



**Nomads
(Hitchin)
Cycling Club**

The First 50 Years

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THE BEGINNING

Like so many other institutions, the Nomads (Hitchin) CC came into being to satisfy a need. The time was 1931 and the period was Spring. There was in those days of 50 years ago a great surge towards the outdoors that manifested itself in one form as the great hiking boom; and in another as a growth in youth bodies of all kinds; one such innovation which began in those times was the Youth Hostels Association (England and Wales), which had its first headquarters in Welwyn Garden City. Yet it was in cycling that the great step ahead was most noticeable. There was great encouragement in the regular weekend writings in the Daily News (later the News Chronicle) of Kuklos (born in Hitchin and in middle- and later-life resident in Letchworth and Welwyn GC), who later wrote similar incitements to regular cycling in the Daily Herald. Everywhere club cycling began to flourish as never before since the pioneering times of the late 19th century. Such advancement could hardly bypass North Hertfordshire, situated well out of the Metropolis, close to main arteries leading to the north and athwart the greatest cycling highway of all, the A1, the Great North Road, scene for generations past of time trial cycling and especially long-distance events and record-breaking exploits.

It was upon this fertile soil that the Nomads (Hitchin) CC came into being. There had been cycling clubs in the area, including one in Hitchin, as long ago as May, 1875, according to Patricia Gadd in her study entitled *An Aspect of Hitchin Transport: The Bicycle*. She tells also of a Hitchin Cycling Club at around that time or a little later and of the Blue Cross and Hitchin Rovers clubs. By 1931, though, the only active club operating in North Hertfordshire was the Letchworth CC, which had been founded in 1928 and was to go on until 1947, when it was wound up and all the current members joined the Nomads. Throughout the winter of 1930-31 the foundation of a cycling club based on Hitchin had been discussed. The early talks among the pioneers had been earnest: the purport of their preliminaries was to found a club that would start from a good social base, admitting women for instance, when many clubs were still all-male; hold regular club-runs on Sundays and weekend and holiday tours; aim at getting a clubroom fairly soon after inception; and put on a full time-trials programme which would have a very high proportion of club events, not only at weekends but weekday evenings as well. 'The foundation meeting was called for June 4, 1931, at the home of E.C. Tomkins, 11 Bedford Road, Hitchin. Hitchin and district was going to have a thoroughgoing cycling club at last!

THE FIRST MEETING

The inaugural meeting seems to have passed on very well: that, indeed, is the impression of Allan Porter, a Londoner resident in Hitchin who was present and is still remarkably an active member 50 years later. There were 15 present at the meeting. The moving spirit was Mr. Tomkins, who became first chairman, while Mr. Porter became first secretary.

Among others present were Don Saunders, Gerry Watts, Harry Blunt, Arthur Aylott, Ron Rix and Norman Pearce, together with a Miss Simpson, who was obviously the first woman to be closely concerned with the Nomads. Besides the two officers already mentioned, there were some others appointed (including at least two whose titles will ring strangely upon the modern ear: Active Member, Ron Rix; and Deputy Active Member, Miss Simpson. There are also two First Aid Members, Arthur Aylatt and C. Gray). Soon, further appointments were made: president, E.C. Tomkins; treasurer, Gerry Watts; captain, D. Saunders; and vice-captain, Ron Townsend. All these were active in various ways, as press cuttings kept by Allan Porter reveal. Surprisingly, though, there was plenty going on before the foundation date of June 4, 1931.

By August, 1931, the club was obviously swinging along very well, as evidenced by the handwritten lists of fixtures, obviously the work of Mr. Porter. So far as can be gathered, the first club time-trial was held on August 15 of that year. Starter was - who do you think? - Allan Porter; and the timekeepers were E.C. Tomkins and R. Rix. It was of all things, a five-mile event, won by Norman Pearce at an aggregate speed of 24.62 mph. For September, there was a pattern of regular evening runs through the Hertfordshire countryside, together with a series of Sunday day-runs to places as far away as Wisbech. The evening runs were outlined in some detail, so that not even the tyroes could lose their way! The runs followed a uniform pattern for the remainder of the 1931-32 winter, signifying the tidy mind of secretary Porter.



1931 New Year's Eve Run

*Left to right: A.Porter, R.Warner, W.Pearce, R.Odell, J.Byram, A.Hailey,
E.Ramsbottam, N.Pearce, D.Saunders, R.Townsend, E.Murray*

Girtford Bridge appeared for the first time as a destination: the Nomads were to be consistent frequenters after that of the famous time-trialing headquarters of Fullers, started by a Polytechnic CC member and later run by the Ewing family. (The end of Fullers came after the 1939-45 War. A new proprietor came in, the bound volumes of Cycling were scattered, as were sporting photographs that adorned the walls. The new man had no time for cycling clubs, for he wanted to turn the place into a transport cafe, which he did. Nemesis was at hand, though, for a new bridge was built and the Great North Road diverted away from what had been Fullers, leaving the cafe on a loop road. Now, if only the new proprietor had let the place continue as a cyclists' rendezvous)

Committee meetings were held first at the home of Mr. Tomkins but the second general meeting, on December 29, 1931, took place at the Assembly Hall, adjoining the Railway Junction Inn, in Nightingale Road. Rather earlier in December, though, the club ran a speed-judging course starting in Henlow village. Later in the month, just after the annual meeting, came a New Year's Eve supper at Fullers, a fixture that was to last for several years. The price and the menu are worth recalling in these inflationary times: for 2s 3d (just over 10 pence in decimal coinage) members got roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, potatoes, sprouts, hot mince-pies, cheese, celery, biscuits and coffee. There was a note that showed that secretary Porter was canny as well as capable, for the supper notice contains a reminder which says: "Members are particularly asked to pay in advance." The supper was reported in the local press, with a picture showing some of the members who took part. Prominent was Ron Townsend, who began to play an increasingly active role in the touring programme of the club, coming up from time to time with original ideas for fixtures. Allan Porter continued to write his notices, around which the activities of the club devolved. A 15-mile reliability ride in February 1932 was won by H. Wheeler. A detailed sketch-map of the course - which was in the area to the west of Hitchin - was provided. By April 10 the club was running its own 10-mile time trial, starting at the 33-mile stone south of Hitchin on the Codicote Road. Some new names were beginning to appear in the archives, for the event was won by Morris Sunderland in 30 min. 19 sec., followed by Norman Pearce and K.E. Cluff.



Allan Porter

The issuing of comprehensive runs-lists went on merrily, but that for April 1932 bore the endorsement of the runs-committee. Moreover, the itineraries for the Sunday runs were treated with as much advance thoroughness as the evening fixtures. An

aesthetic hand was starting to creep into the preparation, too (was it that of Ron Townsend?), for the wooden-roofed church at Greensted, in Essex, was down for a call in June. Further, there was in May an introductory run; and in June a mystery run conducted by Morris Sunderland and a boating run to St. Neots. The competitive side was not being neglected, either, for on May 8 the first club 25 was held: Norman Pearce won with 1hr. 12min. 40sec.. Eddie Murray had now taken a hand in writing out the club notices, while another facet of Allan Porter's nature was provided by entry into time-trials.

THE FIRST DINNER

The first anniversary dinner was held at the clubroom (home of president E.C. Tomkins) at 12 Grove Road on May 25. Ron Warner came into prominence here for the first time by toasting Mrs. Tomkins for allowing her home to be used as club headquarters. Tickets for the dinner cost 1s 0d and were obtainable from Mr. Townsend at his centrally-situated home at 15 Tilehouse Street. A treasure-hunt on May 29 was an even cheaper fixture - there was no entrance fee! There was no end to the ingenuity of those pioneering Nomads, for on July 10, 1932, came a Follow the Arrow contest in the Old Warden area of Bedfordshire, won by Olive Plumley and Bill Chapman. The handwritten notices were now being written and put out by Ron Townsend, who had become secretary.



*First Club Dinner held at
211 Bedford Road, Hitchin*

No one could say that those early Nomads lacked a sense of road responsibility. For instance, one of the secretary's now-famous handwritten notices advised Letchworth riders entering Hitchin from the south on club-runs to go by way of the Market Place, rather than turn right at the foot of the hill at the junction of Park Street, Bridge Street and Tilehouse Street. Eddie Murray, by then honorary racing secretary, announced in early July that the clubs' long-distance record for a day's ride had been broken by A. Hailey with a ride of 190 miles, beating the previous mileage by 25. The Nomads went to their first BAR concert, run by Cycling at the Royal Albert Hall on October 6, 1932. Meanwhile, even in October, the Sunday runs were being extended farther and farther: to Burnham Beeches and Clavering, for instance, and

up to nearly 100 miles on each outing. The 1933 annual meeting was held in December. Ron Warner took the chair in the absence of president Tomkins. Ron Townsend was re-elected as secretary; Eddie Murray as racing secretary; D. Saunders as treasurer; Allan Porter as captain; and C. Gray as vice-captain. Membership was given as 55, compared with 29 twelve months before - and included 12 women. The north end of Butts Close, Hitchin, was confirmed as starting place for runs. There was once again at the end of 1933 a New Year's Eve Run - but this time to the Jolly Waggoners, at Ardeley.



