician with the company as they progressed into using neon tubes). It was Brian's father who originally gave him the nickname Titch not, as many thought, his friends. Brian's education was interrupted for some time when he was evacuated in the war years to East Anglia; however this did not prevent him from passing the Eleven Plus examination and gaining a place at Wilson's Grammar School in Camberwell, southeast London. On leaving Wilson's he began work with the Co-operative Insurance Company until he was called up for two years national service with the RAF as a radio technician, serving in Aden and Kenya.

He was to become a loyal clubman, taking on various jobs over the years, first as canteen manager at St Faith's Hall on Red Post Hill, Dulwich, continuing with this job when the club moved to the new clubroom at Choumert Road. From the demolition of the old church hall in Choumert Road to the completion of what was to become the finished building, the De Laune's own clubroom, Brian could be found week after week taking on any task given to him with enthusiasm and pride. As an acknowledgement for all his hard work he was awarded the Gold Badge of Honour in 1994. In 2010 he was also awarded his 50-years' membership glass tankard and became a Life Member of the club.

Those who knew Brian well were aware that from an early age he was very frugal to the extent that, whilst undergoing his initial training with the RAF, to ensure the contents of his toothpaste tube were completely expelled, he used an electric iron to flatten the tube; at the ensuing kit inspection which was laid out on his bed, the inspecting officer took exception to this and interpreted it as insubordination, for which he was confined to barracks for several days!

On being demobbed Brian retained his RAF greatcoat, cutting off the bottom half, thus turning it into a "donkey" jacket and which was kept to the end in the boot of his BMW for emergencies!

After National Service he returned to the Co-operative Society but later moved to the Royal London insurance company based in Finsbury Square as a solicitor; he stayed with that company for the remainder of his working life.

The house at Hornshay Place was demolished by the local council and he moved with his parents to a flat in Catford. He then went on to buy his own flat in Shortlands, Bromley but just as he was settling down to life in Shortlands, the Royal London, with financial inducements from the Greater London Council and Colchester Borough Council, moved their headquarters to Colchester. Employees who were prepared to relocate with the company were given accommodation in houses that the company purchased in order that they could take time to decide where they would prefer to live in the area. This gave Brian ample time to select the just outside the village of of

Dedham, 11 miles from his new workplace enabling him to commute by cycle, which was his chosen mode of transport for the whole of his working life.

Dedham is situated in Dedham Vale, now known as Constable Country, in which John Constable was to produce many of his landscape paintings, such as the Hay Wain, Flatford Mill and Dedham Lock with the River Stour flowing just outside the village. In 1814 Constable also painted a landscape of Dedham Vale with the 15<sup>th</sup> century Dedham Church in the background, and it was at this church some 150 years later Brian honed his bell-ringing skills.

Whilst still working in London, he was knocked off his bike (apparently by an irate driver who had just been informed that he had been sacked from his job!) which resulted in Brian having a permanent limp; however, this did not prevent him from riding his bike, competing in charity running races in Dedham, walking the 136 miles of the Pilgrims' Way or the 87 miles of The Ridgeway; also the 630 miles of the South Coast Path with a rucksack and tent on his back! He was a proficient skier on pistes (classed as red runs) and had ridden vast distances on his bike in France and Spain. In recent times he had been on walking holidays with HF Holidays to the Lake District, North Wales, Dorset, Somerset and the Isle of Wight, organised by Mike Peel.

He had tried his hand at racing in 25-mile time-trials but came to the conclusion that it was not for him. He just loved riding a bike for both pleasure and commuting which, of course, fitted in with his frugal way of life. He did need a car, however, to drive the 80 miles from Dedham to Kent where most of the club cycling and social activities took place.

If the club were promoting a time-trial or road race, he could always be relied upon to assist in marshalling duties, was present at club dinners, prize presentations, Newnham Memorial services, Belgian Nights as part of the waiting staff and the New Year's Day walks from Knockholt. For the last 20 or so years he has driven or acted as navigator on John Kavanagh's trips to France or Belgium following the different stages of the Tour de France and had his annual two-week trip just before Christmas to the Canary Islands to catch some sunshine before winter set

His last official position with the club, which he held until he died, was on a sub-committee originally set up when the clubhouse was sold in 2002 through lack of use. The sale brought quite a large amount of cash into the club's coffers and Brian's presence on the committee was highly valued.

