

The Pickwick Magazine

*The World's Oldest Cycling Club
and Oldest Dickensian Society Extant*

Founded in 1870



Founder's Day Ride at The Dickens Museum

153 years old and still going strong

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 20 No.2 October 2023



Editorial chit chat....

The weather outside usually indicates the onset of autumn by the time I'm putting the October magazine together and before all the major events have finished, but this year, extremely high temperatures and wonderful sunshine was more conducive to sitting in the garden..... but I know my role!

An incredible Giro, followed by the Tour de France, then the World Championships in Glasgow, the amazing Vuelta, accompanied by the dulcet tones of our own Mr Ayersleigh on TV, and of course the Tour of Britain. What a wealth of cycling talent we have amongst the participating British riders. Chapeau to them all.

But then....we have our own talent of riders as you will see in the following pages; our Hon Sec has been very active on his Penny, Ordinary or HighWheeler, or whatever the chosen name is on the day. Paris to London; the Founders Day ride organised by The Marquis of Filletoville; the HighWheelers Racing at Hillingdon, and of course the annual Hampton Court Ride organised by Hunt. (The latter two events will be reported in the March edition.)

Then we come to a more unpleasant side of cycling.....we've all been bad mouthed for just being on the road, and the tendency to include all cyclists under one banner for poor behaviour, but now we have "Alleycat races" - these are illegal bike races in which - allegedly - 'gangs' of bike riders(I won't call them cyclists) break road rules whilst competing for cash and putting pedestrians at risk. They ride what they call 'Fixies'-fixed wheel bikes with no front brake, & on the pavement, and have a mission statement - *"I'm a biker, a cyclist. A mass of arrogance hurtling towards you, and I can do whatever I want, whenever I want. The rules of the road are meaningless. I stop for nothing or nobody, because with one singular gear it's impossible to stop. I can't stop, I won't stop - Move!"* Clearly not that smart if they can't stop a fixed wheel bike without using the brake, but still dangerous!

Hopefully we don't encounter these characters too often, but they sadly affect our image as sensible cyclists.....so take it easy on your bike, & let's look forward to a peaceful festive season and an enjoyable 2024 when it comes.....*Editor*

Secretarial Comments.....

[email: stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk](mailto:stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk)



Since I last wrote, there has been plenty happening!

Your committee met on 22nd March 2023 at The George Inn, Southwark and discussed many issues regarding the future running of your Club.

Your President's Luncheon on 11th May was attended by just 128 members and 249 guests, so a total of 377 which is not enough to break even. Both of our lunches need more support from members to continue to make them viable, so I implore you to be there in future!

We currently have 192 members and 23 retired members, totalling 215, and now only 12 on the waiting list from January 2019. I anticipate that the re-opening of the waiting list will be agreed at the AGM on 7th December 2023, so I suggest that you get confirmation from your cycling friends who may be interested.

Thank you to those who responded quickly to my request for members details for our new Membership Book. It has had limited and late responses since the original request on 17th July, and a reminder on 24th August, and I am still awaiting 51 member's responses! I would appreciate more timely response from members in future!

Applications for tickets to our Garden Party on Thursday 7th December will be with you mid-October. Please think now about which guests you will invite so that you can apply early for tickets, rather than last minute. I will be abroad 20th November - 1st December so would like to finalise numbers before I go please.

All communication with members is now via email, so if this is a problem for you personally you need to give me an email address of a friend/relative. Similarly we need to move to payments by bank transfer rather than by cheque please.

Life is like riding a bicycle - to keep your balance you must keep moving!

Tally HO!

Mr Watty



Presidential Ramblings...

I felt the May luncheon went off very well & the Connaught Rooms performed faultlessly. Our Captain kept law and order and the Secretary did some wonderful intro's for the new members. The Hon Mr. Crushton (Nick Gritton) did an admirable job welcoming our guests, in spite of doing nearly 10,000 steps walking all around the tables and my speaker - the comedian Simon Evans - managed to tastefully tickle the right spots and was much enjoyed by all.

I was really impressed and grateful for the near £3,000 we raised for my chosen charity, Demelza Children's Hospice, a charity based locally to me in Kent, that does wonderful things for poorly kids and their families.

We also held an online auction for some Pickwickian related memorabilia that had been left to the club by the widow of Welps (David Taylor), that raised a further £290 which was added to the Demelza's total.

I attended the Golf Day with my 6 iron and putter and needless to say did not trouble the Leader Board. Another brilliant day organised and run by Smithers. The cups came out and were admired by all and sundry, which isn't surprising since they're more impressive than Man City's recent haul!

I will be attending the Grand Old Ordinary/ Penny Farthing races at Hillingdon in September and joining the October Hampton Court ride. Please try and attend as many of these events as possible each year since, after all, we are a bicycle club!!!

I look forward to seeing you all at the December Garden Party.

With Pickwickian Greetings from Samuel Pickwick Esq

Captain's Words

Dear Fellow Pickwickians,
I hope you have had a lovely summer, the weather has been interesting to say the least!?

Firstly, as your Club Captain, I would like to say how proud I was to welcome my brother Adrian, Charlie the Pot Boy, as our President to the May Luncheon. What a great lunch it was; it was a pleasure for me in particular and a surprise for Adrian, to be joined by some of our former customers of Southern Trading Company, particularly Len from Finsbury Cycles.

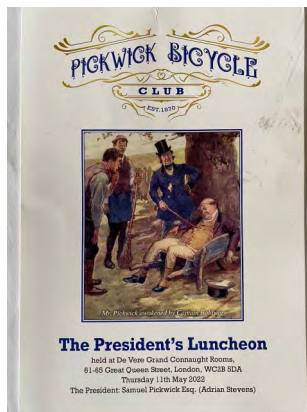
Thanks to all our members and guests who attended. We are already looking forward to the Garden Party in December 2023, which I know will be another great event. May I take the opportunity to gently remind members that we have the Club AGM at 11am sharp before the lunch. For those not attending the AGM, please make sure you and your guests are seated promptly by 1pm. As always but necessary to repeat - 'please ensure that you and your guests are properly attired', wearing a Jacket & Tie, but **NO** jeans!

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your Club Captain for the last seven years, and it is with a heavy heart that I have made the decision to stand down in December 2024, when a new Captain will be elected at the AGM. This is a prelude to a new rule, to be sanctioned at the AGM 2023, which will limit the term of role of Club Captain to 4/5 year term. As a club of 200+ members it is felt, which I fully support, that all members should have a chance to be the Club Captain or other key roles within the Club and steer its future for a period of time. So, if you are interested to follow in my footsteps, or taking on the role of Vice-Captain, please feel free to speak to me, or other committee members, and dependent on interest we will outline the process for election nearer the time.

As ever, I thank you all for the support shown in running this wonderful Club; I am proud to be a member of it along with you all.

With Pickwickian regards... Dr. Payne - Club Captain





The President's Spring Luncheon May 2023

The usual hubbub amongst those gathering at the Connaught Rooms, seemed somewhat muted on this occasion. Was it the different layout of tables - round, rather than long, or was it simply less members & guests attending? (your Hon Sec makes reference to this issue of attendees in his report)

The Household Cavalry trumpeters once again did a sterling job in compelling those in the 'Pillars to adjourn across Gt Queen St, in time to avoid the wrath of The Captain who was then, with his usual consummate ease able to call the assembled mass to order, to receive the President and principle guest to the top table. The usual Pickwickian refrain followed, before there was silence for Grace.

