

La Gazzetta

Newsletter of Rochdale CTC & the East Lancs Road Club



No.34 May 2016

WELCOME

In this month's issue we look back on the life of Mick Carr, Club Founder, following his passing in March.

There are results from the Club organised round 5 of the M & D TTA Points Competition, Gareth Snell reports from Majorca and Darryl Nolan tests our cycling knowledge.

MARSHALS WANTED

The Club's 25 Mile TT is being run on course J2/9 on 25th June.

As usual, in order to run these events, volunteers are essential. With events disappearing from the calendar it is important that we continue to support the cycling community. Please contact the organiser, Andy Regan, [by email](#), to offer your support.

MICK CARR: MEMORIES OF A CYCLING LIFE



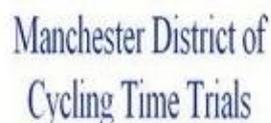
Mick Carr 13th July 1941 – 26th March 2016

Bob Miller remembers Mick Carr, Club Founder and Honorary Life Member.

Hearing the sad news of the recent death of Mick Carr (always called Michael by his family) led me to thinking fondly about the time we spent together in those distant, younger days of the 1950s and 60s. It was a time that saw the re-birth of CTC Rochdale Section and the subsequent launch of a racing 'branch', the ELRC, and he played a significant role in their development. Mick was an ever present on the Rochdale club cycling scene of this time and for many years afterward.

It was a lucky day for me when my family moved into a new house in 1953 because our new neighbours were the cycling Carr family from Oldham. I was really impressed by the fleet of quality touring bikes packed into their shed (Hill Special, Claude Butler, Saxon tandem) and by the stock of maps and the chat about past and future tours in their living room. They generously took me under their wing, and soon there were regular day and weekend rides and longer holiday tours to Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Norway, which was quite an adventure in the mid 1950s.

At first, the Carr family kept their connection with the CTC Oldham Section, but by 1956 Syd started to think seriously about the re-launch of a Rochdale Section, which had been defunct for some years. Despite advertising in the press for members support was slow to grow and it was November 1958 before a cluster of members gathered at Syd's Balderstone Road house to plan an official launch. This was duly held in January 1959 at St Chad's, Water Street, and soon there were regular weekly club nights at the offices of the Trades and Labour Council on Drake Street. Subsequently, the club rented a series of cheap





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CYCLING QUIZ

Darryl tests your cycling knowledge with his cycling brain teasers. There is a £5 Cycle Addicts voucher for the first correct set of answers received to newsletter@rochdalectc.org.uk

Answers next month.

1. What is the race called where riders follow a "deryn"?
2. What is letter and number of the road of our local "White House" climb?
3. How fast would you be going if you were riding "evens"?
4. What is Joanna Rowsell's married name?
5. What does Strade Bianche mean in English?

Continued below...

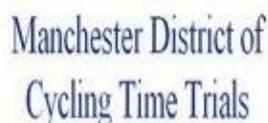
properties on a weekly basis in the Tweedale Street area, which enabled more meetings and social activities.

Syd Carr was soon pleased with his initiative, for membership grew quickly and included an enthusiastic core who kept things going. The club room was well supported, and included slide shows of tours, one of which was by the WPRC Middleton twins related to one of their epic tours of Europe. There was a regular programme of club runs and weekends away, Linton Youth Hostel being a favourite, while in the Summer of that first year a large group enjoyed a tour of Skye and the West Coast. We started to make an impact on the wider Manchester CTC scene and within a few years members had gained wins in a variety of activities from touring and photography to the hill-climb.

Mick was an enthusiastic participant in the full range of club activities. He carried out the planning and measurement of the reliability ride routes, and then enjoyed riding them. I think the 150 miles in 12 hours via Wharfedale, Wensleydale and Ingleton was his favourite. It certainly tested us! He would organise and timekeep the hill-climb on the venues I can recall: Kiln Lane, which was just by our club room on Bridge Street, and Blackstone Edge Old Road. One of his more onerous duties in the early days was to collect from a wholesaler boxes of 'goodies' for the club room (Kit-Kat and Blue Riband biscuits), and to resist opening the box on the way back! One club activity at which Mick became expert, unsurprisingly in view of his interest and experience, was the cycle touring competition, involving using a map to follow a route, observation, touring knowledge, and riding at a set pace. He won local competitions and progressed via regional rounds to the final of the British Cycle Touring Competition, where he did well.

