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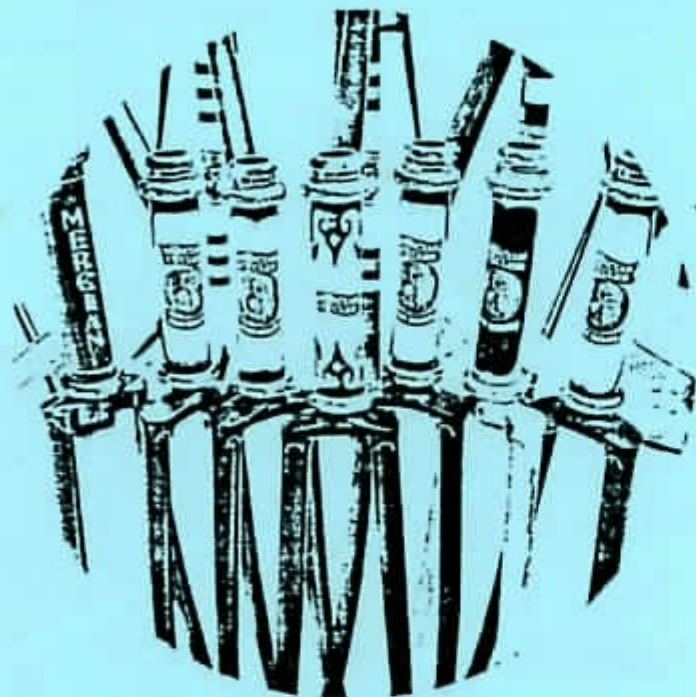
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A W H E E L

May - June 1991

Deadline for July - August issue is 14th June 1991

EDITORIAL

I will keep this very short to allow space for more interesting articles. Thank you to all who have sent me articles, they will appear in time, unfortunately there is no room for the cycle ride to France as promised last time, but it will appear next month - I promise. I also have an article on a cycling holiday in Majorica. Keep the articles coming in, it all makes interesting reading.

Sorry about the Treasure Hunt being postponed, but owing to being in hospital Sheila was unable to put the finer details to it. Sheila hopes to run it later in the year, when she has made a full recovery.

Hope you all get plenty of miles in now the weather is improving, although that doesn't stop some 'mile eaters' who go out whatever the weather.

Do not forget the Roughstuff Ride on 12th May - 2p.m. Wetton Mill Cafe, I am sure John has found a good route, he usually does. Also Ian's Spot the Dot Ride on 2nd June, Kirk Iangley Cross Roads 9.a.m.

TANDEM IN THE ALPS.

About seventy members and friends enjoyed Jeff and Sue Bowlers slide show on 16th March. The show brought together about four tours to give a circular route from Geneva, heading east and south to the Maritime Alps and back. All the Alpine famous passes were included as well as other lesser known areas and the quality and variety of the slides portrayed the magnificence of the area.

Ian.

D.A. DIARY OF EVENTS 1991

- 12th May. Roughstuff Ride.
Start Wetton Mill Cafe. 2.p.m.
- 2nd June. Spot the Dot Ride.
Kirk Langley Cross Roads. 9.a.m.
- 22nd September. Standard Rides.
- 30th September. Slide and Print Competition.
Entries to John Woodings.
- 6th October. Hill Climb.
- 19th October. Slide Show, Rolleston Scouts Headquarters.
- 3rd November. D.A. Lunch.
- 24th November. D.A. Annual General Meeting.
- 8th September. Audax Rides, organised by Burton Section.
-

NEW MEMBERS.

A warm welcome is extended to all new members and those who have moved into the area.

Mr. H. Bailey,
Mr. P. Bearsley,
Mr. M. W. Bonsor,
Miss K. M. R. Cobb
Mrs. J. Edge,
Miss. R. T. Fearn,
Mr. S. Garner,
Mrs. M. Hadfield,
Mrs. M. Lynch,
Mr. R. Lynch,
M/s D. Mc Cown,
Mr. D. R. Plews,
Mr. P. A. Rushton,
Mr. P. Shepherd,
Miss. J. I. Upton,

Mr. I. M. Wimbush,

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I'm pleased to say that Derby runs have restarted and since 10th March there have been about six regulars on the fortnightly runs, with hopes of more when the better weather occurs. Burton Section continue to have attendances of between 12 to 15 for their weekly runs.

Cafe of the month must be Trishia's Tearooms which is on the Royal Cottage to Allgreave Road (GR018636). Apart from the reasonable priced and delicious pies, cakes and tea, any cafe that lets cyclists return after trying on the tea cosies as alpine style hats and suffers the puns about matrimonial cake must be deserving of custom.

Why not write to the Awheel with your favorite cafe.

Ian.

D. A. B. A. R.

Members have been asking how the B.A.R. points system is worked out, this is the reply from Mick Bailey who has done the job for many years.

The treasure hunt, hill climb and photographic competition have outright winners and then the points diminish for 2nd, 3rd and so on down to the last member.

Members completing the Roughstuff ride and the 100 in 8 get equal points to the winners of the other events and those completing the 50 in 4 get half the amount of points.

If you are an organiser of any of the above events you must let Mick have the results sheet straight away, also send one to me for publication in the Awheel. Mick's address incase you do not know it is:- Mick Bailey,

Ed. note: D. A. members ONLY to Mick.

BURTON SECTION RUIIS REPORT

On the 17th February, having previously arranged to meet Ken from Uttoxeter somewhere in between Sydbury and Doveridge, Sheila led everyone in that direction. A little used lane sign posted Waldley preceded the descent into Rocester and after climbing past Bamford's another minor lane led towards Alton. The Red Road along the Churnett Valley was as delight-

ful as ever but care had to be taken when negotiating a rather icy track to Dinwiddingsdale Youth Hostel where the Warden had left what was necessary for making tea and coffee.

