



## ***The Presidents Occasional Newsletter***

### **Happy New Year**

2018 sees a few members leaving for pastures new, we wish them good fortune in their cycling adventures. Welcome back to Sean Dines and Tim Searle and new lady members Suzanne Golder and Kirsty Bishop. Renewing members should send a form from the website to Bryan Scarborough, Membership Sec. asap.

### **A Tribute to a Club-mate-Bill Jenkins**



I was honoured and slightly perplexed to be asked to speak at Bill's funeral service. Alison, his daughter had said "Please tell some funny stories of your trips with Dad to the Tour de France", well funny stories on such an occasion made me think! However, the trend these days is more towards a celebration of a life well lived and therefore I took strength from that view.

The club sent a wreath in club colours and Lesley and I were pleased to see Les and Ann White, Goz and Phil Corley turn up to represent cycling on the day, others sent their condolences.

My eulogy was as follows ..... I first met Bill in the mid 70's, 42 years ago when he was 42 years old, he and Roland had joined the club the year before me and he became a valued member, winning a number of club trophies and eventually being awarded life membership.

An enthusiastic cyclist, Bill's bikes were always tuned to perfection and he was keen to help less able members keep their steeds in order, I was often first in line! He was an engineer by trade and his skills ranged from cars and bikes right down to mending his workmates spectacles when they broke.



A friend from church Alan Bond remembers working with Bill as an apprentice and him being "the man" at Dyson Die Casting where he was the senior toolmaker. Later at AC Delco (with his box of spectacle bits), evidently management also valued his skills and when it was decided to move a system from America to Dunstable it was Bill they sent across the pond to find out how it worked and how to keep it working.

I remember Bill servicing a reverse steering bike for a street performer who challenged people to ride it after he had made it look easy!! With the machine steering right when you turned the bars left and vice versa most people fell off meaning that the bike needed frequent repairs, no problem to Mr Jenkins.

Club-mates often benefitted from his help and Tony Farmborough remembers Bill making a spanner he needed but could not purchase. Dave Atkinson was having trouble fitting some mudguards and Bill made up some brackets which made the job easier.

I spoke about needing a roof rack and next minute he had fabricated a super three bike rack with locking front retainers and channels for the rear wheels. Fantastic!

We decided we would go to see the ultimate bike race with a firm called Eurotours who would pick us up at Newport Pagnell services and look after us for a week. Lesley ferried me over to the M1 and Alison, Bill's elder daughter taxied Bill to the meeting point and we were left to wait for the coach. Well, we waited and waited! Eventually we decided that we had been forgotten! This was when Team Jenkins swung into action, Alison was summoned back and we loaded the bikes and gear into her car. I decided to drive to Dover to give her a single run home. Luckily, we caught them at the ferry and let them know of our displeasure. I believe it was at the end of the holiday or it could have been another visit when we had to overnight in Paris, we must have been with a group as we were tied to this particular hotel, anyway what happened was that they said "sorry no twin rooms, just one small room with a double bed!" I looked at Bill and he shrugged his shoulders and said "if that's all they have got, I am sure Jean and Lesley will understand". That was our Eric and Ernie moment, 2 blokes in one bed!



The next time we went to France we decided we would be in full control of things therefore we would camp! It was two days to Portsmouth, see photo, ferry to St Malo and head south. Bill said "have you got the tent?" I answered "as the forecast is good I have only brought the flysheet" "where are the poles?" "Bill, to save weight I haven't brought any, we will cut sticks when needed to hold the flysheet up". This worked well and we saw a lot of the race reaching as far south as Nantes. On the way home I thought I had found a perfect place to sleep for the night, a pine wood with a bed of soft pine needles seemed really good to me, however my companion had other ideas. "I'm not sleeping in that wood with all the creepy crawlies" said Bill so we ended up that night on a concrete-hard municipal football pitch!!!

We had tried Eurotours and camping so for the third visit we decided to fly to Geneva and see the Tour in the mountains. This was fine until I fell ill, either dodgy water or unwashed fruit, I was out of it and lay in the tent for days. Bill was great and looked after me with dedication. The race came and went and we saw nothing! Later at the airport we met Jeff Hathaway who had been everywhere, seen everything and acquired many T-shirts. Disaster!!

When I decided to take an MKCA team including Aaron and Sean to the Tour of Malta bike race it was Bill I needed as team mechanic, this was fine although his fame spread and he spent a lot of time helping other teams as well as ours. This was typical of Bill as he would help anyone who asked him if it was in his power to do so, which it usually was.



We have lost a good friend, a gentle man, who loved his Bianchi bike almost as much as he loved his family.

We will miss you Bill, rest in peace.  
Dick Selley

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### Result of the NBRC New Year's Day '10' Time Trial

|   |               |                 |       |               |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Lindz Barrel  | JCA-Equipe Velo | 24.35 |               |
| 2 | Toby Molloy   | TeamMK          | 25.14 |               |
| 3 | Andy Sutton   | NBRC            | 25.18 | Trophy Winner |
| 4 | Mitch         | LBRCC           | 25.42 |               |
| 5 | Chris Wren    | LBRCC           | 28.17 |               |
| 6 | Joshua Foster | LBRCC           | 28.39 |               |
| 7 | Jason Lee     | TeamMK/NBRC     | 29.37 |               |
| 8 | David Hills   | LBRCC           | 30.10 |               |
| 9 | Lucie Gallen  | TeamMK          | 31.28 |               |

Tandam Event:

|   |                             |                  |       |  |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|--|
| 1 | Trevor Watson / Ant Newland | Bossard Wheelers | 30.07 |  |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|--|

Time Keeper: Tony Farmborough      Pusher off: Bryan Scarborough      Signage: Dick Selley  
Unruly Crowd: Katja Reitdorf: Born to Bike, Gordon Batcock NBRC, Ian Stokes 45 Road Club

Official Hell Raiser: Steph Cousins  
Fancy Dress Award: Bossard Whs