Brian was a bachelor and lived alone in his bungalow. He loved riding his bike around the beautiful lanes of the Dedham Vale and will be much missed by the local villagers who knew him as "Brian the Bike". He will also be sorely missed by his many friends, be they cyclists, walkers or skiers, especially for his good humour and dry wit.

Our sincere condolences are extended to his nephews, Gary and Kevin, and to his many friends.



**Roy  
Chittleborough**

**Titch**

**Brian  
Saxton**



## **BRIAN (TITCH)SHAMBRCK**

I thought I'd like to just say a few words about Titch as I probably knew him the longest in that Titch and I first met about September 1951. I started cycling in June 1951 and lived in St James Road Bermondsey. I noticed every Thursday a number of cyclists going past my house and thought I'd follow them and saw them going into a Parish Hall belonging to St James Church, I looked in and discovered it was the Rodney Cycling Club of which Titch had been a member for about a year. I joined and was swiftly converted from my Simplex derailleur to a single fixed which all club cyclists rode at the time and discovered with Titch all the wonderful country lanes and roads of Surrey and Kent and the various cycling cafes which a lot of older members will



**July 1963. Myself, Dave Burfoot, Titch and Kenny Legge in Tossa de Mar on the Costa Brava, Bermondsey Boys Inc.**



**Titch and myself somewhere on the A 29 near Bury Hill. this is in our cycling "togs". Cyclists only wore racing gear for racing unlike now**

remember, Mrs Curds of Godstone, the Forge at Mickleham near Box Hill, the Ventura Cafe near Crawley, Pavilion(Pav) at Green St Green, The Three Frogs at Ripley, The A5 Cafe in Godalming and too many to remember. Titch and I used to get fed up with the time spent in pubs on club runs when we wanted to cycle more. fast forward a few years to when Stack, Kenny Legge, Dave Burfoot Charlie Gosling Lenny Brown Titch and myself were very happy to spend a couple of hours in a pub, we even used to carry our own darts and packs of playing cards with us. Stack always said he would have been a world cycling



champion if he hadn't met me!

Around September 1952 I met Harry Hampson and Ron Beale etc of the Sydenham Wheelers at the "Pav" where there used to be a great crowd of cyclists culminating in a big "race" through Bromley to the "sprint" at Canadian Avenue, every Tuesday evening.

I decided to join the Sydenham Wheelers and shortly after Titch followed me.

### Titch and myself, another day another place

Titch, later that year was called up for National Service in the RAF for the mandatory 2 years and I don't recall seeing him again until late 1955 because I did National Service from December 1953 'till December 1955, co-incidentally we were both in Kenya at the same time but he was in Nairobi while I was up country in a place called Nakuru so no cycling for either of us for 2 years. Titch had been in the Canal Zone in Egypt before being posted to Kenya.

I imagine I must have cycled more miles with Titch than I cycled with anybody else, even when I started racing he would ride out to events with me to marshall or watch or both and then off to elevenses and lunch and tea stop with the club, He was never interested in racing although he did ride a couple of 25's.

We had a number of trips to the isle of Wight for the Easter cycling carnival and those trips were always a hoot, riding down the A3



Titch and Eileen on our car borne club run when Titch was unable to ride his bike, I think in 1968.

to Portsmouth, then the ferry and the ride to Sandown to our digs. On the return journey Easter Monday we would ride home via Goodwood, Petworth and across to finish up at the Pav, Green St Green.

Titch was always happy to fit in with suggestions for holidays on or off the bike, 2 years running 1962 and 1963 we drove down to Spain without stopping anywhere, the first time with Dave Burfoot and Lenny Brown and the 2nd time with Dave Burfoot and Kenny Legge RIP.

