

NEWS DE LAUNE



LANCE ARMSTRONG-

EVANS
CYCLES.COM

PHOTO BY JOHN G

MARCH 2009

CLUB NIGHT
SECOND MONDAY
OF EACH MONTH

Camber Tennis Club
Dulwich Common SE21 7EX

1889 DE LAUNE 2008
CYCLING CLUB

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

As you probably know, our Time Trial Champion, Allan Priddy, died on Sunday, 8th February. His Funeral took place on the 1st February at Hastings Crematorium, and many members of the Club attended. Allan was only in the Club for about four years, and I got to know him better by riding with him at the Kent C.A Reliability Trial last November. I was with him for about 4 and a half hours, and got to know him better during that time than I had before, and came to class him as a friend. At the KCA he rode the whole 100k on a fixed wheel -and had the cheek to try and out sprint me at the end. I was changing up into a bigger and bigger gear, as he was twiddling faster and faster. As you know, with a fixed wheel you bounce on the saddle, and he was certainly bouncing! We had a laugh about it in the car park afterwards while we were getting changed.

A few of us went back to the house after the funeral for food and a chat. It was there that Pat told us that Allan had died in his sleep, the cause being hardening of the arteries. Our sympathies and best wishes go out to Pat and the rest of their family at this very difficult time for them.

On the ~ February some of the Club members rode "The Hell of Ashdown Forest". You will see elsewhere in the Mag some photos of the finishes in the "boys" (?) event. If you read "Cycling" you will know that towards the end conditions were tough, cold and wet, but, just like old soldiers, we carried on to the bitter end. Jane Wadsworth, Dave Haggart and

Cliff Steele rode the full 110k as I did, and we all finished with good times, struggling bravely through the blizzard.

On Sunday, 8th February, Peter Jenn invited us down to celebrate his 65th birthday at Sackville House in East Grinstead. This wonderful house had been hired by him for a long weekend, so that all his family and friends could celebrate his birthday. We all adjourned to the Rose and Crown, to celebrate further with a pint or two. I have to admit that I went by car because of the snow and icy conditions. Steve Valentine was the only one who ventured out on his bike. Great idea, Peter, and thanks for a lovely get-together. It was really enjoyed by everybody there.

We had our AGM on 1st February at Blackheath Harriers Clubroom. The Meeting went very well, and we have now agreed upon a new design for the Club jersey, which everybody likes much better than the old one. A full report of the AGM is elsewhere in the Mag.

I've just come back from the Club run. Because the weather was fine, we went on a new route and went a bit further out. We went out through Old Oxted, to Lingfield, Marsh Green, Hever Castle, up Bailey's Hill (to the right of Ide Hill) very long and steady, then back through Ide Hill, finishing at the top of White Lane (where we hold the Club Hill Climb). Everyone said how much they enjoyed it. There were three others out with me today, one of whom, James Cooke, is thinking of joining our Club. As you know, we meet each Sunday at 10.0am at West Wickham Leisure Centre, and it would be great to see more of you there.

Put it in your diaries please.

Roy

Quote for the Month:

"Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul."
Samuel Ullman, 1840-1924
Educator, Writer and Poet

“KAV’S REPORT”

Do you remember the old black and white cini-films of the Germans retreating from Stalingrad in the Second World War? All down-trodden, struggling through the snow in long lines. Well that was what it was like with our lot struggling up Star Hill at the end of the “Hell of the Ashdown” reliability run.

I must admit I did not start, as it was too cold for me. When that snow came down half way through the event it confirmed that I did the right thing. I had to put up with all the abuse from our riders as they came through.

From Steve Valentine (on his new Hal fords bike with reflectors on the spokes) I got ‘ You b*****d Kavanagh, for entering me for this!

The times I got from the web are: See page 8 Ed.

The outstanding ride must be our President Roy; not a bad ride for an old boy of 72 and, of course, our Jayne. One guy, due to the dark conditions, rode all in white and got knocked down by a snowplough!

Talking of old boys, we all had an invitation to Peter Jenn's 65th birthday treat at East Grinstead on Sunday the 8th February. He had hired Sackville House in the High Street for the day and was hoping for about 30 cyclists to turn up from various clubs in the southeast. Unfortunately, due to the weather, he only had a handful from the De Laune and they came in cars, except for Steve Valentine who rode out on his new bike and still with the reflectors on the spokes!

Thank you Peter for your hospitality. The hot soup and red wine went down well. It was nice to meet your family at last. You have a couple of daughters who dote on you. Well done.

Thanks go to our President Roy, Brian Dacey, Malcolm and Linda Adams, Steve Valentine and Roly Crayford for making a day of it.