*Place to Place Record - Left to right: F.Knott, P.Speltinkx, A.Aylott, E.Murray
E.Murray just completed a place to place attempt*

The club also found itself caught up in the controversy about the wearing of shorts in time-trials rather than the obligatory black jacket and tights specified by the Road Racing Council (forerunner of the present Road Time Trials Council). There was tough opposition in the RRC to the adoption of black shorts as the alternative to tights; but several of the clubs and district councils urged that a choice should be given. In the Nomads there was a division of opinion between the traditionalists and the advocates of shorts, which had become the most popular wear for club-runs and touring. On the whole, the feeling was that the wearing of shorts in road time-trials was “just around the corner”. A club championship was inaugurated over three distances and one period: 25, 50 and 100 miles and 12 hours. Incidentally, the official code of signals for club riding was: two short blasts on a whistle meant “Slow down”; and one long blast “STOP”

THE CLUB IS ESTABLISHED

The first public annual dinner was held in 1933. Indeed, the Nomads had “arrived”, for the gathering was held in the Sun Hotel, the principal meeting-place in the district for sporting dinners and for long known also as a rendezvous for racing and touring cyclists. There were nearly 100 present. Walter Livings made his debut as club champion and Allan Porter praised the loyalty and good companionship of members, who participated in well-organised runs . . . “far better than hanging around street corners”. Again to end the year (1933) there was a run by Girtford Bridge, still the most popular of the Nomads’ regular feeding haunts. The pattern for future development had been established after fewer than four years . . . so long as nothing untoward occurred, the Nomads (Hitchin) CC was set for a steady future (something did happen, of course - the war of 1939-45; but that seemed far

enough away then, although there were already repercussions to events in Central Europe that within a few years were to have their effect even on the fun- and sport-loving Nomads). Because of the devotion of officials, the club was in a stronger position than any other in the district; moreover, members were starting to make their mark in open events. It was, obviously, of great benefit to be a member of a club operating close to the great time-trial courses of north London and the south Midlands.

The first club 25 (a low-gear event, restricted to 63.5ins.) of 1934 saw K.E. Cluff, W. Livings and Morris Sunderland fill the first three places, with "Jim" Cluff recording a time of 1hr. 12min. 30sec. Then there was an Easter tour that became famous in the pre-war annals of the Nomads. There were 15 members on a visit that had as its destination the estuaries of the Essex Blackwater and Crouch rivers. Allan Porter and Ron Townsend who acted as leaders were congratulated on doing "a great job". A clubroom was established in Bancroft, later to be moved to the upper floors of a Park Street timber-yard - or that was how it seemed. In the clubroom business there was plenty of self-help by members, for repairs, decoration and furnishing were all done by Nomads. Again, there was news that Spring of an introductory run, led by Allan Porter, to Ashridge Park, not the first and by no means the last of such events. Club membership shot up in that year of 1934 to 95.

Something of a more serious nature also occurred about that time, a club-run road accident that put Ron Townsend into Tilbury Hospital. The driver of a motor-cycle combination involved was later fined £7 and had his licence endorsed for three months. Two other Nomads were concerned in the accident, Hector Livings (brother of Walter) and Arthur Dear. More cheerful involvement for Hector was appearance with Renee Cooper and others in a Hitchin Hospital procession. Renee, now Mrs. Stacey, is another to have retained contact with the Nomads over the years: she is one of the club auditors. Reliability trials remained popular and the 1934 version, run in the Charlton vicinity, west of Hitchin, was won by Walter Livings without loss of points. The club received in its early (and subsequent) years a lot of encouragement from the local cycle dealers, especially in the formative times from Walkers of Hitchin and from Ron Sudbury, of Sudburys, Letchworth.

Morris Sunderland was feted as club champion at the annual dinner, held once more at the Sun, in October 1934. Founder-member and club president E.C. Tomkins, was in the chair at a gathering that included several distinguished guests, notably the Hitchin Constituency MP Sir Arnold Wilson, Cycling editor Harry England, and cycling journalist Fitzwater Wray (Kuklos). Allan Porter could report a good total of 90 members, Eddie Murray and Morris Sunderland spoke of the growing enthusiasm in the district for competitive cycling and Ron Warner praised Sir Arnold Wilson for his support for the cycling cause. This support was forthcoming once again when the Nomads' membership played its part in a national cycling campaign designed to find

out from Parliamentary candidates what their views were on cycling topics. Both Sir Arnold, as the Conservative nominee, and George Lindgren, for Labour, were against cycle paths, a cycle tax and compulsory rear lamps. Sir Arnold was re-elected and, later, the Nomads paid a visit by invitation to his home at Much Hadham. Once again in the New Year the club conducted its normal programme, starting with the 15-mile reliability run over the broken hill-country west of Hitchin. This time the winner was H. Wheeler, followed by Gerry Watts, K.E. ("Jim") Cluff, Eric Dellar, E. Livings, Vic Collins, A. Dear and R. Parish. Jim Cluff, though, won the open North Herts. Road Club Roughriders 13½-mile with a time of 54min. 49sec; and the Nomads won the team award, with the active connivance of A. Dear and M. Sunderland. Cluff also won the Nomads club rough-stuff of 12½ miles with 52min. 36sec.

The continuing trend of consistent club-runs and time-trials went on into 1935, which was again another fine year for the Nomads. Club 25's, for instance, continued to attract numbers of between 12 to 18. Membership remained constant at around 60. Walter Livings was 1935 club champion. The annual dinner - following the normal routine of being held mid-week - was again a noteworthy feature of the year's working. It was held in the Co-operative Hall, Letchworth, and the chief speakers were H.H. England, club president E.C. Tomkins, Allan Porter, Ron Warner, A.B. Smith (of the North Road CC), Eddie Murray, Walter Livings, Jim Cluff and Morris Sunderland. Stan Miles, winner of the 1935 national All-rounder Contest, run by Cycling, presented the prizes (he was a member of the Century RC and later ran the cycle department at Welwyn Stores before setting up as a cycle dealer on his own account at St. Albans). Sir Arnold Wilson, who was unable to be present, sent a message of regret and congratulation to the members and guests at the dinner. Among prizewinning members (not already mentioned) for 1935 were: A. Aylott, Jim Cluff, Vic Collins, E. Dellar, D. Hyde, Fred Knight, R. Knight, E. Murray, Peter Speltinckx, Morris Sunderland, G. Watts, H. Wheeler, S. Daniels, J. Dawson and W. Pearce. A new member, Harold Briercliffe, wound up the dinner proceedings with a lantern lecture on a youth hostel tour undertaken in the German Rhineland in 1933.

And so on, and so on the rhythm of the year had been established and was to be followed until towards the end of 1939. There was, though, an event out of the ordinary in 1936 that rather shook the club - a request to the president Sir Arnold Wilson to resign as president. He had been re-elected as an MP in 1935. However, he began to show what certain Nomads thought were disturbing sympathies with the German National Socialist movement led by Chancellor Adolph Hitler and was, indeed, a prominent member of the Anglo-German Fellowship. Continental Europe was beginning to be rent asunder as the German chancellor and his movement re-made national boundaries more to their liking: it was a development that led in the end to the outbreak of war on September 3, 1939. By a narrow majority in 1935 the

club asked Sir Arnold if he would resign as president, which he did with grace and dignity. It was a sorry event, but those who remember the circumstances of the time will understand. Sir Arnold, when the war started, volunteered for air-crew duties with the RAF, although over age. Later, his aircraft was shot down on a raid over the Continent - and those members of the Nomads who were in the Forces or on work of national importance mourned his memory.

COMPETITION RECORD HOLDER

The club had another of its sterner moments in 1937 when it decreed that all members should link with the National Cyclists' Union, now the British Cycling Federation, as members. Next, there came a proud distinction for the club, the breaking of a national time-trial record by a member. Peggy Hardingham (later to become Mrs Speltinckx), who lived in Baldock, joined the Nomads in 1936 - and in 1937 became the first and only national record-holder on the club's books. On July 4, 1937, she broke the women's 25-mile competition record while riding in the Hounslow club's event. She won the event with 1hr. 9min. 54sec. The event was held in the Staines area. She held the record for three weeks - and then it was broken again! The Nomads were proud of Peggy and she collected the club's gold standard medal. She would be around 19 years of age at the time. Later, when the club was wound up for the duration of the war she and her husband Peter became members of the Bedfordshire Roads CC. They still are members of that club and still active cyclists, living in Letchworth. The Nomads (Hitchin) CC is still honoured by the distinction brought to it by Peggy.



*Peggy Hardingham
Competition Record holder 1937*

A record that persisted was the women's club 12-hour put up by Miss M.B. Cluff (now Mrs M.B. Briercliffe) - 197½ miles: the distance is still on the Nomads' books as the best 12-hour ever done by a woman member.

But the war clouds were gathering: and on that day in early September 1939, when they broke, the lives of everyone in the combatant nations and elsewhere, too, were affected. Some measure of club activity went on, though, even as member after member joined the Forces. One of the earliest to go was Jim Cluff, who was in the Herts. and Beds. Regiment as a Territorial. To the great relief of their families and fellow-members, most of those who went into the Forces returned at the end of

hostilities, although some did not. Jim Cluff had one of the worst experiences, for he was caught at Singapore, became a prisoner of war, and did not return until after the war ended. But to go back to the temporary winding-up of the Nomads (Hitchin) CC as a wartime measure. This took place at the last committee meeting to be held for seven years on October 29, 1940, when the then treasurer handed over the books and property (including medals) to the acting secretary Walter Livings, who was soon to go on active service himself.

This should be the end of the pre-war story; and, indeed, it is. Another pen will be writing the rest of the Nomads' 50-year story. Summing-up, though, the Nomads (Hitchin) CC, from a modest but earnest start, grew up in the first 10 years of its existence into one of the most thoroughgoing cycling clubs in the south Midlands. The spirit of comradeship that was present at the start grew and grew, bringing with it many happy memories and a most stout-hearted intention of re-starting as soon as possible after the war was over. So it was, for when the inaugural post-war meeting was held at the then Railway Junction Hotel, Hitchin, on September 12, 1946, there were 14 pre-war members present. They elected as chairman Walter Livings, the man best able to link the old days with the new. Since then the Nomads, despite a few ups-and-downs, has gone from strength to strength until today it is a more redoubtable force than ever in the cycling world. The rest of the story goes on from September 12, 1946, to the present time - but that advancement will be recorded, as already indicated, by a younger and different hand.

