

The Novices 1940s

From 1941 to 1946 the 'Black Hand of War' led to the cancellation of the event for six long years and the Novices 25 was not held again until 1947. In January 1947 it was again decided to make the Novices 25 a second-class (or middle markers) event. The first Novices since the end of the war went ahead on 30 March 1947 and was won by A Hadfield of the Manchester Clarion in 1.09.36. The Withington Wheelers Journal records...

"The last Sunday in March, after a lapse of five years, saw the welcome revival of our Open 25 mile trial. This time it was decided to run the event as a second-class confined to riders who had not beaten 1:08:00 but retaining the Novice flavour by awarding a special prize for those competitors who had not previously beaten 'evens'.

Our fears that we would not obtain a full card proved unfounded, a total of 130 entries being received, of those the number who had not beaten evens was seventy and we shall have to consider whether next year's Open shall be promoted as a Second-class, Third-class or a purely Novices event.

We were favoured with decent weather. The morning was calm with just a trace of rain which gave promise of fast times. This was confirmed when John Smith, the first man, returned 1:11:45, a four minute improvement on his personal best. Lance Tulip, the Withington's main hope, did not disappoint and his excellent 1:10:50 was tenth fastest and gained him the Novice award. Later we found that he was also third in the handicap, moving up from fourth place when it was discovered that one apparent winner (through no fault of ours it should be added) had cut out a portion of the course. Our own members, mostly the new ones, returned quite creditable times and we look forward to some fast performances when they have had a little more experience of the racing game.

All in all we can definitely consider the event to have been a success. We give our very best thanks to good friend Arthur Wood who assisted Mac in manipulating the tickers and to all members who co-operated in ensuring the tricky course was checked and marshalled.

One feature of the trial which must go on record is that Lance Tulip was very lucky to finish at all. At the start his front tyre was not looking too good and he was able to effect a change and actually rode on Ken Perrin's front wheel, his own tyre blowing out later while in Ken's possession.

At the time of writing the exact method of sharing the prize money is still under dispute."

The leading times and those of our own members were;

A Hadfield	Manchester Clarion	1:09:36
N Jenkins	Abbotsford Park	1:09:45
GA Horn	Manchester Wheelers	1:10:09

The Withington Wheelers riders were;

L Tulip 1:10:50; JB Smith 1:11:45; A Welch 1:16:10; RB Poole 1:22:29; HS Stevens 1:24:44

Handicap (net times);

JP Thomas	Rhos on Sea	1:03:27
F Sumner	Altrincham Ravens	1:04:36
L Tulip	Withington Wheelers	1:04:50

1948

THE OPEN "25" Of course we got the full 100 permitted entries and also a few to spare and everything went off in first-class style, even though the event was a Second Class one.

At 8.01 a.m. on the morning of April 4th. Ken Perrins was despatched by the President to be followed by another 88 of the competitors; conditions were fairly favourable, in-so-far-as it did not rain and the wind did not reach gale force. Our own did not fare too well, Ken Rutter and E. G. Moore, D. N. S. Ken packed at 18 miles, the remainder performed as follows:-

H. S. Stevens	1.12.42	H. N. May	1.15.11,
W. Cavanagh	1.16.48	R. Gray	1.19.29
K. Jordon	1.18.2	R. Leaver	1.25.46 ($7\frac{3}{4}$ /min late)

Result sheet of the event is enclosed but we must not end without offering our sincere congratulations to the winner who was making his very first competitive effort and our thanks to A. C. Wood for holding the second watch.

The winner in 1948 was Peter Bell of Abbotsford Park who set a new event record of 1.6.50.

The winning team was Abbotsford Park

1949

The "NOVICES" The morning had dawned brightly but a chilly east wind promised to make the going hard for this year's hundred would-be speedmen. Promptly at 8 a.m. Arthur Wood sent off Karl - our Mac being busy in London at an R.T.T.C. National Committee meeting. Karl was out to surprise us, returning home with an excellent time of 1.10.36 only being caught by D. Buckley, Pyramid R.C. whose 1.9.38 eventually proved to be too good for the rest. Two others were to beat Karl's time, he having the hard luck to be relegated to fourth place by one second.

