

Well what can I say. The last few months of 2004 were very eventful with many of the Wheelers riders taking part in events both local and also around the country.

At the beginning of October several wheelers riders took part in the annual NLTTA Hill Climb championships. This was held on the Jubilee Tower climb. This climb is well known around these parts as being very hard and steep. It had been decided at a club night a few weeks previously that we were going to get a team together to take on the Blackburn CTC to gain the title. This would mean that we had taken every NLTTA Team title for the 2004 season. The riders included Scott Henderson, Jose Pinon Shaw and also Gethin Butler who on the day rode fixed on the climb!!! The team put in an excellent effort but were unable to take the title. I think the funniest part of the day was seeing Scott Henderson fall off his bike whilst stood in the car park at the top of the climb!!!

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November many of the Wheelers attended the NLTTA Lunch held at the Priory at Scorton. Yet again the Wheelers walked away with a handful of prizes including many team and solo awards from the 2004 season. I think the ride of the day must go to Gethin Butler for riding through the Trough with Annwen in the baby seat. It made us all feel so slow when he still managed to beat us to the top of all the climbs. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported us all at the dinner.

The Boxing day 10 mile TT is always a brilliant event and gives us all an early chance to see how our form is going or in many cases not going. This year looked to be a very promising event. From talking to people on the club runs it looked like it was going to be a well- supported event by the Wheelers riders. This was not to be, a heavy frost the snow the night before had left treacherous conditions with only the brave turning up for a ride. It was decided to cancel the event for safety reasons. Only a brave 3 rode out, these were Gethin Butler, Jose Pinon Shaw and Dave Littlefair. Joe Doolan and myself had taken the more sensible option and offered our services as marshals!! Oh well, we will all have to look forward to next years event!!

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January was the annual Preston Wheelers Reliability Trial over Bowland Knotts. This is a very popular event and again was very well attended by many of the clubs members. Having an excellent ride on the day was Dave Littlefair who did the ride in under 4 hours after missing out the soup kitchen and making his way back in a small group. Another excellent ride came from Mark Bolton who stuck with the hot pace of Gethin Butler and Jose Pinon Shaw to complete the ride in a very respectable time. Can I just say a big congratulations to Howard Paynter who completed the ride on the tandem with Bob in a very good time.

Most of my training has been done on the weekly Sunday club runs. These meet at the Withy Trees pub and vary in distance from around 70-85 miles. We have had some very good rides recently with a good group of riders taking part. For more information and regular reports please visit our website at [www.prestonwheelers.com](http://www.prestonwheelers.com). Some locations the runs have recently visited have included Kirby Lonsdale, Milnthorpe and also Gargrave.

Well that's about if for this issue. It's now less than 2 weeks until the first race of the season and it all begins again.

Matt H.

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