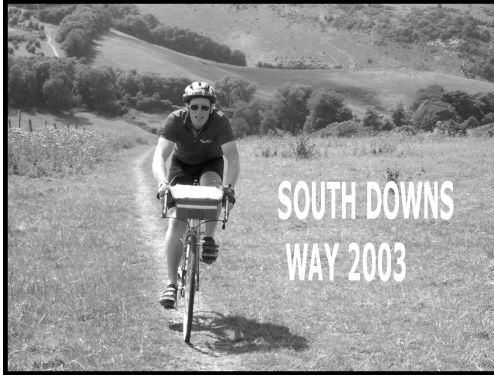


For Pedaller Magazine

Obituary – Phil Turner – 19 November 1950 to 11 January 2009.

In January members of the Bognor Chichester Group and the wider DA and many others were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death from a heart attack without prior ill health of Phil Turner. We all sympathise with the tremendous loss felt by his 2 sons and 2 daughters and especially of his wife Mary who was with him every step and pedal of the way in his many cycling and walking activities.



Although this Obituary inevitably focuses on Phil the Cyclist this was only a part of the full and varied life Phil led. This of course focused on Mary, his wife and lifetime partner and their 4 children. They formed a strong closely-knit family. His sporting interests were wide including Rugby and Rowing when he was younger. He learned several musical instruments. He was widely read and gained a broad

depth of knowledge. He readily formed many friendships worldwide. He always cared for the people he was with and was ready to give generously of his time.

Phil worked as an Actuary being based at various offices of the same firm over his career including some years living in Washington. He was a Principal at Mercer and chair of Mercer's Global Accounting group. He travelled to give Presentations worldwide and he was greatly respected in his field worldwide.

At the time of his death Phil was Chairman and Membership Secretary of the Bognor Chichester Group and also West Sussex DA Treasurer. Phil had a tireless energy and enthusiasm for everything he tackled. His physical strength and endurance was legendary in the DA. There are many occasions I can recall Phil and Mary turning up on the Tandem at the start of a Sunday ride after they had both completed a 200k Randonnee the previous day.

Phil had been keen on cycling from his earliest years. 20 years ago Phil and Mary joined Brentwood CTC and Phil was soon on the Committee as editor of The Spotlight, the Essex DA Magazine

11 years ago the family moved to Chichester and Phil was soon on the Committee of the Bognor Chichester Section as Membership Secretary dealing with enquires from newcomers. Phil was an able



Chairman of many Section AGM's and was formally elected Section Chairman when that position was created a year ago. Phil became DA Treasurer in 2003.

Phil accompanied by Mary on the Tandem was a regular participant in numerous Club Rides. He would lead rides whenever he could, usually the longer Sunday Rides and also Evening Rides. He planned and led over the last few years the hilly 100 mile rides into the North Hampshire lanes. It was very noticeable over the years that if hardly anybody turned out on a Sunday because it was miserable and wet, Phil and Mary would turn out regardless.

Phil and Mary were enthusiastic participants in numerous weekends away organised by John Maxim or I including the Isle of Wight most years. Many of us took part in the Normandy trips Phil organised and many of us enjoyed our stay with Phil, Mary and Mary's sister in Southern Spain a few years ago.

Over many years numerous Club Members have enjoyed the excellent hospitality of Phil and Mary for the summer barbecue and the Mince Pie Ride

Phil and Mary's holidays were nearly all activity orientated often at a level beyond the capability of most. Cycling trips included cycling pilgrimages from Chichester to Santiago de Compostela and Chichester to Rome. Last year they rode the Cape Argus, Cape Town mass Randonnee with 35,000 others. Their walking trips involved high altitude trekking in areas such as Nepal and Peru.



Phil with Mary on the Tandem was a regular participant in many long distance Audax rides in the south especially those organised by Dave Hudson. They regularly attained Super Randonneur status by completing 200, 300, 400 and 600k rides in the same year. The pinnacle of Audax riding the 1200 kilometre Paris Brest Paris in under 90 hours was achieved in the last 2 events in 2003 and 2007.

The funeral was a fitting Tribute to Phil with over 150 family and friends attending and 38 cyclists taking part in a cycling procession to follow the cortege from the family home to the Church.

Phil was an honourable and modest man, a hard worker and always willing to help anyone at any time. He was a really good friend to me and many others. Our thoughts go out to Mary and their children and the rest of their family at this unhappy time. I have no doubt Phil will continue to ride in the hearts of his friends, in spirit if not in person. He will be missed, but certainly not forgotten.

Edwin Jones