

## Alan Porter Davy - My Cycling Experience



I was born in Bristol in 1937, Just 2 years before the 2nd world war. As the war progressed I was taken to my Aunties home to live for about 18 months to Wath -on -Dearne, near Rotheram,away from the heavy bombing of Bristol. When I came back I can remember being woken in the middle of the night by my Mother to be told " quick there's a bombing raid on, down to the shelter "We ran down the garden thro the wet grass to the shelter. Next I remember joining my Father outside and looking up, there was a German bomber overhead ! Fortunately he didn't drop a bomb on us ! But he did drop a number on the cricket field opposite our house.

Then the war was over and I started school and as I got older started singing in local church choirs and eventually became a chorister at Bristol Cathedral and attended the Cathedral school,

leaving after some years as the Head Chorister and started work. After a few ideas I went to Cadbury/Fry's factory at Keynsham, nr Bristol and became a trainee. Around then I got my first bike, a Raleigh Lenten and managed a ride to the seaside - Weston-Super-Mare, all of 25 miles away !

The next phase was 2yrs National Service and told to report for initial training to Hilsea Barracks in Portsmouth. Was there for 6 weeks and passed out as champion recruit then went to Blackdown for NCO training, passed out again and returned to Hilsea as L/corporal, training new recruits! After a few months the Suez crisis cropped up and I got sent to Cyprus, which also had its troubles and was "active service", after some months I got sent to Jordan and had an interesting period there.

After demob I went back to work for Cadbury/Fry's got a BSA motorbike, got married had 2 children, in 1967 I had an accident on the motorbike resulting in losing the lower half of my right leg. I was off work for 15 months but then returned with a false one and after some years applied for and got a job at the Schweppes factory at Wallington, Fareham. I moved down here in 1980 and took up cycling.

I joined the Wheelers around Sept. 1982 and became a Fareham Wheeler with a false leg and threw myself into initially, time trialling riding a 25 on the P821c getting a puncture and doing a 1-17-59!

The following year 1983, I really got into the scene riding 18 events. That formula continued for the next year, in 1984 and riding 26 events. This format continued and by 1999 I was doing 40 events!

In 2000, 30 events culminating in winning a B.A.R. and a 100M club cup.

Mid 2005 after 19 events I had my left knee replaced and set about regaining fitness and managing a new knee. By April 2006 I was back and competing. Doing 34 events including a 100m TT.

In 2009 I did 18 events and with a painful hip went into hospital and had a total hip replacement. This had a big effect on me and I decided to retire from competitive sport.

I sold my track and TT bikes and took to gentle exercise. By 2012 I was feeling fit and keen again, so I bought another TT bike and entered competition again. Ending the year on 22 events.

Then in 2014 at age of 76 I began to realise that you can't go on competing for ever and after 3 events retired from competition finally! I did however keep riding regularly until in Oct 2018 I had a stroke which has made riding more difficult.

During my years with the club I had a 3-year spell as club chairman around 2002 which was very enjoyable. I have been a club member quite a long time and in the early 90's was enrolled in the Great Britain disabled racing team and did quite a bit of international racing. As you can see, Cycling was my life for many years and I enjoyed it.