The Team Race was won by Abbotsford Park for the second year in succession their men finishing in 2nd, 8th and 9th places, the Clarion being second for the third year running. Altogether 36 men realised their first ambition of beating "evens". Arnold's third promotion as Salt was again highly successful with bags of marshals at each corner and Jim's usual efficient organisation at the finish drew the spectators away from the Timekeeper who was ably assisted by Bill Bailey - to both these watch-holders our thanks are due.

The following were the prize-winners:-

	H.	M.	S.
1. D. BUCKLEY, Pyramid R.C.	1	9	28
2. V. McDERMOTT, Abbotsford Park ..	1	10	3
3. G. Simcock, Dukinfield C.C.	1	10	35
4. K. Jordan, Withington Wh.	1	10	36
5. W. Thorpe, Anfield B.C.	1	10	45
6. J. Black Pyramid R.C.	1	11	7
Team: Abbotsford Park R.C.	3	33	45

119 entries received, 100 accepted, 86 started, 82 finished. K.P.

* * * * *

1950

Open Novices' "25": The decision of the A.C.M. to accommodate 120 riders was fully justified when, after the first postal delivery on closing date day, Arnold counted just 127 entry forms.

The start card gave quite an impression, containing such illustrious road-racing names as Salt, Haslam, Ferris, Ellis and even a Harris, Hotheysett and Thomas thrown in.

The day of the event dawned fine, but the bright sun and clear visibility gave little indication of the hard conditions to be encountered, and it was perhaps not surprising that the aforementioned did not all line up to the reputations of their namesakes, only one appearing in the final prize list ... he being R. Ferris of the M/cr Athletic & C.C. who filled fourth place with an excellent ride of 1.10.49.

Two other 1.10 rides occupied the second and third places, but it was D. McCreery of the M/cr Whs. to whom the laurels went for a grand winning ride of 1.8.58.

Times at the turn (12m 5f) showed McCreery to have already established a lead of more than half a minute over everybody except club-mate H. Whitehouse who was then only 12 seconds in arrears but who gradually faded to finish in fifth position.

Of the five leaders at the finish it is interesting to note that four of them were at the head of affairs at the turn, the exception being Ferris who was no higher than sixteenth, but who rode the second-fastest "return" of all. Worthy of mention, too, is the fact that these same four were riding in their first time-trial and again the exception, Ferris, had clocked a 1.22.

Of our own riders, Les Skelle was the only one inside "evens", this being good enough to place him 34th. in the general classification. Next came Brian Purcell in 55th. position with 1.16.35, closely followed by Allan McKenna at 58th. in 1.16.51 --- good rides for the day without doubt. George Hardman just could not get moving and finished further still down the list.

A pleasing feature was the number of complete teams to finish (no less than 14) a figure which, I am sure, would put some of our Open event finishing sheets to shame. With riders in 2nd, 10th and 16th. places Leek C.C. were the winners in this keenly contested department. Manchester Whs., with an apparently commanding lead of 1st. and 5th. positions, had to go down to position 42 for their third man but, despite this, managed to take second-honours only 38 seconds behind Leek and exactly 2 minutes ahead of the Pyramid in 3rd. position. Withington were placed 10th.

There were absent faces among the Checkers and Marshals due to illnesses and other reasons, and although we cannot be blamed for two riders who ran off the course, such happenings are usually avoided by the posting of spare men to odd corners. Unfortunately, this year, no spare members turned up at the start.

Our thanks to President R. MacQueen, and to our friend Arthur Wood, for their services with the chronographs.

J.E.F.

1. D. McCreery	M/cr Whs.	1h 8m 58s
2. D. Ward	Leek C.C.	1 10 8
3. D. Birchall	Warrington RC	1 10 36
4. R. Ferris	M/cr A & C.C.	1 10 49
5. H. Whitehouse	M/cr Whs.	1 11 4

And below is the full finish sheet for the 1950 Novices

Teams:

		h	m	s
1. Leek C.C.	Ward, Bloor, Hicks	3	34	22
2. Manchester Wh	McCreery, Whitehouse, Roberts	3	35	0
3. Pyramid R.C.	Booker, Haslam, Thomas	3	37	0
4. Warrington RC	Birchall, Smith, Rylance	3	37	39
5. Apollo Wh	Edge, Smith, Costello	3	39	31
6. M/or Athletic Ferris, Mottershead, Reymor		3	41	13

Fourteen Clubs finished complete teams.

