

Withington Wheelers trophies

The club's trophies fall into six categories, these are;

- The 3 trophies for the counting distances for the Club Championship (50, 100 and 12 Hours),
- The 3 Fastest Shields for the fastest rides each year at 10, 25 and 50 miles,
- The Hill Climb trophies, both the Open and Club Hill Climbs,
- The Ladies trophies,
- The Handicap trophies,
- Other trophies

Club Championship and counting distances (50, 100 and 12 Hour)

Harry Wilson Club Champion Trophy. The Club Champion shall be the first-claim member who, whilst riding in the name of the Club, shall show the best average speed in time-trials run on the road under CTT Regulations, of 50 miles, 100 miles and 12 hours. Should any performance be in other than Club events the member concerned shall provide the official finishing list to the Racing Secretary. The winner to hold the Harry Wilson Trophy annually and be presented with a souvenir award.

Harry Wilson was our first Club President and held that post from 1931 to 1947. Harry was a keen cyclist and a successful businessman, he gave the club a great deal of kindly advice in its early years and Committee Meetings used to take place in his factory on London Road. He was always ready to help the club financially and on one occasion we were very thankful to take advantage of his generosity when the Club Treasurer absconded with all the club funds. Thank you Harry!

The Ron MacQueen Trophy. Awarded annually to the rider achieving the greatest mileage in a 12 hour Time Trial. *Ron MacQueen succeeded Harry Wilson as Club President in 1948 and served in that post until 1981. Ron was a stalwart of the Manchester racing scene and President of the M&DTTA. He is another member to whom the club owes a great deal. Ron passed away in 1986 and his family presented the club with the trophy for the 'best 12 Hour performance by a club member'.*

Fred Wheeler Cup. Awarded annually to the member doing the fastest time in a 100 mile Time Trial. *Fred Wheeler was one of the four Withington Wheelers who were killed in World War II. Fred was a founder member of the club and held most of the posts including Captain, a post he held for a few months before joining the navy at the outbreak of war. He was killed during assault boat landings at Salerno, Southern Italy on 7th September 1943. Fred still holds the Withington-Shrewsbury-Withington place to place record.*

The Fastest Shields:

The CML 10mile Shield. Awarded annually to the member riding the fastest 10 of the year.

The CML 25mile Shield. Awarded annually to the member riding the fastest 25 of the year.

The Maurice Laverick 50-mile Shield. Awarded annually to the member riding the fastest 50 of the year. *The three 'Fastest' shields were presented to the club by Maurice Laverick in 1985. Maurice joined the club in 1936 and after his racing career finished he became a timekeeper. He was a regular at many Manchester time trials over the years and he timed all the Withington Wheelers club and open events for decades. Maurice passed away in 2008.*

The Hill Climbs:

The Open Hill Climb (Peaslows)

Jim Forbes Memorial Cup shall be held annually by the winner of the Open Hill Climb. *This is one of the two trophies that can be won by members of other clubs. Jim was a founder member of the club and the first Withington Wheeler to win an Open event. Jim's forte was hill climbing, he served in the Royal Navy in WWII which cut short his promising career. He was Treasurer for many years and became President of the club after Ron MacQueen in 1981. Jim passed away in 2000.*



Tom Frith Shield shall be held annually by the fastest team in the Open Hill Climb. *The other trophy that can be won by members of other clubs. Tom Frith was one of the four Withington Wheelers who were killed in action during World War II, he was 1939 Club Champion and a member of the WW Pursuit Team who competed at Fallowfield Track before the war. Tom was 24, a navigator in a Bristol Beaufort Torpedo Bomber shot down off Malta in the Mediterranean on 21 June 1942 on his first foreign mission. He is buried at Tripoli.*



Open Hill Climb Shield.

Awarded annually for the fastest Withington Wheeler in the Open Hill Climb.

The Club Hill Climb (Cat & Fiddle)

The Alan Bates Trophy. Awarded annually to the winner of the Cat & Fiddle Club Hill Climb (actual time). *Alan joined the club in 1936 and became a Life Member in 1957. He was a good all round racing man but he excelled as a hill climber taking a number of top ten finishes and team awards in the 1930s. During the war he took on the role of Editor and kept the club together by continuing the club Journals. Alan passed away in 2002.*



The fastest Lady in the Club Hill Climb wins the Nan Forbes Cup (below).