We used to buy our compliment of duty free ciggies on the ferry but I can't ever remember Titch smoking really.



**Dave Burfoot, Lenny Brown and Titch on the drive back to Calais from the Costa Brava in July 1962.**

also did a camping trip with Titch when we camped in Glen Nevis, then climbed Ben Nevis and drove up and along the north coast of Scotland and also visited the Isle of Skye. We did a stupid climb in the Cuillin mountains and on arriving at the top, some proper climbers with ropes etc couldn't believe the route we'd taken.

When he was knocked off his bike in Long Lane Bermondsey on his commute home by a hit and run driver sustaining quite severe leg injuries, he was on

crutches for some time so Eileen and I used to take him out in the car just as if we were on a club run visiting our usual cycle stops which was all new to Eileen mainly as well. This could have been about 1968 but not sure now.

I enjoyed my time in the Sydenham Wheelers with Titch but had ridden a few cycle cross races, knew Alan Jackson and Ken Fuller so joined the De laune towards the end of 1959 to ride with them and Titch followed me in early 1960, also Kenny Legge Dave Burfoot, Charlie Gosling Len Brown and Dave Hughes came across to the De Laune, we had all known one another for a number of years. Titch and Brian Saxton became great friends and they have certainly cycled a few miles together plus walking and skiing holidays. I was moved by my firm Norwich Union down to Ashford in Kent in early 1972, before living in Billericay and then Godalming in Surrey so my cycling days with Titch came to a halt. He really was great company on and off the bike, was very quiet and unassuming and will be missed I'm sure.

RIP Titch, you will not be forgotten.

*John Geoghegans*



I was sad to hear from Stack of Brian 'Tich' Shambrook passing after catching the Virus. I knew Tich for just under 60 years, he was a quite an unassuming man who really kept himself to himself, but always sociable, and when he wanted to, he had a dry sense of humour.

I know John Geoghegan has written about Tich in this month's DLN as he is the most qualified, having known him the longest, going back at least to when they were in the Rodney CC. My memories in the early years include the fact he always supported



**On the Isle of Wight at Easter.**

*Malcolm*

the Darts Team, whether he got a game or not. Whilst I do not remember Tich on too many clubruns, he did come to the Isle of Wight on Jack's Easter weekends. (He also supported my Treasure Hunts, see elsewhere). He always came to the club social functions and could be relied on to marshal. I for one will miss his presence, as I am sure many others will.

*Malcolm*



Good morning, Gents.

You may recall that you kindly helped me last year with some questions about Chapman Faunce-De Laune.

I thought you might like to know about this:

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/maidstone/news/museum-curator-builds-archive-of-kents-history-226045/>

I've just posted a tribute to him on the site mentioned, which is here: [www.oldbunyardskentpride.com](http://www.oldbunyardskentpride.com) I've obviously mentioned the Delaune CC. Please do forward the link to others you think might be interested.

Regards

John Bunyard

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



In view of the ongoing Government advice and guidance and in particular the guidance on social distancing, Cycling Time Trials (CTT) has taken the decision to extend the current suspension of all CTT events, (this includes all Type A and Type B events), up to and including 30 June 2020.

## **LISEUX POST TOUR CRITÉRIUM**

A few years ago on a family holiday in Normandy we visited Liseux intending to visit the Basilica. This is the second most visited religious site in France and dedicated to Sainte Thérèse. Arriving in Liseux we were met by a massive traffic jam which, after a while, began to start chipping away at my feelings of devotion. That is until we reached the end of the line and were confronted by a barrier announcing, much to my delight, that the roads were shut for a bike race. So we abandoned our car and made our way into town on foot to see what was going on.

