

I arrived late as usual, it was 9.15 am. The sun was shining and the ground surface was ideal for a cyclo cross race. I walked past the club tent and into a picture of activity. It was fantastic, there were people everywhere all doing something. Tents had been erected for signing on, lap scoring and timing and also for catering which was doing a roaring trade, thanks to our wonderful cake makers.

The course circuits were well thought out to suit each age group. The racing in each event showed excellent. Skills (particularly down hill) and running with the bike was first class and the commentary could be heard all round the course.

Congratulations to Andy Jones and his team of helpers who made this a first class event.

RonMoule.

The next club open cross event is 22nd Jan, at Aldersley Stadium.

IT IS WITH REGRET WE NOTE THAT TWO OF OUR OLD MEMBERS HAVE PASSED AWAY. STAN KITE AND REG (DUSTY) ASHWIN .

STAN (1923 to 2011) was well respected in the cycling world as noted by the number of people who attended his funeral at Bushbury crematorium.

As well as having held various positions in the club, he organised the first Severn Valley R.R, a severe course, three laps of the Tettenhall, Shifnall, Bridgnorth, Hermitage and The Mermaid course a total of 93 miles. He took on the organising from Percy Stallard for the longest single stage road race in the country, London to Holyhead, 267miles, also The Empire Stores Marathon a similar event. Stan was credited as being the driving force behind the formation of the Professional Cyclists Assoc, as we know it today.

Reg known as "DUSTY" (1927 to 2011) was a brilliant rider who had been National Amateur R.R. Champ. of the BLRC. and also Hill Climb Champ. Riding for Hatley Cycles he competed in many classic races gaining high positions including the London - Holyhead R.R.

He was as successful in business as he was in racing, building up a thriving carpet business known as "DUSTYS OF DUDLEY". He also sponsored an open cyclo cross event for the club. Reg. gave me a lot of help when organising the publicity for the Ansell's sponsored Severn Valley R.R. He filled the programme by selling advertising space to all his suppliers, making 20 pages which we sold for 5p per copy. Goodbye Dusty, we shall miss you.

Time trials Excellently organised by Jon Arkell and his team.

This year's time trial league proved to be a great success with a record 89 riders taking part during the year including 66 from within the club. After several years of dominance from Paul Rogers, we were treated to a close fought contest as Paul Wright sought to topple the defending champion. It all came down to the last few races, with Paul Wright winning by a margin of 14 points, With 15 to 20 riders taking part in each of the club events at Halfpenny Green and about a dozen riders regularly heading to the Walsall Roads TT's at Dunston there was plenty of healthy rivalry between riders and many new personal bests set. Even time keeper extraordinaire Pete Hartill got involved on one of his rare nights off time keeping to challenge Terry Jones on the Sporting course, but I'll leave you to ask Pete and Terry about the outcome! The year finished with Robin Kyte managing to attract 16 foolhardy souls to take on the Hill Climb. Mark Caley took a dominant win by 26 seconds. *J/Arkell*

ROAD RACING. FAREWELL IAN AND BEA.

This is the final abridged report of Ian Potts who is handing the position over to Austin Jones, already a very capable organiser who is keen to take over the reins. Ian has done a first class job together with his wife Bea. We hope they achieve their ambition to move to France in the future., **we shall miss them.**

The year's events all went off well, starting with TheTwo Counties RR, with a field of 80, 3&4 cat.riders. Local lad James Ratcliffe (Fred Williams Racing Team) came 1st with Craig Ansell a creditable 5th.

Our major event was the annual Severn Valley R.R. combined with The Midlands Regional Championship. It consisted of two events, race 1 for Senior Men (135 km) won by Liam Holohan (Team Raleigh). Mike Jones 2nd.

The Junior and Ladies event starting 10 minutes later, Resulted in Junior Robert Lampton (Brooks Cycles)1st, Sarah Bryne (V.C.Raphael) 1st Lady. our own Kate Evans in a creditable 4th place with Ros Clithero 5th. Juniors 4th Joe Charley, Richard Walkerdine 7th .

The Club also promoted three events at the Sundorne Circuit which proved popular with the Club Members who put up a good show with numerous victories

We also promoted two rounds of the Shrops and S.Staffs League. Enter early next year if you want a ride.

Winners of the Club Road Championships are, Senior Barry Charley, Junior Richard Walkerdine.

Ladies Trophy Kate Evans. Who has spent a major part of the season racing in the USA and returned to achieve some great results back home.

Jeremy Guy's end to end ride .(Exclusive)

6.15am first light 22 June 2011. Rob Gill and I stand alone in rain looking out over England's most Westerly point, Lands End.

Ahead of us lies just under 900 miles that we are to ride in just 9 days.

Neither of us have toured before and until a week or so earlier I hadn't even ridden with panniers.

A quick photo and a good luck handshake and we set off. 30 June 2011 at 4.30pm under blue sky we arrived at John O'Groats Britain's most northern tip, excited yet tired. More photos then a well deserved beer to celebrate.

In between we had a fantastic trip, which as time goes on gets better in my memory. Much of which I will always remember.

From getting mixed up in an Olympic distance triathlon in the Lakes; To numerous hearty porridge full English breakfasts; Incredibly generous friends, family and work contacts donations; Nearly trebling our fundraising targets; Riding around scenic Loch Ness; Crossing the Scottish border after 30 miles of ferocious headwinds; Well timed cafe stops avoiding rainshowers; 5 days of dry Scottish weather (how often does that happen?); Hen nights in Lancaster; Incredible scenery near Ski resorts in Glencoe; McClaren F1's in stockbroker belt Cheshire; Wrong turns downhill for 8 miles at 6.30am; Torrential floods into Bristol; Racing other End to Enders to finish the ride; Rush hour commute through Bristol traffic; Ed and Jess' superb support; crossing Gloucester's flat plains; Towing other slower riders to their goal; crossing the Beautiful Lake District; Rob's early morning starts; Reaching Wolverhampton in just three days by bike.

Finally a quick word about Rob with his meticulous planning, great company and resolute level headed determination. Rob doesn't do lows, it's just an opportunity to solve a problem.

The ride was a real high point of 2011 for me. Unfortunately it has ended on a low as I am out for 6 months having torn Achilles tendon. At least I have now had time to write this for Ron that I promised ages ago!

Would we do it again?

Perhaps, but next time in 4 days?? Jeremy..

That's Your lot! A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous NewYear to All. Ron-Ed.