As ever, hardly were we seated than the lone sound of the Post Horn heralded the arrival of the Original Member - The Marquis of Filletoville (Phil Saunders) - pushing the Club's least used Penny, which resides in the bowels of the Connaught Rooms between luncheons, to take wine with the President.

The Connaught Rooms continued their current trend of providing good food, to the satisfaction of most of those present. The President called on the committee to take wine with him, and extended it to invite all of those who'd ridden a bike this year to do so, which seemed to include most of those in the room. We then all remained standing for the loyal toast to the King.



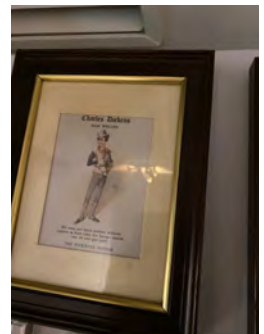
The Honourable Mr Crushton (Nick Gritton) then took to the floor - literally as, with his roving mic' he 'danced' around the room to give mention to our guests for the day, with such style that Mark Ramprakash would have been impressed!. Judging by his reception, I think Nick has the job for the foreseeable future. Members duly stood and raised their glasses to their guests. (See pp10 for the full list).

So it was time for Mr Watty (Hon Sec) to announce the five new members being elected into the Club. Each of them were required only to stand when their name was called out, unlike on occasions back in the 70's when one was required to stand on one's chair, and be seen by everyone present. Fergus Tribe was the first to rise, and henceforth will be known as The Guard on the Muggleton coach; Matt Eccles followed, and received the soubriquet of Solomon Pell; with absolutely nothing to do with his personal stature, Adrian Adgar will now be known as The Short Fat Chairman; and finally, Paul Martin's Club name will be that of The Bagman's Uncle.(see pic). The new members as always, are most welcome into our Club and it is hoped that they will participate in as many events on the calendar as possible, not just the two luncheons, and help to maintain our Club traditions.



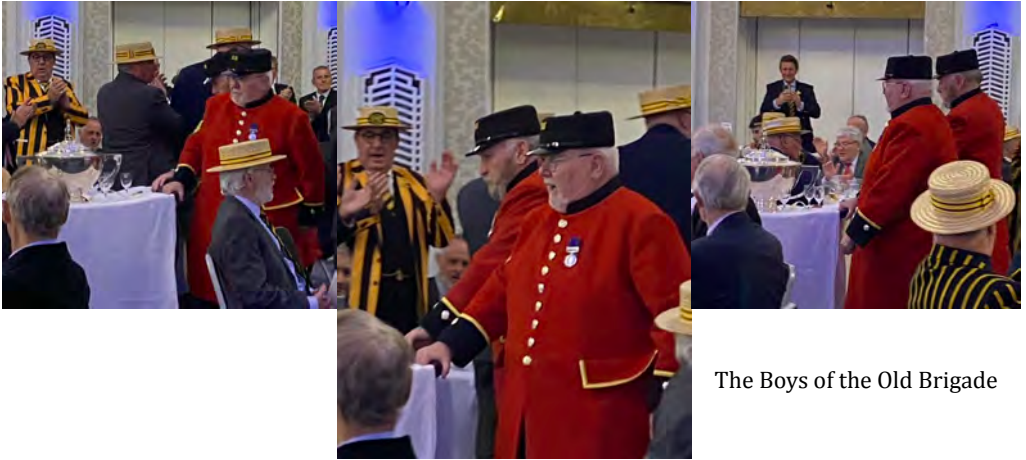
The Bagman meets his Uncle

As is the tradition these days, whether attired in Club uniform or not, The Captain will always observe some improperly dressed members and guests, and imposes the charity fines, to be collected by a nominated person at each table and delivered to the grateful Vice-Captain for counting. As always, inclusive of rogue coinage, a substantial amount was collected, as mentioned in the President's report, and will be sent to his chosen charity, namely The Demelza Children's Hospice in Kent. In addition, following an online auction of Dicken's memorabilia donated by the widow of Welps (David Taylor), a further £290 was added to the charity funds.



Some of the online auction items

Continuing with our traditions, Vice Captain Dumkins began the walk to the top table with two Chelsea Pensioners, accompanied by a loud rendition of the Old Brigade chorus rattling the glasses on the tables. The Joseph Atto punch bowl ceremony was brought to halt in front of the President, who handed over the mic', having asked them to announce their name(s), regiment, rank and age, for which they received a proper ovation in recognition of their part in our armed forces.



The Boys of the Old Brigade

When the ovation subsided, The Captain called for silence as the President requested Mr Staple (Chris Tyler) to approach the top table. A member since 1973, he was being awarded the long service badge in recognition of his 50 years as an active member of our Club. (Congratulations Mr Staple....Winkle Snr)



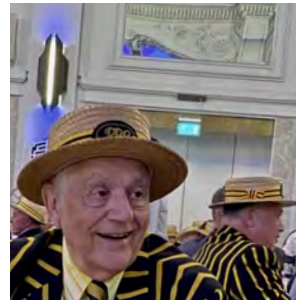
Simon Evans

Proceedings then turned to the introduction of our guest speaker. This was a new face to Pickwick luncheons, but Simon Evans soon took control, and as our President said, touched just the right spot with his eclectic mix of stories and real life incidents. He is a 'jack of all trades', since apart from being a stand-up comedian, he is a script writer of repute - 'Not Going Out' and 'Lily Savage' are just two programmes he's been involved in. Simon has been a regular on Radio 4 in the News Quiz, and a frequent performer on TV.

In addition to joining us at the Connaught Rooms, he has performed around the world with his one-man show, in the Edinburgh Fringe, Comedy Festivals in New Zealand, Cape Town, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, Colorado.....the list goes on. So we were quite privileged to have him as our guest, and having kept us entertained, he called on the guests to raise their glasses to the "Immortal Memory of the Pickwick Bicycle Club".



Time was just left for the President to thank Simon Evans, everyone for their sizeable contribution to his chosen charity; hoping to see many members at the various events during the year, and to wish them a safe journey home. Once again it was then time to bring the event to a close with the evergreen Auld Lang Syne.



Picture Gallery

Notable Guests mentioned by The Hon Mr Crushton.....

Table 27, as a guest of Brown of Muggleton, we welcomed Geoff Thomas. Geoff played professional football for many teams including Rochdale, Crewe, Nottingham Forest, but is best remembered for his time at Crystal Palace as their captain and playing in the Cup Final against Manchester United. Geoff also played 9 times for England. However, soon after retiring he was diagnosed with Leukaemia in 2003 and was given the all-clear in 2005. In 2007 he rode the route of the Tour de France one day ahead of the Tour. He has since ridden the route of the Tour de France a further 5 times and there's a rumour that he'll have one last go when he's 60 in 2024..... Geoff has raised millions for Cure Leukaemia by riding the Tour route and it is our honour and privilege to have him with us here today.

Table 11, as a guest of The Hot Pieman, we welcomed Barry Chick, frame builder extraordinaire! He built frames for Alf Engers for his 4 competitive records, culminating in the first ever sub - 50 minute for a 25 mile time trial, averaging over 30 mph.

Table 9 as a guest of Bullman, we welcomed Paul Volley an English rugby player who in 1987, joined London Wasps from Chinnor as an open-side flanker and for whom he played 177 times; winning the Premiership final three times. He toured South Africa and Australasia with England, also playing for Castres, Harlequins, and London Scottish.