On reaching our venue Hawksmoor Nature Reserve it was decided to give the snow covered track a miss as some walkers described it as very messy and anyway some of the section had already made it quite plain that tarmac was favoured!

Parley and Ellastone gave way to Norbury, Snelston and Rodsley before the group split up at Hilton for members to make their own way home.

Sheila Williams

A light shower on the 24th February was not sufficient to stop seventeen C.T.C. riders set off for Sutton Park. Through Catton Park, Elford, along a stretch of the old "25" mile course, to Hopwas and so to Tamworth for coffee. Apparently the cafe had been burgled the previous night for the sixth time, and mopping up operations were taking place. Offering our condolences to the Manageress, we then proceeded along lanes to Drayton Bassett, and the inevitable rough-stuff Tim had sought out. Much amusement was had watching members cross the ford at the bottom of the hill. One male member gained a very wet shoe, and one female cyclists' screams could be heard miles away.

An alfresco lunch was enjoyed in Sutton Park, whilst a grey squirrel was unreturbed by 17 noisy cyclists.

There were many smart comments about overdrafts, large bank balances and Porche's etc, along Millionaires Row at Sutton.

Capes were required as we approached Shenstone, and so a quick journey home was made through Iichfield and Alrewas, where we went separate ways.

Our thanks to Tim who kept us off main roads, and planned an interesting route through which is predominately a built up area.

It was a most unusual day 3rd March, one group of riders set out at 8.30.; the main group left at the correct time of 9.00 and two members, who should have known better left at 9.30.

However the first ones to arrive for lunch at Wetton were the last ones to start (there must be a lesson here). They travelled to Sudbury, Darley Moor, Norbury, Stanton and through the Mainfold Valley. The second group to arrive had taken almost the same route but stopped for coffee at Caudon Low Art Centre.

The last group to arrive were the "Headbangers" who had made a very fast pace via Whatstandwell, Wirksworth, Parwich, across to Milldale thus taking 47 miles to reach Wetton. "Jim the Trike" also turned up via Butterton etc.

After lunch thirteen riders set off for Narrowdale, but owing to the recent rain it was decided to abandon the idea and leave this track for a future date, whereupon, the early starters headed for a quick journey home. The rest of us enjoyed a more leisurely ride to Alstonesfield and scenic Lode Mill where we soon joined the shelter of Tissington Trail. This was a wise decision on John's part and much appreciated by the remaining riders'.

Despite the relentless wind, hilly terrain and odd sleet shower, all enjoyed another good days cycling in the Peaks.

The lower turn-out of the section was probably due to five of our regular riders enjoying an early and, hopefully, sunny holiday in Majorca.

Margaret Hoast.

According to the weather forecast overcast skies should have given way to better things on Sunday, 10th March but somehow the depression increased rather than decreased. After stopping for elevenses at Ambergate, the towpath alongside Cromford Canal was carefully negotiated as far as High Peak Junction and then the High Peak trail was followed to Black Rocks. With steady rain making conditions rather unpleasant, sandwiches were eaten whilst sheltering underneath a bridge after which hot refreshments were bought at Wirksworth Heritage Centre.

John spent some of his ill gotten gains in a nearby antique shop. As a collector of postcards of old Burton he was rather pleased to find some he hadn't seen before.

Rain continued to fall as the way home was made via Callow, Brailsford and Sutton on the Hill. Having returned the previous day from a week's cycling in Majorca during which only 2 hours rain fell in daylight hours, Sheila thought it a bit much to get so wet on her return to home ground.

If there had been a prize for the most punctures on Irvin's run to Downs Banks then Derek would have won hands down with three, Muriel and Irvin tied equal second with one each.

We didn't expect to get through the day's ride without getting wet and we weren't disappointed. However, before a wet end to an interesting and most enjoyable day we had elevenses at Bramshall tearoom and then continued along lanes that were often quite muddy, through the Leighs, Stone Heath and Hoss-

gate. Moddershall gave way to a confrontation with some churned up rough stuff but fortunately for Irvin it did improve and in fine weather on Downs Banks a picnic lunch was enjoyed.

It isn't often that the section breaks new ground but Downs Banks are one and a half miles North of Stone and consist of 166 acres of undulating moorland with a stream through the centre, given in 1946 after a local appeal, as a war memorial. An additional 3 acres were given to the National Trust by the Walters family in 1980.

Not far from Downs Banks the tow path along the Trent and Mersey canal was joined and followed to the 'cyclists' cafe' for a more than welcome mug of tea. Ominous clouds hastened homeward cycling through Milwich, Gratwich and along the B5017 but of course we all eventually had to cape up. Here's to a completely dry Sunday!

Sheila Williams.

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BURTON SECTION RUNS LIST.

Hon. Secretary:	J. Woodings,		
Start of Runs:	Abbey Arcade, High Street, Burton on Trent.		
S. Start time.	L. Lunch.	T. Tea.	
5th May:	Ogston Reservoir. L. Ashover.	T. Boyce. T. Crich.	s. 8.30.
12th May:	Section Freewheel Competition & D. A. Roughstuff Ride. J. Woodings. Wetton Mill Cafe 2.p.m.		s. 8.0.
19th May:	Meriden Memorial Service.		s. 8.00.
26th May:	Bank Holiday.	Informal.	s. 8.30.
2nd June:	Spot the Dot Ride. Kirk Langley Cross Roads 9.00.	I. Hill.	s. 8.00.
9th June:	Maggie Mine. L. and T. Alfresco.	S. Williams.	s. 8.00.
16th June:	Oakham Castle. L. and T. Alfresco.	I. Wright.	s. 8.00.
23rd June:	York Rally Weekend. Informal.		s. 8.30.
30th June:	Roach End. L. Royal Cottage.	B. Prior. T. Meerbrook.	s. 8.00.
7th July:	Hal o' the Wood. L. Alfresco.	I. Hill. T. Stone.	s. 8.00.
14th July:	Kempstone Steam Engine Rally. L. and T. Alfresco.		s. 8.00.