THE NOMADS ARE RESTARTED

Before the meeting on September 12, 1946, there had obviously been “feelers put out” and talk beforehand of resurrecting the Nomads from the aftermath of the Second World War. As stated previously the books, medals, cups and what little cash there was were all handed over to Walt Living's tender care to be safely kept in case there was a chance of starting an active cycling club in Hitchin once again. In fact, it was Walter who was chairing the inaugural post-war meeting held at the Junction Hotel so soon after the end of the war, and getting on for six years since the club had temporarily been inactive. There were thirteen pre-war members present besides Walt, among the notable names being Gerald Watts, Arthur Wright, Roy Woodward, Cyril Wilson and Malcolm Ling. The first significant statement was a proposition by T. Harris, seconded by Mr. Dunn: “That the club known as the Nomads (Hitchin) CC be restarted”, This was of course duly carried and we were back in business trying to pick up the threads of the activities that were going on before 1939. The Sunday runs and Wednesday evening runs were started with runs-lists sent out to members. Both these runs began at the northern end of Butts Close. Also Walt Livings informed the press that the club had restarted its activities.

The first post-war AGM was held at the White Horse, Deadmans Cross, on Sunday,



1st Post-War Dinner 1947

December 1st, 1946. Mr. P. Radford was in the chair and 20 other club members were present. At the time the club had about £7 to its name. Racing began again in 1947 but the Medium Gear 25 scheduled for Sunday, 23rd April was cancelled per club rules as there were only 4 entries, 1 below the minimum. The same year there was an "Inter-club" 25 held between the Letchworth CC and the Nomads, which attracted 29 riders, with Dave Keeler winning the event with 1hr. 2min. Top Nomad riders at the time were Walt Livings and Arthur Wright. Malcolm Ling was also turning in some notable rides at the longer distances and recorded an excellent 410 miles for a 24-hour T.T. -a club record still standing today, but Malcolm was beaten by George Kitchener for the club B.A.R. in 1949, which was considered a notable achievement at the time. Malcolm Ling is also the only Nomad to win the Most Meritorious Trophy three times in a row, between 1947-49.

The first post-war club dinner was held on November 26th, 1947, at the Red Hart Hotel in Hitchin. Touring was very strong within the club in the late forties, which was understandable as the country in general was picking itself up from the War.

THE START OF BIGGER THINGS

By 1950 the club was beginning to go places, and the early/middle fifties were some of the finest times the Nomads have ever known. We were strong in all departments and membership was on the increase. One of the reasons for our good racing performances was the collapse of Letchworth cycling club with many of their members joining the Nomads. One such member was Alan Jarman who turned in some exceptional performances in Nomad colours during the fifties and was still

figuring in team wins during the seventies.

Touring was particularly strong during this period. Besides the normal evening and all day Sunday runs, many all night rides took place to places such as Clacton, and Reg Horsnell who was club captain at the time organised Easter tours. Another popular event was the 100 in 8 reliability trials. Also, place to place records were keenly sought after with Hitchin to Cambridge, Hitchin to Stamford, and Hitchin to Yarmouth being the most popular.

In 1951 there was a hint of what good performances there were in the offing for the Nomads as Alan Jarman was in very good form. The club 25



*1951 Winning Team - Left to right:
R.Mason, E.Moss, M.Reynolds*



*1951 Club Dinner - Left to right:
Len Haynes, Reg Horsnell, Alan Jarman, Tony
Huckle, Maurice Reynolds*

record had already been lowered twice by Roy Mason and Tony Huckle, but Alan was the first rider to bring it under the hour clocking 59min. 59sec. in the North Mids. & Herts. 25. In fact, he won the N.M. & H. championship that year, also taking the Association's fastest 25 Trophy. In the Association 12-hour event it was records all the way, as in winning the event he broke Walt Living's existing 12-hour club record by four miles, clocking 228.25 miles. This was Alan's first '12' and he flew round the 21 mile finishing circuit at 22 mph beating the existing circuit record by 6 minutes.

Team wins were also obtained by the Nomads and riders such as Maurice Reynolds, Ernie Moss, Roy Mason, John Jeapes and Johnnie Stannard were figuring in 'open' results. A young lad had one of his first outings in the 100 in 8 reliability trial. He, in fact, got the 'bank'

so bad he couldn't even stay upright and had to be pushed back by two Nomads after covering the first 80 miles in 5 hours. His name - Tom Nimmo, who was in future years to give the club great publicity with his racing performances. It just goes to show it happens even to the best of them.

Two other significant happenings in 1951 were the club colours changed to white, red and black, and also a track meeting was organised by us on the Hitchin Town Football Club ground. This was to be an annual occurrence for the next few seasons.

1952 saw the club hold its first open 25 mile time-trial. Two records fell this season - Ken Underwood cracking the 100 and Roy Mason the 50. Touring was just as strong with 12 members going on the Easter tour to Kent, whilst Whitsun was spent in Norfolk. At the end of August, 18 club members rode the popular 100 in 8.

The club very nearly changed its name in January 1953 when a motion: "That the club name be changed to the North Herts. Road Club" was defeated at the AGM 20-13. Perhaps this had something to do with our reverting to the original gold and green racing vests a year later. Tragedy struck during the year when Geoff Humm was killed whilst riding in a club 10. He ran into the back of a car and died instantly. This accident shook the club for a while and all remaining 10-mile events for the season were cancelled.

The club was successful in numerous open events and the individual and team records were broken at 25 miles, plus individual records at 50, 100 and 12-hour distances. Tony Huckle was beginning to show form and did well at track and massed start racing. In fact, the following season Tony received a certificate for being placed in the National Best All Rounder competition - the first time a Nomad had won such a certificate. Another exceptional performance by him was at the Haverhill Sports Meeting where he won two events, was second in one, and third in the fourth, for a total of 14 points. This enabled him to win the Team Trophy single-handed!!



A Club-run in the early fifties

THE CLUB'S GREAT YEARS

The middle 1950's were truly great years in the club's history. Numerically we were very strong, having 24 new members join in 1954, making a total of 97, and 95 members still there in 1955. The touring side of the club, that base for all great things, was going well during this period. This had been built up by Sid Manning who was a tourist through and through and had been club captain for 6 of the past 7 years. Sid had joined the Nomads just after the war, moving to Stevenage from London and having been in the Bromley CC before the war. The Nomads had regular YHA runs during the year, summer tours were organised, and 11 members completed the party in an Easter tour to North Devon. Also, another all night run took place on August 6th to Virginia Water. One significant event happened after the club hilly 25 in 1954, when an incredible 52 strong run took place for a special tea. This was in aid of a presentation to Walt Livings. The return trip home was split into three groups with family members leading the way.

Many club records were broken in 1954 with Brian Lade and Don Clegg putting their names in the record books and Don teaming up with Len Haynes to modify the tandem records. John Jeapes also broke the 50 record and the team time was lowered with the help of Brian Lade and Tony Huckle. The club 10 record took a real hammering with first Don Clegg lowering Brian Lade's record then Brian regaining it in the same event, both riders beating Dave Keeler who was a current national record holder. Later in the season Tom Nimmo further broke the record. Club events were well supported with 23 riders entering the popular Hall Trophy. The Nomads were now entering a team of ladies in events, one of whom was Irene Stacey. In 1946 Irene and her husband ran The Plough at Wallington and supplied meals for the club-runs (top of the menu was steak and kidney pie). In 1954 she returned to Letchworth and rejoined the Nomads and by the late 1950s had formed a potterers' section. At this time she worked in Sudbury's and recruited members from the shop; her daughter in fact joined and won the Clubman's Trophy in 1961.

In the N.D.C.A. Best All Rounder competition John Jeapes was runner-up, whilst Tom Nimmo was showing the fraternity what was to come by winning the Beds. Road Red Cross event (the club retaining the Chattell Shield for the team prize) and also tying with Roy Carrington in the N.D.C.A. hill climb, Len Haynes completing the third counter for the team win. Tom had a very good year the following season having a few wins and many placings, plus figuring in the team awards, one of which was our own open 25 event. He also broke the club 30 record and Brian Lade did likewise to the 50.

This was the year that the club first rode in massed start events under the new governing body. Our road race results were good and the first success came in the Kamp Sport road race won by M. Hatton where we also took the team award. The highlight of the year was Roy Carrington winning the South East Midlands Massed

Start championship, a race we were to dominate in the forthcoming years.

Trackwise saw Maurice Reynolds become N.D.C.A. ½-mile grass track champion, and in the Histon Grass Track meeting he teamed up with Tony Huckle to clean up six of the eight prizes.

One sad point in 1955 was the death of Alan Thompson in August. Alan was the club treasurer at the time and had been ill for some time, but his death came as a shock to many members.

RECORDS FALL AGAIN

Tom Nimmo was in superlative form at the beginning of the 1956 season, breaking the club medium gear record, clocking 1hr. 3min. 28sec., the club 25 record, 59min. 47sec., and the 50 record, 2hr. 4min. 42sec., all before June. Later on he also cracked the Hitchin-Cambridge and back and won the N.D.C.A. 25 in a new Association record of 59min. 56sec., and with Tom Dockerty and Don Clegg a new Association team record was created. Tony Huckle also got in on the act, setting new figures of 239 miles for the 12-hour and for good measure he won the South East Midland divisional road race championships over 92 miles. Maurice Reynolds won the first Northampton Centre NCU track title, 1 mile championship, and later on he also was ½-mile grass track champion. The ladies were not left out - Miss V. Pitts lowering the 15-mile record.

With seven team wins and numerous places in the first three, it could be seen that the lads did very well that year. Touring was still a strong aspect of club life with Easter tours, a Whitsun tour and an August weekend tour all taking place, although club-runs were down in numbers generally. The club also did very well in promoting five open road races.