What we had stumbled into was the Liseux Post Tour Critérium, an annual event which has been running since 1981 and includes some pretty impressive winners: Bernard Hinault, Greg LeMond, Laurent Jalabert, Marc Madiot, Gilbert Duclos-Lassalle and in recent times, Pierre Rolland, Romain Bardet, Thomas Voeckler. A veritable who's who of French cycling. I had read about the circuit of post Tour events across northern France and Belgium but had never managed to get to one. The Liseux Critérium is organised by a local club, Vélo Club Lexovien and is famous as one of the first post Tour events. In the afternoon there are races for various age categories which are well supported by local clubs before the pros come out to cycle round the course with the good and the great, who have trumped up the money for the pleasure. It is local businesses who pay for the event. Finally as it starts to get dark the pro race begins.

We arrived at the start area just as the riders were being presented. The polka dot jersey of Warren Barguil and the French national jersey of Arnaud Démare were nestled at the centre. Part of the contract for these events requires the riders to mix with the crowd, sign autographs, pose for selfies and to their credit they all did. Démare was particularly impressive, performing his duties with a great deal of good humour, obviously schooled by Marc Madiot in the honour and responsibility of being the French National Champion. The atmosphere was something between market day, circus and national holiday with cafés, bars and restaurants along the route spilling

out with tables positioned to enjoy the race, all accompanied by a tannoy system blaring pop between updates on the events.

After a tour of the course we found a spot and set up for the racing. Warren Bargil had won the polka dot jersey and hoards of Wah Wah obsessed kids in their king of the mountains jerseys from Carrefour ran around the course trying to catch him twice on each lap. The racing was pretty formulaic with Wah Wah and Démare both being allowed off the front for a few solo laps before a final brief spell of frantic action which Warren Barguil won. However it didn't matter, in fact it was what everyone seemed to want, a chance to see the stars of the Tour up close and have a big local get together. We ended up leaving around midnight having had a really good night, a pilgrimage of sorts.

This year's event was due to take place on the 21.07.20. Although at this present time I am not sure we will even have a Tour de France. If it is on I would recommend it. Travelling by ferry to Caen or Le Havre, (Caen may be better as it's more rural) puts you in easy cycling distance of Liseux and the cycling in the Calvados region of Normandy is fantastic. In the meantime if any one has any tips on how to train on rollers I would appreciate some guidance. Stay well.

## *George Lewis*





**PHOTOS BY  
GEORGE**





## Winter Activities.

In last month's DLN I mentioned the Treasure Hunts, one of our winter activities. So firstly thanks go to Mark for reading through years of DLNs in search of a report I remember writing many years ago. I told Mark I thought it was around the mid 60's. Wrong it was 1970! I had organised several and could recall the classic 'horses hoof print' but little else. Dave Rudd I am sure will recall the incident.

I had in fact thought the winner was Jack Young, as I remembered all the entrants said I had made a mistake in my clues and were not best pleased at the finish. That was until Jack arrived in last with a faultless clue sheet. That shut them up!

I organised these hunts on the lines of the car rallies which were popular in the 60s, but were eventually banned due to them turning into races. My experiences during the car rallies, come treasure hunts, was the reason behind me promoting this club winter activity, to get my own back!

Quite a few De Laune members used to enter the Elliott Automation companies rallies. This was thanks to Dave Burfoot who worked for them. These were night rallies, which went right through till dawn. I remember one year John Geoghegan charging around in his old van with Tich as navigator and they had a hand held light which lit up the sky, a hand generator I believe. There were mad sections whereby you had to travel a measured mile in a narrow country lane at an average speed of 60mph, thus one minute of nail biting lunacy!

Stack, Lennie Brown, and the late Charlie Gosling and Kenny Legge were others from the club that I remember being on them .

I navigated for the late Dave Hughes, terrifying! For those who didn't know Dave his driving was hair raising. His job took him all over the place driving company cars, which he thrashed within an inch of their lives. Once, he didn't want to miss a club darts match, drove back from Yorkshire after work and returned the next morning ... dedication!

It was with the help of Dave that I organised the cycle Treasure Hunts. Once I had the basic route Dave and I would spend quite a few trips around the set route and I would work out the clues and Dave would painstakingly check it all out.

Here is the report of the event held on 15 February 1970 which was held in a blizzard (I googled blizzards in February 1970 to get the date) and published in the March DLN of that year.