Table 10 as a guest of the Scientific Gentleman, we welcomed Leo Mason, a winner of sports photographer of the year, who has had over 50 front cover photos of sports or dance on Time Magazine.

Gentlemen, please rise and raise your glasses to our Guests, Thank you!

Dr. Slammer requires your attention!

At the request of our President, Dr Slammer took on the responsibility of locating and documenting as much of the Club's artefacts & memorabilia that he could locate. No easy task, as many of these items are scattered across a number of locations. This started with a visit to the Dickens Museum with Winkle Snr, to view and assess those items they hold for safe keeping on behalf the Club. The main items were 4(four) Club Minute Books dating from 1875 to 1899, plus a book of character sketches from 1890, and a Club Members register covering 1909 to 1926. So, a lot of history existing just there, but how to show these items to the current members? Well, that's still to be decided. Dr Slammer continued with his task, and now has quite a list of Club property, highlighting that these assets have quite a high value, both monetary and of significant historical importance to the Club.



Character Sketches 1890

Along the way, contact was made via the Dickens Museum about an alleged gold medal that was 'on the market' from a collector of such items. Contact was made directly with the vendor, and it was established that this was a medal issued for the Club's 50th anniversary in 1920 and belonged to the, then President, Blotton - aka E. Hollands. Negotiations followed, whereupon it was established to be a fob or medallion, and a mixture of gold & brass, but in due course, Dr Slammer passed over Club funds, and added the item to our portfolio.



50th Anniversary Medal / Fob

The job is however far from complete, and Dr Slammer needs your help.

If any member has Club memorabilia, that has been collected, loaned etc over the years, then please contact him asap. Also, if you have Pickwick BC items that you would like to donate to the Club, then again, please let him know.

Contact: peter@tc-auctions.com



Smithers Annual Golf Day Report

On the 15th June 2023 the Pickwick Annual Golf Day took place once again, at Harpenden Common Golf Club, where we were given our usual warm welcome.

I am delighted to report a much better turn out from the golfing side, with twenty-eight golfers taking part. My sincere thanks to all those members and their guests who attended for what, I hope they would agree, was a most enjoyable day. I regret to report, however, that there was no uptake for the cycling and so the Blink Bowl for cycling could not be awarded. I hope this situation will be remedied next year, as we are after all, primarily a cycling club.

After a light breakfast of a bacon roll and tea/coffee, the intrepid Pickwickians and their guests sallied forth to do battle with the course, which was in magnificent condition, with varying degrees of skill and success. I am pleased to tell you no one got lost, was injured, was involved in any manner of altercation or was abducted. A rejuvenating post-round shower followed by liquid refreshment, prepared us for a most welcome repast, following a fitting grace, composed and delivered by our President, Mr Pickwick. A starter of seafood cocktail was followed by a delicious home-made tomato and basil soup. We were then served nicely pink roast beef with copious vegetables and Yorkshire pudding. The whole meal was rounded off by crème brulee followed by coffee. I must thank the catering team at Harpenden Common GC for, what was, a sumptuous meal.

During the course of the meal a collection was made, by way of fines for improper dress, for Mr Pickwick's chosen charity, the Demelza Children's Hospice, I am pleased to tell you the generosity of our members and their guests generated a total of £195. Mr Pickwick thanked every one for their kindness.

After luncheon, the time had come for the much awaited presentation of prizes, which can be seen on the next page:



Winkle Cup (nearest the pin member)

-Martin the Long Gamekeeper (rtd)

Boz Cup (nearest the pin guest)

- Mark Doorbar (guest of George the Father)



Namby Cup (best Stableford member)

-Smithers (39 pts)

Crandyke Cup (best stableford guest)

-Steven Jones (guest of George the Father)
(41pts)



Jinkins Balls - couldn't be found but were awarded anyway for gross administrative incompetence to George the Father.

I must congratulate both members and guests for some extremely good scores and for being excellent company on a most enjoyable day.

The Pickwick Bicycle Club Golf Society shall reconvene on Thursday June 13th 2024 at Harpenden Common Golf Club.

Smithers (David Lincoln) - Golf Secretary

Founder's Day Report by Matthew Trott of The Highwheel Group

With the threat of a yellow weather warning from 12pm onward and thunderstorms predicted, we gathered at the site of the Downs Hotel in Hackney on a very sunny Sunday morning, for the Pickwick Bicycle Club's annual Founder's Day ride. Apologies were received from those who had decided not to attend due to the weather risk or were indisposed due to Father's Day. Five (5) Highwheel riders were in attendance along with Eight (8) Pickwick BC members, and Phil Saunders and myself took the role of ride leaders/marshals which meant that smaller wheels were order of the day.

After a quick photo call and the arrival of some latecomer's who had been delayed by rail issues, the group set off towards the Lee Valley and the Olympic Park at Stratford. The sun was shining and the temperature was rising. The tree lined route of the Lee Valley cycle path gave some shade, but by the time we came upon the Olympic Cycle Centre & Velodrome some riders had decided that Mr Whippy ice creams were in order. As we set off again, a kind passer-by ran alongside Melissa as she mounted her highwheel and then passed her the ice cream. She rode for the next mile one-handed whilst she consumed her cooling treat.

Onward we rode, past the Olympic Stadium to the Viewtube Cafe on the Jubilee Greenway for our first official refreshment stop. There was a lot of interest in the bicycles and several parents asked if their children could have photographs with the highwheelers. Curious onlookers asked questions and we were able to pass on some of the history of early bicycles to members of the general public. Brian decided it was time for a small beer, a bit early for myself, but at the time of the formation of the club, beer would have been the safest drink to partake on a club ride, as cholera in the water was rife in East London in the 1870's.

After refreshment we joined the Greenway, passing under the A12 to enter the east side of Victoria Park. This is Britain's oldest public park, opened in 1845 for the benefit of the East End's working class. To our right we passed the gothic style Burdett-Coutts fountain built in the 1860's to provide for clean drinking water during the regular cholera outbreaks. Angel Burdett-Coutts the Coutts banking heiress was a personal friend of Charles Dickens and the wealthiest woman in England at the time.

It is said that her philanthropic deeds had been inspired by her chats with Dickens about his experiences of poverty as a child.

Leaving the Park we set off towards Hackney Road. Sunday shoppers allowed our peloton to pass the pedestrian crossings unhindered and many mobile phone pictures were taken. This area has been significantly gentrified in the last few years as hipster cafes and bars have spread out along this stretch of road from Shoreditch. There no time to stop at last year's watering hole, The Bike Shed at Hoxton. Approaching Old Street roundabout, we took to the backstreet via the CS1 cycle route. After passing the Chater-Lea Company building in Banner St., we turned, back onto Old Street. On the right, the Look Mum No Hands cycling cafe is sadly now boarded up. At Clerkenwell Road we were unexpectedly made to dismount. We traversed the narrow pavement past number 29, once the headquarters of The Crypto Cycle Company, but now a shared office space. Remounting, it was just a short pedal past Farringdon to our next stop just north of Gray's Inn.

