

ORBITUARIES

Stan Worthington aged 89 died on the 3rd January 05 after a short illness. Stan was our oldest member in years and would have attained his 90th birthday on the 27th Jan and his 50th wedding anniversary on the 5th Feb. He joined the Preston Wheelers in the 1920's and although not a founder member he was certainly one of our longest serving members. He never owned a car and only gave up cycling in his 80's. Stan and his wife Daphne travelled extensively in Europe both on walking and cycling holidays and were well renowned for their photography. During the last war Stan was a member of the R.A.F. and when Radar was introduced into service he was one of the first to be involved. Stan will be greatly missed by his many friends and especially the Thursday group.

Harry Martin aged 68 died suddenly following a heart attack on the 13th Nov 04. He was a member of the Wheelers in the 70's and every year he rode in the 12 hour T.T. He also rode in 24 hour events and once held the club record for that distance. He carried on riding until knee trouble forced him to first of all take to riding a trike – riding his last 12 hour on this machine – and then finally having to end his cycling career. His widow states she is proud to hold many of his Preston Wheeler medals in her possession.

To both the families of Stan and Harry the Preston Wheelers offer sincere condolences.

Club Membership

Just a reminder to anyone who has not rejoined for 2005, subscriptions are now due and are still £15.00 for Single members, £25.00 for Couples, this must be a record of about seven or eight years without a rise. I wish my Council tax could be held at the same for so long.

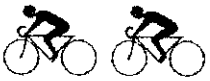
Myself and all current members welcome new members for 2005: Stephen Taylor, David Sharples and Craig Noonan. Both David and Craig are not new to cycling having ridden the PETTS events so we wish all three a long and memorable membership in Preston Wheelers.

Also, congratulations to Gillian who won her membership fee back for making early payment of subscriptions - remember this is an annual draw where members paying their subs before the 1st January are entered into a draw to win free membership – so well done Gillian

All that remains is for me to wish you a very successful season if you are racing and many pleasurable miles if you are just riding sociably or touring.

Geoff – Membership Sec.

Legends of the past Ray Booty



Booty's place in the cycling Hall of Fame was due to his epic ride in the Bath Road 100 in 1956, but more of that later.

Ray was 6' 2" tall, wore spectacles and was a clubman to his finger tips, enjoying time trialing as well as road racing and spending all his holidays touring on his bike with his club mates.

Always riding out to events, he belonged to the era during the fifties when time trialing was in it's hey day. Most open events boasted full fields of 120, starts were invariably on Sundays at 6.00am or earlier and the fixed wheel was king. The *Cycling* magazine or the clubs themselves were not allowed to advertise events and the courses were secret (hence the course codes we have today). In fact, all start and finish sheets were headed up "Private and Confidential". It was truly the "secret sport".

The top riders of the day would ride over to the start with their sprints and tubs attached to sprint wheel carriers, which in turn were attached to the spindles of the front wheel. It was also a common site to see groups of small tents belonging to the riders who had ridden up on the Saturday, pitched on the grass verges around the start of events and then, once the event had finished, the same riders huddled around a primus doing a fry up before they rode home.

cont'd Page 3