

Chelmer CC Handbook

Part 4, 2014 The History

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The History behind the club

Well it's about time it was set down for posterity, I don't know if it has been done before so my apologies in advance if it has. I do know it has been started, or attempted to be started on many occasions....

The main contributor to this section is our own archivist, Mary Horsnell, Clive Haworth has provided the information on his father and of course there have been some loans of old handbooks and records from the club.

The Very Beginning

Before the Second World War, there were two cycling clubs in Chelmsford, the Chelmsford CC and the Essex CC.

The Essex CC at the time had two other groups meeting, one in Colchester and one in Halstead. These three groups would start each Sunday from their respective towns and meet up either at elevenses or lunch, eat, then ride together till afternoon tea. After this they would all make their own way home.

The Chelmsford CC had the one main section.

During the Second World War, with most of the menfolk away in the Armed Forces or working for the war effort, club life became virtually extinct for the two clubs / four sections. Once the War was over, neither club had enough officials to restart two separate clubs. A public meeting was held and a decision was made to amalgamate both. Rather than use one of the existing names and cause any issues, the Chelmer Cycling Club was born.

During the 1950's a request was received from cyclists in Maldon to start a new section for them. The Chelmer CC sent its top officials, at that time Mary Horsnell, Don Ridgewell and Dan Hill to a meeting in Maldon, actually held in the local Police Station! The meeting decided it would be far easier if the Maldon riders simply joined the Chelmer CC.

National Service caused the Chelmer to lose a lot of its young men, but retained all the ladies! Notably Jean Potter who later married Norman (Spud) Potter and another lady Mary (not Horsnell) who married Jean's brother. Oddly enough the few men who were deemed not fit enough for National Service were all actually very good cyclists in their own right!

A point of interest. You will see at the end of each section a note like '*medal for winner*' It is interesting to see that originally the winner of many trophies only got a replica trophy and not the real thing! At least these days the actual trophies are given out and appreciated by the members.

A note from the Editor

This is an initial compilation to comply with a request for details of how to qualify for the various competitions.

The reasons behind each trophy being given to the Club are being researched and some details as to when they changed qualifying criteria or purpose for which they are used.

Ultimately it is hope that as well a being a useful tool to know how to qualify for each trophy, the members will be able to read about the long and colourful history behind their club.

As all of this takes a considerable amount of time, the sections in black have been thoroughly researched, those with a red title have been simply been typed up from the currently available resources and will hopefully have further details added later.

A new edition will be issued at a later stage.

Men and Women's Championship Cup

(Presented by Maynard and Dora Greville, 1951).

History: Originally decided upon average speed over 50 and 100 miles and 12 hour events any event to count. It was altered in 1999 to be awarded on a 'points' basis on 8 qualifying events to be decided annually by committee, at the last meeting prior to the AGM. Points awarded to Chelmer CC riders only, from 20 points for 1st place down to 1 point for 20th place, at each event. The highest aggregate total points gained in 5 of the qualifying events, 1 event to be over 25 miles. In the event of a tie the highest placing will be used to determine the winner.

Sometime between 2003 and 2007 this has been altered to the best 5 of 10 events.

In 2011, the committee agreed to award a medal for highest placed lady.

At the 2013 AGM a further change was introduced by having a separate women's competition. The same basic rules applied, but instead of awarding points in relation to overall Chelmer Position, points were awarded for ladies only, ie 1st lady 20 points, 2nd 19 and so on. The number of events was also reduced to 9, to reduce the incidence of a tie. If two riders scored 20 points in 4 events, there must be a 'head to head', which would decide the winner.

Current: Winner of the Championship Competition. Events to count 5 off those published at the beginning of the season. One of which must be over 25 miles. Points awarded based upon the Chelmer riders in the field, ie first 20 points, second 19 etc. This competition kept up to date by the Competitions and Records Secretary.

Replica for the winner, medals for 2nd and 3rd.

Women's B.A.R. Cup

(Presented by the Essex C.C., 1949)

History: Originally decided on fastest average speed for 10 and 25 miles with only club and ECCA events to count. By 1999 it had been amended to include as counting events all Club, Inter-Club, ECCA and ESBCC events.

It was amended 2009 to include a 50 mile event and further extend to allow all events to count. The ladies of the club at the time requested this change, feeling it was a little more in keeping with the BBAR (Best British All Rounder) which uses 3 events (25, 50 and 100) and gave a more balanced view of a riders' capabilities.

AGM 2013 produced a further change to bring the competition in line with the BBAR. Three events will now count, any 25, 50 and 100 mile event.

