

The Novices 1960s

In 1960 the winner was J Jepson of Littleborough CC who recorded 1.6.04.

Club President, Ron McQueen wrote in the Withington Wheelers Journal about the future of racing with the implementation of the Road Traffic Act of 1956 and the new Police Permission. This was not welcomed and the blame fell squarely at the feet of the 'massed start' races in Mr McQueen's opinion.

Racing Of Tomorrow: With the implementation of Section 13 of the Road Traffic Act of 1956 our Time Trials are now under Police supervision. We are now bound by Law to give twenty eight days notice of all events, together with full details of course, details of marshalling arrangements and the time of start. Fortunately there is no limit on the time of finish.

No doubt a new generation of racing men now on the way up will eventually think little of the Regulations; but those of us who have lived, raced and checked through the years gone by will find it a hardship. Maybe the sport, especially the club event, will be killed one day by regulation and regimentation but - let us hope - not yet awhile. We will have to see that the new way of life if faithfully carried out so that officialdom's interference will be reduced to a minimum.

Had it not been for the upsurge of massed-start racing on the highway, which the R.T.T.C. opposed for so many years, we would not now be faced with these Regulations. Those who encouraged this form of racing have done the Sport a disservice from which it can never recover.

Mac.

1961

Open Novices "25", April 9th:

Another bumper entry, one hundred and fifty seven forms being showered on the poor old racing secretary. These included one chap who had entered twice and four from the Withy. As borne out by subsequent events it was a great pity that Richard Langman had to be left out due to the 'slowest 120' selection.

The morning remained dry until just after the last man had finished, but a strong and very cold wind made things rather draughty for riders and checkers alike. Nevertheless, a turn-out of a goodly number of helpers and a total of one hundred and thirteen starters was most gratifying.

Unfortunately the large number of finishers (surely the event record) caused a bit of a crisis when trying to cram the result into the limited confines of a double sided foolscap, especially when complicated by the names of some of our foreign friends. In this connection, we must express our undoubted preference for four letter words !

Our congratulations to the prizewinners. Had it not been for that wind there is no doubt we would have seen a new event record, R.N.Brooks of the Mercury being only eight seconds slower than our best yet of 1-4-27 set up in 1958.

The performances of our own riders have been dealt with elsewhere in this issue, therefore suffice it to say that it was very pleasant to see our colours being flown again after all these years. Can we now look forward to the ultimate -- a team in the Association 12-hours (perhaps not this time, but maybe next year) ?

The prizewinners were as follows:-

1.	R.N.Brooks	Mercury R.C.	1-04-35
2.	C.R.Ferrario	Altrincham R.C.	1-05-09
3.	F. Renshaw	Macclesfield Whs	1-06-07
4.	S.P.Taylor	Bolton Clarion	1-06-21
5.	L. Oliver	Glossop Velo RC	1-06-22
1st. Team	Altrincham R.C.		3-21-25
2nd. Team	Glossop Velo R.C.		3-23-02

A.J.P.

In 1962 Keith Stacey of the Seamons in 1.4.53.

1963 DM Garlick Oldham Century RC took the honours in 1.5.35.

The Withington Wheelers Journal implies it was a windy day !

Open Novices '25'.

Windy (preceeded by a subtle word) was how several riders described the conditions that Sunday morning, also, cold (again, qualified by a suitable expression). Cyclists always exaggerate of course, but as one who tried to hold upright at the start a shivering rider, and who has felt the bite of a wind that penetrated a windproof amorak, I can vouch that conditions were such.

Yet some did a 1 - 5. One of those fit types, obviously, and it seems so, for only five riders beat 1-10-0, of these five three were from Oldham Century R.C.T., which club also took both team awards.

Four from the Withington rode, and four finished. John Rayner was fastest with 1-12-45, Peter Dawson did a 'long 13', and David Luford and Alan Snelson did about 1-18 odd. As a team, they finished in 14th position.

One rider went off course at Chelford, but was brought back by a chap from the garage by the island and Peter Craven, Dunkinfield, unfortunately crashed near Twemlow and hurt his leg. I am sure that all members will wish him a good and quick recovery. To the timekeepers and all who marshalled or otherwise helped in the event many thanks. It is a direct result of the fact that many people are willing to help, that the 'Novices' enjoys the reputation it has.

R.L.

OPEN NOVICES '25' - 5th April 1964.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the 'Novices' this year was the great number of the 'Old Brigade' who turned out to help. Their cars festooned the cause at every corner and riders were obliged to thread their way through a series of what looked like car auctions. The classiest of these was at the Somerf'cturn; here M.G's, X.K.100's, and the like graced the scene and tended to distract the eye from the job in hand.

As a result, the marshalling was so good that not a single rider was allowed to escape from the course. Out of the 78 competitors, 70 started and all finished - including one poor unfortunate who obviously wanted to sneak past Adrian, but was bullied into divulging his identity.

