



# Nomads News

[www.hitchin-nomads.net](http://www.hitchin-nomads.net)

The news letter of the Hitchin Nomads Cycling Club

## Editorial

For this issue we have the seven ages of man, from Jamie 3½ to old men who should know better.

Taking Frank's point in his article it was really heart warming to see the youngsters taking up the challenge to ride their bikes whatever the weather. **(Note to self. When you hang your crash helmet on the handlebars, which is your normal habit, make sure when its raining, that your water proof Gore Tex helmet cover is removed!!)**

My main contributor has come up trumps again with a tale of daring do that we can all relate to, thanks Dave.

The first of the Dave Gudgin 25 series has shown who is in early form, but can they maintain it through the next three Dave Gudgin 25s?

In my profile of Paul Stanbridge I have tried to give an overview of his contribution to the club and if any member has memories of Paul then I will gladly publish them.

The 50 that I rode which was the first one I have ridden since 2000 wasn't a pleasant experience because I felt vulnerable riding pass the slip roads on the A10 truck road, but the positives were that it was a good day for weather and I felt good on the bike until the last 5 miles or so, then it hurt!

## Thanks from Rene

Many, many thanks to all the Nomads for the beautiful flowers and the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday card.

Very unexpected, so so much more appreciated. It's very rewarding to keep in touch over so many years.

Best wishes for all you competitors this year.

Sincerely

Rene Stacey

## Results Interclub 10 22<sup>nd</sup> April

The official result of the Interclub 10 is

Beds Road CC	490
Icknield RC	429
Hitchin Nomads	425

The result that I published in the May newsletter is what I worked out, the above numbers are different but the differentials are the same

Clive

## Lampard CC 10 course F12/10 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

Dave Wentworth	24:43
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## Norland TT Combine 50 course F10/50 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

David Ledgerton	2:13:26
Clive Collins	2:19:29

## Dave Gudgin 25 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

	Time	Handicap
Tony Anderson	1:02:11	-1:02:11
Neil JJ Fraser	1:03:37	-1:00:59
Andy Saunders	1:06:13	-1:02:27
Paul Riley	1:07:29	-0:57:42
James Cornell	1:07:39	-1:06:27
Pontus Axelsson	1:07:49	-1:00:52
David Ledgerton	1:09:01	-1:02:36
Neil R Fraser	1:13:12	-1:00:59
Clive Collins	1:14:04	-1:01:41
Julian Siedlecki	1:14:36	-0:58:02
David Summerell	1:15:16	-1:01:50
Pete Hanlon	1:18:56	-1:03:54
Keith Rapley	1:27:20	-1:10:07

Non-Nomads  
 Rob Hemming 1:06:58  
 Eric Sacuzzi 1:08:57

### **ECCA 50 course F1 Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

David Ledgerton 2:20:+ a bit

### **Captains Corner**

Here are the events to ride for June and July.

**16<sup>th</sup> June** – Club Bar B Que and come and try it time trial HQ Guilden Morden village hall. Sign on from 14.30

**23<sup>rd</sup> June** – Maldon & District CC 10 course E21/10.

**1<sup>st</sup> July – Interclub 25 club course 1U/25 HQ Old Walden village hall.**

**8<sup>th</sup> July** – Hertfordshire Wheelers 10 course F20/10.

**14<sup>th</sup> July** – Beds Road CC 10 course F1/10 (slowest 120)

**15<sup>th</sup> July** – Verulam CC 25 course F10/25

**15<sup>th</sup> July** – North Midds & Herts 100 course F1/100

I am happy for people to contact me should they need more information, organizer details and entry forms.

Cheers  
 Steve

### **Family Ride**

The media pundits, Private Fraser (no relationship) plus many other old geezers might claim that as far as the next generation are concerned **'We're all doomed!'**

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> this dire prediction was disproved, certainly by some youngsters of the local cycling fraternity.

The weather forecast was dire; starting off wet, becoming windy with continuous heavy rain. Despite the accuracy of this forecast a goodly number of children under the age of 8 took part in our family ride from Sandy to Danish camp and back. The original intention had been to hold a picnic as an option to getting food at Danish camp but it was felt that the weather would ensure there would be no queue at the camp, which also proved to be accurate.

The adults in attendance were of the opinion that we were all a bit mad, but Luke and Jamie Senechal – 5 and 3 ½ years respectively

- Tilly Ward 6 ¾ (Jonathan Lavery's niece) and Thom Durkin 7 (Mike Kitchen's grandson) rode the 8 miles with never a cross word or complaint, in fact Thom and granddad rode to and from Weston, just to emphasise the enthusiasm and ability you can get from youngsters if they are inspired.

Nick had arranged the event and had received interest from many 'non member' families, so to give them a chance to prove their mettle, another family ride will be organised later in the year.