In 1957 the successes carried on. Tom Nimmo started the year off well by breaking the N.D.C.A. medium gear 25 record and the team record also fell to the Nomads. More N.D.C.A. team wins came the Nomads' way with us taking the 50 team prize for the fifth year in succession, and Don Clegg winning the event. Don also lowered the club 10 record to 22min. 25sec., a time that was to stand for many years.

Tom Dockerty had a very good season, beating the hour, and also becoming NCU Northampton Centre 25-mile champion, and with Tubby Clegg and newcomer Mick Pettifar winning the team championship. Tom was also to figure in the 25 club team record with Tom Nimmo and Doug Pettifar broken in the Wellingborough event. Lastly he broke the club 30 record recording 1hr. 12min. 42sec., a record that still stands today. Unfortunately the Nomads lost the Chattell Shield team award in the Beds. Road event for the first time in six years, but we did retain our open 25 cup by a slender 2 seconds from the Icknield RC. Perhaps the major result for us in a good

season was one event where Nomad riders finished first, second, and third, 1st and second handicap, and won 1st team award.

We changed the venue for the hill climb to Streatley Hill at Sharpenhoe, and Alan Jarman won the event. Club nights at this time were held in the Chequers Public House at Preston.

Behind the scenes Doug Bunyan had been one of the stalwarts on the organisational side during the past years. His forte had been road racing, in which he had performed well in the late forties/early fifties. Doug organised many of the Nomads' road races and also served on the South East Midlands Committee for many years. Indeed, he was Divisional Road Race Secretary up until 1960. In 1958 Doug became the Nomads' first Honorary Member in recognition of all the fine work he had put into the sport of cycling.

The same year saw many successes on the road and club rivalry was certainly spurring the lads to greater heights. The N.D.C.A. 12-hour event saw first Ken Underwood break the club record with 241 ¼ miles, then three minutes later Alan Jarman added another ¼ mile to the record. The team prize was also won with Mick Pettifar recording 238½ miles in his first ever '12'. Ken Underwood had his revenge in the Peterborough 100 when he set another club record of 4hr. 27min. 17sec. knocking 1½ minutes off the time Alan Jarman had set just 30 minutes earlier. Alan Jarman in fact finished runner-up in the N.D.C.A. Best All Rounder competition.

Tom Nimmo had another superb season. He had joined the R.A.F. and was runner-up in their championship 25, clocking 59min. 43sec., finished third in the 50 championship and broke the Nomads' 100 record whilst riding in the R.A.F. championship. Also he had the distinction of representing the R.A.F. in the Isle of Man Mountain time-trial and came 5th. Whilst racing in Nomad colours, Tom figured in many individual and team wins, two of the most satisfying being the club open 25 team win, and regaining the Chattell Shield after losing it in 1957. He also kept up the great Nomad tradition of winning the B.L.R.C. South East Midlands Divisional championship - the club having won the event every time it had been run, and for good measure Tom cracked the Hitchin-Cambridge place to place record by seven minutes.

With regard to road racing, other club members performed well with Doug Pettifar, Polly Perkins and Brian Sawford winning the team award in the Southgate road race - their first attempt at mass start racing. Later in the season Brian Sawford won the Icknield RC road race and figured in another team win. The club itself promoted three open road races. Another innovation was a 'family run' to Deadmans Cross, where 34 members and parents sat down to tea - the best turnout since 1950.

That man Tom Nimmo was again in the news at the beginning of 1959, improving

even upon his dizzy heights of the previous season. He annihilated the field in the N.D.C.A. medium gear 25, winning the event by four minutes and recording 1hr. 6min. 40sec. in very hard conditions. A few weeks later, Tom won the Association 25. Other wins came in the Unity 50 and the Beds. Road 25, with the inevitable team win. Tom was no slouch either when it came to the massed start events, having the honour of being selected for the R.A.F. team in the famous Isle of Man International 112-mile road race together with fellow Nomad Tom Dockerty, another rider who had served us and the R.A.F. well. Whilst Tom was on the Isle of Man he improved to third place in the Mountain time-trial. Perhaps one of the best performances of his career occurred when he won the Aye five event which was significant in that both professional and independent teams were competing and the Nomads team finished second - being the first amateur team. He also finished runner-up in the R.A.F. 5-day, winning the King of the Mountains award. He was also runner-up in the club's Carnival road race, won the Bedford circuit event and figured in many team wins with Doug and Mick Pettifar. Both the Pettifars were having a good season. Doug won the Rugby road race early on and Mick kept the stranglehold on the B.C.F. South East Midlands Divisional championship, winning that title plus being part of the winning team. Mick also attacked the Hitchin-Stamford place to place record and broke it by 20 minutes.

The Club was becoming predominantly road race orientated now and a Senior and Junior Road Race Trophy were started.

Time-trialing was still strong with Ken Underwood and Alan Jarman riding the National 100-mile championship. The best performance of the year came from Polly Perkins who won the Luton Wheelers 12-hour on July 5th. This was the hottest day of the year and in the extreme heat he covered 229.527 miles, an excellent performance which earned him the Most Meritorious Trophy.

Membership of the Nomads had started a steady decline from the high peak of 1956/57 but the club still had over 50 members and had been thriving in both touring and racing. However, in 1960 touring was at a very low ebb and for the first time for many years no club member won an open time-trial although some very good performances were still obtained. The club held onto their Open 25 cup and Polly Perkins received an invitation to compete in the classic Polytechnic 12-hour event, no doubt due to his sterling ride in the Luton 12 the previous season. Alan Jarman did an exceptional ride in the Poly event, finishing 4th.

1960 was definitely Mick Pettifar's year as he turned in some consistently good performances. In the Luton 12 he broke the club record covering 244 miles and a new record speed of 23.004 mph enabled him to win the club Senior Best All Rounder Shield. Mick's best rides were reserved for road racing when he finished 2nd in the Luton 2 day, retained his B.C.F. South East Midlands Divisional title and finished the season winning the Kentnor Autumn event. He took so many cups at the

Annual Prizegiving that he was presented with a tin of polish to clean them all with! He also carried on the good work of Doug Bunyan by being on the S.E.M. Divisional Road Race Committee.

1960 was also the year that a young lad named Max Pendleton was enlisted as a Nomad and won the hill climb at his first attempt. I wonder if they knew what was to come as somebody wrote: "Max Pendleton has potential as a hill climber."

HARD TIMES AHEAD

The early 1960's saw hard times for the club and, although the Nomads never even looked like going under, numbers were dropping each year to a low of 27 in 1964/65 and the club funds were also becoming depleted, with January 1963 seeing just £2 to the Nomads' name. Otherwise, the members were pulling together as only the cycling fraternity knows how and good racing results were still forthcoming. 1961 saw Johnny Owen organising the N.D.C.A. Map Reading contest on the club's behalf. Club-runs were poorly supported at the beginning of the year but picked up a little towards the end. Time-trials were also being neglected, the best performances being by Ross Newton who clocked 1hr. 2min. 40sec. in only his second 25 and kept the form going with many other sparkling rides. Ross finished sixth in the Junior Divisional road race and the massed start lads did pick up three team awards. A Junior road race team was now developing - Max Pendleton, Colin Summerfield, Andy Norris, Alan Grosvenor and Colin Prutton being the main participants. These younger members won eight handicap awards between them one season and Max had his first open hill climb win in the N.D.C.A. event. The highlight of 1962 was Ken Underwood's emphatic win in the Divisional road race championship where he rode away from the field to finish 3½ minutes clear of the second man home.

Touring was picking up by 1963 and an Easter tour to the Isle of Wight was organised. A sad end came to the Open 25 time-trial as Walt Livings organised the last one for many years. Ross Newton won the N.D.C.A. 25-mile event, taking the premier handicap award into the bargain, whilst Max Pendleton obtained good road race placings, winning the Harrow & Rickmansworth event. Max also entered the National hill climb championship for the first time, coming a creditable 19th. He was to finish in the same position the following year when the National was held on Peaslow Hill in the Peak District. The Nomads also won the N.D.C.A. hill climb team award, where Max was the winner, Colin Summerfield 2nd and Alan Grosvenor 8th. Colin put in a good performance in the Junior Divisional road races, coming 2nd with Ken Underwood 4th and Max 5th in the Senior race. Road racing was now becoming predominant within the club, more so than time-trials as the club promoted three open road races. Although membership was still in the thirties we seemed to be getting out of the decline - club-runs were ticking over, Tuesday evening runs were

restarted, 15 were out on an invitation run and 21 members entered the Map Reading contest which was as usual organised by Walt Livings.

THE HILL CLIMBERS' ERA

The first seeds of the Nomads' hill climb successes were probably beginning to bear fruit in 1965. The club's great success so far in this type of event was Max Pendleton winning the Catford CC climb, unofficially the South of England championship. To prove this was no fluke, Max then promptly gained a very creditable 11th place from a full field of 120 riders in the National championship held on Dovers Hill. To finish the season he won the West Suffolk Wheelers climb with Colin Summerfield (runner-up) and Gordon Desborough backing him up to bring home the team spoils.



*Max Pendleton and Colin Summerfield.
Two riders who brought success to the Nomads
with their hill climb efforts*

Earlier in the season Colin Summerfield rode his first Senior road race but crashed whilst in a break of 4, ten miles from the finish. Two road racing successes were recorded - Colin Prutton winning our rivals' - Letchworth Velo's - promotion, whilst in August Max Pendleton came home first in the Luton Alpha event.

Touring was beginning to come on strongly again with a Potterers' section starting, open to any riders. The second of these runs saw 15 riders head out to Old Warden. Sunday runs were in double figures and many members were touring abroad for holidays - Southern Ireland, Switzerland, Northern Italy and Scotland being the venues.