Family Section and Easyriders Section Runs contact Ted Hopper,

CHANGE OF DATES FOR BURTON SECTION RUNS.

9 JUNE HAL O' THE WOOD I. HILL s. 0800
Lunch and tea ALFRESCO

7 JULY D.A. TREASURE HUNT S. WILLIAMS
s. 0900 WALTON ON TRENT CHURCH

DERBY RUCES REPORT.

On the 10th March eight members turned out for the inaugural new Derby run. After finding no one at the Mackworth enter pick up point, light drizzle set in for the morning run over Park Road, Duffield and Belper Lane End to Ambergate. We started started the rush on the sponge pudding as the Burton Section arrived to make it a full house at the Bridge cafe.

On leaving we hi-jacked Derek from Burton and the Cromford Canal towpath was enjoyed for its tranquility, apart from the chattering cyclists. After the climbs up the High Peak trail Incline, lunch was take at Middleton Top and we learnt the history of the railway from the videos shown there.

There was no respite from the rain on leaving so it was a brine run home through Worksop and Duffield back to Derby. Thanks to John Sutton, Steve Massey, Dave Lees, Peter Taylor, Trevor Johnson, Peter Bostomley and Ken Testro for joining us on the run.

Two weeks later with better weather there were seven riders out, including Bob and Clare Calder on their tandem. A leisurely run through Kirk Langley, Hecuston and Bradley led to elevenses at Ashbourne where members recalled their best falls in various fords.

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After Korbury and Ellastone the lakes of Wootton Park were passed to Farley and Oakmoor for lunch. Pete had his usual do it yourself sandwiches, and the steep slope of the Money-stone hill turned the conversation to the delights of other famous climbs.

There was one after lunch, up past the hostel but rewarded with the descent to Greatgate and Croxden. Plenty of time to look round the Abbey ruins which must have been magnificent building in the thirteenth century. The ruins left, despite being substantial, are only a small portion of the original building which was dissolved in the sixteenth century.

The group followed the Roman Road to Longford before a final tea stop at Bartonfields, leaving only a short run home.

Ian Hill.

DERBY RUNS.

Start from Debenhams - contact Ian Hill for details of time.

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 5th May: | Ogston Reservoir. |
| 12th May: | D.A. Roughstuff Ride. |
| 19th May: | Bosworth Fields. |
| 2nd June: | D.A. Spot the Dot Ride. |
| 16th June: | Vale of Belvoir. |
| 30th June: | Roach End. |
| 14th July: | Kempstone Steam Engine Rally. |
-

HANDONNIE NOTES.

The season is at last on. Four riders began it in earnest by riding a 150km event taking in the flatter parts of South Yorkshire and adjoining Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire on a frosty sunny day.

The first 200km P.B.P. qualifier saw three local riders leaving Rochdale for more scenic parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Torrential rain and high winds made this a ride to remember for the wrong reasons. The rain assisted by melting snow flooded roads and caused rivers to burst their banks.

Much better weather greeted the six who travelled to Lincoln for the next 200km, sun and a headwind slowed the speed south, past Tattershall Castle and the sometimes hilly Kesteven to encircle Rutland Water for an easier ride back, skirting all built up areas to make sure more local riders got in a 200km qualifier.

The next effort, another 200km, began at Albrighton and bowled along, wind assisted and in sunshine for the first 50km. Then into the wind for the next leg before the hard climb over The Glees and a drop into the Severn Valley. The three local riders ended up getting soaked in the aftermath of a cloud burst.

Shenstone, near Lichfield, is the start of an event popular with Burton riders. Six got around the 100km ride covering the Trent Valley, Needwood Forest and Cannock Chase. Rain towards the end got them wet, as it did the seven who rode the 200km. This route was quite hilly, going over the Axe Edge and onto Castleton. A headwind back saw some gritted teeth going over Honsal Head and the Miners Standard climbs.

The first 300km qualifier from Kidderminster had only two Burton participants. A very hard middle section take the mountain road from Buith Wells over the Devils Staircase to Tregaron. A following wind, sun and shorts made this most enjoyable. The return road from Cwystwyth to Rhyader via another mountain road but into a cold wind was a different matter with many riders struggling a bit.

By the next time the notes appear most riders hoping to qualify will be nearly there as 400km and 600km events will have been ridden, lets hope we have some warm weather.

Jim Hopper.

LE TOUR.....part 2. by Ian Hill

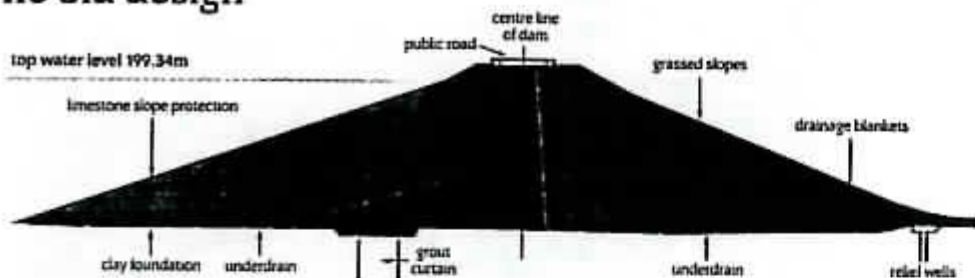
The sun emerged for day four at Bar sur Aube, about 200km east of Paris as I joined the traffic leaving the town and its parks on Euroroute E54. Soon I turned onto the D roads to head south, and followed the River Aube through the forests. The area was slightly undulating before climbing over to the next river at Recey sur Ource.

Lunch was taken at a cafe in the town square, it was good to sit outside in the sun and watch the activity - one car passing and two people walking by - perhaps it was the siesta.