Arriving at The Dickens Museum in Doughty Street, Micheal Grutzner announced that he appeared to have lost his keys and more importantly his cigars! Frantic calls were made, whilst the group enjoyed some fizzy wine and perused a small display of Pickwick Bicycle Club memorabilia held by the museum. We had been greeted by the museum's director Dr Cindy Sughrue OBE, who joined the group for more photographs outside the museum. After the stop we headed towards Gray's Inn Road, passing Condor Cycles and headed towards Holborn Circus. Cutting down towards the river, we joined Farringdon Street and took the protected cycle lane across Blackfriars Bridge

Our lunch stop, Doggett's Coat & Badge, sits at the southern end of Blackfriars Bridge in the shadow of a massive new skyscraper, 1 Blackfriars. The pub itself is a brutalist concrete building fronting onto the Thames path but it's hidden secret is a back garden that has plenty of covered seating and bike parking away from the eyes of London's opportunist bike thieves(allegedly!)

The pub had a good range of beers and food, with reasonable prices for London on Father's Day, although Mr Trott senior expected me to pay for his lunch! We were joined at this point by several more members of the PBC who had decided not to ride, including Peter Benmax, the next PBC President. Setting off back over Blackfriars Bridge along the segregated cycle path towards Farringdon, we rode under Holborn Viaduct and the thought occurred to me that in the 1880's, this area was the centre of the bicycle trade in London, with all of the major manufacturers having showrooms in this area.

It was then eastwards, passing the old Smithfield Market where, more recently it was part of the course of the London Nocturne cycle event where penny farthing racing had been a particular crowd pleaser.

After passing the Barbican and successfully navigating the Old Street roundabout we headed to our final stop. The George & Vulture in Pitfield Street is noted as being the tallest pub in London and was built in 1870, the same year the PBC was formed. Dickensian scholars should note that this is not the same George and Vulture mentioned in The Pickwick Papers and indeed used by the PBC for several meetings in the 1870's. Unfortunately, the genuine venue in Castle Court, a mile and a half away, although still trading, does not open on a Sunday. Its namesake would have to do, and indeed with its bicycle themed walls adorned with a tandem, a penny farthing and several framed bicycle patents, it seemed a perfectly fitting alternative.

Having finished our drinks, Mr Grutzner advised us that his mislaid bag had been found by the cycle hire shop at Viewtube, so back we back we pedalled to this unscheduled stop. The sky had noticeably darkened at this point but luckily a downpour did not transpire and the journey back was made at a faster pace due to the threat of rain, but it was still enjoyable.

As we all said our farewells at Hackney Downs, the rain finally started to fall. The Highwheel Group had ridden admirably and one of the safety bicycle riding participants was impressed enough to take the plunge and we will hopefully be seeing Mike Parsonage taking part on his own modern penny farthing at future events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pickwick Bicycle Club for inviting us on this ride. A thoroughly enjoyable day out with good company. We hope to see you all, next year.

Matthew Trott

Thank you Matthew for this excellent contribution to our magazine, as you celebrated our Founder's Day in style. A list of riders, machines, and pics of the day can be seen on the following pages.....Editor

Highwheel Group Riders

Robert Seaman – Victor Flyer 1886
Mike Parsonage – Raglan Roadster 1900
Sarah White – Royal Enfield Ladies 1906
Paul Thorogood – Scorcher/ Path racer 1930's
Bob Damper – The Evans 1947
Matthew Trott – Brompton SL6 2015 **
Brian Cobbold - Trott & Sons Modern Penny Farthing 2018
Keith Trott – Carrera Electric Assist 2021
Melissa Eisdell – Trott & Sons Modern Penny Farthing 2022
Robert Nichols -Trott & Sons Modern Penny Farthing 2023

Pickwick Bicycle Club Riders

Paul Woodman – Bakers Bicycle 1950
Ken Jackson – Claud Butler International Club 1951
Brian Vanderbilt – Paris Galibier 1951
Micheal Grutzner – Mesicek Highwheel 2002
Phil Saunders – Trek 2006 **
Roger Hitchman – Golden Sunbeam 1910
Stuart Mason-Elliot - Trott & Sons MK3 Penny Farthing 2023

**** Leader/Marshalls for the day.**

Did You Know.....Matthew Trott & his father spend their time making Penny Farthings under the name of 'Trott & Son". They have been supporters of our Founder's Day ride since it commenced several years ago. They have played an important role in supporting our Grand Old Ordinary Races event at Hillingdon, and have also supported the Hampton Court Rides in October. Matt & his father also conceived the World Penny Farthing Hill Climb Championships at Beachy Head in Sussex each year.....**Phil Saunders/Marquis of Filletoville**



Founder's Day Ride
At the Hackney Downs Hotel,
The Olympic Velodrome and
The Dicken's Museum





Who Were Your Early Namesakes? Researching Your Ancestors.

The Pickwick Bicycle Club has been in continuous existence since its formation in 1870, and the soubriquets of its members have been faithfully passed down from generation to generation. If you would like to receive the available history of your soubriquet, please contact Joseph Smiggers at: steve@stephenbullen.com and you will have this information by return.

Samkin (did not exist) – Samkin & Green:

“That's all right,' replied Mr. Perker's clerk; and then seeing Mr. Pickwick's eye wandering curiously towards the table, he added, 'will you join us, for half an hour or so? We are capital company here to-night. There's Samkin and Green's managing- clerk, and Smithers and Price's chancery, and Pimkin and Thomas's out o' doors--sings a capital song, he does--and Jack Bamber, and ever so many more. You're come out of the country, I suppose. Would you like to join us?”

E H Norris	pre 1881	
Dr Thos. F Keenan	1919 to 1932	
T G Lance	1938 to 1942	
H J Ashby	1945 to 1955	
C M Medlicott	1958 to 1975	
Peter J Legg	1977 to present	President (2014)

Luffey – Dingley Dell cricketer:

“All-Muggleton had the first innings; and the interest became intense when Mr. Dumkins and Mr. Podder, two of the most renowned members of that most distinguished club, walked, bat in hand, to their respective wickets. Mr. Luffey, the highest ornament of Dingley Dell, was pitched to bowl against the redoubtable Dumkins, and Mr. Struggles was selected to do the same kind office for the hitherto unconquered Podder.”

J Saunders	pre 1881	
C A Martin	1905 to 1916	Committee 1910
R Gordon Willis	1923 to 1935	
F C Parkes	1938 to 1942	
C O Lock	1944 to 1948	Rejoined
H E Kimber	1955 to 1970	
G E Dixon	1974 to 1979	Died 1979
Jeremy Burgess	1980 to present	

Mr Perker -of Gray's Inn.**Mr Wardle's solicitor, and afterwards Mr Pickwick's solicitor:**

"In a few days, an election is to take place for the borough of Eatanswill, at which Mr. Perker, a gentleman whom I lately met, is the agent of one of the candidates. We will behold, and minutely examine, a scene so interesting to every Englishman.' "

J Foxley-Norris	1875 to 1931	Treasurer (1910,24,7); Gold Medal 1919; Rejoined in March 1907; Life Member. See Cirencester 1926. See Hemel Hempstead 1930. A lawyers' stationer. Formed the NZCA)New Zealand Cyclist' Alliance in Oct. 1882.
W T Turner	1881 to 1935	See Petworth 1928. See Woodbridge-Easter 1922
C O Lock	1937 to 1938	
W A Foster	1939 to 1951	
G H Brenchley	1954 to 1966	
A E Barnfather	1968 to 1974	
Peter M Squire	1978 to 2004	President (1984). Resigned on health grounds
Rob Wheatley	2006 to 2011	Son of Ken Wheatley (Mr Mallard)
Christopher Gibbons	2012 to present	

Mr Dumkins - Muggleton cricketer at Dingley Dell match:

"Several players were stationed, to 'look out,' in different parts of the field, and each fixed himself into the proper attitude by placing one hand on each knee, and stooping very much as if he were 'making a back' for some beginner at leap-frog. All the regular players do this sort of thing;--indeed it is generally supposed that it is quite impossible to look out properly in any other position. The umpires were stationed behind the wickets; the scorers were prepared to notch the runs; a breathless silence ensued. Mr. Luffey retired a few paces behind the wicket of the passive Podder, and applied the ball to his right eye for several seconds. Dumkins confidently awaited its coming with his eyes fixed on the motions of Luffey."