Late Starters

60th	J.S. Royle	3m	0s	DNF	J Deakin	0m	5s
62nd	FJ Sudlow	6m	30s	DNF	EA Horgan	0m	15s
79th	P Lawson	0m	0s				

A pair of spectacles and a pair of gauntlet gloves were landed in at the finish.

One competitor lost a sum of money at the headquarters.

The Event Secretary will be pleased to receive any information in connection with the above matters.

D.Craft, having beaten the acceptance limit after closure of entries, was not eligible to compete for prizes.

W.Dall & Co. Printers & Duplicators, 14, Badley St. South, Rotherham.

WITTINGTON WHEELERS

OPEN SCRATCH NOVICES' 25-MILES TIME TRIAL

Confined to riders who had not previously beaten 1-15-0 for 25-miles and 2-33-0 for 50-miles.

Under R.T.T.C. Regulations

Sunday, March 26th, 1950

PRIZE-WINNERS

Fastest	D McCreery, Manchester Wh	1	3	53
	Silver-Gilt Medal			
2nd	D Ward, Leek C.C.	1	10	3
	Silver-Gilt Medal			
3rd	D.A. Birchall, Warrington RC	1	10	56
	Silver Medal			
4th	R. Ferris, M/or Athletic & CC	1	10	49
	Silver Medal			
5th	H Whitehouse, Manchester Wh	1	11	4
	Silver Medal			
Team	D Ward, Leek C.C.	1	10	3
	G Bloor		1	11
	P Hicks		1	12
	Silver Medals	3	34	22

120 accepted; 104 started; 92 finished

Timekeepers Mr R. MacQueen
Mr A.C. Wood

Event Secretary A.J. Pennill,
8, Cambridge Road,
Gatley, Cheadle,
Cheshire.