The copy was so poor in the original DLN so thanks to Lyn for transcribing.

### TREASURE HUNT

9.30 at the Windmill produced seven valiant Treasure Hunters - Dave Rudd, Mac Cole, Geoff Valentine, Big Brother Mick, Martin Ashdown, Graham Young and Richard Portanier.

We proceeded to Badgars Mount cafe via Crystal Palace, Penge, Beckenham and Hayes, arriving at the cafe at 11 a.m. Here we were met by Reg Dawkins, Bill Miles, Ken Fuller and Barry Rorrison. The first three had come out to give moral support and 'cough up' their 'Bobs'.

Soon after our arrival, we were joined by John Geoghegan and 'Tich' Shambrook. So, fortified with soggy cakes, bacon and eggs, and gallons of hot tea and coffee, the Treasure Hunters were ready to start on the trail.

They set off at approximately 2 minute intervals, armed with clue sheets and pencils. As to who would arrive first at the lunch venue was anybody's guess. It wouldn't be Graham Young that was for sure, for as he sprinted out of sight, it was certain he missed the first clue.

I decided to follow the Hunters along the course, as I was feeling a bit guilty sitting in the cafe while they battled their way through what was becoming a very nasty blizzard.

## *'Take 2. way at roundabout':*

Right, let's see who's on their way to Shoreham? That's right Graham, you will find the 2. clue around there somewhere! – No, Tich you're looking at the wrong WD number - Yes Barry, 'That's the correct gradient' – Hello, What's this? Collusion no doubt! Mac, Mick and Richard doing their maths, 1883 is the date of the house, so its six years older than our club – Hope you get that one right lads!

I think I will wait on the junction into Shoreham and see who goes off course – Ah, here come the mathematical kings, they will probably miss the next clue, still, they've gone into Shoreham.

Ah! here's John, what's that he's yelling? "I'm going to be first at the Pub". You'll be lucky John, you've gone the wrong way. Oh well, can't wait here all day. Let's go through to Otford.

Hello, the maths kings are debating the next clue – I bet it's "Don't cross the bridge" - Not the river bridge you nits, you're not supposed to go that way in any case.

Blimey, this blizzard is getting worse. Can't see Dave Rudd or young Geoff and Martin – they couldn't have answered many clues!

Right: *Turn left at railway bridge* – but they can't read that pub sign (Rising Sun). Ah! *Left into Otford*. Think I'll wait at the roundabout.

## *'Keep left at the Willows'*

This clue is bound to fox them. Crikey, how much longer before someone comes? – Lets roll another fag.

Ah! Here comes Mac, curses, he's gone the right way. 12.35 .....someone else ought to be here by now. Might as well retrace and see what's happening. Ah! Here they come – Mick, Dave, John and the Geoff and Martin combine.

Let's see how Mick's doing? "How's it going Mick?", "OK" he replies somewhat doubtful, and hastily writing an answer to a clue not yet reached. You'll learn Mick, perhaps you will go the wrong way (sadistic chuckle), curses, he's going the right way.

"Keep left at Willows" says John, now back on course, hoping I'll help. "You'll be lucky, read it again". "Aha, aha, aha he mutters. "Come on John, go off course" – Success, success, he's on his way to Sevenoaks.

Hey – what's Dave up to? He's calling Geoff and Martin back – Don't listen to him lads. Oh no, that's four off course. I thought Dave said he was going to help the youngsters!

Oh well, let's go on to the 'George' in Shoreham, might just beat Mac. He should have climbed up and along the bridge, north of Shoreham by now.

Nobody here yet – might as well ride back into the main road, I could do with a pint. Ah, here comes Mac, our fastest yet. Right, let's follow him. Don't want to lead him into Shoreham – curse, he knows the way!

One by one they all arrived. Did I say 'all?' Where's our Social Sec? (he was seen no more!). That's what you get for solving clues too soon, Mick.

A quick tot up of points, so far, shows Barry in the lead with maximum points, Richard only 20 points behind, then comes Tich and Mac, 5 points behind Richard.