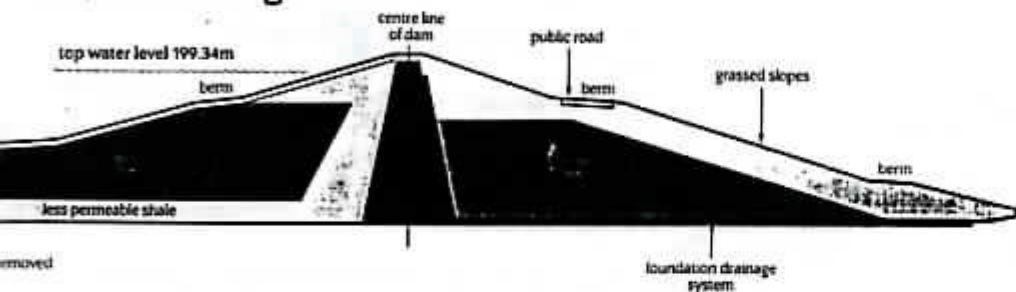
The planned work

In the summer of 1988 Severn-Trent obtained planning permission for the construction of the new Carsington dam and work will shortly begin on site.

The old design



The new design



New strengthening factors are:

- (i) Berms and flatter slopes
- (ii) Surface clays removed
- (iii) Narrower vertical core

The old dam will be substantially removed and it is planned to start work on the new dam construction in the spring of 1990 for completion by October 1992. Water will slowly be introduced into the reservoir during the following months.

Most of the material for the new dam will come from the Carsington reservoir site. Stone will be brought in from local quarries. Earth moving during the next few years will, subject to weather conditions, usually take place between May and October with minor works carried out in the winter months.

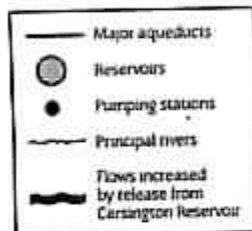
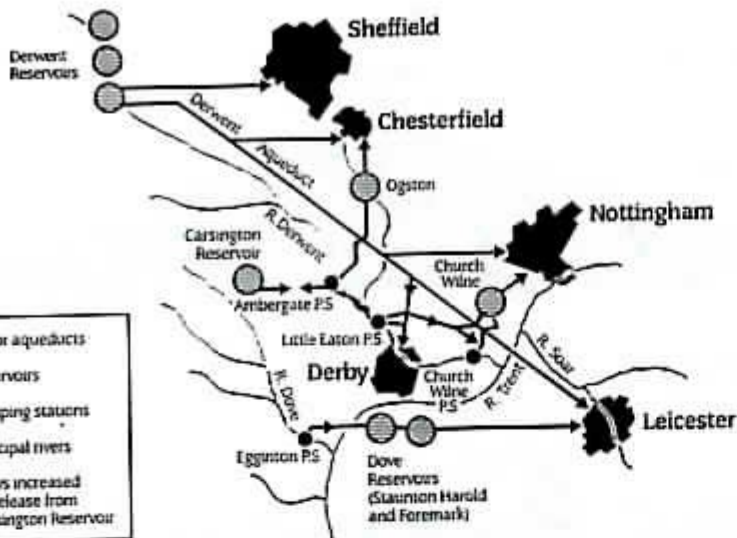
The road shown on the drawing is the proposed Hognaston by-pass due for opening in 1992.

A panel of independent technical experts has been set up all with wide experience in a particular aspect of dam construction. They will review all stages of the construction of the dam.



Carsington Reservoir

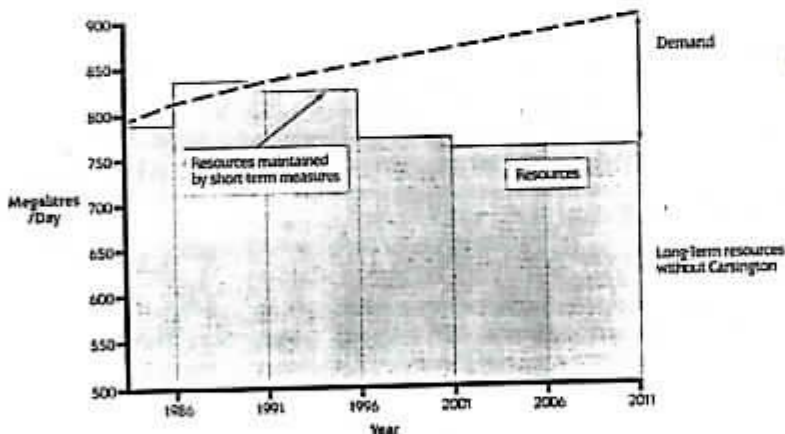
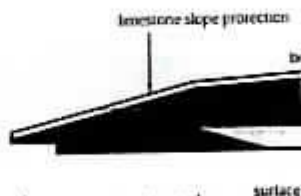
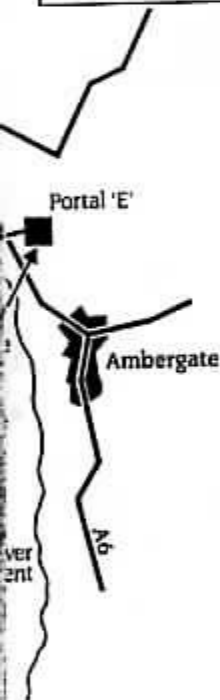
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The need

In a dry summer, homes and factories in the East Midlands need more water at peak times than we can readily supply. Already we have little margin for operational emergencies or for drought.