It was sad news hearing of the death of Alan Priddy. Alan was a racing man and was doing fast times last year. Alan died of natural causes. It makes you think how can it happen to a man like Alan. We did not see much of Alan as he lived down in Hastings. His life-long friend was Malcolm Adams who persuaded Alan to join the De Laune a few years ago. Members of our club who attended the funeral at Hastings were Malcolm and Linda Adams, Alan and Jean Rowe, Mike Peel, Brian Saxton and myself. I know that Malcolm will put an obituary in this edition of the DLN.

Let us hope for better weather in March for riding the bikes. We had planned to ride the Sussex Nomads Invitation Reliability last month but due to icy roads it was a non-starter. I informed our members who intended to ride to give it a miss due to icy roads. It was pity.

I hope to ride a “Paris Bike and Barge” event in April. The idea is that you pick up a barge in Paris and go down as far as Montargis. Each day you stop for a bike ride to see places of interest like the chateau at Fontainebleau. At the end of the day you return to the boat for your evening meal and few glasses of wine. A bit like a floating house party! I will let you know how I get on.

Kav.

Having just received the January DLN, I thought I would update you on my health. Glad to say I received extremely good NHS care while both at High Wycombe Hospital and Amersham Re-hab Unit, when I suffered my slight stroke in November. I was allowed home-leave on New Year’s Eve and coped so well I’ve been home ever since – cycling 25 minutes morning and evening on an exercise bike!

Thank you all for your kind enquiries and good wishes. I hope to be gardening and dashing around with CTC again by Spring. Just a bit of good advice to you all; the doctors put my speedy recovery down to the fact that I was a cyclist! So all of you keep the pedals turning in 2009.

My good wishes, and thanks. Peter Gunnell



Well that was a nice day, if bloody cold!

Set off with James Lett and Jayne at about 9.25, no sign of James Peckham. Lett

by James Lett

rode off with his mate after about 3 miles, I stuck with Jayne and we settled into a comfy pace. Lovely roads and scenery, nice and quiet and although there must have been about 1000 cyclists doing the event in total, we only ever saw about a dozen at any one time. By the time



Steve Valentine & Len Brown

we reached the second feed station it was snowing quite heavily and the descent of Ide Hill was treacherously wet. Anyway with the brisk (and bitterly cold) easterly wind things soon dried up and by the time we climbed Star Hill the roads were mostly dry and the sun was out again.

We finished at about 2pm so roughly 4.5hrs for the 100km route (they cut the distance a bit from the 110km due to the snow forecast). Lett had long since finished but we saw Cliff and DaveH in the canteen (they finished about 35mins after us) and we bumped into Roy Savery as well on the way out.



Ken Legge

Photos by KAV

THIS IS HOW THY DID

Gordon-Coker Chris	00:00:00	02:50:00	03:43:10	110k
Lett James	01:48:00	02:57:00	03:45:53	110k
Haggart David	01:55:00	03:15:00	04:06:47	110k
Steele Cliff	01:56:00	03:24:00	04:20:51	110k
Lyon James	02:03:00	03:30:00	04:30:23	110k
Wadswaorth Jayne	02:06:00	03:33:00	04:30:59	110k
Savery Roy	02:09:00	03:36:00	04:38:03	110k
Brown Len	00:00:00	01:30:00	02:46:18	50k
Valentine Stephen	00:00:00	01:31:00	02:46:20	50k
Legge Ken	00:00:00	01:32:00	02:50:25	50k

Seven member did not either start or finish.

The Day HELL froze over!!! The Hell of the Ashdown was Colder!

The Day: in response to enquires at to whether the event was being cancelled we posted on this website 'No snow forecast' (which it wasn't). How wrong can the weathermen be? It was only the first batch of riders who returned before the blizzard struck and therefore avoided worst that mother nature could muster to add to the trials of the HELL. But our stalwart marshalls who stood there like frozen sign posts for hours are only just thawing out!

We did however take note of the advance warning of freezing temperatures and did a 'recce' on the Friday before, to discover pools of standing water lying in several of the little used byways which would undoubtedly turn into sheets of ice if the temperature dropped. A risk analysis resulted in the decision to cut out most of these country lanes. Which is a great pity as these seldom visited, picturesque lanes have become a feature of the HELL of the ASHDOWN. This last minute decision was a logistic nightmare as it demanded the re-siting of many of our marshalls. Required a new plan for waymarking and new route sheets to be provided for all the riders.