Current: Ladies are required to submit details of their fastest 25, 50 and 100 mile rides in the season at the appropriate time. The winner is the lady with the fastest average speed.

Replica for winner.

Men's B.A.R. Cup

(Presented by Essex C.C., 1949)

History: The 1976/77 handbook shows that this cup was in fact decided over 25, 30, 50 and 100 miles with the fastest average speed to be used. You were only restricted to times on the club 25's held on the E9 and for the 30, 50 and 100 those held on E&SBCC (Essex & Suffolk Borders Combine) and ECCA events!

By 1999 this had been altered to be decided on the basis of the fastest average speed for 10, 25, 50 and 100 miles. Events to count; 10 & 25 mile Club and Inter-Club, 50 & 100 miles any open events.

A further change was made at the end of the 2009 season at AGM to change the event criteria to allow any event to count. The men felt that this would in fact mean more counted as many riders were not able to make club events with more and more people having to travel for work.

At the 2013 AGM, a proposal was voted in to amend the criteria for this trophy to mirror the BBAR. Counting events are now to be any 50, 100 and 12 hour event.

Current: Men are required to submit details of their fastest 50, 100 and 12 hour performances during the year. The winner is the person with the fastest average speed.

Replica for winner, medals for 2nd and 3rd.

Veteran's Trophy

(Presented by E Lees, 1966).

History: The 1976 / 77 handbook shows the fastest 25,30 and 50 miles on veterans' standards were the qualifying criteria.

By the time the 1999 handbook was printed this had changed to be decided on best veterans' standard results for 10, 25 and 50 miles, computation by addition of standards any event to count.

There have been other slight changes over the years but these have been to fall in line with the VTTA standards used.

Current: Veterans are asked to submit details of their best performances at 10, 25 and 50 miles for the year and age at that time, together with details of their best + or – on the current VTTA standard tables in the preceding three years, date of the event and their age at the time. The trophy claim form gives details.

Replica for the winner.

Junior Trophy

(Presented by Chelmsford C.C., 1950).

History: In 1976 this stated riders under 18 on the day of the event. By the time of printing the 1999 book it has altered to rides over 19 at the end of the year. This may well be due to the current BC age categories.

Open to riders under the age of 19 at the end of the year. Decided on fastest average speed for 10,10 & 25 miles. Events to count; all Club and Inter-Club events. Replica for winner, medals for 2nd and 3rd.

Current: This is calculated within the club events evening series.

Road Race Meritorious Cup

(Presented by T Bailey, 1948)

History: As it's name engraved on the trophy suggests, it was originally called the Half Mile Grass Trophy.

It was renamed in 1996 to become the Road Race Meritorious Cup and awarded to a Chelmer rider who produced the most meritorious performance(s) during the year. The decision as to who wins the cup is made by the General Committee. However, if a member is aware of a specific rider who should be included they can of course approach committee with details.

In 2010 a new Trophy was purchased by the club to replace the original.

Current: This is a committee decision but members are allowed to advise committee of any one they may not be aware of achievements.

Medal for winner.

Hard Track Trophy

(Presented by Essex CC in 1950)

History: Original presented as a 'One Mile Grass Trophy' but in 1990 it was decided to award the trophy as a Hard Track Trophy. It is awarded by committee decision to the best rider on the hard track.

Current: Riders are asked to submit details of their performances in this discipline for the year.

Medal for the winner.

25 Mile Cup

(Presented by D Ridgewell 1958)

History: Formerly the Founders Trophy.

Current: Riders must submit details of their fastest 25 ride of the year on the form provided to claim this trophy.

A medal to winner.

Handicap Trophy

(Presented by Essex C.C., 1949).

History: The trophy was originally decided on fastest average aggregate speed for 25, 50 and 100 miles, any event to count. Handicapped on scratch times of 50 minutes for 25 miles, 1 hour 50 minutes for 50 miles and 4 hours for 100 miles. These allowances to be based on at least one result for each counting distance during the past three years.

In 2000 it was amended to be based upon the RTTC Standardised Method of Handicapping Events' tables, based on the fastest performance at each distance during the last three years. If no performance at any one distance then RTTC Suggested Potential Achievement Chart is to be used. Novice riders, or those not having ridden any of the distances for three years, are handicapped on the fastest 10 mile result in the current year, subject to a minimum of 3 tens having been ridden.

2014. Note that the best result for each distance is actually used from the previous three years, and the rider can only enter a claim for this trophy using results whilst they were a first claim member of the club. Therefore, a rider is not eligible for the trophy in their first year as a member.

