



Veterans Time Trials Association

London and Home Counties Group

10 Mile Open Time Trial

Wednesday 19th July 2017

For and on behalf of Cycling Time Trials under their Rules & Regulations



EVENT REPORT

The 19 July 2017 the 10 mile time trial organised by the VTTA London and Home Counties Group attracted a full field of 150 riders, with 12 reserves (all of whom were allocated rides in advance) and 3 tandems. It was fully supported by 17 marshals and officials. Despite a weather warning the day before, conditions on the day were benign and good for time trialling.

One of the early riders off was Ray Dare, a long time member of the Kingston Phoenix Road Club and prodigious breaker of Veteran's age records from the age of 60. At 91 and looking very fit he was aiming to beat the existing record of 29.43 having recorded 29.59 just a few weeks before on a course not as 'fast' as the F11/10. Ray, off at number 9, was seen to be in good spirits beforehand. He negotiated the first (Tring) turn and was observed to be riding strongly on the return leg to reach and negotiate the second (Aylesbury) turn without incident. With 2.13 miles to go an unofficial timing suggested he was well up on the record. If he had continued at the same average speed he would have clocked 28.27. Even allowing for the benefit of the descent from Tring he was comfortably instead the time he needed. Tragically, on a straight and wide road in perfect visibility about half a mile after the second roundabout Ray was struck from behind by a small van, apparently at high speed. Despite receiving immediate help from passing motorists with knowledge of first aid and the attendance of emergency services soon afterwards and an air ambulance, prolonged efforts to save his life failed.

As early news of an accident with an initially unidentified rider reached HQ the race was suspended and then abandoned. Only 15 riders passed the point of the accident before it happened. Only eight more were allocated a time. Riders earlier on the scene stopped to see if they could help. At HQ as reports were received that it was Number Nine who was involved there was palpable concern for his welfare. Many riders offered to go to the scene to help. As the delay in receiving hard news continued concern turned to dread. Finally, the police lifted the embargo and told us what they had already informed his wife, Beryl. John Beer, his club-mate had been able to arrange for his own wife Carolyn, to be there when the police arrived.

The organiser would like to thank all the officials who responded so quickly and effectively to prevent any more riders being released onto a dangerously congested road. That ensured that no-one else was injured. He would particularly like to thank all the riders who reported back what they had witnessed despite the trauma they must themselves have experienced.

On behalf of all those involved in the event and behalf of the LHC Group the organiser and Chairman of the LHC Group wrote to Beryl and Ray's family expressing our sympathy and support.

As the solo and tandem event were abandoned there are no 'results'. The prize money will be donated to a charity chosen by Ray's family. The organisers suggest that riders or officials who wish to contribute should send donations to the Group secretary John Hoskins who will see that it passed on.

His details are John Hoskins, 9 Ryvers Road, Langley, Slough SL3 8SB]

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David Guy**

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Kingston Phoenix Road Club: 27 July 2017

Press Release on the death of Ray Dare.

The Kingston Phoenix Road Club committee and members are devastated at the death of 91 year old Ray Dare whilst competing in a time trial on Wednesday 19th July 2017, after 65 years as a member. Our thoughts are with his widow and the rest of his family.

Ray Dare was always a good rider as a younger man, winning a few events, but not excelling; particularly as, although he loved riding his bike, he never dedicated himself to the competitive side of cycling.

He came into his own as he grew older, barely slowing down as his contemporaries did or as they fell by the wayside. A small rider, with the tenacity of a terrier, Ray did many winning and record-breaking rides in later life, particularly once he retired from work.

Ray's chosen sport was Time Trialling: a rider alone against the watch, riding between two timekeepers along a designated route, as fast as he can. The right of cyclists to race in this manner is enshrined in law precisely because without the fluorescent number that defines a competitor, there is little to differentiate him from any other cyclist on the road. The courses chosen are generally designed to be traffic-light – events often commencing at 6am or earlier, while most drivers are still in bed; although some roads have light traffic at other times of the day and are used then. Course designers also look for wide roads and, with the faster competitors exceeding 30mph, roads where the competitors will not be breaking the speed limit. Riders start at minute intervals, and although they do catch and overtake each other, there is no big group of cyclists to obstruct other traffic as is the case in other forms of cycle racing.

As with many sports there is a thriving veteran category, administered by the Veterans Time Trials Association (VTTA), with many types of records recognised. Ray was interested in the absolute fastest records - in doing the fastest ride ever for a rider of a given age - something he was very good at because his performances didn't seem to slow with age in the same way as many of his contemporaries, or indeed much younger men.