H V Smith	1882 to 1917	See Easter Tour pictures 1886 and 1913
A A Deakin	1937 to 1941	Ass.Hon.Sec. (1938)
J F Williams	1959 to 1968	
C Tony Green	1973 to 2004	
Patrick Green	2006 to present	

**Jack Hopkins - Medical student;
friend of Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer:**

"Don't mention it, don't mention it,' said Bob Sawyer. 'I'm rather confined for room here, but you must put up with all that, when you come to see a young bachelor. Walk in. You've seen this gentleman before, I think?' Mr. Pickwick shook hands with Mr. Benjamin Allen, and his friends followed his example. They had scarcely taken their seats when there was another double knock. 'I hope that's Jack Hopkins!' said Mr. Bob Sawyer. 'Hush. Yes, it is. Come up, Jack; come up.' A heavy footstep was heard upon the stairs, and Jack Hopkins presented himself. He wore a black velvet waistcoat, with thunder-and-lightning buttons; and a blue striped shirt, with a white false collar. 'You're late, Jack?' said Mr. Benjamin Allen. 'Been detained at Bartholomew's,' replied Hopkins."

T Wheeler	pre 1881
C E Bickley	1907 - 1917
Ian Macmillan	1937 to 1957
W S Stone	1959 to 1969
C Perry	1972 to 1974
P F Parks	1975 to 1991
Brian Fredericks	1986 to present

Grand Cycle Jumble - 13th April 2024

The National Cycle Museum's next jumble will be at Cefnyllis School in Llandrindod Wells, 200metres from the Museum.

Inside stalls £10 - Outside stalls £7

Sellers entry @ 0830am

Buyers entry before 0930am - £4, after 0930am - £1

Contact: Steve Griffith for more details
griffith531@hotmail.com



My Life in the World of Bicycles by Tom Martin



We return to the series looking back at the cycling history of chosen Club members, and my latest candidate is Tom Martin/Cedric Chicken. Another fascinating tale, not hindered by the restrictions imposed during the pandemic.

So Cedric, how old were you when you got your first bike & what was it?

My first bicycle was made in Birmingham, by Runwell Cycle Co. It was a registered 3-speed Sports Tourist model, costing 6 guineas -slightly more than £6 in those times, and it was given to me by my parents when I was eleven years old.

What brought you into serious cycling, was it the family business?

My father, Bob inherited the family business importing bike components in the late 1940s from his father. The office and warehouse were located in the Goswell Road postal district of London EC1. One of the chief suppliers was a Monsieur Vahe of chain makers Sedis, (later known as Sram). I worked there sometimes in my school holidays, during which I also spent 10days in Normandy with friends of his, to improve my schoolboy French. Much later on he persuaded me to leave my job as Manager of Cycles Peugeot UK in Bedford, and join him and my brother Robert in the family business.

You wrote about the family cycle business in the 2019 magazine, can you remind us of your role, and what part you played?

Bob was a leading member of the Centenary Bicycle Club which comprised of manufacturers and distributors of bikes and parts. I was fortunate to meet some of these luminaries in Cambridge on one of their weekend cycle runs in 1965, two years after leaving school. Many of these gentlemen were leading lights of the cycle industry, and amongst their members was the Honourable Artillery Company Pikeman, Leo Rotger, a parts wholesaler. It was he, who had just fallen in the River Cam after lunch(!) when Bob proposed me for membership of this august and fun Club.

When did you join the Pickwick BC, and who proposed you?

I became a member of the Pickwick Bicycle Club in 1977, standing on a chair in the Connaught's Great Hall, as was the custom in those days for new recruits; visible to the 600 members and guests. Bob's soubriquet was Angelo Cyrus Bantam which quite apt, and it was he who proposed me. I was given the Club name of Tom Martin. At the time, George Gibbs (Wilkins Flasher) who was the Secretary, and a prominent figure in City circles and big supporter of the Pickwick BC, directed proceedings and encouraged the formality of the function. It was George Gibbs, friend of Don Lyford (Tracy Tupman), who enabled me to receive the Freedom of the City of London.

When did you become President?

Having been interim secretary between 1986-88, I then became President of the Pickwick BC in 1992/93, and it was at this time that Cedric Dickens befriended me. During the 1994 Tour de France stage in Portsmouth, he suggested membership to me of the Dickens Pickwick Club, which he had founded. For me this was quite special; attending readings by qualified people at the George & Vulture, a favourite haunt of Charles Dickens. The day of my inauguration followed a Pickwick BC luncheon, necessitating a quick change of Club ties!

Did you go on club runs & if so, what sort of distances, and what type of bike did have by now?

In those early days I met Phil Liggett, who ultimately became godfather to my son Tom. At the time he was working at Cycling Weekly, and asked me about Peugeot bikes, following my recent Peugeot factory stay at Beaulieu, as well as in Holland & Germany, since he realised these bikes would soon be imported into the UK. Phil cycled with the Herts based Lanterne Rouge Club, and this was 'proper' cycling with no quarter given. One time we rode the 50-odd miles from Herts up to where Phil kept his narrow boat on a Bedford lock. On paper this was no problem. However, neither of us had any money for food, and I got the 'bonk' for the first time in my sporting career. We returned leisurely by boat to London! My Peugeot PR10 was deserving of a more grateful rider. It was the second time I overstepped the mark, the first being in Isere at the Peugeot Cycles factory; that time, riding a PX10 which only got me halfway around Lake Geneva, before returning to base by train. "Vous avez des ennuis le velo?" enquired a passenger attracted by my Peugeot kit. (literal - "are you having trouble with the bike?"). My son Tom did rather better than me when he recently raised £3600 on a London to Paris charity ride. Much more of a cyclist than I ever was!

You will have met a number of well-known people in the cycling fraternity, would you care to name some of them & say why you remember them?

At that time, the major UK bike brands were Raleigh, Dawes, Elswick Hopper and Comrade. Dominating the lightweight market were frames from Grubb, Holdsworth, Claud Butler, Alf Hetchins and Condor – all UK made. On my first Centenary Club cycle run, it was in the company of many who were quite content to cycle a demure 20miles with a coffee stop before completing a further 10miles before lunch. Nobody had permission to overtake the President. A Raleigh support vehicle followed the bunch, and considering the lengthy lunch stop where much drinking was de rigeur, the sag wagon was a godsend for one or two of the riders for the homeward journey.

