**Bideau breaks old school pal's course record...**

With a great field assembled at the NLTTA 100, the stage was set for a record breaking tussle and cyclists did not disappoint. Richard Bideau, Pendle Forrest, taking the men's race in a new course record of 3:29:40 and Steph Mottram, NCC Group-Kuota-Torelli, taking the women's race in a new course record of 4:07:40.

Steve Irwin's 2016 record of 3:33:32 was broken twice. First by David Allonby, Springfield Financial RT, in a sterling performance of 3:31:18, but he had to settle for 2nd place, behind Richard Bideau's record-breaking performance of 3:29:40. It was a difficult day for Steve Irwin, who never really got going, he finished 3rd in 3:40:11.

In the women's race, Steph Mottram, NCC group – Kuota – Torelli, in her first 100, produced a stella performance, breaking Lyn Hamel's 2007 record by over 11 minutes, and setting a new course record of 4:07:40. 2nd place went to Rachel Batt, Buxton CC, in 4:32:44 and 3rd place went to Carol Westmorland, Border City Wheelers CC, who was also 1st NLTTA lady, in 4:37:59.

The Lantern Rouge was well contested, going to Trevor Halstead, Gainsborough Aegir CC, in a time of 5:43:28, beating Harry Cowley, Chester RC, who finished in a time of 5:40:40. Harry said: "I'm gutted, I can't believe someone else went slower than me!"

The team event went to Sprinfield Financial RT with David Allonby 3:31:18, Tom Rigby 3:44:26 and Matt Stell 3:56:08.

Remarkably, despite gusting winds, a good number of personal bests were achieved on the day, the top 12 men all broke 4 hours, and a record number of first timers recorded good performances. David Hargreaves, North Lancs. RC, at the age of 71, completed the course in 4:12:11.

There were a number of DNFs, notably Gavin Hinxman, Drag2Zero, riding his TRIKE and hoping to break the competition record. At the half way stage he had clocked 1:54:00 and was on target for the course record, but then he punctured.

This was a great event, sponsored by Truline Construction and Hewitts Bike Shop and was well managed by first time organiser, Nigel Clementson.