**WATCH THIS SPACE KIDDIES!**

Frank Turner

### **Profile**

#### **of our President**

#### **Paul Stanbridge**

When members log onto the web and see Hitchin Nomads web site heading the first name you see is President P. Stanbridge.

I understand from our founder member Rene Stacey that it was probably her that recruited Paul into the Nomads when she was working in Sudbury Cycles Eastcheap Letchworth in the 60s. I have checked the minute's books and I see that he joined the Nomads in 1968.

Any profile that is written about Paul must include his wife Barbara because together they made a formidable team.

When I first joined the club in 1982 Paul was chairman, prior to that he had done most jobs in the club including General Secretary and Treasurer.

Paul first joined the club in 1968 and was very friendly with names that you only hear about or have club events dedicated to their name such as Harold Briercliffe and Alan Porter both of whom have now passed on but were President and Vice President in 1982.

Among the current membership apart from myself who knew Paul when he was active with the club are Richard Bland, Jamie Tomlin, John Houghton, David Summerell, Frank Turner, Dave Wentworth, David Rossall and Geoff Perry.

In 1982 when I first joined the club there were a lot of members under 21 years old who Paul was keen to encourage to get the best out of themselves and there was always a buzz in

the club room on a Monday night as to who had done what on the racing front the previous day through the season.

My own personal memories are of Paul and Barbara always together with Barbara leading the group and if she put on a turn of speed there would be a call from Paul 'Barbara slow down please'.

About 1985 Paul decided to produce the News Letter every week, which was very popular.

Through the ups and downs of club life Paul was a rock of steadfastness clear in his mind of what was right for the club as a whole.

Sadly Paul is now bedridden and not likely to recover to walk again. He has a form of Parkinson's disease so the current membership are not likely to see him socially.

If you wanted to visit him then Barbara would be very welcoming.

Clive

### **Race report – Coventry RC on the K9/10**

For my first Open event of the year I thought I'd try a different course that wasn't too far to drive, so I entered the Coventry RC 10 on the K9/10. It's really the K10/10, but I reckon that it was a dog of a day and a dog of a course so K9 seems to be more appropriate!!! On the 40 mile drive up it rained and it rained and, oh, it rained some more. The wind was also getting worse and was moving the car about on the motorway. I knew I shouldn't have had those darned baked beans for lunch!

Since I'd not ridden the K9 course before and really had little idea of what it was like, I decided to drive around first. There was a lot of standing water – I mean a yard out from the kerb and an inch deep – a strong side wind and a road surface that seemed to vary from rough to rougher. With things looking generally bad, I almost decided that it was too dangerous to ride. But I could always turn back through the lanes if it was dangerous, so I gave it a go.

The start, when I eventually found it, was in a single-track lane two miles from the HQ with a sharp left junction 50 yards from the

start. Two miles of rough country lane - which were very fast with the tail wind – and then on to the A45. Two roundabout turns and 7 miles with a strong side wind moving the bike around like no tomorrow – very hazardous and very difficult to keep the bike in anything like a straight line. A strange left turn off the A45 was almost missed – the marshal was stood a good 100 yards into the slip road – and a final mile of rougher than rough country lane. At the finish the computer read 10.3 miles – could I really have found it that difficult to ride a straight line! Me thinks the computer is set-up wrong – I hope!

It was then a 3 mile ride back to the HQ at Princethorpe College. General feeling back at the HQ was that it was a jolly good day - except for the last eight miles!!!

Since I'd set my target for the day as a sub-25, the 24:57 was more than acceptable. The winner, James Perkins, did a very good 20:54 – a stunning ride on such a tough day on this K9 course.

Would I go back, yes – but only if nothing else worth riding.

Dave Wentworth

### **Clubman Points**

**Here are the standing in the clubman's competition**

	Points
<b>Frank Turner</b>	<b>75</b>
Tony Furby	65
Richard Bland	39
David Ledgerton	39
Clive Collins	37
Paul Kelley	35
John Houghton	28
Tony Anderson	27
Keith Rapley	22
Jamie Tomlin	20
Neil JJ Fraser	15
Ray Littlechild	15
James Cornell	14
Ann Collins	13
Sue Kelley	13
Nick Senechal	13
Ann Bland	13

Mike Kitchen	12
James Spence	11
George Waterhouse	11
Toby Blyth	10
Jonathan Lavery	10
Geoff Perry	9
Julian Siedlecki	9
Dave Wentworth	8
John Harrison	8
Steve Smith	8
Hugo Siedlecki	7
Nigel Tooke	7
Neil Bundy	7
Anthony Perkins	7
Peter Martin	6
David Summerell	6
Scott Edwards	6
Mike Webb	4
Cora Siedlecki	4
Kistie Siedlecki	4
David Rossall	4
Andy Herbert	4
Simon Doyle	4
Mike Toddington	4
Wendy Tooke	4
John Perkins	4
Steve Robinson	4
Jonah Perkins	4
Sarah Tooke	4
Amy Tooke	4
Barbara Day	4
John Ramsay	4
Pontus Axelsson	3
Irene Stacey	3
Pete Hanlon	3
David Renny	3
Armel Sextius	2

## Team Work

Riding the tandem with Graham Hurst (yes, Flippin Kid now 43 years old and chairman of Poole Wheelers CC) and falling in a big heap in the road at the Henlow RAB. Graham always put his right foot down when stopping, me the conventional left. Graham, me, the people in the car behind and some people walking just laughed and laughed about it.