Mac decided he had had enough and so had John. So after a few pints I dispatched the others for the second half. Then we three made our way back to Badgers Mount cafe to await the arrival of the others.

**"By stone and water, animals stand for exchange":**

That had them confused! Except for Tich – he must be good at crossword puzzles! (Badgers Mount) was the answer. It's the telephone exchange for the call box outside the Rock and Fountain Pub.

From Chelsfield, across the Orpington -by -Pass and onto Pratts Bottom, Right... through the lanes to Halstead. Left: Right: Onto the roundabout. Left: to finish.

They made it.....Congratulations to all.

But what about the objects collected 'on route', Two bits of glass (a pair of specs), A leak, a rose, a thistle and a shamrock, no problem here, a 3d bit, as 6 pence, and a two bob bit will secure these.

Now! A bedspring and a genuine horses hoof print. These objects should have caused some trouble. But no! Richard and Barry produced a bedspring each, and horses hoof print? Barry, again as he scooped a muddy print from the ground. Well done!!

Geoff and Martin also produced a print – stamped on their clue sheet – How? – Dave helped them.

What else could he do after taking them off course? He had asked a horse rider to walk it over the sheet, but unfortunately the horse kept walking over the paper, so a hind leg had to be lifted and pressed against the paper.

To what extent will the De Laune go to in obtaining their goal!!! I will set harder objects next year.

The winner, I have hardly mentioned him in this report, which proves something about treasure hunts. Take your time? Don't be influenced by other contestants. He arrived at my check points long after I had left. Checking, and re checking. Congratulations Barry Rorrison!!!!

Incidentally, Tich was second - (with your knowledge of the Shoreham Valley Tich, you should have stormed in the winner). Still, best of luck next year, and I hope to see a lot more club members turning out.

My thanks to Dave Hughes who went round the course with me the morning before to check that the clue sheets were correct and that all signposts and clues were intact.

*Malcolm Adams*



Hello Mark

Hope you, Marjorie and family are all OK and making the best of the present situation. I am so glad I have the garden to keep me very occupied – it is at times like this being alone is not much fun, but my family are being very good, call with food etc. and Ian comes weekly on his way home from work to cut the grass, and we talk via the conservatory door-lawn. It's even worse than I can remember in the last war when at least we could get out and about and meet up with people!

As you will gather I hadn't been in contact with John for some time now, but this email arrived a couple of days ago. If you want to put in the DLN that is fine, or you may want just the last part – I will leave it to you.

Best wishes  
Beryl

From: John Darroch  
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 3:41 AM  
To: ber.white@ukgateway.net  
Subject: Dear Beryl how are all the latest events caused by the Corona Virus having on your life?

Jead and I have not been able to contact you before because of problems with our telephone and internet lines for well over a month now. This has been caused by the Phone Company here putting in Fibre Optic cables in this entire area. This has also affected our internet connections. We still do not know

when things will get back to normal. We have kept up with all the news about the things happening back in England and in the US via our television. We watch three different channels, BBC, EU and America. I can get them all in the English language so are completely up to date and fully aware of the current events. America is now completely shut down as far as travelling and going out from home is concerned. I did manage to have a long conversation John, my son via Facebook two days back. John and his wife Beth are worried about our business in the US. So far the business is OK but they are concerned what might be in store in the short term. Here in Phuket I hear very little, news because everything is written and broadcast in the Thai language. From what I can deduce from the English speaking channels is that the stringent steps taken by most Governments in the Western World will be successful in stopping the spread of the Virus. This is the only way right now to stop it spreading until a cure/vaccination is discovered that will stop the Virus. This is worrying for everybody so we are following all the new requirements by staying at home and only go out for food and some shopping and avoiding groups of people. I would appreciate it if you could please contact Mark Ballamy, I can be reached via the internet, I use Google, I think you have my contact number as it has not been changed for several years. Jead and I hope that all your grandchildren plus family are well and coping OK. If you see any members of the DLN please would you contact anybody that is still around from our era. Jead and I wish ALL old friends, good health and a good future; let us all hope this terrible event will soon be over.