Another important step taken in 1965 was the change of starting point for the Sunday runs from Portmill Lane, Hitchin, to the Arena car park, Letchworth, a move made because the majority of members lived in Letchworth!

NOMADS PROMOTE DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The club was beginning to pick up now after a few lean years in the early 60's. This was mainly due to the achievements of Max Pendleton on the racing side, and also in a very large way to Roy Woodward on the administrative side. Roy put a tremendous amount of time and work into the club over about a 10 year period. He was the person who was forever cajoling and encouraging people to take an active interest in the Nomads. He was in fact the backbone of the club at this time and really built the club magazine up, was forever on the look-out for news in his press reports, and still found time to regularly attend club-runs. It was, in fact, Roy who was the organiser of the South East Midlands Divisional road race championships which the Nomads organised in 1966. These took place on a red hot day in July on the Ashwell circuit with the Nomads' own Ken Underwood finishing 8th in the senior event.

The year had started with an era coming to an end on the committee side of the club. Walt Livings retired after 30 years' committee work. Again Walt was another member who put a lot of time and effort into running the Nomads and was instrumental in starting the Nomads again after the Second World War.

Also in November 1966, the club managed to obtain a permanent clubroom again at the Star Public House in Baldock. This was mainly due to the efforts of the secretary John Wheeler. Although the room was a bit spartan in appearance, the bar was an added attraction and it was difficult at times to know whether it was the bar or the clubroom where Nomads were meeting.

On the racing side, the track meetings at the Gosling Stadium, Welwyn, were well supported by riders and vociferous supporters, but again it was the hill climbs where the Nomads' successes lay. Max Pendleton retained his Catford 'crown' and was runner-up in the Bec. CC event in the afternoon. He also won the Kettering amateur climb and set a new hill record in the N.D.C.A. event. Colin Summerfield was also getting places and team wins were appearing.

The highlight of the hill climb season was the coach trip to Winnats Pass in the Peak District, where 27 members roared on Max and Colin to 20th and 21st places respectively in the National.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

1967 saw the first proper dinner and dance for three years. This was held at the Priory Restaurant, Hitchin, with 60 members and friends in attendance, the chief guest being Alan Gayfer, editor of the "Cycling" magazine.

Many new members were now joining, a total of 13 in January and February. As many as 20 members were out on the Tuesday evening social runs, and the club-

room saw attendances in the high 20's.

For the first time for many years we were able to field a ladies team, with Carol Parrish and Joan Davey competing in the Icknield RC 10. The club also promoted the Carnival road race at Ashwell and a further innovation was the Stotfold Kermesse which drew the crowds out to the small circuit at Stotfold. In fact 36 of the 40 riders were 1st category roadmen. Ex-member Maurice Sunderland's young lad Tim had joined up the previous year and was now cleaning up schoolboy events at the Welwyn track, but the success of the year was again our hill climbers. Max Pendleton was again in superb form to complete the hat-trick in the Catford event. Colin Summerfield excelled to finish runner-up, and with new signing Don Carter riding well, the Nomads took the team prize. In the National championship Max finished best southern rider in 11th place, and in the club hill climb Colin put one over his rival setting a new hill record in the process. Both Max and Colin had many open wins and places. In fact, both tied for 1st place in the West Suffolk Wheelers event, and with Don Carter and Tim Sunderland backing up, team wins also came the Nomads' way.

OLYMPIC SELECTION EVENT

1968 still saw membership growing and also Nomad youngsters were beginning to show form, with the best still to come. In the Luton Wheelers 25-mile T.T., Dave Smith, Gary Kemp, Dave Renney and Robert King filled the first four handicap places, whilst a few road race placings were also obtained.

One honour which was to come the Nomads' way was to promote an Olympic Selection event within the Carnival road races held at Ashwell. Fifteen Olympic possibles were on the start sheet but, due to a morning thunderstorm which put the roads awash, only six started.

Again the hill climb team put up by far the best racing performance of the season, and teamwise we had the strongest set of riders in southern England. From 10 events ridden, Nomad riders came away with first team honours in nine races. The only one which we missed out on was the National championship but Colin Summerfield, Don Carter and Tony Bond put up a tremendous performance in finishing runners-up to the great Huddersfield Star Wheelers team. The West Suffolk Wheelers event was a farce with six Nomad riders in the first ten and both team prizes coming back to Hitchin.

THE PEAK OF SUCCESS

The hill climb successes of late 1968 and the successes on the road in 1969 were perhaps one of the greatest times the Nomads had known. The club was really flourishing now with riders capable of putting on fine racing performances, touring coming on strong and perhaps the best news of an all-time post-war high in membership of 96.

The club had obtained the signature of John Clements from the Letchworth Velo and John was a tower of strength on the racing side, putting a new dimension on time-trialing of which the club had not seen since the mid 1950's. During the season, John claimed twelve outright wins and more than two dozen places in the top three of open events. In his ex-club's 25 he was the organiser but still found time to start early in the field and win the event. Also he was just outside the Nomads' 100 record in the N.D.C.A. event in hard conditions. Perhaps his out-standing performance of the season was cracking two hours in the first time in the Norwich ABC 50 and lowering the club 50 record to 1hr. 59min. 30sec.

Chris Hales was showing good form in road races, winning the Comrades Promotion and the Kettering amateur event, and also being backed up with Graham Nash and Gary Kemp to take the team award. These three junior riders also performed well on the hill climbs, giving the club strength in depth to obtain team wins. In fact, Graham Nash had the beating of the club senior riders in some events.

The club's own hill climb produced a shock when Robert King took the cup to enhance the talent the club had at this time. Two coach trips were arranged - one to see the squad take third fastest team in the National with Colin Summerfield claiming 12th place, the other trip was the now annual pilgrimage to see the Catford and Bec promotions.

Boxing Day of 1969 saw the club promote the first of its annual "Boxing Day 10's" and one of the first riders was Brian Thompson, who completed the course on his high ordinary bicycle to the disbelief of passing motorists.

Another innovation was the club cyclo cross event held at Oughton Head, Colin Summerfield being the first winner.

The highlights of the 1970 season were promising riders Chris Nales and Robert King "breaking the hour" for a 25. We now had a basis for a good team and in fact the 25-mile team record did fall half-way through the season. John Clements was plagued with illness early season but still managed a few wins and places. Yet again the hill climb boys showed their true mettle with Graham Nash blossoming to some outstanding open placings and Colin Summerfield finishing a creditable fifteenth in the National championship.

The hill record on Charlton Hill was broken by Colin who took it under the 50 secs. mark for the first time, recording 49.6sec.

STRENGTH IN DEPTH

Due to difficulties with traffic lights and bad turns, the club decided to drop its long standing club 25 course from Hitchin to Girtford Bridge and a new course was started at Arlesey taking in part of the A1.

The striking thing about the 1971 season was the number of riders entering open events with a dozen entering each of the St. Neots and Beds. Road 25's and the Unity 50, ten riding in the N.D.C.A. 100, plus seven entering the N.D.C.A. 12-hour, with five of them finishing. Additionally, John White and Peter Carr rode the Viking tandem 50, and Mike and Jaquie Davey were regular riders on their tricycles.

Due to this strength in depth the club 100 team record was broken and hill climber Don Carter joined "under the hour" Nomads with 58min. 48sec. In the N.D.C.A. Best All Rounder competition, Robert King - 4th, John Clements - 5th and Roy Conyard - 9th took the premier team award.

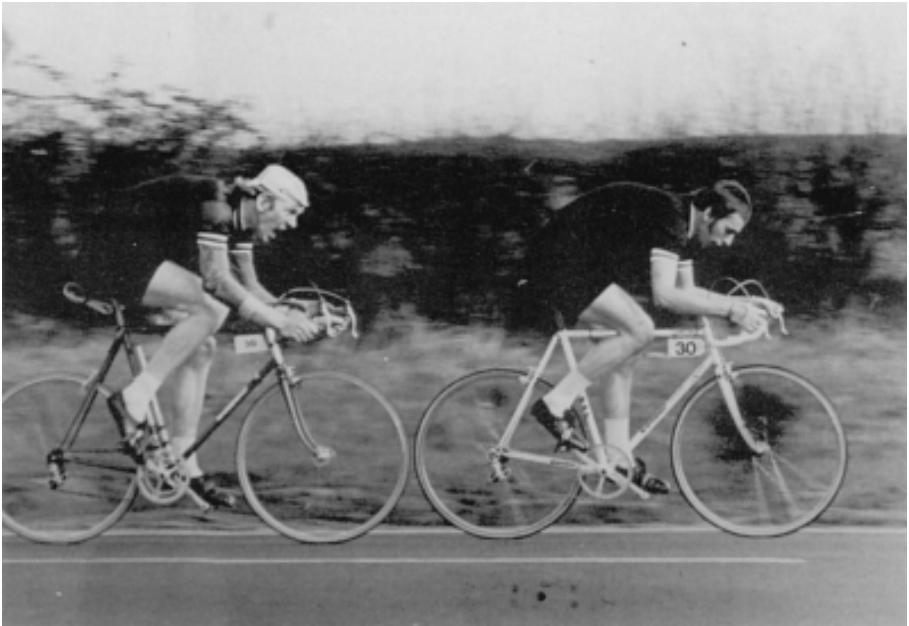
The hill climb team had their normal quota of team wins and individual wins and placings. A new name was Barry Symonds who figured in a few team wins and showed his form earlier in the season by finishing 2nd in the Luton Arrow road race.

TRAGEDY STRIKES

Undoubtedly the 1972 season was saddened by the untimely death of Dave Gudgin who was killed in an accident with a lorry whilst out on a training spin. Dave was turning right into form at the time and only the previous week had beaten the hour in the Peterborough 25 for the first time. Later on in the year the club set up a trust fund dedicated in his name to be used as a pool of money to help members with cycling coaching.