Ladies Trophies

The Nan Forbes Cup. Awarded to the fastest Lady Member in the Club Hill Climb on the Cat & Fiddle (actual time not handicap). *Nan was the mother of members Russ Forbes and Lynda Norton. Nan, a WW Life Member, was married to founder member, the late Jim Forbes, and she joined the club in 1933. Rod Slater wrote the following in the WW Club Journal in January 2000..... "Nan's part in our club has been no less significant than those who have kept the name of the Withington Wheelers alive on the road. Hers has been a role of support from which we have all benefited". Nan passed away in 1999.*



The Edna Tulip Trophy. Awarded to the Lady Member achieving the best aggregate times in two 10s and one 25 mile time trials (actual time not handicap) in any event. *Edna Tulip is a Withington Wheelers Life Member who joined the Withy in 1948 and held most of the WW Ladies records for a period of more than forty years. Edna was a delegate to the M&DLCA (Manchester & District Ladies Cycling Association) for many years. At the 2013 WW AGM it was unanimously agreed that Edna's name should be on the first Withington Wheelers Ladies Trophy.*



Ladies are of course eligible to win the handicap and all other trophies.

Handicap Trophies

The Harry Lloyd Handicap Championship Trophy. The Handicap Champion shall be the First Claim member who shall show the lowest aggregate of handicap times in the Inter Club 10 in April (the Bryan Purcell Cup), the Club 25 in September (the Bert Jenkinson Trophy) and the Club 50 (the M&DTTA 50). The winner to hold the Harry Lloyd Trophy annually and be represented with a souvenir award. *Harry Lloyd excelled at the longer distances, 50, 100 and 12 Hour time trials and he was Club Champion four times over an 18 year period – 1936, 1937, 1953 and 1954. Harry presented the club with the Harry Lloyd Handicap Trophy in 1938.*



Bryan Purcell Trophy. Awarded annually to the First handicap Winner in the Inter Club 10 in April. *Bryan Purcell joined the club in 1949 and he quickly became a regular rider, Bryan rarely missed a club run or club event and even during his service with the RAF he returned home as much as possible to get out with the club. Bryan emigrated to Canada in the early 1950s, before leaving he donated his favourite Jack Sibbit frame to be competed for at a forthcoming Club 25 but before doing so he had it re-enamelled. This was typical of Bryan, always the good clubman. In 1979 a letter to the club from Canada brought the tragic news of Bryan's sudden death at age 47.*



Bert Jenkinson Cup. Awarded annually to the First Handicap Winner in the last Club 25 of the year.

Bert joined the club in 1947, he was an enthusiastic member always on club runs and served on the Committee for many years. In later years he suffered ill health and presented the club with a trophy to be awarded to the 'handicap winner of the Autumn 25'. Bert passed away in 1964.



Other Trophies

The Harold Laverick Road Race Shield. Awarded annually for the best performance/s in a road race or races. *Harold Laverick was one of the four members killed in action in World War II. Younger brother of Maurice, he was listed as Missing in Action after a Berlin bombing raid on 24th August 1943.*

Memorial Trophy. The Memorial Trophy (along with souvenir award/s) shall be awarded annually to the member/s who, in the opinion of the Committee, most *deserve/s* it in connection with any act/s in any sphere of cycling.

The Memorial Trophy is in remembrance of the four Withington Wheelers who died in action in World War II; Tom Frith, Fred Wheeler, Geoff Jones and Harold Laverick. Details of the War Service of these four members follows at the end of this document.



The Herbert Whitbread Trophy. Awarded annually to the rider achieving the greatest mileage in a 24 hour Time Trial.

A Founder Member of the club, Herbert (Bert) also rode a tricycle and his time of 7 hours 40 minutes for the Withington-Shrewsbury-Withington Tricycle record still stands today. His tricycle records at 25, 50, 100 and 12 Hours also stand to this day.

Junior Champion Trophy The Club Junior Champion shall be the first-claim member who, being under 18 years of age at 31st December in the year of competition, shall show the lowest aggregate of scratch times in two events at 10 miles and one event at 25 miles run under CTT Regs and ridden in the name of the Club. A silver-gilt medal to be awarded annually and Trophy for 1 year.

The Marian Stern SPOCO Trophy. Awarded annually to the member achieving the best results in any 6 of 9 named events. The events to be named at the AGM for the following year. Fastest Withington Wheeler in each event gets 6 points, second fastest 5 points, etc., sixth, seventh etc get one point, any rider starting but not finishing (ie DNF) gets one point. In the event of a draw at the end of the season, the rider having ridden the most SPOCO events is adjudged the winner.

Rik Stern presented the trophy to the club in memory of his mother who passed away suddenly in 1987. Marian Stern was a dedicated and regular supporter at many club events and her presence was sadly missed by everyone in the club.



The Diamond BAR Vase. Awarded annually to the member achieving the best aggregate (actual not handicap) time for a 10, 25 and 50 on Cheshire (J) courses (for this purpose the J5/1 and J5/12 courses do not count).