Sponsorship of pro' teams in the UK brought me closer to the international racing calendar. Our company was heavily involved with the Milk Race organisation, at one point sponsoring three of the four classifications. Introductions to stars like Sean Kelly, Mark Cavendish, Sid Barras, Chris Boardman, Sir Chris Hoy, Malcolm Elliott, and Sir Bradley Wiggins were fleeting, but significant in the commercial world of pro' cycling since the '60s. Bernard Thevenet of Cycle Peugeot was one of my many heroes.

Travelling in a lead car with Daily Telegraph reporter, the late David Saunders on a Tour de France stage was something else. Travelling at over 60mph on a mountain descent, a lead cyclist somehow squeezed past us. Another disappeared over the parapet. On another occasion, the accomplished, late David Duffield, took time off from his commentary work to visit me in hospital, following my altercation with a lorry whilst driving out of Harrogate to catch up with the Tour of Britain. I was certainly not emanating our sponsored riders on that occasion.

How would you sum up your 'life in cycling'?

Now retired, I look back on the influences that helped build the Chicken Cyclekit Company. It was very largely due to the close ties we enjoyed with our suppliers. Granted, we worked hard marketing and selling their products, but it was their confidence in us, to represent their companies in the best way we could, that brought us enduring friendships.

Cedric, as always, it's been a pleasure being in your company, and hearing about Your Life in cycling, is there anything you would like to add, as a message to new members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club?

The bonhomie of the Pickwick Bicycle Club, now over 150 years old should not be understated. Five (5) new members on parade at the Spring luncheon this year, some of whom had been waiting up to 5 years to join the Club. Ours, and other cycling organisations are increasingly significant in the world in which we live today – such as the Dickens Pickwick Club visit to Kent and Montreuil recently, where we uncovered more of Charles Dicken's past.

Thank you Cedric for giving us an insight into your life with Bicycles.....Editor

Vice-Captain Mr Dumkins has more words about Club Attire

Gentlemen,

We have been able to provide Club blazers & waistcoats for the last few years, by using up our stocks of Club colour material. That stock has now been exhausted, but we only have an order for one (1) jacket at present, and to order a new bolt of material of 39metres is a considerable expense which, at present we cannot justify.

We therefore need orders for a minimum of 12 jackets in order to proceed. If you are interested in either a blazer or waistcoat, then please contact me as soon as possible, on either: dumkins@pickwickbc.co.uk or 07769 967999

Kind Regards - *Mr Dumkins*



Paris to London on my HighWheel Bicycle by Mr Watty



To mark the **150th Anniversary of the Ordinary**, later known as the Penny Farthing, I rode mine from Paris to London, a ride of 200 miles and 2200m (7200ft) of climbing in 4.5 days.

Fourteen high wheel riders gathered at the Trocadero in Paris on Monday 26th June with Julie Poirier for 'Le Grand Depart' live on France2 National TV. There were 8 French, 4 British and 2 Belgian on high wheels and 5 on small wheels, who helped stopping traffic at junctions and were good support as fuel and water carriers. There was plenty of nervous anticipation amongst the group, as none had previously attempted such an extreme challenge, but all had done some training, but would it have been enough?

We rode out of Paris in the rush-hour traffic and within the first mile had an accident with one rider going over his handlebars! Fortunately, both he and the bike were OK and we continued but it was all stop-go, getting through traffic lights, and that is what a Penny Farthing rider wants to avoid! Repeatedly lifting your body weight up onto the saddle puts strain on your left knee, and after 50 times it starts to complain!

We passed through Nanterre, where sadly 24 hours later the 17-year-old driver was killed by police, leading to riots across France. Along our route we passed many supporters who had come out to see the spectacle of 14 Penny Farthing riders on their way to London. A number of Mayors organised receptions, and in one town we had 300 school children waiting for our arrival! They were delighted to sit on our special machines, and there were cheers when their teachers climbed onto the saddles!

On the first day we rode 38 miles with 1650ft of climbing, and all were pleased to arrive but were exhausted! A number of the bikes needed maintenance, and the bodies needed re-fuelling ready for Day 2, knowing that we had 52 miles to ride and again 1650ft to climb! But the human body is incredibly resilient, and there were no complaints as we jumped on board again and got those big wheels rolling.



Paris Depart



Fortunately, Day 2 was cooler than the 32°C of Day 1, and incredibly we had no rain in the 5 days of riding! We passed through lovely French countryside, away from traffic to our overnight stop at Forges les Eaux. Our 3rd day in France took us 35 miles along a cycle path on a disused railway line to Dieppe, which thankfully was mainly flat or downhill to the sea.

On Thursday we boarded the ferry to Newhaven and were fortunate to be travelling with Dani King, who won a cycling Gold Medal in the 2012 London Olympics in the Women's Team Pursuit. Elliotts helped her achieve this as her sponsor for 5 years, and she was pleased to have her photo with the Penny Farthing team.

With our arrival in Newhaven at 3:30pm, we still had 28 miles to ride to the Missing Link Brewery and Glamping Pods at West Hoathly, and a few hills to climb! When we arrived at 8:00pm we were welcomed by excellent beer and superb dinner, all prepared by Becky of the Garden Chef. Her full English breakfast helped fuel us for our most challenging and final day, riding 45 miles over the South and North Downs.

On our way through the South Downs, we were met in Outwood by Pickwick Club members, Mr Winkle Snr (Roger Warwick) and The Bagman (Michael Baker) who had ridden to support us. Sadly, it was Michael's last ride as he was found dead beside his bicycle later that morning - **RIP**.



Complet! - London Arrival

After lunch at The Oaks Café above Coulsdon, we rode along the Wandle Trail, through parks and along streams, towards the Thames and the finish in Parliament Square by Big Ben! We then rode to Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and along the Embankment to The Tower of London, our final resting place!

My reflections on the trip are firstly, that in the evolution of the bicycle, the Penny Farthing was an amazing invention which lasted for 20 years and was replaced by the safety bike with chain and cog drive to the rear wheel, freewheel and inflatable tyres in the early 1890s. Riders of Penny Farthings look serene and draw significant attention and plenty of smiles! They have been ridden around the World many times, but for the most senior member of the Paris - London group, that was far enough for me!*Mr Watty.*

On behalf of Cancer Research UK, thank you to those who sponsored me, and if you would like to, please follow this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/stuart-elliott-penny-farthing-ride>

And so we come to something different by Peter Lumley

The writer, a long time advocate of cycling & our Club, has frequented our luncheons from time to time, & offered to write the following cycling tale.

Just being There...

Burnham Boy- Peter Lumley on Bikes, Essex, and a Tour of Britain.

Quasimodo kept on about "them bells, them damn bells" - not that his were ones that ping on handlebars. He didn't ever ride a bike and was a fictional character anyway. There's nothing fictional about bicycles, nor with that friendliest band of fictional characters you may spot on a London Street, that twice a year is awash with guys wearing straw boaters, and striped ties.

It's something to do with 'being There', in the company of that notable bicycle connector - Mr Samuel Pickwick.

How the dickens did I get to be invited: yes, I had a bicycle, which reality tells, is a good tool for getting people to all corners of the country. That's the story of Mr Pickwick and a group of friends we hear Charles Dickens tell. Wonderful journeys ensue, some to places you know, others, are new destinations. You get there quicker than walking and seeing there's a dearth of High Wheelers dashing around the place today; it's an Offspring called Safety that's taken on the world and ridden many, many times of the distance to the moon and back. No waning opportunity with that companion!