The season had started with Colin Summerfield in great road racing form with three wins. John Clements was still spearheading the club's time-trial efforts with many places in the top three. In fact, in the Edgware RC 25 he managed to beat the great Beryl Burton. Roy Conyard put in a good performance riding 232 miles in the N.D.C.A. 12-hour, picking up 3rd place and 1st handicap into the bargain. Roy was, in fact, the Nomad's big mile-eater regularly clocking an average of 15,000 or so miles per year.

Track racing was taking an upsurge with at least six members regularly riding the Welwyn Wheelers evening meet. Tony Muckle had donated a vase to the club and in the first club championships eight seniors and seven juniors took part. The club, in fact, now had an excellent squad of junior and schoolboy riders.



Dave Smith leading John Clements in a 2-up Time Trial

SUCCESSFUL IN MANY SPHERES

1973 certainly brought a new wave of optimism for the club. We strengthened the squad with new signings Dave Froy from Stevenage CC and ex-Nomad Dave Smith who had been riding for Letchworth Velo. The previous season had seen 45 members from a total membership of 80 active in various events.

Road racing took a big upsurge with Colin Summerfield and Dave Smith getting many places in the first three; Colin in fact finished runner-up in the Southill Kermesse promoted by us. The highlight for the massed-start boys was in the Divisional championships at Corby with Dave Smith 2nd, Colin Summerfield 3rd, and Roger Durgan 15th, taking the team award.

On the time-trialing scene the new team of John Clements, Dave Froy and Dave Smith really went to town with over twenty wins during the year as well as individual wins. Again the great Beryl Burton felt the might of the Nomads when Dave Smith beat her in winning the Beds. Road 25. The top three were also backed up by Roy Conyard, Steve Rhodes, Bill Cusack, Dave Renney and Andrew Moore who also figured in team wins. Bill Cusack's performances were indeed gratifying as he came close to beating the hour the previous year before being involved in an accident with a dog - being laid up for many weeks due to a broken femur bone. Also he had done many personal bests after being out of the sport for many years.

The highlight of the season for the “testers” was in the club’s own Open 25 on August Bank Holiday Monday, when John Clements broke the club individual record clocking 56min. 50sec. in winning the event. The team record also went with Dave Smith and Dave Froy doing under the hour rides. Also the club had a staggering 19 members riding in the Open, just showing how many active people we had when one thinks of the number of people required to run an open event.

Two members rode the National 25 championship, John Clements coming 35th and Dave Smith 61st. Alan Davey and Kevin Null had the distinction of riding the National Junior 25 championship. The junior and schoolboy squads were both strong with Vic Gregory and Paul Davey both picking up open wins and Phil Cushway and Chris Hanna performing well.

Yet another dimension to the club was the ladies team that had brought us success. Joan Davey, Sandra Gilbert, Janet Cartwright, Leigh Cushway and Jaquie Davey had all figured in individual handicap, and team wins or places during the season, whilst in the “social” season both Colin Summerfield and Dave Renney were riding open cyclo cross events.

RECORD BREAKING YEAR

The first record to be broken in 1974 was at the club’s Annual Dinner Dance and Prizegiving organised by Peter Davey. An all time high attendance of 141 members and friends crowded into the Grange Community Centre at Letchworth for a highly entertaining evening.

This theme was to be carried on throughout the year when a total of 27 club records in time-trials were broken or re-broken. Most of the work was done by the junior team of Paul Davey, Phil Cushway and Chris Hanna, whilst close behind Leigh Cushway, Joan Davey and Sandra Gilbert were upholding the ladies’ honours.

In the N.D.C.A. Best All Rounder competitions, Leigh Cushway 2nd and Sandra Gilbert 3rd took the ladies’ team prize, Paul Davey won the Junior section and with the help of Phil Cushway the Nomads took the team section, whilst it was only a harsh disqualification in the 12-hour event that stopped Dave Froy from winning the N.D.C.A. Senior title. The time-trialists had an excellent year with a total of 27 first places and 15 first team awards, John Clements, Kevin Hull, Paul and Alan Davey, Chris Hanna, Phil Cushway, Roy Conyard and Dave Froy all figuring in team wins. Dave Froy proved his versatility by riding a 100-mile time-trial in the morning then winning the sprint event in the club’s track championship in the afternoon. Paul Davey won the South East Midlands area final of the G.H.S. 10-mile event and in the National final was placed 23rd with Chris Hanna in 31st position. Chris Hanna and Phil Cushway both rode in the National Junior 25 championship, and Mike Davey did likewise in the National Trike championships.

Another good road racing season was had with Colin Summerfield best of the Nomads having a couple of wins, plus quite a few places in the first three. Colin also had the distinction of representing the South East Midlands Division in Germany finishing 23rd from 95 starters in the Dortmund Grand Prix. Malcolm Ford made it a good day for Nomad supporters when he won the club's own promotion of the Ireland Petit Prix.

Track results were also good at Welwyn where a number of riders flew the Nomad colours, Paul Davey winning the school-boy section.

Also not to be forgotten was club chairman Brian Thompson's epic ride from the west coast of Britain to the east on his Penny Farthing machine.

NEW CLUB COLOURS

The 1975 season saw a change of club colours for the first time for many years. Out went the green and gold and in came the blue and yellow. In fact, this was a year that was to see many changes. Promising junior Paul Davey had a mysterious knee injury which eventually put paid to a promising racing career. John Clements eventually hung up his racing wheels at the end of the year after an illustrious career serving not only the Nomads but also the Letchworth Velo and Welwyn Wheelers. Perhaps the biggest loss was that of Roy Woodward who left the club at the end of the year after a series of internal conflicts and personality clashes. Many members were very disappointed to see Roy go as he had virtually lived for the club during the past dozen years and had put a tremendous amount of work into it.

The person who filled his place as organiser plus jack-of-all-trades was Paul Stanbridge. Paul had already done sterling work in organising club road races and in fact this year was organising the South East Midlands Divisional championship for the club.

These championships were backed by Brian Thompson's firm and were a great success on a hard circuit based around the Pegsdon Hills, Colin Summerfield doing a good ride to finish 8th. Colin himself left the Nomads at the end of the season having to move out of the area. He again had served the Nomads extremely well, bringing great publicity with his hill climb and road race rides. It was hard to think that Colin first joined us in 1958 as a raw schoolboy.

The club's success on the road dropped somewhat from the "heady highs" of previous years. Perhaps the high spot was in Guernsey at Easter where four members met with success. Colin Summerfield finished 2nd in the hill climb and 3rd in the Senior road race, whilst in the 3rd Junior road race Paul Davey 2nd, Roger Durgan 6th, and Dave Renney 14th, made up the winning team. Paul and Roger also obtained places in criteriums.

In time-trialing, the N.D.C.A. events brought most successes with Paul Davey winning the Junior Best All Rounder, and Roger Durgan finishing 3rd and Dave Renney 4th in the Senior equivalent. Joe Fry was the club's hope for the future, winning the local G.H.S. heat and finishing 36th in the final, whilst he also put in some very good track performances at Welwyn.

The club's Open 25 was divided into four events which attracted 160 riders in all and in the club 10-mile evening events one night attracted a record 51 entries.

THE SLUMP BEGINS

After many years of success I suppose it was inevitable that the club should go through a low period. After all it happens to all organisations and clubs at some period during their time. The Nomads had been on the up since 1965 and now were finding it a little tougher. This was mainly due to key members leaving the previous year and also a general apathy in the club at the time.

Another low spot for the club in 1976 was the loss of Ken Underwood, who was tragically killed in a road accident at the Letchworth Gate roundabout in September. Ken had been a complete all-round cyclist who enjoyed touring not only at home but also abroad. He enjoyed success in road racing, being Divisional champion in the past, and also in time-trialing where his strength was in the longer distance events.

It is at times like these that the club was fortunate to have members of the calibre of Paul Stanbridge and Derek Ireland who both did a lot of organisational work behind the scenes, and also Brian Thompson whose company, North Herts. Scales Service, sponsored various races and also a racing fund. Touring runs had virtually come to a standstill, but the club did find a better clubroom with better overall facilities at the Settlement Centre in Letchworth. Racing was fairly low but Roger Durgan had a good season, putting in some good performances through all the time-trial distances and also at road racing. The Nomads still held its annual Open 25 event which was again divided into four categories and attracted a mammoth 233 entries.

1977 saw a gradual pick up with Vic Gregory gaining a win in the Mildenhall road race, and Nigel Taylor finishing 2nd in the 45 road club 25-mile time-trial with Chris Paxon and Dave Renney backing him up to take the team award. Dave Renney and Derek Ireland both rode the National 12-hour championship coming 36th and 58th respectively, whilst junior Keith Taylor finished 8th in the Divisional road race championship. The evening social club-runs were started again, but it was on our organisational side that the club's strong points shone through. For the first time we organised an invitation 25-mile event which attracted the country's top riders and in fact was won by national champion Eddie Adkins. In conjunction with this, a Longmarkers event was held which saw 108 entries - Dave Renney coming home in 9th place. The Boxing Day 10 had a field of 40 riders, and something with a differ-



Nomads 1980 - Back row - Left to right: N.Taylor, P.Grimsey, G.Dawson, G.Hurst, D.Renney, P.Stanbridge, W.Cousins, C.Ovenden, C.Paxon, D.Dawson, T.May, A.Owens Front row - Left to right: A.Dawson, A.Stanbridge, M.Banner, B.Stanbridge, G.May, J.Tomlin, D.Dawson, N.Dawson

ence was the display of antique and modern bikes organised in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee celebrations at the Priory, Brian Thompson again supplying the antique machines.

Although the club was now down to about 30 members the upward trend continued the following season when Alan Davey rejoined. Alan put in some tremendous performances during the season getting under the hour several times eventually to break the club record by 12 seconds. He also gained places in the top three in open events and won the handicap award in the North Mids. & Herts. 100. It was no surprise that he took most of the awards at the club's dinner.