Love, Jead and John Darroch.

You are always in our thoughts Beryl! If Mark Ballamy wants to pass on the above via the DLN I have no objection whatsoever. My Best wishes go out to all old friends from the past.

*For those who do not know Beryl she is the widow of Don White the clubs President 1992 to 1995, John is one of our Vice President and lives with his wife Jead in Thailand. Ed.*

## **CYCLING SOCIAL MEDIA SITES.**

Quite a few of our club members follow the various sites on the Internet, the favourites appear to be 'Legends of the RTTC', '60s Cycling Remembered' 'Time Trials before Tri- Bars and Disc Wheels'. However, I have just joined another, 'Royal Academy of Octogenarian Cyclists' and this one may be of interest to other 'old boys' in our club.

These sites are a great way to keep in contact with many of our old cycling friends, of many years, from various clubs, whereby we can relive old memories and rekindle old friendship.

Among De Laune past members on these sites and regular contributors are Roger Durban, who lives in France these days. I did not know Roger that well, but he was a member back in the mid 50s, (in fact Alan Rowe has been in touch with him for quite a while) Also, Chris Slater who now lives in the West Country, Chris was a member in the early 60s.

Two other old members are Geoff Shoobert and Gary Parish, both of them I 'found' on a Peckham site. Geoff, through his sister, who unknown to me, owed the cafe in Minnis Bay, which I frequented, on a regular basis, for many years when out on my bike. Geoff lives in Birchington and often cycles along the sea wall to Reculver and beyond, so it is most likely we have passed one another on more than one occasion, small world! I have spoken to Geoff on the phone and had expected to meet, but obviously this is not possible at the moment. Geoff was a member from around the late 50s and lived in Fenwick Road (behind the King's Arms that was).

A Jean Parrish made a comment on a Peckham site, after a photo of the new Herne Hill pavilion was posted and she said her husband went there when he was in the De Laune Cycling club. I guessed Gary, and contacted her. It transpires that her Uncle was Alex Taylor, the British Team manager, who many of you know was managing the team when Tom Simpson tragically died on Mt Ventoux.

Gary joined us around '63, 64'. He chose to join us, when his neighbour, Alan Priddy decided to join the Catford CC, along with a John Barker. Both Alan





and John were successful juniors whilst in the Catford. As many of you know Alan made a comeback as a vet, and joined us producing some quality rides, but sadly died suddenly at a relatively young age. John, I have had some contact with over the years, but only just learned from Gary's wife Jean that he had married Gary's sister. (I had known Alan and John long before we rode bikes, as we were in the Scouts together)

GARY PARRISH



## **TERRY LACK (Found!)**



Again, whilst on 'Legends of the RTTC', I saw a photo of Loretta Lack and I posted a comment mentioning Terry. What transpired was a friend of Terry's told him of my comment and Terry took the trouble to look up the De Laune website and contact Bill Wright and Mike Peel asking if they could pass his e mail address onto me, also to Mick Valentine and Barry Meens.

Terry will be a familiar name to many, as he ran the Gillott shop at Camberwell Green along with Harry Carrington, under the Edward's flag when they bought Gillotts out in 1963. He worked there for somewhat over 10 years and was always very helpful to all us club guys, and could be found most days up till 6.30 in the evening. In my case I would often call in on the way home from work around 5.45pm

Once he closed the shop he had a 15 mile ride home to Worcester Park. When he moved to Essex, in 1974, the journey of 30 miles into work became too much so he left Gillotts after 4 months of travelling in to work along the A13. When I contacted Terry he told me I was the first Gillott customer he had been in contact with in 47 years. He moved to Australia with his family in 1984 and his lives in Freemantle where he opened a bike shop which is now run by his son Steve.