We had anticipated that the changes would not make a dramatic difference to the overall distance and in the event this proved to be 63.5 miles. The safety precaution proved to be a wise one because despite the extreme cold, no injuries were reported. The only 'casualty' was the van to pick up bikes which accompanied the minibus 'broom wagon'. This was sent out at the finish of the event to rescue a lost rider with a puncture who was marooned in the middle of a violent snow storm. Although we later discovered he had been picked up by passing motorist. In the midst of this blizzard apart from the fact that the driver could hardly see, the van lost traction slid sideways and smashed its side in. Last year we had the best weather we could have hoped for. This year we have expedited the worst we feared. Enter next year and see what day it turns out to be.

Our New Club Clothing!



Dear Members,

Please find the clothing design templates which were selected at the AGM on 12th February 2009 to represent our new club kit.

Despite the weather, there was a reasonable attendance at the meeting but we also received several email votes for those unable to make it. The outcome of the 'count' saw the 'white diamond' design (as it has now come to be

known as) receiving the sufficient majority to be approved as the selection for the new clothing design.

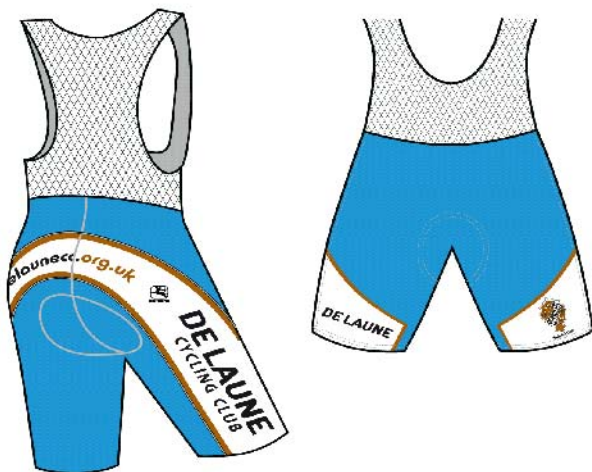
Reasons included for this choice of design included the safety aspect of a more highly visible pattern as well as the contemporary and unique look of the design, which should set us apart from other cycling clubs. Hope you agree!

The meeting also encompassed an approval for a 'ball park' figure for the initial clothing expenditure. To this end I would ask club members to contact me with your clothing requirements using the email link below to enable me to shoe horn a size range in our first order which best covers our needs.

We intend to place an order by the end of February with a delivery date in May 2009. Therefore please contact me as soon as you can to confirm your requirements.

Best Wishes,

Mal



DE LAUNE BIBSHORTS REV 3.3

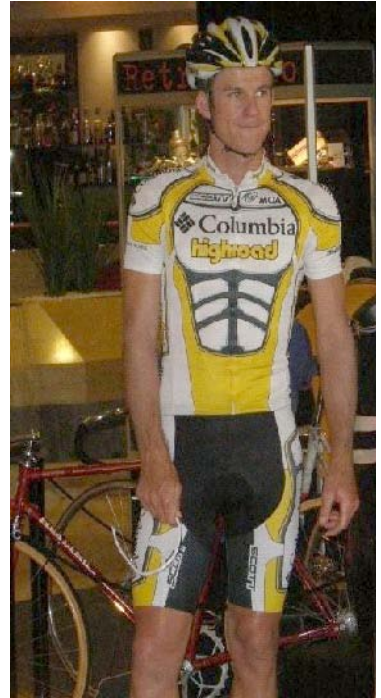
KIT DESIGN®    

All kit designs (including any new logos) remain the property of 'My Team Clothing' until your initial kit order is paid for.

DOWN UNDER

A little report of our trip to Adelaide to see Dot Fuller, Suzanne and Mike Ridding and the Tour Down Under.

Eileen and I flew to Adelaide on Wednesday the 14th January and the Tour was due to start on the following Tuesday. I drove into Adelaide on the Friday before the race to visit the Hilton Hotel where all the riders were staying and saw them all coming in from their training rides, no sign of Lance. There were TV men everywhere, I spoke at great length to a guy working for Canal, the French TV channel who had previously worked for L'Equipe so that was quite interesting. I took this photo of Michael Rogers 3 times world time trial champ and one of the favourites for the race. I'm also sending a ' photo which was of a Hetchins, lots of the older member will remember the curly stays etc. Sunday there was a criterium around the streets which didn't count towards the race



but was hotly contested never the less, we we're at the course 2 1/2 hours before the start and still all the best spots had been taken.

We saw Sean Yates and he came over and had a chat to us, we also saw Dave Gregory across the other side who used to be in the De Laune back in I believe the early 1990s but I didn't know him. Sean was telling us that when Lance and the Astana team went out, they had a police escort, a team car with Sean following



DAVE GREGORY

and all the traffic lights were turned to green as the team **approached**. Perhaps Roy Savery could get something like that organised for the club runs from West Wickham swimming baths on a Sunday morning!