FORTUNES RISE

It was in 1980 that the club's fortunes began to rise. The year began with a training weekend in the Chiltern Hills. Membership was now on the definite increase going up to about 55, club-runs were being well supported with as many as 20 out one Sunday in November, and other Sunday runs covering about 100 miles.

The undoubted high spot of the year was Andrew Owens winning the ESCA National Road Race championship for 13-year-olds. The Nomads' first National Champion! Andrew showed his bike handling ability as many riders came to grief behind him when he set the pace in the extremely wet conditions. To prove this was no fluke he also took 3rd place in the National 5-mile championship. Another very good ride

was by Terry May in the National 24-hour championship where he covered a total of 349.6 miles, the first Nomad to ride a '24' for many years.

The club had many promising youngsters now and a more 'professional' approach was being taken regarding guiding them. Tracksuits were obtained in the blue and yellow club colours. Paul Stanbridge and Dave Renney took club coaching courses to aid qualified club coach John Clements who had been taking circuit training for the past eight years. Dave Renney had also qualified for membership of the Fellowship of Sports Masseurs and Therapists. So it could be seen that the backbone of a 'back-up' team had begun to guide the Nomads through the eighties. It looks promising.

John Clements rides fastest time trial of career



RACING cyclist John Clements realised a lifelong ambition at Wymondham, breaking the "bogey" two-hour time for a 50-mile time trial for the first time in his career. It also gave him his eighth outright racing victory of the current season.

Clements, who rides for Hitchin Nomads, recorded 1 hr. 59 min. 30 sec. in the Norwich Amateur B.C. race, giving him his first sub-two-hour time in 13 years of racing. Colleagues Alan Jarman and Dave Renney recorded 2-11-59 and

2-22-20 respectively but Derek Ireland had to retire with a puncture.

The Nomads own club ten-mile trial last Thursday evening resulted in a good win for Gary Kemp in 24 min. 30 sec. Dave Smith 24-44 and Robert King 25-40 claimed runners-up places.

Another brilliant day on Sunday saw a good turn out of members for the day's club run which covered over 80 miles on a trip to Epping Forest, further members were met at Burnham Green where tea was taken before the last miles home.

EVENING POST Tuesday, April 2, 1968

Hitchin cycle trial given Olympic status

By JOHN DAVID

A ROAD RACE to be promoted by the Nomads (Hitchin) Cycling Club on July 14 has been picked as an official Olympic training and selection race by the British Cycling Federation.

This means that the eyes of all British cycling enthusiasts will be on the event, which will be one of the final races counting towards the selection of the British team for the Mexico road race.

The Hitchin club has only just been notified of the elevation of the race to Olympic trial standing.

Selectors

"I received a letter from Mr Maurice Cumberworth, the British team manager, asking me to accept the 12 shortlisted

riders as entrants and notifying me that the British selectors will be watching the race," said the race organiser, Ray Woodward.

"It is a great honour for the club and it should be a very exciting race as riders vie for selection."

The race will be held on a circuit based on Ashwell, though the exact course has yet to be finalised.

The Nomads had scheduled a race distance of 66 miles but, at the request of the Olympic cycling committee, this will be increased to between 90 and 100 miles.

NOMADS END ON WINNING NOTE

By JOHN DAVID

COMPLETELY dominant in all south of England hill climbs this season, the Nomads (Hitchin) Cycling Club finished the final race as they began the first — winning.

Sunday's race was the West Suffolk Wheelers climb on Primrose Hill, near Newmarket. The Nomads didn't merely win it, they swamped it.

Individually Colin Summerfield was the best of the 45 entrants. He shot up the course in 1min 47.8 sec.

But a bumper surprise packet was the second placed rider, Nomad's Gary Kemp. His time was 1min 50.6 sec — and he inched home ahead of the Luton Wheelers star Max Pendleton, who was 0.2 second slower in third place.

Don Carter, in fourth position with 1min 52sec, completed the Nomads winning team. In the ten hill climbs the Hitchin club have entered this autumn they have won the team award in nine.

Second Prize

Riders from the club also claimed second team prize, for Tony Bond was fifth in 1min 53.8sec, Graham Nash eighth in 2min 1.2sec and Chris Hales 10th in 2min 3.2sec.

Chris Lowe (Nomads) did 2min 9.4sec and Peter Buckley 2min 9.8sec.

Great day for the Nomads

Sunday was one of the greatest days in the 36 years' history of Nomads (Hitchin) cycling club.

In the famous South of England classic hill climb, the Catford CC event near Westerham in Kent, Max Pendleton, riding for the second successive year as defending champion, completed a coveted hat-trick of wins with a brilliant victory in 2 minutes 1.2 seconds from a field of 59 riders.

Colin Summerfield, also in scintillating form, came second in 2 minutes 2.6 seconds—he and Pendleton both beating the reigning British champion, Pete Greenhalgh. He came third. Don Carter was unfortunate to slip a foot from his toeclip and lost a few precious seconds, but still managed 12th place in 2 minutes 16.2 seconds.

Nomads took the team award by a margin of over 16 seconds.

In the afternoon, the trio and over 30 supporters moved a dozen miles to Surrey for the Bec CC climb on Titsey Lane Hill. This time, Pendleton was second in 2.10.6, Summerfield fourth in 2.11.4 and Carter sixth in 2.14.6. Greenhalgh won the event, but Nomads scored another clear-cut team victory.

OFFICIALS

President

1931 - 1934 E.C. Tomkins
1935 - 1936 Sir A. Wilson
1937 - 1940 N. Reid
1947 Mr Keely
1949 - 1980 H. Briercliffe

Chairman

1931 - 1935 E.C. Tomkins
1936 - 1940 R. Warner
1947 H. Hulse
1949 J. Pidesly
1950 F. Hardstaff
1951 R. Thompson
1952 - 1955 G. Kitchener
1956 G. Smith
1957 Miss J. Lancaster
1958 - 1962 J. Weedon
1963 - 1965 M. Pettifar
1966 - 1969 P. Menzies
1970 - 1978 B. Thompson
1979 - 1980 H. Briercliffe

Secretary

1931 A. Porter
1932 - 1934 R. Townsend
1935 D. Saunders
1936 R. Townsend
1937 - 1939 K. Cluff
1940 - 1953 W. Livings
1954 J. Stannard
1955 B. Lade 1
1956 - 1957 J. Stannard
1958 - 1962 Miss H. Bygrave
1963 R. Pensam
1964 M. Pendleton
1965 - 1967 J. Wheeler
1968 Mrs A. Menzies

1969 - 1970 J. Clark
1971 - 1972 Mrs. J. Dayey
1973 - 1976 D. Renney
1977 - 1980 C. Paxon

Treasurer

1931 G. Watts
1932 - 1934 D. Saunders
1935 - 1936 K. Cluff
1937 H. Canter
1938 - 1940 G. Watts
1946 G. Watts
1947 - 1949 H. Canter
1950 - 1952 Miss B. Barker
1953 Miss P. Mardle
1954 - 1955 A. Thompson
1956 - 1966 W. Livings
1967 - 1968 M. Pendleton
1969 A. Dawson
1970 - 1976 P. Stanbridge
1977 - 1978 A. Negus
1979 - 1980 P. Grimsey

Captains

1931 D. Saunders
1932 - 1935 A. Porter
1936 - 1937 W. Livings
1938 J. Davis
1939 - 1940 V. Collins
1946 - 1948 C. Wilson
1949 A. Thompson
1950 - 1952 S. Manning
1953 J. Lancaster
1954 - 1956 S. Manning
1957 - 1958 R. Horsnell
1959 - 1960 R. Bickell
1961 Mrs I. Stacey
1962 J. Owens

1963	M. Pendleton
1964 - 1966	B. Woodward
1967	R. Woodward

TROPHY WINNERS

Senior Best All Rounder Shield

1933	W. Livings
1934	M. Sunderland
1935	W. Livings
1936	W. Livings
1937	K. Cluff
1939	W. Livings
1948	W. Livings
1949	G. Kitchener
1951	A. Jarman
1952	K. Underwood
1953	J. Stannard
1954	J. Stannard
1955	A. Jarman
1956	A. Huckle
1959	A. Jarman
1960	M. Pettifar
1961	A. Jarman
1964	F. Hook
1967	K. Underwood
1968	K. Underwood
1969	D. Renney
1970	K. Underwood
1971	R. King
1972	R. Conyard
1973	R. Conyard
1974	D. Ireland
1975	R. Durgan
1976	R. Durgan
1977	D. Renney
1978	A. Davey
1979	C. Paxon
1980	T. May

Runner-up Best All Rounder Trophy

1971	R. Conyard
1972	J. Clements
1973	S. Rhodes
1975	D. Renney
1976	D. Ireland
1977	D. Ireland
1979	D. Ireland
1979	T. May

Junior Best All Rounder Trophy

1967	C. Hales
1968	C. Hales
1969	R. King
1970	R. King
1971	P. Carr
1972	A. Davey
1973	A. Davey
1974	P. Davey
1975	P. Davey
1976	K. Taylor
1977	P. Stanford
1978	M. Thompson
1979	G. Hurst
1980	G. Hurst