Mick was not a very talkative companion, taking thinking time to prepare an answer, but he was a great observer and took everything in, storing it away in a considerable memory bank. He took a measured view and did not flap even in potentially precarious moments, as illustrated one day as we were riding a tandem belonging to Syd Carr (me on the front) descending the steep hill towards Charlesworth. Despite pulling the 'powerful' hub-brakes full-on, we steadily gathered pace. I remembered the T-junction with facing stone wall at the bottom and envisioned the likely crunch. As panic set in, I started shouting and sliding a foot on the road with some desperation. After running up a suitable grass verge to come to a shaky halt, Mick calmly asked what all the shouting was about: 'What's up?'. Well, us nearly!

In due course, as members started taking part in competitive cycle racing, it was decided to form a second club to serve this purpose. Mick was involved with this club, the East Lancs Road Club, from the outset. He was an infrequent racing man, but he did compete in the occasional time trial in the royal blue and white colours. In those days, the programme for the race was called the 'start sheet' and was often a rather rudimentary document containing frequent spelling mistakes and typographical errors. On one of these start





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6. Who is this?



7. What road sign is shaped as a hexagon?

8. Whose nickname is Spartacus?

9. Which company provide the neutral service vehicle in the Tour de France?

10. In what county would you be riding if you were climbing the Passo dello Stelvio?

heets, Mick was listed as 'Mick Capp'"(related to the newspaper cartoon, Andy Capp?), which kept us amused for ages!

From this involvement in time trials, Mick developed an interest in timekeeping these events and made a real contribution to the sport. He was eminently suited to timekeeping races, since in those pre-digital, clockwork days the job required personal calm, a clear head and the ability to make accurate mental calculations.

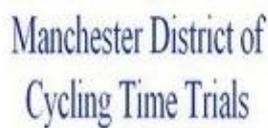
Some of my favourite memories of time spent with Mick are connected with cycling tours during the 60s. A tradition developed that a group of us would go to the Yorkshire Dales over Christmas, enjoying a festive libation in a Dales pub over lunchtime before retiring to a nearby field, usually frozen hard, for a game of football in which we all fancied we were future stars. A nominated person had the responsibility of providing the ball, carried in a string bag on top of the saddlebag! On one occasion, we had played until dark and had then to follow a muddy path alongside the River Swale. As the mud clogged our wheels and brakes, it froze. The bikes could not be wheeled, so we had to dump them in a field barn and walk on to Keld in the dark. Fortunately, the bikes were still there next morning, gently de-freezing!

Two final long tours, both in successive Septembers, took us around the coast of Wales and all the way up the West Coast of Scotland to Cape Wrath through wild and majestic scenery, including a rough crossing of Glen Affric and an ascent of the Bealach na Baa road to Applecross. Much of this was captured in atmospheric photos that he took.

Mick Carr will be well-remembered, for over the years many cyclists must have got to know him. Although a quiet person by nature, he was very sociable. He was a stalwart of the Rochdale cycling scene during the 50s and 60s, when I knew him well, and long after I departed the scene. He showed great commitment to the sport and pastime of cycling, a life he really enjoyed.

Dave Trippier adds his memories.

I also remember him on an Easter cycling tour to the Yorkshire Dales having a stand up argument with a policeman. The policeman wanted us to ride single file down a country lane, but Mike steadfastly refused to change the group. In front of the policeman, he told us, (mainly teenagers), that we will continue to ride two abreast because the Highway Code said we could. We could not believe our eyes as the quiet Mike Carr took the policeman to task over the wording of the Highway Code. The Policeman was livid because he was being shown up in front of a lady WPC and the argument went on for ages. Eventually the policeman gave up and drove away at speed, and we, under Mike's instruction carried on riding two abreast down the road.





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CELEBRITY CYCLING ENCOUNTER

Club members Caroline Travis and Mark Riley were assisted with a mechanical issue by one of track cycling great celebrities.