I won't bore you with details of every stage as I'm sure it was all reported in Cycling Weekly. Lance had certainly pulled in the crowds of non cycling fans as well as genuine fans. I'm sure the non cycling fans expected Lance to win, why

was he in the bunch and not leaving everybody for dead but as we all know cycling isn't like that. A photo is enclosed of Dot and Eileen standing somewhere between 75 and 50 metres from the finish at Mawson on-stage 1 and it was somewhere about 70 metres



from the line with the whole bunch sprinting flat out and Robbie McKewen seemingly heading for a win that somebody in the crowd caught Robbies arm with a video camera. How there wasn't a crash we will never know. McKewens arm came up like a balloon and they thought at first that he had a broken bone. He finished 5th but it spoilt his sprinting for most of the week. We stood there for about 2 hours just to see them flash by and it was about 36c.

The amateur races planned for the evening were cancelled because under State Laws if the temperature goes over 35 then the amateurs are not allowed to race. I presume this goes for all amateur sports. We saw Phil Liggett quite a few times interviewing riders and signing autographs.

Saturday was a great day with a horrible climb of Willalunga Hill twice. This was where everybody was expecting Lance to make a big attack as he was only 45 secs off the lead of Alan Davis of Quick Step. However the Quick Step boys controlled it for Davis and he won the sprint to consolidate his lead. Step boys controlled it for Davis and he won the sprint to consolidate his lead. The hill was packed all the way and looked like a miniature Alp D'Huez.

The final day was just a question of the Quick Steps controlling it and not allowing any danger men to sneak away. Suzanne and Mike had been given a couple of tickets into the VIP Corporate stand so we met up with Stuart Campbell and his wife who used



to be in the Redmon and Charloteville and latterly the VC Meudon but now live in Mornington near Melbourne. We have met them twice at the Tour down Under and stayed with them in 2005 when we went to watch the Australian Madison Champs in Melbourne.

It was in the middle 30's for most of the race but the day after it finished it hit 40, then Tuesday 44.3 and when we left Adelaide airport at 3.00pm it was an official 45.6, the hottest day in Adelaide for 70 years. Around 30 to 40 people died and on the TV they were asking to look out for elderly neighbours but nobody came and knocked on our door!! Suzanne and Mike's house is right on the beach front but it was really too hot to spend much time on the beach unless you we're dunked under the water most of the time. We even put the red wine in the fridge because although it's supposed to be drunk at room temperature I don't think it means Adelaide room temperature.

Dot came to visit Eileen and I in Brisbane and went off to see Harry Thomas and his wife Sylvia who live about 45 mins away on the south side of Brisbane. It was quite an emotional visit for Dot as Harry was Ken's best man when he and Dot were married back in 1954. As usual all the old 'photos came out, mostly black and white, of the Isle of Man etc. Were Len Danby and Derek Boone and Ken Knapman really that young and handsome once. It is a number of years since Dot had seen Harry although Eileen and I see him every trip we make to Oz. For those that don't know, Harry was club captain and runs leader when I joined the De Laune in 1959 and he emigrated to Oz under the £10 POM scheme.



Dot has now flown back to Farnborough straight into the "pretty" snow that you are all "enjoying". I believe the trains and buses are

**HARRY THOMAS HAROLD EDMONDS
HARRY'S LITTLE BROTHER DENNIS**

havin prolems as usual but it's the same in Adelaide. The trains stopped running because the lines were buckling in the heat!

Referring back to last months De Laune News. Brian Saxton referred to the Geoghegan method of training with an easy 30 to 40 miles on a Sunday morning and then into the pub at midday. We always carried our own darts with us as most pubs have those horrible plastic ones. Incidentally I still managed to beat the hour back in 1956 for the 1st time, before even the great Kav aand Roy Savery and last beat the hour in 1969 so had I read Mike Hartley's scientific approach to training I probably would have called it a day like Brian. I can remember getting to the cyclist café at Badgers Mount, sadly no longer there and on being asked how many pints I had and how many games of darts, I said, Brian and I had 4 pints and 10 games of

darts, or was it the other way round. We were in the Bell at Godstone once and Malcolm Adams and I were watching a couple of the locals playing darts. They asked if we wanted to play and explained that you have to chalk a game first, then you play the winners, the losers have to buy the winners



JOHN EILEEN DOT HARRY

a pint and the winners stay on. We acted dumb which wasn't difficult for us. We then got our darts out of our "bonk bags" which everybody carried at that time, put the flights in and gave them a right thrashing. They must have thought we were right con men(as if) I assume that there is no South London darts league in the winter any more which is a great shame.