Current: Riders must submit appropriate details on the trophy claim form issued annually to claim this award.

Replica for the winner, medals for 2nd and 3rd.

Cyclo-cross Trophy

(presented by W Allen and C Carr, 1956)

History: The 1976/77 handbook gives no real details as to how it's presentation was decided. In 1999 it states awarded to the best rider in cyclo cross or mountain bike events as decided by the committee.

Current: Like BC points are awarded for performances in cyclo cross. The rider with the most points is the winner. Riders are asked to submit the appropriate printout of performances with their trophy claim form.

Replica for the winner

Chelmsford 'Festival of Sport' Trophy

(Presented by Alderman W Landers, 1951)

History: Awarded to the winner of the two mile Grass Individual Pursuit event from 1958 to 1967. In 1973 it was altered to be award to the winner of the club event Points Competition. The number of events being four less than the total of the counting events from the Club Events Programme. The leading Chelmer rider shall score 25 points, the next 24 and so on. However, the Handicap 15 miles time trial points are to be based on handicap position.

This competition continued in this format until **2011 AGM**. At this point with falling numbers of riders competing on the traditional Chelmer club event night of Thursday and with the lack of either an events organiser / or is in later years organisers, the club merged it's evening series with the Ford CC with whom we have many ties, not least their organiser Mike Gowers and his wife Christine. The Ford have many more events spread over a longer period of time and given the distances travelled by many riders to work at this point in history, it was felt to be too great a number to compete in and be fair. The number of 'counting events was therefore reduced to
xxxxxx.

Current: Riders are automatically included in this competition.

Replica for winner, medals for 2nd and 3^d.

Senior Road Race Points Trophy

(Presented by Keith Orrin, 1976)

History: Originally the Road Race Trophy. The criteria for deciding the winner was as follows, 'all road and circuit races under BCF rules between 1st January and the second Sunday in October may count. 1 point is awarded for finishing an event within 10% of the winners' time. Plus bonus points are awarded for finishing in the first 10 places according to the total number of starters in the entrants category, up to a maximum of 10, eg three starters 1st place 3 points, 3rd place 1point; 10 or more starters 1st place 10 points, 10th place 1 point. Riders must score bonus points, and have total score of over 10 to qualify.'

This system proved extremely difficult to work with the varying categories and it was agreed at the AGM in xxxx to use the BC website and it's points system. Therefore the rider with the most BC points will be the winner. At the same time it was agreed to rename it more appropriately as the Road Race Points Trophy.

Note: At the xxxx AGM, it was felt that to encourage our youth riders this trophy should be used for senior riders (over 18) and a new one purchased for under 18's. The trophy became known as the Senior Road Race Points Trophy from this point on.

Current: Riders are required to submit a printout of their BC points gained over the year to the Competitions and Records Secretary.

Replica for winner, medals for 2nd and 3^d.

The Nail Cyclist

(Presented by Don Ridgewell in 1984)

History:

Current: Awarded to the highest placed veteran in the club events points series. This is automatically calculated by the Club Events Secretary and verified by the Competitions and Records Secretary.

Replica to the winner.

Gerard-Tofts Salver (Women's Points Trophy)

History: Presented by Garry and Sherilyn Gerard-Tofts in 2002 to mark the achievements of our lady riders in the 'club events' series and to encourage more lady riders to participate in the sport.

Current: Lady riders are automatically entered for the trophy when riding the club events series. No forms are required.

Trophy held for one year

'Festival of Britain' Grass Track BAR

(Presented By Alderman W Landers, 1951)

History:

Current: Awarded to the best rider on grass track as decided by the Committee. Riders should submit details of their performances to the Competition and Records Secretary.

A replica for the winner.

Dave Fretwell Trophy

(Presented by Dave Fretwell, 1984)

History: Awarded to the highest placed juvenile in the club evening points competition (points shall not be awarded in events of over 15 miles). A juvenile is eligible for this trophy until the 31st December of the year in which their 16th birthday occurs.

Current: Award for the highest placed junior in the points competition, taking into account events under 10 miles only. Automatically calculated for riders when the points competition is being decided.

A replica to the winner, medals for 2nd and 3^d.

John Wright Meritorious Shield

(presented by Essex CC, 1947)

History: Originally the Essex Meritorious Shield it was replaced in 1992 by the John Wright Meritorious Shield which it self was presented by Maria Wright in 1992.

Current: Awarded by the decision of the committee to honour the member, other than head official, who in their opinion, has rendered the most valuable voluntary services to the club during the year.