While getting ready to ride near Tatton Park they were delayed by a mechanical problem. As they didn't have any tools they hailed a passing cyclist who turned out to be Chris Hoy. He stopped, fixed the problem and as Mark said 'rode off at 30mph'.

I've also been on a couple of Youth Hostel weekends, which resulted in our entire group being banned by the Warden for reasons I can't explain with any decency and Mike wasn't too pleased to say the least to find himself banned from the YHA for reasons he played no part in. However, he had a knack of negotiating to get our membership cards back including his own, but he wouldn't speak to us for the rest of the day!. So, he was the quiet man, but when he believed in something he stood up for himself.

I must also mention his bikes. Without question they were definitely the worst maintained bikes in the Club. He was famous for getting the very last bit of wear and tear out of his tyres. Mike used to ride his bike to such an extent he wore the black rubber tread away which was when most of us would change the tyre, but not Mike. He always said there was a layer of light brown rubber under the black rubber and until that had worn down, there were plenty of miles left in his tyres. We used to follow him waiting for his tyres to explode so we could take issue with him, but strangely enough I can't remember them ever doing so, so may be, he was right! The only time I saw himself loosen up and let go was during the odd trip to the pub. From memory he never used to drink beer because he was partial to drinking small bottles of barley wine. They were small in volume but strong in alcohol and he was well on his way after a few of them!!

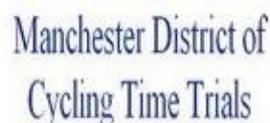
These are just a couple of my thoughts about Mike. A very good friend.

FOUR GO TO MAJORCA

Gareth Snell reports on an excellent week in Majorca.

Well how did it start? I could be wrong but I think Dave Tripp wanted a training week in the warm. Apparently, some bloke called Regan; not Ronald, he's dead, reckons he's faster than Dave but Dave's not having any of it! Anyway, any excuse to ride in Majorca suits me and off Phil Booth and I went at 03:30 on Sat 16th April. An early flight with no delays or queues meant we arrived in Puerto Pollensa to reassemble our bikes and ride out to Cap Formentor, easily the best 12 miles of tarmac I've ever ridden.

Phil Booth at Cap Formentor





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CYCLING TIPS

British Cycling have some great tips on their website for riding in different types of terrain.

The 'Ride Smart' series topics include 'Riding Rolling Roads', 'Climbing In and Out of the Saddle', 'How to Descend' and 'How to Corner'. Check these out and more at the website [British Cycling](http://BritishCycling.org).

There is also a wealth of information covering all aspect of cycling at <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/knowledge>.

Dave and Jack had arrived the previous day so after our short but exhilarating ride out in bright warm sunshine we met this pair for some light refreshments at Tolo's, along with umpteen other cyclists.

The next day's ride was a flat 65 miles out to Sineu avoiding Petra as Jack told us it was in his words 'rammed'. We rode along flat quiet roads with great views and warm weather. It was becoming apparent however that cyclists were everywhere. It was not uncommon to see groups of 20 or more barreling along the busier roads. Most riders displayed great road discipline and there was little evidence of the famous ELRC Delta formation, even the motorists were courteous.

After fortifying ourselves with great food and a quiet beer the next day was Sa Colabra. Approximately 65 miles and 7000 feet of climbing, but what a road. Thronged with cyclists and too many coaches but still a great experience.



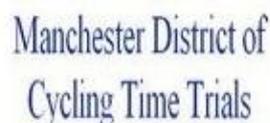
Gareth Tackles Sa Colabra

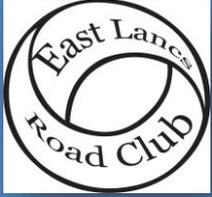
Sa Colabra In All Its Glory



Jack and Dave at the Top of Coll de Fermenia on the Way to Sa Colabra

Our recovery day after this was a trip to Orient and Coll D'Honor. This is a flat 35 miles out then a very picturesque 600 metre climb and then back to Puerta Pollensa the scenic way. There was great food in the evening at El Positano, highly recommended. Above average prices but not too expensive and great local food. We all ate a huge and excellent Paella, with squid and prawns to start, oh and somebody forced wine on us!