John Geoghegan

**THIS YEARS DATE FOR THE
OMA BRIGHTON LUNCH IS
SUNDAY 28th JUNE
DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

Hi Mark

Just read the Feb De Laune News keep up the good work. I look forward to it each month nice to see and hear about old colleagues. I haven't been a paid up member since 1975/6 but still feel part of the team.

Regards,

Ted McDonald [Email:tedmcdonald@howick.co.za](mailto:tedmcdonald@howick.co.za)

Landline: 033 330 6359 - Mobile: 082 414 6196 - Facsimile: 086 633 1417

Dear Mark

My father recently passed away aged 94. Among his bits and pieces, I came across a couple of De Laune lapel badges but most interesting of all was a medal awarded to him in 1932 for the fastest time in the Bagden Hill Climb 1932. Also enclosed with the medal was a local newspaper cutting (see below) which I attach for your Club's interest.

I wonder how his time compares with the now sophisticated bicycles of today?? His name was Henry A Tyson 1914 - 2008 and was a member of the club during his early years.

When I was a teenager, he and I would frequently visit Herne Hill Stadium and see Reg Harris. I also seem to remember The White Hope Sprint.

I thought that you may be interested.

Regards

John A Tyson

DE LAUNE HILL CLIMB SURPRISE

Novice Wins New Cup from Tried Riders

The Delaune Cycling Club hill climb was held on Sunday at Bagden Hill, Surrey, the distance being about 700 yards and the maximum gradient 1 in 7.

A new cup, presented by Mr,D.P.Knight, was offered for competition for the first time. Most of the principal racing members competed, but although they all rode well and finished within a few seconds of one another, they were eclipsed by a "novice", who romped home an easy winner.

He was H. A. Tyson, whose time of 1min. 38 2-5secs. not only won him the cup, but also with 18secs. allowance placed him first in the handicap.

Second handicap prize fell to D. W. Smith with 10 Secs. allowance, whilst F. T. Hooper earned a certificate of merit for being within 10 secs. of the winners time. Results:-

H. A. Tyson 1:38 2-5; F.T. Hooper 1:47: D. W. Smith 1:49 2-5: P. H. Shrimpton 1:49 4-5; W. G. Tanner 1:50; S. C. Edmonds 1:50; t. C. Smith 1:54; J. L. Russell 1:55; L. R. Wilson 2:10.

For Pete, time racer, on his 65th

COMPETE

Sunday morning smells anew
Embrocation, anticipation, coffee and dew
Alan's off first, Doug's off next
Greetings, warm-ups, tweakings and checks.

Its raining now, your up to the line,
Concentration, acceleration, intention and time
Seeking my rhythm though its Go Go Go
Technique, transmission, cadence and flow.

Up on one rider, another to come,
Exhilaration, determination, somehow its fun
To suffer the pain and keep the wheels spinning,
Exertion, exhaustion, and the gradual winning

Of greater reward than you could expect
Distinction, satisfaction, and riders' respect.

Mike Jenn



Mal Pires - Roy Savery - Malcolm Adams - Steve Valentine - Peter Jenn

OUR ARCHIVIST AT WORK

On page 16 you will have read the inquiry about a past member, I asked Brian if he could find any thing about him in the club record which he did and I have past these on to the ex members son. Ed.

Attached are the only entries that I can find on young Henry. He was elected to the club on the 2nd July 1931 and at that time was living at 25 Portland Street, SE17. He resigned on the 1st February 1934. Brian

Thanks for the info concerning my father and his exploits in the De Laune Club. Where the 'Longbow' name came from goodness knows. It must have been to do with his height, as you know he was a City of London Policeman.

His handicap for the hill climb was obviously very helpful indeed.

He wasn't a member for very long, that climb must have worn him out.

We both had great times at Herne Hill when I was a lad. He had a colleague in the police who used to race at the track and on occasions Dad would leap over the perimeter fence and do the 'hold up' for his mate at the start.

Thanks again for your interest.

John Tyson

THIS MONTH 60 YEARS AGO IN THE DIN

A Special General Meeting is called for Thursday 10th March, the only item on the Agenda is as follows.

“The provision of a Club Cine Camera”

For SALE. Two frames - 22” and 22½”. Built by Light-weight specialist P.Barnard & Son. For further particulars apply, G.R.Wood. (I wonder If George was able to sell them Ed).

IT WAS ROUGH LUCK ON THE ROUGH STUFF LADS IN THE INTER -CLUB ROUGH STUFF WITH THE KENTISH WHEELERS

17 riders entered for this even, but only six returned to the time keeper the rest went off course or did not finish. It was won by a De Laune rider.