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Abstract from report to the Department of the Environment 1986



The Background

Carsington Reservoir, to the north of Ashbourne in Derbyshire, is needed to provide additional water supplies to some three million people in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

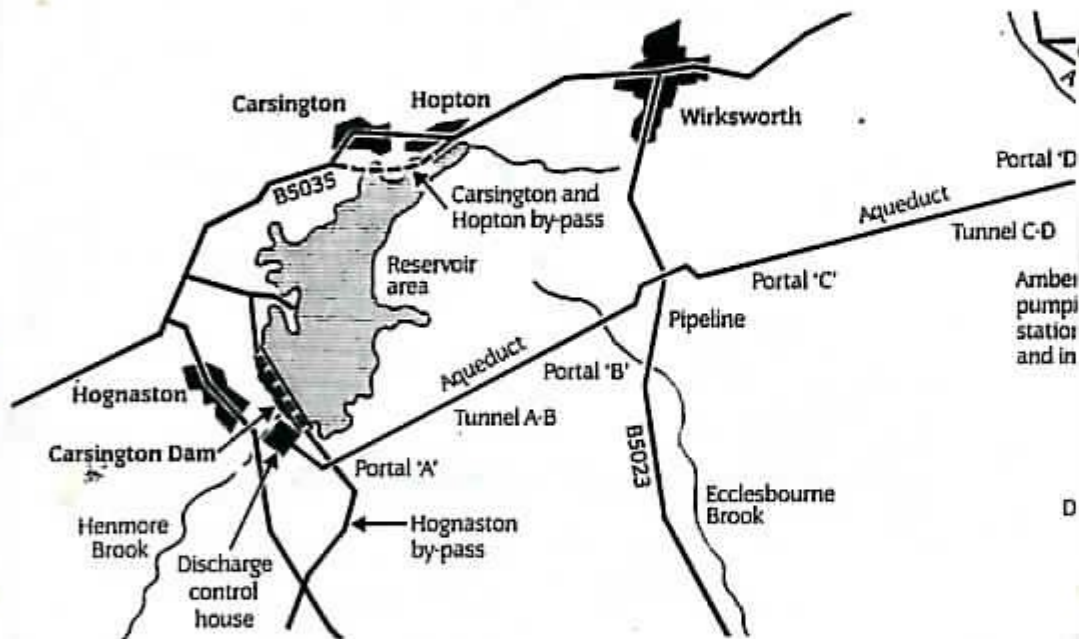


How Carsington will work

During the high flows of winter, water will be pumped from the River Derwent at Ambergate to Carsington Reservoir.

In times of need it will be returned to the river to provide a vital source for additional public water supplies.

Ogston Reservoir will also receive water from Carsington.



Landscaping and leisure

Severn-Trent is proud of its reputation for caring for and enhancing the water environment.

On the valley slopes at Carsington we are planning to create large woodland areas with a mixture of native species.

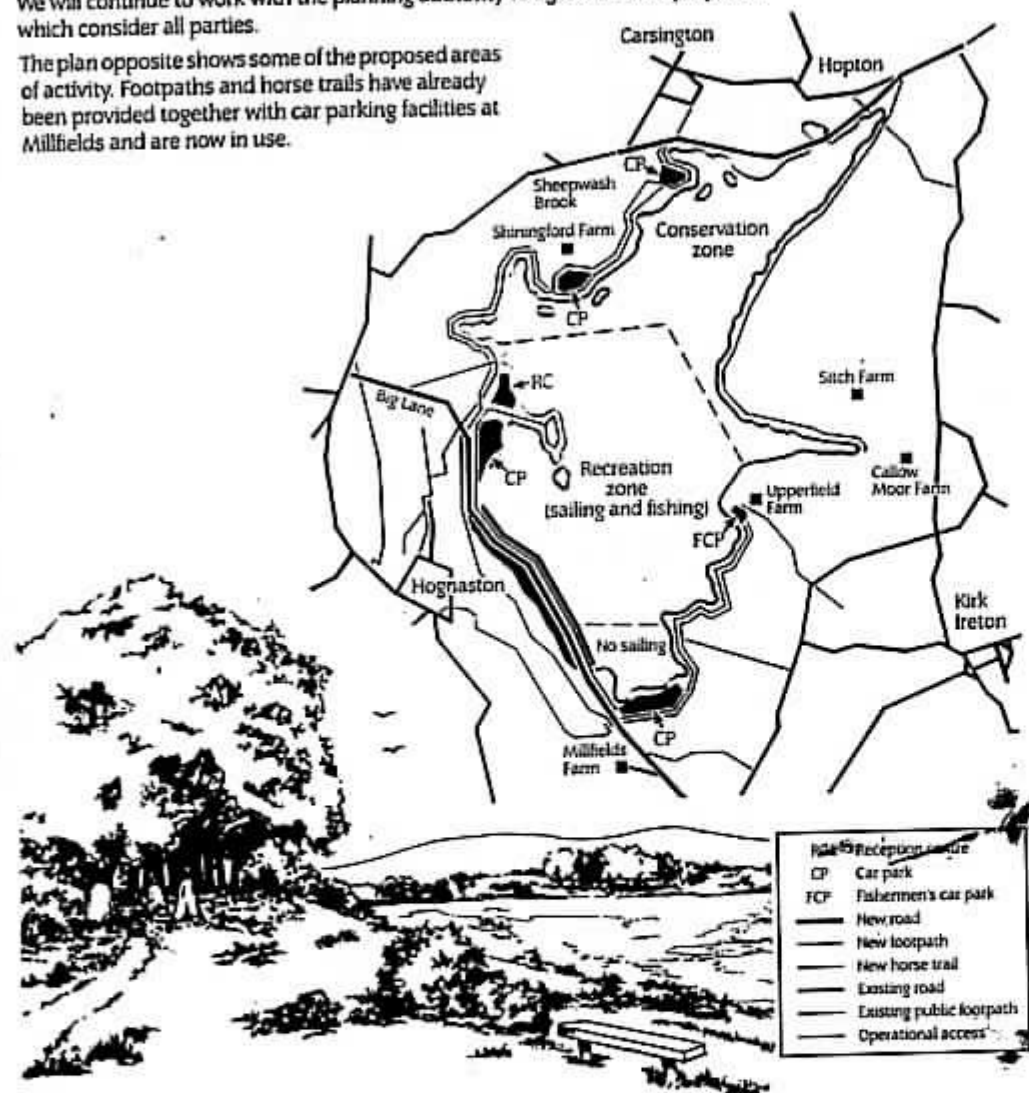
Over 250,000 trees have already been planted with many more planned.