Runner-up Junior Best All Rounder Trophy

1972	K. Hull
1973	K. Hull

1974 P. Cushway
 1976 P. Davey
 1977 P. Hobbs
 1978 G. Hurst
 1980 A. Owens

1974 D. Froy
 1975 J. Clements
 1976 R. Durgan
 1977 V. Gregory
 1978 A. Davey
 1979 N. Taylor
 1980 N. Taylor

Fastest '25' Sudbury Cup

1934 M. Sunderland
 1935 W. Livings
 1936 S. Daniels
 1937 W. Livings
 1938 W. Livings
 1939 W. Livings
 1947 W. Livings
 1948 W. Livings
 1949 W. Livings
 1950 M. Reynolds
 1951 A. Jarman
 1952 R. Carrington
 1953 J. Jeapes
 1954 B. Lade
 1955 T. Nimmo
 1956 T. Nimmo
 1957 T. Dockerty
 1958 T. Nimmo
 1959 T. Nimmo
 1960 T. Dockerty
 1961 A. Jarman
 1962 A. Jarman
 1963 C. Prutton
 1964 M. Pendleton
 1965 M. Pendleton
 1966 M. Pendleton
 1967 J. McMillan
 1968 C. Summerfield
 1969 J. Clements
 1970 J. Clements
 1971 J. Clements
 1972 J. Clements
 1973 J. Clements

Geoff Humm '50' Cup

1954 L. Haynes
 J. Jeapes
 1955 R. Carrington
 1956 T. Nimmo
 1957 D. Clegg
 1958 T. Nimmo
 1959 A. Jarman
 1960 M. Pettifar
 1961 K. Underwood
 1962 K. Underwood
 1963 K. Underwood
 1964 K. Underwood
 1965 K. Underwood
 1966 K. Underwood
 1967 D. Carter
 1968 K. Underwood
 1969 J. Clements
 1970 J. Clements
 1971 J. Clements
 1972 J. Clements
 1973 D. Froy
 1974 D. Froy
 1975 P. Davey
 1976 R. Durgan
 1977 V. Gregory
 1978 A. Davey
 1979 N. Taylor
 1980 T. May

Pete Menzies '100' Cup

1969	J. Clements
1970	K. Underwood
1971	J. Clements
1972	D. Gudgin
1973	R. Conyard
1974	D. Froy
1975	R. Conyard
1976	R. Durgan
1977	D. Renney
1978	A. Davey
1979	C. Paxon
1980	N. Taylor

End to End Trophy

1970	D. Ireland
1971	R. King
1973	S. R hodes
1975	R. Durgan
1978	A. Davey
1979	C. Paxon

Ken Underwood Veterans Best All Rounder Cup

1977	D. Ireland
1978	D. Ireland

Tony Huckle Track Championship Vase

1972	R. King
1973	D. Smith
1974	C. Summerfield
1975	C. Summerfield
1976	R. Durgan
1977	V. Gregory
1978	A. Negus

Hall Trophy Cup Trophy

1937	W. Pearce
1938	J.M. Pidsley
1939	J. Bonfield
1940	R. Burton
1947	B.J. Read
1948	D. Kitchener
1949	P. Richards
	M. Scripps
1950	A. Huckle
1951	L. Haynes
1952	F. Reynolds
1953	D. Cannon
1954	D. Bennett
1955	D. Pinnock
1956	D. Clegg
1957	R. Bickle
1958	L. Scott
1959	R. Pett
1960	A. Jarman
1961	M. Pendleton
1962	C. Prutton
1963	M. Pendleton
1964	P. Martin
1965	A. Jarman
1966	K. Hutchings
1967	J. Scragg
1968	D. Munro
1969	K. Plumley
1970	P. Carr
1971	A. Moore
1972	V. Gregory
1973	A. Hubbard
1974	A. Hubbard
1975	R. Durgan
1976	R. Durgan
1977	C. Paxon
1978	G. Hurst
1979	P. Grimsey
1980	G. Hurst.

Allan Porter '30' Handicap Trophy

1949	G. Kitchener
1950	J. Jeapes
1951	A. Huckle
1952	R. Lancaster
1953	T. Nimmo
1954	B. Lade
1955	T. Nimmo
1956	M. Pettifar
1957	T. Nimmo
1958	G. Dawson
1959	B. Masters
1960	I. Farquharson
1961	J. Piggott
1962	A. Huckle
1966	M. Pendleton
1967	D. Carter
1968	G. Parish
1969	S. R hodes
1970	R. Conyard
1971	R. Conyard
1972	R. Conyard
1973	D. Renney
1974	K. Underwood
1975	P.L. Davey
1976	K. Taylor
1977	D. Renney
	D. Ireland
1978	A. Davey
1979	G. Dawson
1980	G. Hurst

Hill Climb Trophy

1950	G. Kitchener
1951	M. Reynolds
1952	R. Carrington
1953	M. Halton
1954	R. Carrington
1955	D. Bennett
1956	T. Nimmo
1957	A. Jarman

1958	T. Nimmo
1960	M. Pendleton
1961	M. Pendleton
1962	M. Pendleton
1963	M. Pendleton
1964	M. Pendleton
1965	M. Pendleton
1966	C. Summerfield
1967	C. Summerfield
1968	M. Pendleton
1969	R. King
1970	C. Summerfield
1971	C. Summerfield
1972	C. Summerfield
1973	C. Summerfield
1975	C. Summerfield
1976	P. Davey
1977	D. Renney
1978	A. Negus
1979	D. Thomas
1980	W. Cousins

Cyclo Cross Trophy

1970	C. Summerfield
1971	C. Summerfield
1972	D. Renney
1973	C. Summerfield
1974	C. Summerfield
1975	P. Davey
1976	D. Renney
1977	D. Renney
1978	D. Renney
1979	D. Renney
1980	D. Renney

Dave Gudgin Memorial Trophy

1973	R. Moore
1974	P. Davey
1975	C. Paxon
1976	T. Derbyshire

1977 D. Ireland
1978 A. Davey
1979 D. Renney
1980 C. Ovenden

Senior Road Race Trophy

1968 C. Summerfield
1969 C. Hales
1970 C. Summerfield
1971 B. Symonds
1972 C. Summerfield
1973 C. Summerfield
1974 C. Summerfield
1975 C. Summerfield
1976 R. Thompson
1977 V. Gregory
1980 C. Ovenden

Junior Road Race Trophy

1959 I. Farquharson
1960 R. Newton
1961 M. Pendleton
1962 M. Pendleton
1963 C. Summerfield
1968 C. Hales
1970 R. King
1972 V. Gregory
1973 K. Hull
A. Davey
1975 P. Davey
1980 G. Hurst

Clubmans Trophy

1939 C.J. Wilson
1947 E.D. Wright
1948 A. Thompson
1949 B. Hayes
1950 S. Manning
1951 R. Horsnell

1952 S. Manning
1953 D. Cannon
1954 S. Manning
1955 S. Manning
1956 S. Manning
1957 R. Horsnell
1958 R. Bickle
1959 M. Marsters
1960 Mrs I. Stacey
1961 M. Pendleton
1962 J.W. Owen
1963 M. Pendleton
1964 M. Pendleton
1965 B. Woodward
1966 R. Woodward
1967 Miss C. Parish
1968 R. Woodward
1969 R. Woodward
1970 R. Conyard
1971 R. Woodward
1972 R. Woodward
1973 R. Woodward
1974 R. Woodward
1975 R. Conyard
1976 R. Conyard
1977 P. Stanford
1978 P. Stanbridge
1979 A. Dawson
1980 P. Stanbridge

Junior Clubmans Trophy

1972 P. Davey
1973 P. Davey
1974 P. Davey
1975 P. Davey
1976 T. Derbyshire
1977 P. Hobbs
1978 G. May
1979 G. May
1980 A. Owens

Alan Thompson Memorial Cup

1956	R. Horsnell	1959	J. Perkins
1957	R. Horsnell	1960	M. Pettifar
1958	M. Pettifar	1961	R. Newton
1959	D. Pettifar	1962.	K. Underwood
1960	M. Pettifar	1963	M. Pendleton
1961	R. Newton	1964	M. Pendleton
	M. Pettifar	1965	M. Pendleton
1962	R. Newton	1966	R. Woodward
1964	M. Pendleton	1967	M. Pendleton
1965	H. & M. Pettifar		C. Summerfield
1966	R. Woodward	1968	D. Carter
1967	T. Fallowfield	1969	R. Woodward
	R. Woodward	1970	J. Clements
1968	R. Woodward	1971	D. Ireland
1969	R. Woodward	1972	R. Conyard
1970	R. Woodward	1973	J. Clements
1971	J. White		Miss S. Gilbert
1972	R. Woodward		Miss J. Cartwright
1973	P. L. Davey	1974	Mrs J. Davey
1974	R. Conyard	1975	P. Stanbridge
1975	P. L. Davey	1976	P. Stanbridge
1976	P. L. Davey		D. Renney

Most Meritorious Trophy

		1977	A. Porter
		1978	G. May
		1979	A. Davey
		1980	P. Stanbridge
			T. May
1937	Miss P. Hardingham		
1988	Miss M. Cluff		
1947	M. Ling		
1948	M. Ling		
1949	M. Ling		
1950	M. Scripps		
	J. Jeapes		
1951	A. Jarman		
1952	K. Underwood		
1953	J. Stannard		
1954	A. Huckle		
1955	R.A. Carrington		
1956	T. Dockerty		
1957	M. Pettifar		
1958	Miss H. Bygrave		

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Allan Porter
Irene Stacey
Roy Woodward

The one person more than anyone who will be overjoyed at the Nomads (Hitchin) Cycling Club reaching its Golden Jubilee is Allan Porter.

Allan has the distinction of being the Club's only surviving founder member. Fifty years a Nomad, this is a record that many a cyclist would be hard to match. A loyalty to one Club that has made the Nomads (Hitchin) Cycling Club the Club it is today. Allan has seen many ups and downs within the Nomads over the past fifty years, and through the troubled times his enthusiasm has set an example for all to follow.

From his early days of Secretary and Club Captain in 1931 to the present day of generosity and help to all, Allan has served this Club to the full.

Many thanks, Allan, for the many hours of enjoyment you have created for us all.



The First 50 Years

Additional copies of this book can be obtained from:

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Hitchin,

Herts SG4 9SJ

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