SOUTHERN ELITE RELIABILITY 100 MILE

We had 15 members in this of which 7 singles and 1 tandem completed the course in the given time which was 8 hours..

RALLY - RALLY - RALLY

Here are the final details of the Club Jubilee Rally and Re-union. The date is Sunday 3rd April, the venue for Lunch will be “Three Horse’shoes” Knockholt and Tea at Herne Hill at 4.30pm

DON’T FORGET THE DANCE AT THE “WESTMINSTER ARMS” ON MARCH 30th

ADDRESS BOOK

If you would like a copy of the address book that has been updated, I can send you a copy in pdf format for you to download and print or save to your computer.
mark.ballamy@virgin.net

DAVE HAGGART

This years BC racing license plus the CTT handbook both arrived this week (w/e 24 Jan) - so I've drawn up a tentative schedule of races for the first few months of the season which I post below for anyone who wants to join me.

All, particularly April onwards could change due to family commitments and if anyone has any interesting races they are keen to ride or if there is anything I've missed please let me know and I'm happy to switch things around

March 8th	East Surrey Road Club	(Hardriders) 30m TT
March 14th	SERRL	Event 1 – Fowlmead
March 21st	SERRL	Event 2 – Hog Hill
March 29th	SERRL	Event 3 - Biddenden
April 5th	Redmon CC	25m TT
April 11th	East London Velo	Spring Rumble - Hog Hill
April 12th	SERRL Event 5 – Brenchley (De Laune Event - MARSHALLING)	
April 13th	Bill Temme Memorial	Criteriums – Hog Hill
April 18th	Farnborough & Camberley CC	25m TT
April 25th	Surrey League	Circuit Race – Chertsey
May 3rd	ECCA Support	Race – High Easter, Essex
May 10th	Norwood Paragon	25m TT
May 17th	Hillingdon Grand Prix –	Hillingdon
May 30th	Southern Counties CU	10m TT
May 31st	South Eastern RC	25m TT

Plus as many as these as weather and work permits

Crystal Palace Cycle League

Tuesdays April 21st – August 25th

And I'd also like to ride a few of these too

Hog Hill Summer League

Thursdays May 14th – August 6th

I was interested to read Pete Jenn's article and the reference to Jeremy Kemp. We were both in the Brixton Cycling and Athletic Club (not Brixton Wheelers) which was basically a social club having an active but inexperienced cycling section.

This was run by a police sergeant and situated in the crypt of St Mathews the church opposite Lambeth Town Hall. Training runs were generally out and back to Staines or Esher with any stragglers left to their own devices. Although time trials were popular the Club was a complete shambles and many drifted away. Frank Syred joined the Balham C.C., my old school pal, John Wooldridge, the Kentish Wheelers and myself the De Laune. Although very friendly with Kempy for some reason we lost touch and never met up again.

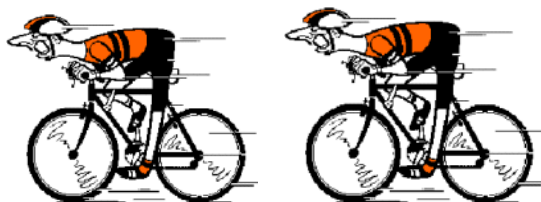
Incidentally, my first contact with the De Laune was when riding a "25" on the Alton course and here I met up with Brian & Peter Gunnell. Being so disillusioned, shortly afterwards I followed up the De Laune's weekly advert in Cycling and joined.

Don White

JOHN G v JOHN K

Dear Mark, re my first beating of the hour etc in 1956, from memory Kav did a 1.0.10 that morning but the next year he did a 58 and from then on never looked back winning many an open event. I hope this doesn't sound bigheaded to people. It was just to answer Brians "Geoghegan" training method, we did have fun but still managed to go fast.

To those member who do not remember these day they would ride single fixed. Usually $46 \times 15 = 82.8$ or if they "dared" would ride $50 \times 16 = 84.4$. And this was before tri bars, carbon wheels and those bent seat tubes, ect Ed.



Dear Friends

Is it really 12 months since Letter 2007? So much has happened it seems that the time has just flown by. We came to Howick for a nice quiet retirement with plenty of time for cycling, but unfortunately the sale of our business in February 2007 has gone sour. We thought we were helping the buyer to purchase with terms that were acceptable to all. But often, when you think you are being helpful, the matter can backfire if one of the parties is slightly less than honest, as is the case with our purchaser. So January/February we may have to return to Queensburgh 90km to resuscitate the business but can you believe we have to go to court to cancel the sale!