Phone: GATLEY 6331

Pos.	Name	Club	Times at			Pos.	Name	Club	Times at		
			12-5-103	25m	m s h m s				12-5-103	25m	m s h m s
1.	D McCreery	Manchester Wh	35 14	1 0 56		51.	J Forster	M/or Victoria	37 55	1 15 32	
2.	D Ward	Leek CC	35 37	1 10 6		52.	B Cranfield	"	38 31	1 15 55	
3.	DA Birchall	Warrington RC	35 53	1 10 36			D Ingham	Pyramid RC	38 4	1 15 55	
4.	R Ferris	M/or Athletic	36 30	1 10 49		54.	B Dutton	Burslem Olympic	38 23	1 16 10	
5.	H Whitehouse	Manchester Wh	36 20	1 11 4		55.	DE Purcell	Warrington Wh	38 24	1 16 35	
6.	GP Danby	Abbotsford PK	36 7	1 11 20		56.	RF Reymor	M/or Athletic	37 58	1 16 39	
	JG Green	M/or Roads CC	36 7	1 11 20		57.	JD Davies	Bury & Dist Wh	38 52	1 16 47	
8.	DN Booker	Pyramid RC	36 0	1 11 32		58.	AF McKenna	Warrington Wh	38 31	1 16 51	
9.	MA Bennett	Mercury RC	35 43	1 11 51		59.	TE Marshall	Hightown Y C R C	38 32	1 17 4	
10.	G Bloor	Leek CC	36 36	1 11 52		60.	JS Royle	Pyramid RC	40 20	1 17 15	
11.	B Moorhouse	Bury & Dist Wh	36 27	1 11 55		61.	GB Farrar	M/or Roads CC	38 47	1 17 33	
	WE Scarrlett	Burslem Olympic	36 49	1 11 55			Failsworth & Dist	42 22	1 18 3		
13.	D Edge	Apollo Wh	36 43	1 11 58		63.	KL Lee	Hyde Roads CC	37 33	1 18 10	
14.	G Allen	Orion RC	36 46	1 12 3		64.	WA Dyers	North M/or CC	39 45	1 18 13	
15.	J Haslam	Pyramid RC	36 18	1 12 6		65.	A Brown	M/or Victoria	39 14	1 18 42	
16.	P Hicks	Leek CC	36 33	1 12 22		66.	H Whitehead	Melbourne RC	39 49	1 18 54	
17.	DP Foley	Altrincham R	36 17	1 12 20		67.	A Kampton	Middleton CC	39 23	1 19 6	
18.	A Hurranhan	M/or Roads CC	36 53	1 12 33		68.	H Hawkes	M/or Clarion	40 0	1 19 12	
19.	J Holding	Leigh H & AC	36 14	1 12 35		69.	D Lord	Bury & Dist Wh	40 26	1 19 27	
20.	A Walden	Orion RC	37 20	1 12 49		70.	AF Roberts	M/or Victoria	39 20	1 19 37	
21.	S Jamieson	North M/or CC	36 57	1 13 3		71.	B Morley	Leek CC	38 0	1 19 55	
22.	IE Smith	Warrington RC	37 3	1 13 10		72.	K Doweck	"	39 24	1 20 1	
23.	B Smith	Apollo Wh	37 23	1 13 21		73.	G Pletcher	Bury & Dist Wh	40 45	1 20 19	
24.	JH Thomas	Pyramid RC	37 13	1 13 22		74.	RE Lee	M/or Clarion	41 20	1 20 37	
25.	J McDougall	Abbotsford PK	37 27	1 13 56		75.	H Craven	South Lanes RC	40 38	1 20 53	
26.	E Mottershead	M/or Athletic	37 33	1 13 45		76.	RG Lawrence	Westwood RCC	38 39	1 21 3	
27.	JJ Jackson	M/or Clarion	36 22	1 13 47		77.	D Marsial	Saxton RC	40 48	1 22 5	
28.	RB Hinoushaw	Pyramid RC	37 50	1 13 43		78.	T Burgess	Pyramid RC	39 24	1 22 30	
29.	ED Ryland	Warrington RC	37 40	1 13 53		79.	P Lawson	Leek CC	38 52	1 23 24	
30.	W Hughes	M/or Clarion	37 51	1 14 10		80.	P Vincent	Burslem Olympic	40 36	1 23 31	
31.	W Costello	Apollo Wh	37 45	1 14 12		81.	G Macdonald	Middleton CC	46 42	1 24 9	
32.	HRM Baylor	Saxton RC	37 51	1 14 14		82.	GE Wood	Saxton RC	41 35	1 24 13	
33.	B Clarke	Melbourne RC	37 9	1 14 20		83.	R Draithwaite	"	39 0	1 24 20	
34.	HL Skells	Warrington Wh	37 45	1 14 23		84.	WE Edmondson	Hyde Roads CC	43 38	1 24 54	
35.	R Crowther	Middleton CC	37 11	1 14 25		85.	DT Smith	Warrington RC	41 12	1 25 24	
36.	J Wright	Saxton CC	38 61	1 14 29		86.	A Wate	Saxton RC	41 26	1 27 35	
37.	A Brookes	Pyramid RC	38 29	1 14 30		87.	G Hardman	Warrington Wh	43 40	1 28 4	
38.	MC Dall	Warrington RC	36 13	1 14 42		88.	F Rhead	Leek CC	43 0	1 30 5	
39.	RO Keeling	Burslem Olympic	37 47	1 14 47		89.	FJ Jackson	Hightown YORC	40 15	1 30 14	
40.	C Cooke	W Pennine RC	37 55	1 14 50		90.	F Gibbons	Unattached	45 50	1 30 44	
41.	FJ Hray	Middleton CC	38 24	1 14 55		91.	G Jay	Saxton RC	38 20	1 39 52	
42.	ER Roberts	Manchester Wh	38 42	1 14 53							
43.	A Hopkinson	Pyramid RC	37 50	1 15 9		-	D Craft	Middleton CC	39 1	1 16 40	
44.	JD Allcroft	Cheshire RC	38 11	1 15 16							
45.	JG Currie	Altrincham R	38 4	1 15 25		J Whiston	Leek CC	36 4	DNF		
46.	D Hambley	Middlewich R	38 33	1 15 32 (32)		W Barber	Hyde Rd CC	39 40	DNF		
47.	R Kilvert	M/or Clarion	38 19	1 15 37		JJ Salt	Leek CC	39 45	DNF		
48.	D Haslam	Pyramid RC	37 34	1 15 40		J Salt	"	41 43	DNF		
49.	CS Malleil	Middlewich R	39 12	1 15 51		EA Horgan	M/or Athletic	41 55	DNF		
	G Perry	Leek CC	38 10	1 15 51		J Deakin	Leek CC	44 19	DNF		