Carsington Reservoir will provide for a variety of recreational and amenity pursuits.

Severn-Trent is aware of the need for a balance of activities and at the same time having regard and respect for the local community.

We will continue to work with the planning authority to agree sensible proposals which consider all parties.

The plan opposite shows some of the proposed areas of activity. Footpaths and horse trails have already been provided together with car parking facilities at Millfields and are now in use.



On leaving the town a motorist stopped and asked for directions to the square. No problem with my improving French and off he went. Then I realised I had mixed up my left and rights! A hasty departure and I was then on the steady climb over the Plateau de Langres.

Once over the top the road dropped down the valley through Grancey with its castle on the cliffs above the village. Further down the River Tille wound along in pleasant meadows and the village of Lux was superb with its flower covered chalets by the shallow river. By now the sun was scorching as I crossed the undulating grain plains to the north east of Dijon and a few shade stops were necessary.

After the River Saone I reached the first obvious hills since the channel, and the evening sun gave them a reddish hue. Hairpins led up to Gendrey where I paused at the village square and the friendly village elders told me of all the cafes and shops in the area.

Only 10km of the continuous forest de Chaux was left before the mountains. I emerged at Arc et Senans, a picture in the evening light with the mountains around as the band played on the huge common. The air seemed so fresh, and then I was climbing steady through Mouchard, where the railway and roads swung in all directions, and into the magnificent gorge which somehow Salins les Bains had managed to squeeze overlooked by the forts of St André and Belin high on the cliffs above.

No wine was wanted after the hot day but my order of lemonade with the meal seemed to disturb the hotel staff. Quarter of an hour later a litre bottle arrived from the local shop and I matched the finesse of the local connoisseurs by using the wine glasses of course.

Twenty glasses and a nights sleep later (much cheaper than wine by buying the bottle) I climbed out of Salins to the tune of cow bells in the meadows. With the steep climb I had plenty of time to look back at the forts and the meadow flowers and to decide that cow bells get on your nerves.

Once up, it was fairly level following valleys through the Forests to Metabel a ski resort where the many chalets did at least blend into the landscape with the towering le Morand at 1419m behind. I reached the main road to Switzerland and had a lunch stop over the pass in Jougne. Entertainment was provided by the young skateboarders careering down the 1 in 3 road outside the cafe. The locals again took an interest in my travels and when their friends arrived there was such con-

tinental hugging and kissing, and that was just the menfolk - another hasty departure before they came to greet me!

Four km downhill I reached the Swiss border control who are a bit fussy as to who they let in. I had a tense moment when the guard asked me into the control room. Luckily I wasn't on the computers suspect list so I then had more downhill through Vallorbe. In Orbe I got my supply of Swiss francs for the 22 hours I was to be in the country and judging by the local prices only enough to live frugally.

To avoid Lausanne I cut across country through the forests around Mont Jarat and instinct guided me through the maze of roads (or luck). All height was lost on the fast descent to lac Lemay with cobbled paths leading down through the vineyards to villages by the lake shore.

After a few busy miles through Vevey and Montoux the lake was left behind to follow the Rhone Valley through St. Maurice to Martigny at the bottom of the Grand St. Bernard Pass.

Next Issue: Pass bashing around Derby.

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VISA

The Day We Went To The Races ...continued.

The melon fields abounded in this area, packed in boxes marked 'Sol de Divas', the Dive was the river running through the region and we could all vouch for the sunshine! Melon fields give off a wonderful perfume, good enough to tempt me to try a slice, I still don't like the taste, but the smell is wonderful. It was difficult to resist the temptation of sampling them in the fields, especially as there were rejects chucked all over the place.

Firmly resisting temptation we carried on towards our objective which was now looming larger on the landscape. So we toiled (well me and mum did) up the final slope to Oiron. Not to visit the chateau you understand but to find a cafe. Mission accomplished mum and I joined the rest of the family in a small cafe tucked into the corner of the square and called for reviving cups of coffee. It was an interesting cafe with well smoked photo's of the chateau sharing the wall with some rather nice old plates. A small problem arose when we tried to use the toilet. It was locked, and when we asked for the key we were told 'well you can have the key, but there is no water! Apparently the prolonged drought had caused the water main to the village to fracture, and as it was a bank holiday there was no immediate prospect of a repair. It must have been wonderful for small children and beer drinkers!

As so often happens the close up view of the chateau was an anti-climax. A piece of loose tarpaulin flapping over a roof under repair and a small notice detailing opening hours

and prices. Most chateaux insist on visitors joining organised groups, but that doesn't suit us, we're too bolshy to be organised by anybody else when we're on holiday. So as usual we decided not to bother with the tour, particularly as this chateau plays host to rather inappropriate exhibitions of modern art instead of the art of the shoemaker!

Then we had to have a discussion about the return route. Should we carry on round in a circular route to try and keep out of the wind, or should we return the way we had come? The vote was in favour of returning, at least as far as Sauzeau. It's funny how when retracing your steps or your wheelmarks the landscape is so different when viewed from the other way. This time we could see that the local garden centre had not only fields full of gladioli, but others full of plants in pots, presumably for ease of watering. The next farm along had a field packed with white geese.... I am never quite sure how it is that I don't fall off my bike, for I spend far more time looking around me than I ever do watching the road.