I managed to go through 2007 without falling off my bike, some sort of record. But I was hospitalised for a couple of days and incapacitated for some six months with a rotator cuff reconstruction surgery; sounds fancy. In layman's language -reattached torn tendons.

In July we travelled to Cape Town to watch the Junior World Track Cycling Championships and after the senior Brits' performances were looking forward to the old home country juniors performing just as well as had the seniors. You can imagine our dismay when not even one Brit was present. The Aussies were 'cock-a-hoop' and swept the board with slight resistance from the French. Lots of talk as the Aussies reckoned that maybe the Brits were concerned that they would not get things their own way. Anyway, the Aussies provided some good racing and they look good for the future. Watch out in particular for Megan Dunn, a future world champ and remember, you heard it here first!

We thoroughly enjoyed the dominance of the Brits at the Olympics: as a retiree I was glued to the Box at all times and missed nothing. An extra thrill for us watching the Olympics was the son of one of Judi's closest friends playing hockey for South Africa, a youngster who Judi had known as from a new born baby and for a short time we became hockey fans.

The world credit crunch has not hit us as hard as the rest of the World. Can't imagine no more Woolies. And M&S reducing at a great rate, 27 stores we understand. We watch Sky News a lot and how depressing it can be at times! Makes us believe we did the right thing. We have our problems in SA but all in all it's a great life here. A maid, a gardener, a Jag

and of course the wife's car!

Our weather seems to be following Britain's: more rain than we care for at this time of the year. We expect rain in our summer, but not daily. Mind you, the temperature reminds us that we are in SA, up to 38c quite regularly (+100.in English). Normal dress –shorts, sandals and sleeveless 'T' shirts. Shorts and sandals are even acceptable in church here.

Over New Year we had family visiting: my sister's son, his wife and two children. Always nice to have family to visit. There is permanent space in our house and anybody is welcomed. Don't believe all you read about SA, we have the weather, the scenery, sun and sand. What more do you want for a holiday? With the current rate of exchange it will be the cheapest holiday you will ever get.

We live in a village just 26 kms from Pietermaritzburg -known as Sleepy Hollow to the rest of SA, with summer temps in the high 30's at any time. This year they are hosting World Cup events in all disciplines of Mountain Biking; down hill, cross country and the full works with full international TV coverage.

If and when you watch you can say I know someone who lives there!! Health wise we are both blessed. We gym two to three times a week and Howick is good mountain bike country -that's for Judi - I'm still a thoroughbred roadie. We are near to Midmar Dam, a Natal Parks Board facility. Lots of grassland picnic areas and the roads are almost rideable, the potholes are large enough to see and miss easily, and where cyclists have the right of way. Very safe for Judi and me on our mountain bikes (yes, me too sometimes!) Well folks, you have my email address so we maybe we'll receive an avalanche of letters!!

May the Lord bless you all for 2009

Ted & Judi McDonald

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Sorry it's a bit late as we are having trouble with our mail.

ALAN PRIDDY.

Alan Priddy died in his sleep last Sunday fortnight. I have known Alan on and off for the best part of 60 years. We lived in Nunhead and both belonged to the Salvation Army Scouts and Cubs. When we left he joined the Catford Cycling Club and I the De Laune. He was a successful junior but disappeared after a couple of years when the family moved to New Addington. I did not see Alan again until the 70's when he started racing again for the Catford. After a couple of seasons he disappeared again. It was not until 2005 that he reappeared and we meet up at the Southborough and District Wheelers '10' down at Tenterden. He joined us later that year. Alan was a very private person and I knew little about him outside of cycling.

Alan was a determined rider and trained hard to achieve the results that he attained, he not only set targets but he laid out his stall and then single minded set about the business of ensuring the goals were met. This is evident in the record breaking spree he had whilst he was with us, breaking some 18 club vets records between 2006 -2008 and taking the club's Vets Bar for those 3 years, not to mention the numerous vets awards he took in open events.

I spoke to Alan the week prior to his death and he was planning his season and wanted in detail all the times from previous years of our vets records so we worked backward to younger vets records for all distances and he 'ticked off' his targets for the year. I shall certainly miss his phone calls where he would give me a run down of his racing and progression throughout the season and because of him being a stickler for detail a short call was impossible and to cut him short would have been interpreted as rude. He was very serious and sensitive in his intent, criticism mortified him as he had so much self belief he could not understand why anyone would doubt him.

He had only just had a new road bike built up and I think LYRC races could have been on the card, sadly this was not to be. I for one will miss him.

Malcolm Adams

ROAD RACING

I'd like to get a little more organisation into our road racing efforts than we managed last year.