It was a pleasant morning - one of the best I remember - cool, but with the sun coming out nicely to give us all hopes of a good summer to come. The better rides were mostly within the last quarter of the field, and not until the fourth man from the end did we find the winner -- A.J.Jones of Leek C.C. with an excellent 1.6.18.

The team prize went to the Oldham Century; they achieved their aggregate of 3.25.36. by putting three riders in the first seven places -- a highly commendable piece of packing.

Of ours Ed Butters did us proud with a 1.8.24., to get among the prizes in fifth place. This follows on a 1.10.10. which he did a fortnight earlier and my guess is that we should see some interesting action from him this season. Here are the chief results :-

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------|
| 1) M.J.Jones | Leek C.C. | 1.6.18 . |
| 2) N.Hepburn | Seamons C.C. | 1.6.50. |
| 3) R.G.King | Altrincham R.C. | 1.7.55. |
| 4) B.Holbrook | Oldham Century. | 1.8.16. |
| 5) E.Butters | Withington Whrs. | 1.8.24. |

NOVICES "25" 4th April, 1965.

The event was run on a perfect morning, the sun shone and there was only a light breeze so pleasant conditions were enjoyed by riders and officials alike. Of the 94 riders on the start sheet 76 actually started and all finished.

The winner was 17 year old Howard Gardner of the Apollo wheelers who turned in the very fine time of 1-3-29 to beat the next fastest rider by a clear 31 seconds; this was his first competition ride which he has since improved upon by a small margin. There were several other very good riders and, in fact, no less than 18 riders did better than 1-10-0.

A strong contingent of eight of our friends from the Huddersfield Star Wheelers rode in the event a compliment which was returned a few weeks later when several Members of the Withy went over to York to ride in their open event.

The watches were in the hands of Mac and Arnold Pennill and the organisation of the event was taken care of by Sid Gleave.

Results in Brief:

1. H.W. Gardner	Apollo Wks.	1-3-29
2. J. Davies	Mercury RC	1-4-0
3. C.J. Knight	M/C Velo	1-5-35
4. A.V. Sheldon	Exodus RC	1-5-46
5. K. Scowcroft	Flixton CC	1-7-4
6. F.S. Appleby	CTC Prestwich	1-7-35
7. D.N. Mason	Oldham Cent. RC	1-7-46
8. D. Smith	Weaver Valley	1-8-6
9. J. Major	Altrincham RC	1-8-31
10. K. Workman	Abbotsford Park	1-8-36

<u>First Team:</u>	Exodus R.C.	A.V. Sheldon	1 - 5 - 46
		R. Burgess	1 - 10 - 22
		D. Pollard	1 - 10 - 30

3 - 26 - 38

<u>Second Team:</u>	Oldham Cent. R.C.		
		D.M. Mason	1 - 7 - 46
		P.J. Buckley	1 - 8 - 48
		M.E. Hollingworth	1 - 10 - 26

3 - 27 - 0

Team Position:

3. Altrincham RC	1- 8-31	1- 9-24	1-10-26	3-28-21
4. Janus RC	1-10- 1	1-10-17	1-11- 3	3-31-21
5. Manchester Velo	1- 5-35	1- 9-25	1-16-35	3-31-35

1966 the winner was J L Lewie Seamons CC in 1.6.52
1967

NOVICES' "25".

Sunday April 9th 1967 dawned rather cold and overcast for our 31st Open Novices "25" which had attracted (with no little assistance from our hard-working Racing Secretary!) an entry of 104 riders. This was particularly gratifying, so much so that we were able to increase the prize value accordingly. Conditions can best be judged by the fact that the limit of 1-10-0 for 25 miles was only beaten by the first eight riders, and at times it was distinctly wet and bitterly cold.

As usual, conditions had less effect on the really fit men and Murray of the Apollo Wheelers was fastest with some two and a quarter minutes to spare over Wright of Huddersfield Star who in turn was nearly a minute faster than third man - Taylor of Janus R.C.

Murray's winning time, ably backed up by his clubmates P.J. Finch with a 1-8-55 and G. Williams with a 1-10-06 (placing all three men in the first ten) gave them a comfortable team win over Altrincham Road Club who put their three men in the first seventeen.

From our Vantage Point at the Congleton turn we saw the usual variety of turning methods, some good, mostly bad!, but all stayed with their machines which was an improvement on the previous year!

As always the event was well checked and marshalled and all the old faces were present at the finish where the usual well organised result board was in evidence and all things seemed to confirm that we are still second to none in organising and running events even if we can't ride them!

1968 IM McArdle Seamons CC 1.6.17

1969 RG Fox Dukinfield CC 1.7.58

1970

1970 Novices "25" - 5th April.

Although a competitive novice's event appeared this year (in which the Racing Sec. was able to ride due to a slightly higher limit of 1 - 8 - 0) we recieved an entry of 54. For once the weather was kind but only 17 of the 46 finishers beat "evens". However, the winning time of 1 - 4 - 59 by H. Wilkinson of the Leigh Premier R.C. was near the best for this event. Must be sine rich cyclists about - no one claimed the mudguards, tubular and mitts found on the course.