On the outskirts of Sauzeau mum stopped to check if some fallen plums were fit to eat and while she did so we could hear a distant loudspeaker. We decided that the noise was coming from our right so when we reached the road junction instead of going straight on for home, we turned right to see the Fete. The Fete was further away than we expected, in a field about a kilometre outside the village and nearly halfway to the next small town Moncontour. We turned down off the road, ignoring the car park, and went down a track between the sunflower fields to a meadow by the side of the river Dive. The preparations were well advanced so we paid our money and

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received our tickets, which also gave us entry into the raffle for a baby donkey, we regretfully gave our tickets away to small children being unsure of the laws on importing little asses.

After a long and boring pause while waiting for the donkey races to start, we went to look at the side shows. The first thing we came to was a pond made by covering a circle of straw bales with a plastic sheet and filling it with water. In the water swam a disconsolate duck. On the side of the pond was a notice which asked one not to be cruel to the duck, intrigued we looked closer and saw the stall holder was carrying a handful of plastic rings; light dawned; we were looking at a 'Hook a Duck' stall using real ducks! The prize for successfully hooking a duck was a live one to take home but as it was too hot for roast dinners we decided not to bother. The other side shows were of a more conventional nature so we went back to the main arena for the races.

The race commentators first job was to persuade members of the public to become jockeys, the inducement being a very handsome trophy for the winner and bottles of wine for each team of two competitors. There were about 20 donkeys of assorted size and sex and each pair of intrepid volunteers were allocated a steed, seemingly at random. The race was run on the basis of distance covered rather than first past the post, the competitors having 10 minutes to get round the track as many times as possible. The eventual winner looked rather desperate by the end of the race, 9 times round the track, including the water the water jump had proved harder than he expected - especially bareback!

The crowd's favourite, however was the team that came last. The intrepid jockey being dumped twice in the water! The judges gave them an extra bottle of wine for 'artistic merit'. After we had rapturously applauded our favourites we were left with 2 hours before the next race. Although the affectionado's of the Ball Trap had continued without pause during the race, for mere onlookers watching other people hit, or more often miss little clay circles fired into the air soon loses its charm.

Although we always like to attend the village fetes, believing that its good to put money into the communities that welcome us, we didn't really fancy hanging around for hours for the next race, even if the couscous was as good as the man with the microphone said it was. We left for home, following the now familiar lanes through Honcontour and Messais (whose name didn't take any altering), checking in the hedgerows to see if the sloes were ripe enough to take home for gin making.

Shortly after passing through Messais we passed through a wood where on a previous occasion I was lucky enough to see a woodpecker. This time all we saw was a carpet of Chinese Lantern plants which in this country are the flower arrangers joy but in France grow wild in the woods and ditches. On our approach to the next village, Frontenay-sur-Dive, we heard another loudspeaker and sure enough Frontenay was also celebrating Ascension day, but this time with a patanque competition. As my parents passed the venue they saw a group of young ladies in traditional costumes preparing to dance and decided to stay and watch. They were a little disappointed that the traditional dance the girls performed was the can-can! Not quite what they had expected but undeniably French.

THE GREAT EATING EXTRAVAGANZA.

When I committed myself to carrying out an evenings sociable 'Eating' at the Mercia club night I did not realize what this would involve, and also for Pete Rose to give many thanks in writing I thought to you who were safely at alternative venues that evening, I did it all for the interest of the club.

Facilities in the Clubroom are just ideal for the modern up-market meal I was to provide that night. With time being the governing part I decided to cheat a little and treat everyone to as little of my company as possible. Food was prepared at home, just to cut the corners but the 'Doubting Thomas's amongst the 'guinne pigs' (The tasting panel) could not understand why this was so.

In the back of my mind I knew it was the big release of the year for me to retard and cripple the 54 minute men on the tasting panel, but it did not materialise, (probably they prefer a heavy Indian).

Some people were quite satisfied with the end product although a sticky patch was avoided when one consumer alerted me that mushrooms were taboo with him, so I had to make a slight adjustment to the sauce, (leave out the mushrooms).

With that out of the way, it was on with the plan, I had got 'Giovanni' (my left hand man) to help serve up and also handle any complaints, while I beavered away at 'refreshing' the Pasta spirals. The sauce was completed with mushrooms and all but myself munched away at the first course.

The second course was a dessert which was also prepared at home due to the fact that we would have had a heavy time carrying a cooker into the clubroom from the back of a car, so I opted for the easy route.

I was pressurised into demonstrating the art of emptying a flan without cracking and splitting pastry and filling, this I achieved with very close tolerance, but I had to win over the confidence of the young 'Brave' on the tasting panel who was breathing heavily down my right ear, awaiting something to sweeten his palate after his first course.

In the end, I had the happiness of knowing that I was close to achieving the goal of seeing someone completely blown out, but I do say close. So with the help of Giovanni and myself we tidied up the banquet hall and returned to the reception bar to talk over the previous Extravaganza.

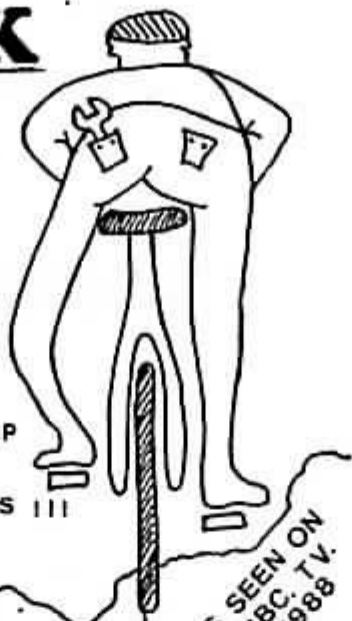
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Recipes for the evening are from a secret known to myself but can be released to a trusted sponsor for a small fee.

Yours in the kitchen,
Ivor James.