Ray "retired" from racing many times over the years as he got older but, because he continued to ride for pleasure, his fitness kept luring him back to racing and beating records for whatever age he was at the time.

On the day he died, Ray was attempting to better the 10 mile record for a 91 year old, which stands at 29 minutes and 43 seconds. With a birthday in June, there was always the challenge of a new age record to beat just as he was getting faster into the summer. He had struggled to beat 30 minutes for a 10 earlier in the year, but a few weeks ago he did 29:59, and knew that he could meet the challenge.

Everyone in the Kingston Phoenix Road Club was proud of Ray and a number of members helped him identify suitable events to ride – even being a fast rider for his age didn't guarantee him entry into events of his choice.

On the day of his death Ray's club mate, John Beer, took him out to the event. As it was a course that John had ridden previously, but Ray had not, they drove round before the event to familiarise Ray with the course: where it would be hard, where it would be easier, the sort of excellent preparation followed by record breakers the world over in many different disciplines. Ray was excited for the event and knew that he could break the record. By all accounts he was going well and would have achieved his goal; sadly his ride only lasted 8 of the 10 miles before tragedy struck.

The Club do not know the exact details of Ray's last fatal moments and – as we understand that the matter is the subject of a police investigation - are unable to comment or speculate on the circumstances.

Note: At 91, Ray Dare was certainly one of the oldest cyclists still competing in UK Time Trials in 2017, the club are not sure if he was actually the oldest.

National VTТА Records held by Ray Dare at the time of his death:

Distance	Age	Name	Club	Year	Time
50 Mile	87	Ray Dare	Kingston Phoenix RC	2013	2:23:59
50 Mile	88	Ray Dare	Kingston Phoenix RC	2014	2:52:01
25 Mile	86	Ray Dare	Kingston Phoenix RC	2012	1:06:42
25 Mile	87	Ray Dare	Kingston Phoenix RC	2013	1:08:21
25 Mile	88	Ray Dare	Kingston Phoenix RC	2014	1:12:26
10 Mile	88	Ray Dare	Kingston Phoenix RC	2014	27:57

Tandem

50 Mile	69/70	Martin Winter/Ray Dare	1999	2:02:13
		Farnborough & Camberley/Kingston Phoenix		
30 Mile	68/69	Martin Winter/Ray Dare	1998	1:06:53
		Farnborough & Camberley/Kingston Phoenix		

Ray also holds a number of local regional VTТА records for VTТА Surrey/Sussex Group, not to mention most of the Veteran's records within the Kingston Phoenix Road Club.

The VTТА Records that Ray once held at longer distances – including 12hrs – have since been beaten by other riders.



Performances Recorded Before Cancellation

No	Name	Club	Age	Actual Time	Plus/ Minus
1	Geoff Perry	VTTA (London & Home Counties)	57	0:20:59	0:06:21
2	Richard Moule	Bossard Wheelers	60	0:22:01	0:05:37
3	Colin Crocker	Sotonia CC	67	0:23:30	0:05:02
4	James Roberson	South Bucks RC	66	0:23:47	0:04:36
5	Geir Robinson	Regents Park Rouleurs	48	0:19:00	0:07:36
6	Grant Warwick	Lutterworth Cycle Centre RT	71	0:23:29	0:05:45
7	Dave Loader	Bath Road Club	70	0:24:09	0:04:53
8	Paul Valks	Lewes Wanderers CC	73	0:25:06	0:04:33
10	Andy Langdown	Blazing Saddles	48	0:19:19	0:07:17
12	Ben Houston	East Grinstead CC	40	0:20:42	0:05:17
13	Rob Luff	GS Stella	60	0:21:45	0:05:53
14	Paul French	Bedfordshire Road RT	42	0:21:06	0:05:03
15	Steve Mead	Didcot Phoenix CC	51	0:20:47	0:06:03
20	Matthew Rowley	Oxonian CC	49	0:23:29	0:03:12
21	Hefin Jones	Newbury RC	44	0:20:01	0:06:17
26	Ed Tarelli	Race Hub	45	0:20:39	0:05:44
27	John Golder	Chelmer CC	64	0:21:56	0:06:10
33	Alan Allcock	Didcot Phoenix CC	62	0:21:34	0:06:17
34	Vincent Jenkins	LeisureLakesBikes.com	77	0:23:41	0:06:59
36	Michael Bennett	Bicester Millennium CC	48	0:20:34	0:06:02
169	Chris Summers	Sotonia CC	65	0:25:33	0:02:41
174	Tony Flynn	Willesden CC	44	0:22:40	0:03:38