Replica for the recipient

Attendance Cup

Presented by T Bailey, 1949)

History: In 1976 it was awarded on the following basis, presumably unchanged from 1949.

All day 4pts, Destination, but not tea 2 points, Eleveses only 1 point and tea only 1 point.

By 1999 it has altered to the following criteria:

All day run 3 points, Lunch 2 points, Eleveses 1 point. Club nights 2 points, marshalling 2 points, meetings 2 points, club events 1 point, training ride 1 point.

Apparently members were asked to keep their own personal records to apply for this trophy. Rather easier than trying to appoint one person to deal with compiling this!

By 2002 it had been amended to the present system where it is awarded to the member with the best attendance in all club activities as decided by the committee.

Current: This trophy decided by general committee at the trophy decisions meeting.

Replica for the winner.

Attendance Ring

(presented by C King, 1947)

History:

Current: Awarded to the Attendance Cup runner up by committee decision.

Replica.

Brian Fewell Memorial Trophy

(presented by Mr & Mrs E Fewell, 1962)

History: Brian Fewell sadly died of a brain tumour age only 15 on the 6th June 1962. He was born in 1947. His death came swiftly, which was possibly a blessing as the tumour had made him go blind. He himself was not a competitive racing cyclist but very much a 'clubman'. It is for this reason the Trophy, which we believe was actually homemade was presented to the club and commemorates his life.

Brian is buried in the graveyard at Pleshey. The sad inscription reads 'Brian Eric Fewell only son, born 1947, died 06.06.62.'

Incidentally recently a gentleman made himself known at a local tea rooms at Stisted, as Brian Fewell, having seen some photographs there of a Chelmer Dinner and a note showing the trophy being presented! It would seem that the he and Brian Fewell (deceased) were in fact cousins but had never met due to a family rift.

Mr Fewell senior was made a vice president some time after his son's death. We have no records of him being a club cyclist.

Current: Awarded to a junior 'clubman' for best attendance on club runs and at the club in general, as decided by the committee.

Replica for recipient.

Colin Davies Tankard

(Presented by Colin Davies, 1988)

History: This trophy was presented to the club before the passing of Colin Davies and was not initially a memorial. Sadly it turned out to be but a few short months before his death. There does not appear to be a record as to why it became identified with the early season club 25.

Current: Awarded to the winner of the early season club 25 mile time trial. Riders need not submit a claim as this event is part of the points series.

Medals for scratch and handicap, as per scale of awards.

The Turner Tankard

(presented by M Turner, 1960)

History : Was presented by Mick Turner specifically as the Hilly Trophy, but no one seems to know why as he was not a renowned climber!. He was however, the time trial secretary at the time and a competitor in his own right.

Current: Awarded to the winner of the nominated 'hilly' event decided annually by the Competitions and Records Secretary. As a club event, no forms are required.

A medal for the recipient.

Bob Haworth Memorial Trophy

(presented by Janet Haworth, 1979)

History:

Current: Awarded to the highest placed individual rider from either Chelmer CC or Southend Wheelers in the annual Inter-Club 25 mile time trial. This is a club event and no claim form is required.

Bob Haworth Memorial Bowl

(Presented by Janet Haworth, 1979)

History:

Current: Awarded to the best team of 4 riders from either Chelmer CC or Southend Wheelers in the annual Inter-Club 25 mile time trial. As a club event this is awarded automatically, no forms are required.

Kathleen Smith Trophy The Kathleen Smith Trophy

(presented by Mr H Smith, 1950)

History: Kathleen Smith, the wife of Mr H Smith, was never in fact a member of the club, nor indeed was the Mr Smith in question!. He worked with our very own Norman 'Spud' Potter and had a trophy, we don't know why.... anyway, the story is, he asked if Spud wanted it for the club. It was accepted and when asked what he wanted it to be called, he simply said replied, name it after my wife. It was promptly renamed and has been awarded continuously since 1950 to the winner of the late season club 25 mile time trial.

We believe it was a committee decision to use it for the late season club 25.

Current: Awarded to the winner of the late season club 25 mile time trial No claim form required as this is a club event.

Medals for scratch and handicap, as per the scale of awards.

Edward & Lillie Windley Shield

(presented by Glenda Lance, 1993)

History:

Current: Awarded to the highest placed Chelmer CC riders in the ECCA Festival Map Reading Competition.

Medals to the winners

Hill Climb Cup

(Presented by N Potter, 1953)

History:

Current: Awarded to the fastest Chelmer CC rider in the club's annual hill climb. Claims do not need to be submitted.