With that in mind:

1) I'd like to establish a distribution list for those interested in participating in road races (or who want to support the road racing discipline while not necessarily racing themselves - if you just want to know where De Laune riders are racing so that you can turn out to support, that's great! If you can offer transport to anyone that needs it, even better!). Until the distribution list is in place I'll use the general distribution list - so apologies in advance to any members that aren't interested in road!

Please email me at this address (nigel_scales@yahoo.co.uk) if you'd like to be on the distribution list. Please indicate your interest - general road/circuit-racing, LVRC, support

2) I also plan to use the website bulletin boards to share information.

3) There will be a published list of target races. I am going to base this initially on a list that James Peckham put together, which interested him and which I think make an interesting programme, particularly if we can get teams into them rather than everyone riding in different races, alone. (Note: The target list is not linked to re-imbursement of entry fees - the committee is currently discussing the approach to re-imbursement for 2009 season and the conclusions will be communicated in due course.) The list (below) is for open/league events - I anticipate publishing a separate list for LVRC events as we have a good number of age-qualified riders and it would be good to encourage more attendance at these events though the age-band restrictions might make fielding teams trickier. (Even if I had the legs, the age difference wouldn't make me much use to Brian Dacey or Roy Savery for example as we'd be in different pelotons.) I'm a bit behind the game on this - I'm used to the casual style of entry

on the line and many of these events are popular and apparently attract full fields entered in advance. You need to look at the list and get entries in quickly and to be honest it may already be too late for some!

4) The target race list will be in the DLN, though by definition, the most up to date information will be accessible on the bulletin board and via the distribution list.

5) The list will be expanded through the season and if riders have events they'd like to be targetted, the distribution list will provide a good mechanism for generating and gauging level of interest. It is assumed riders will also ride non-targetted events, the idea is to get some team support going in at least some core events.

6) The list may contain events other than road/circuit races as there is also an assumption that participation in other disciplines is beneficial. Sportives are an obvious example, but sporting time-trials, team TTs, hill-climbs (especially if there are any of the longer "roadman" type..) may also feature. Obviously this will be co-ordinated with the managers of other disciplines so that members are aware of where they can ride and have the possibility/likenhood of meeting other De Laune riders, though it's not impossible that road racers might prefer to take in a sporting TT (to practice for that solo break..) while the TT-oriented riders might prefer to target a "dragstrip" 25 on the same day - the point is to share the information to increase the chances of benefitting from team participation, lifts, the camaraderie of having club-mates around etc.

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The Road Race target list (as of 22 February 2009)

8th	March	Surrey League
15th	March -	Wally Gimber
22nd	March	Surrey League
29th	March	SERRL
4th	April -	Tour of Flanders sportive
11th	April -	Easter 3 day **
19th -	April	SERRL
26th -	April	SERRL
3rd	May -	Surrey League
10th	May -	SERRL
17th	May -	SERRL
23rd	May -	SERRL 3 day **

Time Megeve sportive

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Nigel (Road Race Manager)

Diary Social/Club for 2009

Sunday	28 June	OMA Lunch - Brighton	12:45
Sunday	26 July	Max Dods Memorial B-B-Q at Herne Bay	9:00
Sunday	? September	Club run to the Down Hill	10:00
Sunday	15 November	Newnham Remembrance Service	10:30
Sunday	13 December	Richmond Park Christmas Social Ride	09:00

Club & Inter-Club Events for 2009

Sunday	12 April	SERRL - Road Race	Brenchley	
Sunday	24 May	10.00 Ken Fuller Memorial Road	Bletchingly	
Sunday	7 June	07.00 Mid-Summer 25 & the Club Novices Champi		G25/53
Tuesday	? June	18.30 Circuit Race	Crystal Palace	
Sunday	? 2009	13.00 Open Track Meeting	Herne Hill	
Saturday	25 July	07.30 Open '10' TT	Harrietsham	Q10/22
Sunday	2 August	07.00 Fred Peachey 25 -Incorporating Club 25 Champs.	Chilham	Q25/8
Saturday	15 August	07.30 OMA 10		Q10/22
Saturday	5?September	07.15 Inter Club 25		Q10/19
Sunday	13 Septem-	08.30 Autumn 25		G25/53
Sunday	??	12.00 Down Hill	Tilburstow Hill	
Sunday	4 October	11.00 Hill Climb	Titsey Hill	GH/31
Sunday	25 October	KCA Reliability Trial	Details awaited	

SEE MESSAGE BOARD to keep UP TO DATE

<http://mikepeel.proboards67.com>

CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE 25th MARCH

Anything for inclusion please send to:

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