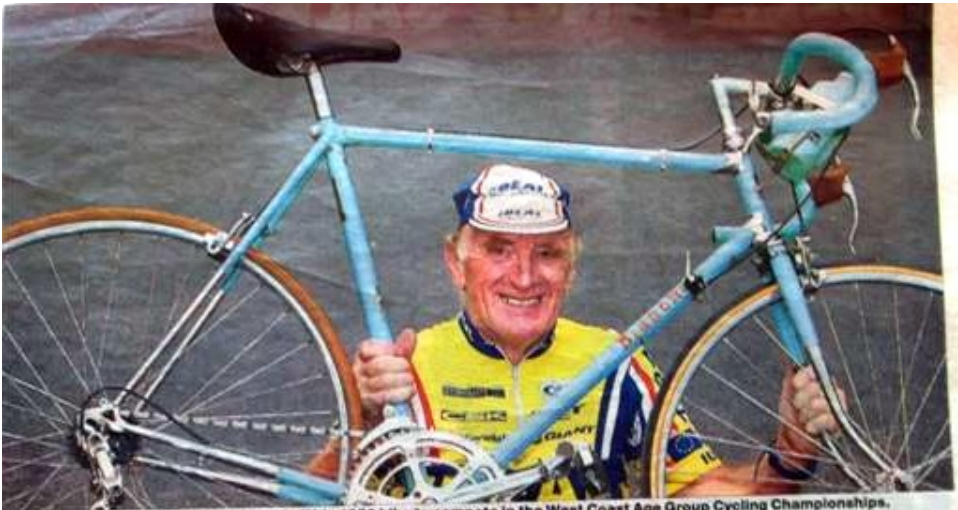
Whilst in Essex he was in the Leo RC and was producing some very respectable times. He tells me that those 4 months of riding to Camberwell got him fit and got him down to a '57' for a '25'. He was also very successful riding tandem with Fred Cole as stoker and they won 12 Opens between 1972 and 1984.



Terry mentioned quite a few De Laune members including Brian Dacey, Tim Hookins , Lennie Double and Dave Rudd. Dave, he tells me used to buy new handle bar tape every Saturday!

I know Barry Meens has been in touch and I Mick Valentine was going too. I am sure Terry would be pleased to hear for anyone else from back in those days. If so, give me a shout and I will let you have his e mail address.

*Malcolm*



**Oldie but a goodie... Terry Lack dusted off his 1952 bike to compete in the West Coast Age Group Cycling Championships.**  
Picture: Bruce Hunt

# Latest not the greatest

**KALAMUNDA** cycling enthusiast Terry Lack has shown that you don't need the latest model bike to compete in modern cycling races.  
Racing in the West Coast Age Group Cycling Championships at Rockingham in the 9-74 category earlier this month, the 71-year-old came third in his race despite riding on a bike that was more than 50 years old.  
Mr Lack pulled his 1952 Italian-made bike out of the shed to commemo-

rate his win in the RAF Road Race in then West Germany 50 years ago in 1958.  
He said the bike performed well in its return race despite being a couple of kilos heavier than the modern bikes.  
"The bike was a bit sluggish so I had to push it harder," he said.  
"Downhill, it was probably faster than the lighter bikes."  
Mr Lack said the bike's history involved being smuggled from the UK to West Ger-

many when he was posted to West Germany by the air force.  
"I dismantled it and put it in a bag," he said.  
"When I was asked what was in the bag, I had to think quickly because rules did not permit me to take my bike across so I said it was a harp and they believed me."  
The West Coast Masters Cycling Council's website is [www.wcmmasterscycling.com.au](http://www.wcmmasterscycling.com.au)

## ***Social Club Events for 2020***

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## ***Club & Inter Club Events for 2020***

15 <sup>th</sup> Aug		Club 10	Q10/24	
12 <sup>th</sup> Sep		OMA 10	Q10/24	

**Members may like to know that it is now possible to join, or to renew your Club membership online.**

**Simply follow this link**

**<https://www.riderhq.com/groups/delaunec/join>**

**or click on the button on the membership page of the website.**

**SEE MESSAGE BOARD to keep UP TO DATE**

**<http://mikepeel.proboards67.com>**

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE 28<sup>h</sup> May 2020**

**Anything for inclusion please send to:**

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