

Geoffrey Lonsdale

Geoff was a retired aircraft engineer with a love of cycling and has died at the age of 64 from a brain tumour. From his early teens Geoff had a passionate interest in cycling, which would last him all his life.

He and his brother took cycling holidays together, staying at youth hostels. At the age of 18, Geoff rode to Cleeve Hill Youth Hostel, near Cheltenham, where he met a like-minded young lady from Coventry.

There followed a long distance courtship, involving plenty of cycling, until Sue moved to Bristol in 1970. They were married a year later at Rugby.

Geoff and Sue were active members of the Cyclists Touring Club in Bristol; but once the children arrived, club life took second place to the needs of a young family.

Geoff worked as a draughtsman for the Guided Weapons Division of British Aerospace. He later transferred to the Aircraft Division, later Airbus U.K. Drawing boards gave way to Computer Aided Design, and Geoff adapted to the new system, designing electrical connectors.

The purchase of a small caravan enabled the family to enjoy cycling holidays in lovely countryside, at no great expense. Geoff also enjoyed time trialling.

He joined the Clevedon and District Road Club and competed in many events, most of them on a tricycle. He reluctantly gave up racing after a fall from his trike, but still devoted a lot of time to the sport; marshalling for time trials, and serving on the time trials committee. This involved long tricycle journeys to venues, in all sorts of weathers.

For many years Geoff has handled the onerous task of organising the marshalling for End to End record attempts through the Bristol area.

After retiring in 2009, Geoff and Sue realised their ambition to cycle to Woking in Surrey, where their daughter Claire lives. Over the next eighteen months, holiday destinations ranged from Wiltshire and West Wales, to the Scottish Highlands and even Berlin.

All too soon, however, serious illness intervened. For two years, Geoff suffered the effects of an aggressive brain tumour and the subsequent treatments. The tumour beat them all, and Geoff began to decline swiftly. He passed away peacefully at the Bristol Royal Infirmary on January the 22nd. The funeral took place at Canford Crematorium in Bristol.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Sue and children Claire and Alan.