



*The official Team Cambridge Newsletter – Feb 2008*

*(Incorporating Mud Munchers Monthly)*

*(Incorporating Tarmac Terriers Tribune)*

# Paul Millard wins ‘The Most Prestigious’



**Paul on his way to victory**

Read the race report on page 3

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## Tarmac Terriers Tribune

The first Sunday of the New Year saw a collection of riders and supporters turn out at the Bottisham course for the first club event of the year. The day dawned bright and very sunny, but was bitterly cold, there was a slight head wind on the return leg, but on the whole conditions were good.



Two of the club juveniles were amongst the eleven riders that faced the timekeepers; there were also a couple of riders from Cambridge CC chancing their hand (or even legs) against the clock. The Twiglet aka Peter Millard was also making his first 10mile Time Trailing debut clocking a time of 49.19, while seasoned rider (or so it seems) Sam Parker rode the 10 miles a few minutes faster. The club President Doug Parker decided to turn out and ride just to get a good handicap time for the summer events.

Position	Name	Club	Time
1	Alan Kidd	Team Cambridge	25:58
2	Ralph Keeler	Cambridge CC	27:36
3	Trevor Avis	Team Cambridge	27:58
4	Simon Bowden	Team Cambridge	28:56
5	Jeremy Greer	Team Cambridge	31:04
6	Derek Bailey	Cambridge CC	31:16
7	Charles Tallack	Team Cambridge	32:32
8	Steve Laurie	Team Cambridge	36:21
9	Doug Parker	Team Cambridge	40:59
10	Sam Parker (Juv)	Team Cambridge	43:40
11	Peter Millard (Juv)	Team Cambridge	49:19

As usual the event was timed by Collette Millard and Pauline Parker, who also provided the teas and coffees after the event. Charles and Chris Willmetts acted as marshals at the turn.

## Mud Munchers Monthly

The third and final round for Team Cambridge's 'Most Prestigious' trophy took place on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, on a bright and sunny Sunday morning. Only five club members lined up at the start of another well organised event by MTB Racing. The riders being Paul Millard, Kevin Parker, Steve Laurie, Jeremy Greer and Charles Tallack with a shock horror no Jeff **MTB**ushrod. Jeff was missing due to having a cold (or was it the flu or probably pneumonia) Another week of heavy rain had left the course quite muddy in places, luckily Thetford forest being quite sandy drains and dries reasonably well. Paul Millard stormed into a winning position taking only about 43 minutes to complete his first lap, squeezing Kev Parker into second place. The usual crew of supports were all on hand to record any mishaps that may have occurred either on camera or video Meanwhile the remaining riders all finished the event the full results}



**Kevin flat out**

Position	Rider	11-Nov-07	02-Dec-07	20-Jan-07	Total
1	Paul Millard	19	18	20	57
2	Charles Tallack	17	19	18	54
3	Kevin Parker		20	19	39
4	Jeremy Greer	18		17	35
5	Jeffery Bushrod	16	16		32
6	Steve Laurie	15		16	31
7	Simon Bowden	20			20
8	Ian Millard		17		17



**Charles Tallack**



**the spectators**



**Steve in a wooded section**

The unfortunate Simon Bowden (he of the bad back syndrome) was at the event to witness Paul Millard wrestling his crown away for the 2007/2008 'Most Prestigious' trophy; this will be presented together with all the other awards at the clubs annual social gathering on 16<sup>th</sup> February. However the riders will be back in the forest on 10<sup>th</sup> February, to ride the fourth and last Thetford MTB Series event. My apologies to Jeremy Greer the only rider I failed (again) to get a photograph of as he rode by. This should be rectified if he rides the next event in his new club top!...ED

## Attleborough Cyclo-cross (cancelled)

For once a bright SUNNY morning dawned on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan, and the Mud Munchers were about to depart for darkest Norfolk (or is it Suffolk) to take part in the next round of the Norwich ABC cyclo-cross at Attleborough. Only problem according to the web site the races were cancelled due to a waterlogged course. Seems a bit strange to me, as the riders would have probably revelled in those conditions. Not to be out done Team Parker decided to have an impromptu road session, taking in the villages in and around Hardwick, Comberton and Toft. A nice little 25 mile circuit was ridden in very pleasant conditions, coffee and home made cheese scones were served to the riders after the event.



Photo by Neil Randall

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### Letters to the Editor

Now I've seen it! What a wonderful front page picture, I shall have to print that off and keep it somewhere. Thanks for the spokesman Ed, keep up the good work. I didn't realise we packed so much into a year!.....Colette

Absolutely Brilliant - yet again. Well done.

Clare.

Hi Doug

I was just sitting down at the computer to send you an email, thanking you for "The Stick" video (I laughed 'til it hurt) when I discovered to my enormous delight that the Spokesman had arrived.

What can I say; it just gets better & better.

A masterly summing up of the old year, & who could fail to be moved by Chris Willmetts story.... MTB

Hi Doug

Many thanks for my own personal newsletter it is saved away in my TC folder and is now quickly accessible. I have enjoyed reading some and scanning other parts - will read in full later- it is a good 'letter. I like the photos - the one of the trike came out well. I like your suggestion of a scotch while reading it but as I am on antibiotics and pain killers maybe I had better not.