The trophy was presented to the club by Tony Baxter in 1992. Tony joined the club in 1962, he was Junior Champion in 1962, 1963 and 1964 and Club Champion in 1992. Tony has held many posts in the club including Editor and he is the current Club President.



Full details of all the past winners of the above trophies can be found in the Club Handbook

The Memorial Trophy

Service Records of the four Withington Wheelers who died on active service in World War II

Flying Officer Harold Laverick

RAF Deputy Bombing Leader.

12 Squadron, Lancasters. Harold trained in Canada. Served in 21 operations.

Missing in Action on Berlin operation 24 August 1943.

P/O Harold Laverick. Bomb aimer (died 24th August 1943 Lancaster DV158 PH-A2) 12sqd

This is the official report of the action in which Harold lost his life;

"23/24 August 1943. Berlin

727 aircraft - 335 Lancasters, 251 Halifaxes, 124 Stirlings, 17 Mosquitos - despatched to Berlin. The Mosquitos were used to mark various points on the route to Berlin in order to help keep the Main Force on the correct track. A Master Bomber was used; he was Wing Commander JE Fauquier, the Commanding Officer of 405 (Canadian) Squadron. The raid was only partially successful. The Pathfinders were not able to identify the centre of Berlin by H2S and marked an area in the southern outskirts of the city. The Main Force arrived late and many aircraft cut a corner and approached from the south-west instead of using the

planned south-south-east approach; this resulted in more bombs falling in open country than would otherwise have been the case. The German defences - both flak and night fighters - were extremely fierce. 56 aircraft - 23 Halifaxes, 17 Lancasters, 16 Stirlings - were lost, 7.9 per cent of the heavy bomber force . This was Bomber Command's greatest loss of aircraft in one night so far in the war."

The Memorial of inscribed stone panels at Runnymede commemorates by name some 20,389 airmen and women lost on operations from UK & NW European bases during WW II. All have no known grave. Norman Ashburner and his crew are recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as follows:

Ashburner, Norman Flying Officer	Barrass, Richard Sergeant
Bye, Verner Charles Flying Officer	Fraser, George William Flight Sergeant
Gleeson, Thomas James Sergeant	Peace, Walter Thomas Sergeant
Laverick, Harold Flying Officer	

Sergeant Tom Frith RAF

Wireless Operator / Air Gunner

Bristol Beaufort Torpedo Bomber. Shot down off Malta 21 June 1942. .

Tom Frith aged 24, a navigator in Beaufort Bombers shot down in the Mediterranean on his first foreign mission. He is buried at Tripoli.



Sergeant Geoff Jones

RAF Observer

Bristol Blenheim Bombers.

The WW Journal from May 1944 reports that Sergeant Geoffrey Jones RAF Navigation was reported missing on 1st December 1943. A letter from Geoff's mother gave the following details;

"Last August whilst bombing Messina Geoff's Blenheim bomber was hit by AA fire, the inside of the plane was ablaze but Geoff managed to put it out with his hands and feet. Then an engine caught fire and they were forced to ditch in the sea, the crew managed to get in their dinghy. After four days afloat with only malted milk tablets and water they were sighted by a plane which sent out an Air Sea Rescue Launch. After ten days in a rest camp Geoff was sent back to operational flying and then on 1st December 1943 they had to turn back from a raid on Lybia when their plane developed engine trouble. The plane never reached base and Geoff was listed as Missing in Action".

AB Fred Wheeler

Royal Navy

Killed during assault boat landings at Salerno, Southern Italy on 7 September 1943.

LST.417, landing ship tank

GAMMON, Sidney A, Ordinary Seaman, C/JX 355278, killed
JOHNSON, Walter R, Act/Stoker 1c, C/KX 146158, killed
LORD, Rowland, Ordnance Mechanic, P/MX 98956, killed
WALTER, Eric, Able Seaman, D/JX 284535, killed
WHEELER, Frederick, Ty/Leading Steward, D/LX 23005, killed

7 Sep 1943

Tank Landing Craft LST417 was riding at anchor off Termini Imerese (Sicily), awaiting to sail in convoy FFS.2 for Operation Avalanche (the Salerno landings), she was torpedoed at 2125 hrs by an Italian aircraft S.79 VTB belonging to the 278th Sqn, 132nd Group, which had taken off from Littoria airfield, south of Rome. The torpedo hit the port rudder, blowing off 8 metres of stern, the watertight doors were immediately closed and this saved her. Casualties were removed by LCI.288 and she was taken in tow by LCTs 115 and 306 and run onto the beach. She retracted successfully the following day and entered harbour to be unloaded. LST417 was repaired and recommissioned.