MERCIA scomark

Hon. Secretary: P.E. Rose,

Clubroom: Until Monday 9th September (excluding 6th May, 27th May and 26th August) there will be an informal get together at the Beech Inn, Stretton at 8.30.p.m. in the Public House. This will be an ideal time to sort out future events and race entries.

Committee Meetings: 22nd April, 20th May, 24th June and 19th August at 8.00.p.m. at the Beech Inn.

Clubruns: There will be no clubruns until early October. (see C.T.C.clubruns.

Evening Time Trials: 10 mile T.T's. will be at Dunstall Cross Roads, except for the Tandem Events on 7th and 21st May; 4th and 18th June; 2nd and 9th July, these will be on the Tamworth/Ashby Road-old A453-. The club events will finish with three 6 mile events, again at Drakelow commencing 27th August.

Forthcoming Events: E.M.R.E.L.E. at Yoxall 2nd May at 6.45.p.m. Open 25mile T.T. 3rd July Etwall, contact Mark Sheffield.

Unfortunately due to bad weather and a neck problem I did not make many Mercia Clubruns during February and March. I did make one in mid March to the Ramblers Retreat, with four others. We were hit by the puncture bug, well John Travis was, I stayed with him eventually meeting up with Kevin, Richard and Paul at the cafe, where we met Jim Hopper out to meet the C.T.C. The ride back to Burton was fortunately puncture free.

We Had the usual skittle match with the South Pennine at the Bridge Brewery which we managed to win again. My son Nick and I elected to play for the Pennine, I am afraid I was not much help to them.

Well I have finally done it, won a Mercia competition event after 25years, the event being the Handicap Roller Racing. It was close in the end, I was losing more than I was winning when Wally reduced my handicap. I finally amassed 22 points to William Hirst's 20 with Don Eaton and Steve Massey's 16 to finish joint third.

The clubroom programme was rounded off by Jeff Bowler who gave us an excellent slide show (assisted by wife Sue) on Continental Pass storming, mainly in the Pyrenees.

Some news on the membership front, Alan and Martin Pettitt have joined us from the South Pennine, Alan as 'older' members know was with the Mercia before going to Saudi Arabia. Martin's friend from Repton James Melan has also joined. Welcome to the club.

After a one year lapse I have recieved Dr. David Bousfield's membership again. Jean tells me they have a Great Dane puppy, (ed. name of Merckx), also due to work commitments David does not get much time for cycling.

Three members rode Long Eaton Paragon's 65 mile Reliability Trial in early February. It is fairly tough with a bit too much main road for me. Although it is sometime since I cycled up Fenny Bentley to Newhaven I was thankful for the refreshments at Newhaven. I got rather cold on the decent to Cromford along the Via Celia, I managed to finish in 5 hours, Jason Seabridge and Tony Orme finished in about 3½ hours, they were obviously fir, as subsequent racing results show.

The racing season has started very well for some members namely Alan and Martin Pettitt, Tony Orme, Jason Seabridge, Steve Herriman, Mark Sheffield, Mick Harriott, Chris Wells and Tony Bennett have all got some good races in.

The first event to report on is the Melton Olympic Hilly 21 mile T.T. where Mark took loth place in 59mins 12 secs., Jason was 1st Junior in 1-2-53 and Steve completed the team in 1-4-25. Geoff Platts winning in 55-05. Nottingham Clarion 2up 25, Alan and Martin took the mixed veterans prize in 1-1-34, Tony Orme and Jason claimed the mixed juniors prize in 1-0-34. Tony Bennett timed 1-9-43 in Belper H.C. 23mile hilly despite unshipping his chain. Coalville Wheelers Hilly 25 event saw Steve time 1-11-30. Dominic Sweeney won this one in 56-42.

The B.D.C.A. 2 up 25 mile T.E. organised by Coalville Wheelers was an excellent win for Tony and Jason in 59-21, the only team under the hour. Paul and Richard in their first event together finished in 1-7-21. The Tunstall Wheelers 2up 25 mile T.T. Tony and Jason claimed 5th place in 59-43.

A 36mile Road Race promoted by Royal Sutton C.C. saw Alan claim 8th place and in his first race as a junior Martin finished in the bunch. In the following weeks Albert Price Memorial Race at Wolverhampton over 53 miles Alan finished equal 10th, the 42 mile junior race Martin was impeded at the finish cutting out a high placing.

Stourbridge C.C.'s. 2up T.T. over 10 miles saw Alan and Martin claim 24-00 and 23-19 times for a high placing of 11th. Nick's best time to date has been a 1-7-21 in Notts and East Mids Vets event near Syston.

There were some good results over the Easter Holiday. Good Friday Alan and Martin were the fastest team in Velo Club Bedfords 22 mile 2up T.T. in 55-34 for 12th place. The winners were J. Harrison and S. Macken of Invicta Road Club in 48-51., a course record.

Easter Saturday Alan and Martin teamed up with Tony and Jason for Solihull C.C.'s. 50km. 4up T.T.T. they finished equal 12th with a time of 1-14-45. Unfortunately they lost Martin early on, he was suffering from a heavy cold. The winners were Solihull C.C. in 1-6-02.

Tony Orme took 1st place in the 16 lap points race with 20 pts. at the Butts Stadium, Coventry on Easter Monday, Tony was first over the line in 6 laps.

The Mercia had a team in Belper B.C. Hilly 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile T.T. with the following times:- Chris 53-39., Steve 53-56. and Tony Bennett 55-57., Mark Walsham won this in 45-00.

On a sad note, Lew Barker, well known racing cyclist with the Derby Mercury has passed away. I struck up a friendship with Lew when passing him on my way to work, Lew was then coming in the opposite direction to Willington Power Station.

I will end my report by mentioning Nick Marriott and John Travis who decided to get some miles in over Easter by riding to Aberystwyth and back. They were so tired on Good Friday evening that they were in bed by 9.00p.m. They blamed the troublesome wind.

Pete Rose.

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