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COMING UP...

15th May

Short Ride – JJ's Dine Café,
Cliviger
Medium Ride – Bingley
Locks
Long Ride – Clapham

22nd May

Club Run to Follow East
Lancs Road Race

29th May

Short Ride - Uppermill,
Medium Ride (Car Assist) -
Gisburn to Malham &
Grassington
Long Ride – Grassington

5th June

Short Ride - Sowerby Bridge,
Medium Ride – Devil's
Elbow/Glossop
Long Ride - 150 Miles in 12

12th June

Short Ride - Ramsbottom,
Medium Ride – Ecclestone
Long Ride - Langsett

Don't forget that Club Runs
over the summer months
depart at 8:30am.

Wednesday was a flatish trip to Porto Christo of 87 miles but on busier roads out with a hell of a head wind all the way. Hard work, but worth it, with a very exhilarating race with some Dutch guys on the way home of about 8 Km at 30+ Kph. Thursday was rain soaked and only the keenest ventured out, in this case, Mr Trippier.

All in all it was a great trip and if anybody fancies it later in the year I'm going again on 24th September for a week and probably next year as well.

ROAD RACE REPORTS

M & D TTA 10 Mile TT Round Five – 30th April

Organised by the Club, Round five of the M & D TTA Points Competition was run on course J2/1. The weather looked distinctly unpromising with snow the day before and heavy rain in the morning. However, the weather relented and a field of 180 riders were greeted by sunshine and dry roads albeit with a head wind on the way out. Still, you can't have everything.

The field of 180 was split between 34 entries to the separate Ladies' event, 1 Tandem entry and the Men's event.

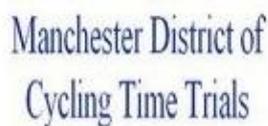
In the Ladies event the Club was represented by Georgina (28m 16s), Karen Bailey (30m 15s) and Niamh Coulter (see the Go Ride section for Junior and Juvenile results). Karen took the first Handicap prize. The overall winner was Vanessa Whitfield from the Racing Chance Foundation with a time of 24m 33s.

In the Tandem event Corrine Hall and Lora Turnham turned in a time of 22m 10s.

The Men event had a cracking 22 Club members taking parts. Ben Trippier (21m 32s) took 3rd place overall, Andy Gorton (23m 10s), Dave Trippier (25m 43s), Paul Ashworth (25m 44s), Jason Codling (26m 14s), Shaun Leonard (26m 31s), Bill Howarth (27m 02s), Andy Regan (27m 20s), Jonny Decamps (29m 30s), Gareth Snell (29m 59s), Mike Coulter (30m 15s), Pete Matthew (31m 00s), Phil Booth (31m 03s), Jeremy Banks (33m 26s) and Andy Schofield (36m 34s). See the Go Ride section for the Junior and Juvenile results.

A special mention goes to Gareth Snell and Andy Schofield who took part in their first TT.

The overall winner was David Crawley (20m 58s) representing the Velotik Racing Team who also took the first team prize.





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Our Go Ride representative is Shaun Leonard who can be contacted by email, goride_sec@eastlancsroadclub.org.uk.

Alternatively, full details of Go Ride programme can be found on the British Cycling website at [Go Ride](#). Information for parents can also be found via the same link.

...AND FINALLY

Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. If you have any news, results, ride reports or anything you think may be of interest to others please email them to me at newsletter@rochdalectc.org.uk. Thanks Jon



ROUNDUP

M & D TTA 10 Mile TT Round Five – 30th April

The Club's younger members were well represented in this event. Niamh Coulter put in a sterling effort and recorded a time of 35m 36s in the Ladies event.

In the Mens event Sam Walley (23m 07s) took the first Junior prize and Ollie Makinson (26m 27s) took the second Juvenile prize.

The results for the rest of the Juniors were Cameron Fitton (25m 22s), Josh Decamps (25m 33s), Alex Trippier (25m 36s), Alex Wiseman (26m 50s). Noah Codling (28m 07s) was the third fastest Juvenile and in receipt of a prize courtesy of Derek Hodgins from the V80 category who donated his prize money.



Manchester District of
Cycling Time Trials