Dave Wentworth

## Media Watch

I received this email, which was a response to an ongoing issue within the Hitchin cycling group. I thought the membership would be interested in the debate in Parliament about the Highway Code issue.

To read up on Hitchin cycling issues their web site is [Cycle\\_Hitchin@yahoo.com](mailto:Cycle_Hitchin@yahoo.com)

Hi

I saw this and signed - also sent it round the hardcore of cyclists at the RSPB where I work. In response one of them sent the following snippet.

### CTC Campaigns Cycling, the Highway Code, facilities, cycle-rail ... Commons debate covers it all

The encouraging observation in Parliament this week from MP Willie Rennie that 'Cycling debates are becoming a bit of a habit in the chamber' introduced an excellent speech from him that ranged from highlighting tokenistic and substandard provision for cyclists (with examples) to a suggestion that there should be a statutory duty for local authorities to have a cycling strategy. This set the tone neatly for a plea that cyclists' concerns about the revised Highway Code be resolved, something that several other MPs backed up. In response, the Minister Tom Harris MP said that he had been discussing the concerns with cyclists and CTC and was "... confident that those discussions will result in a form of words that is acceptable to all sides." What's more, the Minister ended his speech by promising to include a section on cycle-rail integration in the forthcoming Railways White Paper.

We look forward to seeing what the White Paper will say! To read the full debate, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmtoday/cmwhall/15.htm>

Jim

## Briercliffe 10 averages

Rider	Events Ridden	Avg mph	1 <sup>st</sup> Speed	1 <sup>st</sup> Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> Speed	2 <sup>nd</sup> Time	3 <sup>rd</sup> Speed	3 <sup>rd</sup> Time	4 <sup>th</sup> Speed	4 <sup>th</sup> Time	5 <sup>th</sup> Speed	5 <sup>th</sup> Time
Neil J J Fraser	5	23.36	23.90	25.06	23.47	25.34	23.36	25.41	23.32	25.44	22.74	26.23
Andy Herbert	6	23.29	23.47	25.34	23.44	25.36	23.27	25.47	23.20	25.52	23.06	26.01
Andy Saunders	7	23.11	23.48	25.33	23.12	25.57	23.05	26.02	22.99	26.06	22.92	26.11
Rob Cunningham	3	23.09	23.26	25.48	23.23	25.50	22.77	26.21				
Paul King	1	22.26	22.26	26.57								
Pontus Axelsson	4	22.04	22.36	26.50	22.30	26.54	21.95	27.20	21.56	27.50		
David Ledgerton	5	21.85	22.54	26.37	22.30	26.54	21.69	27.40	21.53	27.52	21.18	28.20
Steve Robinson	2	21.50	21.90	27.24	21.09	28.27						
Paul Riley	1	21.45	21.45	27.58								
Nick Senechal	2	21.37	21.71	27.38	21.03	28.32						
Pete Sloats	2	20.91	21.11	28.25	20.70	28.59						
Toby Blyth	3	20.55	21.29	28.11	20.99	28.35	19.38	30.58				
Clive Collins	6	20.43	20.69	29.00	20.47	29.19	20.44	29.21	20.33	29.31	20.21	29.41
George Waterhouse	1	20.22	20.22	29.40								
David Summerell	5	20.20	20.40	29.25	20.29	29.34	20.21	29.41	20.13	29.48	19.99	30.01
Neil R Fraser	2	20.07	20.63	29.05	19.50	30.46						
Keith Rapley	2	19.23	19.40	30.56	19.05	31.30						
Pete Hanlon	5	19.16	19.96	30.04	19.43	30.53	19.23	31.12	19.05	31.30	18.15	33.03
Jonathan Lavery	2	19.09	19.85	30.14	18.33	32.44						
Julian Siedlecki	1	19.07	19.07	31.28								
Tony Furby	1	19.05	19.05	31.30								
Steve Smith	4	18.84	19.87	30.12	19.38	30.58	19.21	31.14	16.91	35.29		
James Spence	3	18.74	21.21	28.17	20.68	29.01	14.34	41.51				
Richard Bland	2	18.55	18.82	31.53	18.28	32.49						