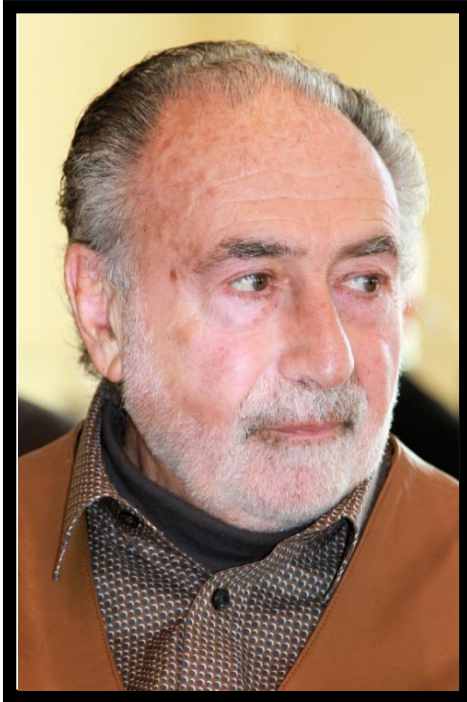


RAY CLIFFORD

4th February 1939 – 27th May 2015

A Sporting Tribute.



Ray Clifford sadly passed away on 27th May 2015, he was 76.

Ray joined the Finsbury Park C.C. on 6th October 1960. His first race was a club '25' in which he recorded 1:11:50. In 1965 Ray was selected to represent Great Britain in the Maccabian Games in Israel riding the track sprint and kilo events.

Ray was Club Track Champion from 1980 to 1988 and again in 1992/93. He was Track Secretary from 1981 to 1989 and Club Captain 1990 to 1996.

In 1986 he won the Millar Cup, B.A.R runner up, the Johnson-Hussey Cup, Club Champion with an average speed of 23.977mph. The John Blunt Cup for best '100' with 4:22:42, Vets TT Shield (also in 1988) and the Gordon Stewart Bowl as Club Handicap Champion.

In 1982 Ray and his wife Gerrie were awarded the Joe Evans Memorial Trophy for meritorious service to the club.

In 1991 Ray was made a Vice President.

In 1992, with Vince Freeley, Ray set a club tandem '30' record of 1:05:06.

Ray took a break from racing for a number of years and returned in 1979 with best times of 24:57 and 24:40 in club evening '10's and a 1:8:36 in the Whitewebbs CC '25' in July. He continued with time trials during the following years recording a personal best '10' of 23:47 in 1980 and winning 3rd handicap in the NTTCC '25' on 16th August. In 1981 Ray rode several 2up events with Steve Jacobs and Mick Hooker. He was second in a 10 lap scratch event in the Welwyn Track League. Ray ended 1981 with a personal best '25' of 1:2:00. During the winter months he started a weight training class at the club room.

In the early part of 1983 Ray rode several 2up events which must have given him some speed for in the Beds Roads CC on the F1 he did a 1:2:51 and in the Luton Arrow recorded a 1:1:00. His best '10' was 23:47. In 1984 Ray rode some road races and continued with time trialing and team timetrials.

1985 and Ray, along with Reg Brock, recorded 59:30 in the Glade CC tandem '25'. In the Essex Roads CC tandem '30', again with Reg, they did 1:12:29. On July 21st in the Brighton Excelsior tandem '25', still with Reg, Ray did a 57:48 for 2nd fastest. In the North Road CC Centenary '50' on the F1A Ray did a PB of 2:09:20. In the interclub '25' with the Century RC Ray was club fastest and 1st handicap with 1:3:25. Continuing his run of fast times Ray went 'under' in the Glade CC '25' with 58:39. The Lea Valley RC tandem '25' on the E72 saw Ray set a club record of 57:40 helped by P. Smith. Ray was also awarded the Martin Odam Trophy.

1986 and Ray was fastest in several club '10's with a PB of 22:01 and also in the interclub '25' with the North Road CC. He improved his '50' time with a 2:08:45 and did a superb 4:22:42 '100'. 1987 and in the ECCA '50' on 17th May Ray improved his time to 2:07:24 this time also gave Ray 1st handicap. In the club '25' on 25th May Ray did 1:05:35 for 3rd fastest and 3rd handicap. 1988 and Ray was still riding well with a best '50' time of 2:07:15 and a '100' of 4:26:22, less than 4 minutes slower than his best '100' done in 1986. During the next few years Ray carried on with TTs, the odd Road Race and Track event. In 1990 he was Runner Up in the Club Track Championship. In 1992 Ray, with Vince Freeley as 'back up' rode tandem events. In the VC Free Press Tandem '25' they recorded 1:05:05 and in the Victoria CC '25' they went under with 58:57 for 2nd place. 1993 and Ray was still enjoying having Vince help him. In the VC Free Press '25' they did 1:04:44, 1:02:38 in the Lea Valley CC '25' and 1:09:05 in the Herts Whs '30'. In the CC Breckland '50' they did 2:02:34. In 1994 Ray was 3rd in the 'Odam' 10s competition. With Vince still acting as 'back up' Ray did 1:13:55 in the VTTA Tandem '30'.

In 2002 Ray was awarded the Joe Evans Trophy. For many years Ray led the Sunday 'slow' club runs aimed at helping new members, as well as some older members, get into the swing of cycling.

The Club extends deepest sympathy to Gerrie her two sons and all the family.

Brian Edrupt (Curator)