All the best Chris

## The Tour of the Cornfields – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007

As I'm writing this in the final days of January, the images of waving fields of golden corn are but a distant memory, as are the numb wrists and hopeless feeling of desolation as I try to navigate parts of Cambridgeshire that I never knew existed. Still, having spent the evening filling in my VAT return, it's nice not to have to perform "due diligence" on this piece of work!

Following the heady days of the TdF sportive, and racing the fixers across London on my way home the following day, this seemed like a jolly way to keep the wheels turning, even if the event was held the day after we returned from holiday. Two weeks in Croatia is great, but without having sat on a bike there was no way I could ever be fit enough for this!

The event was billed as 58 miles of mostly off-road going, suitable mainly for 'crossers and MTBs. There was quite a mix of folk, some local, most not. One gent had lived in Balsham at some time in the past, and had packed for a camping trip, with maps, food, waterproofs – the lot. I think he did finish though, so credit is due.

Away from the start at Whaddon Village Hall, in groups of twenty or so every minute, it was a race on the tarmac to the green lane between Orwell and Harlton. That hill slowed 'em down a bit... I remember one Friday afternoon years ago when out riding I disturbed a couple making use of a lunch break in the traditional fashion – it was two pairs of feet poking out of the car window that caught my attention!

Unsurprisingly the ground was rock hard and bumpy – I'd pumped my tyres pretty hard to reduce drag but on the way into Toft picked up a puncture that lost me fifteen minutes hunting for the culprit that I never found. Having lived in Comberton for four years I still managed to lose the trail just out of Hardwick. On road, the directions on the route sheet were clear and the arrows easy to follow, but the off-road sections were very tricky to follow, with just a bit of stripy tape every few hundred yards, tied to a hedge.

By the lunch stop at Hatley, I was feeling pretty good, especially when the pack of Rugby VC 'crossers arrived after me. Despite having gone steaming away into the distance much earlier on, they'd done an extra twelve miles by lunchtime on various diversions. The facilities were basic, but just fine, with a big box of 'nanas and energy bars plus water and electrolyte drink to help oneself to.

After this, I was venturing into Terra Incognita, the further West I went. I never knew about the abandoned medieval village of Clopton, on the side of the hill on the way to Wrestlingworth. There's not much on show, but an interesting display board on the path gave an opportunity for a rest while I watched a group of unfortunates struggle back up the hill after taking another wrong turn.

A mile or two after this, we'd formed into impromptu committees, each debating the merits of this or that route before deciding on the next half-mile forwards (or backwards, or sideways). We gamely wound ourselves up a steep farm drive to what we thought was New England Farm, only to be greeted by the old farmer saying that he'd already sent about forty of us back down today as this was the wrong farm. Funny how I was completely convinced I'd read the route sheet right, until that moment!

We ploughed on, joining and disbanding groups as riders tired or outpaced others. The rest was a bit of a blur really, as I hadn't a clue where I was and how far I had to go. A map would have made all the difference, but like all the places I have ever lived this route would have needed at least two OS sheets to cover the course. I recall one descent of a mile or so, on a farm track paved with loose whole bricks – even on a rigid framed MTB I was thankful not to be on a lightweight cyclo-cross machine just then.

My final detour took me over the top of a chalky hill, on a track that seemed good enough riding to be worth carrying on – I should have stopped at the top and looked for the turn-off! This led to a five-mile dead end on the road, by which time I had completely lost my bearings. So, I pragmatically headed for Steeple Morden by road, on the grounds that (a) I had heard of it, and (b) someone else might know where it was. I then chugged back via Bassingbourn to the finish at Whaddon, and although I was on the road I had unwittingly paralleled the last part of the course and in fact not cut the mileage by doing so, so I felt quite justified in recording a finish time.

All this, on reflection, reads like a total nightmare, and in many ways it might have been. The course was hard and bumpy, the wind was unrelenting and the lack of route marking was irritating. Having said all that, it was enjoyable in the way that cycling ordeals generally are, and I was pleased with myself for achieving something that a few years ago I wouldn't have been fit enough to attempt. The sight of unfamiliar landscapes without cars or buildings made it worth the effort.

I reckon that next year's event will be much better with improved route marking in the light of experience (it was the promoter's first big event and he was surprised by the number of entries) and well worth a go if you want to test your stamina. See you there?

Charles Tallack, January 2008

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### **Forthcoming Events**

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Committee meeting
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Final Round Thetford MTB Series
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ely & Dist CC Hardriders (promoted by TC's Steve Laurie)
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Team Cambridge annual social & prize giving evening (not to be missed)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Recovery day

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### **Team Cambridge Photographs**

For those of you that haven't as yet looked into the Team Cambridge 2007 photograph album then feel free to look at}

[www.virginmediaphotos.co.uk/album/6946177](http://www.virginmediaphotos.co.uk/album/6946177)

To look at the video clip that MTB mentioned in his letter then refer to}

<http://www.team-cambridge.co.uk/album/video/le-stick.wmv>

More photographs will appear during the coming months!

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### **Team Cambridge Club Clothing**

Imp Sport really excelled themselves with the delivery of the latest batch of club clothing, from the date of order to receiving the goods took all of.....**ten days**. Well done to them!! (its taking a lot longer to get the recipients to collect them)