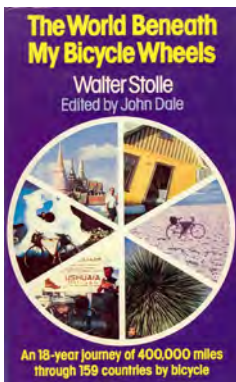
So - what has the bicycle done for you?

I write these words on the very day bicycles rush along Essex roads; ones I know like the back of my hand. Starting from Southend, the Tour of Britain race will speed past my boyhood town Burnham; a dozen miles on a tv camera shoots riders crossing a young River Crouch bridge at Battlesbridge. The view sweeps to a small gap in marshy saltings upstream; the remains of a collapsed lock gate shows the exact point where fresh water meets incoming salt, waving in from the distant estuary twice a day. The camera sweep misses an East Coast Sailing Barge, also in a much collapsed mode, sitting on tidal mud opposite the old flour mill: a Veteran of the Small Ships run on Dunkirk which brought back so many.

The peleton rides far easier here, than when we rode in and out of the Dengie Hundred peninsula. The race sprints to meet the Burnham on Crouch, a jutland of a place, which in the run-up to D-Day, militarily answered as HMS St Matthew. This Burnham, where my boyhood was spent, still has the Rattler railway Dr Beeching couldn't close; seems it was vital for servicing the needs of the Bradwell nuclear power station.

Southend on Sea, the race start for today's stage, is a pier of a place, which had the Kursaal entertainment's hub with its Haunted House Screamery and the seemingly unlikely Wall of Death motorcycles hurtle too. Apparently bicycle riders are quite able to give a similar sort of performance, I do recall it happening on TV.

We'd cycle to this seaside town, as probably did peer Clubmen and top Essex riders of a bicycle race scene recalled from my Crouch Cycling Club days; Dave Bedwell, Vin Denson and, Alex Dowsett a more recent wheelman put the Steeple race roads on the map: the Tour is here today.



From the other side of Essex came Walter Stolle. You remember him? In 1953 Walter raced with Becontree Wheelers, a record maker at 12hrs and 24hrs time trial racing. Moving to the slow lane he began to record travel notes that would become the story of a long ride, taking him around the world at far under snail pace. Even he found it something to apologise for, that he manages to return home rather later than anticipated, by about fifteen years or so, so no racing about! The book "The World Beneath My Bicycle Wheels" tells the story of his 400,000 miles ride: he wore out six bikes; had another five stolen; was robbed - 'only', he reckons - 231 times. The Daily Mail writer John Dale is editorial co-writer, and the book is .. hey, I'll not do a spoiler, go find yourself a copy (Pelham Books published in 1978) to discover what the bicycle 'weely' did for this guy.

No fictional character is Walter Stolle, He tells how he got into gardening, why and how he came to live in England, then worked in Ford's at Dagenham, to earn and save money in order to take off on a life of living from a bike saddle. What the bike did for him is life being lived: and didn't he too, have a dickens of a time?

Now then, "what has the bicycle done for you?" Look around an Old Connaught Rooms gathering, or as you try to elbow a space to reach the bar at that pub opposite, chosen to meet others: surely a bicycle got you to this moment? The answer is on so many smiley faces today, confirmation of just what that 'wheeley' gadget can do for you. In 1953 an Essex weekly newspaper editor asked me to write a story about the cycle touring ride we'd done at the weekend, the beginning of a journey

Peter Lumley

KSA. bike, hike, travel. tourism/trade & industry b2b
(KSA - Kate Spencer publications business 1977)

Club Cycling Shirts available - a **must** for you active riders

Bulman still has a good supply of these attractive Club shirts, ready for you to purchase! Ideal for all those Club events you will hopefully participate in.

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Passing of Friends.....

Yet again, it with deep sadness that I have to report the passing of Club members - and this time it's quite daunting inasmuch that we have lost four members to that Velodrome in the sky, including my closest friend.

Derek Barnes (John) in February; **Tony Doyle (George Nupkins)** in early May; **Michael Bunyan (The Middlesex Dumpling)** at the end of May; and **Michael Baker (The Bagman)** at the end of June.

We remember them for their contributions to the Club, and your Secretary will have written to their families to offer condolences.

Derek Barnes (John) joined the Club in 2011

Derek had a significant interest in the works of Charles Dickens, and we were informed of the death of Derek, by Slurk (Phil Chapman) - the Club were represented at the funeral.

Tony Doyle (George Nupkins) joined the Club in 2003

A rider of great significance in the sport, Tony enjoyed an exceptional career as a professional rider on both the track & the road. He started his cycling with Kingston based Clarence Wheelers but went on to win medals at the Commonwealth Games, and was twice World Champion in the individual pursuit in 1980 & 1986. He was also well known for his participation as a Six Day rider, with 23 victories, and was one of the most popular riders in that sporting sector. Following a serious crash in 1989, he recovered and went on to claim a team pursuit silver medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games. In 1989 he received the Bidlake Memorial Prize, and was awarded an MBE for his services to cycling in the same year. He was elected President of British Cycling in 1995, and later became one of the founder members of the Tour of Britain. He played a significant part in the build up to the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games and served as the Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Board for the borough of Southwark. Tony was inducted into the British Cycling Hall of Fame in 2009. A champion of the cycling world, and a stalwart of the Pickwick BC who will be sadly missed.

(Note: Super feature article on Tony in Cycling Weekly 21st September issue)

Michael Bunyan (The Middlesex Dumpling) joined the Club in 2008

Another cyclist of some significance on the track as a member of the Marlboro' AC and Polytechnic CC.. He won the Royal Navy road & track championships three years in succession, between 1955 -1957 during his national service. He represented the UK on the track in (the old) Czechoslovakia and Poland. He was, (like a number of other Pickwickians) a member of the GS Lanterne Rouge, and a member of the Pedal Club, of which he was a former President. He was also the PBC auditor for a number of years.

Michael Baker (The Bagman) joined the Club in 2021

Michael was my 'mate' for over 60years (says Winkle Snr) and was another keen cyclist, riding both the Herne Hill track and time trials as a member of the South London Club, the Belle Vue CC. He started as a touring cyclist with the CTC, organising 'rough stuff' events (poor man's CycloCross) as well as participating in the BCTC national events in the early 60's. He was joint organiser of the Belle Vue Open 50 TT with me for many years. He was very competitive and always won the Club Championships because he was so focussed, and the Club 100mile trophy bearing his name numerous times, now sits proudly on display in the bicycle section of Brooklands Motor Museum. In his late 60's he rode most of the three Grand Tour climbs - because they were there! Mike was born with cycling in his blood and continued to combine running a successful wine company and cycling until he retired, after which he would just ride regularly each week. It was due to his work that he was unable to commit to the Pickwick rules, but at the May 2021 President's Zoom dinner, he was finally elected into the Club, and had since been present on the Hampton Court Ride, and lunches for several years.

Rather poignant really, that as mentioned in Watty's Paris-London report, he rode out to meet me at the planned HighWheeler marathon halt, to welcome Watty and his compatriots at a refreshment stop. As the Pennys departed, Mike headed home for breakfast before setting out to meet another cycling friend. That was the last time I saw him. RIP my friend, you're sadly missed. The family appreciated the presence of Watty & Hunt at the funeral.

A Blast from the Past.....

Earlier this year, Joseph Smiggers (our super soubriquet historian), received an email from a lady called Yvonne Buffman Cheney, from which the following tale of a past, well known Pickwickian unfolded. I have included it 'as is', since it is really an historical snap shot of our Club in past times.