Medals for scratch only, as per scale of awards

L'Escargot Trophy

(presented by N Potter, 1991)

History: Originally awarded to the winner of the clubs annual slow downhill event, this was altered by 200x to be given to the slowest rider up hill

Current: Awarded to the slowest Chelmer CC rider in the annual hill climb. Claims do not need to be submitted.

Medals for winner.

Open 25 Trophy

(presented by D Ridgewell, 1958)

History: Formerly the Open 50 Challenge Trophy

Current: awarded to the winner of the club's annual Open 25 mile time trial. No claim form is required as this is a club promotion.

The Florence Ranson Trophy

History: Awarded to the winner of the Ladies Open 25 mile time trial. This was originally run as a ladies event with men by invitation! Clearly you needed to make sure you were very nice to a lady to ensure she would invite you to ride. The event used to be run on the E71, widely regarded and indeed shown to be a 'fast course'. It attracted such names as Beryl Burton, Jill Reames, Maxine Johnson and of course our own Sue Sill (Gray as she was then)!

The original Club Open 25 was in fact run as a Ladies Open 15. The 1976 / 77 handbook lists the past winners as follows

1959	J Iggleden – Thanet RC	40:10
1960	S Bowers – Rosslyn Ladies CC	37:56
1961	P Wells – San Fairy Ann CC	39:45
1962	L Partington – Valkyries CC	40:25
1963	S Bowers – Roamer CC	39:03
1964	M Kirby, Roamer CC	41:27
1965	L Partington – Roamer CC	38:39
1966	R Balch – Reading Wheelers CC	40:39
1967	B Burton – Morley CC	36:43

In it's current format as a 25 the 1999 handbook has the following list of winners

1984	S Fenwick – Essex Roads	59:24
1985	S Swetman – East Surrey RC	58:37
1985	P Strong – Wyvern CC	58:51
1987	S Williams – Bedfordshire CC	58:35
1988	J Ingram – Aylesbury CC	1:01:08
1989	C Gandy – San Fariy Ann CC	1:01:25
1990	L Wilkinson – East Anglia CC	58:13
1991	M Allen – Askern CC	57:10
1992	L Lamont – Charlotteville CC	1:00:10
1993	C Gandy - San Fariy Ann CC	58:13

1994	H Bean – Evesham & District Wheelers	1:02:03
1995	J Reames – Swaledale CC	59:09
1996	M Johnson – Oundle Velo	55:56
1997	S Gray – API Resprays / Specialised	55:35
1998	M Johnson – Letchworth Velo	55:20

Mary Horsnell notes Florence was the Mother of Llewellyn Ranson, who at the age of 95 is the oldest Chelmer member. As at 2013 his elder brother Michael is still a resident at Stoke Holy Cross in Norwich and is the only surviving founder member of the original Chelmer CC.

A newspaper cutting from the Essex Weekly News of 31 July 1970 gives an indication of Florence's long and very varied life. 'A Champion for the Rights of Women, journalist and authoress, and well travelled lady (she went to Russia in 1928, Czechoslovakia in 1938 and Nigeria in 1960 at the age of 76!).'

The newspaper article in question is attached as a separate item.

Current: Awarded to the fastest lady rider from any club in the Chelmer Open 25. As this is a Chelmer Promotion, the winner does not need to submit a claim.

John and Brian Potts Trophy

(presented by Joan and Brian Potts in 1995)

History:

Current: Awarded to the highest placed club rider in the annual points competition after placing each 10 mile event in handicap order. Handicaps are based upon previous years performances in club ten mile events. Riders do not need to 'claim' this trophy

Medals awarded for 1st, 2ⁿ and 3^d highest handicap points.

Junior Road Race Points Trophy.

(Awarded by Chelmer CC in xxxx)

History: The trophy was purchased in xxxx to give the up and coming younger members a chance to compete on a level playing field with each other. The winner is decided by the number of BC points gained and published on the BC website. This method eliminated the problems with the varying age categories given to the under 18's.

Conditions: Riders are to submit the details of the points they have gained over the year in BC events, the BC print out would be the best.

Trophy held by the winner for one year.

Captains Cup

(awarded by Chelmer CC, 201x)

History: To promote more interest in the ladies of the club competing in time trials, it was decided to award this trophy to the lady with the fastest 10 of the year.

Current: Ladies must submit details of their fastest 10 mile ride of the year on the appropriate form. Any event may count.

Trophy held for one year.

NB If you have any information on any of these trophies, I would be very pleased to receive it. Please send such information to ann_Shuttleworth@hotmail.com