> Forwarding this email to you with an addendum. In looking at your archives, I see that Mr. Roland E. Dangerfield was also one of your Past Presidents (1956). When I worked at Temple Press Ltd., Mr. Dangerfield was the owner. He retired in 1962. There was a large banquet honouring him. Because there were too many employees to attend, a lottery was held and I was lucky enough to have my name drawn. I have the program of the dinner in my possession with a photograph of Mr. Dangerfield on the front cover. I would very much like to also send this to you for your archives. My sister is visiting from the UK in August and I could get her to take it back with her for mailing. I await your advice re. a mailing address. Thank you, Yvonne Buffman Cheney.

>Dear Mr Bullen, - Re: Don Lyford

> My name is Yvonne Buffman Cheyney. I was personal secretary at Temple Press Ltd. from 1959-1964 for Mr. Donald Lyford. He was Tracy Tupman, Secretary for the Pickwick Bicycle Club. At the time, ladies were not allowed to attend the luncheons that were held twice a year, at the Connaught Rooms in London. I assisted Don with the luncheons, by typing up the place cards, helping with the seating arrangements, and everything involved with making sure everything went smoothly. One of the speakers we had was Mr. Harry Secombe who played Pickwick in the West End. When I attended the show, I was able to go backstage and get his autograph. I see that Don became a President in 1975 (I have been checking your archives which I found very interesting). Wonderful how modern technology helps!

> I have several photographs of Don at the luncheons, pictures of the Lifeguards eating lunch with me outside the main room, etc. My family are not interested in these pictures, and I would very much like to send the pictures to you for your archives. I remember keeping a list of all the characters in the Pickwick Papers and assigning them to new members.

> I emigrated to America (I now live in Southern California) in 1964 but kept in close touch with Don until his passing. I visited him when he became a Chelsea Pensioner. He was very happy living at the Chelsea Hospital. A dear man.

> I have very happy memories of the luncheons and am very happy that they are still continuing after all these years.

> Please send me an address where I can send the photos and other materials to.

> Sincerely, Yvonne Buffman Cheyney

>Dear Steve,

Thanks so much for replying to my email. I have such happy memories helping Don Lyford in setting up the Pickwick Bicycle Club luncheons way back in the early 60's. I am going to give the photos, etc. to my sister Audrey Kneller when she visits in August-September 2023 and ask her to mail an envelope for me. Having stored these memorabilia for so long it would be terrible if they were lost in the post.

>I am attaching a photo of Don and I when I visited the UK about 25 years ago. He had lost his wife but had a very nice lady friend (not me!). This was before he sold his house and moved into the Royal Free Hospital as a Chelsea Pensioner. He really enjoyed being there and we spoke on the phone a few times. He said, whenever he and his fellow Pensioners went out for lunch, restaurants would insist on giving them free meals because just having the Pensioners in the restaurants brought in customers.



Don & Yvonne

>I started working for Don when I was very young, 17, and I think he would have been in his late 30's. He seemed old to me at the time! In fact, his oldest daughter became one of my friends and we would go out together.

>Again, I am thrilled that the Pickwick Bicycle Club is still going strong, and I wish you and all your members safe passage to a very happy future.

Sincerely, Yvonne

A super insight of the Club -it just shows that our glorious Club, once involved, is never forgotten...Editor

STOP PRESS - On Tuesday 5th September, following an officer's meeting, 11 Past Presidents gathered at The George in Borough High Street for their annual lunch. An enjoyable get-together with excellent food.

Closing Date for the March 2024 issue will be 31st January 2024

All contributions are most welcome, the more you send, the less I have to do(!), and they should be sent to the Editor by email: pickwick2610@hotmail.com or to:

Taverners, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, West Sussex RH13 6NY



Flash Back!

Some of you are too young to have seen him, but you must have heard of him!

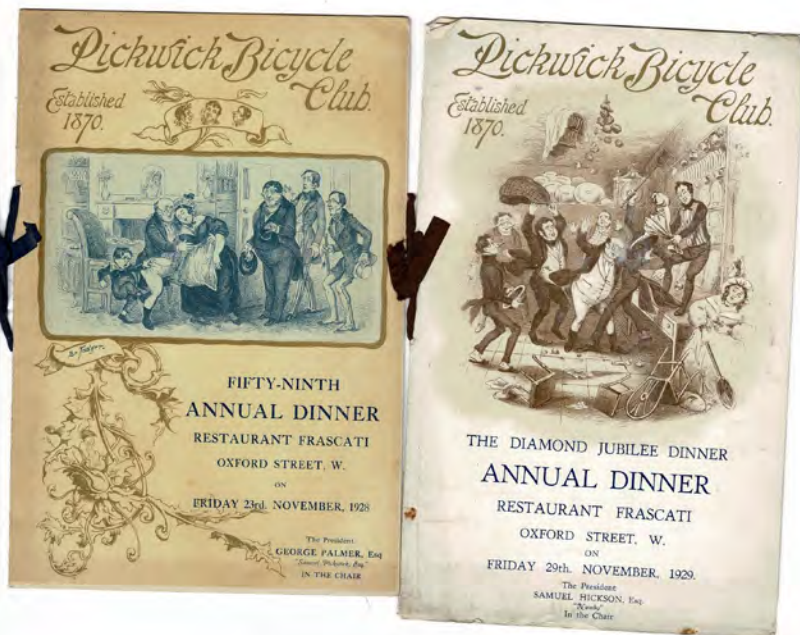
I'm referring of course to Reg Harris, one of the greatest track riders of the era. So we look back at the 17th August 1971, when at the age of 50, he was riding at the Fallowfield Track in Manchester as part of his comeback. A four times World Champion and Olympic silver medallist, he was - allegedly - 'well past his best' in 1971, when he made his comeback, 16 years after winning a silver medal at the World championships in

Copenhagen. Then in 1974, aged 54, he beat Trevor Bull for the National Title. Winning these titles in his 50's, he was a household name, and "Reg rides a Raleigh" was a great boost for his sponsor, the Nottingham manufacturer (currently celebrating their 100th anniversary). He often wrote in *Cycling* magazine, passing on his opinions about international racing; training methods, and frequently criticised the then, cycling governing body for its lack of ability to produce more British talent on both Track & Road. He died aged 72 in 1992. Never mentioned in the media, but....he was a member of our Club, with the soubriquet **Gabriel Grubb!**

Jump Forward!

Here we have the current **Gabriel Grubb**/David Barry displaying sartorial elegance at a different kind of Track!





Some early Club Annual Dinner programmes - C1928/1929, courtesy of Freda at the National Cycle Museum in Llandrindod Wells.

One indicates it's for "The Diamond Jubilee Dinner" which appears to be a year too early! Interesting to note that these events were held at Restaurant Frascati in Oxford St. in the evening, and the menu consisted of 8 (eight) courses.

The venue was known for its excellent international cuisine, in a setting of theatrical opulence. In the main restaurant, diners were seated on balconies or around the dance floor. The room was decorated in silver & gold, and lit by crystal chandeliers, with elaborate floral decorations. Music was provided by Madame Cecile Couturier on violin, and her band of happy men! Eat your heart out Connaught Rooms!

It was one of the most prestigious places to dine in London. Sadly it was stripped out of all its fittings and became another of the premises of Lloyds Bank in 1986.